

December 2017

ST AIDAN'S

Parish Magazine

Worship

Caring

Mission

Glen's Foreword



One of the set gospel texts we have in the lead up to Christmas is from the beginning of Mark's gospel and narrates the ministry of John the Baptist. His role was to prepare people for the coming of Christ and in doing so revealed the true identity of Jesus as one who will, "baptise you with the Holy Spirit" Mark 1:8.

This reminded me of an incident as a child when I discovered the true identity of Santa. One year in December, my cousin and I found ourselves in my parents cupboard. While in there for whatever reason, we came across a large black sack filled with wrapped presents, many of which we discovered had our own names on them. What was more interesting, however, was who the presents were from. Every single present we saw in that sack was from Santa and some two weeks before Christmas. It didn't take us long firstly, to twig that Santa may not have been who we thought he was and secondly, to agree to tell no one so that we wouldn't jeopardise the stream of presents for the next year.

As we read the texts leading up to Christmas we are given an insight into who this person is coming into the world. As those who have realised something of the baby Jesus' true identity, how can we be like John and point to this in our own context? One way to do that is to invite people outside of the family to join you during your Christmas celebrations. Christmas is more than family time and as we extend an invitation to people we give witness to that fact. I encourage us all this Christmas to plan out how our Christmas celebrations might point to the true identity of the one who can bring good news for all.

- The Rev Glen Ashworth
Vicar



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From Our Priest Assistant



I write this message having just spent two hours helping my 5 year old grandson make Christmas crafts at his local Kindergarten in Melbourne. We made snow globes with pretty pictures inside, Christmas trees, stars and stained glass windows, tinkly bells and angels. We baked Christmas biscuits in the shape of stars and trees and filled them with jam and icing sugar. It looked very festive and pretty but sadly there wasn't even a hint of the true meaning of Christmas and I felt saddened that the world has succumbed to Happy Holidays and the Festive Season.

As Christians how will we celebrate this Christmas? Will it be in the style that is set around us of pretty but inanimate objects? Will it be caught up in the frenzy of over spending and over eating? Or will we be celebrating the attributes of the Christ Child born afresh into our lives by spending it with families and loved ones and reaching out with a loving hand to those who are lonely, sick or in prison? Remember as our Lord himself has said, "When you did it to the least of one of these, you did it to me."

Wishing you all a very happy, holy and blessed CHRISTmas.

- The Rev Pam Tizzard
Priest Assistant

Christmas Services

Sun 17 Dec Nativity - Kids’ Church Presentation
During 9:30am service
Sun 17 Dec at 7pm Nine Lessons & Carols followed by drinks and
 Christmas mince pies on the vicarage lawn.

Sun 24 Dec Christmas Eve Services

9:00am Family Communion (Combined Service - No 8am service)
4:00pm Children’s Service
7:00pm Christmas Eve Communion
11:00pm ‘Midnight’ Communion

Mon 25 Dec Christmas Day Services

8:00am Traditional Communion
9:30am Family Communion

Regular Events at St Aidan’s

Sunday Services 8:00am Holy Communion
 9:30am Family Communion with Youth and Kids’ Church
 5:00pm G@5 (not on 2nd & 3rd Sunday of each month)
 7:30pm Taizé Contemplative worship (2nd Sunday each month)
 5:00pm Evening service (3rd Sunday each month)

Wednesday Service 11:30am Holy Communion without music
Morning Prayer 9am Monday to Saturday - in the Gathering Area.
Prayer Meeting 7pm Wednesday - in the Gathering Area for ½ hour.
Youth Sun at 9:30am service and Fri at 7pm. Contact Conor.

School aged youth (11 and over)

Kids’ Church All children aged 3-10 during the 9.30am service.
 Contact Sarah Ashworth.

Friendship Group Wednesdays at 10am in the Gathering Area.
 Join us for fellowship, games and morning tea.

Mainly Music Wednesdays during term time at 9.30am. Music & play for
 families with pre-school aged children.

Choir Practice Wednesdays at 7.30pm in Bethel Room. Contact Chris.
 New members welcome.

Home Groups All welcome! Contact Sheryl or Glen for more information.

AAW A women’s fellowship group.
 Meets monthly on 1st Tuesday at 1.30pm.

W.E.F. A women’s evening fellowship group.
 Meets monthly on 3rd Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Men’s Ministry Meets last Thursday of the month.
 Contact Glen for more information.

Alpha Series Feedback

The Alpha course turned out to be a real success. The DVD presentation is shorter and more contemporary, and is hosted by Toby Flint, curate at Holy Trinity Brompton and Gemma Hunt, a BAFTA award winning TV presenter. Clips from Jackie Pullinger, a world renown missionary based in Hong Kong; Father Raniero, preacher to the Papal Household; and Jose Henriquez one of the 39 Chilean miners trapped underground for 69 days, all contributed to compelling viewing. The course still has Nicky Gumbel as the main presenter; who laces his presentation with humour biblical knowledge and wisdom and you get the sense it is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Our numbers were a healthy surprise and two groups were formed. One was led by Glen with Rosemary Atkins and Liz Gray acting as hosts. The other group was led by Sheryl with Karel Lee as a host. The 12 week course was well attended, with only one or two dropping out! A good majority of the participants were our young adults and this certainly was special. Thanks to the generosity of many St Aidan’s ladies, a plethora of beautifully prepared filled rolls, followed by a slice, was on offer at the lunch break. This was a welcome respite providing time for convivial conversation and a time to forge new friendships.

After much thought and debate it was decided to have the retreat at our very own church and we decided to pack it in into one day. This was an innovation and proved to be convenient, cost effective and all in all very positive! We felt there was no compromise in not going away and it suited this group of participants.

Alpha never fails to answer all the questions you have never had the opportunity to ask. It is a course for everyone!

“I have found the Alpha course exciting and a wonderful opportunity to explore my thoughts, feelings, experiences about my past, present and future, regarding my faith. I found the presentation perfect and the really good content has left me wanting to explore more.” Anon.

“Absolutely awesome! Simply inspiring ! I am so blessed to have been introduced to Alpha.” Jerry Amerasinghe

“Alpha helped me... It has given me a new meaning to life” Stephen Rengan

“Alpha gives enormous food for thought. Sharing opinions and knowledge is very encouraging! Praying together is very supportive.” A. Mc Grevy



Caring

Friday Night Express

Friday nights have been an ongoing project for the year in order to get the best out of the time I have with the youth. The people that come along are mostly the older youth and I have opened it up to a home group every fortnight to give the older youth a chance to go deeper in conversation and deeper with God. It also gives us more time to pray for each other and practice good praying rhythms which are easily applied to life outside of youth. We also have a range of social activities we do from nerf gun wars to movies and AYM events like diowhodunnit.

Fuel (Sunday morning Programme)

Sundays morning continue to be the base of biblical teaching in the youth ministry and it is very popular with the intermediates. This starts to give the older ones opportunities to lead discussion and lead in things they know as they tell the younger ones. This then helps both the older ones reassess what they know as they talk about it and the younger ones as they question everything.

Young Adults

It has been a big busy year for a lot of our people with exciting job opportunities and crossing milestones at university. We have been meeting when we can with us all doing the Alpha course together as we question and learn fundamentals as well as being in community together.

Youth & Young Adults

We also head along to the Grace Collective where young Christians from all over Auckland meet to discuss various topics.

Evening Service

We have just started meeting together on a Sunday evening to worship with each other as well as with the church. Young and old, kids and adults worshipping in community with one another. I look forward to the future of this space and where the Spirit will take it.

- Conor McGrath

We continue to be a small group who enjoy company and a chat on a Wednesday morning, over our games of Scrabble and Mahjong. We enjoy having a regular meeting time and thanks must go to Joan Erskine-Leggett who phones our members on a

Friendship Group

Tuesday to have a chat and catch up with everyone. Thanks very much to Baker's Delight who continue to provide bread and sweet goodies for our morning teas.

Not all our members of the group are regular church goers but some have joined church activities like arranging flowers, or attending special services like the Anzac Day Service or the Pet Day Service.

We will close for the year on Wednesday 6 December with a Christmas lunch and resume on Wednesday 7 February 2018.

- Jenny Haggitt
For the Wednesday Friendship Group



Women's evening fellowship has had a very positive second half of the year.

How lucky we were to have two amazing cooking demonstrations in August and September. We were able to relax and watch the cooking and listen to tips about the ingredients and methods. Both chefs gave us fascinating information about the countries where their recipes originated. Emily Paul cooked a yummy Indian Lamb Curry and Allyson Gofton a delicious Foie Gras and Tarbais Bean soup, typical cuisine of SW France. When the cooking was finished, we all really enjoyed the tastings. These are two special dishes that we can now make and share with family and friends.

The next meeting changed to a literary evening. Anne Mercer gave us a very stimulating and informative evening with a "taste" of some of the books in our St Aidan's library. One book, "Run with the horses" by Eugene Paterson, opens with the challenge of the way you see your

relationship with God. Another, "She" by Jen Gibbs, was a must to read too, and "How to help a grieving friend" by Stephanie Whitson gave personal advice that sadly is so often necessary.

Our November meeting will be our last get-together this year. There will be a special Christmas theme and a little surprise followed by some delicious Christmas fare.

Women's Evening Fellowship

Meeting together during the year has certainly helped us to get to know one another better, to enjoy one another's company and give support to friends when necessary.

We look forward to another special year in 2018 for women in the Parish and their friends.

- Leanne Allport, Alison Ross, Jan Evans

Our AAW Fellowship Group finished off a very busy year with our Christmas meeting on Tuesday 5 December at 1.30pm. The afternoon began with a Communion Service in the church and then followed by a festive afternoon tea in the Gathering Area. We welcomed all our members and other women of the Parish to join us who are brought along their singing voices to join in with some Christmas carols.

The new Committee was recently elected at our AGM and we are planning some interesting outings and speakers for our meetings beginning in March 2018.

If anyone has any suggestions for speakers please let us know as we are always open to ideas.

AAW Fellowship

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and safe holiday times.

- Christine Kennedy



Introducing our Kids' Church members

As can be seen from these short questions our children are a group of unique kids who all have likes/dislikes and who all have aspirations to follow their interests as they develop and grow. It's always said that we can learn a lot from our children and at times this can seem like a bit of a platitude, but it still has wisdom to it; most children are relentlessly positive, have hopes and aspirations for the future and we can learn from them - just look at our bunch of wonderful tamariki!

John Gray - Eight years old.
 Favourite Colour: Purple
 Favourite food: Anything fried
 Least favourite: Big pieces of meat or any veges
 Favourite game/activity: Lego and trampoline
 What's something we don't know about you: I sleep with one of my Mum's t-shirts as a snuggly because I miss her at night (true story verified by Liz).
 Least favourite job around the house: Taking the rubbish and recycling out because it's my weekly chore.
 What would you like to do when you're older? Architect or fashion designer

Lily Ashworth -Eight years old
 Favourite colour: Turquoise
 Favourite activity: Craft
 Favourite game: Pit
 Favourite food: Orange chocolate chip
 What would you like to do when you're older: Florist or a writer
 Something people don't know about you: I like to wake up at 5am to read

Isaac - Seven years old
 Favourite colour: green
 Favourite animal: crocodile
 Favourite game: hide and seek
 Favourite activity: Going to Butterfly Creek
 What would you like to do when you're older: Australian Zoo keeper
 Something people don't know about you: In the middle of the night I creep into Mummy's bed (Liz said, 'He hides his fruit from lunch in his sock drawer:').

Vaughan - Nine years old
 Favourite colour: I actually don't have one
 Favourite game: Soccer
 Favourite activity: Soccer
 What would you like to do when you're older: Be a pilot
 What's something people don't know about you: Whenever I get raisins in my lunchbox I throw them in the bin at school.

Finn Ashworth - Six years old
 Favourite colour: Dark blue
 Favourite food: All food
 Least favourite food: Lasagne
 Favourite game: Cricket
 Favourite activity: Maths and lego
 What would you like to do when you're older: A zookeeper and a police officer and a cricket player.
 Least favourite job around the house: Tidying up
 What's something people don't know about you: I don't like to play with people if they are not good at sharing.

Emily Fraser - Three years old
 Favourite colour: Green
 Favourite food: Sausages
 Favourite activity: Making volcanoes
 What would you like to do when you're older: Fireman
 What's something people don't know about you: I speak a little bit of Italian.

Elsa - Three years old.
 Favourite colour: Pink
 Favourite activity: Water play (anywhere, anytime, any form)
 Favourite food: Cakes and strawberries
 Least favourite food: Greens
 What would you like to do when you're older: I want to become the Frozen Queen (but otherwise she likes to pretend to be a teacher)
 Least favourite job around the house: Tidying up (Emily said that's the only job she does)
 What's something people don't know about you: I can actually be very loud.

Daisy Ashworth - Three years old
 Favourite colour: Pink
 Favourite food: Lollipops
 Least favourite food: Roast beef
 Favourite game: Playing brothers, sisters and babies
 What do you want to do when you're older: The services - Daddy's job.
 Least favourite job around the house: I don't like eating dinner.
 What's something people don't know about you: I can do forward rolls off the steps into the pool.

Violet Richardson - 10 years old
 Favourite colour - Red.
 Favourite game/activity. Playing handball with Mum.
 Favourite food. Sushi
 Least favourite food. Brussell Sprouts
 What would you like to do when you're older: Work with animals.
 Least favourite job around the home: Doing the dishes because I'm bad and slow at it.
 What's something people don't know about you: I love sailing.

Zarah Davidson - Six years old
 What's your favourite colour:
 Rainbow colours and pink!
 Favourite Game: Football (Soccer)
 Favourite Activity: Pippins
 Favourite food: Chocolate
 Least Favourite food: Spicy sauce
 What's something people don't know about you:
 I am learning French. My hair goes a brown colour when it gets wet.
 Least favourite job around the home and why:
 Tidying up, because I would rather do something fun like playing with my toy hamsters.
 What would you like to do when you're older:
 Be a vet and a flight attendant.

- Sarah Ashworth

(Clockwise from top left: John, Lily, Isaac, Vaughan, Finn, Zarah, Violet, Daisy, Elsa, Emily)





Author and pastor Bill Search wrote the following, “So here’s what hit me right between the eyes—God wired us for community. At the very beginning of the story he made humans in HIS IMAGE, which means we are created in the image of the God who lives perpetually in community as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We have a void in our lives that only can be filled through human relationships. God made us that way.” I want to add - not forgetting the God space in our hearts.

In a homegroup, the sharing of joys and blessings and disappointments is a natural way to begin a meeting. It acts as a relief valve for emotions and tensions.

Sharing time helps group members to grasp what God’s word is saying about how we should relate to our real-life circumstances.

As much as I love gathering with the whole of the local church for corporate worship, there is something powerfully unique about an intimate gathering around a living room, or a dining room table that forces us to think differently than when we do in a big room for worship.

As we draw close to Advent, let us take time and meditate on the Christ child. Let us think of how Christ has impacted our lives and how we are going to go forward in the year ahead. This may entail taking a step in a new direction, see where your footsteps lead you.

To ALL the Home Group leaders, thank you for all the hours of preparation and hospitality you have offered!

Wishing everyone a most blessed Christmas!
- Sheryl Swanevelder

Golden Group

It was an absolute joy to welcome 22 members of our Golden Group to the 9.30am Eucharist, and to the parish luncheon for St Aidan’s Day which followed. There was some great feed back of enjoyment and of sharing with old friends. Some members were unable to be present and apologised, including a member who expressed a desire to join us for the Christmas occasion.

We shall be organising to bring members to the 9.30 am service on Sunday the 17th December . The spirit of Christmas will be alive at that service, with music that we will all enjoy. A special morning tea will be served to members.

Sadly, since we started the group three of our members have died and have been farewelled at services at St Aidan’s. Others have joined us so we can rejoice with all who over the years have been saints and workers in our beloved church.

- Rosemary Atkins, Convenor.

NATIVITY INSTALLATION



The idea to have a nativity ‘scene’ on the Remuera Rd side of the church came from a couple of sources. At our previous church, there was a large front lawn and garden and over the Christmas period we decked it with more and more lights each year. We had the idea then to place nativity figures on the lawn and move them progressively toward the church in the weeks leading up to Christmas Day. This never materialised in our time there, but through developing the lights on the highly visible St Aidan’s Church lawn and a desire to involve particularly the Mainly Music families in the Christmas story, Sarah suggested we make the progressive nativity installation a reality.

Having a resident artist in Harold Coop and the ever encouraging and capable John Glenie, it made the project feasible. So we met to plan and Harold set to designing and producing a relatively life sized Joseph and Mary on plastic corflute sheets. With some concern about security we approached the local Barfoot and Thompson agents and asked if they would sponsor a sign explaining who the figures were produced by and something about the story of Jesus’ birth. They were more than happy to help out and have produced a fantastic sign. Meanwhile, Harold completed the figures and these were cut out and on Sunday 3rd December some Mainly Music and church families came along and painted them. At the point of writing they are drying in the office ready to be fixed to warratahs for placement on the front lawn.

There is also a side project going on in terms of the lighting of these figures at night. This has turned out to be particularly difficult due to having to compensate for the streetlight ‘wash’ we get at night on the lawn. Fortunately we have our top engineers on the job so we are looking forward to a positive result. On that note, sincere thanks must go to David Cotton and John Glenie - lighting crew; to Harold and Gillian Coop – artist and helper; to John Glenie, Sarah and Glen Ashworth – project design. Special thanks to the Atkins Prayer Book fund for sponsoring the materials and to Barfoot & Thompson for sponsoring the signage. Let’s hope that this small project helps all of us to engage with the big story of Christ.

- Glen Ashworth



Heaven on Earth

... or....

The Power of Singing in our Congregational Worship

Singing, along with other music, is an important part of our worshipping God. Singing God's praise reaches deep into our subconscious, the deep levels of brain activity to involve our emotions, mind soul and spirit. While doing regular volunteer work at the local hospice, before moving to Auckland, hospital staff taught me about the power of music to aid and rehabilitate stroke victims. On moving to Auckland I had the joy of using this knowledge, after being told my mother would never talk again, by using hymn singing to have her talking clearly again within three weeks of her debilitating stroke. I have since read of ongoing research, overseas, into such use of musical therapy.

Hymn singing has been an active part of Christian worship from its beginning. Mark 14.26 talks of the first Lord's Supper ending with a hymn before the disciples and Jesus went out to the Mount of Olives and Gethsemane. Probably they sang one of the Old Testament psalms.

Many people have already commented to me about the wonderful hymn singing which was such an important factor in making Glen's induction such a joyful occasion. We were enthralled by the power of singing worship engendered by the large contingent of priests who had come to support Glen. The impact of the vibrant deep sound warmed the hearts of the attending congregation. How our corporate worship that night must have also pleased God.

There are many scriptures encouraging us to sing. Take Philippians 4.4 'Rejoice in the Lord always', or 1 Thessalonians 5.16-17 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks.' Ephesians 5. 18b-20 says 'Be filled with the Spirit as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Many of our hymns are prayers and scriptures set to music.

Singing is one skill that we will be able to use in heaven where we all will be gifted great voices. I think of singing in worship as God's letting us experience 'heaven on earth', now. God delights in our heartfelt musical worship and heaps resulting blessings on us. What joy it is to even the most unmusical singer to be able to 'lift' their voices in praise! What a ministry for able singers to be able to support everyone to experience the joy of praising God together! Singing has many benefits for all, as we learn scripture texts to music, such as the development of our intellectual understand of God, the deepening of emotions in loving and worshipping God and the strengthening of our memorising of scripture to encourage us through the challenges of daily life. There are also the positive health benefits of correct deep breathing to heal our bodies.

So I will end with a call to all St Aidan's worshippers to take up the responsibility of developing our individual singing talents. Make this Christmas one to remember. Take up the offer of our expert music director to teach us how to master singing techniques in choral experiences such as the 9 Lessons and Carols. Face up to the challenge of offering to our Remuera community the powerful witness of a congregation confident in the singing of God's praise. Discover, or rediscover, the joy of singing God's praise as an empowering part of your own worship.

- Antoinette Pope

ADVENT CALENDAR

Each year, during the season of Advent, our family has a calendar to work through which comprises of 24 'bags of fun'. Most of the bags contain a small task, sometimes accompanied by a little treat (which to the kids really is the whole joy of the Advent bags - we're working on a greater realisation of the joy of Christmas). Sometimes it is an activity for the family to complete such as going to see the Franklin Rd Christmas lights or having a family Christmas movie and sleepover. Occasionally, I put in a service orientated task such as walking to the playground and picking up the rubbish on the way; these tasks are not well received by our small children.

This year as I put the calendar together I came across the 'pick up rubbish' task that I had written from last year. This task had been thoughtfully annotated by one of the small children with the word 'boring' - how delightfully descriptive children can be at times - and no doubt when they get that task again this year it will be accompanied by the requisite groan.

Still, whatever the task, it is valuable family time for us and with Glen being busy during Advent and Christmas, it takes the focus off the 'day' of Christmas and instead reminds us that Christmas is for a season.

This is further reinforced each day as we also have the task of reading one Old Testament story from the Jesus Storybook Bible, establishing a rhythm of reading and talking together about the coming of Christ and how it was always, from the beginning, part of God's plan for Jesus to rescue us. Now, as we progress through this Advent season our children will probably find joy in the little treats, but as we prepare we hope they will also find joy in the promise of the coming of Christ.

- Sarah Ashworth



The Diary of a Winz Advocate

Most people don't choose to become beneficiaries. Why would anyone choose such a hard, stressful, uncertain way to live? Life, now and then, throws people of all sorts difficult times. As my kids say, 'Shit happens.'



I know how hard it is – my daughter became a beneficiary when she was 23. She was a university student, supported by her partner. They had an 11-month-old child when her partner died. She was determined to finish her degree so she applied for a widow's benefit – the same as the DPB back in 2012. She was also determined to play absolutely by the WINZ rules. (Of course, this was on top of dealing with the loss of her beloved man, and looking after their beautiful little baby on her own.)

She'd been on the benefit a week when I visited her and her eyes just filled with tears. How was she going to do this? She could afford to buy food – but not the healthy fresh fruit and vegetables, wholemeal bread and lean meat she wanted to give her child. So, unknowingly, unwittingly, her parents helped her commit benefit fraud – we gave her healthy food so she could give her child the good start in life that every child should have. We helped her buy clothes for her child, and sometimes herself.

We all discovered in August 2017, through events playing out in the media, that she should have declared our gifts of food and clothing and sometimes money so her benefit could be reduced.

Many times, I'd visit and find her with a letter from WINZ in her hand, either in tears or pulling her hair

out in frustration.

. . . But she made it. She now has a good job which she loves. At her final meeting with WINZ she asked for a Transition to Work Allowance. She had had part-time work which needed to be taken into account, so she'd taken a print-out of her most recent bank statement. This showed, alongside her wages, some reimbursements from her work. The case-worker insisted these reimbursements were wages and needed to be included as such.

My daughter, by now no longer vulnerable, was able to stand her ground and insist she was correct. But not before another person was called in for a second opinion!

Over the years, I worried that if my strong, stropky daughter could be brought so low by WINZ, what was it like for the people who weren't strong and stropky, who didn't have a family who knew her/his rights and was right there to support her/him?

I have learned that I was right to worry . . .

WINZ Office

At 9 AM the queue of people seeking help from an advocate stretches from the main entrance of the office down the outside of the building. Overnight it was 4°. It is a little warmer now. There is occasional rain from which there is no shelter because of the direction of the wind.

Inside it is warm. The first five people seeking emergency help have been let in and are being processed at the front desk. They are then sent into a seminar room where they wait their turn. Only five people, and their supporters, are allowed into the seminar room at one time. The rest must wait outside in the cold, although there is room inside for at least 20 more.

The first young man I work with is a delight. He is quiet, polite, and determined to raise himself out of poverty. His father has died two weeks ago and his estranged partner has sent his four children, aged six, five, and twins of three, to be with him as

support. He has them for another week before they go back to their mother. His siblings, aged 12 and 13, are now living with him. They had been living with their father.

The young man needs emergency food. He has just been evicted from his house – no reason given – he is up-to-date with rent and has looked after the property. He suspects his neighbours complained when his father's funeral procession drove past to pick him up. His father was a member of the Mongrel Mob. The young man had been a member also, and since he came out of prison last year, has tried to leave all that behind. He can think of no other reason for his eviction. He is given emergency food and signed onto social housing.

Another young man I sit alongside needs food, money for petrol and money for power. He is looking for a job driving a fork hoist. Last week he went into a yard and asked if they were looking for a fork hoist driver, and was told they were. About a minute into the interview, the boss stopped and told him he couldn't employ him because he was missing a front tooth. That wouldn't look good in front of customers.

I sit with a man who looks quite elderly and who is pretty deaf. I discover he is six years younger than I am. He needs emergency food, money for petrol and electricity, and money to pay a bill for a long list of medicines. The medicines include two drugs which are not subsidised. One costs nearly \$150, the other \$70. The caseworker says they are too expensive and can't be paid for.

I suggest it is not a good idea to play around with medicines. She repeats that it is too expensive. She consults the office manager, and returns to make a phone call. I suggest she should call his doctor, but she laughs and says you'd never be able to get hold of a doctor. She will ring the MSD health team. She tells me they are well-trained. (But they have never met this man and do not know what this medication is for.) The health team is clearly wary of removing the expensive medicine. The caseworker calls the pharmacy and learns the man requires the medication. She is not to remove it from his list. Payment is agreed. The man turns to me and says, "Why are they like this when you are here? When you are not here they shout at me and argue with me." All I can do is shrug.

It is nearing lunchtime. There is still a long queue

outside. It is still bitterly cold. There are several children who have nothing to do. In the seminar room, it is warmer. There are seven or eight people. One of three children who have made it inside, has taken off all his clothes except his nappy and is dancing on the table. His mother is seeing a caseworker in the large office area outside the seminar room.

One of the women I assist asks about the impact days which have been run in the past. Would there be any more? I imagine there will be. The caseworker joined in the conversation. She tells us people started queueing at 3 AM each morning to ensure they would have an advocate to support them. She tells us people came in bus loads from as far away as Rotorua. She tells us hundreds, maybe thousands, of people were seen, but many missed out. She gets quite excited and animated as she tells us all this. The elephant sits quietly in the room.

I sat with a young woman who is already in emergency housing. A week ago, she arrived home in the evening with her sick son, who had just been discharged from hospital with bronchiolitis. Her belongings were sitting on the front doorstep; her mother was no longer willing to have her live there. With her daughter and sick son, she spent a very cold weekend in her car.

On Monday, she found emergency housing. Now she was needing emergency food. She talked with me about her young daughter who, she says, has such a loving heart. When they were living with her mother the daughter asked her to make some spaghetti bolognese to take to feed homeless people, which they did. The young woman told me how she reads to her children every night before they go to sleep. How she asks them questions to make sure they are listening. We talked about the kinds of things one can ask about a story to make it fun and to help extend imaginations. She is excited and feels it was no accident she met me today.

Several people have come needing money to buy a phone. A phone is essential if one is job-hunting. It is also essential if one is on the Housing New Zealand list. One of the caseworkers today is happy to grant \$149 for a phone. Another insists that \$39 is enough for a phone. I point out the difference between caseworkers, and the second one adds \$110 to the initial offer.

- Anonymous

Mission

The Clothing outlets had a very successful Garage Sale in September, with the winter clothes in the Mission Shop and the summer clothes and accessories on the stage. Mission shop volunteers worked tirelessly on Thursday and Friday to make the sale day run as smoothly as possible.

Our winter clothes have been packed away over summer. Some of the clothes went to two local Anglican churches for their Garage Sales and other clothes were sent to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children in Otahuhu. We owe Robyn Bridgman a huge thank you for organising the deliveries of those clothes.

Mission Shop

Our donations continue apace. We are very grateful to all who think of us first. On our quieter days we rely on our regulars, some of whom come in every week to see what's new! We are getting known on the "Op Shop Circuit".



We will close after the second week of December and open again on the Thursday after Waitangi Day next year.

- Jenny Haggitt
For the Mission Shop Team

We've made it!
Over 1000 articles!

Congratulations to all our wonderful knitters, sewers, tea-makers and donors!

Since our beginning in March last year we have made and donated 1246 articles to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Counties Manukau Community Midwives and the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa and other children's charities.

It has been a thrill each month to see the amazing amount of articles produced by our regular group of women who meet together, as well as our loyal group of "Outworkers" who support us at home with their time and expertise.



All our yarn has been donated by our knitters and supporters and we are most grateful to them for their generosity.

Our monthly meetings attract up to 20 knitters who share their experience and skills with each other amidst much chatter and laughter. Please join us if you are able at 10am on the 2nd Monday of each month (except January). We would love to have you with us.

Our knitting is always blessed by one of our Parish Clergy before it is distributed and we thank and praise God for the opportunity we have to support others in need in our community and beyond.

Currently we are knitting baby clothes especially in red, green and white for newborn babies at Christmas time.

We will celebrate Christmas ourselves on Mon 11 Dec at our final meeting for the year, with special Christmas fare. We do hope all our supporters will join us on this special occasion.

- Marie Taylor

Mainly Music at St Aidan's has been travelling the world in the form of one of our lovely au pairs. This year Mirianna from Germany was the au pair for Ashton and she wholeheartedly joined our Mainly Music sessions.

Unfortunately, as is always the case with au pairs, Mirianna had to leave us and her lovely host family and head back home to begin her tertiary studies. She is much missed, but since she has left we have heard from her host family that Mirianna is still 'practising' her Mainly Music moves in Germany and Ashton, has received video clips of Mirianna performing songs.

Mainly Music

Once such song, Jack in the Box, was recorded on the platform of a German train station as Mirianna waited for a train. What an image of how far the influence of Mainly Music has stretched!

Music, as we know, seems to cross cultural, social and even geographical boundaries and we are so blessed to be able to use music here at St Aidan's to reach families and to even cross oceans.

Next year marks 15 years since Mainly Music started at St Aidan's and while we do not always see its influence in such concrete form as with Mirianna and Ashton, we still know that God is using us here.



We thank God for this ministry; the provision of the many volunteers; and for the families that weekly come to sing, dance and hear about God through the wonderful medium of music.

- Sarah Ashworth

Give hope to
someone in need
this Christmas.

Donate now at:

BeSomeonesAngel.co.nz

Dear Santa Angels.
This Christmas, I wish
I didn't have to put my
boys to bed hungry.

World Rowing Under 23 Champion

I would like to thank everyone for helping me in my rowing career to date and recently for supporting me to compete for New Zealand at this year's World Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. We receive limited financial support from Rowing New Zealand so we are very reliant on wider contributions.

The Under 23 World Championships were a great success for our Quad boat crew - four scullers with no coxswain. We won our heat comfortably despite a crab (technical error) on our first stroke out of the start which put us a few boat lengths down within the first few 100 meters. We managed to claw our way back in the middle 1000m and pressed through to gain first place at the 2000m finish.

The conditions that day were perfect and without that mistake in the beginning, we would likely have broken the U23 World Record. We won our Semi-Final comfortably, from start to finish we led the pack and we went into the Final with the fastest time.

Our Final was a much different story compared to the Semi-Final. We had a slow start in the Final, and were just in contact with the leaders. Through the 1000m mark we were in 4th place. We obviously weren't in the ideal position at this stage, through the third 500m we made a move on the race leaders and managed to put ourselves into 2nd behind the Russians. Through the last 500m a few calls in the boat were put in, enabling us to nudge our bow in

front of the Russians and the Italian crew in 3rd. The rest is history, I can now proudly say I am now a World Champion.

"We made New Zealand history by being the first New Zealand Quad (either Junior, Under 23, or Elite) to get a Gold Medal at a World Championships". Through our performance our crew received a trial opportunity to compete at the Elite World Rowing Championships in Sarasota, USA. This made myself and a crew-mate to be one of the youngest ever to receive an elite trial. A big feat considering I was only a school boy rower last year and in the NZ Junior Team.

I did not accept the opportunity to trial as I committed instead to a four-year rowing scholarship at Northeastern University in Boston. I started at Northeastern in September and have been very fortunate in being selected for the Varsity One boat, now sweep rowing in an eight.

We recently competed in the annual Head of the Charles regatta in Boston. The biggest regatta in the world with 9000 competitors and 300,000 spectators. In the championship class we achieved a very respectable 4th place after California Berkeley, Yale, and Harvard Universities.

Again, thank you for all your support!
Oliver Maclean (Andrew Maclean's Son)



Glen's Great Ginger Shortbread

Leading up to the Garage Sale the inaugural St Aidan's Bake Off was run in order to rally us all to start baking for the Spring Fair. The fare was determined to be shortbread, a relatively simple recipe which one could be forgiven for thinking would allow for little variety.

However, Glen the Vicar had a secret recipe up his sleeve and was confident he would take the honours on the day. Three unbiased parishioners were chosen to judge between a total of six entrants. There was cookie cut shortbread, lemon, ginger and even one with a dash of lavender all vying for glory, but in the end a batch made following the Edmonds Cookbook was judged the best. Allegations of match fixing ensued, but this soon dissipated amongst frenzied sales for mostly the Vicar's contribution. All in all a great event and with over \$1300 worth of cake sales at the Garage Sale, surely an event to have again.

For what it's worth, Glen's Great Ginger Shortbread Recipe:

350g Butter
2 ½ c Flour
1 c Icing Sugar
1 ½ c Cornflour
½ tsp Salt
1 c finely chopped ginger, choc chips

- Melt butter until soft, but not runny. Sift in cornflour, salt, icing sugar, then cream. Add flour and mix.
- Knead for 3-5 minutes adding in more flour until no longer sticky.
- Flatten into rectangular shape on top of plastic wrapping or baking paper and spread finely chopped ginger, choc chips across.
- Roll into log shape, cover with plastic wrapping and place in fridge for 15 minutes.
- Cut log into even pieces and place on tray, cooking at 150°C fan bake for approximately 10-15 minutes or until golden brown on the bottom.

-Glen Ashworth

Shirley's Super Scone Recipe

I always made them for the church working bees. Some of the men sweetly said it was the reason they came!

Buttermilk Scones Recipe

- 60 grams butter(melted)
- 3 Cups Self Raising Flour
- 2 Teaspoon Baking Powder
- Salt
- 60/70 grams dates (chopped)
- 11/2 Cups buttermilk

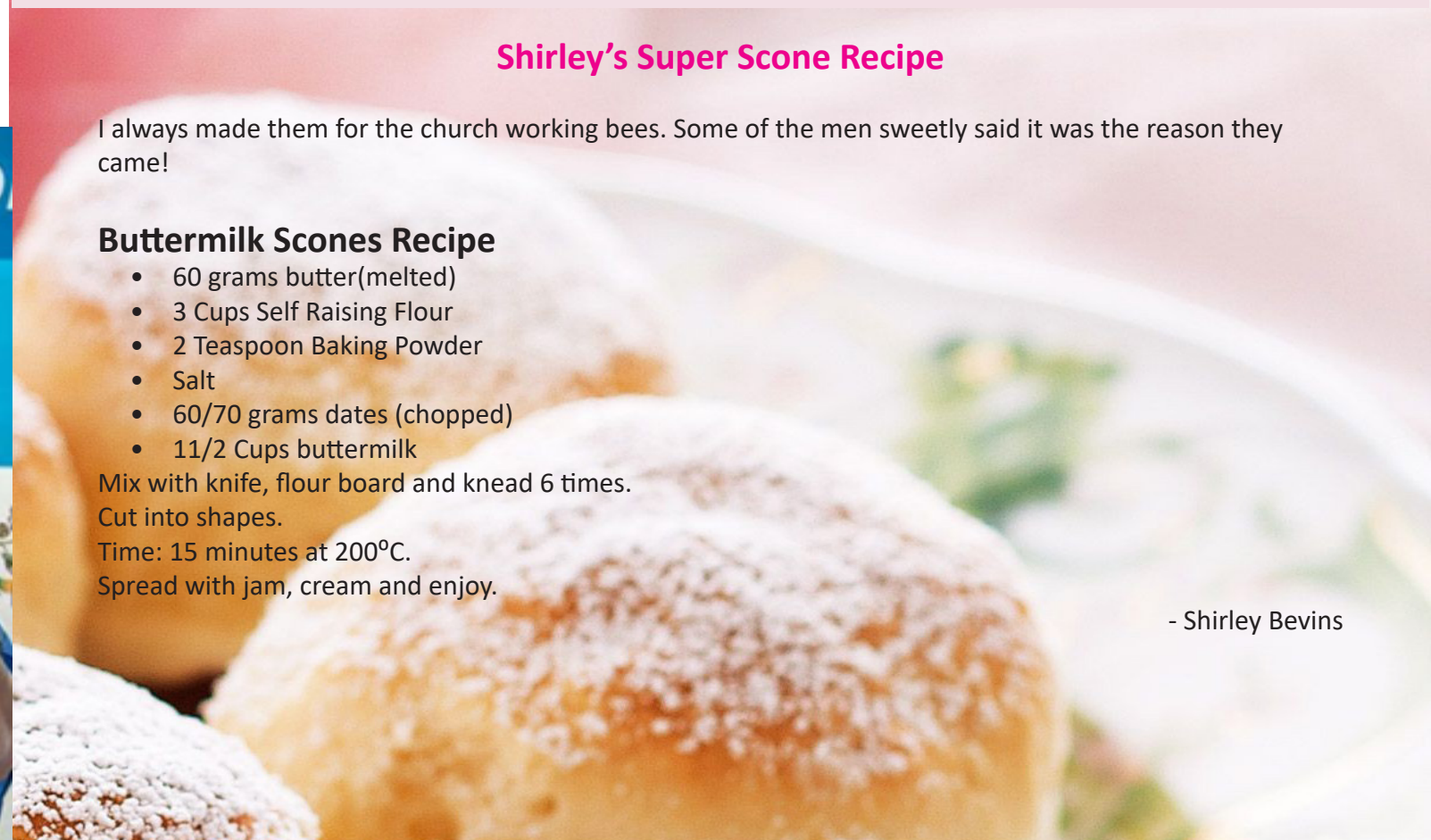
Mix with knife, flour board and knead 6 times.

Cut into shapes.

Time: 15 minutes at 200°C.

Spread with jam, cream and enjoy.

- Shirley Bevins



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Worship

Caring

Mission

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