

Anglican Church

St Peter's Bribie Island



Parish Profile

September 2023

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2021 Census, there was a total of 20,612 residents on Bribie Island with median age of 63, and a further 9,929 in Sandstone Point and Ningi with a median age of 50.

The areas embraced by St Peter's are attractive to retirees and families wishing to leave the rush of major cities behind them. Bribie Island has two State primary schools and one State high school, a private Christian school near Ningi and a variety of small and medium sized shopping centres spread across the Parish area. Generally the community is not a transient one, however, during weekends, winter and school holiday periods the population increases considerably as Bribie Island is a popular weekend getaway for Brisbane residents, a holiday destination and refuge for those escaping the southern cold.

Housing ranges from some small weekender fishing cottages to large million dollar plus family homes on the waterfront and canals.

WHO ARE WE

St Peter's Anglican Church Bribie Island is a Parish in the Anglican Church Southern Queensland. The first Church of St Peter's was dedicated here in 1928; this building is now our Church Hall. Bribie Island became its own Parish in 1989 with the appointment of its first Parish Priest, Rev'd John Nichols who served from 1989 to 1995. Following incumbents were Rev'd John Arnold from 1996 to 2003, Rt Rev'd Raymond Smith from 2004 to 2008; Rev'd Bill Crossman from 2009 to 2013; and Rev'd Steven Schwarzrock from 2016 to 2023.

St Peter's has an active lay team comprising of over 60 volunteers who regularly serve on our rosters. The volunteer team includes a Parish Administrator, 10 Liturgical Assistants, 2 Organists and 2 Pianists, as well a variety of people serving in the ministry of welcomers, readers, intercessors, cleaning, grounds and maintenance.



HOW WE WORSHIP

The liturgical expression of the church could be generally considered middle Anglican (Anglo-Catholic), reflecting a community that places a high importance on the sacrament of Holy Communion within their spirituality.

There are two regular services each Sunday, at 7.30am and 9.30am, both services taken from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (APBA). The 7.30am service is a sung Eucharist (with organ) and the 9.30am service is a said Eucharist (usually with piano).

The Wednesday 10am service is a said Eucharist.

Both Sunday Eucharist's make use of audio projection equipment with all prayers, hymns, psalm and graphics being prepared on a PowerPoint presentation.

St Peter's community comprises over 100 attendees each week across the two regular Sunday services and the Wednesday service. The majority of the congregation is comprised of adult couples and singles aged 70 plus. St Peter's is a friendly church, welcoming visitors and fostering long term friendships.

PARISH MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH

Bible Studies - St Peter's has three home groups which meet each week for Bible studies. Some groups use formal study material whilst others concentrate on the Readings for the week.

Lenten Studies - St Peter's has a tradition of annual Lenten studies, either within home groups or conducted by the Rector.

AMUA Branch - St Peter's MU branch is part of an international organisation within the Anglican Church committed to improving family life through faith in Christ, prayer and practical action. Members enjoy *Quiet Mornings*, guest speakers, outings and involvement in Deanery and Diocesan events as well as various community support groups.

Bribie Anglican Cancer Support Group - This group was formed by St Peter's parishioners who had experienced cancer and wanted to reach out to others in the community. They provide leadership and direction to the group which has weekly get-togethers at a nearby coffee shop, providing support to cancer sufferers and their families through prayer, visits, phone calls and other practical ways. The group enjoys many social activities including lunches, breakfasts and sunsets on the beach.

Singing Group - Each Monday a group of Parishioners gather for an hour to sing hymns for the upcoming Sundays.

Books Clubs – The Parish has two Book Clubs which meet monthly.

Focus on Fellowship - This is a group of Christian Women representing the various churches on Bribie Island formed for the purpose of sharing information, collaborating and demonstrating ecumenicalism by reaching out to the wider community of Bribie Island. The group convenes several functions a year, not for fundraising but for shared fellowship, guests bringing a plate to share. St Peter's has two representatives in this group.

Religious Education - St Peter's is involved in financially supporting Religious Education teaching at the Bribie Island schools.

PARISH STATISTICS

<u>PARISH STATISTICS</u>	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average weekly attendance at 7.30am Sunday service	91	86	71	66	62	60	44	47	50
Average weekly attendance at 9.30am Sunday service	54	46	50	52	50	48	32	39	36
Average attendance at weekday Eucharist	13	13	13	14	14	14	11	11	11
Baptisms	9	11	11	7	3	5	2	3	3
Weddings	2	3	-	2	1	1	-	1	-
Funerals	20	20	8	7	17	13	5	9	14

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

St Peter's is a benefice Parish and is seeking a full time Priest, with this position becoming vacant from the end of November 2023.

Parish Council currently comprising 8 Councillors including three Churchwarden and a treasurer. The Council meets on a monthly basis.

The parish office is staffed by a volunteer Administrator on a Wednesday and Friday morning.

PARISH FINANCES

Bribie Island Parish is financially secure with no debts and cash reserves of over \$170,000.

<u>PARISH STATISTICS</u>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pledges and Offerings	\$124,951	\$112,522	\$111,725	\$97,286	\$93,190
Total Income	\$171,111	\$140,480	\$166,857	\$151,069	\$144,939
Expenditure	\$184,430	\$151,463	\$156,076	\$140,671	\$141,733
Profit / Loss	- \$13, 319	- \$10,983	\$10,781	\$10,398	\$6,206

PROPERTY

The Parish is very well resourced in terms of buildings. The church, built in 2008, and hall (including offices) are on the one block of land on the corner of Foster and Banya Streets, at Bongaree on Bribie Island. A rectory is located in Jasmin Drive, Bongaree, 3.1km (7 minutes) from the church.



The current church was constructed and dedicated in 2008 and consecrated in 2016. It is modern in design and is equipped with 2 vestries, an adequate sanctuary, a small chapel, an audio visual system which includes wireless microphones, ceiling mounted projectors and a hearing aid loop. It has a piano and organ in good condition. It will seat 170 people comfortably.

Within the church building there are two wheelchair accessible toilets, baby change facilities and a well-equipped utility room (kitchen) where morning teas can be prepared and served. The front of the church has covered areas to accommodate overflow congregations. The church has an enclosed child-proof area opening from the chapel which can be used as a meditation garden/withdrawal area for children etc.



Attached to the back entrance of the church building is a secure enclosure that houses water tanks, brand new mower, whipper snipper, blower vac and other gardening needs.

The church and hall are serviced by a sealed carpark for 31 vehicles, as well as sufficient parking in the adjoining streets.



Cooinda, is our Parish Hall, and original Church. The wooden hall is in good condition and has been upgraded with a modern kitchen to facilitate catering for functions. A storeroom and adequate cupboard space is available in the hall, together with 2 disabled toilets and baby change facilities. The hall is fully wheelchair accessible from the church to the hall via concrete path and ramp. Three offices and foyer have been built in the end of the hall, each with air-conditioning/heating for parish administration. The hall can cater up to 80 people seated at tables, or over 100 seated for meetings etc. Lightweight tables and chairs to cater for up to 100 people are available in the hall. There are currently about a dozen community groups that hire the hall on a regular basis with numerous one-off hall rentals in addition to parish groups' use of the hall.



The Rectory is situated at 45 Jasmin Drive, Bongaree. It is a modern single storey brick and tiled roof dwelling built 30 years ago. It was purchased in 2008 to replace the former Rectory. It is situated on a 600m² block with a floor area of 186m² inside, and 63m² in outside patio areas. It has four bedrooms (master with ensuite, large walk-in robe and built-in wardrobe), two indoor living areas, spacious dining and kitchen area, second bathroom, laundry, 2 outdoor areas, garden shed/storeroom and double lock-up garage. All bedrooms and main living room are air conditioned. It is fully fenced with a private backyard, bordering on to parkland.

PARISH VEHICLE

The parish vehicle is a Mitsubishi Outlander LS which was purchased in 2016. There is currently a cash reserve of \$20,000 held for a replacement vehicle when required.

HISTORY

By 1928 Bribie was a popular seaside resort with a permanent community of around 200 with a State school, post office and telephone facilities, a community hall, bowling green and tennis courts. Meals were provided in large dining rooms at the Jetty and the Kiosk at Woorim. People would either rent cottages or one of the 12 Apostles holiday huts, stay at boarding-houses or just camp along the foreshore. When the Steamships arrived the population swelled significantly, particularly during the holiday periods when people flocked to Bribie to enjoy a seaside holiday. Provisions could be obtained at grocery and butcher shops along Toorbul Street.

Though religious services were held regularly in the Tug Company owned Dance Hall, the decision to build a church was initiated in 1926 by the Reverend C. Mills, rector of Caboolture. Bribie residents, in particular the Shirley, Davies, Coungeau and McPherson families, commenced fund raising.

In April 1927, fifty-nine pounds, five shillings and seven pence was handed to the building committee and on April 21 an announcement was made in the Humpybong Weekly that Bribie residents intended to build a church to be known as St. Peters. By August 1928 with over 200 pounds held by the building committee the Diocesan Council authorised a loan of 200 pounds for the purpose of building a church hall in Foster Street, Bongaree. An overdraft of 250 pounds had also been obtained from the Queensland National Bank. In October, tenders were called for the construction of the Hall and by early December, the contractor, Mr. G.F. Carlson, was finishing the fit out of the Hall.

On Thursday, December 27 1928 the Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr Gerald Sharp, assisted by Minor Canon H.D. Campbell with the Rev. A. W. King (Redcliffe) presiding at the organ, preached a short sermon from Hebrews 25-10 and congratulated the people who had had the energy and the ability to erect the hall which he dedicated to be a house of prayer.

The Hall was modelled on the Ekibin and Holland Park church halls and the dimensions were noted as 70 ft by 41 ft. Steps led up to the chancel and altar which could be hidden behind sliding doors when not required. At the end of the room a stage was erected, and an organ and pianola installed. The Hall was valued at 1200 pounds. It was noted that the early work of levelling the ground and a considerable amount of other work was done by voluntary labour.

In September 1931 St Peter's Bribie Island was handed over to the supervision of the Anglican Church Mission and the Rev. W.P.B. Miles promised to supply regular services monthly.

On October 24, 1931 a handsome silky oak altar and hangings, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Coungeau, of Bribie, an altar cross and lights from Rev. W.P.B. Miles and a lectern from St Matthews, Holland Park was dedicated by Rev Miles that evening.

Eventually, St Peter's returned to be under the care of the Parish of Caboolture.

In 1974 St Peter's was refurbished and reoriented before being rededicated by Archbishop Arnott on the May 5, 1974.

When Bribie Island and the surrounding areas were separated from Caboolture parish in 1989 to form the Parish of Bribie Island, there were plans to build a new church to meet the growing needs of the community. A fundraising campaign was launched in March 1998, resulting in the first sod for the new building being turned in October 2007. The building was completed and on the 2nd May, 2008, the keys were handed over to the parish. The new Church of St Peter, Apostle and Martyr, was dedicated by Archbishop Aspinall on May 24, 2008.

Thanks to generous giving and a variety of fundraising activities, St Peter's became debt free at the end of 2015. This allowed for the church to be consecrated by Archbishop Aspinall on November 5, 2016.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR IN AN INCOMING PRIEST

Priest would be someone who ...

- Teaches and preaches the Gospel of God's love and justice for all people.
- A prayerful leader who has a passion for the Eucharist and the Sacraments of the Church.
- Strong pastoral care focus and is willing to visit people in their homes or hospital.
- Authentic, hopeful, joyful, transparent and accountable.
- Encourages fellowship and connection, especially in the face of differing viewpoints.
- Sound administrative and technological skills.
- Good time management skills who can delegate and enjoys teamwork at all levels from informal through to administration and committee level.
- Committed to a tenure of 5 years or longer.

If you are interested in pursuing a conversation about ministry in the Parish of Bribie Island, please contact:

Bishop Jeremy Greaves, Bishop for the Northern Region

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