



Parish Profile

19 October 2009



Executive Summary

St Matthews Anglican Church in Prahran is seeking a Godly minister to lead and care for the congregation and reach out in God's love to the surrounding community.

St Matthews is an evangelical church with a vision to be a caring community making disciples of Jesus. This vision is supported by the four 'pillars' of our church; Outreach, Discipleship, Care and Prayer. We are a bible based church and hold to the orthodox teachings of Christianity.

St Matthews is a diverse congregation of around 140 members with two main congregations meeting on Sunday. Our services are of a low church style with a high degree of parishioner involvement.

We are a church with many strengths and seek a minister to encourage development in reaching out to the people of Prahran and growing through non-Christians coming to Christ. We seek a leader with strong bible teaching skills as well a passion for pastoral care and evangelism.

We have a talented and committed ministry team consisting of paid (two full-time, two part-time) and unpaid members. Our ministry team is focussed on supporting the congregation, caring for the needy and mission to our community.

We have many ministries encouraging the children and youth. We run a playgroup for mothers and children in the community. We are committed to teaching in small groups through youth groups and home groups. We support several missions through our congregational giving. We provide care for the needy through the provision of food, clothing for babies and a friendly place for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Our church is blessed with functional buildings that provide a place to worship as well as a multipurpose office space for small groups, playgroups and administration. Our vicarage provides very comfortable and spacious accommodation for the minister and all our buildings are rich in history providing a deep link to our heritage.

We are in a strong financial position thanks to reliable congregational giving and office rental income. We have low liabilities with only a few small loans with ADF.

St Matts has a rich history of evangelical teaching and mission. St Matts is praying for a minister who will continue in this rich heritage with the support of a committed and involved congregation. The suburb of Prahran is diverse and in need of a church that will engage with all members of the community under the headship of Christ and leadership of its minister.

We pray for God's will to be done and seek the minister God is preparing for ministry at St Matthews Anglican Church, Prahran.



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Who are we looking for?

St Matthews, Prahran, is looking for a Godly minister who can serve the Lord and provide care for His people. We are seeking a willing and competent leader who can encourage the people of St Matts to strive to live Godly lives and a leader who will seek and engage with the lost.

A Disciple

We are seeking a minister who is a follower of Jesus with a regular and passionate devotional life. We are seeking a disciple of Christ who will also model Godly behaviour and lead by example.

A Bible Believer and Preacher

As indicated by our statement of belief, we are seeking a minister who believes in the bible as infallible and inerrant, divinely inspired, the only source of authority and containing all that is necessary for salvation.

We are seeking a Bible preacher who will faithfully teach and instruct all people and encourage Godly living in faith.

A Leader

We are seeking a leader who will head a ministry team of paid and volunteer workers. This leader will manage the priorities of the church and delegate effectively to maximise the potential of the church given the skills and abilities of the congregation.

We are seeking a minister that can lead and encourage us in God's work while caring for those in need

We are seeking a leader with vision for work of St Matts to address the needs of Prahran while supporting the members of the congregation. We are seeking a minister who can provide strategic leadership, directing and empowering the congregation, while caring for individuals.

A Pastor

We are seeking a pastor who can compassionately serve the individuals and families in the congregation and the wider parish. We are seeking a pastor who can provide, or facilitate, this care as a channel for God's love.

An Evangelist

We are seeking an evangelist for the parish of Prahran and surrounds, who has a passion for the lost and will seek and engage non-believers and the un-churched.



The minister will meet people "in-the-marketplace" through programs and wider personal connections.

We are seeking a minister who will be able to encourage and drive the members of St Matts to be evangelists in their families, schools, workplaces and social groups. The minister will equip the congregation to engage with non-believers on spiritual matters.

Who are we?

Vision and Mission

St Matthews **Mission** is to be a caring community making disciples of Jesus.

St Matthews **Vision** is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Our **Strategy** for achieving our mission and vision involves four 'pillars':

Our Mission:
To be a caring
community making
disciples of Jesus

Outreach

Objective: St Matts will be a church where its people are passionate and committed to sharing the gospel and rejoicing as lives are transformed by Christ.

Biblical motivation: Matt. 28:18, "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.'"

Current Key Initiative: Growing the 10am service and building bridges through small groups.

Discipleship

Objective: St Matts will enable people to grow in maturity and service of Christ through faithful teaching, training, accountability and supporting ministry.

Biblical motivation: Col. 1:28, "It is he whom we proclaim; warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ."

Current Key Initiative: Establishing ministry overseers in each area of ministry.

Care

Objective: St Matts will build a culture of caring for each other in which everyone is affirmed as worthwhile – "belonging"

Biblical motivation: 1 Thess. 2:8, "So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.."

Current Key Initiative: Creating a culture of care through establishing pastoral care channels



Prayer

Objective: St Matts will be a church where it people pray regularly, giving thanks to God and bringing every need before him.

Biblical motivation: 1 Tim. 2:1, "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone..."

Current Key Initiative: Running a "Prayer is a Priority" campaign.

What We Believe

About God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. God has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. We believe the doctrine as taught by the Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian Creeds and the 39 articles (page 476 in A Prayer Book for Australia).

See: *Genesis 1:26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

About Jesus Christ

Jesus is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. His death is a substitute for ours. He rose from the dead on the third day to demonstrate His power over sin and death, declaring the effectiveness of his work on the cross. He ascended to Heaven and will return to consummate His Kingdom and to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

See: *Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13*

We believe that Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross

About the Holy Spirit

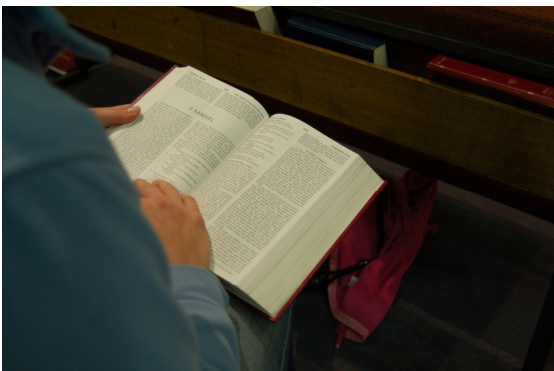
The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son and is present in the world to make all people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. The Spirit also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation and provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Spirit gives every believer gifts for the building up of the Church.

See: *2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18*

About the Bible

The Bible, being the 66 books usually read, is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the only source of authority for Christian belief and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth in all that it affirms and contains all that is necessary for salvation.

See: *2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160; Proverbs 30:5*



About The Creation, Humanity and Sin

The created world reflects God's glory but is separate from God. The world is upheld and sustained by God. People are made in the image of God to be in relationship with God, and to be like God in character. People are the crowning work of God's creation. Every person has tremendous potential for good yet all of us are disobedient towards God. This is called sin. Ingrained in every person is a corrupt and sinful nature, where humanity is very far gone from God's righteousness. This disobedience separates people from God, rendering humanity subject to God's wrath and condemnation, and distorts their relationship with one another and the rest of creation. Indeed, the very creation itself has been marred.

See: Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1,2

About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's way of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life, ask God's forgiveness and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life with God begins when we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith and submit to His Lordship.

See: Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6; 1:2; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

About Assurance of Salvation

Our Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not the self effort of the Christian. The Word of God, the work of Christ and the witness of the Holy spirit assure us of our salvation and free us from living with the fear of condemnation and judgment. The Christian is called to grow in faith, obedience and holiness of life, but our relationship with God through Jesus Christ is maintained by the grace and faithfulness of God.

See: John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

About the Future

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee that we will also be resurrected. When Christ returns, those who believe in Him will be raised in a new and glorified body to eternal life with God. Those who have rejected Christ will be raised to judgement for their sins and will be separated from God in eternity.

See: Revelation 20 & 21; 1 Corinthians 15; John 5:1-29; Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10; John 3:16; 1 John 2:25; 1 John 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 8:8; 25:41,46

About the Church

The Church of Christ is the gathering together of the faithful, in which the pure word of God is preached and the sacraments (being baptism and holy communion) are duly administered. The Church is to be a place of love, learning, service, fellowship and prayer. It is clear from the Bible that God expects us to meet together as a church.

See: Acts 2:42; 1 Peter 4-5; 1 John; Hebrews 10:25



Services and Attendance

St. Matthews has two Sunday services, the 10am and 5pm. Our services have a welcoming atmosphere, solid biblical teaching, and a high degree of parishioner involvement. Our community consists of all ages and people from a wide range of backgrounds.

10am Service

Communion (3 of 4 weeks), question time after the sermon (1 of 4 weeks), a more **liturgical style**, few musicians, mixture of choruses and hymns, older congregation, few or no children (children’s talk and crèche recently introduced), an age range of late 20’s to 80’s with some young families, average attendance 39 in 2009.

5pm Service

Question time after the sermon (3 of 4 weeks), communion (1 of 4 weeks), less liturgy, bands consisting of 2-5 musicians, more contemporary songs, predominantly **young adults** and **families, kids program**, an age range of all ages up to 45-50, average attendance 62 adults and 20 children in 2009.

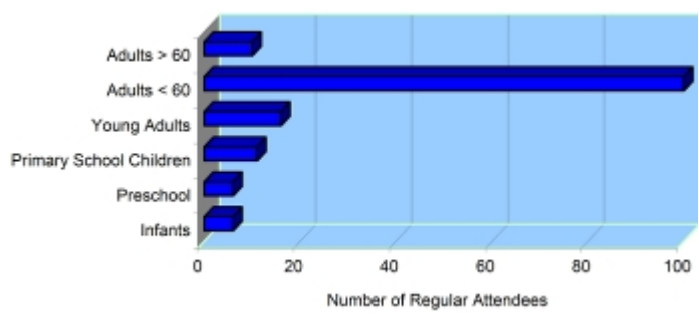
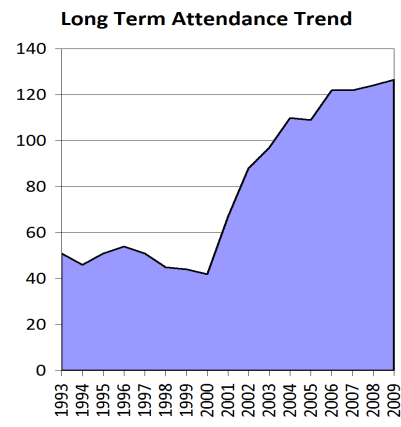
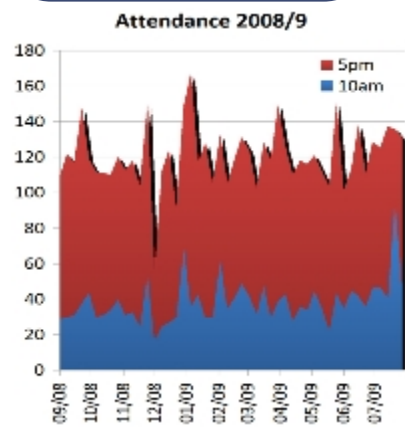
The church building feels full with 80-100 attendees. There has recently been discussion regarding options for growth in the evening time slot given this limitation.

In both services, there is a high degree of **involvement** in all aspects of the service (there were 50 people on the latest 5pm rosters).

The same **sermon** is preached at morning and evening services. We value biblical teaching that is applied to our everyday lives, and we devote equal time to 1) the Gospels, 2) Other New Testament, 3) Old Testament and 4) Topical series (e.g. ethics).

We also run special services called **“Super Sundays”**. These services are an opportunity for St Matts parishioners to **invite friends** to a service with a special theme. Some recent themes have been “Art”, “Music”, and “Islam or Christianity – Is there only one way?”. These have included **testimonies**, guest musicians, and **fellowship** over a shared lunch.

St Matts values involvement in our services with over 50% of the adult congregation serving in rostered tasks



Staff and Admin

St Matthews employs a gifted and committed staff team to support the Minister as we seek to be a “Caring Community, making disciples of Jesus”. The staff team are well supported by the Wardens and Vestry who work cohesively together. The Lay Leadership Team is made up of men and women and has a good representation of members around 35 yrs old bringing their professional skills to the role.

St Matts is blessed with team ministry focussed on caring for the needy

The current staff team are:

Associate Minister - Tracy Lauersen — Full Time

Tracy worked for several years as a School Chaplain before joining the staff team in February 2008. Tracy is involved in the 10am and 5pm services in the areas of leadership, preaching and music. She also leads the Youth and Women’s Ministries at St Matthews. She is passionate about helping people grow in their faith. Tracy trained at the Sydney Missionary & Bible College and prior to moving to Melbourne worked for the Anglican Diocese in Sydney. She is married with two children.

Children’s & Family Worker - Helen Jacobs –(Part Time)



Helen runs our Play Groups, Sunday Kid’s Club and also assists with some administrative tasks. Prior to being employed at St Matthews, Helen worked at St Judes Anglican Church Carlton as a pastoral worker and is currently studying Theology part time at Ridley College. Helen is married to Bruce and they have two children. Helen’s previous professional background was as a Research Scientist.

Community Welfare Co-Coordinator - Viv Pye –(Part Time)

Viv co-ordinates our ministry assistance to the poor in our community through conducting our Food Parcel Program as well as our Drop In Ministry. Viv is a qualified social worker and prior to joining the St Matts team was employed in hospitals and aged care. She has a great heart for social justice and enjoys sharing her faith in Jesus. Viv has recently notified the wardens of her intention to retire in 2010.

Ridley Student

St Matts has a long history of supporting the training and development of theology students at Ridley College. St Matts offers a position for a student to be trained in all aspects of ministry whilst allowing the student to exercise and develop their unique gifts in serving the congregation. Samuel Morton is our current Ridley student.

Contract Bookkeeper

St Matthews employs a professional bookkeeper who handles all accounting functions of the parish including payroll, accounts payable and receivable, bank reconciliations and all general ledger and financial reporting functions. The Bookkeeper reports directly to the parish Treasurer and is currently a CPA Qualified Accountant.

Ministries

The people of St Matthews are encouraged to exercise ministry both within the context of the parish life and also as they go about their day to day lives.

The key current ministry focuses of St Matthews are as follows:

Our ministries support Godly living and care for those in need

Children – Children on Sunday

During the 10am service crèche facilities are available for children up to the age of 3 years. We have recently started running a Sunday School program at the 10am service for children up to and including primary school age

During the 5pm Service after the Weekly Children's Talk is completed, there are crèche facilities for children up to the age of 3 years and also *Kid's Club* programs and activities for Kindergarten and Primary school kids. There are three different age groupings for the *Kid's Club* teaching time, and during this time the Primary aged children come together for a light meal (Kindergarten aged children are encouraged to bring a snack which they all eat together).

Each term, a special *Family Service* is run in the 5pm timeslot. These services are for and by the children in the church, with kids playing music, demonstrating Bible memory verses and presenting Bible stories in fun ways, such as plays.

Playgroups



Playgroups run on Monday and Thursday mornings from 10am to 11.30am during school terms. Each session consists of lots of free play time, morning tea at around 10.30, craft at around 11am and finish off with a couple of songs. Each term the group has a theme for the craft activity, for example: colours, animals, numbers, animals on Noah's ark etc.

It is also an opportunity to meet and make new friends with other parents in the broader community and provides parenting education from time to time. St Matts warmly welcomes members of the Playgroup to any of its regular or special Church services and events.

Youth Group

TRIBE is a dynamic group for young people in Years 7-10. It helps young people to find out who Jesus really is and what it means to be a Christian.

Our Youth Group program consists of:

- ✝ **Sunday afternoon TRIBE.** Held at St Matts at 3pm every week in Term time for students in Year 7-10. Activities include playing a few games, checking out the Bible and sharing supper together before going to Church at 5pm.
- ✝ **Switch.** Fortnightly Friday events during term time.
- ✝ **Special Youth Focused Services.** Each Term in our St Matts @ 5.00pm Service.
- ✝ **Weekends away.** These include attending the Victorian Christian Youth Convention together as well as our Church Family Camp and a combined Camp with other Youth Groups in our area.
- ✝ **Social Justice Opportunities.** Youth to serve others through the 40 hour Famine Project with World Vision.
- ✝ Partnering with **MUSTARD** to support Lunchtime Christian Groups in Schools in our area.

Students

Our student group is for people at University or who are completing their VCE studies. The group aims to help students discover and own their faith and to answer questions facing young people today.

A weekly Bible study meets on Tuesday nights at St Matthews at 6pm. The group starts with a meal together, check out the Bible and issues and finish by 8.00pm so that everyone can get home for their studies.



Small Groups

Many people in our church meet together to study the bible, pray and encourage each other. St Matts runs a number of different groups catering for all ages and covering a wide area from McKinnon to Glen Iris to the city. It is estimated that over 75% of the congregation are committed members of small groups.

Drop In / Food Parcels / Baby Bundles

A long standing ministry of the parish has been the provision of food parcels and bread to the poor and needy in our community. This ministry is funded from funds distributed from the Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society (to which our parishioners contribute) and also from Stonnington West Emergency Relief Fund (SWERNI) and is run by a team of volunteers from within the parish and coordinated by Viv Pye.

On Mondays and Wednesdays the Church provides food parcels to people in need, and on Tuesdays Viv conducts a Service/Bible Study followed by a morning tea where people catch up for social interaction and general support.

In addition to this a small group of volunteers co-ordinates the supply of much needed goods for new mothers in our community which provides a great support to those mothers in need.



Missions

St Matthews is committed to World Mission and supports a growing number of mission partners in many parts of the world. Among them are teachers, evangelists, administrators, student workers, a prison mission worker, Youth Workers and Community workers. In 2009 St Matthews donated \$28,000 to support their work.

In addition to longer term Mission Partners through our link with the Church Missionary Society, St Matthews supports individuals training for ministry and on short term missions of 6 months to 2 years whenever possible.

The following organisations represent some of our mission partners:

- ✝ CMS
- ✝ AFES
- ✝ Ridley Theological College Melbourne
- ✝ BCA
- ✝ Friends of China
- ✝ EFAC
- ✝ The Oaktree Foundation

Our Buildings

The Parish of St Matthews owns its church building and a Vicarage nearby. Each of the buildings are quite unique and although old, are in good condition. Both properties carry a significant land value and unlike most churches in the Melbourne Diocese, St Matthews church building belongs to the parish rather than the Diocese.

We have great facilities that have a rich heritage and support our ministries

The Church



The church was built in 1877-78 and was opened on 30 June 1878. It was built in a traditional Gothic style from local bluestone and was originally designed to seat up to 800 people. Several renovations were made to the church building over the years until May 1982 when the church building was gutted by fire. Following the fire, an architect produced plans *“showing a refurbished sanctuary and chancel from the old building providing an extremely functional worship centre separated from 3 floors of up-market office space by an open courtyard”*. The church building contains a small kitchen and two vestry rooms, one on each side of the altar. Since it was consecrated carpet has been laid and heating has been installed in the church building for the comfort of the parishioners.

As the church congregation grew in the late nineties the lower floor of the office building was re-claimed for use as church offices. The top two floors remain leased to a commercial tenant which provides a source of income for the parish. In 2007 the office space was renovated to increase the functionality of the area and it now provides three separate offices, two meeting rooms, a kitchen, toilet facilities and a large open space for children’s activities.

While the church is in relatively good condition for its age, it does require re-painting which is a large and costly job. The Vestry is aware of the requirement for this to be undertaken, but has yet to establish a time and source of funding for this to be achieved.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage was built in 1898 on The Avenue, approximately 500m from the church site. The Vicarage as it was built then still stands at 48 The Avenue. Over the years it has undergone some internal renovations, including recent re-carpeting and re-painting in most rooms. It sits on a 993m² block that has access from a rear laneway.



The Vicarage is a large two storey, period style house with a total living area of 319m². It has four/five bedrooms plus a study. It also has a large kitchen, separate laundry, family room, formal dining and lounge rooms and two bathrooms (one downstairs and one upstairs). While the building is in relatively good condition for its age there are several outstanding jobs, some of which will be addressed in the coming months.

Budget and Financials

St Matthews is in a good financial position and has been blessed with strong giving over the past few years. The church receives income from the leasing of the offices which has provided a reliable income stream. Income from the offices accounts for approximately 28% of expected income in the 2010 financial year. General giving accounts for the majority the income.

St Matthews budget for the 2009-2010 church financial year is in the process of being finalised. The 2008-2009 budget is attached in the appendix to provide an example of the financial position of the church. Staff wages consume the largest portion of the budget. Operational and maintenance costs for both the church and the vicarage consume a significant portion of the budget. St Matthews ensures at least 10% of income is donated to other Christian organisations each year and the distribution of these funds are determined by the Vestry at the beginning of each financial year. The distribution of funds in the 2009-2010 budget is very similar to that shown in the 2008-2009 budget.

We are blessed with strong financials supported by church giving and office rental income

St Matthews is currently servicing four loans held with the Anglican Development Fund. These loans have been taken out at various stages over the past 10 years for major projects such as renovating the office space and replacing the carpet in the church and the Vicarage. St Matthews total debts at the time of writing (Sep 09) are \$73,628.



Strengths and Areas for Development

St Matthews has regularly conducted surveys and consultancies to understand the strengths and opportunities present in the church. St Matts is committed to effectively serving God with the talents He has given and ensures the strategy of the church is influenced by our strengths and areas for development. A summary of the Strengths and Areas for Development are summarised below.

Strengths

The results of a recent survey of the parishioners of St Matthews, in open question format, identified the following as being the strongest aspects of the parish:

1. Consistent biblical teaching (47 out of approx 80 responses noted this as a key strength of the parish).
2. The diverse nature of the congregation (14 responses).
3. Children's ministry (13 responses).
4. We are a welcoming church (12 responses).
5. Church leadership (12 responses).

Our strengths include teaching and diversity and we continue to develop our outreach and care

It should also be noted that when asked what was the most effective ministry of St Matthews (options were listed, including a space for 'other'), 67.7% of respondents selected Sunday Services in their top three. Clergy, outreach to the community and children's ministries were in the next group nominated as most effective.

Areas for Development

The same survey identified the following three challenges faced by St Matthews:

1. Reaching out to the local community in Prahran (21 of approx 80 responses)
2. Developing and fostering good community and care systems within the church that can cope with / overcome the dispersed nature of our membership (11 responses).
3. Managing the transient nature of the congregation (9 responses)
4. Size of congregation (esp morning congregation) (8 responses).

St Matthews Prahran is a congregation that draws its membership from a wide range (up to 20kms away). The key attraction, of excellent, biblical teaching draws people from quite a large area. While this has many positive impacts on the church it also means that the church population is not representative of the local community especially in the lower socio-economic category.

The transient nature of the parish community also contributes to the difficulty of reaching out to the local community. Although the transient nature of the community is a challenge, the majority of movement out of the church is caused by lifestyle choices rather than discontent with the church itself.

Where are we?

St Matts is at 157A High St in Prahran. Prahran is an inner city suburb of Melbourne, Victoria around 5kms from Melbourne CBD. It is an eminently livable part of Melbourne with many shops, restaurants and cafes. Like many suburbs of inner Melbourne, the population is more ethnically and socially diverse than in outer suburban areas. Prahran has many fashion stores, bars, bookstores and just about everything else along the main strips of Chapel Street, the South Yarra section of Toorak Rd and Greville Street. A large high-rise public housing towers estate is located just off Chapel Street.



Prahran has a young and professional population with the following key demographic statistics:

- ✦ higher than average proportion of people aged 20 to 39 (48% as opposed to a Melbourne average of 33%),
- ✦ lower than average proportion of children (12% versus 21%),
- ✦ higher proportion of Professionals (16% versus 8%)
- ✦ lower marriage rate (29% versus 51%),
- ✦ higher proportion of people professing "no religion" (26% versus 19%)

More detailed demographic information can be found at the table at the end of this section.

Prahran is a diverse suburb that, while being materially blessed, is in great need of God's love

Amenities

Prahran features many small gardens scattered throughout the suburb which are largely hidden. The former Greville Botanical Gardens now "Grattan Gardens" are off Greville Street on Grattan Street. The Princes Gardens are a small garden which features the "Chapel Off Chapel", an old church converted into a theatre. Victoria Gardens off High Street is a Victorian era garden with a main space consisting of a circular row of London plane trees and an angel statue. The Orrong Romanis Park is the largest park in Prahran.

A City of Stonnington *experience Stonnington* map can be found in the appendix showing leisure and recreational facilities in the city.

Public Transport

The Prahran area is service well by public transport. Trains, trams and buses all service the area regularly connecting Prahran with Melbourne CBD and other suburbs.



The transport map below highlights the trains (Prahran and Windsor Stations), trams (5, 6, 64, 72, 78, 79) and buses (216, 219, 220) that service the area



Schools

There are a number of great schools of all levels around Prahran. The list below is not comprehensive but provides some of the major schools at each level. In addition to this list is a number of child care services and play areas.

The families of Clergy are offered discounts on fees at a number of the local grammar schools.

- ✚ Stonnington Primary School, 12 Hornby St, Windsor
- ✚ South Yarra Primary School, 601 Punt Rd, South Yarra
- ✚ St Kilda Park Primary School, 68 Fitzroy St, St Kilda
- ✚ Wesley College, 577 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne
- ✚ MacRobertson Girls High, 350 Kings Way, Melbourne
- ✚ Melbourne Grammar School, 355 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne
- ✚ Melbourne Girls Grammar School, 86 Anderson St, South Yarra

Where have we come from?

St Matthews Prahran has a rich heritage. Our history tells us where we have come from and what has shaped us to be the church we are today. We value our history, but also recognise that it is only good when it helps us serve God. The points below are some of the highlights of our history. A full history can be found in *Proclaiming the Gospel: Anglicans in Prahran 1854-2004* by Graham and Margaret Bride.

- ✠ Easter Sunday on March 27, 1853, was the first occasion when a service of Anglican worship was conducted in Prahran, in a rented cottage on Chapel Street. It seems that the first regular services of worship commenced early the following year with the first baptism held on 24 January 1854.
- ✠ John Herbert Gregory was appointed Incumbent in June 1855 and Gregory's ministry was marked by his passion for preaching the gospel and bringing help to those in need in the name of Christ, two strands of ministry which have been interwoven in the history of the parish ever since.
- ✠ St Matts has been the mother of many daughter churches: St Johns Toorak, All Saints St Kilda, Christ Church South Yarra and St Albans East Prahran.
- ✠ St Matthews has also been strongly involved in mission. Two of the early church Ministers and some of the lay people were instrumental in the establishment of the Church Missionary Society in Australia.
- ✠ At the time of its Jubilee in 1904, there were 500 parishioners on the church roll. Service attendance and ministry were strong.
- ✠ During the Depression Years the parish was actively involved in ministry to the poor children of the district providing an estimated 15000 dinners during the three winter months of 1934.
- ✠ A current parishioner who joined St Matthews in 1976 recalls that at that time the parish was a "sprinkling of old ladies and a few medicos, perhaps only about 15 people." In June 1974 the decision was made to discontinue all services except for one at 10am on Sunday mornings.
- ✠ It was arguably in 1982 that the most significant event in the recent history of the parish took place when the church building was set on fire. The fire caused significant damage to the building and was rebuilt in its current form.
- ✠ It was in August 2000 that the Reverend Greg Allinson was inducted as Minister. The 5pm evening service commenced in February 2001 as a result of a partnership with St Judes Carlton which saw about 5 family units move to St Matthews to help plant the new service. The Sunday Club commenced in the evening service and church attendance has grown from around 40 people to approximately 120 people. The 10am Service on Sunday mornings continues and the 5pm Service has established a strong and vibrant congregation.

Preaching the gospel and helping the needy are part of the heritage of St Matts, Prahran

A complimentary copy of *Proclaiming the Gospel: Anglicans in Prahran 1854-2004* by Graham and Margaret Bride is available by request to the incumbency committee

Appendices

Vision and Mission Document

Sample Newsletters

2008 Annual Report

2008 Budget and Financial Accounts

Experience Stonnington Map