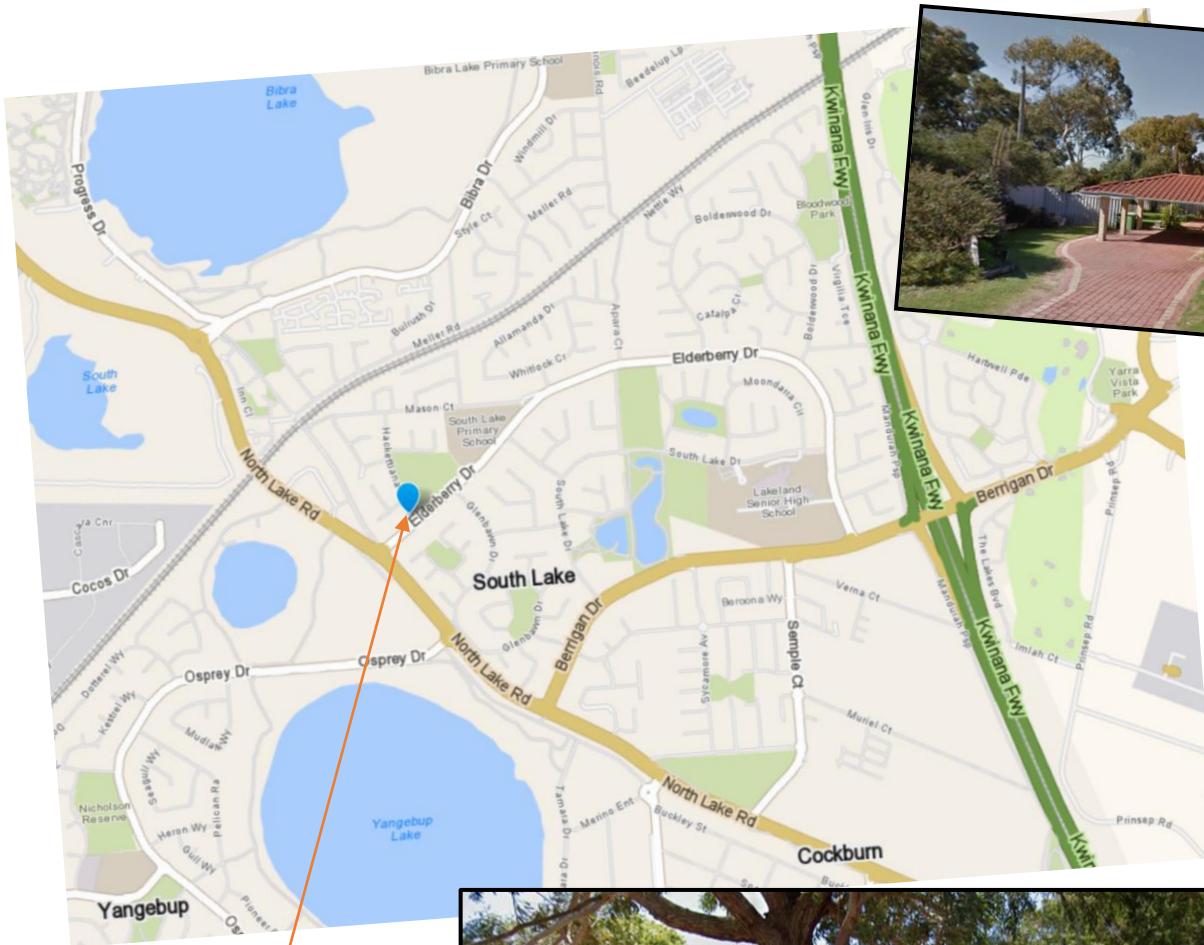




# 2022 PARISH PROFILE

## Parish of Lakelands (based in South Lake WA)



Rectory  
2 Lessing Place  
South Lake

St James Church  
13-15 Elderberry Drive  
South Lake



Created by Lakelands Parish Council  
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# St James Parish of Lakelands

## Parish Profile 2022

### Our Mission

As disciples of Christ, to love God and to invite others to know Him.

To live the Gospel of Christ through ministry and mission.

### Parish Demographics

The Parish of Lakelands encompasses a number of suburbs in the southern region of the Perth metropolitan area including Atwell, Aubin Grove, Banjup, Beeliar, Bibra Lake, Cockburn Central, Glen Iris, Hammond Park, Jandakot, South Lake, Success and Yangebup. These suburbs are within the local government boundaries of the City of Cockburn.

The parish is located in a rapidly growing area with new housing estates and high rise apartments opening up on a regular basis. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics website, the median weekly family income in the area (2021) was \$2 344.00 and the median age 37 years<sup>1</sup>. The area is a first home buyer's paradise and there is often change in the congregation with people moving in and out of the area – particularly in the suburbs closest to the church building.

1. 2021 Cockburn, Census Community Profiles

<https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/community-profiles/2021/LGA51820> (Accessed 5/02/23)

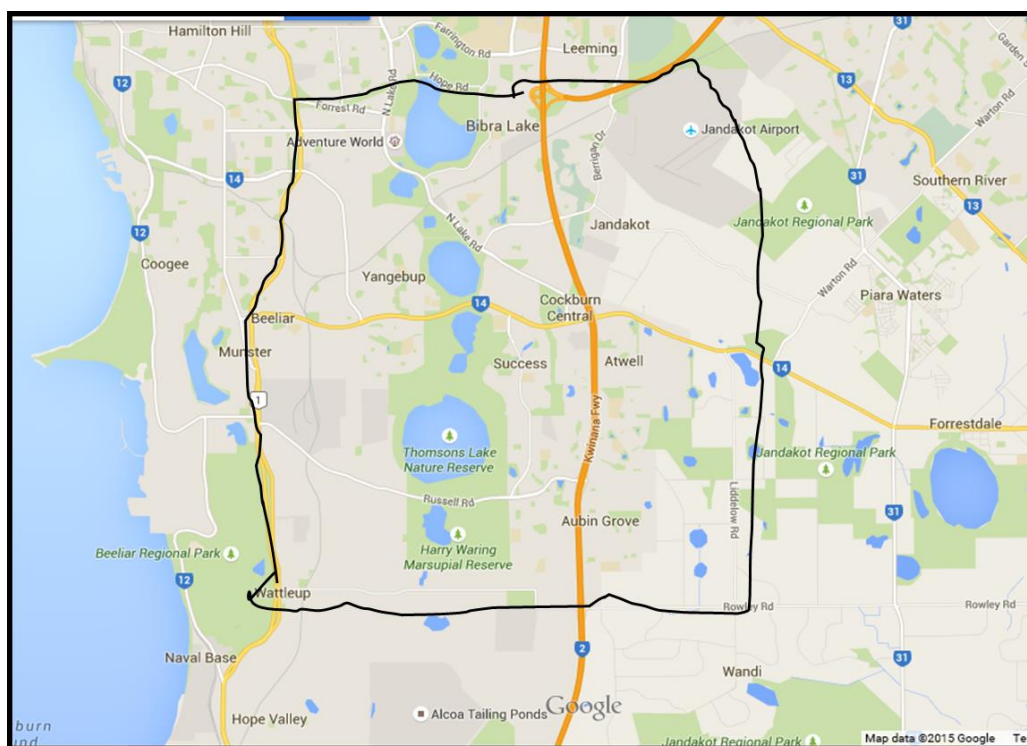
### Geography

The City of Cockburn extends along the coastline south of Fremantle. It is approximately 15 kilometres south of the Perth CBD and 8km east of Fremantle. This coastal City is renowned for its historical and tourism features along with its agriculture and ship building industries.

One of the City's most unique features

is a chain of five lakes running north to south through the heart of the City. Sixteen Aboriginal campsites have been identified throughout Cockburn, most of them on the fringes of two of the larger lakes, North Lake and Bibra Lake. There is plenty of bushland surrounding these areas suitable for recreation.

Cockburn has a diverse mix of residential, retail, commercial, industrial and rural areas. The Fremantle Dockers AFL Football Club headquarters is in the local area along with many schools and several retirement villages and aged care facilities. Murdoch University, Fiona Stanley Hospital and St John of God Murdoch Hospital are all just a 10 minute drive away.



## **Church building and grounds**

St James church and rectory were built in 1995 in the suburb of South Lake. The church building is located on the corner of Elderberry Drive and Hackettiana Avenue. Also located on the church block is a transportable building which is being used as an Op Shop. The rectory is built behind the church block on the corner of Lessing Place and Hackettiana Avenue.

Over the road from the church and rectory is Hopbush Park and South Lake Primary School. Lakes Shopping Centre is within easy walking distance and the proximity of North Lake Road allows for access to good public transport facilities both along Elderberry Drive and North Lake Road. Buses take just 10 -15 minutes to travel to both the Cockburn Central train station and Gateway Shopping Centre with restaurants and assorted shops in abundance. Train travel into the Perth CBD from Cockburn Central takes only 20 minutes.

The church building consists of an entrance foyer, worship area and fellowship area (separated by folding partitions), kitchen, kid's church room, hallway with storage cupboards, male and female toilets and an office complete with computer and internet connection. The whole church is wheelchair accessible having no steps and movable chairs allowing for easy access. Outside the church is a storage room and small covered verandah area. Four sheds are also on site allowing for storage of Op Shop goods and gardening gear. The backyards are fenced in order to keep children safe and prevent easy access to the less visible areas of the church property by the general public. Fences are in the process of being replaced as there was some asbestos present.

The Op Shop can be accessed via a long ramp from the backyard of the church or a shorter ramp from the carpark. The carpark has 6 parking spaces including a disabled bay and a one way system of traffic allowing larger vehicles easy access. Council parking is just across the road at the park with space for approximately 20 more cars.

The rectory consists of 4 large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (one an ensuite), a study, formal lounge and dining rooms, kitchen/family room, games room and two car carport. A split system air conditioning unit in the kitchen/family room is being installed at present however the rectory has been rented out for the last decade and will need some updating if a parish priest would like to stay there. The parish is slowly refreshing the house but it is a slow process at present.

## **Parish Community**

The Parish of Lakelands has had five parish priests over the years and several locums. Whilst the parish has not been able to support a full time priest for approximately eight years, its parishioners have made a concerted effort to improve giving and contribute to fundraising efforts, with the result being, in 2021 the parish was able to notify the Diocese of Perth that a grant was no longer required. At present the parish accounts are in credit which has been a blessing as fence replacement and rectory repairs have been urgently required.

There are 80 adults listed on the parish roll with 50 parishioners being the mainstay of the two regular congregations. Each Sunday a quiet Eucharist service with traditional hymns is held at 8am with approximately 22 regulars. A noisier family Eucharist with Kid's Church

(aka Sunday school) is held at 9:30am with a mix of traditional sung responses and more modern worship songs.

The Kid's Church has 6 children who attend regularly and there are three toddlers/babies who are also part of the regular congregation. Kid's Church occurs midway through the service when the adults (around 18-20 people) and young people who choose not to attend Kid's Church (4) are listening to readings, the sermon and prayers. The children re-join the service in time for the Great Thanksgiving and Eucharist. Each congregation has its own "vibe", and it is generally acknowledged that this is one of the great parts of the parish – having two options in how and when to worship.

The congregations of St James are made up of a diverse range of people with a wide variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds, education levels, mental health needs and career paths. There is a relatively wide age range, yet both younger and older people feel that they belong. Attendance can be quite cyclical with many FIFO (fly in fly out) and shift workers and those with family commitments which may affect a more regular attendance. The pandemic has also made attendance difficult for many. However, we regard ourselves as family and are generally quite tolerant of our differences and appreciative of how these differences can make our lives richer. We are a caring community with a genuine affection for each other.

The parish priest also celebrates a monthly Eucharist Service at Frank Prendergast House, a part of Southern Cross Care, in Success. Frank Prendergast House caters for residents with dementia and/or mobility challenges. They also provide palliative care services and the priest at St James can be called upon when patients in their care are very close to death.

In the last month the parish has taken on a new commitment becoming involved in the Partnership in Mission (PIM) program with Eldoret Parish, Kenya. In partnership, the parish is hoping to be able to support the church of St Marks Huruma as they will support St James with prayer, ideas, encouragement, and resources. This link is only in its infancy at this time and still being set up.

## **Parish Council**

The Parish Council at present is made up of the Locum Rector, two Wardens, two Synod Representatives and four other members of the congregation, one of whom acts as Treasurer. Meetings occur on the fourth Sunday of the month at 11am and usually run for an hour. The present group are unafraid to lead the parish and to do the work that is necessary to improve the parish amenities and meet with Diocesan regulations.

## **Parish Activities**

Regular Parish activities include:

- an Op Shop open every Friday 10am – 4pm and 1<sup>st</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month 10am – 1pm
- an annual Market Day held on the first Saturday in November
- Busy Bees on a Saturday morning once every few months
- Group Bible studies – particularly during Advent and Lent
- a Quiz Night usually held in June/July every other year
- and a new initiative starting on 13<sup>th</sup> May – Prayer Hour on Fridays 1:30-2:30pm

## **Lay Ministry**

Church ministry in the Parish of Lakelands has been blessed with the services of two Lay Pastoral Ministers over several years, however one has had to resign their position this year due to ill health and the other is about to leave the parish for adventures elsewhere. There has been a lot of lay participation in music ministry, readings, prayers and kids' activities. Again, the pandemic has restricted quite a lot of these interactions and there is a need for growth in this area.

The parish has been blessed with outstanding musical talent and live music for most Sundays at each service, on an organ at 8am and keyboard and/or guitar at 9:30am. However, the keyboard musician will be leaving the parish in the next few months and music at the later service will likely need to be sourced differently. At present a warden chooses the 8am music, and a music group, supported by a computer program detailing songs performed in the parish matched with readings over the last decade, chooses the 9:30am music. Songs and prayers are projected on a screen at this service.

## **Mission plan**

The Parish of Lakelands created a Mission Action Plan which spanned a five year period from 2012 -2017, however it has not been renewed since then.

## **Mission Giving**

The Parish provides regular financial support towards the work of Anglicare, the Anglican Board of Missions, St Bartholomew's House, YouthCare and the South Lake Ottey Family and Neighbourhood Centre (a local community centre which distributes food to those in need, amongst other services). The Parish Council has been aiming to donate 10% of offertory every six months to these organisations. Parishioners also support St Bartholomew's House each Christmas with donations for residents and homeless clients. Other giving within the local community is noted below.

## **Interaction with the Local Community**

Lakelands Parish has always had a vision to keep its doors open to the local community by making its church building and grounds accessible to appropriate community groups. A community group has met at the church for many years on a semi regular basis in the evenings to socialise over card making and other crafts. Playgroups have met onsite in the past and the parish would welcome another playgroup if the need arose in the area.

St James also supports the local community through donations to YouthCare to support chaplains in the local school, Lakelands SHS and South Lake PS. Practical donations of food and other necessities are made monthly to the Ottey Centre.

The Op Shop is the biggest, visible focus of service to the local community. The volunteers who run it not only sell quality goods donated by parishioners and locals at a very low price, but they also donate clothes and other goods to those who can't afford to pay. The team spend plenty of time chatting with regulars. Both congregations have grown from connections made in the Op Shop.

However, there is more which can be done in the local community. Being without a motivating leader has made the parish somewhat reluctant to try new things and more content to maintain a “safe” position.

## **Looking to the Future**

After having been in a “holding pattern” for several years now the parish is keen to grow its congregations in both their faith and numbers. The parish would also like to expand its presence in the area. Currently the suburbs further away from the church building are not aware of an Anglican church in the area.

St James Church originally had a mission to share the good news of Jesus and life as Christians within the local community. In this day and age, it is felt that more people need to know what it is to care and be cared for. More people should know they are loved. Reaching beyond the walls of St James is something that the parish feels should be looked to.

Although at present the parish may only be able to afford a part time rector, one long term goal is to put the parish into a financial position where it could afford the services of someone full time.

After consultation with members of the Parish of Lakelands, and with these goals and vision in mind, the parish is looking for a leader who would grow and nurture the parish; one who is able to work with, and develop the skills of, the people who are already working as part of a highly committed team, and who will enthuse and encourage those who exist on the periphery; a leader who can develop a missionary parish and one who can recreate the vision of mission in the local area. They would need to be accepting of the parish's diversity and trust people in the roles to which they are called.

Ultimately, the parish needs a rector with vision who respects the efforts the parish have put in to keep the Anglican church alive in the local area and who can take the gifts members of the parish have to share, into a future looking beyond the comfortable place in which the parish has existed rather than flourished. St James is ready to bloom.