

Parish Profile

St Paul's, Ipswich

"Striving to be a diverse, inclusive, and affirming Christian Community in which people can discover and develop relationship with God, and with each other."



St. Paul's Anglican Church



St Paul's Parish Office

About St Paul's

Our Ministry Team

Locum Rector:

Vacant

Officiating Clergy

Priests: *(please see Appendix)*

The Rev'd Lorraine Lynch (Associate Priest with special responsibilities for Ipswich North parish)

South Sudanese Clergy

The Rev'd Simon Goch Arok

The Rev'd Elizabeth Adol Chol

The Rev'd Rachael Adut

Deacons:

The Rev'd Michele Knight

The Rev'd Brenda Davis

Office Staff

Office Manager

Mrs Susan Rea

Administration Assistant

Mrs Christine Taylor

Musical volunteers

Principal Organist

Dr. Ross Windsor

Choir Director

Mr. Steven Morris

Located in the centre of Ipswich, St Paul's has the oldest Anglican church building in Queensland. The first service in the completed church was held on 12th June 1859, just six days after the new colony of Queensland was created to be separate from New South Wales. In 1860, the generous donation of an exceptional pipe organ signified the church as the first public building in the colony to have such an asset. Over the years, many notable citizens of our city and state have hailed from St Paul's. Some of our parishioners are second, third and even fourth-generation worshippers.

The boundaries of our parish are less extensive than in the early days, as we are now surrounded by the Western Region Parishes of Booval, North Ipswich, Rosewood, Boonah-Harrisville and the newer Parishes of Springfield and Goodna, which are part of the Sothern Region of the diocese. Our congregation has decreased over the years, but despite all the challenges to both church and society St Paul's has continued to be a central place of regular worship and service in the City of Ipswich.

Our historic church and former rectory (now the church office) are both heritage-listed and, along with our parish hall, occupy an entire city block. We have links with our local council and various community organisations.

Our Sunday morning Eucharist (at 8.30am) is conducted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, and the congregation (usually about 70-80 people) is mostly middle-aged or older. At this service we include a children's ministry called '*Kids Time with God*' attended by up to 10 children. Our clergy also provide services for St Thomas's Parish at Ipswich North. Many of our parishioners serve in the following organisations and ministries: Mothers' Union, Op Shop, gardening and cleaning, choir and music ministries, catering, archiving, altar team, hospital chaplaincy and Religious Instruction in State schools.

In 2014 we established a Memorandum of Understanding between our Parish and a primarily younger South Sudanese congregation. The South Sudanese worship and Sunday School generally takes place at 12:30pm each Sunday. Worship is conducted in the Dinka language under the direction of three licenced non-stipendiary South Sudanese clergy. The Memorandum of Understanding provides for combined worship four times a year between the English and Dinka speaking congregations.

Our new rector

Under God, we seek a person who demonstrates the following qualities:

- A great love for God, and for people.
- An ability to lead, work collaboratively, and enable the gifts of others.
- An ability to communicate well with people of all ages and with a wide range of academic abilities, recognising that Ipswich has a university that includes a younger, sophisticated population with which St Paul's has not had a recent history of engagement;
- An ability to enliven worship through inspiring preaching and teaching.
- An ability to lead traditional and contemporary Anglican worship.
- An ability to encourage and develop Lay Ministry.
- Possess knowledge and application of sound administrative processes.
- Have enthusiasm to engage in ecumenical and wider community activities, recognising that St Paul's is situated in the middle of the Ipswich CBD and does not have a co-located suburban congregation.
- An ability to work and engage cross-culturally, particularly with the South Sudanese congregation.
- Are commitment to continuing professional and spiritual growth.

Our Missional Prayer

God of Mission,
who alone brings growth
to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit
to give vision to our planning,
wisdom to our actions,
and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
in spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local
community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Our Parish Prayer

Renew in us, O God,
the zeal of Your love.
Let our parish come alive with the
power of Your Spirit.
Where we have failed, forgive us;
where we have persevered,
encourage us;
where we are in doubt,
direct us.
Help us to see new opportunities of
witness and service,
for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Our facilities

St Paul's occupies an entire block in the centre of Ipswich CBD, bounded by Limestone, Ellenborough and Brisbane Streets and adjacent to D'Arcy Doyle Place. There are three major buildings:

- **St Paul's Church** was completed in 1859, built of brick in the Gothic Revival style and is heritage-listed. From 1989-1992, it underwent extensive restoration. Maintenance issues which are ongoing are currently being addressed. There are four vestries, a porch, an interior balcony, two side chapels and a Martyrs' Chapel. The Pews and floor are of wood.
- **Parish Office (former rectory)**, also heritage-listed, is of timber with several large rooms including an generous meeting-room and a modern kitchen. The wide verandas, overlook attractive gardens and lawn, and are a pleasant setting for our weekly post-church morning teas and barbecues. In recent years, the roof has been replaced along with the installation of ducted air-conditioning.
- **Parish Hall (War Memorial Parish Centre)** was built in 1963, has two levels, with an auditorium, stage, and kitchen upstairs and several rooms downstairs, one of which houses our well-patronised Op shop with revenue exceeding \$88 000 in 2023. This building requires maintenance and refurbishment; however, a plan is currently being developed.

There is also a small car park and a building which houses the St Paul's Support Centre which presently comprises three groups (the Parish is considering a name change to this space as "The Annexe" which describes the place rather than the activity).

Our **Rectory** is about a ten-minute drive from the church, at 11, Baystone Place, Raceview. It is a modern, low-set brick home, with three bedrooms and a study, in a pleasant locality. The parish car is a Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross.

The former St John's at Blackall Street, Basin Pocket was a small wooden church which is now used as a **community garden** (The Little Church Garden) and is home to the Ipswich Model Band. The Little Church Garden supplies vegetables for our Sunday afternoon Food Ministry as well as our parishioners.

Current emphases and activities

Worship at St Paul's has traditionally been Anglo-Catholic and this continues to shape our 8:30am Sunday Eucharist. A '*Kids Time with God*' session is available for young children at this time. Services are also held on Tuesday and Friday mornings at St Pauls.

Music is a vital part of our worship services which are not only enhanced by splendid organ music but also by piano. We have a monthly Choral Evensong and a contemporary service every 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Our South Sudanese services are conducted in Dinka and feature singing, dancing, and percussion. The Dinka speaking Sunday School is held concurrently.

Baptisms take place occasionally during the 8.30am Eucharist, but more generally during a Sunday baptismal service at 10:30am. Preparation for parents and Godparents takes place prior to the baptism. This contact with the broader community presents opportunities for ministry, and as a result, invitations to various events and Christmas services are sent out.

A Natural Church Development (NCD) survey in 2011 noted that St Paul's strengths lay in gift-based ministry and loving relationships. This is evident in our strong lay involvement in leading worship – as intercessors, readers, servers, as welcomers and sides persons. There are 24 licensed Liturgical Assistants in the Parish, 14 of whom serve the South Sudanese community either at St. Paul's or at the Raceview church which that congregation hires for their worship. Others assist in leading the Eucharist services, and some are involved in hospital chaplaincy and administering home communions.

Regular ministry activities at St Paul's include the following:

- Mothers Union (AMUA)
- Men's Fellowship
- Food ministry
- Garden and property maintenance
- Community Garden (Little Church Garden, St John's, Basin Pocket)
- Support Centre, including archive maintenance.
- Quilt and Craft Display
- Annual Proms concert
- Organ recitals
- Choir, including monthly Evensong.
- Catering
- Bible Studies (various)
- Koine Greek lessons
- Coffee on Wednesdays (COWS)
- Friends of St Pauls (inaugurated 2024)
- Twice monthly contemporary lay-led service

During the week (from Monday to Saturday), the busiest hub is the St Paul's Op Shop. Over 40 volunteers provide quality second-hand goods at reasonable prices to a wide cross-section of the community.–The Op Shop is run by a committee chosen by the volunteers, and this committee reports to Parish Council. The Op Shop provides opportunities for service and fellowship, as well as supplying needed goods and a Christian connection for those who come through the door. It also contributes significantly to the income needed to run the Parish.

Our yearly activities follow the traditional Anglican Church calendar. We hold Lenten Bible studies, and our Easter observances includes the Stations of the Cross. In December, we enjoy Christmas Carols on the Lawn, a Christmas Eve Family Service, Midnight Mass and a morning service on Christmas Day.

Our rich musical heritage can be traced back to 1860 with the generous donation of our Walker pipe organ. St Paul's has a long tradition of hosting musical performances by recognized Australian and international performers such as Opera Queensland, our Annual Proms at St Pauls and by local choral groups. In 2011, with our pipe organ in need of extensive repairs, the Jani Haenke Charitable

Trust agreed to fund 85% of the original cost of this work on the basis that the organ would be available for community use: recognising the significant potential role of St Paul's in the cultural life of the city.

Our place in the wider Anglican community

St Paul's parishioners enjoy opportunities for fellowship with others from neighbouring parishes through informal occasions such as ecumenical fundraising events or through combined parish functions such as Shrove Tuesday when we join with St Thomas's, North Ipswich and All Saints', Booval. St Paul's is a resource church for St Thomas' at North Ipswich and is also available to the All Saints congregation. The parishes continue to work towards new and creative ways to actively engage their congregations in joint activities and projects.

St Paul's works with other Christian churches to conduct an ecumenical Religious Instruction program in schools. We assist by providing teachers as well as helping to cover the cost of materials and supporting fundraising initiatives. Our clergy conduct services at St Mary's Hostel, Villa Maria Nursing Home, Bundaleer Lodge and Blue Care Brassall and our lay hospital chaplains are also a part of this ecumenical team.

Social justice has long been an important principle at St Paul's. We cooperate with other churches to provide drivers and helpers for Meals-on-Wheels during the Christmas holiday period. We have a weekly Food Ministry on Sunday afternoons from 3pm-5pm, which is an outreach for homeless and financially vulnerable people. Through Ipswich Assist, based at Central Church (Presbyterian), vouchers are provided to disadvantaged people who, through our Op Shop, can select a limited amount of clothing at no charge. We also support a variety of appeals as the needs arises. Local projects include the Sudanese Scholarship Fund and Refugee Support Fund.

Martyrs' Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in September, with the participation of various community groups. At this time, we honour all missionaries who were killed, in particular those who were Anglican, during the Japanese invasion of 1942. One of these, Mavis Parkinson, a teacher at the Church of England Gona Mission, was a former parishioner of St Paul's.

In 1994, St Paul's was instrumental in the establishment of West Moreton Anglican College, a Diocesan sponsored school catering for students from years P – 12. The College is situated outside the parish boundaries, however liaison between the Parish and the College is encouraged.

Plans and vision for the future

The vision statement of St Paul's identifies us as *"striving to be a diverse, inclusive and affirming Christian community in which people can discover and develop relationship with God, and with each other"*. In 2023, the Parish conducted a visioning day which resulted in a recent (2024) mission action plan (MAP) being developed. The MAP includes redevelopment of the hall, modernisation of communication technology, including Wi-Fi, refurbishment of existing historic facilities and expansion of current missional activities, including greater engagement with the Ipswich community.

Our close proximity to Law Courts, local council and government offices and other businesses provides us with opportunities for lunch-time ministries such as our current series of organ recitals.

St Paul's is within walking distance of two major hospitals, Ipswich General Hospital and St Andrew's Private Hospital, with several of our parishioners being members of the Hospital Chaplaincy Team and the Ipswich Hospice is nearby Hospital Chaplaincy Team. Leading educational facilities - the state-of-the-art Bremer State High School and the adjacent University of Southern Queensland campus, along with the historic Ipswich Grammar School and Ipswich Girls' Grammar School – have provided opportunities for ministry in the past and will continue to do so into the future.

Are you interested, curious... called?

If you are interested and have a sense that God may be calling you to come and serve St Paul's in a new season of ministry, or even if you'd just like some more information, we'd love for you to contact our Regional Bishop, Cam Venables, to explore this and pray with you:

Email: cvenables@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Mobile: 0419 784 456