



Parish Annual Reports
2020

Vicar AGM Report 2020

While this year has been far from what we would have hoped for or expected, I have found in it much for which I am thankful. We would have never chosen to shut down our in-church services and various ministries but we were able to continue to find ways to worship, to serve and to have fellowship together throughout 2 lockdowns, various periods of meeting restrictions and a total of 15 Sundays run online. I am very thankful for the way the parish took all this in its stride – multiple emails, instructions, meeting restrictions, navigating online worship etc., and through it all still able to be positive, thankful and encouraging of what we were doing – thank you.

Services

During the first lockdown, Louise and I were keen to run Sunday worship 'live' on our main social media platform Facebook. We wanted to create a sense of actively participating in worship on the Sunday and to have the ability to interact with the congregation. We began with a simple service but quickly involved others with readings, music and updates from the community which made the services more alive and for which we were very grateful. It was a bit of work to begin with and throughout took up a good percentage of our time. In lockdown 2.0 we switched to pre-recording service and while this did not lessen the workload, we felt we could produce a smoother service. It also allowed us to see the services from a different perspective and concentrate on developing various aspects of the service. Over the lockdown period we had good uptake and received many positive comments – thank you to all who contributed and worshipped with us and for your encouragement – it made a difference to a difficult time.

We also offered a 'Thankfulness and Getting through lockdown' daily livestream (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) for the first four weeks of lockdown 1.0. This was produced by Sarah and I and it involved sharing informally various thoughts and comments people had emailed in along with a bit of humour. This was no small feat to pull together each day but once again we were buoyed along by the support and interest of the community and felt, with the level of engagement and sadness when it ended, that it was a worthwhile endeavour.

Along with online services, we also offered regular **Zoom meetings** to provide connection and fellowship. These were valuable times to hear where people were at and opportunities to have a chat and a laugh.

The **Pastoral care team** and the wider parish 'ring around' group swung into action and we continued to stay in touch with the parish through phone calls and some socially distanced visits. A big thank you to all who carried out this very important aspect of ministry – I know it was much appreciated.

Mainly Music has been another aspect of parish life which continued throughout this time. We again had great uptake and involvement with this in the first lockdown and now coming out of lockdown 2.0 we are back to our usual numbers. Livestreaming the services has

allowed for continuity and ongoing development of this community. We still continue to have new people come as well.

We have continued to **livestream** our services since being back in the building. A special mention and thanks must go to Pete Macaulay for spearheading this and putting in many hours to provide this service to those who are worshipping from home. We have learnt a lot through this time in the technical aspects of online worship but also more generally in our ability to continue to be a church community in a difficult situation. Some of this will shape the way we minister as Covid not only continues to have an effect on our lives now but will, I believe, change the way we operate in the future. Online communication tools such as Zoom and broadcasting events and services, while once a feature, are now becoming more common and I think will become standard practice. We have certainly seen this in the funerals we have had here where families have engaged AV companies (at large expense) to stream services so those overseas can join in. To this end, we are currently in the process of working through quotes to install livestream capability into the church which can be used for funerals and weddings alongside our regular services.

Service attendance had been low during times back out of lockdown for obvious reasons but it has been great in the last few weeks to see our numbers back up to pre-lockdown numbers and in some cases even higher. The wardens will touch on finances and giving in their report but we have seen Sunday offerings drop significantly in relation to services not being in the physical building this year.

St John's Students

It obviously has been a difficult year for Hamish and Rachel Maclean to be 'seen' in the parish. Hamish is full-time at St John's and Rachel is on a part time basis, doing some elements of the St John's programme. Along with the family attending worship services, Hamish has been involved in a home group I have been running and has taken an active role in leading elements of this, including starting a weekly prayer time as a group. As part of their placement, they are both undertaking a contextual profile of the parish which includes recording the demographic makeup of the parish. This will be useful for our own information in that, while we have the data, it isn't collated into a picture of our parish.

Maintenance

We have had the programmed maintenance crew through the facilities this year and although the brief was to do touch up painting only, it was good to see the entire Mission Shop toilet area had been repainted. Next year is a full repaint and this will need to be coordinated with any redevelopment work that may be taking place. There have been a couple of larger maintenance items this year and while budgeted for, it is a reminder of the increased cost associated with this plant. The property team have been very busy this year with lots of running repairs around the premises - a huge thank you to this team who tirelessly put in many hours to keep down costs and keep things ticking over.

Synod

In a lockdown environment, this took place via Zoom and only involved one motion around the Committee size of the Auckland City Mission. The rest of Synod business is scheduled to take place November 20th – 21st. Thank you to our synod reps for their involvement.

Mission/Outreach

We have had a chance to meet this year as a committee where we heard reports from the various leaders of the services we are currently engaged in and discussed what we saw as the areas for future involvement. Part of the process will be to engage with the parish as we determine the needs of our local community and seek to discern opportunities for outreach in our local community.

Men's Group

The men have continued, as restrictions have allowed, to meet together once a month for breakfast. This provides an opportunity for fellowship and connection and a basis for developing relationships. The plan was to add to this various events throughout the year which hasn't been achieved, but an area for development in the future.

Other Groups

I am involved in two other groups that meet regularly. Colloquium meets once a month and with mostly articles and books (we did look at a couple of short videos this year) forming the basis for discussion, we have largely focused on the how the gospel message can be presented into our current context. We have critiqued some presentations, discussed theological concepts behind the good news and generally had robust debate. This group continues to be open to new members.

The other group I have been part of is called the Huddle – this is a discipleship focused group which goes through various aspects of what it means to be a disciple of Christ with an end to relate this to our own leadership. It is based on a book and weaves its way through a somewhat set curriculum. We began in July and unfortunately with my departure we have not been able to get through all of the course material. However, it is likely that the group will continue to meet as a home group.

FAB Sale

With the ongoing management of Covid cases and the implications for further restrictions that holds, the Garage Sale committee determined that a full scale sale would be a risky proposition. Running an event under restrictions would be either difficult or impossible and the threat of being encumbered with a container load of 2nd hand goods was not an appealing prospect. We have planned to have a scaled down version of the sale, focusing on key stalls that are good earners while allowing us to manage any changes in restrictions. We hope that this event will still be a good fundraiser and look forward to the final results. A big thank to the committee and all those involved for their work so far and their ability to flex with changing circumstances.

Funerals

There have been some sad occasions for us as a community. Mavis Pavis and Garth Harris passed away this year - we continue to mourn their loss with their families, in particular Margaret Harris and we miss their presence amongst us. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Rev'd Glen Ashworth

Vicar

Priest Associate Report

This year has not been the year that everyone expected due to Covid so this report reflects some of the implications that the pandemic has had on parish life and ministry.

Services have taken a slightly different look across the year – 15 Sundays, 9 in the first lockdown and 6 in the second lockdown were held in an online format only. Initially Zoom was used, so that we were 'live' on the Sunday morning as people joined in with the worship and latterly pre-recorded so that it could be offered via YouTube as well as Facebook. There was a high demand for good communication, patience and teamwork when creating the services and I am very appreciative of being able to work with Glen to provide these alternatives to our usual worship, thank you Glen. Thanks also to those from the parish who felt competent in the area of IT to be able to record readings, prayers and music to add to our services. Whilst the situation was less than ideal, and not being able to gather physically for significant events in our church calendar such as Good Friday and Easter Sunday, was hugely disappointing, I think we coped with the situation that was presented to us. Having an online 'presence' has enabled many to tune into our services who would have missed out in the past. Parishioners away on holidays have caught the services whilst on vacation, and some have taken time to view us first before walking through our doors as a newcomer, unexpected benefits that we wouldn't have foreseen. Thanks also for the past decision to extend the wifi to the vicarage and clergy house, as who would have thought that these premises would become the physical hub of the church for over 3 months of this year.

I always gain a great deal of pleasure from offering services outside of the usual Sunday morning. Assisting bereaved families as they prepare to farewell a loved one is a significant ministry. This can be for some, the first time they have been into a church as an adult and usually the first encounter with St Aidan's and I work hard to ensure that it is a positive experience (as much as a funeral can be). Whilst Anzac Day was not able to be commemorated in the church, our annual Pet Service (with distancing) was able to go ahead. People seemed to appreciate the ability to bring along the 4 legged family members who usually have to stay at home. Plans are underway for the Blue Christmas service on December 6th which may be even more significant this year as families have loved ones overseas unable to travel.

Home Groups A huge thanks to the various leaders of these groups who have adjusted to the changed year. In order to maintain connection, prayer and spiritual enrichment a variety of arrangements were employed in lockdown. Once we moved down levels each group assessed when they felt comfortable and safe to meet together. Thanks to Sheryl who with me helps with resourcing, supporting and praying for these groups.

Pastoral Care The pastoral care team has proved invaluable this year managing the difficulties of maintaining support across the parish when we haven't been able to hold our usual gatherings. The large team of people on the Parish Grapevine played a key role during lockdown as they rung around their designated group of people to 'check in' with

parishioners. The ringers were able to see where there was a need and how people were coping with the strange situation that we found ourselves in from March and to source support where needed. A huge thanks to those 39 people who help out in this way, it was really appreciated. The pastoral care team where possible have met two monthly to discuss the various ways we offer support and to see if there are ways to improve what we offer. Prayer circle, Prayer ministry, freezer meals, parish grapevine, home communion as well as visiting are just some of the ways pastoral care is offered at St Aidans. Whilst the team try to ensure that people are not overlooked when in need, it is hard to always know when help or a simple phone call might be appreciated. We can all play a part in ensuring that we are a welcoming and caring community.

Social activities A group of people met at the end of 2019 and brainstormed ways we could continue to develop connection within the parish. We had a number of plans for 2020 but unfortunately Covid meant that many of these had to go on hold. Whilst this was a huge disappointment we are mindful that people have felt the impact of Covid in far more devastating ways than the need to reshuffle social events. We are hopeful a number of these new ideas will be re-instated into the 2021 diary. The Parish picnic and Quiz night were able to go ahead as planned and were thoroughly enjoyed by those that attended.

Professional Development It is important to stay updated and continue to work on furthering skills in ministry. The diocese offered a two day course entitled 'Awareness and Understanding Suicide' which I attended mid-year. The material was targeted for parishes and was excellent in content and resources. Due to Covid, the usual 2 day ministry conference morphed into a zoom conference across the part of one day with the theme 'How do we sing a new song in a time of ecological crisis?' which was led by Dr Emily Colgan. The remaining part of the conference was broken into smaller 'Rev Talks' that were sent out across the rest of the year and were viewed individually with follow up questions and discussions happening at a smaller cluster group level. Topics included 'Participating in God's Global Mission', 'Exploring online options', 'Trauma and our congregations' and 'Domestic violence'. At a personal level I undertook an Otago university paper on 'Theology and Mental Health' which was extremely poignant in these Covid times as well as beginning a two year part time course on Spiritual Direction.

Diocesan involvement As a parish and as a priest 'employed' by the diocese there is an expectation that we contribute towards the diocese. I have two ways in which I do this. One is through my participation on the Hostel of the Holy Name Trust Board, which distributes grants twice across the year. Meetings are usually in the evening and not too onerous so do not impact greatly on my hours spent in the parish. The other is one of the recording secretaries at our annual Synod, which this year is being held over 2 different sessions.

I feel very blessed working alongside a very competent team of people and it is always lovely to be able to pray, have a laugh but also roll your sleeves up and do the physical stuff of shifting chairs or putting up tables when the need arises. I have really appreciated the support of Anne in the office who keeps us all on track and also the wardens and their

encouragement and wise advice. I am going to miss the partnership of working with Glen, and the ready 'sounding board' to talk through my ideas. I feel we have worked well as a team supporting one another and this is something I have truly valued.

As I look to the coming year, I know that I am excited about the prospect of 2021 and to see how we can continue to carry out God's work together at St Aidan's. Ministry is wide and varied and I know that this year has been particularly tough on a large number of people. Thank you for allowing me to share a small segment of your lives with you.

The Rev'd Louise Anderson

Priest Associate

St Aidan's Wardens' Report

Wow, what a year 2020 has been, certainly nothing anyone could have predicted, the year of COVID-19 with all sorts of significant impacts on the people, community and life of St Aidan's Parish.

It has been amazing to witness the thoughtful and incredible efforts of many, many parishioners led largely by our wonderful Pastoral Care team, to connect with each other during the periods of lockdown and isolation this year. Very sincere thanks to everyone who generously and repeatedly reached out to others by phone, by an online device and with visiting when lockdown levels allowed it. Your ability to quickly adapt to changing needs was wonderful and appreciated.

Vestry

Vestry has continued to meet once per month with alternating formal and strategic meetings, this year characterised by a significant number of online and "Zoom" meetings and the added communication challenges this format brings.

Thanks to Vestry members Liz Lim, Nic Mercer, Andrew Maclean, David Jamison, Kumar Mather and Mark Rushton for their hard work, commitment and expertise.

This year as a Vestry team we have worked hard to strengthen the sub-committee model of working and we are very pleased to report that the sub-committees are largely working well and we are seeing the required work being done and actions gaining momentum despite the challenges of two COVID lockdowns.

We especially wish to thank Kumar for leading the Finance sub-committee and agreeing to take on the role of Treasurer. Thank you so much Kumar for the constant dedication and determination you have brought to the role, we acknowledge and thank you especially for the huge amount of work you did at the beginning of the year and continue to do, working closely with Trust Management to ensure we receive accurate and timely financial reports every month. The decision-making benefit of having these accurate and timely reports can't be underestimated. We know that Kumar would also want to record and thank Russell Florence for the significant assistance he has given to finance this year, thanks Russell!

COVID has certainly impacted our financial resources this year with the various lockdowns significantly impacting upon both hall hire revenue and cash giving from parishioners. Fortunately the extent of this impact was mitigated through Wage Subsidy support from the Government. We will incur an operational deficit this year and will draw upon our cash reserves to fund this. Given the wide ranging impacts of COVID on parishioner's individual financial circumstances, we have chosen not to send out the traditional letter regarding giving this year. However, given our shared focus on missional outcomes and sustaining the facilities we enjoy, it will be important to ensure we are able to grow our financial resources through 2021. Further detail is provided in the proposed budget prepared by Kumar.

Our very grateful thanks to Andrew Maclean for picking up the leadership of the Property sub-committee. While also overseeing the repairs and maintenance tasks, much of Andrew's time has been focused on next steps in the process of scoping the improvement and development of St Aidan's facilities, in particular north of the gathering area. He has been facilitating a brief for the architect to work up design concepts and it is exciting this progress is being made. As we write this report, we are almost ready to seek approval to spend money on the initial concept design work. There will be the opportunity for the Parish to feedback on the work once it is available.

Congratulations to Andrew on being elected to Diocesan Council, the governance body of the Auckland Diocese at this year's Synod. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Council and may God bless you in your related responsibilities in that role.

Sincere thanks to our Vestry Secretary Barbara Clephane, in particular thanks for the quietly competent and dedicated way you record our Vestry meeting minutes and actions, also for your endless patience with all of us, it's much appreciated!

Staff

What a challenging year 2020 has been for our clergy team! Glen and Louise did an incredible job almost immediately implementing online services when NZ first went into level 4 lockdown in late March. This was such a blessing and such an important part of keeping us gathered together as a Church community in the presence of God during a time when people were feeling isolated, vulnerable and unsure of what may lie ahead. Services were consistently and beautifully provided. We are truly grateful to you Glen and Louise for your faithful commitment to these online services, for the opportunities to worship and pray, to hear your teaching and for always wanting to keep us connected during this time. These services were a wonderful blessing to us all.

The challenges continued even as NZ reduced down the alert levels and we were able to meet and worship again in the Church. Glen and Louise ably kept on top of the endlessly changing social distancing, cleaning, sanitising and COVID tracing requirements of levels 2.5, 2 and 1, not to mention regularly keeping us all informed of arrangements and ultimately helping to keep us all safe and well.

Mainly Music continued online during the lockdown periods thanks to the dedicated and creative efforts of Sarah and Glen. If you read the associated comments on Facebook you can see how much the parents and children hugely appreciated these sessions, bringing something familiar into their homes, and maybe introducing someone not so familiar – if you haven't met Sally, you'd better go online and check her out! Thank you Sarah and Glen for reaching out in this valuable missional way to those outside our Parish community.

Sarah continued to creatively and faithfully serve our families with young children through the Children's Ministry. We are truly grateful for your energy Sarah and very much appreciate the amazing way you so successfully seek to seamlessly include the children into what we do as Church.

Thanks very much Conor for your ongoing leadership of the Youth programmes at St Aidan's this year and for continuing the connection with online 'meetings' during the lockdown periods. We must say that these 'meetings' certainly were loud at times in our homes and it was great to hear the Youth enjoying each other's company. Thank you also for your faithful service to the Diocese as a leader for the AYM BOLD programme, and for your encouragement and support of the Youth members involved as BOLD team members this year...as we heard in the recent Youth Service this was a significant spiritual growth experience for them.

Anne Godman increased her hours to full time at the beginning of the year to include some of the account and financial management tasks for which we are extremely grateful. Many, many thanks Anne for your continued service in the role of Parish Administrator. You are a wonderfully calm and effective support for the Clergy, staff and people of St Aidan's and we thank you especially for adapting and holding all this together so well and with your characteristic care while working from home during the lockdowns.

This year we have had a greater social media presence than ever before and we wish to thank Isobell for all her great work in this area. More than ever this is a vital gateway for people to connect with St Aidan's.

On 20 October we were sad to announce Glen's resignation. Glen will be moving to the Diocese of Nelson taking up the role of Vicar of the Church of the Nativity in Blenheim effective 1 February 2021. While Glen will be a huge loss to St Aidan's and will be greatly missed, we congratulate him, and celebrate in the excitement of his new ministry in Blenheim.

Plans are hatching to celebrate his ministry, his achievements in this place and to farewell him, Sarah, Lily, Finn and Daisy as a Parish over lunch in the Church Hall on 20 December. Please keep an eye on the weekly newsletter for details and be prepared to bring your stories to share.

Archdeacon Carole Hughes will be working closely with us on the process of appointing a new Vicar. The process will formally start once Glen has left the Parish and will begin with a Parish consultation pencilled in to be held on 14 Feb, again further details will be made available once confirmed. In the meantime, Bishop Ross will work on who could be the interim Priest in Charge and make the appointment at the appropriate time.

We ask that you please pray for Glen and his family, for Staff and Vestry, and for all parishioners of St Aidan's as we all prepare for change ahead.

We wish to sincerely thank all those who have generously and willingly given their time, skills and energy to everything that is the community of St Aidan's this year, you are truly the life of this Parish. It really is regrettably impossible to mention and thank everyone by name however please know that everything you contribute, no matter how big or small, is hugely appreciated. May God bless each and every one of you.

Juli Mercer, Vicar's Warden

James Parkinson, People's Warden

Personnel Sub-Committee of Vestry

1. This report covers the period from November 2019 to November 2020.
2. The personnel sub-committee of Vestry is responsible for all aspects of employment and personnel-related matters of lay staff at St Aidan's (with approval of the wider Vestry). The members of the sub-committee for the reporting period are:
 - Vicar, Glen Ashworth
 - David Jamison
 - Liz Lim
3. During the reporting period:
 - a. The scope of Anne Godman our Parish Administrator's role was expanded to include assisting our Treasurer and Finance Sub-committee by collecting financial information needed for our financial reporting, both internally and to Trust Management. Anne is now flourishing in this aspect of her role, and the work she does is appreciated by our Treasurer and Finance Sub-Committee.
 - b. We completed a round of formal staff performance appraisals with:
 - Anne Godman, Parish Administrator
 - Isobell Tregoweth, Website & Social Media Content Manager
 - Sarah Ashworth, Kids' Church Ministry Leader
 - Conor McGrath, Youth Ministry Leader

This process included seeking feedback from people (internal and external) who engage regularly with the staff member, and/or those whose children are involved in the relevant ministry. A development plan for each staff member was also put in place. The next round of reviews is scheduled for February/March next year.
 - c. We experienced two lock-down periods during the reporting period. Staff continued in their respective areas of ministry to provide pastoral contact and support, and Anne with administrative support.
 - d. With Glen's recent resignation as our vicar, we will need to find a replacement for Sarah as our Kids' Church Ministry Leader in the new year.

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

Glen Ashworth, David Jamison and Liz Gray

Parish Office Report

Well, what a topsy turvy year it has been!

In March I took on extra duties to assist the Treasurer after Priscilla Mui stepped down. While this work was in my field of expertise it has still been a steep learning curve for me. I am hopeful that the job has streamlined and normalised now as I continue to work with Kumar Mather, Russell Florence and Trust Management.

In many ways the office has continued ticking over as always, and yet with two lockdowns and the subsequent working from home (praise the Lord for online access!) it has been a year unlike any I've ever experienced in my working life.

Hall and Social Lounge hire has been heavily impacted obviously, and this has a flow on effect for me in dealing with the headaches of account credits and adjustments, compounded by differences in the timing of when hirers were able to return under the descending levels.

Publishing 'The Apostle' Magazine twice under lockdown was another huge challenge. I hope it was a bright spot for you all amongst the craziness. My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the articles during this time, and a HUGE thank you to Isobell Tregoweth for working with me over so many, many emails back and forth to get the content and layouts right.

Newsletters, and day to day phone/email/in person enquiries, rosters, and general admin duties all keep me busy from week to week, along with special projects from time to time such as preparation for the FAB Sale and the Prayer Directory. It has been a privilege once again to work with such great colleagues, who are also good friends, and of course all lovely parishioners of St Aidan's. Also a special thank you to Marie Taylor, who tirelessly assists me with proof reading, picking up and helping me avoid many potential gaffes in the newsletters and magazines!

As the end of 2020 and Glen's tenure at St Aidan's looms I would like to offer my very heartfelt thanks to Glen for his friendship, guidance, support, compassion and laughs. Glen was instrumental in bringing me to New Zealand, and the last two years have been some of the most enjoyable of my working career. God bless you, Sarah and the family as you leave for new adventures.

May we all stay safe in the coming year.

Anne Godman

Parish Administrator

Kids' Church Report

Kids' Church has faced its challenges this year in terms of maintaining a connection with the children during lockdown. Mostly I would send out emails giving ideas of what the kids could be doing on a Sunday if parents felt inclined. If they were like me, they would have been receiving a lot of emails from school, and so I thought giving a choice would be a good idea. Other than that, Glen and I did a couple of segments for the kids during the Sunday morning church streams, and Glen and I also did a daily segment during the first four weeks of lockdown one.

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

The kids continue to help out with the grape juice baskets at the 930am service – with our younger members being very keen to take part in this. It's lovely to see the children participating in church in a way that is meaningful and helps them to know that even at a young age they can be serving others.

This year our kids have been unable, like all of us, to participate in the usual whole church celebrations of the main church festivals. We are looking forward to the season of Advent and Christmas and will have our usual Christmas Eve service too.

Professional development this year again has been focused mainly around my attendance of the cluster meetings organised by the Children's and Families Ministry from the Auckland Diocese – some of which this year were via Zoom.

The thoughts and research around kids' ministry in churches continues to promote the idea of keeping kids in church as much as possible and to integrate church services so that all participants feel a part of the main church. Kids, youth and adults will always need teaching that is tuned to their particular development, but with intentional and deliberate planning, I believe church can be a place where children and youth spend most of the service in church with their fellow believers.

Sarah Ashworth

Kids' Church Minister

Mainly Music Report

As I'm sure many of the reports will say, this year has been a very strange one. In terms of ministry with our Mainly Music families, we continued throughout both lockdowns to present an online version of Mainly Music each week, and we received some good feedback about this. I have to say there was some fatigue, especially in the second lockdown, when it came to the online sessions. While the set up and time taken was less than a Wednesday morning in the hall, we realised that the people contact aspect of the sessions are what make Mainly Music a truly great ministry. For us, it is about the music and the God songs, but more importantly it's about the conversations we are having with parents, caregivers and children. To miss these conversations took away those connections which make Mainly Music so special.

The missed sessions during lockdown also meant we missed our usual Mother's Day celebrations and when we returned from the first lockdown we had planned a combined Father's/Mother's Day session, only for that to be cancelled too due to the second lockdown. We are now planning hopefully for Christmas and our annual Christmas party.

Our numbers, despite the lockdowns, have been fairly steady with about 25 children attending each week. We continue to have our usual families and also to see new families come. I usually ask how people have come to our sessions. Quite often the answer will be that the e-sign out the front of the church has caught their attention. Other times, they have had a recommendation from a friend and we have one friendship group at our sessions who meet each other at other Mainly Music venues in this area.

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

Thank you to the St Aidan's community for their support of this wonderful ministry and especially to Rosemary and Alison, and their loyal and lovely group of morning tea volunteers; and to Colin too who faithfully comes and helps us set up. A special thank you too to Amy Paton, one of the parents at Mainly Music, who has faithfully served in a volunteer capacity for the past couple of years.

It has been a complete and total joy to be part of the Mainly Music ministry at St Aidan's. God is always at work and to see him at work in the lives of young children, volunteers, parents and caregivers is very special. Because he is a generous God, he has also been at work in us, and has given us friendships, conversations and a sense of belonging that goes beyond what I had ever hoped for. I am ever grateful to the St Aidan's community for allowing me to take part in this ministry.

Sarah Ashworth

Youth Report

This year's report will be a bit different to try and reflect the year we have had in youth.

This year has been a hard year on all of us. Throughout the year the youth have stayed in contact using zoom and other tools. This has meant that we have kept each other in their thoughts and prayers in lockdown but also looked towards what we want to accomplish now we have left lockdown.

Numbers for this year have been up and down for obvious reasons but I have kept in contact with the youth or their families, so they are still connected.

I think this year is hard on the young people especially those in high school who are anxious about next year in general now have to balance potential lockdowns as well.

We have been focusing our teaching on maintaining our community. The young people have stepped up in that.

We had a youth service a couple of weeks ago where the youth did so much for not that much notice. And have shown how much they value the community here, weather that is passing out food in shared morning tea or helping in the FAB sale.

Thanks, and acknowledgment

To the young people if you read this, I would like to say thanks for staying connected engaged and hopeful. You are a massive part as well as the future of this place and you are doing so good.

To the parents that read this I want to thank you for being awesome parents during a hard time of lockdowns. I think you all are great, and I would also like to thank you for being patient with youth as we figure out what we can do and be safe.

To the staff you have all been amazing. From all we have had to manage and change you have kept the church together. I appreciate the care and I enjoy working on the team.

To the congregation thank you for keeping us in your prayers. Every prayer helps and I appreciate the smiles and care I receive every Sunday.

If you have questions about the year or how youth has been please say hello on Sunday. This is a strong community, and I would love to see us include more people in our community as we journey forward.

Conor McGrath

Youth Pastor

It takes a village to raise a child – African Proverb

Property Report

Recent History

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

It has been an interesting year, with Covid-19 and its lockdowns disrupting operations.

The church and hall maintenance contract had its second maintenance performed. The hall has had radiant heating installed – lead by John Glenie and David Cotton, thank you for this. The lighting will be renovated/refurbished when a scaffold is available and the remaining heaters removed. This may need to wait until the hall is not in use over Christmas. Wayne Houston has been reviewing the hall facilities with a view to upgrading/modernising them.

The obligations of the Healthy Homes Act will need reviewing to ensure compliance for the vicarage and no. 8.

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

Vicarage

- 1) Replacement of vicarage gas hob.

No 8

- 1) No major works.

Church

- 1) Repair of the decaying window sill in the northern outside window adjacent to the organ room.
- 2) Second exterior wash and maintenance done to paintwork outside and inside.
- 3) Repair of damaged sewer drain.
- 4) Replacement of Projector.

Hall & Office

- 1) Second exterior wash and maintenance done to paintwork outside and inside. Hall ceiling omitted.
- 2) Installation of heating in the hall.

Works planned/likely to occur for next Year

Church

- 1) Remedial work to the scupper in the gathering area to resolve the leak in the gathering area ceiling which we thought was previously resolved and replacement of some asphalt shingles that have come loose.
- 2) Resolution of the leak in the south side of the church roof.
- 3) Year three of the maintenance contract calls for a complete repaint of the facilities. This would be a chance to alter the colour scheme if required.
- 4) Replacement of spotlights in church ceiling – some of the transformers have failed and need replacing.

Hall

- 1) Year three of the maintenance contract calls for a complete repaint of the facilities. This would be a chance to alter the colour scheme if required.
- 2) Resolution of leak in Parish Office.
- 3) Installation of the external ramp.
- 4) Resolution of toilet facilities upgrade and establishment of budgets for this.

Vicarage

- 1) Repair/replacement of decaying exterior door.

No 8 House

- 1) Sections of the fence will need ongoing repair/replacement.
- 2) Replacement of carport roof.

Simon Lee

Music Report

Psalm 150 – ‘Praise the Lord’

St Aidan’s is blessed with tech-savvy members who quickly responded and adapted to the challenges of going into lockdown for nearly half the year. As a church we gratefully ‘stayed connected’ whether isolated in Remuera or further afield. Sharing St Aidan’s services linked many separated church families and members around the world. During lockdown, despite the worldwide controversy over the dangers of singing, music remained an integral part of online services.

The COVID-19 legal restraints on congregational singing praises to God taught us how much we value sharing music as a personal contribution to our corporate worship. We also learnt how to worship together online. We heard music from around the world. We ‘Zoomed’ music shared from our living rooms, regularly delighting in harmonies from Glen and Sarah or Celia and Dave.

Our loyal choir members have also continued their ministry, encouraging each other again during practices. We look forward to the joyful and prayerful fellowship that comes with a shared focus on our role of supporting worship at St Aidan’s. This camaraderie was obvious recently as we banded to provide a range of songs for the Garden Party which Robyn Bridgman and her team organised to fundraise for the City Mission HomeGround project.

Mention must also be made of the variety of music making talent in the recent Youth service. It has been a delight to hear the positive comments about it from members of the congregation. St Aidan’s folk are quick and generous with praise – one way we encourage each other in our faith journey.

With Christmas coming we look forward to the many opportunities to sing carols. The special end-of-year wind ups, Nine Lessons and Carols, neighbourhood carol singing and our own traditional Christmas church celebrations all give us wonderful opportunities to spread the Good News of Immanuel – God with us!

Antoinette Pope

Music Facilitator

Mission Shop Report

We were closed this year for 18 weeks during the various levels of lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

During the opening times between lockdowns our weekly sales totals were up on the same time last year, with advertising of Facebook, Neighbourly, Remuera New World Electronic Screen, and on ZB Community Radio. Also on Google maps if you are looking for op shops in Remuera. All good exposure and costing us nothing.

After being shut for so long we were unable to get all the winter clothes out, and by the time we opened again after the second lockdown, it was time to put out the summer clothes again. We have given many more donations than usual to the ATWC as people have “cleared out”, after being at home with time on their hands!

Having a smaller Garage Sale this year means we will not have the two venues (shop and stage) for clothing sales as normal.

However, our weekly sales totals have been good again since we re-opened in mid-October, so hopefully we will have a reasonable amount of money to distribute next February.

We have lost some longstanding volunteers through retirement or health issues, but have had some offers to help fill the roster for next year. Grateful thanks go to those who have retired.

Many thanks go to Terrie Hawley who has often stepped in at the last minute to fill in when volunteers have been unavailable.

We look forward to a more “normal” 2021.

Jenny Haggitt

Pins & Needles Report

What a year this has been! Never could we have imagined Covid-19 would descend on us in the way it did! Nevertheless our Pins & Needles knitting group has continued to grow and flourish like never before.

Confined to our homes during many different levels of lockdown, our enthusiastic and loyal knitters and sewers have continued to produce wonderful garments for the various organisations we support. We have many new outworkers, friends and family, who have joined in our endeavours as we all struggled to keep our minds and bodies active in a purposeful way during lockdown.

Our thanks must go to Gail Hodder, and her supplier of yarn, for keeping our fingers nimble and our brains engaged when we were unable to shop for ourselves. Thank you to those who picked up yarn from Gail's letterbox, not only for themselves but to deliver to others.

Now we can meet again we have been in awe of the quality and quantity of fantastic goods our members have produced. After display and blessings they have all been delivered to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Counties Manukau Community Midwives, and National Women's Intensive Care Unit, each of whom are exceedingly grateful for our continued kindness and support. May God's blessing be on you all.

Marie Taylor

Mission Outreach Reports

Habitat for Humanity

St Aidan's values its partnership with Habitat for Habitat. Throughout the year we have continued to act as a drop off point for donated curtains for the Habitat Curtain Bank. Donated curtains are then brought to the Curtain Bank where they are washed, fitted with double linings and installed in the homes of low income families. The most significant referral pathway to the Curtain Bank is via the Healthy Homes programme which has been set up to work with children who have been admitted to hospital for illnesses related to living in damp and cold conditions.

In addition this year the Parish assisted Habitat with its Rags to Bags initiative. Curtain off-cuts are made into a range of different sized tote bags. Two parishioners have been involved in the sewing. St Aidan's also participated in the sale of these bags to parishioners and succeeded in raising approx. \$900 for the work of the Curtain Bank.

Barbara Weir

Auckland City Mission

St Aidan's has 20 volunteers, operating in groups of 5 to help the City Mission with providing food to those who cross its threshold on a daily basis. There are 16 parishioners in the team and 4 from outside the Parish. Each volunteer is on duty 4 times per year.

Duties this year have needless to say been disrupted by COVID lockdowns with all volunteers being stood down during the weeks of lockdown. The beginning of the year saw our volunteers assisting with the serving of a hot meal in the middle of the day. However as the year draws to a close we are involved in putting together bags of takeaway food sufficient for one day, with no client contact. This arrangement is likely to continue for the foreseeable future .

It is hoped that as a Parish we will be able to continue with this wonderful ministry. With 3 team members moving on for various reasons, we would welcome some new recruits.

Barbara Weir

Prison Ministry

Despite all the Covid setbacks this Ministry has maintained its volunteers and position at Wiri.

As we alternate with 2 teams, it works out well, without putting undue pressure on one team.

We have a good relationship and communicate easily with the Chaplains at Wiri. They are ever grateful for our contribution to this Ministry.

We have been doing this for approx. 10 years, so we all know the system and the setup there.

The two teams at Wiri are Hein & Sheryl Swanevelder, and Barbara Weir, Anne Priestley and Pip Colgan.

It is not a relationship driven ministry for obvious reasons.

We never really see the benefit of what we do but that is in God's hands.

We pray that this Ministry will continue for as long as there is a Spiritual Space in prisons.

Sheryl Swanevelder

St Aidan's AAW Fellowship Group

2020 has definitely been a year to remember for all different reasons. Covid 19 has affected everyone of us but I believe the fellowship we enjoy with St Aidan's Association of Anglican Women is supportive and very special. We were able to meet in March for our first meeting which was very well attended with several members speaking about their Christian journey and also becoming part of St Aidan's family. Our next meetings were held on 7 July (Speaker: Juliet Allen speaking on "Days for Girls"), 4 August (Speaker: Harold Coop speaking on his art and the painting of the church candles), 6 October (Speaker: Yvonne Kennedy about SPCA) and today, for our AGM. Hopefully we will also enjoy our Christmas party to be held on Tuesday 1 December.

Thanks to everyone who has organised and participated throughout the year with our AAW service and meetings including our Vicar Glen, Priest Assistant Louise and Parish Administrator Anne and a special thanks to Antoinette Pope for continuing to play the organ. A special thanks to Glen, Louise and team who have worked tirelessly to bring the church services and other messages into our homes via the internet over the various lockdowns.

Financial membership totals 45 with our meetings averaging 35 - 40 members together with visitors. We remember with fondness Mavis Pavis who passed away this year.

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.

Due to Covid 19 many of the AAW Diocese events have been cancelled this year but have received monthly newsletters from our new Auckland President, Margaret Rocard.

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

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

I believe working together and sharing tasks makes for a strong and faithful group. Thanks to Storm Deuss for her dedicated work on the committee over these past few years and we wish her all the best. Thanks to those who remain on the Committee for another year.

Christine Kennedy

Synod Report 2020

Due to Covid the usual Synod gathering in September was replaced with a very brief on-line session which allowed for some immediate business to be taken care of. One of these was expanding the size of the City Mission Board which will help to spread the huge workload at the moment of the Homeground building project. A replacement Synod gathering is now scheduled for November 20/21st which is the day before our parish AGM. Some of the motions to be discussed are on housing initiatives, disability responsiveness, local shared ministry, benefit income levels and climate change.

Summaries of online Synod and more information can be found at:

www.aucklandanglican.org.nz/resources-and-links/diocesan-synod/

Andrew Maclean & David Jamison



Reverend Glen Ashworth

