

Anglican Parish of Drayton



Parish Profile 2026

A Community that is United by Peace, Driven by Love
and Serving with Heart

Parish Website: www.drayton.anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Facebook: Anglican Parish of Drayton

Anglican
Church
Parish of Drayton



Is God calling you to Drayton Parish?

Would you like to work part-time in a Parish that is debt free with investment fund income?

Would you like support from a Parish with a long, strong history of faith and voluntary service?

Would you like to reside in “the Garden City” Toowoomba – Queensland’s largest inland city?

Would you like to live in a spacious residence on a large block in a peaceful area?

What we seek in our new Shepherd

- ❖ Do you have a great love for God and people, with the ability to create a loving community?
- ❖ Are you prepared to nurture our Parishioners’ spiritual journeys, caring for their families and “taking care of the flock”?
- ❖ Can you connect easily with local community to help grow our Church, meeting people on their level, encouraging them to walk through our doors, and welcome them as a fellow member of the body of Christ?
- ❖ Will you assist the Parish Council to achieve its mission, bringing fresh ideas and helping to encourage vision and strategies that will enhance the stability and growth of the Parish?

What can we offer our new Shepherd?

Personally:

- ❖ Care and support for you, your spouse and family
- ❖ Flexibility of work hours
- ❖ Support in training and personal development
- ❖ Prayerful support for your role as Priest-in-Charge

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
John 10:11

Professionally:

- ❖ Permanent part-time Priest-in-Charge – appointment pro-rata 5/6 days per week (negotiable)
- ❖ Stipend, leave and superannuation entitlements as per Diocesan regulation
- ❖ Fully maintained vehicle and all fuel expenses
- ❖ Accommodation in the Parish Rectory – 41 Lynch Street, Drayton

Our Aims

Worship

As individuals, households, and as a faith community, we will...

Celebrate God as the source of life and the creator of new possibilities

Create liturgies that honour God and inspire our worship

Include everyone, connecting our Anglican heritage with the realities of daily life



Community

As a Christian faith community we will...

Support each other as disciples of Jesus

Be an inclusive and generous Christian community

Bless our neighbours, enriching the lives of all who connect with us, regardless of their beliefs

Mission

We understand our basic mission as Christian people is to...

Share the Gospel with others in ways that respects their own experiences and values

Bring God's kingdom to life in our local community

Seek greater justice and equity for all people

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common. Acts 2:42-44

Our Vision for the Future

- ❖ **Community & Outreach:** Unite our centres through shared worship, social events, and outward mission. Strengthen relationships with local schools, aged-care facilities and community organisations.
- ❖ **Pastoral Care & Growth:** Expand the worshipping communities at Drayton and Cambooya, exploring alternative styles of worship. Build a dedicated Pastoral Team for hospital visits, in-home communions, and engaging with new baptismal and marriage families.
- ❖ **Stewardship & Sustainability:** Empower parishioners to use their gifts. Secure grants and investments to improve buildings and explore eco-friendly options.



Our Strengths

- ❖ Debt-free with investment funds available
- ❖ Loving, faithful Parishioners who give generously of their time, compassion and finances
- ❖ Rich in Volunteer support (administration, maintenance, music, reading, cleaning, flowers)
- ❖ Competent, vibrant Liturgical Assistants and Sacristans
- ❖ Support from retired priests
- ❖ Diverse congregation, celebrating gifts of members who are at different stages of their spiritual journey
- ❖ Ambassadors for Christ
- ❖ Collaboration with other parishes, external ministries and local community
- ❖ Cohesive and co-operative Parish Council
- ❖ 91% welcoming community (2021 NCLS survey)

Our Challenges

- ❖ Aging population with gaps between generations
- ❖ Older buildings requiring maintenance
- ❖ Ability to maintain numbers
- ❖ Attracting younger demographic

Pastoral Care and Outreach Programs

- ❖ Visitation to Toowoomba Base Hospital (Public), Baillie Henderson Hospital (Public), St. Vincent's Hospital (Private) & St. Andrew's Hospital (Private)
- ❖ Communion administered in private homes, aged care facilities
- ❖ Weekly Prayer Group
- ❖ Weekly Bible Study Group
- ❖ Healing Services by four Toowoomba Anglican Parishes – Drayton, St. Luke's, St. James and Toowoomba West
- ❖ Mother's Union co-ordinate distribution of Trauma Teddies for hospitalised children, and Baptism gifts
- ❖ Parish support of St. Luke's Pantry

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.

Matthew 13:31-32

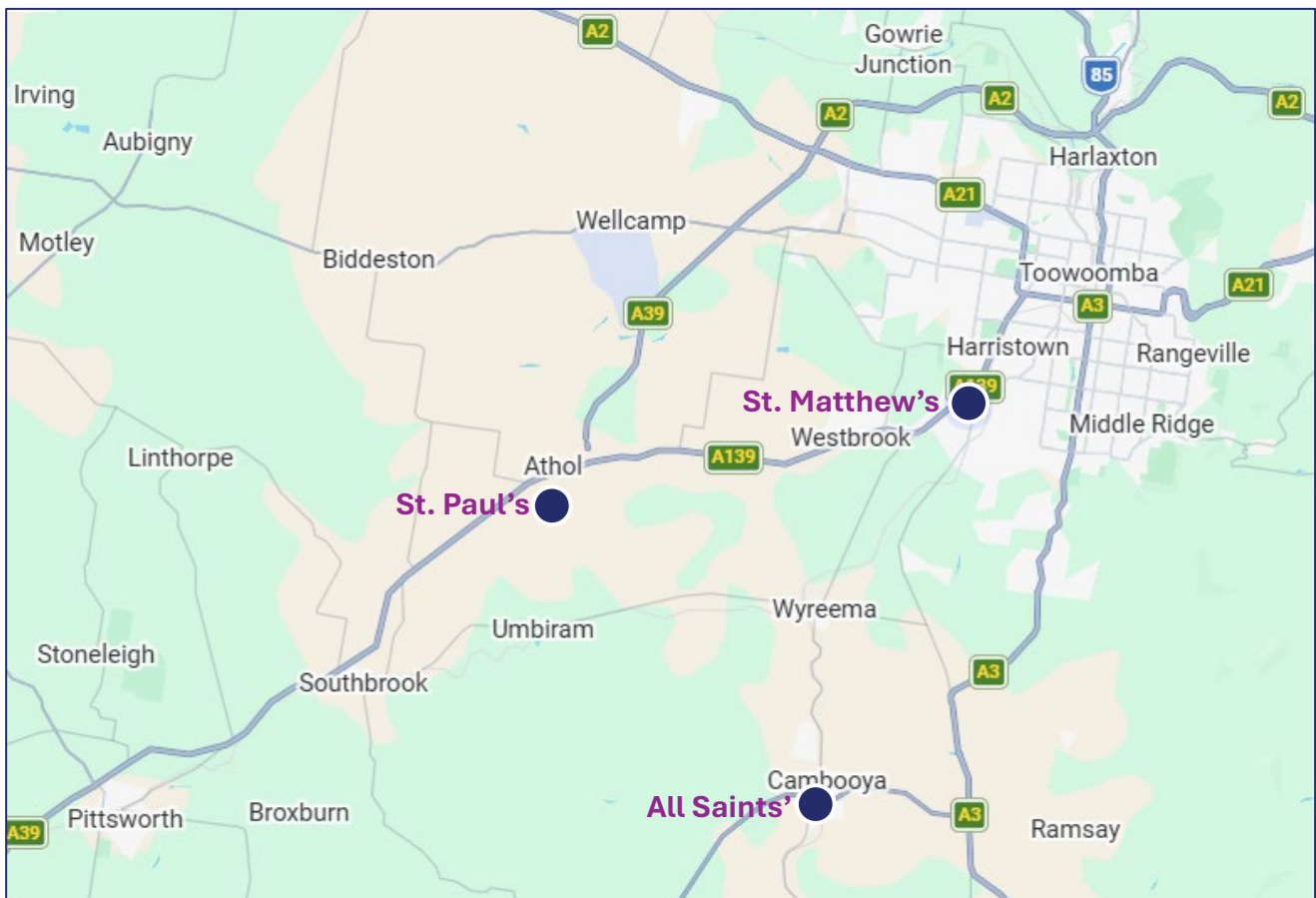
Our Parish

Drayton Parish serves the south-west suburbs of Toowoomba and adjacent farming districts, encompassing the growing townships of Westbrook, Wyreema and Cambooya, all within 20 kilometres of Drayton.

The Parish contains three worship centres:

- ❖ **St. Matthew's, Drayton:** the Parish Church and largest fellowship. It is also the location of the Parish Office, with the rectory situated across the street.
- ❖ **All Saints', Cambooya:** located in the main street of Cambooya, approximately 15 minutes from Drayton.
- ❖ **St. Paul's, Umbiram:** set among open paddocks with no other buildings in sight, located a similar distance from Drayton as All Saints'.

The parish population consists of people from all walks of life including white and blue collar workers, university students and academics, farmers, broad acre landowners, and a large number of retirees.



Our Statistics

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Average Sunday Attendance	56	57	62	70
Baptisms	11	4	12	11
Marriages	4	3	3	3
Funerals	7	8	12	16

Our Buildings and Style of Worship

St. Matthew's – Beatrice Street, Drayton



St. Matthew's Church

Heritage listed bluestone church built in 1886 (extended 1933)

Seats 100

Worship	8am Sunday	Traditional Holy Eucharist
	10am Wednesday	Traditional Holy Eucharist
	4pm Last Sunday of the Month	Prayer, Praise & Blessing (Supper afterwards)

Community Centre / Hall

Shared with the Glebe Retirement Village

Small timber multi-purpose building with modest catering facilities and accessible internal toilets.

Ministry Centre

The original 1913 Sunday School converted and extended to accommodate Parish administration, consisting of reception area, priest's office and admin. office.

All Saints' – 12 Eton Street, Cambooya



Timber church built in 1915

Seats 100

Worship 10am Sunday
Traditional Holy Eucharist

For where two or three gather in
my name, there am I with them.
Matthew 18:20

St. Paul's – 206 Wyreema-Athol Road, Umbiram



Timber church built in 1906

Seats 50

No electricity or water

Worship 10.30am
First Sunday of month
Traditional Holy Eucharist

Rectory – 41 Lynch Street, Drayton

Above ground, one-level brick dwelling located at one end of 4003m² block opposite St. Matthew's. The house consists of three bedrooms (carpeted), two bathrooms, large living areas with polished wooden floors, and internal study. Separate double lockup garage and studio/office (three small rooms with toilet and basin). The home has an uncovered entertaining area and is surrounded by rockery like garden beds and various trees. The small back yard to the house is fully fenced.



Stanley Lodge – 11 George Street, Cambooya (12 Eton Street)

Curate's residence (built 1994) on the back of the church block - four bedroom, two bathroom with single lockup garage and covered entertaining area. It has been leased through a local real estate agent for many years, providing ongoing income for the Parish.



Our History

St. Matthew's Drayton

During the first years of European settlement on the Darling Downs, Drayton was part of NSW within the Diocese of Newcastle. In 1850 The Reverend Benjamin Glennie was appointed the first Incumbent for the Darling Downs. The first Anglican service on the Downs was held in the parlour of the Bull's Head Inn at Drayton in 1848.

From 1850 until the first St. Matthew's (a simple slab church) opened in 1859, Rev. Glennie held church services in his parsonage. By 1884 the congregation had outgrown it, and it was decided to build a new one on a hilltop site with stronger foundations for a stone building.



First St. Matthew's

The church was dedicated on 23rd December 1887, built with a timber chancel to reduce costs. In 1933 extensive work was done to remove the old timber sanctuary and replace it in bluestone as originally intended. In 1987 the temporary timber vestry was replaced with masonry. The site of the original church, on the corner of Cambooya and Rudd Streets, Drayton, is now marked by a stone cairn.

St. Matthew's Church is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register due to its association "with the early development of Drayton and the Anglican Church in Queensland, being the oldest parish on the Darling Downs."

All Saints' Cambooya

The original Cambooya (the name of the residence of the first Commissioner for Crown Lands) was one of the first places visited by Glennie when he came to the Darling Downs in 1848. Following the subdivision of the Eton Vale holding, a portion of the land was given for church purposes. All Saints' was opened in November 1904 but was levelled by a tornado in April 1914. No time was wasted in building a new church, dedicated on 7th November 1915.

St. Paul's Umbiram

St. Paul's Umbiram lies on the boundary between Harrow and Westbrook Stations, having been given after the subdivision of the Harrow Estate. The "Church for Umbiram and Westbrook" was opened on 19th September 1906.

Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.

Deuteronomy 32:7

It was reported that at its dedication in November "a very large congregation gathered and all were not able to get into the building" and the church was described as "a very pretty building, strongly put together and specially designed".

Where We Live

Toowoomba is the second largest inland city in Australia after Canberra, a hub for commerce, industry, education and health. Located approximately 90 minutes west of Brisbane, the city is situated around 700 metres above sea level, on the Great Dividing Range.

The Toowoomba Region has an estimated population of approximately 185,000 people, with around 113,000 residents living in the city's urban area.

Toowoomba offers an excellent range of educational facilities, including a vast selection of public and private primary and secondary schools, Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE and the University of Southern Queensland. The city is also home to two Anglican boarding schools (Kindergarten to Year 12): Toowoomba Anglican School (co-ed.) and the Glennie School for girls.

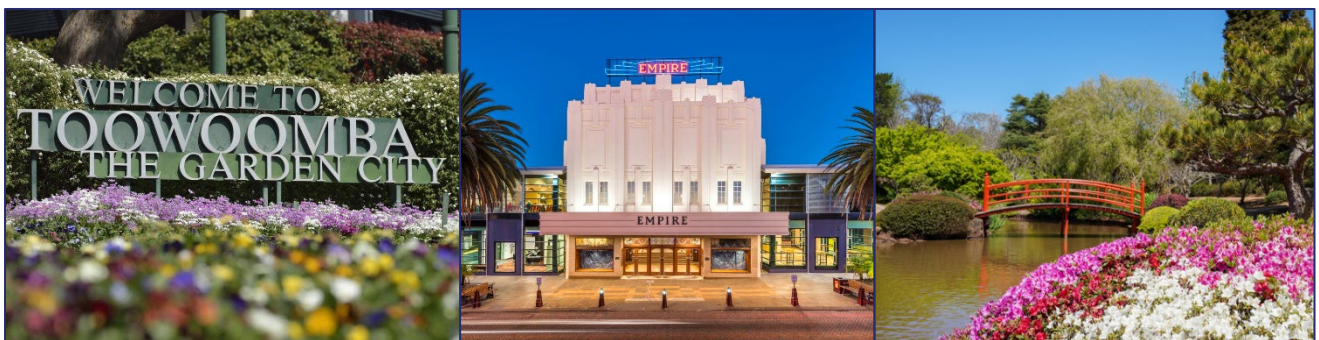
The city is well served by four hospitals and an extensive network of medical practitioners, specialists and allied health professionals.

Community amenities include a library, art gallery, theatre, museums and a large variety of sports and recreation facilities.

Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport, located on the western edge of the city, provides direct flights to and from Sydney (Qantas), and Brisbane and regional Queensland (Rex).

The Toowoomba Showgrounds, located within the Parish at Glenvale, has been announced as the venue for equestrian events at the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Carnival of Flowers is held during the month of September each year, showcasing Toowoomba's beautiful gardens with multiple events held across the city and region. During this time the Parish hosts our major annual fundraiser – St. Matthew's in Bloom.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the First Nations People of the land on which we meet, pray and celebrate God's love. We honour them for their continued spiritual connection to and caring for the land, skies, waterways and culture across Australia. We pay respect to their Elders past and we ask for blessings on those who share the land now, that we will all walk together into a future in Christ.



Contact Information

If you have a sense that God may be calling you to the Parish of Drayton and would like to know more, 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](#)