

PARISH PROFILE FOR THE PARISH OF MANUKA, SOUTH CANBERRA

1 THE COMMUNITY AND THE PARISH

The Parish of Manuka comprises the suburbs of Manuka, Griffith, Forrest, Narrabundah and Kingston. The total population is 27,000 of whom 3,200 identify as Anglican. South Canberra contains a mix of retirees, social housing, established and young professionals in apartments, families moving into the area and more transient groups such as those on posting.

St Paul's Manuka is the principal church and St David's Red Hill is a branch church. The Anglican Grammar schools for boys and girls are within the parish and there are also four aged care facilities in the parish boundaries. A proportion of the congregation at St Paul's resides beyond parish boundaries.

2 STRENGTHS OF THE PARISH

Significant Diocesan Church

St Paul's performs some important diocesan and civic functions such as state funerals, services for Parliaments, Bishops' Conferences. Communicants number over a thousand at Christmas and Easter.

Clear Anglican identity with high quality liturgy, music and sacramental life

The focus is on Prayer Book liturgy, high quality music and intelligent preaching. St Paul's has two organs, six organists, a peal of bells and a choir augmented for special occasions and concerts. Choral Evensong, concerts and seasonal liturgies are attended by many visitors.

Active Community Life and Ministry - strong volunteer ethos

At least thirty lay people are actively involved in contributing to worship, another twenty lead other activity groups. A number of people are in wider leadership roles in the church, both diocesan and national. There is an excellent relationship with neighbouring churches.

A cohesive clergy and pastoral ministry team

The parish has four stipendiary and at least five honorary priests. The clergy are responsible for six weekly Services, Bible studies, confirmations, baptisms, weddings, funerals and special civic services. Over one thousand home communions were administered in 2017.

Property

St Paul's is a heritage building of significance in the ACT, built in the 1930s and the recipient of several ACT Heritage grants. A Heritage Conservation Plan governs the site and a Heritage Fund supports conservation work. St David's church is a newer brick building with a multi purpose space located in the Anglicare Retirement Village of St David's Close.

Location and Site

St Paul's sits on valuable land which is the property of the Diocese. Adjoining is a government owned social housing complex, the Stuart Flats, due for redevelopment by the ACT Government in 2019. As part of the stewardship of its assets, the Diocese has formulated plans to redevelop the St Paul's site, excluding the church building. This development will be a major focus of St Paul's Parish Council in partnership with the Diocese, for at least the next three years.

Staff

The parish currently funds a full time Rector and Assistant Priest at St Paul's, two Assistant Priests at St David's, a part time Office Administrator and part time Music Director.

3 WEAKNESSES

Ageing Congregations

The congregations are committed and active; however they comprise people mostly over 60, increasingly on fixed incomes. The sanctuary team and choir currently provide opportunities to include younger people.

Lack of clear strategy to appeal to younger people and families

It has proved difficult to garner strong support for new modes of worship and to identify youth leaders. Although ordained and lay church workers comply with Diocesan 'Safe Ministry' requirements and hold Working With Vulnerable People certification by the ACT Government, regaining community confidence after the Royal Commission is a challenge.

Communication, coordination and connection

The Parish consultation process identified that people would like to feel more strongly connected and St Paul's in particular, could do more to better connect newcomers to the life of the parish.

Long Term Financial Viability

Annual revenue comes from planned giving, loose collections, donations and about \$18,000 from the annual fete. However, it is increasingly a challenge to meet current expenses and the parish lacks a clear strategy for long term viability. A stronger focus on personal stewardship and planned giving is needed and the Diocesan proposal to redevelop the site provides an opportunity for a revenue stream to the parish in the longer term.

4 THE NEEDS OF THE PARISH AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The Parish has enjoyed a period of stability and consolidation, with excellent liturgy, music and worship, combined with an outward focus in social justice, fellowship and outreach. Challenges for the next rector will be to enable the clergy and lay people to:

- strengthen community through the Diocesan-led development and new chapter of mission
- develop alternative models of ministry that can attract and retain a younger generation.
- lead a team to undertake a busy program of visitation and administration of communion.
- help give a public face to the church in the national capital and to restore community trust.

5 PARISH GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Currently has parish provides Christian Education through Education For Ministry, Bible Studies and Lenten Study groups. Parish fellowship and interest groups include a Walking Group, Discovery Group, handicrafts group, annual fete planning group and others.

Supporting the liturgical life of the church are the Music Director, choir, musicians, bell ringers, flower arrangers, a St Paul's Friday preparation group, as well as teams of acolytes, deacons and honorary priests, lay readers and intercessors at both churches.

Community outreach occurs through a Refugee Group (supported by a Trading Table and Linen Cupboard), Community Outreach Group partnering with Anglican Overseas Aid in the Solomon Islands and support for the Swags for the Homeless program.

The Parish has a quarterly magazine titled *Community* and an Arts Foundation providing grants for the arts. Parish activities and other parish administration are supported by a part time Parish Administrator who is based at St Paul's.

6 PERSONAL QUALITIES OF THE RECTOR

Critical capabilities

The Rector needs to be a person who can both nurture the tradition of the Parish and lead the Parish into the next stage of its growth and spiritual development. A focus on leading high quality worship in the broad Anglican tradition, strong visionary leadership for the parish of the future and interacting with national and civic leaders are important elements of this.

The Rector must be able to effectively supervise and lead a team of clergy and lay people to lead worship, reach out to others and provide visitation, home communion and pastoral care. Effectively attending to the governance arrangements of both the Parish and the Diocese is also critical as is the ability to manage and deploy resources - human, financial and infrastructure.

Personal Qualities

Authenticity in faith and modelling the Christian life are fundamental to a life of leadership. The rector needs strong interpersonal skills to engage with and deal with the interests of diverse groups of people and needs to be resilient, adaptive, humble and open.

Gender and marital status are not selection criteria for the new rector, provided that candidate is living within the promises made at their ordination. The partner or spouse of the rector may or may not choose to have an involvement in the life of the parish.