

ANGLICAN PARISH of
THE BELLINGER

PARISH PROFILE - 2019

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in creative ways throughout our wonderful communities



St Margaret's Bellingen



St. Barnabas Urunga



Prince of Peace Raleigh

“There is something about the landscape that makes me feel good”

The Bellingen Shire Courier-Sun, dated June 26th, 2019 says “research conducted by local government experts has confirmed Bellingen Shire is an extraordinary place to live”.

The Bellinger Parish is located within the stunningly beautiful Mid North Coast of New South Wales, halfway between Brisbane and Sydney and approximately 30 km south of Coffs Harbour. Comprised of three centres: Bellingen (*St Margaret’s*), Urunga (*St Barnabas*) and Raleigh (*Prince of Peace*), the parish is set amidst the lush green valleys of the Bellinger and Kalang rivers and the blue seascapes around Urunga and neighbouring villages. The majestic blue Dorrigo mountains form a beautifully dramatic backdrop to this idyllic setting and balmy sub-tropical climate.



Picture by the Bellingen Shire Courier Sun

Bellingen has its origins firmly planted in its rural beginnings but is also now a popular tourist destination and known for its relaxed lifestyle of cafés and restaurants. Creative occupations abound in Bellingen including artists and craftspeople, writers, musicians and horticulturalists. It is an economy in transition from traditional timber, dairying and meat processing industries to the creative sectors of tourism and events such as Camp Creative, Bellinger Music Festival and the Readers and Writers Festival. The Bellinger River wends its way gently through the town as does the Waterfall Way, a tourist road leading from the Pacific Highway through to the Dorrigo plateau and beyond.

In contrast to Bellingen, Urunga is a seaside town nestled between the coastline and the Kalang River. Many people choose to live in Urunga and neighbouring villages of Raleigh, Repton and Mylestom for the milder climate and village lifestyles. There are boardwalks and scenic trails, wonderful birdlife and wildlife to enjoy and explore. The name “Urunga” comes from the local aboriginal language and means “a long spit of sand.”

The Anglican Church at Raleigh sits placidly in this small tranquil community which boasts its own vineyard and winery. Where else could you indulge in a cheese platter and wine while enjoying the spectacular views across the Bellinger River to the blue mountains?

Our Hope for Future Ministry

Our hope for our community is to extend our outreach and community involvement. Along with our church services, SRE, Op Shops and partnerships with other organisations and churches we have been endeavouring to engage the community in our Christian witness. We continue to pray that the Lord will extend our vision and change our focus so that we can become a vibrant place in this community in which the Lord has placed us. We are looking forward to and praying for a new Parish Priest who will guide and lead us in serving our Lord who never forsakes us. We are praying for a Parish Priest who is encouraging, a good communicator, a delegator, enabling, an inspirational teacher, compassionate, good self-care skills and boundaries who is aware of the difficulties of living in a rural area and the need for external support networks. We are open to different ministry options, for example 1 full time minister or 2 part time roles comprising of church minister and pioneer minister who could engage with our local music and food scene.

'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' John 13.34-35

Worship

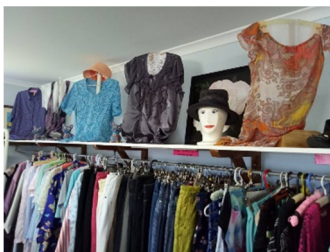
Worship is at the centre of our Parish life. As a part of the life of the Grafton Diocese we reflect the Anglo-Catholic tradition with its emphasis on Holy Communion. Each parish centre has a weekly Eucharist held on Sundays: Urunga at 8am, followed by Bellingen at 10am. The Raleigh church currently has a Sunday service at 4pm.

The LLMs play a key role in the leadership of worship in the parish. We mainly use Mission Praise for hymns. It is a custom at St Margaret's to have a Contemporary Service once a month which consisted of a PowerPoint presentation without the Eucharist and with modern hymns. Lately an intergenerational service is held once a month which replaced the Contemporary Service to include children and adults into interactive worship.

There is also a monthly Saturday Evening Service held at Mylestom in the Bowling Club which was very informal. Some local people come to this and enjoy a meal with us in the Bowling Club's restaurant.

Waterfall Way Education Committee is a local ecumenical committee which was instrumental in establishing a part-time SRE teacher in the Bellingen and Dorrigo High Schools, commencing in 2015/6. They continue to oversee this ministry and raise funds for the paid teacher. Lesley Edwards is our Parish representative on this committee.

SRE is also taught in the primary schools in the area by a band of dedicated Christians from most churches in Bellingen, Urunga and Raleigh/Repton.



Op Shops

There are 69 volunteers working in the two Op Shops at Bellingen and Urunga. We are grateful for each person and the skills and dedication they bring. The consistent cheerful hospitality to those who enter the



doors makes the whole Op Shop experience a welcoming ministry in the two towns which draw many tourists as well as locals. Meg's Boutique, as the Bellingen Op Shop is known, vies proudly amid the trendy dress shops in downtown Bellingen.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Shopping---Retail/Anglican-Op-Shop-Urunga-165466217405115/>

Chomp and Chat

This weekly activity is run by Lesley Edwards who welcomes everyone with her warm personality. Lesley and her helpers provide meals for those in the Urunga church hall for those who need friendship. During 2018 they provided a total of 358 meals over a period of

44 weeks. We thank Lesley for her hospitality ministry for people in the community who are often overlooked.

Food Pantry

Leonie Sills and Joyce Tarrant co-ordinate the food pantry. They assist 192 clients. Last Christmas 32 hampers of food and toys were distributed to welfare recipients and the homeless throughout the Urunga area. Donations of vegetables and other foodstuffs have helped supplement the stock and those involved are grateful to be able to display God's love to all.



<https://www.bellingencourier.com.au/story/2578951/local-food-pantry-a-blessing/>
<https://www.bellingencourier.com.au/story/5578145/urunga-food-pantry-is-turning-5/>

Staff

Rector:

We are currently seeking a new incumbent as our previous rector, the Revd Canon Zoe Everingham, retired at the end of 2018 after 5 years of service in our Parish.

Licensed Lay Ministers

Leonie Sills, the LLM at Urunga, warden, the part-time Parish Secretary. Leonie also oversees the Friday morning food pantry at Urunga. Previously Leonie assisted with Messy Church at Bellingen and also teaches SRE at Urunga Primary School. Leonie does some home visits as well. Her contributions are greatly valued by the community.

Dianne is an LLM2 and Pastoral Care Worker at the Bellinger River District Hospital several times a week. She also visits residents at the Bellingen Masonic Village, conducting a service once a month. Dianne also visits elderly people at home. Leonie and Dianne are both greatly valued members of the Bellinger Parish.

Mrs Lesley Edwards and Mr Michael Summerill are currently being trained to assist in the Pastoral Care Ministry in our Parish.

Administrative Staff:

Mrs Leonie Sills currently works as part-time Parish Administrator in the office. This is a paid position. We also have a **part-time data entry clerk** assisting the Parish Administrator with the handling of the financial accounts. This is also a paid position.

Op Shop Staff

Mrs Charlotte Reah is the Op Shop coordinator working part-time and managing the two Op Shops in the parish: one located in the main street of Bellingen, the other located in the church hall at Urunga. This is a paid position. The rest of the staff are all valued volunteers.

Parish Facilities

Bellingen:

There is a **large hall** in the Bellingen parish which is hired out to community groups but mainly to the Bellingen Community Playgroup which stores its equipment in the hall and has the use of an enclosed play area outside which is maintained by the Parish.

The Rectory is next to the church at Bellingen and is currently leased to a private family who are in the process of moving. We are exploring the possibility of buying a new rectory, or renting a home depending on the advice from the Registrar and Archdeacon.

The Parish office is a small separate building situated at the rear of the church property at Bellingen.

Urunga:

St. Barnabas Anglican Church sits in the main centre of the Urunga village community. The congregation is a small but faithful group. St Barnabas has an Op shop that is open five half days a week with a Food Pantry (in conjunction with LifeHouse Church Bellingen) which is open on Fridays. Urunga is a small seaside village that has a varied population with a burgeoning retiree population. After the construction of the highway bypass there has been a housing boom with improved infrastructure. This location is only 20 minutes from Coffs Harbour. The parish hall at Urunga is the new home of the Op Shop. This is a bright and airy space. The old Op Shop was demolished when the land adjoining the church was sold.

St Margaret's

In 1894 Bellingen became a separate parochial district, having been under the pastoral care of the Kempsey Parish since 1876. In 1896, the Bellinger Parish had its first church building opened and dedicated. The Rectory was opened in 1904 and the area was raised to the status of a full Parish in 1905. The new parish embraced the villages of Bellingen, Bellinger Heads (Urunga), Fernmount, Orama, Gleniffer, Raleigh and Bonville. In modern times the Orama and Gleniffer churches were sold and Bonville is now a separate parish with Sawtell.



The present church of St Margaret of Scotland was dedicated in 1935. It was referred to as a concrete church, the second in the diocese, (the first being the *Prince of Peace* at Raleigh built in 1919). At the time it was described by the *Northern Courier, Bellingen* as being 'picturesquely set in the church grounds at the top of the Broadway, its commanding location a contribution to the architectural beauty of the town' (12 Feb 1935).

St Margaret's is known for its beautiful stained glass windows and many memorials and gifts. Very recently the parish has had some windows repaired through a Heritage Council grant.

Prince of Peace Raleigh

This concrete church was built in 1919 by a local builder and generations of the McBaron family have had a close involvement in its history. Mrs Rae McBaron who still worships there remembers attending this church as a child, travelling by horse and sulky. The name was altered to 'Prince of Peace' to commemorate the First World War. The church lichgate is evocative of English village churches and the beautiful stained glass windows speak of the pastoral life still surrounding this area.

Census Statistics of Bellingen and Urunga

Population size and median age

Bellingen and Urunga are similar in population size with Bellingen being the larger. 2016 *Census statistics* reveal that in the immediate area of Bellingen there were 3,779 residents with 991 families. In Urunga there were 3,000 residents and 827 families. The median age in Bellingen is 43 years compared to Urunga at 54 years.

Other Statistics from the 1016 Census

The following statistics give a broad-brush stroke of the demographic of this area. (Taking the four highest statistics of each category)

Education	Bellingen	Urunga
Secondary	284	143
Tech	67	45
Uni or tertiary	108	64
Not stated	292	268

Ancestry	Bellingen	Urunga
English	1,711	1,284
Australian	1,465	1,362
Irish	575	406
Scottish	464	360

Country of Birth statistics reveal that most people in the area were born in Australia, followed by England, New Zealand and Scotland.

Religion	Bellingen	Urunga
No religion	1,740	863
Catholic	478	648
Anglican	469	759
Not stated	411	284
Uniting	187	156

Employment	Bellingen	Urunga
Professional	388	200

Trade	201	159
Community Worker	197	125
Manager	162	112
Labourer	133	159

Schools

There are three main primary schools in the area: at Bellingen, Urunga, Raleigh and Repton. The High School is located at Bellingen and is known for its excellent student involvement in high quality music education and performance opportunities along with sports activities. Many secondary students from this area attend the Anglican Grammar School in Coffs Harbour, Bishop Druitt College. Many also attend the Coffs Harbour Christian Community School in Bonville.

Other churches in the Bellinger:

There are Roman Catholic churches in both Bellingen and Urunga, also Uniting Churches in both towns. Bellingen has a Pentecostal church which is popular with families and another independent congregation called "The Gathering". Relations between members of these congregations is particularly good.