



The Bream Bay Anglican

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

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If you have news to share or feedback on the newsletter, please send it to Mark at mhenrick158@gmail.com

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Knowledge corner

Why bless animals?

God of course was the first to bless animals at their creation (Gen 1:22, 28) and gave the first human creature the responsibility of naming and caring for animals. In Gen 9 animals are saved from the great flood, and animals such as whales, ravens, sheep, rams, bulls and goats—even a talking donkey (Num 22:21-39)—appear throughout scripture.

Throughout history, as now, livestock represented a family's wealth. The Church has blessed animals since St Anthony of Egypt (ca 251-356 CE) blessed a sick piglet (which recovered instantly, of course). Anthony has since been regarded as the patron of livestock. Some churches still bless animals on 17 January, St Anthony's feast day.

St Francis (see the top of p. 2) composed his *Canticle of the Sun* ([Canticle of the Sun](#); it appears as #406 and 407 in the *Hymnal 1982* of the Episcopal Church) about 1225, which praised the interrelatedness of all creation. Thus, Francis became associated with creation, ecology and the environment. Ironically, Anthony was strictly vegetarian, while Francis was not! Prayers for animals praise their role in meeting human need, not only in assisting in work, but in providing clothing and food. We also recognise the role animals play in meeting human emotional needs for attachments, and to share love. Teaching children to respect and love animals is often the first experience children have in loving outside their immediate family. Children learn to care for their environment. That's why we bring along pets (and even stuffed animals) for blessings on St Francis Day.

From your Vestry

The Parish Council held its annual planning retreat on 13 September at St Paul's, and held its business meeting 25 September at St Peter's.

At the all-day **planning retreat** on 13/9, members of your Council recalled what led them to the Anglican Church, and how they might use that to support others to discover the church. We heard that the average age of ACBB parishioners is 76.7 years as of 1 September, and debated whether the parish should remain open and plan for an active future, or to consider a gradual planned restructure, merger with other ministry units, or closing. It is clear whatever our future, it will look different from our past. We outlined key priorities for 2026 in the areas of worship, outreach, pastoral care and finance and fundraising. The day was bracketed in prayer, and the general feeling was that it was a constructive day. A full plan will be drafted and presented to the membership for review and comment.

At the **business meeting** on 25/9 the Council made the important decision to change the name from Parish Council to Vestry. This is because 'vestry' is used around the Diocese, in the Parish Statute 2024, and better reflects our parish status.

In addition to the usual financial and health and safety business, the Vestry heard reports about Diocesan Synod, confirmed the dates of the Christmas Tree festival at St Peter's (17-22/12), and addressed current challenges and developments in the Foodbank. There is now much more regional collaboration among the four churches providing community food assistance. The Op Shop relocation was discussed, although there is no plan currently in place. Geotechnical surveys of the 8-10 Nova Scotia Dr. site are required. Op Shop donations to the Waipū Fishing Club, Ruakaka Surf Club and Men's Shed were approved.

Worship is very busy from October through December, including the Blessing of Animals, All Saints, Advent and Christmas Eve and Day. The times of Christmas services was confirmed.

The next Vestry meeting will be 27 November at St Paul's.

Approved Vestry minutes are available in a binder at each church.



Diocesan Synod met 4-6 September at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland. ACBB Synod Representatives Sally Haigh and James MacGee will report back to the congregation on their experiences.

The full Yearbook and reports, Bishop's Charge, Response to the Royal Commission's Report, and financial statements are available here: [Auckland Synod Reports](#)



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 1 October.



Worship this month at ACBB

Sunday, 05/10 Ordinary Time (OT) 27, St Francis (*transferred*)

9:30a Blessing of Animals, St Paul's Hall
Brenda Leeuwenberg will speak

Sunday, 12/10 OT 28

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Sunday, 19/10 OT 29

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's
HsiEn Soo from World Vision will present the *Chosen* initiative

Sunday, 26/10, OT 30

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's
Liturgy from the Diocese of Singapore

Looking ahead:

We will observe All Saints and All Souls Day on 2 November. If you would like to remember someone who has died in the last year, please provide their name on the sheets at the entry to each church.

Blessing of Animal Service in the Season of Creation



Brenda Leeuwenberg will be the speaker at our annual Blessing of Animals service, held in the St Paul's Hall on 5 October, the Sunday closest to St Francis' Day (4 October).

Francis (1181-1226) was born in Assisi, Italy. After a frivolous life he rejected his inheritance and completely embraced poverty, rejecting material possessions and security. Others gathered around him and he began preaching tours. Francis developed a simple rule of life in 1210, and the Order of Friars Minor was born; it was recognised by Honorius III in 1223. The order grew rapidly throughout Europe and beyond. In the final two years of his life Francis received the

stigmata, the marks of crucifixion nails, in his palms. He was canonised only two years after his death. Francis is considered the patron saint of both animals and the environment. This year, during the Season of Creation, we highlight the environment.

Brenda is the CEO and co-founder of Nomad8, a New Zealand consultancy that helps organisations work more effectively using modern, collaborative approaches. She has also held senior roles in public media, including leading digital and innovation at NZ On Air, where she helped shape how Aotearoa supports new kinds of media and storytelling. Brenda moved to Ruakākā during the first COVID lockdown and quickly made it her home. These days you'll often find her walking the beach with her dog, trying her hand at surfcasting, or dreaming about one day owning a boat.

Brenda called the first Bream Bay community meeting (held at St Paul's) to organise a local response against the proposed Bream Bay sand-mining project and has since been involved in many of the actions, from the beach protest to the flotilla and most recently the Whangārei demonstration.



Blessed October birthdays to

Jean Wood, 5/10
Mervyn Bradley, 16/10
Lynne Dempster, 19/10
Josie Spring, 25/10



ACBB and Holy Family Church are now exchanging newsletters. If you wish to receive a pdf e-copy of HF's newsletters, please advise Mark. It is published weekly.

Christmas Tree Festival

Believe it or not **Advent** begins 30 November this year. It is a fifth Sunday and we will be at St Paul's.

The **Christmas Tree Festival** will be held at St Peter's 17-22 December. If you would like to create, contribute, or sponsor a tree please see Sally Haigh.

The **Festival** supports the Foodbank.

Thank you, Holy Family Church!

Many, many thanks to our neighbours at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church who have provided not only food but volunteer support to the community Foodbank.



Friends of the Organ invite you to join us in singing more favourite hymns.

First Sunday Hymns

St. Peter's Church, Waipu

2.00 - 3.00 pm, Sunday 5 October, 2025

Organ: Anne Connolly-Munt

Tea & Coffee will be served after the singing.

This is a free event

All welcome

www.beambayanglicans.org.nz

ACBB to host World Vision on 19 October

HsiEn Soo, the local representative for World Vision, will present at the 9:30 service at St Paul's on Sunday, 19 October. World Vision is conducting a global initiative that matches children in developing nations with potential sponsors and supporters. The innovative programme 'Chosen' encourages children to select their sponsor, rather than the more traditional way of sponsors choosing the children they will support. This presentation will remind us that we are part of a global community of Christians who are closely linked to one another around the world.



Chosen
The power to choose in a child's hands.

World Vision's goal

is that by 2030

they will engage 46 million people in 49 countries
with discipleship and tools to support
the spiritual nurture of children.