

APOSTLE

Christmas 2021



Louise's Foreword

As I write this, perched on the edge of Advent, the start of the Christian year, and our journey towards Christmas, there is a great sense of anticipation. The pōhutakawa has begun to take over that amazing red hue at the rear of the property, another visual reminder that we are edging ever closer to our Christmas season. Certainly for those in Auckland, our lives are beginning to slowly open up again and there is a greater freedom even though Covid-19 is still very much a part of our daily reality. I look across at the church and the doors are currently still shut but we are hopeful that in a number of weeks, along with online services, there will be the opportunity for some to gather in our church once again. We wait, and for some this has been a particularly difficult time. Trips to hospital, loss of loved ones, holidays cancelled, family milestones unable to be celebrated and unwanted medical news have all made it a rather uncomfortable time during three months of lockdown. My prayer is that you have been able to draw upon God's strength to help carry you through these challenging times. Anne Priestley offers some practical ways later in the magazine to draw closer to God in this season of Advent which I recommend particularly for some who might not feel like rushing back to church just yet.

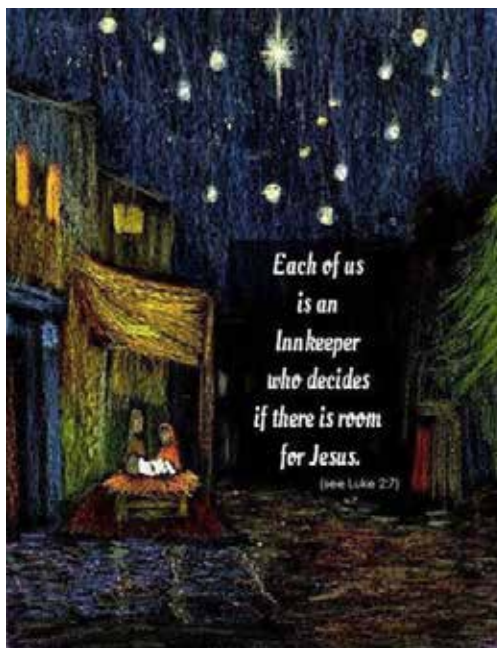
As a church we have certainly not been standing still this year, even during lockdown things have been happening! Make sure you read in the magazine about our building development plans, the busy maintenance team who have been hard at work, our outward facing ministries and your newly elected vestry.

We do want to make sure people have not forgotten, during these unusual times, that the church is very much alive and at work. We plan to hold our annual Carolling in the community 16th December. This is all outside, so why not consider joining in to share some of Christ's love with those around us. More than ever this year, people need to hear the real meaning of Christmas, and see signs of hope and love.

I came across a Facebook post which made me stop and pause. The nativity scene was drawn at night with the stars sprinkled across the top. In the centre of the picture positioned carefully beside the very small manger were the words, "Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus." I wonder as you read this, if it causes you to pause like it did for me.

Have a blessed Christmas and may you know the presence of God with you at this time.

Blessings,
Louise



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Please note: some events advertised in this magazine may have been postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19. Please check with the organiser closer to the date.

Recent Events



St Francis Day Pet Service



Painting during lockdown



Young Adults Home Group Zoom



Atkins' Home Group meeting during Level 3.2



International guests arriving



Choir singing, prior to lockdown

Regular Events at St Aidan's

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Sunday Services | 8:00am Holy Communion. 9:30am Family Communion. 5:00pm Evening service (4 th Sunday of each month). |
| Wednesday Service | 11:30am Holy Communion without music. |
| Prayer in the GA | Thursday mornings at 9am. Come along or join via Zoom online or by phone. |
| Contemplative Prayer | Meets each Wednesday at 9:45am, 276A Victoria Avenue. Contact Anne Priestley. |
| Kids' Church | All children ages 3-10 during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Izzi Hoskyn. |
| Mainly Music | Wednesdays during term time at 9:30am. Music and play for families with pre-school aged children. Contact Vicki White or the Office. |
| Youth | Ages 11+ at the 9:30am Sunday service and Friday at 7pm. Contact Nic Mercer. |
| Young Adults | Meets every 2 nd Monday at 7pm plus occasional social events. Contact Isobell. |
| Choir Practice | Saturdays at 10am in the Bethel Room. New members welcome. Contact Antoinette. |
| Home Groups | Contact Sheryl Swanevelder or Louise for more information. |
| AAW | A women's afternoon fellowship group. Meets monthly on 1 st Tuesday at 1:30pm. Contact Mary Parkinson. |
| WEF | A women's evening fellowship group. Meets monthly on 3 rd Tuesday at 7:30pm. Contact Jan Evans. |
| Men's Ministry | Meets last Thursday of the month. Contact Pete Macaulay. |
| Pins & Needles | Meets monthly on 2 nd Monday of the month. Contact Marie Taylor. |

Christmas Services

| | | |
|---------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Christmas Eve | 7pm | Traditional Holy Communion |
| | 11pm | Midnight Carol & Holy Communion |
| Christmas Day | 8am | Holy Communion |
| | 9:30am | Family Service & Holy Communion |



From Bishop Ross Bay

Extract from the Bishop's Charge to the Third Session of the Fifty Sixth Synod of the Diocese of Auckland. 12th November 2021

Once again the year has been unavoidably shaped and affected by Covid-19. We lived for a long time essentially shielded from the kind of impacts that many countries have suffered as a result of the virus. The last three months have been very hard. They have been hard on workers and businesses, hard on people who are isolated, hard on the dying, hard on those who already live with deprivation.

They have been hard for us as a Church by not being able to gather together for worship, to enjoy our social networks, and to so easily undertake our normal ministry activities. My deep thanks to clergy and leaders in our ministry units for the ways in which you have held people together, extended care, and provided opportunities for people to attend to their prayer life and participate in virtual forms of corporate worship. It makes a huge difference to people.

Our challenge now is to manage our life with the new protection framework which is likely to take effect at the end of this month, which we know as the traffic lights system. It pivots around vaccinations, and the nature of our activities along with attendance numbers will depend on whether or not vaccination certificates are required at gatherings. We are all facing the tension between our theological ideal of welcoming all people into our churches whatever their situation and the need to provide a safe and healthy environment in which to gather.



Whether or not vaccination certificates are required, there will be people who will feel excluded from attending. If certificates are required, those who are not vaccinated will not be able to attend.

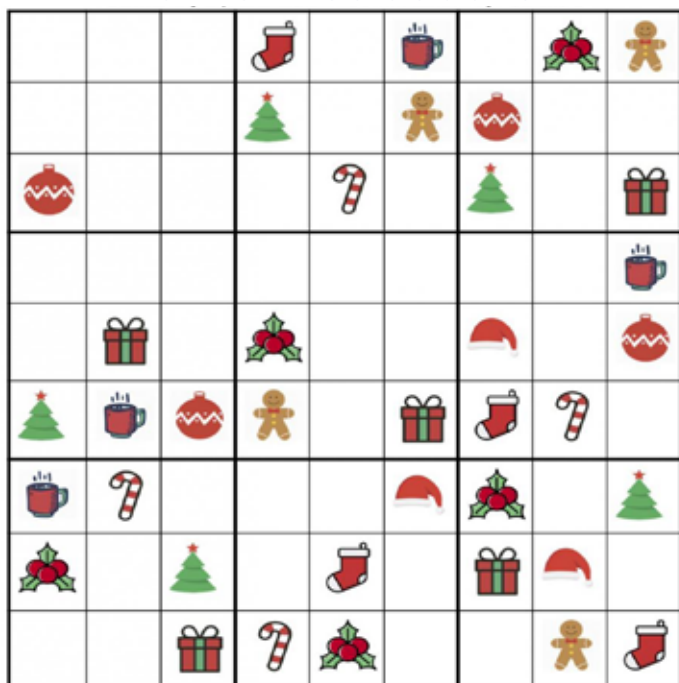
If certificates are not required, those who are immune-compromised or who feel unsafe will not be able to attend.

How will we show love to one another? There is a real risk that the fact of vaccination certificates will create a rift in our society and however we have to manage our life around them we must work hard at not buying into that with judgement, blame and discrimination.

The Covid-19 landscape has been an ever-changing one for the past 20 months and I am particularly grateful to the members of the Episcopal Team for their work in interpreting and applying the health advice to our context, then supporting and guiding ministry units to implement it. The Team has been tireless in their commitment to making it work and helping us all to find our way together through the challenges we have faced.

Bishop Ross Bay

Christmas Sudoku



Puzzle solution from page 26



Sudoku solution (left)



Lockdown Positives from Staff

Isobell - Website & Social Media Content Manager, Young Adults coordinator

I am a night owl, so I have enjoyed having the ability to stay up later and sleep in as I don't have to drive to work in the morning. I am thankful I have been able to make a hot breakfast each morning (due to the night owl thing, I am usually rushing to get to work on time). My family and I are blessed to have a great backyard to hang out in over the weekends when we've had good weather. The biggest thing for me is the extra time I have had... to read, to clean, to have fun with cooking! One of the most impressive things I have made has been naan bread - I say impressive because I made mine gluten-free and I couldn't believe how tasty it was!! I have shared the recipe I used here:



Yoghurt naan bread

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cups self-rising flour (use gluten-free, if needed)
- 1 cup Greek Yogurt
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon butter of choice (Optional)

Instructions

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine your flour, salt and Greek yogurt. Mix well, until combined. Then, use your hands to form a large ball of dough.
2. Lightly flour a wooden or kitchen surface. Sprinkle a little extra flour on top of the ball of dough, before transferring it to the floured surface. Flatten into a circular shape and divide into 8 even portions. Flatten each portion into a rectangular shape (like a classic Naan bread).
3. Heat a non-stick saucepan on medium heat. When hot, place flattened dough and cook for three minutes, before flipping and cooking a further two minutes. Repeat until all the naan bread is cooked.
4. Once cooked, if desired, lightly brush the tops of each naan bread with melted butter. (I also used garlic and fresh herbs).

Recipe from [*The Big Man's World* by Arman Liew](#)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your

Philippians 4:4-7



Anne - Administrator

One of the things I have enjoyed most has been the editing and production process for the service each week. The usual EasyWorship program is a fairly straightforward (dare I say boring?) part of my usual work week. Video services on the other hand have been a real challenge, one I realise I haven't always gotten quite right, but I'm learning new and better ways to put it all together every week.

Another positive for me is the fact I can be up and at the 'office' in a matter of minutes – no commute – as well as the flexibility of hours. I have been keeping business hours in general, however with my partner on shift work that hasn't always been possible. Not having the walk to and from work has made me lazy, but I don't feel so exhausted by the end of the day either and have enjoyed more leisurely dinner preparations.

Nic - Youth Leader

I know it sounds really simple but the main positive out of lockdown for me has been time. Due to having to stay at home and not having to travel a lot, I found I have had more time for things that I would not otherwise. Being able to spend more time on myself rather than having to rush about all over the place has made it a bit easier to go from day to day knowing I can spend extra time on what I need/want to get done because of the simple reason that I am stuck at home. It means that while I am able to get through all of the work I need to I have more time to be able to do things I enjoy and am able to spend more time with those around me. I have definitely enjoyed having more time on my hands, especially since it has allowed me to get more prepared for things once we come out of lockdown.

Izzi - Children Ministry Coordinator

One of the biggest positives from lockdown for me has definitely been how much more sleep I have been able to get! With not having to travel into town for uni and having a generally more flexible schedule, I have been able to take more time to rest and relax. This has also included exploring both new and old creative endeavours as I learned some new skills, such as animation, and picked up old hobbies, like embroidery, in my spare time. Additionally, this time at home has ensured lots of quality time with my gran and cat who I live with. I am extremely grateful to have been in a position where my family and I were safe and secure despite the tumultuous time.

Louise - Vicar

Writing about our lockdown positives seemed a good idea until you have to write something. Here are just a few of my positives, some were unexpected benefits.

After being 'shut in' all day, I have made the effort to go on more regular evening walks which has helped with my fitness. In the changeable spring weather I have appreciated the ability to race outside to rescue washing off the line when it suddenly pours with rain. Out of lockdown I usually avoid garlic as I do not want to breathe it on people the next day, so I am making the most of my non-contact time to use garlic in my cooking. The ability to sit on the couch to make a pastoral phone call and then move back to the desk for the admin side of the role was a nice change.

A further positive is the freedom to not wear shoes during the day. Cosy slippers when it's cold and often bare feet on the warm days – wonderful, however I do hope I still fit my shoes when we return to 'normal'.

Thanksgiving with Friends



The Young Adults Home Group decided to have Thanksgiving 'together' over Zoom. We ate our meals together, played some bingo and discussed some questions. Why not discuss them with your homegroup or whānau?

- Would you rather eat an entire turkey by yourself or eat all the Thanksgiving stuffing by yourself?
- Would you rather eat an entire pumpkin pie or drink the whole gravy boat?
- Would you rather wear pants two sizes too small to Thanksgiving dinner, or listen to a family member tell a gross story while you're trying to eat Thanksgiving dinner?
- What's a valuable lesson you have learnt this year?
- Over the last year, what are you most grateful for?
- What are you looking forward to most over summer?

Meet the Vestry

We asked our Vestry members to introduce themselves by posing a series of questions. Here are the questions and their respective answers.

1. When did you start attending St Aidans?
2. What Sunday service do you usually attend?
3. During the week (when not in lockdown) how do you spend your time?
4. What hobbies/interests do you have?
5. What is your favourite scripture?

Plus two additional optional questions:

6. If you were convincing someone to attend St Aidans what would be one thing you would tell them about?
7. What is one thing that you appreciate about St Aidans?

Julie Barnes - Synod Rep

1. My first memory was as a 7 year old in 1954 joining St Aidan's Brownie Pack (under such Christian leadership, of Brown Owl, Freda Innes). Then to Sunday School, confirmation, St Aidan's Girl Guides Company and Young Anglicans. Married by Rev Roy Everall to move to Bucklands Beach and then Pakuranga, where I was very involved with the local churches. Due to difficult circumstances, St Aidan's began calling me back to my home roots, where I could join my elderly Mother (Shirley Bevins) to be able to worship together. I re-joined St Aidan's in May 2018 and have so enjoyed being back amongst old friends.
2. Mother and I attend 9.30am Sunday Service.
3. My husband, Wayne operates a Chartered Accountancy Practice from our home, for which I am the Office Administrator. Inland Revenue seems to keep us busy. But we are trying to ease back to be able to do some travel – until Covid 19 came along!!
I belong to Inner Wheel Club of Howick – an International Women's Organisation, to promote true friendship, to encourage ideals of personal service and to foster international understanding.
4. Several years ago, I was given a "painted stone" with the scripture verse "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" - 1 Peter 5 : 7. This stone sits on my bedside table – I have found it helpful.



Jenny Haggitt

1. We had the children baptised here in Jan 1982 and July 1984, and came regularly from 1986, to bring the children to Sunday School; I worked in the church office from 1989 to 1993.
2. 9.30am.
3. At home, or with family, or with various local groups I belong to, and with church activities, eg Mission Shop etc.
4. Family, Genealogy, amongst many other things.
5. Psalm 107: vs 23 - 30.
6. How welcoming we are.
7. The sense of "church family" and support when needed.



David Jamison - Synod Rep

1. About 1990.
2. 9.30am.
3. As owner overseeing a dairy farm and keeping accounts. Although now a retired paediatric neurologist I keep abreast of child health matters. Some volunteering at City Mission and Auckland Hospital chaplaincy (formerly chair of its support committee).
4. Christianity in general, genealogy, reading including the Economist, grandchildren.
5. Proverbs 3:5&6.
6. It is a welcoming but diverse group.
7. Scripture based teaching in the context of the Anglican forms of worship.



Liz Lim

1. My family (husband Brian, and children Georgie and John) started attending St Aidans at the beginning of 2015. We wanted to find a local church to belong to, having worshipped at Vineyard Central in the CBD for many years.
2. 9.30am.
3. I'm a lawyer – I look after the transactional banking and finance team at Dentons Kensington Swan.
4. I play indoor and beach volleyball badly, dabble in art and do the occasional spot of reading and gardening as time allows. I also enjoy cooking and feeding people – the more the merrier – as time allows.



5. Tough one, as it changes from time to time. But the perennial favourites are Psalm 91 (or, as John would say when he reads it aloud, "Per-Zharm"), Ephesians 6:10-18 and Isaiah 54:17. There's a theme here – I love my protection scripture.
6. The people who, overall, are very caring and welcoming. It's easy for St Aidans to become your home church and for the people to become your church family.
7. See above.

Kumar Mather - Treasurer

1. Feb 1997 – almost 25 years.
2. 9.30am.
3. After my retirement, I have got involved with a start-up Company BOTANISTRY, manufacturing plant based Organic Dietary Supplements. I am also on the Panel for Ministry of Internal Affairs - Ethnic Communities Development Funding.
4. Play Badminton & Golf. Love bush walks.
5. Jeremiah Ch 29 vs 11.
6. Warm and welcoming Church.
7. Anglican Worship.



Juli Mercer - Vicar's Warden

1. 1988.
2. 9.30am.
3. I am a food technologist and head up the product development team at a NZ owned food manufacturing business.
4. I like to sew my own clothes.
5. Romans 5:1-5.
6. & 7. It's the people, the people, the people!



James Parkinson

1. 1975 - St Aidan's is our family Church and I was baptised here. Jacqui and I were married here and both Hamish and Vaughan were baptised here.
2. 9:30
3. As Director Auckland Stadiums, I lead a dedicated team that manage Mt Smart, Western Springs, and North Harbour Stadiums. Lockdown has been a tough time for our event industry but 2022 is shaping to be a very busy year as sporting and concert events return.
4. My hobbies include home brewing, gardening, and tramping. As a family, we enjoy the outdoors



whether that be camping or more adventurous activities like canoeing the Whanganui River last summer.

5. 1 Peter 3:8-12.

Mark Rushton

1. Mark joined St Aidan's congregation after the closure of St James' Orakei in 2019.
2. 9:30am.
Mark was unable to introduce himself at this time as he is currently away.



Desré Simpson - People's Warden

1. We joined St Aidan's in early 2002. That was soon after we arrived in New Zealand and bought our home in Abbott's Way.
2. We usually attend the 9.30am service.
3. I have belonged to Age Concern for many years, visiting weekly, the person I am matched with, usually in my area. Every Monday, I pick up Billie, who is now a firm friend, and bring her to Tai Chi class, before a coffee and chat and maybe the library, before I drop her back home.
4. I have a commitment to our wonderful grandsons during term, on certain afternoons. I also enjoy visiting and catching up with friends for a coffee and chat.
5. My hobbies/interests are gardening, sewing, reading, bridge and daily walks with our two pups.
6. One of my favourite scriptures is Isaiah 40:31 – "Those who wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength. They will rise up with wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint"
7. If I was encouraging someone to attend St Aidan's, I would tell them about the warm, friendly welcome they will receive, which helps them feel wanted and comfortable. Added to that, a great sermon from Louise, followed by good coffee and chats.
8. Friendly support for each other.



The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12

Maintenance Update

The Maintenance Team has been busy during lockdown.

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. Maintenance, like rust, never sleeps, but the Maintenance Team continues to work away at every opportunity keeping our precious buildings looking cheerful and up to standard.

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

The church and hall maintenance contract has its full repaint underway. This has been going since mid-June. Slow progress was due to lockdowns and the general shortage of capable tradespeople. The exteriors are substantially complete apart from the high level items that are waiting on a reach truck to be available, much of the office areas upstairs are done, and the main hall is complete after its first major facelift in years. The hall lighting has been replaced and the remaining old heaters removed from the ceiling.

The obligations of the Healthy Homes Act were reviewed for the clergy house and the vicarage and modernisations done for compliance. Some work (bathroom fans) remains outstanding.



Major works done this year:

Vicarage

1. Installation of heat pump.
2. General maintenance to prepare for Louise, door furniture repair/replacement, interior lighting replacement.

Clergy House

1. Installation of heat pump.
2. Carport roof structure replaced and roof relined.

Church

1. Complete repaint underway.
2. Spotlights replaced.
3. New Alarm installed.
4. South gutter rehung.

Hall & Office

1. Installation of lighting in the hall.
2. Painting

Works planned/likely to occur 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. Extension of gathering area kitchen

Hall

1. Resolution of leak in Parish Office.
2. Installation of the external ramp.
3. Resolution of toilet facilities upgrade and establishment of budgets for this.

Vicarage

1. Install of bathroom fans.

Clergy House

1. Sections of the fence will need ongoing repair/replacement.

Simon Lee

Christmas Crafts

Christmas Tree Skirt and Fabric Gift Bags

This is a photo of some of my Christmas preparations. The tree skirt was an idea I had, using up Christmas fabric squares, and I managed to make two.

Seeing the amount of wrapping paper that is gathered into black bags at our combined family gathering each year, I decided to make fabric bags for my family gifts. (My bit for the environment). I will re-use them each year, unless my family specially want to keep them.

Not my own idea, one I've copied using sale priced fabric and ribbon, but I've only made three so far!

Desré Simpson



'Reader's Digest' Angels

A couple of years ago I shared the instructions for how to make Reader's Digest Angels. This year during lockdown I have made 14 of them!

In case you missed it last time...

- 1 Reader's Digest (old ones with more pages are best)
- 1 Satay skewer
- 1 ping pong ball
- 1 stainless steel scourer
- Glue
- Can of metallic gold or silver spray

Fold the pages carefully to get the shape shown (it can be quite fiddly). Do not fold the covers.

Glue the satay stick to the spine and pierce a small hole in the ping pong ball to sit on the top of the skewer as shown, glue the scourer to the ping pong ball.

Fold the bottom of the covers to halfway up the spine, forming the wings, and glue (or tape) into place. Spray in a well-ventilated area, ideally on an outside table with plenty of paper underneath.

When dry, pick up your angel by the pages, not the head!

Jenny Haggitt



Santa Hat Mini Cupcakes

To make these simply take your favourite mini cupcake, add cream or icing to the top, pop on a strawberry, and top with a little more cream or icing. Too simple!



Outreach Ministries Reports

Auckland City Mission Haeata Centre

St Aidan's continues to coordinate a team of 25 volunteers to assist with serving food to those who come to the Mission on a daily basis. We work in teams of five and individuals are rostered on four times per year. All of us recognise the privilege it is to be involved in this ministry which currently consists of preparing and making up bags of takeaway food sufficient for one day.

Lockdown restrictions have caused a disruption to our usual monthly commitment but it is hoped we can resume our duties before too long.

Auckland City Mission Food Bank

Our supermarket trolley for the collection of food items sits in a prominent place in the Gathering Area. Parishioners make regular weekly donations of non-perishable food items which are delivered to the Mission's Distribution Centre. Over a period of four weeks in the lead up to winter, the parish continued its tradition of highlighting food items and toiletries which are in particularly short supply at the Mission. It was great to see such a very generous response to the request to make an extra effort to help restock the Foodbank shelves.

Auckland City Mission HomeGround

For the third consecutive year, the Parish has decided to use its Annual Quiz night as an opportunity to fundraise for the Mission's new HomeGround building. It is hoped that HomeGround can open before the end of the year. The focus for our August Quiz Night this year was the purchase of equipment for the HomeGround commercial kitchen and dining area, a place where those in need will be able to gather to be fed, to feel safe and to meet with others. A very pleasing amount of \$3,500 was raised on the night.



Habitat for Humanity Curtain Bank

St Aidan's continues to be a collection point for donated curtains for the Habitat for Humanity Curtain Bank. Preloved curtains are dropped off at the Church during office hours and are collected by HfH on a regular basis. A special thank you is due to Anne in the office for her assistance to those who come with curtains to donate and for her willingness to have curtains stored, on occasions, in her personal work space.

To the year ending 30 June 2021, Habitat reports that 4,065 curtains were washed, unpicked, cut, sewn and handed out to low income families. Current research shows that well-fitted, double-lined curtains are effective at keeping a home warm and healthy, cutting energy costs and most importantly, reducing hospital admissions and doctors' visits resulting from respiratory infections.

The parish views this partnership with HfH as an important part of our Outreach programme.

Barbara Weir

Prison Ministry Report

The year started off with a bang but has ended with a whimper!

There are two teams Hein and myself and Barbara, Anne and Pip being the other team. We (Hein and I) were around in January so went in and then resumed, as usual, in February. We then went in on alternate Sundays and this continued till lockdown.

The fact that lockdown prohibited all from being on site was not good for the women at Wiri and has left the prison ministry somewhat bankrupt.

Chaplaincy is an integral part of prison life and the women look forward to the Sunday services. Different churches and denominations visit so the women hear a 'gospel smorgasbord'. The Chaplain did send out a Prayer Calendar for the women and the different units within the prison which also included the guards, nurses and essential workers. Often we could not go to all the blocks we usually visit due to a variety of non-disclosable factors. The Chaplaincy at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility does an amazing work in furthering God's kingdom and attending to the individual needs of the women. Praise God that this ministry still exists!

Let us look forward to new beginnings, when we are allowed to enter once again.

Sheryl Swanevelder

Pins & Needles

*It's Christmas time! Time to celebrate!
But where have Mary and Joseph gone?
Where did they come from?
Where are they travelling to now?*

It was Christmas 2019 and just three weeks prior to Christmas Day the Rev'd Glen Ashworth, our previous Vicar, asked if the Pins & Needles knitting group could possibly knit Mary and Joseph so they could visit the homes of the Kids' Church and *mainly music* children.

This was to be a special introduction to the Christmas story so Mary and Joseph arrived in time to teach the children of St Aidan's that story. During Advent Joseph and Mary journeyed to Bethlehem through local homes - they had dinner with the families and spent the night in their homes - allowing the children to learn about who they were and what they represented.

When Glen and Sarah Ashworth relocated to Blenheim in January of this year, it was thought appropriate that the original Mary and Joseph should journey with them. After all it had been their idea, and it was thought the children at the Nativity Church in Blenheim would also appreciate learning the Christmas story.

Gail Hodder had the patterns and had knitted the original pair so undertook the challenge to recreate Mary and Joseph along with baby Jesus. Over the past few weeks she has slowly knitted a multitude of small pieces and over the past days has joined them all together. It has been a rewarding undertaking during our present Covid-19 lockdown and one she has thoroughly enjoyed.

Once they have been blessed by our current Vicar, Mary and Joseph will be ready to join St Aidan's families and tell their story once again in 2022. This year they are being cautious and have only been interacting with St Aidan's staff as 'newcomers'.

The Pins & Needles group are very grateful to Gail for knitting these wonderful images for our young ones and trust they will be an ongoing source of blessing and inspiration as they travel amongst us.

As a group from within our Parish, and from our 'outworkers' throughout the North Island, we have been thrilled during this unusual year to see the fantastic garments and blankets our members and supporters have created. The long hours confined to our homes in lockdown have given us a sense of

purpose and fulfilment as we kept ourselves busy with our needles clicking!

The goods we have been able to collect have been safely delivered to our usual recipients and especially to Counties Manukau Community Midwives when we received an urgent request for supplies from them. Again, our thanks are due to Gail and Murray Hodder for this and also for securing and delivering supplies of yarn for us as needed when shops were shut.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Christ, our Saviour and King!

Marie Taylor





Left: The completed 'new' Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



Right: Pins & Needles were able to deliver to the Counties Manukau Midwives: 28 blankets, 19 beanie, bootie & cardigan sets, and 12 cardigans that were gathered from letterboxes and front doors, as well as eight beautiful blankets that arrived from Tauranga by post. There were also beanies and singlets all beautifully knitted. A huge thank you to everyone who is continuing to work on these.

If you would like more yarn or patterns (if you want a change from blankets etc), please contact Gail or Marie.

Vestry Update

Care and oversight of staffing, buildings and finances don't stop because of Covid-19 and over the last three months vestry have maintained their regular meetings holding these on Zoom. The 2021 AGM has been held and a new Vestry elected and some of these things you will read about in the magazine. Vestry are aware however that for those who do not have ready and easy access to technology, it may feel like there is a gap in communication. Here is a small update on some ongoing projects. Building development: Several meetings have been held with Wayne Houston to begin scoping some improvements to our buildings. The work will potentially include hall toilets and hall kitchen upgrade, disability access to the hall and social lounge, improved storage, provision of cooking facilities in the Gathering Area kitchen and so on. This is an exciting step, but complex due to the current layout and restrictive nature of the sloping site. An engineer has been engaged to assist with discussions however a pause during the interregnum followed by the current

lockdown has meant little notable progress to report. Improvement to the Gathering Area kitchen is currently the main focus as it is a contained scope of work. Further information will be made available to the parish at appropriate steps. Staffing: We are currently advertising for a priest associate to join the team offering ministry at St Aidan's and in our wider community. Applications close 10th December with interviews soon after. Please pray for candidates considering applying for this role that they may carefully discern God's call. Housing: We currently have the rear clergy house tenanted on a short term lease, whilst we await the appointment of any future staff.

Please feel free to talk to members of Vestry regarding matters you would like to know more about, they are your elected representatives. Vestry and AGM minutes can be found in the folder on the noticeboard in the Gathering Area.

Synod by Zoom

St Aidan's Day

OUR FATHER
 WHO ART IN HEAVEN
 HALLOWED BE THY NAME
 THY KINGDOM COME
 THY WILL BE DONE
 ON EARTH
 AS IT IS IN HEAVEN
 GIVE US THIS DAY
 OUR DAILY BREAD
 AND FORGIVE US OUR
 TRESPASSES
 AS WE FORGIVE
 THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US
 AND LEAD US NOT INTO
 TEMPTATION BUT
 DELIVER US FROM EVIL
 FOR THINE
 IS THE KINGDOM
 AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY
 FOREVER AND EVER
 AMEN.

E TO MĀTOU MATUA I TE
 RANGI:
 KIA TAPU TŌU INGOA.
 KIA TAE MAI TŌU
 RANGATIRATANGA.
 KIA MEATIA TAU E PAI AI
 KI RUNGA I TE WHENUA.
 KIA RITE ANŌ KI TŌ TE
 RANGI:
 HŌMAI KI A MĀTOU
 ĀIAMEI HE TARO MĀ
 MĀTOU MŌ TĒNEI RĀ.
 MURUA O MĀTOU HARĀ.
 ME MĀTOU HOKI E MURU
 MEI I O TE HUNGA E
 HARA ANA KI A MĀTOU.
 AUA HOKI MĀTOU
 E KAWEA KIA
 WHAKAWAEA:
 ENGARĪ WHAKAORANGIA
 MĀTOU I TE KINGI.
 MĀU HOKI TE
 RANGATIRATANGA. TE
 KAHA ME TE KŌRŌRIA.
 ĀKE ĀKE ĀKE
 ĀMĪME.



The Lord's Prayer
 in English
 and te reo
 to cut out and
 use as a
 bookmark

On the 12th and 13th November Louise, Andrew Maclean and David Jamison, with about 230 Synod members, gathered virtually via Zoom.

Among other things we heard that the rebuild of the North West Anglican church has been completed, the Covid-19 wages subsidy from the government has been returned, how the Diocese handles abuse complaints has been rethought, and that there will be greater opportunities for lay training. Bishop Ross reminded us that we are agents of the grace and love of God.

Bills passed: updated statutes (some from the 1920s), revised the licensed ministry statute, and clarified that there is no age restriction for lay people to be on ministry unit rolls and hold office in the Diocese.

Motions considered: clarified the Selwyn Foundation constitution, highlighted disability responsiveness, our care of creation including climate change, measures to boost state and community housing, requested the Diocesan Council set up a working group to assist ministry units and ventures develop digital means to transmit worship services and to communicate to new and diverse audiences, and our involvement with the Diocese in overseas mission.

Global warming, Covid-19 impacts, ongoing shortages of suitable family accommodation, and sustainable environmental practices (including where new housing is located) were consistent themes. Notably how the Diocese attempts to influence policy outcomes when engaging with government.

Elections for vacancies on the Diocesan Council and General Synod were held.

The business of Synod was able to be completed remotely. The value historically, however, of being able to intermingle and discuss during tea and meal breaks matters before Synod and the chance to learn informally of good ideas and struggles occurring within the church was emphasised by its absence this Synod.

As we celebrated St Aidan's Day this year we were joined with messages from several past Vicars. Visit www.staidans.co.nz/news-and-announcements/ to hear what they had to say.



★★★ Difficulty level ★ easy ★★ moderate ★★★ challenging

Resene art with Mark Rayner – 46

You will need:

- Blu-tack
- Paintbrush
- Pinecones
- Shallow glass bowl
- Stiff-bristled brush
- Three gold candles
- Red tinsel
- Resene Aquaclear gloss
- Resene Quick Dry
- Resene testpots of Resene Bullion and Resene Porsche



Step one
Using a stiff-bristled brush, clean off any dirt and dust from the pinecones.



Step two
Apply one coat of Resene Quick Dry to the pinecones and allow two hours to dry.



Step three
Apply one coat of Resene Porsche to the pinecones and allow two hours to dry.



Step four
Apply one coat of Resene Bullion to the pinecones and allow two hours to dry.



Step five
Apply a second coat of Resene Bullion to the pinecones and allow two hours to dry.



Step six
Apply two coats of Resene Aquaclear to the pinecones, allowing two hours for each coat to dry.



Step seven
Stick the candles to the base of the glass bowl with blu-tack and arrange the pinecones around the base, as shown.



Step eight
Arrange the tinsel around the edge of the glass bowl, as shown.

Create this fabulous gold centrepiece for a Christmas dinner table with a little bit of help from Resene.



To get the look:

Mark painted the background wall with Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen tinted to Resene Koromiko.



Other ideas:

Try a stunning cool silver/blue combination using Resene Scotty Silver over a basecoat of Resene Heather.

For more ideas and inspiration visit your local Resene ColorShop or www.resene.co.nz or www.resene.com.au.

Check out our special Artists section online www.resene.co.nz/artists/artists_canvas.htm or www.resene.com.au/artists/artists_canvas.htm.

See www.resene.co.nz/holiday-diy/christmas-crafts-projects.htm for lots of other Christmas craft projects.

Mission Shop



The Mission Shop at time of writing is still closed in Alert Level three, and has been closed for a total of 14 weeks, which includes the two week closure during the February 2021 lockdown. We are likely to remain closed for some time yet with the levels and steps rules as they are.

We had been doing very well up until August with the extra advertising, which included our presence on the website for [Remuera Op Shops](#).

The total money taken for the year so far was around the same amount we earned last year after being shut for 18 weeks during the various lockdowns. That means we will have enough to be able to disburse funds at the usual time in February to a variety of charities.

Some weeks into the current lockdown the Charitable Purposes Group agreed to send \$1,500 to the Auckland City Mission to help with their food parcels, as they were not getting the usual donations of food from the various churches during the lockdown, and were finding it hard to cope with the greater hardship of the time.

More recently, we sent a car load of bags filled with sheets, towels, clothes, books, toys and sports gear to St Mary's Church in Glen Innes. They have set up a hub for people who would normally buy from the op shops, which of course are all shut, so they are able to help the people who are really most in need.

Jenny Haggitt

AAW

Our AAW Fellowship Group has experienced a very trying year along with all other groups within the parish. With only five meetings since our last report in 2020 we have enjoyed the times when we have been able to gather together and have experienced wonderful fellowship.

Each meeting has begun with a service in the church either led by the Rev'd Louise Anderson or one of our members and we have appreciated being led by Antoinette Pope with our music.

Speakers during the year have included Mary Parkinson with an illustrated talk about South Island travel, Leo Shen from KidsCan, Jennie Goodwin with a trip down memory lane in broadcasting, Hannah Jackson, a clinical exercise physiologist and Lesley Snyman, Director of Vaughan Park. We also had our annual Christmas party afternoon tea in December 2020.

During the year we have collected pyjamas for ATWC and made donations to KidsCan, Vaughan Park, ATWC and the Auckland City Mission along with organising flowers for the Memorial Cross on Anzac Day.

All members have been very generous with koha collections and along with the funds earned from the trading table organised by Terrie Hawley and Ruth Backhouse we feel that as a group we have helped many in the community less fortunate than ourselves.

The AAW Fellowship Group AGM has been postponed for the time being and we will hold this at a time when we can get back together once more. All the committee members have done a wonderful job keeping in touch with the ladies in the group and I thank each and everyone for their time given during the year.

We farewell Jenny Walters and Ev McGowan from the committee and thank both of them for the time they have given in support over many years.

Mary Parkinson

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at St Aidan's Church a blessed Christmas
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Praying through Advent

An Advent carol...

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

In Advent, we often sing this traditional carol. In words and haunting music, its tone is quite different from most other carols. No shepherds or wise travellers from the east, no herald angels or baby lying in the manger. Only our desperate need and longing for God's Saviour, and the promise of joy to come. The text draws on the language of the Old Testament prophets, and channels the language used in services over 1000 years ago.

This year, many people have a sense of longing for something more, something better. We have our personal or family longings, I am sure: for health and healing, for family reunions, for personal opportunities. But I think that this year, there's a widespread sense of something broken within our society and our world. We need help, and real hope.

...and the 'O Antiphons'

O Antiphons? What??? Our carol is based on some ancient prayers, known as the 'O Antiphons': 'O' because each short prayer begins with 'O', and 'antiphon' because of their placing in the structure of a service. The prayers call on Jesus Christ, invoking him with a scriptural title, acclaiming him in majesty, expressing our longing for redemption. They are traditionally used in Evening Prayer late in Advent.

This Advent, I invite you to pray with me these ancient prayers.

- ★ Make yourself a space for 5 minutes (or more). Perhaps you might prepare it with a cross, or a candle.
- ★ Pause, in a breath of silence: God is present with you.
- ★ Pray the day's prayer, aloud or in silence.
- ★ Allow your heart to respond. It doesn't matter if you have no words to say. Perhaps you can picture the person or situation in your mind – and your deep sighs, or tears, are language which God understands very well. *Some prayer suggestions are added below each prayer, but these are simply prompts (I hope) to your own prayer.*
- ★ Pray the prayer again, ending with the words, 'Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!'

Praying the Antiphons

17 Dec: O Wisdom

O Wisdom, you come from the mouth of the Most High, filling the universe, ordering all things in power and grace: come and teach us the way of discernment.

Pray for the leaders of the Church worldwide and in Aotearoa.

Holy One, give us the insight we need to walk your way of reconciliation and peace...

18 Dec: O Adonai

O Lord of Lords and ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law at Sinai: come and redeem us with your outstretched arm.

Dear God, help us to know our need, our dependence on You.

You command us to love as You love us. *Teach us how to respond...* how to be faithful to You.

19 Dec: O Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse, you stand as a sign among the nations, kings will keep silence before you, and the nations will make their prayer to you: come and set us free, and delay no longer.

Pray for the leaders of the nations: may all who bear the responsibilities of government hear the cry of the poor, and bring assistance.

Pray for all involved in the production and delivery of vaccines, especially the people arranging vaccines for the Major World (developing nations)...



Community Carols

Thursday 16th December 2021



Join us for carol singing in the community!
Contact Louise for more information.

20 Dec: O Key of David

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel, you open and none can shut, you shut and none can open: come and bring the prisoners out of prison, those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Pray for the many who 'sit in darkness': people in jail, and their families; people who are afraid or anxious, angry or violent; those who are ruled by addiction, including addiction to the internet/social media...

*Be honest with God about the darkness within yourself...
Come, Lord Jesus, enter here...*

21 Dec: O Morning Star

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

Pray for a deepening conversion to the mind of Christ, seen in a life of loving service offered in simplicity, mercy and joy.

Pray for all who need healing, or who are seeking the road to life...

22 Dec: O King of All

O King of the nations and the fulfilment of their desire, the cornerstone binding all together: come and save the human race which you shaped from earth's clay.

Give thanks for life... for human families and communities... for the world we live in.

Pray for a shared determination to tackle global and local difficulties: pandemic, climate crisis, inequality, injustice... Pray for someone, or a situation, which you usually ignore... (your 'enemy'?)

23 Dec: O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

Bring the deepest longings of your heart to God...

Continued next page..

Thank you to the Rev'd Anne Priestley for these prayers and meditations.

For Christmas Eve/Day

Perhaps you aren't quite ready to return to church yet? Or is it too hard this year to attend St Aidan's at Christmas?

Here is the outline of a very short service which you could use with a small group of family or friends. Use as much or as little as you please, amending as needed!

If you are alone, you could adjust the directions accordingly – e.g. use some recorded music instead of singing. (But do sing if you possibly can. God loves it when you join the heavenly host in praise!)

- ★ Call for quiet, for a few special minutes.
- ★ Light a candle in the centre.
- ★ Sing a familiar carol - one or two verses only.
- ★ One person (ask them in advance, perhaps) reads a few verses from scripture - eg. Luke 2:1-7, omitting verse 2, or John 1:1-5 plus verse 14.
- ★ You preach the sermon as follows: 'This is why we celebrate Christmas: Jesus comes to us!'
- ★ You pray a simple prayer: 'Lord Jesus, light of the world, be born in our hearts today. Amen.'
- ★ End with another short carol.

A Christmas sentence and prayer

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

(Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Son of God,
light that shines in the dark,
child of joy and peace,
help us to come to you
and be born anew this holy night/day.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.



Strictly for the nerds

The O Antiphons were originally written in Latin. The first letters of the seven Latin titles for Jesus are SARCORE which, read backwards, make two Latin words: 'Cras ero', meaning 'Tomorrow I will be [there].'

Tomorrow... why do you think that we finish saying the O Antiphons on 23 December, rather than Christmas Eve?

Rev'd Anne Priestley

Christmas Bible Trivia

1. Where in the Bible do we read about the Birth of Jesus?
2. Who gave birth to Jesus?
3. Which city did Mary and Joseph travel to for the census?
4. Who appeared to tell Mary that she was with child?
5. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
6. Who followed a star to find baby Jesus?
7. What is a manger?
8. How many wise men were there?
9. What gifts did the wise men bring to baby Jesus?
10. Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Immanuel?
11. What are the five names of Jesus found in the Bible?
12. Which direction did the wise men travel to, going to Jerusalem?
13. Who was the one trying to kill Baby Jesus?
14. Where did Jesus' family flee to from Bethlehem?
15. What does the name Immanuel mean?

ANSWERS

1. Luke 2.
2. Mary.
3. Bethlehem.
4. The angel Gabriel.
5. One.
6. The wise men.
7. A feeding trough.
8. It is not specified, but it is believed to be three, as three gifts were brought to Jesus.
9. Gold, incense, and myrrh.
10. Prophet Isaiah.
11. Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace.
12. Westward.
13. King Herod.
14. Egypt.
15. "God with us".

Summer Services at St Aidan's, Remuera

There will be one Sunday service held at 9am each week from 26th December 2021 until 30th January 2022.

This is a great time for parishioners that usually attend different services to get to know each other and gives our worship team a break!

Community Noticeboard

New Wine's Big Day Out 2022

An all age 24 hour overnight festival where many voices worship the One. We reckon there's no better way to start the year.

Whanganui 21-22 January
Upper Hutt 23- 24 January

Should the festival be cancelled due to Covid-19, concerns a full refund will be offered.

www.newwine.org.nz/big-day-out/



A Very mainly Christmas

mainly music are holding free 'live' sessions on their YouTube channel
www.tinyurl.com/2wvx3mdy



(or search 'mainly music' on YouTube).

These will run from Monday 13th December until Friday 17th December, at 1:30pm for 30-40 minutes.

Recent Condolences

August to November 2021

Valarie Fraser
Hazel Beale
Lynsie Cotter
Jill Woodward

Nativity ReGeneration

Presented by the Friends of Holy Trinity Cathedral and ADJust, in support of Trees That Count - Te Rahi o Tāne, the theme for this year's Nativity Project installation will be re-GENERATION: supporting our native environment.

When you visit the re-GENERATION nativity scene, you will have the opportunity to 'plant' a native tree with a small donation to the Nativity Project's tree registry.

Give the gift of a tree this Christmas and help us protect our unique environment in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Auckland City Mission Te Tāpui Atawhai

We are expecting Christmas to be a challenging time for many people across our city. While some in the city are fortunate enough to plan festive feasts and buy gifts for loved ones there are an increasing number of Aucklanders who will need support from the City Mission.

If you would like to support their work this Christmas you can donate here:

www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz/donate/



Christmas Slice

Ingredients

BASE

- 250g butter
- ¼ cup cocoa
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup milk
- 2 packets (250g each) Marie or wine biscuits, crushed (not too finely)

TOPPING

- 190g white chocolate
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tsp peppermint essence
- 100g Christmas M&Ms
- 4 candy canes, crushed

Method

1. Line a slice tin (approx 19 x 29cm) with baking paper.
2. Melt the butter, cocoa and brown sugar together in a saucepan, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Remove from the heat, add the vanilla and milk and stir until combined.
3. In a large mixing bowl stir the crushed biscuits together with the chocolate mixture.
4. Once it is well combined press into the lined slice tin. Smooth the top with the back of a metal spoon.
5. Topping: Melt the white chocolate in the microwave in 30 second bursts. Add the oil, stir until smooth, then add the peppermint essence and stir again.
6. Pour the white chocolate over the base and spread it evenly to the edges. Sprinkle over crushed candy canes and M&Ms.
7. Chill in the fridge for at least 4 hours until set. Take out of the fridge 20 minutes before cutting into slices (this makes it easier to cut).

NOTES

You can use any plain biscuits like Superwines, Milk Arrowroots or Maries. Even Malt biscuits or Krispies would work too.

Swap the white chocolate for milk or dark chocolate if you prefer.

Recipe from www.vjcooks.com

White Christmas slice

Ingredients

- 500g white chocolate
- 1 cup rice bubbles
- 1/2 cup sultanas
- 1/2 cup dried apricots
- 1/2 cup halved red glacé cherries
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- *Optional:* 1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted

Method

1. Grease a 20cm x 30cm rectangular pan; line base and long sides with baking paper, extending paper 5cm over sides.
2. Chop chocolate coarsely. Melt chocolate in a large heatproof bowl over a large saucepan of simmering water. Remove from heat; quickly stir in remaining ingredients.
3. Press mixture firmly into pan. Refrigerate two hours or until firm before cutting.
4. Refrigerate slice in an airtight container for up to four weeks.

Recipe from www.foodtolove.co.nz



Above: White Christmas Slice

Below: Christmas Slice



Kids' Zone

Season of Creation Prayers

Kaelyn's Prayer:

Almighty God,
I pray for the Flora and Fauna of this world.
For people with special connections to wildlife
We pray that everyone can do their bit to protect
God's creation.
Amen.

Hazel's Prayer:

I pray for bunny rabbits, reindeer, bees, trees, and
flowers!

Jesse's Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for creating the world!
Help us care for the endangered species,
endangered plants, trees, and buzzy bees.
I also pray for the plants, trees, and animals that help
the world
like trees that help people breathe
and bees that make honey
and cows that make dairy.
Amen.



Find the Christmas Cracker

Solution on page 5



Christmas Crack Ups!

What is the best Christmas present in
the world?

A broken drum, you just can't beat it.

Why didn't anyone bid for Rudolph and
Blitzen on TradeMe?

Because they were two deer.

What do you get if you eat Christmas
decorations?

Tinslitis.

How does Christmas Day end?

With the letter Y.

What carol is heard in the desert?

'O camel ye faithful'.





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