

AGM 2026
St Paul's Vestry
Candidate Bio Pack



ST PAULS

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GRAFTON
AUCKLAND 1010

VESTRY

The Vestry is our parish governing body. It consists of the following members:

Non-Elected Members

Vicar's Warden: Dave Donaldson

Clergy: Rev Pete Watson
Rev Matt Bruns
Rev Ian Yong

Treasurer: Matt Wong

Secretary: Lauren Aitken

Elected Members

Synod Reps Paul Woodfield
Elizabeth Vink

Synod Reps are elected for a 3 year term. Next election is 2028

People's Warden 1 position available

Vestry Members Number to be determined at the AGM

PEOPLE'S WARDEN

- *A key lay leader of the Parish*
- *A spokesperson for the members of the Parish to the Vestry*
- *Provide leadership in helping the Vestry meet its responsibilities*
- *Support the work of clergy licensed to the Parish*
- *Ensure that the Vestry and the Vicar are properly informed about matters for which they are each responsible.*

Elizabeth Vink

Current People's Warden

Kia ora koutou e te whānau. I've been part of the St Paul's community for the past 15 years (along with my husband and our now 4 boys).

I've had the privilege of serving on Vestry for a number of years (serving in various roles including being People's Warden, Synod Representative as well as chairing a subcommittee and helping to co-chair Vestry). Over the years, I've served in a range of other ministries such as being a small group and hub group leader, service leading, helping on the Alpha course through to helping St Paul's Kids. St Paul's is an incredible church to be a part of and I'm excited about what's in store for us. It's so exciting to see God at work in and through his people.

Outside of St Paul's, I've led youth and student ministries in parachurch organisations and the local church and have served on boards and committees. My paid employment covers research, business improvement and project management.



VESTRY MEMBERS

- *The role of Vestry members is to “represent parishioners and provide support and guidance to the Vicar and other clergy.”*

Bridget O’Malley

Current Vestry member

I have been worshipping at St Paul’s since 2004, along with my family. I am married to David, and we have three sons: Isaac (23), Alex (21), and Tombo (17). Being part of the St Paul’s community has been a significant and valued part of our lives.



In recent years, we have become active members of the evening service and have enjoyed supporting the St Paul’s Youth team. Over time, we have also been involved in the Open and Alpha courses, reflecting our passion for the transforming love, grace, and mercy of Jesus, and the role of the church in sharing that message.

I have served on Vestry for the past 18 years, including three years as People’s Warden. Through this, I have developed a strong commitment to the life and leadership of the church.

I care deeply about St Paul’s and would love to see it continue to grow and mature. I believe in a church where God is glorified, where people are transformed to live authentic lives rooted in their identity in Christ, and where all are welcomed. I also value accountable leadership and honest, effective governance.

David Eaton

Current Vestry Member

My family and I have been part of the St Paul's community for over 20 years, and I've had the privilege of serving on Vestry since 2016, for several years as Vicar's Warden. It has been an honour to support the life of the church through Vestry leadership. One of the Anglican Church's great strengths is



the role of the Vestry in governance and oversight, and I'm keen to continue contributing to that work by remaining on the St Paul's Vestry.

My heart for St Paul's is summed up in these words from Paul's letter to the Colossians: "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Professionally, I'm a technology executive, serve on the Board of the Open Home Foundation—a Christian foster care organisation—and run a small cybersecurity consulting business.

Donald Fawkner

Current Vestry member

My wife Victoria and I first joined the St Paul's family in 2007, and it has been a place of deep community, faith, and growth for us ever since. Over the years, St Paul's has become like an extended family, and a foundation for much of our personal and spiritual journey. I had the privilege of serving on the staff team for seven years, working as the Kids and Families Ministry Leader, and I have now been serving as a Vestry member for the last few years.



I now work as the Programme Manager for Upside Youth Mentoring Aotearoa, an early intervention charity that supports young people facing challenging circumstances by connecting them with caring adult mentors. Although my career focus has shifted towards the wider community, my heart for St Paul's remains as strong as ever.

I am passionate about continuing to serve the church, supporting the leadership team, and contributing to the growth and flourishing of this incredible community. With my background as a former teacher, youth pastor, outdoor instructor, and families ministry leader, I bring extensive experience in Health and Safety, and pastoral care. Above all, I have a deep commitment to seeing families thrive and to engaging people fully in the mission of the church — both locally, nationally, and beyond.

NATALIE KEANE

Current Vestry Member

I have been part of the St Paul's community for around seven years and am deeply grateful for the depth and richness I have found here. I love the beauty and heritage of the St Paul's building, and I am excited to continue growing in leadership and service for St Paul's. I am an architect with a background in social and affordable housing, bringing strong project management skills and a heart for building flourishing communities.



I have been part of vestry for the past year and thoroughly enjoy the chance to care for our church from a governance and discernment level. I am part of the St Paul's Creation Care Kaihāpai and provide support around future direction for care and maintenance of our heritage building. I am also drawn to exploring how we might steward our assets - our building, land, and relationships - in ways that genuinely align with our mission and serve our neighbours.

I completed the Venn Vocational Programme in 2024. Outside of church, I share life with a cat, a wide extended-blended family including three cute nieces, and my parents who are a significant support to my life.

MONICA AYERS

Current Vestry Member

Hi, I'm Monica. I've been a Christian since childhood and, together with my husband Phil, I've been a member of St Paul's for around 15 years.

I work at NZ Post as Chief People Officer and have built my career supporting organisations and leaders to be as effective as possible. I've recently had the chance to support Pete and the staff team with HR advice and it's been a joy to humbly contribute my business experience to help St Paul's.

I love being part of the worship team and have a heart for seeing people from different backgrounds being included and involved in a vibrant church community. I'm inspired by the recent updates to the church vision, and I'd love to be able to help bring this vision to life as part of the Vestry team. I have really enjoyed serving on Vestry for the past year and I'd be honoured to be elected again



GRACE MELVILLE

Running For Vestry

Tēnā koutou,

My name is Grace and I have been a part of St Paul's for the past four years. I was born in Auckland and have lived here for most of my life. My immediate family are now based in Christchurch, so I find home in both Auckland and Christchurch.



I began attending St Paul's when I was near the end of my university degree. I was drawn to the history and beauty of the church, and the rich tradition within the Anglican denomination. Since that time, I have grown in deep appreciation of St Paul's alongside a deepening relationship with God and others.

St Paul's has been a significant place for me in my twenties. It has seen me through finishing my university degree, beginning a professional role as a registered nurse, and now coming to the end of the Venn Residential Fellowship. I would love to serve St Paul's on Vestry as I have a deep love for the church, I would like to learn and grow in leadership, and I have a particular heart for the 5:30pm service.