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# Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

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## The Anglican Parish of **St Alban the Martyr Woden**



## Parish Profile October 2024

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# 1. Introduction

1. After the transfer of its previous Rector to become Dean of St Saviour's Cathedral in June 2024, the Parish of St Alban the Martyr 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.
2. Much of the information in Section 2 (Parish Perceptions) has been produced as a result of a Parish Consultation which was held on 21 September 2024 and which had approximately 30 parishioners attend. Some parishioners also contributed via correspondence and discussions were held after all services in the fortnight prior to the consultation. 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.
3. We are hoping to have a new Rector start prior to February 2025, however, are open to waiting longer in order to get the right person.
4. 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.
5. The Clergy Appointments process for this Parish is being overseen by Archdeacon Jonathan Holt by delegation of the Bishop. For more information, please contact the Bishop's Office on (02) 6232 3612 or Archdeacon Jonathan on 0418 232465.

## 2. Parish Perceptions

### Strengths

A committed congregation who are actively involved in attending worship services and other activities.

The Parish is inclusive, generous and welcoming community that believes in inclusion and equality regardless of ethnicity, gender, orientation or ability. There are a number of rainbow families active in the parish.

A church that is progressive, tolerant and open to all. It plays its part in the wider community, engages in social justice issues, with a history of advocacy for the disadvantaged and support for refugees.

The Parish has appreciated the ministry of both women and men.

The parish is solvent and has no debt. The church building, though small, is in good condition and requires minimal maintenance.

The parish has a strong sacramental tradition using APBA and the lectionary, a contemplative outlook and excels in conducting meaningful liturgies. Clergy and lay assistants robe (and clergy use chasubles on feast days).

The church holds a number of services each week to cater for different groups and enjoys good music.

There is a young adults' group that meets weekly with an average attendance of ten. It is a space of exploration and faith conversations, and attracts members from neighbouring churches.

Outreach activities include twice weekly ministry to newcomers to Australia where they can learn English and gain confidence in their conversation skills in a supportive environment and are networked into the local community.

The Parish has a presence in the local community with our share vegetable gardens.

We offer hospitality to Al Anon in twice weekly meetings, and local music teachers often use our worship space (with its grand piano) for concerts for their students.

### Hopes and plans for the future

The Parish seeks to retain its sacramental and contemplative traditions, including the use of APBA, robes and the lectionary, as well as music and familiar forms of worship.

We need and want to reach out and grow our church community, including meeting with people in new ways, and embracing technology

We seek more community engagement and to engage with the world on current issues in ways appropriate for the congregation

We aim to minister to a changing population as our local area is regenerating and younger people are moving in.

### Current greatest needs

The parish considers its needs are:

- To maintain its current ethos and culture.

- To continue to maintain non-gender-biased leadership.

- To show hospitality and continue to have an involvement in pastoral and community activities and social justice.

The Parish acknowledges a need to reach out and grow, considering that our local area is regenerating, and younger people are moving in.

The Parish needs leadership to support the existing congregation and also to help engage with new people and bring them into the church.

Pastoral visiting and support for individual parishioners is an essential need.

### Desired qualities in a new Rector

A God-centred person who is grounded in prayer, cares for people and has a sense of justice.

A person with the capacity to lead and guide the parish in outreach, including the ability to operate in a virtual world.

Supportive of the ministry of all people.

Able to inspire, lead and actively encourage parishioners in their own ministries

Ability to relate to and minister to a wide range of backgrounds.

Willing to humbly work with lay leaders to sustain the Parish.

Middle-of-the-road Anglican, tolerant of differing views (not fundamentalist).

Contemplative and sacramental in churchmanship.

Capacity to relate faith to the real world (“doing theology”).

Good pastoral skills: and a capacity and willingness to do pastoral visiting

A good communicator and preacher.

Good organizational skills.

### Current Parish Mission Statement

Prayer, Hospitality, Justice

## **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.

## Contribution of the Parish of St Albans Woden to Diocesan Mission Priorities

The Diocese affirms that the Parish of St Albans Woden makes a particular contribution through its commitment to generous welcome, thoughtful liturgy and a concern for justice. It looks forward to the Parishes active involvement in the Hope25 outreach between Easter and Pentecost 2025 as we share the good news of Jesus together.

### **4. Services and People**

#### Regular Service 1

Sunday 10.00 am – main service. Second Order APBA Communion Service with hymns – generally a sung service) – attendance 35- 45. Morning tea after. Mixed congregation.

#### Regular Service 2

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 6.00 pm - – Celtic Contemplative Eucharist (attendance 12 – 25)

Other Saturdays 6.00 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> Order APBA Communion service. (attendance 12 – 20)

Pot luck dinner after service on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

#### Regular Service 3

Sunday 8.00 am

Quiet said 2<sup>nd</sup> Order APBA Communion Service – (attendance 8 – 16) mainly older people who value an early service.

#### Regular Service 4

Wednesday 10.30 am – Second Order APBA Communion service – usually with a hymn. (attendance 6 -12). Congregation is mainly older people.

#### Overall Demographics

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

Weddings: 1

Baptisms: 1

Funerals: 6

### Recent Confirmations

November 2015 – 1

December 2013 – 3

February 2013 – 2

### Recent Rectors:

Venerable Bronwyn Suptut 2010 -2016

Rev'd Connie Gerrity (locum) 2016-2017)

Rev'd Jenny Willsher 2017 -2019

Bishop Alan Ewing (locum) 2019 - 2021

Rev'd Gavin Krebs – 2021 - 2024

## **5. Leadership and Ministries**

Employed staff: only the Rector

Honorary staff: One honorary associate priest and 4 priests holding ATO's.

Leadership: The Parish Council works with the Priest in a shared and collaborative fashion.

### Specific outreach initiatives

Twice weekly ministry to newcomers to Australia where they can learn English and gain confidence in their conversation skills in a supportive environment and are networked into the local community.

A young Adult's group that meets weekly with an average attendance of ten. It is a space of exploration and faith conversations, and attracts members from neighbouring churches.

We outreach into the local community with a share vegetable garden, where local residents assist with maintaining the garden and share it's produce.

We provide practical support to the community by donations of food to Woden community Services' Little Pantry.



### Online presence

Parish has a webpage ([stalbanswoden.weebly.com](http://stalbanswoden.weebly.com)) and a Facebook page.  
Updated by Parish Council chair.

## **6. Parish Facilities**

The Parish church is a small, octagonal shaped building with space for approximately 50 in its current configuration. There is an overflow area behind large glass doors on the south east corner for larger services.

The church is built adjacent to the Rectory on a large block. Under the rectory is a community hall (with kitchenette and toilets) which is used for Parish and community functions.

At the front of the hall there is foyer with a desk and bookshelves and a vestry. Either space could be used as office space if required.

The church is surrounded by gardens.



Aerial view of Rectory and church



Front view of church



Inside of church



Altar frontals



Mary garden (front of Rectory)



Reflection garden (rear of church)

### Rectory

The Rectory is a 1970's four-bedroom (or three bedroom plus study) brick veneer home in good condition. It has a spacious kitchen with modern whitegoods and an updated oven, a separate large dining room and separate lounge, toilet and bathroom, reverse cycle air conditioning at both ends of the house as well as ducted gas heating.

There are carpets in the bedrooms and polished wood laminate in the living and dining areas.

Car accommodation and storage is provided with a double width brick garage on the southern end of the rectory.

The Rectory is up a flight of stairs

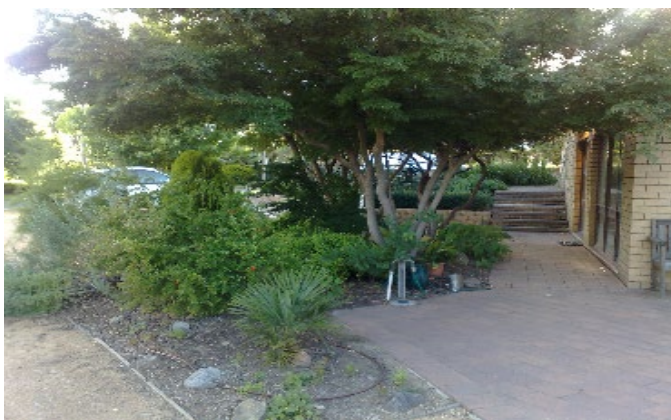
At the back of the rectory is a private garden area.



Front of rectory



Garden in front of church. Tree has red foliage around Pentecost



Another view of garden in front of church

### Facilities report

The facilities are in good condition.

## 7. Local Community

St Alban the Martyr Anglican Parish (lovingly called St Albans) is a tiny church nestled in the southern suburb of Lyons in Canberra, close to the major shopping and business precinct of Woden.

The parish started life over 58 years ago. It has moved through various venues, including, from 1974 – 1988, at the Woden Churches Centre.

From 1970 – 1985 the Parish was under the care of the Society of the Sacred Mission, where it developed its own Anglo Catholic and liberal ethos.

In the beginning St Albans was a large congregation with many children and had a great outreach in the local area. As the suburb has matured and the families grew and children moved away, and church attendance has shrunk in general, it has become an older group of people who are passionate about hospitality, prayer and justice.

Over the years others have joined us attracted to our ethos and style of worship

The Parish notionally covers Lyons/Chifley/ Phillip (estimated population 11,000) although in fact we draw our congregation from a much wider area.

Lyons and Chifley were established as suburbs in the late 1960's, and residents are generally elderly living in detached houses, but these suburbs are starting to regenerate with increasing housing density and younger families moving in. Increasing numbers of units and dual occupancies are being developed.

Phillip developed as a residential suburb in the late 1990's/early 2000's and consists almost entirely of apartments and town houses.

The parish is close to the Woden Town Square, consisting of Westfield Woden (a shopping mall), a number of clubs, an increasing number of apartment blocks, and a large number of public service offices and the largest public hospital in Canberra.

In 2002 the Parish built the church building on the rectory block. It has an octagonal worship space that comfortably seats 45 people and a grand piano.

## **8. Parish Finances**

### Typical recent annual income

Direct-debit \$77850

Open-plate: \$47 084

Other (Carpark): \$14814

Fund Raising \$7717

Parish balance statement

Total cash balance: \$45296 (after current Rectory expenses)

Building loans: nil

Value and description of investments: Five term deposits with AIDF totalling \$147,967.

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

Stipend: Approx \$79,500 (of which 30% may be salary sacrificed)

Superannuation: 15.87%

Housing: Rectory including all utilities

Electricity/gas/water/rates/internet/phone)

Parish vehicle: 2022 Toyota Yaris Cross Hybrid

All vehicle costs including fuel paid for by parish.

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

Expectations for days off: 1 days per week plus an additional retreat day per month.

Expectations/hopes for length of tenure: At least 5 years – the Parish has had a recent history of short-term rectors and requires some stability.

### Diocesan expectations on clergy

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

Attendance at Synod (usually Fri-Sun in September in Goulburn)

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. 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.