

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

Parish Annual Reports
2022

Vicar

2022 has been a year dedicated to rebuilding and re-establishing. The impact of covid on the church, not just St Aidan's but on our lives is significant. It is sometimes easy to forget that it was only at the end of April with the move to orange level that we began to consider re-offering wine and grape juice at the Sunday services and re-commence hospitality after the service. Whilst I use the term 're-building' at the start of this report, I note that this is not about simply returning to where we were before as I see church life as vibrant with much growth and change; growth in activities, people, and faith.

Worship and growing our faith

Our **Sunday services at 8 am and 9.30 am** remain our core parish worship services. The decision to retain **online services** has been important and is a provision that has grown out of Covid. It enables those who are unable to join with us physically on site the ability to join in worship simultaneously or at a later time. The value of this facility has often been commented on by those whose health has prevented their attendance.

One sign of the health of our church is our large group of candidates for **confirmation**. Covid had put some of these plans on hold over the last two years and so it was with much celebration that this year nine of our young people undertook this important step. I am grateful to Reverend Kerry Davis who undertook the preparation with the group and to Nic Mercer who has continued to develop young people through the youth activities.

Planning for special services and themes has seen a shift across the year to bring in the creative skills and experience of Reverend Anne Priestley and Lynne Trenwith to join Kerry and myself as we prepare for these events. Both members of the preaching team and with a sound knowledge of liturgy their input is valued, and this approach ensures a fresh perspective can be achieved. Season of Creation, St Aidan's Day, Advent, and Bible Sunday have been just a few of the particular focus areas.

It has been a gift to utilize **Reverend Kumar Anandanayagam** during some mid-week services and at an 8 am Sunday service. To be able to draw upon the resources within our own parish to lead ministry is a real blessing.

Music. My thanks to Antoinette Pope who in the last year has continued to be pivotal to the music in the parish not only on a Sunday but at the midweek service, AAW, Anzac, Pet service, Blue Christmas as well as playing at both 8 am and 9.30 am services. I value her flexibility and enthusiastic contribution to the worship life of this parish. The band, successfully developed under Celia Haggitt's leadership last year, has not had the opportunity to reform in 2022 leaving a gap, however I am hopeful that this may be remedied as we move forward.

Greater children and youth involvement in the services is slowly returning. The positive feedback from parents and parishioners is an encouragement to ensure this happens more often as our children and youth are an important key to the church thriving in the future. Further work is required to determine how we best cater for our pre-school children however so that both parents and the children feel relaxed and able to actively engage on a Sunday.

We have a growing team of people who assist with services at **retirement villages**. Alongside monthly visits to Remuera Gardens and 7 St Vincent's, Rawhiti Estate has been added to the places where we hold regular communion services. A huge thanks to the ministry teams who offer this vital connection for those in retirement homes who might otherwise feel disconnected from a physical expression of their faith.

Home groups. It has been exciting to see two new small groups form this year alongside our well-established groups. They have both been in an online format. This allowed a huge freedom to the parent group to attend without needing to arrange child minding alternatives and for the other, saved travelling on wet, dark evenings. It is great to see the 'home group' model adapting to reflect the changing needs of the church.

People

Since our last AGM we have welcomed **Reverend Kerry Davis** as Associate Priest. He has brought a range of experience to this role and amongst other things Kerry has taken on the oversight of mainly music, Men's breakfast and the Health and Safety portfolio. Another full-time priest on the team since mid-March has provided a welcome opportunity to share the workload, offer combined planning for major seasons and festivals and the provision of a sounding board when making decisions. Hopefully you too have felt the benefit of returning to a two-priest parish and Kerry along with Vaoa's contribution have been a welcome addition to what we currently provide at St Aidan's.

I would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of the **staff team** Anne Godman, Isobell Tregoweth, Izzy Hoskyn, Nic Mercer and Vicky White here at the start of the year and latterly Tracy Helg. We are a cohesive unit who support one another in their respective ministry areas. There has been a noticeable growing collaborative approach which I welcome. Despite the commitments of university and full time work we hold monthly staff meetings utilizing a mixture of zoom and in person to ensure that the majority are present each time.

I specially want to recognise **Anne Godman** whose ability to multi-task is impressive. She competently problem solves issues as they arise and is a much-valued member of the team ensuring that we all keep on track. Thank you for your enthusiasm often going over and beyond what is required of your role.

I would like to offer my thanks to a **wonderful Vestry team** who work hard to keep the wheels turning so efficiently here. A special thanks to the **wardens Desre Simpson and James Parkinson**, who have offered sage advice on a multitude of issues over the year and been strong advocates for our staff negotiating with Trust Management. Thank you for our 7 am monthly meetings and bringing your experience and love of this church into your role.

Funerals. There have been some sad occasions for us as a community as a number of parishioners have died this year: The Right Reverend Peter Atkins, Geoff Brown, Marjorie Glasgow, Mary Hills, Margaret Kirby, Ian Mclean, Patricia Maud, Neil Phillips, Barrie Ross, Margaret Sinclair and Harold Titter. We continue to mourn their loss with their families. May they rest in peace. Peter's death particularly touched the hearts of the parish as his long-standing service to St Aidan's meant that many have received his pastoral support, his wise counsel, and the benefit of his teaching across the 31 years he was part of our parish.

Newcomers. Whilst we have farewelled some parishioners, we have welcomed many new faces into our parish. Our newcomer's lunch did this in a formal way albeit without the vicar who was in isolation with Covid. It can be hard settling into a church, and I appreciate the way many parishioners make a huge effort to go and talk to new people and by wearing a name tag assisting those trying to learn many names.

St John's students. We have been privileged to have had two St John's theological students with us this year, Hamish Maclean concluding his final year and Kate Shrigley just commencing. They both actively joined in with parish activities such as the garage sale and cleaning bees and we have welcomed their ministry contributions on a Sunday. Hamish's thought-provoking sermons provided variety to the preaching team and based on the positive feedback, have been appreciated by the congregation. On behalf of the parish, I acknowledge the contribution that the whole Maclean family have made during their 3 years with us. Hamish, Rachel, Kaelyn, Jesse and Hazel our prayers are with you as you move onto the next stage of your journey with God.

Caring for ourselves and looking beyond

God's love in action is evident through the support of parishioners who look out for one another. For the work of the **pastoral care** team please read their report submitted for the AGM. It is wonderful to see the increasing number of people providing transport for others assisting those no longer able to drive to attend church.

On a **personal note**, most of you are aware that my mother died in September of this year. Thank you for the many expressions of love and support at the time. I have been touched by your concern.

St Aidan's continues to be a parish that is **actively engaged with Mission**. Some activities are based on site such as the Mission shop and Pins n Needles however a number of

parishioners go out to facilities such as the prison, the hospital and the Anglican Trust for Women and Children to offer ongoing support to their work, ministry and activities.

It has taken a while to get off the ground but the plan for the **Pataka Kai (community pantry)** is close to being realized. A provider has been found and we will soon have a place for the community to share surplus food. Timely with the rising price of grocery items.

The **annual Garage Sale** returned this year with Covid restrictions lowered. It is a massive amount of work in the long lead up to the garage sale and for the many willing hands during the week of the event, however we are fortunate to have a dedicated committee who oversee this preparation. It was a tremendous result raising over \$30,000. A huge thanks to everyone for their hard work and for the many volunteers who assisted in making this a success. It is a wonderful way that we can engage with our wider community and bring people through our doors.

Ensuring our buildings are adapting to the changing needs

Andrew Maclean and John Glenie have been working closely with architect Wayne Houston to progress the **Gathering Area Kitchen project**. Following extensive input from key stakeholders including the Church hospitality group, a preferred lay-out has been agreed. The process is now at a point where we will shortly obtain final architectural drawings with elevations. The adaptation of the kitchen is long overdue and will provide a much-needed facility to assist us as we move forward.

IT is something that often goes unnoticed however we are quick to be aware when it is not operating efficiently. The majority of the upgrade work is carried out by Simon Hackett Pain and we are extremely fortunate to benefit from his expertise in this area. Thank you Simon, and to the team of David Cotton and John Glenie who provide many unseen voluntary hours. Amongst a few of the projects that have been accomplished this year are:- the church's computer software upgraded to Microsoft 365, new wifi access ports installed and old original ones replaced, a guest network has been created meaning it is easier for visitors using our facilities to access the internet and a new TV in the social lounge means users will be able to easily use the screen for presentations off their personal laptops.

This report could be many more pages long, but I have touched on just a few highlights.

I commend to you the many **reports** that have been written and will be received at the AGM which ably demonstrate the breadth of mission and ministry happening through St Aidan's. A huge amount of ministry is lead and done voluntarily by you, our wonderful parishioners and the staff are here to support the fantastic work that is already being done.

This year, our eldest parishioner turned 103 congratulations Lilian, and our youngest Naomi, is only a few months old. Our church is diverse in not only age, but ethnicity and theologically and there is much to celebrate. As I look back on a year filled with mission and

ministry – we give thanks to God for what has been achieved and look with anticipation at the signs of new growth.

Reverend Louise Anderson

Vicar

Priest Associate

Arrival at St Aidan's. I have been at St Aidan's in the role of Priest Associate for eight months now since commencing in the parish at our service of welcome on 20 March. Vaoa and I are exceedingly thankful for the warmth of the welcome we received. The kindness of St Aidan's people is a hallmark of this church. We feel very much a part of this caring and supportive faith community and well-settled into parish life. 8 Ascot Ave is a fine property, and we are most grateful that it is our home. A lot of work went into preparing it for our arrival – replacement of boundary fence, painting, tree pruning and general maintenance. We are very grateful to the team of parish volunteers who worked so hard to ready the property. The gift of pantry food and the cooked meal that awaited our arrival demonstrates the generous spirit of this parish.

I work well alongside Rev'd Louise, and we aim to share the leading of services each Sunday as often as possible, with one of us presiding and other preaching. It is a blessing that this arrangement is supported by other clergy in our congregation, the Rev'd Anne Priestley, and Rev'd Kumar Anandanayagam, supplemented by preaching from Lynne Trenwith and the St John's College student Hamish McLean. My arrival just prior to Easter was a timely entry point to the parish given it is one the busiest seasons of the liturgical year. Since joining the parish, it has been a time of gaining knowledge and experience on the various services, ministries and systems provided at St Aidan's. It is very satisfying for me to serve alongside the dedicated team of parish staff.

It was a special privilege for me to preach at the **Patronal Feast Day of St Aidan** in August. St Aidan lived a remarkably humble and productive life. He is largely credited with the evangelisation of Northumbria and inspiring others to a life of faith. His example and legacy remains a wonderful model for our parish.

The St Francis Day Pet Service took place on 2 October. This special service has been a feature of the St Aidan's parish supported by others those whose pets occupy a special place in their lives. It is also a good opportunity to reach out to those in the wider community who may not be regular church attendees but nonetheless are blessed by the companionship and support received from their "fur baby." The number that attended the service was down compared with previous years, probably reflecting the gradual return to services following the disruption of Covid.

Purewa Cemetery Trust Board. It is a pleasure for me to serve as a Trustee on the Purewa Cemetery Trust Board which is an entity of the Diocese of Auckland. The board meets bimonthly at the St John's' Lounge at Purewa. Although serving on the board is not parish work directly, Purewa is a significant facility within the broader Remuera area and my participation fulfils the expectation that clergy make themselves available to contribute to the work of the diocese. Serving on this board opens the opportunity for relationships to be furthered between St Aidan's and Purewa.

The **Men's Ministry** has continued to meet monthly over breakfast on the last Thursday each month at a new location, Picolo Café. This location offers improvements over the previous venue. It is less crowded; it's better suited to a conversational type gathering and parking is more readily available. Attendance has been steady, and it has proven to be an opportune time to catch up for fellowship and getting to know each other better as most parishioners usually attend either the 8am or 9.30am service so it is often the case that many are not that familiar with each other depending on the service they attend, so this time of gathering continues to be helpful in strengthening connections.

mainly music. mainly music has continued each Wednesday morning during school term time. It remains an opportunity for soft evangelism and to connect St Aidan's with people from the wider community. It is a long-term ministry which has been offered by our church for a number of decades. It is pleasing that mothers/caregivers continue to bring their younger children to attend the programme after their older siblings have moved on to primary school. In July, the Mainly Music Coordinator, Vicki White, resigned to take up a primary teaching role. After a five-week recruitment, we were blessed to appoint Tracy Helg. Tracy is well-suited to the role as she has led Mainly Music for several years in Mt Roskill and is a person of strong faith. She has an engaging manner with both parents/caregivers and children and has added more songs to the repertoire of music. This year we have held special occasions to celebrate Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day at which we have had craft activities and a celebratory morning tea. The final session of the year will take place on 14 December and will be a celebration of Christmas. Throughout the year we are grateful for the efforts of Melanie Fernando and Vaoa Davis and the roster of hospitality volunteers whose combined support is a key factor in the programme's success.

Lunch to Welcome Newcomers. On 17 July a successful lunch to welcome 'Newcomers' to St Aidan's, was hosted by vestry and ministry leaders/individuals. Although many of the Newcomers had been with us for several months and were somewhat 'regulars' already, it was nonetheless appropriate to formally welcome them, inform them about the various ministries St Aidan's undertakes and have them tell us something about who they are and what drew them to St Aidan's. A 'tour' of various areas was helpful as many hadn't been beyond the Gathering Area and the church. Newcomers who attended were Christine Ford, Rosemary Ballantyne, Kumar & Josephine Anandanayagam, Kate Shrigley, Ruth & John

Backhouse and Kerry & Vaoa Davis. A short written contribution from each of them appeared in the August release of the parish magazine.

Confirmations. In September and October, I prepared nine candidates from our parish for confirmation of which Niven Fernando, Georgie Gray, Abraham King, Isabelle Hoskyn, Vaughan Parkinson, Asher & Ethan Stonehouse, and Brandon Wise, were confirmed by Bishop Ross on 16 October at a well-attended 9.30am service. The gift of a *kite* containing copies of the Story of Tarore, and a holding cross was presented to each candidate by James Parkinson, Vicar's Warden. In his sermon, Bishop Ross recounted how Tarore's tragic death became the catalyst for forgiveness, reconciliation, and the spreading of the gospel. Cameron Wise was unable to attend that service so he will be confirmed at Holy Trinity Cathedral on 4 December in a ceremony which will include other confirmation candidates from various parishes in the diocese.

Diocese Central Clergy Cluster Meetings. I regularly attend with Rev'd Louise the Clergy Cluster meetings hosted by Archdeacon Carole Hughes in which we share experiences of common interest as leaders of our parishes in this area of the diocese. Issues vary but have included the impact of Covid on church activity, parish events, property matters, insurances, and other issues of mutual concern. I also attended Diocesan Synod in September with our St Aidan's representatives.

Professional Supervision. I hold regular sessions with my supervisor. This time is invaluable for discussion on relationship, theological and work practices aimed at enhancing skills and abilities. These sessions are both challenging and stimulating often with new ideas and perspectives encountered.

Remuera Garden's Retirement Village. After a very long period of absence due to Covid lockdown, Remuera Gardens Retirement Village welcomed us back in July to lead worship and offer Holy Communion to its residents each month. We typically have around 25 residents attend each service. The services are held at the village's care facility, Kensington House, to which other residents from around the village come and attend. I am pleased that Marie Taylor is available to assist with these services with reading, helping serve communion and introductions to the residents.

Rawhiti Estate Retirement Village. As an extension of our pastoral outreach, services of Holy Communion commenced at Rawhiti Estate Retirement Village in October. We have been developing a closer relationship with Rawhiti having held Anzac Day services there the past two years and attending the Mother's Day afternoon tea. There are at least six current or ex-parishioners who reside at Rawhiti so these services and follow-up support enable us to attend to their spiritual needs. The services occur on the third Thursday each month. This is consistent with regular services we offer at other retirement villages at 7 St Vincent and Remuera Gardens.

As 2022 draws to a close I feel so grateful that God has called me to be a part of this energetic and loving faith community. It is a parish that holds true to its character as a place of Worship, Caring & Mission. I look forward to 2023 and the joy, challenges, and blessings that another year at St Aidan's will inevitably bring.

Reverend Kerry Davis

Priest Associate

Wardens

2022 has been notable for the gradual yet steady return to our traditional Church life as the greatest of the Covid-related measures have fallen away through the course of the year. While Communion and the Peace are still a little different to before, we are now largely back to operating as a Church in the same way we were prior to Covid. Our regular groups are back meeting in person, the regular rhythm of our 8 o'clock and 9.30 services has returned, we were able to deliver our ever popular garage sale, and we have been able to come together en masse for our regular celebrations such as St Aidan's Day. After all the disruption we have been through, the latter part of 2022 has been very refreshing and we are grateful for that.

Vestry

Following last year's AGM, we welcomed Julie Barnes and Jenny Haggitt onto Vestry. Juli Mercer stood down from her role as Vicar's Warden early in 2022 to focus on her health. Juli's very compassionate approach to all matters and significant capacity to give of her time to assist with so many aspects of Vestry and wider Church life has been greatly missed. It was great to have Juli in attendance at our recent Confirmation service and hopefully it will soon be a more regular occurrence.

Throughout the year, Vestry has had a strong focus on maintaining momentum despite the disruptions caused by Covid. Meetings have been held both in person and on-line as circumstances have required. A range of sub-committees including finance, health & safety, property, and personnel have been active to provide the necessary level of focus and ensure efficient and effective progress. 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.

Through a series of strategy sessions, Vestry has identified prioritised initiatives that will assist in providing direction over the next 12 months. These initiatives include:

1. Strengthening our volunteer base.
2. Maintaining and growing our congregation.

3. Driving growth in Youth and Family numbers.
4. Re-energising our building projects to make sure our buildings meet present and future needs.
5. Re-instigating the Social Committee to organise regular events.

Liz Lim is not seeking re-election to Vestry this year after five years of dedicated service. As Wardens, we wish to thank Liz for her significant contribution over this time, in particular assisting with the implementation of greatly enhanced processes and procedures during her time on the Personnel Committee. Liz's clearly formed and expressed views will be sorely missed.

Vestry is very aware of its role in representing the views of all at St Aidan's. In that context, we are concerned about the absence of any Vestry members under the age of 45 and wish to address this imbalance as a priority.

Staff

Just as Louise's induction was the highlight of the staffing year in 2021, the highlight of 2022 was welcoming Kerry to St Aidan's in his role as Priest Associate. Returning to a two clergy Church has been a real blessing for St Aidan's this year and the additional capacity Kerry has been able to provide in supporting Louise has been greatly appreciated by us as Wardens. A very concrete example of the benefits of a two clergy Church was the recent Confirmation service. A really significant occasion for the Parish that simply would not have been possible so soon after our return from Covid if not for having two Clergy to share the workload. Louise and Kerry, we greatly appreciate everything you have both done to so quickly establish a strong cohesive clergy team for the benefit of everyone at St Aidan's.

The other change in staffing occurred later in the year with Tracy Helg joining our staff team as the mainly music Co-ordinator. We are blessed to have Tracy who is a highly experienced co-ordinator having been involved in mainly music for over 20 years. Tracy's appointment followed Vicki White's return to full-time teaching. We are very grateful to Vicki for her enthusiastic leadership of mainly music. Thank you also to Kerry and Vaoa for stepping into the breach prior to Tracy's appointment.

Our grateful thanks to Isabelle Hoskyn and Nic Mercer for their continued enthusiasm in leading Kids Church and Youth respectively. The passion and dedication you each have is greatly appreciated by young and old alike. Thank you also to Isobell Tregoweth for everything you do in your capacity as Website & Social Media Content Manager. Your work has been invaluable throughout these disrupted times as is your focus on seeking to continually improve our online presence as we look to engage with the wider community.

Our utmost thanks goes to our invaluable parish administrator, Anne Godman. As always, Anne has provided the much-needed glue behind the scenes ensuring everything happens as and when required. Whether it is managing the many users of our hall and social lounge,

assisting with the finances, preparing newsletters for our weekly services, pulling together The Apostle magazines, or a myriad of other things, it simply wouldn't happen without Anne.

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

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the ongoing 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.

We look forward to 2023 with much anticipation and hope that the disruption of the last three years may finally be behind us.

May God bless each and every one of you.

James Parkinson, Vicar's Warden

Desré Simpson, People's Warden

Personnel Sub-Committee of Vestry

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 current members of the sub-committee are:

- Louise Anderson
- Mark Rushton
- Jenny Haggitt

Staff changes

- a. Vicki White resigned from the mainly music Coordinator's role halfway through the year to take up a full-time teaching position. With her departure Vaoa Davis capably took the lead for a term before Tracy Helg was employed on 7th September to lead mainly music.
- b. Isobell Tregoweth who had been leading the Young Adult's group since Conor's departure in 2021, resigned from this role in August. Isobell remains actively involved with the group however did not want to continue as leader. There is now a shared leadership model operating which will be reviewed at the end of the year, but it seems to be working well. Isobell continues as our Website and Social Media Content Manager.
- c. Whilst not part of the Personnel Sub-Committee's 'brief', it is noted that the other staff addition was Reverend Kerry Davis joining the clergy team on 20th March 2022 after the diocesan/church appointment was made at the end of 2021.

General

- a. Izzi Hoskyn and Nic Mercer, two of the staff who were on Fixed Term contracts had their contracts replaced with an Individual Employment Agreement as a permanent position in April 2022. They had been on fixed contracts to allow flexibility of job descriptions until the Associate Priest's role was finalized.
- b. The Diocesan Boundaries Course was attended in an online format by all staff that needed to renew their 2 yearly certificate and First Aid refresher courses were attended by those who were reaching the end of their certification.

Compliance

Informal staff reviews were carried out mid-year by the vestry personnel committee and formal reviews will get underway at the end of November in line with our review process. Tracy Helg will not be included this year as it was felt she was too new to the position. The reviewers comprise members of the sub-committee.

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

Louise, Mark and Jenny

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. I would like to thank Jenny Walters, who kindly takes the Minutes of our meetings. When our discussion is of a confidential nature, we keep it as that, and it is not recorded in the minutes. This year, we welcomed the Reverend Kerry Davis to our group.

Here are 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. A good deal of the time, folk do not require a meal, with all the options in the supermarkets these days.

Unfortunately, we are not always aware of those who would enjoy a home cooked meal, so if you are one of those who may like a meal dropped off, 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 may not necessarily be attending Church at present, (Covid has changed life as we knew it) or maybe, would just like a chat and catch up, which we are not always able to do 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 roll. 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 Godman in the office, or give me a call.

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. You would be most welcome; we can always do with more Grapevine callers.

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

7 St Vincent – Barbara Weir, along with Sheryl Swanevelder have been taking monthly services. (Sheryl stepped in to help when Anne Priestley was committed to helping out at the Sandringham parish). We are lucky to have Anne back in the fold!

Remuera Gardens (Kensington House) – Kerry and Louise share the lead with these services, along with the help of Marie Taylor. Numbers are increasing at this service.

Rawhiti – Kerry has made a few visits, including leading the Anzac Day service together with the Mothers' Day service. He is now taking a monthly Communion service with Barbara Clephane assisting.

Edmund Hillary Village & the Meadowbank Oceania Village – Both of these villages are not in our "catchment" area, however, we do have a number of parishioners at each facility. Covid has restricted us at times even being able to visit, so our morning tea plans to gather with those who live there have had to be adapted at various times.

Home Communions – Yvonne Kennedy continues to take communion to those who wish to receive communion but are unable to attend Church, and clergy also take communion as the need arises.

Desré Simpson

Health & Safety

Exterior Lighting for the purpose of security and providing good illumination on the pathways around the hall, gathering area and the church has been greatly improved following the adjustment and replacement of security light fittings. The one remaining dimly lit area will be addressed when scaffolding is available.

Personal Security. During the year the parish acquired two remote control security devices. The small device is worn on a lanyard around neck and when pressed sounds the security alarm system enabling assistance to be provided. Anyone coming on site to the church, hall or mission shop who would like the added assurance of this safety device may obtain use of it by contacting the office. This measure was put in place as part of the diocese guidance on Working Alone.

Diocese Health & Safety Visit. A representative of the diocese Health and Safety committee undertook a routine visit to St Aidan's on 25 August to review St Aidan's compliance with diocese health and safety policies. In preparation for the visit, we addressed any known issues. Hazard management clip boards and evacuation instructions were posted in the appropriate locations. Documentation on fire-drills and hazards were reviewed. The main recommendation following the visit was that regular fire-drills need to be conducted. These had become less frequent due to disruptions experienced during the Covid period. A fire evacuation drill is scheduled for November and six monthly thereafter.

Handrails at Clergy House have been fitted at the front and rear steps to address a safety concern and provide support for those negotiating the steps.

Life Safety Services Limited is the fire systems service provider for the parish. They have completed the periodic check of building fire sensors, sirens and extinguishers in the administration block, hall and church. Where necessary, fire extinguishers have been repositioned or new ones installed to give the extinguishers greater visibility and accessibility in a fire.

Fire Panel Monitoring. As an additional fire safety measure, the hall/church fire safety panel will be externally monitored by our security firm commencing mid-November. This will enable assistance to be telephoned directly should a fire activation occur.

Anti-bullying, Harassment and Discrimination posters have been printed and displayed in the church and hall areas as reminders that these behaviours are not tolerated, and that support is available if they are observed or experienced by anyone who works, worships or volunteers within a church community. This is a diocese health and safety directive to which all ministry units must comply.

Covid-19 Notification. Over the course of the year the Auckland District Health Board contacted the parish on several occasions to notify that a Covid-19 positive case had

attended our church. For reasons of privacy the details of the individual(s) were never disclosed to us. This necessitated the notification to all parishioners, mainly through Mail Chimp, that they may have been exposed to an active Covid-19 case. From what we are aware, thankfully, no one became infected with Covid-19 as a result of attending St Aidan's.

Diocese Health & Safety. During 2022 we have continued to remain in communication with the diocese H&S office receiving and acting upon its advice.

Rev'd Kerry Davis, Desré Simpson, David Jamison, Julie Barnes

St Aidan's Health & Safety Committee

Property

Recent History

General Maintenance work has been ongoing for minor repairs such as toilet seat replacements and malfunctioning locks. 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.

The church and hall maintenance contract had its full repaint finally completed, and the bell operating pulley was refurbished at the same time after seizing due to lack of use during Covid.

No 8 was refreshed for Kerry and Vaoa, with the rear fence partially replaced, interior painting completed and gardens tidied. No work was required on the vicarage.

Further work is being done to identify the source of the leak in the southern side of the church.

Major works done this year

Vicarage - None

No 8

- 1) Install of Handrails to front door and rear steps
- 2) Replacement of rear fence
- 3) Painting of internal window joinery
- 4) Clean up of gardens

Church

- 1) Repaint completed & bell repaired
- 2) New kitchen for gathering area in progress
- 3) Replacement of shingles missing from roof of gathering area
- 4) Drains cleared and videoed

Hall & Office - None

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
- 2) Resolution of the leak in the south side of the church roof.
- 3) Construction of extension of gathering area kitchen

Hall

- 1) Resolution of leak in Parish Office
- 2) Installation of the external ramp
- 3) Addition of a handrail for the existing hall access from the gathering area driveway.
- 4) Resolution of toilet facilities upgrade and establishment of budgets for this.

Vicarage - None

No 8 House - None

Simon Lee

Office

As we emerged late last year from lockdown it took me a little while to get used to being back in the office full time, and there were various new and untested 'hoops we had to jump through' as we slowly opened back up. Thankfully things remained moderately quiet for a change in the lead up to Christmas, so we were able to work our way through the issues of restarting church services and allowing our regular hirers to come back gradually under the 'Red traffic light' setting.

After a short break I returned early in the new year to get some 'back office' jobs done before the office officially reopened. Among other things this included learning to use 'vMix' and the cameras in the Church so we could go back to live streaming our Sunday services properly. Pete Macaulay, David Cotton and Simon Hackett Pain had invested countless hours

and expertise to get things in place, but with Pete no longer available to operate the system I had a baptism of fire learning the program and getting things back up and running. Thankfully, once I learned the ropes and was able to show a couple of others, this has been working successfully with only minor glitches since. We have also been able to introduce video recording of funeral and wedding services this year as a small additional revenue stream.

Kerry joined the team in March, which has taken a huge burden from Louise's shoulders. We have a great rapport and I feel our whole staff team is working exceptionally well together with a common focus. The extra 'hands' have also allowed lots of new things to start and grow. Isobell and I have again collaborated on 'The Apostle' Magazines, and I thank her sincerely for her amazing eye for design and attention to detail which I feel has made the magazine better and better with every edition. Of course, that is still dependant on having great content, so thank you to all who contribute and please keep it up.

As always, the general business of the office runs in cycles of week to week and month to month with most of the same issues –newsletters, phone calls, visitors and emails keep coming, rosters, accounts, etc. all keeping me busy. Venue hire also takes up a considerable portion of my time. Once we came through from 'Red' to 'Orange' levels most of our regular hirers were able to return and resume, however we did permanently lose a couple of groups. We have since had other groups take up much of these empty times, and www.SpacetoCo.com has continued to expand our revenue. Several weddings have been booked from couples who have found St Aidan's through this site, and some individuals now regularly use St Aidan's for dance practice at times which would be unworkable for regular groups.

Trust Management have had a number of staff changes this year, and it has taken some time to get into a good routine with our main accounting people. The Finance Sub-committee has been meeting regularly to work through monthly accounts and various issues which have cropped up, and following a recent meeting with Kumar, the Trust Management team, and myself, I am confident that we have worked out the vast majority of 'bugs'.

This year I have done some work as a Verger for both funerals and weddings. While I am happy to step up when needed, I would be much happier handing this responsibility (and associated income) to someone else, so if you are interested in training to be a Verger I would love to hear from you.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and trust as we radiate God's love from St Aidan's Remuera out into the community.

Anne Godman

Administrator

Kids' Church

Kids Church has been growing together in God's love this year!

Curriculum

We have been following a lectionary-based curriculum rooted in the overarching theme of "Growing together in God's love." This structure has been a great way to tie lessons together into longer-term ideas for the kids to think about. With the broader theme, we can connect what we learnt one week into the following week's session, even if the Bible stories aren't directly related.

I have also been working to integrate more te reo into our sessions since te wiki o te reo Māori, where the kids were excited by learning Bible vocab in te reo! It was great to see their enthusiasm, so now we learn a new te reo word each week that correlates to our lesson focus.

Not every session is the same, but generally, we follow this format:

1. *Opener*: This can be an object lesson, group discussion question, quick activity or game - anything to get the kids engaged from the get-go!
2. *Bible Story*: This is usually through a video, acting it out, or playing a game of fill-in-the-blanks, mad libs, hangman, etc.
3. *Game or Activity*: We play a wide array of games that link the main lesson or thinking point of the Bible story into the game
4. *Craft*: Once we have thought about the main lesson a bit while getting some energy out, we sit down and do a craft that further explores the lesson or theme

Intergenerational Focus

Even though we started the year very limited in how much we could get involved in Church due to Covid restrictions, the kids have still been able to do quite a lot with other parish members.

Youth and Kids Church have had many joint sessions this year, such as Easter, Pentecost, and St. Aidan's day. By doing so, we are creating a greater sense of community where the kids and youth are getting to know each other better. I also think this will make Youth a less intimidating transition as the children age out of the Kids Church programme. It is also a nice opportunity to do bigger group activities with everyone.

Louise and I have also been exploring ways to get the kids involved in the service more often. For some services, we have stayed in church longer than usual to be part of the Bible story; other times, we have shown the congregation what we worked on in our session at the end of the service. In the most recent youth service, the kids were much more involved by welcoming people at the doors, acting out the Gospel story, and even taking part in a

small skit. I am very excited to continue to sprinkle in ways that the children can be more involved in the services, as I believe it is important for the intergenerational aspect of our community.

Professional Development

I completed the Boundaries Course (February) and a First Aid Training Course (April) this year.

Izzi Hoskyn

mainly music

mainly music has consistently had 13 to 15 families attend through term three. Of these families there are now three nannies attending. The rest of the families are made up of grandparents and mothers. We have had three new mothers attend in the last two weeks from the local area.

This is exciting for St Aidan's mainly music because these are the sort of families that will invest into the community that we are creating and hopefully be attending for a while with their new family members. It is important to create an atmosphere of trust and support for these mothers so that coming on Wednesday morning becomes a blessing to them and not a chore. We don't want them just ticking a box, we want them to go away with a sense of belonging.

I believe that our team is achieving this with the feedback which I have been getting the last few weeks after talking to the families. The best advertising we can do for our mainly music is by word and mouth. We had one mother come last week who said she had heard great things about our group. That is exciting.

We have had some children leave to go to school and it would be great to start some dialogue about giving a children's bible to the ones who have been with us for a while. It is something that could end up being very special to them. It does have a cost involved, so just something to be thought about.

I have enjoyed starting and being part of the St Aidan's team,

Thank you

Tracy Helg

mainly music Coordinator

Youth

The more I think about what the youth group has been up to this year, the more I wonder how we managed to fit so much into one year. The youth group has maintained good numbers this year with between 10 and 15 regulars. Sunday mornings tend to be more consistently attended by the youth with Friday night numbers tending to fluctuate a bit more. After having to go back and forth between in person and online gatherings over the past couple of years, it has been good to be back to having youth in person for the majority of this year.

Sunday mornings have covered a wide range of topics, such as Wisdom, Exile and Gratefulness, as well as looking at the Bible and how it relates to what is known as today's popular culture. The youth continue to engage well with these sessions and ask a wide range of questions which has helped to increase their knowledge of which ever topic we are talking about. We have enjoyed some combined sessions with kids church this year at times such as Easter and St Aidan's Day.

The youth group continues to attend events run by Anglican Youth Ministries (AYM). Over the Matariki long weekend, we attended M-Fest (this was instead of E-Fest on Easter Weekend due to Covid restrictions at the time) with a couple of our youth stepping up and being tribal leaders. Other AYM events attended by the youth this year includes Diowhodunnit and the newly created Senior Space for those in their last years in high school and those who have recently graduated.

If you had said to me that we would have had a youth baptised and seven youth confirmed I would have thought you would be joking (and at the time of writing this, we will have one more baptism and confirmation before the end of the year). It was great to see our youth showing the congregation what their faith means to them, even being able to put it into their own words. It was encouraging to see them making these commitments and wanting to continue to learn and grow and deepen their faith and relationship with God. My thanks to Kerry for pulling the confirmations sessions together and being willing to take the time to work with our youth, and Louise for the support and encouragement provided.

Something that has been great to see this year is how involved the youth want to be in church events. This especially came to light during the Garage Sale with many of the youth helping on a stall and some even putting in a large amount of work helping to set up or pack down. Their eagerness and willingness should continue to be encouraged and celebrated as they look to be involved in more than just Sunday services.

Moving into next year, the youth group has built some great momentum that I hope to build on as we look to keep helping our youth to explore their faith and continue to be greatly valued members of our congregation.

Nic Mercer, Youth Leader

Young Adults

I stepped down as the leader of the Young Adults group earlier in the year, and our members are now taking turns leading our home group sessions. It is working really well! After looking at Luke last year, we have been looking at Acts this year, which we will continue to do in 2023.

We've connected with Sarah, from the Diocese of Auckland, and met her young adults group (that meet at Neligan house in Parnell) - they are a group of young adults from a variety of churches. Apparently, we are one of the only Auckland Anglican churches which has a running young adults group! We are small but mighty.

In saying that, we are looking forward to welcoming some new members at the end of the year/start of 2023, as some of our youth are now finishing high school.

Isobell Tregoweth

Website & Social Media Manager

It has been an interesting year for social media, with a lot of changes seen across various platforms as competition heightens. There is a big emphasis on videos at the moment. I think we've maintained our presence quite well, targeting those who are actually interested in the community we have here at St Aidan's.

The posts that always get the most interest are the ones celebrating our people! So if you are involved in one of our ministries, remember to take pictures which I can post on social media (or use in our quarterly magazine, The Apostle).

In case you're on the social media platform but are not following us, we have these public accounts:

- Facebook for St Aidan's (@staidansremuera)
- Facebook for the Mission Shop (@staidansmissionshop)
- Instagram for St Aidan's (@staidansremuera)
- Instagram for the Mission Shop (@staidansmissionshop - this is a new account I started a few months ago)
- LinkedIn for St Aidan's (search 'St Aidan's Anglican Church')
- YouTube for St Aidan's (search 'St Aidan's Remuera' - a custom URL option will be available soon)

It's awesome to see the love we get on social media from current parishioners to previous parishioners, and other Anglican whānau. We also had great engagement from the wider public with our Garage Sale this year.

The website continues to go well. I try to keep content as up-to-date as possible, mainly updating our News and Announcements page that covers recent and upcoming events. If you haven't been on for a while, we have a lovely new photo as the main 'slider' on the front page.

Overall, another great year for St Aidan's in the digital world!

Thanks,

Isobell Tregoweth

Outreach

Auckland City Mission

Parishioners have continued throughout the year to donate food items for our weekly collection for the Auckland City Mission.

With the aim of encouraging an increase in donations, we repeated our practice, over the 4 weeks of July, of highlighting specific items constantly needed at the Mission's Foodbank Distribution Centre. It is here that food parcels, sufficient for 4 days, are made up and distributed to Auckland families and individuals who do not have sufficient resources to access good food on a regular basis.

In addition the Mission, as a member of the Foodlink Collective, shares bulk food donations with community food banks between Thames and Kaitia.

In these times when food insecurity is so prevalent, this Parish support for the City Mission should continue to be at the forefront of our outreach to the disadvantaged in our communities.

Barbara Weir

Habitat for Humanity

The collection of curtains for the Habitat for Humanity Curtain Bank is a well established outreach activity for the Parish. St Aidan's is always listed as a loyal supporter in Habitat's Annual Report.

It is gratifying that parishioners immediately think of Habitat when they are replacing, or know of others who are replacing, their preloved curtains.

This year it was decided to choose Habitat as the recipient of the proceeds from our Annual Quiz. A total of \$3,346 was raised at this event. A big hit on the night was the stall we set up to sell tote bags and aprons made from curtain fabric off cuts by Habitat sewing volunteers. Items not sold at the Quiz were offered for purchase to parishioners after the Church

Services on the following Sunday. A letter of gratitude acknowledging the St Aidan's donation has been received from the Habitat team.

In its work over the Winter months just gone, Habitat has reached 550 families with key interventions such as double lined curtains, heat pumps, and minor repairs to ensure their homes are warm, dry and healthy.

Barbara Weir

Prison Ministry

As we have been 'absent' from prison since Covid, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge, so we all went to a Chaplaincy Volunteer training event on Saturday 29 October. This proved to be a good refresher and provide healthy guidelines for this outreach. Hopefully we will be able to get at least one visit in this year.

The Chaplaincy at Wiri had printed Scriptural messages for the ladies who requested this 'Non-contact ministry.' This was integral during lockdown and was very beneficial to the recipients. People contact is always the first choice.

PROGRESS and the way forward...

The Saturday workshop at St Johns Presbyterian Church was very beneficial and necessary, and all who attended agreed on the value of this workshop. Presentations were succinct and having three speakers kept the attention span of the attendees:

- Introduction to our new Code of Conduct
- Taking Church services inside the wire

We were given very helpful guidelines, with informative talks by Brett Johnstone and Richard Ward. We were also introduced to David Marshall National Ministry Development Manager. He presented the new name for Prison Chaplaincy, TIRA TUHAHA, Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa (TTPCA).

Every prisoner is offered transforming hope through the love of God.

Sheryl Swanevelder

Charitable Purposes Group Report 2022

The members of this group are Revd Louise Anderson, Kumar Mather, Barbara Weir and Jenny Haggitt.

This year's disbursements were less than usual for the second year, because the Mission Shop was closed for nineteen weeks during the Covid lockdowns of 2021. We still managed to give reasonable donations to the following, amounting to \$11,000 altogether.

CMS, Anglican Board of Missions, ATWC, Auckland City Mission, Prison Chaplaincy Service, Hospital Chaplains, Christian Broadcasting Assn, Christians against Poverty (Budgeting Service) and PARS (Prisoners Aid & Rehabilitation Societies).

Later in the year we gave \$1,000 each from the Reserve Fund to Ukraine and the Tonga Relief fund via Christian World Service

Jenny Haggitt

Auckland Hospital Chapel Helpers

Five times a year St Aidans provides helpers to the chaplaincy service to locate and help patients, if they want to and are able enough, to attend the Sunday morning ecumenical communion service in the hospital chapel.

Ideally about a dozen helpers are needed but we are now down to only 4-6 helpers so the question arises whether, if we cannot find more helpers, we cease this involvement. If you can help, please contact Christine Muller the co-ordinating leader for the St Aidan's team or David Jamison for further details. The next time the team is rostered for this will be on the third Sunday of the month in February (19th) and then the third Sundays in April, June, August and October.

David Jamison

Home Groups

Home groups have continued to flourish, and they continue to play a vital spiritual role in Church life. Everyone I have chatted to loves the group they are in, so once again St Aidan's is able to offer a 'smorgasbord' of preferences. These groups are a wonderful place to learn more about God and each other.

Most groups have been going for years and this must surely indicate commitment from both the leaders and participants.

An online group has been an added bonus and fills a very necessary slot for people who don't want to venture out at night.

Sometimes a group can start and then not continue. I think this is such a winning attitude, as if we are not ready to 'venture out' and give something a try we would never know what the possibilities are. I applaud people who are willing to give something a go. Sometimes groups form and it may be just what a group of people needed for that season in their lives, but when that season ends, that is fine. 'Nothing ventured nothing gained' would be a good proverb to stand by.

Louise is passionate in sourcing new material, and she has a plethora of studies which she happily makes available to the leaders.

'Home groups' have been called various names over the years. As we move forward the term 'small groups' more fully embraces the multitude of groups that St Aidan's has to offer so look out for this heading in the future.

Sheryl Swanevelder

Pins & Needles

This year has been almost back to normal although we still take care and try to keep our group safe from what seems to now be a never ending covid pandemic with new strains arriving and numbers of cases still happening.

However, despite this, our meetings have been well attended with 12-25 attending each month providing our groups with a large amount of beautifully knitted, crocheted and sewn articles. We have produced a large amount of baby blankets, cardigans, beanies, booties, and other delightful baby, children's and adult garments of various kinds.

We have had an enormous amount of yarn donated over the year for which we are most grateful and from which many bright and colourful combinations have been created – we have some amazingly creative talent in our midst.

The recipients, Counties Manukau Community Midwives, the Anglican Trust for Women and Children (ATWC), the Neonatal Unit, The Angel Babies, and Age Concern are always so pleased to receive what we have created.

We especially request that our garments are not sold in shops but donated directly to those who need warm clothing to keep them warm and healthy throughout our winter months. We are fortunate to know the groups that we donate to, and I am sure that our particular request is carried through.

It has been another good year and with God's blessing, may our members be able to continue this Mission Outreach from St Aidan's Remuera to those less fortunate.

Gail Hodder

Co-ordinator

Mission Shop

Because of the Covid outbreak in August 2021, we shut up shop for the remainder of the year. Earnings were about the same as 2020, as we were closed for about the same number of weeks.

During January 2022 a group of volunteers met on Thursdays to change the winter clothes still on the racks from last August to summer in anticipation of reopening at the normal time in February. Because the Omicron variant had taken hold it was decided to open only one day a week, and the volunteers should work only two hour shifts, with an extra person to check the required Vaccine Passes. That worked well, and very few customers were turned away for not producing a Vaccine Pass.

We were able to resume our normal days and hours in May, and since then have had no problem with volunteers wanting to stay away. Donations came in at their usual rate, we heard that some op shops were desperate for donations. We still send our overflow to ATWC and the City Mission, who are very grateful. We have been blessed with some new and not so new parishioners who have offered to work in the Mission Shop so our volunteer numbers remain steady.

We had a student from St Kentigern College who came in on Saturdays to vacuum and generally tidy up. Mikayla and her Mum also came and helped at the Garage Sale, and enjoyed it, so they would like to volunteer again next year. A lot of new customers have said they googled us and found us that way. We are also on some new Facebook sites.

In June we had a team from Fair Go who came to the Mission Shop to film a segment which was shown on their programme on Monday 11 July. The Mission Shop parts would have been recognisable to any volunteers and regular customers, also the segments filmed on the drive outside the shop. The Mission Shop was used as a backdrop to a story about Facebook scammers, no complaints about our shop!

The Shop and stage selling clothes did well for the Garage Sale, we have used that system for a few years now and it seems to work well. It does involve a lot of work setting up the stairs and the racks on the stage, and packing down after the Sale.

Our takings at the time of writing are equal with 2019, which was the last year not affected by Covid. Our disbursements are covered in the Charitable Purposes Group report.

Jenny Haggitt

AAW Fellowship Group

After 2 years of disruptions for our group it has been wonderful to be able to meet together each month since March.

Our first meeting was a visit to Vaughan Park Retreat Centre, Long Bay for a small number of members. After this our meetings have been held at St Aidan's beginning with a short service in the church led by Rev'd Louise Anderson or Rev'd Kerry Davis or one of our members. We use the well-loved AAW Prayer Book for our services and are ably led in our music by Antoinette Pope playing the organ.

Speakers through the year have been Archbishop John Paterson who gave a homily relating to Easter, Sue Zimmerman and Judy Mata'ia from ATWC (History of ATWC), Rev'd Kerry Davis (Matariki). Ev McGowan (Changed Galleries of Auckland Museum, Tamaki Herenga Waka: Stories of Auckland), Graeme McDonald (Charles Upham VC and Bar, the man, his upbringing and early years), Brian Haggitt (History of Parnell Cricket Club).

Our financial membership totals 35. We remember Margaret Kerby, Mary Hills, Margaret Sinclair and Patricia Maud who all passed away during the year.

As a group we have collected pyjamas for ATWC, donated to Auckland City Mission and organized the flowers for the Memorial Cross on Anzac Day. The trading table, ably run by Terrie Hawley helps to raise funds that we then gift to ATWC and Auckland City Mission each December.

Your committee works well together contacting members each month, organising afternoon teas etc. This sharing of tasks helps to keep our group strong. Thank you to Penny Raybould who retires from the committee at this time. Thank you to those who remain on the Committee for another year.

Mary Parkinson

Women's Evening Fellowship

This year we had only one month when we were unable to meet because of Covid. Over the year we enjoyed eight very interesting and stimulating speakers.

- February: Angela Caughey, Dealing with Dementia and practical hints and strategies for carers.
- March: No meeting.
- April: Chrissie Wright, Walking the Te Araroa Trail
- May: John Priestly, Retired chair of Purewa Trust Board.
- June: Vaoa Davis, From One Ministry to Another.
- July: Lynne Trenwith, Mentors and Nurturers feature in all our lives.

- August: Belinda Hutton, My life at Mount Eden Prison.
- September: John Lewis, My years at Eton College, England.
- October: Tiffany Robinson, Senior Active Modes Specialist for Auckland Transport.

In May we were saddened to hear Bishop Peter Atkins had died. Bishop Peter's memory is enshrined in our opening prayer that he and Rosemary wrote for us when we first met as a group in 2017.

In June we welcomed Christine Roke to our organising team.

Over the year we have had consistent attendances of between 15 and 20 .

It has been a pleasure for us all to enjoy fellowship together with our guest speaker over a cup of tea and supper.

We don't have a speaker in November, but always look forward to celebrating the Christmas season a little early with desserts and carols.

Jan , Alison , Christine, Elisabeth, Penny and Terrie

Music Ministry

Covid restrictions continued to disrupt the use of music in live worship throughout the year. December 2021 saw us hoping for a return to normality in time for Christmas week. Recorded music supported many online services until masking and other restrictions were gradually eased.

Our small choir maintained offering stalwart support of congregational and Communion music, when permitted, ever ready to meet for Saturday morning practices bolstered by pre-service run throughs. We have welcomed newcomer, Sarah, to our altos. Celia and Dave have continued to spearhead our Youth Band musicians. It was a pleasure and honour to again have Dr Anita Banbury at the organ for the traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Carol service.

After some months persistent problems with several great stops were finally overcome to restore our lovely organ to full capacity, just in time for the RSCM 'Sing your favourite hymns' afternoon. This event, compered by Neil Schroff, Auckland RSCM President, was a well-attended occasion followed by an excellent St Aidan's afternoon tea. We look forward to a repeat singalong. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this happy musical highlight.

Antoinette Pope

Music Coordinator

Remuera Christians Trust Board

Major Change Proposed

For over 50 years, the Trust Board has owned a property in Omahu Road to provide accommodation for mentally disabled men. For many years, the running of the house has been contracted to WALSH Trust and the facility has operated successfully for many years.

Unfortunately, we have been advised by WALSH Trust that the property will not meet health and safety audit requirements imposed by Te Whata Ora (the central health department which has replaced DHBs). Even though, in recent years, there has been one occupant per bedroom, to meet DHB requirements, the requirement is now for each bedroom to have its own bathroom facilities and, as currently configured, the house has only two main bathrooms. WALSH has indicated that its contract with Te Whata Ora would not be renewed if the house remained in its current state. Apart from this specific requirement for bathrooms, the house is old and requires constant maintenance and generally does not align with other facilities operated by WALSH, both as to quality and location.

The Trust Board has decided that altering the existing dwelling is not feasible. Apart from the cost involved, we believe the audit requirements from Te Whata Ora would be onerous now and in the future.

The Trustees expect reluctantly to resolve to close the facility and sell the property. In doing so, the Trust Board's principal concern is for the six existing occupants and, at the time of writing, we are waiting for a clear plan from WALSH for the men's relocation. No final decision will be made until the Trustees are satisfied that the men will be cared for.

The Trust Board would remain in existence, with a capital fund for investment and distribution to entities which meet the Trust's objectives, principally by supporting mental health organisations and initiatives.

The process has yet to be finalised and will probably take several months to complete. There is considerable regret among Trustees that we have been forced into this decision because the Trust was established over 50 years ago as a cooperative project between the parishes along the Remuera ridge and the house has provided a safe and well organised home for many men over that period. However, modern health and safety requirements are difficult to meet.

Miles Brown

3/11/2022 - Since preparation of this Report, WALSH Trust has indicated that, with completion of some maintenance items at the property, Te Whata Ora requirements may still be able to be satisfied so the Board awaits further confirmation from WALSH, and as a result, the position may not be as serious as first advised.

Summary of Synod 2022

THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER



**Anglican Diocese
of Auckland**

The First Session of the Fifty-Seventh Diocesan Synod was held as an in-person event at the Cathedral, beginning on the evening of Thursday 1 September and the full day of Friday 2 September. This was a welcome return after two years of Zoom conferencing. With no bills and only eight motions, a decision had been made to reduce the Synod to one full day.

A large group gathered in St Mary's for the opening Eucharist, at which the preacher was the City Missioner Manutaki, Helen Robinson. She spoke about the development of HomeGround, the new City Mission facilities opened recently in the CBD. She emphasised it was not only a building, but it also exemplified what the church should be – a place for all. She paid special tribute to the work of Bishop Jim White who had been involved for 17 years with the Mission's Board.

After the Eucharist, Synod adjourned to the Nave for the opening night's business, during which Bishop Ross delivered the [Bishop's Charge](#) (keynote address).

He spoke of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and reported on the Lambeth Conference which he had just attended in the UK, including the deep divisions evident despite the call to truth and unity.

He also spoke of recent changes in the Diocese, including the appointment of The Rev'd Brenda Rockell as the Diocesan Vocational Chaplain as a move to encourage a renewed focus on ministry formation and growth in vocations.

Developments with the Selwyn Foundation and the City Mission were marked, as was the way in which the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care had interacted with the Anglican Church. Bishop Ross reported on how the tension between pastoral care and accountability was being managed and reiterated his apology to those who had been abused through the mechanisms of the Church and its people.

FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

After morning prayers, the Synod heard from the Diocesan Council. Its full report is available on page 82 of the [Synod 2022 Yearbook](#).

Among a wide range of matters, health and safety including anti-bullying and harassment policies were noted, along with the associated Ripples Project. Guidelines had been sent to the Diocese about Working Alone while a Digital Church Working Group had been established to share ideas and develop recommendations.

No audited accounts had been prepared in time for Synod. This was due to a sector-wide staffing shortage in the audit and financial sector which had affected Trust Management Ltd, who provided financial services to the Diocese.

Unusually, the agenda was set aside mid-morning to allow the House of Laity to meet separately. This meeting concerned the independent report by the Hon Rodney Hansen QC which had just been published, relating to abuse at Dilworth School and subsequent ministry appointments. (This report can be found on the diocesan website in a [news item about the deposition of Ross Browne](#).) Once the adjournment was over, a question put to the full Synod sought a process by which any clarifications could be requested, and it was advised these should be referred to the Bishop's Office.

Elections were held for vacancies on the Diocesan Council, Clergy Remuneration and Retirement Committee, and the pool of Diocesan Nominators. A trial of electronic voting using hand-held wireless devices proved sufficient for some appointments, but a decision was made to supplement this with a paper ballot in one case.

Motions covered a range of issues. Please see the first section of the [Synod 2022 Yearbook](#).

- One highlighted the maintenance challenge involved in looking after 400 buildings, including a number of heritage structures. Sites were becoming burdensome because of the increase in large-scale repairs and the impact of deferred maintenance. The Synod split into small groups to brainstorm solutions for a new funding process. As a result, a proposed property working group was expanded to include a strategic review.
- As a result of the difficulties experienced by Trust Management Ltd's accounting and financial services and the impact this had on ministry units, an independent review of TML's centralised accounting service to the Diocese was agreed upon.
- A motion seeking to review the structures of Synod to best serve the governance of the Diocese was agreed to. Group discussions on the structure of the Synod were held, and the feedback will be collated.
- Lengthy discussion followed the motion: Care of Creation – Urban Ngahere (Forests). This urged a proactive approach and encouraged ministry units to explore ways in which land under their stewardship could be used to enhance native biodiversity.
- The need for ministry units to provide intergenerational opportunities to encourage the involvement of children and young people was also agreed to.
- A motion suggesting a review of the three tikanga structure of the Anglican Church was carried, with the caveat from the Bishop that it needed to be a matter for discussion rather than one which could be decided by Tikanga Pākehā alone.

As time was running out, the final motion, expressing concern about poverty causing some children to leave school early, was forwarded to the Diocesan Council for consideration.

In the general debate (where any issue raised by any report in the Synod Yearbook can be discussed), a variety of speakers focused on issues of concern. The Assistant Chaplain of

Diocesan School for Girls spoke of requests for baptism being declined at some ministry units, a concern of particular relevance at a time of falling church attendance. The work of the Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Trust was championed, and Sarah Moss (Diocesan Ministry Educator) provided an update about Boundaries workshops.

After closing prayers and a blessing, Synod was adjourned to resume in September 2023.

Please refer to the diocesan website's [Synod page](#) for all Synod documents.

David Jamison & Julie Barnes

Synod Representatives

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS OF
ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, REMUERA, AUCKLAND**

HELD VIA ZOOM ON 1 SUNDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 10.30 am

PRESENT:

Reverend Louise Anderson, Anne Godman, Mark Rushton, Kumar Mather, Shivanti Mather, Stuart Sinclair, Sue and Garth Williams, Gail and Murray Hodder, Mary Parkinson, James Parkinson, Ev McGowan, Hein and Sheryl Swanevelder, Ron and Elsa Haydon, Liz Lim, Colin McGowan, Jenny and Brian Haggitt, Russell and Lynne Florence, Celia Finn, Isobelle Hoskyn, Christine Roke, Antoinette Pope, Marie Taylor, Geraldine Burbush, Desre, Keith and Claire Simpson, Patsy Dillon, Julie Barnes, Shirley Bevins, Caroline Shepherd, Jill Bignell, John Glenie, David Cotton, Annmarie Raffel, Nic Mercer, Juli Mercer, Anne Priestley, Barbara Clephane, Jacqui Parkinson, Isobell Tregoweth, Peter Macaulay, David Jamison, David Mercer, Penny Raybould, Sue Jackson

- 1. Opening with Prayers:** Reverend Louise Anderson opened the meeting at 10.30 a.m. in prayer and thanked all those present for attending.
- 2. Attendance and Apologies:** Attendees were signed in via Zoom. Apologies received were read out and Reverend Louise Anderson asked for any other apologies.

Yvonne Kennedy, Richard and Naomi Caughey, Andrew MacLean, Margaret Cooper, Brian Gray, Lynne Trenwith, Dave Finn, Manel Weerasena and Robyn Bridgman.

- 3. Any other Items for General Business:** There were no other items for General Business.

4. Minutes of the Previous AGM: The Minutes of the AGM held on November 22nd 2020, having been displayed on the St Aidan's Church website, were taken as true and accurate.

Moved: Reverend Louise Anderson. Seconded: Juli Mercer. Carried.

Minutes of the SGM held on 21 March 2021, having been displayed in the Gathering Area of St Aidan's Church, were taken as true and accurate.

Moved: Reverend Louise Anderson. Seconded: Colin McGowan. Carried.

5. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

6. Vicar's Report:

Reverend Louise Anderson noted that her Vicar's report has been displayed on the St Aidan's website. She wished to note some points:

- Louise urged parishioners to read all reports on the website.
- Louise appreciated the parish trusting her to be their vicar. Her first year has been challenging and she thanked all the people who have helped her to keep our services going through Covid lockdown. Thanks to Hamish McLean, Lynne Trenwith and Anne Priestley and all the lay people involved in services.
- Music discussions have been delayed because of Covid. Louise thanked Antoinette and Celia Finn for their help with music for on-line Sunday services.
- The new St Aidan's team is dynamic and adaptable.
- An advertisement for a Priest Assistant should be out soon and Louise is hopeful interviews could begin in December.
- The Property Team has had a busy year. The first focus is improvement of the Gathering Area kitchen. Louise thanked the team for all their work.
- Louise thanked Vestry and both Wardens, Juli Mercer and James Parkinson.
- Louise is hoping we will all be back in church as soon as possible.

Moved that the Vicars' Reports be accepted: Reverend Louise Anderson Seconded: Mary Parkinson Carried.

7. Wardens' Report: Juli read the Wardens' report and noted that it is available on the St Aidan's website. Points noted:

- 2021 has been a year of change but there remains a strong sense of stability thanks to the support of the parish.
- After a long process the parish is delighted that Bishop Ross appointed Louise and she was inducted on 20 June 2021.

- Conor, the Youth Pastor has left and St Aidan's has welcomed Nic Mercer and Isabell Hoskins to work with youth.
- Anne Godman is a vital member of staff who has given great support to Louise. Thanks to all St Aidan's staff for their hard work.
- Vestry's particular focus has been on the improvement of our buildings. Thanks to Andrew McLean for his work on the building projects.
- Thanks also to Kumar and Russell Florence for their regular reporting to Vestry.
- Andrew McLean and Nic Mercer are stepping down from Vestry. Juli thanked them for their very valuable contributions. Andrew will continue to help with the building projects. Nic is now a member of staff.
- Juli thanked all the volunteers who give their time and efforts to the church.
- On behalf of all at St Aidan's, Juli thanked James Parkinson for his work as People's Warden. He will continue to serve on Vestry.

Moved that the Wardens' Reports be accepted: Juli Mercer. Seconded: Reverend Louise Anderson. Carried.

8. Appointments and Elections:

- David Jamison read and explained the following Motion to the AGM:
 "The 2021-22 Vestry number of elected members be up to six and that vestry has power to co-opt parishioners to fill any vacancies."

Moved: David Jamison. Seconded: Caroline Shepherd. Carried.

- Louise advised that we have to have an election of members to Vestry even though the numbers needed for Vestry match the numbers on the Nomination List. Each nominee has to receive a majority of votes.
- Voting was carried out via the Survey Monkey Website.
- Louise thanked Juli Mercer who has agreed to be Vicar's Warden.

Other Reports:

Finance

Kumar presented a series of reports outlining St Aidan's financial information.

- Kumar thanked Russell Florence and Anne Godman for their long hours and hard work.
- He explained that St Aidan's now has a Finance team which meets monthly to review finances.
- Kumar explained the outcome on finances of the Covid lockdown. He noted offerings by automatic payment have increased, operating expenses are reduced

as we only have one clergy member, St Aidan's has increased its surplus so far this year and donations to Mission have remained the same.

- Kumar noted that the property team is looking at deferred maintenance work that will need to be done and will be expensive. It may be necessary to draw on cash reserves.
- Kumar also mentioned that donations are not just about money but also about giving time generously.
- Kumar reported the funds in the Endowment Fund.

Moved that the Finance Report be accepted: Kumar Mather. Seconded: Jenny Haggitt. Carried.

All reports are on the St Aidan's website.

Moved that the reports have been received. Carried.

Election Results Announced:

People's Warden: Desre Simpson

Synod Representatives: Julie Barnes, David Jamison

Vestry: James Parkinson, Mark Rushton, Jenny Haggitt, Kumar Mather, Liz Lim

Other Vestry member: Vicar's Warden: Juli Mercer

9. General Business:

There was no General Business.

10. Closing Prayers and Blessing: Reverend Louise Anderson.

The meeting closed at 11.35 a.m.

2022 MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Any other items for General Business
4. Minutes of the Previous AGM
5. Matters Arising
6. Vicar's report
7. Appointments and Elections
 - a) People's Warden
 - ~~b) Synod Reps (Not applicable)~~
 - c) Vestry members

Note 1: The Church wardens are members of Vestry by right. The Synod Representatives, elected in their own right, are also members of Vestry, serving a 3-year term.

Note 2: The AGM must elect at least *three* other parishioners to Vestry, but not more than *fifteen*.

Thanks to those retiring from their office

8. Other Reports
 - Wardens
 - Finance
9. General Business
 - a) Building project plans and progress
 - b)
10. Closing Prayers and Blessing



Reverend Louise Anderson

Vicar