



**Parish Profile of  
St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai**

**March 2026**



94 Bureta Road, Ōtūmoetai , Tauranga 3110  
Telephone: 0064 (7) 576 9923  
Email: [admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com](mailto:admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com) Web: <http://www.stjohns-tga.org.nz/>

## **Introduction**

Since 1955, St John's Anglican Parish in Ōtūmoetai, Tauranga has been contributing to the faith and worship needs of its local community. The parish has a strong tradition of lay involvement and commitment to the immediate and wider community.

Theologically and ecclesiastically the parish could be described as an inclusive community accepting of a wide range of theologies. The worship and life of the community is what can be described as 'traditional Anglican' reflecting an open ended approach to faith and contemporary theology. It has a strong focus on 'being there' for its local community. Whilst most parishioners live within the formal parish boundaries, a number also travel from the wider Tauranga area.

Ōtūmoetai is a well-established, relatively affluent suburb within 10 minutes of the centre of Tauranga City. There are excellent primary, intermediate and secondary schools in the area and there is easy access to tertiary education facilities. It is a safe community with good public services, including being on a central bus route.

## **Character of the parish**

*'We are an inclusive parish offering a warm welcome to everyone who walks through our door. We believe that we are all loved by God regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, ability or sexuality. For us Christianity means generosity, gratitude and humility; peace, beauty and truth. We are committed to our local community and offer a wide range of activities and services. Our OASIS Op Shop is well-known in the area and we have a thriving Playgroup and Toy Library as well as a growing range of activities for older adults.'*

There are two aspects to the parish: the worshipping congregation (predominantly older people) and the parish's outward facing community activities. The outward facing community activities of the parish are strong and benefit from an accomplished staff team.

The inclusive nature of the parish is of fundamental importance to many parishioners and to all our staff.

## **Worship**

The style of worship is best described as 'relaxed formality' with an emphasis on well-prepared liturgy conducted in a dignified manner. Full use is made of the various Eucharistic options in the ANZPB plus other appropriate material. Hymns are selected to be appropriate for the Sunday propers and include a mixture of traditional (favoured by many of the congregation) and more contemporary hymns such as those setting new words to familiar tunes and those from the New Zealand Hymn Book Trust.

The established Sunday worship pattern is 9.30am service. The service has four hymns and, on occasion, the Gloria and/or the Lord's Prayer may be sung.

An informal traditional service of Holy Communion is held on Wednesdays at 10.00am.

Annual Services include:	Ash Wednesday Service Liturgy of Maundy Thursday Liturgy of Good Friday Holy Saturday Eucharist Te Pouhere Sunday All Souls' Time to Remember service Advent Carol Service Lessons and Carols
--------------------------	--

## **Church membership**

Currently there are 75 on the electoral role and 88 on the pastoral role.

## Clergy

<u>Vicar:</u>	Moved to another parish March 2026
<u>Priest in Charge:</u>	The Reverend John Hebenton
<u>Priest Associate:</u>	The Reverend Sue Genner (currently Priest in Charge St Peters, Mount Maunganui)
<u>Permission to Officiate:</u>	The Reverend Geoff Crawshaw
<u>Licensed Lay:</u>	Tim Cross (Licence for Leading the Liturgy of the Word) Rosemary Clark (Licence for parish visiting; anointing of oil; administer reserved sacrament in homes, hospital/rest homes) Note: The Parish is in the process of applying for additional licenses for Liturgy of the Word and Preaching.
<u>Vestry:</u>	Aside from the Priest in Charge who chairs the meetings, Vestry comprises: Roger Clark (Bishop's Warden), Angela Stensness (People's Warden), Tim Cross (Synodsperson) plus the following 'ordinary' lay members – Liz Skivington, Sue Reed, Wendy Burborough. Vestry meets monthly, and parish groups report bi-monthly or as required.

## Parish Lay Ministries

Services are supported by an established roster system of parishioners including: Liturgists; greeters and sidespersons; readers, crucifer and PowerPoint operator Music for services is supported by musicians playing either piano or organ.

A Holy Communion service is provided monthly for residents of Radius Matua Rest Home and Home Communion is taken to those who are housebound.

Benedictine Group: the Parish hosts a small group which meets each Thursday morning for prayer and discussion The members are affiliated to the Order of the Holy Cross.

## Study/Discussion Groups

Occasional focus groups study planned themes. Each year a Lenten and Advent series is led by the Vicar.

## Parish Description

Tauranga is a vigorous and growing city of approximately 161,000 people. It is New Zealand's sixth biggest city. By 2033 population is expected to reach 181,150.

The city covers an area of 13,440 hectares. The landscape is dominated by the volcanic cone of Mauao (Mount Maunganui), the harbour, long white beaches and the Kaimai mountain ranges to the west.

Tauranga extends from Bethlehem in the north where there are significant new developments, to the new growth areas of Pyes Pa in the west, and east to Papamoa and the new developments planned for Te Timu.

A significant number of people living in Tauranga are over 60 years of age – 20.6% which is higher than the national average of 16.9% (source: 2023 Census). However, more and more people aged 30-45 years, with children, are choosing to make Tauranga home. The median age of residents is 39.4.

Tauranga has a higher than average number of residents who identify themselves as Māori – 19.9% compared to 16.5% nationally (source: 2023 Census). There are three main iwi that most Tauranga Māori residents are affiliated to – Ngāi Te Rangi (or Ngāiterangi), Ngāti Ranginui and Ngāti Pūkenga. There is an increase in other ethnicities in the city and worship centres including 3 Sikh Temples in Tauranga and Papamoa, another in Te Puke, a Mosque, a Hindu Temple in Tauriko, and a Buddhist Temple in Welcome Bay.

It is a challenge to find statistics particular to Ōtūmoetai. The description of well-established and relatively affluent is apt. Perhaps a helpful measuring stick is the decile ratings of the schools in the Parish catchment area, although this system of rating has been abolished under the current government. The secondary school and the intermediate school (Ōtūmoetai College and Ōtūmoetai Intermediate) have decile ratings of 8. The primary schools feeding them have ratings from 10 (Matua Primary), 9 (Pillans Point Primary) and 7 (Ōtūmoetai Primary) to 6 (Bellevue Primary) and 4 (Te Kura o Mananui).

The boundaries of the Parish are defined in the Diocesan records as follows:

*“Starting at the western end of the railway bridge, which traverses the mouth of the Waikareao Estuary; thence southwards along the western shoreline of the Waikareao Estuary to a point due west of Motuopae Island; thence in a westerly direction to the south-east corner of Darraghs Road; thence westwards behind the sections of the southern side of Darraghs Road to Russell Place, to Ōtūmoetai Road; thence westwards behind the sections on the southern side of Millers Road to the Tauranga City Boundary (as existing on June 1, 1966); thence northwards along the said boundary to the sea; thence following the shoreline around the Ōtūmoetai peninsula to the starting point.” (Marked in red on the map)*



This geographical description corresponds closely to those parts of Tauranga referred to in the census together with their populations as follows:

	2006	2013	2018	2023
Matua	5,076	5,148	5,394	5,620
Bellevue	3,399	3,537	3,807	3,852
Ōtūmoetai	7,086	7,155	8,034	8,334
Brookfield	4,950	5,148	5,754	6,270
<b>Ōtūmoetai Parish</b>	<b>22,517</b>	<b>23,001</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>26,099</b>

Tauranga has a temperate maritime climate with warm, humid summers and mild, wet winters. Renowned as one of NZ's sunniest cities, it averages over 2,200 sunshine hours annually.

## **History of the Parish**

St John's history began with a meeting of the Vestry of Holy Trinity, Tauranga, in 1952 where it was decided that land should be bought in Bureta and a hall built for services and for community life. The hall was completed in 1955 with the enthusiastic support of the Anglicans amongst the 150 families then living on the Ōtūmoetai peninsula. St John's quickly established its independent identity and Ōtūmoetai was made a separate parochial district by a Bill passed at the 1966 Synod.

Construction of the church commenced in 1969 under the tireless leadership and physical effort of the then Vicar the Reverend Harold G. Titterton and his enthusiastic parishioners, a few of whom are in the congregation today. The church was completed in 1971 and dedicated in May of that year by the then Bishop Paul Reeves.

St John's was served continuously with fulltime vicars since the appointment of Harold Titterton until October 2013. At this time the parish had a significant deficit and the decision was made to sell the original vicarage. Between 2013 and 2015 a process of rebuilding was undertaken under the oversight of the priest-in-charge, the Regional Dean, The Reverend Adrienne Bruce which enabled the appointment of The Reverend Arthur Bruce as a .66 FTE which was then raised to a .75 FTE position. The parish continued to rebuild during Arthur's tenure. Following Arthur's retirement at the end of 2018 the parish was in a position to appoint a fulltime vicar as well as purchase a new Vicarage. The Reverend Sue Beverly commenced in November 2019 and retired in January 2023. She was succeeded by The Reverend Tony Kippax who commenced in August 2023 and who moved to Auckland Cathedral in March 2026.

## **The Church Buildings**

St John's Church is prominently sited on the corner of Bureta Road and Seaview Road on a ridge overlooking the inner Tauranga harbour and Mauao (Mount Maunganui) providing the church with a good profile in the local community.

The interior of the church has a warm feeling that belies its 1970s construction. It has a relatively new (2016) sound system, computer and data projector system (2022), acoustic upright piano and the original pipe organ. A new electronic organ will be purchased in April 2026.

The hall is connected to the church by a flow-through corridor off which is an adequately equipped office area. The hall has a well-equipped kitchen facility and a separate, well furnished lounge/meeting room. Hall facilities (toilets) were completely refurbished in January 2023. Most Parish fellowship and activities occur in the lounge and hall. Hire of the hall is an important source of additional income for the Parish and it is used extensively by community groups.

The buildings are well maintained and a five year maintenance/improvement plan is in place.

There is off-street parking in the front, side and back of the church with additional on-street parking on Bureta and Seaview Roads.

The Parish purchased a vicarage in 2019. It is located less than 2 kilometres from the church and is a modern 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom dwelling in good condition.

## **Oasis Op Shop**

The Op Shop was initially established in the building now housing the Toy Library and later re-opened in a room at the end of the Hall and operated as a 'pop-up' Op Shop on Fridays only. A small team of parishioners kept this growing ministry going.

In 2015 the parish took on the rental of a shop in the small block of shops next to the church (at 84 Bureta Road). This highly successful venture is open Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. The shop has a paid manager and is staffed by a team of 36 to 40 volunteers.

## **Toy Library**

The Toy Library operates with a paid Librarian, renting toys short term to members of the Toy Library. The Library currently has 95 member families and 814 good quality toys available for hire. It is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 9.30 am to 11.30 am. The Library is located in a building behind the church. The Toy Library is supported by a number of grant-giving bodies.

## **Play Group**

St John's Anglican Playgroup is certified by and receives funding from the Ministry of Education. The programme is aligned with Te Whāriki in an ECE setting which includes planning activities each week based on the children's interests and following a child-led learning approach.

It meets on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.30–11.30 with a wide age range attending from 3 months to 4/4.5 years of age. At the time of writing, our current number of enrolled children is 112. We have families coming from all over Tauranga, Mount Maunganui, Papamoa, Pyes Pa, and many local Ōtūmoetai families. Our Playgroup Leader is a paid member of staff.

## **Senior Chef**

Senior Chef is an 8 week cooking class for the over 60s, focussed on cooking practical and nutritional meals for one or two people. The course is facilitated by a person contracted by Anglican Care on our behalf. Three to four courses per year are run utilising the church kitchen, hall and lounge.

## **St John's Women's Fellowship**

Up to 25 members meet monthly in the Parish Lounge (second Tuesday at 7.00 pm) often with a guest speaker. The group is very active in regional and diocesan events and they also raise funds for Overseas and Outreach. The Women's Fellowship run a very popular Soup and Rolls luncheon which is held in July of each year.

## **Steady As You Go**

Weekly exercise class for seniors focussed on balance and muscle strength – originally established in conjunction with Aged Concern, now run by attendees.

## **Staffing (Paid)**

Parish Administrator	Lynda Wallace	10 hours a week
Parish Office	Erica Orrick	20 hours a week
Playgroup Leader	Stephanie Suttmeier	12 hours a week
Toy Librarian	Elena Moorhead	12 hours a week
Op Shop Manager	Lyndsay Hargreaves	20 hours per week

## **Communication**

The Weekly Newsletter is distributed by Mailchimp to 110 subscribers on Thursdays and is also placed on the website. Hard copies are also available in the church.

The Church noticeboard on Bureta Road is updated with special signage for Easter and Christmas. The Op Shop is also used as a place for disseminating information to the community.

The parish website is updated weekly.

## Hall Hire

Our Lounge and Hall premises are rented by a wide range of community groups and this adds usefully to our income stream as well as bringing people into our premises who would not otherwise come.

## Financial

- The Parish is part of the Diocesan Parish Accounting System, which provides full financial services through the Waiapu Shared Services Team.
- The Parish does not have a formally appointed treasurer – the Parish Administrator writes a summary of the monthly financials for each Vestry meeting.
- The Parish Administrator also processes all accounts for payment/reconciliation of bank statements/journals etc.
- The Op Shop, Toy Library and Playgroup accounts are incorporated within the parish financial statement each month.
- There are 52 regular givers on the envelope/AP planned Giving System.

### Financial Summary 2020 to 2024

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Giving	116,671	119,233	125,986	125,627	106,250
Interest	3,375	4,746	3,520	4,102	5,863
Facility Rent	18,585	21,954	24,718	25,405	27,637
Other	25,106	20,486	30,886	41,318	25,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>163,737</b>	<b>166,419</b>	<b>185,110</b>	<b>196,452</b>	<b>165,742</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Clergy Stipends & Expenses	48,273	61,563	61,100	56,742	76,980
Other Remuneration	62,823	68,066	69,020	76,002	79,442
Parish Running costs	12,994	14,448	20,599	14,839	17,215
Assessments & Levies	43,140	44,383	45,093	44,831	46,450
Property Expenses	27,459	32,128	37,639	42,203	52,513
Property Development				59,558	
<b>Total</b>	<b>194,689</b>	<b>220,588</b>	<b>233,451</b>	<b>294,175</b>	<b>272,600</b>
Op Shop Surplus/(Deficit)	59,871	59,480	68,522	99,596	112,878
Toy Library Surplus/(Deficit)	-1,302	-2,024	1,030	1,900	-3,468
Playgroup Surplus/(Deficit)	975	-34	-47	-6343	-6286
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>28,592</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>21,164</b>	<b>-2,570</b>	<b>-3,734</b>

2025 financials not available at time of writing

## Results from Parish Consultation 2023

### Q1 How would you describe the current mission and ministry goals and activities of the parish?

- Outward facing
- Welcoming community
- Current ministries
  - Op Shop
  - Playgroup
  - Toy Library
  - Golden Age
  - Lavender Group
  - AAW
  - Growing through Grief
  - Senior Chef
  - Book club
  - Fish and Chip lunch
- Inclusive
- Strong Theological Foundations

### Q2 What are the aspects, character or values of the parish that you most value?

- Fellowship
- Inclusivity
- Welcoming
- This church is a non-threatening environment
- The church is my family
- Fellowship

### Q3 What aspects of parish life, mission and ministry need developing or strengthening in the future?

- Continue in our community outreach
  - Senior Chef
  - Playgroup
  - Toy Library
  - Fish and Chip lunch
  - Book club
  - Op Shop
  - Golden Age

- Pastoral care
- Use of technology
- More young people in the church
- Contemplation opportunities

**Q4 What completely new areas of local mission or ministry could be explored or developed in the future?**

- How we can attract more families and young people to St Johns?
- Cultural activities e.g. debates, singing, orchestras, spelling bees, historic presentations
- Increasing social life of parish, i.e. church picnic, community lunch, mid-winter Christmas dinner, quiz night
- Home groups developed
- Contemplative services, Taize, centering prayer, labyrinths

**Q5 What are the key attributes, qualities, experience, skills that you seek in a new Vicar?**

- Friendly, kind, warm, good listener
- Pastoral Carer
- Inclusive (important for this parish)
- Must be a strong faith and bible based Christian not just wanting to continue traditions
- Good manager for staff – human resourcing