

Proposal to change the status of the provisional parish of Bayside to a parish

(A report of the Georges River Regional Council.)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to propose that the Provisional Parish of Bayside (formerly known as the Provisional Parish of Arncliffe) be classified as the Parish of Bayside.

Recommendation

2. The Georges River Regional Council recommends that the provisional parish of Bayside be classified as a parish with effect from 1 January 2020.

Support of the Georges River Regional Council

3. On 12 March 2019 the Georges River Regional Council resolved to support the request that the Provisional Parish of Bayside be classified as a parish under the *Parishes Ordinance 1979*.

Parish Information

Background

4. Anglican ministry has had a visible presence on the current site on which the church building (St. David's) is situated since 22 January 1910 when the foundation stone was laid by Archbishop Wright. A second stone was laid by the Archbishop on 25 August 1914 (after a massive storm leveled the partly constructed building late in 1910) and the church building was opened by the Archbishop on 25 January 1915.
5. In 1919 Arncliffe became a district of its own on the appointment of the Rev. R.H. Pitt-Owen, not long returned from active service with the A.I.F., as the Curate-in-Charge. The following year the district was raised to the status of a parish by Synod, and Mr. Pitt-Owen became the first rector.
6. Long after the church's 'glory years' in the mid-1900s the parish became provisional again after many years of small attendances and insufficient finances.
7. In 2003, soon after the provisional parish could not afford the minimum stipend of a minister, the Rev M Ghazal was appointed to Arncliffe (AM 2003, CIC 2004, R 2012) with the re-potting of a multi ethnic ministry into Arncliffe, which outgrew the facilities at Asbury where it was previously located.
8. A year after Rev Ghazal's resignation to take up a ministry at Sydney University, the Rev Zachary Veron was appointed rector in May 2017. A strategic ministry planning process was initiated in September 2017 resulting in the launch of a 5-year plan called "Vision 2022". The provisional parish changed its name from "Arncliffe" to "Bayside" and operates its ministries as one church, in three congregations (Holy Communion, Family Service, and 20/20), all under the unifying name of "Bayside Anglican Church". The third Bayside congregation, called "20/20" (a sub-brand), focusing on young adults, was established in February 2018 and has recently celebrated its first anniversary.
9. Vision 2022 was developed over the second half of 2017, in a comprehensive and exhaustive process, with Bibles open and much discussion and debate, and with most of the church members providing input, before it was completed by the church's leaders and Parish Council at the end of that year. This 5 year strategic ministry plan (2018 – 2022) has already helped unify the church and provide clear direction over the next ministry enhancement and expansion steps they will take. This will also help all members be prayerful and thoughtful about how they can all get involved. In the

end, it is a plan that relies on God’s sovereign rule over the world. It aims to give glory to God and be a blessing to many. It is a vision the church members can all own, because it is theirs.

Mission Statement

(What our purpose is)

We exist to

Love God and his people

Grow in Christlikeness through the Holy Spirit

Share the message of Jesus with people of all nations

... for the glory of God

Vision Statement

(What we pray we will see by the end of 2022)

A growing Christian community of all ages from many nations living out God’s Word in their daily lives. We dream of –

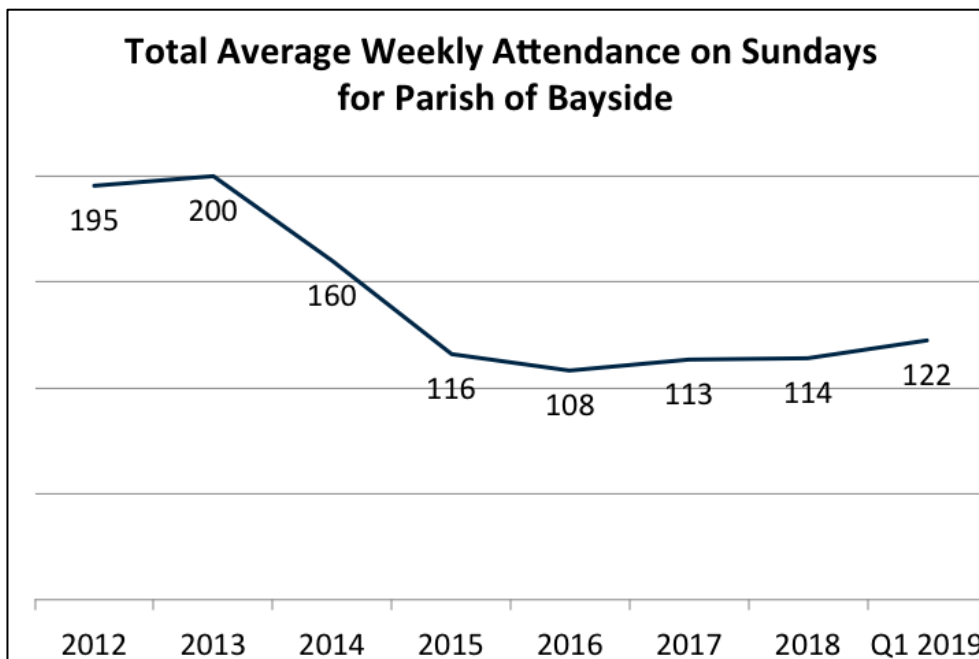
- A church where the Bible remains the primary and ultimate source of authority in matters of life and faith
- An outreaching church that actively seeks to share Jesus with people of all nations in Sydney and beyond.
- A community of 500 people in several congregations, supported by 5 full-time equivalent members of staff.
- Being known as a loving and caring Christian community.
- A church where every member is a minister.
- Being recognised as a full parish by the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.
- Improved infrastructure that facilitates the ministries of the church.

Attendance and Activities

10. In 2018 the Provisional Parish had a weekly average attendance of 114 adults and 13 Children and Youth (across the three congregations).

<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children (under 18’s)</i>
8.30am	20	1
10.15am	61	10
6.30pm	33	2

11. There are on average 14 Youth and 8 Primary Aged Children attending the weekly youth group (Arny’s) on Friday nights and Kids Church on Sunday mornings at the beginning of the first school term in 2019.
12. At present there are 14 homegroups meeting weekly, which represents a doubling of the number of homegroups over the last 18 months, and average attendance at church early in 2019 is 122 people.
13. In 2017 Parish Council made the decision to increase our staff team by appointing a Next Generation Minister who commenced work in the parish in January 2018.
14. The church established their third Sunday congregation (20/20 at 6.30pm) in February 2018. The name 20/20 was adopted (the ministry is aimed at primarily young adults in their 20s, preparing them for life in the 2020s, to give them 20/20 vision about the things of the Lord).
15. In February 2019 the Provisional Parish employs –
- a Rector,
 - a Full-time Assistant,
 - a Part-time Next Generation Minister.



16. The recent welcome growth follows a few years of declining Sunday attendance, and comes largely as a result of the establishment of a Sunday evening congregation. The dream, based on demographic changes in the Bayside area, and the hopes of many of the church members, is to be a much larger church. So the ministry plan contains numbers of people. The church believes, like Jesus does, that every individual person matters to God, and so every individual matters to them. They also believe, as Jesus does, that their ministry focus needs to be both inward and outward. Inward because we all need to grow in Christian maturity, and we need to support and care for one another. Outwards because there are many people within a driving radius of Bayside church that are facing an awful eternity if they do not have Jesus as both their Lord and Saviour. Numbers matter to Jesus, and so they matter to Bayside Anglican Church.

Community Social Profile

17. According to the 2016 census 20,539 residents live within the parish boundaries of Bayside. 800 are Anglicans (3.9% of the population; down from 6% of the population in 2011).
18. 17.6% of the Bayside parish area are Roman Catholic, 13.4% Muslim, 6.5% Buddhists, 2.8% Hindu, and 40.7% no religion.
19. 36.2% of the population identified themselves as Christian (down from 46.4% in 2011).
20. An estimate of the number of families and single persons residing within the ecclesiastical district claiming adherence to the Anglican Church of Australia is 405 family or single person households.

Summary of receipts and payments

Receipts	2016	2017	2018
Offerories	206,640	241,846	290,968
Rental income	33,819	37,268	33,697
Other receipts (incl. grants & interest)	4,893	1,171	49,933
Total Income	\$245,352	\$280,285	\$374,598

Expenses	2016	2017	2018
Stipends/Salaries	133,017	180,675	271,141
PCR	38,062	31,269	50,660
Property / Maintenance	16,537	33,580	49,512

Parish Admin	3,667	1,636	2,327
Ministry Expenditure	3,324	11,936	1,599
Total Expenses	\$194,607	\$259,096	\$375,239
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$50,745	\$21,189	(\$641)

Particulars of Church Property Held in Trust

21. The Current property of the Provisional Parish –
Church building, Church hall & Contents, Rectory
22. Total Assets, including land: \$9,376,303.
23. There is a loan with a balance of \$94,012 relating to the steeple of the Church building's emergency repair taken out in the year 2009.
24. The Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney holds the Certificates of Title for the church property (Lot 3 in DP 666354) and the rectory property (Lot A in DP 389715).

Parish Status Criteria Met

25. During the previous financial year the local revenues of the ecclesiastical district were not less than the sum of the following amounts for that financial year –
 - (a) the minimum stipend for a minister recommended by the Standing Committee, and
 - (b) the fixed component of the travel allowance for a minister recommended by the Standing Committee, and
 - (c) the fixed component of the cost recoveries charge payable by a parish under the *Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008*.
26. During the financial year before the date on which the proposal is received by the Standing Committee, or such part of that financial year as a member of the clergy was licensed as minister, the minister was –
 - (a) paid or provided with a stipend or benefits in lieu of stipend the amount or value of which, in total, was not less than that part of the minimum stipend referred to in clause 6(a)(i) which was required to be paid or provided to the minister, and
 - (b) paid or provided with a travel allowance or travel benefit not less than that part of the fixed component of the travel allowance referred to in clause 6(a)(ii) which was required to be paid or provided to the minister, and
 - (c) provided with a housing allowance and lives in accommodation and location approved by the Archbishop.
27. All costs recoveries charges (including any arrears) due and payable by the parish under the *Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008* have been paid.
28. A building is or buildings are available in the ecclesiastical district for use by a congregation meeting for worship and other purposes. Such residence and building or buildings are in good condition and state of repair, are suitable for the purposes to which they are to be put and the freehold thereof or a leasehold thereof is vested in Anglican Church Property Trust Diocese of Sydney or in trustees in trust for the ecclesiastical district.
29. The ecclesiastical district is able to service all its debts.
30. The ecclesiastical district is in a sound financial condition.

For and on behalf of the Georges River Regional Council.

PETER LIN
Bishop of Georges River

21 May 2019