



# The Bream Bay Anglican

The newsletter of the Anglican Church of Bream Bay (Te Ākau)

Issue 19

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

September 2025 Hepetema  
Facebook: Bream Bay Anglicans

If you have news to share or feedback on the newsletter, please send it to Mark [mhenrick158@gmail.com](mailto:mhenrick158@gmail.com)

**In this issue:**

**Knowledge corner: AI!**  
**From your Parish Council**  
**Blessing of Animals on 5 October**  
**Update on our Foodbank**

*Knowledge corner*

## Artificial Intelligence?

We have been hearing a lot about artificial intelligence (or AI) over the last year or so, especially in such tools as ChatGPT, OpenAI, etc—but there are dozens and dozens of such tools that exist, and it seems more emerge daily! These tools are affecting our daily lives already, whether we are aware of them or not. AI can be a valuable tool for researchers—I've already dipped my toes into the AI pool for some of my work here at ACBB and found it a remarkably helpful time-saver.

AI works by drawing on existing material on 'the web' and synthesising it to respond to your whole language query. It understands and uses ordinary language (that's the 'Large Language' part of AI). However, if there is misinformation or bias about a topic, there is a risk that AI will reproduce that misinformation; or if the information is not available on the web, it will not find it. AI uses enormous amounts of power. Like it or not, AI is the future of knowledge management, and if you want to know what your grandchildren are talking about, we all need to get up to speed.

The Revd Dr Sam Wells, speaker at the Diocesan Ministry Conference (see p.2), presented a reflection on the ethics of artificial intelligence at St Paul's Church in Auckland on 4 August. A link to the audio of that presentation is found here:

[Wells on the Ethics of AI](#). As long as your computer has speakers, you don't need special technical knowledge to listen—just click on the link, then on the little arrow on Sam's picture to start the audio. Settle in and reflect on the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the future.

## From your Parish Council

There was no meeting of the Parish Council in August. The next regular meeting will be 26 September at St Peter's. Council now meets semi-monthly (that is, every two months) with a focus on governance rather than day-to-day operations.

The Parish Council will hold its all-day planning retreat on Saturday, 13 September to set the direction of the parish for 2026.

On 31 July the Diocesan Council approved in principle the use of parish investment funds in the amount of \$218,783 to support the relocation of the Op Shop. This does not mean these funds are approved to redeem or use: it simply means that the Parish Council now have some idea of the budget available for the relocation. In addition to these investment funds, at its July meeting the Parish Council approved in principle the redemption of term deposits held by the Parish in the amount of \$53,861. It should be noted that these are the complete total reserves of parish funds; once these are used, there are no further funds available anywhere to the parish to respond to other capital needs.

There are many steps to go before a plan is finalised. These include: a geotechnical survey of the 8-10 Nova Scotia Road site; deciding on the plan; filing a Diocesan Faculty Petition with the Diocese; re-submitting a request to Diocesan Council to redeem the required funds; identifying and contracting with the selected builder. Only then can a workplan be finalised and work begin.

Questions and input about this process can be put to your Wardens, **Sue Hancock** and **Danny Bridge**.

*Other PC notes:*

ACBB is one of the parishes that has been selected for early transition to the new Diocesan accounting system on Xero. This system is meant to allow greater local control over our accounting and finances. Anneke, our treasurer, Sue Hancock and Mark participated in an initial orientation on 21 August, and further training may be offered to delegated authorities within the parish.


Please see an update on the Foodbank initiative elsewhere in this newsletter.

*Once Council minutes are approved, they are available in a binder at each church.*



**Begins Sunday 28 September!**



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 September. 

## Op Shop Relocation

If you would like to subscribe to the regular updates of the Bulletin which summarises progress related to the Op Shop relocation, or for copies of the six back issues, please contact Mark, **Sue Hancock** or **Sally Haigh**.

## Worship this month at ACBB

**Sunday, 07/09 Ordinary Time (OT) 23**  
9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

**Sunday, 14/09 Holy Cross**  
9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

**Sunday, 21/09**  
**St Matthew the Evangelist**  
9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's  
2:00p Whangārei Choral Society  
Concert, St Peter's

**Sunday, 28/09, OT26**  
**Daylight Savings Time begins**  
9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

**Looking ahead:** 5/10, Blessing of Animals, St Paul's, 9:30a.

*The next Parish Council meeting is 26 September, 5 pm at St Peter's.*

*Mark is on leave 19-29 September. Please contact **Sue Hancock**, Appointed Warden, for urgent parish business.*

🕒 Upcoming Events

Our Blessing of Animals service will be held on Sunday, 5 October, at St Paul's. Brenda Leeuwenberg from Stop Sandmining Bream Bay will be our speaker.

Brenda is the CEO and co-founder of Nomad8, a New Zealand consultancy that helps organisations work better together. She has also led digital and innovation at NZ On Air, supporting new kinds of media and storytelling. Brenda will be speaking about what sandmining means for our coastline and community, and what each of us can do to protect this place we call home.

Diocesan Synod will be held 4-6 September at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland. Your elected delegates **Sally Haigh** and **James MacGee** will attend with Mark.

*There are no September birthdays that we know about to celebrate.* 😞

*The Diocesan Ministry Conference 2025 was held 5-6 August at St Margaret's Church, Hillsborough (Auckland), photo below. The guest presenter was the Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square (London), Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics at King's College London, and former dean of Duke University Chapel in North Carolina (USA). Dr Wells spoke on his model of pastoral ministry he calls 'Being With' (see more [here](#))*

*Since the Bishop expects all licensed clergy to attend the conference it was also an opportunity for Mark to check in with colleagues around the Diocese.*



Bream Bay Friends of the Organ and Whangarei Choral are proud to present

## Whangarei Choral

*singing Stories in Song*  
*The concert will be followed by afternoon tea.*

**2pm, Sunday 21 September**  
**St. Peter's Anglican Church**  
**Nova Scotia Drive, Waipu**

FOTO Members - \$5; Adults - \$10; Children (13 and under) free.  
Door sales only.



Proceeds to the organ project.  
[www.breambayanglicans.org.nz](http://www.breambayanglicans.org.nz)

### Update on our ACBB Foodbank

The Foodbank is one of the primary community outreach activities of ACBB, and there has been high demand throughout winter, as people need to make choices about paying the power bill or feeding their families. **Liz Rawhiti** has been tirelessly leading this initiative despite significant personal challenges and losses in her whānau this year. In May and June of this year there were a total of 12 food parcels distributed, which fed 20 adults and 21 children under age 18, a total of 41 people from our community. **If you have a couple of hours a week to support Liz, please be in touch with her urgently**—that help may be as simple as taking and screening calls from your home. Training will be provided. The need continues throughout winter, and your weekly contributions enable us to respond to the very real need.

ACBB has been meeting with Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Lifepoint Baptist Church and Waipū Presbyterian Church to navigate ways that our separate church food initiatives can coordinate with one another, and provide more comprehensive support to individuals and families seeking assistance. This will include a common intake tool and reporting system, coordinating with regional foodbanks in Northland and Auckland, and united advocacy in the political sphere about the impact of cuts in social services. More about this in upcoming newsletters.