Maryborough
Parish Profile 2026


St Paul's


Christ Church

Our Mission…

"To experience and share God's love through Jesus Christ"

The qualities, abilities and experience we hope for in a new priest:

We seek a priest who:

- Has a deep and genuine love for God and for God's people
- Will teach us, inspire us, and help us understand the Gospel
- Has good interpersonal skills
- Has a deep and abiding faith in God's goodness and ability to provide
- Has a desire to help us grow as a Church by:
  - ⇒ Developing ministry with young families
  - ⇒ Working ecumenically to build strong relationships
  - ⇒ Connecting with others through compassionate care
  - ⇒ Prayerfully building on existing strengths and opportunities for growth
  - ⇒ Encouraging and enabling parishioners to use their gifts and talents

Perceived Parish Strengths

- An enthusiastic and dedicated lay ministry team
- Active and ongoing involvement in the local community
- Generous hospitality
- A heart for children
- Established ecumenical cooperation
- A good standard of accountability and administration
- Support of outside missions
- Strong support from the smaller church congregation

Perceived Parish Challenges

- Few young people or families regularly attending worship services
- Increasing age of our hardworking volunteers
- Reduced giving in harder economic times
- Aging buildings that require regular maintenance at high expense
- Some reluctance about possible change from a minority of long term parishioners
- We sometimes focus on small details at the expense of the big picture

Housing



The Rectory is architecturally designed cavity brick home located at 10 Sheldon Drive in the suburb of Bell Hilltop. This home features 2 bathrooms, 3 Bedrooms + Office/4th Bedroom with various outdoor and indoor living areas including a spacious covered rear patio, front porch that is perfect for reading in the cooler months, formal lounge, formal dining and a large family room. The home is equipped with washing machine, fridge/freezer and dishwasher. The drive through 2 bay garage with roller doors offers enough height for a boat/ caravan to access the spacious back yard. Other features include ceiling fans throughout, air conditioning, western blinds and security screens and doors. The gardens are landscaped and designed for low care. The Rectory is currently rented, bringing in an income stream for the Parish.

Parish History

The Parish of Maryborough is one of the oldest in Queensland with its beginnings traceable to 1847. It currently has two worship centres:- St Paul's in the CBD and Christ Church in the southern suburb of Granville.

St Paul's Church, Lennox Street . Consecrated in 1879, St Paul's is a heritage listed building and recognized as one of the most architecturally outstanding churches in Queensland and indeed Australia.

Designed by Colonial Architect F.D.G. Stanley, it has a seating capacity of approx. 250 and includes the Lady Chapel and the Warrior's Chapel of St Thomas. The Wadsworth pipe organ dates from 1885 and has been maintained and upgraded to remain in excellent working order.

The current condition of the building is sound. Major project to be addressed in the near future is the installation of Pattress Plates.





Bell Tower. The bell tower at St.Paul's was completed in 1888. It contains a full peel of 9 bells and this is the only centre outside a capital city with such a facility. The bells are rung on special occasions, weddings and prior to some services. A government grant facilitated the re-furbishment of the ground floor area of the tower as a museum and the installation of closed circuit TV for visitors to view the bellringing. The bells (all 9) were removed and restored / retuned in England in 2012/13 and then re-installed at a cost of circa $120 000,

St Paul's Memorial Hall. The Memorial Hall is located in the grounds of St Paul's and was constructed in 1921 with additions in 1961. It was substantially restored in 1992 and the roof restored/repaired in 2005, with roof and kitchen upgrades in 2025. The Memorial Hall consists of a large main hall/stage, supper room and stainless steel kitchen.





The church office, Rector's office, and Pop-In Opportunity Shop are located in the Memorial Hall complex. The kitchen has been re-furbished to full commercial standard. Internal painting of the Kitchen and Supper room was completed this year (2026).

Garden of Memories. The recent installation of a memorial garden in the grounds of St Paul's Church has provided a sacred place for the ash remains of loved ones to be interred. This is a quiet, peaceful place of prayer and reflection, where family and friends can visit and remember.

Christ Church Granville. A small timber church on a large parcel of land in the suburb of Granville. There is a small kitchen/meeting structure known as God's Shed attached. Services at Christ Church are currently held on Saturday nights at 5.00pm The building has solar installed and is air conditioned. The internal painting and carpet is in good condition.



Parish Organisation

We are currently seeking a new minister and we are grateful for visiting clergy. We are grateful to our Liturgical Assistants of various ages and a roster of people covering welcoming, reading, intercessions, Power Point, music, Children's Church, an small group ministry. The Parish employs an Administration Assistant, who has a vital role in the Parish by carrying out administrative duties, as well as liaising with our parishioners. This is a permanent part time position of 17 hours per week,

The parish accounts are managed on Xero by a Bookeeper paid on a monthly basis, and overseen by the Parish Treasurer.

A cleaner is employed for 4 hours weekly, to clean St Paul's Church, Memorial Hall and the Parish Office

Grounds at Christ Church are maintained by a local contractor paid on a monthly basis.

A willing and hardworking band of volunteers give their time to upkeep all other areas in the Parish.

Church Wardens meet on the first Tuesday of the month, and Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month.

We are blessed to have three Anglican priests living in the Parish. Retired clergy, Reverend Jeffrey Balnaves and Reverend Godfrey Gilmour, and our recent Rector Reverend Susan Wilson, who all make themselves available to help when asked and able to do so.

Active Ministries

Church Services:

Sunday Services at St Paul's are normally held at 7.00am and 9.00am with both services a Sung Eucharist although the 9.00am service has slight format modifications and more updated music with the service displayed on screen. Twice monthly, at the 9/00am service, younger members of the congregation are invited to take part in learning and age appropriate activities with Parish leaders.

The Sunday 7.00am Sunday service was halted for the Winter months of June, July and August this year, and resumed in Spring, on the first Sunday in September.

Mid-week services are held at St Paul's at 7.00am and 10.00am on Wednesdays

A Saturday evening service at Christ Church, Granville is held at 5.00pm.

Refreshment and fellowship follow most services.

Data on pastoral services held in 2025 includes:

Admission to Holy Communion	Baptism	Confirmation	Funeral	Marriage	Average Weekly Communions
0	6	0	8	2	56

Good Friday	Easter Eve & Easter Day		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
40	92		55	41

Youth and Children's Ministry

We have had a vibrant children's ministry in the past and despite the small number of children attending Sunday services, there is a heart for welcoming and ministering to young people in our parish. Twice a month, hands on activities are available in St Paul's.

Small Group Ministry

There is a Cursillo presence in the parish with 30 parishioners having enriched their faith during Cursillo weekends, with many regularly grouping.

Bible Study is offered during the year, giving parishioners an additional opportunity to learn and grow in their walk with God. This is a ministry we would like to strengthen further.

Pastoral Care Ministry

Pastoral Care has been an active ministry at the aged care facilities in Maryborough with regular services.

Our Prayer, Care and Concern group meet monthly. This group aims to connect and contact parish families and others, through prayer, emails, messages, arranging chat times on the phone or in person, and by acknowledging both celebrations and sad times.

Ways of doing, characteristics, and traditions

Parishioners

There are approximately 100 parishioners on the Parish Roll. The lay members of the Parish are actively involved in numerous Parish organisations and groups:

Worship	Fellowship	Outreach	Administration/ Fund-raising	Maintenance
Liturgical Assistants	Mothers' Union	Community Meals	Money Counters	Brass Cleaners
Servers	ABM Auxiliary	Prayer, Care & Concern Group	Record Keeping	Laundering Linen
Intercessors	Christ Church Committee	Parish Pantry	Opportunity Shop	Flower arrangers
Readers	Ladies let's Chat	Monthly Donation Box for various appeals	Market Day Morning Teas	Church cleaning
Musicians	Men's Group		Hall Markets	Groundspeople
Sunday Club	Hospitality after Worship			Repair team
Cursillo				
Camponologists				
Bible Study Groups				
Lenten & Advent Study				

Music

St Paul's combines the traditional and modern with a good audio-visual system, and a magnificent pipe organ. We are blessed with several organists and are grateful for our musicians who give their time freely to enhance weekly worship services.

St Paul's Church hosts a Thursday music program in St Paul's Church on the first Thursday of the month. A variety of musical entertainment is included, adding an extra dimension to the regular weekly markets in Adelaide Street.

St Paul's Church is also the venue for a bi-annual Brass & Organ Concert, featuring local and visiting artists.

For the last 3 years, since its inception, St Paul's has hosted the local Eisteddfod's Organ section with organists travelling to compete. This has been a very successful addition to the program, with competitors ranging from quite young to the quite senior.

Hospitality is an integral part of our Parish. We have a morning tea area in St Paul's Church and morning tea is available after services, providing valuable fellowship after our worship services. After the evening service in Christ Church, a group regularly meet at a local venue for a meal together.

Financial Information

The Parish budget for 2026 allows for an income of $230,000 with an operating deficit of $13,500. A substantial amount is spent on the upkeep of our heritage listed buildings. Income is via Parish direct giving, special fund-raising activities such as the Pop-In Op Shop, Market Day Morning Teas, donations and offerings. The Parish has cash and share investments of approximately $1m which are invested via Anfin term deposits and the Diocesan Development Fund. These have been acquired via generous bequests and sale of assets no longer required for Parish activities.

Civic Demographic of Parish

The City of Maryborough is located on the East coast of Queensland approximately 260km North of Brisbane. It is in the geographic centre of the Fraser Coast Region (Wide Bay) with an economy based on sugar, cattle, small crops, timber, heavy engineering and tourism. Maryborough has a population of around 28000 and is a great city in which to raise a family. There are many kindergarten and child care centres which offer quality care for children of pre-school age. There are a large range of educational options - there are two State High schools, a Catholic High school, a P-12 Christian College, 7 State Primary schools, a Catholic Primary school. The educational needs of the community are also met by an Anglican College, USQ Campus, and TAFE College only a short bus ride away in Hervey Bay.
Maryborough caters to many sporting needs and has a vibrant hockey, soccer, cricket and swimming scene as well as many of the less well patronised ones like rugby, basketball, tennis, archery, shooting of various genres, volley ball etc. There is a choice of martial arts and a number of very well qualified dance schools and a lively calisthenics club. There are a number of good gymnasiums, a pony club a walking group, and Parkrun, as well as a branch of BUGs(Bicycle Riders Group). Add to this the river sports available, such as fishing, rowing, canoeing and sailing, and the proximity of Hervey Bay and K'gari (Fraser Island) and the locals find themselves spoiled for choice.

Maryborough has a rich history of music with brass bands, youth and adult choirs, active theatre groups and many excellent music teachers. Being host to the Brolga Theatre, a first class regional theatre, there are constant opportunities to see top class performances.

The Maryborough Base Hospital, Hervey Bay Hospital and St Stephen's Private Hospital provide a wide range of health care services, together with allied health services in both Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

Large modern shopping centres cater to the needs of all ages. Wonderful fresh fruit and vegetable markets are held every Thursday allowing families to eat well at a very reasonable price.

One of the advantages of living in our city is that it is very compact allowing children to ride or walk to many activities, thus giving parents more time to work or enjoy hobbies such as wood work, craft or sport – or maybe just enjoy the healthy coffee culture which exists in the city.

The climate is sub-tropical with mild winters and warm summers, charming tourists, both domestic and international, who enjoy exploring our historic city, with its buildings, parks and local attractions.





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