

Parish of Upper Hutt St Hilda's

A Vibrant Faith-based presence within our community



Who are we

A congregation of faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, who draw on the Anglican tradition to support a lively expression of our faith. Our recently unanimously agreed vision statement is: St Hilda's – a vibrant, faith-based presence within our community.

What we do

We are a community of people who come together to worship God, to grow in relationship with one another and with the wider community.

We offer loving service to God, one another, the people of Upper Hutt and the world. We are disciples of Jesus, the Lord of Love.

We believe in the Christian Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life. We are inspired and guided by the Holy Bible. We seek to grow in faith.

We welcome newcomers to our parish family with warm hospitality. We provide a wide range of activities, both spiritual and secular. We encourage all to develop their relationship with Christ through our worshipping community.

In recent years we have turned our focus outwards to serving our community.

How do we go about doing it?

We aim to model the love of Christ as we meet together and as we go out into the community. We gather for worship services that help people meet and grow their relationship with Christ, held on Sundays at 9.30am and Thursday at 10am.

Activities include:

SupaKidZ programme at Maoribank School is held for six weeks each term during Monday lunch times. Several of our parishioners are involved in leading the SupaKidZ programme together with leaders from other Upper Hutt churches.

Play Group will recommence in our hall from October 2022 after a break due to Covid restrictions.

AAW (Association of Anglican Women) meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Boys' only lunch is an opportunity for the men of the parish to gather at a local café each fortnight and enjoy fellowship over a meal.

Ladies' lunches give the women of the parish a time to meet monthly at a local café and enjoy each other's company and a meal.

Lenten Studies are held every year. The last few years we have used the resources available through the Diocesan office. Each year there is a mid-week

group, one on a Sunday morning after our service and an evening one to cater for those working during the day.

Monthly Messy Church is in recess at present.

Fundraising comes under the umbrella of the fellowship sub-committee and each year a varied programme of events is planned like garage sales, parish fairs, board games afternoons and high teas. A number of the events they organise are strictly for fellowship; but we also rely on the sub-committee's fundraising to supplement our income.

Weddings and funerals are held at our church as required. St Hilda's is seen as a good choice with its pretty setting and ample parking.

Our new vicar or priest in charge

The people of Upper Hutt Anglican Parish are looking for a person who is keen to lead us in achieving the three goals we have set for the parish.

1. Multiple home groups
 - 4 up and running by July 2023
2. Regular rhythm of prayer
 - Vestry monthly prayer by Advent 2022
 - Expand to parish community by Advent 2023
3. Hall and church as a community hub
 - Buildings used for community – facing group activities 7 days a week by Easter 2024

Where we are

St Hilda's Anglican Church is located in the northern part of the Upper Hutt Valley. There are also two other Anglican parishes in Upper Hutt, St John's in Trentham and St Mary's in Silverstream. Not all parishioners live within the parish boundaries. Other denominations are well represented in Upper Hutt.

St Hilda's Anglican Church is situated in a quiet residential street a few minutes north of Upper Hutt city centre. The church is a pretty wooden structure set in picturesque grounds surrounded by large trees and gardens. It was built in 1910 and was originally sited in the town centre where McDonalds now is. In 1979 the land was required for road changes so St Hilda's was transported to its present site in Cruickshank Road and soon after alterations were made including additions to both sides of the church.

Also on the same site is a large Lockwood hall with several adjacent small rooms and a large kitchen with excellent facilities. The hall is heated by efficient gas heating.

A two-storey four-bedroomed vicarage built in 1979 is also on the same site with a fenced-off garden. There is a Vicar's office located beside the front entrance to the vicarage.



About the City of Upper Hutt

Upper Hutt is a compact city located between Lower Hutt and the top of the Remutaka Hill. Much of the housing is located on flat land however there is some housing on the surrounding hills.

The city has many walking and biking trails, beside the river or in the predominately native bush covered hills. There is plenty of bird life including in our own church grounds.

Most sports are covered in the city and there are 3 large parks plus numerous smaller green areas.

The population of Upper Hutt in June 2021 was estimated to be 47,500. The city continues to grow with several new housing developments.

Many residents of Upper Hutt travel to Wellington city or other nearby cities to work. The unemployment rate in the city in 2021 was 3.4%

Upper Hutt is well served by state schools with 9 primary, 2 Intermediate, and 2 secondary. There are also 2 catholic schools catering for up to year 8 and 2 private boys' schools - Hutt International Boys (which has an Anglican affiliation) and St Patrick's College (Roman Catholic).

About the Parish

The Church and its people

There are approximately 235 people on the Parish roll but only about 60 are regular attendees. Most of our current parishioners are over 65.

For the past 4 years we have employed a Priest in Charge paying a 50% stipend.

Vestry is responsible for governance and meets once a month on the third Thursday at 7.30pm. Our meeting begins with supper and a time of prayer before we discuss the business of the month. We also have sub-committees which a Vestry member leads. They cover fellowship, finance, pastoral and missions, property, worship and communication. Each sub-committee meets as required but usually at least every second month and have other lay people involved.

Lay people are a vital part of our Ministry team.

We have a team of liturgical assistants who lead our worship and most of them have a parish licence to lead reserved sacrament services. Many of them have stepped up to share reflections ("doing sermons") at present, generating positive feedback and engagement.

Pastoral visiting is carried out by a small team who visit those in hospital and keep in touch with those who need support in our parish.

Parishioners also carry out ministries like reading the Word, praying, playing music attending to cleaning, flowers, altar linen, gardens, lawns, play group, SupaKidz, the local foodbank and helping with fundraising and offering hospitality.

Patterns of Worship

Sunday 9.30am Traditional NZ Anglican Worship

This is a comfortable, family-friendly feeling service, although it follows the traditional liturgical format.

The service order alternates between the three ANZPB Eucharistic (communion) liturgies. There is always a sermon with a liturgical assistant leading the worship; when a priest is not available. The communion is led by one of our leaders licenced for reserved sacrament.

Thursday 10.00am Traditional Communion Service

The service order follows ANZPB with the Sunday sermon being repeated here.

Our services are supported by a good tech suite, including two large monitors installed at the front of the church, and a quality sound system. Prayer books remain available in the pews for anyone who prefers to use them.



Midnight service, Christmas eve