

Parish AGM: 16 March 2025

Wardens Report:

The Wardens have had the pleasure of working with a dedicated and focussed Vestry this year. Without sugar coating the issues we have been dealing with, Vestry has prayerfully and diligently confronted the issues facing us all, as your representatives. The following topics have been widely distributed to the Parish over the preceding 12 months:

- the financial situation confronting the Parish and associated budget challenges for 2025
- the structural integrity and seismic issues facing the Cathedral
- Vandalism and safety in and around the Cathedral precinct
- Crippling escalation in Insurance premiums and overall operational/maintenance costs

Wisely, Vestry has stated that we are not prepared to continue running deficit budgets. This required us to consider the bigger picture of the Parishes of Napier. A motion was put to Diocesan Synod and passed, to investigate a proposal of amalgamating the Parishes of St. Andrew's, Westshore; Taradale and the Cathedral Parish. This is a work in progress with initial discussions and consultation underway.

Discussion and approval of the 2025 budget is ongoing. We have had a miracle worker in our Treasurer, Lyndsay Browne, who has reworked budget after budget to achieve the requests of Vestry, that is, a zero cashflow deficit. We believe the zero deficit budget is a prudent and responsible proposal, albeit confronting to many, as to the plight of the financial viability of the Parish as it stands.

Of the parishioners who have passed away since the last AGM, we particularly acknowledge the passing of Gloria Robertshawe. Gloria was a stalwart of the Cathedral Parish, a leader of the Sanctuary Guild for many years and provider and organiser for the many luncheons and suppers held in the Cathedral over many years. We have all been blessed with her presence among us.

Charlene departed the Parish Office for a well earned break in South Africa with her family. We wished safe travels and hope she will enjoy not having to arrive at work to see what has broken or been damaged over night. Thank you for your care and ministry in the office Charlene.

Dean Di, thank you for the energy and leadership you have delivered to the Cathedral Parish. The past 12 months has been challenging to say the least. You have not been

afraid to confront the major tasks that lie ahead. You have also enabled Vestry to make responsible decisions on our future and with the best financial interests of the Parish at heart, in whatever form it takes. Your Ministry as always, has been ably supported by the non stipendiary clergy along with Anthony Tattersall, who week in and week out supports your work through the ministry of Cathedral music to a very high standard. Finally, to all members of the Parish family, in whatever role you participate in, we thank you most sincerely. May we be blessed to navigate the future together with courage, wisdom and loving respect.

Susan John - People's Warden

Graeme West - Dean's Warden