

# The Bream Bay Anglican

The newsletter of the Bream Bay Anglican Mission District

Issue 6

Website: [www.breambayanglicans.org.nz](http://www.breambayanglicans.org.nz)

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### Knowledge corner

#### Where do we get our readings?

Someone recently asked me this great question. The short answer is that each year the Province of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia publishes a lectionary (list) of readings for every day of the year, including the sentences and collect. This list includes global and NZ-specific occasions.

The longer answer is that Christians have adopted the ancient Hebrew tradition of reading scripture in course (in order). The NZ Provincial lectionary draws from the international Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), which includes the major (Western) Christian denominations (the Orthodox have a different lectionary). In 1983 (rev. 1992) the CCT published a Revised Common Lectionary with a three-year cycle of Eucharistic readings (Years A, B, and C), and two-year cycle of Daily Office readings (Years 1 and 2) starting in Advent. In Year A we read from Matthew; Year B, Mark; and Year C, Luke. (We're now in Year B.) First (Old) Testament readings are chosen to correspond to the Gospel reading. We usually read from John on major feasts, and during Lent and Easter. In Ordinary Time (now) we can choose the first reading either in course, or the one similar in theme to the gospel of the day. In the Anglican tradition, then, the preacher doesn't just choose lessons that suit their mood—each Sunday we read the same lessons as the major Christian denominations. This is one way the Church experiences unity.

For more on the lectionary, visit [Vanderbilt Divinity School FAQ](#) or [Understanding the Lectionary](#)

## From your Parish Council

The PC members and community Op Shop volunteers met together on 13 June at Saorsa for conversations about the relationship between the Op Shop and the Council.

The Op Shop finances have always been managed and reported by the Anglican Diocese; the Op Shop is not separate from BBAMD, and you will recall that at the AGM the parish members voted a budget that more transparently included the Op Shop contribution and community grants. Our parish Treasurer manages all our accounts. With the adoption of the 'wheel and spoke' governance model of the PC in May, the Op Shop Committee is more transparently a committee of Council, chaired by Sally Haigh. The Op Shop will continue to make grants to community organisations by recommending them to the PC. The PC will normally endorse those recommendations and assume any risks that may arise from the community grants.

We are very grateful for Op Shop community volunteers who make invaluable contributes of time and energy to the community and to BBAMD.

Your elected Parish Council met on 27 June. Unfortunately, your editor was away for that meeting, and an update here is not possible. Please check with the wardens or council members for an update.

Thank you to **Lee Hanna**, who has agreed to be the BBAMD Diocesan contact for Health and Safety.

Your Parish Council will hold its annual planning retreat at St Peter's on Saturday, 6 July from 9:00am-3:00pm. Please share your hopes, dreams, and possibilities with a Council member or warden before that retreat.

## It's not hard...

If everyone brought just one person to church with them, the congregation would double!

Mission is everyone's opportunity!



**James MacGee** sent along this link to an 8 min. YouTube video which is a wonderful celebration of the kotahitanga (unity) of the many churches throughout NZ. There is a good representation from the Anglican Church and Pihopitanga (tikanga Māori) and Archbishop:

<https://youtu.be/eZQPifs2kjo?si=Fj4Z8OelsovUtMK7>

Gather the family, be uplifted and enjoy!



🕒 The **Fellowship Group** meets at 11:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pavilion of St Paul's. The next meeting will be **3 July**.

*If this changes a parish notice will be sent out by email.*



## This month at BBAMD

**Sunday, 07/07, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (OT)**

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

**Sunday, 14/07, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT**

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

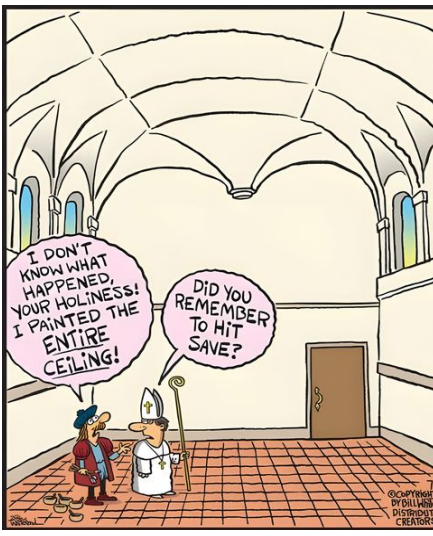
**Archdeacon Jonathan Gale visits**

**Sunday, 21/07, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT**

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

**Sunday, 28/07, 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT**

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's



### Outreach ministries

#### **BBAMD Foodbank averages two parcels per week**

We are living in difficult economic times, and with the current government cutbacks in services some families are doing it tough.

BBAMD is doing what we can. So far in the second quarter of 2024 the BBAMD foodbank has served 23 adults, 27 children and 3 babies in our community with food parcels. Through the beginning of June there were 36 food parcels provided.

Many thanks to foodbank volunteers Janet Woodward, coordinator, Liz Rawhiti and Anoeck Flexton. Suniti Fry and Linda Richardson also assist behind the scenes with shopping and packaging.

Please remember to bring along a non-perishable food item on Sundays—this can include toiletries and other necessary items.

### **Obituary**

**Robyn Coales**, who had moved into the neighbourhood two years ago and occasionally attended St Paul's, died unexpectedly on 3 June. She is survived by her husband Peter, three children and several grandchildren. A memorial service was held in the hall on 15 June.

*If you have a seating plan that you would like us to trial at St Peter's, please send it to Mark as soon as possible. The final date is 15 July.*

### Stewardship

#### **It's time to talk about church giving**

*A woman died and went to heaven. She met St Peter who led her down the streets paved with gold. They walked by mansions after mansions until they came to the end of the road, where they stopped in front of a little shack where Peter lived. The woman asked Peter why he lived in such a humble hut when there were so many mansions around where he would be more comfortable. He replied, "I did the best with the money you sent".*

**Stewardship is what we do with the resources we have.** Stewardship is part of the life of Christians—the church is pretty much a self-funded organisation. Just as costs have risen for households, costs have also risen for the church. Like you, the church also must make the same amount go further.

#### **When was the last time you reviewed your church giving?**

**But wait, didn't we just finish an expensive renovation at St Peter's?** Yes, and that renovation was paid for by the one-time sale of property several years ago. There is still some major repair work required on the west window that is separate from the renovations to prevent further damage to the frame, wall, and new carpet. Some of the recent additions to the church (like the freestanding altar and tabernacle) have come at no cost to the church, thanks to the great generosity of donors and craftspeople. There was also an enormous amount of voluntary labour by parishioners, both at St Peter's and St Paul's, to make both churches safe, weathertight, welcoming, and attractive.

**Many people at BBAMD are retired or on fixed incomes**, we know that. We certainly don't want parishioners to be hungry or cold, or put off a visit to the doctor or pharmacist. At the AGM this year, you, the congregation voted for a balanced budget that included \$29,700 from automatic payments (that's an increase of 35% over 2023, and 145% over 2022). In the first five months of 2024 (that's 42% of the year) we have taken in \$10,778 or 36% of our target of \$12,500). In addition, we voted to gather \$4500 from cash offerings at services; so far, we have taken in \$655, only 14.5% of our target. We also said that we were going to raise \$6000 from fundraising efforts (\$500 per month). Not much progress there either. In fact, none at all.

**The notion of giving, or tithing, comes from scripture:** In Genesis 14, Abraham gives Melchizedek, a priest of Jerusalem, a tithe; Leviticus 27:30 says that 'A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, is the Lord's and is holy'. Proverbs 3:9 says something similar (see [Bible verses about tithing](#)). According to 2023 data, globally, Christians give an average of 2.5% of their income to the church. This is the same as Muslims give as the *zakat*, or gift to the poor (see [Zakat](#)); Muslims also are expected to give an *additional* 10% to support the other work of the mosque ([Dawam et al., Christian vs Muslim tithing](#)). Orthodox Jews also give 10%. If we take our faith seriously, giving should not be only what is leftover, but a central part of our household budget. Giving is an expression of faith. Anglicans don't like talking about money, but it is a reality of the world in which we live.

**There are 92 people who claim to be on the BBAMD membership roll. If every one of those people gave \$120 per month (around \$30 per week), we would easily meet the annual budget of \$129,370** you approved at this year's AGM, and that would be without any other income (fundraising, hall hire, Op Shop, etc.). **Alternatively, if each of the 67 households gave \$160 per month (\$40 per week) we could meet the budget you approved** (this latter calculation excludes people in residential care). Not everyone can do that, but others can contribute more. Many wonderful people also give donations to the foodbank, and others donate a great deal of time, talent, and all kinds of labour, to the church. But the power company, rates, maintenance, repairs, and staff still must be paid in cash. Insurance has gone up by nearly 100% this year. And the leaking window at St Paul's won't fix itself. In a conversation with someone who claimed to be a member but doesn't attend church, I asked what they wanted from the church: they said 'I want it to be there when I need it'. If you want the church to be there when you need it, why not be there now when we need you?

#### **Why not review your church giving this week?**