

A MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY IN THE PARISH OF DONGARA and MINGENEW IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA.

Dongara is located 359kms from Perth on the North West Coast of Western Australia in the Midwest Region. Originally built on a strong rural economy, Dongara and Port Denison now have a thriving rock lobster fishing and processing industry and is ever-increasing in popularity as a place for tourists.

Mingenew is located 367kms from Perth on the Midlands Road and 54kms east of Dongara. Mingeneew is a pastoral town. Also known to many as the "wildflower region", this area is home to some of the world's finest collections of flowering plants. A retired Minister and his wife have just come to live in Mingeneew to serve in the town and rural district, under the leadership of the Senior Minister based in Dongara.

The Churches



Dongara church building



Mingenew church building

The Dongara Centre Church is St John's (built 1884) and is located in Church Street Dongara. The church is built of local sandstone with semi-gothic design.

The Mingeneew Centre Church is Church of the Resurrection (built 1908). The church is built of local stone with semi-gothic design.

Dongara church

Dongara church is somewhat reflective of the wider Dongara population. There is a good number of retired folk who have been involved in the church for quite a while and growing group of younger people. Over the past few years we have seen an influx of young adults and younger families. The service is a mixture of the traditional and contemporary and begins at 9am on Sunday mornings. The church also enjoys extra fellowship with dinners, lunches and extended morning teas.

There are two main bible study groups – Tuesday nights and Wednesday mornings. (another group has been running for young mums isn't happening at the moment). Wednesday mornings is a Know Your Bible group (KYB) run by an older Christian lady from the congregation. Tuesday night Bible study changed from straight bible study in someone's house to running bible teaching courses in the hall. This was an attempt to attract more of the congregation, which was successful with up to half the normal Sunday group attending Tuesday nights. (Courses that have been run include: Alpha, Introducing God, Back to Basics, From Sinner to Saint).

SRE (Special Religious Education) is taught by the Rector at Dongara District High School. This has been mainly with the primary school students and is coordinated by a lady from the Uniting church.

A number of other churches are present in Dongara including Uniting, Catholic and AOG (Suncity). There is some fellowship between churches including a combined Christmas Carols Service.

Mingenew church

Mingenew church is small and struggles to see any growth. A monthly service is run as well as a weekly bible study group (run by a lady from the congregation). The Rev. Donald and Elaine Gowing have just arrived in the town.

Donald is the Honorary Non-Stipendary Assistant Minister. The Gowings are keen to step up visitation in the shire and will take some pastoral oversight of the congregation.

SRE (Special Religious Education) is taught by the Rector in Mingenev Primary school.

The Rectory



Rectory back yard



Rectory from church car park

The Rectory (located in Dongara) is a comfortable 4 bedroom 1 bathroom family home with a study. It has recently had a number of improvements including: new carpet, insulation, air-conditioning, new patio, renovated kitchen and bathroom. It has a separate lounge/dining area and a smaller games room.

Overall Dongara is a great place to live and a challenging place to minister. It has great beaches and a relaxed holiday feel, yet the town is quite hardened to the gospel. There is much pain in the town as a result of drug and alcohol abuse, and boredom of young adults. There is also however a good bunch of committed Christian men and women scattered throughout the churches who desire to see the name of Jesus glorified and submitted to by individuals in the town.

After three faithful years of ministry in this parish, Matt & Corinne Malcolm will be leaving in December 09. Matt is taking up a position with North Beach Baptist Church, working amongst youth and young adults.

We are looking for a couple committed to the Bible to come to this Parish for several years.

For further information, please contact Bishop David Mulready. He is waiting for your call!

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