

THE APOSTLE



CHRISTMAS 2022

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

Vicar's Foreword

As the 2022 year draws to an end, we enter the season of Advent. However, before that happens it is good to pause to look back on what has been. Across Auckland we can celebrate that city wide Covid lockdowns haven't been required. Within the parish we were able to reinstate St Aidan's Day lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending. It felt like two years of conversation happened across the dining tables that day! The Garage Sale returned to its full strength, and we can give thanks for the huge number of volunteers who helped to make this happen for yet another year. Page 19 captures a few of the faces that you might have seen on the day and if you haven't caught up with the total raised then read to the bottom of that page.

In our St Aidan's Day magazine in August we highlighted some of the many signs of growth within the parish, and you can follow up with a couple of those events in this edition. Look out for the confirmation photo and article about the gifts on page 10, and our exciting new Writing Group which meets once a month. It is fantastic to see a fledging idea come to fruition in this way. More details on page 14.

As I think of patchwork and all the various pieces that come together, this magazine offers a glimpse of some of our pieces, our groups, who gather regularly. These groups are a great way to meet with others from the parish outside a Sunday service. Whilst not all are able to be featured here in the magazine, the St Aidan's website and our Welcome brochure can provide further information. If you haven't joined one of our many varied groups, why not consider that for 2023?

The lead up to Christmas can be for some a busy time with plenty of social activities. If you have some gaps in the calendar, or if you can make us your priority, then check out the opportunities to join in with some St Aidan's carol singing this year. Whether in the community, or on the vicarage lawn picnic style, family and friends are welcome. For those no longer able to attend church we are endeavouring to bring a few of those carols to your front door, people power permitting.

At this time of year, people travel and find it hard to attend services regularly, yet perhaps would like a focus for their prayers during this time of waiting, preparation and celebration. If that sounds like YOU, then a specially created resource compiled by Anne Priestley provides resources to help. The overarching theme is HOPE. Anne writes:

"HOPE is not just optimism. Hope acknowledges that we may have good cause to fear, to be anxious, to be sad... yet in all things God is faithful. God is with us. God has been faithful in the past. God is faithful now. Real hope can be found as we learn to trust God's loving faithfulness."

Hope is something that we need as an individual but also as a faith community. This new Advent/Christmas resource will be available on our website, and also as a booklet with copies in the GA. Please share with others who may find it helpful at this time.

No matter how you prepare for Christmas this year, I hope we can all experience something of the love, hope, peace, and joy, which Christ brings to the world. †

Blessings, *Louise*

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The Apostle magazine is published on behalf of St Aidan's Anglican Church. All articles printed in the Parish Magazine are at the discretion of the editor. Content and size may be edited to fit publication. We welcome your photos. Please email contributions to the office - office@staidans.co.nz

Deadline for the next Parish Magazine:
1st March 2023.

Find us online:

www.staidans.co.nz

www.facebook.com/staidansremuera/

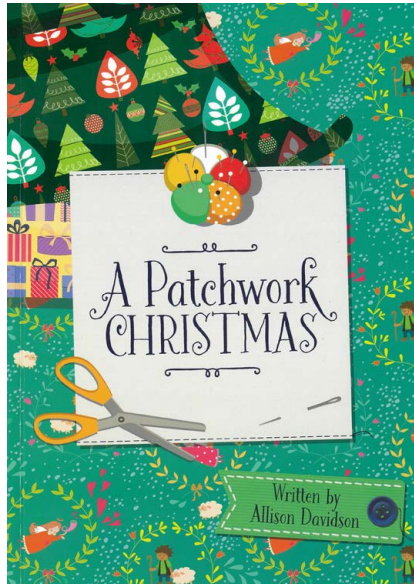
www.instagram.com/staidansremuera/

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3** A Patchwork Christmas
- 5** Recent Parish event photos
- 8** St Aidan's Day lunch photos
- 10** Confirmations: story behind the gifts
- 12** Thank you to all our volunteers
- 15** Introducing our mainly music Coordinator
- 22** Kids' Church update
- 24** Contacts at St Aidan's

A Patchwork Christmas

At the end of the year the mainly music children are presented with a book which contains a Christian message about some aspect of the Christmas story.



This edition of 'The Apostle' picks up on the book's title, 'A Patchwork Christmas', by Allison Davidson. The story tells of when "a parent sits down to sew a patchwork Christmas tree, the child contributes by finding the various designs that match each part of the story. And as the parent works, the story unfolds. Finally, when the patchwork is made, the story is complete and the meaning of Christmas becomes evident". As you look at the amazing patchwork examples in these photos you can perhaps imagine how they started off as scraps of material cut into small, odd shapes. It would have been difficult to see the end design, except for the creator. Whilst patchwork might not be something that you personally have an interest in, a parallel to this story can be drawn with doing a jigsaw puzzle. Often we aren't able to see the full picture and to see how all the pieces fit together, until we begin to reach the end of the puzzle. It is only then that we are able to admire the finished creation.

How often can we experience that same uncertainty or feeling of not knowing in our own lives, or have family members who are going through this? When we don't quite know how things will fall into place, where there is a time of waiting to see what will happen. It can be unsettling when we can't see the whole picture.

My prayer for you is that in this time you know and can experience the hope God provides. †

Louise

Some handmade quilted treasures:

Right:
Christmas stockings made by Mary Parkinson's for her grandchildren

Far Right:
Christmas alphabet, a gift given many years ago to Yvonne Kennedy



Vestry 2023

At our Parish Annual General Meeting on 20th November our new vestry members were elected:
Desré Simpson (People's Warden)
Kumar Mather (Treasurer)
Asher Stonehouse
Jenny Haggitt
Mark Rushton

Our Synod representatives Julie Barnes and David Jamison remain, having been elected in 2021 for a three year term.

Liz has stepped down from vestry, and we thank her for her service over recent years. Having been asked by Louise, James Parkinson has agreed to continue on as the Vicar's Warden.

Annual reports from all groups and officers of the parish are available to read on our website:
www.staidans.co.nz/agm/. †



REGULAR EVENTS

Sunday Services	8am Holy Communion. 9:30am Family Communion.
Wednesday Service	11:30am Holy Communion without music.
Prayer in the GA	Thursday mornings at 9am. Come along or join via Zoom online or by phone.
AAW	A women's afternoon fellowship group. Meets monthly on 1 st Tuesday at 1:30pm. Contact Mary Parkinson.
Choir Practice	Saturdays at 10am in the Bethel Room. New members welcome. Contact Antoinette.
Contemplative Prayer	Meets each Wednesday at 9:45am, 276A Victoria Avenue. Contact Anne Priestley.
Kids' Church	All children ages 3-10 during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Izzi Hoskyn.
mainly music	Wednesdays during term time at 9:30am. Music and play for families with pre-school aged children. Contact Tracy Helg.
Men's Ministry	Meets last Thursday of the month. Contact Kerry Davis.
Pins & Needles	Meets monthly on 2 nd Monday of the month. Contact Gail Hodder.
Small Groups	Contact Sheryl Swanevelder or Louise for more information.
WEF	A women's evening fellowship group. Meets monthly on 3 rd Tuesday at 7:30pm. Contact Jan Evans.
Young Adults	Meets every 2 nd Monday at 6:30pm plus occasional social events. Contact Isobell.
Youth	Ages 11+ at the 9:30am Sunday service and Friday at 7pm. Contact Nic Mercer.



Christmas at St Aidan's, Remuera 2022

24 December 4pm Kids' Service
7pm Communion
11pm Midnight Communion
and Carols

25 December 8am Communion
9:30am Family Communion

Recent Parish Events



St Aidan's residents at Meadowbank Village meeting over coffee



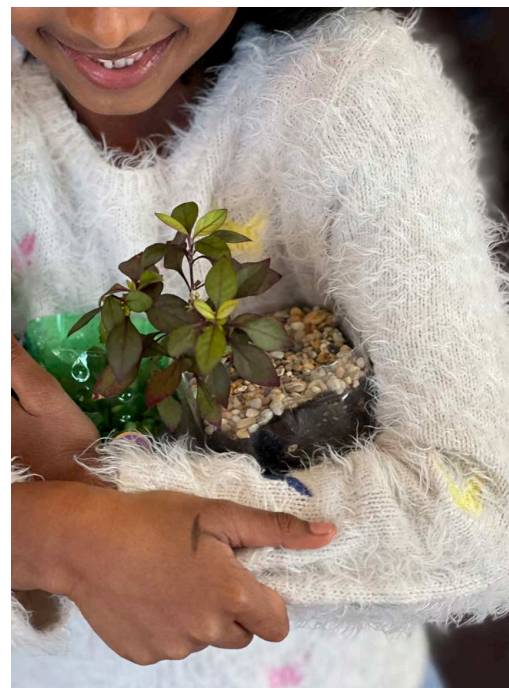
St Francis Day Pet Service



Annual Bake-off competition judges Shirley Bevins & Cameron Wise



Bake-off cupcakes



Kids' Church - Care of Creation



Niven Fernando receiving a candle from Nic Mercer at his baptism



16th October Confirmation Service

Association of Anglican Women (AAW) Fellowship Group

Our group has continued to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm starting with a short service in the church. We then adjourn to the Gathering Area for a short meeting followed by a speaker and then afternoon tea.

In August our speaker was Graeme McDonald who spoke about Charles Upham VC and Bar, the man, his upbringing and the early days of his life. Our September speaker was Bryan Haggitt who gave an illustrated talk on the history of the Parnell Cricket Club. In October we welcomed Linda Broom, Community Engagement Specialist, Auckland City Mission. She gave us a wonderful update on Homeground and the work that is being done in this new space. November was our AGM which was chaired by the Rev'd Louise Anderson and she then gave us a talk on what's coming up at St Aidan's.

The 2022 year will be rounded out on Tuesday, 6th December with a Communion Service followed by our special Christmas afternoon tea and carol singing.

It has been wonderful to be able to meet together and enjoy fellowship with one another throughout the year and we wish everyone a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. †

Mary Parkinson on behalf of the Committee



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 Priestley, 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 which 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 look forward to celebrating the Christmas season a little early at our November meeting, with desserts and carols. †

Jan, Alison, Christine, Elisabeth, Penny, and Terrie



Pins and Needles

The meetings over the past months have been well attended with a lot of lovely knitted, sewn, and crocheted blankets and garments being created.

We did ask that the donated wool be used up, and suggested including stripes and patches to use up the smaller amounts which had been donated and we received a lot of very colourful children's garments which I am sure the recipients will just love wearing.

A very big thank you to the many outworkers who are unable to attend our meetings but continue to support us with their beautiful contributions.

We meet from 10am to noon on the second Monday of the month in the Gathering Area at St Aidan's. Everyone is welcome to join us for morning tea, to share ideas, and catch up on what lovely garments have been produced.

We are also happy to teach and support anyone who would like to knit along with us. In the olden days it was the men who were the knitters and the women spun the yarn. Somehow that has changed but men are most welcome to join us.

It has been a busy year for this Mission Outreach with hundreds of items being created, and we look forward to the year ahead when we will continue to fulfil a need within our community.

Wishing you all the joy, hope and wonder of Christmas and for 2023. ↑

Gail Hodder

Left: tea cosies on the trade table
Below: a selection of knitting ready for distribution



Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministry has continued to meet monthly over breakfast, on the last Thursday of each month at a new location - Piccolo Café. This location offers improvements over the previous venue. It is less crowded, it's better suited to our 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, 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.

We are working on bringing into realisation a number of activities to help grow the men's ministry, and which could be of interest to the parish more generally.

We would be very happy to welcome new faces to the breakfasts, and any ideas you may have to expand the ministry and fellowship within the parish would be welcomed. ↑

Kerry

Men's Ministry
We meet regularly for breakfast, on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30am, and participate in various activities throughout the year

Men's Breakfasts now at Piccolo Café
Shop 5, 320 Remuera Road, Remuera (inside Airlie Court)
Free parking on the roof, enter via the ramp on the corner of Remuera Road & Garden Road

NEXT ON: Thursday 23rd February
We look forward to having you come and join us!
Contact: Rev'd Kerry Davis 022 364 9594 or kerry@staidans.co.nz

I Spy Solution (page 16)



St Aidan's Day

28th August 2022



Where are Mary and Joseph?

Will we see them on their journey this year?

Look out for them around the parish, visiting the church and attending functions during this Advent season. If you spot them, let Louise or Kerry know and you might get a sweet surprise!





Join us for our annual

PARISH FAMILY PICNIC

at Cornwall Park
Sunday 26th February
 Approx. 11:30am
 after the 9:30am service

Bring a chair or blanket, finger food to share, hat, sunscreen, etc. Car pooling available

GIVING AT ST AIDAN'S

SCAN ME



Find out how you can financially support St Aidan's by scanning the above QR code. You can do this by opening the camera app on your phone and hovering over the code. Click on the web link for more information.

The donations we receive are crucial to the running of our parish. Your support is very much appreciated!

Carols

on the Vicarage Lawn

Sunday
11th December
4pm-5:30pm

Vicarage garden
 at 6 Ascot Avenue

Join us for an afternoon of carol singing and a few home grown items

BYO drinks and nibbles, chairs or blankets, etc.
 The program will conclude with a sausage sizzle, koha to Auckland City Mission

Carol Singing

in the community

Wednesday 14th December, 5:30pm
Meet at the Church



Confirmations

16th October 2022

The 'story' behind the confirmation gifts.

This book tells of the story of Tarore (whose window we have at St Aidan's) and explains how a young girl ended up having a huge impact on many people. The book contains within it the gospel of Luke which is the scripture that Tarore carried with her and was stolen at the time of her death. Tarore was the focus of Bishop Ross' sermon at the confirmation as it is close to her recognised Saint's Day. These books were gifted to the candidates specially from a church in the Waikato once they knew they were going to people being confirmed, because they knew what an important step this is.

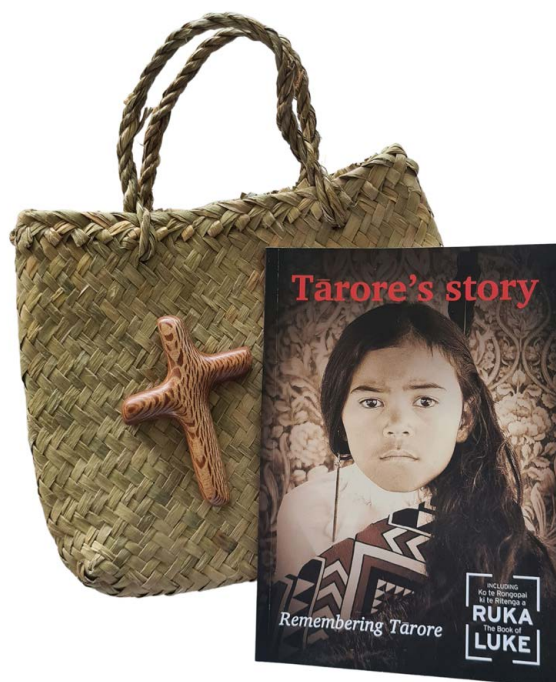
The candidates were given two books with the instructions, "one book is for yourself, but the other copy is to give away - because your faith is not just about yourself but also about making an impact on others and this is where you start to take on that responsibility of sharing your faith with others through words and actions".

The holding crosses were specially commissioned and made for the candidates by a woodmaker here in Auckland. A holding cross is not regular because it is designed to be held in your hand.

A spiritual journey is never a smooth flat path, and this cross will hopefully be something that

will remind them of their confirmation day. It will hopefully remind them of the strength that God provides and that in turn will hopefully help to carry them through any difficulties they face in the future.

Please pray for those confirmed: Isabelle, Vaughan, Brandon, Niven, Georgie, Abraham, Ethan, Asher, and Cameron (*who will be confirmed at Holy Trinity Cathedral, 5pm on Sunday 4th December*) as they begin this next stage of their spiritual journey. †



Youth

It has been a busy and exciting year for our Youth. Friday evenings and Sunday mornings have become a bit more variable, which is to be expected at this time of year with exams for many and the lingering effects of Covid. On Sunday mornings we have continued to use the videos made by The Bible Project, which appear to have been enjoyed by all and make for a good discussion about the topic of the video.

I have been really encouraged seeing our youth engaging with church events such as the Garage Sale and Quiz Night. Many of the youth were there on the day of the Garage Sale helping out on a stall or in other forms. While this has happened in the past, I was particularly encouraged to see some of our young people helping out before and after the sale. I know that Cameron has been rightfully singled out for the large amount of work that he put in before the sale itself, but it was also great to see Kaelyn and Georgie stay behind after the sale to help with the clean-up.



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 (Community of Saints who 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 an active 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 up high school. †

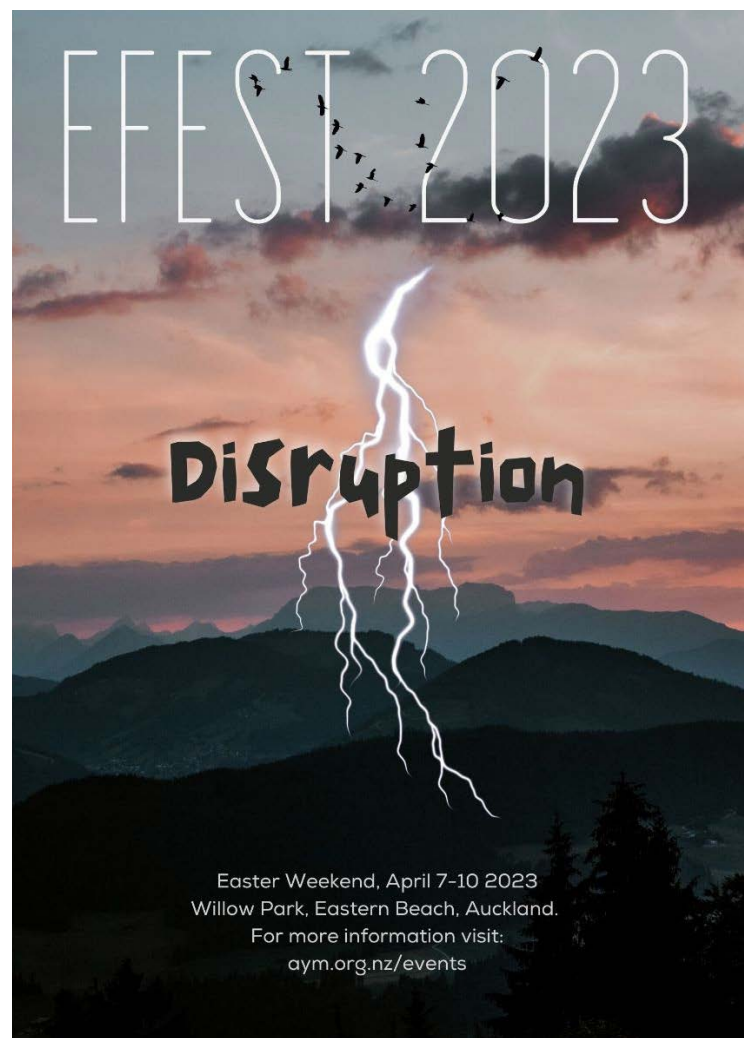
Isobell Tregoweth

It has also been great to see our youth wanting to take large steps in their faith journeys with baptism and confirmation. The confirmation service was especially great to see so many of the youth up there, putting their faith into their own words and what they hope to do in the future. It was also great to see the congregation as a whole being so supportive of the youth and wanting to continue to invest in the youth as a whole. My thanks to Kerry for the time he invested into the confirmation sessions with them throughout September, and also to Louise for helping organize the service and sourcing some wonderful gifts for them to take away.

The past couple of months have been busy on the Anglican Youth Ministry (AYM) front with The Abbey and Diowhodunnit being held during August and September. Recently I attended an AYM event called You've Got Youth, looking at best practice in youth ministry. It was a good time to connect and network with some new youth leaders and have a refresher on things such as the code of ethics and risk management. I also came away with a good list of resources which I hope to make use of in 2023. †

Nic Mercer

**2023 Youth Group starts:
Friday 10th & Sunday 12th February**





Thank you to our *Volunteers*

Without volunteers St Aidan's would simply not be able to operate on anything like the scale which we do.

We are extremely fortunate to have so many people who take on tasks around the church. Sometimes this is in an 'upfront role' such as those who assist at a Sunday service however there is a larger proportion of people who are almost invisible as they go about a task often when no one is around. I am sure we have left off various roles from this list but you can see it is quite extensive and should I say exhausting!! Thank you everyone for all that you do – and for those parishioners in their twilight years who are now taking a break, thank you for your past service to St Aidan's. Its certainly a team effort in our parish and that is something we can be proud of. †

- **Sunday services** – organist/music contributors, Choir, servers, sacristy, sacristan, chalice assistants, grape juice helpers, readers, liturgists, prayer ministry, sides people, bell ringers, AV and sound desk, welcomers and newcomers, morning tea - hospitality, first aid people, fire wardens
- **Church behind the scenes** – church cleaner, flowers, people who wash and care for the linen, people who clean the brass and silver, library, money counting/banking, newsletter proofreader
- **Services (not Sunday)** – 7 St Vincent, Remuera Gardens, Rawhiti and home communion

- **Grounds** – lawn mowing, gardens, general grounds care (hedge trimming etc), building maintenance, health and safety teams
- **Office** – accounts, finance, vestry, personnel, IT, website, social media, tech support, magazine contributors
- **Ministry** – vergers who help take funerals and weddings, clergy, kids church leaders and support people, Youth Group leaders, Young Adults group leaders, bible study leaders, home group leaders, AAW leaders, Women's evening fellowship leaders, pastoral care team, parish visiting, telephone ringers, drivers who help parishioners attend church, prayer circle team, Men's breakfast group leaders
- **Mission outreach** – Mission Shop volunteers, those who assist at ATWC, City mission volunteers, prison ministry, curtain bank, hospital chapel assistants, Pins & Needles leaders, charitable purposes group, freezer meals team, mainly music helpers and morning tea servers,
- **One off event helpers** – such as Garage sale team/helpers, Quiz night, St Aidan's lunch

Thank you all so very much!

Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:10

2023

CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATES

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FEBRUARY

12TH Blessing of the backpacks
22ND Ash Wednesday
26TH Parish Picnic

APRIL

3RD - 9TH Holy Week
7TH Good Friday
9TH Easter Sunday
25TH ANZAC Day

JULY

28TH Parish Quiz

AUGUST

27TH St Aidan's Day

SEPTEMBER

16TH Garage Sale

OCTOBER

1ST St Francis Day

NOVEMBER

1ST All Saints

DECEMBER

25TH Christmas Day

The Writing Group

Have you ever thought, I want to support – or challenge - some public issue? A letter to the newspaper... An email to a Member of Parliament... A submission to the City Council, or on a parliamentary Bill... You may want to voice your personal concern on a topic of social interest, yet find it hard to set aside time.

The Writing Group offers a quiet hour when you can tackle your own particular social concern. Bring your own device (wifi is available), or pen and paper. Sometimes a group activity may be provided, as an option.

This group has just taken a first baby step. We met in October to design and write cards for people in prison in this country. Whatever prisoners have done, Christmas is often a difficult time of year for them, when they are sadly aware of being separated from family and friends. The cards we made are a token of Christmas hope and care. 'You are NOT forgotten!'

You'd just like to see what the group is about? Come along! You may find that you want to piggy-back on someone else's issue... at worst, you get morning tea!

Want to join, but the time doesn't work for you? Have a chat with Anne (09) 524 2452.

Meeting on the fourth Friday of the month, 10am to 11:30am in the Gathering Area.

P.S. Tell your friends. †

Anne Priestley



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Mission Shop

Our student from St Kentigern College came in on Saturdays to vacuum, put new arrivals on the appropriate racks, dress the models 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. Lately we have had groups of young people in who have moved into flats in the area, and they have said we have the best prices of all the local op shops!

Having winter clothes and shoes in the Mission Shop and summer clothes on the Hall stage did very well for the Garage Sale; we have used that system for a few years now and it seems to work just fine. It does involve a lot of work setting up the stairs and the racks on the stage, and packing down after the Sale, but gets done with the help of many willing volunteers.

Our takings at the time of writing are equal with 2019, which was the last year not affected by Covid. We experienced a slowdown over the October school holidays, but expect trade will pick up as we get closer to Christmas. †

Jenny Haggitt

Charitable Purposes Group

This year's disbursements were less than usual for the second year running 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.

- Church Missionary Society
- Anglican Board of Missions
- Anglican Trust for Women and Children
- Auckland City Mission
- Prison Chaplaincy Service
- Hospital Chaplains
- Christian Broadcasting Association
- Christians against Poverty (Budgeting Service)
- PARS (Prisoners Aid & Rehabilitation Societies)

Earlier 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

Christmas Word Search Solution

(page 22)

G	Q	C	E	L	V	F	S	Z	L	I	G	H	T	S
D	C	Z	L	F	J	S	R	V	N	U	L	B	Z	B
C	E	L	B	R	A	T	E	W	M	J	E	Y	F	
O	F	D	C	W	G	N	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R
P	F	Z	E	H	J	T	G	C	O	O	K	I	E	S
G	R	A	N	C	R	A	I	R	I	W	B	I	H	C
O	M	E	M	N	O	I	U	K	S	F	V	A	Z	A
R	I	I	S	I	N	R	S	N	D	O	H	J	D	N
N	M	M	S	E	L	E	A	T	E	C	Q	B	W	D
A	G	Z	D	T	N	Y	C	T	M	J	C	P	R	Y
M	I	I	I	U	L	T	T	W	I	A	B	T	E	C
E	V	H	N	Z	W	E	S	S	Q	O	S	B	A	A
N	I	E	N	A	Q	Q	T	F	T	P	N	J	T	N
T	N	G	E	P	Q	I	C	O	P	Y	Z	S	H	E
D	G	A	R	J	W	D	E	Q	E	Y	P	E	B	S

Introducing Tracy Helg our mainly music Coordinator

Hi my name is Tracy Helg! I've been involved in mainly music for over 20 years. I am absolutely passionate about this ministry and am really excited to be a part of St Aidan's team. I have seen how mainly music connects the church community with families and how impactful it has been. I am very thankful to lead this ministry in the St Aidan's community. †



Mission Shop Summer Hours

CLOSED:
Saturday 17th December 2022

OPEN:
Thursday 9th February 2023

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

Summer

at St Aidan's, Remuera

The Office closes 22nd December 2022 at 3:30pm,
and reopens 24th January 2023 at 9am.

Sunday services will be held at 9am each week from
1st January until 29th January 2023.

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



New Book "One Thought for Today"

Bishop Bruce Gilberd has published a book of thoughts and resources for every day of the year called, "One Thought for Today". The daily subject is named, followed by a reflective paragraph, a relevant biblical quote or two, a prayer, and a question, with one page per day.

Copies of his book are available for sale at \$25 per copy plus postage. A great idea for a Christmas present, or commit to a New Year's resolution for yourself. Contact Bishop Bruce for a copy:



(07) 864 8727
brucepat@xtra.co.nz
81 Manaia Road, Tairua 3508

I SPY Summer



How many of each item? Answers on page 7



Open Doors

Wednesday 11th & 18th January 2023
10am - 11:30am

The Gathering Area will be OPEN

Tea and coffee available
Come along for a chat, to knit, to play Scrabble or Mahjong

Lots of things close down in January, but not us!



Cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude

Having an attitude of gratitude can be life changing. They say being purposefully grateful on a daily basis increases your dopamine levels in your brain and creates the need for your brain to have more... so in effect the more you are grateful the more you'll find things to be grateful for! I read an anonymous quote the other day that really made the penny drop for me: "It is not happiness that brings us gratitude. It's gratitude that brings us happiness"

Here are some fun family activities you can do to cultivate attitudes of gratitude in your home:

- 1) Make a "Family Grateful Tree" Draw an outline of a tree on a large sheet of paper. Get some leafy coloured paper and cut out shapes of leaves. Have the kids write what they are grateful for on the leaves and stick them on the tree. Examples to get them going: food, friends, family, Jesu, health etc.
- 2) Share a meal of gratitude: Share a meal as a family and take turns going around the table listing things you are grateful for in your family. Example: Mum's cooking, Dad attending sporting events, my sisters smile.
- 3) Take on the 7-day family scripture challenge. Read a different scripture on gratitude together each morning. See if you can memorize it by then end of the day!

DAY 1: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

DAY 2: Psalm 118

DAY 3: Colossians 3:15

DAY 4: Psalm 107:1

DAY 5: 2 Corinthians 2:14

DAY 6: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

DAY 7: Colossians 2:6

4) Share some gratitude cards. Get out your craft boxes and make some cards to give to friends/neighbours and family. Share a short message inside on why you are grateful for them. Children can make cards for teachers and friends, parents can write cards for friends and neighbours. Or just tear and share one of the tabs below and hand them to someone you appreciate!

from www.faith4families.org

I thank my God every time I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you,
I always pray with joy

Philippians 1:3,4

Giving thanks

TEAR AND SHARE: Cut off a tab below and give it to someone you're thankful for in this season



I AM THANKFUL FOR YOU BECAUSE...

MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT YOU IS...

I APPRECIATE IT WHEN WE...

YOU MAKE ME LAUGH WHEN...

I AM GRATEFUL
FOR OUR FRIENDSHIP

YOU ARE AN
INSPIRATION!

Tropical Christmas Cake

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cups caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 ¼ cups neutral oil (e.g. rice bran/canola)
- 2 cups Standard Grade Flour
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 small bananas (or 2 large), mashed
- 425g can crushed pineapple, drained well
- ½ cup shredded coconut
- ¼ cup tropical fruit compote (optional)

Method

Preheat oven to 160°C fan. Grease 2 x 20cm round cake tins and line with baking paper.

Using an electric mixer, whisk sugar and eggs together until thick and creamy (about 5 minutes). Gradually pour oil into the bowl while whisking. Sift flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt over the top and mix by hand until combined.

Stir through bananas, pineapple, coconut and compote (if using). Divide mixture evenly between prepared tins.

Bake (on the same shelf, if you can) for 40-50 minutes until cakes are no longer wobbly and a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Cool in tins for 10 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Decorate with cream cheese icing and compote, fruit and coconut.

Variation: Pour into cupcake papers and reduce cooking time to 20-25 minutes. †

Recipe from www.edmondscooking.co.nz



Merry Christmas from the team at Sibuns.

582 Remuera Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050 | 09 520 3119 | staff@sibuns.co.nz
www.sibuns.co.nz



Garage Sale 2022

What an amazing week we had for this year's Garage Sale! So many donations, so many wonderful helpers, so much hard work and time put into the effort.

Friday Night Pre-Sale evening was very popular, as always, and we had perfect weather for Garage Sale day, making it one of our very best yet - a great bounce back after a reduced and cancelled sale in the previous two years due to Covid.

The Bunker was a great option for storage again, our thanks to Youth group for giving it up temporarily. Emptying it was really a massive job though, and some was done in the rain, so we might need a rethink on how to do it better in future.

'St Aidan's Cash' was a new option this year which we'd like to develop more next year, as it seemed very helpful for stallholders.

The jewellery and linen stalls joined together in the Bethel room upstairs. High End Furniture and Antiques in the Gathering Area both sold very well as usual. The Children's stall was a tremendous success, blitzing their record from previous years, and all stall holders put in a tremendous effort. Grand total \$32,726 (after expenses).



Community Noticeboard



Devonport Ethical Christmas Market

Devonport Community House, 32 Clarence Street.
Sunday 4th December, 10am to 3pm

Be fair, buy fair. This ethical market showcases ethically sourced goods, made in an ethical way AND are actively contributing to making the world a better place. Held annually, on the first Sunday of December. Come along to the best place to buy your Christmas gifts that give back to the world.



TE TĀPUI ATAWHAI
AUCKLAND
CITY MISSION



Be someone's Angel this Christmas

Help the Mission bring the magic of Christmas to families in need by giving to the Auckland City Mission Auckland's Angels food and gift collection.

Last year, thanks to the support of people like you, the Mission gave out 36,000 gifts to tamariki and 10,930 Christmas food parcels to Aucklanders who would otherwise have gone without. As the cost of living crisis deepens, we know that this will be another tough Christmas for many families in our community.

It's easy to make a difference and be someone's Angel this Christmas. Bring along items and drop in the trolley prior to the final collection before Christmas: gifts by Wednesday 14th December & food by Wednesday 21st December.

Journey to Christmas: Stations of the Nativity

If you feel like continuing the festivities after our Carols on the Vicarage Lawn event the you can head over to All Souls, 49 North Road, Clevedon.

Sunday 11th December, 6:30pm-9pm (last entry 8.15pm)

Entry by donation

A public family event, this comprises seven stations – from the angel's visit to Mary to the Holy Family at the stable. Each station will offer part of the story through different media: music, art, performance, and craft as a way to delve into the Christmas story in a multi-sensory way. Group visits will be staggered throughout the evening. To book your time-slot, visit: www.clevedonanglicans.org.nz



Christmas Lights is coming back for 2022!

This hugely popular MOTAT event is back and brighter than ever this December. 12 nights of stunning light displays, tram rides, live music and entertainment, and much much more.

Christmas Lights will run from Wednesday to Saturday, 7th to 24th December, 8pm to 11pm. Tickets are only available online (no door sales will be available) so make sure you get in quickly to secure your preferred date.

www.motat.nz/events/christmas-lights

From the Registers

August to November 2022

Funerals

Margaret Sinclair

Patricia Maud

Ian McLean

Weddings

Jacintha Nellipudi & Samuel Georgiou

Yuk Kham Yii & Simon Lin

Keyi Wang & Phillip Voschezang

May Wen Choy & Yilun Zhang

Yvonne Heng & Jack Barker

Baptisms

Cooper Grant

Niven Fernando

New Years Fireworks Spectacular

Waikaraka Family
Speedway,
Waikaraka Park,
Neilson Street,
Onehunga

Tuesday 3rd
January 7:00pm



To celebrate the New Year there will be some super thundering fireworks to light up the evening sky plus we have the International Midgets racing at Waikaraka Park for a great night of entertainment.

Racing at its best with Stockcars, Modifieds, Vintage Stockcars, Super Saloons and Six Shooters, then to top it off with a big bang - Fireworks!

Tickets at the gate or from Eventfinder.



Christmas Word Search

G Q C E L V E S Z L I G H T S
 D C Z L F J S R V N U L B Z B
 C E L E B R A T E W M J E Y F
 Q F D C W G N R E I N D E E R
 P F Z E H J T G C O O K I E S
 G R A N C R A I R I W B I H C
 O M E M N O I U K S F V A Z A
 R I I S I N R S N D O H J D N
 N M M S E L E A T E C Q B W D
 A G Z D T N Y C T M J C P R Y
 M I I U L T T W I A B T E C
 E V H N Z W E S S Q O S B A A
 N I E N A Q Q T F T P N J T N
 T N G E P Q I C O P Y Z S H E
 D G A R J W D E Q E Y P E B S

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Decorations | Candy Canes | Christmas | Mistletoe |
| Celebrate | Ornament | Reindeer | Cookies |
| Lights | Presents | Family | Elves |
| Giving | Dinner | Wreath | Santa |

Answers on page 15



2023 Kids' Church starts 12th February

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. As well as a good opportunity to do bigger group activities, we hope this will make Youth Group a less intimidating transition as the children age out of the Kids' Church programme.

Louise and I have been exploring ways to get the kids involved in Sunday services more often. 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 the children can be more involved, as I believe it is important for the intergenerational aspect of our community. †

Kids' Church Nativity Story

Sunday 11th December at the 9:30am family service.

This service will include some Christmas carols and have a family focus, everyone welcome!



Kids' Church





“For unto us
a child is
born... .

**Isaiah
9:6 KJV**

...unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

www.ChristianPreschoolPrintables.com

Contacts at St Aidan's

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Vicar's Warden
James Parkinson

People's Warden
Desré Simpson

