

# THE APOSTLE

Christmas 2024

St Aidan's   
Anglican Church

Giving Thanks pg 6-7

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Garage Sale pg 14-16

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Pet Service pg 23

## Vicar's Foreword

Once again the editorial team of Isobell and Anne have compiled a creative feast for our reading and visual pleasure. Our theme/focus for the Christmas edition of 'The Apostle' magazine is 'Giving Thanks'. Scattered throughout the pages you will find the many examples our parish can be thankful to God. Hopefully even amongst seasons of stress and challenge you can still find small things to be grateful for. If you haven't given it any thought, why not reflect now. What are you thankful for this year? It could be in your prayer life and church, or personally at home, work, or family. Why not share these thoughts with family or friends as you ask them the same question and then sit and listen to their reflection on the year.

As my time at St Aidan's draws closer I was aware as I wrote my recent AGM report I was extraordinarily grateful for many things from successful building projects and garage sales through to new members joining our parish family and volunteers stepping into new ministry roles. On that note I offer my thanks to those who have served on vestry over the past few years but are now taking some time out. Outgoing vestry members are James Parkinson Vicar's warden, and Synod reps Julie Barnes and David Jamison.

Your new vestry are made up of: -

**Vicar's Warden:** (until the SGM)

Juli Mercer

**People's Warden:** Lynne Trenwith

**Synod Representatives:** Nic Mercer,  
Emily Paul

**Vestry Members:** Liz Fraser, Jenny Haggitt, Steven Khoo, Kumar Mather, Mark Rushton, Desré Simpson, Isobell Tregoweth



As they settle in as a new team, please hold them in prayer. Looking at the expertise and experience that will gather around the table, I feel you are in very good hands.

2024 has brought change for many of you. Households have become a little emptier as teenagers have left home for tertiary study, some of you have travelled through some difficult times, as you have faced health issues or farewelled family members. There have been celebrations with weddings and births whilst for another group this Christmas season is in a different location after a move during the year. Of course, at St Aidan's we too have seen change and we will shortly see another priest join the team, as Sarah Stevens-Cross arrives to journey with you and provides leadership as you offer ministry and mission in this place as vicar. As my time with you comes to an end early next year, it is good to know to whom I am handing the relay baton.

My prayer is that God will lead both you the parish, and Sarah in the next chapter of St Aidan's life.

As we spread the spirit of gratitude in this Christmas season, may you know God's blessings upon your lives.

I very much hope to see you at our Christmas services and events, and I know that God is hoping to see you there too. ☺ †

Yours in Christ,

Louise

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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 Easter edition of 'The Apostle' magazine. Deadline: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.

Find us online:

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# Parish Life



Coffee & K's walk amongst the Spring blossoms



A Spring wedding conducted by Louise



Setting up stalls for the Garage Sale



St Francis Day Pet Service



Sing Your Favourite Hymn



# Christmas Eve

4pm | Kids' and Youth Christmas  
7pm | Holy Communion  
9pm | Carol Service with Holy Communion

# Christmas Day

8am | Holy Communion  
9:30am | Family Service with Holy Communion

St Aidan's  
Anglican Church

## REGULAR MINISTRIES

<b>Sunday Services</b>	8am	Holy Communion.
	9:30am	Family Service with Holy Communion.
<b>Mid-Week Service</b>	11:30am	Holy Communion on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month.
<b>Weekly Prayer</b>	Thursday mornings in the Gathering Area at 9am. Come along or join <a href="#">via Zoom</a> . Enter the Zoom online meeting ID: 959 1932 0025, or phone: +64 9 884 6780 and enter Passcode 1 #.	
<b>AFG - Afternoon Fellowship Group</b>	<i>(formerly AAW)</i> A women's afternoon fellowship group. Meets monthly on 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 1:30pm. Contact Mary Parkinson.	
<b>ASTA - Advocacy at St Aidan's</b>	<i>(formerly the Writing Group)</i> Meets on the last Friday of every month at 10am. Contact Anne Priestley.	
<b>Choir Practice</b>	Saturdays at 9am in the Church. New members welcome. Contact Antoinette Pope.	
<b>Coffee &amp; K's</b>	Meets for a walk and coffee on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. Contact Annette McGrevy.	
<b>Contemplative Prayer</b>	Meets each Wednesday at 9:45am <a href="#">via Zoom</a> . Contact Anne Priestley.	
<b>EF - Evening Fellowship</b>	<i>(formerly WEF)</i> An evening fellowship group, all welcome. Meets monthly on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30pm. Contact Jan Evans.	
<b>Kids' Church</b>	All children ages 3-10 during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Izzi Hoskyn.	
<b>mainly music</b>	Wednesdays during term time at 10am. Music and play for families with pre-school aged children. Contact Hannah Scharf.	
<b>Men's Ministry</b>	Meets for breakfast, last Thursday of the month at 7:30am. Contact Pete Macaulay.	
<b>Pins &amp; Needles</b>	Meets monthly on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Contact Gail Hodder.	
<b>Small Groups</b>	Contact Sheryl Swanevelder or Louise for more information.	
<b>Vestry</b>	Our governing body currently meets monthly on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday. Contact Louise.	
<b>Young Adults</b>	Meets every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 4pm-6pm plus occasional social events. Contact Isobell Tregoweth.	
<b>Youth</b>	Ages 11+ during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Nic Mercer.	

# Congratulations Ordinands!

## Christina Turner

I began life as a newly ordained deacon in the Parish of St Aidan's in February of this year. This was for me a notable change in terms of my own life and journey of faith. Standing 'on my own' and apart from those with whom I had journeyed for many years has taken some adjustment. This change has been aided by the people and clergy of St Aidan's who live into the fullness of their relationship with God in a very clear and intentional way, seeking to be a community of worship.

The gift of a stole from the St Aidan's community to mark the beginning of ordained ministry was most warmly received. This stole has been worn every Sunday during ordinary time and continues to remind me that in and through the ordinariness of life God continues to work in our lives.

Being a very active and intentional parish, St Aidan's always seems to be 'on the move'. In the lead up to Kerry and Vaoa's farewell and their goodbye I gained some insight into the strength of the relationships and history within a parish that creates a sense of belonging in terms of its worship, care, and outreach.

A highlight for me this year has been connecting with those 'beyond the walls' of St Aidan's - singing, dancing, and meeting with people over a cuppa at mainly music; being a part of the ministry to Retirement Villages including Waimarie, 7 St Vincent, and Rawhiti. Then the Quiz night and the Garage Sale, both events demonstrating St Aidan's ability to connect with the wider community to benefit a wider cause.

So too, I have been able to gather alongside the pastoral care team once a month to see how the people of St Aidan's show genuine care and concern for one another in the provision of freezer meals, prayer, and connecting with one another.

As I reflect upon the year that has been and begin to prepare for ordained ministry as a priest, I would also like to give thanks for Louise and for the ministry she has offered to me. As part of my placement, I have benefitted greatly from her support and guidance. She has offered wisdom, counsel, and advice on various aspects of ministry and for this I am very thankful.

I am grateful to continue my ministry at St Aidan's and look forward to the year ahead.

## Kate Shrigley

I came to St Aidan's church in March 2022 as a student from St Johns College to gain ministry experience whilst studying theology. I have joined in with as many services and activities as I could over the past 2+ years. I sat in on confirmation classes, cleaned at working bees, enjoyed several St Aidan's Day lunches, Coffee & K's walks, quiz nights and have three Garage Sales under my belt.

I joined the liturgist team, the rest home communion ministry, and more recently have been offering home communion and preaching. This year I attended my first ANZAC Day service and my first Pet Service, both of which were enjoyable in different ways. I have enjoyed leading Holy Week services for the past two years, and I managed to attend church six days out of seven leading up to Easter this year.

I trained to be a verger which gave me some valuable experience of weddings and funerals. Learning to operate the sound desk and data projector came in handy during Holy Week and will probably be a useful skill for my curacy.

I have loved being here serving with you all and have been made so welcome.

After ordination I start my curacy at Saint Mary by the Sea in Torbay with part of my experience being to offer chaplaincy at Vaughan Park Retreat Centre. I am looking forward to starting my training and joining a new congregation, but my St Aidan's church family will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you. †



## Gratitude for the Little Moments

*Exhaust the little moment. Soon it dies.  
And be it gash or gold, it will not come  
Again in this identical disguise - Gwendolyn Brooks*

*Gratitude, yes,  
for all the big things that stand tall,  
thick with abundance, joy, fruitfulness.  
I cannot help  
but applaud  
their presence.*

*But deep thankfulness for the bite-sized  
pieces of my life?*

*I had not thought of them,  
those little snippets of time  
so easily consumed  
in the hurry and blur  
of pretentious days.*

*The little moments,  
assumed and presumed,  
slip quickly through  
the fingers of my busy life.*

*Extract from a poem by Joyce Rupp  
Taken from Out of the Ordinary © 2000, 2010 by Joyce Rupp.  
Used by permission of Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.*

## Nic Mercer

Throughout this year, there have been many things to be thankful for. From all the support I have received from everyone to being able to have experiences which will last a lifetime. I am thankful that while some days are more difficult than others, I am able to enjoy what I do while also being able to work towards my goals.

This year has been full of twists and turns that have pushed me to try new things and grow in ways that I didn't think were possible. I'm thankful for all the opportunities I have had this year, to meet new people, to grow and strengthen relationships, and to be a part of communities that want to support and encourage those around them.

## Anne Priestley

Thanks be to God,  
healer of all,  
always and everywhere:  
now and forever  
kind and compassionate,  
seeding hope in my heart.

Written towards the end of a year's adventure with cancer - with deep gratitude also for the prayers and love which have supported me and my family along the way.

## Anne Godman

I'm very thankful for the blessings and well wishes Kiko and I have received from so many friends this year following our wedding.

I'm also thankful for finally being settled in a more permanent home in a great location with good neighbours.

Although sad they have passed away, I'm very thankful for the privilege of knowing some wonderful Christian friends who have died this year in Tasmania, and for the technology to watch their funerals online, which were a testament to their love of God and a celebration of the wonderful people they were.

Most of all I'm thankful for all those 'angels' God sends at just the right time when I need a helping hand - someone to fold the newsletters when I'm snowed under with other jobs; someone with a drill to undo some screws and save me precious minutes; finding an anonymous someone has beaten me to it when I go to do a job; someone to remind me of important jobs when they've slipped off my radar; someone to help cook for the Pancake Day and Matariki celebrations; and finally those someones who stop in to say hi, and share a laugh or prayer when I'm feeling a bit 'blue'. Thank you all! :)

*We would all like to give thanks to God for Louise's dedicated, caring commitment to the parishioners at St Aidan's over the six years she has been with us, firstly as Priest Associate, and then as our Vicar.*

*We wish her peace, good health, and contentment in her retirement. †*

# Giving

## Hannah Scharf

This year has seen a lot of things I am thankful for.

Taking over mainly music in June has propelled my involvement with the church. It has struck me what an intricate network of people and efforts are necessary to keep everything going.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of all this and to get these insights. Getting to serve the community, meeting families every Wednesday at mainly music to spend an hour enjoying each others company, has given me a lot to think about, for which I am also thankful.

Just recently I was finally able to visit my family in Germany with my fiancé for the first time in three years. Getting to spend such valuable time with everyone I love and care about deeply has been nothing but humbling and sent me back home to New Zealand with a lot of love to share.

While visiting Germany, I was reminded that the passing of my father a few years ago was the starting point of the journey that led me to where I am now. For him and his neverending love that I will forever try and give back to the world, I am beyond thankful.

On the day we arrived back home in Auckland, the vestry dinner was scheduled. Exhausted from the long flight, we were grateful to not have to worry about dinner and astounded to be greeted with nothing but warmth and curiosity upon our arrival in the hall.

After all, St Aidan's is full of people that care, with their words and actions. A place practically bursting at the seams with kindness and warmth, I am incredibly thankful to you all who are the heart of this community.

With the Christmas season approaching fast, I am trying to remind myself of the little things. There is plenty of opportunity to be thankful everyday. All the details we take for granted or miss out on. At the moment, I am thankful that spring and summer have finally started showing themselves and we get to enjoy such nice weather.

## Barbara Weir

Giving thanks for God's Angels:

*'Because you have made the Lord your refuge... he will command his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up...'*  
Psalm 91

How true it often is that we tend to forget about God's angels who surround us until some personal upheaval brings them into the forefront of our lives.

My husband, Gordon, was recently hospitalised for 12 weeks following a fall which added complications to his already fragile medical state. Since his discharge home, we have been reliant on a 'host of angels' to bring a sense of stability into our lives.

The face of Gods shines for us in so many ways on a daily basis.

The face of God shines for us in the support workers who come three times each day and who with gentleness and patience care for Gordon's personal needs.

The face of God shines for us in the loyal friends who keep in touch and visit to keep Gordon company.

The face of God shines for us in the St Aidan's clergy and parishioners who pray for us, make meals, who ask after Gordon's well-being, and who never fail to sense when I am in need of emotional support.

This is my simple prayer of thanks:

Thank you, God, for all your angels who show me how to walk humbly in your loving embrace.

# Thanks

TAKE WHAT  
YOU NEED,  
SHARE WHAT  
YOU CAN!

# PĀTAKA KAI

## FOOD SHARING CUPBOARD

"NĀ TŌ ROUROU, NĀ TAKU ROUROU KA ORA AI TE IWI  
WITH YOUR BASKET AND MY BASKET WE WILL SUSTAIN THE PEOPLE"

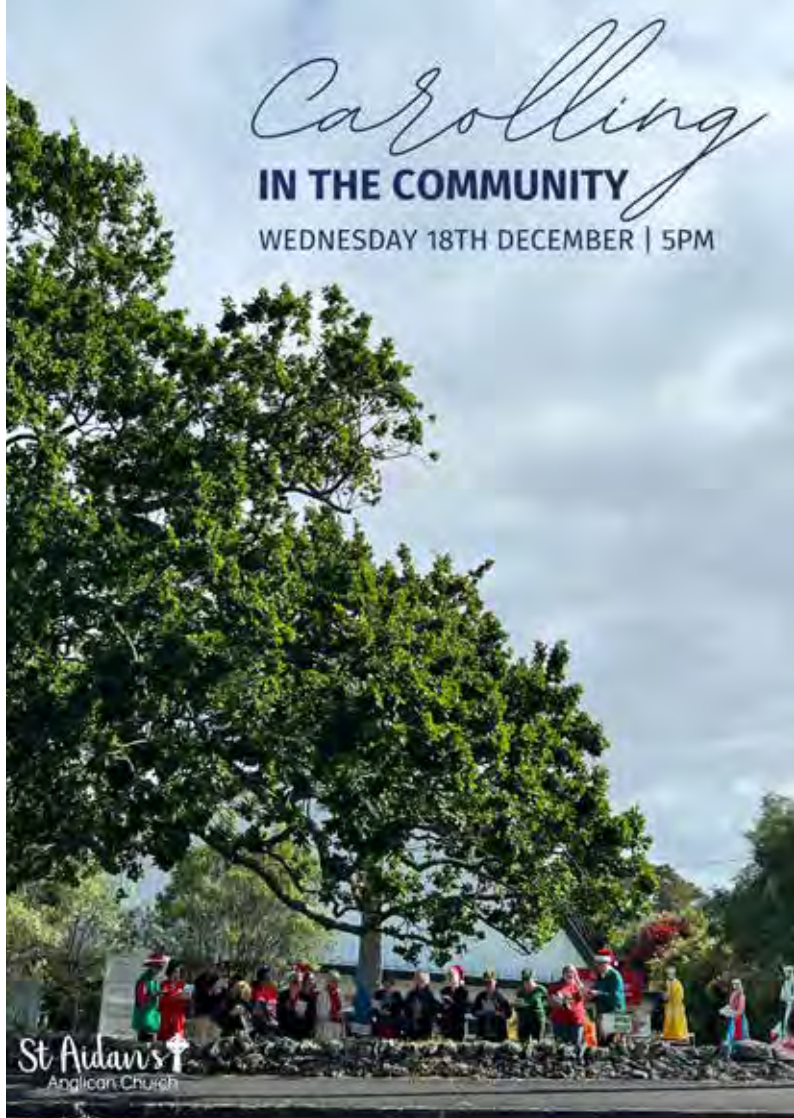
*Be mindful of others*



# Carolling

## IN THE COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER | 5PM



# Prayer Circle

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*

# Combined Service

## Summertime 9am

Starting on Sunday, 29th December 2024, and finishing on Sunday, 26th January 2025, we will have one combined 9am service every Sunday. Back to two services at 8am and 9:30am from Sunday, 2nd February 2025.



# Maintenance Team

It is very rare that a week goes by without one of our Maintenance Team members being on site to fix, replace, or consult, on one thing or another.

As I'm sure you know, during 2024 we have had some major works undertaken with the Gathering Area kitchen refurbishment and retrofit, and the conversion of the old burned-out shell of the Hall men's toilets into three aesthetically functional unisex toilets and cleaner's facilities, by Stryde Projects.

What you may not have thought about was the huge amount of hours our own people also put into the oversight, equipment selection and purchase, finishing touches, and money saving extras which allowed us to complete the project well within the budget.

Another large project this year has been the repair and strengthening of the front garden rock wall along Ascot Avenue and Remuera Road. Over 40 bags of quick-mix cement was used to shore it up and bring it back to its original glory.

As is usually the case with older buildings, there is always something wearing out which needs fixing. Door handles, signage, toilets which won't flush or keep running, water leaks, lights, roof leaks, electrical, and much more, are on the maintenance list each and every week for our team to perform repairs and replacements.

Without the amazing hard work and expertise of our Maintenance Team we would not be able to operate as we do, and our maintenance budget would be a great deal higher.

Special thanks to John, David, Simon L, Stuart, Simon HP, James, Andrew, and Keith, for their precious time and hard work throughout the year. Your ministry does not go unnoticed. †

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*



# Introducing the Reverend Sarah Stevens-Cross

*Jesus Christ came that we might have life  
and have it abundantly.*

John 10:10a

I first joined the parish of St Aidan's, Remuera in 2000 as a 20-year-old looking for other Anglicans my own age. Here I found a deep sense of welcome and belonging, intergenerational connections, sanctuary and healing as I journeyed through 10 years with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. My gifts were encouraged, nourished and supported over these years. Emerging to wellness, I remained part of the parish as I studied at St John's College. Many of you supported me in my ordination to the Diaconate in November 2009 and the parish hosted my ordination celebrations as well.

Since then, I have worked at Holy Trinity Cathedral, across Northland and the Bay of Islands in Local Shared Ministry, supported the people of St James Ōrākei as they courageously closed the doors of their beloved church, and most recently as Vicar of St Andrew's Epsom. This diverse experience has led me to believe strongly in team ministry and the ministry of all the baptised. Ministry is ours by virtue of our baptism.

Like Louise, I love supporting others as they grow in their faith journey and discovering their skills for ministry. I enjoy seeing how the spiritual journey, contemplative prayer, music and creative liturgy, deepen our sense of connection with God and empower our discipleship journey.

I am passionate about education and Christian formation, both in church community and in schools, and have served as a member of the Board of Governors at Diocesan School for Girls since 2019.

The challenge of communicating the love of God, made known in Jesus, to those inside and outside our church community excites me.

I return now to St Aidan's with my husband Richard, a ferry boat captain on the Waitamatā Harbour, and our daughters, Keziah, 8, and Sophia, 3. We are excited to join you, the people of St Aidan's as we discover together where God is calling us in this new season.

*Wild the road,  
holy the path,  
sacred the journey with God. †*

Sarah Stevens-Cross



## Christmas Recipes

### Orange Marmalade Glaze for Baked Ham

#### INGREDIENTS

- Orange marmalade - 1 cup
- Orange juice - freshly squeezed - 1/2 cup
- Brown sugar - 1/4 cup
- Dijon mustard - 2 Tbsp
- Ground ginger - 1 Tbsp

#### METHOD

Place marmalade, orange juice, sugar, mustard and ginger in a small saucepan over high heat, whisk to combine.

Bring to the boil and cook, stirring for 5 minutes or until melted & slightly thickened.

Recipes courtesy of [www.woolworths.co.nz/recipes](http://www.woolworths.co.nz/recipes)

### Sparkling Melon Spritzer

#### INGREDIENTS

- Rockmelon
- Honeydew melon
- Seedless watermelon
- Mint sprigs - a large bunch
- Apple juice - 2 litres
- Soda water - 2 litres

#### METHOD

Using a melon baller, scoop melon flesh into balls and place into a large jug with any juice. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Add 3 cups of ice and mint. Top with apple juice and soda water. Stand for 5 minutes to allow flavours to develop, then serve.

Halve or quarter the fruit and soda water/juice for a smaller batch. †

## Coffee & K's

Our Coffee & Ks walkers have been on some lovely walks around Auckland during this year. Recently we have taken walks in Northcote at Kauri Glen Reserve, Point England Reserve along the waterfront to Panmure Yacht Club, visting the cherry grove and walking along Twin Oak drive in Cornwall Park, and Westhaven Drive alongside the Marina. Coffee after our walks are always a highlight!

Our final walk will be on 7<sup>th</sup> December, starting from King's Plant Barn Ōrākei, and will conclude with a Christmas lunch together at Ampersand Eatery in Ōrākei Bay Village.

Contact Ronnie if you would like to be added to the WhatsApp group for walk info each month, or keep an eye out in our weekly newsletter. †

Annette McGrevy & Ronnie Kay

I love attending Coffee & K's every month. It's such a great chance to get out into nature (often places I don't usually go, as well), hang out with other parishioners, and enjoy a coffee together.

We have such a cool crew who come, and I feel like I've been able to get to know everyone! We always welcome new members, and it's fine to miss a month or two if you're busy.

Thanks to Vaoa for pioneering this group, and for Annette and Ronnie for taking over the reins after Vaoa and Kerry left.

I am truly grateful for this group! †


Isobell Tregoweth



*Coffee & K's*  
Saturday 7th December, at 10am

Join us for the last walk of 2024, followed by a Christmas lunch at Ampersand Eatery





**ASTA**  
Advocacy @  
St Aidan's

**ASTA**  
Advocacy at St Aidan's  
Writing and lobbying for change:  
locally, nationally, internationally

Recent projects include lobbying for government funding for the Auckland City Mission's food programme, and protesting to the government of Pakistan about a lack of police action in response to anti-Christian riots. We share resources and learn from each other.

**WRITING  
ADVOCACY  
JUSTICE**

Last Friday of the month,  
10:00-11:30am  
in the Gathering Area

**QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT ANNE P**

## ASTA - Writing for Change

The Writing Group has grown, blossomed, and become ASTA - Advocacy at St Aidan's, a name which better reflects who we are and what we are doing.

Recent projects include lobbying for government funding for the City Mission's food programme, protesting to the government of Pakistan about a lack of police action in response to anti-Christian riots, and Christmas cards for people incarcerated in Auckland prisons (*see picture below*). We share resources and learn from each other.

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

Anne Priestley



## Mission Shop

It is good to see that we are now represented on the signpost at the front of the church, directing new customers down the path beside the Hall.

The Mission Shop and stage clothing had a very good Garage Sale, but a lot of the summer clothes left boxed up on the stage ended up at the ATWC instead of coming back into the shop, so we are a bit short of summer clothes for the racks. We continue to receive new donations each week though, so the racks will build up with the warmer weather, but please think of us if you are clearing out your closet!

The shop will close for the year from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, so there are still a couple of weeks left in which to grab some bargains. We will reopen on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025, just after Waitangi Day. We will also have our usual pop-in days during January when volunteers come in to sort out the donations which never stop coming.

Many thanks to our hard working volunteers, customers, and donors for your support. If anyone is interested in joining our team, please get in touch. We can always use more help. †

Jenny Haggitt

St Aidan's  
Mission Shop

Summer Hours

St Aidan's Mission Shop



Closing Saturday, 14th December 2024 at 2pm  
Reopening Thursday, 7th February 2025 at 10am

# Tribute in Lights

Sunday 15 December 2024  
from 8pm

582 Remuera Road  
Remuera, Auckland

During the festive season we honour those no longer with us. Join us as we light up our funeral home and our special remembrance tree.

Place a star on our Christmas tree in memory of your loved one.

Honoured guest: Desley Simpson, Deputy Mayor

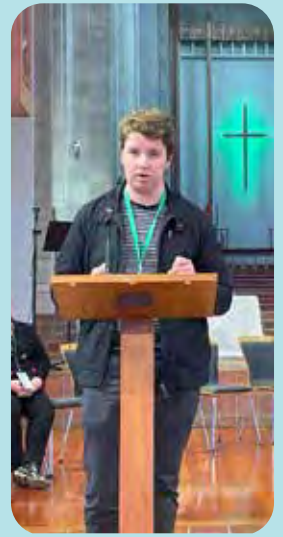
Christmas Carols led by St Aidans

All welcome



## Youth Synod Representative

During September in the Cathedral, Nic Mercer spoke at Synod as a mover of a motion relating to recognising the importance of understanding and increasing awareness around the issue of mental health. †



## We're Giving Back This Christmas!



## Auckland's Angels

Each year, the Auckland City Mission | Te Tāpui Atāwhai offer the families they have supported through the year extra help with food and gifts over Christmas.

Bring your donations of toys, gifts, and special Christmas food items (as well as the usual food staples and hygiene items) to church over the coming weeks. We will have a specially marked box available for toys in addition to the shopping trolley for grocery donations (*suggestions are listed below*).

Final drop off by 3pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December please, to allow for collection by the Mission and then distribution to families in our city.

Together we can bless those in our city who need a little extra support this Christmas. †

### WHAT SHOULD I GIVE?

#### Gift Ideas

Donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children and teenagers are hugely appreciated. Here are a few popular gift ideas:

#### Infants

Rattles, night lights, bath toys, teething rings

#### Toddlers

Bath toys, puzzles, soft toys, Duplo, pull-along toys

#### Primary School

Puzzles, dress-ups, dolls/action figures, Lego, craft kits, toy cars, animal figurines

#### Teenagers

Sports ball, scarfs, hats, beach towels, toiletries, gift voucher or Prezzy card

#### Family/All Ages

Board games, books, stationery, reusable drink bottles, toiletries, gift voucher or Prezzy card

**Note:** Please do not gift clothes as it is difficult to allocate sizes or battery operated toys.



### WHAT NON-PERISHABLE FOOD SHOULD I GIVE?

#### Christmas Meal Items

We will take care of the meat and vegetables and you provide the trimmings we all enjoy:

- Gravy
- Stuffing mix
- Fruit mince pies
- Jelly
- Brandy snaps
- Jams
- Fruit cake
- Custard powder
- Pavlova nests
- Christmas crackers
- Reduced cream and onion soup
- Potato chips
- Chocolate

#### Food & Toiletry Items

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

- Tinned fruit, vegetables, meat and fish
- Tinned soup
- Baked beans and tinned spaghetti
- Pasta sauce, pasta and rice
- Breakfast cereal and museli bars
- Spreads such as jam, peanut butter, honey
- Flour and sugar
- Long life milk
- Toilet rolls
- Soap and shampoo
- Period products
- Deoderant
- Baby food and nappies





THANK

YOU

2024





**GARAGE**

**SALE**

**HELPERS**



# Garage Sale

## Bake-off

As usual, our annual Garage Sale officially 'kicked off' for 2024 with the Annual Bake-off on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Many thanks to our Bake-off judges Hannah, Nick, Max and Hugo, who had the tough job of sampling the wide array of loaves. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all those who took part. The subsequent sale of loaf slices sold out quickly.

## Preview Evening

At the Preview Evening drinks and nibbles event on Friday evening before the 'Big Day', a sumptuous array of cheeses, paté, and fresh crusty bread was laid out beautifully by Sue and Fiona, with wine and juice being served through our new kitchen hatch.

A fantastic arrangement of jams and preserves greeted everyone as they walked through the door, to peruse the Antiques and High End Furniture. For the first time, this year we added the Toy stall to those opening early, and all were very well received and patronised.

Thanks to the generosity of Siso Bar and Eatery and New World Remuera, we held a special raffle with a limited number of tickets. First Prize, a \$200 voucher at Siso, was won by Anette, and the second prize gift hamper from New World, was won by Sue's daughter and accepted by her mum.

Approximately 80 people were in attendance over the course of the evening, and a total of \$5,462 was raised on the night, a tremendous start to our fundraising efforts!

## Sale Day

As is always the case, there was a big line up of people waiting to come in as soon as the doors opened, some arriving as early as the first volunteers! As we approached 8am there were lots of last minute adjustments to stalls as everyone prepared for the flood of people.

Although things settled down a little following the initial rush, all stall holders were kept busy, busy, busy, right across the morning. Huge volumes of bargain sale items were carried out the door, with three eftpos machines running hot.

Our thanks to New World Remuera and Baker's Delight for donating sausages and bread for the barbecue. The smell of frying sausages wafting in the air, and Amelie's singing as she played guitar, gave a great festival feel to the day, with lots of people staying in the forecourt to talk while enjoying the food and music.

As the morning wore on and sales gradually slowed, the hard work of clean up began. Leftover items were packed up ready for collection by the ATWC, City Mission, and Salvation Army. As much as possible of what couldn't be given away was subsequently sold elsewhere or recycled.

After the 'final siren' there continued to be funds trickling in for several weeks, and the end result, including preview sales, was over \$43,000.

Special thanks to Liz Fraser and the Garage Sale Committee for all their preparation work. **Save the date for next year - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. †**



# Young Adults' Pilgrimage to Iona and Assisi

I have too many highlights from Scotland so I'm cheating and saying that my highlight was getting to experience Iona as a 'thin place.' For context, the Isle of Iona is often referred to as a 'thin place,' an idea in Celtic theology where the border between the divine and earth is permeable. While there, I was blessed with three particularly magical 'thin' moments. The first was getting to see dolphins jump around and play in the wake of our boat while on the way back from visiting Staffa (an even smaller island - home to Fingal's Cave). The second was climbing up Dun I (Iona's tallest fairy hill/mount) with Izzy to visit the Well of Eternal Youth and being greeted with the most vibrant rainbow I've ever seen. The third was relishing in the back of the Aurora Borealis with the rest of the Abbey's pilgrims on our final night on the isle - was the most perfect send-off! Each of these moments left me in total awe of God's creation and divine presence in the world and will be etched in my heart for the rest of my life (I'm getting emotional just thinking about them!)

I was unfortunately ill in Italy, so my time there had a sickly green fog over it. However, on our final night in Assisi, we held a service in the chapel of the monastery we were staying in. I hadn't been able to partake in the day's group activity, so this was my first time back with the whole gang. It was a really beautiful and intimate service that we patched together with the guidance of Sarah (our token priest on the trip!) The fact that Sarah is officially the first woman Anglican priest to have held a service in that chapel (which is notably Catholic) made it extra special. †

Izzi Hoskyn

This was a journey that was absolutely worth it. To have been able to travel to places like Iona and Assisi was amazing and by the end of it, we all wished it had been just a bit longer. At first, Iona looked and felt a bit like being on another island somewhere around New Zealand, with a strong wind the day we arrived, with sheep and cows roaming the fields, but once I walked inside the Abbey it became clear that this was a special place. Within the Abbey, you got a sense of the history of the place and the uniqueness of being in a place like this on the other side of the world. Throughout our week at Iona we learned more and more about the significance of all the sites on the island, including St Columba Bay and the Iona Nunnery, as our leader for the week, Alistair McIntosh,

seemed to have a story for just about every place on the island. The experience was made all the better by living in community with others from around world, journeying with one another learning about the significance of the land that lay before us. This allowed us to have many conversations with those journeying with us, and provide encouragement to each other in the various ministries that each of us are engaged in.



By the end of our time on Iona, it was difficult to leave as we didn't want it to end, but it allowed us to have the time to refresh and be encouraged by the experience that Iona had been.

Assisi was just as exciting. You knew you were in a one of kind place when you would wake up, open the curtain, and just see a basilica only meters away, with fog covering the valley below. Being a city on a hill, it did mean a bit more strain on the legs, but that was all forgotten once you entered all the sites that Assisi has to offer. The basilica's were incredible to walk through and take in all that was within. From the artwork to the items held, these were places that you could easily spend a whole day inside. While in Assisi, we were also able to travel

just outside of the city, to Eremo delle Carceri. To get there meant either taking a taxi or walking uphill for about an hour or more. I choose to do the walk which turned out to be tougher than we thought as it was mostly uphill on a steep track with no places to sit and rest. Once we made it up, we found a retreat away from the business of the city, with quiet and scenic walks through the forest as well as many little huts and caves to explore. With only three days in Assisi, I was surprised at how much I was able to see and do, but it definitely felt worth it by the end of our time there.

This experience was one that was just amazing. Being able to visit these places, learn the history, and meet the people in both Iona and Assisi is something that I won't forget in a hurry, if at all. Thank you to all the people that helped to make this experience possible and I hope that I may be able to go back and visit again sometime in the future. †

Nic Mercer



# Young Adult's Pigrimage

(continued from previous page)

Kia ora e te whānau. First of all, a huge mihi (thanks) goes to the St John's College Trust Board for funding the majority of this trip, as well as various donations from parish members and those who came to support our market last year.

For those who are interested in where we went, below is a simple version of our itinerary:

- 2-3 Oct** - flying to Scotland via Hong Kong
- 3-4 Oct** - Glasgow
- 4-11 Oct** - Iona
- 11-13 Oct** - Edinburgh
- 13-14 Oct** - Florence
- 14-17 Oct** - Assisi
- 17-19 Oct** - Rome
- 19-20 Oct** - London
- 20-22 Oct** - flying home via Singapore

As we gathered at the Auckland airport and I was saying goodbye to my parents, I was definitely nervous! I had been lucky enough to also go travelling in August, predominantly by myself, so what was travelling as a group of ten going to be like? I was also not looking forward to more long-haul flights haha!!

Happily, all worries were washed away once the real travel began in Scotland. It took us one short bus ride, one long bus ride, one long ferry, another long bus ride and then a short ferry to get from Glasgow to Iona, which meant we were straight into another day of travel after our long flights. However, it was not only worth the final destination, but the Scottish landscape was stunning! It certainly looks like a place where I could happily live, perhaps in a little cottage right in the middle of a forest.

We spent a week on the Isle of Iona, learning from not only Alastair McIntosh, our facilitator for the week, but also from the other pilgrims who were staying at the Abbey. It was a strange experience to feel like the week was not only a very long time but also a very short time. We all had different experiences across the week, as we individually took up different opportunities for group activities, such as various walking pilgrimages across the Isle, trips to the Iona Community bookshop, and a boat trip to Staffa. We had shared meals and two church services a day together, which meant we both started and finished the day in the same way. Huge thanks to all of the volunteers at the Abbey who took care of us and ensured that we were fed throughout our time there.

I enjoyed Alastair's discussions around "Pilgrimage of Life", and also his reflections on the importance on climate change. From the Iona website, on the page advertising our week, Alastair said, "Climate change is the most pressing physical problem that the whole world currently faces. But what are its deeper roots? Is it sufficient to face it at the conventional levels of science, politics and economics, or does it also require insights into the human condition that only deep psychology and a profound spirituality can offer? The Russian writer Maxim Gorky said "All of us are pilgrims on this earth. I have even heard it said that the earth itself is a pilgrim in the heavens." How does ecological theology help to understand this, and how might an understanding of our own lives as pilgrims help to inform, and to sustain, the vocations called for from us in these times?





## Afternoon Fellowship Group - (AFG)

For a bit of fun our members all dressed up in our hats for Melbourne Cup Day at the November AAW meeting and AGM.

At this meeting a motion was passed that the St Aidan's Afternoon Fellowship becomes an associated group with the Anglican Women's Fellowship (AAW) rather than a full member. Hence, our name has now officially changed to Afternoon Fellowship Group (AFG).

Our final meeting for the year will be our Christmas celebration and carols on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. †

Mary Parkinson

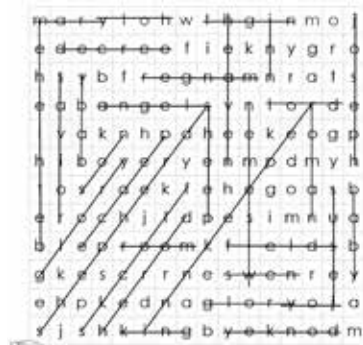


## Sunday Morning Chapel Helpers at Auckland Hospital

Five times each year (third Sunday in February, April, June, August and October) a group from St Aidan's assists in locating and helping patients (if they are well enough) to attend the Sunday 10am ecumenical communion service at the hospital chapel. This is valued by the patients.

Currently only up to six St Aidan's parishioners are available to help in this way, and starting from 9am they are only able to attend about half the wards, so more helpers are always welcome. Please contact David Jamison for further details if you feel you may be able to help.

WordSearch solution  
from p.26



*Summer Hours*

St Aidan's Office

Closing 12 noon on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024  
Reopening Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Pins & Needles

Pins & Needles have produced many lovely knitted blankets, garments, and teddies at our monthly meetings, as well as lots of knitted beanies for Auckland City Mission to distribute to the homeless and those sleeping rough throughout the winter months.

We have had several donations of knitted garments from our outworkers for which we are very grateful. We can always find a recipient. We know that our knitted, crocheted and sewn articles always get to the 'coalface' where they are needed most. We always request items not be sold but rather given to those in need to keep them warm and healthy – from newborns to the aged. Our 'angel babies' are not forgotten either - we have a sewer, Zoya, who makes special shrouds for those little ones.

Our attendance has ranged from 8-19 this year, and all are welcomed with morning tea. We share ideas and show each other what we have made, welcoming everyone, whether or not they have had the chance to knit, encouraging all to attend and share a cuppa and a chat – communication is so important.

Thank you to all who participate so willingly. We look forward to 2025 with the intention of continuing to provide warmth to those less fortunate. †

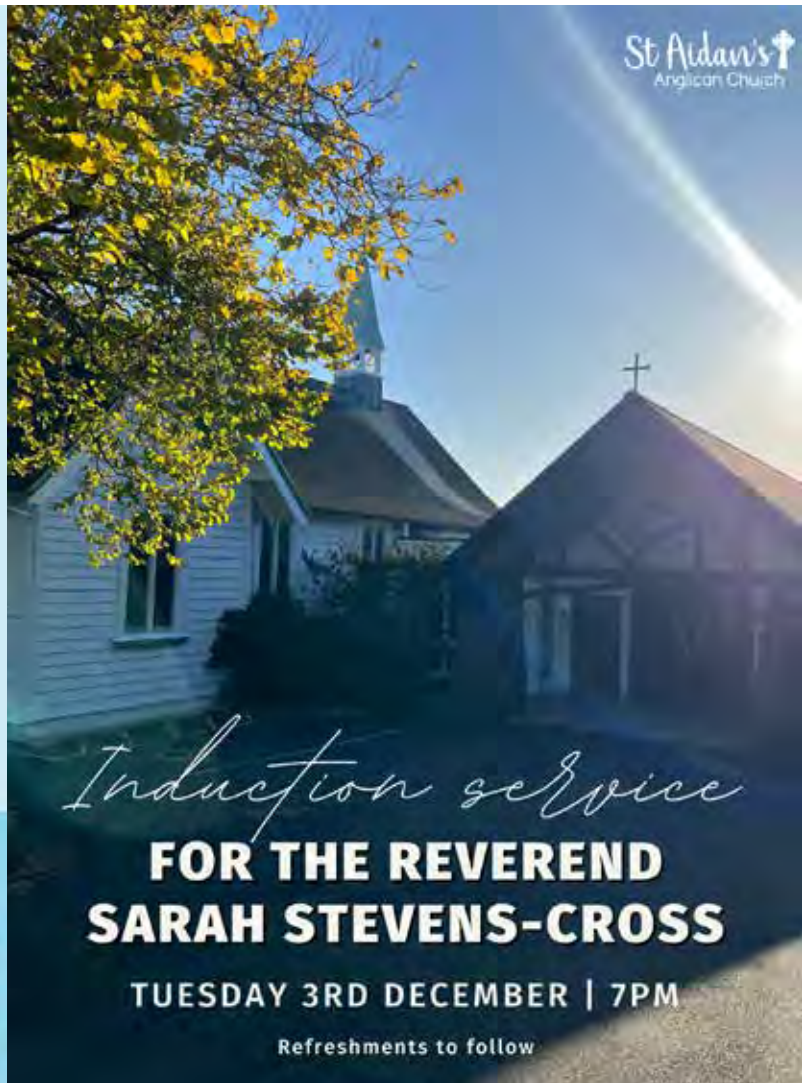
Gail Hodder



**Share the joy  
this Christmas**

Your gift gives so much more.  
Thank you for being an  
Auckland's Angel.

TE TĀPUI ATAWHAI  
**AUCKLAND  
CITY MISSION**



St Aidan's  
Anglican Church

*Induction service*  
**FOR THE REVEREND  
SARAH STEVENS-CROSS**  
TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER | 7PM

Refreshments to follow

## 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 [pamphlet](#) 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. †



### Giving to St Aidan's

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

## Donation Bequest

In August, St Aidan's was the recipient of a substantial donation as a bequest from Roy Adams' estate and in memory of him.

Roy was a long time parishioner of St Aidan's, and even when he moved to Remuera Gardens he was a regular attendee at the monthly communion services held on site by our team.

The family have expressed their desire for the gift to go to a current project which will be of benefit to the parish community. As a result, in consultation with the family, this money has gone into the refurbishment fund and plans are now able to continue to complete the much-needed maintenance work and upgrade on the hall kitchen.

We are very grateful for the generosity of Roy which will enable us to now undertake this work. †

Louise



Congratulations to Storm and Maarten Deuss on the safe arrival of their daughter Frankie Alice. Born 9<sup>th</sup> November, 3.85kgs. Mum and baby are both now home.



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

582 Remuera Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050 | 09 520 3119 | [staff@sibuns.co.nz](mailto:staff@sibuns.co.nz)  
[www.sibuns.co.nz](http://www.sibuns.co.nz)

## Pet Service

Our annual St Francis' Day Pet Service was held on a sunny Sunday afternoon in October. With six dogs, one cat, a teddy, 23 humans, and, thankfully, zero puddles. They made much 'joyful noise' to the Lord.

As we sang together - 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'He's got the whole world in His hands' - there was an abundance of smiles, and more than a few pricked up ears as the four-legged congegation watched on.

Louise prayed for animals everywhere, and especially for our own pets, and then blessed each one of them individually with a prayer and a sign of the cross.

Donations of pet food, sheets, and towels, which had been collected during the previous weeks, were also blessed by Louise before being delivered to the SPCA in Māngere by Yvonne.

May God bless all of our furred and feathered family members, both for their companionship and for the example of unconditional love they give to us. †

### Prayer for the Animals

*Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals,  
especially for animals who are suffering;  
for animals that are overworked, underfed and cruelly treated;  
for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat their wings against bars;  
for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry;  
for all that must be put death.  
We entreat for them all your mercy and pity,  
and for those who deal with them, we ask a heart of compassion,  
gentle hands and kindly words.  
Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals,  
and so to share the blessings of the merciful.*

*by Dr Albert Schweitzer*

Background image from [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)



# Community Noticeboard

## Craft Harvest Christmas Markets

7, 14 + 21 December - 8am to 12pm

Jubilee Hall, 545 Parnell Road, Parnell



## Band Rotunda Takeover: The Turing Project

Pack a picnic and your dancing shoes! The Turing Project are taking over our Band Rotunda with their mid-century to modern jazzy tunes.

The Turing Project is a 7 piece jazz band whose sparkling, jazz-infused covers of artists like Elton John, Marilyn Monroe, Amy Winehouse and more will get your feet tapping and head nodding.

Bring a picnic, drinks, friends and whānau with you, and enjoy an afternoon of good company and good tunes.

Public transport, walking, cycling and carpooling are highly encouraged due to limited parking.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025 5pm - 7pm**

Location: Band Rotunda.

Next to the Cornwall Park Cafe.

Vehicle access from Green Lane West only.



## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

with the Auckland Philharmonic at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell

Friday 13 December 7:30pm

or Saturday 14 December 3:00pm

Tickets available online from the [APO website](#)

Conductor Stephen Layton    Tenor Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono  
Director Terence Maskell    The Graduate Choir New Zealand

As the end of the year draws near our thoughts turn to our traditions for the festive season, and music is the perfect way to celebrate with family and friends. The Auckland Philharmonia will be joined again by the marvellous Graduate Choir New Zealand and outstanding Samoan tenor Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono.

The concert programme will include excerpts from J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Handel's Hallelujah Chorus alongside Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride' and a generous helping of your favourite traditional Christmas carols.

### St Aidan's mainly music

mainly music meets each Wednesday at 10am in the Hall. Our final session for 2024 is Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December for the annual Christmas party.

JOIN US FOR

## Carols on the Lawn

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER, 5.30PM - 7.00PM

**NW NEW WORLD** ST MARKS CHURCH 95 REMUERA ROAD **ATWC**

THERE WILL BE A VISIT FROM SANTA, BALLOON TWISTING, SOFT DRINKS, SAUSAGE SIZZLE, MUSICAL & DANCE PERFORMANCE AND CAROLS SUNG BY ST MARK'S CHOIR

FOOD KINDLY DONATED BY NEW WORLD REMUERA PROCEEDS IN SUPPORT OF ANGLICAN TRUST FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN



Generations of Aucklanders have fond memories of watching the Auckland Anniversary Regatta, held annually to celebrate the founding of the city in 1840. Enjoy a great family day out, with lots to see all over the city. Pack a picnic and watch the action from a viewpoint on land, head down to the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and enjoy light refreshments from the best seats in the house, or get up close with the action by booking a cruise or taking your own boat out to watch on the water.

As well as the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta, there are lots of other exciting things happening on Auckland Anniversary Weekend, including...

**Auckland International Buskers Festival** - Buskers pitch sites are spread out across Auckland's waterfront and CBD. Performers will rotate between sites over the 4-day festival. 24-27 January 2025.

**Auckland Folk Festival** - Music, song and dance for the whole family. Kumeu Showgrounds, 24-27 January 2025.



**Efest 2025**  
**Friday 18th - 21st April**





## SHARE THE AROHA

give the gift of aroha this christmas



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

- 👉
By donating brand-new toys at one of our local drop-off points
- 👉
Online financial donations to help share aroha and joy with whānau

**📍 DROP OFF LOCATIONS**

ATWC OFFICE, 10 BEATTY ST, ŌTĀHIRIHU  
 NEARLY NEW OPESHOP, 124 APIRANA AVE, ŌLENA DINES

**👤 ONLINE DONATIONS**



[ATWC.ORG.NZ](http://ATWC.ORG.NZ)

## From the Registers

August to November 2024

Weddings

Gina Tippet & Michael Kennerley  
 Mirella Newman & Scott Jones  
 Michael Lowe & Venus Wong  
 Luke Feng & Janice Ho

Funerals

Donald McPhail  
 Geraline Knox  
 Nigel Evans  
 Enid Bull

# Kids' Zone



**Kids' Church** has been moving and grooving since the last update! We've continued to have lots of fun in our sessions with various lessons, crafts, and games. My favourite session from the past term was when we celebrated the Season of Creation. We explored God's creation, present in our everyday lives, with a scavenger hunt around the church property, followed by a creation-themed sensory prayer! †

Izzi Hoskyn



## The Shepherd's Story Spot the Differences

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.



## Christmas Crack-ups

How do you help someone who has lost their Christmas spirit?  
Nurse them back to elf.

What do reindeer say before they tell you a joke?  
This one's gonna sleigh you!

What do you call an old snowman?  
Water.

What are a Christmas tree's favourite lollies?  
Orna-mints.

What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?  
You get tinsel-itis. †



## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY WORDSEARCH

m	a	r	y	l	o	h	w	t	h	g	i	n	m	o	j
e	d	e	c	r	e	e	f	i	e	k	n	y	g	r	o
h	s	y	b	f	r	e	g	n	a	m	n	r	a	t	s
e	a	b	a	n	g	e	l	s	v	n	l	o	r	d	e
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e	h	p	k	e	d	n	a	g	l	o	r	y	o	j	a
s	j	s	h	k	i	n	g	b	y	e	k	n	o	d	m

- mary
- inn keeper
- joseph
- sheep
- donkey
- flocks
- shepherds
- peace
- wisemen
- jesus
- angels
- decree
- night
- bethlehem
- inn
- manger
- baby
- lord
- savior
- news
- glory
- joy
- son
- roman
- fields
- herod
- glory
- holy
- room
- king
- heaven
- king
- baby

Solution on page 20

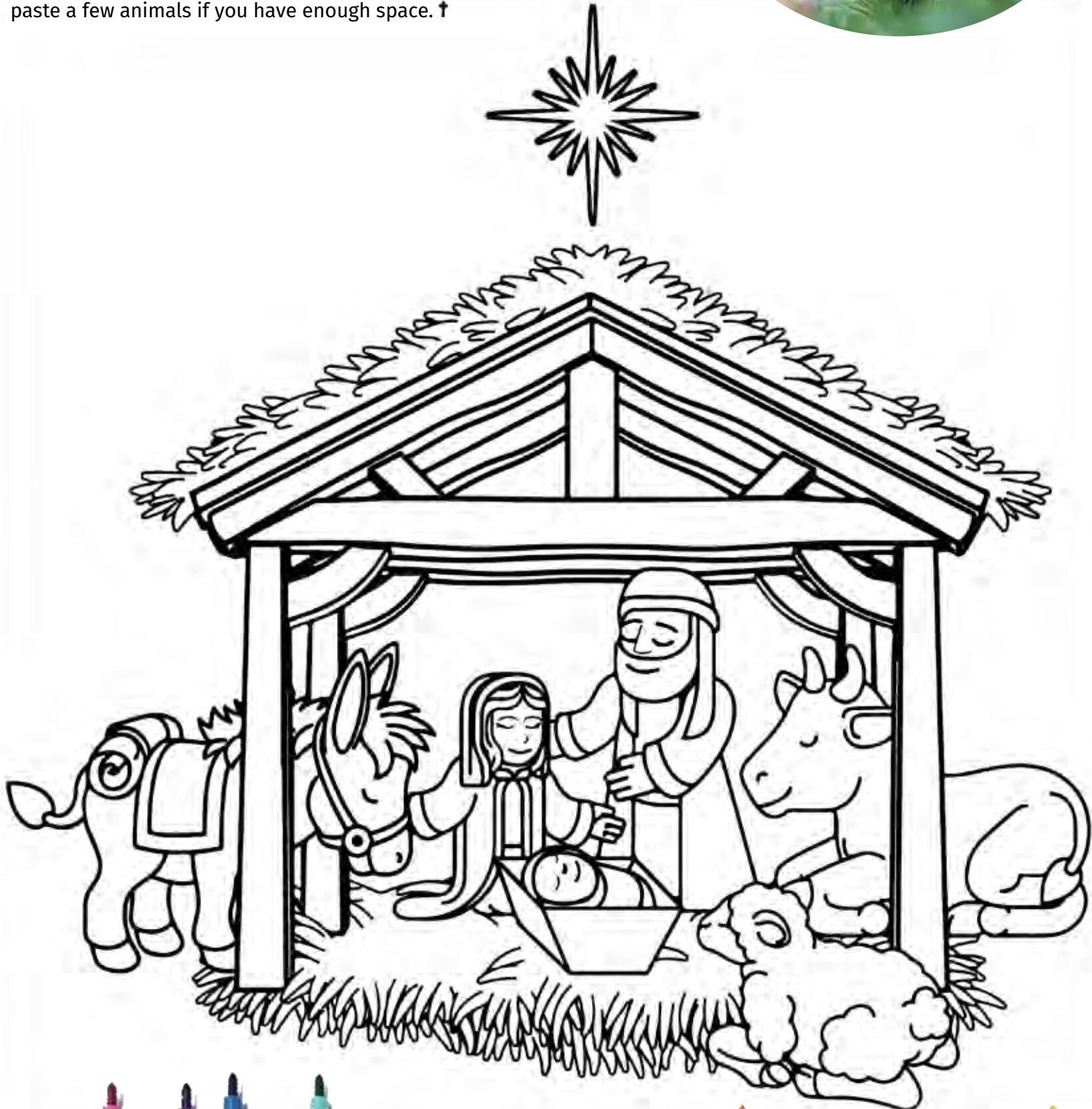
## Christmas Craft - Popsicle Stick Manger

Use this craft as an ornament to hang on the Christmas tree or to put on display over the Christmas season.

Cut a piece of cardboard into a triangular or square shape.

Glue popsicle sticks around the edges of the cardboard to create a manger.

Children can then fill the manger with cut-out pictures of the characters in the story, like Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, or you can even paste a few animals if you have enough space. †



# Contacts @ St Aidan's

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Vicar's Warden  
Juli Mercer

People's Warden  
Lynne Trenwith

