The Bream Bay Anglican

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

Issue 22
Website: www.breambayanglicans.org.nz

December 2025 Tihema
Facebook: Bream Bay Anglicans

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

In this issue:

Knowledge corner: Precedence
From your Vestry
Worship at ACBB in December and January
Foodbank re-launch
December & January birthdays

Knowledge corner

Precedence

How do we know what occasion to observe on a Sunday (or any other day)? The occasion, of course affects the choice of collects, lessons, hymns and preaching, as well as the colour of the day. As always in the church, there are rules. Some of these are ancient, some are more recent, some global, some local. The issue of precedence is particularly important for the church in December and January when the calendar is chock full of major observances.

The Province publishes *The Lectionary/Te Maramataka* each year, and we can simply follow along. But even within that publication there are choices to make at the parish level.

The General Synod of the Province approves the observances throughout the Province and also the guidelines for which to observe when. These appear in the *NZ Prayer Book* (pp. 1-25). The rules for precedence are found on pp. 7-13. Most of these observances are found throughout the global Anglican Communion.

The Provincial *Lectionary* also has a section 'Making Choices in Planning Common Prayer' (p. 9). This section points out where choices need to be made. In big multi-staff churches with large congregations the choices are easier. Choices are more complex where a parish has only Sunday services, and significant feasts occur on weekdays (like Epiphany, Presentation or All Saints' Day). In addition, in any year saints and holy days may occur on a Sunday, and the choice is whether or not to transfer the feast to the Sunday.

The **Principal Feasts** are the historical ones we would expect: Christmas, Epiphany,

(please turn to p.2)

From your Vestry

The ACBB Vestry met on 20 November to consider a number of critical issues. They considered and approved a draft **Strategic Plan** which was sent out on 21 November to all members of the parish for feedback. Please ensure that your feedback is received by Mark or the Wardens no later than 5 December.

Two inactive persons have been removed from the voting role, bring the total removed since June to 16. There are now 45 voting members of the parish.

All parishes have received word that **Trust Management Ltd** (TML), the Diocesan - affiliated organisation that has managed the accounts for the Diocese and its parishes, **is winding up its parish accounting activity as of 31 December,** and will shift the burden of all parish accounting to each parish by that date. Accounts will be moved to Xero. This will have significant implications for ACBB and the 2026 budget, as more treasurer time will be required. This situation is fluid, and very much 'watch this space' as we assess the full impact of TML's closing. New pro-tem account approvers and access were approved as required by this transition.

The Vestry approved the payment of the deferred Housing Allowance as part of the Vicar's salary beginning 1/1/26. This prorated amount is $14,976 p.a. and has not been paid over the last three years.

The geo-technical report related to the **Op Shop relocation** has been completed but not yet received by Vestry. There is significant behind-the-scenes activity on this project. Op Shop income is down by about 15% on 2024. Thanks were expressed to **Norm Cave** for multiple small repairs in both churches.

Anne Connolly-Munt has advised her wish to step back from musician duties for Sunday morning services at St Peter's. A search for an organist who can support worship for the Parish has begun.

The schedule of **2026 Lent-Holy Week-Easter services** was approved.

It's hard to believe, but the AGM is not far away. Your Vestry have set the date as 22 March at St Peter's, following the 9:30 service. Now is a good time to start thinking about whether you are called to this essential ministry. Currently, Vestry meetings are every other month at 5:00pm, and alternate between the two churches.

(please turn to p. 2)

There will be no* Bream Bay Anglican *published in January.

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 December.

St Peter's Garden Working Bee

The gardens really want attention! If you can pull a weed, be there on Saturday, 6 December from 10:00a. Hat, sunscreen, trowels and secateurs are encouraged!

December & January Worship at ACBB

December

Sunday, 0/12, Advent 2
9:30a Community Lessons & Carols service, St Paul's

Sunday, 14/12. Advent 3
9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Thursday, 18/12
5:00p Vestry meets, St Peter's

Sunday, 21/10, Advent 4
9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Wednesday, 24/12, Christmas Eve
7:00p Eucharist, St Paul's

Thursday, 25/12, Christmas Day
9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Sunday, 28/12, Christmas 1
Holy Innocents transferred to February
9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

January

Sunday, 04/01, Epiphany *(anticip.)*
9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Sunday, 11/01, Baptism of the Lord
9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Sunday, 18/01, Epiphany 2
9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Sunday, 25/02, Conversion of Paul
9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Christmas Tree Festival

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.

Blessed December and January birthdays to

Essie Leech, 15/12
Danny Bridge, 16/12
Linda Cave, 16/12
Lachie McLean, 16/12
Ian Hanna, 22/12

Shelley Couper, 04/01
Lois Teague, 08/01

Worship Participants

We are developing the 2026 roster of worship participants. We are looking for people to help out at both churches with

- Flowers
- Sacristan (altar) duty
- Reading
- Greeters/Sidespeople
- Liturgists

If you can help, please speak with Mark. No experience is necessary, and training and support is provided. The more people who help out, the less the burden falls on just a few individuals.

From your Vestry *(cont. from p. 1)*

Meetings last for 60-90 minutes, depending on how full the agenda is. Please have a chat with a current Warden (Sue Hancock or Danny Bridge), or Vestry member (Sally Haigh, Ian Hanna, Peg Hills, James MacGee) to find out more if you think you may be interested.

Diocesan Synod representatives (Sally Haigh, James MacGee) have 3-year terms: the next election will be in 2028.

An additional Vestry meeting was scheduled for 18/12 at St Peter's.

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

Foodbank re-launches with new volunteers

The Foodbank—now referred to as the Community Foodbank—has been relaunched with volunteers from both the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church and the community. Volunteers are now rostered for one or two shifts per month (a shift is about 5 hours). Holy Family have been contributing very significantly to the food stocks of the Foodbank, and now four HF volunteers are providing support to the Foodbank. The strengthened collaboration between the two congregations is providing a valuable witness to Christ's commandment to 'Feed my sheep' in Bream Bay.

The Bible isn't a rulebook. It's a conversation across generations about who God is.

Peter Enns
Professor of Biblical Studies at Eastern University, Pennsylvania

Villy Day Out

ACBB had a stall at the Villy Day Out on 15 November, teaching children how to grow microgreens. Thanks to Ray White OTP for the gratis loan of a gazebo for this event, to all who contributed meat and fish trays, and to **Bobby Sadler-Bridge** who helped set up. A huge vote of thanks to the volunteers who staffed the stall: **Sue Hancock, Essie Leech, Mary Wilson,** and **Linda & Norm Cave**.

Knowledge corner *(cont from p. 1)*

Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, as well as Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. They are always observed on their appointed day without exception, even if they occur on a Sunday.

There are **Other Feasts and Holy Days,** and here's where the complexities start. Feasts of Our Lord (like The Baptism of Our Lord, Presentation, Transfiguration, etc.) take precedence over Feasts of Saints (both major and minor), and commemorations specific to the province. Since Sundays are considered Feasts of Our Lord (the Resurrection), they are usually only displaced by the Principal Feasts. However, the Provincial *Lectionary* often allows major observances to take precedence when they occur on a Sunday. (On p. 8 of the *NZ Prayer Book* you'll see that some observances are in boldface.) The Conversion of Paul (on 25/02) is the first example of this in 2026.

This year, for instance, Holy Innocents (28 December) falls on the First Sunday after Christmas (a Feast of Our Lord). Which takes precedence? (Fortunately, the rules also allow us to transfer observance of Holy Innocents to 16 February).

Finally there are **Other Commemorations** and **Diocesan, Tribal and Local Commemorations**, (like our Patronal Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on 29 June). These rank lowest in precedence.

Sometimes you will see *trans* (transferred) or *anticip* (anticipated) following the title of the day. This simply means we are moving that observance for convenience, Epiphany 2026 is an example of *anticipating* a Principal Feast. While the date of Epiphany is always 6 January, this year we anticipate that Feast on 4 January so parishes with only Sunday services don't miss out on a Principal Feast.

It can be complicated, and planning worship throughout the year requires careful thought and attention to the rules. It is always a balance of honouring ancient church tradition and contemporary local pastoral realities.