



BATHURST
DIOCESE

Anglican Church of Australia



PARISH PROFILE

Gilgandra

ANGLICAN CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE

GILGANDRA

OUR MISSION

We are God's family; loving, growing, supporting, worshipping, sharing the good news of Jesus and caring in Gilgandra and surrounds.



OUR NEED

We are looking for a minister who:

- Is Bible and prayer based
- Is a mixture of traditional, charismatic and evangelical as is the parish
- Will care for, teach and visit with parishioners
- Is willing to outreach and work in the community
- Will be a committed and involved partner as part of the Church family

BACKGROUND

Since the time of the Bushbrothers, the Anglican Parish of Gilgandra has been a place of sending out to enable ministry beyond the parish church. This aspect is visible in the participation of parish members throughout the community groups and gatherings of the district and more formally over the past 8 years, in leading and enabling ministry in places like Brewarrina, Weilmoringle, Warren, Coonabarabran and Coonamble. This enabling ministry has been led by both lay and ordained ministers. The parish currently has a fulltime rector, honorary priest, honorary deacon and four licensed lay ministers. The nature of these ministries includes the involvement and encouragement of women in leadership positions.



St Ambrose is considered the Community Church for the District based on its history. The building reflects the spirit and history of the community having been built as an offering for peace, reflecting the contribution of the community to the Great War.



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SERVICES

Parish worship is held in St Ambrose Gilgandra at 9 am each Sunday and at Cooe Lodge aged care facility once per month. The style of worship is inclusive incorporating aspects of Anglo-Catholic, charismatic and evangelical expressions, assisted by a music and singing team.

Ministry in the villages of Collie and Tooraweenah is currently under review.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Parishioner Age

Average age is estimated at approximately 55-60 with common range of 30-80 which is a reflection of the Gilgandra community. Senior youth (late high school) numbers have decreased. Whilst we have attracted quite a few in the 30 – 40 age group we are still lacking viable numbers in this age group.

Parishioner Employment

- Self employed farming families.
- Self employed small business and professionals.
- Retirees both self-funded and pensioners.

A reasonable reflection of the community, however probably higher earning than average and we are underrepresented in respect in employees, unemployed and Aboriginal people when compared to the general population.



WORKING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

Historically Gilgandra has an amazing record of the number of churches and the ability to work together. Events such as the *Week of prayer for Christian unity* have been shared each night by a different denomination. The combined Christian churches ministry group has been active in organising events such as Carols in the Park and the provision of a paid SRE teacher and chaplain in the High School.



PARISH MANAGEMENT AND FINANCES

Parish Council

We have a strong Parish Council with financial acumen. It is a policy of the Parish that the Rector not be too involved in finance or maintenance concerns in order that they concentrate on the spiritual life of the Church.

Wardens

Actively support the Rector and regularly meet.

Volunteers

A strong group of volunteers for prayer support, children's ministry, bible study, youth leadership, service preparation, cleaning, flowers and maintenance. Age is becoming an issue in the areas of cleaning and maintenance.

Financial Viability

The region is coming out of the worst drought in living memory but despite this giving has remained stable or slightly increased. The majority of income is from direct giving. We have an objective to tithe our income in mission/outreach giving. This is done by donations and mission envelopes.



BUILDING AND ASSETS

St Ambrose – The building still has serious structural problems which will need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

St Mary Magdalene (Tooraweenah) – is in the process of being offered for sale.

Feetham House – New toilet facilities constructed in the past 12 years has improved its use, is generally in reasonable order. Is used as the Church hall, function centre, and used as a community centre by other volunteer groups.

Rectory – Will require floor coverings, new range, and some electrical work prior to appointment of a new rector.



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SUMMARY

Areas of Concern

St Ambrose Church building
Ageing parishioners
Lack of numbers in 30-50 age group
Financial viability

Areas of Strength

Committed Parishioners both spiritually and financially.
Bible and prayer based church.
Lack of any groups/factions.
A real sense of Church family



INTERESTED?

Should you feel that the Lord may be leading you to come and minister with us, please contact the bishop of the diocese, the Right Reverend Mark Calder by email: bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au or by phoning the diocesan office – **02 6331 1722**.

If you want to find out a bit about Gilgandra, please check out the information in the link: -

<https://www.gilgandraregion.com.au/>

