

St Aidan's   
Anglican Church

Parish Annual Reports  
2018

## Vicar AGM Report 2018

My report from last year began, 'Well, a lot has happened in a year', reflecting both our church life and my own changes here from Curate to Priest-in-Charge and then, just, to Vicar. Once again, a lot has happened in a year. Although Sarah, the kids and I have been here 3 years now, it seems this year has been a period of deepening our familiarity with the people here and also how this place 'ticks'. Getting a sense of the rhythms of church life, of the directions we might head, and where the light switch is for the lamp in the nave – these and more have all been part of this development.

During this time our regular life of ministry and mission has continued well. Our regular worship services continue to be well attended and are key times for fellowship and hearing God's word for us today. Youth and children's programs have been running very well and it has been good to see young people develop in their faith and be involved in various aspects of church life. We have had a good range of speakers come through to share with us and each of these has contributed well to our life here. Home groups continue to do very well with a large number of people meeting weekly in each other's homes. This plays a vital role in our ongoing development of faith and we are always looking at how this area of church life can develop.

Various ministry groups continue to function and do well – it has been great to see the ongoing development of the Pins and Needles group along with the numerous people and groups who faithfully carry out various roles – the hospital service team, prison visiting crew, pastoral and prayer support, Mainly Music, the mission shop and so many others. Our property has been maintained well and we continue to itemise areas of need. These regular and ongoing activities are a key part of our witness of God's enduring commitment and faithful love to the world around us.

Along with the continuation and maintenance of our parish life there has been change and development. We have altered our Sunday evening worship from a weekly 5pm home group style study program to a once a month Evening service. This has been developed in conjunction with Conor our youth pastor and is aimed at offering worship that is intergenerational and in a different format from our Sunday morning services. We have fallen into a routine of sung worship, a brief bit of content which is typically interactive, an activity and prayer. We finish each night with a shared meal. It is a fun, lively and enjoyable service and one the children engage with alongside adults and, I have heard, very much look forward to. We have regular numbers at this service but there is always room for more.

We have picked up two new staff members while losing two. Anne Godman has taken up the role of Parish Administrator as Emily takes parental leave with baby Ethan and has been doing a fantastic job. Coming to a new country and somewhat of a new environment, she has picked up the reins very quickly which has facilitated the smooth running of the parish.

It has been great to see Emily and Ethan, Stephen and Elsa back worshipping with us and Emily is keeping her hand in with editing the Parish Magazine. We welcomed Louise Anderson to the parish after much anticipation on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September as Priest Associate. Louise has brought much experience, skill and passion to her role and the ministry here and already we have been blessed by her work amongst us. I am looking forward to our time together as we continue to work through the new direction document and leadership of the ministry here.

We recently had a farewell for Chris, our Musical Director of 2.5 years, who will head to China this year to teach music. Chris has contributed much to the choir and congregation during his time here and will be missed. We wish him all the best and look forward to hearing updates from Shenzhen.

The Garage Sale 2018 was a fantastic event and continues the theme of change and development. Along with a smoother process for organisation we saw a great increase in the result. Apart from the financial side, the event continues to be a great community occasion and we hope that continues to develop, along with the help!

Another key focus for us has been the New Direction Document. We are probably sick of hearing about it now but it has been a great opportunity to consider our future here and to do some thinking around how we will shape our ministry and mission going forward. We are very grateful for all the well-considered contributions we have received, of which there have been many, and we are looking forward to cracking on with these now and into 2019. Continue to pray for this process, that God would direct us into those endeavours which connect people with God's purposes and life.

There have been some sad occasions for us as a community. Beverley Batkin passed away late 2017 while Pauline Scott, Clive Collins, Bonnie Jones, Heather Mason and John Hall all passed away this year - we continue to mourn their loss with the family and miss their presence amongst us. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

There are many people to thank who have done much in the life of St Aidan's over the past year. I am not able here to make mention of all but would like to acknowledge some in particular as they step down from current roles. Thank you to David Cotton for his 2 years on Vestry who has made a valuable contribution both in discussions and various pieces of work. David will focus his time, skill and efforts as part of the Property Team where he will continue to be a valuable member. Peter Macaulay steps down from his role as People's Warden, a role he has had for 4 years. Pete has given tirelessly to this role, along with his other contributions to the parish in general, and he has been continually available in offering support, wisdom and practical help. Pete represents the parish well at our Wardens and staff meetings and we will miss his lively stories and anecdotes. Thank you Pete for your ministry here which you have performed willingly and with a sense of joy.

Thank you to Juli Mercer, Vicar's Warden. There seems to be a theme here with the Wardens of willingness, availability and a sense of gladness in their involvement. Thank you Juli for your huge support of me, your time and effort, and for your desire to see St Aidan's grow and flourish. I am looking forward to another year and continuing in this ministry together.

Thank you to the Vestry of 2018 – it has been a fantastic group and many of you have contributed with your skills and time outside of the Wednesday meetings. Our thanks go to this group also for the prayerful development of our New Direction Document. This has taken extra time and pushed Vestry into a different space and they have given us a great basis for moving forward. Thank you to our Synods people, David Jamison and Andrew Mclean, who represented us well at Synod 2018, both contributing to various motions and discussions.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the staff team, Sarah, Conor, Belle, Anne, Emily and Chris, for their ongoing commitment and desire to see St Aidan's as a whole and their own ministries in particular, develop and grow. They do this with great skill, wisdom and creativity which feed into all parts of church life.

To finish, I am continually amazed by the level of commitment, ownership and faith I experience in this parish. People are willing to be involved here and take things on themselves to make it happen which is accompanied by a desire to work in with others. This makes St Aidan's a great place to be a part of and a great place to offer leadership and ministry. I am grateful for the support, initiative and communication that are part of the natural course of life here. Along with this, a sense of community and welcome makes our church a great place to be part of, a place to bring people along to, and a place for everyone to be involved in worship, ministry and mission.

At the foundation of great parish is the great gospel and life we have to share. As we finish this year and look ahead to that which God calls us to in the New Year, we give thanks to God for all that has taken place in our lives and in the life of St Aidan's. We look for the renewing and leading of God's Spirit amongst us and through us for those God has called us to serve.

'You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.' Jn 15:16.

Reverend Glen Ashworth

## Priest Associate Report

This report covers the previous 2 months, the time that I have been in this role.

I feel very warmly welcomed into my new position and joining the parish during Garage Sale preparations was a wonderful way to get to know parishioners better.

Since my arrival I have been added to the regular preaching and presiding roster for Sunday morning worship. I take the greater portion of the Wednesday mid-week services as Glen focuses on the Mainly Music outreach which occurs at a similar time. I have enjoyed visiting the rest homes for which we offer monthly communion services with the teams that lead these and in future I will assist with the regular ministry at Remuera Gardens.

By November I will have had the pleasure of joining all our 7 study groups which currently meet in various homes. It is lovely to experience and see the different 'flavour' of each. Home groups are a great way of forming strong relationships with others as you spend time praying, studying the Bible and socializing together. I am encouraged to see the passion of those who gather together and the obvious pastoral care that they are able to offer one another. My hope is that more people may commit to joining a home group in 2019 even if it's just for the period of Lent.

My intention since I arrived has been to experience as much of parish life as possible. With this in mind, I have endeavoured to attend as many groups as possible. Mainly Music, Pins and Needles, AAW and Women's evening fellowship have all been visited and although in some cases this has only been fleeting, it has provided an opportunity to experience a little of what we currently offer and to talk with those who attend.

As the parish looks to the future with their New Direction document, gaining an 'on the ground perspective' has been an important aim of moving around the parish groups. I am excited to hear the ideas that parishioners are suggesting about ministry in the parish and possible missional areas which might connect with our wider community. Whilst most of these new initiatives are only in the very early planning stages, it is great to see some energy around some of these new ventures.

I feel very pleased to have joined the passionate team here at St Aidan's and I look forward to what the coming year will hold for us and for those we will serve.

Reverend Louise Anderson, October 2018

## St Aidan's Wardens' Report

We wish to sincerely thank all those who have so generously and willingly given their time, skills and energy to everything that is St Aidan's this year, you are truly the life of this Parish. May God bless you all richly.

We are also very grateful for the contributions so many people have made to developing the St Aidan's New Direction document led with patience and persistence by Glen.

### **Vestry**

Vestry has continued to meet once per month during the last year and welcomed four new elected members. We thank Liz Lim (Gray), Andrew Fraser, James Parkinson and Nic Mercer along with those elected members who returned to serve for another year on Vestry, Rosemary Atkins, Andrew Maclean, David Cotton, Margaret Cooper and David Jamison for their hard work, commitment and expertise.

Vestry members have worked on one of three committees - Finance, Personnel and Property Maintenance, and have consulted and reported back to Vestry. This approach continues to successfully spread the workload across the team.

We particularly wish to thank Priscilla for the long hours and expert dedication she has given every month to the role of Treasurer.

Our thanks also to Lynne Florence for so capably completing another year as Vestry Secretary.

We sincerely thank Simon Lee for taking over the Property Management responsibilities from John Glenie, we are extremely grateful for all your hard work.

### **Staff**

Glen completed his first year as Vicar in September. We are very blessed to have Glen as our Vicar, he has grown wonderfully well into the role, making it his own while still listening carefully to the thoughts and needs of the people of the Parish. Glen has led Vestry with strength, balanced expertly with his collaborative approach, which has worked well, particularly with the New Direction document.

We farewelled Pam Tizzard in May and are so very grateful for the extended time she spent and the deep contribution she made to life at St Aidan's.

We are delighted and grateful to welcome Reverend Louise Anderson to St Aidan's as Priest Assistant. Louise was installed on 2 September and has settled into the team quickly, working with Glen to share responsibilities and meeting as many parishioners and ministry leaders as possible.

We thank Conor for the continuity and faithful dedication he gives to the Youth and Young People of St Aidan's, we very much appreciate everything you do for our Youth Conor.

Conor has also taken on responsibility as a leader for this year's AYM BOLD programme, mentoring and helping to grow the group of young leaders involved. Conor is also using his mentoring skills to focus on developing leaders from our own Youth Group.

We thank Sarah for all the energy and strength she brings to leading the children's programmes along with Mainly Music. We are continually impressed with the genius ideas and the resulting wonderful experiences she gives the children, along with her focus on organising family inclusive events. Thank you so much Sarah.

Our thanks go to Emily for her conscientious dedication to everything administrative. Concerningly, Emily and Stephen's baby arrived early at little more than 32 weeks. Thankfully little Ethan was welcomed safely into their family with expert hospital care early on. Our sincere thanks go to Sarah Ashworth for significantly increasing her hours at extremely short notice to cover the office in Emily's absence, along with a wonderful team of parishioners who willingly completed the office roster. Thanks so much to you all.

We welcomed Anne Godman at the end of September to the role of Interim Parish Administrator. We are very grateful for your calm efficiency Anne, in the face of some challenging times for you during your transition to New Zealand.

We have been blessed to have Chris Graham as Director of Music for another year. Chris resigned at the end of September to take up a job teaching music in China and will be leaving once his visa comes through. We thank you Chris for your commitment to music at St Aidan's, for your dedication to developing the Choir, and for your perseverance in the pursuit of such a high standard of music. St Aidan's has benefitted greatly from your expertise in all areas of music. Chris, you go with our prayers and best wishes.

Bishop Peter continues to generously support both staff and wardens with his incredible wisdom, insight and knowledge. For this support Bishop Peter, we are extremely grateful, thank you so much.

Of significant note to this report ... our People's Warden, Peter Macaulay is stepping down after four years of dedicated service to this important and key responsibility within our Parish. Huge thanks Pete for your hard work and commitment to God's purpose in our community, thank you for bringing your wonderfully large and generous personality to the role, you have blessed us abundantly. For me personally, it has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you this year, and I am very grateful for all your experience and knowledge, willingly shared, thank you, thank you!

Thank you Juli for your kind words, I have enjoyed my time as People's Warden. I will still be around and look forward to providing guidance to my successor. God Bless and LightSpeed to you all.

Juli Mercer, Vicar's Warden

Peter Macaulay, People's Warden

## Personnel Sub-Committee of Vestry

This report covers the period from November 2017 to November 2018.

The personnel sub-committee of the vestry is responsible for all aspects of appointing lay staff at St Aidan's, with the approval of the wider vestry. The current members of the sub-committee are:

- Rev'd Glen Ashworth
- Rosemary Atkins
- David Jamison
- Liz Lim (Gray)

### Chris' Departure

Chris Graham, our Music Director, leaves us shortly to work overseas.

Management of worship and selection of music are under the control and direction of the Vicar. Accordingly, Glen, Louise and the Wardens will meet shortly to discuss the future of worship at St Aidan's – all options in terms of style, work scope, abilities etc. will be considered.

The personnel sub-committee will become involved in the process if needed.

In the interim, Antoinette Pope has offered to lead the sung/musical aspects of Sunday worship. Her offer is gratefully accepted.

### General

- a) Emily, our Parish Administrator, with Stephen welcomed their second child Ethan in early September. Our advertisement for maternity cover for Emily's role through the Diocese resulted in Anne Godman being appointed to be our Interim Parish Administrator from October 2018. We are delighted to have Anne join our team at St Aidan's.
- b) With Ethan arriving a couple of months early, cover for the Parish Office was provided by Sarah Ashworth, Conor McGrath and a roster of volunteers. The work of the Parish Office ensures the effective function of our church and parish, and we extend our thanks for those who were willing to help.

### Compliance

- a) The question of the health and safety of people working and taking part in activities on St Aidan's premises remains actively considered by Vestry, with Vestry working towards a health and safety manual for St Aidan's.

- b) In the first quarter of 2019, the sub-committee will meet to review the staff appraisals process with the view to diarising staff reviews for the 2019 calendar year – this will include a review of role descriptions, status of appraisals and what policies are currently in place.

Refer to the other reports to the Annual General Meeting for details of clergy movement and staff involvement in particular activities.

Rev'd Glen Ashworth ,Rosemary Atkins, David Jamison, Liz Lim (Gray)

## Parish Office Report

I have been in the Parish office for a little over a month now, and my father's sudden death necessitated a return to Australia after only three weeks in the job. Thank you to all who assisted me with office duties during that time, and for your sincere sympathy and support.

Emily's much earlier than expected departure on maternity leave meant that hand over was limited, so I have been learning many of the processes and procedures on the go as issues have cropped up.

My first project, an updated version of the Parish Prayer Directory, has been completed. Christmas and AGM preparation have taken up a large proportion of my time in recent weeks.

Anne Godman

## St Aidan's Website

Glen, Emily and I have been working together on the website, trying to 'clean it up' and make it easier to navigate. We are wanting to de-clutter the website, so the pages that remain are useful ones. We now also have a new logo, which has been introduced to the website as a new header. The new logo and the new layout of the header make the website more modern and 'up to date', with the look of a church which attracts younger people and families. We aim to continue updating the website, as it is something that can easily go out of date. It's crucial to keep the important information available to current parishioners (like the sermons, newsletters and rosters), but also important to have information available that encourages and invites newcomers.

Isobell Tregoweth

## Kids' Church Report

As with last year, my focus for our Kids' Church has been to ensure that the children are regularly hearing the gospel and the message that Jesus wants to be a lifelong part of their lives. With this in mind, we have now finished with the Storybook Bible Curriculum and are now using 'Connectible', a lectionary based curriculum which is produced by the Dunedin Diocese. These sessions follow the format of a short game, followed with a Bible reading and then activities and talk to apply meaning. It continues to be a challenge to manage quite a diverse age range and ability spectrum and I am grateful to the older children who attend to the little ones; also to the parents who stay in and help their pre-schoolers. I appreciate this opportunity too to briefly catch up with other parents.

Our numbers fluctuate a little, with a core group of 10 and then sometimes up to 15. As with Mainly Music, and as previously mentioned, my hope is for a growth of faith rather than an increase in numbers. I firmly believe that if our children are properly disciplined and come to understand how they are an important part of God's plan for this world, then their own faith will be a witness in the world.

The children have been part of a few whole church celebrations – helping to lead 'Hip Hip Hip Hippopotamus' (I was so impressed with the congregational participation) and with Easter and through a power point on St Aidan's Day. Perhaps some people have been disappointed that there has not been more of an 'up front' presence of the children during the Sunday services, and while we believe in a deliberate presence of the kids, we also believe that children have no more wish to perform in front of others than adults do in general. With this in mind, we do still see the children – youth in particular – playing a meaningful part in general services through serving at the altar and reading. Our evening services see the children involved and actively part of a more informal service. This sharing of food and worship is fundamentally intergenerational and brings children and adults together in a meaningful way. Other meaningful events that come to mind are the likes of the planting day St Aidan's undertook at Waiata Reserve. There was such a range of ages there and something for everyone to do together. This was followed with a time of 'fellowship' as we shared a sausage sizzle together – not unlike what we often do at church – just not held in church. I would love to see more of this type of fellowship to establish relationship in our congregation. Our community involvement, while small, also saw St Aidan's sponsor the bouncy castle at the Remuera Bastille Day celebrations; when these opportunities arise it is wonderful to have the support of a generous and supportive vestry. Professional development for me has included completing a St John's first aid course, again attending Scripture Union's 'WAY2GO' conference, attending an Auckland Diocese Children and Families Ministry cluster meeting and meeting with the ministry co-ordinator for children and families in the Auckland Diocese. Last week I also attended a Christmas and Advent information evening as we begin to prepare for the Christmas season.

This year I completed Scripture Union's bi-annual survey on children's ministry across all denominations in New Zealand: He waka eke noa – We are all in this together. Some of the findings are as follows:

- 25% of churches have less than 10 children aged 0-12 and 51% have less than 20 children.
- 68% of churches are involved in one-off or regular community programmes for children aged 0-12 years (this includes Mainly Music).
- 45% of churches note that bridging the gap between the word of the Bible and today is a great challenge.

The full findings from the survey are available at:

[www.sunz.org.nz/children-and-families/he-waka-eke-noa](http://www.sunz.org.nz/children-and-families/he-waka-eke-noa)

Sarah Ashworth

## Mainly Music Report

Being part of the Mainly Music team at St Aidan's is a joy. Every week we see God's Church at work as we praise Him through song, friendship, food and with the service of our wonderful volunteers. Some families come and go, but we have a lovely core group of families that support us in this ministry. Many thanks to those who faithfully and so cheerfully come and serve morning tea and also to Liz Fraser, who after three years of volunteering, is moving on – thank you Liz!

Glen continues to enthusiastically lead and is well loved by a very sweet group of children. As I said last year, having Glen as our lead music co-ordinator signals that this is an important ministry to St Aidan's. It puts him in the position of being able to share what we are doing at St Aidan's and it also means we can co-ordinate church happenings with what we think will connect with our Mainly Music families. Last year we had a few families come along to our Christmas services and we also have seen some come and help at the garage sale.

In the last two terms we have been trialling a 'Surprise Box' as part of our session with a letter of the week focus. The kids have gradually got into this quiet time and we like to incorporate a very short message about God, with the focus being that God is interested in all parts of our lives and wants us to know Him too. In conjunction with this we have started a small craft time – the older children especially have enjoyed having a more deliberate activity to participate in. We continue to provide Try Praying booklets and New Testaments for the parents and as children leave they are given a Jesus Storybook Bible.

As with last year we had a wonderful Mother's Day morning tea provided for the mums and caregivers in the social lounge and we had a great turn out for our Father's Day celebration with some dads taking the morning or day off work to attend. The primary teachers' strike fell on a Wednesday and we invited the primary age children to attend our MM session. We think we had about 100 children and their caregivers that day which made for a chaotic, but special and memorable session.

Financially, Mainly Music NZ has increased the contributions we are contracted to give to them. After looking at our attendance and the contributions we receive from families, we have decided at this stage to keep the contribution to \$4/family with a review in the future.

Thank you to the St Aidan's community for their support of this wonderful ministry and we look forward to seeing God to continue to be at work in our Mainly Music sessions.

Sarah Ashworth

## Women's Evening Fellowship

We had a successful and enjoyable year with a great variety of inspirational speakers and some great demonstrations. Our meetings are held in the GA on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from February to November.

One of our guest speakers spoke on her life as a Christian lawyer, another on The Importance of Good Neighbours. On one evening we were transported on an amazing Celtic Christian Pilgrimage through the UK in the company of Archbishop Sir David Moxon. Most recently we were fortunate to have an up-to-date talk on the amazing project the Auckland City Mission is undertaking – known as HomeGround.

The visit from St John's to demonstrate the defibrillator at St Aidan's was beneficial to all. It was encouraging so many men from the parish accepted our invitation to attend. Two enjoyable cooking demonstrations, Easter food and South Indian cooking, concluded with delicious tastings. On another evening we saw handwork and handmade treasures which were very special. The Royal Wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex was celebrated with a display of wedding memorabilia and a wedding cake for all to enjoy.

On our last evening in November we will welcome our Priest Associate, Louise Anderson, as our guest, and have a Christmas theme.

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 2019 for women in the Parish and their friends.

Jan Evans and the team.

## St Aidan's Golden Group

The members of this group are either 90 years of age, the spouse of a 90 year old, or have moved from their long abode from where they regularly attended St Aidan's.

Because of the age qualification the number of members all are very happy to now be transported to a worship service and a social gathering following. At these three events held at Christmas, Easter and the Patronal Festival, a recognition of their presence and their involvement in the parish is made.

There are currently 26 people who qualify for membership.

Rosemary Atkins

## Pins & Needles AGM Report

St Aidan's "Pins & Needles" group have enjoyed another successful and productive year with many positive outcomes.

The regular membership of the group has grown to over 40 women with many "outworkers" who support us with superb hand-knitted garments, yarn, patterns and funds. We are most grateful to them all for their support and generosity.

We really appreciate the funds allocated to our group from the Mission Shop proceeds and are putting them towards purchasing further yarn for our outreach to those in need in our community.

After being displayed and blessed by our Clergy at Sunday services, we have distributed many large cartons of blankets, garments and toys to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children and the Counties Manukau Community Midwives for the families and children in their care.

This year we have also supported Age Concern with warm gloves, mittens and scarves for the elderly during the cold winter months.

Thank you all for your continued interest in and contributions to our endeavours.

Marie Taylor

## St Aidan's AAW Fellowship Group

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for St Aidan's AAW Fellowship Group for 2018.

We have enjoyed meeting with each other on the first Tuesday of the month and listened to wonderful speakers who have covered a wide range of topics throughout the year. Our meetings have averaged 35 - 40 members together with visitors at each meeting. Our financial membership totals 54 and we have welcomed 5 new members during the year (Margaret Gapes, Wilma Willis, Mary Hills, Ev McGowan and Joy Bell). Sadly we have farewelled Pauline Scott and Bonnie Jones and extend our sympathy to their families.

Thanks to everyone who has organised and participated throughout the year with our AAW service including our vicar Glen, Revd Pam Tizzard and Revd Louise Anderson and a special thanks to Antoinette Pope for playing the organ and choosing our hymns.

During the year our speakers have been:

- March: A visit to Christ Church Ellerslie with Pam Stone speaking to us about the history of the church's stained glass windows followed by our meeting and afternoon tea. Donations for their restoration were given from our members including \$200 from AAW
- April: Emily Paul spoke about her arranged Indian wedding
- May: John Priestley, Chairman Purewa Trust Board
- June: Conrad La Pointe from Habitat for Humanity
- July: Celia Caughey spoke about her years of involvement in Vietnam and Ba Chieu Street Girls Home. A donation of \$100 was presented for the Girls Home
- August: Angela Caughey spoke about finding out where her brother was laid to rest after WWII. Barbara Dixon, Auckland AAW Diocese President and her sister Kaye Hastings also attended our meeting.
- September: Rosalind Rundle, Orakei Local Board member
- October: Dr Barbara Smith spoke on Training in Midwifery at Southampton in 1972.

Throughout the year the group has donated money and goods to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Auckland City Mission, and other outreach giving. Thank you for your generosity.

Our members gave generously for the Anzac Day flowers which were laid at the Memorial Cross on Anzac Day. Thanks to Gail Hodder for her expertise in making the wreath.

We attended AAW Diocese events during the year including the Annual Lunch, the AGM, AAW Day at St Mary's by the Sea, Torbay, Social Concerns meeting at St Johns Royal Oak and the AAW Conference in October (Marie Taylor and Jan Beech attending the Conference in Wellington). Several of us also attended the ATWC open day in June and the Mother's Union Missions Day at St Chads Meadowbank. A group of our members sent in submissions

for the National Council of Women remits with Marie Taylor attending the NCW Conference in Auckland.

As a group of women and as individuals, you have worked tirelessly for the various missions in the Parish and we give thanks for the women who have helped Robyn Bridgman in cooking dinners for the mothers and children at Grainger Grove, ATWC and for her general work for ATWC.

Thanks to you all for supporting the trading table which has been ably run by Terrie Hawley together with Ruth Lowe. \$482.10 has been raised to 30 September 2018 for several missions including a donation of \$250 to Anglican Missions for the Tonga Cyclone Appeal.

Thanks to Gail for baking and icing the Christmas cake so beautifully for last December.

Thanks to Louise for chairing our meeting today. I also wish to thank Glen, Pam, Louise, Emily and Anne for their support and especially in helping to set up the sound system etc. for our meetings.

Special thanks to Marie Taylor along with Robyn Bridgman for organising the birthday flowers each month and to Marie thanks again for the wonderful job you do as Social Concerns Rep and to Mary Parkinson as our Overseas and Outreach Rep. Thank you to Sue Williams for your unstinting work as Treasurer and for looking after the name labels. I would like to record thanks to Annemarie Raffel for auditing the accounts.

To the Committee – thanks for your tremendous support to our members with your monthly phone calls and hospitality at meetings. I believe that working together and sharing tasks makes for a strong and enjoyable group. Thanks to the present Committee for offering to stand again for another year and to new members.

Thank you for supporting me throughout these past two years as Leader and I cherish the fact that I have made many new friends. I will not be standing again as Leader at this time but I would like to remain a committee member and look forward to being able to fellowship with you all in the coming years. God be with you.

Christine Kennedy

## Home Groups' Report

At St Aidan's we are spoilt for choice, it is not a one-size fits all! There are currently 7 regular groups meeting each with their own unique "flavour". Some groups have a very long history of getting together spanning 15 + years which is a real testimony to the value that they see in this!

**Anne Mercer's group** has been looking at "The Prayers of Jesus." This was followed by a study on Paul's Letters to the Philippians. Currently they are viewing a 3 part DVD series called "Pilgrimage" fronted by Simon Reeve, which looks at the different ways in which people experience pilgrimage journeys from England to Europe then through to Turkey and finally to Jerusalem. Interestingly this DVD was borrowed from the Remuera Library!

(The group meets weekly Monday afternoons during term time, approx. 12 members)

**Rosemary Atkin's and Margaret Cooper's group** have used books from our own church library, to discuss and share different perspectives. One of these books 'Singing in the Night' by Anneke Companjen gave a first-hand account of courageous women of faith from the persecuted church. Recently they have focused on a faith and scripture study that centres around various personal qualities such as Simplicity, Fidelity and Joy. One of the members explained, "for me one of the important things about our group is the sharing of our 'times' and the building up of a fellowship of prayer". (This group meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday evenings during term time, approx. 10 members)

**Jenny Walter's group** as well as meeting for Bible study also gathers together for social activities. They recently have been exploring 'The 12 Disciples' a study recommended to them by one of the other home groups. (This group meets weekly Friday afternoons during term time, approx. 4 members)

**Annmarie Raffel's group** has also been working through the 12 Disciples. One of the members commented, "When you look carefully, it is surprising how much you can discover about the personalities of each of the disciples and especially about their strengths and foibles as they followed in the footsteps of Jesus. This has encouraged us as a group, to consider and pray about our own virtues and weaknesses in relation to the call to discipleship, which Jesus makes on our lives." This group may have the record for the oldest member with Lilian turning 99 this year. (It meets weekly Wednesday evenings during term time, approx. 5 members)

The youngest by far and most recently formed group is **Conor and Liz's Young Adult's Home Group**. Starting in February this year hosted by Liz Lim (Gray) and led by our youth pastor Conor McGrath, the group came about as a way for the young adults to continue to meet regularly after completing the Alpha course at St Aidan's in late 2017. "Meeting regularly has enabled us to develop and deepen genuine bonds of friendship, to support, pray for and encourage each other and to have open and active discussions about the Gospel. There is no

such thing as a dumb question in the young adults' home group!" As well as Bible study the group has been known to do a few field trips such as St Chad's display in the week leading up to Easter. (The group meets fortnightly Tuesday evenings during term time, approx. 7 members)

**Sheryl & Hein Swanevelder's group** oscillates between a DVD series and a "round the table" Bible study. They love vigorous debate and engage in robust discussion, centred on the particular study. N. T. Wright has been the author of two of their focuses this year 'Living Faith' and 'Surprised by Hope', the latter described as a "transforming series". Over and above the more serious side they laugh and celebrate food with the odd dinner party. A regular part of their time together is prayer and it is encouraging when they see some of their prayers answered. (This group meets weekly Monday evenings during term time, approx. 10 members)

### **Colloquium Group**

This group was initiated by Arnold Smith and Glen some 2 years ago and has been meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month since. It operates as a group discussion around either article or book suggestions given by the members. Although contributions have covered a relatively wide range, the focus has often been on thinking deeply about various aspects of Christian faith and thought and how this might impact on the world outside of that. Currently there are approx. 8 members and it is open to any who would like to join.

*Report compiled by Sheryl Swanevelder and Louise Anderson with contributions from home group leaders.*

# Synod 2018

## Bishops Charge (Bishops vision and comments for the future)

- Convene Indaba 2 – Triads of neighbouring ministry units, learning from and supporting one another
- Work with the intergenerational challenge
- Retreat opportunities
- Bishop's teaching ministries
- Complete church builds – Northwest Anglican ("Massey" area) and Flatbush, establishing a residential young adults community
- Growing in Christ - Retreats & Quiet Days, building resilience, workshops for wardens and vestries
- Living Beyond Ourselves – Equipping people to share their faith, to be invitational about church life, fresh emphasis on social justice and climate change – getting young people involved.

## Motions

- 1) Supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 etc.
- 2) Suicide Prevention and intervention  
Expresses concern at the scope of the suicide problem, training to be compulsory for all stipended clergy and paid and unpaid youth ministers.
- 3) Church Army  
Affirms commitment to Church Army in Auckland, will do all in power to pledge regular financial assistance, recognizes it is a valuable evangelistic tool in spreading the Gospel.
- 4) Disability Responsiveness  
Invites **Ministry Units (MU)** to review how accessible their buildings and their programs are for people with disabilities. To review worship and other activities to ensure they are inclusive and to make achievable improvements with the goal of full accessibility and inclusion. The Diocese by Sep 2019 to put in place an audit mechanism to ensure that all MU are working towards being accessible. Workshops to support MU to be developed. (are MU hearing loops working? Is there wheelchair positioning awareness?)
- 5) Tenancy Laws  
Expresses concern that poor quality, expensive, insecure housing is a key component contributing to poverty and inequality in NZ society. Calls on Government to change the Residential Tenancies Act to make our rental sector healthy, safe, affordable, stable and fair....etc.

6) Decade of Mission

Acknowledges the wide range of missional work that is being carried out in the diocese and we are to continue to pray and support each other in this decade of Mission.

7) An Alternative form for ordering a Eucharist

General Synod had passed that we should only use those Eucharist Liturgies that have been authorized by General Synod rather than also including those approved by any church of the Anglican Communion. This motion was not approved by the Auckland Diocese.

8) Calendar – Add to the liturgical calendar ‘The week of Prayer for Christian Unity’.

9) Rationalization of MU and possible closure of churches

Recognizes that many MU are facing increasing difficulties with demographic change and general decline in religious affiliation. If MU are facing difficulties then it is preferable for an initiation towards closure comes from the MU rather than Diocesan council. In addition to the guides in Clause 11 (use of suitable building for worship, can provide suitable housing for clergy, meet financial obligations, is able to elect and appoint officers and a suitable Governing Body e.g. vestry, is able to provide worship, pastoral care, outreach, expressions of mission etc.) MU are also encouraged to initiate discussions with parishioners, with neighbouring parishes and community interests, and to discuss energy levels with leadership and other members. Motion also encourages Diocesan Council to develop policies that when appropriate will allow money from the sale of land or buildings to be released for other uses both within and outside the MU. In such cases the wishes of the MU should be given weighty consideration. A portion of the funds are to be directed into a Development Fund to provide assistance for new ministries.

**Bills**

- 1) Cathedral Chapter – gives this group more structure and focus than in the past
- 2) Diocesan nominators (nominators are those who are part of the group who help select/discern new vicars for a parish) – The bill allows for gaps to be filled with people from Diocesan Council.
- 3) Ministry Unit Roll – to be on the roll you need to be 16 years and over, participated regularly in the worship and life of the MU over a 6 month period, expressed in writing that you want to be on the roll and are baptized. Rolls should be available for inspection prior to a General Meeting.

**Reports/Speakers – selected few**

St John’s Theological College have courses on a Thursday night available for lay people who are interested.

Auckland City Mission has raised \$72m (with government and other contributors) of \$98m needed to provide social housing/night shelter beds and 30 detoxification beds in a rebuild on its Hobson/Federal Streets site. Money still to be raised will be part of a Lent appeal.

GALS Grief and Loss support group – Bruce Owen highlighted the work that they do

Peter Lineham – Church statistics indicate shrinkage of attendance happening a lot quicker in smaller churches. Baptism and confirmation figures could be interpreted to indicate churches will have no members by 2050.

Gillian Reid – value of MU being told if someone is moving to another MU area such as the Coromandel. If the receiving church knows then they can actively seek to make connections.

Diocesan Council – Although ministry unit quotas to finance Diocesan activities will increase from 18% to 23% in 2018-2019 it is anticipated that this will decrease as trust income increases. Half of the Diocesan income comes from trusts and investments.

David Jamison & Andrew Maclean

# Property Report

## Recent History

General Maintenance work has been ongoing for items such as light bulbs and sticky locks and minor repairs such as the replacement of the rotten lower step on the southern stairs. The property team, John Glenie, John Black, David Cotton, Andrew Maclean, Jerry Amerasinghe and myself have worked to keep the assets in serviceable condition. From me a thank you to each of them for all the hours they have put in over the past year. We have been ably assisted this year by many others – especially at the working bee for the hall. For all of these people who have helped us by picking up a paint brush or hammer, or getting the fridge seals repaired, we thank you. Your help is always welcome. Thanks must also go to all for their patience as we resolve these issues. Some mysteries, such as the leak in the gathering area ceiling above the door to the church, have been resolved and some, such as the leak in the parish office, still elude us, but we will persist.

Once the church and hall maintenance contract is signed, the focus will need to shift to the hall and its facilities as some are looking tired. The toilet amenities in the hall especially are due for a refresh to enable us to maintain the hall in good state for its users

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

### Vicarage

- 1) Replacement of failed dishwasher with new
- 2) Replacement of failed upstairs hot water cylinder with new
- 3) Regrouting and sealing of bathroom tiles

### No 8

- 1) Regrouting and sealing of bathroom tiles including partial replacement of one wall lining behind shower due to water ingress – now repaired
- 2) Connection of house to Church LAN network

### Church

- 1) Finalisation of exterior and interior building finishes contract with PPS. Details resolved and awaiting final signature.

### Hall & Office

None

## **Works planned/likely to occur for next Year**

### General

- 1) Transition to a cloud based Maintenance record that can be accessed by all and will form the database for maintenance works for future reference.

### Church

- 1) Final signoff for maintenance contract to enable us to get the church back to white in colour especially on the back wall

### Hall

- 1) Resolution of leak in Parish Office
- 2) Replacement of Hotwater cylinder for kitchen
- 3) Resolution of the kitchen floor replacement
- 4) Resolution of toilet facilities upgrade and establishment of budgets for this.

### Vicarage

- 1) Likely Replacement of second HWC as first one has failed already (\$3.5K)
- 2) Replacement of Curtains

### No 8 House

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

Simon Lee

## Youth Group & Young Adults

### Youth Group

The Youth Group has an average of 8-12 on a Sunday and 5-8 on a Friday. This year we have been looking at a bunch of different topics on a Sunday but continuing to build our culture of discipleship. We have Uni students who help lead the group as well as having some older high school students step up to lead next year.

We unpack the curlier questions at camps where we have time to go deeper and freedom to meet God in a way that best suits them. Discussion is the main tool we use because we can unpack ideas and concepts in a language we understand.

### Young Adults

The young adults have created a culture and space where they feel at home in St Aidans. We are now transitioning into a space where we want to get bigger and have more members, either from new people joining the church or youth transitioning into that stage. We enjoy the evening service once a month as a place of community and worship. We enjoy having youth and children there as we influence/disciple them. But also enjoy the adults who treat us as equals and allow us to be adults.

Some of us have just started getting used to adulting and some of us are comfortable where we are in life. St Aidans has created a safe space for us to question and grow in our faith. There are 6 of us now and growing each day.

### My thoughts

St Aidans is in an exciting phase where we as a church are looking forward to the future. Both the Youth and Young Adult spaces are looking forward to partnering with the church as we go through this stage together.

It is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year at St Aidans and we have now set rhythms of transition from Child to Youth, and Youth to Adult. We care about the future of this place and the people that call it home.

God has blessed us and we want to bless others in return.

Conor McGrath

