

ST JOHN SWISHART

Connecting our community to God through Christ



PARISH PROFILE-2022

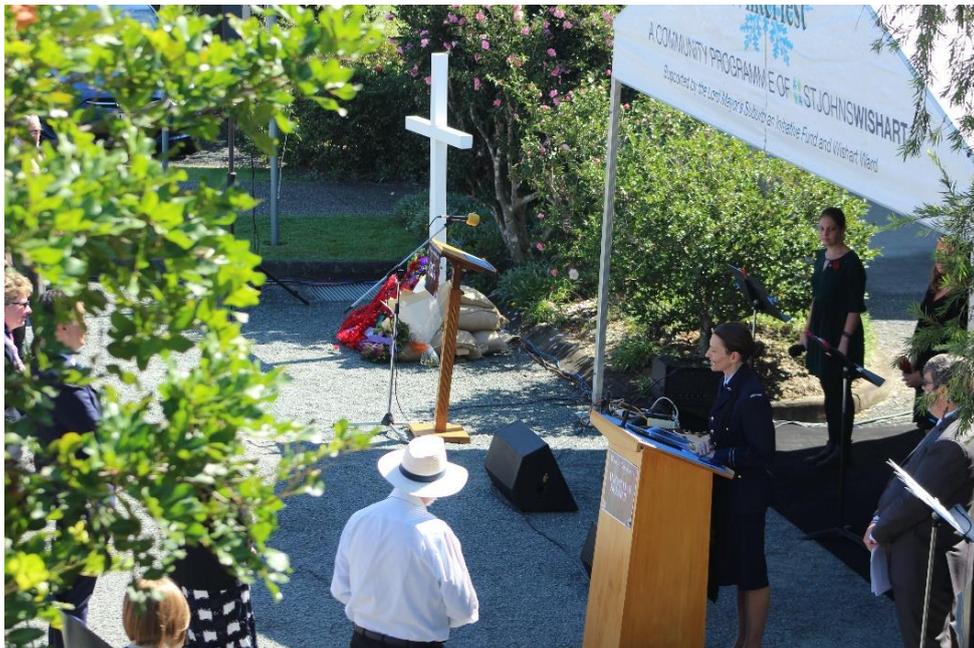


Parish History and General Background

From small Sunday School classes and church services held in the Upper Mt Gravatt State School in 1939, St John's has grown and changed a great deal in the last 80 years. During the 1940s, the vision and hard work of many faithful parishioners overcame post-war building restrictions to build a hall on Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt. St John's continued on this site until 1990, when it moved a short distance to its present eye-catching building on the corner of Greenwood Street and Mt Gravatt Capalaba Road, Wishart.

In 2008 St John's appointed an Associate Minister, Peter Judge-Mears, to help develop a more clearly focused Children's and Youth Ministry. A newly acquired demountable building at that time helped in providing this Ministry. After the rector, John Nicholls, retired our associate minister was given responsibility for the whole parish. We then appointed a part time Children's worker and a part time Youth worker for several years until 2018.

In 2018 St John's employed a community chaplain to augment our reach into the community. Over the last few years in conjunction with the local rotary clubs, state member, neighbourhood watch and community centre we have run an Anzac Day service for the local community. We are regularly invited to support these organisations in their events such as Domestic Violence awareness rallies Christmas Markets and Rotary Club Christmas Carols.



Today, St John's Mission Statement, *"Connecting our community to God through Christ"*, translates into a welcoming, friendly church, which provides a caring spiritual home for people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

St John's seeks to bring people to faith in Jesus and encourage personal growth as His disciples. Through excellent Bible-based preaching and teaching, the ministry team clearly focuses on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our rector resigned in September this year and joined the diocese of the Sothern Cross. A number of our parishioners have moved with him. Those who stayed remain committed to an evangelical expression of the Anglican faith through weekly Bible teaching, the creeds and 39 Articles.

Prayer is an important part of parish life with a prayer meeting at the beginning of each term. Weekly prayer notes are produced and there is an email prayer chain for more immediate situations. Regular weekly prayer occurs in home groups.

St John's has been enriched by a team of excellent musicians, who freely use their gifts to serve both the church and the wider community.

There were several regular groups that catered for children, young people and adults. These groups are in transition while we adjust to the lower numbers attending since our rector moved.

For thirteen years we have run a week-long annual children's holiday programme in the winter school holidays called Winterfest attended on average by 60+ children each day from the community.

We support chaplaincy in the local schools with particular emphasis at Wishart State School and some members also teach RE in some of these schools.

Our rector and community chaplain have regularly attended the ministers fraternal and local deanery meetings.

With a heart for mission, St John's has been deeply committed to supporting the work of BCA, CMS, Anglicare and Operation Christmas Child.



1. Parish Staffing

Locum Rev Chris Boyce
Community Chaplain Rev Michelle Philp (Deacon – 4 days p.w.)
Ministry Training Student Daniel Elvery (until the end of the year)

2. Church Services

Up to September this year we had three Sunday services to cater for everyone, with a Prayer Book service at 8am (APBA Holy Communion Third Order), a more modern form of worship (Praise, Prayer and Proclamation alternating with Communion-Third Order) with its relaxed family emphasis at the 10am service and a service that seeks to engage a contemporary culture at 5.30pm.

Average weekly attendance

First half of the year

08.00 am – 18

10.00 am – 49

05.30 pm – 23

Due to COVID we moved to online services in 2020 which we have continued to stream after resuming in-person services. From October this year we have moved to one service at 9am where we have had about 50 people attend with a few more watching online.



3. Active Ministries

Recent Groups

- *Kaos* (school years 4-6) meets Fridays during school term time from 5.30 - 7.00 pm
- *Unite* (school years 7-12) meets Fridays during school term time from 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

Current Groups

- *Home Groups*: meet on different days in different places. For term 4 this year some groups have combined.
- *Ladies Fellowship Group*: meet 1st and 3rd Tuesday mornings during term time,
- *Sunday school* met on Sundays during the 10 a.m. service in school term time, and now meets during the 9am service.

Other Events & Ministries

- Pastoral visitations
- Prayer Chains –email
- Alpha courses
- Occasional Men’s lunches
- Monthly Men at Maccas
- Occasional Musical evenings
- Various events such as a bushwalk or dinners
- Winterfest: Children’s Holiday Program
- Weekly café catch-ups



Mission activities

- Support of BCA, CMS (Nathan and Diane Lovell, Rachel) Scripture Union Chaplaincy and Operation Christmas Child
- RE teaching in local schools
- Support of Anglicare (Program for the homeless)

4. Characteristics and Traditions

We are an evangelical parish by tradition and by conviction.

We have been greatly assisted by a team of very capable retired clergy as Bible preachers/teachers to assist the rector over the years.

We have a variety of musicians, vocalists and a choir that sings on special occasions. A wide variety of music is used, from traditional hymns through to more modern songs.

There is a welcoming team that welcomes people on Sunday mornings.

We have a number of people who take part in various roles in the services, including leading, Bible reading and leading intercessions.

5. Parishioner expectations of the new priest include the following:

- Christ-centered in life and ministry
- Biblical teaching with a heart for the people
- Strength of character to lead church through change
- We are looking for a pioneer. This is a great opportunity for a visionary who is missional
- Good evangelist with a pastoral heart
- Encourage and support every member to be involved in some form of ministry and outreach into the community.
- Encourage and build up our children, youth and young adult ministry.
- Involvement with the wider church (Diocesan and other interdenominational churches)

6. Financial Information

We have income from two mobile towers owned by Optus and Telstra. The total combined income expected in 2023 is \$75,723. Income for each tower rises by 3.5% annually. The Telstra lease ends in 2028 and the Optus lease, having just been renewed, ends in 2042.

Parishioner Giving has recently been running at around \$15,000 per month. Since our Rector moved at the end of September along with a number of Parishioners, income has dropped but it is too early to discern what the long-term trend might be. In our budget for 2023, we have calculated Parishioner Giving to be a pessimistic 50% of previous giving. We currently have no debts.

We have recently sold our rectory for just under \$1,000,000, which we were renting, due to it being unsuitable as a Rectory and needing extensive renovation.

7. St. John's mission statement, core values and vision

These were developed from an extensive consultation process with the parish.

- **Mission Statement:**

'Connecting our community to God through Christ - Belong | Believe | Become'

- **Core Values:**

At St Johns, we want to glorify God through centring on His word. Therefore, we value:

1. **Biblical teaching.** We value teaching that seeks to understand God's revelation of himself to us in individual books of the Bible and through the whole context of Scripture.
2. **Prayerful dependence.** We value praying to God as both a privilege and a responsibility for the individual and the whole church.
3. **Care.** We value care for one another as members of one family in Jesus Christ.
4. Being **intergenerational.** We value people of different generations and look for opportunities both to minister to different generations and to foster relationships between generations.
5. **Serving with gifts.** We value the people God has given us with their various gifts, skills and talents. We want to use the gifts he has entrusted to us to serve Him and each other.
6. Being **mission-driven.** We value the gospel and want it to shape our thinking and our work together, so that we might see a community that knows the freedom and life that are in Christ alone.

- **Vision:**

BELONG

A truly relational, intergenerational community from diverse cultural backgrounds where most people belong to homegroups and actively maintain connections as a church family. We want to be a community hub that reaches and keeps families and is a place where we can invite friends.

BELIEVE

A gospel growing church where there is a vibrant prayer focus on God's will for church and community. A place where we believe in encouraging, using, supporting and rejoicing in each other's gifts and we gather to spur one another on to grow in our belief in our sovereign Lord.

BECOME

A church that trains its members to become more Christ-like, to proclaim Christ boldly and to use our diverse gifts to serve the Lord Jesus. We want to become a church that resources children's and youth ministry, including RI in schools.

We also dream of a church: where mentoring is common; that strongly encourages personal prayer and bible reading; which has systems to care for those in need; where lines of communication are effective; that uses music to reach out with the gospel; and which sends its members out to do gospel work.

11. What next

If you have a sense that God may be calling you to the Parish of Wishart and would like to discuss this further; or, if you have some questions about the role, please contact:

Bishop for the Southern Region: Bishop John Roundhill

Email: jroundhill@anglicanchurchsq.org.au Phone: (07) 3835 2222 – Bishops' Office

12. Church Details

St John's Anglican Church

Address: 10 Greenwood Street, Wishart,
4122

Phone: (07) 3849 5444

Email: office@stjohnswishart.com.au

Website: www.stjohnswishart.com.au

