



ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL, ADELAIDE

Community Profile and Overview

A sacred place, on the lands of the Kaurna people, where people strive to be a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, mission-oriented faith community.

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St Peter's Cathedral

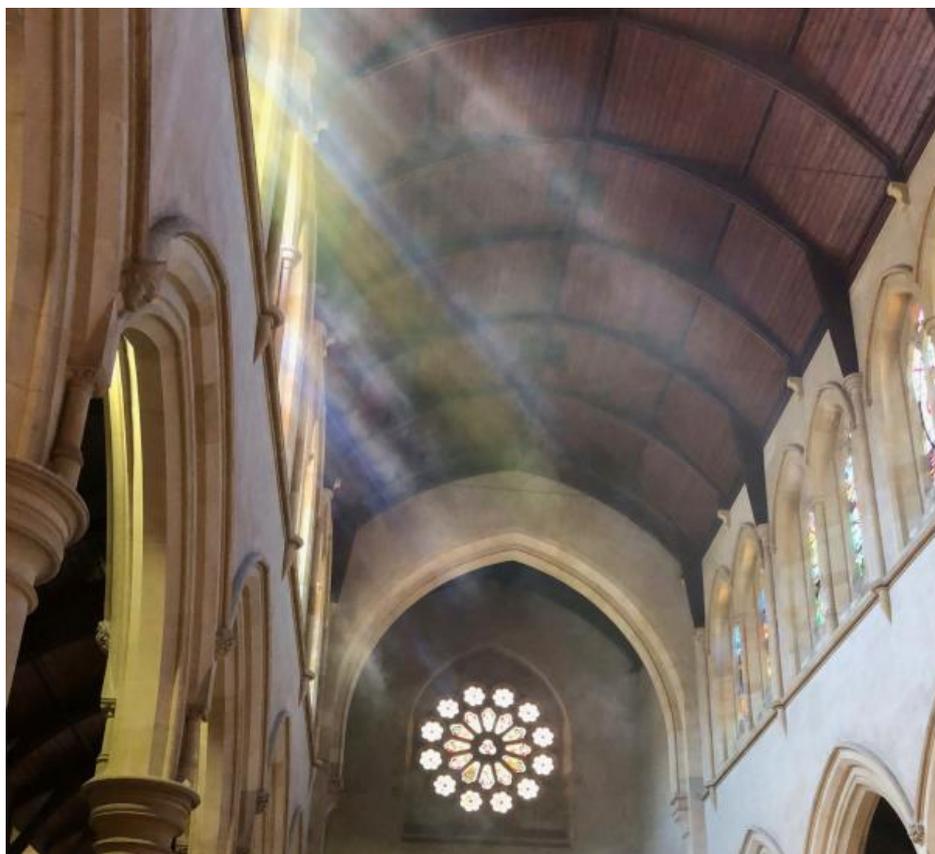
The [St Peter's Cathedral](#) mission statement is visionary and ambitious, and the Cathedral '*strives to be a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, mission-oriented faith community*'. It is a place of traditional Anglican worship for a community with a wide variety of interests, from many ethnicities and age groups.

The Cathedral is a sacred space of prayer and meditation, and a historic building of great beauty. It is a place that draws in those of faith and those of none.

The Cathedral celebrated its 150th year in 2019 with a year-long festival where the past was celebrated and the future imagined (as it turned out in 2020, the future was not exactly as 'imagined'!)

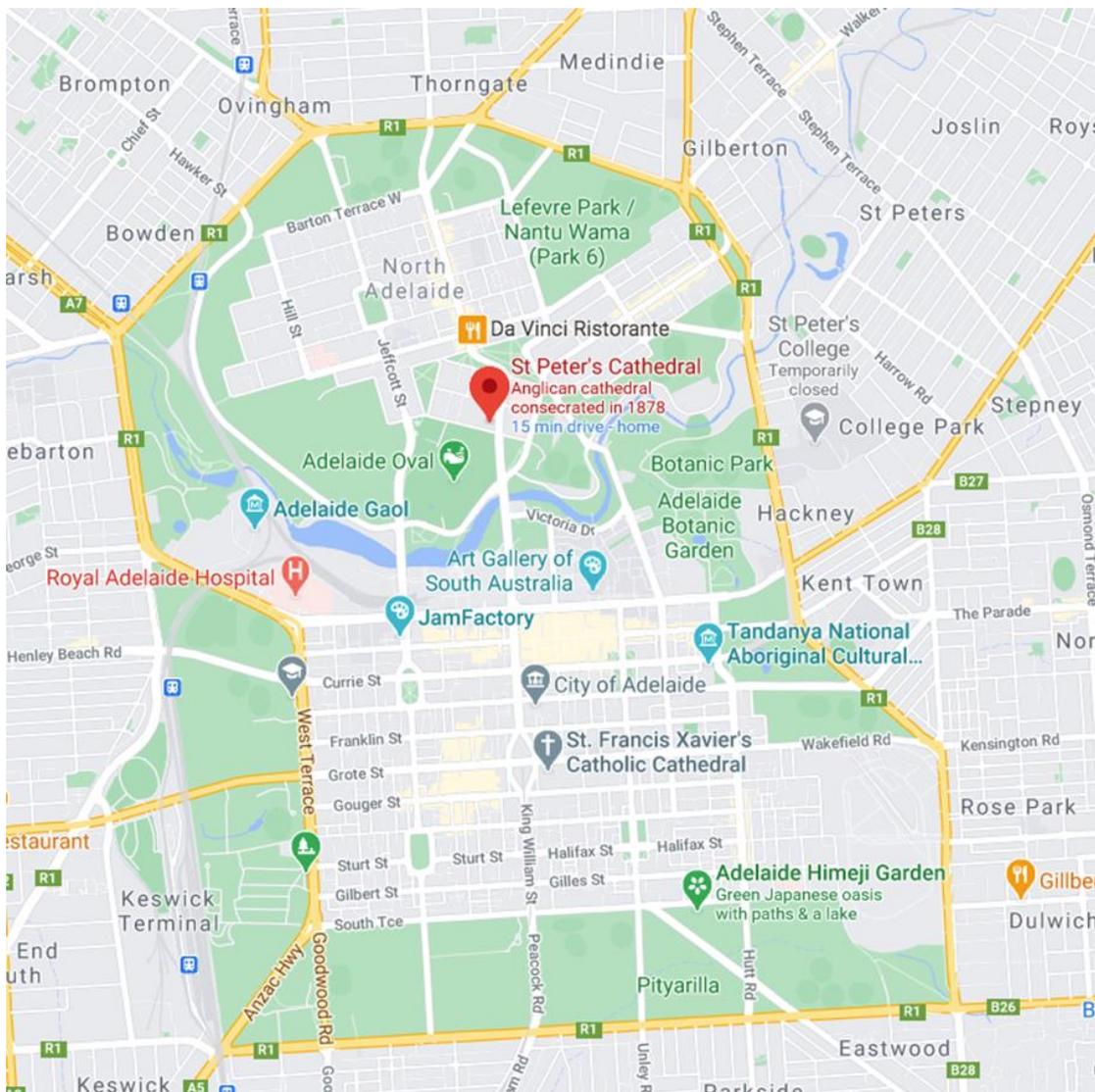
With the retirement from Cathedral Ministry of the Very Rev'd Frank Nelson at Easter 2021, the Cathedral is seeking to appoint a new Dean. Candidates for the position will have:

- at least a Bachelor of Theology, and ideally further relevant studies;
- a minimum of 10 years in the ordained ministry;
- held a permanent post as priest in charge, or equivalent parish-based leadership role;
- significant experience in music and liturgy.



Location

The Cathedral is an iconic and prominently located building in North Adelaide, residing on the traditional lands of Australia's First Nations [Kurna](#) people. This neo-Gothic building with its towers, spires, stained glass windows, and traditional interior is regarded as one of Adelaide's most beautiful buildings. It frequently forms a backdrop for news reports and is recognisable to cricket fans worldwide as the *Cathedral End* of Adelaide Oval. Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020-21, the Cathedral welcomed thousands of visitors each year from South Australia, interstate, and overseas. Click [here](#) to take a virtual tour of the Cathedral.



The Cathedral site occupies approximately one acre of land and includes the Cathedral itself, the Memorial Garden, a car park, and a close comprising two halls, offices, a 4-bedroom flat (currently occupied by the assistant priest and family), and an amenities block. The Deanery, a detached 3-bedroom house built originally in the 19th century in the villa style is located immediately adjacent to the Cathedral site opposite the parklands. Other Anglican facilities are close by including Diocesan offices and St Mark's College (a residential college affiliated with the University of Adelaide). The Society of Friends Meeting House also flanks the Cathedral site.

Adelaide

In the [Life in Australia 2020 survey](#), Central Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills is ranked as the most liveable metropolitan location in Australia. This research found that Adelaide alone rated above average across 16 liveability factors, such as safety, affordable housing, and health services. Internationally, Adelaide is consistently rated in the top ten most liveable cities worldwide according to the [Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Ranking](#).

The world class annual cycling event the [Tour Down Under](#) (TDU) has frequently swept down Pennington Terrace and passed the Cathedral as part of the exciting Adelaide city street circuit. First held in 1999, the TDU is the biggest cycling race in the southern hemisphere and showcases the attractions of South Australia to the world through global television coverage. The Cathedral features in much of this footage.



Adelaide is a city that celebrates art and culture. The [Adelaide Festival](#) is an annual arts festival which started in 1960. It is considered to be one of the world's major celebrations of the arts, and a pre-eminent cultural event in Australia. Its offshoot the [Adelaide Fringe Festival](#) is the biggest arts festival in the Southern Hemisphere and sold over 850,000 tickets in 2020. The Cathedral hosts numerous exhibitions and concerts during the Adelaide Festival and Fringe, as well as many other standalone events. Many other festivals are celebrated in the city and surrounding regions. These include festivals of food and drink, celebrations of international cultures, and many music festivals.

Diocese and Province

St Peter's Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Adelaide, currently the Most Reverend Geoff Smith.

The Diocese of Adelaide is situated on the traditional lands of the Kurna, Peramangk and Ngadjuri people and includes most of greater Adelaide, the Barossa Valley to the north, the Western fringe of the Adelaide Hills, and Kangaroo Island. The Diocese includes fifty-nine parishes, ten Anglican schools, and AnglicareSA.

The Diocese's *Vision 2022* states that *we will be a Diocese of flourishing Anglican communities, united and connected, whose members are confident and competent to live as disciples of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.* The vision has four key focuses: *Growth in Discipleship, Flourishing Churches, Innovation & Advocacy, and Leadership Development.*

Archbishop Geoff Smith is also the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia. The Archbishop is supported by an Assistant Bishop, a Bishop Missioner, and the National Aboriginal Bishop along with four Archdeacons. The Province of South Australia also includes the Diocese of the Murray (to the South) and Willochra (to the North).

For more information see <https://adelaideanglicans.com>



Cathedral Organisation

The [Cathedral Ordinance](#) in its current form was passed by Synod in 2013. It sets out the following responsibilities:

The Dean is responsible for the life and ministry of the Cathedral and the conduct of all services and other activities within the Cathedral. The Dean has the right to appoint lay staff (paid and unpaid) and, with the approval of the Bishop and Cathedral Council, to appoint clergy.

The Cathedral Council exercises the functions of a parish council and is responsible for the management of the Cathedral property and of financial and other affairs.

The Cathedral Chapter exists to foster the work of the Cathedral in its mission as the mother church of the Diocese and to provide advice to the Bishop and Dean in regard to the mission of the Cathedral in the City of Adelaide and the Province and the State of South Australia.

The Dean also plays an important role beyond the Cathedral, and is a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Leadership team. Current and past Deans have been members of Diocesan Council, and the Dean is looked to in the broader community among the city's spiritual leaders.

Operations

The Dean of the Cathedral is currently supported by two stipendiary clergy and two honorary clergy: the Rev'd Canon Jenny Wilson (Precentor), the Rev'd Peter Jin (Assistant Priest), the Rev'd Dr Lynn Arnold (Honorary Assistant Priest), and the Rev'd Joan Claring-Bould (Honorary Assistant Priest). The Clergy are further supported by the Director of Music Anthony Hunt, Organist David Heah, and a small team in the Cathedral Office. A number of retired and Diocesan clergy also assist with regular and special worship services.

Volunteers are the life blood of the Cathedral with groups including the Cathedral Kids Program, Choir, Stewards, Bellringers, Needlework Guild, Serving team, Shop assistants, Welcomers, Hospitality, Tour Leaders, Blanket Ministry, Pastoral Care, Silver and Brass cleaners, and the Flower Guild. Cathedral education programmes and initiatives include the Pilgrim Course, Education for Ministry, Meeting God on Mondays, Home Groups, and the Cinema Group. The Friends of St Peter's Cathedral raise funds every year and support various activities of the Cathedral.

Community and Worship

As at January 2020 there are 471 people listed on the Cathedral Roll. The community is drawn from across the metropolitan area and comprises a wide demographic mix. Prior to 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance at regular worship services was as follows:

- Weekday services between 5 and 20 people
- Sunday 8.00am Said Eucharist between 40 and 50 people
- Sunday 10.30am Choral Eucharist sees an average of 215 people (common range of 180 to 250)
- Sunday 6.00pm Choral Evensong has an average of 80 people

Currently, when able to attend services, the weekday services are attended by similar numbers of people compared to pre-pandemic times and on-site Sunday congregations are marginally smaller. This is countered by an increasing community on-line (for example, the 10.30am service is viewed approximately 300 times in the week following the service).

Numbers of worshippers can increase significantly for special services and events. Throughout Holy Week and Easter approximately 2,000 people will attend services, while 2,500 people will attend services over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In 2020 these numbers were reduced in line with COVID-19 restrictions.



The Cathedral Kids program is run on Sundays during the 10.30am service. Over the past few years (excluding 2020) an average of 12 children attended this group with the numbers ranging from 8 to 19 on a regular Sunday. Usually around 25 children attend at Christmas and Easter. These numbers have been impacted by COVID-19 with the number of children attending in 2020 averaging 7 and ranging from 4 to 10. In addition, around 20 children sing in the choir.



Digital Presence

The Cathedral sends out weekly newsletters and has a growing Facebook community. During lockdown in 2020, the Cathedral published a variety of video content, and once services restarted, livestreaming was introduced, with state-of-the-art equipment installed, enabling services to reach a community much wider than those in the pews and providing scope for future digital growth.

The existing digital presence of the Cathedral includes:

Website: <http://www.stpeters-cathedral.org.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StPetersCathedralAdelaide/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgX4ebNVyYVArHYXxvpKOpQ>

Services and Liturgy

The Cathedral has a rich and proud history of maintaining high standards of liturgy and music in the high church tradition. A strong emphasis is placed on the importance of the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist. Tower and sacristy bells, incense, processions, music, and vestments are all used as symbols of God's presence in the Cathedral, enabling worship with all the senses. There is also a hearing loop, and regularly attending guide dogs.

The Cathedral uses *A Prayer Book for Australia* and *The Book of Common Prayer (1662)* and the current weekly pattern includes:

- Sunday: 8.00am Said Eucharist (BCP); 10.30am Choral Eucharist (APBA); and 6.00pm Choral Evensong (BCP).
- Monday-Friday: Eucharist at 7.30am followed by Morning Prayer at 8.45am.
- Wednesday: 10.00am Holy Communion.
- 1st Saturday of the month: Taizé style Healing Service.



The Cathedral also holds other services such as baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals. As the mother church of the Diocese services such as ordinations, installations of bishops, and synod services are held in the Cathedral as well as services for the Anglican Schools in the metropolitan area. State and civic services are also held in the Cathedral such as an annual Parliamentary Commencement service and State funerals. Additionally, the Cathedral is a popular venue for concerts, music recitals, and exhibitions and buildings are available for hire to external groups.

Cathedral Choir and Music

Choirs have been singing services in the Cathedral for over 130 years and continue to be a highly valued part of the community and worship. The principal choir is the Cathedral Choir which sings at two services each Sunday as well as some weekday services and special occasions for the Cathedral and the Diocese. The choir takes the form of a traditional Anglican choir with child treble choristers and adult lay clerks. The choir has been inclusive of all genders since the 1990s. The lay clerks are all unpaid volunteers. There is no Cathedral school for trebles (they attend a variety of local schools).

The Cathedral Choir is supported by other groups including the Cathedral Consort. Many of the singers in these groups are also part of the principal choir and involved in ensembles across Adelaide. A wide range of Cathedral repertoire is sung, from Gregorian Chant through to contemporary compositions.



St Peter's Cathedral is home to a pipe organ of both state and national significance. Having been constructed by the English firm William Hill & Son, Norman & Beard in 1929 and installed in 1930, the organ remained substantially unaltered for almost 90 years. Comprehensive restoration and rebuild was undertaken by the internationally renowned organ building firm of Harrison & Harrison of Durham UK between 2017 and 2018. This restoration was fully funded, primarily by the Cathedral congregation, at a cost of circa \$1.5 million. The resulting organ is a versatile accompanying instrument for routine cathedral worship. It is also well equipped to support the numerous choral concerts and solo organ performances at the Cathedral. The instrument is described as having unrivalled tonal opulence, speaking into one of the best acoustics for organ music in Australia. With the high-quality restoration enabling the instrument to earn its keep into the 21st century, St Peter's Cathedral is well placed to maintain a rich musical heritage, as well as attracting concert goers and visiting artists alike.



St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation is a tax-deductible gift recipient which supports excellence, beauty and innovation in sacred music, and raises funds to support music at the Cathedral.

Click [here](#) for a tour of the Cathedral's organ.

Mission

The Cathedral partners with two other city parishes and AnglicareSA to reach people in need and the marginalised in our city. Donations of food and other goods are collected at services each Sunday for distribution through The Magdalene Centre (project of AnglicareSA). Members of the Cathedral community also serve as volunteers at The Magdalene Centre. This includes the weekly Saturday dinner at The Magdalene Centre which is staffed and supplied by Cathedral volunteers twice each year. A number of Cathedral people are also involved in the Kairos Prison Ministry.

The Cathedral further financially supports the Anglican Board of Mission, AnglicareSA and other similar organisations.

Over 500 blankets have been knitted and constructed for those needing winter warmth.



Finances

Unlike many established and significant churches, St Peter's Cathedral does not benefit from a large historical endowment. Total turnover approximates \$750,000, and while overall results fluctuate from year to year, the trend is to break even.

Around half of the Cathedral's income is from congregational giving, with the balance made up of investment and property income, fees for services and use of the Cathedral and halls, donations from visitors, profits from the Cathedral shop, and other donated funds, including a grant from the Music Foundation.

As might be expected for a building of its size and age, the Cathedral's heritage masterplan identifies important restoration work to be completed in the medium term. Recent work completed includes installation of an access path to enable access to roof and gutters by crane; restoration of the roof surrounding the organ ahead of its restoration; and seismic bracing of the Cathedral's unique lantern feature. A fundraising committee works to identify sources of funding for future phases of Cathedral restoration, recognising that the burden cannot be borne by the Cathedral congregation alone.



2020 Church Life Profile

In February 2020 (before COVID-19 restrictions), most parishes in the Diocese of Adelaide undertook a detailed survey conducted by National Church Life Survey (NCLS). A total of 235 adults at the Cathedral participated, and summary results include the following:

Demographics

- The mean age of adults attending the Cathedral is 65 years
- The ratio of female: male is 51:49
- 63% have a university degree
- 31% were born overseas
- 93% attend church worship services at least monthly
- 30% were new arrivals to the Cathedral in the past 5 years
- 50% spend time in prayer, Bible reading, and meditation every day or most days
- During worship services, 90% appreciate the music, 70% experience growth in their understanding of God, and 52% are challenged to take action
- 59% of people participate in wider community groups



Values and Priorities

According to the NCLS survey, Cathedral parishioners value:

- Traditional style of worship or music
- Sharing in Holy Communion
- Sermons, preaching or teaching
- Openness to social or cultural diversity
- Wider community care/justice emphasis

Looking into the future, NCLS responses indicated that the congregation would like priority given to:

- Worship services that are nurturing
- Spiritual growth (e.g., direction)
- Supporting social action and aid
- Ensuring new people are included
- Sense of community

