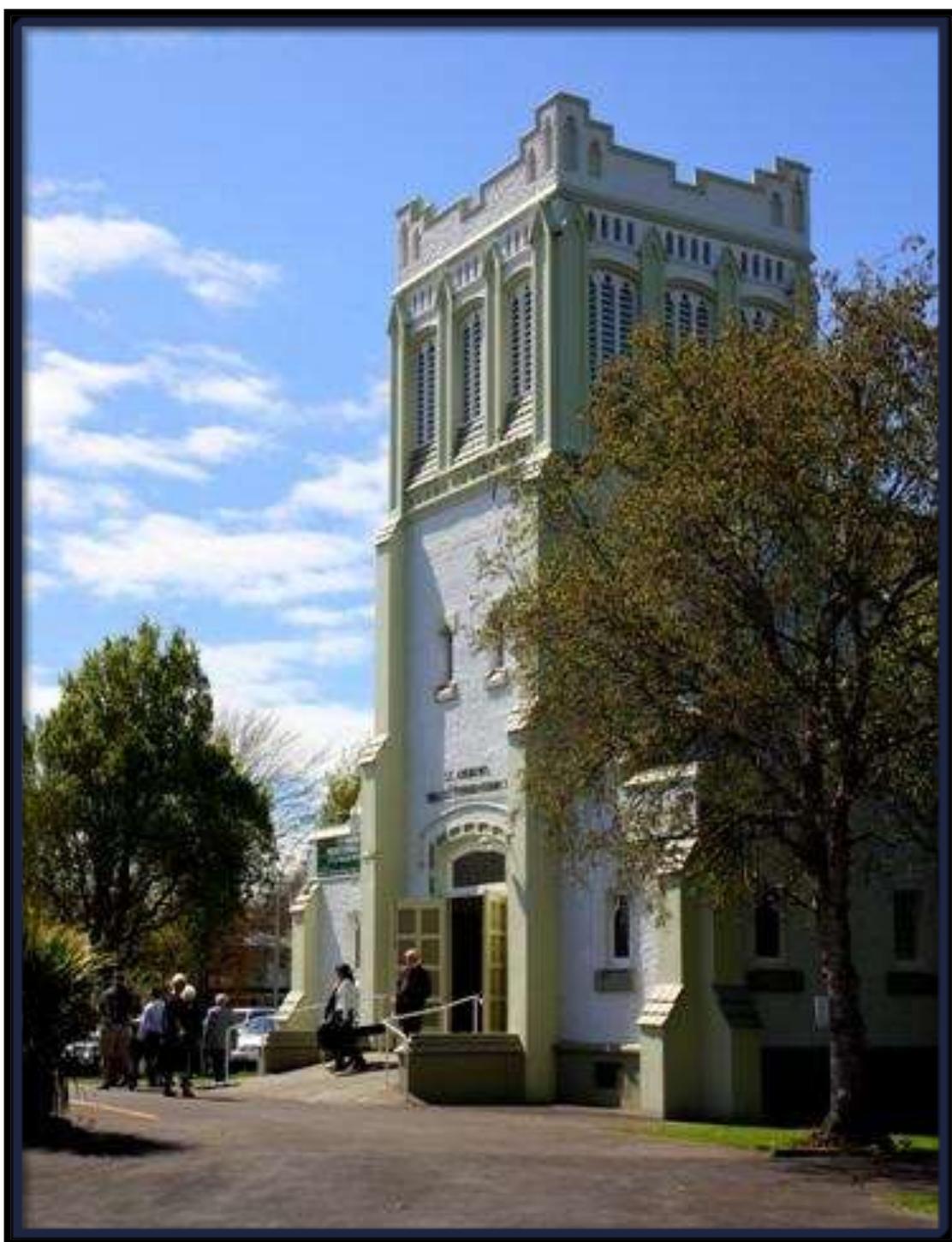


# St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

## Hamilton, New Zealand

### Parish Profile 2018



# St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Parish Profile

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## Executive Summary

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton is a bridge between the people of Hamilton and God. We look forward to introducing new styles and venues for worship to serve the needs of different people. We have a modern community centre and conference facility called "The Link".

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church has a long history, which makes us who we are today. St Andrew's parish was established in 1885. Today, our parishioners come from across the city and the surrounding districts. We are one church with two congregations. "The Hamilton Korean Church within St Andrew's" is an integral part of our worshipping community. We worship in two languages and we have one Parish Council. The Rev Tae Ju Ham is the Korean language minister and is part of the team ministry for the congregation.

A commercial café "The Kirk" was opened in January 2017. The café is located in The Link complex, and while it is privately operated, it is considered part of the mission of the parish.

The church building was closed in mid-2017 for earthquake strengthening.

We invite you to read this Parish Profile with a prayerful attitude. Are you the one to lead St Andrew's Presbyterian Church into an exciting future serving God and Hamilton?



# Parish Profile

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is a multicultural congregation with a long history. We are a parish of the Kaimai Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ). The parish is located in Hamilton in the North Island of New Zealand. The following parish profile tells about our visions for our future, our location, our history, and our current congregation.

## Parish Mission and Vision

*St Andrew's Mission Plan 2012-August 2017* states that our mission is "To worship and work with God in the world." Together we seek to know, and make known, the amazing opportunity for reconciliation to God through Christ. We strive to explore new ways, and to be inclusive and ecumenical in outlook, supportive and encouraging of each other in action, and sensitive and responsive to the needs of those who live within this city. We celebrate the diversity of language and culture in our nation and seek to work in partnership with people of faith and goodwill everywhere to bear witness to the realm of God in our world.

Our vision is based around a bridge metaphor: "A bridge to the city... where love and friendship meet." Just as a bridge across the Waikato River links the Church and city, we see St Andrew's as a bridge between the city and God, a bridge joining people together: connecting, caring, and learning about Jesus Christ.

St Andrew's Parish Council reflected on our mission vision and mission capacity as we completed the Kaimai Presbytery's "Taking the Pulse" survey. We feel we have a strong start on outward focussed mission. We support Christians against Poverty, Christian World Service, and Presbyterian Support. We look forward to operating a Café Church. We also acknowledge that there is opportunity for much more locally. Collectively, our sense of direction and clarity of mission

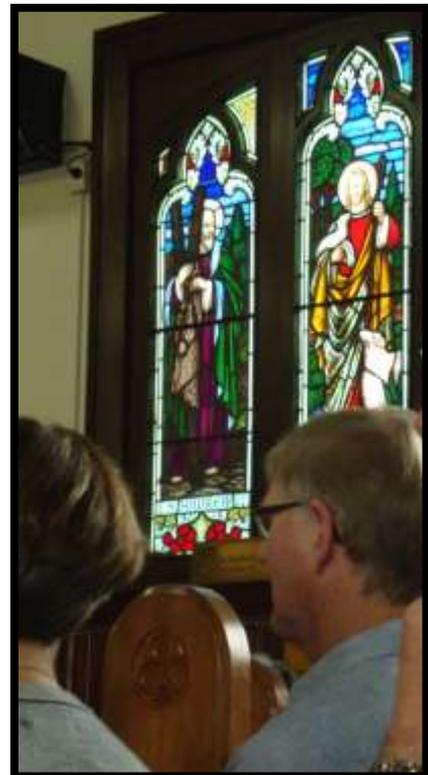


continues to evolve. We believe our leadership is strong at influencing rather than directing parishioners. We do our best to be inspiring and purposeful and encourage parishioners to participate in decision making groups, prayer groups and social activities. We have a very strong sense of community. Our parishioners and elders demonstrate real concern for each other in countless ways. We share a lively faith and engage in high levels of devotional activity.

St Andrew's has very good relationships with the wider Church at local, national and international levels. We are active in Presbytery and General Assembly and we have good relationships with other denominations within Hamilton. We have supported Presbyterian churches in Christchurch – both financially and spiritually – and the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

Our traditional worship style at St Andrew's has been relevant to our parishioners for many years. We acknowledge the need to continue serving our parishioners and broaden our horizons at the same time. During this time of vacancy, a variety of leaders have provided different perspectives on God and the meaning of faith. We know we need to adapt in ways that make worship experiences accessible to a wider range of people, without alienating our stalwart members. We want to make worship more "Kids Friendly" and we have aspirations for "Café Church."

Our biggest weakness – and hence our greatest challenge – is attracting and retaining newcomers, especially young adults. Retaining young people has been difficult for several decades. Perhaps it's our worship style. Perhaps it's our quiet individually enacted mission. Perhaps it's the transient nature of Hamilton's population. The mission of our congregation happens in the many places where its attenders live and work most of the week. In a sense, it is 'under the radar.' We have plans to activate our vision of being "a bridge to the city... where love and friendship meet." These are described in the sections on The Link and the Café.



## The Link

The Link is a modern community centre and conference facility that is part of the Church's social outreach programme in Hamilton. Since its opening on 4 December 2010, parishioners have brought about the original vision for what The Link could facilitate for both the community and our parish. We use The Link to provide programmes and also hire it to groups. Typically, The Link is used by up to 500 people per week.

The Link comprises a variety of halls and lounges which are available for seminars and small conferences. A modern media room is incorporated within the complex. The venue is being well utilised by commercial companies, non-profit community organisations and by the Church. The Link is an excellent venue for weddings when combined with the historic St Andrew's Church next door. After-funeral functions are also catered for in The Link. The Church offices are located in The Link and include two ministers' offices, reception and secretary's office together with an office for The Link manager. The Link has a separate web site, see: <http://thelink.org.nz>



Part of the vision for redeveloping the old Church Centre was that it could be used for informal Café Church services. In July 2012, we established a Café Committee to scope the feasibility of building a dedicated café space.

During the period of closure of the church building all worship takes place in the Link.

## The Café

The Café became a reality in January 2017. The Kaimai Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees approved the applications to alter, to lease and to borrow for the development of the cafe. The resource consent permits 7-day trading (Mon-Sat 7 am to 4 pm and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm). A professional experienced café operator is managing a very successful business and co-operates with the parish and the needs of the congregation. We envisage “Café Church” being held in the café on Sundays sometime in the future.

The benefit of having a café is the opportunity to offer café church to the community. We envisage informal services -- aimed at 30 to 45 year-olds – that explore faith issues. Our new minister will have a large role in developing these services. A second benefit of a commercial café will be for the weekly users of The Link to enjoy convivial times together over refreshments.

*Artist impression of café at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.*



The third benefit is the opportunity for additional outreach: to bring passers-by and neighbours onsite and build their familiarity with St Andrew's. At times of crisis or spiritual searching, they will know that St Andrew's is there for them.

The ongoing lease-income will continue to support the financial operation of both the Church and The Link. However, this is very much a mission project for St Andrew's and not just a property transaction. The opportunities it provides are exciting.

## Who We Are

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church has a long history, which makes us who we are today. This section describes our physical location, our history, and the current state of our parish.

## Hamilton City

Hamilton sits on both banks of the Waikato River and is New Zealand's largest inland city (population 156,000). According to official census figures, Hamilton's population is 70% Pākehā/European, 21% Māori, and 14% Asian. It is forecast to grow 1.2% per year over the next 30 years. Despite its growth, Hamilton's roads are not seriously congested. It is easy to get around the city with new ring-roads having improved the access.

Hamilton's economy revolves around the dairy industry because of the Waikato region's moderate climate – warm summers and cool winters. Education and research also feature in the local economy. The University of Waikato, Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTERC), and Ruakura



Research Centre are large employers in the area and responsible for much of New Zealand's innovation in agriculture. Hamilton is also noted for its beautiful public gardens and for having the largest shopping complex in the country.

The Waikato Museum, Hamilton Zoo, annual events such as Balloons over Waikato, Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival, and the National Agricultural Fieldays, contribute cultural colour to the area. Culture is also influenced by increasing recognition of tāngata whenua (“people of the land” or indigenous people). In particular, the Tainui tribe is one of the largest land owners in Hamilton.

Roughly 50 suburbs comprise Hamilton. St Andrew's Church is located in Claudelands, adjacent to Hamilton East. These suburbs link the University of Waikato to the CBD and include areas zoned for high density residential, therefore

housing a mobile population of students. The area is also home to people in residential care facilities and half-way homes. There are many churches in the vicinity – Presbyterian, Anglican (Cathedral), Roman Catholic (Cathedral), Baptist, Methodist, Apostolic and various community churches that use school halls. There is also a mosque within the general area serviced by St Andrew's.

## Kaimai Presbytery, PCANZ

St Andrew's is within the jurisdiction of the Kaimai Presbytery. The Kaimai Presbytery includes Waikato and Bay of Plenty Presbyterian, Co-Operating, and Union congregations. Of the 55 parishes in the Kaimai Presbytery, ten are in Hamilton. Within the presbytery, small groups, called Mission Clusters, meet to support and resource each other between the two presbytery meetings each year. The Hamilton churches make up one Mission Cluster.

## History

St Andrew's parish was established in 1885. By 1912, it had grown so big that it was split into three parishes, one of which continued as St Andrew's. The church purchased land on River Road and constructed our current neo-gothic church building, which was consecrated on 1 February 1914. The building is listed as a Hamilton heritage site. It seats 350 and we love its interior woodwork and its historic Croft pipe organ.



George Croft of Auckland built the organ that was first played at the 1928 Christmas services. It underwent a full restoration in 1988 to ensure that it maintained its status as one of Croft's finest examples. This majestic instrument is especially popular for weddings.

The 1950s and 60s were boom years for St Andrew's. Membership reached 1000, women became Elders, and the church hosted numerous activities. In 1955, St Andrew's opened a church centre with two halls, a kitchen, Sunday school rooms,

and offices.

In the 1980s, St Andrew's became involved with refugee resettlement. By the 1990s our involvement with other cultures had morphed into a culturally diverse parish structure. In 1995, a group of Korean parishioners established the Hamilton Korean Church within St Andrew's. This church functions within and as part of St Andrew's, sharing a single Parish Council. We believe this organisational arrangement is unique in New Zealand. In 1999, church members visited Korea, developed a deep appreciation of the culture, and confirmed partnership with Baek Yang Ro Presbyterian Church in Pusan. Both Korean and Kiwi members of St Andrew's are active in the NZ – Republic of Korea Friendship Society in Hamilton.

Half a century after the church centre opened and following intensive fundraising, we refurbished the centre and the grounds to create "The Link". The Link is a debt-free \$1.9 million facility that serves both the church and the community. It opened in 2010.

Over the last hundred years, St Andrew's has inducted nine ministers. The longest term was 21 years and the shortest was four years. Since 1995, we have had Korean ministers serving the Korean speaking members.

### *Recent History*

Following a review of the Parish Council structure in 2014, St Andrew's streamlined its governing structure and changed the term that elders serve, from life to 3 years, with the option to be re-elected.

Because of our ministerial vacancy, Presbytery appointed two Assessor Elders to support the Parish and the Parish Council from May 2014. Various people have led worship and provided pastoral care during the vacancy. The Rev. Ken Wall began a 12-month term of Transitional Ministry on 1



October 2015 and he is still here 2½ years later. During this time he is leading an “Appreciative Inquiry” and preparing the parish to embrace the next stage of its mission.

## Congregation Profile

St Andrew's draws people from across the city and the surrounding districts, more so than from notional parish boundaries (as is the typical nature of city churches). The majority of members live along the East side of the Waikato River towards the North. Some members reside in residential eldercare facilities.

November 2015 parish statistics include 163 members and 52 associate members. Average attendance at English language worship services is about 55 and for the Korean language services, it is about 30. Attendance is slightly higher at our quarterly communion services.

Members include individuals from families with long-standing connections to St Andrew's, many retired people, some family groups, Pacific Island and Asian

migrants(including about 40 Koreans), tertiary students (mostly Korean), and business and professional people . We are aware of an age imbalance and the difficulty of attracting and retaining young people and young families. At June 2015 there were eight youth (13 to 17 years old) and 12 other children (under 13), mostly Korean.

We have a Korean minister who leads Korean language worship every Sunday and Wednesday. Rev Ham Tae Ju, a New Zealand resident and a fully ordained minister of the PCANZ. He is the fourth Korean minister to serve our Korean congregation. His ministry began in 2009 with the support of church congregations in Korea. We have regularly combined bi-lingual Kiwi-Korean services, usually followed by a shared meal.



## Finances

Our Annual Report for (June) 2017 reports an operating net surplus of \$6039 (plus tagged giving) for the Church and The Link combined. Deficit budgets have been a recurring problem. We hope that greater adoption of electronic giving may curtail the decline in Giving Income. Also, we expect The Link's income to grow as its reputation grows. The Link is important for St Andrew's financial sustainability.

The value of our capital assets remains strong. The current Government Valuation of our land is \$720,000. The most recent valuations (for fire insurance purposes) are \$2,715,000 for the church building, \$3,535,000 for The Link building, and \$1,082,271 for the church organ and other contents.

## Organisational Structure

St Andrew's is governed by one Parish Council. We regard ourselves as one church with two congregations. We recently resolved to elect elders every three years and to maintain 15 elders on the Council including a minimum of two elders from the Korean congregation. The Korean minister is on the Parish Council and all Parish Council members are elders. The Parish Council elects a Parish Clerk (administration) and a Parish Liaison Elder (pastoral). We currently have an Interim Moderator appointed by the Kaimai Presbytery. The Parish Council meets 11 times per year.



The Parish Council assigns seven committees to address aspects of the life and mission of the Parish. These committees meet monthly and separately from the monthly plenary Parish Council meetings and make monthly reports to the Parish Council. Each committee must have at least one Parish Council Elder and Elders are encouraged to be on a committee. Interested parishioners are invited onto the committees for annual terms. Mission spheres include Worship, Social & Ecumenical

Action, Kiwi-Korean Liaison, Pastoral Care, Christian Education, Church Life (fellowship), and Resource Management (property, finance & employment).

### ***Committee Responsibilities***

The *Worship Committee* ensures that St Andrew's congregation and community have a variety of opportunities to worship God. It supports the ministers leading worship, organises special worship services and assembles and coordinates worship leaders when we are without a minister, among other things.



The *Social & Ecumenical Action Committee (SEA Committee)* promotes St Andrew's activities in areas of social justice. It develops and communicates informed submissions about social, environmental and moral issues. The SEA group arranges our "St Andrew's Coffee Series" public meetings with keynote speakers, accompanied by coffee and cake. It also manages our ongoing support of the Link House Foodbank.

The purpose of the *Kiwi-Korean Liaison Committee* is to promote understanding and co-operation between Korean and other members of the congregation so that together we can work towards the mission of making Jesus Christ known. Its members ensure that Korean points-of-view are heard and accommodated in the life, worship and development at St Andrew's. It also organises Kiwi-Korean social events and cooperative missions.

Pastoral care for each other is our congregation's strength. The *Pastoral Care Committee* works alongside the minister to provide pastoral care to all within the Church family, particularly elders,



retired elders, and parishioners. It organises people to help with services at the hospital. It maintains the roll of children baptised at St Andrew's and contacts their families regularly, especially on birthdays.

The *Christian Education Committee* plans Christian education for adults, youth and children at St Andrew's. It oversees Sunday school and plans programmes for home study groups. It also organises educational discussion opportunities to which the community is invited (such as Faith & Film evenings). The Christian Education Committee is working to make St Andrew's *Kids Friendly*.

The *Church Life Committee* is overworked and underpaid! This committee keeps particularly busy organizing and cooking for our many fellowship events at St Andrew's. These range from morning tea to garden parties. Church Life promotes hospitality and fellowship in and around St Andrew's.

The *Resource Management Committee* (RMC) is tasked with managing the employees and the resources of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. This team looks after the buildings, grounds and finances and cares for the *Taonga* (treasured things) that previous generations of Church members have provided. It is responsible for maintaining and equipping the buildings, monitoring finances in association with the Church Treasurer, and managing human resources. The Link manager and the Church Secretary report to the Resource Management Committee, which appoints one member to act as line manager for each. RMC also oversees marketing and communication for St Andrew's and The Link. Furthermore, RMC supports fund raising activities and giving reviews.

In addition to these seven committees, several ad-hoc groups exist. They are ostensibly sub-committees of the seven Parish Council committees, but they operate quite independently. The *Church Library Committee* manages the excellent library from which parishioners may borrow books. The library is open at morning tea time



on Sundays. The *Mini Movers* group provides outreach – music, play, and socializing -- to families with young children. The *Social Group* has met for about six years to engage in crafts and indoor bowls. Up to 20 people have been involved, both Kiwi and Korean and both within and beyond St Andrew's. The *Women's Group* meets monthly for a programme of education and fellowship. Average attendance for the year ending in 2015 was ten women. *Busy Men's Breakfast* has provided outreach to the men of the congregation and others for the last 10 years. The outreach has been low key at a monthly breakfast from 7 am to 8 am and usually a speaker. Attendance varies between 15 and 25 people at the breakfast.

### ***Hamilton Korean Church within St Andrew's***

The Hamilton Korean Church functions within and as part of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in an organisational arrangement thought to be unique in New Zealand. None of the other six Korean congregations in Hamilton has the same association with the churches where they worship. Korean membership is less than its peak a decade ago but remains fairly constant at about 40. In recent years, the number of Koreans coming to settle or study in Hamilton has declined for various social and economic reasons. (see SPANZ – Spring 2015 celebrating our 20 years together).

In November 2007, the Race Relations Commissioner (in the Human Rights Commission) recognised St Andrew's *for the inclusion of the Hamilton Korean Church within its life and structures during the previous 13 years*. The "citation" noted that *during most of that time, the congregation has been served by both a Kiwi and a Korean Minister. Since 2005, they have been assisted by Korean missionaries supported by their home Churches in Korea. There is one Parish Council with one budget for this worshipping community. ...The Kiwi-Korean Liaison Group of Parish Council has arranged or helped ensure support for such activities as hospitality in homes, Kiwi and Korean cooking lessons,*



*garage sales (the takings of one going to the NZ Friendship Farm in North Korea), working bees – all recognising the diversity within and the growing together of the whole Church family.*

In summary, St Andrew's is a living church. It seeks to contribute to its wider community while caring for its own. It is rich in tradition, yet adaptable. It is wealthy in 'people power,' strong in faith, and central to the spiritual lives of its members.

