

East Taieri Church Budget Communication—1st July 2026– 30 June 2027

This document summarises our budget which is our prayerful plan for allocating resources to different parts of God's mission.

It was prepared by the Resourcing Mission Core Ministry team, in consultation with staff and other key leaders. It has been adopted by elders, and will be presented to the Annual Meeting, in September, for approval.

As the Elders gathered to consider our financial plans for the coming year, they did so with a deep sense of purpose and hope. Our mission—Know, Grow, Go— is at the heart of everything we do. This budget is not just about numbers; it's about equipping our church to faithfully pursue God's calling in our community and beyond.

While we face challenges, including rising costs and the uncertainty of appointing a Senior Pastor, this budget reflects our unwavering commitment to ministry, discipleship, families and outreach.

This budget is an indicative plan that forecasts what we expect to receive in offerings and other income, compared to what we plan to spend. The elders review the current financial performance against the budget on a monthly basis."

Highlights from what God has been doing over the past financial year (1st July 2025 to 30 June 2026):

Worship and Fellowship Flourished:

- Every Sunday, our church buzzed with life as we offered four unique worship experiences: the dynamic 10am service, the welcoming Fuel Breakfast Church, our 2pm service featuring timeless hymns, and the relaxed, community-focused dinner and Night Church.
- Our Ministry Settlement Board met faithfully, seeking God's guidance and praying earnestly for our next Senior Pastor.
- The 10am congregation delighted in seeing our children take the lead, bringing fresh energy and creativity to worship.

Events That Inspired and Connected:

- We provided warm welcomes for newcomers. New people found a place to belong at our regular Newcomers Lunches, where staff and members shared stories and built new friendships.
- Every third Tuesday of the month, ET was filled with praise and worship at our monthly worship evenings, drawing hearts closer to God in a powerful way.
- "The Angels Message", our third annual Christmas outreach event was a hit, as over 500 people enjoyed an interactive journey through the Christmas story. The 8:30pm Christmas Eve Carol Service was a beautiful, reflective time for people to focus on Jesus.
- Our annual Ministry Conference "Glow Up " was an investment in equipping and developing leaders from ET and the wider church, with this year's theme *Glow Up: The Transformation Your Church Is Waiting For*.
- The first fundraising bus tour of the Taieri was a very enjoyable event.
- Our annual Lunch at Our Place brought together people from across our congregations, sparking new connections over delicious food.

Serving Beyond Our Walls:

- Our church family continued to make a difference globally, supporting mission work internationally (including, Malawi, PNG, Thailand, and others)
- Each month, the Brighton/Ocean View community gathered for a hearty Friday meal called Kai on the Coast, building relationships and sharing God's love over food.

Growing in Faith and Community:

- Our Prayer Team grew stronger through multiple training sessions and well-attended retreat days, leaving participants refreshed and spiritually renewed.
- Under Kerah Berryman's energetic leadership, our children's and families' ministries thrived, with Sunday programmes and Friday night family events. Mainly Music, Little Groovers, Sugar & Spice continue to help us connect with families in the community.
- Youth East Taieri led a vibrant 10am service and hosted a BBQ to fundraise for Easter Camp—an unforgettable experience for all who attended. Our Vible lifegroup welcomed new youth, helping them explore faith in a supportive environment.
- In conjunction with Saddle Hill Foundation Trust we ran a fun community carnival for over 500 people in the community.
- The seniors mid winter lunch was a warm, friendly time of connection with older folk in the community.

Looking Forward:

While our leadership structure is in a season of transition, our mission remains as active and vital as ever. To ensure everything runs smoothly and our community continues to thrive, we are intentionally focusing on building strong, well-equipped Core Ministry Teams. By empowering these teams, we are laying a stable foundation for our ministry to flourish—no matter what the future holds.

	Projected Year End Jun-26	2027
	Forecast Actual	Budget with 6 mths of Senior Pastor and 6mths part time pastor
	\$	\$
Mission expenditure		
All Staff Costs	235,026.36	329,221.00
SHFT	27,700.00	27,700.00
Resourcing Mission	94,439.73	73,863.00
Mission Facilities	70,268.14	73,209.00
Local Mission and community Life	58,264.71	77,508.00
Global and wider church mission	35,297.00	40,000.00
Total Mission expenditure	520,995.94	621,501.00
Mission funding		
Offerings	387,928.31	403,928.31
Building Donations	67,270.40	-
Donations	39,030.23	35,131.23
Grants	12,550.00	20,550.00
Rentals from properties	53,286.16	42,836.16
Other revenue	35,868.07	44,780.45
Interest earned	53,664.55	53,664.55
Total Mission funding	649,597.72	600,890.70
Net surplus / (deficit) from Mission	128,601.78	-20,610.30
Less Depreciation of Fixed Assets	7,487.01	7,500.00
Annual operating surplus / (deficit) for the year	121,114.77	-28,110.30

How will this budget resource our Mission?

Know:

HR& Technology:

Our dedicated staff are the backbone of our mission to make disciples who make disciples. Honouring their service means ensuring fair compensation

Ministry in today's world requires reliable, up-to-date technology. Investing in new technology will empower our staff and volunteers to serve more effectively, freeing them from avoidable frustrations and enabling them to focus on what matters most.

Services:

Even as we navigate this season without a senior pastor, our commitment to providing meaningful worship and connection remains unwavering to enable people to Know God and Grow in Christ. Our dedicated teams ensure that our 4 different services offer a warm, welcoming environment, a variety of worship and music styles, and opportunities for fellowship— including sharing food together.

Music & Sound:

We are investing in music and sound equipment, as well as supporting our worship teams, so that everyone can experience high-quality, engaging worship that draws us closer to God and enriches our Sunday services.

Grow:

Children & Families:

Investing in our growing children and families ministry, is investing in the future of the church. By maintaining strong support for this ministry, we empower our team to grow through training and to offer high-quality teaching, resources, and activities— including for our new intermediate age group. This is how we nurture lifelong faith and discipleship.

Youth:

Our commitment to supporting SHFT includes Youth East Taieri church based programmes, as well as community outreach youth programmes and other community programmes for all ages.

Discipleship:

Including discipleship in our budget is essential because it enables us to provide resources, training, and opportunities that help people grow deeper in their faith and live out our mission to Know, Grow and Go. By investing financially in discipleship, we are equipping our church family to become committed followers of Jesus and empowering them to support one another on their spiritual journey.

Go:

Global Missions:

Our commitment to global missions is continuing to provide as an expression of our call to share Christ's love to the ends of the earth.

Christmas Outreach:

Our Christmas Outreach has touched many lives over the past two years. By continuing to provide \$3,000, we are investing in creative, impactful ways to connect with our community and share the hope of Christ during a season when hearts are open.

Evangelism:

Evangelism is a key priority for the coming year. Maintaining strong support for Alpha and other outreach initiatives ensures we are equipped to share the Good News with boldness and compassion. This budget continues to allow for us to run one Alpha Course, as well as a strong focus on Evangelism in early 2027, with our partnership with City to City.

How will we Fund this?

This budget is a statement of faith and vision. While we must acknowledge financial constraints—particularly regarding a full-time Senior Pastor—we are confident that God will provide as we step forward in obedience. The longer the vacancy, the more we rely on the dedication of our current pastors and staff, but we remain steadfast in our mission.

Let us approach this season with hope, unity, and a shared commitment to Know God deeper, Grow together in faith, and Go into the world as ambassadors of Christ. Together, we can trust that God will multiply our efforts for His glory and the good of our community.

We are confident that our generous God will provide the resources necessary as he has given every member of the church family enough money, time and skills to contribute their share towards the mission of God on the Taieri. Our vision to Know God, Grow in Christ and Go in the Holy Spirit will enable us to be a growing church with more people joining in this mission.

A large proportion of our funds comes from regular Sunday giving, whether by envelope, automatic bank transfer or in cash.

To be sustainable for future years we ask that you regularly monitor your automatic payments and if you can afford to, try to increase the amount as inflation increases. To meet our projected deficits in the years to come, we would need a 10% increase in giving to cover mission as well as wages, insurances, maintenance, heating, health and safety, etc.

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with this budget update and to reflect and pray about whether you are able to increase your automatic payment or regular envelope giving. People give through one or a combination of: the “Envelope System” placed in the Sunday offering, Automatic Bank Transfers; Bank transfers for one off gifts, cash in the Sunday offering, or payroll giving to receive immediate tax credits. See the church website for details www.etchurch.co.nz/giving.

This budget year began on July 1st, so now is an opportune time to review your giving. We want to be ambitious for the Kingdom, but we can only do it together and with God’s blessing.

Please prayerfully consider increasing your personal giving by 10%, if possible. Without this 10% increase, we would need to look at what we are doing and make painful cuts to either missional activities or staffing.

God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. (Gen 12:1-3) Christian giving is an essential part of our discipleship, following the God who gave us the most extravagant gift of all – his own Son. We are thankful for God’s provision to us, and acknowledge with thanks the generous financial support our church has received.

Lyndon Jones (Session Clerk)

If you have questions or concerns about this budget, you can email: manager@etchurch.co.nz