

Vicar's Foreword

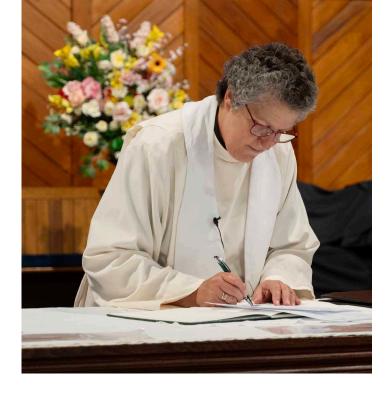
The winter months always seem more of a challenge, and can sometimes leave us with spirits that are a little lower than at other times of the year.

As I type, this one of our vibrant cherry trees is in full blossom with the tuis singing as they drink the rich nectar, almost as if spring has arrived, and yet the cherry tree immediately beside it is still a mass of empty sticks and branches with its buds tightly closed, still in the depths of winter.

My hope and prayer for our church community is no matter what figurative season you find yourself in, you feel supported by God's presence and your faith provides you with strength to face any challenges that come your way.

Some of our articles in this magazine have drawn upon the theme of change. A number of parishioners seem to be moving through a time of adjustment. For some this is their work situation, for others it is changes to their living situation, and another group are experiencing changes to their own or their partner's health. We will all respond to change in different ways, and for many it can be a very unsettling time. On page 10 and 11, a few contributors share their experience of change and how it has been for them. With the blessing of Archdeacon Michael Berry, we have also included an excerpt from his recent article in 'The Anglican' on change within the church and what scripture brings to this process.

As I look over the very full pages covering our events since Easter, there has been plenty of activity as we look to build and strengthen our relationships whilst reaching out in to the wider community, sharing God's love with others.



Thank you to everyone who contributes and participates in so many different ways, and finally one small reminder for those in a position to attend - please join us for our St Aidan's Day celebration on 25th August with our two regular services at 8am and 9:30am, and a shared lunch to follow at around 11:30am.

The editorial team of Isobel and Anne have once again done an amazing job with the magazine's production. Please enjoy the many varied stories, articles and photos within. †

Blessings,

Louise

Rev'd Louise Anderson

St Aidan's Anglican Church

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'The Apostle' magazine is published on behalf of St Aidan's Anglican Church, Remuera. All articles printed in the Parish Magazine are at the discretion of the editor. Content and size may be edited to fit publication. For permission to reproduce any material in this magazine, please contact our office.

We welcome your contributions and photos for the St Aidan's Day edition of 'The Apostle' magazine. Deadline: 29th October.

Find us online:

www.staidans.co.nz www.facebook.com/staidansremuera www.instagram.com/staidansremuera

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Parish Life





Palm Cross making and annual Cleaning Bee





ANZAC Day Service





Pentecost celebrations





Matariki stargazing hīkoi up Ōhinerau/Mt Hobson and breakfast kai

REGULAR MINISTRIES

Sunday Services 8am Holy Communion.

9:30am Family Service with Holy Communion.

Mid-Week Service 11:30am Holy Communion on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Weekly Prayer Thursday mornings in the Gathering Area at 9am. Come along or join <u>via Zoom.</u>

Enter the Zoom online meeting ID: 959 1932 0025, or phone: +64 9 884 6780 and

enter Passcode 1#.

AAW A women's afternoon fellowship group. Meets monthly on 1st Tuesday at 1:30pm.

Contact Mary Parkinson.

Choir Practice Saturdays at 9am in the Church. New members welcome. Contact Antoinette Pope.

Coffee & K's Meets for a walk and coffee on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Annette McGrevy.

Contemplative Prayer Meets each Wednesday at 9:45am <u>via Zoom</u>. Contact Anne Priestley.

Kids' Church All children ages 3-10 during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Izzi Hoskyn.

mainly music Wednesdays during term time at 10am. Music and play for families with pre-school aged

children. Contact Hannah Scharf.

Men's Ministry Meets for breakfast, last Thursday of the month at 7:30am. Contact Pete Macaulay.

Pins & Needles Meets monthly on 2nd Monday of the month. Contact Gail Hodder.

Small Groups Contact Sheryl Swanevelder or Louise for more information.

Vestry Our governing body currently meets monthly on the 4th Thursday. Contact Louise.

WEF A women's evening fellowship group. Meets monthly on 3rd Tuesday at 7:30pm.

Contact Jan Evans.

Writing Group Meets on the last Friday of every month at 10am. Contact Anne Priestley.

Young Adults Meets every 2nd Sunday 4pm-6pm plus occasional social events. Contact Isobell Tregoweth.

Youth Ages 11+ during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Nic Mercer.



ST FRANCIS DAY PET SERVICE

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER | 4PM
Bring along your pets, teddies or
photos for a blessing

All are welcome

Introducing...

Graeme Fuller - Organist

When I was younger I would occasionally play the organ (although piano is my main instrument) for church. It was my recent New Year Resolution to see if I could get back into playing the organ, hopefully improve on where I had left off many years ago, and ultimately be able to make some form of musical contribution. Anthony Blashke suggested I might approach St Aidan's with a view to having some practice time on the organ. I checked out the website of St Aidan's and liked what I saw on a number of levels besides just the musical aspect.

In musical terms - from starting a few months ago with the odd practice session it has evolved into playing for a number of services at St Aidan's - I'm certainly enjoying the experience.

Up until recently I was working fulltime as an electronics design engineer. Having had enough of that I now have an eclectic mix of part time contract work, company directorship and DIY projects around the house. I'm loving the new-found sense of freedom!

A lot of my hobbies are music related. I regularly accompany singers on the piano at a couple of music clubs, I recently restored an antique reed organ and have published a few arrangements for reed organ online. I hope to do more arrangements in future - including for piano, pipe organ and choirs.

Hannah Scharf - mainly music Coordinator

I grew up in Germany and made my way to New Zealand in 2022. I joined the St Aidan's community in August 2023 by helping in the Mission Shop. Soon after, I became involved with mainly music which I now coordinate.

I have a Bachelor of Geology and Mineralogy and found my vocation in education. Coordinating mainly music at St Aidan's means getting to enjoy music and movement with toddlers and young children while contributing to their development.

In my spare time, I enjoy cooking and baking delicious dishes every day, working out, expressing myself creatively, and going for long walks every chance I get. In the future, I hope to adopt and foster dogs.

My favourite Bible verse is James 1:2: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.". •



My favourite scripture is Romans 12:2: "Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature."

This resonates with me as I believe we are all on a journey of discovery in this life. †



Afternoon Fellowship - Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

Over the past few months our group has enjoyed meeting in the Church and Gathering Area on the first Tuesday afternoon. We have had some very interesting speakers covering many different topics, from scams to poetry.

In April Sumant Khedkar and Guru from BNZ spoke on ways to avoid being scammed.

We welcomed parishioner, Nigel Evans, as our speaker at our May meeting. Nigel spoke about his connections with Cambridge University and different aspects of his career.

At our June meeting Shantelle Chandra from Dilworth Hearing spoke about the effects of hearing loss on the brain and cognitive function.

Jan Beaumont, Poet, was our speaker at our July meeting and thoroughly entertained everyone with her poems.

We really appreciate having the Rev'd Louise Anderson lead our service on alternate months. Our members enjoy the service in the AAW Prayer Book which was compiled over 40 years ago by Rosemary Atkins and a team from Napier Cathedral.

Each month we have between 25 to 30 members attending along with some visitors. We have welcomed 6 new members to the group this year. Sadly, we have lost some of our longstanding members and through ill health a few others are no longer able to attend meetings.

The afternoon tea served by our committee members is a highlight at each meeting and our members enjoy wonderful fellowship during this time.

We have collected pyjamas and over \$200 in donations for the ATWC over the past few months.

Our speakers over the next two months are Dr Alex Bartle from Sleep Well. He will speak on the importance of sleep and how you can do it better and Mike Roke from Homeground, Auckland City Mission.

We welcome new members or visitors at our meetings. †

Mary Parkinson





ST AIDAN'S REMUERA FAMOUS ANNUAL

GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 14TH SEPT, 8AM

5 ASCOT AVENUE, REMUERA



The Vine - the Living Church

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.'

John 15:1-2

I've never considered myself much of a gardener. I like to keep the place looking tidy, but that tends to be by way of 'hacking and mowing', rather than 'tending and nurturing'. When it comes to vine growing, I wouldn't know where to start.

When this passage recently appeared, however, on the Fifth Sunday of Easter Te Rātapu Tuarima o te Aranga, I found myself reading a bit about the art of pruning. The simple version is that left untouched, the vine will produce a large yield of grapes, but this will come at a cost. The resources of the vine – the nutrients and sugars, etc – will be spread too thinly, meaning the grapes are not of good quality. Pruning helps to concentrate the good stuff into more focused growth which produces grapes of a better quality.

The ideas and outcomes would have been familiar in Jesus' time to a culture accustomed to working the land, making this a powerful metaphor.

Whilst there is much that can be drawn from this image, in preaching this time around I found myself reflecting on the idea of the Church as a vine. An organism. A living, growing plant, that responds to the changing seasons of the world, adapting to the social environment around it. Hearing the words of John 15, we ought to take care of the limited resources of the church and shed that which may no longer serve God's purposes. What remains is carefully and thoughtfully pruned – resources wisely applied and directed – allowing the concentration of new fruit.

Uncomfortably, change is not always the strong suit of organised religion, and amidst the fast-paced changes of late 20th and early 21st century society, the church has probably not adapted as well, or as quickly, as we have needed to.

In this diocese, alongside many examples of faithful and valuable ministry, we find ourselves facing the challenges of a modern world. Many of these relate to our physical footprint - rising costs, costly maintenance and time-consuming compliance induce sleepless nights for many in leadership. Some of our own historic processes and structures, designed for the bigger church of vestervear, can provide unnecessary obstacles. The scarcity of people resources exasperates the issue in a church dominated by small congregations of time-poor people. We live in a fluid society where people are reluctant to commit to clubs and organisations. Incomes are stretched and people work long days volunteer hours for ministry are a luxury item for many.

We are, of course, not blind to this situation. The large number of working groups and reviews looking at these aspects of our life tell us that, whilst we might not know all the answers, leaders at every level are aware of the challenges and there is a willingness to face them. In his Charge at Diocesan Synod last year, Bishop Ross renewed the ongoing challenge for us to honestly and faithfully discuss these matters. Various gatherings of clergy and laity alike are taking up this challenge, and this year's Ministry Conference and Diocesan Synod will each provide opportunities for conversation that leads hopefully to action.

In all of this, one thing seems certain. Whilst it may need to look very different, the church will have a future. The task of pruning, if we can bravely undertake it, will allow for new growth. The vine to which we belong is, after all, Christ. As the Gospel goes on to say: 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.' (John 15:5)

Archdeacon Michael Berry

Extract from an article in 'The Anglican' July 2024

The power of silence with God

Have you wondered what 'contemplative prayer' is about?

We share a few words of inspiration, and then simply sit in silence before God, for 20 minutes.

One member writes: it has 'helped me to be still and listen to God's Word.'

I love quiet surroundings, but in our shared silence, I realise how noisy my own thoughts are! Inside and outside don't often match. It's a challenge to keep letting go of my own agendas, to 'Let go and let God.' Worth persevering with, though.

Find us on **Zoom**, every Wednesday, at 9:45am for about 30 minutes.

Anne Priestley

Coffee & K's

Our Coffee & Ks walks on the fourth Saturday each month are continuing since Vaoa's last walk with us on 27th April. We are so fortunate that Vaoa established theses walk during her time with us before moving with Kerry to Altona in Melbourne.

On 25th May we explored a new area at Point England Reserve on the Tamaki Esturay near Glendowie. The very cold showery morning turned to sunshine and that area was sheltered from the S/W wind so we were blessed with an enjoyable flat walk on a new concrete pathway with BBQ tables and seats along the way under Pohutakawa trees on the edge of the harbour. (A jolly good place for summer picnics!) Coffee was enjoyed at Merchants Eatery in Glen Innes.

22nd June found us exploring another new walking spot at Kauri Glenn Reserve in Northcote where the council had formally opened the beautiful treetop boardwalk on 1st May. This was quite a treat as it was totally new in a very large grove of Kauri trees of all sizes, right in the heart of Northcote, adjacent to Northcote College

After the walk we all drove back to BOUY cafe in Westhaven where 24 of us took up a lot of their space on the outside deck overlooking the immense marina! We enjoyed coffee with a variety of the enormous scones they specialise in producing.

On 27th July we walked around Paratai Drive to admire the wonderful harbour views and amazing architectural homes and landscaped gardens, then down Okahu Bay Road to Tamaki Drive and back to our cars in Paratai Drive. A table was booked for coffee at Akarana Eatery in Okahu Bay, which we enjoyed on a gloriously sunny winter's day.

We are very blessed in Auckland to have so many excellent reserves, parks and walking tracks to explore, so we will continue to find new places to enjoy. †

Annette McGrevy & Ronnie Kay













Kaye's Retirement from Sibuns

Her 'out of office' is on... for good! Kaye Shannon has retired after 22 years of working at Sibuns Funeral Directors.

Kaye started with Sibuns in 2002 as the office administrator, has worked her way up and was proud to be leading a great dedicated team in such rewarding worthwhile work. With a background in nursing, a Bachelors degree in Psychology, and some banking experience along the way, these all contributed to her natural affinity for the role of a funeral director.

Kaye has been a frequent visitor to St Aidan's as a funeral director, a member of the AAW, has enjoyed attending the St Francis Day Pet Service, and having the St Aidan's choir at the Sibuns 'Tribute in Lights' event.

She wishes you all well as she heads into the next chapter of her life and hopes to still see some of you along the way.

Kaye and her westie, Spencer, have been associated with Sibuns for many years, but leave the business in good hands with a dedicated team. †

Storm Deuss

Endowment Trust

Thank you on behalf of future parishioners.

The Endowment Trust was established in 2014 to help secure the financial future of St Aidan's in good times and bad. It is managed by the General Trust Board of the Anglican Diocese of Auckland who ensure that the investment of the capital fund is secure and when appropriate they distribute the income.

A <u>pamphlet</u> is downloadable from our website, or available from our Gathering Area, with more details about the Trust. If you would like to speak to someone further about the Endowment Trust please contact Russell Florence or John Priestley. †





An important plan for the future

Having worked in the medical field we could see the need for a plan to move into older age sensibly, and it is now our plan comes into being, as we reach that time of life.

We needed to assess what our needs might be. In time we will no longer be able to manage the maintenance of the house and garden needing to get outside help. We may not be able to drive any longer. It is our wish that we make the move together while we still can and make new memories in our new environment.

We know that looking to the future we may need a variety of medical support, so we have chosen a place that fulfils all those needs. Independent living, Rest Home, Hospital, Dementia and Hospice care all available in the one location so we can remain close to each other despite needing different levels of care.

We have chosen a Retirement Village in our local environment where we know the area and many people who have been part of our lives still live.

We look forward to moving into our new abode despite leaving our lovely home and view that we have loved living in for 21 years. We acknowledge that this plan is not everyone's ideal, but it ticks all the boxes for us.

Having lived through the difficult care of our own elderly parents, we do not wish to become a burden to family who have their own lives to lead. It all made sense when our daughter commented, "Thank you for making this change, I really appreciate what you are doing."

Gail and Murray Hodder



Reflections on change

Knowing that I'd retired a few months ago I was asked if I'd write something on change (in this case retirement) - and so here it is.

After musing on the general topic of 'change' in my own life and of change generally, I decided to start with the Oxford definition of the noun, 'change', which is "becoming or making other or different... and difference from previous state". Ah, I thought, we can instigate change in our lives or have it thrust upon us unexpectedly.

In my case I'd thought about retirement and when to do so for a good three years before actually making the decision to give formal notice to my employer. Why did I put off for so long in making the decision? Various things come to mind – fear of the finances not being enough, fear of becoming invisible, fear of becoming a sour, miserly OAP, fear of becoming old, fear of not having enough to occupy both brain and body... and so on.

I don't like uncertainty in life, and I'm fairly certain you don't either – most of us don't. It generates fears and pictures in my head of potential tragedy, loss and catastrophe – none of which have ever happened, I admit. I realise now I'm wired this way and must deal with it as best I can until I'm through the change and the 'new' circumstance is now the norm.

Ronnie Kay

Update from the Nominating Committee

As advised to those at Church on Sunday 7th July, we, as the Parish-appointed nominators, have been joined by Bishop Ross, the Rev'd Tony Surman, vicar of St Mark's Remuera and Fay Pankhurst, a lay member from St Peter's Takapuna to form the Nomination Committee.

Advertising of the Vicar role commenced on Wednesday 10 July with applications closing on 9th August. It is intended that the Committee will have met on 11 August to short-list candidates ahead of interviews commencing on 18th August. We have chosen these dates to provide the opportunity for a new vicar to start alongside Louise before the end of this year. However, that will ultimately be dependent upon the applications that are received. As a Committee, we are very focused on discerning the right appointment rather than feeling under pressure to make an appointment for the sake of an appointment.

We appreciate your prayers and support as we progress the nomination process.

Flourishing in retirement

After many years of satisfying work with the same organisation, I retired six months ago. I had spent some time beforehand thinking and praying about it and I handed in my retirement early. As the time drew nearer I was looking forward to my last day. When people asked me what I planned to do, I would reply that I didn't really have plans but lots of ideas.

After a short Christmas holiday I found myself "retired". My husband is still working part time so some days we are together. For the first few days "alone", I felt quite rudderless without my usual routine. I thought up a new routine but haven't continued it – housework is still not my favourite activity! I was really surprised that I didn't miss work at all although one does miss the daily interactions with staff I had known for many years.

People already retired warned me not to get sucked into too many new activities and I have heeded that. I have more time for St Aidans' activities and a weekly exercise class. I find daily walks help me to sleep better. I enjoy reading and doing puzzles and I have more time for a cuppa with friends.

I was encouraged recently by the words of Psalm 92: The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

I look forward to fruitful flourishing as the sap rises!

Christine Roke

The hard decision to make a change

My encounter with cancer again, last year, resulted in some time of prayerful reflection as I considered how I might move forward. After a period of discernment with God, it felt the right decision to plan to step back from full time ministry, and take early retirement with effect from the middle of February 2025.

Whilst I still love everything about being at St Aidan's, and carrying out the work that I am doing, with both of my girls living overseas and a brother with poor health, I feel it is important to release more time to spend with family and make use of the greater freedom that will come with not working in a parish.

Change is never easy, however it is good to know that God is with us every step of the way.

Young Adults Pilgrimage

As most of you will know, our Holy Land pilgrimage was cancelled last year. What's happening in the Holy Land is devastating, and we continue to hold the people in our prayers.

In terms of our pilgrimage, although we're currently unable to visit the Holy Land, we were lucky enough to have the St John's College Trust Board agree to redirect our funding. This decision means that we are now heading on a different kind of pilgrimage! We'll be heading away from 2nd October - 22nd October this year as a group of ten: Izzi, Nic, and myself, along with other members of the Community of Ordinary Saints.

We will spend a week in Iona, where we will take part in Alastair McIntosh's "Pilgrimage of Life" course. Although this is quite a change from our original trip itinerary, I am intrigued to hear from Alastair about his perspective on climate change and spirituality. You can read more about the course here: iona.org.uk/event/pilgrimage-of-life/

We will then travel to Assisi, home of St Francis, and spend three nights there. I've heard there are amazing spots to visit, so I'm looking forward to this as well. There will be travel days in between, and I'm sure there will be some fun bonding with the group! We're so appreciative of the chance to go on this spiritual journey together.

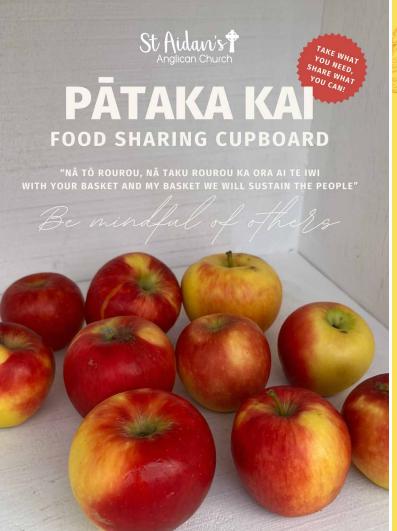
Can't wait to share with you all how this trip goes!

Isobell Tregoweth

While I am sad that we are not able to do the trip we had originally planned, I am happy that we are still able to go on a trip of a different kind. Being able to go to Iona and Assisi is exciting and I think we will get a lot out of going to places. Even though some of the group that we were going with has changed, I am still looking forward to being able to journey with those coming and am thankful that it is still possible for something like this to go ahead. †

Nic Mercer

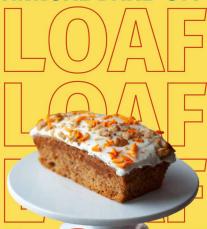
If you would like to make a contribution to the Young Adults' pilgimage, you can deposit to Nic Mercer's bank account # 12-3086-0226097-51 with reference STA.
*Please note: this is not an eligible charitable donation.







ANNUAL BAKE-OFF



LOAF

SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

AFTER OUR 9:30AM SERVICE (APPROX. 10:30AM), A MYSTERY JUDGE WILL TASTE ALL OF THE COMPETING LOAVES.

THE REST WILL BE SOLD - \$1 FOR TWO SLICES - AS PART OF OUR
GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISING.





JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
YOUR HARD WORK FROM THE
2024 GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

6-7.30PM GATHERING AREA

ALL VOLUNTEERS INVITED



Pastoral care through prayer support for specific needs.

Let us know the name of the person who needs prayer. If you would like to provide further information, please keep it brief e.g. health, relational. We pray for people holistically.

Contact Karel or write a note and leave it in the Prayer Circle box in the Gathering Area.

Information remains confidential

KERRY & VAOA FAREWELL:

Kerry & Vaoa's farewell was held on Sunday 5th of May, following the 9:30am service. Thanks to all who were able to make it on the day, contributed kai and or helped out in the kitchen.

We then held a delayed viewing of Kerry's service of Commissioning as Vicar of The Parish of Altona on Friday 24th May.

Many blessings to Kerry & Vaoa in their new season!





















Mānawatia

This winter saw our third year of celebrating Matariki as an official public holiday in Aotearoa New Zealand, and the first time St Aidan's has included Matariki celebrations in our calendar.

While Kerry was still with us, we had discussed the possibility of moving our annual Blue Christmas service to Matariki weekend, in line with the principle of remembrance and honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki. With Kerry's departure, plans were put on the backburner and felt like just a bit too much trouble, as so much often does during the cold of months of winter.

However, as the date came closer, I felt a need for something to raise my spirits. Having had several family members and friends in Tasmania pass away during the last year, I wanted to take time to acknowledge the loss, and have something to look forward to, and gradually the idea took on a life of its own.

We chose to hold the event on the Thursday before the public holiday. This allowed those going away for the long weekend to still be involved, and, as some of these people were involved with the organisation, to actually hold it!

The church was carefully set up by Louise and Christina with reflective activities to go through at your own pace. These included:

- Prayer Stars prayers and hopes for the future written on a star shape and pinned to a fabric 'sky'
- Art Contemplation looking at a painting from a new perspective, and contemplating how it relates to your current feelings or state of mind
- Candles of Remembrance a cross shaped sand tray where candles could be lit in remembrance of loved ones who have passed away
- Seed Planting looking to, and planning for, the future, by planting vegetable seeds for food and flowers to enjoy





a Matariki

Matariki Hunga Nui - Remembrance

Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki

Matariki Ahunga Nui - Celebrating the Present

Gathering together to give thanks for what we have

Matariki Manako Nui - Looking to the Future

Looking forward to the promise of a new year

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars, that rises in midwinter and for many Māori, heralds the start of the new year.

Mānawatia a Matariki

Hopefully, the stargazing hīkoi and breakfast will become an annual event, and perhaps expand to incorporate more activities. My thanks to Jenny Haggitt for her assistance in the kitchen making breakfast for 20 or so people, and, of course, to those who brought along the food for us to cook – beans, bacon, eggs, potato hash, sausages, and toast.

Anne Godman



Around 6am, a group of about a dozen parishioners and whanau walked to the summit of Ōhinerau (Mt Hobson). We gathered at the summit and looked out and up across the sleepy city.

At first we were a bit uncertain which stars were Matariki. After some debate, and with assistance from a stargazing app, we identified the Matariki cluster, a glistening pyramid of stars low in the eastern sky.

As the dawn sky paled and reddened, we held a time of prayer and reflection. I left the group at this point, but the rest of the group walked down the mountain and on to St Aidan's to enjoy a special cooked breakfast.

This was an opportunity to do something out of the ordinary, connect with others in the community, and to remember those who have died in the past year.

Thanks to Louise and the parish leaders for organising this event.

Alastair Priestley

Pins & Needles

Thank you to all our knitters, sewers and crocheters. This group has been meeting monthly this year with 15 – 19 ladies attending.

The Pins and Needles Group continues to create lovely articles for the Anglican Trust for Women and Children, The Counties Manukau Community Midwives, Aged Concern, Auckland City Mission and others.

We have sent several boxes of clothing and blankets to a midwife in Kawakawa in the north who was most grateful to receive such lovely garments and it is our wish to continue donating to the north.

Many thanks also to our outworkers who knit for us even though they are unable to attend our meetings. We really appreciate receiving your lovely garments.

The "angel babies" are not forgotten as Zoya makes the most beautiful little outfits so these little angels can be returned to their grieving families looking lovely.

At our last meeting we welcomed young Isabella who came with her grandmother, and it was lovely to watch her learning to knit. Cassandra, a young student from Hong Kong also came along with her host and was interested to learn how to knit – it was lovely to have the young so interested in learning how to knit. We hope to welcome them back during their next school holidays.

We welcome newcomers to the group, and we are happy to teach anyone who wishes to learn how to knit. We are happy to provide yarn, patterns and needles.

Writing for Change

When we catch even a glimpse of God's kingdom, we soon notice that the world around us is not 'there' yet!

People are unjustly imprisoned or killed. Journalists are targeted because they speak truth to power. Food is produced unsustainably, or packaged in material which cannot be recycled. In health, education, housing, transport, justice... there are pressing issues to be addressed, to achieve better futures for God's people and God's planet alike.

We can make small changes in our own lives, but social and economic structures tend to resist fundamental change, unless encouraged - or challenged. And so, we write.





We meet on the second Monday of each month in the Gathering Area at St Aidan's 10am to midday.

We miss Kerry, our associate priest, who now resides in Melbourne. He and Vaoa are well settled and enjoying their new environment. Kerry and Vaoa send their love and best wishes to us all. †

Gail Hodder

WRITING GROUP

Meeting on the last Friday of each month, 10am to 11:30am in the Gathering Area.

Bring your own device (wifi is available), or pen and paper.



Is this work 'political'? It might be.

Is this work important? Yes.

Join us one Friday, and write for change. You may have your own issue to pursue, or you could learn about someone else's and join their work.

Held in the Gathering Area, last Friday of the month, 10am to 11:30am. For more information, please talk to me. †

Mission Shop

Last month, parishioner Elisabeth Wilson's daughter, Robyn, called in to the Mission Shop to buy some clothes for the children of the school in Kenya where Robyn's daughter works. Robyn visited her daughter in Kenya and took the clothes with her.

It is a school set up by the owner of the Laikipia Conservancy for the local children from the Pokot tribe, who are a herding tribe, so the people are not well educated and tend to solve things with violence. The Conservancy had had problems with them in the past - fires and shootings: so the school, funded by generous donors, was set up to educate the children. They come knowing only their Pokot language - no Swahili or English. Sixty children attend the school.

Robyn was there one day at the end of school when they recited poems they had been learning, then they bowed their heads and said a prayer. They then took off running in all directions into the surrounding bush and disappeared on their long walks to where ever they lived.

This from Robyn: "Had the best morning, quite a few of the children had their new clothes on. The group photo is with Flora the head teacher and all the children who were given some clothes".

The Mission Shop is doing very well, having passed the \$10,000 mark in July, thanks to our advertising online and Op Shopping becoming very trendy.

We had a very large donation of toys ranging from very good condition to rubbish. There was so much that finding the space for it was a problem. Sarah Hodder came into the shop with me and took a lot of the mediocre items for her Toy Library, leaving us with the better items to sell or keep for the Garage Sale. Hannah and I have been checking the jigsaws for missing pieces!

We are starting to box jumble and bric-a-brac items for the Garage Sale, as we don't have space to display them, but customers can look at them if they ask for specific items.

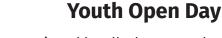
Staffing levels are good at the moment and we have enough extra cover for absences. We still have our two students on a Saturday morning doing their volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh awards. †

Jenny Haggitt

Below left: Some of the Mission Shop's former stock on display in Africa

Below: A regular customer peruses the stock







The Youth Open Day was enjoyed by all who came along, with a wide range of games, activities, all topped off by homemade milkshakes. While it was not as many as we had hoped for, it was great to be able to connect with youth who were new to the area as well as others who were passing by and wanted to see what was going on. It was good to be able to show what the St Aidan's Youth Group is all about and to have conversations with those who wanted to learn more.

Keep an eye out for more events like this in the future, or if you want to keep up to date with what the Youth Group is up to, send me an email - youth@staidans.co.nz

Parish Annual Quiz

Our Annual Quiz was held on 26th July, with 11 tables and around 70 quizzers competing for their table's 'country'. Utopia were the winners (*top left*), with Mexico winning the best dressed team (*top right*), France the best decorated table, and Anne Godman the best costume.

Thank you everyone who contributed to the success of the evening with setting up, donating, buying, serving, quizzing, and cleaning, which helped us raise over \$2,000 for Auckland City Mission food bank. Special thanks Jenny Haggitt and Barbara Weir for their organisation, and Quizmaster Dave Finn.











The Apostle | St Aidan's Day













Maintenance Team Report

Behind-the-scenes maintenance activity at St Aidan's continues with its usual regularity.

Hall Kitchen Hot Water

As part of the reconstruction work for the Hall toilets it became necessary to isolate the hot water cylinder under the stairs to the upstairs offices. This cylinder was installed when the hall complex was constructed in the mid-1960s and has therefore given exemplary service.

Isolating the water and power revealed that some of the elements (5 in total!) were not working. This was of little consequence as it is now many years since the shower cubicles have been used, however the hall

kitchen does require hot water when in use, and herein lay the problem... with the toilets refurbishment underway, power to the cylinder was not possible.

Work-arounds can usually be arranged in temporary situations and this was no different. When the hall kitchen was to be used, a temporary supply was rigged up to one element. The time taken to heat the water was significant and required planning in advance but at least it worked! Fortunately most hall hirers don't

wish to use the kitchen which was a relief to the maintenance team. However, a permanent solution was definitely required, and a decision was made to use an instant water-heater and mount it on the kitchen wall in the vicinity of the left-side sink.

Accordingly, one Saturday morning a couple of weeks ago, the team turned up to the Hall kitchen to make a start. Three hours later the heater was on the wall, and an electrical cable run via conduit through the left wall of the kitchen to the hall foyer. Following that, an evening's work saw the cable run across the foyer to the switchboard, then a couple of hours on a subsequent Saturday morning saw the cable permanently wired into the switchboard.

It was indeed pleasing to turn the power on, go to the kitchen, make a few button presses, and then turn on a tap to find hot water once again available at both sinks. Even better, the hot water arrives far more quickly now, as it doesn't have to flow from under the stairs via the lengthy route to the kitchen.

Sanctuary Lighting

The sanctuary lighting project continues, albeit at a slower pace than intended. The existing lights are still in place, although another one failed earlier this year. Given their unsatisfactory performance and difficulty in procuring suitable replacements, one of the failed light fittings has been stripped out and refitted with an in-house designed light array.

Tests so far are encouraging, but it appears summer temperatures in that part of the ceiling are a major factor. For that reason, additional design work is underway on the lights which will hopefully address that problem.

Western Carpark 'Lake'

Parishioners using the Remuera Road carpark may have noticed a small 'lake' forms at the lowest end of the carpark after rain. This is due to the storm-water sump outside the

Gathering Area kitchen becoming severely clogged up with leaves etc. Fortunately this was fairly easy to remedy: unbolt the chain securing the grate, lift and then dig out the sump. The amount of accumulated debris was significant and was completely blocking the outlet. Clearing this made a huge difference and it has been satisfying to see the 'lake' not appear again, although of course this is only a matter of time.

As always, the maintenance jobs are a team effort. Those involved take sufficient reward from seeing successful outcomes from their work, and for the money saved to go instead to the various Parish ministries. †

The Maintenance Team



Below: Blessing of the Gathering Area kitchen after the completion of the refurbishment



We All Sing at St Aidan's

As Music Facilitator I was delighted to read the latest RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) quarterly CMQ. This magazine aims to promote and support using music in churches.

Adrian Bautree's article caught my eye with its title - "'I Get My Husband Back' - Singing and Dementia." Adrian wrote about, "the value of music in engaging those living with the challenge of dementia and loneliness". We can all relate to the isolation that COVID-19 restrictions brought us. Some of you without computers might recall asking for a favourite hymn to sing together during at least one of my phone calls, or the music links (usually with a scripture) sent to others. Singing together helps us to talk about St Aidan's as our church. At my retirement village I repeatedly see the smiles as performer groups talk about singing at our 'Memory Centre' and 'watching the lights come on' in listeners' eyes as the singing begins. Adrian's article repeated many of the ideas I have written about in previous articles.

Singing God's praise together is such an important part of our services to not only support the message of the day but also our experiencing 'community'. The Israelites knew this long ago. Check the subtitles of each psalm. Psalm 120 -134 are the songs they sang together as they walked to Jerusalem for their annual week-long camp out, Festival of Booths. *The singing set the scene for the temple's highlight ceremony of worship, as they climbed upwards. Can you picture the sight and sounds? (Remember their sense of 'tune' differed to ours). As they climbed and sang, their 'holy day' had already begun.

Adrian also emphasised how singing is for everyone. I quote...'I'm not doing that, I can't sing.' How often have I heard that (me too). One lady told me that during her school choir practice she was asked to mime (and later before the performance) that even her miming was too loud! At church it doesn't matter whether you sing well. Everyone can sing. God blesses us as a congregation and individually (physically, mentally, emotionally as well as spiritually) as we sing His praise together.

Many St Aidan's folk have this love of singing no matter how good they feel about their own sound. It was a delight to me as I waited home for treatment, semi isolated, to hear how Anne in the office has responded to several requests about repeating 'Sing Your Favourite Hymns' this year. Anne stepped up to ask Anita Banbury, a life member of our local RSCM committee, if she could lead another.

Immediately, a primary school classmate of mine, Brian Millar, agreed to play the organ again. Put a ring around the afternoon of November 3. Anita just needs you to let Anne know what your favourite hymn is by the beginning of October, so Anita can put together a workable programme. Watch out for more details in future weekly newsletters.

Meanwhile, all singers in the diocese are invited by Peter Watts to join with cathedral singers at 'Come and Sing Evensong'. Singers have a single afternoon rehearsal (let Peter know so he has music for you) while everyone is invited to join worship in the 5 pm Evensong on September 1. Looking further ahead, another RSCM committee member has told me how much Cantemus Choir is looking forward again to singing Lessons and Carols in St Aidan's at the beginning of December.

Let's keep on singing our praises together. Here is the last verse of the CMQ's 'hymn of the issue', O Praise Ye the Lord (words by W Baker, tune Laudate Dominic by C H H Parry):

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song to him be outpoured all ages long for love in creation, for heaven restored, for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

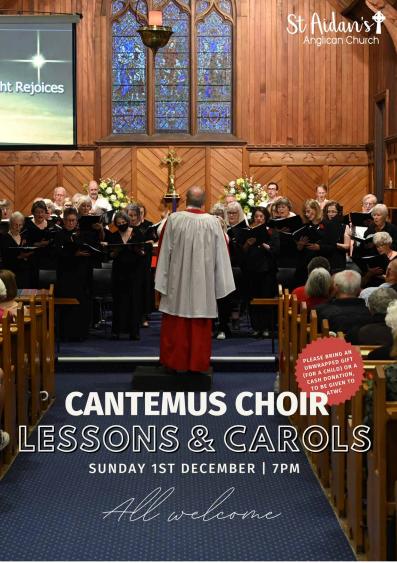
Hope this is of use. While I can't attend in person yet, it's good to be able to use my time and electronics this way and keep in touch. †

Antoinette Pope

* ref. Jesus Fulfils the Festival of Booths Gary DeLashmutt 11/18/2012





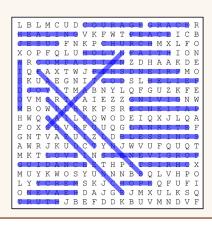


Coconut Carrot Cake Loaf

INGREDIENTS

- 3 eggs
- 1/3 cup stewed apples or applesauce
- 4 Tbs maple syrup
- 2 Tbs coconut oil, melted
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1¾ cup (200g) ground almonds
- 2 Tbs coconut flour
- 1½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp bicarbonate soda
- 1½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup grated carrot
- ¾ cup (60g) coconut flakes or shredded coconut

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 175°C (155°C fan-forced) and line a loaf tin with parchment paper.

Whisk the oil, applesauce, eggs, maple syrup and vanilla together in a large bowl.

Add the ground almonds, coconut flour, baking powder and soda and cinnamon and whisk to combine.

Stir in grated carrots and coconut flakes.

Pour the batter into the loaf tin and bake for 40-45 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean.

Remove from the oven and leave to cool completely on a wire rack before serving. †

Recipe courtesy of www.woolworths.co.nz/recipes

Women's Evening Fellowship (WEF)

Here we are more than halfway through the winter again, with our group continuing to be supported by between 13 – 20 regular attenders.

March: We had parishioner Emily Paul come to talk to us about "Sustainability Beyond Environmental Impact". Emily gave us a wonderful insight into her whole family's involvement into growing and using every part of their garden for producing food for family, friends and neighbours.

She came laden with fresh produce for the group from her garden which was a real treat. (Photo next page)

April: We had a visit from Terena Griffiths from St Philips parish in St Heliers to talk to about her Chip Packet programme. She came with her ironing board and her iron, so that we could all have a practice at making them! Terena has many schools pupils making the blankets through the Duke of Edinburgh programme. So hopefully now not only are chip packets not ending up in landfills, but they are also providing a valuable resource.

May: We were very pleased to have Allyson Gofton with us again to talk about changes In baking and dietary habits during our lives. She and Jan made some lovely dainty scones, more the size which our mothers would have made them, to serve to us all. Then as an experiment

Allyson also bought 6 scones from a variety of places to show us the difference. We were so interested to see the size, weights and prices of todays scones in comparison with yesterdays smaller versions.

June: We had another of our own parishioner's Christine Roke come to speak to us about her trip to Iceland. Her talk was named "Iceland - Land of Fire and Ice" and it was fascinating. We loved her talk and also her photos of the amazing scenery. More detail of Christine's talk about her trip to Iceland is included in the next column.

July: We were lucky enough to have another of our parishioners Josephine Anandanayagam talk to us about her 10 day walk with her sister at the end of the Camino de Santiago. She had wonderful photos and inspired us with her enthusiasm so much so that several of us were wishing that we were a bit younger.

It has been such a bonus to have had several parishioners come to talk to us. Our group have really enjoyed getting to know them and, who knows, some may even join us when they can. †

Jan Evans' Team

Iceland – Land of Fire and Ice (and waterfalls and fjords)

My husband and I visited Iceland last year – it had been on our bucket list for a while. We flew to the capital Reyjkavik where we spent a few days doing day trips around the south west area. We soaked in the Blue Lagoon geothermal baths and our hotel room and hot water in Reykjavik were heated by geothermal steam piped many kilometres.

The Lutheran church dominates the Reykjavik skyline and we took the lift up to its outlook over the town. Then we took a cruise from Reykjavik visiting four Icelandic areas, sailing up picturesque fjords, before travelling on via the Faroe Islands to the UK.

We were amazed at the high volume waterfalls in late summer from melting icecaps in the centre of Iceland. While some areas were covered in lava, often covered in lichens, green pastures covered other areas.

We were fortunate to have sunny weather most of the time, one day visiting a beautiful island where the locals protect the eider ducks from predators and another day walking through lupins to a cliff where seabirds were nesting. We visited beautiful Thingvellir National Park and walked along the rift between the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates.

We learnt about Iceland's history and the Vikings both while we were there and from a series of lectures on board.

If you are looking for a different place to visit, do think of Iceland. Meanwhile, the Women's Evening Fellowship monthly meetings are a good opportunity to share interesting aspects of our lives.

Christine Roke



Right:
Hallgrimskirkja was
built to reflect the
basalt columns from
the south coast.
The statue in the
foreground is of
Leif Erikson, the first
European to visit
America

More Parish Life Photos



Women's Evening Fellowship



Mother's Day



Final Staff Meeting with Kerry



Coffee & K's



AAW Meeting



Cleaning Bee



Sunday Hospitality



Kids' Talk

Community Noticeboard

Remuera Library Relocation

The Remuera library has officially relocated to Somervell Presbyterian Church (497 Remuera Road, corner of Greenlane East) for approx. twelve months while the library building undergoes extensive renovations.



St Andrew's Church

Strewberry Feir

Saturday 9 November 2024 Opens at 9am 100 St Andrew's Road, Epsom

Seeking Creative Art

towards a

St George's Creative Arts Event

Friday night, Saturday, Sunday 15, 16, 17 November

Working theme: Born Again

graphic arts, sculpture, photography, iconography, embroidery, crochet, multimedia, poetry, prose, music, dance, kittens....

Contact:
Lyn Farhi<mark>: lynfa</mark>rhi@hotmail.com
Steve Barnett: steve.barnett.clear@gmail.com



PILATES

with Kimberley
Every Saturday
11am
\$20 – try your first
class free
Please bring your own mat



RUGBYTOTS

Classes:
8.20am - 2 to 3.5 year olds,
9am - 3.5 to 5 year olds,
9.55am - 3.5 to 5 year olds
Saturday mornings
(during terms)
Contact: 021 878 335
auckland@rugbytots.co.nz,
www.rugbytots.co.nz



REMUERA CHINESE ASSOCIATION

Activities: Ballroom Dance.
Ping pong. Yoga Classes.
National dance performance
of the art troupe.
Professional teacher teaches
dance for free.
Mondays 10am - 12:30pm



KRMA

Family-friendly dojo learning effective self-defence techniques. Build up your self-confidence and fitness!

Open to all ages 6 years up and all fitness levels.

Classes are held on Mondays & Wednesdays from 6-7.30pm (excluding school holidays) First 2 classes are free!



BALL BASICS Our Multi Sports classes use a

variety of equipment and activities to develop hand-eye coordination, agility & listening skills for under 5s
Thursday mornings
9.15am - 10.00am
Contact Lisa for a
Free trial class
021 589 707

ST AIDAN'S HALL HIRERS

JUST SOME OF THE GROUPS WHO USE OUR FACILITIES



YOGA CLASSES

Every Monday and Friday at 8.45 am for 1 hour Free trial for first-timers Suitable for all levels Beginners welcome For more information, please visit: yogaone.co.nz or call 021 1349 000



MAINLY MUSIC

Music, dance, and interactive play for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their parent or caregiver.

Wednesdays 10am
First session free, then \$4 per week for each family (or \$30/term)
No waiting list!



DEBEAT DANCE

Social Dancing – New Vogue,
Sequence, Ballroom Latin, and
line dancing.
7.30–10.30pm
Dances are held on the
first and third Fridays
of each month.
Contact Julie Gin.
021 2151919

SENIORS TIME TO DANCE

Thursday 10:30am
Enjoy the freedom of
dance with people your age.
Bringing together mind,
body, and spirit.
Speak to Sue to try a class
for free



FLEXERCISE FITNESS CLASSES

Tuesdays 10am
Contact: Val Wightman
valwightman@xtra.co.nz
or 0210 705 749





DONATIONS NEED

Calling all Parishioners, their families and friends of St Aidan's

We are accepting quality saleable items of furniture, toys, books, media, antiques, and high-end items for our ANNUAL GARAGE SALE, held on Saturday 14th September at 8am.

DROP-OFF DAYS

Drop off to the Social Lounge* (Located in between the Church and Hall)

Tuesday and Thursday, 4pm to 6pm

27th & 29th August | 3rd & 5th September

Saturday and Sunday, 11am to 1pm

31st August | 1st, 7th, 8th September

Donations directly to the Hall in the final week

9th - 13th September, 9am-5pm.

Please note: we will not be accepting beds, filing cabinets, TVs, computers, printers, electrical items and white goods this year.

*We can collect oversized items by arrangement.

5 ASCOT AVENUE, REMUERA



Giving to St Aidan's

Scan to see your options for supporting the work of St Aidan's financially.

ST AIDAN'S MAP



From the Registers

April to August 2024

Baptisms

George Williams Geraline Ooi Khoo George Grant Millie Grant

Weddings

Isabel Bridgman & Malcolm Kerr

Funerals

Roy Adams Diana Davidson Dorothy Bartley



Kids' Church

Lessons, Activities, and Crafts - Oh My!

Term two of Kids' Church went well, with lots of variety in our sessions! We've celebrated Pentecost, Mother's Day, Trinity Sunday, and said goodbye to Kerry and Vaoa, to name a few.

We've played games like Simon Says to think about the difference between obeying and honouring someone (Mother's Day) and a fill-in-the-blanks game about the story of Pentecost. We've done object lessons like testing if rocks or sand were more sturdy as a foundation (Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders) and an, "I'll believe it when I see it", paper magic trick (Doubting Thomas). For crafts, we've made paper flowers for our mums, faith flame lanterns for Pentecost, a big vine with each child adding a branch and leaf for themselves (Parable of the Vine and the Branches), people paper chains (Disability Sunday), and much more. Depending on the Bible story and lesson, it's been a good mix of activities and crafts each week! †

Izzi Hoskyn

WORD SEARCH (Solution on Page 21)

LBLMCUDCOURAGEGRAC EALI NGV KFWTPE A C \mathbf{E} J E S U S F N K P C H U R C H M X XOPFQLUHOLYNFAITHION WRCOMPASSIONZDHAAKDE AXTWJPIHSDNEIRF KUAEGNITGODSLBEL YITMABNYLQFGUZ S RTVAIEZZ GNIV G VMΡ LHRKP SR ЕC ΝE В W Т Т W \bigcirc Ι \mathbb{L} F Q W 0 D \mathbf{E} Ι Q Χ R F U U Q G L Ν E UΙ Z $_{\rm L}$ D В L E S K U D C Τ Y N J WVH F LOVEINSSENEV GUIDANCEETHPSTSIRH MUYKWOSYUNNNBSQLVH LYYCREMSKJCHOPEOFUFI ONEVAEHDAJGEJMXULKS RUTHJBEFDDKBUVMN

Word list:

BELIEF BI ESSINGS CHRIST CHURCH COMPASSION COURAGE FTFRNAL **FAITH FAITHFULNESS**

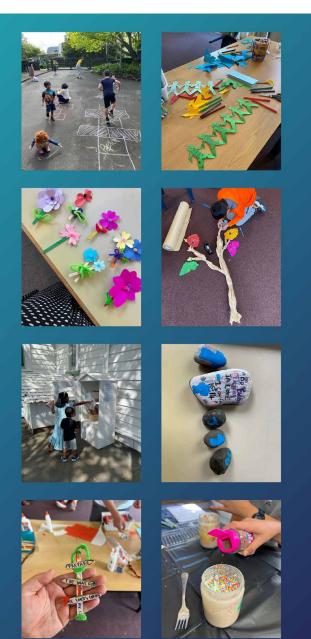
FORGIVENESS

FRIENDSHIP GIVING GOD GRACE GUIDANCE HEALING HFAVEN HOLY HOPE **JESUS**

JOY LOVE MERCY OBEDIENCE **PATIENCE PEACE** SALVATION SPIRIT TRUTH WISDOM







Just for Laughs

What do you call a sleeping bull? A bull-dozer.

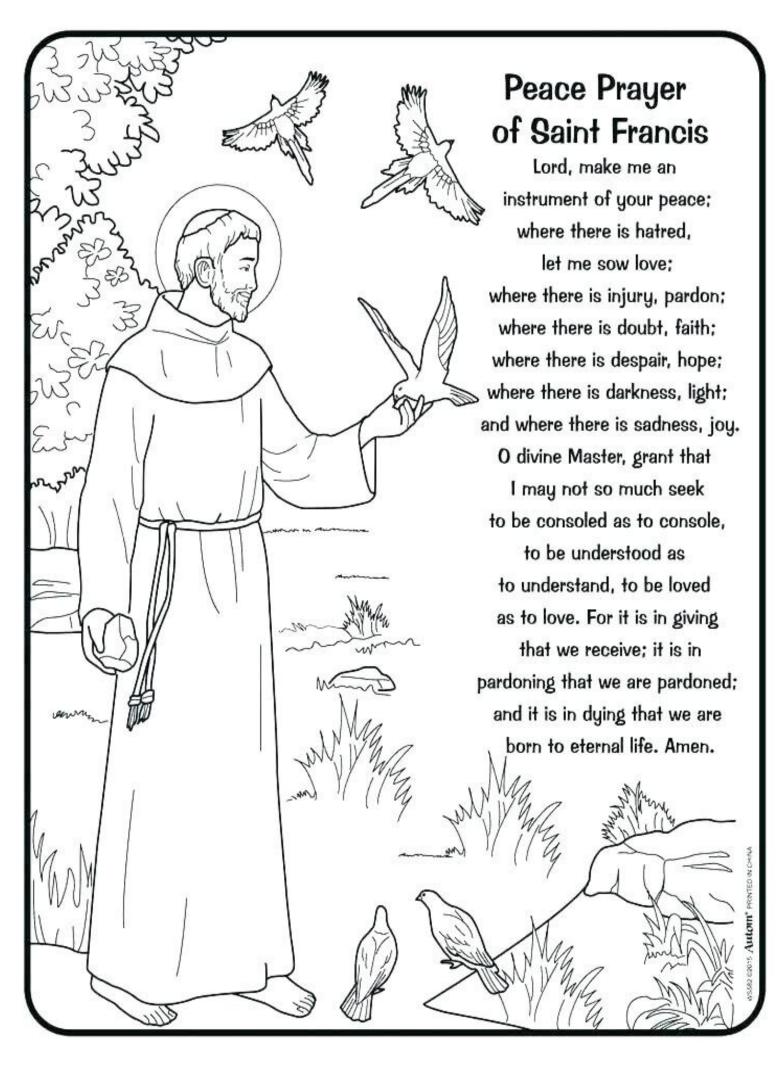
What did the farmer call the cow that had no milk?

An udder failure.

Why are teddy bears never hungry? They are always stuffed!

Why is a fish easy to weigh? Because it has its own scales!

What is always 'out of bounds'? An exhausted kangaroo! †



Contacts at St Aidan's

Office Administrator Anne Godman office@staidans.co.nz 09 929 4670 ext 1

Available: Mon-Fri 9am-3:30pm

Vicar
The Revd Louise Anderson
louise@staidans.co.nz

027 448 4467

Available: Tues pm - Sat am, Sun

Priest Associate Vacant

Curate The Rev'd Christina Turner <u>christina@staidans.co.nz</u>

Kids' Church Coordinator Izzi Hoskyn <u>children@staidans.co.nz</u>

mainly music Coordinator Hannay Scharf mainlymusic@staidans.co.nz

Youth Leader Nic Mercer youth@staidans.co.nz

Website & Social Media Content Manager Isobell Tregoweth isobell@staidans.co.nz

Vicar's Warden James Parkinson

People's Warden Desré Simpson

