

Wardens' Report 2022

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