

THE APOSTLE

CHRISTMAS 2023

Young People & Families
Lunch pg 10

Introducing Christina pg 20

AAW High Tea pg 24

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

Vicar's Foreword

Welcome to our final magazine for the year.

If you are like me you may be wondering what happened to 2023, as it seems to have sped by with alarming speed. Perhaps it's because we as a church have done and been involved in many things. Just one look at this recent edition of The Apostle gives you a taste of what we've been up to, and what's in store at St Aidan's. Isobell and Anne have worked hard on this latest edition and I particularly love the posters that have been created to advertise the various events leading up to Christmas, along with the ones early in 2024.

While our church groups always enjoy one another's company, it is in purposeful ways. The Pins & Needles group knitted beanies for the homeless and those sleeping rough in our city, and are now making holding crosses - read page 18 to find out more. Meantime, the AAW gathered for a High Tea to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation, as shown in the photos of the ladies in pink on page 24. Don't miss the kids and youth page in the centre of the magazine for examples of their recent artwork, plus you can read about the families lunch where games kept the younger members entertained whilst the more mature had a chance to talk, catch up, and get to know one another better.

Advent marks the start of the church's New Year, and in this edition we discover plenty of new beginnings in our parish. More importantly it is the time when we remember the coming of Christ. I am particularly drawn to the image on the cover of this magazine with its invitation of the pathway and the hope of the star shining brightly in the darkness.



My prayer is that each of us will know afresh God's companionship on our respective journeys; whether we are in a season of joy or whether we are navigating a season of darkness. We worship a God who understands every human experience and accompanies us by his Spirit. Let us never forget that the name Emmanuel, used so often at Christmas, speaks of how near God is to us.

Why not come and join us for a service or some carol singing this year (see page 5 for what's on and page 16 for Christmas service times) and please think about who else you might like to invite along. †

Blessings,

Rev'd Louise Anderson

Louise

St Aidan's Anglican Church

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We welcome your contributions and photos for the Easter edition of 'The Apostle' magazine. Deadline: 29th February 2024.

Find us online:

www.staidans.co.nz

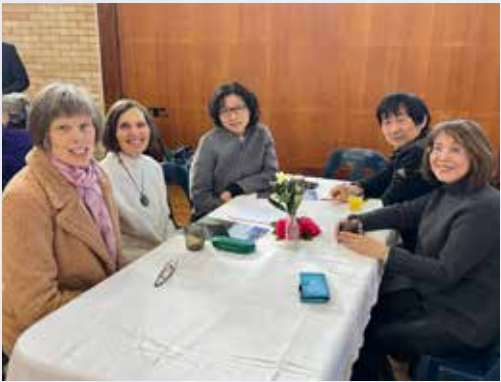
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Parish Events



St Aidan's Day Lunch

On Sunday 27th August we celebrated St Aidan's Day with our traditional shared lunch in the Hall. Although still quite cool, the heaters did a wonderful job of keeping the cold away, and there were plenty of warm smiles as well. It was encouraging to see a wide range of ages of current St Aidan's 'saints' in attendance too.

Some word puzzle pages kept us entertained as we waited for the wonderful kitchen staff to get everything warm and ready to serve. The winning table solved every puzzle on the sheet correctly, and the rest of us were consoled by the, always abundant and sumptuous, spread of dishes on the table for lunch.

Rugby World Cup Final

We heard the call of the passionate rugby fans in the parish and we had a problem. So how do you watch a Rugby World Cup final live without impacting on Sunday worship? Well, you hold the usual 8am service but 'kick back' the 9:30am service by half an hour and start it at 10am. The invitation then was to come down to church at half time and watch it all together, or race down as soon as the final whistle blows.

Not something you see very often. Here are just some of the parish glued to the TV set, not long before the start of the service. Our cheering didn't translate to success for the All Blacks, however, as a number of our parishioners were born in South Africa, a win by the Springboks was a victory for St Aidan's nevertheless!



REGULAR MINISTRIES

Sunday Services	8am 9:30am 9am	Holy Communion. <i>Last on 17th December, resuming 4th February.</i> Family Communion. <i>Last on 17th December, resuming 4th February.</i> Summer combined services 24th December to 28th January. <i>No 8am or 9:30am services during this period.</i>
Wednesday Service	11:30am	Holy Communion. <i>Last on 20th December, resuming 14th February.</i>
Weekly Prayer		Thursday mornings at 9am. Come along or join via Zoom online or by phone. <i>Last on 21st December, resuming 1st February.</i>
AAW		A women's afternoon fellowship group. Meets monthly on 1 st Tuesday at 1:30pm. Contact Mary Parkinson. <i>Last on 5th December, resuming 5th March.</i>
Choir Practice		Saturdays at 10am in the Bethel Room. New members welcome. Contact Antoinette Pope. <i>Last on 21st December, resuming 10th February.</i>
Coffee & K's		Meets for a walk and coffee on the 4 th Saturday of each month. Contact Vaoa Davis. <i>Last on 25th November, resuming 23rd February.</i> <i>A special summer walk will be held on Saturday 20th January.</i>
Contemplative Prayer		Meets each Wednesday at 9:45am via Zoom. Contact Anne Priestley. <i>Last on 13th December, resuming 14th February.</i>
Kids' Church		All children ages 3-10 during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Izzi Hoskyn. <i>Last on 20th December, resuming 11th February.</i>
mainly music		Wednesdays during term time at 9:30am. Music and play for families with pre-school aged children. Contact Kerry Davis. <i>Last on 6th December, resuming 7th February.</i>
Men's Ministry		Meets for breakfast, last Thursday of the month at 7:30am. Contact Kerry Davis. <i>Last on 21st December, resuming 22nd February.</i>
Pins & Needles		Meets monthly on 2 nd Monday of the month. Contact Gail Hodder. <i>Last on 11th December, resuming 12th February.</i>
Small Groups		Contact Sheryl Swanevelder or Louise for more information.
Vestry		Our governing body currently meets monthly on the 4 th Thursday. Contact Louise or Kerry.
WEF		A women's evening fellowship group. Meets monthly on 3 rd Tuesday at 7:30pm. Contact Jan Evans. <i>Last on 21st November, resuming 20th February.</i>
Writing Group		Meets on the last Friday of every month at 10am. Contact Anne Priestley. <i>Last on 24th November, resuming 23rd February.</i>
Young Adults		Meets every 2 nd Sunday at 11am plus occasional social events. Contact Isobell Tregoweth. <i>Last on 10th December, resuming 11th February.</i>
Youth		Ages 11+ at the 9:30am Sunday service, and Fridays at 7pm. Contact Nic Mercer. <i>Last Friday Youth on 15th December, resuming 9th February.</i> <i>Last Sunday Youth on 17th December, resuming 11th February.</i>

Dates listed are correct at time of printing, however please contact the relevant group leader to confirm.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

at St Aidan's, Remuera

**SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
7PM**

All welcome

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

WWW.STAIDANS.CO.NZ/CHRISTMAS-2023

THE CANTEMUS CHOIR, INCLUDING SOME OF OUR OWN
CHOIR MEMBERS, PRESENT

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

7PM

All welcome

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

PLEASE BRING AN
UNWRAPPED GIFT
(FOR A CHILD) OR A
CASH DONATION,
TO BE GIVEN TO
ATWC.

All welcome

CAROLS

ON THE VICARAGE LAWN

4 - 5:30PM

**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER
6 ASCOT AVENUE**

BYO NIBBLES, CHAIRS AND BLANKETS

KOHA FOR BBQ

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

WWW.STAIDANS.CO.NZ/CHRISTMAS-2023

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

All welcome

CAROLS

IN THE COMMUNITY

MEETING 5PM AT CHURCH
THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER



Coffee & K's

Reflecting on the year, Coffee & K's has continued to enjoy different walking routes in the suburbs near St Aidan's. The walks have not been too demanding and a scenic walk by the water is always calming for the soul.

In August, we walked the Kohi/Madills Farm Loop which took us into the Kohimarama neighborhood, and we discovered a tennis club in the midst of it all. The glorious weather bathed our path around Madills and we eventually came out along the beachfront and back to Kohi Cafe. A gloriously sunny morning was no surprise which meant we couldn't get a table for the group at the cafe. So the next best thing was to enjoy our coffee and delicious baking on the esplanade with that beautiful majestic backdrop of Mount Rangitoto.

September's intermittent weather was not a show-stopper for our keen walkers to gather for the Shore Road and Hobson Bay Loop near the Parnell Cricket Club ground. The 45-minute walk allowed us to stop and admire the blue herons en route. Although light rain fell during the last leg of the walk, we were grateful to enjoy a well-deserved coffee at the Shore Road Cafe.

The Glendowie and Churchill Park Loop in October was during Labour weekend. We had a good turnout of walkers with a couple of additions to the group. The first part of our walk took us on a slight rise but soon eased as we encountered cows

grazing in Churchill Park; and dogs doing their best to disturb them while enjoying time-out with their owners. This loop eventually took us along a ridge on Riddell Road with beautiful views of the Tamaki River ending with coffee at The Glen Cafe.

Our final walk of the year in November was a special one, doing the Ōrākei Basin Loop and having lunch together at the Ampersand Eatery.

Walkers were invited to wear something red or white, or both to remind us that Christmas is just around the corner, and also prepare us for the Special Season of Advent in our Church calendar.

It has been an enjoyable year walking different routes and enjoying good company with Coffee & K's at various local cafes. I am hopeful to see new faces next year. The group meets on the fourth Saturday of each month from February to November. **So if you are free, why not join us?**

We will also be having a special one-off walk on the third Sunday in January at the Botanical Gardens. We welcome anyone who is in Auckland at that time, regardless of your fitness level.

As Christmas approaches, may your travels and time spent with family and friends be joyous, refreshing, and full of hope. Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou katoa! Merry Christmas to you all. †

Vaoo Davis



Preparing to Build

On St Aidan's Day a fundraising campaign was launched to raise funds for two building/refurbishment projects. The last magazine contained the plans and much of the details so you can refer back to the [St Aidan's Day magazine](#) for this.

Below is a summary of what has happened since then.

A successful fundraising campaign was led by Keith Simpson and ably assisted by the team of Nigel Brown, Stuart Gray, Garth Williams, Tony Clephane and John Button. The parish rose to the occasion and whilst the aim was to reach the total of \$150,000 thanks to the amazing support of those who were able to contribute financially, we were able to far exceed expectations. Currently the pledges are up to \$230,750 and \$176,789 has been banked. So what happens to the money that is over our target?

The money is in a designated account and we are making sure we get interest on it, whilst we wait for the deposit to go to our builders, pay the architects, permits and those sorts of things. However, back to the question... firstly, the projects will be paid for. Sometimes there are unforeseen cost overruns so any surplus will ensure the projects are completed. After that we will look to one of two other projects that the parish have long wanted doing and that is the ladies hall toilets and the hall kitchen that needs repairs to broken cupboard doors and floor vinyl which is held down with masking tape. It is exciting to think we may be able to do even more than we had dreamed of. We will keep you posted. It is still possible to donate to our projects, so contact Anne in the office if you want to find out how.



Hall toilets fire clean up in progress



All the necessary permits have been applied for and granted. Tenders went out to several building companies and now that these have come back from interested groups, the decision will be made as to who will take on our projects. We are still hopeful that we might be able to begin work this year however that will depend on the various company timelines. †

Louise & the Building Team

Retirement Home Services

St Aidan's provides a regular Communion service at aged care villages of 7 St Vincent's, Remuera Gardens, and Rawhiti Estate.

St Aidan's was then recently approached to also take a regular service at Waimarie Private Hospital, which is within our parish neighbourhood. Waimarie previously had regular services led by Catholic nuns, who have now moved away, and therefore the hospital was looking for another church to fill this spiritual gap.

Kerry and Louise will share leading this service on a monthly basis, and once underway will look to bring in other parish volunteers to support this ministry.

The first service was held at the start of November.



The 12 Days of Christmas

Whether you love it or hate it, “The 12 Days of Christmas” song is a holiday staple. You might prefer other carols or Christmas songs, but there’s something about singing the “The 12 Days of Christmas” which makes many of us feel a little nostalgic (which ends up totalling 364 gifts, by the way!). Even if you don’t know all the words, you’re likely able to remember an occasional verse like, “Nine ladies dancing,” or “A partridge in a pear tree!” But do you know what the ‘12 Days of Christmas’ represents or the hidden-message theory about the lyrics?

Though some scholars believe that the song is French in origin, the first printed appearance of the song was in an English children’s book published in 1780. You could ask the person who shelled out \$23,750 at auction for a first edition to borrow their copy, but even so, you may not recognize the lyrics. In the original lyrics, the ‘four calling birds’ were actually ‘four colly birds.’ The term ‘colly’ is old English slang for blackbirds. In other old versions of the song, the partridge we all know and love is replaced with a ‘very pretty peacock upon a pear tree.’ There’s also a Scottish version that gifts ‘an Arabian baboon!’ It wasn’t until 1909 that British composer Frederic Austin penned the version of the lyrics that we are all familiar with today.

Most historians believe that the Christmas carol started out as a ‘memory-and-forfeit’ game in 1800s England. These types of games were played by British school children and the rules were simple: When it’s your turn, you repeat all the previously sung lyrics and add the next one. If you can’t remember a verse, you owe your opponent a ‘forfeit,’ which was usually a kiss or a piece of candy.

The liturgical ‘12 Days of Christmas’ begins with the birth of Christ on 25th December and ends with the coming of the Three Wise Men on 6th January, also known as the Epiphany.



The 12 Days of Christmas



There’s a theory that during a time when Christians were punished for worshipping openly, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” song was used to secretly pass on the ideology of Christianity. In this theory, each gift on the list symbolizes a different aspect of the Christian faith:

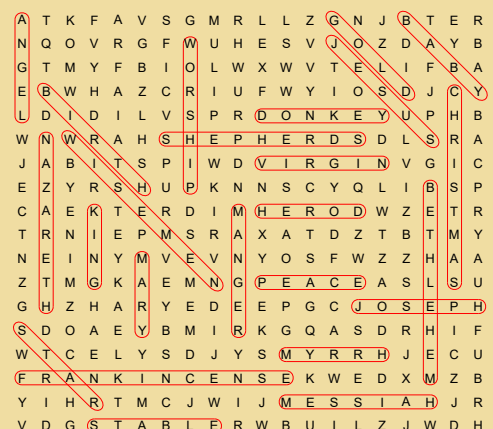
- » The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.
- » The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.
- » The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues.
- » The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.
- » The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament.
- » The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.
- » The 7 Swans A-swimming are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- » The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- » The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- » The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.
- » The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful apostles.
- » The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed.

While it is true that the ‘12 days’ reference the days between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, there are many historical and logistical errors in the hidden meanings theory, key of which is that if Christians were living in fear of even mentioning the basic tenants of Christianity, how were they able to sing a song that mentions the word ‘Christmas’ in every lyric.

Even if that isn’t the origin of the song, this theory is a great reminder of the many wonderful gifts God, our true love, has given us! †

Article thanks to Robyn Bridgman.

Find-a-Word solution from page 30



Young People & Families Lunch

One of my goals this year was to engage more with the parents, as I've found 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





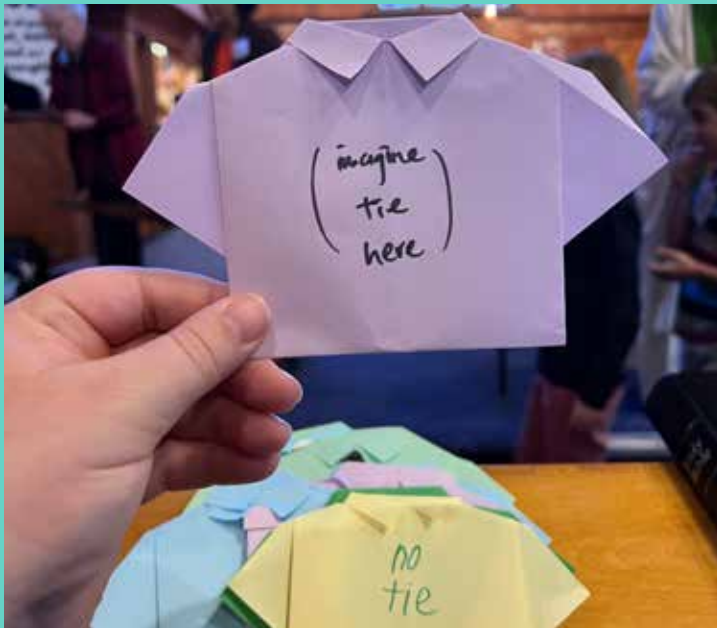
Nic has been leading the youth through a study series called LifeGuide®. Earlier in the year they looked at the topic of 'Growing Older and Wiser'. More recently they have been discussing 'New Testament Characters', including Thomas, Mary Magdalene, and, when this photo was taken, Paul and Felix. New youth members are always welcome!

Kids' Church

We've had lots of fun in Kids' Church recently! Each week we hear a Bible story based on the lectionary, and use object lessons, games, and crafts to deepen our understanding.

Recently we've created some 'Bee-attitudes' crafts, 'Spread the Love' oil pastel hearts, and 'Made in God's Image' mirrors, just to name a few.

For the Season of Creation, we got our hands messy, making bird feeders out of apples, bird seed, and peanut butter! †



Why Celebrate Advent?

As the year draws to its close our attention typically turns to the excitement of Christmas and gathering with friends and family to enjoy a time of celebration, holiday, and relaxation. But before we come to Christmas, the church enters the season known as Advent.

The word 'Advent' is derived from a Latin word that means 'coming', and it refers both to Jesus' 'first coming', as a child in Bethlehem and his 'second coming' at the end of the age. So, Advent is a time of looking ahead in excited anticipation in which we await with eagerness for the hope and joy that will occur at Christmas and at Christ's return as the saviour of the world.

During Advent we are encouraged to be awake and alert to the presence of our Lord, while the seasonal colour of penitential purple remind us that we are to turn away from distractions and self-indulgence so that we might fully accept that Jesus is Emmanuel, 'God with us'.

In preparation for Christmas Day, Advent each year starts on the Sunday nearest to 30 November - four weekend's before Christmas. In 2023, it started on Sunday 3 December and will be observed until Sunday 24 December.

Advent is an important part of the Christian calendar during which time a wreath with five candles is lit. One candle is lit on each of the four Sundays of Advent representing the hope, peace, joy and love that is found in our relationship with Christ. The fifth and final candle is lit on Christmas Day. The first Sunday of Advent is often the time when a nativity scene depicting Jesus' birth is displayed in churches and homes.

Other Advent customs include counting down the days until Christmas on an Advent calendar. Each day a little door on the calendar is opened, and behind each door a devotional picture or bible verse is hidden. Some calendars have included simple gifts, such as chocolate or a small toy, behind each door.

Counting down the days of Advent helps us to remember God's faithfulness to us by sending Jesus to be our saviour. Advent also helps us look ahead with hopeful anticipation not only to the celebration of Christmas but also the joyful expectation of Christ's second coming.

Rev'd Kerry Davis

Advent reading calendars are available from the Gathering Area so you can join the journey in the countdown to Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Jeremiah 29: 11 <small>9am service</small>	A voice cries out: <i>'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.</i> <small>Isaiah 40:3 NRSV</small>				1 Isaiah 40: 3 - 5	2 Isaiah 40: 9 - 11
3 Isaiah 52: 7 - 10 <small>9:30am Nine Lessons & Carols</small>	4 Isaiah 7: 10 - 14	5 Isaiah 11: 1 - 5	6 Isaiah 9: 6 - 7	7 Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16	8 Micah 5: 2	9 Zechariah 6: 12 - 13
10 Psalm 89: 1 - 4	11 John 3: 16	12 Galatians 4: 4 - 5	13 2 Corinthians 9: 15	14 John 1: 1 - 8 <small>9pm Carols in the Community</small>	15 John 1: 9 - 18	16 Matthew 1: 18 - 25
17 Luke 1: 5-13 <small>4pm-5:30pm Carols on the Vicarage Lawn</small>	18 Luke 1: 14-17	19 Luke 1: 18 - 25	20 Luke 1: 26 - 38	21 Luke 1: 39 - 45	22 Luke 1: 46 - 56	23 Luke 1: 57 - 66
24 Christmas Eve Luke 1: 67 - 80 <small>8pm, 7pm & 11pm services & 9pm Kids</small>	25 Christmas Day Luke 2: 1 - 20 <small>8am & 9:30am services</small>	 WWW.STAIDANS.CO.NZ/CHRISTMAS-2023				

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. †*

Isaiah 9: 2, 6 NRSV

MISSION SHOP SUMMER HOLIDAYS

WE ARE
CLOSED

From:
16TH DECEMBER 2023

WE ARE
OPEN

From:
8TH FEBRUARY 2024

St Aidan's
Mission Shop

SUMMER SERVICES

**24TH DECEMBER 2023 -
28TH JANUARY 2024**

**COMBINED SUNDAY SERVICE
AT 9AM**

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

**WEDNESDAY 10TH &
17TH JANUARY 2024**

Welcome to
**OPEN
DOORS**

10AM - 12 NOON

**THE GATHERING AREA AND
CHURCH WILL BE OPEN**

TEA AND COFFEE AVAILABLE

All welcome

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY

OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

WE ARE
CLOSED

From:
21ST DECEMBER 2023

WE ARE
OPEN

From:
22ND JANUARY 2024

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

GARAGE SALE

Community Spirit

Each year I am always amazed at how much time and energy people can give to the Garage Sale. Some people stop their lives for a week or more to work endlessly sorting, pricing, cleaning, and organising.

It takes a whole team of people to run a successful Garage Sale, from the stall holders to the bakers, the morning tea ladies, the heavy lifters, and all the donations we receive. Without all of you we would not be able to pull this off.

The Garage Sale is not only about making money, it's also about building a bigger and better community.

Here's one of my favorite stories I would like to share.

A six year old boy wanted to buy a scooter but he only had \$1. I had to tell him to come back later to see if it was still for sale at the end of the Garage Sale, and he walked away feeling sad. But a nice Irish man was standing nearby and asked me how much for the scooter. I said \$10, and he bought the scooter for the boy.

Small gestures like this can make a big impact in the world.

Liz Fraser
Garage Sale Coordinator

Another Record-breaking Sale!

I want to add my thanks to Liz's to the over 100 volunteers who worked tirelessly in the lead up and on the day to achieve the tremendous result from the Garage Sale.

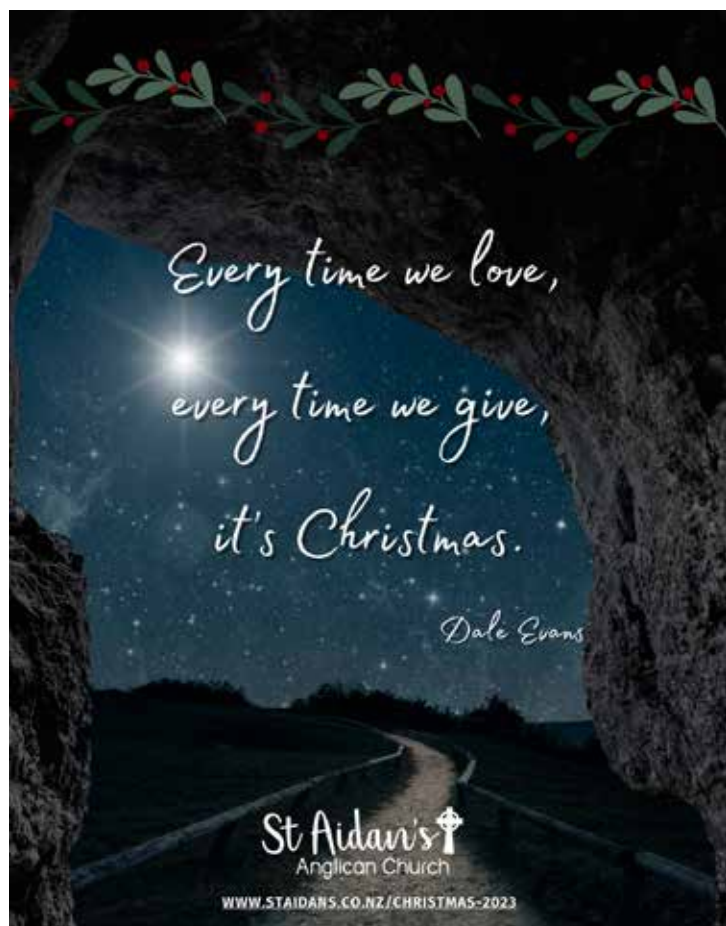
A huge thanks to Liz and the rest of the committee who begin the planning months in advance and do so much behind the scenes.

Despite my feeling that 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.

We are constantly making adjustments to how the Garage Sale is run, and this year saw the removal of the electrical stall (at the suggestion of the key person who has to electrical check each item), the Social Lounge used to store items prior rather than the youth bunker, and more upstairs offices used for stall locations.

The date of Saturday 14th September 2024 is already in our calendar for next year's event, I hope you have marked it on yours! †

Louise



Instagram: @staidansremuera

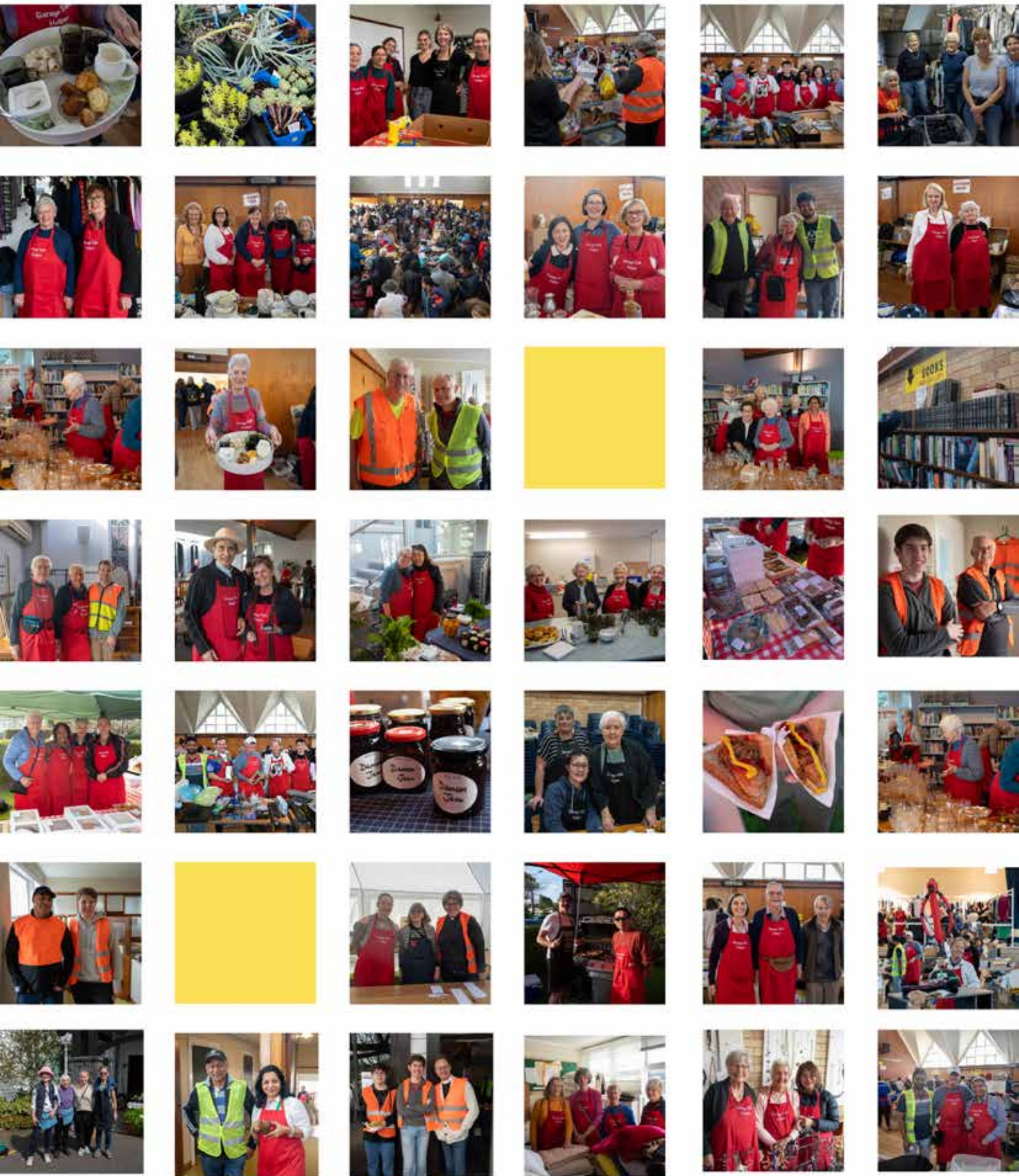
Save the Date

ST AIDAN'S REMUERA FAMOUS ANNUAL
GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 14TH SEPT, 8AM
5 ASCOT AVENUE, REMUERA

This fundraiser supports our church projects, outreach missions and the maintenance of our facilities for community use.

St Aidan's Anglican Church



THANK YOU

Welcome to
CHRISTMAS

at St Aidan's, Remuera

24TH DECEMBER

**9AM • FAMILY SERVICE WITH
COMMUNION**

4PM • KIDS' SERVICE

7PM • COMMUNION

**11PM • MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
& CAROLS**

25TH DECEMBER

8AM • COMMUNION

**9:30AM • FAMILY SERVICE WITH
COMMUNION**

All welcome

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

WWW.STAIDANS.CO.NZ/CHRISTMAS-2023

Save the Date

BACKPACK BLESSINGS

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

St Aidan's
Anglican Church



St Aidan's
Anglican Church

PANCAKE TUESDAY

Save the Date

TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2024

Save the Date

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS LUNCH

JOIN US AFTER THE 9AM SERVICE
SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024
MISSION BAY

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

Save the Date

PARISH PICNIC

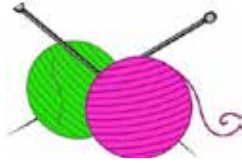
SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024

St Aidan's
Anglican Church



Pins & Needles

Christmas is looming fast, and the past months have seen an average of 14 members at our monthly meetings throughout the year.



Sadly, our very special 104-year-old member, Lilian Gnanasunderam passed away recently. Lilian started out with the very first Pins & Needles Group in 2016. She was a delight, having a strong faith, always smiling, ready to listen or offer support and help. She was a beautiful knitter prior to becoming a beautiful crocheter, learning the latter skill in her nineties, and was happy to teach others how to crochet as well. We shall miss her and although she had not attended our meetings since Covid times, she was a prolific crocheter of baby blankets at the rate of 4-5 per month. We will remember her with much love and respect.

I am always amazed at what knitting and crocheting comes in each month – lovely warm garments, blankets, and lots of teddy bears which the children will love receiving. This year we had a project to knit warm beanies for the homeless sleeping rough on our city streets. **We managed to create around 100 beanies in all colours**, even some pink ones as I was told there are women sleeping rough as well. I delivered some to the Auckland City Mission and was greeted by many people wanting to know what I had brought. They were happy, bright, smiling and very grateful to receive something to keep their heads warm on the cold winter nights as they lay on the ground trying to sleep. These folk are well looked after by Auckland City Mission – they are checked on three times a day starting at 5am in the morning.

Our next project is underway with several knitters making 'holding crosses'. (A holding cross, or a comfort cross, as it is sometimes called, is an asymmetric cross that is made to fit ergonomically into the palm of one's hand and is used during prayer. Often given to those who are unwell, dying or experiencing a difficult time.) We plan to offer these to folk in aged care homes and hospitals, or to whoever would like one. We continue to knit our usual garments and blankets as well, supporting our worthy causes as normal.

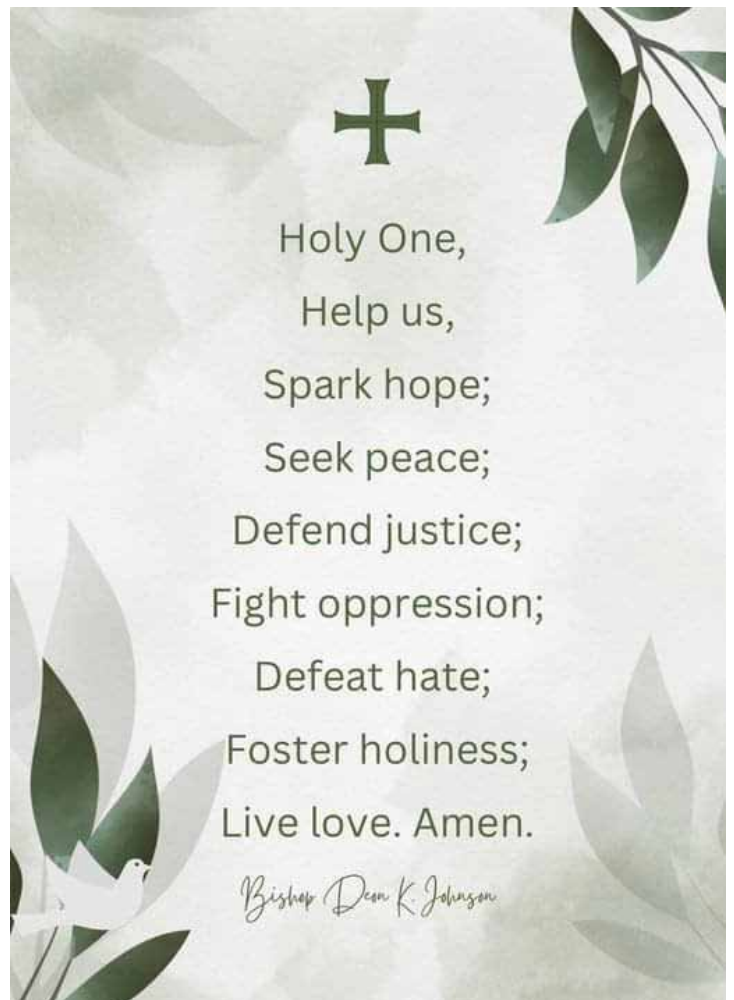
As the year comes to an end, we are thankful that we can meet and enjoy some comradeship over a cuppa and use our skills to knit and crochet for those who need just a little help along the way.

May the coming festive season give hope and joy to all and may 2024 be fulfilling in every way. †

Gail Hodder



**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord. Colossians 3:23a**





Blessing of the Pets

At the conclusion of our Season of Creation series we held our annual St Francis' Day Pet Service in the Gathering Area.

Although small in number, we had a variety of pets and some photos brought along for a blessing, and all agreed the service deserved a round of ap-paws! †



mainly music

mainly music offers a place for parents and caregivers to gather and be stimulated by music and dance each week, which is a great blessing. The feedback 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. Plus our roster of hospitality hosts who provide the tea, coffee, and baking each week extend wonderful warmth and friendliness to everyone who 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

Sadly, Tracy Helg, our mainly music Coordinator, has needed to resign from her role. Her energy and enthusiasm will be greatly missed from the Wednesday group.

Over the coming weeks as we look to advertise and recruit a successor for Tracy, mainly music will be led by Vaoa. Please contact Kerry if you know someone who might be interested in this paid position of five hours per week. †

Kerry

Introducing Christina

Advent Greetings to the people of St Aidan's!

My name is Christina Turner, and I have been coming along to St Aidan's since February. Louise has asked me to write up just a few words to introduce myself. So here goes:

I am an Ordinand (almost a Deacon!). I am to be ordained to the diaconate in the Diocese of Auckland at the end of November. For those of you who aren't quite sure what a deacon is – here's a brief synopsis:

A Deacon is one of the three orders of ministry – deacon, priest, and bishop. They often have a community-facing ministry whilst also encouraging Christians to fulfil Christ's ministry and care for others. In worship on a Sunday deacons can often be found in ministries of liturgy, proclaiming the word, and service.

Many of you will have seen me during worship on a Sunday morning. I entered through the doors of St Aidan's back in February. At the time I was on the lookout for an Anglican Parish to worship with during the season of Lent. I was intent on staying for only a short time. Only there was something about the simplicity of worship at St Aidan's that struck a chord with me. It was warm and it was gentle. The longer I stayed, the more I began to notice the beauty of an interconnected community living beyond itself. Then, as I ventured beyond the Sunday morning service, I encountered the hospitality of St Aidan's in cups of tea and coffee, stories shared, a smile, words of kindness and encouragement, cookie competitions, shared lunches (and word puzzles!), bird feeders, and a very gentle invitation to participate.

So, it turns out I am going to stay just a little bit longer than first anticipated. I will for the next year or so continue to worship with the St Aidan's community.



You may from time to time see my family alongside me – I am married to Dwan (an aircraft engineer), and together we are doing our best to raise three young people, Henry (13), Oliver (almost 12!) and Samuel (6).

I am very much looking forward to this next chapter at St Aidan's.

Peace and Joy to you all. †

Christina Turner

Spot the Differences solution from page 31



Writing Group

The Writing Group had a wonderfully relaxing 'art therapy' session in October, writing and colouring in Christmas cards. Partnering with the Prisoner Correspondence Network, these greeting cards have been made ready to pass on to inmates of New Zealand prisons. The cards will be sent in December to some often-forgotten members of society, some of whom keep their cards all year round as a reminder that there are people who care about them and are thinking of them. We will be making more at our last Writing Group meeting, and expect to have a list of first names to address each one personally. †



Sanctuary Lighting Project

Parishioners may recall an incident a few years ago during a service when a floodlight high up in the Sanctuary ceiling suddenly gave a loud pop, followed by smoking plastic fragments falling from the fitting.

This was of serious concern, especially as the church is a wooden building. Maintenance on these lights is problematic as they are high up and difficult to access and, additionally, this type of light operates at significant temperature. For these reasons the decision was made to convert all the Sanctuary luminaires to LED. Little did we know what lay ahead.

Firstly, LED floodlights normally emit a cold, blueish type of light but trials using this type of light made the Sanctuary woodwork appear dark and unattractive.

'Warmer', or more yellow types of floodlight, are available but are uncommon and had to be ordered in specially from overseas. Thus it may be recalled that the Sanctuary was without lighting for some time in 2019. Eventually the lighting distributor advised the LED floodlights had arrived and were available to collect.

The following weekend a long extension ladder was sourced and extended up to the rafter at the Ascot Avenue end of the Sanctuary and secured in place. This is where the real fun started. We had hoped that the supplied mounting bracket could simply be installed as-is. No such luck, we had to modify every one of them, six in total. This entailed many trips up and down the ladder.

However, finally (at long last!) we were able to light number six and the job was done. "Hooray!", we said, congratulating each other. "Those lights will last a good long time, especially being indoors."

How wrong we were! To say they have been a disappointment is quite an understatement. They are only a small way through their stated life expectancy yet three out of the six have failed either completely or by going so dim as to be useless.

A warranty claim was discussed and rejected. While easily justified, other factors enter the picture. The team members are not as young as they used to be and are reluctant to use the very long ladders required for this type of job. It is also necessary to work from up the ladder which introduces further risk especially if stretching out to reach something. Scaffolding is possible but is a wearying exercise to establish and then dismantle, not to mention trailer hireage and equipment loading and unloading at pickup and return.

A decision was made to modify the LED lights by retaining the light unit as such, but to disable each floodlight's electronics and substitute this with remote units installed in a dedicated box in the organ loft. This will make servicing much easier and likely to remove the need to service the actual lights.

So, there you have it! This is the reason you might have seen us in the church at odd times with tools, wires and all sorts of electrical goodies, carrying out installation work in the organ loft.

This has been quite a task, but we are approximately 70% done. Our next job is to establish scaffolding (hopefully for the last time for a long time) to run new cables out to each floodlight and connect.

We are looking forward to finishing this job and getting on to the next - the team already know what that is (spoiler alert: six non-functioning lights in the hall).

Once it has all been completed, everyone who comes into our church will once again be able to enjoy the beauty and peace of the Sanctuary and stained glass windows. †

David Cotton
Maintenance Team

Pātaka Kai

A reminder about our Pātaka Kai, which is a place for us to share food with one another and with the wider community.

As particular fruits and veggies come into season you might have some to spare. Or, how about that Christmas food hamper which has items in it which you can't eat?

Our Pātaka Kai is the place to ensure we don't waste kai and help each other at the same time. †



Christmas Crafts

Woven Gift Baskets

Materials:

- Paper cup or paper plate
- Wool or string
- Glue
- Scissors
- Flexible stick or an old plastic bottle
- Lace or beads for decoration



Glue a piece of wool or string to the edge of the base, and then start to weave it in and out of each petal. Once you have gone around once you will be weaving on the opposite petal to the first row and this will continue the pattern all the way up.

When your weaving reaches the top, or your desired height, glue in the ends of wool and glue on border of lace, beads, etc.

For the handle, wrap wool around a flexible stick or strip of plastic from an old bottle, and glue inside the basket.

Fill with lollies, chocolates, or small gifts for someone you love! †

from www.goodhousekeeping.com

Instructions:

Cut the sides of a paper cup or paper plate to the round base so that it looks like a flower with an odd number of petals. Having an odd number of petals to weave around is crucial.



Family Pet Ornaments

Print out an adorable photo of your pet or hilarious picture of a family member to craft a one-of-a-kind ornament you'll love displaying year after year.

Materials:

- A photo of your pet
- A Christmas bauble
- Pipe cleaners / chenille stems
- Glue - make sure an adult supervises if you are using a hot glue gun!
- Scissors
- Optional extra decorations

Instructions:

Hot glue a pipe cleaner around the ornament.

Add little legs by folding the pipe cleaner to shape. Add on another set of legs and a tail by cutting small pieces of pipe cleaner to the one you have already wrapped around the ornament.

Twist them on to attach, or add a small dot of hot glue.

Add your printed out face on top, and any other small decorations with a small dot of hot glue.

Attach a string, or make a loop with a pipe cleaner, and secure with a dot of hot glue.

Hang your new pet ornament on the Christmas tree. †



Women's Evening Fellowship

At Women's Evening Fellowship this year we have enjoyed eight very interesting and diverse speakers. In our last few months these have been:

August: John Hutton talked about the Kaipara Harbour Redemption Programme and, briefly, his involvement with iwi Ngāti Paoa in Auckland.

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

October: Alison Ross shared about her 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.

We look forward to our final gathering for 2023 when we will be celebrating the Christmas season a little early with carols, desserts, and punch. †

Jan, Alison, Christine, Elisabeth, Penny & Terrie

Mission Shop

We are grateful for the hard work put in by all our volunteers. Without them we would not be able to raise this money for our charities. Our new volunteers this year have more than made up for the retirements, so staffing is at a good level. We have had only one student helper, but hopefully next year we will have more enquiries from the local colleges.

The Mission Shop stalls at the Garage Sale did very well, and thanks to the quick work of the volunteers the winter clothes were put away in record time, and the summer clothes out onto the racks. Special thanks to Hannah and Casper who did the lion's share of the work over two days.

Prepacking the toys, non-clothes items and books for the Garage Sale proved to be very helpful during the set-up week. Having the second cupboard emptied by the mainly music team means we now have extra space to hide things away, like racks, stepladders, vacuum cleaner, etc so the shop looks much tidier.

The Mission Shop opened in February 2014, so by the end of this, our tenth year, total funds raised for our charities will be over \$140,000. †

Jenny Haggitt

PRAYER CIRCLE

Pastoral care through prayer support for specific needs.

Send us 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.

karelblee@gmail.com | 027 326 1014

Information remains confidential

AAW Breast Cancer Foundation High Tea

The Gathering Area was transformed with tables dressed in pink and white for our October meeting.

This transformation was in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness Month with a high tea prepared by the committee.

Bone china cups, saucers and plates were to the fore, with wonderful stories about their history. Being the colour of the Breast Cancer Foundation, it was lovely to see everyone in their pink attire.

It was a wonderful afternoon and as a group we were able to donate \$1,000 to The Breast Cancer Foundation.



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We'd like to wish all our clients and parishioners
at St Aidan's Church a blessed Christmas
and a prosperous New Year.

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Proud to be part of the St Aidan's community.

Association of Anglican Women

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner and that we are preparing for our end of year meeting.

Over the past few months, we've had Michelle Brinsden (Eastern Bays Songbird Project) as a speaker. Put on a very successful High Tea. Had a more formal meeting with our AGM.

All our members enjoy the fellowship at these meetings and the service in the church.

Our December meeting will begin with a Communion Service, followed by a celebratory afternoon tea along with Christmas cake and mince pies. We will finish with singing Christmas Carols.

Right: AAW Quiet Day

The committee wishes everyone a very blessed Christmas. Enjoy the holiday season and time with family. †

Mary, Christine, Sue, Marie, Robyn, Rosemary, Gail, Desré, Terrie and Margaret



Mini Marshmallow Tarts

INGREDIENTS

- 12 Mini tart pastry shells (bought or homemade)
- 100g Marshmallows
- 2 Tbsp Cream
- Toasted coconut flakes to serve
- Grated chocolate to serve
- Sliced strawberries to serve

METHOD

Place tartlet cases on a serving platter.

In a microwave proof bowl, melt marshmallows and cream together for 1 minute. Stir then repeat for 30 seconds, then as needed until mix is well combined.

Fill mini tartlets, letting them rest for 15 minutes to set. Top with your choice of toppings. †

Reprinted from Countdown's recipe pages:

www.countdown.co.nz/recipes



Black Forest Chocolate Truffles

INGREDIENTS

- Chocolate mud cake - approx. 1/2
- 2 Tbsp Cream cheese, soft
- 200g Glacé cherries
- 200g White chocolate melts
- 2 Tbsp Chocolate sprinkles to decorate

METHOD

Line a baking tray with baking paper.

Crumble the cake into a bowl. Add cream cheese and stir well to combine until the mix holds together, adding more if necessary.

Roll into walnut-sized balls. Press a cherry into the centre of each and re-roll to cover. Place onto the prepared tray and freeze for 30 minutes.

Melt the chocolate melts in a small bowl. Dip each ball into the chocolate to coat, allowing excess to drip off. Decorate with sprinkles and place back onto the tray to set. †

A Tribute to Lilian Gnanasunderam

"I will go in the strength of the Lord"

After arriving in Aotearoa New Zealand in September 1967, one of the first tasks they undertook was visiting every Anglican church between Auckland and Cape Reinga. There was a focus at that time, and in the new role of the Māori church, which prior to 1992 did not operate as a separate tikanga or strand within New Zealand Anglicanism. The family embraced the role and the diversity of activities it entailed.

The story of how Lilian by then aged 50 arrived at the doors of St Aidan's Remuera is one for the ages. Three days after arriving in New Zealand the family were driving along Remuera Road when Gnanam failed to give way at the intersection of Remuera Road and Ascot Ave. Unfortunately, or perhaps providentially a Ministry of Transport vehicle was behind them and with a whirr of sirens they were pulled over. As Lilian rather embarrassingly alighted from the vehicle there it was, St Aidan's Anglican Church Remuera. And fifty years later here she remains, a faithful parishioner, member of numerous bible studies, community groups and fellowships, and a self-confessed prayer warrior.

A lesson from our brief chat might be that we, like St Aidan, Lilian, and the many saints who have gone before us, be prepared to go where we are called and led, knowing God is his strength and with us always. †

Excerpt from an article in [St Aidan's Day Magazine 2019](#) by Cameron Pickering



The readings Lilian chose for her funeral:

✝ 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

✝ Hebrews 13:14

✝ 1 Peter 1:3-4

✝ John 14:1-3

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.'

Below left: Lilian's 100th birthday celebrations in 2019

Below right: Quilted Advent Calendar made for Lilian by Mary Parkinson



Community Noticeboard



What should I give?

New, unwrapped gifts for children and teenagers, worth between \$10 and \$20. No clothing or battery operated toys please!

Food Parcel Items

Below is a list of non-perishable items that go into Mission food parcels at Christmas time:

- Christmas treats, such as mince pies, jelly, biscuits and chocolate
- Spreads, such as jam, peanut butter or honey
- Tinned vegetables, such as tomatoes, corn, peas or beans
- Tinned soup
- Baked beans and tinned spaghetti
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned meat and fish
- Pasta sauce, pasta and rice
- Breakfast cereal and muesli bars
- Flour and sugar
- Baby food
- Nappies
- Toilet rolls
- Soap and shampoo
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products



St Heliers Art & Craft Market

Auckland Anniversary Day
Monday 29 January 2024
10am-4pm

One of Auckland's largest Art and Craft markets.

An array of stalls will fill Vellenoweth Green, 353 Tamaki Drive, St Heliers, with a variety of art, craft, and designer fashion, as well as some tasty food options.



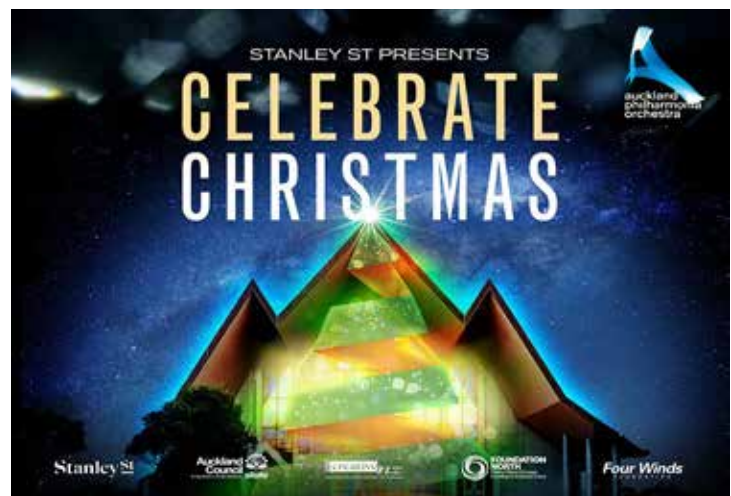
Holiday Tree Trail

Friday 8th December to Sunday 7th January
7am - dusk

Starting from the large pōhutukawa outside the Cornwall Park Bistro. Vehicle access from Green Lane West park gates.

Follow our self-led Holiday Tree Trail this December to learn about a range of trees and different festive traditions from around the world. It is a busy time of year, so why not take time, slow down and admire the trees? While wandering through the trees, it is a great time to reflect on the past year and create dreams for the year to come. (The trees make great listeners!)

WHERE? Cornwall Park, Greenlane Road, Epsom



Celebrate Christmas with the APO

Christmas is a time of happy traditions - the pine tree, the presents, the pavlova and the Auckland Philharmonic's annual Yuletide celebration in the splendid Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Led by conductor Leonard Weiss, the Auckland Philharmonic, rising star tenor Frederick Jones and the Graduate Choir New Zealand will share the joy of music fit for the festive season.

Gather the whānau together for this special festive concert. Tickets for this concert are only available through APO:

www.apo.co.nz/concerts-events/celebrate-christmas/



Huia Lodge Discovery Hub

Come and explore what makes the park special, let the kids discover our Lava Cake and ask the friendly staff anything about the park. You can even buy some gifts and souvenirs, with all proceeds going towards the care of the park.

- ◇ Guided Walk: Geology - Sun 3 December 10am
- ◇ Guided Walk: Ecology - Sun 10 December 10am
- ◇ Guided Walk: Heritage - Mon 11 December 10am
- ◇ Workshop: Abstract Flowers - Sun 21 Jan 10am
- ◇ Tamariki Imagination: Bird - Mon 22 Jan 2024 10am
- ◇ Guided Walk: Native Trees - Sun 11 Feb 2024 10am
- ◇ Kōrero & Kaputī - Sun 25 Feb 2024 10am

WHERE? Huia Lodge Discovery Hub,
Michael Horton Drive, Epsom

St Aidan's Volunteers Thank You Morning Tea

St Aidan's will hold a special morning tea to say thank you to all of our many, many volunteers, after both the 8am and 9:30am services on Sunday 3rd December. Team Leaders and those who organise rosters - please pass on an invitation to all of your volunteers.

We know that if it wasn't for all of our wonderful volunteers we would not be able to operate as we do. So no matter what you do to help keep St Aidan's running each week, we appreciate your work and want to say thank you.

Please come along and give us a chance to say thank you in person. †



Endowment Trust

Thank you on behalf of future parishioners.

Our latest donation: During the year a donation has been received into the Endowment Trust from the estate of Mary St Quentin Hills. Mary was a regular active parishioner over many years but sadly passed away in March 2022. We are extremely grateful to Mary and her family for remembering St Aidan's in this way by contributing to the future of St Aidan's parish.

What is the Endowment Trust? 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.

Where can you find out more? A pamphlet is available with more details about the Trust or you can read about it for yourself on our website. If you want to speak to someone further about the Endowment Trust please speak to Marie Taylor, Russell Florence or John Priestley. †

From the Registers

August to November 2023

Weddings

Amy Chen & Ben (Zheng) Lui

Funerals

Ann Miller

Frederick (Tony) Farrow

George Marr

Elizabeth Macky

Lilian Gnanasunderam



Christmas Find-a-Word Answers on page 9

A T K F A V S G M R L L Z G N J B T E R
 N Q O V R G F W U H E S V J O Z D A Y B
 G T M Y F B I O L W X W V T E L I F B A
 E B W H A Z C R I U F W Y I O S D J C Y
 L D I D I L V S P R D O N K E Y U P H B
 W N W R A H S H E P H E R D S D L S R A
 J A B I T S P I W D V I R G I N V G I C
 E Z Y R S H U P K N N S C Y Q L I B S P
 C A E K T E R D I M H E R O D W Z E T R
 T R N I E P M S R A X A T D Z T B T M Y
 N E I N Y M V E V N Y O S F W Z Z H A A
 Z T M G K A E M N G P E A C E A S L S U
 G H Z H A R Y E D E E P G C J O S E P H
 S D O A E Y B M I R K G Q A S D R H I F
 W T C E L Y S D J Y S M Y R R H J E C U
 F R A N K I N C E N S E K W E D X M Z B
 Y I H R T M C J W I J M E S S I A H J R
 V D G S T A B L E R W B U I L Z J W D H

BETHLEHEM
 NAZARETH
 DONKEY
 VIRGIN
 MESSIAH
 KING
 GOLD
 WISE MEN
 MYRRH
 MANGER
 SHEPHERDS
 PEACE
 STAR
 CHRISTMAS
 FRANKINCENSE
 ANGEL
 JESUS
 WORSHIP
 JOSEPH
 BIRTH
 HEROD
 MARY
 STABLE
 BABY

Christmas Crack-ups

Why did the Christmas turkey form a band?

What do you call Santa's most impolite reindeer?

How does a gingerbread man get around with a broken leg?

What's the most festive herb?

Who is never hungry on Christmas Day?

What makes a candy cane a collector's item?

Which dinosaur is best at wrapping gifts?

Why does a broken drum make a good Christmas present?

It had the drumsticks!

Rude-olph.

He uses a candy cane.

Christmas thyme

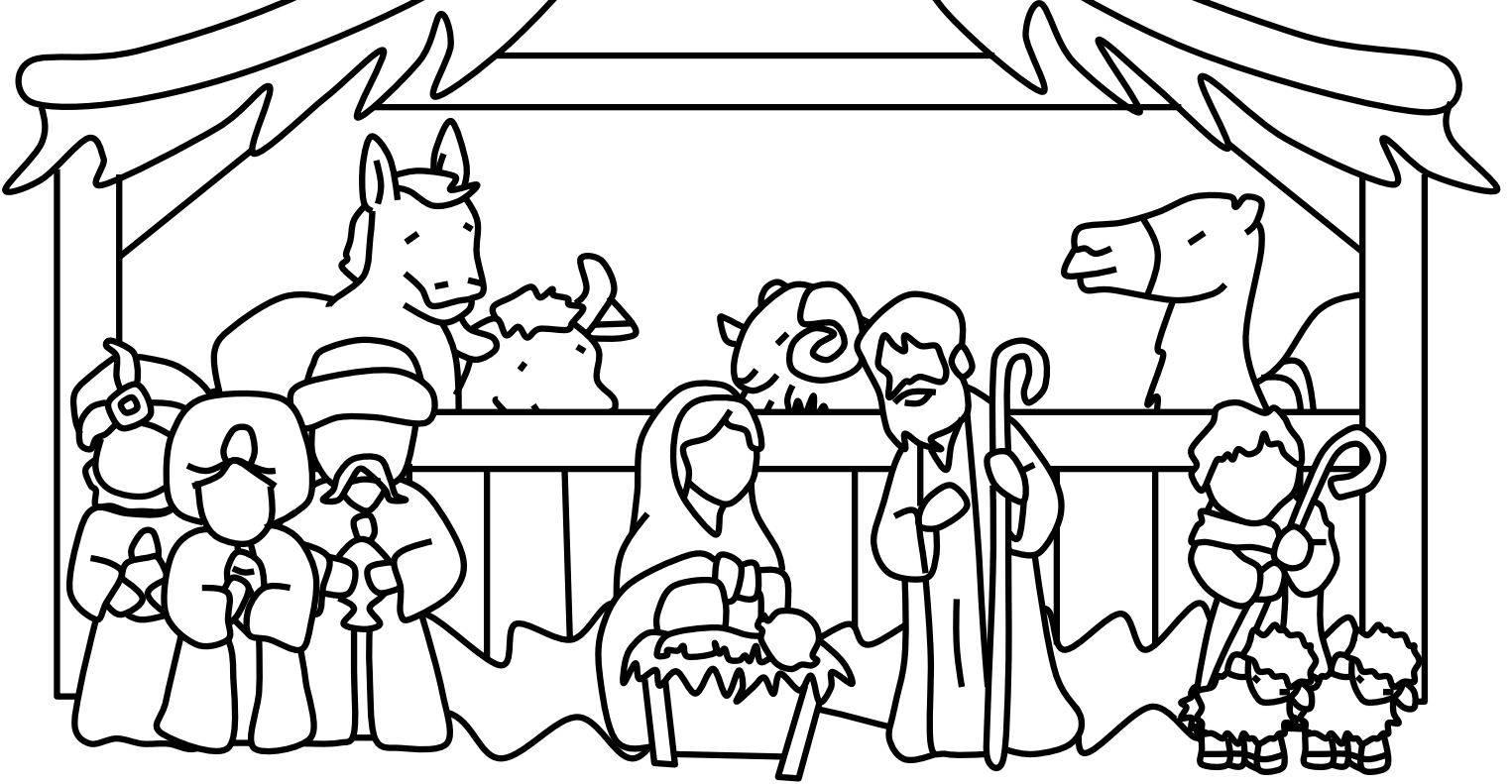
The turkey—it's stuffed.

It's in mint condition.

A Velociraptor

It can't be beat.

Merry Christmas!



The shepherds go to see baby Jesus in Bethlehem

Spot the Difference

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on the bottom.

Circle the 11 things which are different.

Answers on page 20



Lessons from the "BEE"-attitudes

Bee wise
Proverbs 8:33

Bee strong
Ephesians 6:10

Bee glad
Psalm 32:11

Bee merciful
Luke 6:36

Bee content
Hebrews 13:5

Bee courteous
1 Peter 3:8

Bee faithful
Revelation 2:10

Bee kind
Ephesians 4:32

Bee thankful
Psalm 100:4

Contacts at St Aidan's

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Available: Tues pm - Sat am, Sun

Priest Associate

The Revd Kerry Davis

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022 364 9594

Available: Sun-Thur

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Vicar's Warden

James Parkinson

People's Warden

Desré Simpson