



The Bream Bay Anglican

The newsletter of the Anglican Church of Bream Bay

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If you have news to share or feedback on the newsletter, please send it to

mhenrick158@gmail.com

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The 'A-word' in Lent

During the penitential season of Lent Western rite churches traditionally 'fast' from the use of the praise word 'Alleluia'. We also refrain from using praise hymns such as the *Gloria in excelsis*, and *Te Deum*, substituting instead the more solemn *Kyrie eleison* or the *Trisagion (Holy God, Holy and Mighty...)*. We use violet, the colour of mourning (or unbleached muslin), and do not place colourful flowers in church. We remove or veil symbols of the resurrection, such as budded crosses. Omitting these things directs our focus to penitence. (See *Ashes to Fire*, p. 4)

Even today some churches follow the custom of 'burying the Alleluia' on Septuagesima (a tradition dating back to the 13th century), when the word is symbolically buried in a churchyard or cloister, and proclaimed again at the Easter Vigil after the Epistle reading.

Not using these words and canticles during Lent heightens the joy we feel when we return to using them at Easter, when we ring bells at the proclamation of resurrection at the Easter Vigil service. These Easter words and songs of praise are sung by angels around the throne of God.

From your Parish Council

The Annual General Meeting of the ACBB was held on 23 March 2025 at St Peter's.

Out of the 60-member roll, 19 people attended and six sent apologies. After approving the minutes of the 2024 AGM and SGM, the membership of the parish had an opportunity to raise questions about reports from the vicar, wardens, Foodbank, health and safety, Op Shop, and the treasurer, all of which had been emailed and available on the parish website.

The Annual Statement of Accounts and the 12-month financial report for 2024 prepared by Trust Management Ltd (TML), the Diocesan accountants, were considered and approved by the members. The 2025 Budget was considered and approved by the members.

Recognitions and thanks were offered to the Rev. Annette Hebert *in absentia* on the occasion of her birthday, and with thanks for the many ways she contributes to the life of ACBB. Essie Leech, retiring Vicar's Warden, was thanked for her tireless service over two years, despite battling a number of health challenges. Christine Anderson was acknowledged as retiring People's Warden and for her diligence in maintaining the parish's properties, Thanks were offered *in absentia* to retiring council members Suniti Fry and Liz Rawhiti. Appreciation was also expressed to Anne Connolly-Munt for her 'above and beyond' work on the organ bench at St Peter's,

The membership approved a 7-person Parish Council. The following people were elected:

Elected Warden (1), one-year term: Danny Bridges

Delegates to Diocesan Synod (2), three-year term: Sally Haigh, James MacGee

Council members: Ian Hanna, Peg Hills
James MacGee was appointed as Secretary and Anneke Jochem as Treasurer at the first meeting of the new Council on 27 March. An appointed Warden will be announced on 6 April, when all new Council members will be commissioned.

Note that the terms 'Vicar's Warden' and 'People's Warden' are no longer used.

Once Council minutes are approved, they are available at each church.

Summer time ends 6 April



Set your clocks back 1 hour.

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 2 April.

This month at ACBB

Sunday, 06/03 Lent 5, Passion Sunday
(Change your clocks!)

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

2:00p First Sunday hymn sing, St Peter's (People's Choice)

Sunday, 13/03 Palm Sunday

9:30a Blessing of Palms and Eucharist, St Peter's (Please bring greenery)

We will be joined by the KW Singers

The Great Triduum

Thursday, 17/04 Maundy Thursday

7:00p, Eucharist and Foot washing, followed by Solemn Stripping of the Altar

Friday, 18/04 Good Friday

10:00a Ecumenical services (begin at Waipū Presbyterian Church, process to St Peter's)

2:00p Service of the Word with Solemn Collects, St Paul's



Sunday, 20/04 Easter Day

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

11:00a Eucharist, St Peter's

Friday, 25/04 ANZAC Day,

The Centre, Waipū

Sunday, 27/04 2nd Sunday of Easter

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's



Annual World Day of Prayer at St Peter's

ACBB hosted the Bream Bay region's annual World Day of Prayer at St Peter's on Friday, 7 March.

Eighteen people attended this colourful event, which shared stories from the Cook Islands, and music. Donations received at the service are intended to support the people of Tonga, the Bible Society in the South Pacific, and Hospital Chaplaincy in Aotearoa New Zealand. The service was followed by a shared morning tea. (See photo, left)

Blessed April birthdays to

Daniel Garton, 05/04

Ani Ahomiro, 10/04



Holy Week at Bream Bay

Holy Week begins on 13 April with Palm Sunday, as we mark Jesus' entry to Jerusalem with cries of Hosanna and branches of palms—please bring your own palm branches or other greenery with you to St Peter's that morning!

Interested in service music?

Your Parish Council have authorised an *ad hoc* committee to consider the future of music at our worship services at both churches. What kind of music would you like to hear and participate in? How can we make that happen? It is a time-limited committee, meaning it will only meet for a short while to address these questions. If you would like to participate in this group, please let Mark know as soon as possible.

Engaged Feedback

Have you ever worked really hard at something, only to have someone come along and simply point out all the things they think you did wrong? Then they say, 'I'm just providing feedback' or 'I'm just being honest'. It can be pretty discouraging, and doesn't make for a positive work or volunteer environment. Diocesan Council have even temporarily closed two churches in the Diocese because the environment at those churches had become too toxic.

Even though it seems very common to hear or see people tear each other down (or talk negatively about others who are not present) in the media or social media it is certainly not the way Christians are invited to be in relationship with each other. Christians are called to be kind to one another (1 Thess 5:15), serve one another (Gal 5:13), encourage one another (1 Thess 4:18), pray for one another (James 5:16), and above all to love one another as Christ loves us (John 13:34-35). These are wonderful ideals, but sometimes difficult for mere humans to do. Even though we are assured of God's forgiveness, our words and behaviours can leave deep and long-lasting wounds on other people. Every one of us is responsible at all times for making the Anglican Church of Bream Bay a welcoming and safe place for every person—even, or perhaps especially, when we disagree with them.

In her first meeting with Northland clergy, Archdeacon Liz Martin distributed a resource by author Brené Brown (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bren%C3%A9_Brown) called the 'Engaged Feedback Checklist' (2021) found in Brown's *Dare to Lead* resource (<https://brenebrown.com/resources/>). Here is Brown's checklist of how to provide feedback:

I know that I'm ready to give feedback when...

- I'm ready to sit next to you rather than across from you
- I'm willing to put the problem in front of us rather than between us (or sliding it toward you)
- I'm ready to listen, ask questions, and accept that I may not fully understand the issue
- I'm ready to acknowledge what you do well instead of picking apart your mistakes
- I recognize your strengths and how you can use them to address your challenges
- I can hold you accountable without shaming or blaming
- I am open to owning my part
- I can genuinely thank someone for their efforts rather than criticize them for their failings
- I can talk about how resolving these challenges will lead to growth and opportunity
- I can model the vulnerability and openness that I expect to see from you
- I am aware of power dynamics, implicit bias and stereotypes

Try it, and let me know how it goes.