



# A Snapshot of the Kaimai Presbytery in 2017

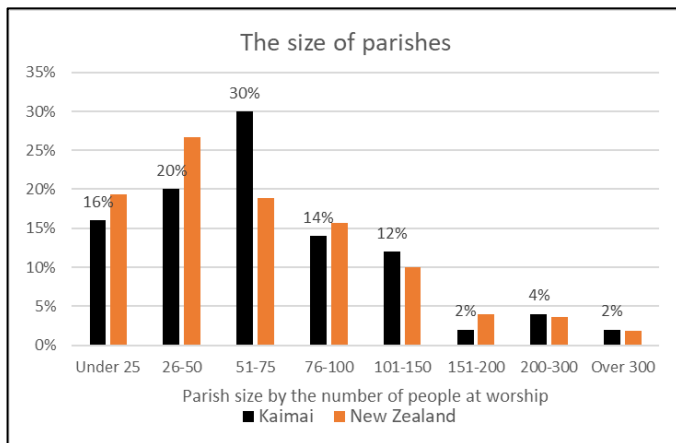
*This report has been prepared by the Church Property Trustees as a resource for the wider church*

## Our Congregations

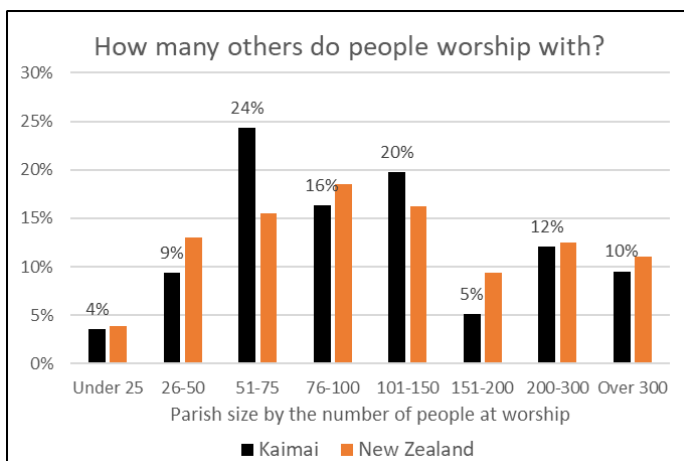
### Key findings:

- Kaimai Presbytery has fewer very small parishes than the PCANZ average. Half of the parishes have fewer than 60 people at worship, but most people go to the larger parishes, and so half of the Presbytery worships with 100 or more people.
- The proportion of the roll attending worship is similar for parishes of all sizes

- ❖ On the average June Sunday in 2017, almost 3,770 people worshipped in the Kaimai Presbytery parishes, including almost 600 children and youth. About 13% of PCANZ members worship in the Kaimai Presbytery. (This snapshot includes all Cooperative Venture parishes (CVs) in the area regardless of their current oversight.)



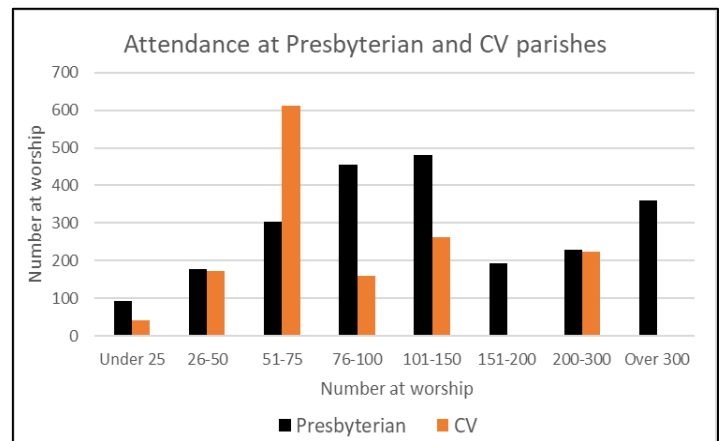
- ❖ Kaimai Presbytery has fewer very small parishes but a larger number of parishes with between 51 and 75 people at worship. While there are few parishes with over 200 at worship, 20% of the people in the Presbytery worship at these larger parishes.



- ❖ The difference between parishes and people is most noticeable in representation at Presbytery and Assembly, as these are based on parish. This means the make up of these bodies can give a misleading impression of how many people attend small parishes.

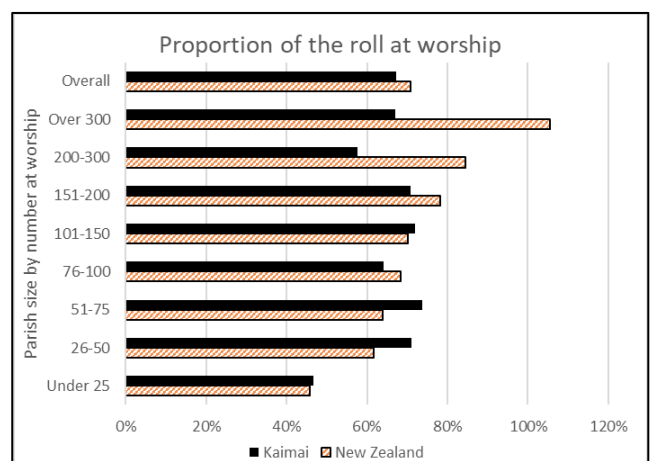
- ❖ Almost half of Kaimai's parishes are CV parishes, but the CV parishes have fewer people at worship (62 on average) than the Presbyterian parishes (85 on average), so that only 40% of those at worship are in CV parishes.

- ❖ Most of the people who attend a CV parish, attend worship with 51 to 75 others. Most people who worship with more than 100 others, worship in a Presbyterian church.



- ❖ Nationally larger parishes get a higher proportion of the people on their roll out to worship (possibly because larger churches can offer more options).

- ❖ Kaimai does not follow this pattern, and parishes of all sizes get about the same proportion of their roll at worship. This may suggest the larger parishes are not as attractive to their members as they should be.

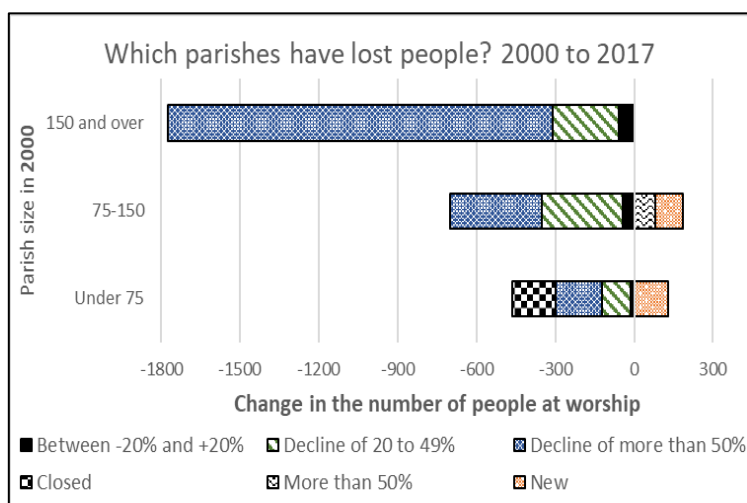


## Changes since 2000

### Key findings:

- Despite a significant growth in population, attendance at worship has almost halved since 2000
- Most of the decline has been in the largest parishes. The medium and small parishes are the only ones to have shown growth.
- Closing parishes made little difference to the number at worship. The decline was largely shrinkage in parishes that continued to exist.

- ❖ Between 2001 and 2017 the population in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions grew by 24%, but over that time attendance at worship in Kaimai Presbytery fell by 49% from 6,400 to 3,770. This was a faster decline than for the national church (38%). The pattern of decline has been steady and persistent.
- ❖ Only 3 parishes had an increase in the number at worship between 2000 and 2017, a lower proportion than the national average, but the 4 new parishes is a higher rate of new parish formation than the national average.
- ❖ Most people were lost from the largest parishes and, unlike the national pattern, none of these parishes grew. The growth has been concentrated in the medium and smaller parishes. Closing congregations has made little difference to the number of people at worship.



## Markers of congregational health

### There are three key markers of congregational health

- **A good balance of age-groups.** The key metric for this is the number of children as a proportion of the congregation
- **The commitment level of members of the congregation.** The key metric for this is giving per adult attending
- **The leadership resources.** The key metric for this is the number of leadership hours per parish

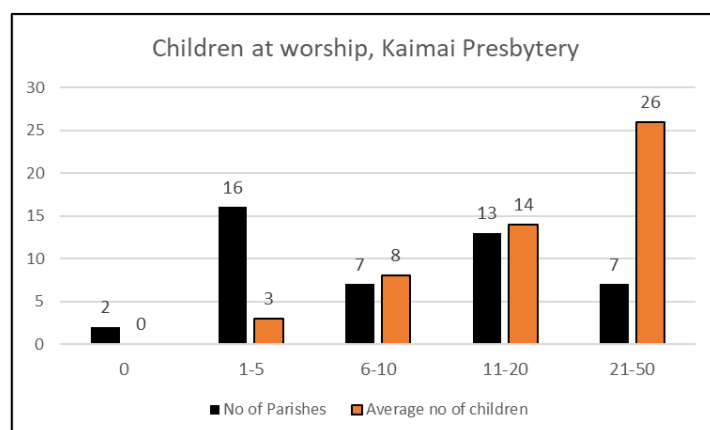
These metrics are “canary signs”. Like the collapse of the canary in the coal mine, their behaviour is not the cause what is happening, rather they show that it is.

## Our Children and Youth

### Key findings:

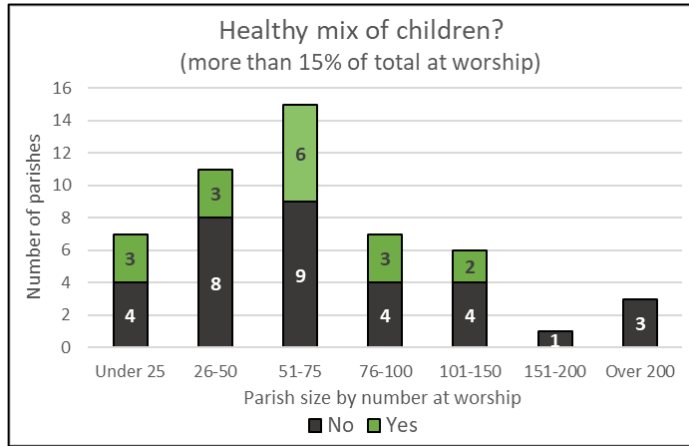
- Most parishes have some children and youth at worship, but most have fewer than 10
- Not all small parishes are “greying” and some have a healthy proportion of children. On the other hand, some middle-sized and large parishes do not.

- ❖ If children are present at worship, probably their parents are too. If there is a reasonable numbers of children, then there is also likely to be enough youth for an active youth programme (since young people like to be in groups). This makes the number of children at worship an indicator of the likely age profile of the whole congregation.

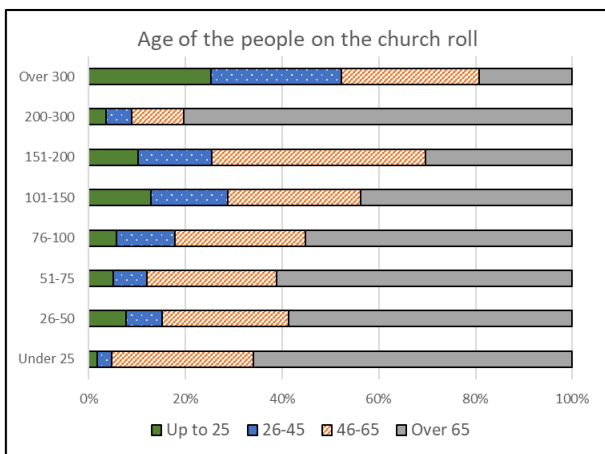


- ❖ Most Kaimai Presbytery parishes have some children at worship, but almost half had five or fewer, which is generally too few for good group dynamics. Small groups of children mean a parish is unlikely to retain its youth, as they like to be in larger groups.

- ❖ A healthy balance of children and adults can be found in parishes of all sizes. Unlike the rest of the country, the largest parishes in Kaimai have too few children to reach 15% at worship when many of the smaller parishes reach this target.



- ❖ As parishes get larger, they tend to have a higher proportion of younger people on their roll. Those with fewer than 25 worshippers are likely to have a particularly high proportion of pensioners on their roll.



## Faith commitment

### Key findings:

- The 2011 Church Life survey showed people in the Kaimai Presbytery are active in their faith life, and they felt their parish resourced their spiritual journey well
- Giving is a sign of commitment to a congregation. Most parishes have a good level of giving but seven parishes had extreme levels that may indicate issues

- ❖ 418 people in Kaimai Presbytery filled in the 2011 Church life survey, (a lower proportion of attenders than for the Church as a whole). The survey was a reasonably representative sample of parishes from the non-ethnic parishes, but not of the ethnic ones.

- ❖ In some ways the Kaimai Presbytery was the same as the PCANZ overall. In both, about 80% attended church weekly; about half felt that they had a strong sense of belonging to their congregation; and 75% felt their congregation was resourcing their spiritual journey well. When people were asked the top three things they valued in their congregational life, the results were also similar: worship (51%), sermons/teaching (48%) and wider community outreach (30%).

- ❖ In other ways, the Kaimai results were a bit different to the overall church. (Kaimai %/PCANZ %):

- More people (52%/42%) read the Bible or had a personal devotion time most days. In all denominations, people over 45 are more likely to have regular personal devotions than young people, and Bible reading is particularly low amongst people under 25.
- More people answered that the Bible was the Word of God to be interpreted literally (29%/20%) or in its historical/cultural context (43%/40%) and fewer people thought it was not the Word of God (5%/11%).
- More people (51%/35%) said that they had had “much growth” in their faith over the last five years. These first three findings are probably linked as the people who had regular devotions and conservative views of the Bible were more likely to say that their faith has grown.
- Overall Kaimai people identified more with the conservative faith approaches: charismatic/pentecostal (24%/18%), traditional (22%/23%), and evangelical/fundamental (28%/21%). Liberal was chosen by 3% (6%). In both Kaimai and PCANZ, 9% did not identify with any tradition and these were disproportionately young people.

- ❖ International research shows a clear pattern that parish growth was associated with higher giving in the past. This seems to be because giving is an indicator of commitment, and low levels of giving can be a sign that people are not enthusiastic about their faith journey.

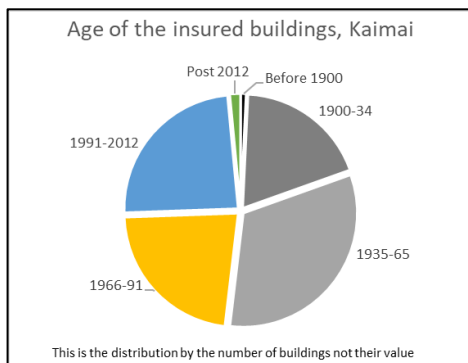
- ❖ On the other hand, very high levels of giving (other than for some short-term project) can be a sign of a congregation under stress and trying to maintain a level of activity that is unrealistic. Healthy congregations tend, therefore, to cluster around the average giving level.

- ❖ In 2015 each adult attending worship in the Kaimai Presbytery gave on average about \$1,480 per year, which was close to the PCANZ average, but a few parishes were much higher or much lower. In 5 parishes giving was less than \$700 and 2 parishes have giving of over \$2,500.
- ❖ Parishes in the Kaimai Presbytery had a combined income of \$4.4 million in the 2017 year. They also had net assets of \$95 million. Most of these assets were land and buildings, but \$21 million was held in cash and investments. On average parishes had \$9,600 of net assets per person at worship.

| Assets per worshipper | No of parishes | No at worship | Value of assets (\$million) | Average value per worshipper |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Under \$10,000        | 9              | 518           | \$2.0                       | \$4,135                      |
| \$10-\$29,999         | 20             | 1726          | \$34.5                      | \$20,035                     |
| \$30-49,999           | 12             | 580           | \$24.0                      | \$41,500                     |
| \$50-\$99,999         | 4              | 549           | \$33.8                      | \$61,575                     |
| Over \$100,000        | 3              | 88            | \$16.0                      | \$182,085                    |

- ❖ Most of the 48 parishes that provided information have under \$30,000 of assets for each person at worship. However, 9 parishes had less than \$10,000 per worshipper which may indicate that they have inadequate facilities for their activities. On the other hand, the four with over \$50,000, and especially the three with over \$100,000 for each person at worship, may have more resources than are needed.

- ❖ A breakdown of the age of the buildings insured through the collective fund shows that Kaimai has few very old buildings, but about a quarter of its building stock was built before there were any significant earthquake regulations (1935) and about half were built before the advent of regulations based on the knowledge behind the current building standards (1965).

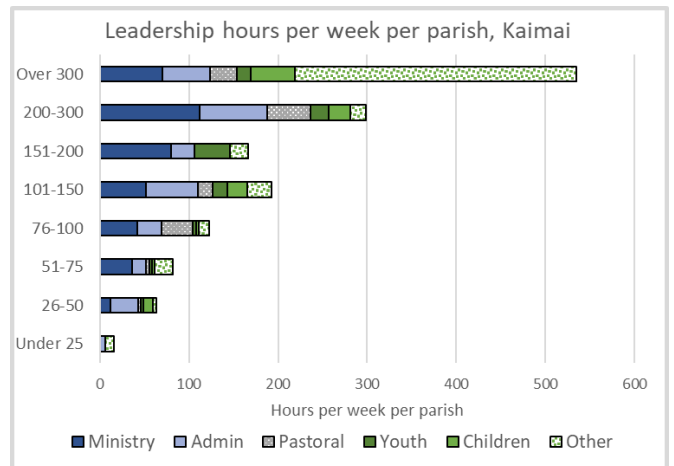


## Leadership

### Key findings:

- As parish size increases so do the number of leadership hours available.
- These extra hours are disproportionately used for the youth and children’s ministry.
- Kaimai has many parishes that spend a relatively small proportion on ministry.

- ❖ As parish size increases, so do the number of leadership hours available and there is also an important change in what these hours are used for. In small parishes, leadership resources are primarily used for ministry and administration. As parishes get to middle size they devote more to the leadership of youth and children’s work and other activities. (These figures are only collected for Presbyterian parishes, not CV parishes.)



- ❖ The Kaimai Presbytery follows this pattern except for parishes with between 151-200 at worship, which have fewer leadership for children’s activities than expected.
- ❖ Overseas research has identified that when parishes spend much more than 50% of their outgoings on ministry then there is inadequate funds left over for other running costs. Only three parishes in Kaimai Presbytery spend more than 60% of their outgoings on Ministry.
- ❖ On the other hand, it is also concerning when too little is being spent on ordained ministry, and many more parishes seem to be in this situation. Of the 46 parishes with financial information, 15 were spending less than 20% of their total expenditure on ministry.

### Some information on the source of these statistics.

These statistics are taken from the Presbyterian Church’s June annual statistics for 2017. Cooperative venture parishes with Presbyterian involvement are always included regardless of their current denominational oversight. When a parish has not submitted data the most recent year available was used. The report also uses the results from the Kaimai Presbytery’s parishes involved in the Church Life Survey in 2011.

This report was prepared by Dr M N Galt, August 2018

# How to use your parish's June statistics to assist your leadership

Your June statistics, combined with the information in this short report, can be a guide to how your parish is going compared to other similar parishes. Ask someone to do the basic calculations below and then as a Session/Parish council consider what the numbers may tell you.

## The preparation:

Get your latest June statistics – if you don't have them to hand you can download them from the national [Presbyterian church website](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz). Write the following key statistics in here

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| The number of adults at worship  |  | The number of additions to the roll**                         |  |
| The number of youth at worship**   |  | The number removed from the roll**                            |  |
| The number of children at worship  |  | The total amount of offerings                                 |  |
| Add these together to get the total number at worship  |  | The total amount spent on Ministers (including accommodation) |  |
| The total number of people on the roll (both members and associates)   |  | The total spending  |  |
| Finally, you will need the population living near your church. The easiest way to get this is to go to <a href="http://www.mashblock.co.nz">www.mashblock.co.nz</a> and put the address of your worship centre. Then click on Area Unit at the top. It will then show a map and the number of people living in the area. You want the population that is naturally centred on your location and this will probably mean adding together a number of neighbouring area units. When you have the number put it here. |  |   |  |
| ** These are only available for Presbyterian parishes, not Cooperative Venture parishes  |  |   |  |

If your parish took part in the Church Life Survey, you will also find it has useful information.

## How well are you meeting the needs of your members?

There are two key metrics which have been shown to indicate the strength of your member's commitment

1. Divide the number of adults at worship by the number of people on the roll. **How does this compare with the graph on page 1? What might make them come more often?**
2. Divide the total offerings by the number of adults at worship. \_\_\_\_\_. Compare this with \$1,450. **If it is a lot lower, is this an indication of a lack of commitment? If it is a lot higher, is it because your circumstances are putting a strain on your members.**

The Church Life survey reports 3, 4 and 5 may give you a fuller picture of what your members think of your parish life.

## How well is your parish placed to meet the needs of the future?

There are two key metrics for looking at how well your parish is going.

1. Divide the number of children attending worship by the total number at worship. \_\_\_\_\_. Parishes that grow generally have over 15%. Compare your results with those on page 3. **What conclusions do you draw?**
2. Subtract the number of removals from the roll from the number of additions \_\_\_\_\_. **How do you compare to the graph on page 2? What is the key issue?** You may want to also look at the kind of removals you have.
3. Divide the amount spent on Ministry including accommodation by the total spending. \_\_\_\_\_. **Parishes that spend significantly over 50% tend to not have enough for other leadership.** You may like to consider how you compare to the leadership distribution on page 4.

Report 2 of the church life survey lets you compare the ratio of new to old members.

## How well are you meeting your community's spiritual needs?

Multiply your population figure with the factor below, which is the approximate rate of attendance in each area. Compare this with your total Sunday attendance figure. Over the country as a whole the Presbyterian Church gets this proportion of the population to worship. \_\_\_\_\_ **Are you reaching your population? If not, which groups are missing from your fellowship?**

**Factor:** Northland and West Coast, 0.003; Otago and Southland, 0.015; Rest of NZ 0.007

Consider your neighbouring churches of all denominations. **Do you think any of them meeting your community's spiritual needs better? If so, what can you learn from them?**