

A large, colorful stained glass window depicting St. Mark the Evangelist. The central figure is a man with a long, curly beard and hair, wearing a red tunic and a dark hat. He is shown from the waist up, seated and looking towards the right. The background is filled with intricate patterns and other figures, including a figure in a white and gold robe at the top right. The window is set in a wooden frame.

# Parish Profile

THE CHURCH OF  
ST MARK THE  
EVANGELIST

ANGLICAN PARISH OF CLAYFIELD

A. D. 1866  
and in loving memory of  
JACOB BEVERIDGE  
† DOCTOR †

# The Church of St Mark the Evangelist

## The Anglican Parish of Clayfield



***‘Loving God, Serving our local community, Making disciples’***

### **1. HISTORY**

A church in this area was established in 1888. In 1899 the church (which was built of timber) was moved to the current site in the parish. A church hall was built in 1910. St Mark’s became an independent parish in 1925, and has had its own Rector ever since. On 31 May 1964 the current brick church was dedicated under the patronage of Saint Mark the Evangelist.

### **2. LOCATION**

#### **Location and Local Facilities**

St Mark’s is located in the heart of Clayfield, a northern suburb five kilometres from the centre of Brisbane. Geographically the parish is small, bounded by the parishes of St Augustine’s, Hamilton (to the east), St Andrew’s, Lutwyche (to the west), St Colomb’s, Hendra/Clayfield (to the north), and with Breakfast Creek forming a natural boundary to the Parish of Holy Trinity, Fortitude Valley (to the south)

Being close to major northern suburbs, road and rail arteries, St Mark’s is well serviced by buses and trains. Regular services run to the city and nearby shopping centres. It takes only 12 minutes to get to the city by train. Strip and mall shopping centres are nearby with a variety of retail outlets, banks, health professionals, coffee shops and restaurants

St Mark’s is close to primary and secondary schools (including Eagle Junction Primary School, St Margaret’s Anglican Girls’ School and Clayfield College). There is an AVEO Aged Care facility close to St Mark’s, “The Clayfield” on Sandgate Road.

### 3. ASPIRATIONS/VISION (MISSION ACTION PLAN)

#### St Mark's Vision and Strategic Priorities 2021 - 2026

After work by the Rector and Parish Council, with input from the congregation, a "Mission Action Plan" (MAP) was issued as guidance for our activities from 2021 to 2026. This is in need of some review to remain pertinent and useful. A suggested redraft was submitted in January 2024.

In September 2023 a "Parish Visioning Day" was held in the hall with the first section looking at what is working, what is not and any new ideas. A selection of the items that arose are:

WORKING	NOT WORKING	NEW IDEAS
Variety of services	Communications	Op shop
Welcoming environment	Small groups	Site planning
Social events	Lack of young people	Local ethnic connections
Kids Plus and GFS	More fun events	Other groups: book, social; young mothers?
Hall and court usage	More mission focus	Combine efforts with adjacent parishes
Open office	Lack of delegation	Single Sunday service

A second session looked at how some of these ideas related to four parts of our MAP.

Whilst we cannot challenge the demographics we can be looking at how to make our church more relevant in this ever more turbulent world. How do we spread the healing message of our Lord in a fracturing society?

#### Our Commitment to Shared Ministry

We recognise that the call to ordained ministry is both a gift and a great responsibility. The vows made at ordination speak to the heart of priestly service: proclaiming the gospel, nurturing the faith community, administering the sacraments, and living a life shaped by prayer, humility, and love. As a parish, we see our role not simply as recipients of ministry, but as active partners in it.

Like many parishes, we are navigating the realities of a changing church landscape - declining attendance, an ageing population, and the evolving spiritual needs of our wider community. We do not shy away from these challenges, but neither do we face them alone. Whatever lies ahead, we are committed to facing it together, with faith, creativity, and mutual support.

We do not expect perfection, but we are committed to walking alongside our priest in a spirit of grace, trust, and shared service. Below is a summary of the key areas of ministry we believe a priest is called to, and the ways we as a parish will actively support that calling.

#### Proclaiming the Gospel and Seeking the Lost

##### The Priest's Calling:

*To proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all people, seek the lost, announce God's justice, and guide those in spiritual or moral confusion.*

As a parish, we will support this calling by:

- Planning and participating in missional activities and outreach to local and broader communities.

- Ensuring clear policies that safeguard the wellbeing of clergy, volunteers, and the wider community.
- Offering support in times of conflict or tension.
- Engaging with our priest in meaningful dialogue on issues of justice and social concern.

## **Building Up the Body of Christ (Worship, Sacraments, and Pastoral Care)**

### **The Priest's Calling:**

*To nurture the spiritual life of the parish through preaching, prayer, sacraments, and pastoral care. To lead God's people in worship, declare God's forgiveness and blessing, and serve with reverence and compassion.*

As a parish, we will support this calling by:

- Sharing responsibility for pastoral care and offering practical support in identifying and responding to community needs.
- Offering support in home visits and home communions.
- Equipping and empowering the congregation for active participation in worship and ministry.
- Collaborating in the development and delivery of services that are thoughtful, accessible, and spiritually enriching.
- Remaining open to new and creative ways of worshipping together.

## **Sustaining the Inner Life: Prayer, Study, and Vocation**

### **The Priest's Calling:**

*To remain grounded in prayer and Scripture, engage in ongoing study and theological reflection, and nurture the spiritual gifts given by God for ministry.*

As a parish, we will support this calling by:

- Encouraging space and time for prayer, reflection, and personal renewal.
- The opportunity to negotiate a 5 day work week and to support keeping your family a priority.
- Supporting professional development, continuing education, and theological engagement.
- Enabling participation in clergy retreats, conferences, and professional supervision to sustain vocational wellbeing.

## **Leading with Humility and Integrity**

### **The Priest's Calling:**

*To faithfully and humbly minister the doctrine, sacraments, and discipline of Christ, exercising leadership shaped by Christ's example of servant-hearted ministry.*

As a parish, we will support this calling by:

- Honouring the priest's leadership and offering partnership in discerning the way forward for our parish.
- Committing to shared decision-making marked by transparency, trust, and respect.
- Offering encouragement, honest feedback, and prayerful companionship in leadership.

## **4. WORSHIP**

The liturgical expression of the church could be generally considered as 'middle' Anglican, with some diversity between the various worship services. Traditionally the Eucharist has been celebrated at both the 7.30am and 9.15am Sunday Services using the APBA (Second Order of Holy Communion). The 7.30 was more traditional, and the 9.15 more

contemporary and children oriented. We have usually had several combined services through the year, which encourage increased fellowship and sharing between the congregations, but at this point we are working with a combined 8.30am service only. If parents prefer, there is a “play church” area at the front of the church for younger children. One Sunday a month we offer “Kids Plus” (explained in ‘Mission and Outreach’ below) and Sunday School in the Church Hall. There is morning tea in the Hall after services.

### **Nursing Home Visits**

The pastoral nature of these visits is important in serving our former church attendees and in outreach to other Anglicans. We currently visit the following aged care homes, mainly to visit parishioners who are now in nursing care: Clifford House, Mercy Aged Care Community (at Nudgee), and The Clayfield (Aveo). Home and hospital visiting is carried out on a regular basis by a team of volunteers, together with the Rector. A regular public worship service is conducted at The Clayfield.

## **5. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE/STAFFING**

### **Organisational Structure**

The Rector is supported by the Parish Council, currently comprising up to 15 councilors.

Parish Officials	Rector’s warden Two people’s wardens Three Nominators Two synod representatives and The Treasurer
Liturgical Assistants	5 Liturgical Assistants (one licensed to preach)
Administration	Parish Administrator (26 hours/week) Administrative Assistant (15 hours/week)

We feel it is important the Rector can work closely with our Admin team in planning, oversight and reasonable allocation of workload.

### **Communication**

The church has not been open to the public since Covid restrictions.

Phone:	Church Office: 3862 2221
Office Hours:	9.00am-12.00pm, Monday-Wednesday, Friday
Email:	<a href="mailto:admin@stmarkclayfield.org">admin@stmarkclayfield.org</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.stmarksclayfield.org">www.stmarksclayfield.org</a>
Postal Address:	60 Bellevue Terrace, Clayfield 4011
Street Address:	103 Bonney Avenue (on the corner of Bellevue Terrace) Clayfield 4011
Twitter/Facebook:	@ClayfieldStMark

### **Social media, pew sheet, and web site**

We have a Facebook account and a YouTube channel, with over 760 social media followers. This social media presence has been developed over the last 14 years and is a key way in which we connect with the community and advertise various events and ministries. Our pew sheet has been used by several parishes as an example of a high standard of communication, and it is posted on the parish website each week. Sermons are podcast on the website weekly.

## 6. CONGREGATION / DEMOGRAPHICS

### Congregation

There are about 220 people on the parish roll. Our average Sunday attendance is about 60.

Some parishioners live in the parish; many also come from outside the parish boundaries. Our parish members are growing older; the largest proportion of people who attend regular worship is aged over 60.

Parish Statistics for:	2023	2024
Baptisms	8	10
Confirmation	2	0
Reception	1	0
Marriages	1	1
Funerals	8	8
Total attendance/communicants for the year	3012/2705	2780/2412
Children under 16 attended Sunday	414	239
Easter attendance	166	72
Christmas Eve (excluding midnight service)	161	151
Christmas Day attendance	123	64



### Demographics

The 2021 Census suggested that 10,754 individuals lived in Clayfield of which there were 2,645 families. The average number of children for all families was 0.5%. The median age was 37 years.

52.9% of those counted nominated as being married (including de facto) and 69.5% of the population of Clayfield were Australian born, with the next highest being those born in England at 3.5%.

64.9% of people had tertiary qualifications, with 63.3% in professional, managerial or administrative occupations.

In Clayfield 28.2% of couple families with children had both partners employed full time and 23% had one employed full time, and the other part-time.

36.7% of people described no religion, 24.9% as Catholic, and 13.2% as Anglican, slightly higher than the national average (9.8%).

Within Clayfield, flats or apartments make up 52% of the dwellings, and separate houses 37.2%. This is much higher and lower than the national average (14.2 & 72.3%), and

reflects its proximity to the CBD and public transport as well as the changing landscape in Australian capital cities.  
The property market spans from small units to prestigious single dwelling houses.

## 7. PARISH ACTIVITIES/MINISTRIES

### Lay Ministry

Lay people share in many ministries within the parish, including those of Liturgical Assistants, Scripture readers, welcomers/sidespeople, intercession writers and readers, organisers of parish rosters, housekeeping duties (e.g. cleaning, washing, morning teas), children's ministry, home communions, study group leadership, flower arranging, banking and sound system management

### Social Activities

There are several social functions, which are a great source of pastoral care within and without the parish.

- Morning teas are held after each service. These are facilitated by a loyal group of rostered volunteers.
- A Parish Breakfast or Lunch is held annually.
- The intent is that a fête is held every two years (given the workload involved) and this is a major fundraiser. It has proved popular with the public.

### Play Church

Play Church was designed based on theories of child development, to allow children to engage with the church service, and the stories, teachings and sacraments of the church, in ways that are developmentally appropriate and engaging.

The structure of play church mirrors many parts of the church service- initially, the children engage with hands-on activities based around the readings and themes of the day. Later, we bring out the "prayer box" which contains prompts, and scaffolds them to create prayers that hold meaning for them, and finally the child-sized altar allows them to become immersed in the processes and traditions of the eucharist in a meaningful way.

Play Church is found at the front of the church, because to get the full benefit the children need to be able to see what is happening within the service and become part of those experiences. It is also easily customised to suit children of different ages, and children with different needs to ensure that we are inclusive and welcoming. The older children will often support the younger children to explore different stories and activities. We have found that Play Church has increased the children's religious and spiritual development in very positive ways, and that children are highly engaged in the service in ways that are meaningful and purposeful.



## 8. BUILDINGS AND RESOURCES

### Buildings & Resources

The parish is well resourced in terms of buildings, on a block of 3380 m<sup>2</sup> on the corner of Bonney Ave and Bellevue Terrace in the heart of Clayfield. All buildings and grounds are in good condition and are well maintained.

After much deliberation the Parish recently decided to sell off the three stands to the east which accommodated the rectory. This process is in hand and once serviced the stands will be offered for sale. How the proceeds of the sale are managed for the future of the Parish is a major decision yet to be made.

### The Church and Adjacent Gardens

- The church is in good condition and has a seating capacity of 250 people. It is semi-modern in design and maintains several traditional aspects such as a memorial stained-glass window dedicated to the fallen in World War I. It is equipped with two vestries, a large sanctuary, digital organ, baby grand piano, digital projector and screen with accompanying sound and computer system, wireless microphones, hearing-aid loop, and LCD lectern.
- The gardens have a substantial lawn that is used for parish picnics and events. There is also a small memorial garden, with bench seating for reflection. A contractor mows the Church and Rectory lawns.



- **The Hall**  
The hall is brick veneered (in 1979) and is connected to the church by a large undercover pergola. There is wheel chair access to both the hall and church. Within the hall, there is a large open area, a fully equipped kitchen, stage, bathrooms, air-conditioned meeting room, and two air-conditioned offices (one for the Rector, the other for parish administration staff).
- The office is adequately appointed with personal computer, colour laser copier/scanner, internet access, desks and filing space for all current church records. A portable video projector is also available for hall use and to the screen mounted in the hall. There is also a large mobile interactive touch-screen.
- **The Tennis Court**  
Adjoining the hall is an all-weather, synthetic tennis court with a shaded seating area for spectators. The tennis court is well used by people inside and outside the parish.

Income from hiring the hall and the tennis court has been built up over the past few years (aided by renovation of both). The hall and tennis court provide a useful point of contact with the community.





## 9. Mission and Outreach

**Kids Plus:** This takes place on Sundays at 9.30am on the Fourth Sunday of the month. A special key message or story (often related to some element of that day's service) is shared with the children who are invited to the front of the church, before they move out to the hall to participate in organized games, activities, stories, food and craft.

**Youth Group:** Our GFS Youth Group welcomes girls in school Grades 7 and above (including young adults) and meets on Friday nights, 7.00pm-8.30pm (term time only) in the Church Hall.

**Ladies Guild:** The Guild meets monthly for planning and fellowship. Given reducing membership and increasing age the Guild has recently decided to cease fundraising activities (after some 80 years of faithful service). The Guild has traditionally undertaken the care and refurbishment of the church brass and many other activities in the parish, but this may have to be reviewed.



### St Mark's Sewing, Embroidery and Craft Group

The sewing group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. It is an ecumenical group whose members enjoy the opportunity to work together and enjoy each other's company. Fruits of the group's work have included items for sale at the Guild Card Days, Christmas stall, Fête and other parish events.

### **Religious Education**

The Uniting, Anglican, and Presbyterian Church communities offer Religious Education at Eagle Junction State School. At the moment, two lay teachers represent St Mark's church.

**Study Groups:** These are currently held during Lent.

**Welcoming Program:** The parish is working on supplementing our current informal greeting and welcome of newcomers with a more formal follow-up.

### **Support for Wider Mission**

St Mark's support the following projects: the Leprosy Mission, Bush Church Aid, Bush Ministry Fund, ABM, and a High Tea once a year to raise funds for Anglicare.

### **Country Visits**

For some years there was also an annual visit to a country parish in the western region by a priest from the parish along with a team of parishioners, to conduct services of worship, and sometimes to assist with any needs identified by those from the local church being visited. There has not been one of these for some time now.

### **Chaplaincy Program at Eagle Junction School**

The church gives some financial support to the Chaplaincy Program at Eagle Junction School and works with the Chaplain to assist needy families in the area

### **Prayer and Praise Circle**

This was started in 2017 to provide prayer support as requested, but is currently dormant.

## **10. FINANCES/STEWARDSHIP**

### **Finances**

The parish is in a reasonable financial position, but has recently been running on small deficit budgets despite planned giving, fundraising, hall and facility letting, and income from financial investments. This budget supports a Rector, and two part-time staff who manage administrative work and some pastoral assistance. The Parish Administrator with the Treasurer maintains the Xero accounting database to ensure all revenue and expenditure is recorded accurately and in a timely fashion.

There is a 'Give Now' online giving facility on the website.

The judicious investment of the proceeds of sale from the rectory blocks is likely to be a critical factor in the future solvency of the parish.

### **Stewardship**

There is a Projects and Maintenance Committee which manages the material resources of the parish with a programme of regular maintenance, working bees, compliance with statutory audits, and supervision of small contracts.

## St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield

### MISSION ACTION PLAN

2021 – 2026 (*revised May 2024*)

To be a flourishing community, we ask;

*“What is God calling us to be and to do?”*

St Mark's Clayfield: proclaiming the Good News with compassion and authenticity, sharing fellowship through worship and community, growing personal faith within the wider Family of God.

The Vision of the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland underpins all our endeavours:



Flourishing faith communities: proclaiming and serving, worshipping and learning.

*St Mark's celebrates our place within the wider Diocesan vision, recognising our place as one leaf amongst the many.*

*In addition, St Mark's Clayfield shares the Diocesan VALUES.*

*We pray that we are;*

## Faithful

Steadfast in love for God and each other and steadfast in purpose  
to undertake God's mission

## Imaginative and Creative

Being intentional about reforming culture and traditions for God's  
world

## Courageous

To risk new things and where necessary, to make bold decisions

## Authentic

Being genuine and confident in living and speaking about what  
we believe as followers of Christ

## Comprehensive

Being welcoming and respectful of a broad range of ideas, people  
and approaches, and open to dialogue and learning

## **We have imagined our future at St Mark's will be:**

- A church for the local community, whose life is characterised by diverse worship, loving welcome and the care and nurture of personal and corporate faith.
- Seen as an inviting and safe place to bring families, where faith participation is encouraged and grown.
- A place of Spiritual and Theological education, where people of any stage of development may feel embraced and challenged.
- A thriving liturgical community that celebrates and recognises not only key observances of the Christian calendar, but our connection to and place within the wider community (local, national and international) observances in areas of social justice, hospitality and human endeavour.
- A church whose expression of the Christian faith is profoundly Anglican – with a sure emphasis on Scripture, Reason, Tradition and Experience.

## **Our Key Areas of Focus 2021 - 2026**

### **1. Community Presence and Welcoming outreach**

Be accepting of those who may be searching, exploring or rekindling faith – “ecumenical refugees/sojourners”

### **2. The established and long-term community needs**

### **3. To develop an intentional plan for the use of buildings that prioritise Mission and Ministry**

- i. Property development of Rectory land for future income stream
- ii. Hall – discern best use of current and any potential for refurbishment to meet community needs

# The Mission Plan

## 1. Community presence and welcoming outreach

### GOALS:

- i. to make the Church and grounds more visible to passing traffic (vehicular and pedestrian)
- ii. to create an accessible church for all

### Planned /Proposed Actions

- a. Create a front entry to the church which allows for wheeled access from the front
  - i. Implications for both internal and external structures of existing church building
- b. Install an Electronic Sign on Bonney Ave
- c. Removal of the Poinciana Tree on same corner – which is causing issues in structure, safety and visibility

## 2. Care and Nurture of the established and long-term congregation

### GOALS

- a. To validate and support the long-term members of the parish community, who have been part of the parish and who call this parish 'home'
- b. To offer a range of patterns of worship, from more Traditional to Contemporary expressions
- c. To encourage members of the Parish community to feel supported and embraced through building relationships and connections

### Planned and proposed Actions:

- a. Maintain and build the 7.30am Service with deliberate consultation in liturgical practice, music and preaching.
- b. Establish welcoming/Pastoral Care team
- c. Fellowship opportunities: parish dinners, thank you lunch (annual), Fete committee
- d. Actively include a diverse range of people on planning committees

### 3. To develop an intentional plan for the use of buildings that prioritise Mission and Ministry

#### GOALS

- i. To maximise the implementation of the Mission Action Plan (2021-2026)
- ii. To safeguard and maintain a clear presence in the community that supports growth in involvement

#### Planned and proposed Actions:

- a. Property Development – Rectory and Rectory land. Essential for creating an enabling income stream
- b. Hall
- c. Access ramp at the front of St Mark's Church
- d. Poinciana Tree removal
- e. Corner Signage – electric

*The Rev Canon Nicki Colledge and  
Members of Parish Council 2021 (Revised 2024)*