



The Bream Bay Anglican

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

Issue 30



Website: www.breambayanglicans.org.nz

September 2026 Hepetema

Facebook: Bream Bay Anglicans

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

Angels

29 September is the Feast of St Michael and All Angels (and happy birthday to Katie Sadler-Bridge!). But what is an angel? They seem to pop up in different forms all throughout the Bible. The word 'angel' comes from the Greek *ἄγγελος*, *angelos* or messenger.

In Isaiah 6 angels form a heavenly court around the throne of God, but elsewhere they appear as intermediaries between God and humans. Three angels in the OT have names (Michael, Gabriel and Raphael); most are not named. They ascend and descend a ladder in Jacob's dream (Gen. 28).

Jesus said that angels are spiritual beings (Mt 22:30) who always see the face of God (Mt 18:10). Angels attended Jesus at the most important times of his life: the Annunciation; at his birth; during his 40 days in the desert; and they were the first witnesses to his resurrection (Mt 28 || Jn 20). Angels will accompany Jesus at his Second Coming (Mt 16:27).

Drawing on Ephesians 1 and Colossians 1, Dionysius the Areopagite fixed a hierarchy of angels: Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones; Dominions, Virtues, and Powers; and Principalities, Archangels and Angels. (If you lose track, they are mentioned in the hymn 'Ye watchers and ye holy ones', #150 in our hymnal). Only the last two groups interact with humans.

There was Medieval debate as to whether angels were material (that is, composed of matter), leading to the question as to how many could dance on the head of a pin. The answer, of course, depends on how you

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From your Vestry

Vestry met on 27 August. Key business included:

- Confirmed electronic votes to authorise payments of \$1700 to surveyors; \$7,549.90 as the first payment to Diocesan solicitors to review the purchase contract with Repiles and Relocatables, and \$94,820 to R&R as the initial 50% deposit on the house. *(See also below)*
- Considered communication regarding the insurance of parish properties;
- Rescinded the previous vote on closing one of the churches;
- Received the Treasurer's report and accounts
- Heard reports from the Foodbank (see p.2 of this newsletter), Health & Safety regarding an incident; Op Shop; FOTO; and chose not to publish a parish directory.

Villy Day out will be 14 November. the community Lessons & Carols service will be on 6 December (Advent 2) and will begin at 9:00am to accommodate Holy Family involvement. A parishioner has indicated an interest in becoming a licensed lay person which will require further Vestry involvement. Note the St Francis Day service (below, right) on 4 October.

Mark will be on leave Sunday 27/09 and during most of the month of February 2027.

Full vestry minutes are published after they are approved and are available at each church.

Op Shop update

By Sue Hancock

The contract to purchase the TRUE house for removal to the site next to St Peters, has been signed by the General Trust Board and Repiles and Relocatables.

We next meet with the architect to commission the drawing of plans in preparation for gaining building consent, and final Faculty Committee approval.

It is expected that this stage will take 4-6 weeks, possibly more, before piles are driven in to hold the building.

In the meantime, the Op Shop continues to trade at 54 The Centre thanks to the faithful service of a small band of volunteers who soldier on in a very cold building.



Begins Sunday 27 September!

Heaters in winter

If you use the main 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 heaters in the St Paul's Hall are now on a timer. To turn them on for two hours, simply press the new switch on the wall in the electrical cupboard. The heaters will switch off automatically. If you are there longer than two hours, press the same switch again. Please do not operate the individual heaters.

If you use the oil heaters in the Pavilion, remember to turn them off and unplug them when you leave.

✂ 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 2 September. ✂

September Worship at ACBB

Sunday, 06/09, 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (OT 23)

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Sunday, 13/09 (OT 24)

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Sunday, 20/09 (OT 25)

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Thurs. 24/09, Vestry meets at St Paul's

Sunday, 27/08 (OT26) (Mark is away)

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Daylight Savings begins

Looking ahead

Sunday 4/10, St Francis Day

9:30a Service of the Word and Blessing of Animals

Charlie Davies will speak about the Bream Bay Food Forest initiative

Angels (cont'd from p. 1)

understand the material nature of angels.

Christianity is certainly not the only religion to speak of angels. The Qur'an names seven (including two fallen angels, Harut and Marut). Zoroastrianism has thousands of angels. There are also thousands of named angels if you include non-scriptural sources; 103 of these are so-called Fallen Angels (from Abbadona to Zavebe), as found in the book of Enoch and other sources including the Kabbala, Goetia, and other sources. (In the OT, 'satan' is not a name, but a job description. Satan by name does appear in the NT). There are three legendary instances of humans becoming angels (Enoch [Metatron], Jacob [Uriel then Isra'el], and Elijah [Sandalphon]).

The idea of *guardian angels* is derived from St Augustine of Hippo who wrote that angels are spiritual beings assigned by God to watch over, protect and guide humanity towards God through life's spiritual pilgrimage. There is no mainstream Anglican catechism that mention angels.

Whatever you believe about angels, religious traditions seem to delight in creating them.

Blessed September birthday to...

Katie Sadler-Bridge, 29/09



"The Gospel takes away our right forever to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor"

Dorothy Day (1897-1980)

In *The Catholic Worker*, January 1942

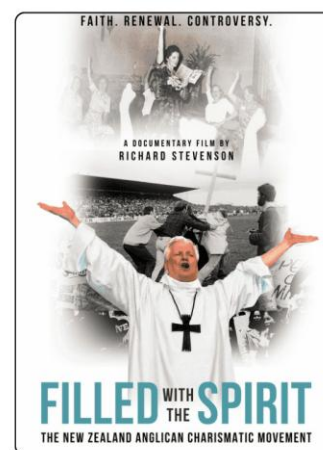
This is quite a revolutionary statement because the early Christian Church (and embedded in civil law from 16th century), distinguished between deserving and undeserving poor. However, the early Church was distinguishing between wealthy faithful who undertook *voluntary* poverty to follow Christ and lived off begging, and people who were poor *because they had no choice*. Civil law ignored that distinction and imposed lifestyle expectations on people who sought alms (that recipients be of good character and hard workers, for instance). Day reminds us that God's grace is not legalistic.

We are seeking your support in sharing an important religious film on New Zealand's history with your congregation.

Inkling Productions Presents...

A new documentary...

See the trailer here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eG5RiVa6Uss>



A feature documentary coming soon to NZ TV and streaming.
Premieres on Shine TV 7:30PM, Tuesday 8 September 2026 CH. 25
Freeview | CH. 201 Sky
Also available to stream thereafter at: <https://www.shinetv.co.nz/>

What's going on with the Foodbank?

As it happens, quite a lot. In the first eight months* of 2026 the Community Foodbank has responded to 58 calls, compared to 36 for all of 2025. This means that we have been able to assist 191 people (compared to 131 for all of 2025), of which 82 were children under 16. Of all clients served, 72% were in Ruakaka, 14% in Waipu/Brynderwyn, and 12% in One Tree Point/Marsden Pt/Takahiwai.

The average number of people assisted in a call is 3.1.

Our busiest day of the week is Friday, accounting for 46% of calls. Many clients (67%) are beneficiaries of some kind (including pensioners and ACC), 7% are in full time work, and 9% are in part time or casual work. Most clients are renters (59%), but 19% own their own homes. The average length of time that callers have lived in their current accommodation is 38.7 months, although there is a wide range of arrangements.

We are constantly replenishing the food pantry, so your regular donations of food items are very, very welcome, and very, very needed. Clearly some people are really struggling in the current economy. And with winter power bills. See the list of needed items below.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith. (James 2: 14-18)

The Community Foodbank is a collaboration of ACBB, Holy Family Roman Catholic, Lifepoint Baptist, and Waipū Presbyterian churches.

*through 28 August only; all 2026 data are provisional

What items is the Foodbank looking for?

The Foodbank welcomes donations of non-perishable food items that you yourself might eat. There is no need to ferret around the back of your pantry for that pack of pickled herring someone gave you five years ago. The Foodbank has a small budget for perishable items like bread, onions, potatoes and frozen foods. We don't need ultra-processed foods like biscuits, lollies, crisps/chips—while they may be occasional treat foods, they lack any nutritional value, and most Foodbank clients are parents trying to feed their children.

Items in high demand include: canned spaghetti, baked beans, tomatoes, fruit, meat and fish, vegetables, coconut cream, soup, spreads such as jam, Marmite/Vegemite, peanut butter, cereal, biscuits coffee, tea, hot chocolate, long-life milks (including oat, almond and soy), flour, sugar, rice, pasta and pasta sauce, cooking oil, dishwashing liquid, soap, shampoo, toilet tissue, and toothpaste. Bulk items are measured out into smaller bags when they are included in a client parcels.