



The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

An encompassing home for all, encouraging community connection, and nurturing faith in Hastings communities

Parish Newsletter

For the week commencing Sunday 6th September 2026

The twenty third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fathers Day

Haere Mai - Welcome

Services at St Matthew's Church
200 King Street South, Hastings

Today:

8.00am - Eucharist (Lady Chapel), with the Rev'd David van Oeveren

10.00am - Eucharist with Hymns, with the Rev'd David van Oeveren & The Rev'd Margaret Thompson

Thursday - 10th September:

10.15am - Eucharist (Lady Chapel)

Sunday - 13th September - The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Maori Language Week

8.00am - Eucharist (Lady Chapel)

10.00am - Eucharist with Hymns

Services at St Peter's Church
1202 Ada Street, Hastings

Today:

10.00am - Eucharist with Hymns, with the Rev'd Jenny Chalmers.

Sunday - 13th September - There will be no service at St Peters, please join us at St Matthew's Church for the Whole-of-Parish eucharist at 10am.



(Happy Fathers Day)

WELCOME TO THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF GREATER HASTINGS

A very warm welcome if you are visiting or joining us for the first time. It is wonderful to have you with us !

Please introduce yourself to one of our Clergy and join us for Morning Tea after worship. It would be wonderful to get to know you - please fill in our Welcome Brochure.

For up-to-date details of what is coming up please read this Newsletter or check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfGreaterHastings>

A Word from Our Vicar, the Rev'd David van Oeveren ..

I had a strong sense of hope, unity & gratitude when returning from General Synod Te Hinota Whanui in Tonga, where Anglicans from across Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia gathered for a week that can only be described as both historic & deeply moving.

For the first time, GSTHW was hosted in Tonga, coinciding with the 200th anniversary of Christianity's arrival in the kingdom. We were welcomed by the King of Tonga & local Anglican communities whose hospitality, worship & cultural celebrations left a lasting impression.

The concept of belonging to a wider Anglican Province can sometimes feel elusive when your focus is on church, parish, & diocese. But in Tonga, the Three Tikanga church took visible form in worship, debate, fellowship & shared meals.

Across the week, delegates experienced the richness of the Anglican Church's diversity. St Andrew's Anglican School & parishes from across the Tongan Episcopal Unit hosted abundant meals each day,

while youth groups, choirs, brass bands & students offered performances that showcased the vitality of life in Tonga.

Alongside the celebrations, Synod wrestled with significant decisions affecting the life of the church. One of the most notable was the passing of Motion 15, a landmark step that in effect gives Tikanga Māori tino rangatiratanga over the direction of St John's College Trust Board funding after years of discussion & discernment.

For many delegates, the moment was one of profound significance. It was a decision of the powerful expression of trust & partnership between the tikanga. It was a decision of gravitas & solemn joy that reflected both the significance of the moment & the church's wider history.

The overall theme was 'One Mission – One Ocean – One Vaka'. Whilst Synod involved governance, motions & debate, many of the most memorable moments came through worship & shared faith.

As we returned home, we carried with us memories of Tongan hospitality, renewed relationships across the Three Tikanga Church, & a sense of hope for what God is doing among Anglican communities throughout the province.

GSTHW business officially concluded on Friday evening / Saturday morning. On Friday, delegates were able to enjoy a well-deserved day of exploring Tonga. As reported in the news, some delegates were onboard a boat that capsized while on a whale watching trip. There were no serious injuries. The incident was a traumatic end to a beautiful week & we are grateful to all who assisted with medical & pastoral care. I was on an Anglican Missions Field Trip

looking at community resilience & sustainable energy projects.

Those who stayed on beyond Saturday morning were organised into groups to sight see, attend local churches with a lunch banquet & attend a combined choirs evening to round out the most incredibly generous and hospitable experience.

Abundant Blessings

Donations Needed!

We are collecting grocery items for our Grocery Raffle at the Church Fair on 17 October.

If you would like to contribute, please place your donated grocery items in the paper grocery bags marked **“RAFFLE.”** Thank you for your generous support!



LOVE YOUR CHURCH MORNING!



Saturday 12



9am – 12pm

Tidy & Clean inside & outside St Matthew's in preparation for Patronal Festival!



OUTSIDE:

- ✔ Set-Up & Decorate for Celebrations.
- ✔ All low gutters / rain-heads to be cleaned.
- ✔ All stormwater / downpipe drains at ground level to be cleaned.
- ✔ Clean all entrances / porches.



INSIDE:

- ✔ Set-Up & Decorate for Celebrations.
- ✔ Clean & Tidy all entrance / porch areas.
- ✔ Clean & Tidy kitchen area.
- ✔ Clean & Tidy bathroom areas.
- ✔ Sort, Clean & Tidy Children's Area.
- ✔ Tidy & restack all chairs.



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Many hands make light work!



Nepal flash flooding appeal

A major flash flood has torn through northern Nepal, killing at least 157 people and leaving hundreds missing.

In the early hours of Wednesday 26 August, a surge of water, ice and debris tore down the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers in northern Nepal. Rasuwa district has been hit hardest, with the damage reaching downstream into Nuwakot, Dhading and neighboring areas. Homes, roads, bridges, hydropower stations and power lines have been destroyed, and damaged transport links are making it hard to reach the worst-affected communities. As search and rescue continues, the need is shifting quickly to emergency shelter, safe water, sanitation and protection, with a growing risk of waterborne disease.



How Anglican Missions is responding

Anglican Missions is responding to the Nepal floods. As assessments continue, we are working out how best to channel New Zealanders' generosity to the communities worst affected.

Your gift will be directed through our trusted partner Tearfund, so it reaches families quickly and effectively.

Please give generously, and hold the people of Nepal in your prayers.

<https://anglicanmissions.org.nz/>

Diary Dates ... or “What’s on When?”

Date	Day	Time	Meeting / Event / Activity - September 2026
7	Monday	11.45am	Heretaunga Seniors Community Day
9	Wednesday	2.00pm	Eversley Resthome & Village
9	Wednesday		International Buy a Priest a Beer Day
10	Thursday	10.15am	Eucharist - St Matthew’s Lady Chapel
11	Friday		11 September 2001. Anniversary of the 9/11 Attacks. 25 years in 2026.
12	Saturday	9.00am 12.00pm	LOVE YOUR CHURCH MORNING! Tidy & Clean inside & outside St Matthew’s in preparation for Patronal Festival!
13/20	Sunday		Te Wiki o te Reo Māori 2026.
13	Sunday	8.00am	Eucharist at St Matthews
13	Sunday	8.00am	Whole-of-Parish Worship St Matthews
13	Sunday	2.00pm	Hastings Music Society Concert at St Matthew’s.
17	Thursday	10.15am	Eucharist - St Matthew’s Lady Chapel
18	Friday	10.00am	Colwyn House Lifecare
18	Friday	1.40pm	School Eucharist
19	Saturday	1.00pm	Hastings Blossom Festival Parade.
20	Sunday	8.00am	Eucharist at St Matthews - <i>The Patronal Festival of St Matthew</i>
20	Sunday	8.00am	Eucharist with Hymns at St Matthews & St Peters
23	Wednesday	6.00pm	Greater Hastings VESTRY.
24	Thursday	10.15am	Eucharist - St Matthew’s Lady Chapel
24	Thursday	1.45pm	Summerset in the Orchard
25	Friday	2.00pm	End of Term School Assembly
25	Friday		Term 3 Ends
26	Saturday	4.00pm	Hawke’s Bay Interfaith
27	Sunday	8.00am	Eucharist at St Matthews - <i>Daylight Saving Begins.</i>
27	Sunday	10.00am	Eucharist with Hymns at St Matthews & St Peters

The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

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