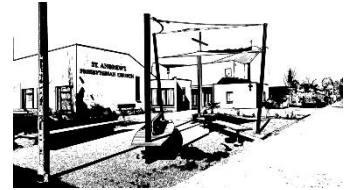


St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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Community Ministry Leader

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Community Ministry Leader

Reports to: **Direct:** St Andrews Minister, Bridging Hawkes Bay Governance Group
Indirect: St Andrews Parish Council and Finance and Property, St Johns Parish Council

Direct Report: Bridging Hawkes Bay Administrator (an eight hour per week position)

Location: St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 300 Market St Hastings

Date: August 2023

St Andrews Mission Statement: *Accepting all people, striving for compassion, seeking to live out Christ's selfless love until we see God's justice realized.*

Overview of St Andrews Presbyterian Church

God *wants* to be known. God is a God of love, justice and peace; who seeks the healing and restoration of *all* people and creation. This mission – God's mission – lies at the heart of all we do. We desire to be a community of people who embraces and shares God's radical mission of love.

At St Andrews we are strong in our gathering – committed to loving and enjoying each other, worshipping God, and sharing our lives together through our gifts and talents. We are equally passionate in our sending: serving our community; promoting and living out God's justice and peace: and seeking the flourishing of all people in Hastings and beyond.

As well as Sunday worship we have vibrant study groups, engaged meditation groups, a weekly lunchtime Sacred Space and a monthly public theology event called the Common Good, which takes place at a local bar and seeks to engage people beyond the church in public theology.

We nested and continue to be engaged with Manaaki Energy, a Maori Energy organisation who seek solutions to energy poverty through the use of solar power and are about to embark on a feasibility study to build solar farms beside five marae in Hawkes Bay.

When Cyclone Gabrielle hit, St Andrews established genLend. It was like a toy library that borrowed equipment such as generators and diggers from around the North Island and lent them out to people in need.

In response to ongoing pain and trauma post cyclone we are establishing Bridging Hawkes Bay.

Bridging Hawkes Bay (BHB)

When Cyclone Gabrielle hit New Zealand in February 2023 it devastated and impacted so many individuals, communities, businesses and livelihoods throughout Hawkes Bay.

In order to address the long-term needs of our community through the recovery a partnership emerged between St Andrews Church and a group of volunteers that have been taking groceries into cyclone affected areas as a way to connect and care for people.

To help in the healing of the people of Hawkes Bay we have founded a new faith led community initiative called Bridging Hawkes Bay.

We are conscious that many of our flood affected neighbours are hurting, broken and lost and for some this will take many years to overcome. Tragically, there have already been a number of suicides that are directly related to the cyclone. A rise in family harm and significant mental health and emotional needs are prevalent and are only expected to remain heightened for some time.

We learned in the days and weeks after the cyclone how important bridges are physically. Numerous bridges were destroyed or damaged leaving people in rural communities isolated and fending for themselves. While some Bailey bridges have been built to reconnect our communities physically these are temporary and have limitations.

We know that the full recovery through the impacts of the cyclone will take years

We also know how much we as human beings need to feel connected, treasured and loved and how important that is in the healing of our community. The name 'Bridging Hawkes Bay' was inspired by Joy Cowley's beautiful poem 'The Bridge'¹ describing how we are called to be a bridge to others in their time of need:

*There are times in life when we are called to be bridges,
not a great monument spanning a distance
and carrying loads of heavy traffic
but a simple bridge to help one person from here to there
over some difficulty such as pain, fear, grief, loneliness,
a bridge which opens the way for ongoing journey.*

Bridging Hawkes Bay sends people of faith out into the community to connect, listen and support people who are hurting. Volunteers will be empowered, supported and trained in psychosocial first aid, active listening, emotional wellbeing, as well as the theology of chaplaincy and the resources that are available for cyclone affected whanau.

God longs for the flourishing of all people. We are deeply shaped by the words from John 13:35: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This is not an evangelism or proselytizing programme, but a way for people to outwork their faith by sharing Christ's love.

¹Joy Cowley, *Aotearoa Psalms: Prayers of a New People*, (Catholic Supplies, New Zealand, 1989), 20.

The Community Ministry Leader Role

There are two aspects to this fulltime permanent ministry role –

- Leading Bridging Hawkes Bay 75%
- St Johns Community Ministry 25%

Bridging Hawkes Bay

The major focus of this role will be the oversight and leadership of Bridging Hawkes Bay. This will include a chaplaincy role, offering a ministry of presence and pastoral care to people cyclone affected people. Alongside this you will be recruiting, equipping and supporting a team of volunteers to share in this ministry (with support from the BHB Governance Group including the Minister of St Andrews.)

There will also be the opportunity for you to use your own gifts in relation to the needs that arise in the cyclone affected community.

This is a new ministry. Initially there will be a significant amount of connecting with the community to promote BHB; linking with other organisations such as Rural Support and other support agencies; and helping with the recruitment and selection of volunteers.

You will be supported in your role by a very part time (8 hours per week) administrator.

St Johns Community Ministry

You will be based within the St Andrews Presbyterian Church and contribute to the life of our faith community. St Andrews is trialling ways to support our neighbouring vacant Presbyterian parish St Johns. They have a successful community ministry called Whanau Friday where once a fortnight where they provide a community meal and share the gospel in a new way with around 50 people. For the first six months of this role, you will support this ministry and connect with the St Johns church community by preaching there once a month.

It is important to note that the configuration of this role may change, depending on the changing needs of the cyclone affected community and how the trial goes with St Johns as well as your own gifts and skills.

Who will suit this role?

We are seeking someone with a heart for bringing the love of Christ to a community that is hurting and fragile.

This role will be right for you if you are:

- Passionate about embracing and sharing God's radical mission of love
- Excited about the mission and purpose of Bridging Hawkes Bay
- Energized by building relationships with people from all walks of life who are endeavouring to make sense of what has happened to them

- Keen to establish, equip and support a team of volunteers to offer Christ's love to cyclone affected communities
- Committed to Te Tiriti and able to work well in a cross-cultural context.
- Eager to pioneer a new community ministry that may well evolve as the needs of the cyclone affected community change.
- Interested in being part of and contributing to an innovative, inclusive, community facing church that longs for the flourishing of all people.
- Enlivened by working collaboratively as part of a team

What training, skills and experience will you ideally bring to this role?

- Excellence in relationship building, listening and pastoral skills
- Skilled in offering pastoral and spiritual care to a traumatised community.
- Experienced in trauma and psychosocial first aid
- Experienced in leading community ministry and its ongoing evaluation
- Experienced and skilled in selecting, equipping and providing ongoing support and supervision to volunteers
- A strong Christian faith with some theological study
- Training and experience in leading ministry
- Resourcefulness and able to think innovatively
- Well-practiced in self-care and in maintaining healthy boundaries
- Experience in the establishment of a new ministry initiative