



The Bream Bay Anglican

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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: Death Café

From your Vestry

St Francis observance

Worship at ACBB in October

2026 Synod Summary

Christian meditation course

October birthdays

Knowledge corner

Death Cafés

What on earth is a 'death café'? Simply put, at a Death Café people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and talk about death. It is not a counselling or grief support group. The movement was founded by Bernard Crettanz, a Swiss sociologist.

The mandatory core principles of the Death Café movement are very simple:

- It is free
- There are no hidden agendas (no one is going to try to sell you anything)
- It is a safe, confidential and non-judgemental space
- Cake is essential

The discussions are directed by the group, with no agenda, themes or objectives.

Since September 2011, there have been over 24,000 Death Cafés in 100 countries across Europe, North America and Australasia. There is a Death Café in Whangārei (search for the Death Café Whangārei Facebook page) and in other places around NZ, but none (that we are aware of) in Bream Bay. We are considering offering one, meeting in the Pavilion at St Paul's which would be open to the entire community. Death Cafés are one-off events, but a series of three might make this opportunity more accessible. Meetings are usually two hours.

If you are interested in participating in or helping to host a Death Café in Bream Bay, please have a word with Mark as soon as you can so we can get a sense of what day and time of day would be best.

To read more about Death Cafés, go to the link <https://deathcafe.com/what/>

From your Vestry

Among other financial items at its meeting on 24 September, Vestry confirmed its electronic vote to pay the second legal bill associated with the contract to purchase the **Op Shop** structure (\$6,347.57) and to authorise the immediate transfer of \$7,880.64 from its Savings account to manage a cash flow shortfall. Including the \$2501.25 paid to cover the legal costs of Repiles and Relocations, the total legal cost of the Magnolia [Op Shop] Project to date is \$16,398.72. Legal review was required as a condition of approval of the purchase by the General Trust Board of the Diocese. These costs have been paid from takings of the Op Shop, which will impact its charitable support to the community this year.

Villy Day out is 14/11 at Te One Reserve, and we will be sending out seeds to the community in compostable coffee cups. Ray White has generously provided a gazebo at no cost. We will need volunteers for the day. **Full vestry minutes are published after they are approved and are available at each church. Approved August 2026 minutes and reports are now available.**

Other Vestry concerns to note: Property assessment and insurance: As part of our responsible stewardship of our resources we have just undertaken quite a thorough assessment of what replacing our contents at each site would be. St Paul's came to a total of \$37,736 and for St Peter's it is \$93,847 (the difference is largely due to the organ, pews, carpet and the number of chairs). Discussions are underway to determine if a property assessment would be useful in reviewing our sum insured. We found that the recorded floor areas were not accurate, and the sum insured seems misaligned. Currently the combined total sum insured for the buildings is about \$5.1 million, which is reflected in our premiums. The Op Shop will be assessed separately after the relocation.

🕒 Save the Date for Christmas Party!

Friday, 18 December, 5:30-7:30 pm,
St Peter's Church

*Please bring an item for the Foodbank and
a contribution to refreshments*

Diocesan Annual Report is available

The Annual Report of the Diocese lodged with the Charities Commission is now available at

<https://aucklandanglican.org.nz/annual-reports/>

St Francis Day Blessing of Animals

Don't miss this annual service which will be held on **4 October at St Paul's**. All animal companions, live and stuffed, as well as farm friends are welcome. All live animals must be on lead, or in a cage or bowl (or on a trailer!).

Since Francis is closely associated with care for the environment, we will also host **Charlie Davies** as our guest speaker. Charlie is a keen gardener, environmental advocate, and founder of Charlie's Outdoor Solutions in Ruakākā. Charlie began laying the foundations for the Ruakākā Community Food Forest during her time with the Bream Bay Community Support Trust and is excited to continue playing a leading role in bringing the project to life. Passionate about creating productive green spaces that benefit both people and the environment, she is committed to strengthening community connections through sustainable gardening, local food production, and hands-on environmental initiatives. Through her work, Charlie aims to inspire others to reconnect with the land, the food they eat, and each other.



October Worship at ACBB

Sunday, 04/10, St Francis Day Blessing of Animals

9:30a, St Paul's

Guest speaker: Charlie Davies

Sunday, 11/10 (OT 28, Proper 23A)

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

Sunday, 18/10, Feast of St Luke

9:30a Eucharist, St Paul's

Thurs. 22/10, Vestry meets at St Peter's

Sunday, 25/10 (OT30, Proper 25A)

9:30a Eucharist, St Peter's

2026 Synod Summary

The Second Session of the 58th Synod of the Diocese of Auckland was a relatively uncontroversial affair (at least compared to some sessions in years past). Synod opened as usual with a largely bilingual Eucharist at St Mary's-in-Holy-Trinity on Thursday evening, 3 September. The Ven. Peter Jenkins preached; a link to his sermon is available [here](#). Synod Eucharist was followed by a brief business session and Bishop Ross's Charge (link to [Bishop's Charge at Synod 2026](#))

Synod continued in earnest on Friday morning. Financial and Property Insurance bills (which affect Statutes of Synod) tidied up existing Statute language. Some delegate concerns were raised about the apparent lack of accountability and transparency of budget planning to Synod, but it was explained that this was due to Charities Commission reporting deadlines, and that September was too late to meet their 30 June deadline, and too early for Synod to approve the following year's budget. (Diocesan Council acts on behalf of Synod when Synod is not in session.) However, there was agreement that there would be increased budget transparency and engagement with Synod.

A key bill was the Diocesan Synod Statute, which was designed to change the way Synod is structured, and debates and dialogue held. (It is in 9 parts and 121 paragraphs. Little wonder James looked forward to morning tea.) The restructure is intended to make Synod more inclusive and accessible. The vote was unanimous to adopt the new Statute and to repeal the existing Synod statute. Parish Synod representatives will remain on Parish Vestries. Locally licensed clergy will no longer be automatically invited to Synod, although they may attend. Special effort is made to include young people.

There were six motions considered by Synod, the most substantial of which were amendments to the Constitution of the Selwyn Foundation (19 clauses reduced to 10 over six pages). In addition, Motions were considered that:

- Affirmed the Eucharist as a central act of Christian worship and essential to the common life of the Church;
- Established a 'Do Justice' social justice network;
- Affirmed collaboration with Te Tai Tokerau, the Māori Hui Amorangi (this motion had its roots at the General [Provincial] Synod in Tonga in early September);
- A motion related to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children land dispute with local sport clubs in Point Chevalier, Auckland; a scaled-back motion passed;
- Considered a resolution on 'born alive' children (that is children who survive clinical abortions); this motion failed.

A copy of the Synod business yearbook with the full text of all the bills and motions is available [here](#).

Further information is available from your Synod representatives **Sally Haigh** and **James MacGee**, who each have one year left on their three-year terms. Elections for Synod reps will be held at the Parish AGM in March 2028.

✂ 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 7 October. ✂

Blessed October birthdays to...

Jean Wood, 5/10
Mervyn Bradley, 16/10



Odd jobs

If you have odd jobs around the house or garden that need doing, **Brian Best** on 021 144 1331 is looking for work. Brian has begun attending services at St Paul's.

Christian Mediation Course at St Paul's

A six-week interdenominational course on Christian meditation will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00p from 14 October to 18 November. The group will be led by **the Rev Jon Clarke** of Waipū Presbyterian and **Anne Foley** of Holy Family. It will meet in the Pavilion at St Paul's. Everyone is welcome.

Magnolia seeds

Watch the Transformation to a Beautiful Swan!

ACBB have now completed the purchase of the structure that will be relocated to 8 Nova Scotia Dr and serve as the new home to the Op Shop. Here are two 'before' photos of the building which is currently sitting on a lot in Kaiwaka. The next step is to render the architect's drawings, apply for the Building Consent, and complete the application to the Diocesan Faculties Committee and General Trust Board for approval to complete the project. Thanks to all for their continuing hard work on this project. It is sure to be a more pleasant place to work and shop!



(The raised section will be lowered so that the structure is one level.)