

A snapshot of St Mark's Kalbarri – 2009

Kalbarri

Location

Kalbarri is located at the mouth of the Murchison River, 160km from Geraldton and 600km from Perth by road. This equates to 1:45 hrs drive to Geraldton and about 7:30 hrs to Perth.

Population

The local population of Kalbarri numbers just below 2000 people. There is a good range of ages represented in town. It is not unusual for there to be another 2000 visitors in town at any one time and during the peak tourist times there can be up to another 5-7000 visitors.



Facilities

Kalbarri has two supermarkets, several fuel stations, two hardware shops and a range of boutiques and other stores. There are a number of good places to eat, both relatively cheap and quite expensive. There is a well-run medical centre, Doctor's surgery, Physiotherapist and Pharmacy. The local government chambers contain a good little public library. Specialist medical attention and optometry is available in Geraldton.

Employment

Kalbarri has traditionally been a fishing town: boasting a cray-fishing and wet-lining fleet. Both fleets have declined quite sharply since stringent conditions have been placed upon the licences. Tourism employs many people around town in various ways. An increasing number of people (both men and women) are now working in mining or drilling jobs at non-local sites according to a fly-in fly-out routine.



Community

By and large Kalbarri is a friendly and close community which will repay efforts to meet with it at its level. There are several different sporting and social opportunities and active volunteer emergency services branches. At times the closeness of the community can lead to gossip and grudges built on competing agendas. However, with patience this can be worked through.

St Mark's

Services

9am family friendly service. One the first Sunday of the month we have an all-ages service, usually without communion. On the other weeks the children begin in with the congregation, have a Children's talk and move out into Sunday School. On these weeks we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Music has been supplied by the minister and one organist, usually this takes the form of 3 contemporary songs and 2 hymns each week. We use a data projector to project both the songs and the responsive parts of an AAPB service onto a large screen (the wall).



6pm GROW group. Prayer and Bible study time. This is open to visitors and one is never quite sure who will turn up!



Other Ministries

- Week-day GROW groups.
- Annual holiday kids' club.
- Monthly "Community Dinner".
- Parish pantry to provide food help to those in need.
- Opportunity to provide chaplaincy services to KDHS.
- "Public" functions – ANZAC day, Remembrance Day, Blessing of the Fleet, Community Carols.
- Community pastoral care and chaplaincy – esp. surrounding times of bereavement
- The "Paraclete" parish magazine.
- SRE (Special Religious Education) at KDHS run as a lunch-time club.
- Tutoring a small number of people doing the Moore College PTC.

Buildings

St Mark's owns:

1. A multi-purpose building for public worship and gatherings (worship area and hall), with Kitchen, toilets, vestry and office.
2. A children's ministry facility and play area.
3. A rectory (4 bedrooms w built in robes, 1 study, w/c, bathroom, laundry, lock up garage, fully a/c, enclosed back yard, open kitchen and living areas.)



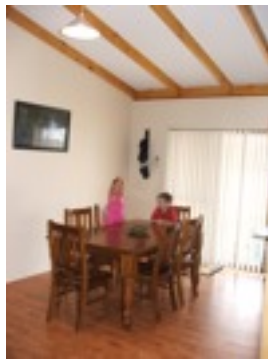
All buildings and the church property are in good condition with no major expenses anticipated in the short to medium term.

Parish Council

Currently St Mark's operates without a Parish Council, having elected to allow the Wardens and Minister to conduct business.

Financial Situation

St Mark's does not owe the Diocese any money, nor does it have any significant debt. The parish covers the running costs of the Rectory and church buildings, the minister's on costs (e.g. travel, phone and power) and a portion of the stipend. BCA has provided a small grant for teaching SRE. The Diocese provides part of the Minister's stipend in the form of a grant, and a benefactor covers the remaining half of the stipend.



Dining room



Kitchen



One of the bedrooms



Back yard