

August 2017

ST AIDAN'S

Parish Magazine



Worship

Caring

Mission

Glen's Foreword

After some late nights and hard work, the much anticipated Parish Magazine print version is here. Firstly, thanks must go to all who have contributed articles and to Emily Paul in particular for compiling and producing a stunning magazine.

With requests for a print version of our regular parish magazine, it was decided that along with the digital version, we would begin with a print run of 150 copies, one of which you now hold. We agreed that a physical copy showcasing various events and articles of life here would deliver greater accessibility, and hopefully readership, for our parishioners and the wider community St Aidan's connects with.

We imagine this magazine 'doing the rounds' and hope that not only is it read further than just the copy numbers, but encourages us all in the call to be involved in the ongoing work of seeing the Kingdom come amongst and around us. As I read through the magazine, I see this work in our involvement and support of Habitat for Humanity as they constructed a house in the centre of Newmarket to help one needy

family into a home. I see the Kingdom in the work of ATWC as they support young families in need. We see it in the various care ministries that take place here; youth and young adults, kids, the women's & men's fellowships which strengthen and support relationships with God and build our community. I see it in the strong history of Sunday school in the parish. It is present in Mainly Music and the new Alpha series we will run, in providing opportunities to journey with each other and explore questions around God and faith.

As we look to the appointment of a new Vicar for the next season, the parish continues to have a strong desire to be a place where people can find community, encounter God and get involved in being part of God's work in the world. If you are not already involved and want to be part of what is happening here, get in touch with a parishioner or the staff team - we'd love to see you.

- The Rev Glen Ashworth
Priest in Charge

From our Priest Assistant

A tree and new beginnings! As I write from my office looking out towards Ascot Ave I have in front of me a tree that fills me with a sense of ambiguity. Some branches still have a few very scraggly leaves clinging on for the last vestiges of life as though they are terrified to ever let go. Nearer the top of the tree there are other branches beginning to bud with the promise of new life, new hope and new beginnings.

As you read this article the Parish will have begun a process to appoint a new Vicar – someone to lead you forward into the future. It is always an unsettling time as we grapple with the possibility of having to let go of some things in order to embrace new concepts. Like the leaves on the tree, some will want to cling on for dear life to the old ways of doing things, while others will see the potential for new life and new growth.

We don't live in an ideal world and our lives are

littered with situations where there are no clear or easy answers. Each day we're faced with a myriad of challenging decisions, some small and others large. Some decisions we'll get right, others wrong, and still others we won't know whether we were right or wrong for months or years to come. But we still need to make them.

I think I 'see' in this tree outside my window Jesus' promise that in ambiguous, challenging situations we have the promise that, in the end, God will sort things out. The only certainty we need to be reminded of then is that God loves us anyway and promises that, in the end, God will hold all of our choices and all of our lives together in love.

So over these next few weeks may we take careful and prayerful time to listen to God and to each other – to share our fears, hopes and dreams for the future and as we begin to see more physical signs of Spring emerging in nature may we hold each other in God's love as we seek God's will for this place.

- The Rev Pam Tizzard
Priest Assistant

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Newcomers



rewarding to see the very visible participation of many young parishioners taking part in Sunday services – from scripture readers to altar service.

The future looks in good hands!
If you have recently joined St. Aidan's and are still finding your footing or want to discover the many ways you can become involved, please get in touch with any of the Clergy or the Newcomers Team through the Parish Office.

"I'm new here or thinking of coming along..."
Welcome to St Aidan's! We are a busy and vibrant Anglican parish, active across many age groups, proud of our beautiful, historic church (1905) and adjoining Gathering Area, outward looking, rich in diverse talents and blessed in so many ways, but always seeking better to express the love of God for all people. We are situated in Remuera, just a few minutes walk from the Remuera Village, and enjoy good motorway access.

It has been a delight over the past few months to welcome a host of new people and families into our community of faith. Many of you have already become involved in the wider aspects of St Aidan's life – so thank you for this. It has been particularly

If you are thinking of coming along – we'd be delighted to see you. Just pop into any of our regular Services. You'll be warmly greeted by our Welcomers, shown around and offered assistance. Sunday Services always conclude with a cuppa in the Gathering Area. While it is our hope you may continue with your journey for a good long time we understand that for some people it may be part of a wider exploration. We're just glad to have you with us and to assist where we can.

To find out more please visit our website:
www.staidans.co.nz.

Blessings,
The Newcomers Team.

Appointment of a New Vicar

On Sunday 30 July we were delighted to receive a visit from the Associate Bishop, Jim White, who presided at our 9.30am Communion Service. Bishop Jim also agreed to manage a condensed version of the Future Directions process which always precedes the appointment of three parish nominators to represent us in the business of appointing a new Vicar for St Aidan's.

The Future Directions meeting was well-attended by parishioners, who actively engaged in the discussions over what we liked in the parish and what was in need of attention. Our answers were all pinned to the white board, and these will shortly be collated by the Diocesan staff to form the White Paper upon which our Parish Profile will be based. The Parish Profile is an important document which gives potential applicants an insight into how our parish operates, who does what, and how our finances stand.

Shortly, the Diocesan Office will call the first of a series of meetings aimed at setting the timetable for the process of advertising, receiving applications, interviewing, and making an appointment. Hopefully, as a major part of the work done last year is still current, we will be able to push the process along as speedily as possible, with a view to making a decision well before Christmas.

Nominations for the position of Parish Nominators closed 3 days before the meeting was held. In the end five parishioners allowed their names to go forward, and the resulting election appointed the following people to the Committee: **Lynne Trenwith, Juli Mercer, John Glenie**. All three of these people are well-known in the Parish, and have a great breadth of knowledge covering all aspects of Parish Life. Parishioners are asked to respect the confidential nature of the process of Vicar appointment and allow the nominators to get on with the process. Regular updates will be given at our weekly services.

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 Sunday of each month) 7:30pm Taizé Contemplative worship (2nd 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 - School aged youth (11 and over)	Sun at 9:30am service and Fri at 7pm. Contact Conor.
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 school	Wednesdays during term time at 9.30am. Music & play for families with pre-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.

New Alpha Series

The Alpha course, produced out of Holy Trinity Brompton in London, was first developed in the late 70's. It started as a course for church members regarding the basics of beliefs commonly held by many believers in Christ, but then began to be used as an introduction for those interested in the faith.

The main 'face' of Alpha throughout has been Nicky Gumbel, a Curate at HTB and under his leadership there has been a phenomenal spread of the course where today Alpha is run in 169 countries and 112 languages, with over 27 million people having taken the course. While constant in its general scope and sequence, the branding, look and feel of the course has gone through various subtle iterations. One of the main changes over the last few years is the addition of Bear Gryls into the marketing of Alpha. He remains in the print advertising as seen below. Alpha is marketed as an, "opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment" and caters for a wide variety of attendees.

The basic format of Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that include video, discussion and food, the videos of which have been entirely redeveloped. The same topics are covered, 'Who is Jesus?', "Why did he die?" and 'How do I pray?' but we follow Toby (Curate at HTB) and Gemma (UK TV presenter) as they go around the world in search of answers to these questions. Nicky Gumbel still features along with a range of biblical scholars, scientists and others and the series is informative, intellectual and stimulating. There are 10 sessions in total and a typical session with a video, a meal and discussion time runs for about an hour and a half.

This new Alpha series will be running at St Aidan's from Sunday 10th September, following the 9:30am service. Whether you are a seasoned veteran, new to Christianity or just want to discuss some curly questions, Alpha is a friendly, open and informal opportunity to explore life, faith and God. All resources and food provided. Koha accepted. Get in touch with Glen if you would like to either attend or help out.

You can check out the Alpha promo video here <https://vimeo.com/205804728> or just Google 'Alpha Film Series Promotional Video'.



Begin your greatest adventure

Free Alpha Course
From Sunday 10 September at 11:30am
At St Aidan's Church, Remuera.
Lunch provided.

Contact
Glen Ashworth at pic@staidans.co.nz

Alpha

Caring

In the not so distant past there were great men's events at St Aidan's, where manly voices could be heard booming proudly and good times were had by all. The women of the parish have continued to meet all this time and the men have not. It was decided that this cannot be, so a manly gathering was held to rectify this state of affairs. The ideas flowed, the joy swelled and so the rebirth of manly get-togethers began...

We have now fallen into a regular meeting at a local café for breakfast once a month. This is an informal, get to know each other and catch up event that has been very enjoyable. This takes place on the last Thursday of the month and orders are collected by Glen via email or text the week leading up to Thursday.

Next month we will be launching the breakfast's brother event of a pint after work, also once a month. This is a chance for those who can't make the early mornings to get together as well. Suggestions for the pub of your choice are warmly received and details will come out soon – email or text Glen to note your interest, details on the back of this Magazine.



We also continue to look for other 'one-off' events to either host or take part in so if you have any suggestions for that – could be an event that is coming up or an idea such as a special interest night, speakers, etc, we would love to hear from you. We have a particular interest in things relating to Christian faith but any and all topics and events which men enjoy, we are keen to hear about.

Finally, we will be planning a fishing trip towards the end of the year. These are traditionally very popular so get in touch if you are keen to join us for a day of fishing.

- Glen Ashworth

Men's Ministry

those who like some sustenance early on in the day. Our group has grown a little but numbers stay the same when some of our members leave us for warmer places in the winter. It is good to have one of our members back after a successful knee replacement.

Those who come just for the 11.30 communion service often stay on for a cuppa afterwards and catch up with the parish news. New faces are always welcome. Baker's Delight's donations continue to be very much appreciated.

Friendship Group



Mid year has come and gone and we are enjoying the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the Gathering Area on these recent cold and wet Wednesday mornings. A cup of soup is always available to

- Jenny Haggitt
For the Wednesday Friendship Group

Women's Evening Fellowship is for women from St Aidan's and the wider community who meet once a month to enjoy Christian Fellowship and Friendship.

The year has started well and we have had some enjoyable evenings.

March saw us having fun with Donna Trott instructing us how to Focus on Fitness, and on another evening, we had a very interesting talk by Glen on "How a Baptist boy with a misspent youth transitioned, via teaching, to an Anglican Priest".

In July, we had the theme – Come and Celebrate Mid-Winter – with some ideas for Christmas; Jenny Haggitt inspired us with a lovely table decoration demonstration. Some of the special stories, Christmas decorations and recipes which were shared made the evening seem like an enjoyable start to preparing for Christmas. The evening ended with Christmas fare

Women's Evening Fellowship

to taste with a glass of warm punch. The second half of the year starts with our meeting on Tuesday 15 August. Emily Paul will demonstrate how to make a really special curry. This will be an informative and fun night, culminating in tasting the curry we have seen in the making.

On Tuesday 19 September, we have invited Allyson Gofton to speak. Allyson has just arrived home from nine months in France.

Planning is underway for our October and November meetings on the third Tuesdays of the month.

We look forward to welcoming the women of the Parish and friends who like to join us for these evenings.

- Leanne Allport, Alison Ross, Jan Evans

The Association of Anglican Women Fellowship Group at St Aidan's is being well attended on the first Tuesday of the month commencing with our church service, enjoying listening to a speaker and concluding with fellowship, supporting the trading table and afternoon tea. The speakers so far this year have included Bishop Peter Atkins, Pam Tizzard, Heather McRae Principal of Diocesan School for Girls, Storm Deuss from Sibuns and Hilary Reid an historian.

Our future speakers will be Chris Farrelly from the Auckland City Mission and Louse Allnutt from Foster Hope. The AGM is held in November with a Christmas party to conclude the year. Many of us also attend the Auckland Diocese AAW Annual Luncheon which is to be held on Saturday

11 November 2017 at Selwyn Village.

Anzac Day was commemorated by AAW with a basket of flowers being placed at the Memorial Cross after the church service.

Our members continue to be hugely supportive of various organisations including Anglican Trust for Women and Children whose programmes support many families throughout the Auckland area. Recently a few of us attended the ATWC Supporter's

Day at Otahuhu at which Judy Matai'a CEO introduced us to the management team and we heard about some of the amazing programmes they facilitate throughout the Auckland area.

- Christine Kennedy

AAW Fellowship



It was a pleasure to hear Diana Langdon of Strandz (the children and families ministry of the Anglican Dioceses of NZ) speak recently at the Scripture Union conference. She spoke about children's ministry and used Reggie Joiner's book, 'Think Orange', to outline seven important aspects of children's ministry.

1. Kids' Matter

Kids matter more than adults. It took me a while to digest that; it doesn't mean we affirm what all children inherently believe, that they are in fact superior beings to adults, instead it means that we put time/energy/resources and finances into bringing children to Christ. Research now suggests that most people who become Christians are making that decision before the age of 12. Kids' ministry then is vital to the making and growing of Christians; and so how does our church show that kids matter?

2. A Strategy Matters

Reggie Joiner thinks that a strategy matters more than a mission statement in a church and it is this strategy which determines success. Strategy involves having a plan in action with the end result in mind; and so as a church are we characterised by strategic steps or is it random and lacking in a deliberate approach?

3. The Church Matters

Does it matter that our church exists and would people notice if it was not there anymore? The physicality of the church matters; the physical and emotional environment it engenders matters; how can we improve our church environment so that children are welcome when they walk in the door?

4. Every Family Matters

Children spend much more time with their families than they do at church and so this time factor makes the family the primary influence in the life of a child. As a church then, how do we support families and show them that we truly believe in the work they do? I loved the following lines to clarify the importance of family: "Every parent matters because they matter to God; every parent matters because they matter

to their kids; every parent matters because their kid matters to them".

5. The Truth Matters

Kids are looking for authentic people to learn from. Therefore we have to take the time to build relationship with children, so that they will learn well from us. Kids simply learn better from people they have good and authentic relationships with.

6. Doing Good Matters

Every child has the divine capacity to believe, imagine, love, care, relate, trust, reason, improve and lead. People were made to do good because God is good and so we must give opportunities for our children to 'do good' by being significantly and meaningfully involved in our church.

7. This Week Matters

Every week matters in the context of a child's life. Diana Langdon uses the visual image of a jar filled with 936 jaffas to represent the number of weeks in a child's life from 0-18; it looks like a lot at the start, but steadily depletes until there are only 52 left in the final year of a child's life before they 'graduate' into independence and often leave home. By the time a child is 17 or 18, it is the days/weeks and preceding years that will have impacted upon the way they choose to live their lives in the future; every week then truly does matter.

I think the above insights are not only pertinent to how we approach kids' ministry, but also to the wellbeing of our whole church. How can we use our church building to be a light in our community? How can we build meaningful relationships with each other?

For me, my take home from the conference was that every moment matters and I am challenged every week to show up and show our beautiful tamariki that they matter to me because they matter to God and they matter to St Aidan's because they matter to God.

- Sarah Ashworth

Kids' Church



Youth & Young Adults

Young Adults

The Young Adults at St Aidan's have started a home group this term and have been meeting fortnightly on Tuesdays to dive deeper in our relationship with God as well as our relationships with each other. We also attend the Grace Collective which is a collective of young people across the Anglican Diocese who talk about our faith and the context of being a young follower of Christ in 2017. The next gathering one is called The Ballot + The Bible and is discussing, 'Does Religion belong in Politics'.

Youth Group

Over the term we have been looking at the Holy Spirit and what role He plays in our lives.

The youth have also been wrestling with what it means to be filled with the Spirit and how that affects the decisions we make.



What's happening with young people at St Aidan's

Friday Night Express

Friday Night Express is our Friday Night programme. This programme is focused on building our community of young people at St Aidan's through fun activities like bowling or games. It begins at 7:00PM.

Fuel

Fuel is our programme on a Sunday morning where we learn and apply biblical teachings to our lives. Last term we looked at the Holy Spirit and his role. It begins at 9:30AM.

Grace Collective

The Grace Collective is about young adult life and faith. Events are held every couple of months at Selwyn Library, Parnell - see our blog, gracecollective.co.nz for more information about upcoming events. Facilitated by AYM (Anglican Youth Ministries) in the Diocese of Auckland.

Winter Camps/ E-Fest

This year the youth group have been a part of some amazing camps in the school holidays - E-Fest our camp over the Easter breaks and winter camps, our camps between Term 2 and 3.

For information you can contact Conor McGrath who is the Youth Pastor/Young Adults at St Aidan's.



St Aidan's ANNUAL
GARAGE SALE
 SAT 9 SEPT - Starts 8am
 5 Ascot Ave Remuera
www.staidans.co.nz
& Spring Fair

SAVE THE DATE - AND - SAVE YOUR STUFF
WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Donate. We need lots and lots of good quality, saleable items of all kinds... *plus* this year our 'high value' merchandise will be located in the Gathering Area which is the venue for the Friday Preview Sale (see below). So if you have something special you would like to donate, please be assured that these goods will be properly priced, well displayed and not undersold. Ideal donations include furniture, whitewear, antiques, artworks, jewellery, the interesting, unique or simply anything of value. We may auction some items.

Volunteer. Over 100 volunteers help with our biggest fundraiser of the year. We have rosters to fill and some unique tasks requiring special talents. Sign up on the noticeboard in the GA or contact Karina.

Shop. At two stunning events. Enjoy free hospitality and be in first to buy at the Friday Preview Sale (located in GA) and bag a bargain at the Saturday Garage Sale.

Evangelise. Spread the word. Take to social media. Put a sign on your fence. Facebook your friends. This is one event you won't want to miss.

Other ways to contribute. Baked goods for morning teas, helper refreshments and for sale on the day. Homemade jams and preserves of all kinds gratefully received. Financial contributions welcome to defray expenses if you don't have spare stuff or the time to volunteer - drop in to Emily at the Office. All donations will be receipted.

**FOR LARGE ITEM PICK-UP
 AND ANY QUESTIONS:**
 Contact Garage Sale Coordinator:
 Karina 027 345 2259
 email: couragedg@mail.com

DROP OFF DAYS: Check noticeboard in GA or phone Emily at Office 929-4670 Ext 1.

JOIN IN THE FUN & GRAB A BARGAIN: Cakes & Preserves • Books & Media • Household Items • Sausage Sizzle • Sporting Goods • Furniture • Toys & Kids Stuff • Raffles • High Class Junk • Plants • Clothing & Shoes • Electrical & Appliances • Jewellery & Bling • Antiques & Art

..... **PLEASE NO BROKEN, INCOMPLETE OR SOILED ITEMS**

YOU'RE INVITED...
 REFRESHMENTS & NIBBLES
 LIVE MUSIC
 ENTRY BY KOHA

FRIDAY PREVIEW SALE
 for Parishioners, their families and friends of St Aidan's.
6 - 7.30pm, Friday 8th September 2017
Your opportunity to preview quality goods & high value items in the GA and get in first to make your purchases.

EFTPOS AVAILABLE

This fundraiser supports our church projects, outreach missions and the maintenance of our facilities for community use.

ODE TO SPRING CLEANING

*A Christian gathering of a different hue,
 A Cleaning bee was long overdue.
 The day did dawn,
 with many a yawn.
 The clock struck nine,
 and the weather was fine.*

*The flock filed in, in threes and twos,
 Everyone donned their working shoes.*

*Feather dusters and garden spades,
 Cloths and chemicals all neatly laid,
 Gail had lists of "what to do,"
 so that the Church would look brand new.*

*Robyn's cut finger started to bleed,
 of First Aid she was acutely in need.
 Terrie, a plaster, quickly found,
 and Robyn's finger was safely bound.*

*Brushing and sweeping and wiping and raking,
 it was a serious undertaking!*

*A labour of love began to unfold.
 Together they worked, both young and old,
 The spiders and webs were dismissed during Lent,
 To other destinations dutifully sent.*

*Tea-time was a welcome break
 Shirley's baking and loads of cake
 Sue, in the garden, did her bit
 While Ollie did patiently sit.*

*After all was said and done
 amidst the work there was some fun.
 St Aidan's team excelled again,
 Love's labour was not in vain!!*

- Sheryl Swanevelder.

ST AIDAN'S DAY

On Sunday, 27th August we will celebrate the ministry of St. Aidan – our patron Saint.

Traditionally this is a day when parishioners from all services join together for some fun and fellowship over a shared lunch. Please mark the date on your calendar and join us in the main hall after the 9.30am service. If you are able, a plate of finger food to share would be much appreciated.



A Re-introduction to the St Aidan's Church Library

I am sure you will be aware of the library in a corner of the Gathering Area. This impressive collection was started and built up over many years by former parishioner, Margaret Pickmere. It is well worth a second glance, or better still a small browse, to appreciate the range of reading it provides: Bible study, Christian theology and practice, prayer, church history in NZ and throughout the world, faith and testimony, marriage and family, a wide range of biographies, even novels with biblical or religious themes. Whether you are looking for serious study or entertaining reading, there is sure to be something of interest.



There is also a collection of DVDs, some with religious and study themes, some just for enjoyable viewing, which are available during morning tea each Sunday. A small children's library on the other side of the room has a selection of books for younger readers.

The adult books are arranged in subject order. A list outlining this is on the wall and a catalogue folder contains lists of all the books by author and by title and DVDs by title. There is no catalogue list for the children's books. Borrowing is by an honesty system: fill in the card in the back of the book or inside the DVD case with your

name (legibly, please), phone number, and date of borrowing and leave the card in the box provided. Return the book or DVD to the Returns Basket within four weeks – and look for another.

Care and organisation of the library is, of course, by volunteers and is being overseen by Anne Mercer. All three sections have been re-organised during the past year and new items are now being added. Suggestions of titles for the library are always welcome as are donations of books for consideration. If you could help, during morning tea time on Sundays, with oversight of browsing and borrowing, Anne would love to hear from you. Most importantly, the St Aidan's library is open for business. Please do avail yourselves of what it offers.

The St Aidan's Sunday School 60 Years Ago

Recollections – Jill Bignell & John Glenie

Sunday School has always been an integral part of the life of St Aidan's. In this short article, Jill and John Glenie recall how, during their childhood, the children were catered for, and where the church stood in the community. Hopefully readers might remember their own experiences, firstly in the Kindergarten, next in the Sunday School itself, and finally with the Young Anglicans. Without doubt, the strength of our present congregation comes from the grounding many of us had as Sunday School attendees. We hope, with the active and ongoing work of the current dedicated team and the support of the church community, the nucleus of future parishioners will continue to grow out of the Sunday School program offered here at St Aidan's.

The Kindergarten

Jill and I first became involved with St Aidan's as small children. There was a little kindergarten operating from a World War II hut sited below the old brick hall, formerly on the site of our present day Ascot Ave carpark. The building was a large single room, with an outside toilet sited somewhere behind the building. The pre-school children would be dropped off by the Old Hall, where they were looked after by a succession of teachers who did an amazing job



of readying the children for the move up to the Big Sunday School next door.

The kindergarten itself was nicely decorated with plenty of windows, curtains, and lots of teaching material. As a qualified teacher, Jill assisted in the kindergarten for many years, working initially under Miss Boyd, a retired kindergarten teacher. Miss Boyd's weekday kindergarten had been in the Congregational Hall, at the top of Ingram Rd. After Miss Boyd retired, Jill ran the kindergarten with the help of other parents and teachers.

Students usually sat on the floor or on long benches listening to bible stories, singing children's hymns, and banging the drums, castanets and tambourines. As attendees we watched dutifully the material stuck to the FLANNELGRAPH BOARD, at the front of the room. Teachers used the Flannelgraph to illustrate the bible stories they told, and the various shapes and figures stuck to the surface held the children's attention most of the time. This process is still available for Sunday School teaching.

Everybody who attended the kindergarten would remember the hymns we learned. The words still ring in our minds! Simple hymns that told a clear bible story in plain English: Jesus loves me, this I know:

All things bright and beautiful.

It was the custom for all schoolchildren to attend Sunday School, and St Aidan's therefore had a large catchment from which to draw their kids.

The Main Sunday School

This was definitely a step up from the kindergarten next door. As small children emerging from the cosy environment generated in the kindergarten, the hall seemed huge. It had a big stage at one end, and curtains to divide up the hall space into classrooms. Bordering the Main Entrance doors (which were usually closed) were a couple of offices. Not only were these rooms pressed into service as classrooms,

but also it was necessary to hold classes in the centre of the hall, between the curtained off side rooms (see photo) to accommodate all the children. Literally hundreds attended the classes every Sunday.

At the time, Jill and I lived in Hiriri Ave, well down Victoria Ave. We would walk up Victoria Ave every Sunday to attend Sunday School, gathering up other kids as we went. By the time we arrived, there was quite a large group of us, all keen to get into the hall, and start the day's teachings. There was no question of not attending, it was just part of what one did as a child, and we enjoyed the experience. The man in charge of the Sunday School for many years was a Mr Barnes. He was a bit of a "hellfire and brimstone" man, but good discipline was very necessary to keep the Sunday School going. Mrs Barnes also came each week and took a class. Hymns with hand actions were favoured in the Sunday School, and many will remember the song:

*"The wise man built his house upon a rock,
The wise man built his house upon a rock,
The wise man built his house upon a rock, and the
rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
But the house on the rock stood firm!"*

All the students were required to learn hand movements to support the song, and to this day we both remember these hand movements! We also learned by heart the Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments, and various other prayers. The Parables were taught extensively in both of the kindergartens. We were being prepared for Confirmation!

Other periodic attractions attached to the Sunday School included an annual concert, held of

course in the Hall. All classes produced an item or two. Initially, one concert was held, but in a very short time the demand from the families for tickets became so great that two concerts had to be held. There were all sorts of items: singing, dancing, recitations and plays. Our mother Gwen was an expert at finding and adapting short skits for the concerts. Jill used to appear in plays based on the Enid Blyton novels, which all girls read avidly. One was entitled "Mr Sticky Beak". John can remember appearing in a play about a workman who lived in an "ole in the road". This was an English skit about a workman who lived permanently in a hole dug in the road somewhere in the West End of London. A toff stopped at the hole, conversed with its occupant, and the resulting dialogue became the play. The plot revolved around the fact that the hole had been about for years. The main point was that the 'ole moved quietly along West End main roads and rested for a while in the middle of all the famous West End places and squares like Piccadilly Square and Marble Arch, creating traffic chaos. Gwen re-wrote the play to encompass similar Auckland landmarks, and the result was a huge success.

Once a year, the Sunday School would hold a picnic. We remember going several times to Dingle Dell in the St Helier's Bay area. This seemed to be around a day's march from Remuera, even though we all went by car. So remote! Sometimes, we travelled into Newmarket with our parents, caught the train, and



held a picnic at Redwood Park, Swanson. It was a huge operation to get everybody there, but the picnic was always a success. Imagine doing that today with several hundred kids!

Around Easter we had a major event – The Annual Harvest Festival, when everybody brought produce from their gardens into the Church. The colourful vegetables and fruits were piled up in front of the old choir stalls, below the pulpit, and across the Chancel. We sang "We plough the fields and scatter, the good seed on the land": we listened (with varying degrees of concentration) to a stirring sermon about helping others as well as ourselves, and the church was packed to overflowing! The final event of the year was the Annual Prize-giving. Every class received prizes for "Ability and Attendance". We are sure many of us will still have these prizes on our bookshelves somewhere, gathering dust.

It was the popularity of going regularly to Sunday School and participating in the various activities which led to the need for a larger hall being built. By the early 1960's the old hall could no longer cope with the numbers, and a committee of elders was formed to raise funds for the big new hall we presently use so well.



Young Anglicans

Confirmed children were able to advance to the YA group, which also was very active at St Aidan's. Jill and I were both only involved in this group in a minor way, mostly because of our growing sporting commitments. However, this group was instrumental in filling the gap between Sunday School and full membership of the church congregation. We do however remember the Bunfights which took place after each meeting in the hall. Luckily for us all, the food was eaten, not thrown! For the two of us, our own involvement in Sunday School for a major part of our young lives was more than sufficient to ensure we kept in contact with our Spiritual Home.

Finally, we realise looking back is unlikely to have much effect on future trends in Church attendance. The world has changed, and continues to change at an alarming rate. There is huge pressure on our young people to participate in a variety of activities in their spare time, and Church in a lot of ways competes with those other activities.

However, children who go through the Sunday School from early years will be far more likely to continue involvement in the Church. As grandparents is it not our responsibility to do what we can to encourage that early participation?

Anglican Trust for Women and Children

Auckland in the 1850's was a very different city to the one we live in today. It was a hard-drinking rough-spoken pioneer society. There were many children then described as street urchins, who seemed to be unwanted and neglected. In 1858 a cottage home in Grafton Road was established by the Anglican Church for such children. Soon there were more children than the cottage could hold and Bishop Selwyn arranged that the orphans' home, as it was known, should move to Parnell to a much larger timber building located on General Trust Board land.

In 1860 Dr. Thomas Kenderdine and Archdeacon John Lloyd, Vicar of St. Paul's met at the bedside of a widow who was dying of consumption and naturally she was concerned as to what would happen to her children. Archdeacon Lloyd and Dr. Kenderdine, using their own money rented a cottage and installed a woman to look after the three orphaned children. After the owner wanted the cottage back there was a need for a properly constituted orphanage.

Then in 1884 a new strand was introduced – Mrs. Cowie, wife of Bishop Cowie, concerned at the plight of young women in this rough city, established a Women's Home, described as "A home for women who had gone astray and desire to return to a virtuous life." Mrs. Kinder, Mrs. McCosh Clark, and Mrs. Kenderdine supported her in this venture.

This was the beginning of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, which has moved its social work away from residential care of children separated from their families to a preventative intervention, supporting families with young children. On site now, the old St Mary's was revamped into the St Mary's

Family Centre. Thus we now have the St Mary's Preschool, residential units for mothers and their babies, intensive parenting classes introduced, most of the old cottage (family) homes sold and Maori and Pacific Island social work units established.

And so to the work in which some of us are now engaged – the only remaining residential service – Granger Grove Parenting and Therapeutic Programme; Family Start in Avondale, Panmure and Otahuhu; Social Workers in Schools both primary and secondary; Child Psychotherapy, E.C.E. St Mary's Preschool; Multi-lingual Parenting programmes; counselling; addressing Domestic Violence, and the initial stages of an Attachment Service. This is a well respected, well trained professional service able to assist many more children and families in the community. The Trust has an outstanding group of directors who work so faithfully on behalf of some of our fellow citizens.

In our St Aidan's parish, many of us cook and serve dinner several times a year for the women in Granger Grove. Through our Mission Shop a full car load of clothing is delivered each month to the Trust for sale in their own shop (sold at a minimal rate). We have recently heard of the need for pyjamas and polar fleeces for vulnerable children and a large number of these have been so willingly provided. This area of work in the Trust receives NO Government funding. So the support from the people in the parishes is greatly valued. Can our parish do more?

- Robyn Bridgman



Golden Group

St Aidan's Golden Group is a group of our more senior parishioners who in years past have been a vital part of our congregation. We include a number of individuals, many with their spouse who have attained 90 years of age and who are still active Sunday by Sunday; others in senior years have moved away and find communion on a Sunday more difficult.

Parishioners will invite them to come and will drive them to our Patronal Festival and lunch. Later, they will be invited to a service at Christmas and at Easter. this acknowledges the important role they play in the life and worship of or church.

If you know of anyone who should be included in this Golden Group that we may have omitted please tell Emily our Parish administrator.

GARDEN BOYS™

Little brother Will *Landscape Designer*
School Prefect, Rugby star, Rower, Parish Verger and all that goody-goody stuff.

Big brother George *A bit of a character.*

Read the story: tonyvidler.com/be-like-george-share-your-story/

Grandad was so right.

It was inevitable that we teamed up. Not because we're brothers and best friends or share common values, (we're unashamedly old school), but because we have complimentary skills and ambitions to be really good at what we do.

Put simply, we're driven by an authentic love of nature, the opportunity to express our creativity and the spirit of freedom to stand on our own two feet. And because we're young and untainted by bad habits we can build a great business creating beautiful landscapes and nurturing fine gardens in the 'traditional' sense of how we know garden maintenance to be. It's how we grew up; NOT something we learned in a classroom.

You see, Grandad was a Master Mariner. He could quite easily have been a Master Gardener. There was no room for sloppiness, slacking or 'she'll be'. That really prickled him. He was a perfectionist where doing things properly was all that mattered. So we served a pretty good apprenticeship.

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Mission



Mainly Music

The church social lounge was transformed recently as we celebrated Mothers' Day with our Mainly Music families. It was not exclusive to mothers, but instead was for those who bring their little people along to mainly music, including nannies, aunties, au pairs and grandmothers. It felt like a special time as we had extra helpers to watch the children while our mums and carers were able to indulge in some lovely morning tea and



actually sit down with their hot drink. It was a pleasure to acknowledge our mums and carers in this way, even if only for a short time, and many thanks go to Rosemary Atkins and her superb band of volunteers who continue to give so generously of their time. It really is such joy to meet with these lovely Mainly Music families every week and I pray that we will see God at work as we continue in this wonderful ministry.

- Sarah Ashworth

Pins & Needles

Congratulations to all our wonderful, enthusiastic and skilled knitters! We are so thrilled to have been able to distribute over 700 baby garments and patchwork squares to those in need in the short time.

Our work has been blessed in our parish before it is distributed to the Anglican Trust for Women and children, Counties Manukau midwives, the Fistula hospital in Addis Ababa and others. All these organisations are so grateful for our efforts and have sent us letters of thanks such as "We can't afford to buy knitted clothing and blankets. Receiving the knitting has meant the world

for me and my children. The knitting is so colorful and beautiful."

As well as the enthusiasts who regularly join us on the second Monday at 10am, we also have many members who are knitting in their homes during the cold winter months. The beautiful garments they produce are a delight to see. We are amazed at their skills and attention to detail and thank them sincerely. If you would like to rekindle your skills and join us in our mission to keep our young children warm and well, please contact us for ideas, patterns, yarn and needles - we would love to have you with us. Many thanks to you all.

- Marie Taylor



We recently had a chance to meet our Missionary family who we will be supporting for the next few years. Their funds from St Aidan's will come from the Mission Shop proceeds, and we will no doubt have regular updates from them as to their progress.

We have had our usual random busy days and quiet days since Easter, but so far we are ahead of our target. There are a few items that come into the shop that are hard to sell or slow to sell, but there are always other organisations to whom we can pass things on. For instance, material scraps and damaged clothes can go to the Quilt-Stitch group who teach

quilting to the women prisoners at Auckland Region Women's Correctional Facility, Wiri. The prisoners also produce Angel Quilts for new-born babies at Middlemore Hospital.

Foster Hope were able to use some small fluffy toys which had been on our shelves for a while.

We also gathered some summer clothes to be sent to Papua New Guinea after the earthquakes they experienced in the summer.



Donations continue to arrive at a steady pace, thanks to all who think of our Mission Shop first! A quote (from the Internet, where else?) "Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer".

- Jenny Haggitt
For the Mission Shop Team

Mission Shop

Our Mission Family

St Aidan's has agreed to sponsor, through CMS, a family heading off to work as missionaries on the Indian subcontinent. For security reasons, because we will be uploading this Magazine onto the website, we will not be referring to the family by name in the magazine, nor talking about the particular location of their work. They will simply be 'Our Mission Family'. However, updates and photographs of their adventures will be posted on the noticeboard in the gathering area.

It was a delight to have our Mission Family with us in the parish for a week in June. During this time they shared their stories and talked about their dream of making a difference to the lives of people less fortunate than themselves. They told us about the work they hope to be doing once they have become more familiar with the place.

They left New Zealand on July 21st and will spend the first year immersed in the language and culture of the people they will eventually be working alongside. Their two primary school-aged children will be attending the local International School, and all of them will be getting used to a big change in temperature!

Please pray for Our Mission Family as they take a huge leap of faith, setting off to do God's work amongst people whose lives we would find it impossible to imagine. Pip Colgan is our liaison with the family and is happy to talk about what they are up to. If you wish to consider donating to their mission, either a one-off contribution or on-going support, again, talk to Pip.

Wiri Visits

Notes from leaders - St Aidan's Prison Visiting Team

I will miss the Wiri visits with Barbara and Pip as I am leaving Auckland for Wellington. We have experienced some amazing things there both in our own spiritual lives and in the lives of the women we have met. I do feel the Lord is within the walls of the prison working wonders in the hearts and the lives of the prisoners and the guards. Each visit, although planned with prayers and a "talk", may turn out to be either well attended with great participation by the women, very disruptive with women coming and going from the room, spirit filled with great singing and questions, or a lock down so a quick 10 minutes to pray and be of good cheer. Best wishes to the St Aidan's Prison visiting team.

- Charlotte Diggle

Going to Wiri is a journey, with many twists and turns. Although you have a "captive audience," you have to be accommodating regarding their behaviour and how this impacts the Message (always a set topic) you are delivering. I am comfortable with this and you just have to be flexible. The women love true life testimonies and these always have a powerful impact over and above the biblical content. The Chaplaincy lays great store on our visits and we get "top priority" as mentioned by one of the guards in Management, as often we are the only contact with the outside world for these prisoners.

It is also a journey where even the teacher learns. "Humility" is a great teacher! When you leave you hope you have conveyed the love of Christ, His forgiveness and the hope which only Jesus can offer.

- Sheryl Swanevelder

How difficult do you think it would be to turn your life around when you have made some really bad choices along the way? On a scale of 1 – 10 points, where 1 is easy and 10 is as difficult as it gets, then my guess is that it would be somewhere in the region of 7 – 9 points. And the chances of your succeeding will depend on how much love and support and encouragement you are given in your efforts to make the necessary changes. Amazing then to hear that Jesus walks alongside you on that journey and shines his light into your dark and lonely moments when all hope seems lost! It is this message, simple yet profound, which we bring to the women in Wiri Prison.

The cardinal rule when visiting a prison is that you bring nothing in with you. The security checks at the Entry Gatehouse are designed so that any forbidden items are detected and removed from your person. But no security system in the world, no matter how rigorously enforced, can remove the love of God from your heart. And so each member of the St Aidan's visiting team enters the prison environment filled with God's love and determined to do our best to share that love with the women with whom we speak. I am sure I can vouch for all of us when I declare that we never forget what an amazing privilege that is!

- Barbara Weir

Habitat for Humanity

HelpingHands Build Project

"If we could say thank you every day for the rest of our lives that would still not be enough" - Habitat Family

To survive we need a roof over our heads. To thrive we need a place to call home. Habitat for Humanity, an unashamedly Christian organization, is in the business of building homes – warm, dry, healthy and most importantly, affordable homes, where families can flourish and prosper.

The HelpingHands Build, which commenced in May 2017, gave St Aidan's, for the third time, the opportunity to partner with HfH to bring to completion the construction of a decent house for one needy family. HelpingHands was designated a Community project with the main sponsors being Rotary Newmarket and St Cuthbert's College. Other local groups, businesses, and churches were invited to come on board to ensure the success of the project. The construction site was the main thoroughfare in Newmarket, on the corner of Broadway and Mahuru Street – a very visible position from which to highlight the work of HfH and the whole issue of affordable housing.

St Aidan's contributed a total of \$4,700 towards the cost of the building materials for the house - \$2,700 from parishioners' donations and \$2,000 from Mission Shop funds. In addition, a group of 12 parishioners teamed up over a 3 day period to bring freshly baked goodies to the volunteer builders working on the site. Conrad LaPointe, Executive Director of Habitat Auckland, coming to St Aidan's on a thank you visit in early June, was very adamant when he said, "Never underestimate how welcome a warm, encouraging smile and a fresh, tasty muffin can be to a volunteer engaged in physical work on an exposed construction site."



With the help of some 200 volunteers over an 8 week period, the HelpingHands house was constructed and ready for removal to its permanent site. The ceremony to celebrate the completion of the project was attended by representatives from St Aidan's. This was our opportunity to view the house and more importantly, to meet the selected family. The father, overcome by emotion, struggled to say thank you. Clearly it was hard for him to find the words, but when he led his whole family, including the youngest 2 year old, in a stirring haka, the message to all of us

was powerful and clear. "This home will be the making of our family" – that is what the haka conveyed. Our tears were joined with the tears of the family as we all gave thanks together for what many helping hands had achieved!

So, on behalf of the Habitat family, I pass on the family's message to all St Aidan's parishioners who contributed in whatever way to the project. How blessed we were to have the opportunity to be involved, to have the opportunity to take our vision of God's kingdom of justice and love out beyond the walls of our Church as we strive to make a difference for those in need.

If you wish to know more about the work of Habitat for Humanity, visit www.habitat.org.nz.

- Barbara Weir

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Dance classes for seniors at St Aidan's Church Hall. This is an enjoyable way to stay mentally and physically active while building balance and coordination

as well as keeping joints mobile and strengthening muscles.

Thursdays **10 – 11am** during the school term, starting **27th July**.

Contact Sue MacRae 846 1720 or 022 640 9852.



Fitness League
TUESDAY 10.00 AM
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Meeting Times:

- Thursday 6pm
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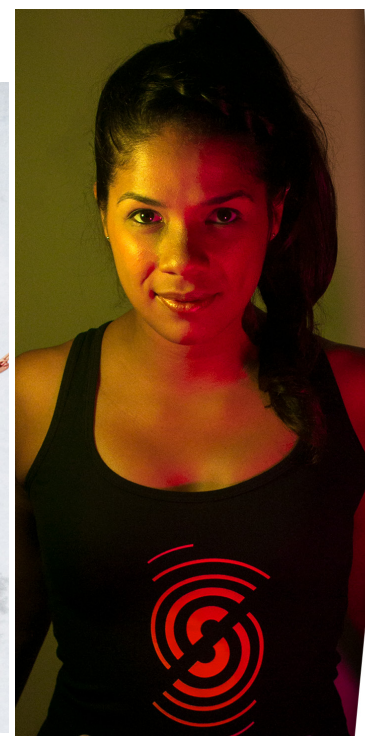
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Good News

People praying for other people is high on the list of priorities in St. Aidan's Parish. Not only do we pray meaningfully for others during the intercessions in the liturgy, but there are further prayer opportunities for people who have special reasons for praying for themselves or others.

Firstly, there is the Prayer Circle, a group of 6 to 8 parishioners who pray daily for those in special need. The clergy usually supply the names, but if you or someone for whom you have a concern is sick, then you are encouraged to ring the convenor (Anne Mercer) by phone on 520-2861. She will get in touch with the Circle who fulfill the request with due confidentiality.

Then there is the group who offer prayer ministry in the Side Chapel during the 9.30 am Sunday Services. They will pray individually with those who bring their concerns and prayers for a number of reasons. People often ask for prayers for themselves in time of special need. But at other times it will be prayers

they request for friends and family for whom they have a special concern. Those making these requests are seeking comfort and peace, and a trained person to share their prayer. They are uplifted as they leave and hear the affirmation, "God has heard your prayer. Go in peace."

It is Good News when people offer their prayers of thanksgiving for a birth of a child, for an anniversary, or for a clear answer to their prayers. I am sure that delights the heart of God and warms the hearts of us all when they also share this news during the notices at the end of the service.

It has been said that prayer is the work of the children of God, and that it is inspired by the Spirit of God. Lots of us know the power of those prayers in our day to day lives, and give thanks to God, the Gracious Giver. We invite you to use these opportunities whenever and however it is appropriate. May God bless all our prayers and worship. Amen.

- Rosemary Atkins



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