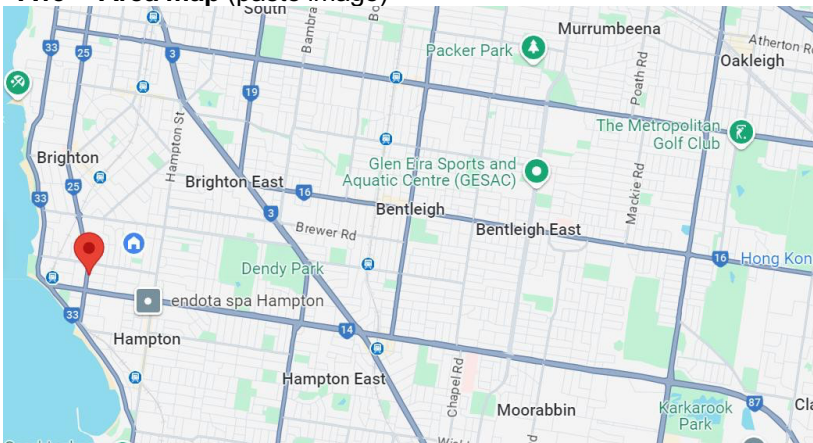




A Placement Profile

A1 Presbytery	Port Phillip East Presbytery		
A2 Name of Placement	St Leonard's UCA Brighton Beach		
A3 Placement city/suburb/town	Brighton 3186		
A4 Church/Office location(s)	2 Wolseley Grove Brighton		
A5 Congregations and agencies associated with this placement			
A6 Ministry leadership being sought	Specific ministry role:	<input type="text"/>	
	Minister of the Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deacon <input type="checkbox"/>	Ministry of Pastor <input type="checkbox"/>
	Ordinand <input type="checkbox"/>		
A7 Specific details	Additional placement <input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement placement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Full Time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part Time <input type="checkbox"/>	Time fraction <input type="text"/>
	Earliest Start Date:	10/05/2026	
A8 Placement term	Undefined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Up to 10 years (see Reg 2.7.3(a))	
	Fixed Term	Required for non-congregational placements (see Reg 2.7.3(b))	Years <input type="text"/>
A9 To be completed by Presbytery, with reasons given on page 13:	Is permission sought to advertise? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Is a Priority Placement recommended? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
A10 Website	https://www.stleonards.org.au		
A11 Social Media	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/113607279517/		
A12 Google map link	3XFV+GV Brighton, Victoria		

A13 Area map (paste image)





B The Congregation

B1 Tell a potential minister about this placement and yourselves, in your own words and pictures, in no more than one page. Share something of your congregation’s values, beliefs and ways in which you live out and share the gospel message.

Include comment about why you need a new minister. How will this placement be exciting, challenging, and attractive to a minister? How can God be served in new ways here? What do you want the Minister to do with you and for you?

This is your chance to ‘be creative’ and catch the attention of someone who is thinking of sharing their call, their gifts, their life with you.

Following the retirement of Rev Kim Cain who has been in placement at St Leonard's UCA for over 15 years, a new Minister is sought to lead us in building up our faith and exploring new ways to reach the wider community.

We strive to be a vital Hub of Life in Bayside. Our worship is the centre of all that we do and is highly valued



by the congregation. Worship is varied in time and place to reflect the generational, liturgical, theological and social diversity, but united in the God we worship known to us in Jesus Christ. A variety of music styles contribute to our services. We have an excellent organ and grand piano, in addition to a drum set and keyboard to



accompany other band instruments. Modern words for hymns and songs replace those that may no longer be appropriate in contemporary society. We follow the Liturgical calendar with special services at Lent, Easter and Christmas which are often attended by those who may not attend at other times. We are forward looking and seeking to sustain our faith, challenge it and grow in areas we have not thought about.



As a Hub of Life for Bayside, our ministry is dynamic and our faith practical. We go out from worship with a message that relates to life and people on a personal level. For example our Coffee Cup Challenge was a response to the needs of those who are homeless. This has resulted in providing seed funding for the Ruffy project which, in partnership with Uniting and CareVan, has



produced backpack swags for those experiencing homelessness within the Goulburn NorthEast region. Our ministry seeks to build up the community of faith so that we are growing in faith and expressing our faith in the world. This ministry is flexible, evolving and multifaceted in linking with the wider community and there are a number who regard St Leonard’s as “their church” even though they may not attend regularly. We embrace inclusivity including theological, cultural and gender diversity. We welcome the gifts of the LGBTQIA+ community and support same gender marriage. We seek ways to express our views in a respectful and encouraging manner so that all voices can be heard. This breadth makes us stronger.



Our mission as a hub of Christian community is to be builders of community, serving those in need and being vehicles of justice and care both locally and as part of the ministry of the church in the world. The congregation is socially aware and there is strong prayerful and practical support for groups such as UnitingWorld, UnitingCare, refugees and environmental issues. A forum on Elder Abuse was strongly supported when this area was identified as a high priority in the community.



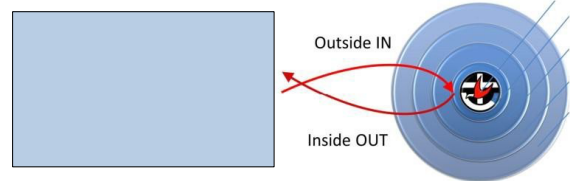
In response to the isolation felt by many parents, our Playgroup has attracted increasing numbers of pre-school children. People are very open to opportunities and prepared to look outside and beyond the Bayside bubble.

We are aware of the significant changes that have occurred since COVID – the drift away of members in the younger age group and their families as they commit to other activities on a Sunday morning, the loss of long-standing older members, together with an increasing on-line presence rather than a physical presence – and are seeking a Minister who is pastorally aware of the impact of these changes.

Our aim is future focused: to keep St Leonard's strong and be a church active in discipleship and service. St Leonard's Church is at an exciting time in its more than 100-year-old ministry as we look to live out Christ's mission in a modern world. Our building program has happened, after more than eight years of planning which involved selling a tennis court to pay for an upgrade to our facilities, to make them more welcoming and to enhance our vision to be a Hub of Life in Bayside.

B2 List and explain any particular priorities which the congregation has identified and which it will address in the next two to five years?

The property development arose following the development of a Strategic plan. Our Mission model is based on the "Inside Out-Outside In" approach. "Inside Out" recognises that we are sent into the world as followers of Christ, to listen to the needs and express God's love in service. 'The Outside In' recognises that we are called together for worship and spiritual growth so that we can be God's people in the world. To assist this vision to be a Hub of Life for Bayside, flexible and adaptive spaces have been planned to provide for future ministry needs. Our priorities emanate from this vision.



The focus on the sustainability of our ministry is to intentionally work out a way to grow and thrive. With the new building and new spaces, we have the resources. We have the capacity with experienced people, and we wish to grow and expand our people resources to further share the load.



As a hub of Christian community, we want to create more connections with the broader community. Currently, but not exclusively, this could include activities to combat loneliness, support for non-English speakers, decreasing our carbon footprint, raising awareness of indigenous issues, and making connections with a younger demographic. We want to strengthen our links with the Playgroup participants and draw in those in the first third of life. Building relationships and the pastoral care of people is critical to this vision.



B3 Does this placement relate to more than one congregation?
If so, provide details on page 10.

Yes

No

B4 What ethnic and language groups are represented in the congregation? What proportion of the congregation does each represent?

Anglo-Australian >95%

The church has historically attracted many expatriates who have relocated to Australia for short or long periods.

B5 What languages are spoken in the life of your:

Congregation, by		Community, by	
Individuals	English	Individuals	English
Groups	English	Groups	Predominantly English.



B6 What languages are spoken by the congregation in worship?

English

B7 Describe any involvement your congregation has in covenanting with first nations people.

No active involvement at present.

B8 List any UCA Schools and/or agencies (Uniting VicTas, Uniting AgeWell) with which the congregation has an existing relationship.

St Leonard's College
Uniting VicTas

C Mission

C1 List three of your missional activities that your congregation does best?

St Leonard's church is an active congregation who cares for the local community and wider population in a number of ways. Three missional activities we do best are:

Coffee Cup Challenge: this is a program initiated by St Leonard's eight years ago (auspiced by Uniting) which has since been adopted by other Uniting churches. During those eight years over \$167,000 has been raised to support homeless people in Victoria and NSW. More recently the funds raised were specifically directed to a special project called The Ruffy Project which entailed the manufacture and distribution of swags for those who are sleeping rough in the open. An extra benefit of the program is that the swags were made by residents of Beechworth Correctional Facility who volunteered to assist. The program gave these participants new skills and, worthwhile and valued work to do. This has galvanised the church community and we continue to look for opportunities to help the homeless and respond to real needs.

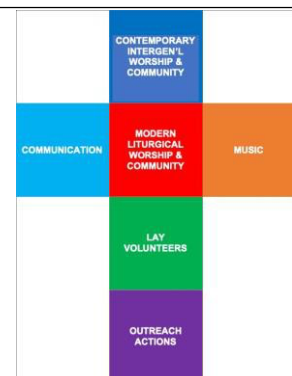


Playgroup: St Leonard's operates a playgroup for parents and carers of pre-school children in our local area. We have an employed Playgroup Leader who is supported by volunteers from the congregation. Playgroup has proved very popular with regular attendances of 30-40 children and their carers. Many are referred by local maternal child health workers and by word of mouth. We see this as an important ministry to our community, giving the children quality developmental activities and the adults a point of contact with each other and the church.

Community Support: We usually have two major food and toy drives each year. One is held during the winter months and the proceeds of the winter food appeal have gone to Prahran Mission. The second is held prior to Christmas and last year the proceeds of this drive went to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. We support UnitingWorld at Christmas and continue to explore other opportunities to build our community to be a Hub of Life.

C2 What are three missional activities your congregation would like to develop?

Arising from our vision to be a "Hub of Life" (refer B2) a Ministry and Mission strategy has been developed. The key 'components' of the strategy are presented as a cross that can be folded to produce a tangible, physical 'building block' – presented as a cube. The cross is symbolic and representative of our Christian church. The cross incorporates six key components of our church, with each component connected to all the others. Working through an action plan for each component is ongoing, and the current three priorities are:



Contemporary Intergenerational Worship and Community: The increasing demands on people in the first third of life, has impacted our Children and Family ministry and this needs revitalising.

Outreach activities: We are aware of increasing feelings of loneliness and stress in the community and feel the church can offer support in this way. We have seen this in the adults coming to Playgroup, who have lost the support of colleagues when they are no longer fulltime in the workforce, or grandparents assisting in the caring role. An awareness of climate change and responding to environmental concerns is a priority for many, particularly those in the LEAF (St Leonard's Environmental Action in Faith) group. Developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of the history of First Nations peoples in our area and links with local elders and leaders, is another area of interest. Support for the homeless is ongoing.

Communications: The live streaming of the Sunday morning service has taken our ministry to another level, providing further opportunities and access for some, and an entry point for others. Maximising the potential of live streaming worship, and improving communication through social media, to appeal to those seeking a spiritual dimension is a priority.

C3 How has the congregation changed in the past two years?

Coming out of COVID we experienced a decline in numbers, particularly in the children and family age group. There has been a decrease in numbers since then due to the deaths of very long-standing members, but there has been a small increase in new people attending on a Sunday morning and an increasing number viewing the live stream. Livestreaming has been identified as a successful ministry of our church. We would like to further develop and strengthen the links we make with others in this way.

C4 What changes and developments are anticipated in the next three to five years?

We seek to be a significant place of welcome for the community. The new building will mean a much more visible and welcoming church. The renovations provide a variety of worship spaces and opportunities for new ministry. In addition the renovated kitchen and bathroom facilities are much more welcoming. Our vision is to be a Hub of Life for Bayside, and show that our Christian faith adds a deeper meaning for life. The building project was the result of a strategic mission plan to increase community engagement. (Refer B2 above.) There are now opportunities for using the space differently and new forms of ministry.

D The Community

D1 Describe the wider community in which your ministry is located.

St Leonard's Church is located in the municipality of Bayside, approximately 15 km southeast of the City of Melbourne, bordering Port Philip Bay. The Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation are acknowledged as the traditional owners of our land.

There is a mixture of housing; from expensive homes along the Golden Mile to social housing further away from the beach and everything in between. With increasing land value, and government priorities, stand-alone homes are being replaced by town houses and multi-storied apartments. The population is relatively affluent although some people are "asset rich" due to the increase in property values, but "cash poor". Median weekly incomes are above Victorian and Australian averages.

In the 2021 Census, there were 101,306 people in Bayside; of these 48% were male and 52% were female. The median age of people in Bayside was 45 years, however there are considerably less in the 20-45 age group than in Greater Melbourne and a significant increase in the 65 and over age group in Bayside. There has been a change in households since 2016 with couples with older children increasing more than in Greater Melbourne, perhaps reflecting the proximity to high quality secondary and tertiary education. There has been an increase in single-parent households with older children. It is a highly educated population with a majority (49%) having a Bachelor degree or higher (compared with 29% in Victoria). There are fewer people without any qualifications. There is a high level of social awareness amongst the population.

The most common ancestries in Bayside were English 38%, Australian 30%, Irish 13% and Scottish 11%, making a total of 92% compared with 74% in Victoria. In Bayside, 70% of people were born in Australia. The most significant change between 2016 and 2021 in the Birthplace for those in Bayside was the influx of those born in China, followed by the UK and South Africa, then India and Ireland. In Bayside 81% of people only spoke English at home. Other languages spoken at home included Mandarin, Greek, Russian, Italian, and Spanish. There are 19.5% of Non-English speaking households in Bayside compared with 30% in Victoria.

In Bayside, 44% responded in the 2021 Census that they had "No Religion" (39%Victoria). Of those indicating a religion, Catholicism was the most dominant with 22% followed by Anglican 12%, Uniting 2.9%. Judaism and Greek Orthodox increased the most in Bayside in 2021 but Anglican decreased by nearly 2000 people and Uniting decreased by just over 500 people.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/LGA20910?form=MG0AV3>

D2 What makes this an enjoyable place to live?

Bayside is a diverse, healthy and very liveable place. The public spaces, gardens and proximity to the beach make it an enjoyable place to live. The many small parks foster a feeling of wellbeing and provide incidental opportunities to connect with others close to home. Increasingly this is important for young families living in units and the increasing number of apartments. There is a well-intentioned community, most neighbours are friendly and look after their homes.

Public transport is good with train stations (Sandringham and Frankston lines) and bus routes crossing the area. The bike path along the beach is popular and can be used to commute to the city or south to Mordialloc and beyond. Most residents have local access to essential shopping and services. The vibrant shopping strips and coffee culture are attractive and popular.

There are community facilities such as libraries, Maternal and Child Health and Aged Care facilities. There are active U3A groups and Rotary groups, as well as sporting clubs and lifestyle activities. Theatres and other cultural activities in the City of Melbourne are easily accessed.

There are excellent schools, both public and private, and kindergartens and child care centres. The University of Melbourne and Monash University can be accessed by public transport. The area is well served by good health networks - doctors, dentists, specialists, physios, Sandringham and the Alfred hospitals, and Monash Medical Centre are easy to access. We are very fortunate.

D3 What are the points of stress and pain in the wider community?

While many in Bayside may appear to be comfortable, there is considerable stress and pain from:

- Loneliness
- Mental health issues
- Increasing cost of living and mortgage stress
- Change in life circumstances - grief and loss, loss of independence, family breakdowns, domestic violence, elder abuse, staying abreast of technology.

D4 How closely does your congregation reflect the demographics of your local area?

St Leonard's congregation reflects the age profile in Bayside. Many of the congregation grew up in the flourishing church in the 1950 and 60s. These people value the church, its community and what it stands for. They are concerned for their families, children and grandchildren, who are not connected to the church. We do not reflect the younger age groups, who have recently moved to Bayside. Many of these are time poor, have more material possessions and see less need for God. Our challenge is to add a different dimension to their lives, a spiritual dimension.

D5 What community facilities are present in the local area?

A wide range of schools, kindergartens and Child Care facilities.

A number of Retirement and Aged Care facilities.

Sporting and recreational facilities such as Dendy Park, Brighton Beach oval, Sandringham athletics track, Life saving and Sailing clubs, Football, Basketball, Netball and Cricket clubs with well-kept facilities, Tennis, Bowling and Croquet clubs with courts, and the sand belt golf courses.

Playgrounds such as Thomas Street, North Road and many smaller ones

Community centres - Hampton Community centre, Sandy Beach Centre, Castlefield Centre.

Well stocked and modern library facilities.

Refer D2.