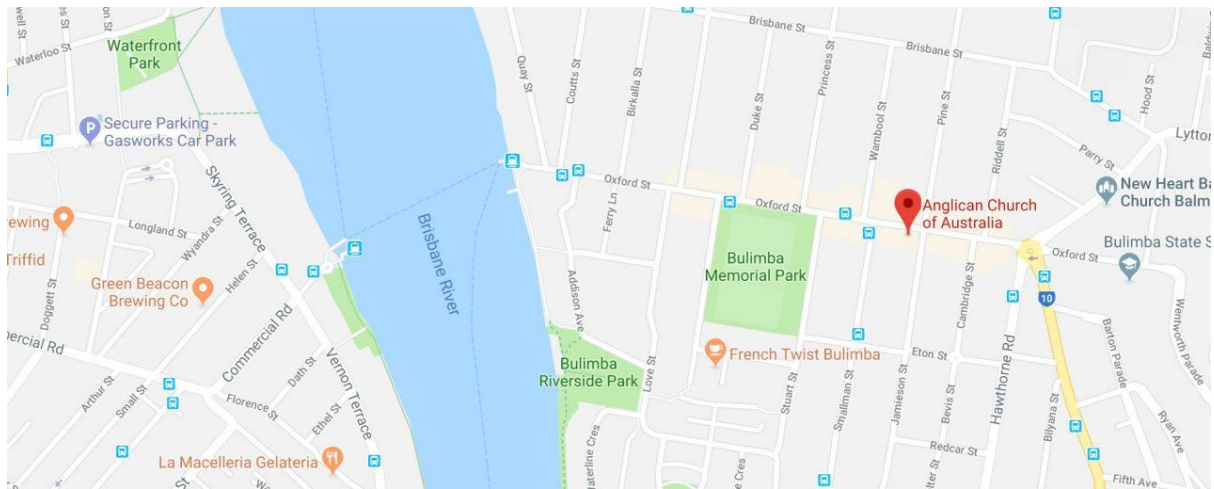


Parish Profile – Bulimba Parish

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
— EST. 1888 —
ANGLICAN CHURCH



Where we are:



Built in 1888, St John The Baptist Church is an historic wooden building located on renowned Oxford Street, Bulimba. Framed by manicured lawns, the church can seat up to 130 people.

Bulimba Parish consists of the suburbs of Bulimba, Hawthorne and Balmoral and is bounded on the northern and western sides by the Brisbane River. The Church is located within 5 kilometres from Brisbane CBD.

Address: 171 Oxford Street, Bulimba Qld 4171

Website: <https://stjohnsbulimba.org>



Who we are:

History

Original indigenous residents referred to this area as Boolimbah, meaning place of the Magpie Lark.

St John the Baptist Anglican Church became an integral part of the history of Bulimba only some 135 years ago. Prior to this, Anglican residents travelled along the river by ferry to worship at St Andrew's in South Brisbane. In 1887, Mrs Elizabeth Coxen, a highly respected member of the Bulimba community, decided it was time that Bulimba had its own Anglican Church. A Public Meeting was called at which she advocated for regular church services to be held locally. Money, however, was needed if a building was to be erected for this purpose. To initiate subscriptions Mrs Coxen donated £100. This was a considerable amount at the time and represented 1/7 of the total cost of the building. Her generosity did not end there, however, and she donated land, the funds from the sale of which were used towards purchasing the land on which St John's now stands.

The first service held on the site was 23 June 1888 when Lady Musgrave, wife of the Governor of Queensland, capped the first stump for the new Church; the first service in the completed church was 29 September 1888.



Suburb Demographics

The suburb of Bulimba which draws a catchment from other suburbs notably, Hawthorn, Balmoral, Morningside, Seven Hills, Norman Park, Cannon Hill and Murrarie. This area is known as Brisbane Inner City East and is currently a 'Green' Electorate demonstrating the

majority of the electorate’s conscious views on supporting the environment, being pro-climate change/sustainability and equality – and being very democratic in their views on public health, education, civil rights and more.

The current 2021 ABS data for Bulimba states the median age is 40 with 7,623 people living in the suburb and 2,120 in families. The average number of children for families with children is 1.8. The average number of children per household is 0.7. This indicates a high proportion of singles/couples or share households with no children. There are slightly more females than males (at 51%).

There are 3,360 private dwellings with an average number of people per household at 2.4.

The median weekly household income is \$2,805. The median monthly mortgage repayment is \$2,800 and median weekly rent stands at \$500. The average number of motor vehicles is 1.7 per dwelling.

Parish Demographics

There are around 125 people on the Parish Roll. The average weekly attendance at the two Sunday services is around 65-70. The largest proportion who attend on Sunday are over 60. Many parishioners live outside of the Parish boundaries.

Parish Statistics for:	2019	2021	2022
Average Sunday Attendance	88	58	65
Average Sunday Communicants	80	57	60
Christmas Day Attendance	302	147	340
Easter Day Attendance	225	108	150
Funerals	7	5	4
Marriages	5	0	0
Baptisms	12	8	11

The figures above do not include 2020. 2019 is given as a pre-COVID comparison.

Buildings & Resources

St John the Baptist Church is one of thirty designed by the Diocesan Architect, John Hingston Buckeridge. The ground plan is rectangular and faces East – the direction of Jerusalem and the place of the resurrection. The main entrance to the Church is through the West Door. The building is an example of a timber Victorian Carpenter Gothic Church. The internal frame was originally exposed and in 1936 was covered in wood panelling, some of which is believed to have come from the wreck of SS Maheno. The panelling was consecrated in October 1937 in memory of 25 parishioners whose families donated to it. The building is Heritage Listed.

The area previously used by the Rectory and Church Hall was redeveloped in 2012 and commercial tenancies were placed along the Oxford Street Frontage. A replacement hall, which has been named the Maheno Room, is located behind the tenancies and is adjacent to

the Church. New Offices were built on the second floor and are accessible by both stairs and a lift.

The Development is managed on a day to day basis by an external manager. Other management issues are conducted with the Property department of the Diocese on a collaborative basis.

As a consequence of the redevelopment, Bulimba no longer has a Rectory and pays a housing allowance.

Worship

Bulimba is a very broad and inclusive community welcoming new members from all backgrounds.

Bulimba has two regular Eucharist services on a Sunday, at 7.30am and 9.00am. The 7.30am service is a more traditional communion service, using the Second Order from the A Prayer Book for Australia (“APBA”) with sung responses.

The 9.00am service is our family service, also using the Second Order from the APBA, supplemented by other liturgical resources and music, with Children’s Church Ministry during school terms. Children stay in the church during the full 9.00am service.

Sunday Services are presented via PowerPoint on three large screens, and using a recently-installed AV system and PC.

A Eucharist is also held on Friday at 10.00am which lasts for half an hour, using the Second Order from the APBA but without hymns.

On the third Sunday of each month a Service is held at the Regis Nursing Home at Bulimba, when permitted, and the Parish is arranging regular pastoral visits to Regis Nursing Home.

The Parish currently has two Associate Clergy; The Reverend Karen Jansson (non-stipendiary), and Reverend Quinn Humphreys (Associate Deacon).

During the COVID lockdowns that Parish streamed a regular 9.00am Sunday service via Zoom and this was well-attended. This provided the platform for the foundation of Holy Hermits Online (HHO), ministered to by Reverend Jamie Callard, which is now a separate Diocesan online ministry.



Parish Activities

Social: Social events are held on a regular basis, so that Parishioners can get to know each other better. Events planned for 2023 include a Patronal Festival Brunch, Sherry and Tapas Appreciation evening, a Soup Night, a Trivia Night and a Christmas Lunch. We hosted a Music Concert earlier this year, and a Colours of Creation Exhibition in 2022.

Knitting Circle: The knitting circle meets once a month in the Maheno room, knitting squares which are then joined and made into rugs, beanies, and crocheting tea towels. Items have been given to the Mater Hospital Oncology unit, Care for Kids and to Missions to Seafarers.

St. John's Guild: The Guild meets monthly in the Maheno Room, starting with a Guild Meeting followed by Hoy.

Children's Ministry: Children's Ministry happens each Sunday in term-time, within the 9.00am service. We have stories and activities for children, and a song for the children to participate in.

Church Welcomers: The Church is open most days of the week and a group of volunteers are there to welcome visitors. Many people drop in each week to see the building or to renew connections with the Parish.

Cake Stall: As a fundraising activity, we hold a monthly Cake Stall between February and December, usually held on the fourth Sunday of the month.



Peace , Justice, Reconciliation and Environment

This group meets to raise awareness of issues and resources for people with a social justice focus. It has presented materials for services such as Coming of the Light and National Reconciliation Week, and attended Open Day at St Francis College. Its goal is a Reconciliation Statement for the Parish.

Finance

Bulimba has maintained its income over the last few years, but not at a level to keep pace with the growth in expenses. Particularly Bulimba had a decrease in income during Covid-19 and an interregnum, but there has been an increase as more normal conditions returned. As a consequence of this, Bulimba is continuing to look at ways to raise income.

Bulimba has received income from the Development under an agreement with the Diocese. Such distributions have been relatively low as repaying the construction loan has taken priority. The Covid-19 period and some vacancies caused some reduction in the Development income and as a consequence Bulimba are currently not receiving distributions.

More detailed accounts are available upon request.

Attributes Wanted in a Priest

We believe that the key attributes for our new Parish Priest are:

- Demonstrated ability to preach – connecting Theology to everyday life
- Commitment to further develop intergenerational worship and learning
- Expanding the engagement of the Church in the local community
- Strong on pastoral care
- Be welcoming to diverse communities and cultures
- Willing to build ecumenical relationships
- A sense of humour and brings joy
- Encourage fellowship in our church community
- Honour our worship traditions while being keen to embrace new directions in worship
- Possess good management, counselling, communication and administrative skills
- Constructively challenge us and lead by example
- Openness to holding small groups for study and for pastoral support
- A passion for service and justice

Expressions of Interest should be sent to The Right Reverend John Roundhill.

Email: JRose@anglicanchurchsq.org.au