



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

Biblical literalism

Should we take the Bible literally? This is a question often asked by Christians, and the various answers go a long way to explaining modern religious differences.

The *Hebrew Bible, First or Old Testament* was written over a period of over 1200 years. There was a lot of contact with other ancient Near Eastern civilisations during that time, and ideas about God evolved. It was written in Hebrew (and some Aramaic), which is not written with vowels.

The *New Testament* was written in the first and second centuries in Greek, but it wasn't until the 4th century that Christian communities agreed (more or less) on which books and letters should be included.

Still other books were gathered into the *Apocrypha* (which the NZ Prayer Book tell us is "sometimes read in church but not used to establish doctrine"). It includes books like Tobit, Judith, Wisdom of Solomon, Sirach, Baruch, Bel and the Dragon, etc. In the Roman Catholic Church these are also called 'Deuterocanonical' books. Eastern Orthodox churches add even more books (e.g., Ps 151, Prayer of Manasseh, 3 & 4 Maccabees).

The *Pseudepigrapha* (books written between 200 BCE and 200 CE that claim attribution to famous historical biblical figures), includes books like 1 Enoch, Jubilees, Psalms of Solomon, 2 Esdras, etc.

There were far more than just four gospels written—the Gospels of Thomas, Mary, Peter, Judas, the Hebrews, the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, were

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From your Vestry

Your Vestry have been working overtime in May, with an additional two extraordinary Sunday morning meetings and several online votes, in addition to the regularly scheduled Thursday afternoon meeting on 21 May. Please thank a Vestry member when you see them. The two hot issues are Finance and the Op Shop.

Finance: With the closing of the Diocesan-mandate accounting firm Trust Management Ltd. (TML) at the end of 2025, parish accounting was shifted to parishes. This has not been a smooth transition, and there were a number of issues with the 2025 accounts as transferred. Unfortunately, TML made much of its staff redundant when it closed, so trying to resolve these issues has been complicated both for our Treasurer and Vestry. Until the 2025 accounts were finalised it was difficult to create a meaningful budget for 2026. As you will know, a Special General Meeting was called for 31 May to review the 2025 Statement and the 2026 budget. We can only hope that this is the end of what has been a very fraught relationship with TML.

Op Shop: Vestry approved \$1500+GST for Shane Stratton, Surveyor, to do a survey and establish a clear boundary between 6 and 8 of the 8 Nova Scotia Rd site. There apparently has been some community interest in renovating 54 The Centre, but there is no clear plan or funding. Any organisation that wishes to engage with ACBB is welcome to put a specific proposal to Vestry.

At its regular meeting, Vestry attended to a number of procedural financial issues relating to bank accounts and reporting. It delivered a vote of thanks to Treasurer Anneke Jochem for her timely generation and delivery of charitable donation receipts this year, and for her intensive engagement with the 2025 Statement of Accounts and 2026 Budget process. Thanks also were offered to **Sue Hancock** for her engagement with these processes. No Health and Safety incidents were reported, and once the budget is approved we will undertake a tag and test process of electrical items at all facilities. Power point protectors will also be installed. All facility users should ensure that heaters and other electrical equipment are switched off at the wall when they leave.

Use of a thurible has been donated to ACBB. Vestry supported use for Christmas/Eve, Easter/Vigil, Pentecost and the Patronal Feast when these occur at St Peter's. It will not be used at St Paul's because of the size of the space.

Vestry minutes are available in hard copy at each church and electronically by request. Please contact James MacGee, Secretary of the Vestry.

28 June

Our Patronal Feast is Coming Up!

The Feast of Sts Peter and Paul is coming up at the end of June. We will celebrate that feast on Sunday, 28 June (a fourth Sunday) at St Peter's. This feast celebrates our common life as a parish across two churches and several communities in Bream Bay.

If you would like to plan or lead an event (maybe a BBQ, special morning tea, some kind of working bee, an outreach to the community, host a speaker, special evensong, an event for young people?) or help to plan the weekend, please be in touch with Mark.

Performances in June at St Peter's


Sunday 21 June 2026, 2:00 pm:

Mark Patterson, organist, and local teen vocalists

Do plan to join us!



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 June. This month St John's will present a 1-hour workshop called '3 Steps for Life' (3SL) at 11:00; please see the next page for details.

You are encouraged to bring friends and neighbours to the 3SL event. 

June Worship at ACBB

Mon. 01/06, King's Birthday holiday
Sunday, 07/06, 10th Sunday of Ordinary
Time (OT10)

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Sunday, 14/06 (OT11)

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Sunday, 21/06 (OT13)

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Thurs. 25/06, Vestry meets at St Paul's

Sunday, 28/06 Sts Peter & Paul,
Patronal Feast

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

St John's/Hato Hone offers 3 Steps for Life at ACBB

St John's will offer free 1-hour workshops appropriate for seniors at ACBB and the wider community. See the display notice in the next column for more information. The workshops will be held as follows:

**St Paul's, Ruakākā, (25 Karawai St),
Wednesday, 3 June at 11:00a in the Pavilion.** (This workshop is conducted in collaboration with the Fellowship Group). If you'd like a shared morning tea to follow, please bring a plate and a friend.

**St Peter's, Waipū (10 Nova Scotia Dr),
Thursday 4 June at 11:00a in the tea room.**
If you'd like a shared morning tea, please bring a plate and a friend.

Physical agility is not required!

Blessed June birthdays to...

- Wendy Boyd, 1/06
- Joy McKay, 7/06
- Jack Prima, 20/06
- James MacGee, 23/06
- Sue Forsyth, 25/06
- Jan Pirihi, 27/06



Support Danny Bridge in the Sky Tower Challenge!

Danny stepped up to support Blood Cancer NZ in the Firefighters Sky Tower climb challenge on 23 May. We can still step up for him and others by making a donation. Here's the link, where you'll need type in Danny's name:

<https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/donate>

Anne Connolly-Munt retires—again



Anne Connolly-Munt has elected to step back from the keyboard after many, many years of faithful commitment to

offering service music to various churches through the motu. Anne came to us a few years ago after her 'retirement' to Ranburn and has played regularly at St Peter's.

She has had a much-storied career leading choirs and as a church musician throughout New Zealand and has led the KW Singers who have contributed to worship on Palm Sundays, community Lessons and Carols services and other occasions at ACBB. We will appropriately recognise Anne at an occasion to be announced.

Thank you, Anne!!

Ngā Tohu Whakaora e 3 3 Steps for Life

What is a 3 Steps for Life awareness session?
A 3 Steps for Life awareness session is for members of the community to introduce them to life saving skills for people in cardiac arrest. The awareness session will cover basic CPR and AED skills, and runs for approximately 45 minutes.

Who can participate and is there a cost?
Anyone can attend a 3 Steps for Life awareness session. 3 Steps for Life awareness sessions are free to attend. These sessions are delivered in a voluntary capacity by your local Hato Hone St John staff.

About 3 Steps for Life
3 Steps for Life is designed to give all New Zealanders the confidence and awareness to take action when somebody suffers a cardiac arrest by:

1. Calling 111

2. Starting CPR

3. Using an AED

Applying CPR and rapid defibrillation can increase a patient's chances of survival by up to 40%. But for every minute without CPR or defibrillation, a patient's chance of survival falls by 10–15%.

Late breaking: Magnifica Humanitas

If you are interested in Leo XIV's encyclical on artificial intelligence you can find it at this link: [magnifica humanitas](#). The document contrasts the Tower of Babel with the rebuilding of the Temple after the Exile. It is highly recommended reading.

Biblical Literalism

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composed but rejected by the early church because they lacked apostolic authority or did not conform to mainstream church teachings.

In other words, the Bible we have today is a literary, theological and political collection of ideas from many authors from many cultures, places and philosophical traditions. Christians don't agree on what counts as authoritative scripture. Add in the challenge of translating from Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek to modern English, and a timespan of more than two thousand years; include vast cultural differences and conflicting political agendas; remember that new archaeological discoveries shed new light on meanings of words. It is hard to argue that we should take the Bible literally. What language, time and place should we take literally? Even English words mean different things today than they did 50, 100, or 500 years ago (or in some cases, last year!). Many Christians also recognise that because of its long and complex history the Bible may disagree with itself (like the two Creation stories, or the two Flood stories) and reject the notion of 'univocality'—that is, consistency throughout the entire Bible.

These challenges don't mean we shouldn't take the Bible seriously, though; we assert that the Holy Spirit inspired human authors, and through Scriptures God's word continues to speak to the Church. The scripture we have received is a library of human encounters with the divine, and we use it to help us understand something about God. It is the Word of God, even if it is not the words of God.