

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 22nd November 2026

The Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Christ the King Sunday

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 Jenny Chalmers & Rev'd Margaret Thompson

Thursday – 26th November

10.15am – Eucharist (Lady Chapel)

Sunday - 29th November - Advent 1 - Blessing of Advent Wreathes - Sunday Service

8.00am - Eucharist (Lady Chapel)

10.00am- Whole-of-Parish Worship

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

Today:

There will be **no service at St Peter's Church,** please join us at St Matthew's Church for the Whole-of-Parish Worship at 10.00am

Sunday: 29th November

There will be **no service at St Peter's Church**, please join us at St Matthew's Church for the Whole-of-Parish Worship at 10.00am



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**:https://www.facebook.com/ParishOfGreaterHastings

Instagram:https://www.instagram.com/greaterhastingsparish/

We are standing at a quiet, sacred threshold in the Church's year. Having just celebrated the Feast of Christ in All Creation, we now look toward the final Sunday of the liturgical calendar before the First Sunday of Advent begins our journey afresh. This gentle turn of the seasons invites us to pause, look back with gratitude, & look forward with expectant hope.

As we walk these coming weeks together across our parish, our Anglican traditions offer us rich imagery & profound names for these final Sundays:

The Feast of Christ in All Creation reminds us that Christ's love & lordship are not confined to church walls or private devotion. All of creation - our rich whenua, our life-giving waterways, the orchards stretching across Heretaunga, & the diverse communities that make up our neighbourhood is held together in Christ. It calls us into a spirit of deep gratitude, active stewardship, & tender care for the earth we inhabit. Then we have The Reign of Christ in earth & heaven, which is known variously as The Reign of Christ, Christ the King across the Anglican Communion, & Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe in the broader Western tradition, this final Sunday before Advent points us to a kingship turned entirely upside down.

Beside these grand theological feast days sits an affectionate, traditional name: Stir-Up Sunday. Drawn from the opening words of the classic Book of Common Prayer collect for the Sunday next before Advent: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded."

In Anglican households worldwide, these words historically served as a cheerful seasonal reminder to mix & stir the Christmas pudding in time for it to mature before Christmas Day. It is a delightful pairing: kitchen traditions blending seamlessly with a prayer for spiritual renewal.

Together, these culminating Sundays lift our eyes to the end of the story before we turn back to the beginning. Before we light the first purple candle of Advent, the Church reminds us of where history is heading: a creation restored, a world gathered under Christ's compassionate reign, & our own hearts stirred out of spiritual routine into active hospitality, generosity, & watchful hope.

Advent is far more than a simple countdown to Christmas day. It is out annual invitation to welcome the King who comes to us-first in the humility of Bethlehem, continually in the faces of our neighbours & in the promise of all things made new. ***Abundant Blessings***

Last Christian in Bethlehem
Sunday 29 November | 11.30 am - 1.00pm

As we begin our Advent journey, we invite everyone to come together following the Advent 1 worship service for a special Advent reflection.

We will be showing **Last Christian in Bethlehem**, a new 64-minute documentary that gives a voice to the often-overlooked community of Palestinian Christians, who have lived in the Holy Land since the time of Jesus.

This is an opportunity to pause, reflect and remember our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.



Advance discounted tickets are available for $22.00 from Stephanie Drew. For tickets and enquiries, please contact **Stephanie on 027 293 6806.**

COMBINED SUMMER WORSHIP

At St Matthew's Church , Hastings

9:00 am on Sundays

Join us for our experimental summer worship trial on the following dates:

- Sunday 27 December
- Sundays 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 January

Please come and join us as we worship together as one parish community.



Parish Lunch - Today

4th Sunday Parish Lunch, 11.30am at Serendipity Café 1412 Pakowhai Road, Hastings .

Please feel free to join with us for lunch each 4th Sunday.

Contact Paddy and Richard Bayley, 8767616 for more Details

Diary Dates … or "What's on When?"

Date	Day	Time	Meeting / Event / Activity – November & December 2026
25	Wednesday	6.00pm	Greater Hastings VESTRY.
26	Thursday	10.15am	Eucharist at St Matthews Lady Chapel
26	Thursday	1.45pm	Summerset in the Orchard
28	Saturday		28 November 1998. The Rev'd David van Oeveren Ordination to the Priesthood at St Mary's, Levin. 28 Years.
29	Sunday	8.00am	Eucharist at St Matthews Lady Chapel - *Advent 1*
29	Sunday	10.00am	Whole-of-Parish-Worship at St Matthews - *Advent 1*
29	Sunday	7.00pm	Advent Carols at Waiapu Anglican Cathedral of St John the Evangelist.
30	Monday		30 November 1993 (St Andrew's Day).The Rev'd Jenny Chalmers Ordination to the Diaconate at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. 33 Years.
2	Wednesday	2.30pm	Gracelands Resthome & Village
2	Wednesday	4.30pm	Building & Property Maintenance Sub-Committee
3	Thursday	10.15am	Eucharist at St Matthews Lady Chapel
3	Thursday	6.00pm	'BLUE CHRISTMAS' Service in Greater Hastings @ St Matthew's
4	Friday	10.00am	Colwyn House Lifecare
4	Friday	1.40pm	School Eucharist
4	Friday	4.00pm	Hastings Choral Society Concert – Rehearsals
5	Saturday	5.00pm 7.30pm	'DECK THE HALLS for Advent & Christmas'. 'Greening the Church': Help the Church get ready, Decorating & Dinner – Bring a Plate of Finger Food to share as part of a Potluck Dinner as we decorate the Church.
6	Sunday	8.00am	Eucharist at St Matthews Lady Chapel - *Advent 2*
6	Sunday	10.00am	Eucharist with Hymns at St Matthews & St Peters - *Advent 2*
6	Sunday	2.00pm	Hastings Choral Society Concert
7	Monday	11.45am	Heretaunga Seniors Community Day
9	Wednesday	2.00pm	Eversley Resthome & Village

The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

Parish Support Hub: phone: 878-9476 ~ P O Box 824, Hastings 4156 email: hastingsparish@waiapu.com

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