

St Luke's GREYTOWN

Parish Profile

INTRODUCTION

Our Town

With its historical buildings and tree-lined avenues, Greytown/Te Hūpēnui is incredibly beautiful having been officially recognised as New Zealand's most beautiful village (check out <https://www.greytownvillage.com/> for more information). The town centre is especially picturesque with numerous historic buildings lining Main Street. Visitors find a wide choice of cafés and restaurants serving seasonal menus and local wines, as well as designer boutiques and quirky local stores that stock everything from hand-made lead soldiers, handbags, jewellery and antiques through to art.

Greytown/Te Hūpēnui was New Zealand's first planned inland town. It was established in 1854 by settlers from Wellington who were looking for small, affordable portions of land to farm. They were assisted in their quest by Governor Sir George Grey and named the town in his honour.

However, Ngāti Kahungunu have called this place home for much longer. Greytown/Te Hūpēnui was an important place early in New Zealand history due to the role of Papawai Marae which was the site of the first Māori Parliament. The Papawai Marae wharenui dates back to 1888 and is still in regular use.



Our Faith Community

St Luke's Anglican Church (STL) itself was built on Main Street in 1869, additions were made in 1876 which included a commemorative stained-glass window in honour of local Māori lay leaders. However, the original church was destroyed by an arsonist in 1968.

The church was rebuilt in 1972. Significant modernisation and deferred maintenance work was completed 2017-2022. Prior to the arson STL was actively involved in ministering alongside Māori lay ministers in the Southern Wairarapa region. Sadly, this relationship was not continued after the church was rebuilt.

The people who make up the faith community here at STL come from a mixture of faith Christian traditions. Several of the families who call STL home did not attend church prior to being involved here. For some it has been the only church community they have ever known.

In recent times we have sought to be strategically missional by focussing our energies on four strategic areas: small groups, hospitality, worship and families/children. We are also in the process of finishing up a significant redevelopment project which involves the modernisation of the church interior, construction of a new hall and Vicarage, refurbishment of the Memorial Garden, and the installation of a community playground.

While not a wealthy or large parish, we are in a financially sound position due to the careful stewardship of our Treasurer and Finance Team as well as the generosity of our STL whanau who sacrificially give to support our mission and ministry in the heart of Greytown.

So, if you're interested in knowing more about life, mission and ministry here at STL – read on!

VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Our Vision

The Diocese of Wellington seeks to be a transformative movement of local faith communities within which we prioritise and care for the least, the last and the lost.

In discerning our mission here in the heart of Greytown/Te Hūpēnui we asked ourselves who the least, the last and lost in our community are and what it would like to be a transformative faith community in our context. This is why we have a vision of being:

“A visible, vibrant community following the way of Jesus.”

Our Mission

Over the past 10 years Greytown/Te Hūpēnui has rapidly changed due to urban sprawl and gentrification. While there are still pockets of material need, we realised that many in our community suffer from loneliness and social isolation. They also need the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus in a contextually appropriate way.

This is why we see our mission as being:

“To connect people to one another & to Jesus.”

Our Values

Within the context of our vision and mission we have the same three core values as the Diocese of Wellington:

- We are disciples
- We are family
- We care for the least, the last and the lost.

Our Strategic Priorities

To help us focus in on our desire to be a visible, vibrant community that follows the way of Jesus, and to help us stay aligned with our mission statement, Vestry has identified four strategic priorities for STL.

These are:

- Children and families
- Small groups
- Hospitality
- Worship

What these look like in practicality is:

Children and families:

- Weekly Kids' Church programme during term time. We want to grow average attendance rate of 18 per week back to pre-Covid level of 25+ children requiring two separate age groups.
- The re-establishment of a youth group in 2023.
- and we want to engage the parents of school age children fully in the life of the church.

Small groups:

- Re-establishment of 5 or more small groups as per pre-Covid. The groups should continue to meet the needs a range of faith stages

Hospitality

- Regular use of our new playground, community hall and flexible church space to set an example of welcoming hospitality to church members and the wider community.
- Growth of the spirit of hospitality within our church membership through the provision of regular meals and social gatherings in parishioner homes.

Worship:

- We want our worship to be spiritually enriching for for all regardless of the stage in their personal faith.
- This will be primarily at our principal 10am Sunday morning service and Kids Church through celebration, teaching, scripture and music.
- We seek to extend our worship to include the planting of regular and occasional services to reach out to our extended community.

It will be important to use our technology for communication, music and teaching alongside our new buildings to support and facilitate the above priorities.





WORSHIP SERVICES

STL consists of one worship community, spaced across different congregations. Our main services include:

- A family-orientated service on Sundays at 10am (70+ adults), and
- A BCP Eucharist held at 10am on Wednesdays (8+ adults).

Other regular services include:

- A fortnightly communion service at Palliser House (aged residential care facility),
- A fortnightly communion service in the local secure dementia unit, and
- A morning prayer meeting on Wednesday mornings at 730am.

Other services include:

- A monthly non-Eucharistic Worship Festival which includes contemporary worship music and a shared meal,
- A quarterly Songs of Praise service featuring traditional hymns,
- Holy Week services, and
- An annual Anglicost service with a focus on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

There is an openness within STL to new forms of worship and the planting of new congregations in the future.

DEMOGRAPHICS

While the number of parishioners in the older age bracket has declined, the number of working age adults with children has significantly increased. This has led to an overall increase in worship attendance as the number of working age adults and children attending worship is greater than the decline in older aged parishioners. Anecdotally this is evidenced by:

- An increase in the average number of children attending worship from 4 per week in 2017 to 18 per week in 2021,
- An increasing need for a youth group.



Engagement & Attendance

In regards to engagement levels, attendance trends at STL for the past five years are as such:

- 2017 – 87 people per week
- 2018 – 91 people per week
- 2019 – 84 people per week
- 2020 – 91 people per week*
- 2021 – 92 people per week*

**Covid-19 effected years*

This is the average attendance per week throughout the year. Seasonal aspects (i.e.: calving, summer holidays and crop harvesting) impact attendance at specific times.

This means that for periods of the year average attendance is considerably lower (i.e.: 30 adults) while at other times noticeably higher (i.e.: 100+ adults) resulting in the above average. Covid-19 has also clearly impacted regular attendance.

We've also been blessed to see households from various cultures begin to call STL home. While STL is still predominantly NZ-European, other cultures represented within the parish include: Korean, Malaysian, Australian, Chinese, South African, Māori and Sri Lankan.



PARISH LIFE

There are lots of things going on at STL in terms of ministry. Central to all that we do is our desire to see people connect to one another and to Jesus. With this in mind, some of our additional ministries include:

Friendship Group

A new initiative, this group meets weekly on a Tuesday at 10am and provides a space for community and connection for older members of the parish and community. This group consists of approximately 15 people and is predominately social in nature and self-led.

Music & Movement

This was on hold during the pandemic but has recently restarted. We have secured funding from the Ministry of Education for M&M. Each week involves a music and movement session for under-5s and their caregivers. STL provides a morning tea for attendees. This has proven to be an important ministry area as it provides a place of connection for isolated parents/caregivers.

Men's Breakfast

Organised by members of STL, these are held at a local café, Cuckoo's Café. The events involve a guest speaker who shares part of their testimony to encourage and challenge the men at STL. Attendance ranges from 20-30 men.



Working Men's Ministry

A new ministry, the Working Men's Ministry leadership team have pre-planned a series of events and gathering throughout 2023. The intent of the group is to provide a social environment for men, primarily from within STL, to connect with one another and develop friendships. The aim is for this group to delve into spiritual conversations as and when they see as being appropriate. The new Vicar will not be expected to organise this ministry but may want to participate as appropriate.

Women's Ministry

Since 2017 we have hosted a number of spiritual retreats for women within STL. A small group for mothers of young children also meets seasonally during Advent and Lent. As we emerge from the pandemic there is a desire to see this group renewed and working in tandem with the Working Men's Ministry group. The new Vicar will not be expected to organise this ministry but may want to participate as appropriate.

Community Foodbank

Post the Covid-19 lockdowns we amalgamated our foodbank with the South Wairarapa Foodbank which is led by Rev May Croft. The Vicar currently assists with referring people to the foodbank and delivering parcels to members of the parish and community. STL also acts as a conduit for the kindergartens and school when households are in need of assistance.

Trunk or Treat

A safe Halloween event which involves members of the community parking up and opening their car 'trunk' to allow children to Trunk or Treat on site. Property Brokers provide funding to STL for the event and we partner with the Greytown Primary School in facilitating the evening. STL hosts a free sausage sizzle as a part of the event. Approximately 250 children attend this event each year.



CHURCH FACILITIES

In 2021 we held a Special General Meeting to discuss the state of our land and buildings. Over the past six years we have become good stewards of our assets and have addressed outstanding deferred maintenance on our church site. However, after the sale of the derelict Vicarage we found ourselves in a unique position to consider an alternative use of our land.

At our SGM we agreed that we want our buildings and assets to better facilitate our mission and ministry rather than define or curtail what we feel God is calling us to do in our neighbourhood. In light of the above we embarked on a redevelopment project which included:

Renovating the Church

This included removing the pews, levelling and carpeting the floor, painting the interior walls and exterior joinery and installing a kitchenette.

Constructing a Playground

This involved excavating part of the parish lawn facing Main Street and installing a fenced modular playground. This has proven to be a popular community asset with the playground being used most days by members of the wider community.

Demolition & Construction of STL Community Hall

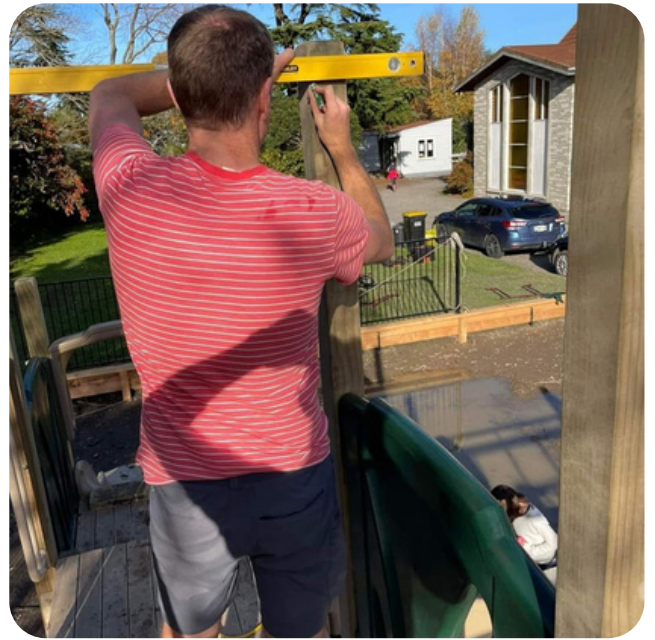
The hall, while picturesque, was in need of repairs and was not cost efficient. We also wanted a hall with a more welcoming façade nearer Main Street in keeping with our vision statement.

New Vicarage

With the sale of the previous Vicarage and the rapidly increasing price of property in Greytown/Te Hūpēnui we felt it advantageous to build a new Vicarage on land owned by STL.

To date we have completed the interior and exterior work on the church as well as the playground. The Vicarage is set to be completed January 2023 and is on track to be completed on time. Work on the hall has begun and construction begins early 2023. The new Vicar is not expected to have to work on this project as it will be completed before their arrival. While the proceeds of the sale of the Vicarage were utilised along with parish reserves, approximately 40% of the project has been funded through pledges made by parishioners. Additional to the above assets we also have a standalone Kids' Church room facility and a storage container. There is an office for the Vicar in the church and an office for the Administrator.





STAFFING

The paid team at STL is small with the number of active volunteers being quite high. Paid staff include a Vicar and a part-time administrator. Pre-pandemic we did employ a youth worker and there is a strong desire to engage another one. However, we have had difficulty attracting the right person/people during the course of the pandemic. This is something that we would be keen to explore further with the right candidate.

Rev Pat Olds is a retired non-stipendary Priest who holds a licence within the parish. Rev Pat is actively involved in the parish through the provision of pastoral care, preaching and presiding. Rev Pat is also the Honorary People's Warden – a position we created to allow for greater representation of the 65+ age bracket.

Bronny Cook is our current People's Warden. She is also our Children's and Young People's Safety Officer (CYPSO). Richard Harvey is the current Vicar's Warden. Stuart Patterson is our Treasurer and has oversight of the STL Finance Team. The Finance Team consists of parishioners nominated by Vestry. The Finance Team assists the Treasurer and provides advice to Vestry concerning financial matters. There are also various teams of volunteers who oversee and resource key ministry areas within STL such as Men's Ministry and sung worship.



BRONNY COOK



RICHARD HARVEY

TECHNOLOGY AT STL

Technology plays a significant role in both our worship and ministry at STL. We have parishioners trained and equipped to use respective IT systems. It would be advantageous for the successful applicant to be adaptable to learning how to use new pieces of software where needed.

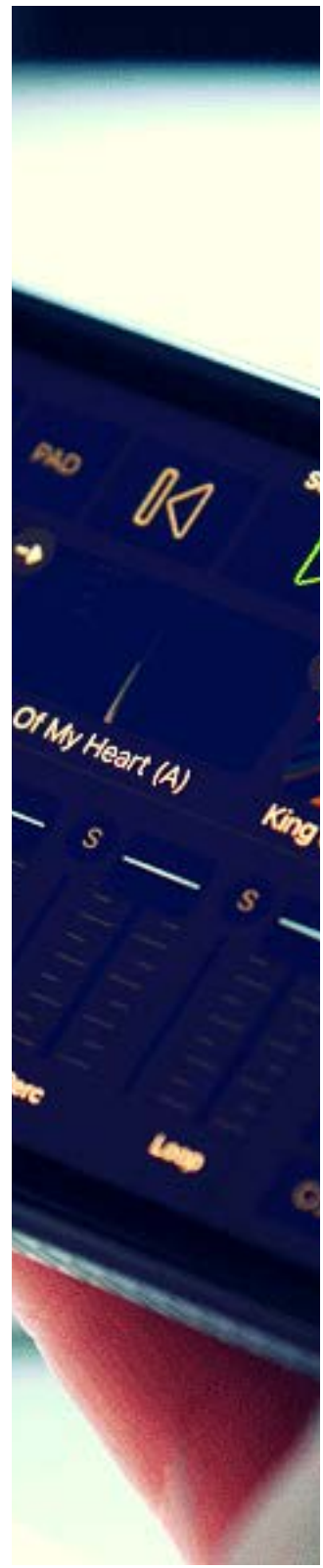
Our services are delivered through PowerPoints with integrated sound including wireless microphones and speakers. We have a band that plays regularly and a full sound system, digital desk, electric keyboard, electric drumkit and everything needed for a great music.

We also utilise cloud-based iOS apps to enhance our musicians' ability to practice remotely.

Our Kids' Church uses the 'Think Orange' curriculum from the United States which leverages cloud based PowerPoints and video technology.

For communication across the parish we utilise a number of digital methods including email, website (with an embedded chatbot feature) and a private Facebook community group. We also have a public-facing Facebook page and news blog site accessible via our website.

With a large age range of parishioners involved in leading a service, the technology we use needs to be simple to use. It has been well documented and experienced parishioners are able to train and assist when changes are needed. We have used technology to enhance our ministry and integrated it seamlessly into our worship.



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

While there is so much great stuff going on at STL, we are aware that there are also various opportunities and challenges presenting themselves to us. We wanted to highlight what we see to be some of the pressing challenges and opportunities here at STL so that the successful applicant wasn't surprised by anything once they arrived!

Additional Opportunities

- Rest home ministry in The Orchards: The first units for The Orchards retirement village have recently been completed. Completion of the assisted living facility and dementia unit is not due for another two years. Our current Vicar has strategically placed STL by securing the chaplaincy position within The Orchards. This is a wonderful missional opportunity that we would love to explore further. There is potential funding available for this role via The Orchards. However, progressing this potential ministry area will be left to the incoming Vicar to discern regarding best next steps.
- Greytown Primary School: Our current Vicar and his predecessor have both proactively developed a connection with the Greytown Primary School. It's not unusual for the Vicar to be invited into the school to bless rooms, provide advice to parents/caregivers facing difficult circumstances or lead a memorial event. The school also used the hall regularly before the redevelopment project and continues to use the church for larger all-school assemblies. While there is not a formal MOU signed with the school this is nonetheless a fantastic missional relationship we would like to keep active going forward. The signing of a formal MOU with the school is a possibility for the incoming Vicar to discuss with the school principal.

Key Challenges

- **Momentum:** We'd love the missional momentum of our family ministry to be kept up. Our Kids' Church leaders are wonderful. However post-pandemic the team is smaller in number meaning we are currently only able to offer one Kids' Church group for ages up to 12 rather than age-specific groups as we used to have. Because of the limitation on ages that can be catered for at present there is an increasing need for the provision of some form of youth ministry. Building up the Kids' Church leadership team will be an important challenge for the new Vicar.
- **Music and Movement:** Music and Movement is led by Aimee Newton, our current Vicar's wife. Once they leave, this group will need a new person to champion this important ministry. However finding available parishioners during work hours has proven difficult.

Finances

Copies of the parish accounts are available upon request.

While not a wealthy or large parish, we are in a financially sound position due to the careful stewardship of our Treasurer and Finance Team as well as the generosity of our STL whanau who sacrificially give to support our mission and ministry in the heart of Greytown/Te Hūpēnui.





CONTACT INFORMATION

Interested in applying or knowing more? All applications and inquiries are to be made to the Rev'd Paul Carey, Executive Assistant to Bishop Justin Duckworth, Bishop of Wellington.

 **04 472 1057**

 **paul.carey@anglicanmovement.nz**

Want to learn more about STL online? Visit our website and follow the links to our news blog, videos and social media page:

 **stlukesgreytown.co.nz**

*we're a
transformative movement
of local faith communities*