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# Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

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## The Anglican Parish of Sapphire Coast



## Parish Profile November 2021

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## **1. Introduction**

After the retirement of its previous Rector in October 2021, the Parish of Sapphire Coast is looking for a new Rector. This Parish Profile has been approved by the Parish Council and Bishop as a way of giving a snapshot of the Parish and helping clergy consider whether this might be where God is calling them to serve. In addition to this Profile, clergy considering this Parish may wish to consult with NCLS data and Parish Returns and financial documentation, all of which can be supplied on request to the Archdeacon or Bishop's Office.

Much of the information in Section 2 (Parish Perceptions) has been produced as a result of a Parish Consultation which was held on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and which had approximately 51 parishioners attend across three centres. It has been agreed to by Parish Council. The Diocesan Perspective has been supplied by the Bishop's Office. Sections 4-8 are based on Parish records. Section 9 is based on the Diocesan standards for Clergy Conditions of Service.

We are hoping to have a new Rector start prior to Easter 2022, however, are open to waiting longer in order to get the right person.

The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn seeks clergy who will faithfully serve Christ and grow the Church's mission. If you are interested in this Parish or other opportunities within the Diocese please contact the Bishop's office.

The Clergy Appointments process for this Parish is being overseen by Archdeacon Rebecca Newland by delegation of the Bishop. For more information please contact the Bishop's Office on (02) 6232 3612, Archdeacon Rev Rebecca Newland on 0450 960 089.

## 2. Parish Perceptions

Strengths – a friendly parish that stretches from the mountains to the sea.

The strengths of our parish are as follows –

- Well equipped office with a harmoniously lead, active Parish Council.
- supportive Pastoral Care Group actively promoting prayer group, prayer chain and phone care.
- Strong support for Mission to BCA, CMS, OMF & Tear.
- Support for Anglicare through Rural Chaplaincy, Bushfire Recovery Chaplain, St James House pantry and Anglicare Op Shop-Sapphire Surprises.
- Multiple centres for flexibility in services – traditional and different worship styles with congregations who have varied gifts and use them.
- All centres are open and friendly and are prepared to accept change, where necessary.
- Chaplaincy work in three RSL Lifecare Facilities.
- Ecumenical acceptance throughout the parish.
- A reservoir of experience and wisdom. As faithful people we have a precious story to convey to the wider community

Hopes and plans for the future –

- Extend Bible Study groups.
- Expand our outreach to make services inviting and attractive to young families.
- To continue to tell our story, remain faithful and trust in God.
- To improve our financial viability.
- Increase or improve our service attendances post Covid19.

Current greatest needs –

- Aging congregations so need more young people involved.
- Geographical size of the parish presents some challenges.
- Competing with sporting events on Sundays.
- Flexibility in services with different worship styles. Find ways to connect each centre.
- Encourage missing generations of worshippers 20s-50s.
- Increase our income to provide a surplus for building maintenance for our extensive parish buildings.

Desired qualities in a new Rector –

- A Priest with an active commitment to evangelism, good communicator and the ability to embrace the wider community along with our congregations with empathy, flexibility and compassion.
- A sense of humour.
- A people person, sociable, warm and accepting.
- Energy and good health.
- Good business sense.
- Flexibility – all types of worship in different centres.
- Outside interests to connect with wider community.

### Current Parish Mission Statement

Our mission: To Lead our communities into a relationship with Jesus.

## **3. Diocesan Perspective**

### Current Diocesan Mission Priorities

The Anglican Diocese of Canberra is committed to engaging our world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus. In particular, we are seeking to establish and nurture congregations, schools and welfare ministries characterised by:

- gracious and patient witness
- safe and sustainable ministry
- compassionate and skilled service
- creative and informed advocacy
- just and generous stewardship
- inspiring and empowered worship

Our diocesan ethos is to promote Christ-centred collegiality. We encourage and support women in all levels of ordained ministry.

During 2021 the Diocese has been engaging in three seasons of focused engagement – first, engaging with God’s word during Lent, engaging with God in prayer from Lent to Pentecost and engaging with God’s world in mission during the season after Pentecost.

### Contribution of the Parish of Sapphire Coast to Diocesan Mission Priorities

The Parish of Sapphire Coast has a long history of contributing to the Diocesan mission, especially through congregational worship and compassionate service. The Diocese would hope any clergy appointed to the Parish would build on existing connections with the work of Anglicare, particularly through bushfire recovery work. There is also the opportunity to strengthen connections with Sapphire Coast Anglican College. Although SCAC is located in the neighbouring Parish of Bega, many school families and staff live within the Sapphire Coast Parish.

## 4. Services and People

Centre	Service times and frequency	Average Attendance In 2019
Merimbula	9.30am weekly	42
Pambula	8.00am weekly	22
Eden	10.00am weekly	34
Wolumla	11.00am monthly	14
Candelo	5.00pm monthly	13
Wyndham	5.00pm monthly	7
Kameruka	11.00am yearly	75
Towamba	5.00pm Christmas	?

### Overall Demographics

#### Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals in a Typical Year

Weddings: 1-2

Baptisms: 4-6

Funerals: 10-12

#### Recent Confirmations

2019 Oct- one adult

#### Recent History

Rev David Ruthven – 2010 to 2015

Rev Lou Oakes – 2015 to 2021

## 5. Leadership and Ministries

Employed staff – Parish Treasurer – paid set amount per month

Office Manager 24hrs Casual per fortnight (4hr Mon, Wed & Thurs 8.30 -12.30pm)

Locum Priest – 4days per week

Locum Associate Priest – 4.5days per week

Proposed Clergy Structure and Duties – Whilst the two Locum Priests are part time, it is proposed that the incoming Rector's position will be full time with duties to direct the overall operation of the parish and the duties of a part time Associate Priest.

Honorary staff – Parish Council Chair and Secretary

Leadership - Lay Ministers – 6 (all due for licence renewal)

- Parish Council is a strong group who are mostly long term members.

Specific outreach initiatives – St James House\_Pantry & Emergency Accommodation (with Social Justice Advocates), Sapphire Surprises Op Shop (with Anglicare), Alpha Course (with Sapphire Life Church).

Online presence

Parish Website – Andrew McKinlay

Zoom services during Covid19 – Rev Rod Oldfield

Kids Church - None at present

Youth Group – None at present

Op-shop - Sapphire Surprises Eden - Flo Young and Welfare – Janet  
Brandon

Other ministries

We also have

- three RSL Lifecare Centres: Hugh Cunningham Gardens (Tura Beach), Albert Moore Gardens/Bimbimbie Park (Merimbula) and Roy Wotton Gardens (Eden).
- Men's Breakfasts.
- Bible Study Groups
- SRE in Eden, Merimbula, Pambula and Towamba Public schools

- Monthly coffee mornings
- Annual Blessing of the Animals Services
- Annual Blessing of the Fire Brigades
- Ecumenical Dawn Service
- Ecumenical Easter Vigil

## 6. Parish Facilities

St Luke's Wolumla – Artist in Residence - Rev Lou Oakes



Holy Trinity Kameruka – Original Christian Church of the parish 1868-to date.



St Peter's Candelo – Large area of Country Parishioners, needing a service once



a month.

Holy Trinity Wyndham – Ecumenical service once a month.



St John's Eden- Regular family services each week.



St Paul's Towamba - a Christmas service every year.



Christ Church Pambula – Regular Traditional services each week.



St Clements' Merimbula – Regular celebration services each week.

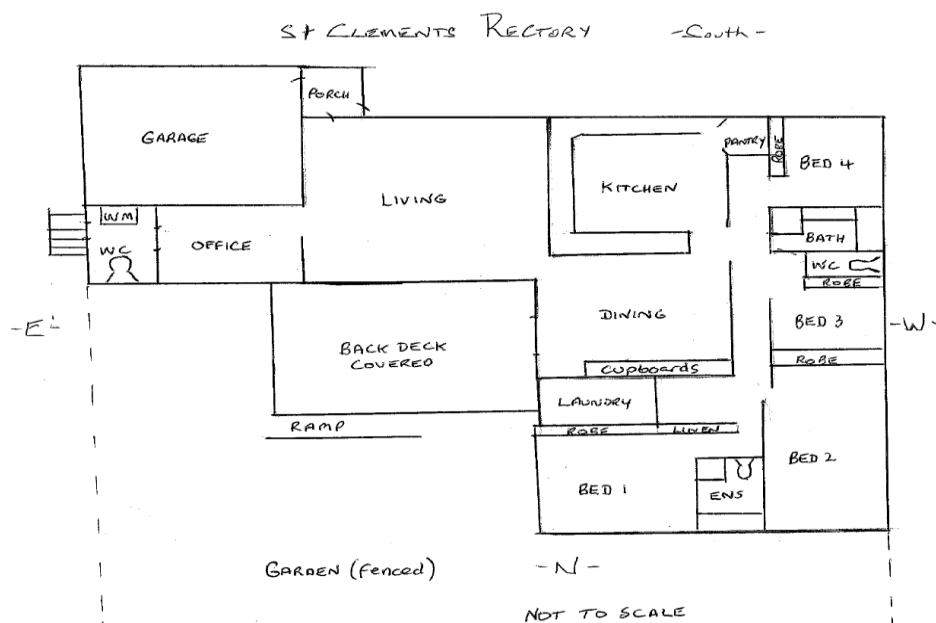


### Rectory

Four bedrooms, office, open plan living area, family bathroom and en-suite to main bedroom, garage and back deck onto a small garden, separate toilet with outside entrance. Gas heating, electric reverse cycle and electric heater in dining area.







## Facilities report

Three main centres – Merimbula Church seats 120 & Annexe caters for 50, with modern kitchen. Pambula Church 65 B J Doran Hall caters for 30 with modern kitchen and Eden church seats 60 with separate hall caters for 75 with modern kitchen, all pre Covid number and all with toilet facilities.

## 7. Local Community

A community with a large proportion semi-retired or retired people.

Catholic, Baptist, Uniting, Sapphire Life and Anglican churches with a Minister's Fellowship with regular gatherings.

Sapphire Coast Anglican College, Public schools in Merimbula and Pambula and Lumen Christi Catholic at Pambula Beach.

The parish occupies a coastal strip from south of Bega down to the Victorian border, and a rural inland hinterland, as far as the coastal escarpment.

The population does not have typical age distribution:

- Comparative shortage of people between the ages of 20 to 35 (leaving the area for further education and careers).
- A comparatively large number of people are over 65 (retirees who have come to the area for a sea change).
- There is a significant proportion of people in Aged Care facilities.

The population is predominately Anglo in background, with a small number of recent migrants to Australia.

There are several locations with groups of people identifying as Aboriginal, with the highest number in the Eden area. Twofold Aboriginal Corporation operates Jigamy Farm, between Pambula and Eden, as a community centre for culture and events.

Employment is an issue, especially for young families but is available in Education, Tourism, Health and other services, Small Business and Trades. Population numbers swells substantially in the coastal tourist areas over Christmas, New Year and Easter.

Schools are considered to be very good with a Uni of Wollongong Annexe in Bega that offers a number of tertiary courses.

## **8. Parish Finances**

***“Information on Parish Finances/Provisions and Conditions of Service” will be provided to interested parties once they are formally part of the CAB process.”***

## **9. Provisions and Conditions of Service**

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## **10. Diocesan Appointment Process**

This is a summary of the usual process.

1. Parish Consultation held
2. Parish Profile produced
3. Clergy Appointments Board (CAB) convened with following persons:
  - a. Bishop or Archdeacon to chair
  - b. Three Parish representatives
  - c. Three Diocesan representatives
4. CAB meets multiple times and covers the following:
  - a. Consider candidates who have expressed interest to the Bishop
  - b. Brainstorms possible candidates for the Bishop’s consideration

- c. Seeks applications from potential candidates approved by the Bishop
  - d. Bishop's Office conducts background checks
  - e. Shortlists possible candidates and conducts interviews
  - f. Makes a recommendation to the Bishop
5. The Bishop offers the Parish to the successful candidate
  6. Candidate formally accepts the Parish
  7. Details are worked out such as communicating the appointment to candidate's previous and new Parish, moving house, induction date

Parishes generally conduct maintenance and improvements on the Rectory during an interregnum.

### Instructions to Prospective Candidates

Thank you for considering ministry in this Parish! We trust that you will prayerfully engage in this process, asking for God's guidance and blessing for both yourself and the Parish.

The process is one of discernment. In other words, applications and interviews are done in the expectation that God will be at work making clear to all parties who the right person of God's choosing is. As you engage in the process, we want you to do so with an openness and curiosity to see whether God might be leading you to serve here. Having said that, there does come a time when decisions must be made. In particular, it is helpful if you can have a fair degree of confidence PRIOR to the interview that this is the Parish you think God is calling you to serve in. We do not expect certainty—and the interview is a time for you to ask questions and learn more about the Parish—but we do expect at least a reasonable degree of confidence in accepting it should the Bishop offer it to you following the interview. If you have serious questions and doubts about whether this Parish is the right fit for you, please try to resolve these before the interview, as this results in the least disappointment all round. The Bishop and Archdeacon are always available for confidential conversations at any stage throughout the process.

In most cases the Bishop will offer the Parish to the preferred candidate within five days of the interview. We would hope that acceptance would be given either immediately or within a few days of the offer.