



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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Church and Politics: Strange Bedfellows

Politics and religion are said to be two of the topics off the menu at social gatherings. We sometimes think that we should not discuss politics in church, but that is not a position based in Scripture. Historically the Christian church has always held secular power to account.

Perhaps some of us think about the 'separation of church and state'. This is a much-misunderstood American stance, based on Jefferson's commentary on the First Amendment to its Constitution that says only that *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion*. It is meant to ensure religious liberty, not to prohibit robust dialogue. Social justice is the church's 'lane'.

Over the centuries the church has responded to rulers, councils and legislatures that have addressed issues about which the church has theologically-informed opinions—issues like poverty, slavery, marriage, and even contemporary issues like gender and sexuality. The Church has often been wrong on some of these issues—we can think of the Crusades, for example, or when the Bench of Bishops in the British House of Lords in 1834 supported slavery in British colonies (including branding of slaves), a stance we now find reprehensible.

Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Reinhold Niebuhr, Bonhoeffer, Freire and Heyward are just some of the key theologians in Western history who have contributed to understanding the relationship between Christians and their governments. *(continued on p. 2)*

From your Vestry

At a Special General Meeting on 31 May parish members were finally able to approve the unaudited 2025 Statement of Accounts provided by Trust Management, Ltd., and the 2026 Budget. Your treasurer, Vestry and Wardens worked very hard to bring these important financial documents into alignment. Because of the devolution of account management from TML to the parish, the Treasurer was able to supply Vestry with its first timely current accounts statement in years.

A Diocesan Faculty Petition has been lodged to progress the Op Shop relocation project. This is a good time to remind us all that all church property is owned by the Diocese, and that any changes, alterations, purchases or sales of property must receive permission of Diocesan Council through the Faculty process. Please see the update on the Magnolia Project on p. 2.

The Community Foodbank, hosted by ACBB, now boasts 11 community volunteers and has added Wednesdays to its regular schedule of responding to client requests. Clients may now call or text 022 582 5734 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10 am and 3 pm and expect a response on the same day.

Vestry minutes are available in hard copy at each church after they are approved.

***Matariki is 10 July* * * *

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia embraces Matariki as an opportunity for Christian reflection, care of creation, and community connections. Many parishes hold special mid-winter services that blend mātauranga Māori with Christian liturgy.

Key themes of Matariki include:

- Remembrance/Whakamaumahara (*this is similar to the Feast of All Souls*)
- Observing Creation—go outside and look at the night sky!
- Biblical connections (*Matariki/Pleiades are specifically mentioned in Job 38:31, for instance*)

The Diocese have put together some resources for Anglicans to observe Matariki. Find it here:

<https://aucklandanglican.org.nz/ministry-resources/matariki-liturgies/>

Message from the Auckland City Missioner

The Anglican Diocese has sent out an urgent message from the Auckland City Missioner Helen Robinson regarding the so-called 'Move-on Orders' bill currently before Parliament. (You may recall that Mark spoke against this bill in his sermon of 7 June).

This bill would grant police powers to order people as young as 14 who are sleeping rough or begging to leave the area or face fines or jail time. She asks church members to meet with or to write their local MP and ask 'How will you ensure people who are moved on from central Auckland will be supported when they arrive in our community?'

Read Helen Robinson's full message here:

[Message from Auckland City Missioner](#)

Heaters at St Peter's

If you use the heaters at St Peter's please turn them on/off at the main switch only (by the main entrance), not at the individual heaters.

☞ The Fellowship Group meets at 10:30a on the first Wednesday of each month in the Pavilion of St Paul's. The next meeting will be 1 July. ☞

July Worship at ACBB

Sunday, 05/07, 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time (OT14)

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

10 July is the Matariki public holiday

Sunday, 12/07 (OT15)

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Sunday, 19/07 (OT16)

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Thurs. 23/07, Vestry meets at St Peter's

Sunday, 26/07 (OT 17)

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's, Dr John Wells plays at the service

2:00p Recital by John Wells at St Peter's

The Magnolia Project

by Sue Hancock

After 14 months of researching and considering options for the siting of the parish's Op Shop, Vestry has resolved to proceed with the purchase of a second-hand building from Repile and Relocatables in Kaiwaka. For convenience we have named this planning and construction part of the process 'the Magnolia Project'.

A Faculty Petition was lodged with the Diocese to buy and site the building along the south boundary of 8 Nova Scotia Dr. The Petition has been approved in principle. In tandem with that Petition, we will request that Diocesan General Trust Board (which has already given approval in principle) allow us to draw on some of the parish money held in trust for this proposal. An initial 50% deposit will be paid out of cash funds held by the parish on behalf of the Op Shop (two term deposits and the balance from the Op Shop trading account).

The building is approximately 129m² which will give room for the Op Shop trading floor, workroom, storeroom and toilet along with a kitchenette. There will also be room for a parish outreach/community meeting room to be used for such activities as crafts, fabric recycling, meetings, homework space, to name just a few ideas.

The proposed building is in good order having been renovated recently. Some modification is required to open out the bedrooms so that there is an open plan for the trading floor. This will be done after the building has been moved onto piles which will raise the floor to a metre above ground level (to mitigate the water ponding which occurs on the section with heavy rain)

The timeframe for the finished building is dependent on the time taken for Faculty and General Trust Board full approvals, and the Whangarei District Council building consent process.

This building will give us some security around continuity of trading while the future of the 54 The Centre building is being decided and actioned. We ask for your prayers and support as we work through this project for the Op Shop which is a vital part of parish life for ACBB.

Blessed July birthdays to...

Kathy Rean, 18/07

Janet Woodward, 26/07

Bob Munford, 27/07

Anne Conolly-Munt, 31/07



Church and Politics? (from p. 1)

In engaging with political issues, it is important that Christians do so in a fully informed manner, and do not use scripture texts as weapons to support pre-formed conclusions. Love and justice are core to Christian values, and we cannot ignore them in the political domain. Washington Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde is a model of how Christians can represent those values to powerful politicians. There is an array of opinions on many complex issues today (e.g., AI, end-of-life decisions, climate change), and churches should be places where people take the time to inform themselves not only about the issues, but about what scripture, reason and tradition can contribute to the discussion. We also need the courage to change our thinking when that is appropriate. Christians can bring their well-informed values into public discussions and voting booths.



Organist joins St Peter's roster

Organist **Craig Blockley** has joined the music team at ACBB and will play for services at St Peter's on the fourth Sundays of the month. Some of you met Craig on 28 June. He will begin his regular appearances at St Peter's in August. This is an exciting development for ACBB. Craig moved north from Auckland a number of years ago and is now the business manager at Kotare Subtropicals in Maungataupere (featured on Country Calendar in September 2024; [link here](#)). He is very active in the Whangārei Choral Society and the Whangārei Tramping Club.

Mark first worked with Craig at St Luke's Church in Mt Albert in the early 00's and 10's and is delighted to welcome him to the Bream Bay parish.

International artist John Wells will perform in Bream Bay

Friends of the Organ (FOTO) are delighted to announce that acclaimed Auckland organist John Wells will perform at St. Peter's on 26 July at 2pm. Sally Haigh, FOTO Secretary says: "it will be a great honour to welcome John to Waipu. I urge you not to miss this."

A graduate of Cambridge University, Dr Wells was Organ Scholar at King's College Chapel, Cambridge. After moving to NZ he worked as a freelance performer, recording artist, broadcaster and composer and gained a doctorate with high distinction. He has given concerts throughout NZ, Australia, UK, USA and Europe and his career encompasses the position of organ tutor and Organist at Auckland University from 1992 to 2012. As Auckland City Organist, he spearheaded the campaign to rebuild the Town Hall organ.

The programme will include a small section featuring singing by Bream Bay children. Tickets are available at the door only.



Members of the parish gathered on 12 June at the Waipū Golf Club to thank and farewell Jan Pirihi, long-time organist at Bream Bay.

Thanks to Wendy Boyd for organising the event.

(Photo courtesy of Alyssa Thnomas)