



Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

The Anglican Parish of **St Mary in the Valley** **South Tuggeranong**



Parish Profile 1 December 2021

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1. Introduction

After the transfer of its previous Rector in 2021, the Parish of St Mary in the Valley 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 21 November 2021 and which had approximately thirty-one parishioners attend. Some parishioners also contributed via a survey means. The Parish Profile 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 around mid-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 Acting Archdeacon, the Rev'd Dr Brian Douglas by delegation of the Bishop. For more information please contact the Bishop's Office on (02) 6232 3612, or Acting Archdeacon Brian Douglas on 0408 867 713 or brian.douglas@mac.com.

2. Parish Perceptions

Strengths

- Welcoming tradition of inclusion and acceptance; a broad-church approach to the Anglican *via media*.
- Faithful and longstanding base of congregational members, more recently boosted by new young families.
- Strong financial position, with a congregation proven to generously provide more when required.
- Diverse service types (traditional, family, and informal) offered to suit an intergenerational congregation:
 - The Mid week and Morning Sunday Services emphasize a more traditional liturgical approach using APBA with weekly celebration of the Eucharist.
 - The 4:30pm Arvo Sunday Service uses an informal, interactive liturgical style including a community meal and monthly celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- Strong emphasis on both Word and Sacrament
- Strong lay participation in Services including rostered lay Readers/servers, bible readers, intercessors, communion assistants, choir, musicians, and singers.
- Growing Children's and Youth ministry as new families have connected with the Church in recent years, under the coordination of a part time Children's and Youth Ministry Leader.
- Growing newly establish younger Women's group ministry.
- Established Pastoral Care Volunteer Coordinator and small team.
- Established small prayer chain.
- A small group of long serving, dedicated Parish volunteers and the recent appointment of a part time Parish Administrator.
- Successful joint Op Shop venture with Anglicare (Mary's Market) now operating out of the local Calwell Shops; provides good community outreach and particularly useful financial support.
- Location of the Worship Centre building across from the Calwell Shops is a plus for outreach and community-based activity.
- Developing relationship with the Alliance/Baptist Church located next door, and joint ministry with the nearby Warrigal Aged Care Centre.

Hopes and plans for the future

- Increase the feeling of love, encouragement, and support for all members of the Parish, both established and new, young and old.
- Reconnect with social justice issues facing God's people today; climate change, indigenous people, poverty, refugees, and LGBTIQ+ people (always looking to the Scriptures for guidance).
- Re-establish more Parish social events, breakfasts, dinners, picnics, BBQs.
- Development of a Men's ministry (especially older men, and those living alone).
- Development of additional Small Groups: Bible study and Prayer.
- Continue development of Children's and Youth Ministry groups, eg Reboot.
- Increasing outreach into the local community; supporting groups such as Sports Ministry Australia.
- Develop and celebrate our existing connection with Embracing Ministries through group activities such as *Junior Jivers*.
- Increase the involvement of Lay people with the ministry load; look at a developing non/stipendiary Lay ministers and/or a Deacon.
- Encourage a greater connection between the congregations of all three services, especially between Arvo Church and the two Sunday morning services so that we are moving forward as *One Church*.
- Review again the earlier proposals to extend the existing Worship Centre building to cater for a growing congregation.

Current greatest needs

- For St Mary in the Valley to be a *safe place* for all to receive care and support.
- Mix of traditional and new: reflecting the distinctive styles of worship at SMiV.
- APBA liturgical approach with weekly celebration of the Eucharist.
- Continued growth of Sunday Arvo Church using a more informal, interactive style.
- Consider the re-introduction of a monthly Messy Church service to encourage greater connection between Sunday morning and Arvo Church congregants.
- Greater connection and understanding between the congregations of all three services so that we can look to the future as *one Parish and one Church*.

- Nurturing strong Parish worship whilst encouraging outreach and growth; comfortable but challenging.
- Witness to the Holy Spirit being at work in the life of our church community (healing, prayer).
- Renewed connection with the social justice and climate change challenges facing God's people today (taking guidance and encouragement from Scripture).
- Growth of community outreach and strengthen existing links with the local community.

Desired qualities in a new Rector

- Strong emphasis on both Word and Sacrament.
- Ability to embrace a diversity of worship styles, including the wearing of appropriate vestments at morning worship, and less formality at our afternoon service: Alb, Stole and Chasuble at the first service, Alb and Stole at the second and informality at the Arvo Church.
- Respect and love for our existing and developing culture and people (to love us for who we are, and who we are becoming).
- Able to communicate the love of God in an inclusive and non-judgmental way.
- Compassionate, understanding, and approachable.
- Demonstrated ability to delegate when required and appropriate, without resorting to micro-management.
- Strong knowledge and understanding of the Bible and Scripture.
- Prayerful and Pastoral.
- Spirit filled, passionate and vibrant.
- A personal and public relationship with Jesus.
- A willing listener, open to the consideration of innovative ideas and initiatives.
- Exegetical preaching and bible-based teaching applicable to everyday life.
- A holder of mainstream Anglican theology in sympathy with the ethos of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.
- Open to an understanding of the often-confronting challenges that face God's people in modern society (eg social justice issues and climate change).
- Encouraging all parishioners (both older and younger) to use their gifts and to see themselves as vital and contributing parts of Christ's body (ie, the priesthood of all believers).
- A heart for family ministry.

- Encouraging of community outreach (including school and aged care ministries) and actively supportive of both Mary's Market and our connections with Gordon Pantry (Lanyon Valley Anglican Church).
- Supportive consideration and inclusion of Children in Worship.
- Strong people and interpersonal skills with developed emotional and social intelligence.
- Knowledge of the secular world and life experience.
- Honest, humble, and Godly character.
- Tolerance and a sense of humour!

Current Parish Mission Statement

We are an intergenerational Anglican community, devoted to Jesus, growing in faith, and living for others.

3. Diocesan Perspective

Current Diocesan Mission Priorities

The Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn 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.

Contribution of the Parish of St Mary in the Valley to Diocesan Mission Priorities

In recent years the Parish of St Mary in the Valley has contributed to these priorities through the development of an outward-looking witnessing culture. The Diocese appreciates the connections with other ministries through the Op-

Shop and Embracing Ministries and sees the Parish as a potential training location for those being prepared for ministry elsewhere.

4. Services and People

(PLEASE NOTE THESE ATTENDANCE FIGURES ARE AN ESTIMATE OF PRE-COVID FIGURES)

Regular Sunday Service 1:

8.00am Holy Communion: Traditional Prayer Book (APBA)

Music: 3 traditional hymns accompanied by piano and/or violin.

Average attendance: no children Adults: 15 - 30

Demographic: Mainly older Seniors, 1 Younger couple 50's +

Regular Sunday Service 2:

10.00am Holy Communion with “SMiV KIDS” Children’s programme during school term: (This is conducted with Youth Minister assisted by a rostered parent).

Music: Piano, flute and clarinet, hymns mixture of traditional AHB and modern (eg Townend and Getti). Led by 4 – 7 choir members.

Average attendance: 12 children Adults: 56 - 70

Demographic: Mixed across the spectrum of young families up to Seniors.

Regular Sunday Service 3:

4.30pm Arvo Church (during term time) A less traditional Service (flexible, modern, contemporary) with a monthly celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Focus on young families and children.

Music: Modern with guitar and female lead singer (microphone).

Average attendance: 23 children Adults: 27

Demographic: Young families.

Midweek Service:

Wednesday: 11.00am (under review)

Average attendance: 8 - 20 Demographic: Seniors.

St. Edmunds Tharwa: Fourth Sunday of the Month Holy Communion

11.45am

Over the 20/21 period average attendance: 2 children Adults 5 - 12

Note: St. Edmund’s Tharwa is ACT Heritage Listed.

Warrigal Care Home: A service of worship is provided fortnightly. One fortnight St Mary in the Valley provides a service including a celebration of

Holy Communion and the other fortnight a general service of worship is led by the Alliance/Baptist Minister.

Attendance: 5-20.

Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals in a Typical Year

Weddings: 2 (2020), 1 (2021)

Baptisms: 4 (2020), 8 (2021)

Funerals: 4 (2020), 5 (2021)

Recent Confirmations

2001: 3 2003: 20 2006: 12 2007: 8 2009: 6 2011: 10

2015: 5 2018: 1 2021: 7

Recent History

The parish was founded by the Brothers of the Society of the Sacred Mission and, as such, has traditionally and historically reflected an “Anglo Catholic” liturgical background, since then current services reflect a variety styles, including the use of APBA.

The present Rector Rev’d David McLennan’s ministry began in 2016. Prior to this, our Rectors were Rev’d Canon Roberta Hamilton (2013-2016) and Rev’d Canon Gillian Varcoe (2001-2012).

When Rev’d Dave McLennan commenced as our Rector the age of the congregation had increased significantly (average age around 68 years). In view of this Sunday Arvo church was commenced at 4.30pm with the assistance of 2 young families, one from St. Matthew’s and one from St. John’s. Once a month, Arvo church incorporated “*Messy Church*”. Employment of a Youth and Young family Minister was made possible by the congregation generously responding to a call for funds and raising \$30,000.00. Parishioners from the Sunday morning service congregations letterbox-dropped the entire parish boundaries a number of times, provided a cooked meal at Messy Church and assisted with the Messy Church craft activities. Some brought along their grandchildren, so “Messy” became a good crossover of the congregations.

With the arrival of Skye Coats as Youth & Young family Minister “Reboot” youth group was born, catering for primary school children and junior high schoolers.

Finances have been given a considerable boost by the relocation of the Parish op shop to the Calwell shopping centre (previously located in the church

meeting room). The meeting room is now once more available for all Parish activities.

Junior Jivers is a playgroup for children with Mum (or Dad) on Friday morning and recently commenced (encompassing Embracing Ministries).

Embracing Ministries coordinated by Rev'd Andrea de Vaal Horciu, has found an ongoing home with us at St Mary in the Valley. The children from Embracing Ministries join in the activities with Junior Jivers. At present the Embracing Ministries children meet on Zoom, with the intention of re-joining the Junior Jivers in person in 2022.

A small group of parishioners attending the Sunday morning services provide a reliable and faithful "working group" for the ongoing care and maintenance of the Parish.

5. Leadership and Ministries

Employed Staff

Rector:

Youth and Young Families Minister: Skye Coats (Part-time)

Assistant Youth: Elizabeth Hampton (Casual)

Stipendiary Lay Minister (Arvo) Libby Horton (Part-time 6 month contract from 3 January 2022)

Parish Administrator (office): Elysha Cole (Part-time)

Office hours: Monday 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Tuesday 9.30am – 2.00pm

Honorary Staff

The Venerable James Coats, Archdeacon of South Canberra.

Leadership

People's Wardens: Andrew Shiells
Pauline Cameron-Storey

Rector's Warden: Paul Robey

Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Co-ordinator: Agnes Glendinning

Music: Marion Bartlett, David Stevens, Megan Smiles

Manager Mary's Market (Op shop): Carol Willey

Lay Ministers: Andrew Shiells, Pauline Cameron-Storey, Sharon Newport, Allan Spinaze, Kaye Rainey, Carolyn Newman-Martin

Online Presence Website (includes weekly sermons) and Facebook
Updated by Elysha Cole

Specific outreach initiatives

Mary's Market Op shop in co-operation with Anglicare
Messy Church, Alpha, Christmas Lunch
Gordon Community Pantry
Embracing Ministries
Church Missionary Society (supporting missionary in Indonesia)

Kids Church

SMiV Kids during 10.00am Holy Communion
Arvo Church

Youth Groups

Reboot Primary School: 4 – 6pm (13 members)
Reboot High Schoolers: 6.30pm alternate weeks (11 members)
Junior Jivers: Fridays 10am to 11.30am (12 registered members)

Op-Shop

Mary's Market – Calwell Shopping Centre

Other Ministries

Bible Study:

1. Lenten Bible Study groups.
2. Know Your Bible including Junior Jivers.
Friday mornings (6 members)
3. Sermon-based Bible study home group.
4. Woven Bible Study for women.

Christian Meditation: Weekly Thursday meetings 1pm (7 members)

Cleaning Group: *Weekly* Monday by two cleaners.
Monthly by full cleaning team (6 members).

6. Parish Facilities

Parish Centre at Webber Crescent – Worship Space; Parish Office; Meeting room; Kitchen; Toilets – fenced grounds. Fully paid for.



Easter Eucharist



Easter Eucharist



Arvo Church



Children's Christmas Pageant



Messy Church



St. Edmund's Tharwa - historic timber Church (ACT Heritage listed), pre-dates Canberra



St Edmund's Anglican Church Tharwa – Seats 40 approx



Interior St Edmund's Anglican Church Tharwa

Rectory

Rectory – 4-5 bedroom plus study/office and ensuite to main bedroom.
23 Norris St. Chisholm; double garage – brick veneer; solar panels and heating/cooling via split systems. \$22,000 remaining debt on this building.
Generally in good condition, but currently looking at renovations, particularly the kitchen.





Rectory Office Entrance





Parish Vehicle for Rector

Facilities report

The facilities are generally in a good condition, though some updates to the Worship Centre would be beneficial. The Rectory is well sized and would be a comfortable home. The Parish is looking to invest further funds into both the Rectory and the Parish Centre building.

7. Local Community

The local region of Calwell, Richardson, Chisholm, Gilmore, Gowrie, Theodore and Isabella Plains has around 26,000 people (2016 census). Some 86 households are listed in the Parish Directory. Some are single person households, many are couples, and others include children. This listing is not complete, and a number of regular attendees have not added their names to the roll. Actual congregational membership is probably more than 150; with additional “casual members”, who are moderately regular attendees.

St. Edmund's, Tharwa has 11 households listed, few of these reside in Tharwa, and now live in suburbs of Canberra and Queanbeyan.

There are seven Government primary schools and two secondary schools; as well as two Catholic primary schools and one secondary school. A number of our children attend Trinity Christian School. We also have one Aged-Care facility next door to the Church.

We have a large local shopping centre (Calwell) which includes a large supermarket chain, a large medical centre and a bank. Included in this shopping centre is our op-shop Mary's Market which is a joint venture with Anglicare. There is also a swimming centre located nearby.

St Mary in the Valley is one of a number of Anglican Churches in the Tuggeranong Valley. Our close companions are: St Matthew's Wanniasa, Arawang Anglican Kambah, Lanyon Valley Anglican Church and Renew Anglican Church.

Other churches in our region include the Alliance/Baptist Church, Uniting Church, Catholic Churches, Lutheran Church and a number of Pentecostal Churches. There is also a large Islamic Mosque and Islamic Library in the area. As the Alliance/Baptist Church is located next door to St Mary in the Valley, we collaborate with them for Aged Care services and Christmas Carols in the Calwell Shopping Centre.

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

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

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 in consultation with the Bishop and conducts interviews
 - f. Suggests a preferred candidate to the Bishop for his/her nomination
 - g. Bishop decides whether candidate will be nominated for balloting by CAB members.
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.