

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF COFFS HARBOUR

## PARISH PROFILE 2018

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**WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AND LIVE IN THE MOST LIVEABLE CLIMATE IN AUSTRALIA?**

**DO YOU LIKE BEACHES, RAINFORESTS, MAGNIFICENT COASTAL AND HINTERLAND SCENERY AND A RELAXED LIFESTYLE IN A MAJOR REGIONAL CITY THAT HAS IT ALL?**

**THEN COFFS HARBOUR MAY BE THE PLACE FOR YOU.**

## **Location & Context**

Coffs Harbour is a city located on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales about 540kms north of Sydney and 440kms south of Brisbane. It is well serviced by three major airlines (providing direct flights to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane), as well as good train and bus services.

The subtropical climate, tranquil rainforests and clean uncrowded beaches of Coffs Harbour ("Coffs" to locals) make it one of the most popular family holiday destinations on the New South Wales coast. The CSIRO has assessed Coffs Harbour as having the most liveable climate in Australia. With natural attractions, adventure activities and sporting and cultural pursuits in equal measure, Coffs Harbour works well for singles, couples and families.

Educational facilities are excellent with a good choice in State schools as well as an Anglican college and a Christian Community school. We also have a major shared campus consisting of a senior college, a TAFE and Southern Cross University

Coffs Harbour Hospital is a modern facility that has been continually undergoing upgrades. The city also supports a high quality private hospital. Both are well supported by a vast array of medical specialists.

The Coffs Harbour City Council area population from the 2016 census totalled 75,000

St John's Anglican Parish services part of that council area ministering to a region with a population of approximately 33,000. The other two parishes in the local council area are Northern Beaches (Woolgoolga) and Sawtell and Bonville.

St John's also supports the Parish of The Orara Valley, including conducting weekend worship services. There is a memorandum of understanding between the two parishes that was organised by the Bishop.

The Parish area has a slightly lower percentage of children and a slightly higher percentage of over 55s than the rest of regional NSW. It also has a slightly higher percentage of people from non- English speaking backgrounds

The population of the area continues to grow with increased housing construction and employment opportunities.

From the latest census, most employment in the area is in:

1. Health Care and Social Assistance
2. Tourism and Hospitality
3. Local fruit production and distribution

## **Staff**

Rector	Vacant
Assistant Priest/ Chaplain Coffs Harbour Health Campus	Rev Anne Goode
Deacon in Charge of Pastoral Care	Rev Carol Ford
Family and Young People's Lay Worker	Vacant (Currently being advertised)
Office Administrator (Part time)	Vacant (Currently being advertised)

We also have 11 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) which is by some measure the largest number in the Diocese.

## Parish Facilities

St John's was designed with a floor plan based on the Star of David and the altar was originally placed at the centre of the church beneath the spire. This was seen as highly innovative, allowing for worship "in the round". The altar was moved during the 1980's to allow for a more traditional service structure. The building can accommodate over 200 people in comfort thanks to the generosity of a parishioner couple with their recent donation of air conditioning.

Offices and meeting rooms for the church are in an adjacent building (formerly the rectory).

St John's also has a small hall that is available for community groups and church use as well as an adjoining Op Shop.

## Parish Rectory

The Rectory is at 10 Cotswold Close, Coffs Harbour, a distance of approximately 4 kilometres from St Johns Church. It is a large, modern house, with 4 bedrooms, an office, and a family room as well as a large lounge area. It has a well-appointed kitchen, is air conditioned, and has a fully fenced yard. There is a great choice of schools in Coffs Harbour but the nearest to the Rectory are Narranga Primary and Orara High.



## Worship

We are a broad Parish, catering for people at all different stages of their spiritual journey and welcoming people of diverse opinions and practices.

Worship is at the centre of parish life. Each weekend there are three services of Holy Communion: 6 pm Saturday, 7 am. Sunday, and 9 am. Sunday. Each of these services has their own particular flavour. The 6 pm Saturday service is quiet and meditative with no music. At 7 am we conduct a traditional service. At 9 am we have a band and a variety of music, contemporary and traditional. Sunday afternoon at 5.30 we have a Family Service conducted by Rev Anne. This is a relatively new service and has been received very well in the church community.

On Wednesdays at 10.00am there is a Eucharist. This service is a more informal in which interaction can take place through discussion. There are no hymns and it is usually completed within 30 to 35 minutes.



An informal cuppa is provided after the 7 am, and 9 am Sunday services and after the Wednesday 10 am service where parishioners can enjoy conversation and encouragement for the week

ahead. Morning Prayer is held each weekday except Tuesdays, at 8.30 am. Wednesday evening there is an evening prayer service at 5.45pm.

The parish values the cycle of the liturgical year marking different seasons with variations in the liturgy, music and decorations in the church.

Worship is very much the work of the whole people of God, involving a large, well-coordinated team of welcomers, musicians, sacristans, readers, florists, servers, intercessors, sides persons, counters, licensed lay ministers, priests, deacons, and faithful worshippers.

**Connecting with Bishop Druitt College**

Our local Anglican School, Bishop Druitt College, brings students to St John's for a range of services during the year. Students are often invited to contribute to our special community services. They have their own chaplains at the school who have a good working relationship with the St John's ministry team. Students from BDC under the guidance of a teacher, run the Op Shop on Saturday mornings. This is a valuable exercise for them, gaining retail experience and interacting with the community.

**Parish Statistics**

Weekly Services		Average Attendance	
6.00 pm.	Eucharist	Saturday	14
7.00 am.	Eucharist	Sunday:	30
9.00 am.	Eucharist	Sunday:	75
5.30 pm.	Family Service	Sunday:	18
10.00 am.	Eucharist	Wednesday:	12
8.30 am.	Morning Prayer	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	

2017	Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals
	21	1	13

**Special Services**

Special church services include:

- Daffodil Day Service,
- Blue Christmas Service
- Monthly Taize Service
- Blessing of the animals
- Migrant and Refugee Sunday
- Launch of the Christmas Bowl
- Seniors week
- Police Service
- International Peace Day



Police Service



Daffodil Day Service

## **Hospital Chaplaincy**

Rev Anne Goode, Assistant Priest at St John's, is also the hospital chaplain at Coffs Harbour Health Campus. Other churches in Coffs Harbour make a contribution to the funding of this ministry. Rev Anne seeks to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of hospital patients, their families and the staff, by being available to people where they are and whatever their beliefs may be.

The Chaplaincy service offers:

- Friendly support and a listening ear
- Someone to talk with confidentially
- Prayer support
- Blessing and anointing of the sick
- Holy Communion
- Support in grief and loss

Rev Anne is usually in the hospital each Monday to Thursday morning.

Clergy (ministers) of various denominations and faiths visit the hospitals as required, and can be contacted by Rev Anne on behalf of patients.

There is also a team of Pastoral visitors, who regularly visit patients who have indicated on their admission form that they would like to be visited.

## **Parish Activities**

### **Nursing Home Ministry**

Extended Communion is offered at seven nursing homes each fortnight. The LLM in charge of Nursing Homes Ministry is Bob Walsh.

### **Nursing Home Services:**

1st & 3rd Tuesday	1.15pm	Masonic Hostel
	3.00pm	St Josephs
2nd & 4th Tuesday	10.30am	Legacy
	1.30pm	Coffs Harbour Nursing Home
1st & 3rd Wednesday	10.00am	Ingenia Gardens
	11.00am	Freedom Aged Care
2nd & 4th Wednesday	11.00am	Opal

### **Women's Bible Study**

Two Bible study groups have been offered by the Rev Anne Goode. They have been meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a number of weeks during the year

### **Opportunity Shop**

St John's Op-Shop is situated beside the church in McLean Street. It is staffed by volunteers from the parish and the community, who work on a roster basis by serving, sorting, cleaning, ironing and a myriad of other duties required to keep the op shop productive.

The Op Shop is an important financial support for the church and is a valuable outreach to the community.

The Op Shop is open from 9am to 4pm Monday to Fridays and from 9 to 12.30 pm Saturdays. On Saturdays is staffed by teachers and students from Bishop Druitt College

## Anglican Mothers Union Australia – Coffs Group

The MU group has been part of St Johns community for many years. It is a small group that meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Commencing with Eucharist at 10.00am combining with parishioners for that weekly service, it is followed by morning tea, fellowship, and sometimes a guest speaker or other activity. The main project for the group is the supply of hospital emergency 'comfort' bags that are put together by the members and friends. Many of St Johns congregation help with donations for the bags. Several of the MU members are involved with the diocesan executive of MU.

## Education For Ministry

EFM has been a key program for lay formation in the parish. Currently we have a group in their first year and another in their third year.

## Cursillo

Cursillo continues to be a significant experience for deepening faith for many parishioners. A significant number of parishioners have been involved in leadership positions in the Cursillo movement.

## Children's Christmas Play

The Children's Christmas play is performed early on Christmas Eve. This has become a very popular event and brings together a large attendance of Parishioners from their normal service choice. Many helpers work for long hours leading up to this service to ensure its success.



## Anglicare Disaster Recovery

A number of parishioners have undertaken training to enable them to be of assistance at any major disasters that may occur in Coffs Harbour

## Social Activities

### Men's Group



All are welcome to this social gathering of men, meeting every second Monday of the month at 5.30pm at St John's, for a shared meal and time of fellowship. A small charge is levied to help cover the cost of the meal.

## **Women's Lunch Group**

Meeting from time to time at different venues around Coffs Harbour, all women are welcome to come to any of the lunches that are planned. Details of upcoming dates are advertised in the Parish Bulletin and on the noticeboard at the rear of the church. Cost depends on the venue.

## **Other Social Activities**

We have a newly formed social committee. A very successful bring and share lunch and recipe auction was their most recent activity and raised funds for drought relief for farmers. They have many exciting ideas in the pipeline for upcoming months for Parishioners.

### **Wardens**

Richard Dubois  
Stephen Campbell  
Lesley Miller

### **Parish Nominators**

Stephen Campbell  
Lesley Miller

### **Parish Council**

Apart from our Rector, Assistant Priest and Deacon, we have 12 parishioners on our Parish Council that meets once a month in the Parish House meeting room. The wardens meet a few days prior to the Parish Council meeting.



### **Future Development Plans**

The Parish of Coffs Harbour is the beneficial owner of 4 and 6 McLean Street with a total area of 2024 square metres on which the Hall, Op Shop and a rented Cottage are located.

In 2015 Parish Council appointed a committee of three people to investigate the possibilities for the two blocks.

For many years ideas have been discussed for the development of this area. The latest idea is to build a larger Op Shop, Community facilities and approximately 25- 30 units for Affordable Housing.

We are at the planning stage and are working with Architects and Town Planners and hope to have a viable concept to present to the Diocese before the end of this year

It is worth noting that the Hall is almost at the end of an economic life and the Op Shop is now our largest source of income

## Looking towards the future of the Parish

We are looking for a Rector who can:

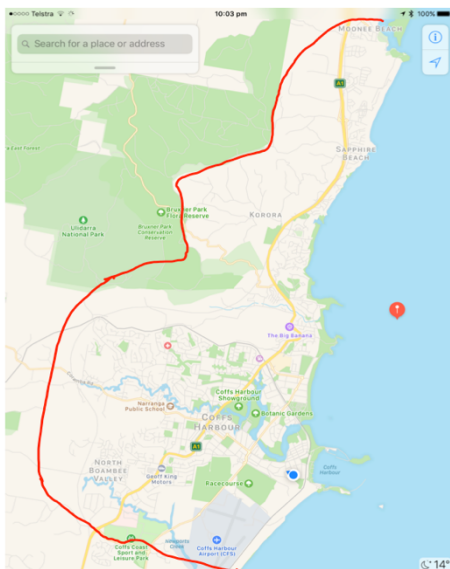
- Assist us, through clear thinking and experience, with the formulation and implementation of our strategic plan.
- Deepen the Christian experience of those already part of our faith community and to reach out to others in the Coffs Harbour area to join with us on our journey.
- Happily work within various styles of worship from more contemporary to traditional.
- Accurately and relevantly teach the Bible; encourage personal bible reading and prayer, small group ministry and outreach into our community.'
- Be an enabler to encourage young families to become part of our Parish family.
- Continue and strengthen our strong focus on ministering to the older people in our community. Currently we have a strong link to nursing homes, conducting services, and we also have home visits to the sick and infirm
- Build on our ministry to the less fortunate and needy members of our community. Currently we help with food parcels; and in the Op Shop by selling clothing and goods at cheap prices and also providing great ministry opportunities
- Foster stronger links with Bishop Druitt College

## Why should a new priest come to Coffs Harbour

Because we offer:

- A wonderful congregation waiting to welcome you
- Great opportunities presented by a growing population
- Excellent facilities
- Committed lay leadership already taking on responsibility
- An assistant priest, a deacon and a part time administrator
- Very comfortable modern Rectory
- Excellent educational and medical facilities.
- Terrific climate and location
- A major regional airport and interstate train link

## **Coffs Harbour Anglican Parish approximate drawing area**





## **History of St Johns Anglican Church Coffs Harbour**

The first St John's church on the corner of Moonee St & Coramba Rd was dedicated on the 6th April 1899. This site proved subject to flooding and a bullock team moved the church to the present day site in about 1905.

The building of a new church commenced in 1910 alongside the original church. The second St John's church was dedicated the 28th May 1911

Shortly after the dedication, the original St Johns church was moved to High St at the Jetty and renamed St Aidan's by the Sea.

St Johns Hall was built over a period of two weeks in 1927. It was originally 30' x 50' and unlined.

The third St John's church (current) was dedicated on the 3rd March 1973 with 600 parishioners attending

The diocese made the decision that St Aidan's Anglican church, which had served the Anglican community in the Jetty area for sixty years, would be amalgamated with the new, bigger St John's, and the old St Aidan's was demolished in January 1973

In 1980 an Op Shop was added to the hall built by volunteer labour.

On 11th April 1999 a service was held at St John's Anglican Parish celebrating 100 years