



# THE BRIDGE

St Andrew's Anglican Church, Cambridge

Come and See! Come and Follow! Come and be Transformed!

[www.standrewscambridge.org.nz](http://www.standrewscambridge.org.nz)



**October at St Andrews**

*photos: Michael Jeans*

Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

**Volume 32 Issue 9**

**November 2025**

## PARISH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

- Monday 3 10am Selwyn Centre, Centre  
7pm Venite Choir, Centre
- Wednesday 5 10am Holy Communion, Centre  
1pm Care Croup, Centre
- Monday 10 10am Selwyn Centre, Centre  
2:30pm Holy Communion, Resthaven  
on Burns  
7pm Venite Choir, Centre
- Wednesday 12 10am Holy Communion, Centre
- Saturday 15 1:30pm Wedding, Church
- Monday 17 10am Selwyn Centre  
2:30pm Holy Communion, St Kilda  
7pm Venite Choir, Centre
- Wednesday 19 10am Holy Communion, Centre  
7:30pm Evening Women's  
Fellowship, Centre
- Thursday 20 6pm Men's Dinner, Centre
- Monday 24 10am Selwyn Centre, Centre  
2pm Holy Communion, Oakdale  
7pm Venite Choir, Centre
- Tuesday 25 7:30pm Vestry meeting, Centre
- Wednesday 26 10am Holy Communion, Centre  
1:30pm Afternoon Women's  
Fellowship, Centre
- Saturday 29 9am-2pm Craft Fair

The Bridge deadline for December contributions is Thursday, 20 November  
email: [standrewcam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewcam@xtra.co.nz)

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Philip Richardson, who will be joining us at both the 8am and 10am services on Sunday, 30 November as president.

### Spring Clean

#### Volunteers, please

If you can give us some of your time on **Saturday, 13 December** please phone the Parish Office. We aim to start at 9:00am and finish early afternoon but volunteers are welcome to come for as little or long a time as they would like.

There are a number of tasks that we would like done, including: sweeping, pews, windows, oven, gardens. Cleaning products will be provided.

If you plan on helping us tackle the gardens please bring your gardening equipment.



Below is Rev Jennie wearing the finished jumper that she knitted with some of the Haunui wool gifted to her at her farewell. She wrote "it is beautifully soft and airy, highly recommend this yarn".



## From Fr Ben

E te whānau a te Karaiti ki te pāriha o Kemureti, o Anaru Tapu, tēnā koutou,

Recently, I have been reflecting on the way that we read the Bible, understand the Bible, and find meaning in the biblical text. These contemplations are not particularly surprising given that my academic work focuses on the way in which the interpretation of the biblical text happens (that is, what is occurring when we are reading the Bible, other texts, and the world around us). This whole conversation has been a particular interest of mine for quite some time.



As we come to Church each week and gather as a community, it is typically the priest or one of the clergy who is tasked with the job of telling us about what the Gospel reading or the collection of Scriptures for that specific day mean. The Bible is essential for us in our faith. And, in fact, the Anglican Church does not permit that a celebration of the Eucharist occur without any readings of the Scriptures, among which there must always be a Gospel reading. We read this as well in our Catechism from A New Zealand Prayer Book:

27. Why Does the Church value the Holy Scriptures?  
Because the Holy Spirit inspired their human authors and through the Scriptures God's word continues to speak to the Church.

However, as we continue to read the next point in our Catechism, we find that although those who preach on a Sunday have a particular role and responsibility to offer some explanation and teaching around the biblical text, the wider responsibility of understanding the Bible lies elsewhere...

28. How do we best understand the Bible?  
We understand the meaning of the Bible, the Church's book, with the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides the people of God in interpretation and understanding.

The Bible, the Word of God, is also the Church's book. It is the Holy Spirit that guides not merely the preacher, nor the priest, nor the bishop, or any other singular person in their interpretation and understanding of the text. It is the people of God, the Community, who are aided by the Holy Spirit in their interpretation and understanding of the revelation we have received.

That wider responsibility of understanding the Bible, its meaning, its application belongs to us all. And, in fact, the depth, expanse, and truth of the meaning of the biblical text comes to life most fully when we as a community are reading, interpreting, and understanding together by the power of the Holy Spirit. Every person in our community, every person in the Church, has something to contribute in the way that we understand, interpret, and apply what we read in the Bible.

Therefore, may I be so bold as to encourage us all in reading our Bibles, in reading our lectionary readings each week. May we take our time to contemplate, to reflect. May we chew the cud with one another and together allow the fullness of the life that comes from what has been revealed to us in the Bible through Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit enliven our faith and our common life together so that we might more passionately and more nearly follow in the way of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Kia tau te rangimārie o tō tātou Ariki ki a koutou katoa.

Nā,  
Fr Ben

## Synod 2025

The first session of the Forty Third Synod of the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki was held in Stratford, October 3 – 5, 2025.

The Synod opened with a Eucharist at Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls on the Friday evening. The actual business of Synod was started on Saturday morning at the Stratford Memorial Hall, with the Bishop's Charge, his formal address to the Synod, outlining the state of the diocese and outlining future plans and priorities.

This was followed by a presentation by Marie Nicholls, Head of Parish Accounting at Trust Management NZ. All parishes are required to use TIML for their accounts and we were the last parish in the Diocese to change from doing our own financial management and accounts to the standardised Diocesan Accounting. There were a number of Motions presented to Synod, covering the Adoption of Financial Statements and the Approval of the 2026 Budget. Diocesan Assessments 2026 were approved along with Mission Targets for 2026. A number of Reports were received - Standing Committee, Anglican Action, Bishop's Action Foundation, University of Waikato Chaplaincy, Wintec Chaplaincy, Waikato Hospital Chaplaincy and Cursillo.

A Motion was presented about the Royal Commission Response (from the Royal Commission inquiry into the Abuse in Care). The Bishop has been working closely with survivors and the recommendations from the Royal Commission were central to the Bishop's Charge. Time was given by Synod on how we are to respond, going forward, to the care and safeguarding of children and the vulnerable elderly. A further Motion was passed requiring each parish to appoint a Safeguarding Lead person.

There were two Bills presented to Synod. One was concerning the change to the Te Awamutu Parish boundaries to incorporate The Parish of Orakau and Kihikihi into the Parish of Te Awamutu.

The other Bill was The Lay Ministry Licences Statute Bill 2025. This Bill is very much related to the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The purpose of the Bill was to reform the statutory requirements relating to Lay Ministry Licences. There are a number of levels on offer. Firstly, Ministry Certificates can be issued within a Parish to lay people who perform certain tasks, including those who assist within a worship service (e.g. liturgist, intercessor, reader) and those assisting with educational groups and programmes (e.g. helping with a home group or Sunday school programme). Only those baptised and on the Parish Roll are eligible to receive and retain a Certificate and a holder of a Ministry Certificate can only exercise the functions listed while under the direct supervision (i.e. physical presence) of a person holding a Bishop's licence. These certificates are available but not imperative to have to perform these kinds of duties.

Baptised lay people exercising ministry with sole responsibility, or with responsibility for the ministry of or with others need to be licenced by the Bishop as a Licenced Lay Minister. Anyone leading a ministry with vulnerable adults, children and/or young people need to be a Licenced Lay Minister. There are requirements to receive a Lay Licence, involving Police checking, background screening and a Practicum Year, providing learning and development opportunities.

The third option is a Specialist Licence for specific ministries e.g. a licence as a parish children's or youth worker. This Licence will not require the Practicum Year, but specialist training may be available.

Another licence available is a Healing Ministry Licence. This gives permission to anoint with Consecrated Oil.

The Bills pass through three readings as per Westminster rules. At the second reading (equivalent to Select Committee stage) much debate occurs over the finer details and wording to a point where the majority are satisfied. After the third reading the Bill becomes a Diocesan Statute. The Lay Ministry Licences Statute Bill 2025 comes into effect from January 1, 2026.

For the third day of Synod, we relocated to Te Whare Hononga at Taranaki Cathedral in New Plymouth.

This is a new building on the Cathedral grounds. Te Whare Hononga, [meaning "The House That Binds," is a partnership between Ngati Te Whiti hapū and Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary, focusing on justice and reconciliation. As a whare wānanga, it serves as a learning space to explore the area's shared history.](#) We were given a presentation by Dean Jay Ruka, of the history of the area, from early days to settlers to the military invasion at Parihaka through the present day where the people of the area are working together in order to move on, together.

The business of Synod was completed by midday on Sunday.

*Lauris Crook*

Te Whare Hononga



*Photos courtesy of  
Taranaki Cathedral*

Te Whare Hononga incorporated into the grounds of Mere Tapu, St Mary's Cathedral.



## Vestry News

Vestry met on 23 September where the following items were raised.

- The position for a new Parish Administrator has been advertised including within the parish, Cambridge News, and Seek. There have been a number of applicants apply.
- Lady Chapel Roof - repairs to the dormas are completed and work has commenced on the gutter.
- There have been a number of funerals and one baptism.
- Applications for the new Vicar closed 17 October. Shortlisting to start the following week with interviews then to follow.
- The Events committee reported that a series of five organ recitals are planned for next year.

## Selwyn Centre

Did you know that 1 October is a day to celebrate “Older People”? In New Zealand it is very low key but it is a day that many countries celebrate with activities for older people, stories about older people, a day where families get together etc. We had a good natter about advantages and disadvantages of getting older. We were slightly horrified to be informed that if we didn't have the superannuation you would need to have about \$1.6 million to live comfortably in your retirement.

We also had Wolfe Hearing talk about the connection of hearing and brain function.

Lynne led a session talking of the value, uses, and importance of our hands.

*Yvonne Johnston*

## Men's Fellowship - September

Our guest speaker for September was Simon Brew, General manager of the Cambridge Town Hall. Along with his team, Monique Susilla, Ben Mannell and six board members they are responsible for dragging this iconic old building into the 21st century.

Simon's background is in music, having studied in New Zealand and the Netherlands was a member of the NZ Symphony Orchestra, NZ Airforce, and has played many of the great venues around the world, which gives him a unique skill set to realise the full potential of our grand old building, not to mention his contacts in the music world.

Apparently our town hall has extremely good acoustics especially in regards to non amplified sound.

The Town Hall is a category 2 listed building and Simon and his team have just seen the completion of upgrades to the Victorian and Edwardian rooms, air conditioning throughout the hall plus roof repairs and replacements.

Upgrades include two new bars, kitchens and multi-function conference rooms with the aim of making the Town Hall financially self-sufficient through special events and venue hire.

Also on the horizon are improvements to the sound and lighting systems.

Simon's passion and energy for this project was obvious, it was a pleasure to have him join us for the evening.

*Rob Laing*

Dear St Andrew's Parish community,

Grace and peace to you all.

Do you feel God is calling you to Licenced Lay Ministry?

Are you interested in taking on leadership roles in children's and youth work or providing care to vulnerable adults?

If you feel that God might be calling you, then we would like to hear from you!

Please do talk to one of the vestry members so that we can support you and your application in the new Diocesan process.

If you would like more information about this new Diocesan Lay Licensing process, please talk to one of our Synod reps, Lauris Crook or Stephen Riddell, or feel free to contact Fr Ben ([ben@stpeter.org.nz](mailto:ben@stpeter.org.nz)). We would be delighted to hear from you!



Jono Gibson Funeral Director

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your stories are  
in safe hands.*



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legacyfunerals.co.nz

## **Women's Fellowship**

### **Afternoon Group**

Next meetings  
1:30pm  
Wednesday,  
26 November  
Parish Centre  
Leader:  
Glynis Gasnier

### **Evening Group**

Next meeting  
7:30pm  
Wednesday,  
19 November  
Parish Centre  
Leader:  
Susan Pini

### **Men's Fellowship**

Next meeting: 6pm,  
Thursday,  
20 November -  
Parish Centre  
Quiz Evening  
Bring your partners,  
friends, ladies, all  
welcome.

\$20 - correct change please  
- includes  
dinner and drinks

For catering purposes  
please record your name on  
the clipboard in the church  
porch or phone the Office -  
07 8276751 by Monday  
morning, 24 November

## **Availability over the Christmas and New Year period**

If you are usually on our Duty Roster or are a member of our Clergy Team please fill out an availability form and return to the Office by Monday, 17 November, thank you. Forms are in the Church Porch, or the Parish Office during the week.



### **St Andrew's Craft Fair**

Thank you to everyone involved in helping out (before, during and after) with the St Andrew's Craft Fair, we couldn't do it without you!

Our special thanks to Ian Dunn who has organised this event for 29 years!

### **MISSIONS - November and December**

It is time for Christmas Cheer! An initiative of the Cambridge Committee of Social Services, St. Andrew's is a member of CCOSS who is now known as Cambridge Social Services Inc.

For the past seven years about 100 families a year have received a Christmas Hamper, grocery vouchers and the opportunity to choose presents for their children. Based at the Salvation Army in Williamson Street, volunteers gather festive goodies and the ingredients for a full Christmas meal to make up the hampers and a volunteer shopper assists as caregivers choose presents for their children under the age of 16. CSSI relies on donations from members of the community.

#### **How you can help**

**The last days for donations of (new) toys is Sunday, 7th December and the last day for food is Sunday, 14th December.**

From November there will be two cardboard boxes on the table at the back of the church, one labelled food, one toys, both for Christmas Cheer.

In addition, there will be two separate Mission boxes for cash donations, one for Christmas Cheer, and one for Putaruru Messy Church.

For the food—non-perishable food only please. Please see the poster (page 6) for ideas for food and presents. It can be difficult thinking of presents for teenagers! Smelly stuff is usually well received. Please do not wrap your toys/presents; caregivers need to be able to choose the gifts best suited for their child. If you are interested in the criteria for eligibility please ask me. Many thanks, Juliet

Donations for the Missions Box can also be made to the church bank account, with the reference "Missions" and the recipient of your donation. Saint Andrews Church – A/c number 02-0300-0025058-00  
Thank you for your faithful support.

*Juliet Drage & Ruth Riddell*



## ST ANDREWS CHURCH

Celebrating St Andrew's Day and Christmas Market

**Saturday 29 November 2025**

**9:00am until 2:00pm**

Contact Ian - [grannydunn.nz@gmail.com](mailto:grannydunn.nz@gmail.com)

**COONEYLAW**  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

22 Dick St  
P.O. Box 369  
CAMBRIDGE

TEL. 8231555

FAX. 8232442

Email:

[admin@cooneylaw.co.nz](mailto:admin@cooneylaw.co.nz)

Cambridge  
**Christmas Cheer**



### We need your help!

This year we are looking for donations of the following items to help Cambridge families in need at Christmas time.

You can bring donations along to Church or leave them at the Office during the week

- Jelly
- Tinned Fruit Salad
- Potato Chips
- Reduced cream and Onion Soup
- Chocolates
- Biscuits
- Christmas Themed Treats
- Christmas Puddings
- Board Games
- Card Games eg UNO
- RC Cars
- Dolls
- Bubbles
- Reading Books
- LEGO
- Felt pens/Crayons
- Craft Kits
- Health and beauty Gift Sets

### Selwyn Centre

For 65+ age group

\$4 per session

Mondays in the Centre:

10am - 12 noon

(except for public holidays

and a short recess

over the Christmas -  
New Year period)

Enjoy companionship

whilst exercising,

participating in

activities, and over

a cup of tea!

Come and join us and

bring a friend!

*For further information*

*please phone*

*the office*

*078276751*



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