



# VISION SUNDAY 2025

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*everyday people, loving God, living it out*









## 2026: MOVING FORWARD AS YOUR LOCAL CHURCH



Last year, as we entered 2025 we emphasised our identity as a local church, based on over five years of prophetic words, pictures and insights, tested and discerned. We are a local church in a very defined place, the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, we are called to be salt and light, here and now in this place.

God has blessed this journey throughout 2025. From this blessing, we have continued to bless this community, individually through your everyday presence in the community, in ways we often never see, and together through our collective work such as the food bank, the toy library, ESOL group, Kinda Groove, community service day, our work through CYC (both 24/7 Youth workers in the College and Youth Services), and now the new work in the primary schools on the peninsula with Tamariki Tipu (Growing Children), in Red Beach, Whangaparaoa and Gulf Harbour, with Stanmore Bay signed up for 2026.

We've seen people drawn to Jesus through individual connection and through Alpha and we've celebrated amazing baptisms and testimonies. We also continued to go 'from Local to Global', deepening our association with Joyya. There was also sadness during the year as our Kindy closed its doors for the last time. Change can be difficult and painful, we acknowledge that. However, our preparedness to change, to follow the Spirit's lead is necessary if we are to continue to be transformed and to impact for Jesus. Thank you for your willingness to embrace the uncomfortableness of change.







## WHO WE ARE AS A CHURCH

We are a local church, 'Local Church – Whangaparaoa', a Baptist congregational church, Whangaparaoa Baptist Church, 'WBC – Your local Church'. We are Christians, people of God, followers of Jesus, disciples, committed to the essential orthodoxies of the Christian faith and our historical Baptist distinctives. We remain committed to these essential orthodoxies and distinctives.

Heartbeat statement: Our guiding heartbeat statement for many years has been 'Everyday People Loving God and Living it Out'. This will continue to guide us in 2026. It reflects the great commandment, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and to love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:30-31). We are 'everyday people' in the sense that we are not special, better than others through what we have done, but blessed by the grace of God. We seek to love God and live this out 24/7, not just on a Sunday morning, but in all times, places and relationships, wherever we are. We do not want to be a comfortable club of Sunday morning Christians.

Priorities: Our priority areas guide our actions as a church each year. These are prayerfully reviewed and refined on our journey. This year they've been refined further. All we do as a church needs to be tested against whether or not it is in line with who we are, our heartbeat statement and these priorities. The four priorities areas for 2026 are for us to be;

1

**Embedded in Jesus:** Our very beings need to be 'embedded' in the person of Jesus, through worship and prayer, through communion and saturation in God's Word and Spirit. This is a 24/7 living relationship with our Lord and Saviour, remaining in Him at all times (John 15). We endeavour to encourage this both as a church body gathered on a Sunday, in smaller groups and individually. How can we collectively as a church and you individually be even more embedded in Jesus through worship and prayer in 2026? Over the summer be praying into this.

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2

**Transformed by Jesus:** We are called to be transformed by encountering Jesus and God's love. We endeavour to help you in this both corporately, as a church body, through our teaching, courses, groups and connection and organically as we journey together with 'iron sharpening iron' (Proverbs 27:17). How can we collectively as a church and you individually be even more transformed by Jesus through Word and Spirit, individual growth and connection with each other in 2026? Over the summer be praying into this.

3

**Impacting for Jesus:** We also called to help others encounter Jesus, impacting others, both locally and globally, seeking to be an ambassador of Jesus wherever we are, whatever we do, to help point people towards the reconciliation with God available through Him (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). How can we collectively as a church and you individually be impacting for Jesus even more in 2026, wherever we are, 24/7, with our families and friends, in social contexts and work places and in life 24/7? Over the summer be praying into this.

4

**Serving and Leading like Jesus:** God has given each of us spiritual gifts to use in serving each other and leading the church. The more we use our gifts in support of each other the more embedded, transformed and impactful we will be (Romans 12:1-8; 1 Cor 12:1-13:13 Ephesians 4:11-16). Leadership is influence and we all influence others in some way. Biblical leadership is servant leadership for others (Matthew 20:25-28). How can we collectively as a church and you individually be serving and leading for Jesus even more in 2026, using your unique God given gifts to bless others and influencing for Jesus as servant leaders? Over the summer be praying into this.

As a leadership group the question we always ask is whether or not something helps us achieve these priorities, if not, why are we doing it! Let's be asking ourselves this collectively and individually in 2026. Over the summer be praying into this.

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## PRAYERFULLY SENSING WHERE GOD IS LEADING US IN 2026

As we look forward to 2026, we are excited about the doors being opened and opportunities ahead. This is based on your ongoing prophetic feedback and contributions throughout the year, please be encouraged to keep doing that.

One scripture that resonated strongly this year was the church as a “ministry of reconciliation”, as ambassadors for Jesus, sharing His message of reconciliation with God.

**2 Corinthians 5: 17-21** <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.







Also, over the last few months pictures and words of 'harvest' have been coming to us from many sources, emphasizing the words of Jesus in Matthew 9.

**Matthew 9:35-38** <sup>35</sup>Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

This prophetic theme was also brought by Kristen Williams, challenging our trust in God with the story of Abraham, our shaking and to be ready, like a surfer catching a wave. The wave is coming, to mix metaphors, a harvest is coming, are we ready? What does this message mean for us collectively as a church and for you individually in 2026? Over the summer be praying into this.





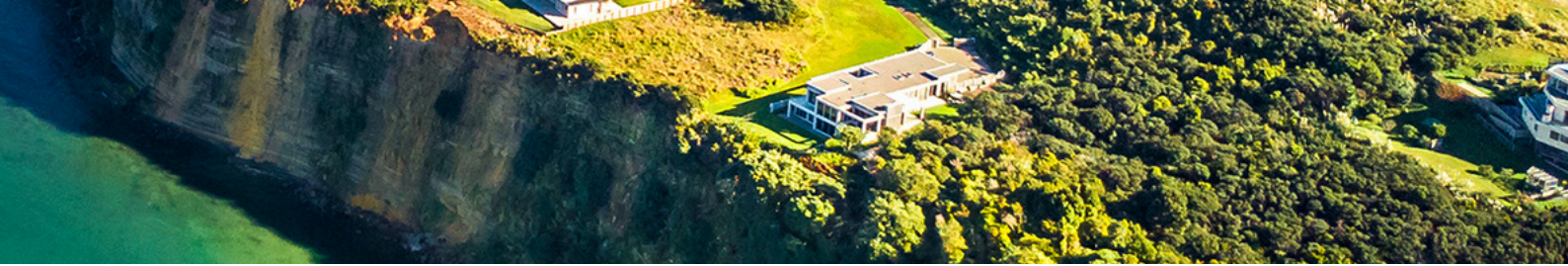
## RESOURCING US FOR THE FUTURE

As we prepare for what God has in store for us, the closure of the Kindy also acted as a catalyst for us to review our finances and property. We have patiently looked at this and ask you to prayerfully consider the budget for 2026, this resources so much of our work. Also, we are sharing a proposal to reshape our property portfolio to help in this future resourcing. Details of these proposals are contained in a separate document that will be handed out on Vision Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you can't be there in person on Vision Sunday, copies of this document can be obtained by asking one of the team or at the church office.

The budget is anticipating an overall collective 5% increase in giving in 2026. Please prayerfully review your own contribution. If you have an automatic payment, sometimes we can put this on 'set and forget' so we ask that you please review that. The sale of property is proposed to balance our investments more widely, to significantly reduce our costs and to increase reserves, allowing us to then patiently and prayerfully plan how best we can steward and use the resources we are blessed with for the future. Both the 2026 budget and the property proposal will be voted on as part of this year's Vision Sunday process. Both these proposals have been covered in prayer in bringing them to you and we ask that you do that as you consider your voting.







## THANKS AND PRAISE

We have so much to be thankful for 2025 and as we enter 2026. We are in good health as a church, thanks be to God.



### Ephesians 1:3-10

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, <sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

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And as you spiritually discern and test the contents of what we've shared, may you be guided further by this amazing passage in first chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesian church.

### Ephesians 1:17-18

<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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**Q: Will there be any opportunities to discuss this Vision Sunday document, key proposals and to ask questions?**

A: Yes, there will be a Vision Sunday Q+A space, Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup> after the 9:45am service in the church café

**Q: What is the Core Leadership Group (CLG)?**

A: The Core Leadership Group or CLG is the group of Associate Pastors that collectively fulfil the traditional role of a Senior Pastor, hence the term 'pastoral team'. We adopted this leadership approach in 2006. This allows us to not be reliant on one single person, and to have a wider range of gifting and experiences available, guided by the five-fold expression of prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph.4:12).

The current CLG comprises Olga Oosthuizen, Adam Harris, Wendy Wakerley, and Mark Powell. All other ministry leaders in the church link with one of the CLG.

**Q: Who are the Elders of WBC?**

A: The current elders are Susan Williamson, Shaun Cooper, Ron Kyle and Janelle Coombridge.

**Q: How do I become a church member?**

A: If you are interested, please speak with any of the CLG, Olga, Wendy, Adam or Mark.

**Q: Where does the money come from to fund the church?**

A: We are an independent church, that is part of the Baptist Association of New Zealand. Most of our income is from the generous giving of our congregation. On top of this we have some income from commercial and residential property we own. But we are not part of a large institution which gets money from a national organisation. We are a local body of Christ, generously funded by that body, to do His work in this place at this time.



