

University of Waikato Ecumenical Chaplain

Report to the Chaplaincy Committee AGM

March 2026

With thanks to Brett McEwan, Director of Student Support and Pastoral Care, we have made substantial progress on refurbishing the chaplaincy facilities. We have refreshed the offices with new paint and carpet, and the chapel itself now benefits from a ducted heat-pump installation. This has vastly improved comfort levels for all our users. On a personal note, April and May 2025 saw my wife and I take our long-awaited trip overseas. This had been delayed while I completed treatment for prostate cancer. Although the original itinerary changed slightly, the adjustment proved most enjoyable; we spent time in Belgium before our Italian tour and concluded with a cruise from Split to Dubrovnik. I have also completed my staggered sabbatical. In January, I focused on mastering Adobe Lightroom and commenced a Certificate in Computing. The latter has proved immensely beneficial, providing digital tools to create quizzes, presentations, and structured workshops.

Background considerations (from the Chaplain's Job Description):

POSITION PURPOSE

To provide a service of pastoral counselling, public worship and informal Christian teaching on the campus for staff, students and others. To communicate the work of chaplaincy to local, regional and national churches, thus ensuring the continuation of the Chaplaincy on campus. To work in a Chaplaincy team with the Roman Catholic Chaplain and to make regular reports to, and work closely with, the Chaplaincy Committee.

KEY TASKS

- Lead worship in the chapel as appropriate
- Act as a liaison with Christian groups on campus
- Liaise with and coordinate the input from local, regional and national church bodies.
- Ensure the proper use of the Chapel and 'drop-in' centre in accordance with established policies
- Conduct informal study groups and the presentation of a Christian perspective on issues as and when they arise on and off campus
- Liaise with chaplaincy teams in other tertiary institutions
- Participate in the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment. Contribute to the hazard management programme.

Lead Worship

Our weekly Eucharist continued throughout 2025. In 2026, this will shift to Thursdays to accommodate my workshop timetabling at the Wellness Centre. Nick Goodwin's Monday morning prayer breakfast maintains a small but dedicated following. Since the last AGM, I have officiated at two funerals: one for a student, held at the Anglican Cathedral to accommodate 300 mourners, and one for a staff member, which filled our chapel and garden with 180 people. Over the summer break, I also baptised the grandchildren of a former staff member.

Liaise with Christian Groups

TSCF (Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship), WaiCath and Student Life remain the most active groups on campus. Arise Church continues to hold occasional functions at the chapel, and the apologetics group, Thinking Matters, resumed monthly evening presentations in 2025.

Liaise with Churches

John Buxton is doing a sterling job coordinating my volunteer assistant chaplains from St Peters in the City Tauranga. They work alongside the TSCF group on campus there and support students in university-run accommodation. For several years now, I have been a member of both Anglican Tikanga Pākehā Ecumenical Group (TPEG) and the national Anglican/Catholic dialogue (ARCCANZ). Fr Darren, from the Catholic Cathedral, has recently joined the latter and we look forward to co-hosting a face-to-face meeting later this year. Furthermore, I liaise with other faith groups as Vice-President of the Waikato Interfaith Council, writing a statement following the Bondi shootings, and giving a short speech at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's annual conference in Auckland. Recently, I joined Te Ara Aroha Rainbow Takatāpui & Allies Network (TAARTAN), an officially recognised Christian community within the Anglican Church, on a personal basis.

Chapel Usage

Chapel bookings remain steady; we are fully booked at weekends and three to four weeknights. We expect to host the Waikato Youth Choir for a period commencing next month. With the refurbishment of several buildings around the Hamilton campus impacting room availability, I have made the chapel available to our Master of Counselling lecturers for some of their block courses. Both the music programme within the School of Arts and TANZOS (The Aotearoa New Zealand Opera Studio) occasionally hold classes here particularly when the GAPA (the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts) is full and while IJK blocks are being refurbished. Thank-you cards are appended to this report from Kirikiriroa Autistic Women and the MCouns students.

We have also renamed the Drop-in Centre as the Chapel Library, which is attracting an increasing number of casual users seeking a quiet space for prayer or study.

Conduct Informal Study Groups

While the inter-faith group saw limited engagement, the Contemplative Photography workshops at the Wellness Centre were well-attended. I will repeat these shortly and introduce a five-session workshop on Religious Diversity for staff and students during the second trimester.

Liaise with Chaplaincy Teams

Our chaplains attended the Regional Chaplaincy Hui, where I spoke on the 2021 Code of Pastoral Care and monitoring compliance. Following the 2025 online AGM, we await details for the 2026 conference.

The Waikato Chaplaincy Team

As previously mentioned, John Buxton coordinates our volunteers in Tauranga, and I visit there once a week during teaching periods in A and B Trimesters. On the Hamilton campus, we were pleased to welcome Lin Chu from Hillcrest Baptist Church and Rose Stokes from St Francis Hillcrest to the team, enhancing our diversity in theology, gender, and ethnicity. Father JP reports that the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton intends to add a lay person to their Chaplaincy team: Jil Yong has been the Youth Formation Manager for several years and is now planning to focus on the University apostolate. They have identified a sponsor for a nearby venue to host meetings and events, which will create additional space when the chapel is in high-demand. Father JP will continue to celebrate the Sunday and Wednesday Mass on campus as in previous years.

Safe and Healthy Environment

As convenor for Student Health's Occupational Health & Safety group, I reviewed all essential university learning modules during the quieter month of November. Recent site improvements include the aforementioned heat pump and new handrails for the office steps.

Following tightened Diocesan requirements, I successfully completed an in-depth background check to maintain the Bishop's Licence and received my Certificate of Clearance for Ministry. In accordance with the University's Person Specification, I maintain my standing as an ordained minister within a contributing church, which necessitates meeting the requirements detailed in row 2 of the chart on the following page:



MINISTRY REQUIREMENTS

Quick Reference Chart

	Healthy Practices					Safe Ministry					Diocesan Life					
	Spiritual Direction	Annual Leave	Annual Retreat	Ministry Review	Study Leave / Sabbatical	Boundaries in Ministry	Full Background Screening	Police Check (every 3 years)	Supervision	Children Safety	Archdeaconry Cluster	Annual Ministry Kura	Training Days	Synod	Chrism Mass	Ordination Services
CLERGY Licensed - Stipendiary	YES	YES	YES	5 yr	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
CLERGY Licensed - Non Stipendiary	YES	YES	YES	REC	REC	YES	YES	YES	YES	Role Dep.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
CLERGY PTO	YES	N/A	REC	N/A	N/A	YES	Role Dep.	YES	Role Dep.	Role Dep.	REC	ON INV	ON INV	OPT	REC	REC
LAY Licensed Lay Minister	OPT	N/A	REC	YES	N/A	YES	YES	YES	Role Dep.	Role Dep.	REC	N/A	YES	N/A	YES	REC
LAY Local Ministry Certificate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES	N/A	YES	Local	Role Dep.	N/A	N/A	ON INV	N/A	REC	OPT
LAY Office Holder	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES	Role Dep.	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	ON INV	Role Dep.	OPT	OPT

Please refer to your Letter of Offer, Employment Agreement and/or Covenant for additional information.

Key: YES (required), REC (recommended), Role Dep. (will depend on your role), ON INV (on invitation), OPT (optional), N/A (not applicable)

Other Events and Activities

In the final year of government funding for “Hauora & Diversity Week”, I prepared a meal for 140 students under the “Nacho Average Chaplain” banner. I also undertook the first module of a pilot programme for upskilling staff in Tikanga Māori, with two further modules scheduled for 2026.

Personal Matters

While the long-term effects of my cancer treatment remain somewhat uncertain, the outlook is positive. My energy levels are lower than they were two years ago but remain adequate for normal duties.

In Conclusion

It is with great sadness that I farewell Stephen as the Anglican clerical representative and chair of our committee, and Jill Schumacher as our secretary and treasurer. Special thanks go to Jill who worked tirelessly with the University to get our finances onto a sound footing. My line manager Jo Knight and our Director Brett McEwan have both been immensely supportive of my ministry on campus. I also wish to record my thanks to my volunteer chaplains on both campuses. It has been good to see them pick up the ball and run with it, carving out their own spaces in the chaplaincy world.

Thanks, as always, to our church funders and to those who keep chaplaincy in their prayers. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa!

Rev'd Andrew McKean TSSF – 26 February 2026



Nacho Average Chaplain – The Pā



Student Funeral – St Peter's Cathedral

Thank you brother Andrew - what a peaceful and beautiful space to learn in - Andrew's Jelly

I've loved learning in your beautiful space. Thanks so much for allowing us in. - Angela

Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful space. - Kie

Teaora koe mōtō mānaki-tanga me - Rose

Brother Andrew, Thank you so much for giving this space. I have loved and appreciated this space. It has given my learning space and comfort. - Alison

Kia ora Brother Andrew, thank you for sharing your space with us this week, it has been a great space to do learning & community. - David

Brother Andrew we are very grateful with you for sharing your sacred place with us. Thank you!!

Thank you Brother Andrew for sharing your space with us. It was a beautiful environment for learning, growth & spirituality. We appreciate the arua & beautiful space you shared with us all. - Rose

Dear Brother Andrew ~ thank you for sharing this lovely space with us. I enjoyed meeting you and hope we can connect again next time! - David

Brother Andrew, Thank you for your generosity to allow us to use the chapel for our learning. - Rose

Thank you for allowing us to have such a lovely, peaceful space to do very important, reflective & meaningful things. - Rose

Thank you for offering this beautiful space. The view is so beautiful. - Rose

Kia ora B. Andrew, thank you so much for allowing us to use the chapel. It is a beautiful space and has added to our learning. - Rose

Thank you Brother Andrew for sharing this beautiful space with us. It was nice to know us. - Rose

Much appreciation for your kindness in sharing this beautiful space at the chapel, Brother Andrew. - Rose

God bless, & thanks so much. - Rose

With love & thanks - Jenn

I have appreciated this beautiful space. - Rose

MCouns Students

Elizabeth

Leaf

Toni

Sally

With Great Appreciation, Kirikiriroa Autistic Women + co.

Victoria

Barbara

Emma

Jasper

Sian

Dear Brother Andrew,

This space has so much meaning to us both for what a wonderfully Autistic-friendly space it is, and that we can actually access it through your generosity and support.

We can completely relax and be at peace here, while we grow friendships + banish loneliness.

Thank you for giving us this supreme gift. There are no words to really express quite how much it means to us.

We hope you are doing well too.

Kirikiriroa Autistic Women