

PARISH NEWS

MARCH - APRIL - MAY 2024

Bombay-Pokeno Anglican Church

www.bombay-pokeno.org.nz

...worshipping at Bombay, Pokeno, Mercer & Kaiiua



EASTER 2024

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE

Tena koutou katoa. Greetings and good wishes to all the readers of Parish News.

Over the three months since our last Parish News we have enjoyed the celebrations of Christmas and entered a New Year dominated by a hot and humid summer. Christmas in our Churches was a delight with colourful decorations and cheerful services – especially a well-attended Carol Service at St. Mary’s where our Choir was re-convened to lead some joyful Christmas singing. Many thanks to all who contributed and assisted with our Advent and Christmas services and events. One highlight from January was the morning service we held at Kaiaua followed by lunch at the Bayview Hotel – once again we were joined for this event by a group of visitors from the Churches in Mauku and Waiuku and together we enjoyed a lunch of generous proportions in the Hotel dining room.



Many of us have found the hot humid days of January and February very testing and we also ponder what is yet to come from local climatic conditions and from the accumulating impact of a steadily warming planet. Our prayers and actions to help protect and restore our beautiful planet are becoming an increasing focus of the life of our Churches and communities all around the world. In our own country there

is an underlying contest between those who justify the continued exploitation of the planet's resources and those who think it is more than time to stop and to take a different and more protective course in the way we do use the Earth's resources and live on our planet.

We also need to maintain our prayers for justice and peace in an increasingly troubled world that is torn by warfare, alert to international and internal tensions, and still challenged through the unfair distribution of food and other resources for life. We know that the God we know is present and suffering with those who suffer, and is constantly calling people and communities to the ways of justice and peace. Our calling is to find the ways we can continue to offer and serve through our prayers and actions to help make our world a better place through what we do very close to us and as part of a whole global community of faith.

LENT AND EASTER

With Ash Wednesday behind us on February 14th we are now well advanced in the season of Lent. This is a time when we engage in self-examination and renewal of our lives in God's service and prepare in this way to observe and celebrate the great events of Easter. I always advocate that anytime during Lent is a good time to start our Lenten preparation and so – if you haven't started yet – now is a good time to do so. We can engage in more regular prayer and Bible reading, we can take up some acts of care and service, we can seek to identify elements in our lives that limit or obstruct our companionship with God and turn away from those things. We come to Easter more at one with God, with ourselves, and with others in our lives.

LENTEN DISCUSSION SESSIONS and CHOIR FOR GOOD FRIDAY

This Lent our discussion group meetings will follow the theme of “God’s Call” and gather at St. Peter’s Bombay at 7.00pm on the Wednesdays of 21st and 28th February and 6th and 13th March. Once again we will convene our CHOIR for the Good Friday Service at St. Mary’s, Pokeno and there will be four practice sessions for the Choir, all at St. Mary’s, on the Thursdays of February 29th and March 7th, 14th and 21st – please consider joining in with the Choir and definitely “book in” for the service at 9.30am on Good Friday.

FAMILY SERVICES

We are continuing to offer Family Services on the first Sunday of each month at St. Peter’s Bombay with Sandra Hannaford planning and organising our liturgy for each service. Our intention is to involve more people of all ages in delivering the elements of the service and to develop the format to be appealing to families and young people. Please consider joining us for these services as we develop the format to be more engaging and inclusive.

ST. JUDE’S CHURCH, MERCER - PROPOSED CLOSURE

For many years now we have not had the people or financial resources to maintain the Church building at Mercer and it is now in need of substantial and costly repair and restoration if it is to continue to be used. Additionally, while we have continued to conduct Church services on the fifth Sunday of each month, when that occurs, our congregations on those days entirely come from outside Mercer and no local people attend. In the event of future Church members being resident in Mercer we can note that St. Mary’s Church is 8 minutes up

the road at Pokeno. At its February meeting our Vestry authorised the Priest in Charge to communicate with the appropriate Diocesan officials with the case for closing the Church and selling the property; and to prepare resolutions for the Vestry and the Parish Annual General Meeting that propose the closure. Those proposals will be discussed and decided upon at the March Vestry meeting and the Parish AGM on April 14th. As part of the process a closure and sale cannot occur without the formal support of the Vestry and the AGM. I welcome any comments and input people may want to have about this matter and invite people to get in touch with me (contacts below in this Parish News).

VESTRY

After a month off in January the Vestry met again in February and had a very busy agenda for discussion and decision. As well as the regular financial reporting and monitoring and attention to the repair and maintenance issues with our buildings, the Vestry confirmed the programme of activities for Lent and Easter and began to formalise a proposal to close St. Jude's Church and sell the property at Mercer. At the March meeting this Vestry will complete a year of very attentive and helpful service and a new Vestry will be elected at the AGM on April 14th. Many thanks to the Vestry members for their service during the past year and for the careful consideration they have given and the decisions they have taken to support and extend the work of our Church community.

PARISH AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 14th April at St. Mary's Pokeno after the 9.30am service. The meeting

will receive reports on the year past and elect a new Vestry and People's Warden for 2024-25. This meeting will also consider and vote on a proposal to close St. Jude's Church and sell the property at Mercer. Nominations for the Warden and Vestry membership will be called in the weeks before the AGM and members of our Church community are encouraged to consider nominating for these positions.

TREE AT ST. MARY'S

The tree planted beside the southern extension at St. Mary's Pokeno has been the subject of extended discussion over several years. The tree had grown to the point that it was undermining the Church building and aggravating corrosion on the roof and spouting nearby. There was also the need to respect the wishes of people who had planted the tree and supported the planting as a commemoration of St. Mary's first 100 years on the site. In recent months it had also become clear that the tree had attracted a fast-moving disease. In January the tree was felled and removed from the property – the signs of the disease were obvious throughout the felled trunk. The Vestry is to consider a replacement tree on another site on the Church grounds that may continue to acknowledge that 100 year anniversary.

ROOF PAINTING AT ST. MARY'S

While the property maintenance report in this Parish News will cover this and other matters, a highlight of the summer has been completing a re-paint of the roof at St. Mary's Church. The job needed to be done to preserve and protect the roof and the new paint job has given the whole building a refreshing lift. Bruce Owen co-ordinated the project and also secured a \$5,000 grant from the Waikato District Council. The

balance of the cost has been funded from some very generous donations from Church members and part of a generous donation given to our Church by the family of the late Barbara Jeffs. It is great to have this important and necessary project completed.

FINANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The major sources of income to sustain and maintain our work as a Mission District are from rental on the Vicarage house, return on some investments, extra fundraising activities and, of course, the very generous contributions of voluntary donors among our Church members. We thank our donors for their loyalty and commitment as they help us to maintain fundamental resources to support our work and ministry now and in the future.

FUNDRAISING PROJECTS

A Teddy Bear raffle, sale of Samosa, baking and sale of Christmas cakes, and a Christmas raffle: all these manageable fundraising projects in the closing months of 2023 enabled us to raise \$1800 for our Church funds. Our new Vestry for 2024-25 will give support to a fundraising team to help initiate and support these kinds of projects. Each of these activities has been initiated and co-ordinated by a Church member with an idea and some energy for the task – and so please let us know if you have an idea for a manageable fundraising project – and the Vestry team will help with planning, communications and support.

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

We continue to receive information about the progress towards the re-opening of St. Stephen's School in Bombay

with the current plan having the school opening in 2025. The Chairperson of the school Board is Bishop Kito, Bishop of Te Tai Tokerau, and in discussion with the Bishop during his recent visit to St. Mary's he affirmed the history of exchanges between the school and St. Peter's Church and looked forward to continuing communication with our Mission District. And we look forward to more news about the re-opening of the school.

BISHOP SELWYN MEMORIAL

This year our events to focus on the Bishop Selwyn Memorial cairn beside the Great South Road at Bombay will be on Sunday 26th May. At 11.30am we will have our gathering at the cairn for a brief prayer service and then go to St. Peter's Church for an historical presentation and a soup and bread lunch.

POKENO COMMUNITY MEET AND GREET

This community event that our Church helped to found is continuing to provide a fortnightly gathering for local people to get together to build contacts and friendship, get to know about events in the community, and to help organise a range of additional community activities. In 2023 the gatherings were very well attended and there was consistent positive feedback from the people taking part. Dates for the gatherings at the Pokeno Community Hall on Thursday mornings 10am – 12 noon over the next several months are: March 7th and 21st, April 4th and 18th, May 2nd, 16th and 30th.

CONCLUSION

Once again I wish to thank all the people who continue to help sustain the life and work of our Church. Thank you to all who

have assisted with our church services and with the care and repair of our buildings. Thank you again to all our donors and those who have brought tickets and treats through our fundraisers. I know how much people value our cycle of worship and community gathering, and how much people want us to make a positive contribution within the wider communities in our areas. I look forward to going on working and worshipping together and coming out of the heat and humidity into a cool and tranquil Bombay-Pokeno autumn.

Every blessing,

Andrew Beyer

Priest in Charge, Anglican Churches in Bombay-Pokeno

0274 508 389 | apbeyer49@gmail.com

DONATION TAX REBATE

Those who are regular contributors to our church funds, by online banking or through the envelope scheme, will have now received their donation receipt. All donations to our church, being a registered charitable organization, qualify for a 33.3% tax rebate. That is one third of what you gave being returned to you by the IRD. You are entitled to this, no matter what your financial status. If you are not already familiar with the procedure, go online to the IRD website and search for donations rebate and print off the IR526 form. This can then be filled in and, with any donation receipts you have, post to the IRD address given. If you don't have access to on line, or a printer, we have hard copies at both churches, alternatively contact Bruce on 021681962.

SERVICES for March, April, May



March 2024

Sun 3 Mar	9:30am	St Peter's	Family Service
Sun 10 Mar	9:30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sun 17 Mar	9:30am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
Sun 24 Mar	9:30am	St Mary's	Palm Sunday Communion
	4pm	Kaiaua	Holy Communion
Thu 28 Mar	7pm	St Peter's	Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion
Fri 29 Mar	9:30am	St Mary's	Good Friday Service
Sun 31 Mar	9:30am	St Peter's	Easter Communion
	9:30am	St Mary's	Easter Communion



April 2024

Sun 7 Apr	9:30am	St Peter's	Family Service
			<i>daylight saving ends – clocks backward one hour</i>
Sun 14 Apr	9:30am	St Mary's	Communion, Parish AGM
Sun 21 Apr	9:30am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
Sun 28 Apr	9:30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	4pm	Kaiaua	Holy Communion

May 2024

Sun 5 May	9:30am	St Peter's	Family Service
Sun 12 May	9:30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
Sun 19 May	9:30am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
Sun 26 May	9:30am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
	11:30am	Bishop Selwyn Memorial	
	4pm	Kaiaua	Holy Communion

All are most welcome especially new families.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT

A TOP JOB

In mid January, Ian's Roofing Services of the Kowhai Group franchise were given the task of recoating the colour steel roof of St Mary's.

In recent times, at over 30 years old the roof coating was showing the signs of age. The contract included a thorough clean of the roof, applying an undercoat, followed by two top coats. The decision by Vestry was to maintain the colour red, in keeping with the heritage status of the church.



Cleaning the roof



The undercoat is applied



All done! A shiny new coat

The current roof has a story of its own to be told, as described in the history of the church of St Mary on the Hill, *The Bells of St Mary's*. In late 1990 Vestry was successful in persuading

New Zealand Steel to donate a new roof, on the basis that the work could be part of a promotional TV advertisement. That the current roof has continued without repainting for some 33 years is a tribute to the durability of Colorsteel.

Just as our Vestry were lucky in not having to fund a new roof in 1990, so too is the current Vestry lucky. Of the \$17,430 of the total cost, \$5000 was a grant from the Waikato District Council Rural Ward Discretionary fund; \$5,550 donations from parishioners; and with the GST content of \$2,273 due for refund; leaving a balance of \$4600 to be taken from the Barbara Jeffs Estate Bequest.

We gratefully acknowledge these donations, without which we would be hard pressed to complete the job to the standard achieved.

We therefore acknowledge The Waikato District Council, Rural Ward Discretionary fund, local parishioner donors and the Barbara Jeffs' Estate Bequest.

MAINTENANCE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Our Vestry has a challenging job keeping abreast of the maintenance of the three churches, St Peter's, St Mary's, St Jude's, as well as the Vicarage and the Cemetery. Fortunately, the Cemetery at St Peter's generates its own income and we are grateful to John Anderson and his team on the Cemetery Trust Board, who work hard to look after the Cemetery plots and surrounds.

Now that the roof of St Mary's has been recoated, and that our two heritage churches do not need urgent attention. Having stated that I do highlight that in the not-too-distant future

window frames will need repainting and the rafters of both churches will need a thorough clean and re-staining. It is the Vicarage that needs our greatest attention. At over forty years old, there is much maintenance that is long overdue. So far, we have replaced the garage, including its asbestos linings, and replaced the roof of the dwelling itself. We have also had a major tree felling and pruning exercise around the property, together with a post and rail fence and gateway. In round figures that has cost Vestry around \$45,000 in the past five years. Sadly, as a private dwelling, it does not qualify for funding grants.

Currently the Vicarage is a rental property, and it continues to have maintenance issues, meaning that we are unable to charge a rental that is closer to market rates. It does however reach minimum Healthy Homes criteria.

So far in recent years we have installed air conditioning, removed the unsafe/condemned log burner and installed a DVS system to reduce winter mould. Of the major tasks ahead of us are a redesign of the bathroom, redecorate interior walls and ceilings, including the removal of tired painted over wall papers, replace worn and mouldy drapes, replace worn and stained carpet and worn kitchen lino. These will cost thousands of dollars, so we do need someone to win Lotto!! Shortly, we will be arranging an inspection of the property to prioritise the most urgent tasks in consultation with the tenants and our Property Manager, from Barfoot and Thompson. Vestry has set aside \$18,000 for work to be done at the Vicarage this year.

Bruce Owen

GOLD CARD WANDERERS

Every time we start to plan a journey in the way we did before Covid, we hit problems. We did, however, manage to organise our end of year lunch which we held at the Kentish pub in Waiuku. Starting with morning coffee at Calendula Cottage, Glenbrook, we end up at the Kentish for lunch. This venue is always popular with our Wanderers and the menu is very good.



Lunch at the Kentish Hotel

We had started to plan a Gold Card trip to Waiheke Island going to Onetangi for lunch. It is now several years we have done that trip travelling on the train and ferry, followed by bus from Matiatia to Onetangi. Firstly, the end of year spike in Covid resulted in the cancellation, to be on the safe side and just as we started to think about rescheduling we are advised that the train services cannot be relied upon, because of the effect our hot summer is having on the railway lines.

Keeping up with the news and events

Did you know our church website www.bombay-pokeno.org.nz has all the details of our services, Tidings and Newsletters.

Also, the Facebook group we set up during Covid continues to operate, also giving updates on church services etc. Facebook group: Bombay Pokeno Anglican Churches

Are you an Organist?

Since Janet McRobbie and John Otto have retired as our regular church organists, we are looking for someone who can assist in this role, if not every Sunday morning for our 9.30am services, then perhaps once or twice a month. Perhaps you know someone who would enjoy taking on the role? We have two quality electronic organs. Experience with organs is not essential, as anyone with good keyboard skills would be able to adapt.

Contact by email in the first instance:

admin@bombay-pokeno.org.nz

The Story of St Jude's

As Vestry continues to discuss and ponder on the future of St Jude's church in Mercer, I thought that it would be useful to compile a short history of the church since it was built in 1914, following on from the successes of the histories of St Peter's and St Mary's. St Jude's has had a chequered life as the story will show. As well the account will include an outline of the settlement of Mercer.

Bruce Owen

Do you know...

about St Mary's bells???

Harriet Johnson, as well as providing the funding for the building of St Mary's and the west window stained glass, also funded the bells. They were made by Warnock's of London.

Each bell is inscribed: -

The 23 inch bell ... *Praise the Lord*

The 25 inch bell ... *To the Glory of God*

The 27 inch bell ... *Harriet Johnson gave us*

The bells have been tolled at many a funeral or special remembrance, the last significant times being for the Remembrance Service for the Christchurch Mosque victims, one toll for very death, and more recently 96 times on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's funeral. On a more cheerful note the bells have rung out in tuneful celebration as the bride walks down the aisle.



December Family Service St Peter's

KIDS' PAGE



EASTER HARE Colouring Page

PRAYER CHAIN

This long term pastoral ministry of our Church community is convened and managed by Martha Hosick and involves a group of our Church members who pray for others regarding any needs or matters in their lives as requested. The Prayer Chain operates on a confidential basis. Any who wish to join in to pray for others and any who wish to request prayers for themselves or others may contact **Martha** – phone 09 233 6609

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

If you are unwell, or need some help or support or, if you know of someone needing support please ring one of the people listed:-

Bombay	Marcia	09-558 9082
Pokeno	Martha	09-233 6609
Mercer	Margaret O.	09-238 1877

Under guidance of Clergy we offer a confidential ministry and pray that God may bless us in our desire to support one another.

PARISH DONATIONS

We make no apology for continuing the call for regular financial contributions to support the running of the parish. As the current cost of running the parish is in excess of \$1600 per week, we need all the support we can get.

We encourage regular monthly direct debit donations as this ensures a regular income for us. Donations can be made by online banking using the following steps:-

Online banking: credit to
Bombay Pokeno Parish 02-0404-0013078-00

For a general donation enter 'general' with your initials and surname.

If you wish to remain anonymous leave out the details of your name and insert 'anon'. However by including your name, it does mean that we are able to supply receipts which will allow tax rebates on your donations.

We do appreciate all financial support.

RECENT PIC



*Speaking at Mothers Union Mary Summer Day at Cathedral
17 August 2023 Sir Michael Jones*

Kaiaua



4pm Sunday 24 March 2024

4pm Sunday 28 April 2024

4pm Sunday 26 May 2024

at the Kaiaua Bowling Club
Hall, Lipscombe Road

Prayer Chain

*The prayer of the righteous
is effective*



There is a small group of people who are willing to pray for you. If you have a need of any kind that you would like prayer for, please ring Martha on 09-233 6609. (This is a confidential ministry).

From the Registers



Contacts to **book a
wedding** at any of the
parish churches

The Revd Andrew
09-236 0870
or Diana O'Brien
027-277 1685

SUNDAY READINGS

Mar 3, Lent 3

Exodus 20: 1-17; 1
Corinthians 1: 18-25;
John 2: 13-22

Mar 10, Lent 4

Numbers 21: 4-9;
Ephesians 2: 1-10;
John 3: 14-21

Mar 17, Lent 5

Jeremiah 31: 31-
34; Hebrews 5: 5-10;
John 12: 20-33

Mar 24, Palm Sunday

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-
16; Romans 4: 13-25;
Mark 8: 31-38

Mar 31, Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43; 1
Corinthians 15: 1-11;
Mark 16: 1-8

Apr 7, Easter 2

Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John
1: 1 – 2: 2; **John 20:
19-31**

Apr 14, Easter 3

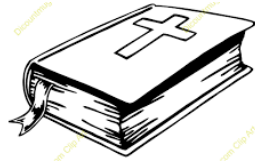
Acts 3: 12-19; 1 John
3: 1-7; **Luke 24: 36b-
48**

Apr 21, Easter 4

Acts 4: 5-12; 1 John
3: 16-24; **John 10:
11-18**

April 28, Easter 5

Joel 2: 21-37; 1
Timothy 2: 1-7;
Matthew 6: 25-33



May 5, Easter 6

Acts 10: 44-48; 1
John 5: 1-6; **John 15:
9-17**

May 12, Easter 7

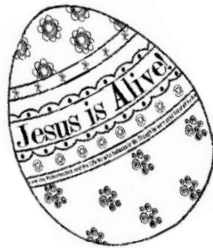
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26;
1 John 5: 9-13;
John 5

May 19, Pentecost

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Acts
2: 1-21; **John 15: 26-
27; 16: 4b-15**

May 26 Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6: 1-8; Rom 8:
12-17; **John 3: 1-17**



WHO'S WHO

PRIEST IN CHARGE	The Revd Andrew Beyer email apbeyer49@gmail.com	0274-508 389
PRIEST ASSISTANT	The Revd Bruce Owen home 09 294 6629, email brucebowen@outlook.com	021-681 962
PRIEST IN CHARGE WARDEN:	Marcia Anderson	09-294 8268
PEOPLE'S WARDEN:	Lynn Woodyard	021-459 669
Vestry Secretary:	Beverley Berwick	07-836 3730
Vestry Treasurer:	Margaret Overdevest	09-238 1877
Parish Administrator:	Diana O'Brien eric.diana.obrien@xtra.co.nz	

PARISH SERVICES - MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2024

For a list of **services** please turn to page 11

Vestry Meetings St Peter's 7pm

Mar 2024 – Thurs 21 March

Apr 2024 – Thurs 18 April

May 2024 – Thurs 16 May

DEADLINE FOR NEXT "PARISH NEWS"

28 MAY 2024

ANY ARTICLES OF INTEREST

SEND TO:-

Parish News,

150 Bombay Rd, RD1, Bombay 2675,

or email eric.diana.obrien@xtra.co.nz

For more information: phone 09-236 0870

www.bombay-pokeno.org.nz



**Anglican Diocese
of Auckland**
Glorifying God the Holy Trinity

Return Address:

150 Bombay Road, RD1, Bombay 2675