



Parish Annual Reports
2019

Vicar AGM Report 2019

I always look back over the previous year's report in preparing for the current year and this has been a helpful process to see development and also to note the constancies that are part of church life here at St Aidan's. The Wardens in their report have done a great job of giving thanks and I add my thanks to theirs – as I have said in the past, I am continually thankful for the level of commitment, ownership and faith I experience in this parish. This is one of those constants here and it makes this parish a great place to be a part of and a great place to offer leadership and ministry. I want to thank particular the great team I have around me in the Wardens, staff team and Vestry. The capability and wisdom that exists among them means that my role, while still a busy one, can be more focussed into particular areas. This continues to develop and I hope to see fruit from this in the future, fruit that the church as a whole contributes to. So thank you to all for all you do – not only in your serving of one another but for your service and worship to God.

In terms of change and development, this has continued in 2019. At the time of the last AGM we had just welcomed on to the staff Louise as Priest Assistant and Anne as Interim Parish Administrator. With Emily resigning to give her time to her family, Anne took on the permanent role in August. Anne is a great administrator and brings skills around finance among many other things. We are grateful for the work she does and it's great to have Anne on the team, and no, not just for her baking skills...

With Louise it seems now like there was never a time without her – a good thing! With her wisdom, skills, commitment, care and practical thinking we are very lucky as a parish to have her and I am personally grateful to have Louise to work with. We are aware that during her appointment + Ross stated he is keen for Louise to be considering Vicar roles at some stage so we will all work hard to keep her here as long as possible!

Other people have stepped up into various roles. Barbara Clephane offered to be Vestry secretary and has been doing a fantastic job. We acknowledged Lynne Florence's fantastic work and long commitment to that role during our Sunday worship this year, but again, thank you Lynne. Jeny Terrell has also stepped down from active involvement in the parish as Priest. Jeny was particularly involved in AAW and the Pastoral Care - we miss her and her invaluable contribution. Rosemary Atkins, Margaret Cooper, and Andrew Fraser step down from Vestry this year. We thank them for their contribution to all aspects of Vestry over the last three years for Rosemary and Margaret and two for Andrew. We will miss you but you have promised not to go too far.

Sunday worship services continue to be well attended and are the key times for fellowship and worship in the parish. In the middle of the year we undertook to develop the 930am service as the outworking of the New Direction formulated by the parish and Vestry. The reasoning behind this is that the parish expressed a desire to see new and particularly young

people involved in worship. The service changes have been directed at this with a broadening of the style of worship being our focus. Throughout this process feedback has been received and where applicable, adjustments have been made. We appreciate the thinking and consideration that the parish has put into this. We ask for your prayers as Louise and I work at this – our desire is that we would see new people join and engage with the life of the church and therefore ensure vibrant ministry and mission continues for the next generation.

As part of our Sunday services, we continue to see increased involvement of the youth and children with regular youth led services (which have been well done and well received), children's talks as well as children readers, servers and communion assistants. Youth and children's programs have been running very well and it has been good to see young people develop in their faith and be involved in various aspects of church life.

Our once a month evening service continues with regular attendance and although following a relatively standard format, has a good amount of variety. We have done various creative activities, have got out and prayed for our neighbourhood and enjoyed some good, if not slightly calamitous, times of singing together. With a meal together to finish, it really is a special family-type time together and is a great example of church life.

Home groups continue to do very well with a large number of people meeting weekly in each other's homes. This plays a vital role in our ongoing development of faith and we are always looking at how this area of church life can develop. Thanks you to Louise and Sheryl for their oversight of this ministry and to all home group leaders who give of their time and energy each week – I know you are much appreciated by those in your groups.

Various ministry groups have continued to offer service and care – the hospital service team, prison visiting crew, pastoral and prayer support, Pins and Needles, sacristy, communion services, Wednesday fellowship, men's and women's ministries, Mainly Music, the mission shop and many others. These regular and ongoing activities are a key part of our witness of God's enduring commitment and faithful love to the world around us.

Our property has been maintained well with a mix of the Property team and programmed maintenance. Thanks to Simon Lee and the team who give their time and expertise. A group, in conjunction with Vestry, will consider a wider development plan of various areas for the future.

The Garage Sale 2019 once again was a fantastic event. The committee continue to work to develop this event and it was encouraging to see a great jump in the result. We have already made lots of notes for improvement next year and we are keen to see others taking on the reins in the future – sign up today.

There have been some sad occasions for us as a community. Peter Kearsley, Warren Fraser and Barbara Hale passed away this year - we continue to mourn their loss with their

families, in particular Val Fraser and Bob Hale, and we miss their presence amongst us. May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We also were saddened by the sudden death of Sophie McGrath's father Michael in June and our continued sympathy and prayers are with Sophie and her family.

There are many people to thank who have done much in the life of St Aidan's over the past year. I am not able here to make mention of them all but we look forward to our 'Thank You' events over the coming weeks. This is a small way to show our appreciation and I pray that you will continue to be blessed by God as you serve his church. Thank you to the Vestry of 2019 – it has been a fantastic group with a lot of wisdom, skill and practical insights. Much has been contributed outside of the Wednesday meetings, in particular the Personnel Committee, and we are grateful for that. Thank you to our Synods reps, David Jamison and Andrew Maclean, who gave up their time to attend Synod in September. Andrew went the extra mile of standing for Diocesan Council and although he missed out he is keen to stand again for 2020...he, of course has our support – good luck Andrew.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the staff team, Louise, Anne, Sarah, Conor and Isobell for their ongoing commitment and desire to see St Aidan's develop and grow. They do this with great skill, wisdom and creativity which makes this church a vibrant place to be part of. And Priscilla, who does so much for the parish in her non-paid accountant role, for the hours you contribute, often unseen, to the effective running of the parish – we are very grateful.

At the foundation of any good parish is the great gospel. It is the gospel that directs, shapes and empowers mission and ministry and it is the gospel and our identity in Christ that brings us together as a community. Let us continue to encourage each other to work from the gospel outwards in all we do and that our worship and service here are about following Christ and making Christ known.

'But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.'

Eph 4:15-16

Reverend Glen Ashworth

Priest Associate Report

It is wonderful to have been worshipping with you for now over 13 months so I have had the opportunity to experience a full season liturgically and to participate in the majority of the various social events in the parish annual calendar. I thoroughly enjoy working with the staff team and thank you to Glen who has made me feel welcome and affirms my role as a colleague.

One off services/ sacred spaces – It has been exciting and a privilege to be able to offer church services and ministry that respond to specific situations across the year. The Anzac Service, Pet Service and Blue Christmas service brought in people from outside our usual church community. Opening the church doors and providing a quiet space to light candles after the Christchurch attack, also saw those passing by come in to recognize the tragedy that had occurred. It was good to offer prayer and to be available to simply listen as people shared their pain and hurt. Reflective stations on Good Friday afternoon and Saturday morning was again something new and the opportunity to come and be quiet was appreciated by those that took time out.

New ventures – There have been a number of new ventures, some centered around outreach into our community and others with the purpose of building up relationships within our parish. Christmas carolling in the community was felt to be very successful. It seemed to bless not only the singers as they offered some Christian Christmas cheer, but also to the homes and places in our neighbourhood that we visited. Why not consider joining the group in December? Movie nights have been held with mixed responses, the first one was very popular with a wide range of age gathering together to enjoy the viewing but another evening later in the year, only a handful of people attended. ‘Come for a coffee’, a challenge that grew from a sermon, has resulted in many lovely stories of people meeting together in small groups and getting to know one another. It has been very successful based on the tales that are filtering back.

Home Groups - Last year at the time of my report writing I had just completed a visit to all of the 7 study groups operating. Sadly I have not been able to join with them again, however a gathering of home group leaders to offer support and resources at the start of the year was felt to be helpful and will be repeated at the start of next year in 2020. A big thanks to leaders of these groups who carefully guide and prepare the studies. Two new study groups have started based at church and it is great to see the interest and also new insights and relationships being formed. Currently I am leading these groups but this will be reassessed in the new year. Sheryl will be writing a full report on home groups under its own heading.

Pastoral Care – it was been great to be part of the pastoral care team. Our regular meetings across the year enable us to reflect and to see if we can further refine and improve what we offer. There will often be people who “fall through the cracks” but I have noticed an increase in the number of people letting the team and clergy know when there are people

who need visits, who are unwell or could do with a phone call (this is in addition to what they personally are offering). This is really appreciated as caring for one another is the role of everyone in our community. I have also noticed an increase in people noticing when regular parishioners who usually sit near them seem to be missing. After investigation this is sometimes as a result of being on holiday but we have also discovered that the person is unwell or been in hospital and they are really touched that they have been missed. A huge thanks to those in the parish who take home communion out into the community, those who cook meals for our freezer meal supply, those who are part of the large team of people on the Parish Grapevine who ring around a group of people 3 times a year checking in with parishioners, those who are part of our prayer circle and prayer ministry praying for specific needs, the pastoral care team, those who support the Golden Group and the many others who offer pastoral care in one way or another. I am sure those on the receiving end at various times really appreciate the ministry that you provide.

Sunday services – a lot of prayer, time and energy goes into the preparation of our Sunday worship. There have been many, many long conversations over the changes made to the 930 service both prior and since, with staff, wardens, vestry and parishioners. As a clergy team Glen and I are very aware that whilst some parishioners have fully embraced what we are endeavouring to achieve with broadening some of the aspects of this service, some have found the changes difficult. We appreciate everyone's feedback and comments and I wish to extend thanks for your patience and grace as we continue to work through this settling in period.

What else apart from Sunday? - Outside of the items mentioned above, there are a wide variety of activities and events that end up in my diary across the year - Remuera Garden services, newcomer's lunch Diocesan events, workshops, collegial gatherings to maintain support networks and resource sharing, mid-week services, AAW and Women's Evening Fellowship, Friendship group, funerals, local tree planting and city mission volunteering, to name a few and which of course does not include preparation for Sunday services. Some of those listed are 'attend as time allows', some are 'pop in to see how it's going' and some are please organize and run. It's always good to roll up the sleeves and work alongside other parishioners in mission work such as the annual tree planting or helping out at the city mission but sometimes other priorities do arise and that's not possible. St Aidan's is involved in many areas of mission work and a huge thanks to the individuals who organize the teams and also to those in the teams who voluntarily give up hours of their time to demonstrate God's love to others in practical ways.

In conclusion I wish to thank you for your ongoing support across the year, there is certainly plenty of ministry and mission within the church and on our doorstep and I have enjoyed being part of this parish as we carry out God's work together across the year.

Reverend Louise Anderson, October 2019

St Aidan's Wardens' Report

We wish to sincerely thank all those who have so generously and willingly given their time, skills and energy to everything that is the community of St Aidan's this year, you are truly the life of this Parish. I'm afraid there are too many to mention by name in this report, however please know everything you contribute, no matter how big or small, is hugely appreciated. May God bless you all richly.

We thank you all especially for your generous response to our request, during August, to prayerfully review your level of giving or to make a one-off contribution to help to bridge the small financial deficit situation at that time. As we head towards the AGM, we are happy and grateful to report that the finances are now tracking close to budget, see details in the Financial Report. Praise and thanks to God.

A special mention and 100th birthday congratulations must go to Lilian Gnanasunderam. Lilian, it was wonderful to celebrate this incredible achievement with you recently. You are truly an inspiration to us all in life and in prayer and it is a privilege to know you and to worship with you here at St Aidan's.

Vestry

Vestry has continued to meet once per month during the last year with alternating formal and informal meetings. We thank Liz Gray, Andrew Fraser, Nic Mercer, Rosemary Atkins, Andrew Maclean, Margaret Cooper and David Jamison for their hard work, commitment and expertise.

The Vestry sub-committees – Finance, Personnel and Property, have continued although some have not met with regularity this year. As a Vestry team, going forward we are planning to strengthen the sub-committee model of working, to encourage more active participation across everyone on Vestry and get things done more efficiently.

Rosemary Atkins, Margaret Cooper and Andrew Fraser have decided to step down from Vestry, after three years for Rosemary and Margaret and two years for Andrew. We are very grateful for your faithful service, and for everything you have contributed in energy, time and expertise, many, many thanks.

We especially wish to thank Priscilla for serving another year in the role of Treasurer. Priscilla spends many long hours late into the night every month, so capably working on the St Aidan's accounts. She has decided to relinquish the Treasurer's role at this time, although has agreed to continue to do the day-to-day accounting work involved. Thank you so much Priscilla for your expertise and for your willingness to give your time and energy to this demanding and relentless role.

After more than seven years service, Lynne Florence stepped down from the Vestry Secretary role during the year. Thank you so much Lynne for your dedication, your amazing attention to detail, your skills and for the grace with which you carried out this role over such a long period of time.

We thank Barbara Clephane for willingly and ably picking up the Vestry Secretary role and we look forward very much to continuing to work with you.

The Property team has had an extremely busy year, dealing with the aftermath of a fire in the Church on Christmas Eve, and two floods in the Vicarage in January and February, in addition to the regular repairs and maintenance programme. The floods caused significant damage to the Vicarage and meant that the Ashworths needed to vacate and live elsewhere for a number of weeks while the damage was assessed, and the Vicarage made liveable again. Our HUGE, sincere and grateful thanks go to Simon Lee, John Glenie and David Cotton for all their hard work dealing with the insurance company, and facilitating, project managing and actually doing much of the necessary renovation work over a number of months. You guys are complete legends and we thank you immensely!

Staff

Glen completed his second year as Vicar in November. We are very blessed to have Glen as our Vicar and for the spiritual leadership and guidance he brings to the parish. Following on from the vision for the future of St Aidan's expressed in the New Direction document developed with the parish last year, Glen has gently and sensitively driven the implementation of that vision. With the support of Louise, Glen has introduced some changes to the 9.30am service with the objective of broadening the appeal to others who may choose to worship with us. He continues to refine the service, listening to parishioners' feedback while still holding to the outward looking vision. We sincerely thank you Glen for your continued commitment to St Aidan's, for your always collaborative approach, and for your obvious care for each and every one of the parishioners of St Aidan's.

Louise has now been worshipping with us as Priest Associate for a little over a year and I'm sure you will agree that we are truly blessed to have her in this role at St Aidan's. Louise has shared responsibilities with Glen during this time, focusing her expertise on the particular areas of pastoral care and homegroups, as well as so ably supporting on the endlessly wide scope of the requirements of ministry and mission at St Aidan's. Thank you Louise for the steadfast faith that you bring to your work, thank you for gently challenging us while still encouraging us in your sermons, a wonderful gift.

We thank Conor for another year of faithful service in his leadership of the Youth programmes at St Aidan's. We know that the Youth very much appreciate the continuity of your service, it means a lot to them and provides important stability in their faith journey. We thank you sincerely Conor for everything you do to grow and support the Youth and

Young Adult groups and individuals within those groups. Conor continues as a leader for this year's AYM BOLD programme, mentoring and helping to grow the group of young leaders involved.

Sarah continues to bring originality and creativity to her leadership of the Children's Ministry at St Aidan's. Thank you Sarah for all the energy you put into leading the Children's Ministry and for your endless genius ideas that give our children and their families a wonderful experience of the love of God. Thank you also for weaving these experiences across the generations as part of the services this year. Mainly Music continues in strength and as Sarah herself rightly pointed out, it is the event that brings the largest number of people outside the Parish membership to our Church every week.

Emily Paul decided not to return to work following her maternity leave, however we are delighted that Emily, Stephen, Elsa and Ethan are continuing to worship with us at St Aidan's and continue to be very much a part of this community.

Anne Godman continued extremely capably in the role of Interim Parish Administrator while Emily was on maternity leave and we were absolutely delighted that Anne agreed to continue in a permanent capacity on Emily's resignation, thank you Anne! We thank you for all that you do, and the calm and efficient manner you always bring with care to your role.

We have been blessed to have Antionette lead the music this year as Music Facilitator working so well with Glen, Louise, the Choir and with the bones of a music group. Thank you Antoinette for all that you give to the music at St Aidan's, your deep spirituality shines through in your musical expression which is indeed a blessing to all of us.

We wish to thank and acknowledge the work faithfully done on our behalf by Isobell Tregoweth to raise the profile of St Aidan's on social media platforms. This is becoming a more and more important touchpoint for people hearing about what's happening at St Aidan's. Isobell's photographs are a fabulous record of events, and a beautiful reflection of the varied aspects and events of parish life. Thanks also Isobell for the ongoing work you are doing to improve the website. We encourage everyone to dip into these digital media platforms and follow St Aidan's.

As mentioned earlier in this report it really is regrettably impossible to mention and thank everyone by name. A thank you morning tea will be held after both the 8.00am and 9.30am services on 10th November, and the Vestry will be hosting a thank you dinner for all ministry leaders on Friday 15th November. We look forward to showing our appreciation and chatting in person at these events.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Juli Mercer, Vicar's Warden

James Parkinson, People's Warden

Personnel Sub-Committee of Vestry

This report covers the period from November 2018 to November 2019.

The personnel sub-committee of Vestry is responsible for all aspects of employment and personnel related matters of lay staff at St Aidan's (with approval of the wider Vestry). The current members of the sub-committee are:

- Glen Ashworth
- David Jamison
- Liz Lim

Music and worship

With the departure of Chris Graham as Music Director at the end of 2018, Antoinette Pope had been leading the sung/musical aspects of Sunday worship on an interim basis.

This arrangement was formalised recently with Antoinette now taking up the role on a permanent basis. We are grateful for the enthusiasm, skills and creativity Antoinette continues to bring to the role.

While management of worship and selection of music are under the control and direction of the Vicar, Glen, Louise and Antoinette will continue to work together to keep developing worship at St Aidan's.

General

- a) Emily Paul, our previous Parish Administrator, resigned from her role recently to dedicate her time for now to her family. Anne Godman was appointed our permanent Parish Administrator with effect from 29 July 2019. While we are sad to see Emily leave the role, she, Stephen and their children remain a part of the St Aidan's family; we are delighted Anne has decided to stay on as a member of the team at St Aidan's.
- b) The employment agreement for Isobell Tregoweth as our Website and Social Media Content Manager was replaced during the reporting period to better reflect the practical terms of her employment and the scope of the role she fulfils. Our website and social media content are increasingly vital means of reaching the parish and the wider community.

Compliance

- a) The question of the health and safety of people working, visiting or taking part in activities at St Aidan's premises remains critically important, with health and safety being a standard reporting item at each Vestry meeting. Louise currently leads most aspects of this area (with approval of the wider Vestry). A reporting system for hazards and maintenance, and for incidents, was formalised during the reporting period and will continue to be publicised to ensure everyone is aware of the system.

Fire drills were organised during the reporting period. A medically experienced parishioner now keeps our first aid kits up to date.

- b) The sub-committee put in place policies and procedures for staff reviews during the reporting period, with an informal review and a formal review to be undertaken once each calendar year. The first round of (informal) reviews were completed in October. The reviewers comprise members of the sub-committee with other members of Vestry co-opted as necessary to ensure no personal conflicts of interest. The next round of reviews will be undertaken in February/March next year.
- c) The sub-committee has updated the pro-forma individual employment agreement to reflect amendments in employment legislation which occurred during the reporting period.

Please refer to the other reports to the Annual General Meeting for details of staff involvement in particular activities.

Glen, David and Liz

Parish Office Report

I have now been working as the Parish Administrator for just over a year. After Emily decided in July not to return to her role I was happy to accept the position on a permanent basis.

The position has changed and evolved somewhat since I started. In addition to the day to day running of the office there are many opportunities for ministry and service in the role, which ensures I am never bored! I feel that I am gaining a deeper understanding of the people and ministries of St Aidan's the longer I work here, and have been able to start putting my own experience to work in improving some projects and processes. It is a joy to work with Glen and Louise on a daily basis and, hopefully, assist to make their ministry life easier.

Production of several editions of the Parish Magazine, in cooperation with the design genius which Isobell brings, has been a highlight and a great learning experience.

Thank you to all who have stepped in to help when I have been absent, and my very sincere thanks to you all for making my first year in Aotearoa New Zealand such a blessed one.

Anne Godman

Kids' Church Report

Kids' Church continues to use the lectionary based curriculum, 'Connectible', which is produced by the Dunedin Diocese. These sessions follow the format of a short game, followed with a Bible reading and then activities and a talk to apply meaning. It continues to be a challenge to manage quite a diverse age range and ability spectrum, but with help from the parents and the older children it is mostly manageable. Next year I will be looking to set up more of a formal volunteer base.

At the 930am service the children now participate in giving communion to the congregation; they hold a basket that the grape juice glasses are discarded into. They have enjoyed their role in this and enjoy being up the front with other members of the congregation. It is also good for them to have an opportunity to serve and to know that kids have a part to play in service in church and in service to God. The kids were also on deck during the Garage Sale helping to sell lemonade and gingerbread.

Our whole church celebrations this year have seen the kids being involved at Easter time, Pentecost, St Aidan's Day and in the Christmas celebration at the end of last year. In addition to this there have been some 'kids' talks' at the front of church. These talks, as is the case with the whole church celebrations, are a way of showing our kids they are part of something, rather than an addition to church. Research suggests that children become lifelong believers and attenders of church when they consistently participate with whole church worship and when they believe they have a meaningful role to play in church. With this in mind we are always looking for ways in which our kids can meaningfully serve and engage with whole church worship on a Sunday morning.

Professional development this year has been focused mainly around my attendance of the cluster meetings organised by the Children's and Families Ministry from the Auckland Diocese. Our cluster group has also met for a two day retreat with information focused around how to develop a good volunteer base and how to have constructive conversations.

Sarah Ashworth

November 2019

Mainly Music Report

Being part of the Mainly Music team at St Aidan's continues to be a joy. Every week we see God's Church at work as we praise him through song, friendship, food and with the service of our wonderful volunteers. Mainly Music NZ continues to support us with regular newsletters and emails as well as phone calls from the area co-ordinator. This support is so encouraging and has practical applications too with MM encouraging meaningful connections with families and focussing on having one deliberate conversation each MM session. I have found this valuable and for now I focus on praying the God will be at work in at least one conversation during the session.

Our numbers have seen some fluctuations this year, at times getting up to 40ish children plus their caregivers. While this made for a fun session it also made it difficult to get around to new people and also talk with our regulars. Since the measles outbreak we have seen really reduced numbers with families with babies choosing to stay at home and this has also meant that the siblings have been at home too.

As with last year we had a wonderful Mother's Day morning tea provided for the mums and caregivers in the social lounge – thank you Penny and Judy for your wonderful help - and we had a great turn out for our Father's Day celebration with some dads and grandfathers taking the morning or day off work to attend.

In the past couple of months some of our families completed a survey produced by Mainly Music NZ. The survey asked a number of questions about MM sessions, but also about the faith formation of families and caregivers. While some of the answers indicated that parents/caregivers did not come to MM to develop faith in themselves or their children, others felt that MM sessions helped to develop their faith and connection to God. It is good to have this feedback and encouraging to know that this work is helping to develop faith in some families. The full survey results are available should anyone wish to view them.

Financially, the contributions to Mainly Music have not changed this year and so we continue to ask for \$4/family/session.

Thank you to the St Aidan's community for their support of this wonderful ministry and especially to Rosemary and her loyal and lovely group of morning tea volunteers; and to Colin too who faithfully comes and helps us set up. We look forward to seeing God to continue to be at work in our Mainly Music sessions.

Sarah Ashworth

November 2019

Youth Report

Sunday Youth Group

Sundays have been going great. Our training leaders Cameron and James have been leading the programme and prayer. While I lead the topic for the day. Our young people have been getting involved with our normal church life on Sundays as well, especially with our Youth Lead Services giving our young people a chance to contribute in a service in a way they haven't before. As well as introducing them into why we worship the way we do at St Aidan's.

Friday Night Youth

Fridays have been great especially with our relationships building with the other Anglican Youth Groups in the area. Fridays are a chance for us to have fun as well as to be involved in the wider Anglican Community, with events we attend like Diowhodunnit or stuff we host like a Sushi making competition we had in November.

Young Adults

Our Young Adults are an awesome bunch of people. We have been meeting as a home group as we dive deeper into what it looks like to be a Follower of Christ in 2019. We have just finished a series on the 10 commandment's which went into detail on what each commandment is and its application to us today.

BOLD

The BOLD programme has been going great with our young people getting ready for Fiji in December. Personally it has been great seeing our young people in the programme. As I can see the difference in there interaction with youth and church. I look forward to giving feedback when we return and showing you all how awesome these guys are.

Conor McGrath

November 2019

Website & Social Media Report

We have increased engagement of our Facebook page over the last year, with our page getting new likes and views. I have been playing around with new content e.g. using video instead of photography, which keeps our social media (both Facebook and Instagram) interesting and more engaging for our followers.

Our Garage Sale event on Facebook for 2018 had **31 'Going' and 149 'Interested'** and for 2019 we had **60 'Going' and 412 'Interested'**. This shows us positive signs that we are heading in the right direction of exposure for both one-off events like the Garage Sale and generally for St Aidan's.

Using social media means that we allow people to see what is happening in the church – it is fun and informative for those already attending St Aidan's (e.g. they might see a picture of themselves or be reminded of an upcoming event) and it's also encouraging and inviting for those looking for a new church to attend. Social media also helps drive people to our website, where they can listen to our Sermons, and read items such as our magazine, 'The Apostle'.

I look forward to continuously trying to improve our website and social media content. What I am looking for most from the current congregation is pictures, pictures and more pictures. The more content I have to play around with, the better! A huge thank you to all who have passed on pictures and written content to me over the past year; everything I receive is highly appreciated and is crucial to the work I am doing.

One last note – even if you don't have Facebook or Instagram, you are still able to view limited portions of our pages – so why not go check them out!

<https://www.facebook.com/staidansremuera/>

<https://www.instagram.com/staidansremuera/>

Isobell Tregoweth

Health & Safety Report

This year there has been a concerted effort to update the Health and Safety procedures and to increase the awareness of Health and Safety matters.

Fire Evacuation A number of training sessions were held this year for those who have key roles during a fire evacuation. Sidespeople and other capable 'bodies' were able to ensure that they knew how to respond and to ensure that they understood the reasoning behind various actions. Both Sunday congregations held an evacuation practice and procedures were re-written to cater for a variety of scenarios and personnel. Thanks to John Glenie and David Cotton for their hard work on this area. It will be important to ensure that regular evacuations are practiced and that those who meet outside of a Sunday morning are independent and fully aware of procedures in the case of an emergency.

Reporting systems for hazards and maintenance A more accessible reporting form is now available throughout our buildings so that parishioners and user groups can note areas of concern. Whilst there is still some streamlining required, it has assisted with communication and enabled a clearer picture of what needs to be done and any potential problem areas.

Personal security The Christchurch mosque attacks highlighted the need to consider as part of our Health and Safety, the issue of personal security. The NZ police visited all the Anglican churches in Auckland and collected information about our services, the groups that utilize our buildings, photos, details of access ways, lighting and alarms. It was felt that in the event of a high risk event common sense, good leadership and being aware of the 'unusual' are invaluable skills and at this time there is no need to produce any specific policies. Vestry continues to take oversight in the management of this and any ongoing concerns.

It has been good to hear and see an increased awareness about health and safety and for this to be a regular part of meetings.

Reverend Louise Anderson, October 2019

Property Report

Recent History

General Maintenance work has been ongoing for items such as light bulbs and sticky locks and minor repairs. A reporting system has been instituted by Louise to accurately capture the items reported by users, members and staff which is working well. The property team, John Glenie, John Black, David Cotton, Andrew Maclean and myself have worked to keep the assets in serviceable condition. From me a thank you to each of them for all the hours they have put in over the past year. We have been ably assisted this year by many others. For all of these people who have helped us we thank you. Your help is always welcome. Thanks must also go to all for their patience as we resolve these issues.

It has been an interesting year, commencing with two floods to the vicarage, both due to pipework failing in the ensuite bathroom resulting in insurance claims and the replacement of sections of the upstairs floor, almost all of the carpet in the house, a large portion of the dining and kitchen ceiling (weakened in the first event and failed in the second). The downlights in the dining and kitchen areas of the vicarage have been replaced by LED

We have had a small fire in the stairs to the youth bunker which fortunately was controlled before it got out of hand, triggered by the failure of a fluorescent light fitting.

The church and hall maintenance contract was signed and the first maintenance performed with the church returning to its original white colour from a pale green, the focus will need to shift to the hall and its facilities as some are looking tired. These have been temporarily refreshed by the maintenance work but are due a major overhaul. The toilet amenities in the hall especially are due for a refresh to enable us to maintain the hall in good state for its users along with the lights and heating before next winter

Work to do:

- 1) Hall toilet remodelling
- 2) Heating and lighting in the hall
- 3) Access ramp to the hall.

Major works done this year (>\$1,000)

Vicarage

- 1) Reinstatement of vicarage carpet and dining/kitchen ceiling
- 2) Reinstatement of upstairs carpet after flood 2
- 3) Replacement of bathroom vanity and flooring in ensuite
- 4) Replacement of curtains damaged in the floods

No 8 - No major works.

Church

- 1) First exterior wash and first maintenance done to paintwork outside and inside.

Hall & Office

- 1) First exterior wash and first maintenance done to paintwork outside and inside.
Hall ceiling omitted.

Works planned/likely to occur for next Year

Church

- 1) Repair of the rotten sill on the northern outside window adjacent to the organ room

Hall

- 1) Resolution of leak in Parish Office
- 2) Replacement of Hot water cylinder for kitchen
- 3) Resolution of toilet facilities upgrade and establishment of budgets for this.

Vicarage

- 1) Possible replacement of second HWC as first one has failed already (\$3.5K)

No 8 House

- 1) Sections of the fence will need ongoing repair/replacement.

Simon Lee

Mission Shop Report

For the Garage Sale the Clothing (Stalls) Shop and Stage made a total of \$2,200 which is almost the same as last year, so a really great result. The more prominent signage on the stage, pointing customers to the Shop was a great help. A lot of stuff was put back into the shop after the sale, but by opening on Thursday most of it was sorted. As usual, a lot of leftover clothing was taken to ATWC in Otahuhu, thanks to Robyn, Annette and Terrie.

Daylight Saving means we can change the Winter clothes for Summer, keeping only the best winter clothes for next year. Bearing in mind we are having a late cold snap just now we can do this over the month of October as November is when the real warmer weather is here..

Our total for the shop to the end of September is \$10,497. Not quite the amazing total of last year, but still very significant. August was particularly slow; might it have been the miserable wet weather? We made up for a bit with Terrie and Sarah taking \$356 on one Thursday. The take continues to be totally random, as that Thursday take alone was more than some of the August weeks. Our advertising on the New World Electronic Screen continues, and for that we thank the Remuera Rotary Club.

Jenny Haggitt

Music Report

Music can be viewed as one barometer of a church's life. This year has seen several musical changes in personnel and as St Aidans has explored ways of developing our mission. This has been particularly in several attempts to trial changes in our 9.30 service and as Glen tries a wider teamwork approach in music. This is a work in progress.

A musical highlight has to be the 2019 Nine Lessons and Carols. We were blessed to have our Musical Director, Chris Graham delay his move overseas to China so that once again we had a memorable service with a specially augmented choir. The result provides a welcoming addition to the St Aidan's electronic face to the world.

Early in 2019 Chris finally left overseas. Since, Antoinette Pope has filled in at the keyboards ably assisted by the faithful members of the choir. They continue to provide an encouraging lead to singing at the 9.30 service. Karel Lee adds her joy as she regularly fronts the more upbeat hymns competently using the mike. The 8am congregations have continued to enjoy their hymn singing. Special thanks must be made to Beverly Gentle for helping out on the organ while Antoinette was in hospital.

The monthly 5pm service has regularly seen Vicar Glen on the guitar with Youth Leader Conor providing a percussion rhythm which is augmented by most of the junior congregation and others and Belle Tregoweth leading the vocals. This working combination, Glen has also transferred into the 9.30 service, especially in the fifth Sunday Youth Services where Asher Stonehouse also has added his keyboard input. It is a joy to see and hear the teenage musical jamming sessions after the 9.30 services as they become familiar with St Aidan's music resources for themselves. Antoinette has also been delighted to show more senior members how to operate the keyboards and hopes more will ask in the coming year. This is just one reflection of the aim to involve more of the congregation in the musical lead. It is never too late to learn something new and become familiar with the wonderful musical resources available at St Aidan's.

St Aidan's continues to be a favoured venue for Weddings and Funerals. It is an important part of our face in our community. Music also continues to be a feature of other services during the week such as the monthly AAW meeting. Regular services in the St Vincent Village use recorded music specially chosen by Bishop Peter and Rosemary Atkins. We were blessed to have Bishop Peter's creative muse in his writing special hymn verses for Lilian Gnanasunderam's 100th birthday celebration service. Christmas is especially a time when music is part of St Aidan's venturing beyond the church walls such as to local rest homes and carol singing round the neighbourhood.

Using music takes every member of St Aidan's deeper into meaningful worship because singing and music affects us in the deeper levels of our beings and personal relationships with God. As individuals we all have different musical expectations we want fulfilled each

Sunday. Yet musical unity in worship has profound consequences for us as individuals receiving God's blessings, as a congregation and as a witness to the world.

Blessings,

Antoinette Pope (Music facilitator)

Home Groups' Report

Home groups at St Aidan's continue to thrive and flourish.

The leadership has maintained stability over the years, which shows mature commitment from all involved. This, together with the fact that new groups continue to sprout, demonstrates the keen interest and need that people have in being part of a Home group.

Home groups at St Aidan's vary in a number of ways - they vary in their interests and in the frequency of meetings. Most groups follow a Bible study of sorts but the wonderful thing is that there is latitude of choice, so each group is unique!

It is not only a relationship with God which is strengthened and deepened, but also relationships between people.

To be a Christian means to be part of the body of Christ, we are all working together and we can't do it alone. We benefit from the strength, wisdom, encouragement and support of the group.

For people who prefer a more contemplative approach Anne Priestley, John Pearce and Pip Colgan have started a group that meets those needs.

Glen Ashworth leads the Colloquium group.

Louise Anderson has started a new group with 2 time slots.

All in all we have 9 different groups meeting throughout the month.

Sheryl Swanevelder

Pins & Needles Report

St Aidan's "Pins & Needles" knitting for charity group has continued to flourish this year as members are excited to use their skills in knitting and sewing acquired during their lifetimes. They are delighted they can continue to contribute to society in a meaningful way by providing warm clothing for babies and children in need and the elderly during the cold winter months.

Our members have continued to grow since our beginning four years ago with eight people, until today we have over 50 people including those who meet monthly to share ideas and yarn and those who prefer to knit at home. Our "outworkers" are very much valued and we appreciate their continued support.

At our last meeting 30 people were present and together we celebrated Lilian Gnanasunderam's 100th birthday as she showed us her latest contribution of warm crocheted baby blankets – crocheting a new skill she learned among us in her late 90s!!

We thank God for the continued support we received from our Clergy and our Parish and our wider community as we endeavour to fulfil our Parish commitment to worship, caring and mission, and our garments are displayed and blessed before they are distributed to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Counties Manukau Community Midwives, and Age Concern.

We are a group of and for all people, of all denominations and faiths who are dedicated to serving those around us.

Marie Taylor

St Aidan's AAW Fellowship Group

Well, another year of special fellowship with St Aidan's Association of Anglican Women. We have enjoyed meeting with each other on the first Tuesday of the month. Thanks to everyone who has organised and participated throughout the year with our AAW service and meetings including our vicar Glen, Priest Assistant Louise and Parish Administrator Anne and a special thanks to Antoinette Pope for continuing to play the organ. Financial membership totals 50 with several new members joining this year and our meetings have averaged 35 - 40 members together with visitors.

The speakers this year have included an Easter themed service led by Louise, with the following months including Sarah Padey, Margaret Toland, Heather Provan, Deborah Wilkinson-Gray, Paul and Shay – social workers from Anglican Trust for Women and Children and celebrating the Association's Golden Jubilee at our October meeting with Barbara Dixon, Auckland Diocese President and secretary Kaye Hastings. Our first meeting was an outing to Holy Trinity, St Mary's and Selwyn Chapel (thanks to Robyn Bridgman and Desré Simpson for organising).

Throughout the year the group has donated money and goods to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Auckland City Mission, the ANZAC wreath (thanks to Gail Hodder) and other outreach giving. Thank you for your generosity.

We have attended several AAW Diocese events during the year. A group of us attended the Golden Jubilee AAW service at the Selwyn Chapel followed by lunch and a special cake to celebrate. A group of our members sent in submissions for the National Council of Women remits with Marie Taylor attending the NCW Conference.

Thanks to Robyn Bridgman and her helpers in cooking dinners for the mothers and children at Grainger Grove, ATWC and for Robyn's general work for ATWC. Thanks to you all for supporting the trading table which has been ably run by Terrie Hawley together with Ruth Lowe. Thanks to Gail Hodder for baking and icing the Christmas cake so beautifully for the last December meeting.

Thanks to Marie Taylor as Social Concerns Rep and especially for organising the birthday flowers each month and to Mary Parkinson as our Overseas and Outreach Rep. Thank you to Sue Williams for her unstinting work as Treasurer.

I believe that working together and sharing tasks makes for a strong and faithful group. A special thanks to Joan Erskine-Leggett and Patricia Maud who have both given tirelessly to AAW over the years but have now decided to retire from the Committee. Thanks to those who will stay on the Committee for another year and welcome to our two new members, Ev McGowan and Desré Simpson.

Christine Kennedy

Outreach Report

City Mission

The Outreach Group has continued throughout the year to co-ordinate a total of 16 people (12 parishioners and 4 non-parishioners) for monthly volunteering at the City Mission's Haeata Centre. We work in teams of 5 with individuals committing to a duty four times per year. Our teams provide a welcoming presence to those who come to the Mission as we serve the midday meal to around 120 people. Food provided with love will always have a transformational effect in some way or another.

It is exciting to have some new volunteers joining with us for next year and more helpers are always most welcome. This is a rewarding ministry to which to invite friends who may not be Church goers.

Barbara Weir

Habitat for Humanity

Maintaining the Parish partnership with Habitat for Humanity is an important focus for our Outreach activities. It is gratifying to see St Aidan's listed as an official sponsor in Habitat's annual reports. We have continued this year to be a drop-off centre for donated curtains for the Habitat Curtain Bank. Thank you to the Mission Shop volunteers who assist with this. For the year ended June 2019 the Curtain Bank fitted 3270 double-lined, full length curtains into the homes of low income families. In addition we are now supporting a new initiative by the Curtain Bank to make cloth tote bags from the off-cuts of curtain materials. These bags are being sold to raise money to buy linings and tapes for the curtains. The Parish is promoting the sale of the tote bags wherever opportunities present themselves and a couple of our parishioners are volunteering to sew up the bags from fabric provided. Anyone willing to do some machine sewing at home would be greatly valued.

Barbara Weir

Prison Ministry

We have two teams who visit Auckland Wiri Women's Prison. The teams alternate each month so the commitment is not too intense and sustainable.

We have Barbara Weir, Anne Priestley and Pip Colgan in one team, The other team being Hein & Sheryl Swanevelder.

This Ministry has been running for 10 year plus.

The Chaplaincy at Wiri continues to assure us that our visits are invaluable and the girls benefit greatly from the Spiritual input. It is encouraging to see the number of women turn up, as it is a voluntary choice. The choice in itself must come with a certain amount of derision from some of the inmates, so it is a huge act of courage on behalf of the women who attend the services.

As we in a small way, show them the unconditional love of Christ and the power of forgiveness, we trust that they are left with hope for the way ahead.

From another perspective, except for Anne who is a priest, we are all lay people, following what was laid on our heart to do. The only “course “ one has to attend is the compulsory Induction Course, which is basically how to keep yourself safe in the Prison environment, and a code of behaviour that is beneficial to both parties. This is refreshed every two years.

Any member of the team would be willing to talk to you if you feel that this could be a place you are called to.

We Thank God that we are still allowed to take the Word into Prisons!

Sheryl Swanevelder

Mount Eden Corrections Facility

The Prison Chaplaincy Service operates through all NZ prisons, Andrew Maclean attends Mt Eden once a month as part of a broad multi-faith group of about thirty people who work in five teams.

Mt Eden is a different environment given it's a remand facility so there is a high turnover of inmates. We seldom see the same individuals month to month.

Nonetheless it's a harsh environment for inmates and there are always individuals keen to participate. There are no chapel facilities so we either join the prisoners inside a wing or occasionally a bare room adjoining a wing is made available to us.

Occasionally there are individuals with a strong and knowledgeable faith who help to deliver ministry and are available to take a leadership role with other inmates, particularly those who are really struggling. It is heartening to see faith bringing hope in such challenging conditions.

Andrew Maclean



The First Session of the 56th Synod of the Diocese of Auckland was held at Auckland Cathedral of the Holy Trinity from Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th September 2019, commencing with the Synod Eucharist in St Mary's-in-Holy Trinity. It was a joy to have Bishop Jim White, Assistant Bishop of Auckland, as preacher. He based his sermon on Psalm 34 verse 8, so beautifully crafted by Vaughan Williams into a coronation anthem which was sung by the choir during Communion. *"O taste and see how gracious the Lord is! Blest is the one who trusteth in Him."* While the Anglican Church was widely known for its social work, Bishop Jim challenged us to "talk to each other about our own life" as it was at Synod that the Church's life was shaped and ordered. Following the service, Synod moved into the Cathedral to commence the business sessions.

Bishop's Charge

The Bishop's Charge was presented by Bishop Ross. All present were welcomed, especially those new to Synod, while former members who had died in the past year were remembered. He also paid tribute to the Episcopal team for the way they had shared the duties of the episcopate during a demanding year. Looking ahead, priorities were: greater support for ministry in the North, continuing the Healthy Church work and enhancing the Executive Chaplain role to free him more from administrative responsibilities.

Bishop Ross paid tribute to the Auckland City Mission for its ongoing work in the city, led by Missioner, Chris Farrelly. The Mission HomeGround project was moving ahead rapidly with building now started and funding well progressed. As he noted, "The transformation in the ability of the Mission to offer its services will be amazing, and the modern, professional and pleasant environment will add significantly to the sense of dignity for those who come to seek those services."

He spoke about positive aspects coming from the Healthy Church consultations and he highlighted the energy and involvement by younger people in taking leadership of social justice initiatives. A core group ADjust (*Auckland Diocesan justice*) recently set up, was currently working on climate justice concerns.

Bishop Ross referred to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care currently under way. He supported its extension to faith-based organisations and acknowledged there would be a need to address matters raised. He also noted it was ten years since the signing of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant.

A copy of both the sermon and the Bishop's Charge can be found on the diocesan website.

The Business of Synod

The order paper consisted of eight motions and four bills. In addition, elections were held for General Synod representatives, Diocesan Council, the Panel of Potential Diocesan Nominators, and the Clergy Remuneration and Retirement Committee.

Motions

The motions covered a wide range of issues as follows:

- *Refugees and Displaced Persons* – This motion drew attention to the plight of those forcibly displaced from their homes through conflict. It encouraged donations to be made to organisations supporting their resettlement as well as prayers being offered as part of regular prayer cycles.
- *Grief and Loss Support Services* – The work being done through the ‘Seasons for Growth’ programme received wide praise. This programme has been extended to the elderly as well as the young for whom it was originally set up. The support of the Diocesan Council was sought in extending the programme while ministry units were challenged to seek ways to deliver the programme in their local communities.
- *Extension of Living Wage* – The decision of the Government to extend the Living Wage to all people working for the core Public Service was commended and a call made for it to be extended to all Government-owned entities and Government contractors.
- *Climate Crisis Action* – This motion supported the call for action made at the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in April. It requested the Diocesan Council to provide resources and assist ministry units to develop action plans and resources for sustainable and regenerative living and the reduction of greenhouse gases at individual, ministry unit, and diocesan levels. It also recommended that a volunteer ‘sustainability champion’ be established in each ministry unit. An amendment was also passed supporting the peaceful protest action taken by young people, including that planned for late September.
- *Diocesan Zero Carbon Plan* – Following the beneficial effects of earlier decisions, this motion asked the Diocesan Council to support and fund the preparation of a Zero Carbon Plan by 31 March 2020 to implement the commitment set out in Standing Resolution 50, with opportunities for collaboration and informed input to contribute to this.

[SR50: THAT the Diocese of Auckland commits to carbon neutrality in its business, including its travel.]

- *Housing for the Elderly and Disabled* – Concern was expressed that poor quality, expensive, insecure housing was a significant factor contributing to poverty and inequality. The motion called on the Government to prioritise an extensive building

programme of Housing NZ units using universal design principles that would particularly suit the elderly and those with disabilities.

- *Calculation of Quota* – This motion sought an amendment to the way the quota calculation was determined. In particular, for events or projects where a ministry unit received income, there should be an ability to claim costs and expenses directly incurred.

A Motion without Notice was sought to be introduced at a late stage of Synod. This focussed on all life being God-given and asked the Diocese to express its will regarding the Abortion Bill and End of Life legislation currently before Parliament. After some debate, and without clear agreement on the text of the motion, or prejudice to any future motions, it was withdrawn. The President advised that, based on the views expressed in the debate, he would write to the Government.

Three motions passed at the 2018 Synod were adopted as Standing Resolutions – these related to suicide prevention, sustainable development goals and support for people with disabilities.

Legal Business

Four bills were presented. Two updated legislation – one modernised clergy remuneration and retirement support while the other repealed outdated statutes and dealt with disposal of funds held by Archdeaconry Boards. The remaining bills presented new statutes in place of existing ones:

- The Youth Representation Statute 2019 provided for a more flexible gathering of young people in a Youth Hui (previously Youth Synod), the purpose being “to engage them in the decision-making procedures of the Diocese and encourage youth participation in the life of the Diocese in a safe and friendly environment”. This was passed with some amendments being included.
- The Diocesan Council Statute 2019 provided an update to the Standing Committee Statute 2001 that both reflected current terminology and streamlined the functions and responsibilities of the Diocesan Council in one statute. This bill modernises procedures and provides a coherent structure for decision-making outside Synod.

Presentations

- *Diocesan Council* – a report was given on the wide variety of work done over the past year.
- *City Mission* – a standing ovation followed the report by the City Missioner, Chris Farrelly.
- *NZ Anglican Missions Board* – Michael Hatfield warmly acknowledged the support of the Diocese.

- *Title D Reform* – The Chancellor, Bruce Gray, spoke about work being done to update legislation regarding complaints processes in relation to licensed ministers. The aim is to ensure complaints are resolved in a fair, consistent and objective manner. It is proposed to set up a national body to manage all complaints, and thus mitigate the inevitable conflicts of interest faced by bishops in dealing with them within the Diocese. After a period of discussion among members, a number of queries and suggestions were offered for further consideration when the Chancellors next meet.
- *Mission and Ministry* – Karen Spoelstra and Jacolize Becker challenged ministry units to intentionally prioritise children and young people.

Bishop Jim White

As Synod prepared to adjourn for lunch on Saturday, Bishop Jim joined us supported by Bishop Kito. In a sad and emotional time, he advised he had made the decision to take medical retirement from his role as Assistant Bishop. He spoke with grace and good humour about his illness, eventually diagnosed as a rare and aggressive form of T-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Over recent months, he had been undergoing chemotherapy, but to date, this had not been as successful as hoped. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Diocese and spoke with special warmth about the support and friendship of Bishop Kito and Bishop Ross. He closed by reading Sam Hunt's poem 'Making Tracks'. This was followed by a waiata and standing ovation from the Synod.

Synod closed with a vote of thanks to all involved in the leadership and organisation of the Synod.

Synod Representatives:

David Jamison & Andrew Maclean



Reverend Glen Ashworth
Vicar