

# Maleny Anglican Parish Profile 2024

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*Love one another as I  
have loved you.*

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## Introduction

The Parish of Maleny is nestled in the beautiful Sunshine Coast Hinterland, extending from Mapleton in the north out to Kenilworth and south to Maleny. The area is experiencing growth with young families moving into the area along with many retirees.

We are a diverse group of people who come together from different worship styles and theologies gathering in three worship centres: St George's Maleny, St Mary's Montville and St Luke's, Kenilworth. We take seriously Jesus's command to 'love one another, as I have loved you'.

Although most of our congregations are made up of people from the older age bracket, we aim to be a welcoming church community for all and look forward to bringing Jesus to younger people in our local areas.

We are currently engaged in transitioning to a collaborative model of ministry within the hub of the Sunshine Coast Anglican Community.

We are looking for a prayerful, compassionate and energetic priest who will:

- help us be a light in and to our local community,
- guide us in Prayer and Sacrament, bring the Scriptures alive to us in our daily lives,
- support and oversee a pastoral ministry team,
- engage with the wider community,
- challenge people to accept and follow Jesus,
- be a pastor to people holding different views on the issues challenging the church at this time.

## History

In attempting to gather historical data on the formation of an Anglican Parish in the Sunshine coast Hinterland, it soon became apparent that any attempt to try and provide a link to the construction of the first churches in the area would not meet with success.

It was not until 1986 that a Mission District of Maleny was established with a view to the ultimate goal of having two hinterland parishes, one on the mountains and one in the railway corridor. This proposed Mission District would consist primarily of the country areas of the then Caloundra Parish, as well as certain areas within Buderim, Caboolture and Mary Valley parishes lying within the then Landsborough Shire. Despite this apparent determination on the composition of the Mission District its actual structure was established as: Maleny (St George's), Mooloolah (St Thomas') and Landsborough (St John's) all from Caloundra; Montville (St Mary's) from Buderim; and Palmwoods (St Augustine's) from Buderim.

This arrangement continued until 1994 when Mooloolah was transferred back to Caloundra and Landsborough simply vanished from the records. In 1995 Palmwoods was established as a parish on its own and Kenilworth (St Luke's) and Gheerulla (St Matthew's) were added from Mary Valley Parish. St Matthew's was deconsecrated in 2015.

Although our oldest church, St Mary's celebrated its Centenary in 2014 and St Luke's celebrates 65 years in 2020, the Parish of Maleny, in its current structure, is only 19 years old.

## The Local Area

There are five main population centres in the parish. The largest of these is Maleny, a rural town 100kms north of Brisbane and situated at an altitude of 450m on the Blackall Range in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. The 2021 Census records the population of Maleny at 3,959 people, comprising 45.6% male, 54.4% female, and a median age of 59.

The town and surrounding rural areas have become popular ‘tree change’ destinations with a very high percentage of retirees in the population. The Blackall Range is an attractive area for anyone interested in ecology, alternative lifestyles, arts and crafts and the outdoors. It is a very popular tourist destination with many cafes and restaurants. For those who desire sand and surf it is only just over 30 minutes by car to the pristine beaches of Caloundra. The climate is sub-tropical at altitude, giving an ideal warm summer temperature in the mid to high twenties, but without the high humidity of the coastal areas of the Sunshine Coast. Winter temperatures are significantly cooler, particularly at night when they can descend into single figures, however daytime temperatures seldom go much below 20C.

For families and children, Maleny has an excellent State Primary and a State High School. In addition, there are a number of private schools in the area which provide bus transport from Maleny.

Medical facilities in Maleny are excellent with the Soldier’s Memorial Hospital, an ambulance station and a number of medical centres and independent GPs. The Sunshine Coast University Hospital is a 30minute drive away. There are three dental practices, three pathology collection centres and an X-ray and ultra-sound facility. Shopping facilities are outstanding for a town of this size with two supermarkets, two pharmacies, an organic co-op, two bakeries, two butchers, several clothing outlets and a number of book shops, craft stores and art galleries. There is very little in the way of necessities that cannot be sourced locally. However, the larger shopping centres of the Sunshine Coast are only 30-45 minutes away and Brisbane is only a little over an hour by car or train from Landsborough, which is only fifteen minutes from Maleny.

The other population centres are Montville with a population of 1092 and a median age of 56; Mapleton with a population of 1661 and a median age of 59; Flaxton with a population of 992 and a median age of 59; and Kenilworth with a population of 604 and a median age of 51 (figures taken from 2021 Census).



## Worship

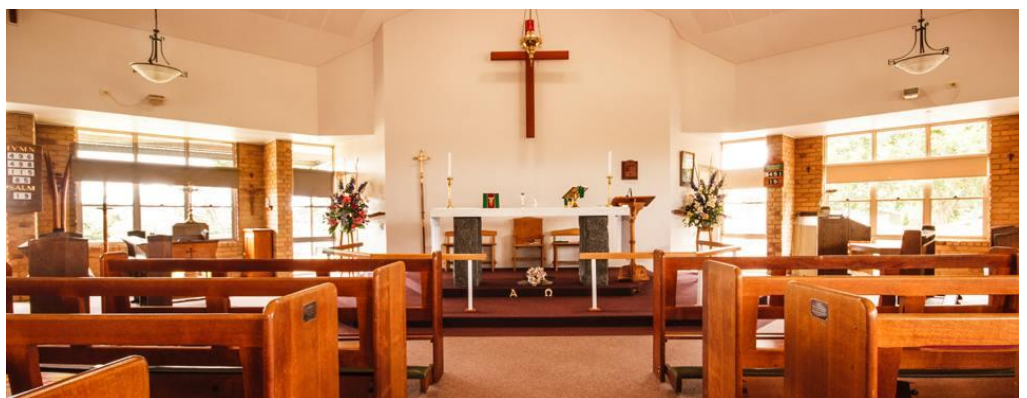
We aim to honour God through Prayer, Sacrament and sound biblical teaching. We use A Prayer Book for Australia for our Eucharists and other services.

## Worship Centres

### St George's Maleny



Built in 1993 St George's Church is a modern building of timber and brick construction. The attached hall can be utilised for additional seating on the occasions when the congregation exceeds 80. The Church and Parish office together with the Rectory and the 'Shepherd Shed' (a Colourbond and lined shed which is currently leased short term) is located on a large 1.8 acre block well away from the town centre in a quiet residential area.



The Sunday Eucharist is held at 9.30am with approximately 20-30 people in attendance.







## St Mary's Montville



Constructed in 1914, St Mary's is the oldest church in the parish. It is situated in a picturesque part of town and is popular with tourists and as a wedding venue. Sunday Eucharists are held at 8am with an average attendance of 15 - 20.

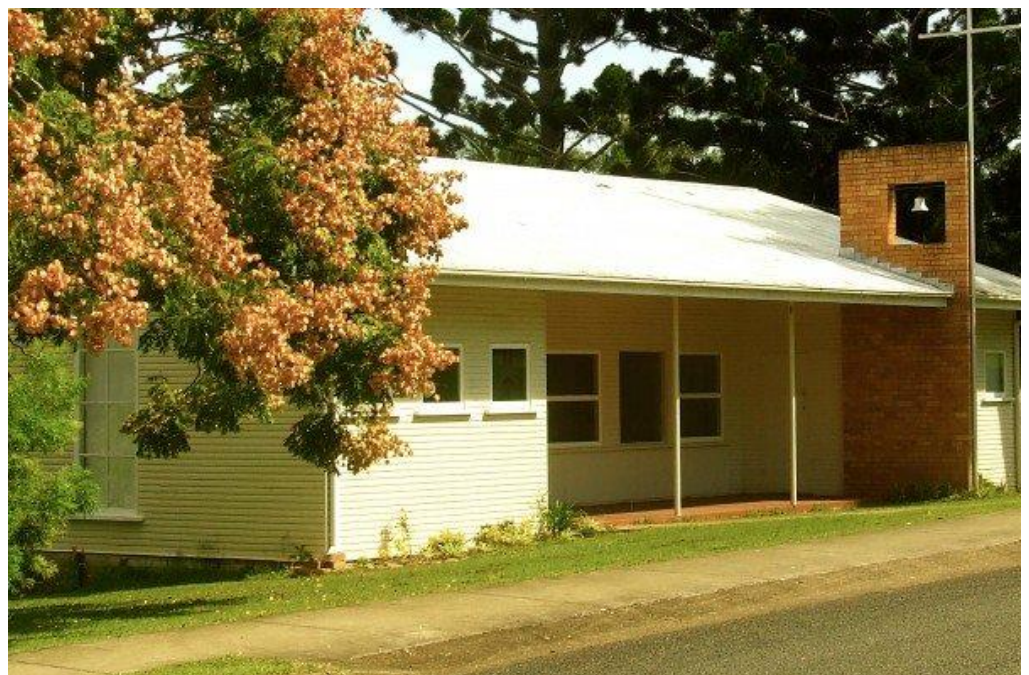




## St Luke's Kenilworth



St Luke's was opened as a War Memorial Church and dedicated on 19 November 1955 by Archbishop Reginald Halse. The Church was built along simple, straight lines to suit the needs and climatic conditions of the district. It features wide windows and glass panels along one wall and a brick belfry.



Services at St Luke's take the form of Morning Prayer or Eucharist depending on the availability of a priest. Approximately 12 people worship each Sunday. Morning Prayer is said from St Luke's on Thursdays with around 5-8 parishioners attending.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month the members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches join together for a joint worship service led by a local lay person. There are strong ecumenical relationships in Kenilworth.





## Online Presence

The parish has both an internet web page and a Facebook page. During the restrictions on attending churches as a consequence of COVID-19 the parish utilised Zoom and Facebook to bring the Eucharist and Morning Prayer to many within the parish and beyond.

We continue as required to broadcast a live 9.30am Eucharist each Sunday from St George's as a pastoral offering for those who cannot attend church. On special occasions such as patronal festivals our community usually joins together for a shared service in the celebrating church.

## Erowal Nursing Home

A service is conducted at the Erowal Nursing Home in Maleny on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month with an average attendance of 20. This is conducted by Lay ministry.

## Taize

Taize services are at held monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 5pm at St George's with our Taize choir under a musical director.



## Ministry Team

Clergy are assisted in all three centres by parishioners fulfilling roles as Liturgical Assistants, Sacristans, Readers, Greeters and Musicians.

## Staff

The Parish currently employs a part-time (4-6 hrs per week) administrative assistant until end of 2024. The Parish will be participating with the Sunshine Coast Anglican Community hub for ongoing administrative arrangements in 2025.

## Office Holders

Parish Wardens meet on a regular basis as required.

Parish Council usually meets once a month at St George's, Maleny. We have an active parish council with elected membership across all 3 churches.

## Parish Groups

**St George's Guild:** meets every two months. The Guild's major activity is the organisation and running of fundraising activities in Maleny, primarily cake and trash and treasure stalls three to four times a year in aid of school chaplaincy and major repairs and maintenance to St George's.

**St Mary's Auxiliary:** The Auxiliary manages the care and use of the church and hall for the parish and engages with local community events to assist with fundraising. St Mary's Hall is well utilised with regular local groups hiring the venue.

**Mothers' Union Australia:** Meets in St George's Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. Mothers' Union Overseas and Outreach and Anglicare collections are well supported in the parish.



**Bible Studies:** Parishioners take part in bible study groups on a seasonal basis at various locations in the parish.

**Meditation Groups:** Meditation is held at St Mary's on Wednesdays at 9am and in Kenilworth at an Ecumenical venue on Thursdays at 9.30am.

**Ecumenical Breakfasts:** Breakfast gatherings with speakers are held about five times each year.

**Religious Instruction:** A number of parishioners teach religious instruction in the Maleny State School.

**Cursillo:** The Parish supports Cursillo and a number of parishioners meet together.

## **Community Outreach**

The 'Parish Pantry' collects non-perishable food items for distribution to families in need through the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre.

All three congregations are involved in supporting missions both in Australia and overseas either by direct giving on an individual basis or through a pledge envelope. Some of the organisations support and Church Missionary Society, Anglican Board of Mission, Mercy Ships, Bush Church Aid and Bush Ministry Fund. Each year parishioners fill more than 100 boxes in the Christmas Christ Child Programme.



St Mary's is involved in ecumenical Christmas and Easter services which, although promoted as Montville Village Association events, are organised through the Range Churches Together. Similar events are also organised in Maleny through the RCT.

St Luke's arranges an annual distribution of Christmas packages to aged care facilities.

Volunteers from both Maleny and Montville churches collaborate in running the St Augustine's Op Shop at Palmwoods each week on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings as a growing joint community outreach service.

In addition to the 'church specific' activities many members of the parish are actively involved on an individual basis in supporting the community through membership of various service clubs and involvement in Meals on Wheels and other community support programmes.

## Rectory

Co-located with St George's, the rectory is a four-bedroom brick veneer house with a large lounge and separate family room and a separate office area. It is in excellent condition. There is a single garage and a stand-alone single carport.

The Parish Office is located within the Vestry space at the back of the church.

The Ministry Annex is hired out to community groups as required.

The "Shepherds Shed" adjacent to church building is currently leased short term.



## **Towards the future..**

We are a Parish currently engaged in discerning a different kind of future looking to work across boundaries to support each other.

We recognise that the future will look different to the past and are hopeful of openness and meaningful change ahead.

The parish is looking to appoint a half time position which may be supplemented by collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Anglican Community Hub.

## **What we are looking for in our new priest**

- A priest who is solid in Anglican identity offering and being comfortable with a variety of spiritual and worship styles
- A priest who is prayerful in daily life and who will foster prayer and meditation in the lives of parishioners.
- A priest who will bring the Scriptures alive to us in our daily lives and who will challenge us to accept and follow Jesus.
- A priest who can facilitate the continuing presence of faith education and faith formation across the parish and will bring God's Word to our parish centres and the wider community.
- Someone who will create and uphold a welcoming community with a culture of openness and acceptance.
- Someone who will support ecumenical ministry.
- A strong believer in the importance of pastoral ministry who will support and oversea a pastoral ministry team.
- A person who is willing to engage with and take the message of hope and diversity to the wider community.
- A collaborative leader who encourages parishioners to exercise their gifts and is willing to delegate as needs require.

It is important that any incumbent of the position fully appreciates that this is a geographically diverse parish with local as well as common overall priorities. Each congregation has its own characteristics and a desire to be a light in their community.

Parish boundary indicated pink.

