

Church Army in New Zealand Report

Anglican Diocese of Christchurch Synod 2026

Church Army is in a period of transition as we say goodbye to some people and welcome others. During this period we have been looking to the future of Church Army, especially our vision and values, and honing our mission, goals and strategy. There are some big changes ahead.

Perhaps the biggest change at Church Army over the last 12 months is personnel. I (Jethro Day) have been appointed the national director, and Karen Kemp, Kate Berkley and Carl Tinnion have become board members. We have also farewelled Monica Clark as national director, and Louisa Weller and Lorraine Lloyd as board members. We deeply appreciate their significant ministry and leadership!

We are also pleased to have recruited Esther Wood as a new mission worker. Esther is working in Golden Bay Parish in Nelson. Church Army has committed to help fundraise for her ministry, so please reach out if you or your mission unit would like contribute to Esther's fruitful ministry. Louisa Weller also continues as a mission worker alongside her daughter Amy, doing community outreach through Canterbury Kids Coach in Lincoln through group ukulele and guitar lessons.

As we look ahead we have a vision of an Anglican Church that is fully engaged and equipped for mission and evangelism. Our mission is to recruit, train, resource and support individuals, whanau and mission units to mobilize the whole church for mission and evangelism.

As we move forward our Key Values will guide us, they are....

- Audacious & Innovative: Seeking novel, creative ways to share the Gospel.
- Relational & Generous: Building authentic connections within a spirit of non-partisanship.
- Fruitful & High Integrity: Committed to Kingdom impact and theological depth.

And to fulfil our vision our Strategic Goals for the next 12-24 months are....

1. Connection: Identifying and partnering with mission units and individuals who already share our passion for mission and evangelism to build momentum (could this be you?).
2. Resource Development: Producing a video curriculum and workshop series for nationwide use.

3. Mission Partners: Recruit a cohort of mature, entrepreneurial disciples who are passionate about reaching the unchurched.
4. Sustainability : Establishing an “eco-system” of discernment, training, fundraising, resourcing, relational connection, support and accountability for mission partners to flourish in.

Our strategy to achieve all this will rest on Christ’s power, prayerful discernment, building relationships, a new comms strategy and... a NEW NAME. The hope for the new name is to stay faithful to our nearly 150-year-old Kaupapa, communicating it in a way that resonates with contemporary ears. The name may have already been chosen by the time you read this report, so keep an eye out.

The last bit of work to mention is a review of our constitution. Our purpose will not change, however we thought we would review the rules to make sure they are compliant with recent legislative changes, and to see if they are serving our mission as best they can.

Please pray for us in this time of transition, rebuilding and renaming! We look forward to serving you and the wider church more effectively as we move into this next season!

Grace and peace,
Jethro Day