## ST DAVID'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

# PARISH PROFILE 2026

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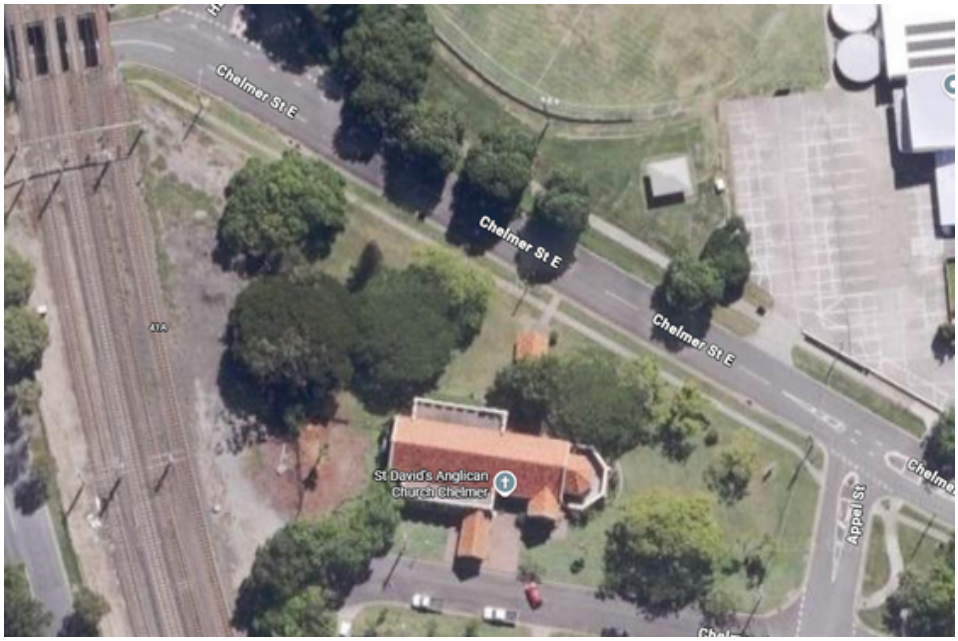
# ST DAVID'S COMMUNITY

## Church History & Location

The Parish of Chelmer-Graceville is a small community located in the leafy inner city suburbs of Brisbane. St David's Parish began meeting in the local Chelmer School of Arts Hall in 1923, building the current Church in 1939. Originally, Chelmer and Graceville were part of the adjoining Parishes of Sherwood and Indooroopilly before combining to form the Parochial District of Chelmer/Graceville in 1946.

Building works began on St David's Anglican Church in 1939 with works being completed in 1940 resulting in the church being dedicated that year. The Church is situated on the junction of three roads and was constructed in a Gothic Style making it a local landmark.



The complimentary memorial Lych Gate was built and dedicated in 1959 and is in memory of William Beswick Hall who died during WWII.

In 1960 the church was extended to accommodate a growing congregation and this extended building remains the footprint of our Parish in which we currently operate.

Significantly, the extension included the building of a Columbarium, relocating the Sanctuary Area from the Eastern End of the Church to the Western End and creating a Baptistry area where the original Sanctuary Area was located.

The Church was consecrated by Archbishop F. R. Arnott in 1972

During the 1960's the continued growth in the Parish resulted in the Parish establishing a daughter church St Peter's Church in Graceville Avenue, Graceville. This smaller church congregation became a flourishing centre for worship and fellowship for many years before it was decided in 1980 to merge both congregations back into the one
worship centre.

The portico, leading to the main entry of St David's was constructed in the 1980's and is appropriately named St Peter's Way in recognition of the important role in Parish life that St Peter's Church offered.  It is fitting that St Peter's Way continues to be an important welcoming and gathering place for our Parish.

Over the years, the church has been blessed with donations of many beautiful stained-glass windows. These beautiful windows help create a worship space that is a visible reflection of the divine grace, peace and majesty of our Lord.

Reflecting the significance of our Gothic building, and the beauty of our stained glass windows, the Church was added to the Brisbane City Council Heritage Register in 2004.

In 2017 the church was once again reconfigured to re-establish the Sanctuary area back to the Eastern End of the Church.

Seating is now a mix of pews and chairs allowing for a traditional section of the church to be maintained in the Eastern End, while allowing a more flexible use of space at the Western End.

A glassed meeting/children's area has also given the Church additional versatility in its use. The church is now used for meetings, fetes, concerts, social activities, bible studies, spiritual education and general meeting spaces for both the parish and the community as a whole.

## Church Community

The Parish has a vibrant community characterized by: -

- Worship services which are relevant to the range of people within our worshipping community.
- Using people's gifts, abilities, passions, and energies to shape our church community.
- Maintaining spiritual growth in individuals and groups within the Parish.
- Developing a range of small groups to meet a diverse range of spiritual, social and emotional needs.
- Leadership structures responsive to our changing community.
- Administrative structures to support the work of the members of the Parish.
- Remodelling physical spaces and infrastructure to support the vision of the Parish.

## Local Community

The Chelmer and Graceville community is a happy mix of people, mainly of Anglo-Celtic and European origin, however it is enriched by people from other cultural backgrounds as well.

The church community consists of people in the older age group with only a small group of younger families.

There is an indigenous history in the parish as well with a bora ring being once located nearby. We meet on the lands of the Jagera people and Turrbal people.

## Vision

The Parish maintains its vision for the spiritual growth of its worshipping community with leadership and infrastructure to support this vision, underpinned by our Mission Statement: 'Releasing our Church for the Mission of Jesus Christ'.

We constantly strive to be a community which is intergenerational and inclusive of gender, age, race and ability. Over the years we have tried to develop a community with the capacity to grow and adapt to, and with our changing world always being mindful of the framework of our traditional Anglican faith.

Our Mission Action Plan continues to be instrumental in helping the Parish move confidently forward with its vision. We are encouraged by the success of our hard work and adaptive MAP as our Parish is once again showing signs of growth and energy.

The MAP is reviewed regularly to monitor progress towards our goals.

Our aims at a glance:

- Sacramental Worship
- Christian Growth
- Pastoral Care
- Mission and Service
- Children's, Youth and Families
- Financial viability
- Establish lay ministry and leadership
- Work collaboratively with local Anglican community.

## Infrastructure

After many years of consultation and careful planning by the Parish and members of the Diocese, a new vision for Parish infrastructure was achieved in 2026. It is hoped these changes will ensure the financial viability and growth of the Parish into the future.

Unfortunately our church building has experienced significant damage over the years from termite infestations. While latest testing shows no active termites remain in the building, investigative works are now underway to assess how best to repair the damage in a safe and financially viable way.

## Our Rectory

A modern, easy to maintain Rectory was purchased by the Parish in 2026. It is within easy access to the Parish, five kilometers from the church building. The Parish provides a parish car leased through the Diocese.

## Other Assets

In early 2026 the Parish purchased a rooming house property at 190 Sibley Road, Wynnum West.

It is anticipated that a 2nd rooming house will be purchased by the end of 2026.

## Staffing

### Administrative staff

There are two positions currently supporting the Parish. Both of our administration staff are employed on a casual basis for a total of 13 hours per week. The staff are proficient in all aspects of church administration, service preparation, reporting and compliance documentation. They also maintain our Facebook and the website component of our online presence.

### Clergy

We employ one full time Priest to undertake the many and varied roles needed to run the Parish. Reverend Simon Kim is an Honorary Assistant Curate in our Parish. Locum priests are engaged at the approved rate when needed. As the financial stability of the parish improves with the income from the rooming houses, and mindful of our aims in the mission action plan, additional ordained or lay staff may be considered.

## Committees

### Parish Council

The Parish Council currently has a membership of nine. It meets at least once per month on the fourth Monday in the month in the meeting room in the church.

Committees that report to the Parish Council are as follows:

- Wardens Committee
- Finance Committee
- Worship Committee
- Grounds and Maintenance Committee

## Wardens Committee

There are currently two elected wardens (elected by the Parishioners at the AGM). The Rectors Warden position is vacant, however the Priest can appoint another person to Priest Warden when/if needed.

The Parish Council maintains its strategic forward focused role while the Wardens Committee focus on the day-to-day operational aspects of Parish management.

## Finance Committee

The Treasurer prepares comprehensive reviews/statements of the Parish finances for all Parish Council meetings during the year and the Annual General Meeting. The Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure figures for the AGM are reviewed by the Wardens and a qualified independent Auditor before the AGM.

The Treasurer also prepares the Parish Annual Budget and Cashflow Forecast.

A copy of the budgets 2021 - 2025 is available on request along with a copy of the MAP 2026-2031.

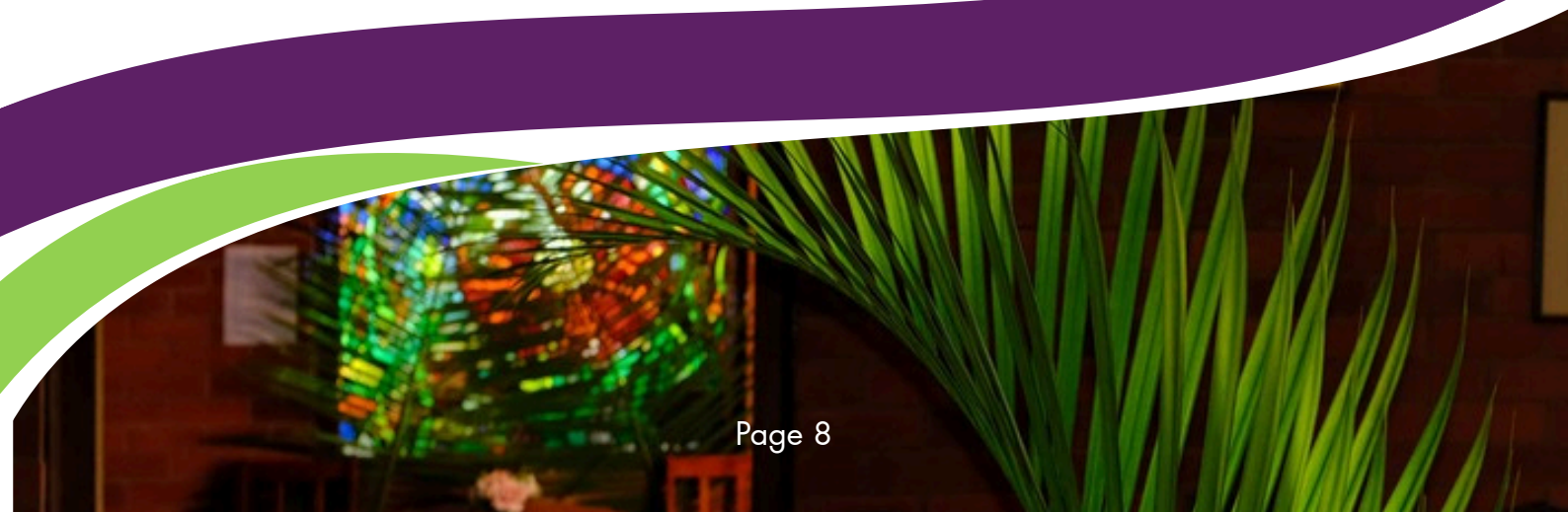
It is hoped that the purchase of two income producing assets in 2026 (rooming house accommodation) will ensure the financial viability of the Parish into the future and allow the Parish to operate a balanced budget.

## Worship Committee

There is a highly active Worship Committee within the Parish. The six members meet monthly to discuss variations in worship according to the Church's Year, create rosters, discuss maintenance of liturgical garments and eucharistic vessels, music ministry and other issues pertaining to worship.

## Grounds and Maitenance Committee

This is an active committee which manages the work of mowing the grounds and maintaining gardens with the assistance of other parishioners from time to time. This committee also prioritizes and organizes any maintenance work required on the church or rectory building.



## Our Parish

St David's has a tradition of Anglican worship in a range of styles. Sunday services are currently at 7.30am and 9.30am. Both services are followed by morning tea and fellowship.

The 7.30 am service is a more traditional Eucharist service using Eucharist service using *A Prayer Book for Australia* with hymns from the *Together in Song*. In the past few years, a combination of pre-recorded music, live violin music and more recently Hymnal music has been used.

While the 9.30am service also offers a Eucharist service, it is more bespoke in nature and is slightly shorter in length than the 7.30am service. The service is modified by offering two readings and no psalm reading, however other changes are made at the discretion of the Priest and the Worship Committee. No prayer or hymn books are required at this service as it uses the Presenter Program and all words are displayed on two TV screens situated either side of the altar. Where possible, a higher proportion of modern Christian music and Anglican liturgy variations are used at this service. It is hoped that this service could become more family friendly encouraing you families and children to once again flourish at St David's.

The IT and amplification equipment allows for the use of audio-visual material at either service as appropriate. The "Sunday is Coming" Gospel commentary by Archbishop Jeremy, art works, photographs and vidoes are examples of what have been used to enhance the workshop experience

While Music is important in St. David's there is currently no permanent musician to provide this valued ministry. Music is provided by a limited number of gifted Parish musicians when available and by a newly purchased Hymnal (HT 400) digital music device. A paid musician is engaged for the 9.30am service when necessary.

The Hymnal is also an asset for use in care facility pastoral visits. It has an inbuilt battery to allow operation independent of any power at the facility.

Sadly there has been a steady decline in the number of pastoral services being asked for, and undertaken in the church. This makes the role of our incoming Priest an important and challenging one as our Parish strives to become relevant, vibrant and engaging in our community.

For many years now St Davids holds an annual fete. This is financially and socially successful as it involves people from the local community both as participants as well as visitors.

## Active Ministries

- Parish Wardens, Parish Council and Parish Administration.
- Lenten bible study groups run by priest and lay people.
- On-line confidential prayer group.
- Many people are involved in worship: licenced liturgical assistants, readers, intercessors, welcomers and others who prepare for worship and care for the fabric of the church. It would be hoped that any incumbent is happy to continue and facilitate this team approach to ministry.
- There are currently no children's or young adult's activities offered. It is hoped that this can recommence in the near future.
- There is a Stitchers Group (sewing and craft) operating in the Parish. This group was founded by a Parishioner as part of a breast cancer recovery group through the Wesley Hospital. The group has an outreach focus but mostly is a happy social group of women supporting each other in times of need.
- School Chaplaincy support through annual donation.
- Pastoral Care that includes hospital, nursing/aged care and home visiting, prayer support, Careforce, and Care and Concern Group.
- Responsiveness to local disaster events when needs arise e.g. 2011 floods.

## Who is our New Rector?

The Parish is looking for a person who can

- Teach faithfully from the scriptures in an honest and engaging manner
- Balance traditional Anglican values with the changing values and beliefs of today's modern society.
- Have a strong sense of ministry and outreach
- Be prepared to work hard to build strong growth in parish and communal life through a leadership style that is
  - Dynamic
  - Inclusive
  - People focused
  - Intergenerational
- Provide pastoral care to all ages
- Be a ministry team builder especially in the areas of music, young adult and family ministry.

We pray that our new incumbent will encourage and grow our Parish on its faith journey with a gracious and loving God who has revealed himself in, and through, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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# FUTHER INFORMATION

**Expressions of Interest**

To lodge expressions of interest for the role of
Rector at St David's Chelmer/Graceville, please contact:

Bishop of the Southern Region,
Bishop John Roundhill:
JRose@anglicanchurchsq.org.au
(Joanne Rose, Personal assistant, Bishops' Office)