

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