

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF GOLDEN BAY, NEW ZEALAND



PARISH PROFILE 2022

Our Vision and hope for the future

That the church grows as:

A parish that holds to the supreme authority of the Scriptures

A Loving fellowship of Christians faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ

A Family that seeks to build deep & loving relationships with one another

A People who reach out to the wider community.

Specific points of action for the future are to:

- Develop ways to build greater connection with the community
- Develop ministries that provide steps towards faith, outside of current worship services
- Further develop children's ministry.

Our Strengths

- A close-knit church family who support each other
- Valued children's ministry (some from non-church families)
- Valued senior's ministry (in the church and community)
- Valued ministry to visitors attending our services
- Active home groups
- Active prayer groups
- Support provided (financial and prayer) for our mission partners
- Upgraded sound equipment and laptops at each church
- Faithful and committed giving from parishioners.

Weaknesses Within the Parish

- Small in numbers, and particularly a small "core" group carrying out the necessary tasks to run the parish
- Some theological differences, which can produce tension around certain issues
- A degree of physical isolation from the rest of the deanery/diocese.

Particular Challenges for our Parish

- Our current congregations are aging and have been declining to a degree more recently
- Golden Bay is home to and attracts a large number of spiritually seeking people, and includes many attracted to Buddhism and new age spirituality – it is a challenging place to make inroads for Christ
- A particular challenge is to meet the needs of existing church members, while also finding new ways to interact/evangelise in the wider community, with a small "core" team
- Leadership of children's/youth ministry
- How to effectively "link in" with other Christian churches in Golden Bay.

THE DISTRICT OF GOLDEN BAY

Golden Bay is situated on the north western tip of the South Island of NZ, and is part of the Tasman District within the Nelson Province, 1½ hr drive from Nelson City. The only road to the area surmounts the Takaka Hill which gives panoramic views of both the Tasman Bay and the Takaka Valley. It is a unique area, being surrounded by mountains, two national parks (Abel Tasman and Kahurangi) and the sea.



The district is made up of two valleys, Takaka and Aorere with a population of 5,000. The township of Takaka is the shopping centre of a busy dairy farming community, with its own large supermarket, Fonterra milk treatment plant, and building supplies. To the north-east of the township lies Pohara Beach, Ligar Bay, Tata Beach and exquisite Totaranui, all very popular spots in the summer months, offering long sandy beaches, safe swimming, boating and fishing facilities.



Takaka is the main township (pop. 1,335) and provides a range of shops to meet most needs, including a library, postal service, banking services and Nelson Building Society, restaurants and cafes, a picture theatre, museum, and a range of holiday accommodation to suit all tastes. The Bay has a wide range of galleries, artists and sculptors who display and sell their work. A large recreation park provides sports fields, squash and tennis courts.

To meet medical needs the community has a dental practice, a Community Health Centre comprising of maternity, general medical ward, rest home for elderly with continuing hospital level care, physiotherapy room, and a doctors suite serving the doctors, nurse practitioner, and district nurses. The area is served by a Volunteer St John Ambulance service. Takaka also has a Mental Health Unit run by professional staff as well as a Residential Mental Health Facility catering for patients from around the Nelson province.

Takaka has three primary schools, and a high school (Years 7-13), as well as various early childhood education centres.



Overlooking the Aorere Estuary is the township of Collingwood (pop. 235), a half hour drive from Takaka which services a farming community and the tourist industry. It has an area school (Years 1-13), and Playcentre.

Collingwood provides the gateway to the famous Heaphy Track and excursions along the Farewell Sand Spit, as well as numerous tramping tracks and popular beaches. From Collingwood, the road northwest takes you to the expansive Wharariki Beach and the Westhaven inlet.

Golden Bay is blessed with a temperate climate and provides employment in the service industries, farming, building and tourism. The constant stream of visitors triples the population during the summer period. It is a thriving community with many cultures and beliefs, providing an exciting and challenging mission for the Church.

THE PARISH OF GOLDEN BAY

A Brief History

The Parish of Golden Bay was formed in 1970, when the Parish of Collingwood and the Parish of Takaka were amalgamated. Both former parishes were created about 1880 and had full-time ministry provided.

The Parish is part of the Diocese of Nelson, and receives oversight from the Bishop of Nelson, Bishop Stephen Maina Mwangi (Bishop Steve), elected and ordained as the 11th Bishop of Nelson in March 2019. It also falls within the boundaries of the Waimea Regional Deanery where six parishes seek to encourage and support one another's ministries. Furthermore, Nelson Diocese is the home of Bishopdale Theological College, which periodically provides theological training seminars in the parish, as well as an opportunity for deeper study to those interested.

The Church of the Epiphany, Takaka

The Church of the Epiphany is situated in the town's main street. It was built in



1884 and the original interior timbers remain. The building is of a traditional layout and seats approximately 80 persons. Adjacent to the church is a lounge used for small meetings with facilities for making tea and coffee and a play area for children.

The parish office is also sited there.

The Parish Lounge opens out onto an expansive wooden deck which leads to a refurbished Parish Hall with a

well-equipped kitchen, toilet and store room. Adjacent to the deck is a grassed play area for children, with swing. The hall is used by various groups from within the community, ranging from Tea and Talk (twice a month) for seniors in the community, to Mental Health craft groups to Rural Women groups and more. The car park behind the church hall provides for about 20 vehicles.

The parish owns a section of land adjoining the car park – presently leased to a local scaffolding business - and also a building beside it which is leased to a local accounting firm.

Services are held each Sunday at 10am with a congregation of approximately 20, with the majority in the middle to older age group. Services are family-focused with Holy Communion celebrated first and third Sundays. A small Sunday School operates fortnightly with children in church on alternate Sundays. Morning tea and fellowship follow all Sunday services.

St Cuthbert's, Collingwood



St Cuthbert's, Collingwood, built in 1873, is the oldest building in the area, much of the town having burnt to the ground on several occasions. It seats approximately 50 people. Services are held regularly at 5pm every Sunday, preceded by fellowship and afternoon tea (from 4.45pm). The congregation numbers approximately 20 persons. The Church Hall is available for community use, and church

functions. It includes a small, carpeted lounge with kitchen facilities, suitable

for smaller groups and Sunday School. A Sunday School consisting of an average of around half a dozen children meets in the hall during the service each week in term time.

The Kahurangi Christian Church fellowship regularly utilise the Sunday School hall on Sunday mornings.

During normal summer months, Sunday service numbers in both congregations rise dramatically due to the large numbers of visitors to the district, and it is not uncommon to double.

Services of Worship

All services of worship include strong biblical teaching which has a long tradition in the parish. Our services reflect the liturgical style common in the Anglican Church but incorporates informality and diversity in content. Music is provided in both churches. Collingwood and Takaka both have an electronic digital organ to enhance the services. Both traditional hymns are used along with reflective songs and choruses. A sound system ensures clarity of sound at Epiphany, services are also relayed into the lounge so overflow congregations, or parents with toddlers, can hear the services. Collingwood has recently been setup with a portable speaker. Both Churches have data projectors installed eliminating the need for books.

Services in Takaka are led by a team of worship leaders drawn from the congregation. In Collingwood the vicar leads the service three Sundays a month. At both churches a number of individuals, young and old, share in readings, leading intercessions and ministering at Holy Communion. Opportunity for personal prayer ministry is available at the conclusion of each service.

Occasional outdoor services have been held at Patons Rock, followed by a parish picnic and fun activities. Also, a regular annual "Beach Picnic" is held at Pakawau, with folk from St Cuthbert's and others from the community.

On 5th Sundays Takaka congregation is often joined by members of the Takaka Presbyterian Church. From time-to-time combined services with both Collingwood and Takaka congregations are held. At Christmas and Easter the parish is involved in combined church activities with the other Christian churches in the Bay.



Home Groups

Home groups play an important role in the life of the parish, at present there are three held in the day-time and evenings. These are seen as the growth points of our church, where we build deep relationships, learn to pray for each other, learn from the Scriptures and apply the Word of God to ministry within the community. Within these groups, various courses have been run over recent years, including Long Story Short, as well as a wide range of Bible study material.

Mission Partners

Our current mission partners include Greg and Rosie Blok with Wickliffe Bible Translators in Thailand and Jonny and Glenys Watson with MAF in PNG. The parish also gives a regular amount to the work of the Anglican Missions Board.

Vicarage



The parish has a purpose-built vicarage, which will be provided for the use of the new vicar. Built in 2011, with four bedrooms, it is comfortable, well-appointed and on a good-sized section 2 kms of Takaka.



Finances

Financially the parish is meeting its commitments at the present time. We hope to continue to be able to do so, but we are aware that, with a small congregation, the loss of even one generous giver can have a significant effect. We are fortunate to have two stable leases of land and a building providing funds which contribute towards maintaining ministry.

General

Our Parish employs a part-time elder care co-ordinator who provides support services for elderly people of our parish and within our community. This position is funded with help from the OPMF (Older Persons Ministry Fund) - a Diocesan fund currently available to parishes.

An ICONZ group for boys has recently commenced based near Takaka. This group is run collaboratively by three men from different church groups in the

Bay, including Nathaniel Petterson from our parish - we are pleased to support this initiative.

The church has also formed connections with Mamaku Grove, a new Christian farm retreat in the Takaka Valley, run by Nathaniel and Simone Petterson.

The parish runs a fundraising stall from time-to-time, on Saturday mornings, in the church hall, which contributes funds to the local food bank, as well as providing an opportunity to engage with members of the community. Several small local businesses utilise the space in front of the church building (with permission) to sell their produce.

“Safe Here” training is provided to those parishioners ministering to children and the elderly.

The vicar and the parish’s two synod representatives attend the annual Diocesan Synod.

OUR NEW VICAR MUST BE

- A faithful born-again Christian empowered by the Spirit of God and Biblically orthodox
- Committed in their ministry to the parish of Golden Bay and its members
- Motivated by a strong sense of mission to the wider community

We are seeking someone apostolic in their leadership approach with a gift for extending the gospel and establishing the church in new contexts and across cultural barriers. Alongside this, we see the need for someone with the ability to teach and encourage others to evangelise and disciple others so that the church is more firmly established. This mix of leadership gifts reflects the mix of needs and opportunities that we have in the Golden Bay parish.



Nativity Play 2020