

PARISH PROFILE OF

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF STANTHORPE AND OUTER CENTRES

STANTHORPE ANGLICAN PARISH

ST PAULS		STANTHORPE
ST BARNABAS		DALVEEN
ST JAMES		GLEN APLIN
ST JOHNS		THE SUMMIT
ST DENYS		AMIENS

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Introduction

Thank-you for taking the time to read this profile of the Anglican Parish of Stanthorpe. Since its beginnings as a temporary bark hut in 1872, the year Stanthorpe was founded as a tin mining settlement, parishioners have been faithful in proclaiming the saving message of Christ crucified. In 2022 we are prayerful that a person who will faithfully preach the Gospel will come into our community and continue this ministry and lead the faithful members of this parish to greater and more wondrous achievements for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We hope this profile gives its readers a glimpse of our mission.

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”
Romans: 3: 23-24

Background to Stanthorpe Parish

The Anglican community began in this district in 1872 when the first church was erected out of bark. The bark hut was replaced by a more permanent timber church building in 1873. The current brick structure was built in 1957 with a temporary west end. This was completed in 1996 with the addition of a covered drive-through portico. In 1981 the hall was built as a Youth Centre using 50% funds available from a government subsidy. Outlying churches had their beginnings early last century.

1903	St Barnabas	North of Stanthorpe at Dalveen
1923	St Denys	West of Stanthorpe at Amiens
1926	St Johns	North of Stanthorpe at The Summit
1929	St James	South of Stanthorpe at Glen Aplin

Stanthorpe & The Granite Belt Community

Stanthorpe is a safe, pleasant community offering a choice of rural and town lifestyles while only 2 ½ hours drive from Brisbane. The area enjoys the coolest and most comfortable climates in Queensland, with four distinct seasons.

There are three major National Parks nearby (Girraween, Bald Rock and Sundown), providing holiday destinations for large numbers of tourists each year, many of whom seek out our cold and frosty winters.

The community is very diverse and multicultural (a large Italian community is present) with tourism, fruit and vegetable growing, sheep and cattle and a rapidly developing wine industry (over 50 wineries) being the main sources of income.

The population of the shire is approximately 11 300 and is well serviced in all aspects. Stanthorpe Hospital offers up to date care with 45 beds covering acute, maternity and palliative care. Stanthorpe Aged Care, Blue Care Nursing Services, Meals on Wheels and home help all provide assistance to the aged. Granite Belt Support Services offers a variety of services for the disabled including respite care.

Stanthorpe has State and Catholic schools which cater for students up to and including year 12, with several outlying primary schools operating. The town also boasts a kindergarten, two childcare centres with additional childcare in Wallangarra which provides a bus service to and from Stanthorpe.

Stanthorpe and the Granite Belt offer a wide variety of leisure activities for young and old alike. These include amongst others:

- Arts and Crafts Groups
- Choirs, Bands and Theatre Groups
- A large variety of sporting activities and clubs from archery and darts to football (soccer), netball and rugby league, lawn bowls and croquet, swimming, little athletics and golf but to name some of this vast array.

The district is also well supported by service clubs including: Rotary, Lions, Zonta and Probus.

The population mix tends towards middle to older, with a large population of self funded retirees and increasing number of city dwellers seeking a lifestyle change for them and their families.

Please visit The Granite Belt Informer at <https://granitebeltinformer.com.au/> for more details on the Stanthorpe Shire, it's businesses, community groups and local events

Resources

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us."
1 John 5:14*

People

Parish Administration

The Parish Council comprises of 13 members as follows:

Church Wardens

Rector's Warden & Parish Treasurer: Mrs Adele Poole
People's Warden: Mr Graham Spencer
People's Warden: Mrs Bettina Spencer

Nominators

Mr Neil Cook
Mrs Lyn Smith
Ms Sandra Macintosh

Secretaries

Minute: Mrs Virginia Marsden
Correspondence & Social Media: Mrs Shontelle Clark

Synod Representatives

Mr Brough Warren
Mrs Margaret Warren

General Committee

Mrs Val Voss
Mr Doug Voss
Mrs Marj Furness (Hall Hire)

Congregation Mix

Gender Mix

Male	20%
Female	80%

Age Mix

Under 16	1%
16 – 30	0%
31 – 45	5%
46 – 60	1%
61 – 75	5%
Over 75	88%

Statistics

Number on Parish Roll	90
Baptisms (2022)	5
Marriages (2022)	0
Funerals (2022)	9
Average Weekly Communicants	35

Property

Churches

St Paul's is the main church in the parish together with another four smaller churches.

The Churches are:

St Barnabas	Dalveen	20 minute drive north of Stanthorpe
St Denys	Amiens	15 minute drive west of Stanthorpe
St Johns	The Summit	10 minute drive north of Stanthorpe
St James	Glen Aplin	15 minute drive south of Stanthorpe

St Paul's is a well maintained building situated on the main thoroughfare into Stanthorpe. It can seat approximately 250 people. Built in 1957, it is of brick and steel frame construction, with a wooden floor and carpet along the aisles. The church does not have an air conditioning system, but does have a heating system. This may require attention or possibly replacement in the future. A sound system is in place with lapel microphone for the minister. The pipe organ is a notable feature considering St Paul's location in a town of Stanthorpe's size. The church grounds have reasonably extensive gardens.

A small administration office is located in the St Paul's church building. Currently there is no one staffed/volunteers for the secretarial duties. The office is well fitted out and has reasonable storage and filing capacity, computer with internet connection.

The daughter churches are generally in good repair with maintenance being conducted on as and when required.

Please refer to Appendix A for the locations of the churches in the Stanthorpe District

Other Buildings

Hall

The Stanthorpe Parish has a hall close to St Paul's church building with holds approximately 100 people. This is a brick building with full kitchen facilities. A PA system is installed and although the hall doesn't have a stage it does include a reasonable size separate storage area, separate lockable room, meeting room, male, female and disabled access toilets. The hall is used for a wide variety of parish activities and functions, including morning tea after the 9:30am service, and is also available to be hired out to the wider community. The hall has a large roof fed water tank which is used for watering the gardens.

Rectory

The single storey rectory was constructed in 1899, with renovations completed in 2017. It comprises of kitchen (gas cooktop & fan forced oven), small dining room, laundry, bathroom with separate toilet, four bedrooms (main with ensuite) lounge room, and private office and additional exterior door to garden. A three bay lockable garage is at the rear of the rectory and a fenced area is located on the eastern side.

Please refer to Appendix B for the site plan of St Paul's church, hall and rectory

Parking Lot

The tennis court completed in 1992 which had fallen into disuse has been used as a parking lot since 2004.

Plant & Equipment

Vehicle

The Parish owns a 2016 Toyota Rav 4.

Child Care Centre

Built on church property in 1998, the Affinity Education centre is currently under long term lease on the Parish's land. The Parish has no involvement in the management of the centre but receives a monthly lease fee.

Other

- There is plant equipment for grounds and maintenance.

Finances

The income of the parish comes through fundraising, offertories and the lease of the child care centre.

The Life of Our Church

*"...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
Romans 12:5*

Worship

Worship style under the most recent priest was traditional Anglican service with evangelical teaching directly from the scriptures. The frequency of services is as follows:

St Pauls	Sunday	9:30am Holy Communion
St Barnabas	1 st Sunday of the month	7:30am Holy Communion
St Johns	2 nd Sunday of the month	11:30 am Holy Communion
St Denys	3 rd Sunday of the month	7:30am Holy Communion
St James	4 th Sunday of the month	7:30am Holy Communion

Precaching Style

Evangelical proclaiming the kingdom of God.

Organists

There are currently six very competent organists in the Parish.

Liturgical Assistants

The parish currently has 2 Liturgical Assistants.

Fellowship

Parish Bible Study

Friday 10:30am – 12:00pm Weekly followed by fellowship at a local Coffee Shop. Usually led by the minister and generally follows a theme. There will be a film night commencing in the new year with the topic Pagan Invasion. Open to all denominations. Great time of fellowship, learning and devotion.

Ministry

Mainly Music

Held in the parish hall on a Friday at 9:15am followed by morning tea during school term.

Chaplaincy

We support the Granite Belt Chaplaincy Committee

Stanthorpe Aged Care

Weekly visits and Holy Communion

Bush Ministry Fund

Supported through prayer and finances

Anglican Board of Mission

Supported through prayer and collection of stamps

Home Visitation & Communion

Weekly visits of parishioners/those in need

Hospital Visitation

Visitations/Holy Communion and those in need of Pastoral care

Special Services

Any special services noted in the Lectionary and other special occasions e.g. Celebration of the life of Queen Elizabeth II

Fundraising

Hall Hire, Street Stalls, Garage Sale, Election Day Stalls, Sale of Donuts etc

Lay Ministry

Includes all other aspects of the maintenance of the life of the church. Includes amongst other things: reading roster, intercessory prayers, sidesperson and welcoming duties, care of sacred vessels and alter linen, brass cleaning, flower arrangements, hospitality and garden care. Also includes teaching religious education at Primary School.

Witness

- St Paul's Street Sign – Situated on the main road frontage through Stanthorpe, the sign displays a spiritual/biblical thought for the week as well as advertising upcoming church events
- Social Media – Website, Facebook & Instagram

Analysis

Strengths

- Loyal congregation for the right leader
- Leaders within the congregation who are generous in their spiritual, physical and financial commitment
- Strong fellowship
- Solid foundations
- A congregation which has come to appreciate solid biblical and a heritage of evangelical teaching within the parish

Weaknesses

- Low number of worshipers in the 0 – 50 age group
- Due to age and infirmities of the congregation many are unable to continue an active mission and carry out some tasks that previously could

Opportunities

- Potential growth for youth and young families/ through baptism and weddings and pastoral opportunities through funerals
- Untapped talents and gifting amongst mature Christians to teach others by example
- Pastoral Care of the Community
- Outreach through community projects/ being active in the broader community

Qualities of most Recent Parish Priest

- An enthusiasm for preaching the gospel
- Faithfulness to the Word, encouraging people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Evangelical Style of Ministry
- Effective teacher in Bible studies and sermons
- Encouragement to laity to actively participate as leaders in parish life
- Generous in time and resources
- Faithful, energetic team of priest and wife to witness to the church and community and in building friendships
- Humble and compassionate
- Gifted in pastoral care
- Ability to recognise and encourage peoples spiritual gifts within the congregation and in the outside community.
- Ability to build rapport with people of all ages and backgrounds inside and outside the church community.

Future Expectations of Parish Priest

- Younger person with family that could entice other young families to the church through ongoing ministries already in place e.g Mainly Music
- Preach and teach the Word of God from the Bible
- Proclaim the Gospel to the church and outside the church
- Model a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Lead and inspire people to grow in their Christian walk
- Encourage children to be taught the Word of God
- To be consistently in prayer allowing God to take control of which way He is leading the parish and beyond. Prayer is essential to the building of God's church in the parish.
- To recognise the spiritual gifts of people and encourage the use of them.
- An ability to initiate and grow youth ministry within the church to ensure the future congregation of our church
- Being compassionate and having an openness in listening to people and their problems, closely linked with prayer.
- To support Christian education in schools
- Manage and organise the administration of the parish efficiently
- An ability to adapt to different styles of worship
- A developer of opportunities to share the Gospel with others
- Enthusiastic and active as part of the local Ministers Fraternal
- Healthy sense of humour

Future Vision and Goals

- A Parish with a congregation of a wider age group, sustained for growing membership
- Evident points of connection with community (outreach, in-reach and community engagement)
- Shared skills and resources across the Parish through workshopping and other programs offered through the diocese and local faith communities
- Explore the gifts and talents of parishioners and better equip them for ministry
- Explore the resources and potential growth
- Mission and Outreach



