

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF HARRINGTON/COOPERNOOK

PARISH PROFILE



Demographics:

Local population, facilities and Institutions:

Population:

The population of Harrington is approximately 3,700 people – other centres including (Coopernook, Lansdowne, Upper Lansdowne, Mitchell's Island) are included in the Taree demographics.

Schools:

Within our Parish primary schools are located in Harrington, Lansdowne, Upper Lansdowne, Mitchell's Island, and Coopernook, where SRE is held. Some students do travel to Taree to attend other primary schools.

Students travel to Taree to attend to High School where 5 high schools are located - these include: MVAC (Manning Valley Anglican College), Taree Christian School, St. Clare's High, Chatham High, and Taree High.

Nursing Homes:

are located in Taree and include Storm Village and Bishop Tyrrell Place, We have a pastoral care team who visit our parishioners on a regular basis, and the members visit nursing homes and local hospitals.

Recreational:

There are numerous Clubs and Sporting Groups in the area. Other groups include Men's Shed & Marine Rescue.

Hospitals:

Manning Rural Referral Hospital, and Mayo Private Hospital are located in Taree.

Our Parish:

consists of both coastal and inland living with villages & farming areas.

We currently have five centres within our Parish – Harrington, Lansdowne & Upper Lansdowne, Mitchell's Island, and Cooperbrook. – four of our five centre buildings are heritage listed. We have commenced working towards the closing Cooperbrook centre where St Luke's Church & the Parish Hall are sited. In the recent letter from Bishop Peter we were asked to consider closing Lansdowne & Upper Lansdowne Churches.

Services:

Our worship style is traditional Prayer Book Anglican Worship, with a weekly contemporary service presently being held at the Community Church, Harrington.

Services are held weekly at St Peter's Church, Harrington at 8am;

A Mid week service at St Peter's, Harrington at 9:30am;

The Community Church, Harrington has held weekly contemporary style services at 4pm including a Eucharist service held once a month.

St Mark's Church, Mitchell's Island has held two services per month at 10:30am

St Barnabas Church, Upper Lansdowne has held two services per month at 10:30am

The Church of The Epiphany, Lansdowne has held two services per month on Saturday evenings.

The Church of The Epiphany also has held a service once each month (on Wednesdays) when the Knitters Group meet.

St Luke's Church, Cooperbrook has not been having services with the exception of Fun, Food & Faith for Kids which was transferred to Harrington; and is now presently in recess whilst Messy Church is being looked at.

Liturgical Assistants and Servers assist, and there is also a roster of lay people who welcome and assist with readings, and there are currently 2 organists.

We are part of the Manning Deanery and work in well with Taree and Wingham Parishes in particular as well as Laurieton, Forster, Nahiack & Gloucester.

Our Parish Profile:

Our current Parish Roll consists of approximately 70 names. Many are over 65 years of age.

Our parishioners use open plate or direct debit giving.

There is an exceptionally strong support for Missions in all centres within our Parish.

We have an Anglican Op-shop sited at The Ministry Centre in Harrington and this has proven to be an excellent outreach into the community as well as a fundraiser for our Parish. From here we are able to also support Samaritans.

We have a prayer chain amongst parishioners throughout our Parish.

Some of our outreach into the community includes:

SRE

KYB (held weekly)

Bible Study (under direction of incumbent)

Lansdowne Anglican Knitting Group who meet and knit items for distribution including Mission to Seamen, Lions, Samaritans and various other appeals.

Anglican Harrington Craft Group

Anglican Harrington Walkers Group

The Anglican Op-shop

Seasonal Stalls held at the Ministry Centre (including collectables and cakes).

Working with the community towards fund raising events, including cancer fundraising.

We have a website and are currently on Facebook.

Parish Finances:

The Parish is debt free and we are fully capable of covering our annual expenses.

The Op-shop is an excellent financial resource both to the Parish and to Missions. The

Op-shop continues to be an excellent outreach into the community.

Building & Maintenance:

All buildings within the Parish are maintained on a regular basis as needed under the direction of Parish Council & the Building Committee.

Harrington – St Peter's Church, The Ministry Centre (incorporating the Op-shop), Sheds (holding and displaying other items for the Op-shop) are in good condition overall.

Cooperbrook - we have commenced working towards closing the Heritage listed Church and the Hall.

Lansdowne – Heritage listed Church in good condition overall, the adjoining shed has been recently built and is well used within the community.

Upper Lansdowne – Heritage listed Church in good condition.

Mitchell's Island – Heritage listed Church in good condition; as are the grounds, graves and the columbarium.

Community Church, Harrington – not owned by the Parish/Diocese, however it is in good condition.

We have a building committee who inspect properties and help organise regular maintenance under the guidance of our Parish Council. Centres also report any matters to Parish Council. Our OH&S Officer: keeps us up to date on Diocesan details and implementation of same, and also works with the building committee carrying out regular inspections.

The Rectory:

The Rectory is sited in Harrington and is completely separate from the church – it has 4xbedrooms; 2xliving areas; bathroom, en-suite; office; kitchen; laundry; double garage (one has an auto door) – all in good condition overall with a good sized yard suitable for a couple or a family.



The Challenges Ahead of Us:

Most of our congregation members are aged 65 & over and there is a lack of young people attending.

We would like, with the help and guidance of our priest, to grow our numbers, in Particular, youth and families with inclusion of contemporary and family services. We live in an area where very few retired clergy reside. This does make it difficult for relief for our incumbent - Taree & Wingham are available and most helpful when needed and our incumbent has always had a good working relationship with them. We have been happy to have Morning Prayer services at centres whenever the priest needs a break or is not available.

Due to distances - to enable people to attend training for various courses is difficult for the majority of parishioners, and we would like to see more courses available within our Deanery – thus enabling more people to attend as is now required by the Diocese.

Our Spiritual Future:

In outlining our needs, we would suggest:

Our greatest need is for leadership and strength, energy, creative and innovative thinking, embracing the gifts of communication and delegation.

We need to have representation of each of our centres attending PC to assist our parish to run more easily/smoothly.

Outreach, encouraging the interests of the 40 plus group in the community as well as young & families.

Encouraging participation – both by those currently active and those with untapped gifts, we wish to foster commitment and involvement.

Shared responsibility and delegation are integral to all facets of ministry for the fulfillment of the ministries of every member of the Church Community.

Prayerfulness and being biblically focused are essential elements in the development and promotion of all our activities.

We are interested in modern services as well as traditional.

The future with our new Rector:

We wish to make welcome a Pastor who will become our teacher, guide, companion, and friend on our unceasing spiritual journey of worship, praise, learning, care and outreach.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our Parish, its future and its spiritual needs.

