

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