



PARISH PROFILE

One parish, two churches, many families,
God focussed followers of Jesus



Vision Statement:

We join together in our diversity to be God's people in this time and place and to be a living, active and visible sign of God's presence in the world

ABOUT OUR PARISH

The Parish of St James' Toowoomba consists of two centres:

- St James' Anglican Church, 145 Mort Street, Toowoomba Q. 4350; and
- St Anne's Anglican Church 26 Highfields Road, Highfields Q. 4352.



TOowoomba AND HIGHFIELDS

The Toowoomba region is located in south-east Queensland, about 125 kilometres west of Brisbane, and is Queensland's largest inland city. The population of the region is 184,377 persons as of 2024. Toowoomba is known as the Garden City due to its many parks and gardens. Located on the Great Dividing Range, it combines a country charm with modern amenities like a growing cafe culture and street art scene. The city is a hub for commerce, industry, and education, and is famous for its annual Carnival of Flowers. It also serves as a hub for commerce, industry, and education.

The parish also includes the Highfields - Blue Mountain Heights communities. The 2024 population for Highfields - Blue Mountain Heights was 11,645, with substantial growth forecast. Highfields is a satellite community to the city of Toowoomba, offering a more relaxed lifestyle while remaining conveniently close to city amenities. The area provides quality schools, shopping, and recreational facilities. It is situated on the Great Dividing Range and offers attractions like Peacehaven Botanic Park, Highfields Pioneer Village, and numerous art and craft stores, alongside modern residential developments and recreational facilities.



ST JAMES' TOOWOOMBA

ST ANNE'S HIGHFIELDS

St James was built in 1869 on land donated by the Hon. James Taylor. The church contains twenty-eight stained glass windows, some dating from 1883 and manufactured in England.

St James has been the 'mother church' to several worship centres including St Thomas Church in Jellicoe Street which was opened in 1920 and was a thriving church community until numbers declined and closure occurred in 2008. This congregation now forms a significant part of parishioners worshipping at the 10 am service at St James. The sale of St Thomas' Church contributed substantially towards the building of the new church of St Anne's in 2016.

The ministry at Highfields became part of the St James parish and in 1991 a new worship centre was opened. Called St Anne's, this is now the area of new mission and growth for the parish of St James, with a new church being added to the existing hall in 2016, with landscaped gardens and an outdoor worship area. Capacity has grown from 80 in the hall to 145 in the church and 250 when the connecting doors are opened. The community hall is hired by various local groups.

These two church worship-centres have been serviced by clergy and financed from the Parish of St James.



WORSHIP

ST JAMES PARISH IS PRESENTLY DIVERSE IN THE NUMBER AND STYLE OF WORSHIP SERVICES.

At St James:

- Sunday 7.30am – traditional liturgy with sung Eucharist with the choir singing responses accompanied by a professional choir master on the pipe organ
- Sunday 10am – family service of Holy Communion with a pianist accompanying hymns projected on screens for the congregation, and Sunday School (for the children)
- Both these services are followed by morning tea and fellowship in the Parish centre.
- Sunday 1pm – South Sudanese worship service in the Dinka language with Sunday school in the Parish Centre
- Wednesday 10am – Holy Communion service followed by Devonshire Tea on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- Saturday 5pm – a service without hymns from APBA

At St Anne's:

- Sunday 8.30am – family worship and Holy Communion including a children's talk, with music provided by keyboard and a singing group. Morning tea and fellowship follows the service.
- Tuesday 9.30am – Community morning prayer followed by Bible study.

At least two combined services of all congregations are held during the year at either St James' or St Anne's.

Various Christmas and Easter services are held at each centre.





ACTIVE MINISTRY, PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH

- There is a Playtime group on Mondays during school term for children under 5 and their carers. Numbers have ranged from 8 to 30 at different times. The activity is run by a leader with volunteer helpers.
- There are a growing number of people attending small groups and Lenten studies in the parish.
- Strong ecumenical ties have developed. Both centres are involved with ecumenical Stations of the Cross at Easter. The Rector and Associate Priest attend the local Ministers' Fraternal. St Anne's also has a strong involvement with the Highfields Community Carols.
 - Clergy and Laity visit people to bring a communion service and anointing for the sick in their homes, in hospital and at the Toowoomba Hospice. They also offer services in Aged Care facilities. At Browns holme Residences Aged Care at Highfields once a month, the service is followed by a sing-along.
 - The parish also cares for its parishioners through fellowship groups such as the Anglican Men's Society, and the Drop-In Centre on Tuesdays at St Anne's.



CHARACTERISTICS & TRADITIONS

- St James has a strong music tradition with the historic pipe organ and choir.
- The South Sudanese community has a youth choir and dance group.
- Annual services – both centres celebrate St Francis Day with a Blessing of the Pets service.
- At St James - St James Day, New Guinea Martyrs Day, and the anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay in conjunction with the Army.
- At St Anne's – St Anne's Day

Parish Staffing

- The clergy team consists of a Rector and Associate priest, and various Permission to Officiate clergy.
- The Rector has oversight of the entire parish with particular sacramental and pastoral oversight for the St James centre. The Rector is also chair of the Parish Council. The Rectory is adjacent to the Parish Centre in Toowoomba.
- The Associate Priest has responsibility for St Anne's Highfields, is a member of the Parish Council and chairs the Centre meetings at St Anne's. There is a house for the Associate Priest at 23 Mather Street, Highfields.
- A South Sudanese priest has permission to lead the Sunday worship for their community. His fee is donated by members of the South Sudanese congregation.
- 'Permission to Officiate' clergy are employed to take services when the Rector or Associate Priest are not available.



Administration

- Administration of the whole parish is carried out in the office of the St James Parish Centre. The Parish Centre also has an office for Wardens and the treasurer, a large hall which can be rented out, a small meeting room and a kitchen.
- There is one paid part-time administrative officer who works on Wednesdays and Fridays. Duties involve managing the Parish Centre, attending to reception, answering phones, entering financial data and producing the pew bulletin and various other documents.
- Volunteer staff work in the office attending to the reception desk and answering the phone on the other days from 9am to 3pm.



Service Style

- Traditional Anglican worship based on A Prayer Book for Australia,
- interlaced with an evangelical-style, with enthusiastic and solid Biblical preaching.
- Children and young people are encouraged to participate with serving, reading, intercessions, and operating sound and IT equipment.
- Some services are lived-streamed.





ROLE OF LAITY

- Baptism – lay people assist with interviewing families and are involved in the services at St James on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at St James at 12 noon, and at St Anne’s on the 1st or 3rd Sundays at 10am after the morning service. The option for including baptisms at a service is encouraged but not often taken. Bookings are taken online or through the office at St James.
- Lay persons assist with services at health and aged care facilities.
- The parish is also involved with the Cursillo movement (run by laity and clergy) which provides short courses for anyone who wishes to develop their Christian life. There are follow-up reunions again in various locations. People who have done Cursillo tend to become very involved in parish life and make valuable contributions to the community. (More information is available from the Diocesan website.)
- Lay persons make up most of the Parish Council- three wardens, parish nominators, synod representatives, a member of the South Sudanese community, the Treasurer and a number of parish councillors from both centres.
- St Anne’s has a local centre warden, priest’s warden, and local treasurer.
- St James also has a local centre warden.



PARISH STATISTICS

2024 data across both centres

- Average Sunday attendance – 172
 - Average Sunday communicants – 125
 - Average number of children – 38
 - Christmas Day attendance – 416
 - Christmas Eve attendance – 273
 - Easter Day/Vigil attendance – 454
 - Average mid-week attendance – 9
 - Number of new adults – 24
 - Number of new children – 3
 - Funerals -28
 - Marriages – 3
 - Confirmations – 3
 - Baptisms (child) – 33
 - Baptisms (adult) 2
 - Combined services average attendance – 106
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- St James 7.30am average attendance – 29
 - St James 10am average attendance – 34
 - St James South Sudanese 1pm average attendance – 66
 - St James Saturday average attendance – 9
 - St Anne's 8.30am average attendance – 45



IS GOD CALLING?

We are looking for a parish priest who will lead collaboratively and nurture the pastoral needs of the parish, be involved in the community, minister the sacraments and preach the gospel faithfully, whilst encouraging all people in this vibrant and multi-cultural parish to grow in their understanding of Christ's redeeming love.

Bountiful God,
Give to this parish a faithful pastor
Who will faithfully speak your word
And minister your sacraments;
An encourager who will equip your people for ministry
And enable us to fulfil our calling.
Give to those who will choose,
wisdom,
Discernment and patience,
And to us give warm and generous hearts,
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

(Taken from A Prayer Book for Australia p. 212 'At the time of Choosing an incumbent')



Helpful Links:

1. St James' Toowoomba: <https://stjames.org.au/services-this-sunday>
2. St Anne's Highfields: <https://www.anglicanhighfields.org.au/>
3. Facebook: St James': <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesanglicantoowoomba>
4. Facebook: St Anne's: <https://www.facebook.com/stanneshighfields>
5. Toowoomba Regional Council: <https://www.tr.qld.gov.au/>
6. Visit Toowoomba: <https://visit.tr.qld.gov.au/>



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a sense that God may be calling you to the Parish of Toowoomba - St James' and would like to know more, please contact the Bishop for the Western Region, Bishop Cameron Venables.

07 4639 1875

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 (EOI) and send it to Bishop Cam.

the EOI template can be accessed by clicking the following hyperlink:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66f216c6bfff5636b4000f88/t/678d489555ba166c0e9a7585/1737312406441/ACSQ%2BEOI%2BForm.pdf>