



So what happened at Synod 2024?

– from your Synod Rep, Susan

Synod opened on Friday 18 October 2024 with the eucharist service on Friday morning in the lovely Holy Trinity Church with The Rev'd Dorothy Brooker officiating. She was presented with flowers to mark her 40 years since ordination.

This year's Synod meeting was held at the Midway Surf Rescue Community Hub in Gisborne – an excellent, high quality venue which is right on the beach with views back to Mahia in the distance (congratulations to the Diocesan team for finding it). Dorothy was tempted to go surfing but in the end only Dean Di plunged in. Numbers were down this year due to various factors (covid is still lurking), however those present had a pleasant time socialising between business which was done by Saturday lunchtime. And yes, in traditional Synod style, we were well fed by the parish.

- **Te Ngahere Puāwai – Vision document of Faith giving life**

Bishop Andrew introduced the new vision document that has been developed starting with a wānanga in June 2023 and the strategic priorities which were brought to Synod in 2023. The strategic priorities are – discipleship, koru ministry (to children, young people and families), whakapapa (which, while a standalone priority, will undergird all of our actions), vocation, and connection. *See Draft document.*

- **Amalgamation of the Cathedral, Taradale and Westshore Parishes**

Dean Di's motion was seconded by Catherine McGregor of the Westshore Parish. There was some discussion about the concept of 'amalgamation' as it was clear the three churches would retain their own identity. The Synod approved an amended motion for the "exploration of the formation of a new parish incorporating the parishes of Taradale, the Cathedral and Westshore, plus the sub districts of Puketapu and Napier South in order to facilitate the mission and ministry within the boundaries of the amalgamated parish." As parishes we can now discuss and explore this concept in more detail.

- **EcoChurch** - www.ecochurch.org.nz.

The Rev'd Carl Tinnion encouraged churches to register as an EcoChurch. It was described as a 'no brainer' as this gives support, resources and networking for creation care, and churches can manage what they can. Alison Thompson spoke of her wine cap and votive candle case recycling, another church does a regular beach clean up, and another idea was gifting a tree to people to mark baptisms, anniversaries etc. Plenty to consider.

- **Overseas Missions**

The Rev'd Michael Hartfield of the Anglican Missions Board presented a very enthusiastic overview of the year's mission investment. The giving from the diocese has been kept at the same level as previous years. He encourages people to give as individuals for this work.

Raewyn Hedge also spoke of the value of a mission trip some Woodford House students took this year to Samoa, where the girls gave gifts to a school and helped with some lesson coaching.

- **Diocesan Accounts and Budget**

The budget was presented along with outstanding financial statements from 2022 (which had not been audited in time) and these were passed by Synod. Auditor appointments were also confirmed.

- **Standing Committee members confirmed are**

- Clergy

The Rev'd Bronwyn Marchant	Eastland
The Rev'd Alan Burnett	Hawke's Bay
The Very Rev'd Di Woods	Hawke's Bay
The Rev'd Philippa Hales	Tauranga

- Lay

Paul White	Eastland
Alison Thomson	Hawke's Bay
Joss Morrin	Hawke's Bay
Robin Whyman	Hawke's Bay
Garth Laing	Tauranga

The Standing Committee will confirm the minutes of Synod in due time.