

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER PARISH

Our Parish

Our Parish, the Anglican Parish of Augusta Margaret River is in the internationally known Margaret River region of Western Australia. We are seeking a priest to lead the Parish in our worship, spiritual lives and community involvement. The position is most likely 4 days to start, building to full-time, as the congregation refreshes and re-grows.

The Parish is managed by the Parish Council, supported by Local Committees at both Augusta and Margaret River; in accordance with the Diocesan statutes. Meetings of all committees are held every two months.

The Parish has four consecrated churches. There are two main churches, in the north and south, for regular worship services; two small wooden churches are the focus for special occasions including Christmas carol services.

Our Congregation

Our congregations have built on the century and older European settlement of the south-west corner of Western Australia, including many long-term families and residents. A number of our dedicated parishioners are becoming elderly and continue to support the church. Sunday services are boosted by tourists and visitors.

The Parish congregations enjoy the diverse lifestyles, for young families, city-to-country transfers and retired populations. All age groups share significant skills and experiences in the communities and in our church congregations. There are opportunities to grow our congregations, increase community contact and to raise funds to support the Parish. The Augusta Margaret River Shire has many developing areas, including an Eco-Village. New families are establishing in these developments, bringing promise of new parishioners.

Our Churches

Most of our churches were built during the Group Settlements in the 1920s; the character of these churches has been retained and appreciated as part of that period. All churches have musical equipment, ranging from original organ to modern electric keyboards and amplifiers.

St Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church, Station Road, Margaret River is a beautiful church, built in 1927, of wooden construction, with decorative windows, timber altar and baptismal font. Facilities include the restored Rectory at the rear that is now used as the Parish Centre and also used by community groups such as the U3A (University of Third Age); good off-street parking.





St Elizabeth of Hungary Anglican Church, Allnut Terrace, Augusta is a modern well designed roomy church alongside the original church of the same name - built in 1958, now the Children's Church. St Elizabeth's has a vestry and office, music area, good lighting and windows, first-rate pews, large porch at entrance, protected courtyard, and sealed off-street parking.



St Mary the Virgin Anglican Church is a small timber framed building in Pioneer Park, Bussell Highway, Cowaramup. It is surrounded by lawns, a rose garden and memorial brick wall. Adjacent is an amphitheatre, Lions picnic area and Op Shop. Built in 1929 for Group Settlers, the church has plain timber pews, altar, baptismal font and skillion roofed vestry.

St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Osmington Road, Osmington is surrounded by farms. It was built in 1933 and is still used for local family baptisms and wedding services. An annual Carol service, held the Friday before Christmas, is anticipated, by local people. The church is unlocked and visited by travellers and locals. The church has wooden pews and altar.



Our Accommodation and Housing

In addition to the churches, the Parish has provided priest accommodation when required. The original Rectory at St Margaret's in Margaret River was converted into the Parish Centre in 2010, when a house in Bridgeleigh, a suburb of Margaret River, was purchased as a Rectory. More recently, this has not been required and the property is currently leased.

Priest accommodation being considered includes conversion of the Parish Centre into priest housing. A longer-term option is a new Rectory adjacent to St Elizabeth's in Augusta. An interim housing allowance is offered.

Our Parish Ministries and Groups

To provide for our widely distributed parishioners, Sunday services are held at both St Elizabeth's and St Margaret's; monthly services are held at St Mary's in Cowaramup. All services within the Parish have strong music support.

Bible Study groups are two weekly Bible study groups at Augusta and one group at Margaret River. Most recently, the groups studied Pete Greig's Prayer Courses I and II. The courses are leading the groups to pray for outreach and for God's blessing to the wider community.

Annual services that are community highlights include the Blessing of the Fleet and Anzac services in Augusta, the Blessing of the Animals service in Cowaramup and outdoor Christmas Carol services at Augusta, Cowaramup and Osmington.



Blessing of the Animals service at St Mary's

Christmas hampers at St Elizabeth's – each year the Augusta congregation receives donations from parishioners and families of the Augusta and Karridale Primary Schools. The hampers are distributed to families and elderly residents, with children receiving a small gift and gift voucher.



Children's ministry - Augusta has Joyful Joeys and Messy Church, drawing in young people and about 30 families.

Aged Care and community outreach includes monthly services at Mirrambeena Aged Care in Margaret River and home visits and home communion to parishioners unable to attend church services. Teachat in Augusta offers hospitality - a cuppa and a chat - to a few elderly residents on their weekly shopping trip organised by Silver Chain.

Our Districts

The Parish is on Wadandi and Pibelmen country whose ancestors and descendants are the traditional owners of this Boodja (country).

Margaret River is an internationally known destination and Augusta Margaret River is a vital, expanding region with new locations, housing estates and industry in development. We are pleased to note that Augusta Margaret River has recently been given ECO certification, a West

Australian first. The ECO Destination Certification program is rigorous and ensures certified destinations are backed by a strong, well-managed commitment and sustainable practices.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River covers 2,240 square kilometres with 120 kilometres of coastline - beaches, bays and rocky points. The Margaret River flows to the ocean at Prevelly while the Blackwood River flows to Augusta in the south.

From north to south, district locations include:

- Cowaramup - 10 km north of Margaret River on Bussell Highway; named from the Aboriginal for the Purple Crowned Lorikeet 'Cowara'. Cowaramup is a focus for the surrounding rural district; a recognised gateway to the Margaret River.
- Gracetown - on Cowaramup Bay 12 km west of Cowaramup and 16 km north-west of Margaret River. Established as holiday homes, it now has permanent residents.
- Osmington - 20 km north-east of Margaret River; the remaining building of Group 85 Settlement is St John's Anglican church, built in 1933 and WA Heritage Council listed.
- Margaret River - a river, a town and a wine region. The town is 100 km south of Bunbury and originally developed as a rural centre for farming in the area, especially dairying.
- Prevelly/Gnarabup - a coastal residential area 9km west of Margaret River, near the meeting of the Margaret River and ocean. International surfers meet at Main Break for annual professional surf contests. Gnarabup subdivision is to the south of Prevelly.
- Witchcliffe - 8 km south of Margaret River on Bussell Highway. It has a number of stores and buildings that date back to early group settlement and timber industry times.
- Kudardup and Karridale - Karridale is 14km north of Augusta and Kudardup is 8km north of Augusta; both are on the Bussell Highway.
- Augusta - 42 km south of Margaret River, settled in the 1830s and the most south-westerly town in Australia, at the mouth of the Blackwood River on Hardy Inlet.

Our Livelihoods and Lifestyles

Ours is a busy district with an increasing population and industries. There is an emphasis on agriculture that includes dairying, beef cattle and sheep, viticulture and developing industries such as olive and avocado groves. Tourism is a major focus with many sites of interest and cafes and restaurants. The annual Open Studios provide an opportunity for the many artists and artisans in the district to exhibit their works.

There are ample private and public education facilities from child-care / kindergartens, primary schools, high schools and TAFE. The need to address the increasing population is shown in the development of another private (Montessori) secondary school. The Margaret River TAFE supports training for local industries such as viticulture and catering.

Health and medical services are aligned to the population need, with hospitals, medical and allied health services in Margaret River and Augusta. Tertiary health services are in Bunbury.

The local newspaper, *The Augusta Margaret River Mail*, describes the numerous community groups and activities that include Rotary, the Lions Op Shops at Augusta and Cowaramup, the Men's Sheds at Cowaramup, Margaret River and Augusta. Most recently, *The Mail* announced the opening of the Margaret River Community Pantry that aims to provide stable, affordable

food while preventing food wastage. This is a further example of the active communities throughout the Parish that are run by volunteers.

The strong emergency services – State Emergency Service, St John’s Ambulance and Fire Brigades – are essential volunteer organisations, recognised and appreciated by the communities.

Our Future

Our aim is that the Anglican centres / churches be maintained with increasing congregations in line with the growing district populations; to share the Christian message and provide support as an integral part of the community.

The significant number of families moving to the new areas brings new directions. The focus on young families is a trend in new areas throughout the Parish. We are keen to re-establish young and older children’s services, at the same time ensuring that the spiritual needs of our current and older populations are met.

In prayer, the Parish Council hopes that a priest will be appointed to the Parish as soon as possible. The Parish is keen to accept a priest who may be of any age, male or female, family-based or not, of various circumstance.