



## St Andrews on The Terrace Social Justice Education and Advocacy 2025

### Coming up:

**Refugee Community Sponsorship – making a difference in communities. Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 12-1pm** St Andrews on The Terrace, in Conference Centre Room 3. **Birgit Grafarend** is Chief Executive of Host International Aotearoa NZ that has coordinated the [pilot of community refugee sponsorship](#) over the past three years. Learn more about this and what we can do as a faith community to advocate for and support refugees in Aotearoa.

### The year so far...

**Remembering David Douglas.** Back on Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> April I joined with over a hundred others in Naenae to launch the Living Wage for Resene campaign. It was exciting to get together with so many others who have contributed to the Living Wage work. I knew David Douglas was not well and sent him a message from the meeting letting him know he was in our thoughts and knowing he was there in spirit. Sadly, David passed away the next day. As Living Wage coordinator Finn Cordwell says, David was a passionate and deeply felt supporter of social justice and the Living Wage. We give thanks for all David has given to social justice and ministry and remember him with deep aroha.

### 23rd February 2025 – Gun Control in Aotearoa NZ: an update

At the February Social Justice Group meeting, Paul Barber gave an update on the changes to gun laws being consulted on (see [Arms Act Rewrite](#)) and the work of [Gun Control NZ](#) that is advocating for stronger gun laws in this country. You can find the St Andrews on The Terrace submission on the proposed law changes on [our website](#). The government plans to introduce legislation to update gun laws later this year, based on the feedback from submissions and other advice – so watch this space for further advocacy.



### 25th May 2025 New Vision for Church and Affordable Housing - Laura and David Gehrenback

At the May Social Justice Group meeting Laura and David shared the story of their home church in the USA, [Arlington Presbyterian Church](#) in Arlington, Virginia that made a radical change to the way it expresses its love for its community. A changing local community, declining membership and a deteriorating legacy building signalled need for



radical change. Through conversations with neighbours and community, a process of faithful discernment and congregational discussion, over a number of years APC developed a new vision– to create affordable housing, to be a place of crossroads and connection



and to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ. APC sold its building and land to build a 173-unit affordable housing apartment community on the site of its previous building. APC maintains a large presence in the new building by holding vibrant Sunday worship, ministering to needs of those who share the building space, and continuing its long-held mission of community activism.

### The Living Wage for Resene campaign and Wellington Member Organisations meeting

St Andrews people joined with 300 others to show they support for the **Living Wage for Resene** campaign in Naenae on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting unanimously agreed to stand with workers through thick and thin in the struggle ahead. There was strong media reporting from the meeting (see the [RNZ report](#)) and over 2,000 people have signed the petition supporting the campaign. The union membership is growing and the week after the meeting, initiated the process of collective bargaining (negotiating for the Living Wage) with the company. Union members are now finalising their claims, and formal negotiations take place in late July or early August.

In June the Wellington **Living Wage Member Organisations Council (MOC)** met to hear updates on other exciting work happening in the Living Wage movement and to agree plans for the next phases of work. Among other resolutions agreed was a plan for a Wellington wide local body election campaign, including plans for **Local Council Elections Living Wage public meeting** to be hosted at St Andrews on The Terrace on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – we will share more information closer to the date.

### Fridays for the Climate – climate justice vigil at Parliament

Spot the St Andrews faces amongst who have been regular participants in the climate justice [Fridays for Future](#) vigils held each Tuesday lunchtime on the Parliament grounds.



### Government Budget Cuts Hit Peace and Nuclear Free work

Peace Movement Aotearoa has been in touch to report on a significant loss of funding for various parts of the nuclear-free and peace work currently funded through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. PMA reports that government funding for disarmament education work has been cut by half this year and will cease in the following year. Several NGOs including PMA are affected negatively impact the work on specific issues related to New Zealand's commitment to its existing disarmament obligations - including the [1987 Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act](#) and is exploring other options for funding for this work.

### Recent Submissions

St Andrews on The Terrace Parish Council has also commented on proposed law changes and government consultations over recent months. Recent submissions are on our website [Submissions page](#):

- In February Rev Fei and Cam Smart presented to the Parliament Justice Select Committee to show our opposition to the **Treaty Principles Bill** that was subsequently [voted down in Parliament](#).
- In June we provided comments to the Ministry of the Environment on proposals to change the [Waste Minimisation Act](#)
- Members of our faith community made individual submissions opposing the [Regulatory Standards Bill](#)

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

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