

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