



Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

The Anglican Parish of **CHRIST CHURCH COOTAMUNDRA**



Parish Profile
June 2026

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1. Introduction

Following the resignation of its previous Rector in 2025, the Parish of Christ Church, Cootamundra is seeking 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) was the result of a Parish Consultation held in March 2026 and involving approximately 25 parishioners. Others also contributed via a survey. 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 December 2026, however, are open to waiting longer in order to get the right person.

The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn seek 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 Ven. Neil Percival, Archdeacon, by delegation of the Bishop. For more information please contact the Bishop's Office on (02) 6232 3612 or Ven. Neil Percival on 0473 651 392.

2. Parish Perceptions

Perceived strengths of our church

1. Bible based with the love of Christ
2. A resilient, prayerful church
2. Strong fellowship and relationships
3. Welcoming
4. Strong on outreach.....mainly music, CC's, aged care
5. Focused on all ages
6. Well maintained facilities (all buildings airconditioned)
7. Good technology
8. Strong team leadership (lay and diaconal)
9. Growth in numbers of young people (11am service)
10. Financially viable

Hopes for the year ahead

1. To employ a new full time Rector
2. To see continued growth within the church and the community
3. To maintain our quality of faithfulness, unity and values
4. To increase involvement in youth/young families leadership roles
5. To encourage a younger generation to embrace leadership challenges
6. To encourage young families to engage in ministries

Perceptions of current needs

1. Need for growth
2. Pastoral Care and healing of congregation
3. Strong leader with ability to connect with all ages
4. Someone who can connect with all ages (especially young families)
5. Grow the potential for engagement of youth
6. Encourage and nurture young families

Important qualities in a new rector

1. Encouraging, approachable, sensitive and of strong character
2. Bible based and Spirit filled
3. Being able to adapt to parish challenges
4. Team leader
5. Deep love of Jesus and the Word
6. A teacher who can connect across all age groups
7. Have an understanding of where we have been as a church

Parish Mission Statement

To know, grow, and share Christ's love in the community, all being pathways to God's grace.

3. Diocesan Perspective

Current Diocesan Mission Priorities

We seek to play our part in the mission of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn in engaging our world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus through:

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

We embrace the diocesan ethos of promoting Christ-centred collegiality and encourage and support women in all levels of ordained ministry.

As part of the North-West Archdeaconry the Parish of Cootamundra has a vital role to play in modelling effective rural ministry. Its substantial engagement with South Pacific workers in recent years has the potential to provide a model and inspiration for other Parishes in similar settings.

4. Services and People

Regular Services

Day/Location	Time	Style	Music	Attendance
Sunday	9.00am	HC Traditional	Organ/piano	56
Sunday	11.00am	Family Service + Kid's Church (HC monthly)	Contemporary	30-40 adults 10-15 children
Wednesday	10.00am	HC Traditional	No music	15-20
3rd Sundays (Wallendbeen)	4.00pm	HC Traditional	Organ	8-10
Tuesday (Southern Cross Care - Deacon)	11.00am	Prayer Service		20
1st and 3rd Thursdays (Adina Care – Lay led)	11.00am	HC Traditional		15-20

Overall Attender Demographics

70-80+ 60%
50-70 15%
18-50 10%
0-18 15%

Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals in a Typical Year

Weddings: 0
Baptisms: 3
Funerals: 14

Recent Confirmations

Nil

Recent History

Reverend Rob Donald [dec.]

- Detailed expose of scriptures and spiritually focussed
- Maintained traditional services Sunday and Wednesday and Contemporary Service 4.00pm Sunday, weekly prayer meeting
- Established Heart Centre outreach to marginalised and Emergency Food Parcel program
- Maintained mainly music and CC's Ministry Cafe and Op Shop
- Oversaw renovation of parquetry in church and development of office space in hall

Reverend Captain Yvonne Gunning

- Strong leadership
- Engaged church in City to City program
- Discipling of leaders, prayer leader, focus on Jesus, pastoral care
- Elimination of 'fund raising' activities in parish and trusting completely in God
- Structural development in parish including ministry café, hall, church, solar panels, rectory
- Technological updates in hall, café, church
- Ecumenical promotion
- Welcoming and support of Islander Nation workers

5. Leadership and Ministries

Employed staff

Bookkeeper - Mrs Anna Craig [external]

Honorary Staff

Mrs Wendy Morrissey-Cowled - [office]

Leadership

Reverend Colleen Close [Deacon of the Parish] - Hospital Chaplain

Rector's Warden - Mrs Gail Pinney

Warden/parish secretary/treasurer - Ms Belinda Scott

Warden/Parish Chair - Mrs Carole Willis

Kid's Church Coordinator - Mrs Pam Roles

WHS Officer - Mr John Close

Safe Ministry Coordinator - Mrs Carole Willis
Hospital Visiting - Fr Bill Pryce [Retired Priest]
Parish Council - 9 members

Specific outreach initiatives

Family Service/Kid's Church 11.00am Sunday, Bible Studies [women's and mixed], mainly music, CC's Ministry Cafe, Emergency Food Parcels, Focus Group [carers and chronically ill], Hospital visiting, funeral catering

Online presence

Secretary Treasurer Online Banking - Belinda Scott
Facebook Coordinator - Pam Roels
mainly music - Catherine Kent and Denyse Buttriss
Data Entry - Gail Pinney

Kids Church

Coordinator - Pam Roels
Puppet theatre - Pam Roels

Youth Group N/A

Ministry Cafe

Coordinator Carole Willis

Other ministries

Men's Maintenance group

6. Parish Facilities

Church - See Appendix 1

Church seating capacity 180. A-frame church circa 1973, carpeted nave and parquet floor, half freestanding soft seating, half wooden pews. Traditional communion table and sanctuary. Air conditioned, attached sacristy and vestry. Updated sound and projection system.

Rectory - See Appendix 2

4 bedroom, 1 bathroom and ensuite, 3 toilets. Comprising L-shaped lounge/dining and separate kitchen/family room. Back pergola, rectory office with separate entrance, washing machine and dryer in laundry [near new] and refrigerator near new dishwasher. Newly carpeted [2025], well maintained, fully air conditioned. Partly furnished. Large, enclosed yard. Privacy fencing. Adjacent to church. Minimal gardens. Double garage.

Other Facilities - See appendix 3

Car park behind church, separating Rectory from church.

Large hall with attached meeting room, attached 'commercial' kitchen, modern appliances, wheelchair access, handicap toilet and shower, advanced sound and projection system, air conditioned.

CC's Café - See appendix 4

Fully operational commercial cafe, wheelchair access, large mounted TV and sound system. Operates as coffee shop/cafe Wednesday and Friday and some Saturdays, serves parish functions eg meetings and Bible Studies Tuesday, Thursday and as needed. Air conditioned.

Parish Office

Large central area and 2 smaller offices, one set aside for ministry meetings and pastoral care, the other for secretarial purposes. Includes photocopying facilities, Wi-Fi and Internet access. Air conditioned. All facilities and building well maintained and fit for purpose.

7. Local Community

Population 7800, 2 supermarkets, 3 medical practices, hospital, hardware store, sporting clubs and facilities, variety of retail businesses, 4 main-stream churches and various home churches, library, 2 state primary schools and state high school, Catholic Central school, AMG abattoir [Islander workers], 2 retirement facilities, service clubs and hotels, restaurants, coffee shops.

8. Parish Finances

Annual income 2025

Direct-debit: \$56,352
Open-plate: \$43,376
CC's Café: \$18,075
Mainly music: \$2065
Funerals: \$3230
Donations: \$5708
Missions: \$4834

Parish balance statement

Total cash balance: \$84,122

Building loans: nil

Value and description of investments:

Davidson Trust	\$20,083
Haisell Trust	\$36,052
Povey Bequest	\$17,346

Harris Bequest	\$5,765
Smith Trust	\$1919
Land sale	\$36,282
Land sale	\$291,611

9. Provisions and Conditions of Service

Stipend: Approx \$86,469 (of which 30% may be salary sacrificed)

Superannuation: 15.87%

Housing: Rectory including all utilities (Electricity/gas/water/rates/internet/phone)

Parish vehicle: Holden Cruz 2011 approx. 70,000km.

All vehicle costs including fuel paid for by parish

Car replacement on appointment of new rector

Leave: Four weeks/year. Leave for conferences and study by arrangement with Parish Council.

Expectations for days off: one day a week

Expectations/hopes for length of tenure: minimum 5 years

Diocesan expectations on clergy

Attendance at Annual Clergy conference (usually 4 days in May)

Attendance at Synod (usually Fri-Sun in September)

Occasional other short Synod or Clergy Conference days

Participation in an annual retreat, whether Diocesan retreat or other

Attendance at ordination services when possible

Regular Deanery meetings

Further details about provisions and conditions of service may be found in the Diocesan

Administrative Circular, available here: <https://anglicancg.org.au/ads/administration-documents/>

10. Summary of Diocesan Appointment 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. Shortlists possible candidates and conducts interviews
 - e. 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 negotiated 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 within a few days of the offer.