

Wardens Report

We would like to thank all who work to support this parish both those whose activities are obvious, and also those who do the little things that many may not notice. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Vestry

We began the year meeting bimonthly but recently have been meeting monthly as we grapple with the implications of the challenges facing the parish.

The parish base is currently less than 50 people on the roll. The decline in numbers over the past 20 years has resulted in a decline in income. Added to that, the average age is increasing and hence the ability to increase giving or participate in fundraising is decreasing. The increased attendances at Christmas services and the Christmas Tree Festival may give a glimmer of hope for the future of the parish.

The Op Shop makes a significant input to parish income. That a small number of volunteers can generate this income is a boost for a parish with limited fundraising options. We are unaware of any other parish in the diocese with a comparable income stream beyond regular parishioner donations or trust investments. Without this income, the parish would become non-viable.

We especially acknowledge the huge workload our Treasurer Anneke Jochem has had over the past few months. The accounts for last year were in poor order when they were handed over from TML. She has audited them and ensured that every line in our accounts is correctly coded in Xero (which is the accounting software program we will be using). The delay to handover, combined with her auditing and coding has meant that we have been unable to prepare a budget in time for the AGM – but we are close. Thank you Anneke.

Over the past year Mark has been actively seeking ideas for keeping the parish viable and led the vestry in a Strategic Planning Day last year. He meets regularly with the Archdeacon and with other ministers in Northland at Archdeaconry meetings to keep abreast of changes in our Diocese. Vestry members have attended archdeaconry training days to educate and guide them for the roles of leadership within the parish.

Thank you to the outgoing Vestry for your support and representation of parishioners as we work to shape our future in Bream Bay.

The OpShop relocation and possible measures to reduce expenditure will be discussed in other reports.

Buildings

Maintenance is a constant with our buildings

Lights in St Peters sanctuary are being replaced.

Signage at St Pauls is due to be completed soon.

Building Code of Compliance for St Pauls is awaiting the repair of an emergency light.

The electrician will be testing and tagging all of our electrical equipment.
Thank you to the gardeners who have kept St Peters gardens refreshed and in order.
Thank you to the cleaners of St Peters and St Pauls.
A big thank you to Ian and Norm for all they have done with painting, and on going repair work in both churches.

Communication

It has come to our attention that for some time, the vestry minutes have not been placed in the folders at each church. We apologise for this oversight and will endeavour to see that in future, the minutes are available in a timely manner.

Thank you to Mark for his production of the ACBB newsletter which is posted online monthly.

Some of Mark's parish and personal time is taken up with administrative duties such as writing the pew bulletins and then photocopying them. The parish should consider if these tasks could be done by someone else, thus freeing him up.

Thank you to Tony Strobant for taking over the service rosters.

Pastoral

Mark has been diligent and faithful in visiting Ranburn residents, parishioners - current and potential, as well as families of those having funerals in our churches.

Thank you also to those parishioners who visit each other when a need arises, and who stay in contact with those no longer able to come to church, or provide transport for those who otherwise would be unable to come to church. These kind actions help to strengthen the parish family.

We ask that all parishioners will continue to pray for Mark , the incoming Vestry, and for the future of our parish.

Danny Bridge - Peoples Warden
Sue Hancock - Appointed Warden