

Diocese of Grafton

Lower Macleay

Anglican Parish



**What we believe:**

We are a church in the contemporary Anglican tradition, and part of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton, and therefore base our worship on the Prayer Book (APBA) and the Bible. We believe that God has spoken and continues to speak to us through the Bible, through the example of his Son, Jesus Christ, through his creation, and through the Holy Spirit. Through this revelation we learn the truth about the God who created the universe, and about how human beings can and should relate to him and to each other.

We believe that God loves every human being and desires to have a relationship with each one of us, so he has provided a way of forgiveness of sins and salvation through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. We are all invited into a new relationship with God and with each other, and as we strive to live in love and obedience to God, and following Jesus' example, our lives can be transformed.

God invites us into fellowship with him; he speaks to us, and we can speak to him. When we pray, we believe that God always hears and always answers, sometimes in unexpected, miraculous or inexplicable ways.

We believe that God's Holy Spirit has been given to people who believe in Jesus, and that the Spirit gives us power to live as God would have us live, and power to fulfil the mission Jesus entrusts to us to share God's love and His life-changing, world-changing message with all people.

We strive to be a church that is the family of God here in our part of the Macleay Valley and to be a church that is a valued part of our community. We believe we are called to reach out in love and compassion to those who are struggling with life in any way.

### **Things we value and are passionate about in our parish:**

Unity within the church, recognizing that it is God's church.

Lay leadership and equipping of the saints to serve God by whatever means he calls us.

Our worship – that it will enable all to enter deeply into worship, will uplift and encourage us, and that it will bring glory to God.

Making God's love be known to all young people, through Scripture in Schools and through our Playgroup.



### **We would love to (our aspirations):**

Reach out more into the community.

Encourage more young families into the church, with mentoring and leadership opportunities for youth.

Be known and valued in our community through our worship, local mission, special services and Op Shops, as well as outreach activities, such as Carols by Candlelight.

Provide greater pastoral care support for those who are house-bound and in nursing homes through pastoral visiting and monthly services of worship at the Mariner.

### **Our Strengths:**

Visitors comment that we are a welcoming church.

Our worship is joyful and uplifting.

We have a strong and enthusiastic lay leadership team who work well together.

Our newly recommenced Holy Trinity Play group is well supported by young mothers.

We live in an area that has strong potential for growth.

We have a parish hall that is a valued community asset.



### **Who are we looking for?**

- A team leader with good organisational, communication skills who is able to manage and administer the office, requiring IT skills.
- A listener and encourager.
- Someone who can equip the laity and delegate to the lay leadership.
- An enthusiastic teacher and preacher.
- A pastoral carer willing to care for parishioners and visit those who are unable to attend services, as well as reach the community for growth.
- Someone who is friendly and engaging, is able to relate to people of all ages and has a sense of humour.

## A Little About South West Rocks and Environs

### A Stunning Holiday Hub

South West Rocks is one of NSW's best-kept secrets, a pocket of tranquility on the Mid North Coast of NSW, at the mouth of the Macleay River. The area has stunning beaches, beautiful nature trails, National Parks and a well-preserved history. Its waters attract fishermen and scuba divers from all over the world, while its string of beaches lined with Norfolk pines promise sun and surf without the crowds of better-known holiday hubs.



### A Growth Area

South West Rocks has been identified as a key locality for housing delivery and urban growth. The 2023 population of 5,818 is forecast to grow at an average of 2.2% per annum increasing to 8,477 people in 2041. Another 2,375 are resident in the Smithtown - Hat Head - Gladstone District. (Source: North Coast

Regional Plan 2041, prepared by the NSW Department of Planning)

**Census figures (2021)** showed that 4.2% of the population were babies and pre-schoolers, 11.1% were school age, 37.6% were in the work force, 19.4 were 'empty-nesters' and retirees (ages 60 to 69) and 27.8% were seniors and elderly (over 70). In recent years, the largest changes in the age structure in this area were in the age groups of Seniors (aged 70 to 84) and Young Workforce (aged 25 to 34).



South West Rocks is a 3½-hour drive to Newcastle. Many residents work and shop in Kempsey, 30 mins away, or Port Macquarie, 1-hour drive south. A choice of three high schools is available in Kempsey. Various medical centres and community Health services are available in South West Rocks and the Kempsey District Hospital is an 81 bed, level three facility with a level four 24-hour Emergency Department and a range of specialist services.



## ANGLICAN PARISH OF LOWER MACLEAY

The Anglican Parish of Lower Macleay is within the Kempsey Local Government Area and includes South West Rocks, and Jerseyville, Smittown, Hat Head and Gladstone villages. Within the parish there are two centres of worship:

### **Holy Trinity, South West Rocks.**

McIntyre Street, South West Rocks

We welcome around 30-40 people on Sundays for a service that's based upon the prayer book (APBA), but is contemporary in style, with an emphasis on clear and relevant Bible



teaching and worshipping together in communion. Our music is a mix of contemporary and traditional hymns and is led by our talented keyboard player and singer.

Our Lay Leaders lead the service with support and input from other parishioners. Most weeks we share together at the Lord's Table as a culminating act of our journey of communion.

We love welcoming people of all ages and backgrounds, and have a lounge for nursing mums, a toddler friendly area, and activity packs for use during the service and to take home, for younger and older kids. After the service we stay for morning tea and a friendly chat.

**Our Parish Hall** is attached behind Holy Trinity and is an important asset for the Parish. It is a large airconditioned hall equipped with kitchen, toilets, office and storage for the Op Shop and the Holy Trinity Playgroup. It is well set up for the Playgroup to meet every Friday and is also hired out for community activities.

### **Hat Head Village Church (Christ Church)** 53 Straight St, Hat Head

Christ Church provides a great informal country atmosphere and a small but friendly mixed-age group, in a tiny classic Aussie bush church. We join in a relaxed service singing a mix of traditional & contemporary songs, read and discuss the Bible, pray for each other and the world, and usually celebrate the Lord's Supper together.



**Note:** Christ Church, Hat Head is subject to a review under the Diocesan Restructuring for Ministry and Mission plan.

**The Nicholl Centre** is located behind the Hat Head church and is used for the Hat Head Op Shop/Garage Sales and is available to the community for hire.

The **Anglicare Mobile Food Pantry** visits on the second Tuesday of the month, 12.30 – 1.30 pm.



## Parish Groups and Activities

**South West Rocks Op Shop** staffed by a wonderful group of volunteers, this Op



Shop is a major outreach and community asset and source of revenue for the Parish. Each year volunteers choose a number of local organizations to share in a donation of \$4000.

**Hat Head Nicholl Centre Op Shop/Garage Sales** – Tuesdays and Saturdays - A valued community asset.



**Holy Trinity Play Group** every Friday in the Church Hall. Led by local mums. Currently, we have 17 mothers and 24 children listed.



**Men's Morning Tea** in local cafes each Thursday.



**Monthly Parish Lunch** at the Tavern on the River every third Sunday of the month.

**KYB for Women** in a home each Monday.

**KYB Day Group** in the CWA Rooms each Friday.





**Pastoral Care** is provided to residents in Calvary - The Mariner Nursing Home, Ingenia Lifestyle Village, The Rocks Village and in private homes.

## PARISH RECTORY

Located beside the church in South West Rocks, this spacious ‘waterfall design’, 4 bedroom plus study, large formal lounge, separate breakfast room and two bathroom home sits in a large landscaped garden within easy walking distance to the shopping centre and beaches.



**Financials:** Financial reports are available upon submission of an EOI. Whilst Lower Macleay is not currently in a financial position to pay a full stipend, it is believed that there is potential for financial growth.

If you feel called to be the next Incumbent of the Parish of Lower Macleay please send your Expression of Interest to Bishop Murray Harvey at the Bishop’s Registry in Grafton. [pa@graftondiocese.org.au](mailto:pa@graftondiocese.org.au)