



## **Parish of Channel-Cygnet**



## **Parish Profile for a new Rector**

**September 2021**

## **Our Vision**

*We are a Church who have Christ at the heart of our lives and seek to bring the love of Christ to the heart of our community.*

We expect that a new Rector will lead us in developing some new plans. We have a more senior age profile in our congregations, so we especially hope to be led in reaching the younger demographic with the good news of Jesus' love and forgiveness.

## **About the Parish**

We describe ourselves as a 'mainstream' Anglican Church, biblically orthodox, and with an emphasis on serving the needs of those in our communities in Cygnet and Woodbridge and beyond.

We are a semi-rural parish with two centres of worship, at Cygnet (an hour's drive south from Hobart) and Woodbridge (35 minutes from Hobart). Our congregation has an average age of 71 and we have only one young family with children.

Before 2019 we were an enabler supported team ministry for about 20 years, with two ordained clergy and other lay leaders (Rev Dr Lesley Borowitzka and Rev John Middleton) supported by an external experienced Clergy Enabler.

By 2019, we were finding it difficult to develop ideas for new ministries and sought new input. God answered our prayers for guidance and sent Rev Charles Holmes to us, from his parish in Nerang in Queensland. Charles was appointed as our part time Priest in Charge. As a result, our worship has been revitalised and some new programmes have started, including running Alpha, and Taize services at Cygnet and Woodbridge. Addition of screens in both St Marks and SS Simon and Jude have enriched our services with videos, new music and more. Rev Charles Holmes has been supported by our two honorary priests and a lay leader and preacher.

We meet most of the requirements of a sustainable parish, except for our lack of ministry to children and their families.

We are financially sustainable, with our giving covering half of our costs and income from investments making up the balance. We plan for further income to come from our proposed land development at Cygnet and from the sale of St Johns Snug. We will be seeking to grow our giving over the next few years as the parish grows.

## Our services

2020 was not a usual year (!), but we were able to continue weekly services on Zoom and run Alpha for the first time also on Zoom. Since late 2020 we have returned to our normal services which are as follows:

**At St Marks Cygnet**, weekly Sunday services at 10am, alternating Holy Communion and Morning prayer, averaging 22 people. During Lent in 2021 we added a Wednesday Holy Communion service; this has continued and moved to Thursdays. There is a Taize service at 6pm on the second Sunday of alternate months. We run a popular gospel service as part of the programme of the Cygnet Folk Festival in January every year, as well as other special services, such as for International Women's Day, in March 2021.



**At SS Simon and Jude Woodbridge**, there is a Morning Prayer or Holy Communion service every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, usually with a special focus, including Spring celebration with blessings of animals. Services are held on Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and in the week before Christmas, the local Uplift Choir leads carols on the Village Green, which surrounds the Church on two sides. A special Community Service will be held in August 2022 to mark Woodbridge's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There is a Taize service at 6pm on the second Sunday of alternate months.



Also at Woodbridge we conduct an Anglican Holy Communion service once a month shared with our Uniting Church friends in their church building, averaging 14 people.



## Outreach:

### Proposed development of low income & independent living housing community

We have developed with Centacare Evolve an exciting vision of creating a small community around St Mark's church, hall and rectory, as we develop the land around the church. A net annual rental return of \$52,500 to the parish is anticipated. This plan has been presented at two community consultations in Cygnet and is being finalised for submission to the Huon Valley Council by the end of 2021. Some of the land will be developed as independent living units and some as low income housing, 34 units in all. This is to meet a need in Cygnet for both types of housing, and will allow us to minister more easily to that little community.

In the past we had a 'Soup and Chat' in the church hall at St Mark's, offering free soup and toast. We expect to expand this ministry when we have residents on the site. We also contribute to the food program run by the community hub.

If the rectory is not used as housing for our new Rector we plan to use it as a community centre, offering services to the new residents and the Cygnet community at large. We presently work with Cygnet Community hub which provides information and help with housing, food, counselling and other needs in Cygnet.

### Growth of outreach to the people of Aboriginal descent in Cygnet and Channel

(one in four of the community)

This connection is growing, spurred on by John Middleton's involvement with reconciliation activities and a special service held in Cygnet Town Hall February 2018 (attended by the Governor) to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution of people of Aboriginal descent to our wider community. John continues to work with SETAC (South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation) planning future cooperation. He is also engaged in progressing initiatives flowing from Bishop Richard's heart for reconciliation in Tasmania.



### Support for refugees and asylum seekers

We are well connected with the communities in Cygnet and Woodbridge, sharing the work of Amnesty International and Rural Australians for Refugees in supporting refugees, and we also continue to support the Rwandan community in Tasmania. We hold regular fundraisers to support our ministry to locals in need and refugees.

### **CMS and Rwandan community**

We are supporters of CMS, with regular updates on their overseas missionaries. We have also supported John Cannell's wonderful development of small hydro-turbines to be used in Nepal to generate power for lights in villages with no electricity.

We have an ongoing connection with the Rwandan Community in Hobart, some members of which we were involved in sponsoring as refugee immigrants and continue to support initiatives to support survivors on the Rwandan genocide in Rwanda.

### **Education and training**

Within the parish we have a KYB group, a Ridley Certificate study group as well as Lent study group. We have a very good attendance at the annual Bishop's Training Event and discuss in advance which workshops we are attending, to get broad coverage.

### **Safe Church Communities**

All of those who need to be accredited are, and our excellent leader Joan Rodrigues keeps us up to date with notifications of training, registration needs & risk analyses.

### **Cursillo**

We have Cursillistas among our congregation, and hosted a diocesan Ultreya in March 2021. Several of our members are on Team, including Rev Lesley as spiritual advisor.

You can see more about us on our new website

[www.channelandcygnetanglicanparish.com](http://www.channelandcygnetanglicanparish.com)

and our Facebook page: Anglican Parish of Channel Cygnet.



### **About Cygnet and Woodbridge**

Cygnet is a vibrant, growing community, an hour's drive south of Hobart. Its population is several thousand, up from just 1630 in 2016. It is exceptionally well serviced with many cafes, galleries, 2 IGA stores, a yacht club, 2 pubs and 2 medical centres. There are 2 primary schools, Cygnet Primary School and St James, Catholic School. Cygnet hosts the annual Cygnet Folk festival, with our gospel service on the programme and very well attended.

Woodbridge is a small village on the D' Entrecasteaux Channel, also about an hour's drive south of Hobart. It has many homes with extensive gardens. The Woodbridge Community is growing steadily and there are now some 400 residents in the village and surrounds. Woodbridge District School now goes from Kindergarten to Year 12 and is the only High School in the Channel between Kingston and Cygnet. It has a reputation for excellence. The School Chaplain is funded partly by the Woodbridge congregation. The village has a very active social life and strong community spirit.

## **What sort of Rector are we looking for?**

The Rev Charles Holmes is planning to retire at the end of 2021.

As you can see from the parish profile, we would like a new Rector who can creatively and energetically lead us making our vision a reality and in reaching the generations not currently part of our church. We need someone who will see what we can become, under God, as well as what we currently are.

The gifts needed will include:

- Preaching and teaching
- A team player, keen to use and develop the gifts of our people
- Able to lead outreach to children, families and young people
- Highly motivated and a self-starter
- Gifts or experience in building new ministries from a low base
- Able to continue to disciple, grow and love existing church members

## **The Diocese**

Bishop Richard Condie, the current Bishop, wants making disciples of Jesus to be at the core of everything we do, and has initiated programmes with this aim. He also highly values training and support for church leaders – this includes each ministry leader in the Diocese having a coach/mentor, being in a cohort with others at the same life/ministry stage, and money and time given from the parish for professional development each year.

The current group of clergy/ministry leaders (about 80 in total) meet together twice a year and are highly supportive of each other in gospel partnership.

Find out more at [anglicantas.org.au](http://anglicantas.org.au)

## **Conditions**

- Information about stipends and allowances in the Diocese is found [here](#)
- Housing or a housing allowance will be provided.
- Appointment will be subject to fulfilling Safe Church Communities requirements, including a Tasmanian Working with Vulnerable People Card and completion of a satisfactory Safe Ministry Screening Check.

## **How to apply**

Please send applications including a resume, a response to this parish profile, and 2-3 referees' names to [personnel@anglicantas.org.au](mailto:personnel@anglicantas.org.au) by 1 November 2021

For further information, please contact Mr James Oakley, Diocesan Registrar, by email at [registrar@anglicantas.org.au](mailto:registrar@anglicantas.org.au) or by phone on (03) 6220 2019.

## **Appendix - Buildings in Cygnet**

### **St Marks church**

The foundation stone of St Marks was laid in 1875. Additions were made in 1894 and the church was consecrated. A new vestry was added in 1968 and dedicated as a memorial to the Lymington church, which, along with other timber churches had been destroyed in the 1967 bushfires. There have been services continually since 1875.

During 2020-21 the church has been refurbished with new carpet and chairs to replace some of the pews. Heat pumps were installed and the addition of a screen in 2020 enables the use of services using powerpoint and Pro presenter.



### **St Marks Hall**

The hall is used for church and community events such as fundraisers. It has a kitchen and heating. Seating with chairs is flexible.

St Marks church and hall are used for musical events during the Cygnet Folk festival in January every year, and throughout the year we let the hall for community use.

### **Rectory**

The rectory sits alongside the church and is currently rented out.

### **Cemetery at St Marks**

The cemetery contains some very old graves and is still in use.

## **St Simon and Jude, Woodbridge**

St Simon and St Jude was built in 1885 and retains much of its original structure and fittings. It is Heritage Listed. Its foundations are of sandstone, its walls are weatherboard and its roof is tin. While work needs to be done on the gutters, window frames and roof, it is generally in good condition. The local community worked hard on it in 2008 to prepare it for its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and there continues to be strong community support for its maintenance and improvement. There are



plans for the installation of a lych gate at the northern entrance to the churchyard. The Church sits on a small block of land close to the Channel Highway on the corner of Potters Road. The land surrounding it has recently been developed as a park/village green and this has enhanced the Church's location in the centre of the village and created better access along a new entrance path.

When not being used for services, SS Simon and Jude is available for use by Community groups. The church hosts regular musical events involving the local choir and local musicians and is used by a weekday meditation group. It has also been used as an exhibition space in the past and we intend to use it in that capacity again.

## **St Johns Snug**

Has been deconsecrated, and is rented to Snug Christian Church.

The diocese has entered an agreement with the neighbouring Christian Homes for sale of the church by 2023

## **Cemetery at Margate**

The church at Margate was sold more than 10 years ago, but the church retained ownership of the cemetery. Negotiations are underway to sell the cemetery with its associated management obligation. This sale is expected to be finalised in the next month or two.