

The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

Christ is Risen ... Alleluia!

It's all about the journey ...
Lent - Holy Week - Easter Day -
and beyond ...

Welcome to **"GHQ-News"** - this 'Autumn' newsletter,
the first edition of a quarterly seasonal pictorial,
pastoral email communication to Parishioners,
celebrating some highlights of past events,
and anticipating events to come.



Palm Sunday included a
wonderfully chaotic
procession with palms ...
lots of palms!

Maundy Thursday was for
remembering Jesus' Last
Supper, with foot and hand
washing, and Eucharist
celebrated at the High Altar,
right in front of the carving
depicting 'The Last Supper'.





Easter Day ... Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 This was a day of joyful sights and sounds, and the fragrance of incense filled the air in St Matthew's as the whole parish joined together for the 10am Eucharist and Baptisms to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

Congratulations to Anna, Adam-John, and Lazhon who were baptised; thank you to our seasonal workers who shared their culture and custom of singing and dancing the Kyries and Gloria; and thank you to everyone who contributed to making this celebration an absolute highlight of our Christian calendar!



On Sunday 15th March, we were pleased to be able to offer St Matthew's as a venue for the Hawke's Bay Inter-Faith Committee to host an Iftar meal for the local Muslim community during their Ramadan season.

The Parish Ministry team offered a welcome, then led us through the Anglican service of 'Night Prayer'; then the local Imam offered prayers, and once the sun had set, all enjoyed a delicious meal together.

At the end of the evening, there was much excited chatter about where and how we might repeat this experience again next year!



Have you ever seen this plaque? Find out more on the Hastings District Council's web-site - <https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Heritage-Trails/Hastings-Heritage-walks.pdf>

Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated a week later than planned, on Sunday 19th April 2026, after being postponed due to the Civil Defence emergency with Cyclone Vaianu on Sunday 12th .



We offered prayers of thanks for the abundance of the harvest, for those who work in the fields, orchards, and vineyards, the processors and distributors; and special thanks for the presence of our seasonal workers.

Te Pou Herenga - The Mooring Post

In late April, I attended a national hui on 'Worship – Creative and Anglican'. It was wonderful to be invited as part of a diocesan group of six to attend this gathering and reflect on what our worship is and can be.

My general impression is that across The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings we are doing incredibly well and achieving fabulous results with what we have. We can certainly do some things a little differently and learn from others, but with what God has given us, we are doing just fine.

Parishes that are doing things differently tended to be multi-staffed, perhaps with a Children and Families or Youth Worker, or a Verger who arranges facilities, or they had creatives in their midst like dancers, fabric artists, painters, and musicians and singers.

The three segments of the day and some reflections follow.

Creativity in Space / Physical Environment. This for us is taking what space we have and how we use it to create worship. In some ways we are limited by the design of our buildings, and yet you have all experienced worship in the round at things like Maundy Thursday or how we can use movement in our environments. It was one of the objectives when the St Matthew's repurpose and renovate project happened.

Creativity in Regular Gathered Worship. Using the people God has given us we do this well. Our liturgies are creative to reflect liturgical seasons and biblical themes, you experienced this at a high level on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Day.

Creativity in Festival / Feast Days. This is something we excel at! The Lectionary and Calendar provide us with many occasions that I look at as 'coat hangers' upon which we can hang things. We do this regularly with Patronal Festivals, Matariki, Mothering Sunday, not to mention the more common ones.

Yes, I learnt things, and will modify what we do, and I also learnt we are doing well in this space.

May is New Zealand Music Month; it is a time to celebrate music from New Zealand and those who make it. Keep listening at a service near you to pick the NZ Music!

In the continuation of the focus for this year on Education, Spirituality, and Quiet Days, I will be a participant in a silent retreat in mid-June. This retreat will invite me into contemplative reflection on the Trinity.

We have two Festival Days coming up, both equally special. Please participate in these Feast Days.

Sunday 24 May: The Day of Pentecost – The coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church
8 & 10am St Matthew's; 10am St Peter's.

Sunday 31 May: Trinity Sunday – *King's Birthday Weekend* -
10am St Matthew's, Whole-of-Parish Worship:
Corporate Communion, with Bishop Andrew Hedge, and the Confirmation of Lazhon Maxwell, and the Renewal of our Commitment to Christian Service and Discipleship.

Abundant Blessings

The Rev'd David van Oeveren, Vicar – Parish Priest





As we turn the calendar page over into May, we realise that we're almost at the end of the Easter season ...

- **Ascension Day is Thursday 14th May** - join us for the 10.15am Eucharist in the Lady Chapel at St Matthew's
- **The Day of Pentecost** - when the Holy Spirit descended on the gathered disciples like tongues of fire - **Sunday 24th May, 8am & 10am at St Matthew's, and 10am at St Peter's** - come and join in the celebration of this most chaotic of days!

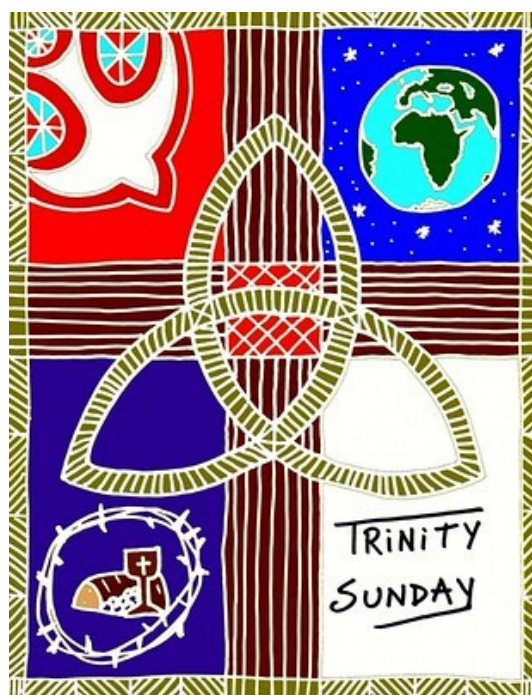


Sunday 31st May is Trinity Sunday

Bishop Andrew Hedge will preach and preside at this fifth Sunday "whole-of-parish" Eucharist - the 10am Eucharist at St Matthew's will include the Confirmation of Lazhon Maxwell.

There will also be an 8am Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.

And we'll have a "let's do it together" to clean and tidy the church on **Saturday 30th May, 2.00-4.00pm** prior to this celebration ... please note your diaries and come along with cleaning materials.



Congratulations to Prasad Pathirana, MAM!

Our wonderful Parish Administrator recently completed her Master of Applied Management studies at EIT, Taradale, (with an 'A' pass!) - a fantastic achievement after much hard work studying and completing assignments at the same time as the commitments to her part-time role in the Parish Office. We are very proud of you, Prasad, and hope you enjoy your well-deserved month's holiday with your family in Sri Lanka from late May and during June.



*Sue & David with Daniel & Prasad
celebrating the completion of Prasad's studies.*



Annual General Meeting

The Parish AGM was held on Sunday 29th March 2026, following the Palm Sunday Eucharist at St Matthew's. The meeting followed the usual Diocesan format with reports being presented and a budget approved for the financial year ahead.

The Vestry for the 2026-67 year comprises: Juliette Swensson (Vicar's Warden), Murray Cushing (People's Warden), Kevin Watkins (Synod rep), Rita Ale, Janet Heinz, Jean Hill, Kamogelo Mogakabe, Mark Sutton, David Hodder, Michelle Thornton, Ruth Cunliffe.

The new Vestry met for the first time on Wednesday 22nd April. At that meeting, the Rev'd Jenny Chalmers shared details of the role and obligations of Vestry members, the Parishes Act in the Diocesan Canons, and outlined 'Title D' (Ministry Standards).

Vestry will meet at 6.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at St Peter's Church.

Find out more about our New Zealand Prayer Book

The Rev'd Dr Deborah Broome
(Diocesan Ministry Educator)
writes ...

What is the Prayer Book and why do we have it? What is a rite, and what is the reason behind them? What is a rubric and how do I know what shall be done and what may be done? The Prayer Book can be an intimidating thing to approach. Through this short course you will grow in your confidence with it, understand how to use it well, and come to understand both the freedom and the responsibility that comes with leading worship.

The Waiapu Certificate paper on the Prayer Book: Rites, Rubrics and Reasons is now ready to go.

Commencing on the 11th May, this paper will be delivered over five lectures, with fortnightly small group tutorials for deeper conversation. It's designed for those with a lay ministry licence for leading worship – and those people should be enrolling – and also for anyone who wants to deepen their understanding of and participation in worship.



You may enroll to take the paper “for credit” – ie to do the assignments, which will contribute to the completion of the Waiapu Certificate – or for interest. Those doing the paper for interest may elect to be part of the fortnightly tutorials, or simply watch the recorded lectures.

Please fill out the enrolment form for all of these options. You can also do the course as part of your home group – in which case, could the home group leader please enrol.

A second course - **Studying the Bible** - is due to commence in July. This will be for 15 weekly lectures.

More information and enrolment form available on-line from the Diocesan web-site:
<https://www.waiapuanglicans.org.nz/readingthebible>

Personal details for the Parish records

Prior to the latest Annual General Meeting, we had a dedicated effort to update all our records of parishioners' contact details for those who wished to be on the Pastoral and the Electoral Rolls.

In this day and age, much of the Parish communication is done electronically, either via email direct to the parishioners email address, or by Facebook posts and the Parish website (although we are aware there have been recent issues which, hopefully, will be overcome when the website soon receives an update).

PLEASE do let us know if you change your home address, telephone number, or email contact details; and if you know of a parishioner who has not been in contact for a while, please ask them to check if we have their correct details.

Annual Receipts for Donations

The annual receipts for donations given in the financial year ended 31st March 2026 are now available at services on Sundays, or from the Parish Office.

These may be used when applying for a tax rebate through the Inland Revenue Department.

If you wish to make a donation to support the mission and ministry of the Parish - either regular weekly or monthly, or occasionally - please contact Sheryl Hilton via Prasadi in the Parish Office (details below) to be allocated an offertory number so your details can be recorded and an annual receipt given. Thank you.



The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

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