

# ST JOHNS

## BUCKLANDS BEACH CO-OPERATING PARISH

Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian



Original sketch by a member of our congregation, David Lin, 2019

## Parish Profile

### 2019



Thank you for your interest in the position of minister at St Johns Bucklands Beach. We trust that the information in this profile will provide you with a sense of who we are and our vision and mission.

## **Our Vision**

Being the Gospel to all people

## **Our Mission**

- St. Johns is committed to living and sharing the Good News of the Gospel to all people, encouraging our members to grow in Christian faith and service.
- We are open to following the leading of the Holy Spirit and using the gifts of the spirit in ministry.
- We are committed to offering worship services relevant to the time and place in which we live.
- We strive to be an outward looking church, supporting the local community and beyond, meeting its needs and seeking justice and equity for all God's Creation.
- We are committed to equipping our members to participate in the ministries of our church.

### **Strategic Goal 1**

Minister to the spiritual needs of our faith community; promoting deeper understanding of our Christian faith to enable us to lead others to Christ.

### **Strategic Goal 2**

Provide well-maintained facilities to carry out ministry.

## **Where we are located ...**

Bucklands Beach includes the Bucklands Beach Peninsula out to Musick Point and an area roughly from Half Moon Bay to Stockade Hill, Howick.

One hundred years ago Bucklands Beach was considered a great place to holiday. Now it's a great place to live.

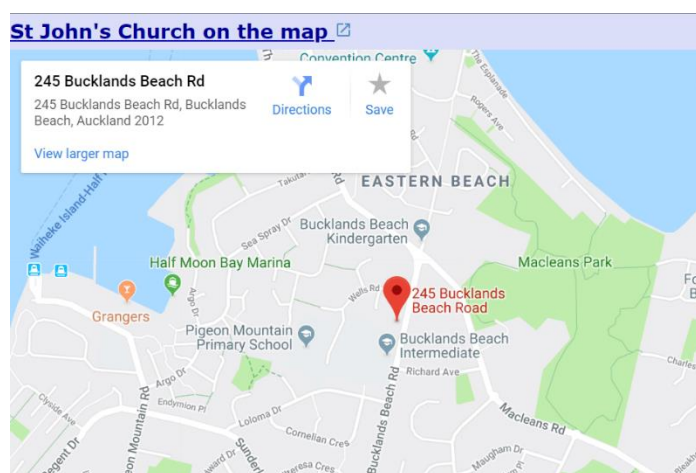
Marine recreational facilities include Eastern and Bucklands Beaches and a large marina at Half Moon Bay. There are numerous parks and playgrounds and opportunities for sailing, playing golf, tennis, soccer and netball to name but a few.



The area also has several cafes and restaurants and a very active Howick Little Theatre.

The closest shopping is at Highland Park (currently undergoing renovation), Half Moon Bay and Howick Village. Large shopping malls are to be found at Botany Downs, Pakuranga and Sylvia Park. Howick Village has a number of specialist shops, a public library and many cafes and restaurants. The Half Moon Bay Marina has a small shopping area, a diverse medical centre and a boat chandlery.

The parish is well served by buses to Howick, Botany Town Centre and Panmure, where there is a station on the Eastern Line of the Auckland rail system. Ferries from Half Moon Bay provide links to downtown Auckland and Waiheke Island. Outside rush hour it takes around 30 minutes to drive to the Auckland CBD.



The area is suburban residential. The main employers within the parish boundaries are the five schools. There are a number of Kindergartens in the area including the Little Cubs Kindergarten that rents space in the church buildings.

The ethnic makeup of the parish has changed significantly over the last ten years. Previously predominantly Pakeha, it has become more

ethnically diverse as can be seen from the roll details of the local schools: Bucklands Beach Primary; Pigeon Mountain Primary; Macleans Primary; Bucklands Beach Intermediate; and Macleans College. A summary of these schools' demographic data is shown below.

	Date (of latest ERO report)	Decile	Roll (at time of ERO report)	Pakeha and other European %	Maori %	All Asian %	Other ethnic groups %
Pigeon Mountain Primary	2017	8	602	28	3	54	15
Bucklands Beach Primary	2018	10	446	49	3	34	14
Macleans Primary	2015	7	259	22	8	38	32
Bucklands Beach Intermediate	2019	9	796	42	4	48	6
Macleans College	2018	9	2214	36	4	44	16

Source: Taken from the latest available Education Review reports

## Who we are...

St Johns is a welcoming place with a desire to be “the gospel to all people” and to serve the local community. We have a Parish roll of 77, with 27 under the age of 45 and 50 over 45. In addition, there are also a large number of Mandarin speakers who attend church regularly but who are not yet on the roll. The combined average attendance at our Sunday morning services (English speaking and Mandarin speaking) is around 90. There have been ten baptisms in the past year.



We hold two services at 9.30 am every Sunday; English speaking and Mandarin speaking. On the first Sunday of each month we hold a joint Communion service in both English and Mandarin, followed by a shared lunch. Apart from the joint communion service on the first Sunday each month the Lay Pastor and Leaders Team of the Chinese congregation organise preaching and leadership of service in Mandarin in the Hall. Lay people participate in the English-speaking service as liturgists, Bible-readers, prayer leaders and

communion servers. We are fortunate to have a number of strong lay preachers and a large group of regular volunteers to support the work of St Johns.

There is a Sunday School during term time which brings together children from both congregations and a small Chinese Youth Group meets for Bible study after each Sunday service. A men’s study group meets weekly. At times such as Lent, Advent, and over winter we offer short term study groups. We also have occasional “Food 4 Thought” discussions after the Sunday service, with soup and rolls following the discussion. Communion is also taken once a month to the residents of the Bucklands Beach Rest Home.

St Johns church buildings are also used by a Presbyterian Korean Church (Saeng Myung Saem) and the lower part of the building is rented to the Little Cubs Kindergarten from Monday to Friday. Regular users of the church building include Alcoholics Anonymous and Knitters for Kids First. Over the last twelve months we have also hosted ESOL classes (and are negotiating for this to resume soon), Robotics classes and an African Drumming workshop.

St Johns is governed by a Leadership Team which meets monthly. A number of standing committees report to this. These are Worship, Education, Pastoral, Properties and Maintenance, and Finance. The Mandarin-speaking congregation also has a team of leaders who meet regularly. We employ two part-time administrators to support the work of the minister and the Chinese lay pastor.

## Our History

The history of St Johns, formerly known as the Bucklands Beach Co-operating Parish, began in the mid-1970s when the leaders of the small Anglican and Presbyterian outpost churches on the peninsula had a vision to unite. They were later joined by the Methodists.

It became obvious that their very small and aged Church plants were not conducive to growing God's church and so planning began for a new community church building, the present church building being opened in 1975.

Those who have exercised ordained ministry over the years are: Bill Heald (Anglican), Grahame Drummond (Presbyterian), Max Scott (A), Jim Thornburrow (P), Don and Eleanor Battley (A), and most recently Lorraine Francis (P). Ron Ayers and Marilyn Welch have served as non-stipendiary priests and Ann McLean as a vocational deacon.

Blending together three denominations with their different perspectives and traditions was never going to be an easy task and it says a lot for those foundation members that they were able to put aside the small differences and major on becoming one.

Like most parishes there have been good times and not so good times. The involvement of young people in the parish has fluctuated over the years. In the late 1980s the parish agreed to fund the employment of a Youth Worker who worked closely with the local schools and resulted in a large and lively youth group. When the Youth Worker moved to another congregation youth numbers dropped.

During Don and Eleanor Battley's time, a paid Children's Worker was appointed and we saw again a significant increase in young people in our congregation. This continued into Lorraine Francis' ministry under a Youth Leader. An innovative Holiday Programme was started in Sept 2007 for Primary and Intermediate aged children which included the training of young people in leadership roles. This helped grow the youth group as well as providing a number of young leaders. Relations with the local schools were developed to the point when, for about three years, bands from local schools would play at St Johns on Saturday nights with adult members of the congregation providing security. Unfortunately, following the resignation of the Youth Leader in 2012, youth work steadily declined. However, we believe with the right leadership that there is a significant opportunity to be the Gospel to young people in our community.

In 2012 a small group of Mandarin speaking Christians with a Baptist background who were looking for a church to become part of, approached the St Johns leadership and after a period of discernment by the group and the church they joined St Johns as full members. Since this time their numbers have steadily increased.

## Outreach at St Johns

St Johns members are actively engaged in outreach into both the local and wider community in the following ways:

Pastoral care by members of both congregations happens in many ways, for example, an outing, a phone call, a visit or driving someone to an appointment. The congregation operates a prayer chain to cover emergencies.

We give away 10% of our annual Thanksgiving offering and all Christmas Service offerings. Since 2014 we have given nearly \$7 000 to organisations as varied as Auckland City Mission, Fred Hollows Foundation, Chinese Churches Support Mission, Christian World Service and the Sea Ambulance.

We support a South Auckland Primary School and Early Childhood Centre by regularly donating clothing and household goods to their on-site shop. For the past two years we have donated considerable amounts of winter bedding, clothing and kitchenware to Grace International Church in Glen Innes who support families in need. We have also collected clothing and toiletries for Women's Refuge. Each month we collect donations for the All Saints Howick Foodbank. Over one recent Lenten Period we 'gave' instead of 'giving up' and collected basic toiletries, towels and simple medical supplies which were distributed to needy folk in the community.

Every second Tuesday in the month we hold a Coffee and Chat session attended by elderly members of our congregation and others from our local community. Mainly Music is currently in a two year "on hold" grace period until a coordinator is found for this outreach. Over the last few years some members have been active on community boards – both in local politics and wider church groups, such as supporting the work of the community group Friendship House at Manukau City.

Members of the Chinese congregation have an outreach among new immigrants into the country, helping them with paperwork and getting to know New Zealand culture.



A special morning tea



Getting together for fun and games

# St Johns Church Properties

The church complex and church house were built in the mid-1970s and were opened in 1975.



The main facility consists of three levels and, at the time of opening, was considered to be quite visionary in its concept for meeting the needs of the community. A “step free” double door entrance leads to a foyer area which has a small service kitchen to one side

and leads to the main worship room which has moveable seating and will accommodate approximately 160 worshippers. This room is multi-functional.



To the left of the foyer is a chapel with double glazed windows through to the main worship room. The chapel is wired to receive sound from the worship room. On this level also are four offices and two toilets.

Stairs from the foyer level lead up to the third level. Here is a gallery, a recently refurbished kitchen, store rooms and a main room which can be divided into two by a folding door system. This room and the main worship room have heat pumps. The large upstairs room is available for community groups.



More stairs lead down to the main car park as well as to the lower level educational block. Here are toilets, three main rooms and a small common area that is currently occupied by a privately-run Kindergarten. External doors lead to the outdoor play area.

Main construction of the buildings is of concrete and concrete block with timber framing and fibre sheet cladding.

The church house situated behind the church complex is a four-bedroom home with a study and carport/garage. The house has three levels with a main bedroom, two smaller bedrooms and a common area on the top level plus a bathroom. The entrance level has a bedroom and study and the lower level lounge, dining area, kitchen, toilet, laundry and storage cupboards. The building is a timber frame construction with painted cedar weatherboard cladding.



The condition of all buildings is good, meeting the requirements of the Auckland Anglican Diocese but, as with all buildings of this age, regular maintenance is required.

## Life of the Parish

A typical week at St Johns includes:

Sundays 9.30 am English and Mandarin speaking services

Sunday 11am-12.30pm Chinese Youth Bible Study

Sunday 12.45pm-4pm Saeng Myung Saem Korean Presbyterian Church

Mondays 7pm-9 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesday mornings Chinese Seniors worship

Wednesday 7pm-9pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursday 7.30-8.30pm Men's Study Group

Friday 9am – noon Knitting Group for KidzFirst Children's Hospital

On the first Sunday of each month there is combined Communion in English & Mandarin followed by a shared lunch.

Once a month we hold a short communion service at the Bucklands Beach Rest Home.

Across the year we also typically have a summer Parish Picnic, Lenten and Advent study groups, a number of Easter services including a Maundy Thursday service, a Family Games Event, Winter "Fireside" Study Groups in homes, a Thanksgiving Service, an Annual General Meeting, a Family Camp, a Family Barbecue (where we invite all the people who use the building across the year), Carol Singing at two Retirement Villages, and a number of Christmas services including a Blue Christmas service.



At camp



## Profile of our new leader

It is important that the person seeking to be the ordained minister at St Johns understands and respects the traditions of our parent churches – Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian.

Equally important is that he or she has an understanding of Chinese culture. Being bilingual (English and Mandarin) would be an advantage.

We seek someone with a strong personal faith, a pastoral heart and who is a good communicator with all age groups. Strong preaching would be appreciated too!

The appointee would be happy to work as part of a team to grow member numbers and increase member participation in all aspects of the church's life. The appointee would be expected to support and encourage the strong group of lay leaders who are happy to take services.

It is important that our new minister helps to increase the connection to, and involvement with, the local community so that we may truly fulfil our vision of being the gospel to all people. An interest in youth would be welcome and could enhance this vision. A willingness to try new things could be an asset in this task.

## Finances

You can view our most recent Annual Reports at Charity Services <https://www.charities.govt.nz/>

Buckland's Beach Cooperating Parish Charity Commission No CC25118.

Unlike many Anglican churches our financial year is 1 July to 30 June. Below is a summary of our unaudited accounts for the 2018/19 financial year.

<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations	7520
Offerings	72735
Rents	91365
Other income	5356
<b>Total income</b>	<b>176976</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	13870
Ministry	77811
Partner churches	10346
Property costs	47180
Staff	18642
Sundries	6938
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>174787</b>

Not included in the above figures are some \$50,000 spent on completely refurbishing the main kitchen in the building which has been classified as a capital expenditure. This project was financed entirely by special donations. We have recently put in an easily-accessible toilet on the main floor of the building which has been financed by donations and grants.

An independent Little Cubs Kindergarten rents the lower level of the main church building and this represents a very significant contribution to our income.

## How to Apply...

Thank you for your interest in the position of Minister at St Johns Church, Bucklands Beach.

Email applications and enquiries are to be made to the Link Person, David Hall, by 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

David Hall's contact details are:

dissnorfolk@gmail.com

(09) 533 1601,

021 059 9502

Please include:

- A letter of application including how you feel your skills and strengths meet the needs of our parish as expressed in this Parish Profile.
- A copy of your latest Curriculum Vitae.
- The names and contact details of three referees, one of whom should be an ordained person. Referees will only be contacted in the final stages of the appointment process.

Should you be shortlisted for the position you will be required to attend an interview. Further details would then be supplied at a later date.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Link Person should you have any queries related to this vacancy.



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