

A family church linked to our community

Tawa-Linden Anglican church is a large family church in suburban Wellington.

We offer lively modern worship, traditional Anglican services, home-based small groups for prayer, Bible study and fellowship. We are keen to further explore variety in our worship and intergenerational services are one area we have identified for development.

The parish shares a commitment to life-long growth as disciples of Jesus and taking God's message into our wider community. We are Biblically-based and seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Our strong pastoral care network includes newcomers' lunches, meals, practical help, and home visiting.

We are predominantly Pakeha middle class, with some ethnic minorities and overseas cultures. A significant number of our members have backgrounds in other denominations, ranging from Pentecostal to Catholic. We cover the age spectrum and have active children's and youth ministries.

The parish has strong links with other Tawa churches, and is building relationships in our community through Pop-In pre-school playgroups, senior citizen lunches, holiday programmes, men's social evenings, life skill workshops, Kids Fun Nights, sales of Ezee Meals, and support for a local lower decile primary school.

A team approach to leadership is a strength of our church. We employ a Vicar, an Assistant Priest /Mission Director, a Children's Pastor, a Youth Pastor, a Pop-In Coordinator and an Office Manager. There are many talents in the parish and a large number of members are involved in voluntary leadership roles.

Diversity in worship

We have two churches, St Christopher's in central Tawa and St Peter's in Linden, with quite different congregations.

St Christopher's 10:00am service is a relatively 'low church' communion service with a charismatic flavour, blending liturgical and contemporary worship. Service style varies and times of sharing and open prayer are included. Music and worship are led by a lay person. Children's Church and crèche operate each Sunday during term time. The congregation typically numbers around 160 across a broad age range.

St Peter's 8:30am service offers traditional Eucharist using the NZ Prayer Book. The priest and liturgical assistant are robed. Typically 30-40 people attend, most of retirement age. There is a monthly healing service and a monthly shared breakfast.

A weekly Wednesday morning study group with communion is held at St Peter's, and each Thursday a simple communion service is held at Longview retirement home.

The fifth Sunday of the month is often a 'Service Sunday': our two congregations combine for a short service followed by practical service projects in the wider community. A combined service with other Christian churches in Tawa is held several times a year.



We encourage fellowship across the generations in a variety of settings – here at our all-age parish tramp

Our vision

- Building family
- Deepening discipleship
- Engaging the fringe
- Praying for people to come to faith
- Working for Social Justice, and
- Care of creation

Our aspirations

We would like to nurture and build on all that is good. In particular, we want to:

- **Grow spiritually**
Prayer and discipleship are important to us, and we see a need to increase the attendees in the very fabric of our Christian life such as discipleship and mission initiatives and intercessory prayer groups.
- **Develop our youth and young adults' ministry**
We wish to continue to develop our active youth ministry and see an opportunity to expand discipleship for young adults (post-college age).
- **Have more fun together & build on hospitality**
This may seem frivolous but is about building spontaneity, relationships, community, trust and interdependence (openness and mutual support, willingness to accept help).
- **Grow our community outreach**
We want to have an impact on our community so that people would notice if we weren't there. In particular we want to explore how we might use St Peter's as our Linden base.
- **Build Intergenerational worship**
We wish to create additional worship opportunities with active participation of all ages to complement our existing strong Children's Church ministry.

Our Community

Tawa is a distinct community of around 14,000 residents, nestled in a valley between Wellington city centre (20 minutes drive to the south) and Porirua city (a few minutes to the north).

Tawa is a great family area with a strong community spirit. It is well-endowed with schools from primary to College, community facilities, and local groups and sports clubs. Transport links north and south are good and many people commute into Wellington city to work. The valley has several parks and bush reserves and a growing native bird population. The local hill-top landmark is Colonial Knob which looks out towards the top of the South Island.

We are called the Tawa-Linden parish but Tawa is the common term for the whole community. Linden is at the northern end of the valley.

All ages work together on service projects in the community on 'Service



Youth helping youth pastor Andy with Sunday service



September holiday programme involves youth as young leaders



Creche runs every Sunday at St Christopher's



Children's Church at St Christopher's



Men's outreach night at a local pub on the first Wednesday of the month



What we hope of you ...

We are looking for a team leader who can enable, mentor and encourage our existing team as we worship together and work towards our aspirations.

Our values are people-based, and we are looking for a vicar who will nurture the soil so that church members can grow into ministry and take the initiative with one-off or more regular initiatives.

We would like you to:

- Climb on-board a going concern
- Sustain what's there
- Help steer us towards our aspirations
- Embrace our values
- Be flexible and open to new opportunities
- Take some risks
- Have some fun!

Thinking of Joining the Family?

Tawa-Linden Anglican Church

August 2016

Building family
Deepening Discipleship
Engaging the Fringe
Praying for people to come to faith
Working for Social Justice and Care of Creation

www.tac.org.nz