

## **Communications & Events Group Report**

The Communications team continued to assist clergy and staff with communication to the parish and promotion of services and concerts to the wider public during the year.

### **Social media**

- Cathedral Connection e-newsletter has continued weekly throughout the year with 131 active subscribers. Non-parishioners also request to be on the list to know what's happening within the cathedral. We appreciate the contributions some parishioners take time to provide – photos of events and activities, and news of events that other parishioners might like to know about.
- The Facebook page is updated for significant services and events, and linked to other local pages to publicise concerts and news. It has 965 followers, mostly Napier people (parishioners and others).

### **Website**

- The website is updated weekly with a listing of the week's services on the home page to make it easy for people to check our schedule and get to church! News and concert posts are added as they are scheduled.
- Website views remain consistent with occasional peaks due to special concerts or cruise ship passengers planning a visit. Pages are refreshed regularly as need arises.
- This year a video explaining the plaques was uploaded. Our thanks to Rae Towers' grandson Benedict for the filming and editing, and thanks to Alison Thomson for the narration.

### **Promotions**

- Posters are developed for concerts, and special Cathedral events by Rae Towers and Susan Wylie using free design software. These are displayed on church noticeboards to invite people into our space; these also go onto the website and social media. For concert events we ask libraries and some local cafes to display these.
- Charlene regularly updates the noticeboards in the foyer and church so both parishioners and visitors can see information easily.

### **Media coverage**

- Media releases to local press have included concerts, Art Deco services, and special Advent and Christmas services etc. These also go on our website and to social media (FB).

### **Events at the cathedral 2025-26**

April - Easter services were promoted including Stations of the Cross, Holy Week services and Easter Sunday. Visitors and family of parishioners attended these services.

8 May – There was a special service to farewell departing Dean Di Woods. Bishop Andrew presided and Dean Katie Lawrence travelled from Wellington to support Di. A sumptuous morning tea with a celebration cake followed.

1 June – “Celebration Sunday” welcomed Acting Dean Alister Hendery and Priest Assistant Deborah Broome with music from the choir and strings.

20 July the winter Art Deco service included a jazz-themed choral mass by Bill Bennett and a jazz style anthem from the choir.

7 September – Octavius choir’s afternoon concert “Moonlight & Magic” presented popular songs celebrating Spring plus a new work in te reo by local composer Stephen Lange.

5 October – Waiapu Cathedral Choir with the Young Peoples Choir presented “Echoes of Peace” concert

7 December – we were honoured to have leading UK organist David Goodenough play for the Sunday morning service. This was promoted via FB and website.

Christmas 2025: Christmas season services were promoted and there were large congregations for the Advent Carol Service, Nine Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve Midnight Mass and Christmas Day. The children’s Christmas Eve play was popular with Cathedral families – fun to see the Dads being Kings for an evening! A gala Christmas concert with Octavius, Hawks Brass Quintet, Cathedral Choir and Strings was presented on 20 December.

## **2026**

1 February – the civic Earthquake Memorial service was held on Sunday in place of the normal Eucharist service. This service is in association with Napier City Council and many visitors joined our congregation. Mayor Richard McGrath and MP Katie Nimon spoke and Lieutenant Commander Paul Eady rang the ceremonial Veronica Bell.

Ash Wednesday was an ecumenical service in the evening with parishioners invited from the inner city churches; the large congregation appreciated the service.

The Art Deco Festival in February included a concert by Octavius as a late addition to the programme on Saturday 21 Feb, which was enjoyed by a large audience. The 10am choral Eucharist included one of Bill Bennet’s jazz masses and in the afternoon the closing service included the popular Hawks Brass Quintet and Cathedral choir.

### **Social Saturday events**

The Waiapu Walks **walking group** continued its monthly walks through the year – Pākōwhai Park becoming a favourite and easy walk.

The **Pins and Needles crafting group** gather in the cathedral to work on their craft projects and enjoy social time together.

Both groups are promoted to parishioners but are not restricted to cathedral parish members.

*Rae Towers and Susan Wylie, 15 March 2026*