

Anglican Parish of Dalby

(St John's Church Dalby, and St Margaret's Church Cecil Plains)

Parish Profile 2025



Our Mission

**“To know Christ, and to make Christ known,
through worship, reaching out, caring, and education.”**

<https://www.anglicandalby.org.au/>

Facebook: St John's Anglican Church Dalby

Anglican
Church Southern Queensland

Parish Aims

- To be a loving, Christ-like community
- To reflect the love of Christ in our local communities
- To grow in faith, and grow in numbers
- To support people in their discipleship and spiritual growth
- To encourage and empower parishioners to use their gifts and talents
- To encourage families, children and young people to grow their faith
- To encourage gracious stewardship

What we are looking for in our next Parish Priest

- Someone who has a deep and genuine love for God and God's people
- Someone who has a deep and genuine love for teaching the Gospel, and explaining its relevance for our lives today
- A person who values, understands and empowers lay ministry
- A person who has energy and enthusiasm, and who has good mental health and physical stamina
- A person who has ability to pastor, guide and train others to care pastorally
- A person who desires for us to grow as a church, and who will encourage young families to be part of our Parish family
- A person who will work collaboratively with the Parish Council to discern vision, identify goals, & develop strategies that will enable the future flourishing of the Parish
- Someone who has the skills to effectively relate and work cross-generationally

What can the Parish offer the next Priest?

- The opportunity to lead, teach, and support an enthusiastic congregation through a time of great challenge, change, and growth
- A Parish Community hungry to grow in their relationship with God, and willing to risk new things for Mission
- The skilled support of a part-time Youth Ministry Intern (second year)
- The skilled support of paid administration staff
- The enthusiastic support of gifted volunteers
- An experienced Parish Council who work collaboratively
- A parish vehicle (Nissan SUV)
- An off-site house with four (4) bedrooms and a study that is located in a beautiful quiet residential area that is only a 5-minute drive to St Johns.

Parish Strengths

- Faithful Core Congregation who give generously, both financially and in-kind
- Enthusiastic and growing family ministry
- Enthusiastic and capable LA's
- Mission support – we support local, national and international Mission
- Hospitality
- Good ecumenical cooperation with regular interaction, services and meetings with other churches in our area
- Strong mission focussed, cohesive, and cooperative Parish Council
- Economically diverse region
- Comfortable, air-conditioned, worship facilities with modern AV system
- Two styles of worship service – traditional and contemporary
- Lay ministry support – Employed part time Youth Ministry Intern (second year)
- Administrative support – Employed part time Parish Secretary

Parish Weaknesses

- Aging congregation with gaps between generations within
- Estimated 14% of regular congregation in paid employment
- Maintaining our congregation numbers – but not growing them
- Aging physical facilities, planning to build a new amenities building



St John's Anglican Church is centrally located in the Dalby CBD, at the intersection of Drayton and Cunningham Streets, Dalby.

Active Ministries

(Worship, Education, Outreach and Caring)

Church Services

St John's, Dalby, currently has two services each Sunday:

- A traditional communion service commencing at 8.00 am. This service is 'live' streamed on Facebook and YouTube.
- A more contemporary Family orientated service commencing at 10.00am which includes communion and separate activities (Kids' Church) for children up to Year 6 during the sermon time, joining the main church service at communion time. Kids' Church is led by a rotating team of about 8 people during the school terms.

Attendance at these services in 2023 was 4160 with 3432 communicants. Average weekly attendance at St John's has remained quite steady:

2021 (78)

2022 (80)

2023 (80)

2024 (80)

Baptisms: 2023 (11) Funerals: 2023 (19) Weddings: 2023 (2)

St Margaret's Cecil Plains, holds a communion service on the second and fourth Sunday at 5.00 pm, followed by a light supper. The parish priest travels from Dalby.

Average attendance:

2021 (8)

2022 (7)

2023 (20)

2024 (20)

Ningana is a low care Aged Care home with a monthly communion service (4th Sunday), and Karingal is a Residential Aged Care home and has a monthly service conducted by a rostered Ministers' Fraternal member.

Dalby is well serviced by churches. Apart from the Anglican Church there are worshipping communities from the Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Christian Outreach Centre, Assembly of God, Uniting, Brethren, Lutheran, Salvation Army and Seventh Day Adventist traditions. There is a very strong Ministers' Fraternal in Dalby with most denominations represented. The Fraternal are keen to work together and hold combined Christmas, Easter and Memorial services at Ningana and Karingal, as well as an annual Christmas Carols Evening.

Youth Ministry - In November 2023 a Youth Ministry Intern was employed. The Youth Ministry Intern's role included the modifications to the 10.00am regular family service to encourage active worship particularly with children and families in mind; promoting the youth group (IGNITE); using Face Book page to improve communication; and support for the current school chaplains. The Youth Ministry Intern has accepted a second-year contract, funded by the Anglican Men's Society (AMS) and local donations. IGNITE (ages 12 - 18) is held on the first and third Sunday of each month during the school terms. The Youth Group activities consist of games, a meal provided by Youth Ministry funds, and Bible Study.

Bible Studies - Include a regular Lenten study; annual introductory Bible Studies (choosing between Alpha, or Christianity Explored); young families' bible study and weekly Men's group, along with several small Bible Study and fellowship groups. Parish Council actively work with six small planning committees who strive to enable and train leaders to create and maintain portfolios, namely, Worship, Reaching Out, Caring, Education, Property, and Technology.

Cameo - Come and Meet Each Other is a monthly social event organised by a very active committee based around morning tea and fun activities. With an average attendance of 45 it is aimed at outreach to the local community with our church as the focus.

Merry Widows - A monthly group meeting in a parishioner's home for a BYO lunch with an attendance of up to 20. This is for widows in the church and wider community for company and fellowship.

Confirmation - In 2023 (6) and 2024 (7) we shared the joy of confirmation with teens and young adults who participated in a term of classes and a meeting with Bishop Cam prior to their Sunday confirmation service.

Social Gatherings - Social gatherings include Parish breakfasts, a modified Easter Passover Meal, Men's 'State of Origin' Barbecue, Pot-Luck Dinners and Monday Coffee and Chat.

Outreach and Mission - St John's support activities within the Dalby Community, Dalby Family Support Association (counselling and op shop) and 'Circles of Care' (an evening meal for homeless); Supporting missionaries and mission, Bruce and Libby Hayes (CMS); Bishop Daniel (Ethnic Congregations in SQ Diocese); Bush Church Aid; Religious Instruction in the local schools; School Chaplains; and Samaritan's Purse through 'Operation Christmas Child'; Count Down to Christmas is an outreach and fundraising event where we share the message of the hope of Christmas. It has been held for the past three years.

Care Team - Members of this team meet regularly and pray for, visit or telephone people who are ill or physically unable to leave their homes.

Ecumenical Participation - Churches Together (a monthly evening meal for up to 80 people and speaker hosted in rotation by four of the local churches), Minister's Fraternal (monthly meetings - 12 main Christian denominations), Community Christmas Carols and World Day of Prayer.

Anglican Men's Society – There are currently seven active members of the Dalby Branch who all conduct activities and attend the Society AGM.

Parish Council and Ministry Team

Parish Council consists of 12 members, meetings are held monthly - every 3rd meeting is a ministry focussed / planning meeting examining the ministry/mission activities ahead and the alternate meetings deal with matters pertaining to the running of the parish. The Parish Council has active, committed members who will be very supportive of an incoming minister.

Three Church Wardens. One part-time Youth Ministry Intern (12 hrs/week); One part-time Parish Administrator (17½ hrs/week); one Deacon; four Liturgical Assistants.

Roster of people covering all aspects of service including leading, prayers, reading, Kids' Programme, youth ministry, cleaning, morning tea, grounds maintenance, flowers, catering etc

St John's Church services are displayed on two large screens as a Power Point presentation which includes the liturgy, song words, and videos. A team of three musicians deliver a combination of organ and piano music with occasional drums. Worship with music and singing is a large part of our worship platform.

Hospitality and welcoming are an integral part of our worship and ministry – including morning tea between the two Sunday services; catering for funerals; Churches Together.

Facilities

- St John's Church with annexe seats 200 people – reverse cycle split system air conditioning; and a modern sound and AV system
- St John's Church Hall (Frank Knight Centre) can seat 200 for a concert or 100 for a dinner, recently repainted and air conditioned
- St John's Ministry Centre incorporates the church office, a priest's office, an office for the Youth Ministry Intern, large meeting room, small kitchen and toilet for the disabled. Rooms have air conditioning
- The entire complex is covered by a recorded CCTV 'on-site standalone' security system,
- St Margaret's Cecil Plains seats 50 people, a small country church with a tea room, outside amenities, fans, bar heaters and a projection screen

- Rectory – An off-site house at 6 College Crescent, Dalby was purchased in 2018 and is compliant with current Diocesan Standards for Clergy Housing
- Plans are underway for an Amenities Building attached to the current Frank Knight Centre



Frank Knight Centre

History

The earliest records of the Church of England in Dalby show that in 1852 Archdeacon Benjamin Glennie, of Toowoomba, visited the township and held a service and baptism in the home of the Ross family. In 1860, Reverend Edmund A. Moberley was appointed the first Church of England priest creating the Dalby parish. By 1866 a small brick church with an iron roof was constructed on the corner of Cunningham and Drayton Streets. This brick church was later replaced with a wooden church (which later became the parish hall). This building was used until 1923 when the present picturesque church was erected. The current church building is now heritage listed. The heritage listing applies to the footprint of the church building only.

The first Mayor of Dalby was F. W. Roche, a man whose public activities were so appreciated that the main part of the town was on the South side of Myall Creek and was called Rochetown. Mr Roche was a staunch Anglican and very wealthy. He laid the foundation of St. Johns Church of England in 1866. Many years before Dalby became a municipality, Anglican services were held here, and it was about the time the town received its charter that a Church of England church was built here.

Our wider community

Dalby is a rural town on the northern Darling Downs, 84 km north-west of Toowoomba and 210 km north-west of central Brisbane. It is situated on the Myall Creek flood plain (the creek a tributary of the Condamine River). The population of Dalby is about 13000 and services a further 3000 farmers and local towns.

Dalby and the surrounding Western Downs Region, is at the centre of rich coal and natural gas reserves. Together with several solar farms and a wind farm, these energy facilities help to underpin the power generation industry for SE Qld. The region is renowned as a rich agricultural area, growing crops such as cotton, sorghum, wheat, barley, sunflowers, chickpeas, mung beans and corn, as well as the production of lamb, beef and pork. Dalby has the largest grain storage depot in Queensland, the largest one-day livestock market in Australia and one of the largest regional industrial and agricultural manufacturing sectors.

The town is well serviced with great schools, medical facilities, shopping, parks, worship facilities, sport facilities and clubs, and other services.

Our sister Church in the Parish is St. Margaret's Anglican Church at Cecil Plains. Cecil Plains is a town of approximately 400 people 40 km south of Dalby. In the past it has been a centre for grain and cotton production as well as sawmilling. However, the town is suffering as farms are amalgamated and farming and distribution is centralised.



St Margaret's Church, Cecil Plains



Rectory: 6 College Crescent Dalby, located in a beautiful & quiet residential area five-minute drive to St Johns

What's next?

If you have a sense that God may be calling you to the Parish of Dalby and would like to discuss this further; or, if you have some questions about the role, please contact the Bishop for the Western Region, Cam Venables.

Email: cvenables@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Mobile: 0419 784 456

Facebook: **Cam Venables**

To formally apply for the role please complete the Diocesan Expression of Interest Form and send to Bishop Cam. The template can be accessed by clicking the following hyperlink: [Ref](#)