



St Augustine's Anglican Church Hamilton

Parish Profile 2024



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Parish Profile: St Augustine's, Hamilton

Parish Overview

The focal point of Community Life in Racecourse Road, St. Augustine's reflects the diversity of the catchment and demography in which the church is centred. Celebrating its Centenary in 2020, St. Augustine's rich history and standing as a war memorial church offers newcomers and visitors an insight to life in the area. With a vibrant and energetic staff and volunteers, a calendar brimming with events and activities, and a welcoming heritage precinct, St. Augustine's provides an inclusive anchor of modern, Christian life.

In keeping with the prevailing theology in the diocese, the congregation of St Augustine's has always valued a comprehensive, moderate and liberal Anglicanism. Our liturgical style could be described as fairly traditional, with an emphasis on the involvement of children and families.

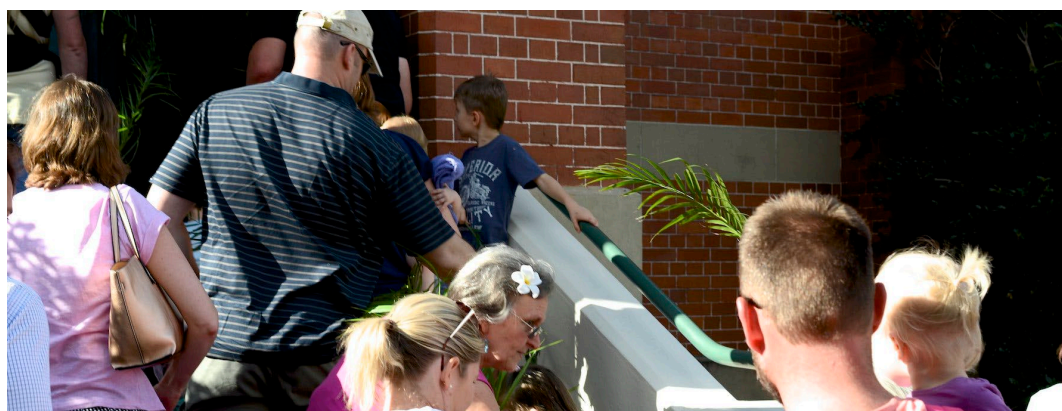
Under our most recent Rector, the Parish has undergone a strategic planning process, which has provided a platform for our desired development & growth, ensuring a strong foundation for the incoming minister.

Background and History

(An excerpt from Brisbane City Council Heritage Citation listing, updated August, 2019)

"This Anglican Church precinct has its origins in the establishment of a timber church on the site circa 1895. In 1920, it was replaced with this larger, permanent brick church, which was built in memoriam to those who died serving in World War I. A rectory had also been established on the site in 1918, and in 1941 a parish hall was built. A tower was also constructed in 1961 to honour those who had served in World War II and a bell was installed in 1967. Renowned painter, illustrator, and stained glass window designer, William Bustard, designed the fine, stained glass windows throughout the church.

The site of the present St Augustine's Anglican Church stands upon land, which was once part of an eight-acre pineapple plantation established by William John Farmer Cooksley in 1875. The Anglican congregation purchased two allotments of this land in 1895 and a small wooden church was constructed. This church exemplified a wider drive by Bishop Webber to construct more Anglican churches and was dedicated by him in 1896. Prior to the construction of this church, most Hamilton Anglicans travelled



Community at St Augustine's



to St John's Pro-Cathedral in William Street, or crossed the river to attend St John the Baptist Church at Bulimba. In 1911, following the Church's purchase of an adjoining one acre site between Charlton Street and Racecourse Road, the wooden church was moved to the south-east corner of the new site.

As a result of the rapid growth of the Hamilton congregation it was decided that a new permanent brick church and parish hall be built as a thanks-offering for victory in the First World War. The present red brick, rectangular church, erected due east and west of the site, was completed in 1920 at a cost of £6,392 including seats. The first service was held on 17 October of that year. Reverend J.B. Armstrong, who oversaw the building work, "laid the first brick and eventually climbed up on the roof and put on the last tile".

In 1959, Colonel Dan Evans gifted a new organ to the church as a memorial to Naval and Merchant Navy personnel who lost their lives in the war. A tower, reaching a height of 64 feet was constructed in 1961, and dedicated to the men and women who served in the Second World War. As a tribute to the role of the Air Force, an airman is depicted in the first tower window. The first bell was installed in the tower in 1967.

The present church is 120 feet by 32 feet and can seat 350 people with an extra fifty places available in the Gallery. During the 1970s what was believed to be the oldest bell in Australia, understood to have been first hung in a Romanian Church by the Emperor Constantine in 320 AD, stood in the church grounds. The bell was retrieved from a World War I battleground by Australian sailors and was donated by Captain William Campbell Thomson to St Augustine's to hang as a war memorial. The bell was stolen in 1978. On 10 February 2000, what is believed to be St Augustine's bell, was recovered in a joint operation between US Customs and Brisbane police.

Special events, including Anzac services, special group and Baroque performances, are regularly held at the church.

Community and Location

The Hamilton Parish Precinct enjoys a leafy, double-frontage position on Charlton Street and Racecourse Road and is part of the bustling community life of Hamilton/Ascot in Brisbane. With a number of Primary and Secondary schools nearby, and supported by the Anglican Girls' School, St Margaret's, the church has a community focus during significant seasons, festivals, and events.

The church hall hosts many community groups, volunteer associations, and private functions throughout the year. With a newly renovated Rectory, the continuous maintenance of assets and groups ensures that the parish is ready to welcome all residents and visitors for every occasion and celebration.

Pastoral offices play a significant part in the ministry of the parish. St Augustine's is one of the premier "wedding churches" in the diocese (approx. 10 per year) and also regularly hosts couples celebrating significant anniversaries. Similarly, the church hosts a significant number of baptisms each year (approx. 35 per year) which reflects the number of families that feel a significant attachment to the parish. In addition, not only are there a good number of funerals in church throughout the year (approx. 25) but the Columbarium and Garden of Remembrance host approx. 20 interments of ashes each year. This all represents a significant opportunity in terms of our missional reach to the local community, and there is an increasing sense of shared ministry in this space, with a number of parishioners involving themselves in this work.



Weddings at St Augustine's

Heritage Statement of Significance

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the Brisbane City Plan 2014. It is significant because:

- The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history for the evidence it provides of the development of the Hamilton area from the 1910s and the presence and growth of the Anglican Church in the area from this time; and
- The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as the church displays what is believed to be the only complete set of stained-glass windows designed by renowned designer, William Bustard."¹



Sanctuary Windows

¹ Heritage Citation, Local Heritage Places: St Augustine's Anglican Church Precinct, Brisbane City Council (August, 2019)



Vision Document

A copy of the Vision Document is provided in the Appendices. The 5 key tenets of our Vision are:

- Flourishing Worship
- Reaching into the Community
- Crossing the Generations
- Improving our Precinct
- Sustainable Finances

People and Groups

Ministry & Administration

The current Rector has been in place for 3 years and will finish in late November 2024.

The Rector is supported by one, part-time administrator role (currently occupied). Past Rectors have helped in the training of theological students from St Francis' College and assistant curates, always with the enthusiastic support of the congregation.

The rectory, adjacent to the church and accessible from both Racecourse Road and Charlton Street was renovated in 2020.

Kids' Church & Mainly Music have been reinstated under the current Minister, through the recruitment of a part-time Youth & Children's Minister.

The table below shows the regular, weekly events in and around the church. These occasions provide a connection for each of the participants to share their ideas in a non-structured and relaxed environment, extending the Christian-centred discussion beyond services.

Monday	Community quilting classes
Tuesday	7am Eucharist (on hiatus) Tuesday friends (last Tuesday of each month)
Wednesday	Morning Eucharist 10am weekly (3 rd Wednesday of the month Healing Eucharist) Portofino Aged Care Eucharist 11am – 3 rd Wednesday of the month Crafties – 1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays Mahjong – 2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays English conversation classes – every week during term time (evening)
Thursday	7am Eucharist (on hiatus) Mainly Music – 9:30am weekly Bible study – 1 st and 3 rd Thursday of the month, 2.30pm 4pm Meditation in Columbarium 5pm Evening Prayer in Columbarium



Friday	Current Priest Day Off
Saturday	Memorial Requiem Eucharist (Columbarium) 1 st Saturday of the month, followed by <i>Breakfast and More</i> .
Sunday	7:30am said Eucharist 9:30am sung Eucharist (with choir)

In past years, the Rector has led a retreat for those who wish to engage in a further extension and more intensive reflection in faith.

Home and hospital communions are offered as and when the need arises.

Children’s & Youth Ministry

Children’s & Youth Ministry in its current form was re-established in 2024, with a leader employed on a part-time basis to conduct this ministry. Sunday School occurs during the 9:30am Sunday service. A Mainly Music parent and toddler group for younger children takes place at 9:30am each Thursday during school term. This Ministry was an integral component of St Augustine’s strategic planning.

Theological Students

The students that have visited St Augustine’s have been able to glean the methods, and expectation of church life beyond the theory of college, while being enveloped into a community and becoming part of the Parish. While there are a number of assessment components to be examined as a student, the congregants at St Augustine’s value the opportunity to provide support, insight, and evaluation, as it is required or requested. There are currently no students attached to St Augustines.

Wardens and Parish Council

The current Churchwardens at St Augustine’s are a mixture of ages, genders, professions, and experience in the church and assist the Rector and clergy in operational matters. Focussed on governance and compliance, safety, ethics, and engagement of parishioners, it is the Churchwardens who compile information and support for responses to the Diocese, reporting obligations, and other official dialogue not in the purview of the Rector or clergy.

For at least the last decade, the parish has decided each year to have 3 churchwardens.

The Parish Council undergoes a healthy amount of rotation of parishioners. Some of those forming the council take on specific responsibility in the areas of Communications and Media, the Finance Committee, and the Building and Grounds Committee.

A treasurer is appointed each year by the Parish Council. Since 2019, he has also been one of the churchwardens.

More detail is available about the activity and recent history of these groups in the Parish Annual Reports, published ahead of the Annual General Meeting.



Finance Committee

The Finance Committee was formed with specific objectives to advise Parish Council on the management of finances, appropriate designations for substantial donations, and management of investments, in keeping with Diocesan views and strategies in this area.

Since chartering, the Finance Committee has established and advised on the division of investments, and cash held by the Diocese on behalf of the Parish, to ensure the maximum benefit to the stakeholders, to assist in the navigation of decisions on financing standing commitments in accordance with the canons, such as the Rector's vehicle, and most recently during the Covid-19 pandemic in terms of financial tactics for long-term support for employees, in particular.

With the recent renovations to the rectory, the Finance Committee assisted in the advice and engagement around contracts, oversight, and support in order for Parish to undertake and contract the works that were considerably overdue.

Building & Grounds Committee

Assessing and prioritising the maintenance schedule for the Parish assets is conducted by a team of people adept and familiar with the requirements of construction repairs and maintenance. This schedule of activity forms the basis of the budget forecast for expenditure and is reviewed periodically to ensure that the church assets are appropriately and effectively maintained, meeting the obligations of health, safety, and environment.

Part of the assessment revealed that the Rectory was in need of significant repair beyond mere maintenance, and there was a submission to review the Rectory in its entirety.

Other Building and Grounds activities have included the installation of water tanks and irrigation taps to the garden, air-conditioning the church hall, lighting of the grounds especially for events, and repairs to the bell tower and the hall. Given the age & heritage of the site, the Building Committee retains a backlog of maintenance works.

Congregation and Volunteers

Many congregants are long-term worshippers and descendants of life-long parishioners of St Augustine's. This feature distinguishes the parish with a living, personal and collective history among regular attendees and ensures the preservation of history in a meaningful way and allows the transfer of those experiences to new church members or those returning to their family church as first-hand accounts.

Many members of the congregation are single people, older couples, or people who are of a different faith from their spouse. It has been found that this scenario is typical of many churchgoers in modern Australia. There are a number of early-childhood, primary, and secondary school children who participate in services in a variety of ways, particularly during church for 'Kids' Church' at the 9.30am service.

The Columbarium facilitates periodic visits by loved ones to their memorials of relatives and friends, and the memorial service held on the first Saturday of each month features the recognition of the anniversary of each person laid to rest in that month.

St Augustine's services as a physical place of memorial for all loved ones, as well as those who served in every conflict involving Australians. Volunteers assist in the maintenance of the Columbarium, and the management and allocation of niches, plaques, and ashes of those remembered within.



The volunteers supporting St Augustine's community service are often parishioners, but in many cases are others in the local area wishing to make a contribution and are all very welcome.

Jumble Sale

Formerly the Ladies' Auxiliary, Jumble volunteers host a Jumble sale on the first Wednesday of each month (except in January). These sales are supported by 'boutique' sale events. The reputation of the regular event, standard and quality of donations, and dedication and organisation by the volunteers has resulted in its success and growth. The proceeds from Jumble, in both funds and in-kind donations, form a significant portion of church income and outreach, and underpin annual budget income.

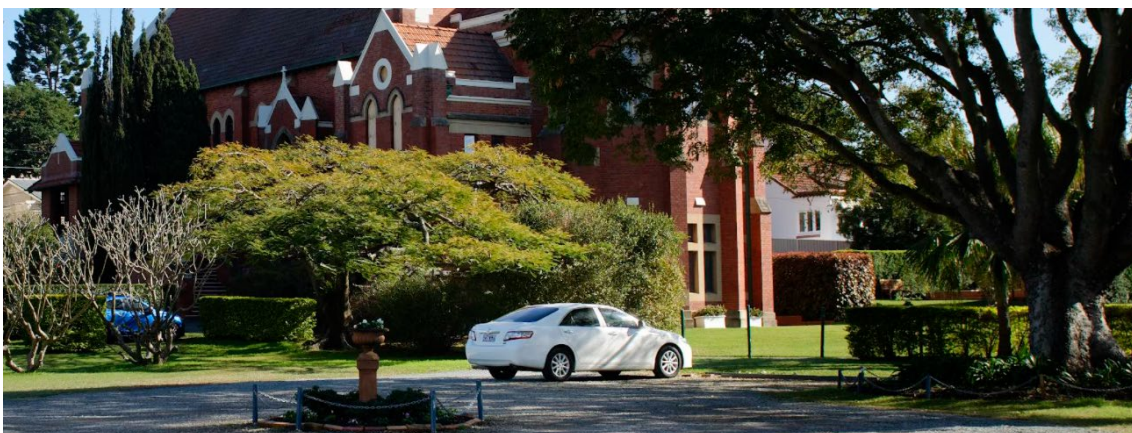


Church Grounds

A team of volunteer gardeners contribute to maintaining the grounds with regular watering, mowing and planting, seasonal growing features, and irrigation initiatives for effective site water use. Self-organised and rostered, St Augustine's gardeners ensure careful management of a variety of flowers, plants, and trees, among these a number of heritage-listed poinciana, which form tree-lined avenues and are a well-known feature in Hamilton and Ascot.

Newly formed Working Groups

In support of the 2023 Strategic Plan, Parish Councillors and other interested members of the congregation have been assigned to working groups to support the objectives of the strategic plan & aid in the smooth-running of the parish. These include Building & Grounds, Jumble, Columbarium, Development, Children & Families, Community Engagement & Finance.



Carpark and Eastern end of the church



Conversation Classes

In support of those wishing to expand their English conversation or become more fluent in their communication, the parish hosts weekly conversation classes for non-native speakers, asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants in our community. This group is led from the community and meets in the hall on Wednesday evenings.

Support and Outreach

Columbarium

The installation of one of Queensland's most unique resources, the St Augustine's Columbarium includes a chapel surrounded by niches and plaques marking the final resting places of many identities and former residents of the district. The space provides a very peaceful environment, and features a number of beautifully designed, and crafted stained-glass windows which enhance the atmosphere.

The Parish is fortunate to host this asset, and with the responsibility, a monthly service (held on the first Saturday of each month) commemorating those who've passed on is held each month. This is a very well-attended service, at which ashes are often interred. A Columbarium Warden was appointed in 2024; they handle the administration and meet with the families.



Columbarium Sanctuary

Pastoral Care

For the many former congregants and parishioners, or volunteers to the church, the clergy maintain a physical connection with those people when they are in care or have taken ill. Visits to those people are scheduled and conducted at the discretion and with arrangement of family and loved ones, or the person and carers as appropriate. There are times that communion is served in a private service for these people to celebrate their faith, often when it is most appreciated.

For those who are unable to be in church, or for those who are unwell and seek the prayer support of the congregation, they are remembered during weekly services by name. The clergy visits extend as far west as The Wesley Hospital, north to Taigum, and south to Bulimba, or as needs be.



Live Streaming

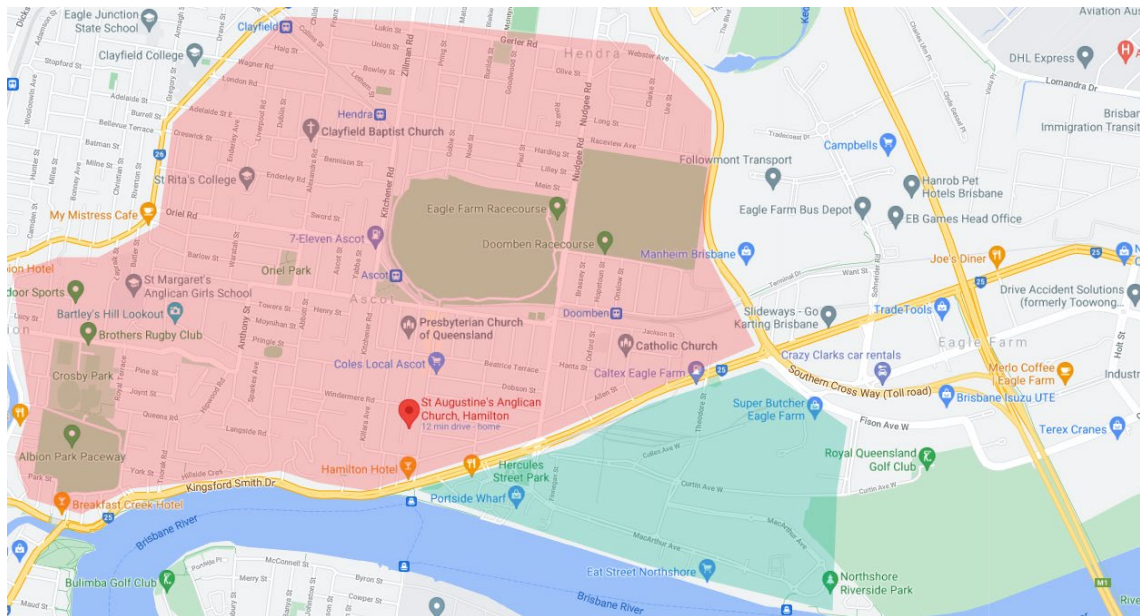
As many churches have as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, St Augustine's continues to live stream Sunday services. While commencing with an interim setup employing a mobile phone and the Facebook Live functionality, a more capable and permanent solution has since been installed. This ministry is appreciated by various members of the congregation who are no longer able to worship in person, and often as many as ten people are worshipping online on a Sunday morning. The service is also regularly streamed into Portofino Aged Care home.

The Future

The Churchwardens and Parish Council consider that there are two primary areas for targeted growth in the future of St Augustine's. They are youth ministry and the fast-growing Northshore area.

Historically, and as noted above, the parish has been able to support a curate or deacon. The appointment this year of a part time Youth & Children's Minister has already seen a significant increase in family attendance and engagement. There is room for this ministry to grow further.

In the South-Eastern corner of the suburb is the urban renewal project known as Northshore, which will likely play a foundational role in the Brisbane 2032 Olympics. A number of regular parishioners are based in apartment buildings in the complex already and flyers advertising St Augustine's have been displayed in some buildings' lobbies in the past. Given the geographical size of the area, any new church plant seems unlikely and so St Augustine's is the default Anglican option for the residents. As the area's population increases, its potential to grow the parish likewise increases.



Approximate Parish Boundaries – traditional (red), Northshore (green)

Further References

- Parish Website - <https://www.staugustineshamilton.org.au>
- Parish Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/staugseq>
- Parish YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@staugustineshamilton>
- Parish Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/staugseq/>

Other Resources available on Request

1. Annual Reports (2021 – 2023)
2. Parish History (Book)
3. St Augustine's Parish Hamilton: Vision Statement 2023
4. Open House brochures – (1) Public (2) Volunteer info



Baroque performances & special group services are regularly held in the church