

## Rev Brendan Gibbs moves from Katikati to a Hawera re-plant

After serving as the Vicar in Katikati for 24 years, and having given my heart and soul to my community, it is with sadness that I will leave here on the 7<sup>th</sup> May.

I will be commencing a new type of ministry in South Taranaki, being based in Hawera. I considered this position approximately 5 years ago but didn't feel comfortable with exploring it further. However due to buying a house for retirement in Whanganui, and there not being any positions there, I decided to explore it again after it was advertised. From then on doors opened and I felt more called to give this a go. My heart is excited by it, but my mind has had reservation and uncertainties. I will be fully relying on the Holy Spirits leading in this new position.

My new role in Hawera is titled "Missioner South Taranaki" and I'll be assisting in Opunake, Mania, Hawera, Patea, Waverly & Waitotara. My main mission will be outreach – but also establishing new groups and building up existing congregations, and planting new ones.

St Peters, Katikati, has survived the difficult times of the church, along with covid. This is mainly due to our small groups who ministered to each other through that period, and good lay leadership. The parish had approximately 70 – 80% of its active members in small groups. It has dropped off due to covid but is slowly rebuilding.

With my shift to Hawera I'm praying that the parish will continue with a positive outlook while a new Vicar is sought.

I have managed to have growth in past parishes due to my church growth training many years back and also my personal study on church planting. It will not be an easy task as I will not have a team of people assisting.

However, with my current congregation I am building up prayer support for my new role. I will email my prayer requests to them and update them regularly. While they are sad that I am leaving, they recognize that I will be very suited to this new position.

St Peters will remain a member of ACM and I too will, as an Individual Member.

Brendan