

SINGLETON PARISH CONSULTATION NOTES

From a meeting held on 3.6.2018
Flory wing - All Saints Church grounds
Singleton

NOTES

Approx 50 people attended the Parish consultation on 3rd June 2018 at All Saints Singleton, representing the breadth of parish life. Included were laity from both the Parish church and a number of centres, and the clergy in local mission.

People were generally appreciative of the life of the Parish and the sense of community they experienced.

Key concerns were the age profile of the parish and the need for opportunities for younger generations to engage in the life of the parish, and a desire for both formal and non-formal approaches to worship.

In their hopes and dreams however I note few suggestions correlating with the issue of age profile, indicating that this is an area in which the parish would appreciate leadership.

Key hopes for the future include

- a rector who is a team leader, noting the excellent ministry team already functioning in the parish, and the desire for someone who can build on this;
- a leader who can lead for the future, assisting the parish to form its vision and ministry plans and work them in implementing these; and
- a leader who can help teach the people and nurture deeper faith development.

+Sonia Roulston
4/6/18

Isn't it good that:

- We are doing this exercise
- We have input into who the new Rector will be

- We have established local ministers
- Energetic clergy
- Have had the experience of a young priest – Charlie Murry

- Messy Church going well

- A core of committed Christians
- We know each other – really good sense of community
- Willing volunteers
- A place in the community
- Passion in the Parish
- People care about one another
- Faithful Ministry in the past
- Outreach ministry
- Wonderful country churches
- Diversity of the parish

- History
- Buildings
- Buildings in good repair – money in the bank

Isn't it a shame that:

AGE PROFILE

- Lack of families *****
- Aging parishioners *****
- Lack of youth *****
- No Sunday School **
- No Youth group **

MISC

- Findings of the Royal Commission *****
- Closing country centres due to poor attendance *****
- communication ***
- Finances *

TRADITION / 'RELEVANCE' / WORSHIP

- We are stuck with traditions irrelevant to young people born after 1960 *****
- Not enough modern technology *****
- No Choir **
- Inflexible *
- Our prayers are not direct and specific *

VISION

- Inability to embrace change *****
- No vision or moving forward **
- Our lack of ability to implement forward planning **

COMMUNITY

- We need to do more at the hospital visiting ***
- No Church sports team **
- No community Forum to discuss issues **
- Impact of Dept of Education rules on SRE in schools **
- Need for more bible studies **
- Too many "start up" churches *

PLANT

- The Rectory doesn't provide adequately for the Rector, family and Ministry although it is a beautiful building **

We are celebrating:

- The success of recent innovations eg. The Women's group, Messy Church, Men's coffee group and the Drop in group
- Three new Bishops with passion and forward thinking in the Diocese
- A welcoming Church/Parish
- Bell tower with family bells
- The people
- Excellent training Parish
- Diversity
- Music – concerts in All Saints
- All Saints court
- Mission awareness group
- A strong and qualified lay priest team

Our hopes and dreams:

FUTURE FOCUS

- Can we re-invent ourselves without alienating older members from the traditions they have grown up with and encourage younger people *****
- Need a Mission Action Plan - this will involve the new Rector *****
- More Mission awareness ****

PEOPLE

- Encourage people to come back ****
- Re-establish a pastoral care team **

WORSHIP

- Flexible service times – eg. Saturday night ***
- Combine services such as the 8am and 9.30am service. At least occasionally.

FAITHFULNESS / FAITHFUL LIVING

- Each Parishioner be aware of their calling as a member of the body of Christ ***
- Deepen our individual faith **
- Each of us be able to articulate our faith *
- Realise our gifts and talents ***
- Look for and wait on Gods guidance **

FAMILIES / AGE PROFILE

- More Messy Church **

Qualities in the new Rector:

MINISTRY

- Empathy with all people *****
- Not planning retirement *****
- Pastoral care *****
- Involved in the Diocese but with a focus on our Parish *****
- Empathy with indigenous **
- Full time on parish *
- Communicate with everyone equally

LEADERSHIP

- Team leader – able to form the considerable talent of this Parish into an effective team *****
- A leader *****
 - Innovative
 - Imaginative
- Challenges the individual – teaching sermons, not a sermon reminiscent of the 15th and 16th century *****
- An enabler and educator ***
- Delegator ***
- A collaborator ***
- Strong vision for the future ***
- Focus leadership on clergy and lay people **
- Positive media branding

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Energetic *****
 - People skills *****
 - A good communicator and enabler *****
 - Welcoming *****
 - Sense of humour *****
 - Approachable *****
 - Sensitivity *****
 - Prayerful *****
 - Versatile ***
 - Charismatic **
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- “Halo and wings” – a big ask 😊