



# 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)



**December and January at St Andrew's**

*photos: Michael Jeans & Robson Reid-Roe*

Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

Volume 33 Issue 1

February 2026

## PARISH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- Monday 2 10am Selwyn Centre, Centre  
7pm Venité Choir, Centre
- Wednesday 4 10am Holy Communion, Centre  
1pm Care Group, Centre
- Monday 9 10am Selwyn Centre, Centre  
2:30pm Holy Communion,  
Resthaven on Burns
- Tuesday 10 7pm Venité Choir, Centre
- Wednesday 11 10am Holy Communion, Centre
- Sunday 15 9:15am AGM Part 1, Centre
- Monday 16 10am Selwyn Centre, Centre  
2:30pm Holy Communion, St Kilda
- Wednesday 18 ASH WEDNESDAY  
10am Holy Communion, Centre  
6pm Service, venue TBC  
7:30pm Evening Women's Fellowship
- Thursday 19 6pm Men's Dinner, Centre
- Monday 23 10am Selwyn Centre, Centre  
2pm Holy Communion, Oakdale  
7pm Venité Choir, Centre
- Tuesday 24 7:30pm Vestry meeting
- Wednesday 25 10am Holy Communion, Centre  
1:30pm Afternoon Women's  
Fellowship, Centre

### Key Dates

- 4 February: 10am, Wednesday Holy Communion Service resumes.
- 4 February: 1pm, Care Group starts for 2026.
- 18 February: ASH WEDNESDAY, Lent begins.
- 18 February: 7:30pm, Evening Women's Fellowship.
- 19 February: 6pm, Men's Fellowship dinner.



The Bridge deadline for March 2026 contributions is Thursday 19 February.  
Email: [standrewcam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:standrewcam@xtra.co.nz)

## NEW VICAR at St Andrew's Church

The Reverend Stephen Black begins his new role and ministry at the Parish during this month of February. We are delighted to welcome him and his family here!



The Service of Installation for Rev Stephen is set to take place in the Church on Sunday 1st February at 2pm, with Bishop Philip Richardson presiding.

*Stephen is well known across the Diocese, having served faithfully for a number of years as the director of Mission, Education and Vocations, and as Chaplain at the Waikato Diocesan School for Girls. His dedication to teaching, pastoral care, and the life of the Church has been a blessing to many.*  
-Bishop's Office.

In next month's issue, you can expect a feature article about Reverend Stephen Black, with photos from his Installation.

### Blessings for the New Year

The words of Jesus:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.* (John 14:27)

May you and your family have a hope-filled 2026.



### 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 - date TBC.

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 are available from the Parish Office and Church porch.

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.

## Final letter from Fr Ben

Tēnā tātou e te pāriha o Anaru Tapu ki Kemureti!

That's us St Andrew's Parish, Cambridge!

What a wonderful church whānau we have in Cambridge. Thank you all for allowing me to share in the ministry in Cambridge. I pray that God continues to move among you, within and without, and that St Andrew's serves as a gospel light in and for the community. As I said in a previous Bridge article, I am always struck by Jesus' words to the disciples at the last super, that he has been eager to share in this meal with them. So too is it with us, Jesus calls to each of us and to us together as a community to follow in the way of love. Christ is eager to share in that ministry with us and to share with us at his holy table where we celebrate our communion with him. I pray that you will always know just how cherished and beloved you are in Christ Jesus and that we may be eager to share that same love with all whom we encounter, this and every day.



Once again, it has truly been a delight to serve among you and, together, share in God's ministry in Cambridge. You are in the excellent hands of the Rev'd Stephen Black so may God bless your shared journey ahead!

Ngā manaakitanga o tō tātou Ariki ki a koutou,  
Nāku noa,  
Nā,  
Fr Ben

*May the Lord bless you  
and keep you  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His face towards you  
and give you peace*

NUMBERS 6:24-26

## Farewell to Fr Ben service - Sunday 25th January 2026



This special final service included an excellent sermon from Fr Ben, a special thank you from the Church and Vestry, and a nice morning tea in the Parish Centre. It was great to have Ben's wife, Hine, join us all for occasion too. May the Lord guide and bless them in their next adventure!

## Christmas at St Andrew's Church

December was a busy month in the Church and Parish Centre with various services and events, including the annual Nine Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve Carols & Midnight Mass, and Christmas Day services. We enjoyed welcoming visitors, both locals and tourists, during this special season in the Christian calendar.

### Advent Garden 2025

The four week long season of Advent is a time dedicated to the reflective preparation for the arrival, "advent", of Christ's nativity at Christmas time and also Christ's expected return in the second coming.

To remind us of the Christmas story, a group of parishioners created an Advent Garden, a visual display at the back of the church. The display changed each week, telling the story leading to Jesus' birth and remained in place until the Epiphany, finishing with the arrival of the Magi. Whilst it did not follow the themes for the four weeks of Advent directly, each week reminded us of the events surrounding Jesus' birth. The themes for the display were 1: The Birth of Jesus Foretold, 2: Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem, 3: There was no Room at the Inn, 4: Mary and Joseph Wait, 5: Jesus is Born, 6: The Magi Bring Gifts.

Such displays are common place through Europe at this time of year, many are very large and a number change daily, following the Lectionary. It was hoped that the offering at St Andrew's was another way of helping us reflect on the events leading up to Christmas.



During this period, the Church was open from 10 am until 1 pm during each weekday and it was pleasing to see the number of people who came into the church to take advantage of the doors being open. Alongside many Christmas displays around town, St Andrew's was able to provide a Christian perspective to the anticipation of Christmas. Many thanks to all those who gave of their time to sit in the church during the opening times to be available to answer questions for the members of the public who visited.



### Afternoon Christmas Eve Service – for the Young, Families and those Young at Heart

Those of you who watched the unfolding story told by the Advent Garden may have noticed an owl perched on top of the stable. This gave the clue to the Christmas Eve service where the young people presented *The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas*. This story was a resource promoted by the Church of England for churches in planning for Advent.

The story of the nativity was acted out by the children of the parish, aided by narrators Merv Hunt and Liz Lightfoot. The leading role of the Owl was taken by Elliot Kirkby-McLeod. The story was told by the animals, with the Owl interacting with donkey, the sheep, camel and lastly a fox!

The Owl was a grumpy owl who liked peace and quiet. If she was annoyed or disturbed she became extremely grumpy. Firstly, her peace was broken by the donkey accompanied by Mary and Joseph coming into her barn. She decided to leave and flew off to some empty fields to find peace and quiet. After a short time, over the hill came some sheep and shepherds. The Owl didn't like that intrusion so she flew off again. The next empty space she found was a desert. That was fine until camels and wise men appeared. That was again too much for the Owl so she flew off, landing this time in a snow covered landscape where the only noise was the wind. This was perfect! A fox turned up and invited the Owl to shelter in his burrow which the Owl thought was fine until she realized the fox had other ideas! At that stage the Owl decided the barn wasn't so bad after all.

Arriving back at the barn, there were so many people and animals around Mary, Joseph and their baby and the Owl settled on the roof to watch proceedings, still feeling very grumpy. Until she looked down at baby Jesus and looked into his eyes. The Owl's heart melted and a warm feeling came over her – **Joy**. She flew off around the village to invite all the animals to "come and see" the wonderful thing that had happened.

## Church News

- On 16 December, after many long months of Church renovations, the scaffolding came down. Builder Steve Greig completed the final project: the gable spoke feature which has turned out beautifully, thanks to the combined efforts of Steve's team and Wackrows Joinery. We would also like to thank David Bishop from KGW for his input into this project.

Now it's time for the pigeons to do their bit and please kindly leave the Church alone!



## Selwyn Centre

The Selwyn Centre completed their 2025 year with a Christmas lunch on 15 December. We had a good turn out of guests for this lovely lunch catered for by Carly's kitchen. We were entertained by Jennifer who works in the Waikato Diocesan Office.

We visited the Town Hall prior to Christmas to partake in a lovely morning tea and to view the beautiful Christmas decorations.

Goodwood School were singing Christmas carols so it was a very busy time.

We resumed sessions again on 12 January. Our two January sessions are focussed on social interaction and light hearted activities.

Sadly, two of our volunteers (Susan and Nan) have left us after having been part of the Selwyn Centre for many years. We will miss their input and generous spirits of helping others. Thankfully we still have Lynne, Jan, Michael, Lauris, Bernice and Jill continuing to volunteer. Kay and Jeanette have offered to assist as well.

If you would like to consider helping, please contact me or the office. Your help could be in assisting with sessions, baking or talking to the Selwyn Centre about a talent you may have.

*Yvonne Johnston* - Selwyn Centre Coordinator



## Come to the River - Choir Concert

From marvellous Marin to cosy Cambridge – *Singers Marin*, a community choir from Marin County, San Francisco, came to St Andrew's on a wet Tuesday in January, 2026.

But the rain didn't deter these hardy choral adventurers. On a New Zealand tour that included Queenstown, Rotorua, Auckland, and of course the Mighty Waikato, these songbirds were welcomed to St Andrew's by Venité Choir with warmth, food, fun, and music.

The highlight of the day was the Evening Concert called 'Come To The River'. After a stirring organ prelude from Walter Nicholls, the receptive audience was treated to a polished, delightful selection of music from *Singers Marin*, led by their masterful Director, Michael Morales.

Special audience favourites were *Down in the River to Pray*, *The Wellerman*, *Bring Me a Little Water Silvy*, and a flawless rendition of *Pokarekare Ana*.

Venité Choir were privileged to be invited to sing three pieces with the visitors. They especially loved Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*.

The concert finished with a rousing (and for Venité - unrehearsed) rendition of *Praise His Holy Name*. Singers Marin were then blessed by Venité with the lovely Māori melody, *Te Aroha*.


A group of happy, grateful and no doubt exhausted Californian troubadours then boarded their bus back to Hamilton after a wonderful day enjoyed by all.

*Merv Hunt* - Venité Choir Director



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**St Andrew's Craft Fair**

*Celebrating 30 years: 1996 - 2026.*

The Auckland Anniversary Day fair on Monday 26 January 2026 was held with new and old stall holders. The weather & wind over the last days did do justice to the Market. I had around 25 stall holders pull out for different reasons. On the day - a little drizzle to start with, but was cloudy with a bit of sun and with a good crowd.

A big thank you to all who helped set up and pack down and also a huge thank you to everyone in the kitchen with refreshments.

Our next Craft Fair is on Labour Day Monday 26 October 2026.

*Ian Dunn - Convener*

**Men's Fellowship Group**

Upcoming dinner - Thursday 19th February, 6pm.

Our guest for the evening, Ralph Dearlove, shares his family connection with Ruapuke Island and the early settlers of 1850s NZ.

**NGAIRE, a treasure.**

St Andrew's has many treasures, but the greatest of these is Ngaire Bisset. If ever there was a personification of the word, Christian, it is Ngaire. She has been a stalwart of this parish for most of her life: that is nine decades and counting! We, at the Afternoon Fellowship, are so blessed that she joins us every month - and not just because she brings sponge kisses but because she is everything it means to be a Christian. We love you, Ngaire. Please keep on keeping on!



**Women's Fellowship  
Afternoon Group**  
Next meeting:  
1:30pm  
Wednesday 25 February  
Parish Centre  
Leader:  
Glynis Gasnier

**Evening Group**  
Next meeting:  
7:30pm  
Wednesday 18 February  
Home venue  
Leader:  
Susan Pini

**Men's Fellowship**  
Next meeting:  
6pm  
Thursday 19 February  
Parish Centre  
Leaders:  
Rob Laing  
Peter Spiller

**Letter from a Church visitor**

*The Lord's Prayer: Music and "Amen"*

St Andrew's Church Office recently received a message from a Scottish visitor to one our services. The member of Holy Trinity Church in Haddington found our choir and congregation singing "The Lord's Prayer" very moving. He was so taken by the melody and the 8-fold "Amen", that he was trying to trace it! Being the director of a Singalong Group in Scotland, he's hopeful to add the song to their 'Hymns of Choice' set list.

We've since sent him the sheet music to "Our Father in heaven" by Richard Gillard and John Smith (arrangement by Guy Jansen), which is our current version for Sunday services.

How nice to hear that the singing voices of St Andrew's Church are resounding far and wide, giving inspiration across the world!



## Christmas Cheer

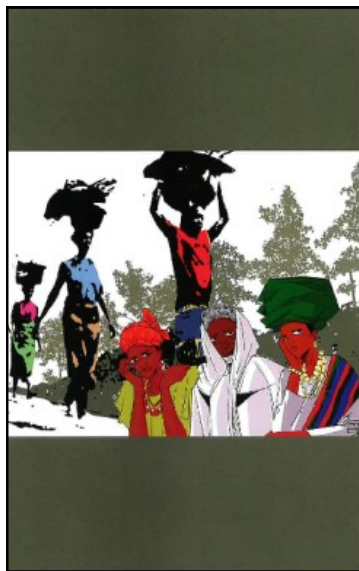
MISSIONS - December 2025

*A special thank you from the Salvation Army.*

The Christmas Cheer volunteer team were very grateful to receive the generous toys, food, and money donated by parishioners. Adding to their incredible storeroom of goodies and gifts, many families were greatly blessed at Christmas. Thank you for being part of this wonderful mission.



*...he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*



## World Day of Prayer

Friday 6 March 2026

**"I Will Give You Rest: Come"**

*A service prepared by WDP Nigeria*

*You are invited to join in  
worship and fellowship  
at your local church*

Place: *Trinity St Paul's Union Parish, Cambridge  
43 Queen Street*

Time: *7 pm*

### Are you interested in giving

#### Automatic Bank Donations to St Andrews?

If you would like to change your method of giving to automatic payment, our account name is: *Saint Andrews Church*  
Bank account number: 020300 0025058-00  
For our records, please include your initials and surname and in the reference section "Giving". Thank you.

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 Rev Stephen Black.  
We would be delighted to hear from you!

# COONEY &

NORRIS WARD MCKINNON



**Emma  
Cooney**

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### 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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9am - 1pm Monday to Wednesday

9:30am - 1pm Thursday

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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

The parish welcome into the family of the church through baptism:

14 December  
Isabelle McKeon  
Harper McKnight  
Hazel Read

### Funerals/Memorial services

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

2 December Jillian Morriss

### Weddings

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

10 January  
Josie Poharama and Vlad Bodean

## 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: