



# 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)



**November at St Andrew's**

*photos: Michael Jeans*

Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

**Volume 32**

**Issue 10**

**December/January 25/26**

## PARISH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

### December

Monday 1	10am Selwyn Centre, Centre 7pm Venite Choir, Centre
Wednesday 3	10am Holy Communion, Centre
Friday 5	5pm Japanese lecture, Centre
Sunday 7	8am and 10am services, Church
Monday 8	10am Selwyn Centre, Centre 2:30pm Holy Communion, Resthaven on Burns 7pm Venite Choir, Centre
Wednesday 10	10am Holy Communion, Centre 12:30pm Afternoon Women's Fellowship, Centre
Saturday 13	9am-2pm Spring Clean, Church grounds
Sunday 14	8am and 10am services, Church 7pm Nine Lessons & Carols, Church
Monday 15	11am Selwyn Centre (last for 2025), Centre 12pm Christmas Lunch for Selwyn Centre, Hall 2:30pm Holy Communion, St Kilda 7pm Venite Choir, Centre
Tuesday 16	6pm Vestry meeting
Wednesday 17	10am Holy Communion, Centre (last for 2025)
Sunday 21	8am and 10am services, Church
Monday 22	2pm Holy Communion, Oakdale
Wednesday 24	4:30pm Children's Christmas Service, Church 11pm Midnight Mass, Church
Thursday 25	Christmas Day services at 8am & 10am
Sunday 28	10am service only today, Church

### January

Sunday 4	10am service, Church
Saturday 10	1pm Wedding, Church
Sunday 11	10am service, Church
Monday 12	10am Selwyn Centre, Centre 2:30pm Holy Communion, Resthaven on Burns
Wednesday 14	1:30pm Afternoon Women's Fellowship, Centre
Sunday 18	10am service, Church
Monday 19	10am Selwyn Centre, Centre 2:30pm Holy Communion, St Kilda
Tuesday 20	7pm California & Venite Choir concert, Church
Sunday 25	10am service, Church
Monday 26	9am-2pm Craft Fair Office closed
Wednesday 28	1:30pm Afternoon Women's Fellowship, Centre



**The Bridge deadline for February 2026  
contributions is Thursday 22 January  
email: [standrewcam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewcam@xtra.co.nz)**

## Key Dates

### Wednesday Holy Communion Services:

Final service for 2025: Wednesday 17 December.

First service for 2026: Wednesday 4 February.

**Selwyn Centre:** will resume on Monday 12 January.

**The Parish Office** will be closed from Wednesday 24 December, and reopen on Monday 5 January.

## Christmas 2025

### Advent Display at St Andrew's

**Church open 10 am – 1 pm December weekdays**

### Sunday 14 December

**Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 7 pm**

### Christmas Services

#### Wednesday 24 December

**4.30 pm Children and Family Service:**

*The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas*

**11 pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass**

#### Thursday 25 December

**8 am Christmas Day Eucharist**

**10 am Christmas Day Eucharist**

**Sunday services Dec 28 & January at 10 am only**

## St Andrew's Church AGM Part 1 & 2 - 2026

Our AGM will take the same format as in recent years i.e. we will have the AGM in two parts.

The AGM will start in February for the election of Vestry, People's Warden, Synod Reps and Nominators. At this stage the meeting will be adjourned and the second part held on Sunday,

The second part of the meeting will receive all the various reports including the Finance Report. General Business will follow and the AGM for 2026 will be closed at the end of this meeting.

Part 1 of the AGM will be held on Sunday 15 February 2026 at 9:15am in the Parish Centre.

Nomination forms for People's Warden, Vestry, Synod Reps and Nominators will be available from the Parish Office from Wednesday 17 December 2025.

Completed nomination forms should be delivered to the Parish Office. Nominations close at 12 noon on Monday 9 February 2026.

Reports from the leaders of all Parish groups will be required to be submitted to the Parish Office by Friday 21 March 2026.

## NEW VICAR ANNOUNCED

A little Black magic!

After a careful, exhaustive process, the Board of Nominators for St Andrew's, Cambridge recommended that Rev Stephen Black be invited to take up the position of Vicar of St Andrew's from the end of January 2026. We are delighted to be able to inform you that Stephen has accepted the position and signed the 'Letter of Offer' and we look forward to welcoming him (and his family) into our midst early next year.

Stephen and Melanie have been married for 25 years and have two sons, Alex (oldest) who is studying at WINTEC and James who is completing yr 13 in Hamilton in 2026.

Stephen worked as Managing Editor at Thomson Reuters for seven years before training for the ordained ministry in the Wellington Diocese. He then moved to the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki where he served for six years as our 'Ministry Educator' before moving to the Waikato Diocesan School for Girls in 2022 to serve as Chaplain.

My own relationship with Stephen goes back to before we moved to New Zealand as he was my connection with the Diocese as we were looking to relocate. I am forever in his debt for the work he did in enabling our move and am really looking forward to working alongside him as a close colleague in this Archdeaconry.

I commend him to you and ask that you hold the family in prayer, find ways to partner with them in ministry and, together, work towards the flourishing of the St Andrew's Parish.

Andrew Evans



## From Fr Ben

Ki te hunga e arohaina ana e Te Karaiti ki Kemureti, kia tau te aroha noa me te rangimārie ki a koutou.

*To the beloved in Christ throughout Cambridge (which is everyone!), grace and peace.*

Over the past two weeks I have been reflecting on the beginnings of an exhortation which I have been reading. This exhortation has been challenging to read as I, and we, are reminded of the great responsibility to which we have been entrusted. In our faith, we believe that,

*God has acted in Jesus to bring us back to a loving and forgiven relationship. In that action all humanity is offered re-creation and wholeness. (ANZPB, 926)*

In the faith and knowledge of receiving that very love, we are obligated to reciprocate that same love both to God and to one another. It is the reciprocation of that love which is the fruit and the ongoing evidence of our baptism and salvation in Christ. The essence of the love of God is that it is to be shared; its existence is seen in its sharing.

And, this is the rhythm of our community worship together. We have an ebb and flow of being called to receive anew the love of God in the forgiveness, in the body and blood of Christ at the eucharist and then we are sent out by God through the words of the liturgist and our affirmation, "Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. Amen. We go in the name of Christ." This is some of the rhythm and cycle that we are called into by our God: to receive the love and sustenance we need in the sacrament and to take that same love and be sent to share it in the world. The sacrament is most fully revealed to us not only in receiving the body and blood of Christ but in allowing God's love to permeate every part, every interaction, every action of our lives. In this, we see the sacrament fully, in this we see the holistic nature of the sacrament and our life in God as a community.

The challenging exhortation that I mentioned at the beginning of my whakaaro (*thoughts*) is the Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* of Pope Leo XIV to all Christians on Love for the Poor. What is so challenging about this exhortation is the way that our mission, duty, responsibility, or obligation even, to love the poor is so intricately intertwined with our salvation. That Jesus calls for all Christians to love and serve the poor. We see this time and time again in his ministry, the way in which Jesus is defined by his compassion for the poor, the way in which Jesus is constantly moved to compassion for the poor, and the way in which Jesus encourages and empowers us to have compassion for those that are poor. Jesus, who is fully God and fully human, reveals the character and nature of God to us. Therefore, we ought to follow him and do the same. To allow ourselves to be defined by our compassion for the poor, those poor of heart, poor of sustenance, poor of spirit, poor of relationships, poor of clothing, poor of love. It is in each of these that Jesus waits for us all to discover his presence (Matthew 25:34-45). It is in each that a new relationship, new journey, new blessings are waiting to be revealed to us all.

Generous and compassionate God, empower us by your Holy Spirit to overcome our desire to keep your love for ourselves, help our hearts to be moved to compassion by that which stirs your heart, strengthen us to enter the possibilities that love offers to all, especially the poor; through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Nāku noa,  
Nā,  
Fr Ben



### Kay's Farewell

On Sunday 2nd November, following the 10am service, the St Andrew's Church community thanked and celebrated our wonderful Parish Office administrator of many years. With both cheerful and tearful moments, it was a lovely occasion for a very special lady.



### Thank-you letter from Kay

Dear friends,

Thank you for the wonderful retirement farewell and the gifts I received, including the beautiful plants (all of which are now planted) and the lovely bouquet of flowers. Thank you also for the personal notes, and to Ceri for the wonderful surprise song!

I will always cherish the memories of my time in the office at St Andrews and I look forward to staying connected through various church groups.

With appreciation,

Kay



### Farewell Song for Kay

Tune: "You Are My Sunshine"

Words: Ceridwyn Parr

You walked each morning to serve the parish,  
For 15 years you ran this place  
You knew our names and all our stories,  
We love your smile and gentle grace.

*You are our sunshine, our calm in chaos  
And there is nothing you don't know  
"It's in the diary!" — your daily mantra,  
We are sad to see you go.*

You kept things ticking, the calls, the rosters,  
You knew each hymn, each form, each name.  
No task too tricky, no tone too formal,  
Multitasking is your game.

*You are our sunshine, our calm in chaos,  
And there is nothing you don't know.  
You made us welcome - and made things better,  
We are sad to see you go.*

With gentle humour and calm precision,  
You hired the hall, the church, the grounds  
You held the diary like holy scripture —  
And helped the clergy get along!

*You are our sunshine, go with our blessing,  
You warmed our church from head to toe.  
So may God keep you, and gently guide you,  
And bless your path where'er you go.*

### Advent Display in St Andrew's Church open 10am-1pm weekdays in December



### Prophetic Art by Marion Hunt

In the Parish Centre, we currently have a selection of works by a talented artist. The paintings are inspired by various Bible passages including Revelation, Psalms, 1 Thessalonians, and the Gospels.



### **Men's Fellowship - Quiz night on 20 November 2025**

Our end of year quiz night has become a bit of a tradition, last year with quiz masters Stu Jecks and Dave Garmondsway, and many years prior with Stu organising our quiz nights for us. This year with help from Stu Jecks and Gail Edmunds we decided to run the quiz ourselves. We were very pleased that a good number of ladies once again joined us and we had six teams competing. Our selection of questions may need a little tweaking but in the end there wasn't much between all the teams - everyone made lots of noise (good, I think) and last year's winners did it again (we may have to split them up, haha).

From the Fellowship Team, thanks to all who helped with the evening, and we wish you all a safe and happy Christmas & New Year.

*Rob Laing*

### **Selwyn Centre - photos from Melbourne Cup hat day (courtesy of Michael Jeans)**



### **Ordination service - Reverend Elizabeth Lightfoot was ordained as a priest on 21 November at St John's Anglican Church, Te Awamutu (photos courtesy of Marion Hunt)**



### **OBITUARY - Wayne Koskela: faithful bell-ringer at St Andrew's Church for over two decades.**

On Tuesday, 11 November 2025, in the Care Unit of Metlifecare St Andrews, Wayne Koskela died at the age of 82. He never expected to reach the age of 80, saying the men in his family didn't do that. But there's always an exception to every rule and Wayne was certainly an exceptional man. A real gentleman with a strong community spirit as demonstrated by his commitment as a St John's volunteer and to the team of ringers here in St Andrew's belfry for as long as he was able.

There is no exact record of when he first arrived in the belfry but there are photos of him from the 2000/2001 New Year's ring and he is listed as a ringer in December 2001. Also he is recorded as having joined the ring for the service held in memory of the Queen Mother, 7 April, 2002, No.6 bell being rung once for each year of her life, a total of 101 times.

From then on Wayne made his place in our ranks as a man with a quick mind, wonderful sense of humour and ability to play with words, lover of music and a true gentleman, as well as mastering No.6 – the heavy anchor bell – which he made his own. He was there when our numbers were so low we entered for a Waipa Heritage Traditional Skills and Knowledge Award as an incentive for the new ringers to work towards. There is no doubt that a good solid ringer on No.6 is invaluable for setting timing! He was there when the ringers held an A'pealathon to raise money for Christchurch after the earthquake, making sure there was always at least one ringer there to cover when anyone came to try the bells during the 12 hour period of the event.

Always there for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve rings and if, as a volunteer, he was rostered for duty with St John's on any bell ringing occasion, he would be in the belfry in uniform, ready to go but not ready to miss the bells if not required by anybody else. Sunday service, weddings, funerals, Christmas or New Years Eve – if the bells were called for, Wayne would be there to ring.

*Susan Hague*



Jono Gibson Funeral Director

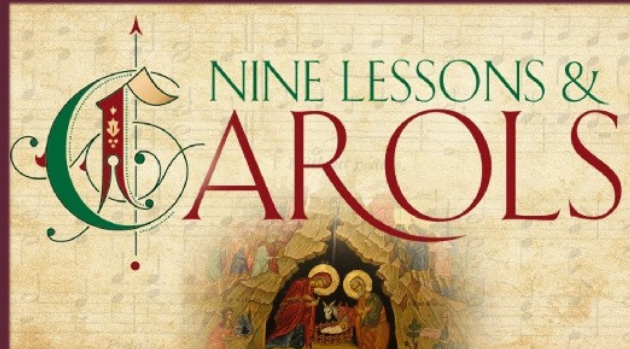
*Cambridge,  
your stories are  
in safe hands.*



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ST ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE  
PRESENTS



*A service of Carols, Bible Readings, Prayer and  
Choir Items to help us prepare for Christmas*

Sunday  
December 14<sup>th</sup> 2025  
7.00pm



*Venit  adoremus  
O Come,  
let us adore Him*

### **Women's Fellowship**

#### **Afternoon Group**

Next meeting  
12:30pm  
Wednesday,  
10 December  
Christmas Lunch  
Parish Centre  
Leader:  
Glynis Gasnier

#### **Evening Group**

Next meeting in  
February 2026  
Date TBC  
Leader:  
Susan Pini

### **Men's Fellowship**

Next meeting in  
February 2026  
Date TBC  
Leaders:  
Rob Laing  
Peter Spiller

## Come to the River

### A Cool Summer Sunset Concert

featuring  
♫ *Down in the River to Pray*  
♫ *The Wellerman*  
♫ *Bring Me Little Water,*  
*Silvie*  
*and much more  
to be enjoyed*

with  
**Singers  
Marin**



Mill Valley  
California  
&  
Venit  Choir  
Cambridge

St Andrew's Church  
Tuesday  
January 20<sup>th</sup> 2026  
7.00pm  
\$10 at the door  
students free

### Labour Day Craft Fair

The recent Craft Fair was held on Monday 27 October 2025 (see photos on cover page). As usual we had a full stall sites even at the last moment had some cancelled out but with a good number on the reserve list I was able to fill the gaps.

The morning started off with a light shower then the sun came out and so did the people where in the morning you couldn't move and just as it was coming to the end of the day, it started to rain.

In the Church, Cambridge Brass Band gave us a excellent concert which was well attended.

A big thanks to the Evening Womens Fellowship for the refreshment. Thanks also go to all who helped pack down after it had finished.

Next year we will celebrate 30 years since the first one started: 1996 - 2026.

Ian Dunn - Convener

**COONEYLAW**  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

22 Dick St  
P.O. Box 369  
CAMBRIDGE

TEL. 8231555

FAX. 8232442

Email:

admin@cooneylaw.co.nz



**Celebrating  
30 years of  
St Andrew's Craft Fair  
Cambridge**

1996-2026

**Auckland Anniversary Day  
Monday January  
26th 2026  
9am till 2pm**

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

### Spring Clean

#### Volunteers, please

If you can give us some of your time on **Saturday, 13 December** between 9am-2pm, we would be so thankful.

*Many hands make light*



### Christmas Cheer

Thank you for your generous toy and food donations for our November/December mission, an initiative of the Cambridge Committee of Social Services. St Andrew's has been delighted to be involved with helping bring cheer to families in the community.

### 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*


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!



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YOUR WAY**

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## CONTACTS

### INTERIM PRIEST ASSISTANT

FATHER BEN ONG

Phone: 022 627 3217

Email: Ben@stpeter.org.nz

### PARISH OFFICE

Phone: 07 827 6751

Email: [standrewcam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewcam@xtra.co.nz)

Office hours:

9am - 1pm Monday to Wednesday

9:30am - 1pm Thursday

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

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

The parish welcome into the family  
of the church  
through baptism

30 November  
Freya and Millie Hawker

### Funerals/Memorial services

We offer our deepest sympathy to the  
family and friends of those who have died

27 November Monica Julian

### Weddings

We congratulate the following couples who  
were married at St Andrews recently

15 November  
Andrew Christou & Esther McDowall

## SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Holy Communion, and Children's Liturgy

If you are not on our email mailing list and would like to be,  
please contact the Parish Office ([standrewcam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewcam@xtra.co.nz)).

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of The Bridge, or if you have recently changed your address, would you please email the Parish Office ([standrewcam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewcam@xtra.co.nz)) or phone 078276751. Alternatively, please fill in this form and post it to:

The Parish Office, PO Box 356, Cambridge.

Name:

Address:

Signed: