

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

Parish Annual
Reports
2023

St Aidan's

Anglican Church

SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 10:45AM

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
- Property

9. General Business

10. Closing Prayers and Blessing

VICAR'S REPORT

In memorium. There have been some sad occasions for us as a community as several parishioners have died since the AGM last year. We remember Tony Laity, Margaret Pellow, Richard Caughey, Heather Sands, Janet Hanna, Tony Farrow, George Marr, Elizabeth Macky and Lillian Gnanasunderam, and whilst Roy Everill was no longer a parishioner it is only right that his death should be acknowledged in this parish where he served as vicar for 20 years. We continue to mourn their losses with their families. May they rest in peace.

2023 has been a year that has seen the parish respond to the challenges placed in front of them and the response has been fantastic.

Worship and growing our faith

Our **Sunday services at 8 am and 9.30 am** remain our core parish worship services. It is encouraging when people feel empowered to take up new roles and that has occurred across all the services. This year, 4 new liturgists were added to our rosters and new readers stepped up, as others retired. An upfront role can be rather confronting at the start and the support of the worshipping community is vital as they find their feet and relax into their roles. Thank you to the parish for assisting their growth in this way.

Our other **weekly service remains on Wednesday morning** although it has never quite recovered from Covid and its numbers are currently unviable. My intention is to promote this service during the season of Lent before making a decision about its future.

Music. My thanks to Antoinette Pope who in the last year has continued to play a pivotal role to the music in the parish. I value her flexibility and contributions as we decide on the weekly hymns that reflect something of the theme. I am extremely grateful for Antoinette's dedication to supporting our worship services often making several trips across Auckland to attend special services.

Last year I commented that we were adding a third **retirement village** Rawhiti Estate to our monthly roster of communion services that St Aidan's is responsible for, joining the existing villages Remuera Gardens and 7 St Vincents. Rawhiti has now become a regular part of the outreach into our rest homes and relationships continue to strengthen between management and the visiting teams. This seems to be a burgeoning mission field as we have now been approached to take regular services at

Waimarie private hospital, the first in November. A huge thanks to our parish teams who provide this important ministry.

People

The warden's in their report have done a wonderful job of thanking people and I wish to add my thanks to theirs. St Aidan's is a very supportive parish to be a part of and as people are able, they give of themselves financially as well as offering their time and skills. It certainly takes a large team to keep the place going smoothly and I want to thank the huge number of volunteers who quietly undertake various roles in ensuring that ministry and mission continues.

My clergy colleagues **Reverend Kerry Davis** and **Reverend Anne Priestley** provide me with constant and valuable support as well as providing you with a wider range of priestly ministry. Kerry continues to be a helpful sounding board and with plenty to do in our busy parish I am thankful to having another fully paid priest to share the ministry load plus we work well together with complementary skills.

I would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of the rest of the **staff team** Anne Godman, Isobell Tregoweth, Izzy Hoskyn, Nic Mercer and Tracy Helg. It has been great to have had their combined contributions into the various ministries and to draw upon their ideas during cooperative planning sessions. We have maintained our routine of holding monthly staff meetings on zoom to ensure that those members who are in full time employment off site are able to still be present. Sadly Tracy Helg has resigned for health reasons from her position of mainly music coordinator. She has been a real asset during her 14 months of working with us and I know we will miss her wealth of experience in this ministry and her passion for the programme. Vaoa Davis will step into this role temporarily as we work to find a replacement for this outreach. I encourage you to read the staff reports who cover their own ministry areas in detail.

I would like to offer my thanks alongside the wardens to a **wonderful Vestry team**. A special thanks to the **wardens Desre Simpson and James Parkinson**, who have again been a wonderful source of strength and sound advice as we have covered a breadth of issues across the year of staff changes, fire, burglary, health issues and building projects to name a few. It has been helpful as a team to be able to brainstorm the appropriate responses to issues. Thank you.

Caring for ourselves and looking beyond

St Aidan's continues to be a parish that is **actively engaged with Mission**. The **flooding and devastating weather events at the start of the year** in Auckland meant that St Aidan's was able to respond in a practical way and offer missional outreach on our doorstep. Parishioners did what they could to support their own neighbours and as a church many baked or provided practical items that was distributed to those affected in our local neighbourhood. Towels, blankets and sheets were sent to a central distribution centre to reach those in need in the wider Auckland area. How wonderful to see the people of St Aidan's in action. Our on-going missional groups such as prison ministry, Pins n Needles and the Mission shop are just a few of the outreach ministries that the parish is involved with. Please read the various reports particularly the Outreach report and Mission shop to see how the parish engages in practical ways. **Andy Miller our NZCMS mission partner** visited in February providing opportunities for us to engage with his missionary work and to ask questions about this outreach in Costa Rica.

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. I do want to take this opportunity to again thank the parish for the prayers and support shown to me as I took some considerable sick leave during the year. I was very appreciative of the care and understanding during this time. A special thank you to Kerry and Anne in the office who dealt with the day to day issues that occurred in my absences. It was wonderful to know that the parish was in good hands as I recovered.

As a church we continue to look to ways that we can build relationships within our own church community and to extend this to others at **social events**. The year began with the **Shrove Tuesday pancake event**. Whilst we didn't attract many from our wider community, those from the parish who attended enjoyed themselves with plenty of pancakes to go around. The **Pentecost Lunch** was a new venture and may become an annual event. Meals and traditions were shared unique to each individual's cultural heritage and all went away, slightly richer for having attended. The **quiz night** was another successful social event with parish teams alongside community teams, raising funds for Habitat for humanity. The **parish picnic, movie night, 'Sing your favourite Hymn'** were other opportunities to spend time together and to invite non-parishioners along. In the coming months there will be many carol singing opportunities both out in the community and at church. Plans for the **carols**

and picnic on the Vicarage lawn is underway along with the **9 Lessons and Carols service** in December.

The **annual Garage Sale** was once again a success. Thanks to the committee and the over 100 volunteers who worked tirelessly in the lead up and on the day to achieve the tremendous financial result. Despite feeling like there was not the quantity of items to sell prior to the day compared to other years, the fantastic total raised of over \$ 37,000 tells a different story. The committee are constantly making adjustments to how the Garage Sale is run and this year saw the removal of the electrical stall, the social lounge used to store items prior and more upstairs offices used for stall locations. The date of Saturday 14th September 2024 is already in the calendar for next year's event.

Our buildings setbacks and steps forward

A **burglary in early February**, resulted in damage to office doors, and some of our users losing substantial items. We were fortunate that a newly purchased TV for our social lounge was not damaged too badly when burglars removed it from the wall. As a result, an alarm was installed in the social lounge.

Our own buildings didn't go completely unscathed from **Cyclone Gabrielle** damaging roof tiles over the Gathering area and flooding the youth room. We are very grateful to Hāpaitia Anglican Missions Board for their \$8000 grant which contributed to the restoration of these areas. The electronic sign was flattened and looked to be a 'write-off' however thanks to the time, patience and skills of John Glenie and David Cotton this was able to be repaired.

Whilst the repair work from the Cyclone was carried out on the roof, further **remedial work on the church roof**, gluing down and replacing tiles was carried out to address the ongoing leaks. It was with much relief that the buckets placed strategically on pews were able to be finally removed. There will at some stage need to be maintenance to the bell tower which we will programme into our future budgeting.

The youth and young adults took the opportunity to **update the bunker** and held a number of working bees to paint and freshen up this space with fantastic results. Whilst they are still seeking a couple more pieces of furniture they are to be congratulated for the hours spent on this project. Thanks to those in the parish who provided equipment, baking and labour to support them in their endeavours.

A fire in the hall toilets in the middle of the year created a huge amount of work and the insurance claim is ongoing. Thankfully everyone evacuated safely and there were

no injuries. Whilst the actual fire was small the smoke damage was extensive, damaging all of the men's toilets and requiring professional cleaning in all of the upstairs offices and the social lounge. We were very fortunate that the concrete construction in this area limited the spread of the fire along with effective alarms, and the quick arrival of numerous fire appliances. It has been another timely reminder of the vulnerability of our buildings. As a result the vestry have approved the installation of several **security cameras** that will be placed around the site and this work is currently underway.

The **Gathering Area Kitchen project** was added to during the year amalgamating the **men's hall toilet upgrade** to what was already in the pipeline. This made the new focus a two-pronged plan, two distinct areas for upgrades but working on both simultaneously in terms of plans, consents, builder's submissions and fundraising. A staggeringly successful **fundraising campaign** led by Keith Simpson was launched on St Aidan's Day. Along with the rest of his team, the challenge to reach the target of \$150,000 was accomplished within a month. A huge thanks to the parish who rose to the occasion and as they were able, pledged financially in support of the project. Although some pledges are yet to be realized we know that our total will exceed the amount we initially asked for. In discussing this with many parishioners we are delighted at your encouragement to go on and address one or two other important projects such as the ladies hall toilets and the hall kitchen repairs. It is exciting to think we may be able to accomplish even more than we set out to do. Time will tell.

Thank you to all of the maintenance team Simon Lee, John Glenie, David Cotton who along with Simon Hackett Pain work hard to ensure our physical buildings and equipment are working well. For IT updates please read the various vestry reports to see the work that Simon has been doing across the year.

New chapters

It has been wonderful to watch the flourishing of a new social ministry group this year. **Coffee and K's** ably inspired and lead by Vaoa Davis meets monthly and provides an opportunity to get some exercise whilst building relationships. The planned routes allow for various levels of fitness and it is a great vehicle for bringing along partners or friends who might not normally attend Sunday worship. Thank you Vaoa for instigating this popular group. If anyone has ideas for new outreach or suggestions for social activities please make time to talk with me about them.

Anne Priestley's **letter writing group** has found a regular home on the last Friday of the month in the Gathering Area. Providing a space to write letters that have a social or community concern have been an important part of the purpose of those who have met together. Anne asks the question, "If Jesus were alive today, what would he write about?" Do talk to Anne if you want to find out more about this group which is another new venture for our parish in 2023.

Students discerning their call to ordination. St Aidan's has been blessed by having both Kate Shrigley and Christina Turner offering ministry in our parish. It is Kate's second year with us as she continues her training at St John's theological college. Christina joined the parish at the start of the year and having completed her Diocesan Training programme will be ordained as a deacon at the end of November. We are pleased to hear that she will remain with us for a further year in her non-stipendary role.

We undertook to be part of the **Church Life Survey** and I am grateful to the 84 people who took the time to complete it. The survey will provide a nationwide view of the church post-Covid. Invaluably however as we can see our own results it provides us with a snapshot of areas for St Aidan's potential growth. This survey will feed into our future planning and my thanks for your assistance as we work together to see how we might grow and offer ministry in this place.

I commend to you the many **reports** that have been written and will be received at the AGM and I thank you all for contributing in the many various ways that you do to the life of this parish. The common bond that we have is our love of God and it is God that should be our inspiration for the ministry and mission that we carry out. So let me close by thanking God for all that has been achieved and hopefully like you, I look with anticipation to the coming year and all that it might bring.

Reverend Louise Anderson
Vicar

PRIEST ASSOCIATE REPORT

First year completed - March 2023 marked the completion of my first year as Priest Associate at St Aidan's. I have continued to feel well supported and sustained in providing ministry to the people of this parish. During the year it was necessary for our vicar Louise to take time away to undergo medical treatment and recovery. That during her extended absence we were able to continue to operate smoothly as a parish across all areas of ministry reflects the dedication and caring nature of our people.

Farewell to the departed - The cycle of life means that support for those grieving the loss of a loved-one is a regular part of the ministry of our church. Over the past year it has been a privilege for me to lead the funeral services for several of our parishioners, as well as those with close connections to St Aidan's (Tony Laity, Joan Allen, Richard Caughey, Wally Mackrell, Jean Draffin, Anne Miller, and George Marr), whose lives had richly blessed not only their immediate family but others in their sphere of influence. Their eulogies and reflections were a testament to their courage, faith, and love. While there were tears and laughter our hearts were made glad and put at peace in committing them to God's care and keeping.

Cyclone Gabriel - and other heavy weather events kept us busy avoiding overflow of gutters and, when possible, diverting water away from buildings. Unfortunately, water will find its lowest point and made its way into the youth bunker resulting in the loss of several items of furniture and furnishings. While the damage caused was minimal it sparked the motivation of our young adults who have since redecorated and refurbished the bunker into a much more attractive and usable space. Compared to other ministry units and locations in the diocese we come through the experience relatively unscathed.

Security - After many years without incident, it was unfortunate to experience a burglary in the social lounge and hall and a fire in the men's toilets. These serve as reminders that while we make our facilities available to various users it does present risks. However, through ongoing vigilance and improvements to security, we should be able to support the needs of the wider community by continuing to offer our facilities for use.

Newcomers Lunch – As is customary we held a lunch to welcome Newcomers to the parish in June. It was an opportunity for those who had begun regularly attending worship at St Aidan's over the past several months to meet with those holding various responsibilities in our church, find out more about what goes on in the parish and take

a tour of the church buildings and grounds. We were pleased to be able to welcome 18 new individuals/families (14 adults & 4 children) and very much hope that the welcoming spirit of St Aidan's will continue to draw people through our doors.

Bishop's Advisory Group – Earlier this year I was honoured to be invited to serve on the Bishop's Advisory Group. This group assists the bishop in the process of discerning candidates who are offering to undergo ordination training. The group's major task is a weekend discernment retreat to meet with, interview, assess, pray for, and recommend candidates for ordination who would then be ready to serve in the diocese over the next few years.

Church Advisory Board - I am one of the clergy, invited to serve on the Church Advisory Board. This board represents the Anglican church on the Rangihoua Trust Board which has oversight for the Rangihoua Heritage Park. This site, on the coast near Kerikeri, has major historical and spiritual significance for the church as this was the location where the gospel was first preached in NZ on Christmas Day 1814,

Supervision - As a condition of receiving and maintaining a clergy licence from the diocese, I continue to undertake regular sessions of professional supervision; considered as a vital support for safe ministry and personal spiritual wellbeing. The sessions occur monthly under the guidance of one of the Clinical Pastoral Professionals approved by the diocese.

ANZAC Day Services – This day commemorates a time of national significance for our country. On 25 April I led our memorial service that commenced in the church and concluded with the laying of wreaths, prayers and the playing of the Last Post at the Cross of Remembrance. Later that day I led an ANZAC service at Rawhiti Estate retirement village. It was the second year that we have held an ANZAC service there with some 55 residents, their families and staff in attendance.

Parish Fundraising Walks - Auckland City Mission – It was pleasure to join with others from our parish to participate in the 17km walk from St Aidan's to HomeGround - the headquarters of the Auckland City Mission. The walk was part of a community-wide fundraising drive to assist the homeless on the streets of our city. Many groups from other parishes and organisations also participated. Earlier that day the "Coffee & K's" walking group held its monthly walk in Cornwall Park and on the preceding Sunday, James Parkinson led a group of parishioners on a walk across three maunga in the city. The efforts of these three walks undertaken by our parishioners resulted in over \$2,800 raised for the City Mission.

Central Clergy Cluster – Along with Rev'd Louise I regularly attend the gatherings of clergy who serve in the central cluster of the diocese (the approximate Central Auckland area), comprising those parishes under the Archdeaconry of Rev'd Carole Hughes, to discuss various aspects of parish ministry and diocese issues. A broad range of topics are shared including the impacts of recent flooding on church property, maintaining historic and aging properties, initiatives for growing the church and offering ministry and maintaining good work-life balance especially during times of peak ministry activity. These gatherings are helpful in building relationships with fellow clergy and learning about issues and challenges affecting other parishes.

Reading Roster – I am thankful for the new readers who have stepped forward this year to replace those who regularly read at our services but had indicated their intention to step aside from this role. It is so important to the smooth flow of worship that we have a pool of readers who are available to serve regularly on our service rosters. I am very grateful to all who put themselves forward to take a role in serving at our services.

Ukraine Concert – It was an enjoyable recital in our church of music composed and performed by Sergei Klymchuk. The purpose of this charity concert was to raise funds to support those displaced by the war in Ukraine. Sergei is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at AUT and Global Music Award winner, originally from Odessa, Ukraine. About 60 people attended the concert many of whom were from Ukraine or eastern Europe. Sergei was most grateful for the support received by St Aidan's for allowing the fundraising concert to take place in our church, as well as the attendance by several of our parishioners.

Each month the **Men's Ministry** has continued to meet for breakfast back at Browns Café. The location is very pleasant and well suited to the conversational type gathering enjoyed. Attendance has been regular with around a dozen attending each month. It is a suitable time to catch up for fellowship and getting to know one another better as parishioners and to strengthen connections. We were pleased to have as a guest attendee at one of the breakfasts Andy Miller, our CMS mission partner serving in Costa Rica who spoke about his work in the mission field evangelising and empowering Costa Rican and Latin American citizens for work in kingdom building.

mainly music - 2023 marked a milestone for mainly music at St Aidan's and gave reason for celebration. It was twenty years ago that St Aidan's partnered with the mainly music programme and took its first steps as a music and movement activity for young children in this parish. Led by the then Curate, Rev'd Jo Kelly-Moore, herself a

new mum, she encouraged other mothers to bring their toddlers along for a time of engaging fun and activity. Since that time, hundreds of children have come through our doors to enjoy their weekly session of fun and music. The programme this year included special activities each term to celebrate Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and in December, Christmas will be celebrated. Our mainly music sessions have continued to grow, and it remains a friendly community gathering space for parents and children to connect with others and form lasting friendships. Sadly, Tracy Helg, our mainly music coordinator, has recently resigned so we will be recruiting her successor in the coming weeks.

Remuera Garden's Retirement Village - Services of Holy Communion have continued at Kensington House which is part of the Remuera Gardens Retirement Village complex. In the past we would typically have 20+ attendees at these services. That number is decreasing as residents age and attendance for them becomes more challenging. A number have also passed away. Nonetheless it is a blessing to be able to provide ministry to the residents. Similarly, at **Rawhiti Estate Retirement Village** where we hold monthly services, I have observed a decrease in the numbers attending but there remains a pleasant atmosphere helped by a trio of musicians who provide gospel music to support our services of worship. Such is the nature of a retirement village; I am often asked to bless the apartments of former residents who have passed away, which I readily perform as part of the ministry to the retirement community. Our relationship with Remuera Gardens and Rawhiti remains in good spirits, and I look forward to continuing to serve them.

2023 is a year that seems to have passed quickly. I feel blessed to serve the people of this vineyard and pray that God will continue to be faithful to this wonderful Parish of St Aidan's. I am most grateful for the support and cooperation that I personally receive as well as the dedication and care that members of this community bring in service to our parish across all the various ministries, groups, and rosters. Thank you everyone for responding to the call to serve God and our church.

May God continue to be our comfort and strength as we reflect gratefully on this past year and look excitedly to the future with new hopes and new possibilities.

Reverend Kerry Davis
Priest Associate
November 2023

ST AIDAN'S WARDENS REPORT

After the Covid disruptions experienced over the previous three years, the relative normality enjoyed through 2023 came as a real blessing. Even the extreme weather that made its impact felt across the country and in so many parts of the City, had a very minor impact on our parish buildings. The return to normality has allowed so many aspects of our Parish life to resume and also provided the opportunity for new initiatives to take hold such as the regular Coffee & K's group walks. It has also been possible to complete long-awaited building works such as the Church roof remediation and initiate the very significant Gather Area kitchen and Hall bathroom project thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. There is much to be grateful for and the Parish is in great heart as we look forward to the year ahead.

Vestry

Vestry has diligently discharged its duties throughout the year maintaining its practice of monthly meetings alternating between formal business meetings and strategic meetings, which provide the opportunity for greater discussion and exploration of specific issues. All 2022 Vestry members were re-elected for 2023, which provided a helpful level of continuity. These members were joined by Asher Stonehouse, who joined as an elected vestry member, and Steven Khoo, who agreed to be co-opted to add to the skill-set of our Vestry. The contribution of each of our new Vestry members is greatly appreciated, as is the fact that Steven has put himself forward for election this year.

Vestry plays a vital governance role making decisions that enable the activities of today whilst seeking to anticipate and meet the needs of tomorrow. Its successful operation is reliant on its ability to represent the wishes of the Parish in both a decision-making and practical hands-on delivery capacity. Our grateful thanks to all Vestry members for the work you have done throughout the year.

Staff

The stability we have enjoyed through 2023 is equally true of our invaluable Parish staff, so ably led by Louise. As a Parish we are extremely fortunate to have the services of such a capable and committed team. This capability and commitment came to the fore when Louise needed to take time off to focus on her own health part way through the year. Through Louise's own detailed planning and the willingness of Kerry, Anne, and the rest of the team to step up, Parish life continued uninterrupted. It was also another reminder of how blessed we are to be a two clergy Church.

As Wardens, we are truly grateful for everything our talented staff undertake. Thank you to Louise and Kerry for the spiritual guidance you provide. Your commitment to the mission of St Aidan's is so evident and provides great confidence as to the role St Aidan's has to play within our local community.

Thank you also to Anne for everything you have undertaken over the last year in your role as Parish Administrator. As always, you have fulfilled your role so effectively, bringing your expertise and energy to every task.

To our Kids Church and Youth leaders, Isabelle Hoskyn and Nic Mercer, thank you for your continued dedication to our younger parishioners. We appreciate the way in which you have given of your time to the Parish whilst your working lives outside of Church have only got busier as the year has gone on.

Thank you to Isobell Tregoweth for all you have done as our Website & Social Media Content Manager. Your creativity is a blessing as is your ability to turn things around so quickly.

Finally, thank you to Tracy Helg, who joined our staff team last year to lead the Mainly Music programme. Tracy's experience and enthusiasm has seen Mainly Music in great spirits throughout 2023 and it is very unfortunate that Tracy has, just recently, had to resign for health reasons.

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

We wish to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of so many volunteers who contribute to St Aidan's, whether it be as part of regular activities or more specific projects. Your commitment and efforts are integral to the fabric of our Parish life.

We look forward to 2024 with much anticipation as we start delivering on our building projects enhancing our facilities in support of our missional activities.

May God bless each and every one of you.

James Parkinson, Vicar's Warden

Desre Simpson, People's Warden

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

We meet as a team under the leadership of our Vicar, the Reverend Louise Anderson. Our aim is, with God's guidance, to take care of the pastoral needs of our parishioners. I would like to thank Jenny Walters for taking Minutes at our meetings in the past. Jenny has moved into a retirement village and is no longer able to be involved in activities at St. Aidan's. We thank her for years of commitment in various ways, just quietly getting things done.

When our discussion is of a confidential nature, we keep it as that, and it is not recorded in the minutes.

Here are some of the areas we cover:

Freezer Meals

We have a dedicated group, who provide meals when necessary. There are always a few meals on hand for sharing with those in need, and we top up as required. With all the readymade meals available in supermarkets, we find the need for these meals is less.

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 folk whose names are on their list. The purpose of this, is firstly to have a chat and just find out how things are. The caller is also able to pass on any information of upcoming events at St. Aidans.

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

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

If you would like to become a Grapevine caller, please let me know, you would be very welcome, it is a special form of ministry. You can also contact Anne Godman in the office.

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.

Prayer Ministry

This is offered after our 9.30am service each Sunday, in the side Chapel. It is a moment to join in prayer with another parishioner, about things on your mind. Just hand it over to the Lord in prayer. You may also wish to give thanks for something, share your gratitude. This is always a confidential service between you and the person praying with you.

Retirement Villages

7 ST VINCENTS – Anne Priestley, with the help of one of our parishioners, Barbara Weir or Sheryl Swanevelder, conducts a communion service on the first Thursday of each month.

REMUERA GARDENS (KENSINGTON HOUSE) – Kerry and Louise share the lead of this service on 3rd Thursday of the month. The numbers have dropped as there is construction work going on, and some residents are unable to be brought across to join the service.

RAWHITI – Kerry takes a Communion service monthly and Barbara Clephane is able to assist him. Kerry is also called upon to bless rooms, before new occupants move in.

EDMUND HILARY VILLAGE AND THE MEADOWBANK OCEANIA VILLAGE – We have members of our Parish staying at both of these Retirement villages and communion is taken to individuals at these places as requested. It is planned to once again include Meadowbank when our Carol Singers go around singing in December.

HOME COMMUNIONS – Yvonne Kennedy continues to take communion to those who wish to receive communion but are unable to attend Church. She is assisted by Kate Shrigley, who also calls on some of the parishioners, who request communion at home.

Desré Simpson

OUTREACH

AUCKLAND CITY MISSION

Food Bank: The Parish continues to support the City Mission Food Bank programme by way of parishioners' weekly donations of non perishable food items.

In addition this year, we continued what has now become an annual tradition of setting aside four weeks during the colder Winter months to encourage parishioners to boost donations of specific toiletries and food items which are often in short supply on the Mission's food bank shelves. There is always a generous response to this Winter appeal.

Auckland Angels: In the lead up to Christmas, many parishioners welcomed the opportunity to once again participate in the City Mission's Auckland Angels programme. During the festive season, the Mission strives to make a difference to families already under considerable financial stress. As Christmas angels, parishioners donate new toys, books and other items which will be given as Christmas gifts to children who would otherwise have gone without.

Big Mission Home: It was exciting for us as a Parish to take part this year, for the first time, in the City Mission's Big Mission Home walk. The Mission drew our attention to the fact that many homeless people can cover long distances on foot to gain access to medical care and food, to check up on one another, and to find a safe place to sleep. Big Mission Home encouraged Aucklanders to seek sponsorship from friends and family for organised walks and to donate funds received to support the Mission's outreach to those living on the streets of our city. The Parish responded enthusiastically with 3 teams of walkers taking part, Team 1 climbed three volcanic cones in our neighbourhood, Team 2 walked the Cornwall Park loop and Team 3 stepped out on a 17km hike from St Aidan's to the Mission's HomeGround building in Hobson Street. It is hoped that this might become an annual event for those keen to be involved.

Barbara Weir

HABITAT for HUMANITY

Curtain Bank: The Parish continues to be a drop off point for donations of used, full length curtains for Habitat's Curtain Bank. Donated curtains are washed, double lined

and given free to assist low income families in keeping their homes warm and healthy and thereby reducing energy bills.

Home Repair Programme: Our annual Quizz Night selected Habitat's Home Repair programme as the recipient of funds raised on the night. This programme offers interest free loans to low income home owners struggling to afford critical maintenance and repairs to their homes. It was pleasing to be able to make a donation of \$2,000 which was gratefully received and acknowledged by way of a letter from the Habitat team.

Barbara Weir

CHARITABLE PURPOSES GROUP

This group held its usual annual meeting to recommend to Vestry its proposals for an appropriate distribution of the year's income from the Parish Mission Shop. This year, donations were approved to NZCMS; Anglican Board of Mission; Anglican Trust for Women and Children; Auckland City Mission; Christians against Poverty; Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa NZ; Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy; Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Services. In addition, donations were made from the CPG emergency relief fund to Christian World Services in its work with the victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria; to the Anglican Mission's emergency appeal in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle; and again to CWS to support relief efforts in Libya following the devastating flooding in that country.

It is important to acknowledge the work of Jenny Haggitt and her team of volunteers in the Mission Shop without whom these outreach donations from the Parish would not be possible.

Barbara Weir

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

After a busy end to 2022, in which I had to move home during the week before Christmas, I took a month off to holiday with family in Tasmania, planning return to the office at the end of January. Unfortunately, my return was delayed due to an enforced week of sick leave after I caught Covid on my return flight, so the year started later than planned and I took a few weeks to get back up to full speed. This was further complicated by the flooding of my flat in the Auckland Anniversary weekend storm. Many thanks to Kerry, Simon and Karel for assisting with a temporary move.

This year I have again served a number of times in the capacity of verger for weddings and funerals. While it is a privilege, and extra income for weekend work, it also adds an additional layer of stress to already busy weeks. So, if anyone is looking for some casual work, or just something new to do once in a while, I would be very happy to talk to you about verger training. As Izzi is currently the only other verger available on a regular basis it would be great to have at least a couple more people trained up, and this is not necessarily a young person's job. Anyone with some basic IT literacy and time on their hands would be welcomed onto the team.

Our staff team is now well established and works very well together. There have been many challenges during the last year, and new things to learn. Collaborating with Isobell on the parish magazine is an especially enjoyable and fulfilling duty for me, and I hope that you are encouraged by 'The Apostle' as we put our all into it to try to make it the very best publication it can be. My sincere thanks to Louise for her care and encouragement. Through her own difficult health and family issues this year she still takes the time to enquire, listen, sympathise, and support me, even messaging during her emergency trip France!

Our regular hirers continue to fill the Hall on most days and nights, with a wide range of groups using our premises – dances and dance classes, martial arts training, exercise classes, yoga and Pilates, social activities, and more. Some have been using our premises for many years, and others are new having only joined us this year. SpacetoCo.com has again added to our Hall and Social Lounge hire income with around \$6,000 generated through the website in 2023. We have a very wide range of people walking through our doors, and the logistics can sometimes be challenging. We have also rented several parking spaces through the week to a local real estate agency, and all these are a very helpful source of revenue.

Regular daily/weekly/monthly duties always keep me busy. The turnover of information we have in the weekly newsletter shows just how active our parish is. My thanks to Marie for her proof reading of newsletters each week, as well as magazine articles, brochures, etc. as required to ensure we present our printed material in a very professional manner.

In addition to my usual office duties we have had some larger projects and challenges this year which have ensured the role is never a boring one, most notably the Hall toilet fire and the acceleration of our building projects as a result. The fundraising added significantly to my role, especially in the midst of Garage Sale preparations, however the result has been incredibly encouraging and a testament to the generosity and support of parishioners.

Due to some personal challenges and health complications this year I don't feel I have been able to serve at my full capacity, however I hope and pray that I have come 'over the hump' and will endeavour to do my utmost to work hard for the parish through another year, and I hope that I have still continued to meet your expectations. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust, and please do get in touch at any time if I can be of assistance.

May God continue to bless the ministries of St Aidan's.

Anne Godman
Administrator

SUNDAY MORNING CHAPEL HELPERS AT AUCKLAND HOSPITAL

Five times a year a St Aidans' group assists in locating and helping patients, if they are well enough and wanting to attend the Sunday 10am ecumenical communion service, to the hospital chapel. As more helpers are still required please contact Christine Muller the co-ordinating leader for St Aidan's, or myself, for further details if you could perhaps add your assistance.

David Jamison

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Kid's Church has been up to lots of fun this year, with our theme of 'Let Your Light Shine' from Matthew 5:16.

Curriculum

This year, I have continued using the Lectionary as a guide for our sessions. By doing so, children and parents hear the same Bible readings each week, hopefully making it easier for families to chat about Church after the service.

Last year, we had the over-arching theme of 'Growing Together in God's Love'; this year, we have 'Let Your Light Shine'. I liked how having a theme meant that I could connect different sessions back to the same idea, and it worked well for our group. I've been more flexible with it this year, as some sessions don't connect back to it depending on the Bible story and lesson. However, it's an effective tool when suitable and has been a nice way to differentiate the years. The theme also correlates with the Kid's Church board in the social lounge, which helps make the space feel more homey for the kids.

I've also been sticking with the session format I established last year. It varies week to week to keep things interesting for the kids, but having a baseline structure has been extremely helpful for planning.

1. *Opener*: This can be an object lesson, group discussion question, quick activity or game - anything to engage the kids 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 which 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.

Logistics

I have found some great online resources for forming the sessions, especially as most Sunday School websites post weekly lessons, crafts, and games based on the Lectionary. My current go-to's are Bible Explore, Rfour's Children's Sermons, and Ministry to Children. I often draw from these for a lesson theme, then do some more searching and thinking to pick and choose the activities based on our group and what I

think would work. Each week ends up being an assortment of different ideas pulled from various sources.

This year, I've implemented a weekly group email to parents to let them know what we will be up to in the session that Sunday. I also let them know of any specific church notices or reminders. This has been a great way to keep steady communication with parents, as it's often challenging to connect with everyone after the service each week. It also offers an 'onboarding' to new families. I've found that new families who are on my mailing list are more likely to come back to St. Aidan's on Sundays. This year, I've added quite a few new families to the list - it's exciting to see it grow!

Community

Attendance has increased this year, with about 14 children returning for sessions, despite some families moving away. However, it's rare that everyone shows up each week, with weekly attendance usually sitting around 6-10 children. However, we had the usual drop in attendance during winter, with numbers typically around four children. Now that it is warming up, numbers are back up again.

One of my goals this year was to engage more with the parents, as I've found that most of my time and effort goes towards prepping and running the Sunday sessions. While Sundays are my main focus, I wanted to pay more attention to the family ministry side of my role. One way I've addressed this was by planning the Young People and Families potluck lunch with the other young adults. It was an enjoyable afternoon with lots of food and games! However, I spent most of the time facilitating the kid's games, so I didn't get to chat too much with the parents - but hopefully, the lunch provided the chance for parents to speak with one another. Overall, it was a successful lunch and is something I'd like to organise more often to keep the community strong.

Izzi Hoskyn

Children's Ministry Coordinator

YOUTH REPORT

This year has been a busy year for youth. From the bunker flooding at the beginning of the year, to the first full year in a while with no Covid interruptions, it has been all go from the start. The youth group has maintained a group of 8 – 10 regulars with a few newcomers joining in at various stages throughout the year. Both Friday night and Sunday morning programmes have been running during each school term, with Friday nights being a social activity and Sunday mornings being more focused on a specific teaching. Numbers at Sunday mornings have remained rather stable, with all youth normally attended at least once a fortnight. Numbers at Friday nights have been more variable due to some of the youth having conflicting commitments. As part of my plan going forward, I am looking into the format of the Friday night gatherings to see if they can be done better to allow more of the youth to come along more regularly.

During our Sunday morning's we have been using a couple of studies from a series called LifeGuide. For the first part of the year, we looked at the topic of Growing Older and Wiser, with a focus on things like wisdom, listening and learning from those young and old, and trust. Over the second part of the year, we have been looking at New Testament Characters, including Mary Magdalene and Thomas. The LifeGuide series has provided some good questions and discussions allowing the youth to explore different aspects of their faith individually and as a group.

As in past years, it has been great to see the youth wanting and willing to be part of the many church events that occur during the year. These events are great for the youth as it allows them to interact with the wider church community and help to make them feel more at home, building their confidence and encouraging them to be a valuable part of our community.

We were not spared from the large rainfall that hit Auckland in January, with the bunker flooding as a result. While the water was only enough to thinly cover the floor, it did create a large clean up job as well as giving us the opportunity to reimagine the space and give it a facelift. The old carpet was removed and many of the couches were taken apart or donated to the Salvation Army. The walls were sanded and received a new coat of paint, new

couches and new carpet to create a space that can be used for years to come. My thanks to Isobell, Izzy, and Cameron, who were instrumental in helping to get the bunker back to a suitable state to be used and cared for by our young people.

We have been fully involved with Anglican Youth Ministries (AYM) events during the year. Over Easter, some of the youth attended the E-Fest camp, with many of our youth holding other responsibilities beyond just being a camper. It was great to see them step up and take on these new challenges and allowed them to develop in a friendly and encouraging environment. Later in the year, some of us attended a Leader's Retreat out at Huia, a great opportunity for us to connect with other leaders from across the diocese and to spend some time understanding ourselves a little better. In August, some of the youth made their way down to Wellington for The Abbey, a national youth conference held each year. This was a chance for our youth to make new connections with others from all parts of the country, and to expand and deepen their faith and understanding.

Personally, it has been a busy year. Along with attending the already mentioned E-Fest and Leaders Retreat, I attended Synod as a Youth Representative, seconding a motion, and somehow got elected to represent the Auckland Diocese at General Synod Te Hinota Whanui next year. I am really looking forward to this opportunity to learn, grow and make new connections in amongst what is, hopefully, a productive week.

My thanks to all those who have been a part of youth this year. It has been great to see you all grow and deepen your understanding as you look to explore your what your faith means to you. I look forward to another exciting year as the youth group goes from strength to strength.

Nic Mercer
Youth Leader

MAINLY MUSIC REPORT

Tracy and Kerry met in early in the year to plan the mainly music programme for 2023. Each semester would include at least one special activity to celebrate the term. These would occur at Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas. The first mainly music session of the year took place in February at which 16 children along with parents/caregivers attended. This was a pleasing turnout particularly as Cyclone Gabrielle had only concluded its destructive path through Auckland just prior. Each session of mainly music typically has anywhere from 12-18 children attending. We have noticed the numbers reducing slightly as funding for children to attend daycare is made available to parents. However, we still have very good numbers attending making our sessions happy and enjoyable each Wednesday.

Throughout the year Tracy continued to introduce new songs which have been a great joy and very stimulating for the children. She always makes the sessions fun and engaging and has a very good way of relating to the children and parents/caregivers. At Easter the children visited the church to view the garden tomb display in the Lady Chapel. During this time Tracy gave a lovely reflection on the significance of Easter. The session was concluded with an Easter egg hunt and an Easter-themed gift pack for each of the children.

20 years of St Aidan's hosting mainly music was celebrated in April. It was a significant achievement which we recognised at our Sunday service led by the youth at which a video message of congratulations from the mainly music headquarters was shared. Rev'd Jo Kelly-Moore who was the Curate that commenced the programme at St Aidan's kindly shared a message of goodwill that recalled the early days beginning this ministry with her young boys in tow and a whole team of support of so many wonderful mothers (and grandmothers!) from the parish and their children who gladly gave their encouragement and support serving morning coffee to the parents and caregivers and fruit and cookies to the children. The mainly music ministry soon flourished under Jo. As well as wider community connections, baptisms regularly become part of the parish community. As it grew, lots of parents who began attending also became committed helpers.

We celebrated Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in September with special morning teas to which all mothers and fathers were invited. We gave each of the children a small gift of a card and sweets to take home to for their parent.

As always in mainly music groups, we have had to say goodbye to a few of our lovely 4-5-year-olds as they head off to kindergarten or school. We become attached to the

children and its sad to see them go. We have also had farewell others who have moved away from the area. But their numbers are soon replaced by new faces to soon come through our doors. Speaking of leaving, Sadly Tracy has resigned. We have greatly appreciated the enthusiasm she brought to the role of mainly music coordinator since taking over last year in which she put her own personal stamp on the sessions and displayed care for the children and families, making sure she knew their names and actively engaged with all who came along. She also added new material to our catalogue of songs. The contribution she made to our mainly music programme and the community of St Aidan's is very much appreciated.

mainly music in offering a place for parents/caregivers to gather and be stimulated by music and dance each week is a great blessing. The feedback that we receive is that everyone involved in hosting mainly music is so friendly and kind which is exactly what we like to hear as that is the ethos of mainly music and our church. Our group of volunteers - Melanie, Vaoa and Hannah, who staff the welcome table, and Vaoa who steps in whenever Tracy is away all do a fabulous job. And our roster of hospitality hosts who provide the tea, coffee and baking each week extend wonderful warmth and friendliness to everyone that attends.

2023 was another successful year in which we marked a 20-year milestone of providing fun, dance and music for young families and continued to be a place of friendly encounter. Next year should also bring with it the opportunity for more new families to come through our doors and feel welcome and stimulated by our mainly music programme.

Our sincere thanks goes out to everyone who has supported mainly music this year in various ways. Your kindness and commitment in helping make mainly music a success is very much appreciated.

Tracy Helg/Reverend Kerry Davis

November 2023

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We continue to use our website and social media accounts to connect with current parishioners, past parishioners and potential new parishioners - as well as those who interact with us in other ways such as the Mission Shop, Pātaka Kai or Garage Sale.

Our website remains a solid foundation of information for those interested in St Aidan's. We try to keep our News & Announcements page updated and current, along with weekly uploads of newsletters and our sermons.

We continue to have great engagement on our social media platforms; predominately for our two main accounts on Facebook and Instagram (@staidansremuera). As mentioned last year, 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 that I can post on social media, or to 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 (search for @staidansremuera)
- Facebook for the Mission Shop, Pātaka Kai and our community outreach (search for @staidansmissionshop)
- Instagram for St Aidan's (search for @staidansremuera)
- Instagram for the Mission Shop, Pātaka Kai and our community outreach (search for @staidansmissionshop)
- LinkedIn for St Aidan's (search for 'St Aidan's Anglican Church')
- YouTube for St Aidan's (search for @staidansremuera)

Isobell Tregoweth

Website and Social Media Content Manager

2023 MUSIC FACILITATOR'S REPORT

Music continues to be a lively part of corporate St Aidan's worship and activities. At AAW meetings, weddings and funerals, St Aidan's is shown to be a venue of choice, even beyond our parish. Our lovely neo-Baroque organ is part of this attraction.

We are blessed to have our small but enthusiastic band of choristers to encourage our 9:30 congregation in making 'a joyful noise to the Lord'. Many thanks for your loyal support and encouragement throughout the year. Your efforts help make special occasions of important liturgical celebrations.

While Saturday practices are great for learning new music and honing our singing skills, this year there have been other chances to experience more complicated choral singing such as in the Auckland RSCM Combined Choirs event in the Cathedral, and the Cathedral DOM's Evensong Workshops which have been a drawcard to other non-choir singers. Some members regularly experience four part singing in the monthly St Mark's Evensong.

One result of contacts with the wider Diocese was in the September 24th Sing Your Favourite Hymn. It was a congregational musical highlight, attended too by some hymn-lovers outside our usual congregation. It was also part of the year's programme for the local RSCM (of which I am a current committee member). The experienced conductor, Anita Banbury led from the front, after selecting a programme of hymns from the numerous congregational requests. Brian Miller accompanied us on the organ. Many thanks to Kerry and Vaoa for organising the lovely following afternoon tea at which Karel Lee's superb chocolate became a wonderful birthday cake for Marie Taylor, on the right day. Congratulations to all those whose suggestions made the cut. If you missed out don't forget to try, next time.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to continue as your organist. Thanks for all your encouragement and comments about enjoying singing our hymns together. We are so blessed to be able to follow the example of Jesus and His disciples who sang hymns and psalms as they travelled, ate and worshipped together.

Antoinette Pope
Music Facilitator

PROPERTY REPORT

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 I 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. The Maintenance Team continues to work away at every opportunity keeping our precious buildings looking cheerful and up to standard.

The church roof leak was resolved by James Patterson who sourced a repairer with the required expertise. A big thank you from the property team.

The men's toilet in the hall was torched mid-year, hastening its refurbishment. Plans have been drawn up, submitted and approved.

The other major works planned is the gathering area kitchen upgrade. Again plans have been drawn up submitted and approved. Consenting and trade letting is underway and funds have been oversubscribed, possibly allowing work to be done to the hall kitchen.

Major works done this year

Vicarage

- 1) Replacement of malfunctioning front door – thanks Louise for your patience
- 2) Replacement of sink mixer

No 8 - None

Church

- 1) Roof leaks resolved on south side of church roof.
- 2) New kitchen for gathering area signed off and funds raised.
- 3) Replacement of shingles missing from roof of gathering area

Hall & Office

- 1) Signboard re-erected after storm damage

Works planned/likely to occur for next Year

Church

- 1) Remedial work to the scupper in the front of the gathering area to replace the stolen downpipe
- 2) Construction of extension of gathering area kitchen

Hall

- 1) Resolution of leak in Parish Office
- 2) Resolution of leak in Kerry's Office
- 3) Refurbishment of the men's toilet in the hall.
- 4) Addition of a handrail for the existing hall access from the gathering area driveway.

Vicarage - None

No 8 House - None

Simon Lee

ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN FELLOWSHIP GROUP

It is my pleasure to report on another year of wonderful fellowship with St Aidan's Association of Anglican Women. We have been able to meet regularly in the church and GA for our meetings with a wide variety of speakers and topics.

We finished 2022 with our Christmas themed afternoon beginning with a communion service in the church followed by a wonderful celebration afternoon tea and carol singing. Our first meeting in March 2023 was a "Show and Tell" with members bringing along treasures to share with the group.

Our speakers through the rest of the year have been Rev'd Anne Priestley, "A walk with Jesus in Holy Week", Terrena Griffiths, Project Manager of Chip Packet Project NZ, Josh Couch from Christian Broadcasting Association, Diane and Leti from Age Concern (Intergenerational Living Programme), Marie Taylor and Rosemary Atkins (celebrating 40 years of AAW Prayer Book), Michelle Brinsden (Eastern Bays Songbird Project).

Our most recent meeting in October was a high tea in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. A very enjoyable afternoon enjoyed by all in attendance, which raised \$1,000 for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Our financial membership totals 43 and we averaged around 30 at our meetings. We remember past members, Margaret Pellow and Heather Sands who passed away during the year.

I would like to thank all who have assisted in organising and leading us in our services in the church, especially the Rev'd Louise Anderson, Rev'd Kerry Davis, Rev'd Anne Priestley and Christine Kennedy. Also, our services would not be complete without having Antoinette Pope playing the organ for our hymn singing.

As a group we collected pyjamas for ATWC, organised flowers for the Memorial Cross on Anzac Day, donated financially to the Auckland City Mission, ATWC and the Chip Packet Project NZ. These funds are raised from the trading table, ably run by Terrie Hawley, and cash donations at certain meetings during the year.

The committee has worked very well together during the year phoning members monthly and organising the afternoon teas at meetings. The sharing of these tasks enables our group to remain strong and vibrant. I would especially like to thank Sue Williams for her tireless work as Treasurer. All the committee members are happy to remain for another year and I thank each one of you for your work and the support you give.

Mary Parkinson

WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP

At Women's Evening Fellowship this year we have enjoyed eight very interesting and diverse speakers.

Our February speaker was unable to come at the last minute because of a health issue, but we were able to start the year by sharing our thoughts on 'what we are grateful for'.

March: Judith Lessing - International Peace Keeping for United Nations

April: Lynne Florence - Travels in Ireland, Scotland and England

May: Brian Gray - Swimming around Waiheke

June: St John's - The use of the defibrillator and how they can be found if needed in an emergency.

July: Reverend Katene Eruera - My seasons of ministry as a worker-priest, a military chaplain, a rector in Alice Springs and an educator at St John's College

August: John Hutton - Kaipara Harbour Redemption Programme and, briefly, his involvement with iwi Ngati Paoa in Auckland.

September: Susan Rope - Spoke of her family connections to St Aidan's, netball coaching and umpiring tennis.

October: Alison Ross- Travels in Europe and a canal trip in France on a Luxury Launch.

With Koha from our monthly meetings, we donated \$40 to the Cyclone Gabriel Disaster Fund and \$300 to St John's in appreciation of their visit.

Our numbers have been consistent, around 15-20, with friends, visitors, and men of the parish augmenting our numbers at different evenings.

Our last gathering for the year will be 21st November when we look forward to celebrating the Christmas Season a little early with carols, desserts, and punch.

Jan Evans and the team - Alison, Christine, Elisabeth, Penny and Terrie

PINS & NEEDLES GROUP

We have had a good year with an average of 13 ladies attending each monthly meeting and creating a great deal of lovely knitted and crocheted garments. I am always amazed at the amount that comes in from our knitters who attend and also from those who attend and also from our many outworkers.

This year we had a project to knit beanies for the homeless who sleep on our streets. We are told that there are many men and women who sleep rough in our community. The Auckland City Mission watches over them three times each day, starting at 5am each day.

Our knitters created some 150 beanies for these folk and they were so appreciative. It was a great project and most of the knitters were very happy to participate.

We have been donated a great deal of synthetic yarn, and also quite a lot of wool, which came in handy for the beanies. It has been lovely to see so many creative garments of all colours and stripes – just what children love to wear.

So, another very successful knitting year and thank you to all those who knit or crochet for us. We welcome anyone to join us who would like to knit, crochet or sew.

Happy knitting/crocheting or sewing!

Gail Hodder
Coordinator



From small beginnings comes a warm blanket.



September's knitting.



SUMMARY OF DIOCESAN SYNOD 2023

Synod is a representative body of the whole Diocese gathered under the leadership of the Bishop.

The Second Session of the Fifty-Seventh Synod of the Diocese was held in Holy Trinity Cathedral from 7-8 September 2023, commencing with a service in St Mary's-in-Holy Trinity at which Archbishop Sione Ulu'ilakepa of the Diocese of Polynesia was the preacher.

Bishop's Charge

In his Charge, Bishop Ross summarized activities from the past year while also outlining challenges ahead.

Partnerships: He spoke warmly of the partnerships existing within the Three Tikanga Church, especially rejoicing in Archbishop Sione's acceptance of a call to episcopal ministry. Partnership remained an important aspect of diocesan life, particularly with Te Pihopatana o Te Tai Tokerau.

Weather: Severe weather early in the year had adversely affected many and he thanked all who had provided assistance to others. Ministry units on the Coromandel had been regularly isolated, while access to the North had also been significantly disrupted by major road closures. Several church buildings had been damaged causing financial and emotional stress, while anxiety remained regarding the cost of repairs and insurance.

Social Justice Issues: The official establishment of Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makauru recently had served to highlight issues of poverty and homelessness which were expected to be to the fore during the lead up to the election. The Bishop also noted reports addressing abuse in the Church were due to be released shortly. While steps had been taken to address the issues raised at a whole of Church level, a responsibility at local level to ensure safety also remained.

Looking ahead: The Bishop spoke about challenges being faced across the Diocese – ageing congregations, declining attendances, juggling finances, managing compliance issues etc. He stressed most could not be solved centrally. Ministry units were “the primary place for our mission”, the place where we connect with our local communities and where relationships can be developed to allow the love of God to be shared so we can be part of the work of God's Kingdom. He focused on the concept of “Living Beyond Ourselves” with an emphasis on outreach and proclamation, the sharing of our faith through word and action. “Each of you is a strong part of the communities within which you live,” he said. “You know these communities. You know their needs, the ways in which healing might come to people and places and thus the opportunities for the Word of truth to find a place. Those are the mission opportunities which God opens up before you.”

And, so to Friday!

Diocesan Council: A report was presented covering activities over the past year, including the launch of the programme “Flourishing Life on Church Land” which encouraged biodiversity on church land. A review of Trust Investments Management Ltd (TIML) was presented and an opportunity made for questions about recent financial issues to be raised. Generally it was felt that progress was being made and new staff appointments should help to address these. Other issues relating to property concerns were also presented.

Bills and Motions: Only two bills were presented, one of which was a replacement statute for the Auckland City Mission. Of the seven motions, three sought assents to changes proposed by General Synod Te Hīnota

Whānui, while a fourth proposed a new Standing Resolution to be adopted. Another followed a presentation on overseas missions especially in the Pacific area and a target of \$190,000 was endorsed.

That left only two motions. The first sought support for lowering the voting age to sixteen for local and general elections, this motion being carried with a few dissenting voices. The other asking TIML to achieve a 0% threshold for fossil fuel investments as soon as possible and within twelve months was also supported.

Further to the Bishop's Charge: A wide-ranging discussion then took place following the issues the Bishop had raised in his Charge. The need for resources to support outreach and suggestions for collaboration and support were raised. It was noted that the Healthy Church Model captured the vision for the Diocese to develop effective local ministry units. The model is thus a helpful guide as to how ministry units could progress as its flexible model could be easily developed to meet local needs. The Synod was challenged to work at actively addressing the issues raised, particularly those of participation. A motion was passed encouraging all ministry units "to actively consider the mission opportunities that exist in each of our communities and to develop plans to respond". This was now the challenge for every ministry unit and indeed, each person, to meet!

The business completed, Synod closed earlier than planned so all were able to enjoy a Saturday holiday!

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS OF
ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, REMUERA, AUCKLAND
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2022

1. **Opening with Prayers:** Reverend Louise Anderson opened the meeting at 10.55 a.m. in prayer and thanked all those present for attending.

2. **Attendance and Apologies:**

Attendees were asked to sign a clipboard which was at the entry door and which was then passed around. Apologies received were read out and Reverend Louise Anderson asked for any other apologies.

Present: Rev'd Louise Anderson, Nic Mercer, Jenny Haggitt, Miles Brown, Veronica Black, John Black, Juli Mercer, Christine Ford, Annette McGrevy, Ev McGowan, Isobell Tregoweth, Robyn Bridgman, Julie Esau, Mark de Courcy, Terrie Hawley, Fiona Gray, Rosemary Atkins, Yvonne Kennedy, Rosie Howell, Geraldine Burbush, Christine Roke, Aliso Ross, John Priestley, John Glenie, Shirley Bevins, Julie Barnes, Kumar Mather, Shivanti Mather, Barbara Weir, Annemarie Raffel, Sue Williams, Joy Bell, Anne Mercer, Rev'd Kerry Davis, Vaoa Davis, Asher Stonehouse, Margaret Stonehouse, Antoinette Pope, James Parkinson, David Jamison, Jacqui Parkinson, Mary Parkinson, David Cotton, Anne Godman, Marie Taylor.

Apologies: Desre and Keith Simpson, Penny Rabould, Gail and Murray Hodder, Gillian and Harold Coop, Anne Priestley, Nigel and Jan Evans, Bev Gentiles, Hein and Sheryl Swanevelder, Peter and Diana Macaulay, Ethan Stonehouse, Mark Rushton, Deepak Selvaratnam, Emily Paul, Stephen Rengan, Steven Khoo, Priscilla Mui, Annie Chung Mui, Jeanette Wong, Sarah Tang, Bryan Haggitt, Stuart Sinclair, Oliver Yang, Patsy Dillon, Tony Clephane, Lynne Trenwith, Ron and Elsa Haydon, Celia and David Finn, Jill Bignell, Nigel Brown, Caroline Shepherd

MOTION: That the attendance and apologies be accepted.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Isobell Tregoweth. Carried.

3. **Any other Items for General Business:** There were no other items for General Business. Items to be covered later include the Endowment Trust, GA kitchen plans and the church roof leaks.
4. **Minutes of the Previous AGM:** The Minutes of the AGM held on November 14th 2021, having been displayed in the Gathering Area and on the St Aidan's Church and on the website, were taken as true and accurate.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Julie Barnes. Carried

Minutes of the SGM held on 27 March 2022, having been displayed in the Gathering Area of St Aidan's Church and on the website, were taken as true and accurate.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Mary Parkinson. Carried

5. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

6. **Vicar's Report:**

Rev'd Louise Anderson noted that her Vicar's report has been displayed in the Gathering Area and on the St Aidan's website. She summarized her report in case some had not had a chance to read it.

MOTION: That the Church Annual Reports be accepted.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Alison Ross. Carried

7. Appointments and Elections:

The scrutineers selected were Nic Mercer, Vaoa Davis and Rev'd Kerry Davis.

MOTION: That the scrutineers be appointed.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Robyn Bridgman. Carried

Rev'd Louise Anderson explained the voting process and noted:

- That our Vestry must be no less than 3 and no more than 11.
- That Vestry can co-opt additional members.
- Liz Lim is standing down from Vestry. Louise thanked Liz for her willingness, honesty and hard work.

MOTION: That we elect four members to Vestry today with the power to co-opt another member as Vestry sees fit.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Antoinette Pope. Carried

Election Results Announced:

People's Warden: Desre Simpson

Vestry: Mark Rushton, Jenny Haggitt, Kumar Mather, Asher Stonehouse

Vestry members continuing in their roles are:

Vicar's Warden: James Parkinson

Synod Representatives: Julie Barnes, David Jamison

Other Reports:

Warden's Report:

James Parkinson spoke to the meeting and noted:

- The 2022 year has been notable for our gradual return to our usual church life.
- Juli Mercer had stepped down from her role on Vestry to concentrate on her health.
- Vestry is keen to strengthen our volunteer base, to maintain our congregation, to re-energise our building projects, encourage and support our youth and reinstate a social committee.
- His thanks to Liz Lim especially for enhancing the processes and procedures on Vestry.
- The highlight for 2022 was welcoming Rev'd Kerry Davis as Priest Associate. The recent confirmation service could not have been possible without two clergy. Louise and Kerry are a strong and cohesive clergy unit.
- Tracy Helg has joined Mainly Music as co-ordinator.
- His appreciation to Anne Godman who is the glue behind the scenes to make sure everything happens as it should.
- His thanks also to Isabelle Hoskyn, Isobell Tregoweth and Nic Mercer.

Finance Report:

Kumar Mather told the meeting this was his fourth year as Treasurer. He thanked both Anne Godman and Russell Florence who work behind the scenes with him. Kumar explained that St Aidan's has a Finance Committee comprising of Rev'd Louise Anderson, Anne Godman, Russell Florence and himself, who meet regularly to review finances.

Kumar presented a series of reports outlining St Aidan's financial information. Kumar outlined a nine-month comparison with last year.

In particular he noted:

- There has been no covid shut down in the last nine months.
- The Garage Sale was a great success and bookings for the hall are coming back to normal.
- Volunteers who give their services make great savings for St Aidan's
- Future building and maintenance will be expensive.
- Term Deposits are unchanged.
- St Aidan's now has full clergy staff so staff costs have increased.
- Our church has never reduced our mission giving. Kumar, Jenny Haggitt, Barbara Weir and Louise are the committee which dispenses mission giving.
- Kumar summarized offerings over the last three years and noted that cash and envelope offerings have greatly reduced and on-line offerings have increased but in total, donations have reduced.

In summary:

- St Aidan's is beginning to recover after covid but there is a decline.
- Reserves are intact.
- Our church buildings are old and need maintenance and building projects need to be addressed.

Kumar encouraged everyone to continue to support our church through voluntary work and giving to keep the church in good health for future generations.

Kumar was thanked for this work on the finances and for his clear explanation of our financial situation.

8. General Business:

Endowment Fund:

No donations have been received. Investment income has dropped. We now have \$ 204,000.

John Priestley spoke to the AGM. He thanked Vestry for keeping the Endowment Fund in view. With future work to be done on the church, St Aidan's needs a considerable flow of bequests to preserve the funds in the Endowment Fund. It is something for everyone to consider so St Aidan's is well-endowed for the future. This should be looked at on an annual basis.

MOTION: That Vestry continue regularly to advertise and promote the St Aidan's Endowment Trust.

MOVED: John Priestley. Seconded: Alison Ross. Carried

Property:

John Glenie showed a plan on the screen of the proposed plan of improvements to the Gathering Area kitchen. The plan is:

- To make the kitchen bigger and provide a larger fridge and range.
- To install a rangehood and a sterilizer.
- To enlarge the pantry. Cupboards will be installed in the Gathering Area to hold all the resources that need to be moved to make room for the larger pantry.
- To look carefully at rubbish areas and provide a handbasin.
- Where possible to leave things intact, i.e. the dishwasher will remain.

The improved kitchen will be much more useable now and into the future. John asked for questions and said he would be happy for any other questions at any time.

- The library will need to be compacted and moved.
- John will be asking Antoinette where the piano will go should it need to be moved.

Comments from the meeting:

- The work to be done on the offices and other jobs has been paused for some time.
- Isobell thanked John and the Property Committee and is excited that the changes will make the area work better.
- The roof leaks are a priority.

Louise spoke to the priorities. The toilets, hall and kitchen are a huge project so St Aidan's will start with the Gathering Area kitchen which is a more manageable project to upgrade. Upgrading the Gathering Area kitchen and important maintenance are going along in parallel. To record the meetings approval of this work moving forward as Chair Louise suggested a motion.

MOTION: That the AGM is supportive of the GA kitchen and for Vestry to seek a faculty for this work to be carried out.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Isobell Tregoweth. All Agreed.

Leaks:

James Parkinson: It has been difficult to diagnose what was causing the leaks. A roofing company has now found the problem; the adhesive has come away from the bitumen shingles on the roof. When there is no wind the tiles are flat, when there is wind they lift. A quote of \$ 20,000 has been received. The Property Committee is contemplating a second quote but as it has taken so long to identify the problem, they are keen to proceed. Some shingles on the GA are also lifting so the costings will be adjusted.

MOVED: That all other reports are in the Gathering Area and are taken as read and accepted.

MOVED: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Barbara Weir. Carried

Moved that the electoral papers be destroyed after the meeting.

The SGM will be in March when the Budget will be presented.

Closing Prayers and Blessing:

Rev'd Louise Anderson closed in prayer.

The meeting closed at 12 noon.