

# PARISH PROFILE 2023



## ST MARK'S CHURCH CARTERTON

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## Introduction

St Mark's Church in Carterton is a parish with a clear vision and mission. We are inviting you to discern, with us, whether God is calling you to serve as our next leader so that together and equipped by faith we can truly serve Carterton.

Using the process recommended by our Diocese, we have developed a Mission Action Plan for 2022–2027 which was unanimously endorsed at our AGM in April 2022. It sets out the areas in which we want to develop in order to help grow God's Kingdom here. It also contains five goals for us to achieve before 2027. They include agreeing an MOU with the diocese for developing social housing on our land, increasing the number of house groups in our parish, achieving financial stability, and establishing events and programmes to engage the broader community and those wanting to explore Christianity.

Our previous Vicar, Andy Eldred, left at the end of 2021 to pursue his passion for taking food and music into the community. We currently have two co-leaders serving as the parish's interim ministers, the Rev Judith Wigglesworth (priest-in-charge) and Roger Wigglesworth (lay-minister-in-charge). At present, we can support a 0.5FTE priest-in-charge. We are blessed also with having ordained and lay members of our congregation who are willing to support and help our leader.

Our rhythm of worship from August 2023:

Every Sunday at 9.30am

First Sunday of the month 8am and 9.30am

Every Thursday 10am, with laying on of hands and anointing on the first Thursday of the month.

Weekday morning prayer, in person or on Zoom.

We offer monthly Eucharist Services at two local rest homes, and we are involved in leading services at a church in neighbouring Gladstone several times a year.

We have four house groups that meet weekly and a vestry that meets each month. St Mark's Fellowship has a monthly meeting for those wanting fellowship and connection within the church. We have a number of regular outward-facing initiatives such as a weekly Fruit and Vegetable Co-op and the Seasons for Growth programme for children and others who have experienced trauma, loss or grief. We have provided household goods for two groups of former refugees who settled in Wellington in 2022.

Demographically we are a congregation of wise heads and youthful hearts, keen to do all we can to share and spread the Good News.

Carterton is the service town for the mainly agricultural industries in the district and is growing rapidly. It's a small town with a strong sense of community and a warm welcome always for visitors. We have our own district council and an excellent events centre that attracts local and national shows. There's good schooling (and pre-schooling) here and in Masterton (about 15 minutes away) and plenty of outdoor activities for the whole family. It's a great place to live.

We're praying for you.

# Section 1: Our Mission Action Plan

## Our Mission Action Planning process

In 2021 the parish embarked on a process to develop a five-year Mission Action Plan (MAP). The aim was to set a clear future direction for our parish and to ensure that our hopes and vision for the coming years are consistent with the diocesan vision and values.

**Diocesan Mission:** To be a transformative movement of local faith communities

**Diocesan Values:** We are disciples

We are family

We prioritise the Biblical call to the last, the lost and the least.

The vestry decided in August 2021 to embark on the Diocesan Mission Action Plan process. A Steering Group was established to drive the process.

A total of 59 people completed a Congregational Questionnaire and 48 people engaged with Mission Action Plan Discovery Groups over a period of six weeks during October and November 2021.

The information and ideas generated by the Discovery Groups were collated and summarised and used to generate a draft Mission Action Plan for review by the Steering Group. A final version of the plan was approved by the vestry in March 2022 and unanimously adopted at Part 2 of the 2021/22 parish AGM on 10 April 2022.

St Mark's leadership and vestry are planning and implementing processes to achieve the key goals. The vestry reviews progress towards the goals at each of its monthly meetings, and will review the goals, vision, and purpose statement at least annually. The Mission Action Plan will be a standing item on the agenda at each parish AGM. A full review of the Plan will be completed before the end of 2025.

You'll want now to read our Mission Action Plan. You do so by either:

- opening the PDF that came with this profile
- accessing it on our [church website](#).



Equipped by faith,  
we serve Carterton

A Mission Action Plan for St Mark's  
Carterton, 2022–2027

### Purpose Statement

St Mark's purpose is to bring God's light and hope to the Carterton community. This means strengthening our faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ, supporting one another, and building our capacity and willingness to serve others. It means following Christ's great commission to make disciples. And it means obeying Christ's call to love our neighbour and to stand against injustice, offering such service in humility because we know it is Christ's empowering that brings enduring change.

## Section 2: Worship at St Mark's

### Sunday worship

The liturgy for our Sunday worship is grounded in *A New Zealand Prayer Book- He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa (ANZPB-HKMOA)* and draws on other seasonal liturgical resources, mainly from around the Anglican Communion. Our Sunday services include the opportunity for 1:1 prayer ministry in our side chapel during Communion.

8am worship, once a month on the first Sunday of the month, is about 45 minutes, has a gentle reflective atmosphere and is followed by breakfast in the parish hall. 9.30am worship, of about 1 hour, includes music – a mixture of traditional hymns with organ accompaniment and more contemporary songs with organ, piano, or guitar accompaniment – and is followed by morning tea. During January we worship outside on our front lawn under the shade of our trees. We're keen to try some other creative worship opportunities.



### Mid-week worship

Our Thursday Eucharist at 10am offers an opportunity for mid-week worship. It uses the eucharistic liturgy for small groups from *ANZPB-HKMOA*, has a reflective atmosphere with a short homily, lasts 30-40 minutes, and is followed by morning tea in the church. Some regular mid-week members also worship on Sundays; for others the mid-week Eucharist is their primary worship service. On the first Thursday of the month, the laying on of hands and anointing is also offered.

### Morning prayer

We began a rhythm of morning prayer in early 2022, gathering on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8.30am in the church. The aim has been to create a praying presence and prayer opportunity on most days of the week, lasting 15-25 minutes. The numbers joining in have ranged from 1 to 6. From August 2023 we are likely to move to a rhythm involving some days with face-to-face prayer, and other days on Zoom.

### Rest home services

St Mark's leads a Eucharist at our two local rest homes, Carter Court and Roseneath, on the third Wednesday of the month.

### Gladstone church

St Mark's has had a long relationship with the church at Gladstone, a rural area east of Carterton. Gladstone Church is an ecumenical community resource run by a Trust comprising members of the local Gladstone community. Along with St David's Presbyterian Church in Carterton, St Mark's is responsible for leading worship at the church. Although the church officially comes under the umbrella of the Presbyterian church, in recent years the worship rhythm has been primarily led by Anglican clergy. There are usually six services in a year, including at Easter, mid-winter, and Christmas.

## Section 3: Parish groups and activities

### Vestry

At present vestry comprises the two interim co-leaders, two churchwardens, and four other lay people from the parish. Three of the members were first elected at Part 1 of our 2021-22 AGM in December 2021.

Vestry meets monthly, currently on the last Sunday of the month at 6pm, in the church hall. We alternate business meetings with discipling gatherings, as we seek to deepen our connections with God and with one another, and to prioritise vestry's calling as a praying group of disciples.

### Co-leaders and churchwardens

The two co-leaders and two churchwardens meet at least every two months, usually ahead of a vestry business meeting, to share, reflect, pray, and discuss current matters relating to the parish.

### Finance subcommittee

A group comprising the two churchwardens, the Treasurer, and a vestry member meet monthly a week before vestry meetings to analyse the parish's latest finance figures, discuss finance matters, and approve expenditure. Their decisions are brought to vestry for ratification.

### Home groups

There are four regular home groups meeting on Monday morning, and Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in people's homes. Three of these groups were initially formed for Lenten study opportunities in 2020 and have continued to meet. The fourth was established during Lent 2021 and has continued to meet.

These home groups meet a desire for small-group fellowship among many parishioners. Rev Andy Eldred met with home group leaders in 2020 when the first groups were established. A rhythm of weekly gatherings using morning or evening prayer resources was agreed, with the scripture reading for reflection being the Gospel for the coming Sunday. The groups used the house church liturgies created by the diocese in 2020 when Covid prevented us from meeting in larger gatherings.

Now that small groups have become an established part of parish life, there is scope to multiply our network of home groups, increase the discipling focus of the groups, create a more intentional mission focus for each of them, and invite more parishioners to become involved.

### Leadership and discipling course

A group of four (a co-leader and three vestry members) enrolled for the *Teams and Leadership in Worshipping Communities* course led by Bishop Justin and Archdeacon Gendy Thomson, under the umbrella of St John's College, Auckland, in April-July 2022.

The course introduced a range of discipling tools aimed at deepening faith, fostering an attentive stance to the movement of God in our lives, and equipping us to disciple others. There is scope for sharing the wisdom of the course more widely to create a more intentional discipling culture, beginning with vestry and home-group leaders.

## St Mark's Fellowship

Fellowship is a group within the parish led by a committee that meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month in the parish hall. There is a guest speaker each month, a sales table, and a monthly raffle. Most members of Fellowship are St Mark's parishioners; for others Fellowship is their connection with St Mark's. Funds raised during the year by Fellowship contribute to maintaining the sprinkler system in the church.

## Fruit and Vegetable Co-op

The Wairarapa Fruit and Vegetable Co-op is part of a network of co-ops across the wider Wellington region. Members of St Mark's have been involved in the co-op since early 2021. A St Mark's coordinator rosters a team of about 8 volunteers for packing, transport, and pick-up of the orders from St Mark's each Wednesday.

The co-op has grown from small beginnings to become one of our key mission outreach activities. The pick-up hub in our church hall enables us to connect with people in our community every Wednesday afternoon. Since mid-2021, demand in our local community has more than tripled, with the number of regular orders growing from 20 to the current number of about 70.



## Car Boot Sale and Little Parish Bookshop

During 2021 two ideas as potential missional connection points with our local community gained momentum: a car boot sale and a parish bookshop. It was envisaged that a car boot sale would make use of our spacious grounds and encourage members of the community to come along and sell their surplus household goods; and that a bookshop would enable us to turn our stockpile of surplus books from recent church fairs into a community resource.

Our first car boot sale and bookshop opening was held in November 2021, and since February 2022 this has now become a monthly event on the first Saturday morning of the month. The event is proving to be a fruitful connection and conversation opportunity with locals, as well as a useful fundraiser.

## Seasons for Growth

For a number of years the Seasons for Growth Wairarapa programme has run out of St Mark's. Our Anglican diocese partners with the Catholic church to offer the programme in our region. Two of our parishioners are employed part-time to coordinate support for groups of children, young people, and adults who have experienced trauma, loss, or grief. The programme enables connections with schools and members of the community. Although under the umbrella of St Mark's, the programme is self-sustaining, and proactively makes regular grant applications to community trusts.

## Annual Church Fair

St Mark's has a tradition of running a parish fair in October/November each year. This is always popular in the local community, and in recent years has been very successful as a fundraiser, raising \$6000 - \$7000.



## Carter Society and Carter Court

St Mark's has a close relationship with the Carter Society, a local non-profit trust which was established in 1960. The Carter Society owns Carter Court, an aged care residential facility, and a number of social housing units in the community.

Clergy at St Mark's have traditionally been chaplains to Carter Court and members of the Executive Board. As well as the regular monthly Eucharist service, the chaplains are invited from time to time to pray with residents who may be dying, and to bless rooms following the death of a resident.

## Users of our hall facilities

- **Carterton Playgroup**, which meets on Friday mornings
- **Tai Chi**, an exercise group which meets on Tuesday evenings
- **Pippins and Brownies**, which meets on Thursday afternoons
- **Alcoholic Anonymous**, which meets most Friday evenings
- **Common Law Group**, which meets monthly on Friday evenings
- **St Mark's Indoor Bowls**, which meets on Monday evenings
- **Guides**, which meets on Monday afternoons

## Section 4: Parish staffing

Rev Andy Eldred served as full-time vicar from 2017 to the end of 2021. St Mark's currently has two co-leaders serving as the parish's interim ministers, the Rev Judith Wigglesworth (priest-in-charge) and Roger Wigglesworth (lay-minister-in-charge). They are jointly paid a half of a full-time stipend.

One priest with Permission to Officiate also assists in the parish: Rev Richard Garner. During our interregnum, visiting priests from other parishes in the Wairarapa are sometimes invited to lead worship or preach at St Mark's.

Parish administration is coordinated by the co-leaders. One of the co-leaders handled the administration on a volunteer basis prior to becoming co-leader.

Volunteers manage our banking, finance, sanctuary care, gardens, and property and maintenance. We are fortunate to have a volunteer organist (who has served in the role for 40 years) as well as three other musicians (pianists and guitarist) who play for Sunday worship. We also have a paid part-time cleaner.

St Mark's pays two leaders of the Seasons for Growth programme. Seasons for Growth is a distinct business unit within the parish, with its two salaries being covered by successful funding grant applications.

## Section 5: St Mark's: The numbers

At St Mark's Carterton we have:	Totals	Percentage
Active members*	100	37.5
Inactive members	127	47.8
Active non-Carterton residents	6	2.3
Inactive non-Carterton residents	33	12.4
<b>TOTAL CHURCH FAMILY</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100%</b>

While we have 266 people on our wider parish roll and 100 of those attend at least 12 times a year, our typical attendances figures are:

Sunday worship: 55

Thursday worship: 14

\* An Active member is defined as a person who attends at least 12 times a year.  
Inactive means attending fewer than 12 times a year.

ATTENDANCE AND SERVICES (for 2022 )	
Places of Worship	St Mark's Carterton; Gladstone Church
Total attendance	3665
Total Acts of Communion	2979
<i>Easter</i>	77
<i>Christmas</i>	80
Rest Home communions	225
Baptisms	0
Marriages	1
Funerals	13
Regular givers	79

Our primary place of worship is St Mark's Church, 185 High Street in Carterton. The Gladstone Church is operated by a Community Trust but Anglican-led services (including baptisms, weddings and funerals) are recorded in our parish registers.

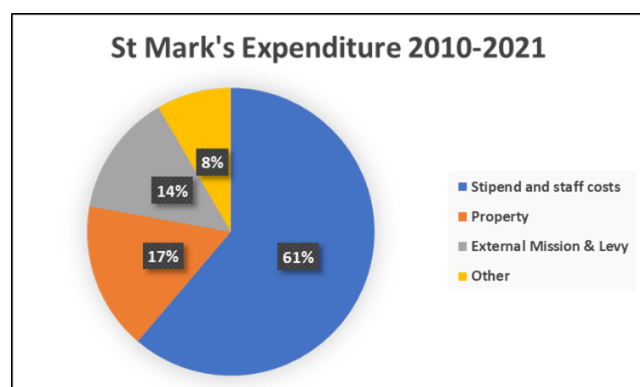
Attendance has fallen in the last 10 years but has been pretty consistent in recent years.

DEMOGRAPHICS (for regular attendees in 2021)										
We are a predominantly NZ-European congregation, and around 70% of us qualify for Gold Cards.										
Age	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
Total	2	5	2	4	2	5	18	30	16	2
Ethnicity	NZ European	Maori	Other European	Chinese	Indian					
	80	2	2	1	1					

## Finances

The parish has been struggling to balance its annual budgets for some years. While regular giving continues to meet around 60% of the running costs of the parish, we have only managed to remain viable due to active fundraising, drawing down capital, and neglecting some aspects of maintenance on our buildings and grounds.

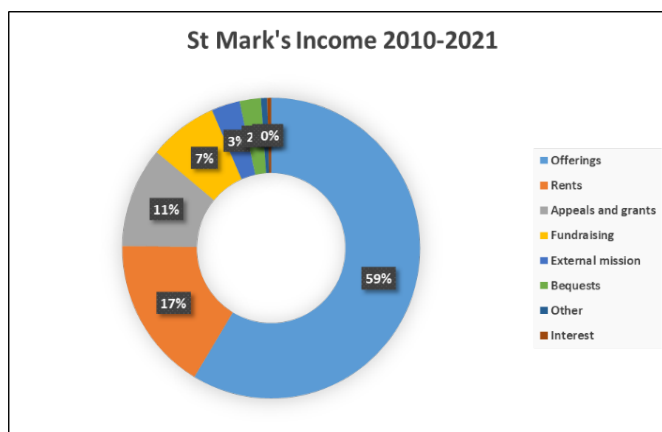
Our current financial situation has enabled us to address some of the delayed maintenance. However, at this point in time we are only able to offer a 0.5 FTE stipend for a future priest-in-charge.



The bulk of our expenditure over the last ten years has been used for paying clergy stipends and meeting accommodation costs for clergy. The next most significant expense is property, which consists of the church, a 'vicarage' (currently let to the Wairarapa Safer Community Trust), and a parish hall (which includes an office for the priest).

The church buildings are located on a corner section which is 2.5 acres (1 hectare) in size. We are currently exploring opportunities for

the parish, in partnership with the Diocese, to establish a housing development on our spare land. Total expenditure has been pretty consistent since 2010.



Our income is predominantly from offerings from the congregation, which have been reasonably consistent over the last five years (around \$81,000 on average. Most giving is by direct credit. Rental income from the vicarage was about the same amount as the expenditure on accommodation for the Vicar. Fundraising has significantly increased in the last three years, with social events, car boot sales, Trade Me sales and the fair all part of the annual cycle. Vestry is currently exploring the development of a bequesting programme.

## Section 6: A Short History of St Mark's Church

Our wooden church has been the heart of Anglican worship in Carterton for nearly 150 years.



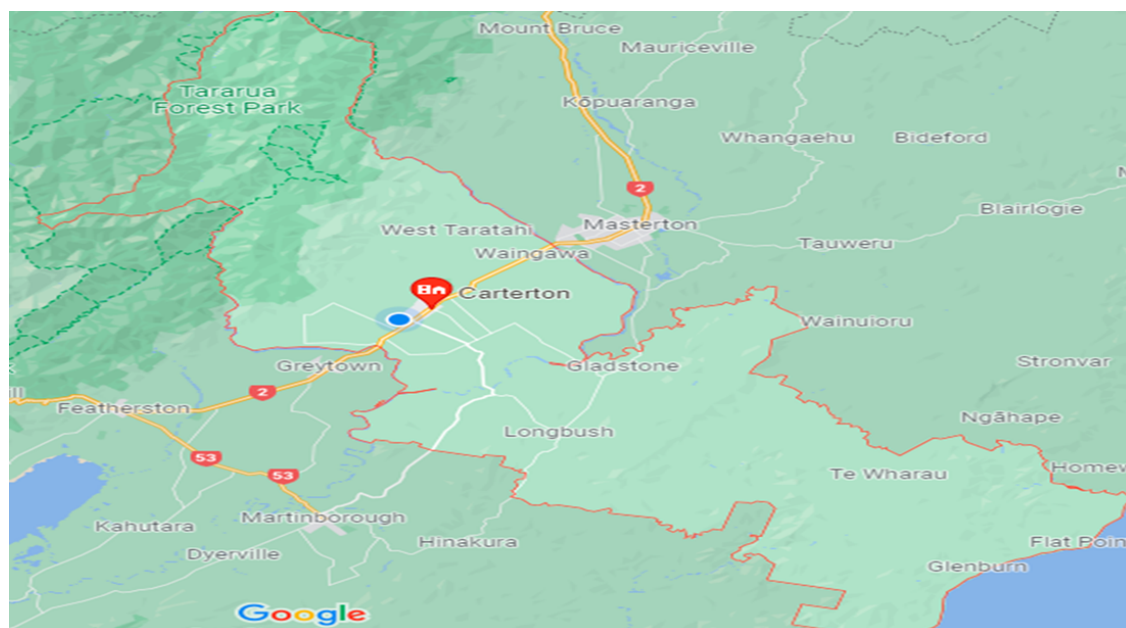
A half-acre section was gifted in 1873 by William Walker and the church was built by Thomas Bennett for £210. The first service was held on 21 February 1875 and the building was consecrated by Bishop Octavius Hadfield and dedicated to St Mark on 3 May 1875.

A Sunday School building was also built on the site, at the same time as the church. It was moved further back to make room for enlarging the church in 1882 and has become part of the Parish Hall.

The church seats up to 100 persons, has a side chapel in the crossing, a good quality pipe organ, and several renowned stained glass windows.

## Section 7: The Carterton Parish and District

The St Mark's parish boundaries are the same as the boundaries for the Carterton district.



Carterton (*Taratahi*) is located 14 km southwest of Masterton and 80 km northeast of Wellington. The town has a population of 5,850 (June 2021), out of a total district population of 10,050.

Carterton was founded in 1857. Originally known as *Three Mile Bush*, it served as housing for workers building the road between Wellington and Masterton. It was later renamed after Charles Carter, a local landowner and MP.

Dairy, wool, beef, and lamb farming are the predominant industries, and there have been new agricultural ventures such as deer, dairy goats, and manuka honey industry. On the drier lands to the east of the town, in the Gladstone and East Taratahi regions, a number of vineyards have been established since the mid-1980s. Other crops such as olives are also finding favour, particularly with newer residents living on lifestyle blocks.

Carterton is a service town with many businesses operating at least 6 days a week. Its main street has retained an unpretentious character. Many of our population commute to Wellington for work.

A total of six primary schools serve the District along with an extensive medical centre and two dental practices. Secondary school students usually attend Kuranui College (Greytown) or one of the state or Anglican integrated schools in Masterton.

Carterton District annual events include the annual Daffodil Festival held every September, the Scarecrow Festival held every November, and the Wairarapa International Balloon Fiesta held around Easter. Carterton has the largest Events Centre in the Wairarapa, an attractive modern venue that caters to a wide range of community services, events, and visiting shows.

Local leisure pursuits include wetlands and bush walks, swimming in river holes, mountain biking, kayaking, fishing, and horse riding.

As a part of our Mission Action Plan we collated a detailed assessment of the Carterton District. It is available as a separate document included in the profile package.