

Vicar AGM report 2021

Ka mua, ka muri

This phrase means looking to the past as you move forward into the future. As a leader I want to be conscious of the rich heritage of this parish as we journey together towards the future.

In my first annual report to the AGM of the parish of St Aidan, may I thank you for placing your trust in me to be your Vicar in the middle of this year. Whilst only in the role since 20th June, I will include reflection on the full year since I happened to be in the parish all of that time.

Let us note for the record that since the middle of August we have been in a Covid lockdown which has precluded us gathering in person. Watch out for the expression, 'delayed due to Covid' which appears occasionally in this report!

I commend to you the many reports which demonstrate how the parish has continued to offer ministry, worship, outreach and pastoral care despite what might have been a somewhat challenging year, due to Covid.

Services

For the majority of the year services have run as usual and my thanks to the huge team of people who contribute in so many ways both in preparation and on the day. I will not comment on all areas however I would like to highlight some of the developments or developing areas.

Sometimes gaps create opportunities. Glen's departure has meant there is space to enable more lay involvement in services. Our St John's student Hamish Maclean along with Lynne Trenwith join Reverend Anne Priestley on our preaching roster and bring a diversity of styles and voice to our teaching on a Sunday morning. I am grateful for their willingness to share in ministry in this way and we all benefit from the breadth of input.

It has been great to see an increased lay involvement in services with many new people undertaking training to be chalice assistants, liturgists, servers and readers. It is wonderful to see people willing to step out of their comfort zone, but with encouragement easing into these new roles comfortably. Thank you to Annmarie Raffel and John Priestley who have delivered training in these areas across the year.

Music can be a divisive topic as personal preference for different styles of music impact on worship. As your new vicar my intention was to engage in wider discussions about this issue, but such conversation is delayed due to Covid. I am grateful for the input around music selection which Antoinette Pope offers regularly both in and out of lockdown. We have also benefitted from Celia Finn's leadership of the resurrected band that enables a wider selection of music to be incorporated into our services. Our current combination of organ, choir and band provides a breadth of style which acknowledges our diverse worship preferences, however online services have resulted in a stronger reliance on more traditional styles that don't have the same stringent copyright issues, due to Covid!

Evening service attendance has always been variable and discussions have begun to look at reshaping this into a different format. I understand that over the past 10 years various styles and changes to this service have occurred and I foresee a need to revisit this in 2022 in order to offer something that is meaningful and sustainable. Delayed due to Covid 😊

Cameras and IT have become an increasingly important part of our services both when in the building and also in Covid level restrictions. Peter Macaulay, David Cotton and Simon Hackett Pain have spent many

hours addressing some of the issues of monitors not working, cabling upgrades and camera installation. Whilst there is quite a steep learning curve still in front of us, we are grateful to their determination to overcome some of the presenting problems whilst acknowledging that we are not quite there yet. Huge thanks also to the Sunday AV team whose calm attitude is always appreciated in the smooth running of the 9:30 service.

Services at retirement villages have seen some changes with Anne Priestley join Barbara Weir at 7 St Vincent each month and I was invited to assist in the leading of the Anzac service at Rawhiti. Home communion at Edmund Hilary was added to Yvonne Kennedy's regular visiting list. Remuera Gardens continues to be visited regularly, although obviously visits to all retirement villages have been paused due to Covid.

People

Glen's move to a new parish in Blenheim at the end of January alongside Conor's departure in August to take up full time employment instigated some staff changes, with some minor restructuring. The details are in the personnel and the wardens' reports so I won't replicate the information however let me add that I am thrilled to have a cohesive staff that is enthusiastic about their ministry. They have adapted well to lockdown offering online programmes in creative ways that continue to nurture the growing relationships. Not an easy task when Isobell Tregoweth, Nic Mercer, Vicki White and Isabelle Hoskyn have only been officially in their new roles for 6 months or less, (two weeks in Nic's case) before lockdown occurred, due to Covid!

With these changes to staff it has been wonderful to have Anne Godman's capable presence as administrator. Her unflappable personality and ability to think outside the square has enabled many problems to be easily solved. Her knowledge has been invaluable as I transitioned into the role of Priest in Charge and then to Vicar.

Two weddings for parishioners were held towards the start of the year and as a parish it was lovely to celebrate the marriage of Ruth Lowe and John Backhouse and a week later Jerome Amerasinghe and Ruwani Ranaweera. Whilst there are times of celebration such as this, there have also been occasions of sadness as we held 7 funerals this year and mourn the passing of a number of parishioners. Sadly several memorial services are paused due to Covid and alongside families waiting baptisms, we need to wait for changing levels before these can be held.

Mission and Outreach

Our call from God is to share the Good News and to love our neighbour. Equipped and sustained through our worshipping community, we then take our Christian faith and live it out in the community. I commend to you the Outreach report which highlights some of the many practical ways that this parish engages with the community. Keep up the great work.

Property

The property team had a busy year. Please see the property report for full details however just to highlight some of the improvements that have been seen this year:-

- New alarms replacing a failing system
- Oak trees trimmed in response to Health and Safety issues
- Full paint of exterior and interior Church, lounge, offices and hall
- Hall lighting replaced
- Carport roof replaced at clergy house
- Heat pumps installed in the vicarage and clergy house (compliance with healthy homes standard)

Many thanks to those who work tirelessly maintaining the upkeep of our grounds and buildings, the hours of which are often unseen, but the results are: we are most grateful. Not delayed due to Covid. 😊

Building project

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.

Finances

Kumar Mather as our treasurer will present a brief report on behalf of the team. I have reinstated a regular finance committee meeting so that there is a larger collective grasp of the finances. The big garage sale for the second year has not been able to be held due to Covid which affects our overall income. The garage sale team however are looking at creative ways to move some of the produce through Trade Me and hopefully a market stall in December to begin to recoup some of the losses.

Professional Development

This year I continued with the second year of my Spiritual Direction formation course, and despite a number of the training days held online rather than in person, I am nearing its completion. Whilst the course has been largely carried out in my own time a few of the days have been during parish days. This has felt appropriate as I believe the transferable skills have already benefitted parishioners during the year.

Vestry

The wardens in their report will thank vestry outlining those who are not standing again and I join with them in expressing my gratitude for their wise counsel and hard work across the year. However the wardens can't easily thank themselves so I take this opportunity to thank Juli Mercer as Vicar's warden for her care and advice during the year. A special thanks to James Parkinson who stepped into Juli's shoes during the nomination process to liaise with me so that there weren't boundary issues with Juli as a nominator. James always brings his logical thinking and calm manner to any matter and his contributions are valuable. Although this is James's last duty at our AGM as people's warden as he releases this role he is standing for vestry at the election.

Looking back on 2021 from where I sit it has felt a bit like a 'stop/go' sign and yet we have accomplished a great deal. My hope for the year ahead is that many of our paused projects will be able to burst back into life and I am sure like many others, my main hope and prayer is that 2022 won't be delayed due to Covid.

God's Blessings Louise

Reverend Louise Anderson

St Aidan's Wardens Report for AGM 14 November 2021

2021 has certainly been a year of change here at St Aidan's. Yet, despite the many changes, there remains a strong sense of stability and the familiar. This is testament to the strong foundations we enjoy and the determination and dedication of many individuals. We have much to be grateful for.

We noted last year that 2020 was the year of COVID. Unfortunately, its tail has been a long one and 2021 has continued to see many impacts across all facets of life, including life here at St Aidan's. We know now that the impacts will continue well into 2022 and beyond. The Government's recently announced COVID Response Framework will have impacts on how we come together as a community for the foreseeable future. The nature of those impacts on Church life are yet to be determined and will require careful discernment by those charged to make the necessary decisions. But before we concern ourselves about the future, there is much to acknowledge and celebrate in the year just gone.

Staff

We started the year with Glen's final service on 10 January before he, Sarah and the family departed for their new ministry in Blenheim. As Wardens we were very happy when Bishop Ross made the decision to appoint Louise as Priest in Charge during the interregnum giving us as a Parish much-needed stability during this period. Louise fulfilled the role with aplomb picking up the additional workload that invariably comes with a two-clergy parish while maintaining her attention to detail and empathetic pastoral care. Of course, Glen's departure meant the loss of Sarah as well and Louise ensured Kid's Church never missed out with materials always prepared and facilitated a volunteer group to keep Mainly Music going.

It is great that Louise has since been able to bring Isabelle Hoskyn and Victoria White on to staff to lead Kids Church and Mainly Music respectively. Each has brought considerable enthusiasm and passion for their role that is appreciated by the children and parents alike.

The highlight of the staffing year was the induction of Louise as our new Vicar on 20 June. Louise's appointment followed a thorough process that commenced with the Parish consultation session in February. Thank you to all of the nominators, particularly the Parish representatives, John Priestley, Juli Mercer, and Celia Finn for all the time you committed to the process and your careful discernment to make an appointment that reflected the identified needs of the Parish. Louise's appointment was warmly celebrated and thankfully we were able to do this in June as the alternative was to delay until August and given COVID's return the induction may have still been pending!

The final changes to our staffing occurred in August with Conor leaving his role as Youth Pastor to take up a full-time opportunity working for Lifewise. Conor's tenure had provided valuable stability for our youth reflected in the committed group that meet regularly on Fridays and Sundays. With Conor's departure we welcomed Nic Mercer into the role of youth leader while Isobell Tregoweth extended her duties to include leading the young adults group.

In amongst all the staff changes, the one constant was our invaluable parish administrator, Anne Godman. Anne has provided the much-needed glue behind the scenes ensuring everything happens as and when required. It has been an especially busy year for Anne who, together with Isobell, spent significant hours compiling the Parish Profile and, in more recent times, has been providing Louise with considerable support in pulling together our on-line services.

Our sincerest gratitude to all our staff for everything you do on our behalf.

Vestry

Vestry has operated very effectively over the last year benefitting from an experienced Vestry team that was joined by Desre Simpson following last year's AGM. There is a good spread of experience, expertise, and perspectives that is brought together for the benefit of our Parish. Our thanks to Vestry as a whole for the hours you have committed and the way in which you have prioritised Church matters to enable us to make considered decisions in a timely manner whether at our monthly meetings or via email, as required.

A particular focus for Vestry this year has been progressing plans for our buildings to ensure these assets continue to support our needs for many years to come. This planning has gained momentum following Louise's appointment and our thanks goes to Andrew Maclean for the significant leadership you are providing in this area. While there are many people assisting with this process, it is you that is providing the consistent drive and ensuring we maintain the all-important momentum in progressing such a large and significant project.

With Covid continuing to impact our financial resources, special thanks are due to Kumar Mather and Russell Florence for the close attention you pay to our financial position and the regular clear reporting you provide to Vestry. We are very fortunate to have negotiated this Covid period without yet needing to draw upon our financial reserves. This is due in no small part to Parishioners increasingly shifting to giving via direct credit, which means there has been only a slight reduction in giving despite not meeting in person for significant periods of time.

Andrew Maclean is stepping down from Vestry this year having served six years as Synod representative and Nic Mercer is also stepping down after four years' service, given he is now a member of staff. Thank you both for your very significant contributions, it is greatly appreciated! Andrew, we are grateful that you are willing to continue to lead the building project.

James Parkinson is not seeking re-election as People's Warden after three years in the role. The opportunity to serve in this way has been appreciated and certainly provided an even greater insight into the myriad of ways in which people contribute to our Church life.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of so many volunteers that contribute to St Aidan's, whether it be as part of regular activities or more specific projects. Your dedication makes so much possible. There are simply too many to mention by name and normally your efforts would be acknowledged over drinks and nibbles in December. Unfortunately, that may not be possible this year.

We look forward to 2022 with much anticipation. May God bless each and every one of you.

Juli Mercer, Vicar's Warden

James Parkinson, People's Warden

ST AIDAN'S AAW FELLOWSHIP GROUP ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

Our AAW Fellowship Group has experienced a very trying year along with all other groups within the Parish. With only 5 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 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 Kids Can, 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 Kids Can, 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 their time given over many years.

Mary Parkinson
28th October 2021

I adopted the role of Children's Ministry Coordinator in May earlier this year and have since focused on providing lectionary-based lessons to engage the children with the stories of the Bible and encourage them to continue thinking about what they learnt after the sessions.

Curriculum

The sessions have been following a lectionary-based curriculum, focusing on the Gospel story each week. We typically begin our sessions with a check-in, allowing the children to share how they are doing and anything interesting they might have done over the week. We then move on to hearing the Gospel story in some interactive way, such as acting it out or filling in a mad lib, which is then usually paired with an object lesson activity or demonstration that helps us think more about what the story is telling us. We then complete a craft or play a game that takes what we learnt and applies it further.

In lockdown, we have continued our sessions over Zoom. While not reaching the same levels of attendance as we did in person as the online sessions are not feasible for everyone after a long week of online school and work, the children who have been attending have been enjoying the chance to still engage with church. (I have kept in touch with those unable to attend to offer resources outside of our sessions if wanted.) The curriculum remains focused on the lectionary but is structured differently to accommodate being online. While we still have check-ins and time to share, I have been relying more on videos to tell the Gospel story and quick chats afterwards to engage the children with the story's meaning. We then play a game, such as Bingo, Simon Says, or Kahoot (a crowd favourite), based on what we learnt. We occasionally complete crafts, but with varying amounts of supplies available to everyone, I have been spacing them apart more so as not to run out before lockdown ends. While online sessions are not ideal, it has been wonderful to see the children continue to engage with and be enthusiastic about their faith.

Logistics

Just before lockdown began, I implemented a flexible schedule for the children's assistance during Communion so that there were more equal opportunities for all each week. The schedule is not set in stone, as attendance varies week by week, but it helped some of the shyer kids get the chance to participate.

I have also been pushing to showcase the great things the kids have been making and doing. I have made an effort to hang more of the children's art projects up in the gathering area and social lounge, as well as bring the children to the front of the congregation more, such as the sign language prayer for Disability Awareness Day.

Professional Development

Upon starting the role, I received training on the St. Aidan's system from both Louise and Anne to help me become acquainted with the resources available to me within the church. In June, I attended the Way2Go conference (organised and hosted by Sunz) and attended workshops focusing on intergenerational worship, creating big impacts in small groups, and creation care. I was unable to renew my first aid training due to scheduling issues with my university courses and then lockdown, but I am aiming to complete it over the summer.

I have since joined the Children and Family Ministry cluster meetings hosted by the Auckland Diocese. This has been a great way of meeting and connecting with other Children Ministers in the local area and sharing thoughts and ideas on the ministry.

Going forward, I am signed up to attend the Boundaries course that has been rescheduled to December. As mentioned earlier, I am also planning to take a first aid training course this summer (lockdown permitting).

Mainly Music Annual Report 2021

Mainly Music this year has had the expected ups and downs due to Covid 19. We have had our numbers rise and fall with the lockdowns. We are currently using zoom to have our sessions, and this is going well. Our numbers are again rising and the families who come along are very enthusiastic and participate meaningfully. Mainly Music Ministry have given us a discount on the price we pay due to the lockdown restrictions.

Our two helpers Amy and Susanna have both left Mainly Music as their situations have changed. I would like to thank them very much for all their help over the past year.

I would also like to thank Anne and Louise for all their support. It is wonderful to have Louise at our sessions.

I am hoping our numbers will come up again when we can meet in person again. I am loving running the sessions now we are used to zoom and all the challenges that come with online meetings.

Victoria White

Music Facilitator's Report 2021

So much of the year has been spent in Lockdown, yet though we can't gather to sing God's praise together, music continues to play a part in making our on-line worship a pleasing sacrifice to offer God.

A new official addition to the Music Team is Vicki White. Vicki took up the helm of Mainly Music after Rev Glen and Sarah left for Blenheim. It has been a delight to see her readily take up the challenge of Lockdown with her young helpers. Before Lockdown on my way to Wednesday service I often saw Vicki and her helpers, still full of energy after packing up after their Wednesday sessions in the Hall. We are blessed to have her enthusiasm. Many thanks to those who also support this venture with the morning teas and present the welcoming face of St Aidan's to the attendees.

Many thanks to Celia, who despite the demands of motherhood, has continued to offer her musical talents in organising and conducting our Nine Lessons and Carols, as well as leading the Youth Band (whose after Sunday service jamming shows their increasing prowess), featuring in delightful trios and soloing in many online services where she is ably supported by husband and guitarist, Dave.

Dr Anita Banbury was again at the organ for our Christmas Midnight Service. This traditional service was well attended in person with many for whom this might be one of the few services they attend in a year. From Wellington I watched the service online. For many others also out of Auckland with family, it was our Christmas Service, well worth watching more than once, though perhaps later during daylight hour leisure.

Between Lockdowns the choir met faithfully for practices on Saturday morning. The joy of sharing in song and prayer together remains strong with Karel regularly taking the lead to focus us in prayer together, for the practice, the service, our congregation's worship and for each other. The Sunday morning pre-service run-throughs have taken on more urgency for those with Saturday commitments, but can be also a useful way of teaching new songs to early congregation attendees.

Anzac Day this year, being on a Sunday was celebrated especially by hymns within the service which was followed by the gathering around the memorial to honour the sacrifices of all who lost their lives seeking to retain our freedoms. Wednesday services now finished with a hymn accompanied by the organ which was especially appreciated by a regular group attending from the recently closed St Oswald church. AAW monthly services also include hymns and organ voluntaries. The August Lockdown was announced just in time to cancel a Youth Service, and the planned Patronal Celebrations at the end of the month had to be also abandoned.

Rev Louise has competently stitched together cohesive on-line services sourcing beautiful traditional organ music for congregation members to enjoy singing to from the comfort of their homes, with lovely offerings from Celia and a couple of attempts at my zooming with my electronic keyboard in my Village apartment, such as for the lively October 3 Pet Service zoom.

As Music facilitator I decided that if I couldn't unite our congregation from the church organ, I could still try to use the Lockdown time to use music as a focus in emails or phone calls to encourage our congregation to look to God who is never locked out from being with us. It has been a great joy to receive so many emails and calls back from members of our congregation, many praising God, also offering encouragement and giving music offerings in return to share on, like the link to the 'Praise Be' 60th Anniversary Service from Westminster Abbey.

My current round as I write this report links a visual recording from Beethoven's 5th to Isaiah 40:31. A Songs of Praise version of this verse I sometimes use as a voluntary before the service, and at this time as I phone those without computers, can be sung over the phone. It is a fitting encouragement as we face uncertain times.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

They shall mount up with wings as eagles.

They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.

(Teach me Lord, teach me Lord to wait.)

Antoinette Pope

Music Facilitator

Office Report

St Aidan's Parish AGM 2021

Although the new year for St Aidan's began with no Vicar it was generally business as usual for me in the office. Weekly newsletters still need to come out, day to day phone calls, emails, and visitors kept coming, new rosters to be drawn up, bills to be paid, venue bookings, etc. all keeping me busy from week to week.

Isobell and I have again collaborated on a number of projects, most notably 'The Apostle' Magazine which we succeeded in printing for Easter, and the St Aidan's Day edition which we had to publish electronically due to this lockdown. Another major project was the Parish Profile which was published as part of the new Vicar appointment process.

Late last year I was approached by a representative from SpacetoCo.com and met with her in February. [SpacetoCo.com](https://www.spaceto.co.nz/) is a venue booking website which has the potential to give significant exposure for St Aidan's hireable spaces with minimal paperwork and cost. After discussion with Vestry we have added the Social Lounge, Hall, and Church (weddings only) to the website and have seen small but steady growth in hiring income. This website has also allowed us to centralise our booking system online and therefore accessible anywhere, as well as clearly showing availability, amenities and price to interested hirers, which has been a great time saver for me. It also has the flexibility for us to hold onto the administration and invoicing of our regular hirers so that we can still control their bookings easily and don't have commission charges on the majority of our hire income. Most of our regular hirers remain the same as previous years, and we have added a new group twice weekly for several hours which has helped with income (when our buildings are accessible).

With quarantine free travel back on offer for the first half of the year, I decided to take a short break in June and return to Tasmania for my Mum's 85th birthday. It wasn't quite as relaxing as I hoped, having needed to change my flight bookings twice before I left to avoid Covid 'hot-spots', and then once more after I arrived because the NZ border didn't reopen until the day after I had planned to fly back. It was disappointing that I missed Louise's induction service, however the extra week with family was a blessing, and the Lord had orchestrated the timing perfectly so that I was able to get back into Auckland right before the borders closed completely. After all the practise during previous lockdowns I was at least able to undertake some of my usual duties remotely, including contacting hirers now that our booking system is online. My sincere thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who stepped in to help out in the office during those three weeks and allowed me to go, some at very short notice.

The last couple of months have certainly been trying for everyone and, while I admit I enjoy the late mornings, working on the sofa with a laptop on my knees is not ideal. It has been a great opportunity to learn new skills though, for example video editing the Sunday services I understand a little more every week how to make things better and run more smoothly.

As I'm sure most everyone is doing I pray daily for the vaccination rates to rise, so that we will be able to safely emerge from this lockdown and meet together again for worship and encouragement as we are instructed to do (Heb 10:25).

Anne Godman
Administrator

Outreach Ministries Reports

City Mission outreach team report

Auckland City Mission Haeata Centre

The Parish 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 that 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 \$3500 was raised on the night.

Barbara Weir

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 4065 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

Pins & Needles Report for AGM 2021

2020 & 2021 – Two years we will never forget!! Our “Pins and Needles” group have been affected by lockdowns at varying times during this period and unable to meet in person except on rare occasions.

Nevertheless our needles have kept on clicking and in our long hours confined to home our group of wonderful knitters, crocheters, and sewers have produced a staggering amount of baby blankets, cardigans, beanies, bootees, and other delightful baby, children’s and adult garments of various kinds.

Until this latest lockdown we have been able to deliver a constant supply of gifts to Counties Manukau Community Midwives, the Anglican Trust for Women and Children (ATWC), the Neonatal Unit, and Age Concern.

We have not been able to collect many recent goods as our Church buildings have been closed, but when we recently received an urgent call from Counties Manukau Community Midwives for desperately needed supplies of baby blankets, cardigans and beanies we were able to respond quickly as many of our members were able to arrange contactless delivery to Gail Hodder and Marie. There were literally hundreds of goods donated from members throughout the North Island.

Our grateful thanks are due to Gail for her informative and cheery emails to us all, her constant supply of yarn when people ran out and shops were closed, and her safe and careful delivery of our gifts to Counties Manukau Midwives.

While we all missed meeting together on a regular basis with the friendship and fun we enjoy, I am sure we have all had a sense of community and purpose as we spent our lockdown days busy making these delightful baby goods which we know fill a real need in our midst.

May God’s blessings be on our members and especially on those who receive our gifts.

Marie Taylor

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 Weir, Anne Priestley and Pip Colgan 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 Sunday and the women look forward to the 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 ARWCF 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

PASTORAL CARE

We meet as a team under the guidance of our Vicar, the Reverend Louise Anderson, every second month. Our aim is, with God's guidance, to take care of the pastoral needs of our parishioners. Here are just some of the areas we cover.

Freezer Meals

We have a group of parishioners who generously make an extra portion of a meal, and these are kept in our freezer upstairs, for distribution to those who need a meal. Perhaps because of having had surgery, or a spell of ill health at home, or just because we are visiting. No special reason required. Unfortunately, we are not always aware of those who would enjoy a home cooked meal, so if you are one of those needing a meal, please contact Anne in the office.

Parish Grapevine

We are a group of about thirty-five parishioners, who, three or four times a year, do a ring around to the names on their list. The purpose of this is firstly to make contact with folk who you may not necessarily chat to on a Sunday. It also serves to pass on any information of upcoming events at St. Aidans.

The phone call also serves to establish if there are any changes to someone's particulars on our parish role. For example, a change of address or maybe add an email address so they are included on any Parish email, when it is sent out.

This is open to all parishioners. If you are not being phoned and would like to be on the Grapevine list to be called, please contact Anne in the office.

Alternatively, if you would like to join our group who do the phone calls, please contact Anne in the office, or you can speak to me.

Prayer Circle

This is a small group dedicated to praying for the particular needs of others.

The prayer request is confidential at all times. If you have a particular need and would like others to pray for you, please contact Karel Lee.

Retirement Villages

A group of parishioners continue to offer Communion on a regular basis, when not in lockdown, at 7 St Vincents and at Remuera Gardens. Home communions are also taken to those who aren't able to get to church for a variety of reasons.

Desré Simpson.

Report for 2021 AGM

Personnel Sub-Committee of Vestry

1. This report covers the period from November 2020 to November 2021.
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, then Louise Anderson
 - David Jamison
 - Liz Lim
3. During the reporting period:
 - a. We had the following departures:
 - i. Glen Ashworth as our Vicar
 - ii. Sarah Ashworth as our Kids' Church Ministry Leader
 - iii. Conor McGrath as our Youth Leader (Youth and Young Adults).
 - b. We hired:
 - i. Vicki White as our Mainly Music Co-ordinator, with oversight from Louise
 - ii. Isabelle Hoskyn as our Kids' Church Ministry Leader
 - iii. Isobell Tregoweth as our Young Adults Co-ordinator
 - iv. Nic Mercer as our Youth Leader.

Several of the roles described above are on a fixed term basis, to reflect the fact that we are in the process of looking for a priest to fulfil the role of Priest Associate. It is expected that upon that role being filled, the Vicar will undertake a strategic review of the scope of some of the roles listed above with the view to the Priest Associate potentially taking over certain aspects.
 - c. Formal staff performance appraisals have not been conducted due to various roles being vacant for a period, the COVID-19 lockdowns and the fact that most of the staff members listed above had just started in their roles. It is expected performance appraisals will be conducted in 2022 at a date or dates to be decided by the sub-committee.
 - d. We experienced two lock-down periods during the reporting period, with the current lock-down on-going. Staff continued in their respective areas of ministry to provide pastoral contact and support, and Anne with administrative and finance support.
4. The sub-committee commends and wishes to express their grateful thanks to the staff of St Aidan's for their dedication, hard work and continued commitment to their roles and in supporting the St Aidan's community this year. The current extended lock-down has been taxing, and we do not underestimate the amount of effort each staff member has put into their roles. Thank you.

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

Louise, David and Liz

Property Report for AGM 2021

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. 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 No 8 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.

No 8

- 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.

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) Extension of gathering area kitchen – Wayne Houston working on designs with JG.

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.

No 8 House

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

Simon Lee

Young Adults

As Conor has now left St Aidan's, I have temporarily taken over the Young Adults group until the end of the year. It's a very strange time to start leading a group; however, we were lucky enough to have at least one session together before the lockdown. We took the time to reflect on our group over the past couple of years and talked about how we would like to function moving forward.

On our first lockdown Zoom together, we had a full house, including a visit from someone who now lives in Wellington but used to be part of the group. We have been continuing our regular homegroup every second Monday, looking at the book of Luke. I found an awesome resource online that guides us each week and will lead us right up until Christmas. During one of our sessions, we played Gartic Phone, a hilarious online game - like a mix between the 'telephone game' and Pictionary (look it up if you have a team of at least four and want something fun to do in your next Zoom call).

As part of our reflective discussion, we decided we wanted to invite others to the group - those leaving the youth group soon and some young adults connected to church who don't come regularly to our Sunday services. This is something we would still like to do once we can meet again in person. We would also love to have a joint youth and young adults movie night when we can.

To any young adults in our community: feel free to contact me - whether it's to join our regular homegroup, to be added to our contact list for when we do social events, or just to talk. We would love to hear from you! We don't have a strict age limit, but the group is aimed at young adults, approximately 18-30.

- Isobell Tregoweth, staidansremuera@gmail.com

Youth Group

Youth Group has enjoyed an exciting and interesting year. The Youth Group continues to have steady numbers with around 10-15 youth as a part of St Aidan's. Youth group continues to meet on Friday nights and Sunday morning with more youth tending to attend on Sunday morning.

The first big event for the youth this year was E-Fest run by Anglican Youth Ministries (AYM). St Aidan's had 9 youth group members attend (including leaders) which is the biggest number of youth from St Aidan's to ever attend the camp. It was a great experience for them and was encouraging to see the response from our youth on the final night of camp as they prayed for each other.

In August we said thank you to Conor as he moved on to Lifewise after 5 years as youth pastor. Conor has been a huge part of the youth group over his time as youth pastor and we were happy that we were able to give him a proper thank you for all the work that he had put into the youth group over his time with us.

We were once again excited to have two members of our youth, Brandon and Asher, as a part of the AYM BOLD (Building Outstanding Leaders and Disciples). It is awesome to have more of our youth involved in this programme to help them grow as leaders and disciples. While they are not able to go to Fiji this time, they are able to look forward to joining with Te Tai Tokerau for a bicultural exchange once alert levels allow for this to happen.

It has been great to see the youth continue to be a valuable part of the St Aidan's community and to see the involvement that many of them continue to have. Even while in lockdown for the past two months, the youth have been still been engaging with each other on Friday and Sunday over zoom, and have been willing to record different parts for a service if needed. I look forward to being able to meet in person again sometime soon and to keep the momentum going into the new year.

Nic Mercer

Youth Leader