

St Aidan's



Anglican Church

Parish Magazine

December 2018



WORSHIP

CARING

MISSION

Glen's Foreword

I don't know if you are like me but I feel a perceptible change in my spirits around this time of the year. I am not sure whether it is a certain temperature that is reached, or a particular smell in the air brought about by the seasonal change but roughly around late September I feel a slight lift, a small internal boost.

Spring is the time when things are renewed - new life is happening all around us and maybe, as part of God's creation, we are picking up on that renewal. Maybe we are even part of it in some way, if only in our renewed energy and joy at this time. The created order is not the only place where God's renewing takes place. Isaiah, a prophet who spoke during the Babylonian invasion and sacking of Jerusalem in 587 BC and foretold that although the Jewish nation would be taken from their land and lose their sovereignty, God is at work:

Do not remember former things
Behold I am doing a new thing
Isaiah 43

We are aware of the huge cultural shifts that have taken place in recent times and the exiling experience that has been for those who have been part of a thriving church life in the past. It can be disheartening to see people drop away and although the temptation can be to redouble our efforts towards those things that have worked in the past, we may need to hear instead those words of Isaiah. What is the new and renewing thing that God is doing amongst us at this time?

In this Christmas edition of our Parish Magazine there is a brief article summing up a process we have gone through here at St Aidan's to discern what God is particularly calling us to do in this season. We are aware that this is about joining Christ in places and activities where God is doing new things. As we prepare for the Christmas period we hope the events of the nativity will be seen afresh by those who come and help us all to find our place in the kingdom to come.



- Glen Ashworth
Vicar

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Christmas: More than just a story

The story of Jesus's birth - Mary and Joseph on a donkey, shepherds, wise men and angels, are the images that pop up around this time of year in carols, Christmas cards and the odd church service that we might end up at during the festive season.

For many however, this historic event is one of ultimate significance. This was especially true for the people who were involved at that time. The shepherds and wise men had heard that something was special about a child born in Bethlehem so they went to check it out. A devout Jew named Simeon, on seeing the baby Jesus, stated that a promise given to him had been fulfilled - that with his own eyes he would see God's salvation. We invite you to join us for Christmas here at St Aidan's, that we might see in these events more than just a story.



Neighbourhood Carol Singing

Wednesday 19th December

Join an informal group to sing traditional carols in our community. Meet at the church at 5:45pm, or you can join us at several locations later. Add your name to the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area, or email Louise - louise@staidans.co.nz

This is our first New Direction initiative.

From the Registers

Weddings

Veronica Maka & Lolesio Lui

Funerals

Bonnie Jones

Heather Mason

John Hall

Richard Kearsley

Maurice Chatfield

Summer @ St Aidan's
Service time 9am during January



Regular Events at St Aidan's

Sunday Services	8:00am Holy Communion 9:30am Family Communion 5:00pm Evening service (last Sunday of each month) Worship in a different style
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	Sunday at 9:30am service and Friday at 7pm. Contact Conor.
Kids' Church	All children aged 3-10 during the 9.30am service. Contact Sarah.
Friendship Group	Wednesdays at 10am in the Gathering Area. Join us for fellowship, games and morning tea.
Mainly Music	Wednesdays during term time at 9.30am. Music & play for families with pre-school aged children. Contact Sarah.
Choir Practice	Saturdays at 10.30am in the Bethel Room. New members welcome.
Home Groups	All welcome! Contact Sheryl or Glen for more information.
AAW	A women's afternoon fellowship group. Meets monthly on 1 st Tuesday at 1.30pm.
WEF	A women's evening fellowship group. Meets monthly on 3 rd Tuesday at 7.30pm
Men's Ministry	Meets last Thursday of the month. Contact Glen for more info.
Pins & Needles	Meets monthly on 2 nd Monday of the month. Contact Marie Taylor on 524 8642.



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Christmas Traditions - Born in a Manger

St. Aidan's has a tradition to set up a Christmas scene in the side chapel where the Iona Cross is placed during the rest of the year. The figures which tell the story of Christmas are large enough to stand out and witness to the baby's birth at Bethlehem, and its meaning for us today.

Each year in early December the large frame is brought out from storage behind the organ – a job for at least four strong parishioners! The pieces are fitted together and then lifted onto two low tables usually kept in the children's corner at the back of the church. This makes the height suitable for the little ones who can see into the crib at their eye level.

Once the frame is in place the figures are added. Joseph and Mary are central to the story and stand on a small plinth. At Christmas the baby is cradled in his mother's arms and the manger with its hay rests nearby. Further away the shepherds and their sheep are set on their hills of green cloth, with a pool of blue water. The children always love the tiny figures of the white woollen sheep. Around the crib the brown cattle lie with the donkey that carried Mary to Bethlehem, standing proud of her place in the story.

Each year all these figures in their boxes are brought down from above the cupboards in the Vestry, much to the children's delight as each figure is unwrapped and put in its place. Blue and green cloths and a pathway of stones add the finishing touches to the scene.

Above the apex of the building the Star shines out to guide us all to find the joy and wonder of this event.

The parish tradition is that the scene is put in its place from early Advent so that it can be visited by various groups in the build up to Christmas. These groups include the children and parents from Mainly Music who come with the Vicar to see the Crib and hear the story as part of their final programme for the year.

There is always a discussion as to where the Wise Sages on their camels should go prior to the Epiphany Festival in early January. Recently the compromise has been reached so that they 'travel' from a side table to reach their central place after Christmas, there to symbolize for us the universal appeal of the Christ child to people of all nations.

Putting up and taking down this big crib scene is quite a labour but it is always worth the effort as the story of the birth of our Saviour is told again each year to bring joy and hope to worshippers of all ages and cultures.

A new development began last year when another manger scene was set up in the Lich-Gate at the top of the church section so that the public passing by should also be drawn to worship the Christ Child. Long may these traditions last at St. Aidan's.

- Bishop Peter Atkins



Pins & Needles

Pins & Needles is fun! Come and see what we do and enjoy yourselves! We have great morning tea and coffee, many laughs and are amazed every month at the wonderful garments our team have produced so expertly.

You don't have to be a great knitter. You can always learn from those around you. We have simple patterns for the beginner and advanced ones for the more adventurous! We love to have servers, sewers and sorters among us. Our membership is constantly growing and we delight in having a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company. And it is great to know that all the while we are producing quality clothing and comfort for those around us.

Please join us at 10am on Monday, 10th December for our gathering when we will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child in a manger, with our final tokens of love for this year.

- Marie Taylor

AAW

(Association of Anglican Women)

The AAW has had a very full year during 2018 with very good speakers each month and averaging around 40 members at the meetings.

We round off the year with our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday 4th December. This meeting will begin in the church with a short Communion Service and then we will move to the Gathering Area with its beautifully decorated tables and partake of the celebratory afternoon tea which has become a tradition over many years for this group. The tried and true menu provided by the committee includes sandwiches, asparagus rolls, sweet slices, Christmas mince pies and Christmas cake along with a glass of wine or juice. The cake has been made and iced by various different members over the years and is always very popular. The afternoon is topped off with some Christmas themed entertainment. This year Antionette Pope will lead us in carol singing which is always very popular.

This programme for our final meeting of the year has been followed for a long time and has become a tradition for our members and they look forward to ending the year with this celebration.

The group will now go into recess over the holiday period and the first meeting for 2019 will be on Tuesday 5th March. Blessings to all for the Festive Season and the New Year.

- Mary Parkinson

Prison Ministry

This ministry has continued despite a few drop offs because of a time slot change. This ministry is now on a Sunday afternoon commencing at 1pm which may suit some people.

The women who attend the services, I believe, benefit greatly. The idea is to leave them with a message of hope in their broken and dysfunctional worlds and to show them there is love and healing to be found in Jesus. He can offer unconditional love and acceptance. No sin is too great to be removed, and no sin too small to keep one disconnected from Jesus. Often it is the small issues that niggle one!

We do not deliver a long sermon but a succinct and relevant message. The women love testimonies and true life stories of healing!

It is my belief that they need to know and understand that Jesus changes lives.

We have seen many women stay behind for extra prayer as many have a sincere desire to be restored over and above their crimes committed, to which we are not privy, thankfully!! Some of the women have a tremendous amount of anxiety and guilt, especially regarding the future. All we can do is provide small clear stepping stones of light from the gospel in the murky waters they are wading through.

We have two teams at this moment in time. Hein & Sheryl Swanevelder being one team and Barbara Weir and Pip Colgan being the other. We alternate and so only go every 2nd month, i.e. 6 times a year. It would be amazing just to have one more member as sometimes due to ill health, travel etc., we are "one person down" and this makes it complicated as we have to minister in pairs. If you feel this could be your ministry, pray about it and you may be surprised where God is leading you?! Feel free to contact the clergy or any team member if you are interested. This is a shared ministry and as such there are no leaders.

- Sheryl Swanevelder

Christmas Traditions - Secret Santa

My dad is one of five siblings; they have produced 20 children between them. This whanau is imperfect, immoderate, competitive and very loving. When, as a large extended family we gather at Christmas time, we play a fierce version of 'Secret Santa'.

The (highly contested) rules are as follows:

- Each participant has purchased a present to the value of \$5-\$10; re-gifted items are also acceptable;
- The presents are wrapped;
- The participants sit in a large circle and place all of the presents in the middle of the circle. One person selects a gift from the pile and unwraps it;
- The person next to them in a clockwise direction then decides if they would like to take the gift the previous person has unwrapped or select their own from the pile;
- If they choose the previous gift, then the person who is now present-less gets to choose another gift from the pile;
- If your gift is robbed, you then have the choice of all the already opened gifts (unless you are the first to open);
- The game continues until all gifts are opened and there are tears, tantrums, remonstrations and calls to a higher power.

This is one of our family traditions, unremembered for the gifts, but instead for the fun, the laughter and



the joy of being with an imperfect family that loves unconditionally. And for me, after a few failed attempts at the 'perfect Christmas', I now know there is no meaning or point to striving after the perfect Christmas for my family - it's too much and always seems to fail in a torrent of unmet expectations.

Instead, I'm hoping to start new traditions with my children, ones that are based upon spending time together, sharing laughter, stories and the message of Jesus. Jesus, so perfect, but also so loving that He wants to be part of every bit of chaos, madness and mess that happens during the Christmas season.

- Sarah Ashworth



Home Groups

Wrapping up Home Groups for the year

December seems to be a season of wrapping and unwrapping!

Our home group has wrestled with N.T. Wright's "Surprised by Hope" DVD series. This has opened our minds to new ideas. Discussions have been deep, serious and sometimes hilarious. We have journeyed spiritually beyond the teachings and touched the "calcified" areas in our own lives. Our hearts have become softened but our biblical compass stays "true north."

We have been able to reflect (without disclosure) on our own frailties, weaknesses and flaws; a true growing process. Our minds now should be pregnant with expectation and hope as we journey to Christmas to rejoice in the birth of our Saviour!

Our group has wrapped up with an early Advent series looking at the Hebrew meanings of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. We will close with a Christmas dinner.

Thanks to Glen, Conor, Annmarie Raffel, Anne Mercer, Jenny Walters and Margaret Cooper / Rosemary Atkins who lead groups. A time and energy sacrifice!

Let us REJOICE together as we CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS with Christians worldwide.

Sheryl Swanevelder

Wednesday Friendship Group

We continue to meet over a delicious morning tea, and the friendly rivalry over the scrabble games is enthusiastic and cordial. The Mahjong group enjoy their games and chatting over the cuppa after the 11.30 service. We welcome new people, those who come early for the games and those who just come to the service. We thank Bakers' Delight for their continued support of our Group.

We will finish for the year on Wednesday 5th December with our usual Christmas lunch and start again in 2019 on Wednesday 13th February.

- Jenny Haggitt



Friendship Group Mahjong

Mission Shop

We have a very exciting new picture and logo for the Mission Shop done by Isobell Tregoweth, our talented Web Manager. This image plays on the Electronic Screen in the Remuera New World, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Remuera. Be sure to check it out next time you are there. We have also put an advertisement in a small publication called My Vintage Town which should be in their December edition. We will be given some copies to put on the desk in the Shop to give to customers.

After a very successful Garage Sale this year we have almost finished changing the clothes on the racks from Winter to summer. We continue to support our various charities such as ATWC who now have their own Op Shop in Glen Innes.

We will close for the year on Saturday 15th December and open again in 2019 on Thursday 7th February.

- Jenny Haggitt



St Aidan's New Logo and the significance of the Celtic Cross

The first documentation of Christianity in Ireland is associated with St Patrick's return to the island around 430AD and the familiar story of his conversion of the Irish Celts. By the time of Patrick's death in 461AD, virtually all of Ireland had become Christianized.

In his efforts at conversion of a pagan people, Patrick and the early Church leaders in Ireland wisely built upon and incorporated much of the existing and thriving Celtic culture into their teachings of the Christian religion. This approach meant that the Irish Celts readily made the transition to Christian faith and from that ancestry came those Christians who developed and flourished during the sixth to the twelfth centuries.

This flourishing of Christian belief gave rise to the establishment of monastic settlements. By the time of St Aidan's birth, some two hundred years after Patrick's arrival, a number of these monasteries had been set up throughout the country. A monastery often originated as a single cell for one hermit monk. As others were captivated by the monk's holiness, the numbers of believers increased and eventually formed themselves into a larger monastic "settlement". These monasteries attracted people, both lay and religious, who were striving, by their lives and work, to give expression to their newly found Christian faith.

How would you have known you were approaching a monastic settlement? Well, from afar you would have caught sight of a Celtic High Cross. They were referred to as High Crosses because they stood some 10 to 15 feet high. Usually made of sandstone, the High Crosses are thought to have originally been painted in very bright colours. The distinctive feature of a Celtic Cross is, of course, the circle around the shaft of the cross itself. This circle clearly has its roots in ancient pagan beliefs. There are not surprisingly many theories around the symbolism of the circle for the pagan Celts. One theory is that the circle represented the Sun God highly venerated in Celtic culture. This same theory goes on to suggest that Patrick linked the idea of the life-giving properties of the sun with the Christian belief of God as the eternal centre of all creation.

St Aidan's Anglican Church

It is easy to imagine the enormous power and presence the High Cross must have had standing as a silent witness to the eternal and to the interrelationship of the Creating God with the Redeeming Christ. High Crosses are scattered across Ireland where about 100 still survive today.

In essence then the High Crosses at the monastic sites clearly marked a sacred space and declared an adherence to Christian beliefs. The Cross stood tall, silhouetted against the sky, attesting to a community dedicated to the keeping of the peace of Christ within its walls and to the sharing of that peace with those beyond its boundaries.

As Patrick sought to make links in his presentation of the gospel with the culture of his day, we are called to do the same in our own time. After a process involving input from a graphic designer, a focus group and general feedback from the parish we are excited to publish our new logo design. The more detailed cross will be retained for our road signage and other specific avenues. The updated design gives us a fresh and single image in the media space while preserving the Celtic cross and the Christian faith which it portrays.



The Dilworth Cross

Garage Sale & Fair

The Aftermath

For the last Parish magazine I wrote an article which would, I had hoped, encourage our parishioners to get involved once again with our annual fund-raiser. I have to say it seems as if everybody read the article, digested its contents, and either put their hand up to assist, or immediately rushed to their favourite travel agent to book tickets for wherever, so long it was out of reach of St Aidan's on 15 September. We had a great turnout, and very few "flimsy excuses". Thank you, one and all.

And what a great day it turned out to be. For once the sun shone brightly on our endeavours, the Pre-sale event on Friday night had been a huge success, and the Troops were raring to go. The crowd was backed right out to the street, and the sausage sizzle was doing a great trade. On the day over 300 sausages sold and that meant \$600 towards our total.

Inside the hall stallholders had used the extra days of set-up to present their goods in the best possible fashion, though in the initial crush after opening presentation counted for little. It was a case of taking the money, watching out for items disappearing, and keeping one's cool as the pressure came on. The first bit is the worst, and after that is a case of using the best salesmanship to get the best prices.

The stall that's always difficult to manage is the JUMBLE in the middle of the hall. Heaps and heaps of stuff nobody really wants to sell, but our devoted team managed the almost impossible and we had a very high clearance rate here as well. Other stalls in the hall also did some wondrous sales on the day and it was just so good to see how little was left over at day's end. We didn't even fill the skip this year for a change and there was only one van of stuff to go to ATWC, as opposed to three last year. Best of all, there is a wealth of feedback from the stall managers which we can use to make next year even better.

Down in the GA we had a really good selection of furniture, collectibles and antiques on display. All the furniture was ticketed, and we had sufficient salespeople to manage the traffic. This was my patch, and after years in retail, I understand how to close a

sale. However, whatever talents I may still have in this direction were totally eclipsed by those of Garth Richardson, who is the best salesperson I have ever known. We went round the floor (together) before the sale opened and we discussed the merits of the more expensive items. Once the sale opened Garth just concentrated on the expensive stuff and closed the sales, one at a time. No rush, no hard selling, just sales skill. A delight to behold. And the result? Just 3 furniture items left unsold on the day! The antiques stall also did famously once again. A stall that's hard to manage, but in the end they got their target with very little stock left to send on elsewhere.



So, was it a success this year? Of course it was, and the sale has become an institution on Auckland's calendar. Karina and Garth did an absolutely amazing job with the advertising and promotion on a very limited budget, but we do need to recruit another promotions helper for next year. It's a lot of effort before the sale day making sure we get the message out to our client base, but it would be one of the most rewarding jobs to do. Please consider being involved. It might just be exactly in your field of expertise, and you would work with a small committee. Only three meetings!

And finally...

As we approach the Christmas season, with family togetherness being such an important part of those celebrations, what do we as a community get from the annual Garage Sale and Fair? Is it worthwhile? Should we carry it on? To answer these questions, each one of us needs to think about their own links to St Aidan's. Do we attend just for the weekly Sunday Services or does our Church community mean more to each of us? Christianity is a way of life, not a Sunday only exercise

and participation in the myriad of activities offered at St Aidan's is an expression of our commitment to the Parish and to our faith. Participation in Church activities is fun! It may be hard work, but boy, is it rewarding and satisfying when the Garage Sale results are read out, the beautiful garments made by the Pins and Needles group are blessed, or one of the other regular groups reports progress. Progress is not made without effort, so perhaps there is a message we can all draw from this latest successful Garage Sale and Fair. We are all getting older, and hard work becomes more difficult as we age. We therefore have to WORK TOGETHER SMARTER. That way we can keep going just that little bit longer than the person across the road who has more "noes" in his / her vocabulary than "Yesses".



Just like the parable of the Good Samaritan we have heard about in recent sermons? I believe so. And it's even more important to think along these lines as we head towards the giving and sharing season of Christmas. It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding year, and as we race along towards one of the two most important festivals in the Church calendar, it's time to wish everybody a happy and restful break with their families and loved ones. Please don't expect to see the Garage Sale committee at their desks over Christmas but we will all be around supporting Glen and Louise during this busy festival time. That will be even better than arranging the Garage Sale!

- John Glenie



Just For Laughs

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, "What are you charged with?" The prisoner replied, "Doing my Christmas shopping too early."

"That's no crime", said the magistrate. "Just how early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the shop opened", answered the prisoner.

Irish Christmas Prayer

The light of the Christmas star to you

The warmth of home and hearth to you

The cheer and goodwill of friends to you

The love of the Son and God's peace to you

"...my eyes have seen your salvation"

Luke 230

Christmas Traditions - Victorian Christmas

Every year my family does an advent calendar, which was mentioned in the previous Christmas edition, and one of the activities in the advent calendar is a Victorian string maze.

The history of the Victorian string maze goes way back to the Victorians obviously, and that's where the name came from. Basically, the Victorians would hide a Christmas present somewhere in their home which would be tied to the end of a piece of string or wool. The rest of the string, which would be a rather long piece, would make a kind of obstacle course around their furniture and other home objects, like a maze, and the participants follow the string until they find their present. Each person that is joining in has a different coloured piece of string which they have to follow to the end of the quest, and present.

When we do this is in our house usually it is very surprising and Mum doesn't tell us which day it will happen. We come downstairs in the morning and we are very taken aback, but excited, because our house has been turned into a jungle of string. There are usually three participants - Finn, Daisy and me, because if adults did it they would probably be too big to scramble under all the pieces of string. Everyone in my family thoroughly looks forward to this part of advent because it involves a present, but it also involves strategy, thinking and movement.

If I ever have children I will probably carry on this tradition with them as everyone in my family enjoys it a lot and always looks forward to it when advent just starts. If this idea sounds good to you then I would recommend doing it in your own house, seeing as we enjoyed it so much.

- Lily Ashworth

Your invitation to join
our "All-comers" Choir
for the

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

9 Lessons and Carols Service on 16th December at 7pm

If you would like to join our "all-comers" choir, please add your name to the sign up sheet on the whiteboard in the Gathering Area.

Rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the lead up to the service (see below).

Rehearsal Schedule

10.15am ~ 12.15pm

7:30pm ~ 9:00pm

10.15am ~ 12.15pm

5.30pm ~ 6.15pm

Saturday 8th December

Wednesday 12th December

Saturday 15th December

Sunday 16th December

Mission and Ministry at St Aidan's

- a conversation

This year the St Aidan's community has been involved in a process of discerning the future direction of Mission and Ministry in the parish. Through a St Aidan's wide discussion and work done by the Vestry, Staff team and Wardens, some key areas of focus were identified. Innovative and creative ideas have then been gathered on what we might do in these areas and we are now in the stage of prioritising and beginning to implement some of these. Below are the three areas of our current focus along with some suggested actions. If, after reading the rest of this article you have contributions we could add, then please either talk to or email Glen or Louise. We would also love to hear from you if one of the areas or ideas listed resonates with you and you are in a position to help get one of these started either on your own or with a team of others. For a full list of all the 8 areas, see our noticeboard or ask for a copy to be emailed through to you.

Watch out for details of carol singing in the community and in early 2019, a parish picnic and movie nights.

Mission at St Aidan's

Objective: as a missional church, we encourage and enable people to build a relationship with Jesus

proclaiming | engaging | gathering | sharing

Sharing and living the Gospel so new people come to know Christ. Focus resources on creating opportunities for people to hear about Christian faith and spiritual practices and to respond. Initiatives supporting this mission could include: Mainly music, clubs, Alpha-type courses, church events, church front displays, sermons, home group events, discipleship programs, church-wide teaching series, friendships, website development, resourcing the congregation through development of the Outreach team.

- Give a Bible or something about church
- To set up a club to teach people about God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Make the church stand out by painting some stuff
- Mainly Music – a group of 4 for doing the greeting
- Have 'flyers' what's on at church (for funerals often paperwork is cleared away but deliberately have some takeaway flyers for those who attend available)

- Welcoming – everyone. Feedback identifies us as a friendly church. Also important after the services – especially newish people standing alone or visitors.
- Newcomers – identifying and supporting. Then finding a way of their "belonging"-by involvement in church groups- hospitality roster and all the other rosters!
- Home Groups – still room for resource sharing-suggested topics for sessions – 4-6 weeks would be valuable
- Carol singing around the community. In the streets of parishioners – can tell neighbours.

Developing ministries that engage with our community (for example, Pins and Needles) that witness to Christian faith and offer opportunities for involvement in its expression. Develop new missional groups to meet specific community needs particularly that are local and focussed on younger people. Initiatives supporting this mission could include: Working with Remuera Primary and Intermediate, Mainly Music, tool or gardening collectives, clubs, chaplaincy, spiritual practices, prison visits, CAP money courses, advocacy, HfH, ATWC, City Mission, NZCMS, CBS, parenting courses, connections with local groups and events, relationships with local businesses and community, RBA.

- Building Community Garden
- Women's Evening Fellowship – keep trying to include younger members and women from the wider community.
- Christian Book Group – readers meet monthly. Choose book from St Aidan's library and will review book at meeting. Include a social tea time
- Have a "talk fest" inviting youth of Remuera in order to hear what they want
- A social evening with dancing once a month
- Try to get to groups that cannot get to church e.g City Mission (probably already doing this)
- "Open Day" Although the church is always open. Maybe advertise that it is more or have a day so that those who feel not sure about turning up maybe shy will attend a special Open Day.
- "Bring a friend day" – For all age groups. Bring someone who you know doesn't always attend church/ never attended. Have a special morning tea afterwards
- Parish Picnic
- Family Camp

- Walking/Tramping groups (walking group stopping at café)
- Walking school bus
- A keep fit club
- A badminton club
- Film & soup evening with discussion afterwards, maybe monthly 4 pm Sun
- Tours of historic churches – minivan, day outing
- Selwyn Centre - exercise, companionship, mental stimulation/games
- Choirs from local schools coming to sing – Remuera Primary, R. Intermediate, Kings School, St Kents. Maybe AAW would organise – Pre-Christmas weekday events, even Pins and Needles. Would need to be weekday presumably but at least it allows children to experience the church and surrounds
- Community interest speakers – Parenting course, Retirement courses etc. We sponsor this so free to the public.
- St Aidan's quiz night bring people in who are from community. Pub Quiz type event
- Brew club
- Building/Fixing group. People getting together to build something and learn skills
- Friday movie night with family or classic movies.

Develop teaching and worship that engages all ages, nurturing and equipping us to follow Christ. Create an environment that is accessible, intergenerational, welcoming and challenging. Initiatives supporting this mission could include: intergenerational worship, widen involvement, vary service formats, professional development for preaching, preaching groups, Q & A sessions, current issues.

- Family service one Sunday a month
- Involve young members in greeting and distributing name tags, taking up offertory
- Would you consider a speaker or better still, a group of people come from 'Inter-faith' organisation come to widen our understanding of other faiths and cultures
- Back to Church, maybe St Aidan's Day – huge push for getting families to bring back other family members and past congregants almost like a family reunion.
- Evening service – unplugged, candles, lots of worship, laid back
- 5th Sunday youth running the morning 9.30 am service

You're invited to
CHRISTMAS
at St Aidan's,
Remuera
More than just a story

Blue Christmas

2nd Dec at 6:30pm

9 Lessons & Carols

16th Dec at 7pm

Christmas Eve

4pm Kids Event/Service

7pm Communion Service

11pm Midnight Communion

& Carol Service

Christmas Day

9am Family Service

We'd love to see you!

St Aidan's
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www.facebook.com/StAidansRemuera

From the Maintenance Team

Have you ever thought about the behind-the-scenes work that takes place around St Aidan's, often at night and occasionally in the very late hours? Most of these tasks are mundane – replacing light bulbs, maintaining, repairing or replacing, appliance repairs... the list seems endless. These activities do not fall into the category of mission or ministry but they all need attention, not only to maintain St Aidan's facilities but also to meet legal requirements.

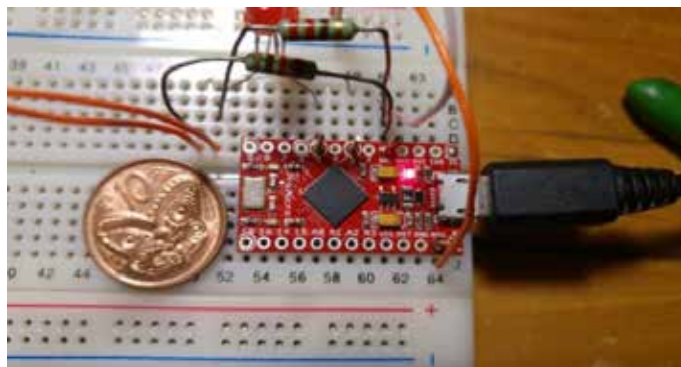
One recent task was to run a new internet-based phone and data line to the Priest Assistant's house, the main idea being to benefit from St Aidan's internet plan and provide an option to retire the copper land line and separate internet connection to the Priest Assistant's house. We expected it to be reasonably straightforward to get up into the Vicarage ceiling, run a data cable from the office, through several ceiling spaces, into and across the garage and down a wall to ground level. The cable would then go underground across the lawn to the Priest Assistant's house. Nick Mercer had kindly (and unsuspectingly!) offered to lend a hand, so being the youngest and most agile member of the team, he was despatched up into the ceiling, torch in hand. However only a few minutes later he re-appeared with bad news – due to lack of access there was no way to pull a cable through the intended ceiling spaces. This now meant installing trunking up around the vicarage eaves and then into the garage where the cable would run across that ceiling as planned, down the wall and into underground ducting already laid across the lawn.

That all this was achieved was due to the individual skills offered and commitment made by those present. It is not the intention to name names here, but the work involved a significant amount of arduous and tedious work with a spade, installing ducting, cable installation, woodwork, climbing up and working from ladders, crawling under house, installing special connectors, testing communications, debugging... the list is long. On top of all this, our highly experienced and greatly valued IT team consultant was flying to the other end of the world the very next day. If the system wasn't commissioned that night it would be some

time before he could get back to it. Incredibly, the new internet connection was installed from scratch, tested and up and running by 8pm that evening! The Team was well satisfied with the day's work.

On another occasion, the water boiler in the Gathering Area kitchen decided to boil away furiously through one Friday night until about 10am the next morning when one of the Maintenance Team came in to look at another job. The Gathering Area around the kitchen was more like a steam sauna. The problem was with a failed electronic card in the boiler unit. Replacement electronic parts were purchased, the offending components removed and new ones soldered in. It was highly satisfying to know that the money saved would instead go to one of St Aidan's ministries, and the water boiler's eventual trip to landfill would be now delayed for a considerable time.

Have you noticed the new electronic Emergency Exit lights installed in the Gathering Area & church? You haven't? Excellent – that means a job well done.



On testing earlier this month, the old exit lights were found to have deteriorated to the stage that they failed to meet the NZ Building Code requirements by a considerable margin. As is the case these days, it was

very little more per unit to buy new ones as opposed to renewing the batteries in the existing units. In addition, the new units have no bulbs requiring replacement.

The work was carried out after 8pm over two evenings and was as much a social occasion as a job to be completed. The banter and leg-pulling would have been an eye-opener if anyone else was present.

Another job earlier this year was to install a light to illuminate the altar in the side-chapel. There was nowhere easy to mount the light but there is a small platform up on the left-hand column facing the sanctuary. A few years ago, making a bracket for this light would have been a significant exercise. With the recent emergence of 3D-printing, it was a trivial task to draw up a bracket on a computer and then 3D print it. The plastic bracket fitted perfectly. After printing,

a quick spray of black paint and the lamp was ready to be installed. Have a look at it sometime – when most of the other lights are out and the stone altar is illuminated softly by this lamp, the sense of comfort and reassurance is an experience. Sit in one of the nearby chairs to reflect, contemplate and pray – this has brought the writer considerable peace and comfort.

"It was highly satisfying to know that the money saved would instead go to one of St Aidan's ministries"

Setting up the front-lawn Christmas decorations is another interesting and ongoing project. In previous years there have been problems with the light string threaded in and around the Oak tree. This string is battery powered, but batteries have the unfortunate habit of going flat. In addition, the light string turns itself off during the day to save the batteries. Unfortunately the high levels of light from nearby street lamps mean the light string often does not come back on at night as it should. To address these and other problems, this year The Team has taken a direct approach by taking to the battery pack and miniaturised electronics with wire cutters, and using a mains-driven programmable controller to control the lights. A software program has been written to make the lights glow and dim in a particular sequence, but the marvellous thing about this device is the size of the controller (red rectangular item in picture). One has to be careful not to lose track of it when putting it down on the workbench.

The job is currently a work-in-progress, but this coming Christmas the device will be combined with spotlight controls to improve the illumination of the front-lawn nativity scene at night in a better manner than was done for Christmas 2017.

Another work-in-progress concerns replacing the hot water cylinders in the vicarage. These are now at end-of-life and in a poor state. In addition, there are some options as regards improving the system. A Team member who is experienced in this type of work is putting quite a lot of time into researching these options in order to gain the maximum benefit from the inevitable expenditure. At the present time, the upstairs unit has been replaced and commissioned, and we await the eventual demise of the downstairs cylinder. Glen's family once again have hot water "on-tap".

A similar project is underway concerning the hot water system for the hall kitchen and associated areas. There

is also a review of the main toilets serving the hall with the intention of modernising them. Certainly, the above activities don't contribute directly to Worship, Caring, Mission. However, Caring and Mission would most probably be at a lower level if St Aidan's had to engage electricians, plumbers, carpenters etc. at commercial rates to attend to these jobs.

The personal reward for each member of this team is to have the ability to evaluate, execute and complete this type of task so that Glen, Louise and many others don't have to get involved in detail. They can put their energy and time to other higher matters, such as our parish and the community, both local and wider. By taking care of the maintenance aspects of Parish Life, this team is perfectly satisfied, and willing and able to incorporate their practical abilities with their faith.

- David Cotton



Mint Slice Cheesecake Truffles

Ingredients:

200g Packet of Mint Slice biscuits
125g softened cream cheese
150g melted chocolate

Method:

Crush the Mint Slice biscuits and mix together with cream cheese.
Roll into balls and dip in melted chocolate.
Refrigerate until set.

Options:

Replacing Mint Slice biscuits with Tim Tams or another favourite chocolate biscuit works too.
You can also add a red M&M and spearmint leaves for decoration.

Angel Tree Aotearoa

Angel Tree Aotearoa is a national programme for children who have a parent in prison, to make them feel special with gifts delivered to their home.



The programme incorporates a Christmas gift from their parent in prison, whānau/family camps, back-to-school support (stationary and fees), counselling and access to tutoring, access to health providers, whānau/families shared meals and experiences as well as provision of developmental tools such as dealing with bullying, anger management and stigma issues, self-esteem and Tree of Life counselling.

Angel Tree Aotearoa creates a link between the parent and their child. It enables a gift that represents love and hope for families at a special time of year. It also encourages our communities to step up and play their part.

St Aidan's once again has the opportunity of supporting Angel Tree this Christmas. Angel Tree have given us 70 children to buy presents for and as you will remember these gifts must be no more than \$25.00 each.

This is a wonderful project and for the people who deliver the presents it is so rewarding to see the excitement of the children and their caregivers.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm again this year as we make a difference in the lives of children whose parent/s are in prison.

- Christine Muller



Remembrance Day

Centenary of Armistice

11th November 2018



On the 11 November after the 9.30 service, we took time to acknowledge those who had lost their lives in WW1 and the many whose lives were forever affected by war.

A photo montage was displayed in the church for those who wanted to be still in that space whilst a large group gathered around the memorial outside. Prayers were read, wreaths laid and the ode read.

We joined with many other New Zealanders at 11 am to observe a time of silence for the fallen. At 11.02 our bells rang mimicking the 'roaring chorus' that rung out 100 years earlier, signifying the end of the war and the signing of an armistice.

Farewell for Chris



A farewell morning tea was held for Chris on Sunday 28th October. Chris will finish up at St Aidan's at the end of 2018 and plans to teach music in Shenzhen, China

Would you like to financially contribute to St Aidan's Vision of Worship, Caring and Mission? Here's how you can!

Individuals can claim a third of the donation back as a tax rebate, up to a maximum claim equal to their annual taxable income.

Automatic Payment: This is when an automatic transfer of money is made from your bank account to ours every week/month/quarter. We will provide you with a form containing our details for you to complete and send to your bank. This is our preferred option as it enables us to forecast our income and plan expenditure wisely. If you give by automatic payment or internet banking, we are only able to keep a record if you have included a parish-issued reference number in your transaction details. Please contact the office to be given this reference number, which allows your giving to be as close to anonymous as possible.

Envelope giving: If your giving varies each week, this would be the best option for you. Upon request you are allocated a 'giving number' and a set of envelopes. You can then give anonymously by placing your envelope in the collection. If you give by envelope we will automatically keep a record of your giving so that at the end of the financial year we are able to send you a letter confirming the amount given. This letter can then be forwarded to your accountant or used in your personal tax return.

Cash donations: Putting cash in the offering during a service.

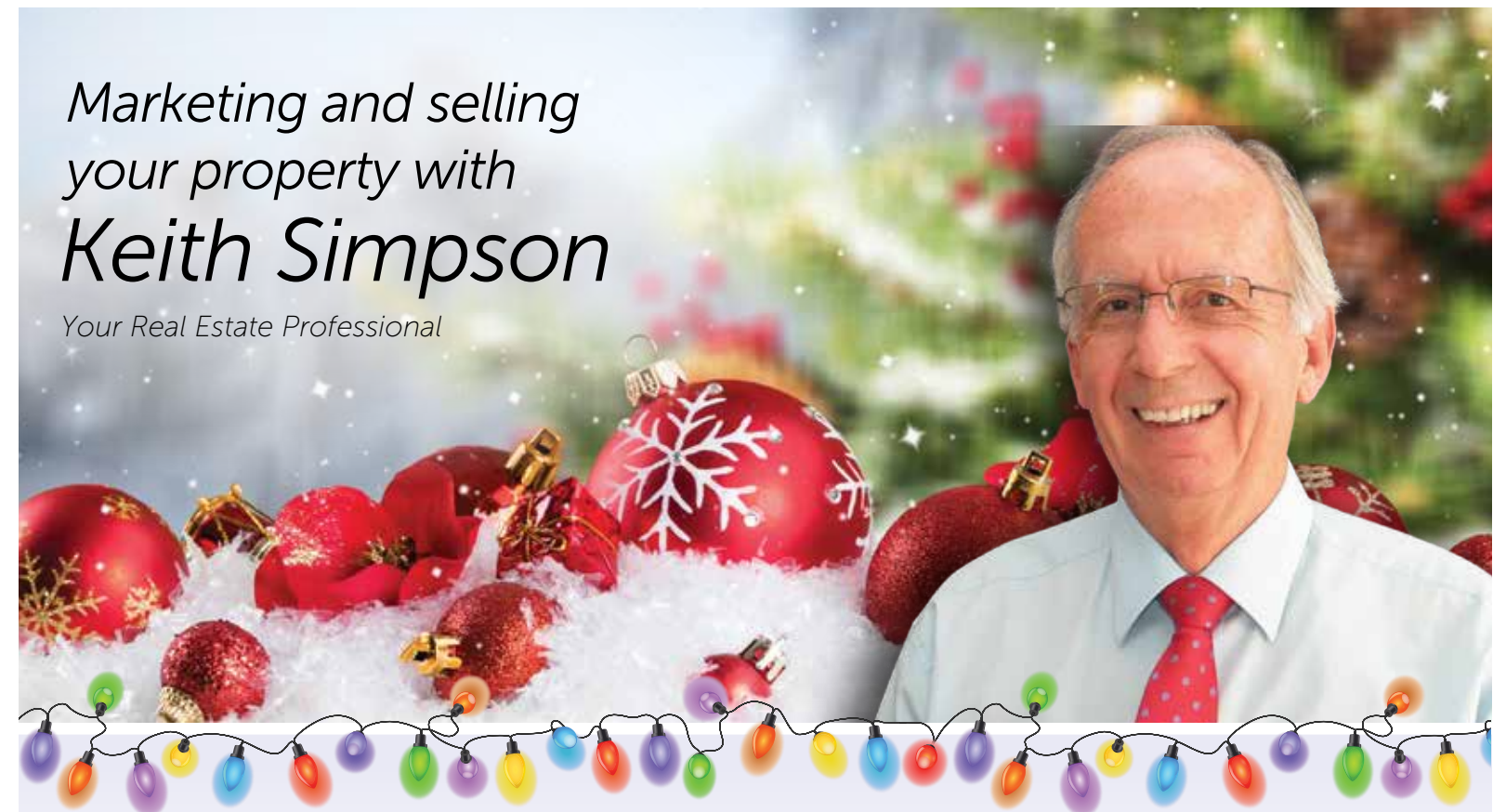
One-off donation: This is simply a one-off donation, perhaps to mark a special occasion.

Internet Banking: An electronic transfer can be made through online banking using our bank account details which are: 06-0257-0052666-013. We can issue you with a reference number to quote in your transaction which allows us to issue you with a receipt soon after 31 March tax year end for tax refund purposes. Contact the office for more details.

Bequests: Please consider remembering St Aidan's in your will. Vestry undertakes to ensure that any gifts given in this way achieve the greatest benefit for the ongoing mission of the Gospel through the ministries of St Aidan's.

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I'd like to wish all my clients and parishioners at St Aidan's Anglican Church a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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