

THE APOSTLE

Christmas 2025



Mary & Joseph Return p 6

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St Aidan's History pg 24-25

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church



A Seasonal Reflection

Advent is a season that looks back and forward at the same time. We look back to the birth of Jesus in simplicity over 2000 years ago - the focus of our devotion on the wonder of the incarnation during Christmastide. We also look forward with hope to the unfolding of the kingdom of God as Jesus comes in tenderness and love to meet us face to face.

Advent is a season of waiting. What is that waiting like? Is it calm and tranquil as each day flows in simplicity from one to another as the season's customs become as comfortable as a favourite Tee-shirt - no pretension, just a good, cool fit. Others might want you to take it off and put on something more festive - 'not yet', you say, 'I'll wait a while'...

You might take more time with prayer during these weeks, sitting comfortably with the prophets, Isaiah and John the Baptist, open yourself to their challenges and discomfort as you hear their word... 'let every cliff become a plain'. What does that mean for you? Is it a smoothing out of a relationship that has become rough? Think about it, give it time.... 'the eyes of the blind will see'. What fresh insights await you over the next few weeks. 'I am not fit to undo his sandal strap' - what humility! - is that an insight that came to John in the "distraction free zone" of the desert? Have you got some desert islands to go to where are you not distracted? What does humility concretely mean to you?

Or maybe you attend on Elizabeth and Mary as they wait in expectation... in your quiet accompaniment some of their joy, graciousness, acceptance, trust, just might rub off... 'the child in my womb leapt for joy'... 'let what you have said be done to me'. A time to heal into holiness.

All these possible people in the Advent waiting room.

So Advent is a season of patience. Take each day as it comes. Calendar daily thoughts and treats, one at a time, a surprise each day, no need to rush ahead - I can wait until tomorrow. What does that patience feel like? Is it a struggle not to anticipate? To take a peak at what's ahead, to slip into the future without opening up the gift of the present - the now. What is that "now" like? Is it comfortable, secure, calm? Is it something I want to escape, to avoid, to run from - anywhere but here and now? Patience. Stay with it. You are not alone - do not be afraid.

Advent is also a season of attentiveness. We wait in a spirit of calm expectation, with eyes wide open in gentle alertness, for the unfolding of the gifts that Jesus has prepared for us. A Christmas song tells children 'you better watch out'. What is this attentiveness like? Is it noticing the peace that comes when we create the right environment - no phone or Netflix, some gentle music, a candle, a quiet place or feeling more chilled out as the season moves forward. Is it about hearing God crying from the wilderness of our mindlessness - speaking words of promise, encouragement and renewal?

Advent is a time for gentle prayer, as we begin to notice anew the presence of Jesus in so many different ways. We appreciate the many gifts that we have been given, as we see Jesus in the people with whom we live and work - especially our family and our faith community. Togetherness brings strength and support to navigate the rocky road of discipleship with hope and we need each other to sing and celebrate and rejoice in the promise of the Christ-child. May the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas bring solace, peace and reassurance as we share in shaping a new future. †

Dr Kim+

St Aidan's Anglican Church

5 Ascot Avenue, Remuera 1050

office@staidans.co.nz

(09) 929 4670 ext. 1

'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 Christmas edition of 'The Apostle' magazine. Deadline: 1st March 2026.

Find us online:

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Full Garage Sale report from Liz,
and more photos, on page 24

ST AIDAN'S REMUERA FAMOUS ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

THANK YOU!



REGULAR MINISTRIES

Sunday Services	8am Holy Communion. 9:30am Family Service with Holy Communion.
Mid-Week Service	11:30am Holy Communion on the 1 st Wednesday of each month.
Weekly Prayer	Thursday mornings in the Gathering Area at 9:15am. Come along or join via Zoom . Enter the Zoom online meeting ID: 959 1932 0025, or phone: +64 9 884 6780 and enter Passcode 1 #.
AFG - Afternoon Fellowship Group	(formerly AAW) A women's afternoon fellowship group. Meets monthly on 1 st Tuesday at 1:30pm. Contact Mary Parkinson.
ASTA - Advocacy at St Aidan's	(formerly the Writing Group) Meets on the last Friday of every month at 10am. Contact Anne Priestley.
Choir Practice	Saturdays at 9am in the Church. New members welcome. Contact Antoinette Pope.
Coffee & K's	Meets for a walk and coffee on the 4 th Saturday of each month. Contact Annette McGrevy.
Contemplative Prayer	Meets each Wednesday at 9:45am via Zoom . Contact Anne Priestley.
EF - Evening Fellowship	(formerly WEF) An evening fellowship group, all welcome. Meets monthly on 3 rd Tuesday at 7:30pm. Contact Christine Roke.
Kids' Church	All children ages 3-10 during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact our Clergy.
mainly music	Wednesdays during term time at 9:30am. Music and play for families with pre-school aged children. Contact Hannah Pospos.
Men's Ministry	Meets for breakfast, last Thursday of the month at 7:30am. Contact John Priestley.
Pins & Needles	Meets monthly on 2 nd Monday of the month. Contact Mary Parkinson.
Small Groups	Contact our Clergy - Kim, Wesley, or Christina - for more information.
Vestry	Our governing body currently meets monthly on the 4 th Tuesday. Contact the Wardens.
Young Adults	Meets every 2 nd Sunday 4:30pm-6:30pm plus occasional social events. Contact Nic Mercer.
Youth	Ages 11+ during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Nic Mercer.

Introducing The Reverend Dr Kim Benton



We are very blessed to have Dr Kim+ as Priest in Charge (PIC), serving alongside our Clergy team and staff while Sarah is on leave. We know you will make him feel very welcome during his time with us.

Kim was ordained Priest in Auckland and has exercised Parish Ministry most recently as Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's Remuera, and prior to that St Andrew's, Epsom. He is also a registered psychologist with a breadth of training and experience.

"I understand the importance of worship in sustaining communities and as a basis of engagement with the wider community. I have a passion for liturgy, music, preaching and education which forms the basis for pastoral care and Christian life. Most of all is the wonder of the Gospel is proclaimed in the community of the faithful by everyone seeking to respond to God's call to love and life in the name of Jesus Christ, to participate in the breaking in of the Kingdom of God for all, and in so doing all are blessed and enriched." †

Christmas at St Aidan's, Remuera

Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24th December

4pm | Kids' & Youth Christmas
9:30pm | Carol Service with
Holy Communion

Christmas Day
Thursday 25th December

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



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

CANTEMUS CHOIR LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER | 7PM

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

Cantemus Choir Lessons & Carols

The very talented Cantemus Community Choir, ably conducted by Stuart Weightman, will be joining us again this year for Lessons and Carols, on Sunday 7th December, starting at 7pm.

There will be a full programme of Bible readings, poems, choral performances and, of course, singing along with a number of much loved Christmas carols.

During the service there will be an opportunity for us all to bring a gift for a child (unwrapped), or a cash donation, and place it under the Christmas tree which will be passed on to the Anglican Trust for Women and Children.

Refreshments and supper of strawberries, chocolates, mince pies, and wine will follow the service.

We invite all parishioners, friends of St Aidan's and beyond, to join us for this wonderful evening. †



Blue Christmas

Sunday 21st December, 5pm in the church.

There's nothing quite like the approach of Christmas to increase the pressure we feel, not only to have it all together, but to wrap it in lights and tinsel.

Blue Christmas is intended for those for whom the Christmas season can be difficult and challenging. There may be feelings of grief, emptiness or loss – from recent events or from deep memories that are sometimes stirred at this time of year. While we all learn to 'put on a happy face', we'd like to offer the opportunity for some honesty, and provide a safe place of rest and healing for anyone who may need a little extra support as we approach Christmas.

We open the invitation to attend our Blue Christmas service to anyone who is remembering the death of a loved one, or who faces a difficult Christmas season for other reasons such as ill health, redundancy, separation, or aloneness. †



Blue Christmas at St Aidan's, Remuera

Sunday 21st December
5pm

St Aidan's
Anglican Church
5 Ascot Avenue, Remuera

Mary & Joseph are Back for a Visit!

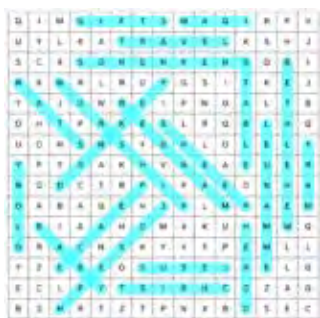


1. Who is this resting on our new bench outside the office?
Mary and Joseph have returned to Aotearoa for another visit
2. Sadly, no food available in the Pātaka Kai cupboard for our hungry travelers today
3. Admiring the Gathering Area kitchen, renovated while they've been back home in Nazareth
4. Checking out some books in the newly relocated library
5. Time for some quiet prayer and contemplation in the church



It's been a couple of years since Mary and Joseph have visited us at St Aidan's. If you would like to host their family for a night, or more, to take some photos with your whānau getting ready for Christmas, please speak to Anne or Hannah.

Find-a-word Solution
from page 30



The Children and Families Ministry at St Aidan's is currently in a transition phase as we explore together what it means to be an intergenerational people. †

Join to Sing Christmas Carols

We are already making plans for another Carols in the Community event on Wednesday 17th December.

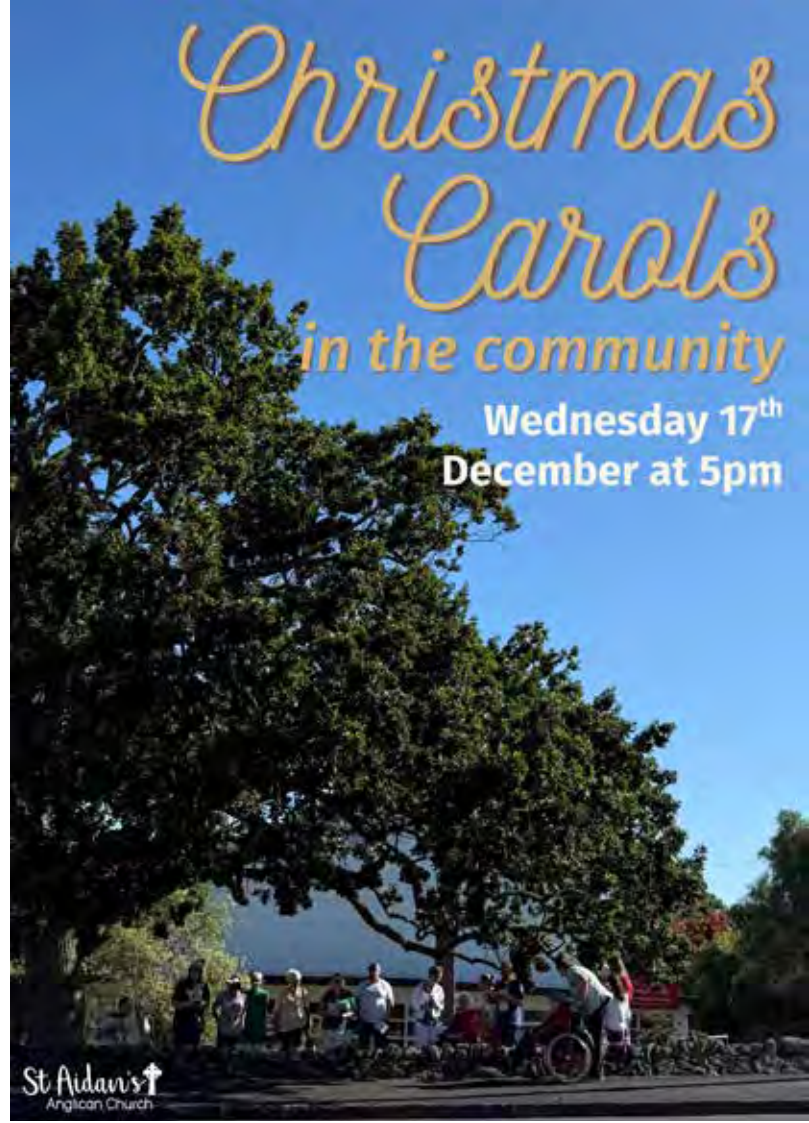
Starting on the front lawn of St Aidan's, on the corner of Remuera Road and Ascot Avenue, from 5pm, we will sing to the passers by, walking and in cars, usually for around 30 minutes.

After this we will head over to a couple of local Aged Care facilities and sing with the residents, finishing up around 7:30pm.

You can join us for just a short time at one location, or come along for the whole journey. Car pooling is available.

There is something very special about singing carols, sharing the Christmas story in song, which brings joy to both the singer and audience. Everyone is very welcome to join us - enthusiasm is more important than tune, and the more voices the better.

A full list of locations and approximate times will be available closer to the date, along with a sign up sheet. †



Parish Life



Top Left: 'Fashions on the Field' at Afternoon Fellowship **Top Right:** Sunset over St Aidan's
Bottom Left: Thank you evening for Garage Sale volunteers **Bottom Right:** Men's Breakfast at Brown's Café

Self Reflection for the Christmas Season

Sunday 30th November - Advent 1

- What small acts can we offer this Advent to help our neighbourhood become a place of peace?
- How can we help our spaces become places of belonging?
- What practical or prayerful commitments could you take up to prepare the way for peace?
- Are there fears, distractions, or attachments that keep you from being fully present?

This Advent, don't just wait – prepare. Let God peel back what's not needed.

And as you're refined, reshaped and wrapped in grace – become a gift.

A gift of peace to your neighbour.

A gift of justice in your community.

A gift of love in a world that's longing for hope.

This is the call of Advent: Be ready. Be real. Be the gift.

Sunday 7th December - Advent 2

- Where do you see examples – past or present – of people using their power as a gift to others?
- What might need to change in our attitudes or assumptions for us to become a better gift to those around us?
- Which of the fruits of the Spirit do you see growing in yourself – or long to see more of?
- How can we reflect God's generosity and justice more visibly and practically this Advent?

Let the Spirit clear away what clutters and distracts, and shape you into a holy gift – a tree of life in a world hungry for hope.

This is your calling: Bear fruit. Be bold. Be the gift.

Sunday 14th December - Advent 3

- How do you respond to times when God seems different from what you expected?
- What does "good news" mean to people experiencing poverty or exclusion today?
- How are we called to be bearers of the good news?
- In your own life, how might you offer gifts of hope to others?



The world badly needs your gift; you can bring hope.

Lift others up, and speak good news, especially to those the world overlooks.

Hope is here.

Sunday 21st December - Advent 4

- What kind of gift is God's presence in a dark or painful time?
- Where do you long to see God's face shine – what gift of restoration are you waiting or hoping for?
- Have you ever received the gift of someone else's calm, faithful presence in a difficult time?
- When have you experienced God's presence as a gift – unexpected, personal or sustaining?

The conception of Jesus is described as the work of God's Spirit, the creative force that brings life. This reminds us that every child, every life, is a sacred gift from God, made with deep love. Your life itself is a precious gift.

Jesus is the ultimate gift: given to us so we may know God's presence, grace and favour every day of our lives.

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

- How do you receive the gift of Christ in your life today?
- How can small, everyday acts become gifts of love to others?
- How is the birth of Jesus a radically different kind of gift than the world expects?
- What does it mean to you that the Christmas story is still unfolding now?



Jesus is the gift we receive at Christmas – a treasure for our hearts.

At Christmas, we celebrate the incredible gift of Jesus: God's love wrapped in human flesh, coming into our world to bring hope, peace and new life. This gift isn't just for a moment or a season. It's meant to be cherished deeply within us every day.

Sunday 28th December

- What does it mean that even things we associate with danger or disorder are still part of God's creation?
- How might recognising the vulnerability of others lead us to live more gently and compassionately?
- Can you think of a time when someone treated your fragility as sacred – a moment of being truly seen or cared for?
- In what ways can we challenge harmful uses of power and honour the God-given gift of every life?

The world can be a tough and challenging place, so let's care for one another. Life isn't always easy. People face struggles, pain and uncertainty all around us. In the midst of this, we are called to be a community that looks out for each other with kindness and compassion.

Caring for one another means noticing the vulnerable, offering support, and sharing hope. It's about creating spaces where people feel safe, valued and loved – even when life feels hard.

Together, we can make a difference by living gently, listening deeply, and acting with heart. In doing so, we become a source of healing and strength in a world that desperately needs it.

Sunday 4th January

- What difference does it make to you that becoming a child of God is a gift and not something earned or natural?
- In what ways is being a “child of God” a present reality for you, and how might that impact your daily life?
- What does “grace upon grace” mean to you in your personal faith journey?
- How can receiving God's overflowing generosity empower us to forgive, welcome, and serve others?

God's gift to you is the invitation to become a child of God.

This isn't something we earn or achieve – it's a generous gift, freely given. To be a child of God means you are deeply loved, accepted and valued just as you are. This gift invites you to live with confidence

and peace, knowing that no matter what happens, you are held in God's care. It changes everything, transforming your identity and your daily life with purpose and joy.

Tuesday 6th January - The Epiphany

- How does the picture of the ideal king in Psalm 72 challenge our usual ideas about power and leadership?
- What might it mean for us to be open to gifts and truth coming from unexpected places or people?
- How might we sometimes hold tightly to “earthly treasure” rather than freely giving and sharing the gift of Jesus?
- What practical ways can we reach out to those who are on the fringes or might seem ‘different’ or ‘outside’ our usual community?



You are like a treasure chest, filled with gifts waiting to be shared.

Generosity isn't just about giving things; it's about sharing your time, your encouragement, your compassion and your joy. When you freely offer these gifts, you reflect God's love and make the world a richer, brighter place. So open your treasure chest with courage and kindness, knowing that your gifts can make a real difference in the lives of others. †

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Date	Weekly theme	Old Testament	Gospel	Object
30 Nov	You are a Gift	Psalm 122	Matthew 24:36-44	
7 Dec	The Orange in the Stocking	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Matthew 3:1-12	
14 Dec	Give Hope	Psalm 146:5-10	Matthew 11:2-11	
21 Dec	With love from God	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Matthew 1:18-25	
25 Dec	The Best Gift	Psalm 97	Luke 2:1-20	
28 Dec	Handle with Care	Psalm 148	Matthew 2:13-23	
4 Jan	Created with Infinite Care	Psalm 147:12-20	John 1:10-18	
6 Jan	The Gift that Keeps on Giving	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Matthew 2:1-12	

Blue Christmas

Creator God, thank you for the gift of the world you made. Thank you for the gift of one another. Thank you that we do not have to struggle through alone, that you made us for community.

Eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you have given us so much and we have received so little. We are sorry for the times we have thrown your gifts away through selfishness, through thoughtlessness, or simply because our eyes are full of tears. Thank you that you keep giving anyway, because you love us. Amen.

What gifts can I donate?

Donations of **new, unwrapped and non-battery operated gifts** for children and teenagers are hugely appreciated.

Here are a few popular gift ideas:

Bring your gifts along to church by Sunday 21st December



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: due to sizing challenges, please do not gift clothing. Thank you!

Sustainable Christmas



The season of Advent is the time of preparation to celebrate the Lord's coming at Christmas. It is a time of waiting and hope. It is also a precious time when things are more spacious - a window of time to allow us to reflect on how we can do things differently.

During Advent, we invite you to consider how we can journey into Christmas in a different way - in a way that is more in harmony with creation. We want to give time towards preparation and planning so that we don't get caught up in the fast culture and rush that descends on us just before Christmas.

Here are some suggestions to make your Christmas a more sustainable one.

Christmas Tree

- ◆ Use a pot plant for a Christmas tree.
- ◆ Buy a tree from a nursery and make that your Christmas tree - then plant it after Christmas.
- ◆ Make a nativity set the focus instead of the Christmas tree.
- ◆ Make your own Christmas tree ideas - using driftwood, fairy lights on a wall, books, etc.

Christmas Decorations

- ◆ Make your own decorations.
- ◆ Use things from nature - shells, driftwood, pine cones, stones, leaves, flowers, twigs etc.
- ◆ Use things from our Mission Shop or another charity op shop.
- ◆ Reuse decorations.
- ◆ Make Christmas cookies as decorations.
- ◆ Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins.
- ◆ Do away with Christmas crackers - or choose DIY / reusable / zero waste / eco-friendly options: wastefreecelebrations.co.nz/collections/christmas-crackers or www.hopper.nz/christmas
- ◆ Use LED Christmas lights. Use timers or switch off Christmas lights overnight.

Christmas Cards

- ◆ Make your own Christmas cards.
- ◆ Use items from nature - write messages on shells and driftwood.
- ◆ Purchase cards that support a cause.
- ◆ Send e-cards.
- ◆ Write a Christmas letter / email instead.

Christmas Gifts

- ◆ Give gifts of experiences and memories instead of physical gifts.
- ◆ Give gifts of time or skills.
- ◆ Give donations to a good cause, or add a gift to the Auckland's Angels box.
- ◆ Give gifts of trees, plants, seedlings or seeds.
- ◆ Give gifts of food that can nourish and feed, rather than more gadgets.
- ◆ Gift subscriptions, lessons, memberships, or tickets.
- ◆ Put in place an op shop only / second hand only gift giving policy.
- ◆ When buying gifts, consider sustainable long lasting gifts.
- ◆ Homemade gifts. Upcycled gifts.
- ◆ Make and gift Christmas cookies.
- ◆ Limit the number of gifts - e.g. by pulling a name out of a hat, or limiting to just children.

Gift Wrapping

- ◆ Reuse wrapping paper.
- ◆ Use items from the op shop as gift wrappers - fabric cut-offs, scarves, bags, baskets, jars, kete, tins, even clothes that can then be worn!
- ◆ Explore the art of Furoshiki - Japanese fabric wrapping.
- ◆ Newspaper or magazine pages wrapping.
- ◆ Reusable gift bags.
- ◆ Decorate wrapping with leaves and flowers. †

www.ecochurch.org.nz
A Rocha Aotearoa NZ





Mission Shop

Following the very successful Garage Sale, the school holidays came straight after and the takings were quite meagre over that time. We still managed to stay busy with sorting donations and keeping things tidy. We have a new schoolgirl volunteer from Diocesan School doing her community hours for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze medal, another Hannah. She came and helped at the Garage Sale as well.

ATWC have closed their op shops, so no longer want our surplus clothes. We are now taking them to the Auckland City Mission Op Shop in Glen Innes, who are always very grateful for our offerings.

We will have our Charitable Purposes Group (CPG) meeting to distribute our funds before the end of the year. The list of charities we support this year will be put on the noticeboard in the Gathering Area when the disbursements have been decided.

The shop will close for the year on Saturday 13th December, so there's still time to purchase some sustainable Christmas gifts and support us, as we in turn support other charities and missions.

We open again on Saturday 7th February 2026. We will also have our usual pop-in days during January, for the volunteers to sort out the donations which continue to come in over the summer break. †

Jenny Haggitt

Pins & Needles

The Pins and Needles Group has met regularly during the year and provided many knitted blankets, garments and soft toys for those in need. There have been many adult sized beanies knitted by our group and outworkers, and then donated to the Auckland City Mission, for the homeless.

We distribute items for babies and young children to groups in South Auckland and Northland. These are all gratefully received and handed out where it is needed most.

One of our members lovingly sews special little shrouds for 'angel babies'. These are all beautifully made with donated fabric. This year some have been lined with crushed velvet from an old wedding dress!

Attendances on the second Monday of the month vary from 12 to 20 ladies. We especially welcome the many women who are not parishioners, but enjoy being able to knit for others. A lovely morning tea is served while we share ideas and show what we have created during the past month.

Sadly, our leader Gail Hodder, died suddenly in September. Gail had lovingly given her time, knowledge and enthusiasm to this group since its inception. She will be sorely missed by all involved, but as Gail would have wished, we will keep going so we can help those who are less fortunate within our community. †

Mary Parkinson

Donate Joy

If you are fortunate enough that your children or grandchildren are likely to receive lots of toys and gifts this Christmas, please consider cleaning out their toy cupboards in the lead up to Christmas, rather than in the days after.

While we always appreciate the generous donations brought into our Mission Shop at any time, at this time of year there are many families strapped for cash who could be looking for toys and other items to give to their little ones this Christmas.

By clearing out your cupboards a few weeks early you could make another child's Christmas a lot more joyful, and a parent's financial strain a little easier. †



How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

1 John 3:17-18

Mission Shop Summer break

Closed from
Saturday 13th December 2025 at 2pm
Open from
Saturday 7th February 2026 at 10am



Office Hours Summer break

Closed
Monday 22nd Dec 2025 at 3:30pm
Open
Tuesday 20th Jan 2026 at 9am



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

Afternoon Fellowship

Veronica Black gave us a wonderful talk entitled, "My Journey through Embroidery", at our September meeting. We were also privileged to be shown many examples of her work.

Our October speaker was the Chancellor of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, Lyn Stevens, who enlightened us on how the gospel arrived in the Southern Seas.

The November meeting coincided with Melbourne Cup Day, and members came along looking wonderful



in their glamorous hats. We heard about Rosemary Ballantyne's trip to India and Christine Kennedy's recent cycling tour in Japan.

Our financial members totalled 43 and we averaged around 30 at our meetings throughout the year.

Thank you to all who have assisted in organising and leading us in our services, especially Christine Kennedy. Special thanks to Antoinette Pope for playing the organ for our hymns, and to Anne Godman-Funaki for helping to set up for our speakers.

The group has sent donations to a number of missions and charities, using funds from subscriptions and from the trading table, ably run by Terrie Hawley.

The committee has worked well together during the year, phoning members monthly and organising afternoon teas at meetings, and we would love to welcome new members for 2026. †

Mary Parkinson

ASTA (Advocacy @ St Aidan's)



Manuia le Kerisimasi ma le Tausaga Fou!

Ofa ke mou ma'u ha Kilisimasi Fiefia mo ha Ta'u Fo'ou monū'ia!

Happy Christmas and a good New Year!

At October's ASTA meeting (Advocacy at St Aidan's) we drew and wrote 50+ cards with varied Christmas messages.

These will go to people in prison in NZ, reminding them that they are not alone, not forgotten, and bringing a burst of colour into their lives.

May hope, peace, joy and love be theirs, and ours, in 2026. †

Anne Priestley

Top Right: Making Christmas cards for Prison Chaplains to distribute to inmates around Aotearoa New Zealand

Right: A small selection of the cards we made



Our first ASTA meeting for the New Year will be on Friday 27th February 2026.

Prison Ministry

Auckland Regional Women's Correctional Facility (ARWCF) in Wiri is a place of challenge for all involved - the guards, all the teams which go in and visit, and especially for the women. A variety of self-improvement courses are offered by skilled volunteers.

ARWCF is a potpourri of people and emotions, whether your perspective is looking from the inside out, or from the outside in. We enter through the door of the latter. We take the Word of God - the most important 'course' which can become a catalyst for change. Only Jesus can change our hearts, turn us around, and redirect our paths, and we all need that!

There is protection under the Privacy Act, so we do not know the reason for their incarceration. Familiarity and intimate conversations are a 'no go' area. We are strictly purveyors of the Word, laced with love and care. We try, in a small way, to bring hope to the ladies. Hope for a future, and courage to face the world when they are released.

This is no magical quick fix. This ministry is a consistent labour of love.

Most women who attend the Sunday services are hungry for change; some attend out of boredom, but God works in mysterious ways! It is a humbling experience, and we often learn from the women, the teacher becoming the student.

Hopefully, we can light a candle of love in their hearts. Visiting also demonstrates caring, and it can be reassuring to know that someone out there cares! May this ministry go from strength to strength with God's blessing. †

St Aidan's Prison Ministry Team

The purpose of volunteering with Prison Chaplaincy is to help prisoners with their spiritual needs, to support them in a difficult time in their lives as they explore faith, and to bring encouragement, grace, and hope.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please complete an expression of interest at www.prisonchaplaincy.org.nz or talk to volunteers, Anne Priestley or Barbara Weir, who can put you in touch with a chaplain.



Health & Safety Update

The bench outside the office has been a very popular spot for visitors and parishioners alike to take a rest over many years. However, age had taken its toll, and it had become somewhat rickety and unstable.

With thanks to local craftsman Gordon Evans, the old bench has been retired back to its original donors, and a sturdy new bench in an attractive design has now been installed. Why not 'take a load off' sometime and try it out?

Following the theft of our original defibrillator in May, we have now also installed a brand new HeartStart defibrillator which is stored in a locked and alarmed cabinet in the same location.

Thankfully, to date, we have never required the defibrillator for an emergency, and we pray that continues to be the case. However, it is important to have one available for St Aidan's and the Remuera community once again.

If you would like to have some training in the use of this unit, please contact the office to let me know, and we can arrange for a group training session. †



In the unfortunate event of an emergency, dial 111 and the emergency operator will provide the defibrillator cabinet access code.

When opened, the cabinet will automatically sound an alarm, which will continue until it is closed again.

Share Your Blessings All Year Round

As fruit trees and veggie gardens begin to flourish in the Spring, and on through Summer and Autumn, please remember our neighbours and consider bringing your extra blessings to bless others - by placing them in our Pātaka Kai food sharing cupboard.

We have many people who come looking for help, and limited opportunity to assist.

Our Auckland City Mission shopping trolley is filled week after week by the generosity and caring of our parishioners, and Christmas is a wonderful time when many of us are inspired to share extra with those less fortunate.

The Pātaka Kai cupboard just gives us another opportunity to share. It is a place free from judgement where people can find some assistance.

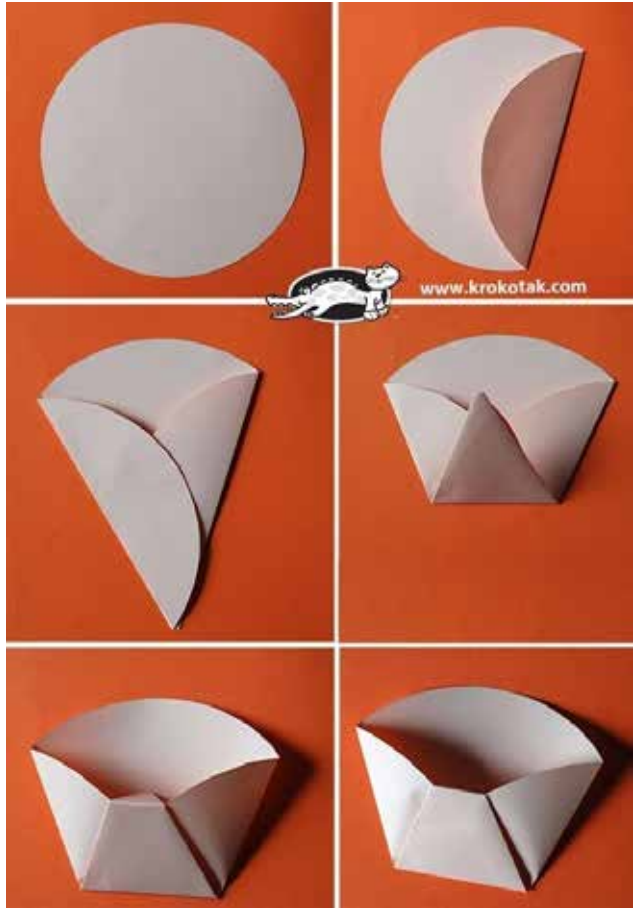
Unlike the City Mission trolley collection, fresh food can be left in the Pātaka Kai as long as it doesn't require refrigeration, as well as food which has passed it's best before date. †



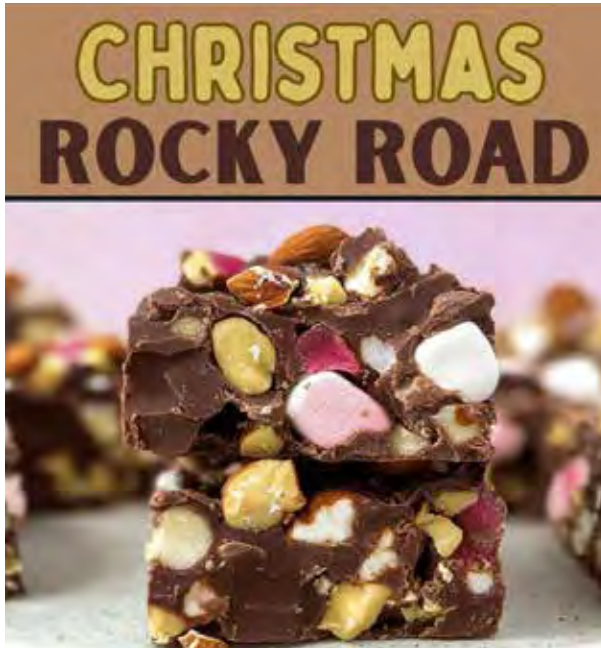
**2025
ST FRANCIS DAY
PET SERVICE**

Paper Baskets

Make a basket and fill with baked goods or pick some flowers from your garden!
Great gift for a neighbour. :)



Christmas Crafts & Recipe



Woven Paper Christmas Trees

Scan the QR Code below for a step-by-step tutorial.



Make it your own with lots of options for substitution.

INGREDIENTS:

- ▶ 200g Milk Chocolate & 100g Dark Chocolate (or any combination of these to suit your taste)
- ▶ 150g Roasted Macadamia Nuts. Can be substituted with almonds if you prefer, or omit for nut-free
- ▶ 100g Crispy Pistachios (Sunflower seeds can be a nut-free alternative.
- ▶ 100g Mini Marshmallows. (Larger marshmallows can be cut in half or quarters)
- ▶ 75g Cranberries. (Dried cherries or raisins also work)
- ▶ 100g Turkish Delight (Replace with other chewy candies if desired, e.g. caramels)
- ▶ Optional: Extra nuts or sprinkles for added decoration and flavour.

METHOD:

Melt the chocolate by microwaving chopped milk and dark chocolate, stirring until smooth.

Mix in the roasted macadamia nuts, crispy pistachios, mini marshmallows, and cranberries until coated.

Prepare the pan by lining it with parchment paper and pour in the chocolate mixture.

Add optional toppings by sprinkling additional nuts or sprinkles on top before it sets.

Chill to set in the refrigerator for at least one hour.

Cut into squares and serve after lifting from the pan.

Can be stored in an airtight container for several days. Also a great idea to give as sustainable gifts to family and friends in a recycled jar. †

DIY Denim Angel Ornament

Whether you hang it on a tree, tie it to a gift, or use it as wall décor, it brings a rustic, heartfelt touch to any space.

Materials Needed:

- ▶ Denim scraps (1 for the body, 1 for the wings – around 12x12cm each)
- ▶ Wooden bead (2cm, for the head)
- ▶ Small jingle bell or wooden button
- ▶ Twine or jute string (for bow and hanging loop)
- ▶ Faux greenery or tiny wreath (for the halo)
- ▶ Two wooden stars or embellishments
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Hot glue gun or strong fabric glue



Step-by-step Guide:

Cut a teardrop or skirt shape from denim for the angel's body.

For wings, use a curved or butterfly-like denim piece (use a pocket flap if possible!).

Gather the top of the skirt shape and glue or tie it under the wooden bead (head).

Glue the wings behind the bead and attach a bow and bell at the neck.

Add a tiny greenery halo and attach a hanging loop with twine.

Glue stars or embellishments to the skirt as a final decorative touch. †

SUMMER SERVICES

One Sunday Service held at 9am

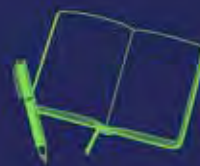
Sunday 28th December 2025
until Sunday 25th January 2026



Blessings of the Backpacks & Devices

Sunday 9th February

All students and teachers are welcome to bring along items to be blessed as the new school year begins.



Coffee & K's



Above: Stonefields Heritage walking trail

Below: Post-walk coffee at Charlie & George Café



The Coffee & K's group have had an amazing year, taking advantage of many of the wonderful walks available around our city.

Our walks have taken us to:

- The Botanical Gardens at Manurewa
- Joining in for a section of 'The Big Mission Home' between Mission Bay and Okahu Beach
- Takapuna Beach
- Loops around the Panmure Basin
- Stonefields Heritage Walk
- Point England
- Cornwall Park

The cafés we have visited have been equally as varied - always a cheerful and relaxing way to finish, either cooling down or warming up.

We are planning a Christmas celebration lunch to finish up the year, on 6th December at Belly-Worship Café, 35 Tamaki Drive Mission Bay.

We are always happy to welcome new walkers. All of our walks are tailored to allow for all fitness levels, so that everyone can join in and no one is left behind.

We will be back again in the new year, on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 28th February 2026. †

Annette McGrevy & Ronnie Kay

Evening Fellowship

We have continued to enjoy a variety of topics at our monthly meetings.

In August, we welcomed Anne Carpenter as she spoke on, "My life as a professional photographer". She kept us amused with photos and stories of people she had met and situations such as hanging out of a helicopter to obtain the required photos.

Allyson Gofton returned in September to tell us about her latest book, "Love & Kindness", in aid of breast cancer research. She demonstrated how to make some gifts from the book such as lemon and pepper salt, and sel de Provence and we got to taste them and take away samples.

Christine Roke was our October speaker. Her talk was a travelogue of their recent South American trip, including the Galapagos Islands, the Amazon, and the Iguazu falls, with lots of photos.

In November, we have our usual end of year meeting with Christmas carols and desserts.

Do come and join us to hear more interesting topics in 2026 and enjoy supper and a chat afterwards. Perhaps you have in mind something you would like to hear about or tell us about. If so, do let us know. †

Christine, Jan, Elisabeth, Penny, Terrie & Ronnie



Above: The Evening Fellowship group enjoyed tasting at Allyson Gofton's evening

Below: Some of the waterfalls from the 270 at the Iguazu falls in South America



Sing Your Favourite Hymn

A small, but enthusiastic, ensemble gathered for our annual 'Sing Your Favourite Hymn' afternoon in October.

Once again, Anita Banbury presented a lovely range of favourites, also sharing history and snippets about each hymn's writer, composers, tunes and poetry.

Brian Millar accompanied the singers on the organ, for a rich and enjoyable afternoon, followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea.

Many thanks to Anita and Brian for their leadership, and Antoinette for arranging this wonderful afternoon through her links with the Royal School of Church Music.

We look forward to another opportunity to sing some more favourites next year. †



The Collect

In May 2024, at the General Synod in Hastings, one of the motions dealt with was rewriting new editions of the collects in our New Zealand Prayer Book/ He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. Members of the Synod were offered the chance to reflect on what is it that makes the 'collect' such a special, unique and different type of prayer.

Fr Bosco Peters, a priest in the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch, has a great passion for liturgy. In his most recent edition of Book of Prayers in Common he compiled a suggestion for a set of collects for use in our Province. Based on long and deep historical, literary and liturgical research, he offers us a theological and liturgical reflection on the importance of the collects. Hence, the central part of this article is fully based on his work. I have attempted to summarise it for our purpose:

THE ROLE OF THE COLLECT

The collect is a key to liturgy, to worship, to common prayer, but not in the way we so regularly experience the collect. It is often merely another nice little prayer cluttering the vestibule at the start of our liturgy. The word 'collect', in Latin, is 'collecta' - gathering together. A collect can gather a litany (list of petitions) together into a final, single prayer. A collect gathers silent prayer together into a single prayer. It gathers us, particular individuals, into a praying community.

Ideally, at the Eucharist, individuals arrive and are greeted by the presider - whose greeting is returned. Then we have the unifying experience of singing together. As part of this gathering, we are called to a moment of shared, deep silence in the presence of the great mystery we call God. This deep silence is concluded, 'collected, by the presider praying aloud the collect which we then all affirm with our 'Amen'. In many places across Aotearoa New Zealand, the collect is often misunderstood as a prayer that is prayed by the whole congregation. Comparative study of the liturgical practices across the Anglican Communion and in the ecumenical context will show us that it is primarily and exclusively a presider's prayer.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE COLLECT

Just as a sonnet or a haiku has a particular, recognisable structure, so does a collect. A collect has a five-fold structure. Three parts are always present.

You - the Address: God,

Who - the Amplification (and possibly the motive); the foundation upon which our request is made; an attribute or act of God: you have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, and which surpass our understanding;

Do - the Petition: pour into our hearts such longing for you,

To - the Purpose (and possibly the aspiration, the reason for which we ask): that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire;

Through - the Conclusion: through Jesus Christ, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE HISTORY OF THE COLLECT

If you went back in a time machine seventeen centuries or so, on many occasions you could find the very same prayer being prayed on the very same day in the Christian community at worship! These prayers are old.

They are the result of people mulling over the message prayerfully century upon century. They have been worn smooth by constant repetition, in Latin, and then, in the sixteenth century, by Cranmer into memorable English. They have been memorised by generations. These short, prayerful statements encapsulating deep spiritual truth and insight.

USING A COLLECT IN WORSHIP

The primary use of a collect is as part of the gathering of a community. For this, the collect can be understood as being at the heart of a four-fold movement:



An Advent Koru

A bidding. The presider can simply use, "Let us pray". Or they can have a more extended bidding: "Let us pray in silence that..."; or "Let us pray that ...".

If the community is standing at this point, there is no need to plummet to one's knees.

Silent prayer. This is the heart of what we are doing. This deep silent praying of the gathering community is what the collect is collecting. If there is no silent praying, what is the collect collecting? We have arrived to the Eucharist from a variety of contexts. We are now being gathered into a community. We need to have confidence that the time of quiet prayer is sufficient for each to be able to form a silent prayer. It is worth repeating: without this silence the "collect" is in grave danger of being reduced to merely another little prayer cluttering the start of our service.

The presider proclaims the collect in the name of the gathering community. After sufficient silent prayer, the presider proclaims the collect, gathering the prayers of the community, and articulating the prayer of the Church - the body of Christ. As Christ's body we address God, the Source of all being, in Christ's name, on Christ's behalf, and we do so in the power and unity of the Holy Spirit.

The community affirms the collect. We make the collect our own, by together declaring a strong 'Amen', our 'so be it'. The collect when well understood and aptly used can powerfully gather the community, deepen our prayerfulness, and profoundly express much at the heart of Christian spirituality.

If properly understood and celebrated, the collect is a treasure that enriches our prayer in a unique way and challenges us to reflect deeper on the treasury of our faith. †

Father Bosco Peters (edited and abbreviated by The Reverend Ivica Gregurec, Cathedral Precentor).

First published in Holy Trinity Cathedral's Trinity Life Magazine.

Reproduced by permission

It is wonderful to use elements from God's creation in worship. Using shells or stones or other things from nature enables people to engage with God using other senses.

Advent is a time I like to do this. A few years ago, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ's Kids Friendly resource person, Jill Kayser came up with the idea of creating an Advent koru instead of an Advent wreath. While a wreath reflects a northern hemisphere winter Christmas, an Advent koru points to the new life that Christ's birth brings here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This Advent koru is made up of shells which portray our kiwi summer, along with stones, bird's nests, feathers, flowers, and other natural things we can find. Their minister encouraged people to bring a contribution from nature each week to add to the koru to reflect that particular week's theme. For 'joy' parishioners were encouraged to bring something from the natural world that had brought them joy during the week. For 'love' they were encouraged to bring a flower to remember someone whose absence they feel strongly at Christmas. Tealight candles, emphasising Christ's new life, were added for Christmas Eve. †

Rev. Jill McDonald, St Andrews Presbyterian, Hastings
A Rocha Aotearoa NZ www.ecochurch.org.nz



Garage Sale 2025



Top Left: Congratulations Sarah, our raffle winner! **Top Middle:** Friday Preview Evening's somelliers

Top Right: Friday Preview raffle's second prize went to Elisabeth

Middle Left: The queue waiting for 8am **Middle Centre:** Taking a well-deserved rest after a long morning of sales.

Middle Right: Rosie gives the Friday Preview a thumbs up!

Bottom Left: All over and packed up **Bottom Middle:** Volunteers at the thank you evening

Bottom Right: Liz Thanks the volunteers and shares the great fundraising news



Efest Sponsors

Each year, AYM runs a camp called Efest. We gather young people from across the Diocese after Good Friday services and we spend the weekend in worship, prayer, community, fun and even tend to some governance with our 'Youth Hui'.

We seek to connect as youth, bringing our diversity as a Diocese together

as a community - respectful of our differences, and seeking to unite in our commonality.

We would love our Diocese to come together to support young people to attend Efest 2026.

If you would like to help, by financing a young person to attend Efest, please speak to Nic Mercer or email: nic@staidans.co.nz

Youth

St Aidan's famous Garage Sale is always a highlight in my calendar, mainly for the lovely community feel. Many people look forward to it each year as it provides a service to the community, the donations we receive help people declutter, goods are reused rather than going to landfill, and the customers find items that they need and may not otherwise be able to afford.

I coordinate this event, but we could not do it without the help of so many people from the parish community. Almost everyone gets involved, whether in a small or a large way. We have the lovely people who make all the jam, preserves, cakes, biscuits, slices, and sandwiches for all the volunteers. Then comes the endless hours the volunteers spend setting up and pricing their stalls and making them look presentable. We also have the 'unseen jobs' such as putting up all the advertising far and wide to attract the customers, picking up extra tables from nearby local churches, chopping kilograms of onions ready for the BBQ; nothing goes unnoticed. We hugely appreciate all the volunteers' time which goes into this spectacular event.

The customers are also a delight. Some are looking for a particular book, others come just for the delicious baking, then there are grandparents looking for toys for their grandchildren, perhaps for Christmas presents.

This year, we also had a great invention kindly donated by a parishioner's friend: the fold-up seat, perfect for when you need emergency chairs or extra seating at a child's birthday party. For those who have not already bought one, we still have plenty more. They are ideal for that hard-to-buy Christmas gift. Contact Anne in the office if you would like to purchase one.

I am already looking forward to next year's Garage Sale, so mark the date now in your calendars now, it will be on **Saturday 12th September 2026**. †

Liz Fraser
Garage Sale coordinator

Youth have always been an important of the community at St Aidan's, and it has been great to see a growing number of youth coming along over the past couple of months. This has meant a busy time of getting to know everyone and organising a couple of social events for everyone to enjoy and get to know each other.

My hope is that we are able to continue to grow the number of youth in our community and allow them to get involved in any way they want to. With that said, I am currently doing a bit of planning for 2026 and there are already some exciting events to look forward to.

As always, there is the annual Easter camp, E-Fest, run by Anglican Youth Ministries (AYM) over the Easter weekend (3-6 April 2026). As a sneak peek into what the camp may look like next year, the theme has already been decided as 'Holy Rebel'. Costs around the camp continuing to increase, and we will be looking to do some fundraising for this in early 2026, so keep an eye out in the new year.

Along with this, we will continue to run social nights in 2026 and regular sessions on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 service for those youth who don't want to stay in the service. I am currently working through what this will all look like, but I am excited to see how this ministry goes in the new year.

If you want to be involved in this space or want to be kept up to date with what is going on with youth at St Aidan's, send me an email at youth@staidans.co.nz, or see me after the 9:30 service. Hope to see you all soon. †

Nic Mercer
Youth Ministry Leader



Giving to St Aidan's



Scan to see your options for supporting the work of St Aidan's financially. All recorded donations are eligible for a charity refund - Individuals can claim a third of the donation back as a tax rebate, up to a maximum claim equal to their annual taxable income.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

A VICAR'S REFERENCE

Anne Durrant found this reference letter from Rev'd Connolly amongst her dad's papers. The reference letter reads:

*St Aidan's Remuera
Auckland, NZ*

May 29, 1939.

To whom it may concern

This is to certify that I have known the bearer - Arthur Bedford for a considerable period. He is thoroughly honest - sober - trustworthy. I have no hesitation in giving this testimonial, as I have every confidence that he will honour any trust reposed in him; & will always endeavour to carry out his duties in a capable and conscientious manner.

Signed R. L. Connolly



Rev RL Connolly
Vicar, 1931-49.



Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections AWN5-10050430-14.06

OUR FAMOUS DOVE

2015 Christmas Stamps



Stained-glass windows date back to ancient times, with some existing in Britain possibly as early as the 7th century. The movement gained popularity in the Middle Ages as a way to convey narratives from the Bible to the masses, and has evolved over time to incorporate more colour and detail.

New Zealand is home to some truly beautiful stained-glass windows, which add character and charm to churches and buildings throughout the country.

The dove is recognised as a symbol of peace as well as one of the forms of the Holy Spirit. Doves are often seen as a decoration on New Zealand Christmas trees. The dove depicted on this stamp is part of a larger stained-glass window at St Aidan's Anglican Church, Remuera.

<http://www.aucklandstamps.blogspot.com/2015/10/2015-christmas.html>

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, 1925

Sent in by Brian English



ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, 1925
VIEW FROM THE
VICARAGE FRONT LAWN



ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, 1925
VIEW BY THE LYCHGATE

"Looking south from the corner of Remuera Road and Ascot Avenue, showing St Aidans Church, background right, the church lychgate, foreground, the war memorial, right of centre, and Ascot Avenue, left," 6 June 1925

Both the lychgate and memorial cross were designed by K.O. Atkinson Abbott and unveiled by the Governor-General, Lord Jellicoe.

Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 4-4014
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 2003-0891

MEMORIAL CROSS

The impressive granite war memorial standing just inside the Remuera Road boundary of St Aidan's has an interesting history. On it are inscribed the names of 35 men who were killed in the First World War (1914-1918). Shortly after the end of the Second World War (1939-1945), 48 further names were added.

All the names are carved into three sides of the base of the cross - the Second World War names being below those of the First War.

The memorial, consistent with the Celtic saint, St Aidan, is a Celtic cross constructed from Australian granite approximately 19 feet (5.79 metres) high. Affixed to the cross in a vertical position is a large bronze replica of a sword (similar in style to a Crusader sword).

The church grounds were very different when the memorial cross was designed and constructed in the early 1920s. The current hall did not exist. A path curved down to the north door of the church from Remuera Road.

When the new church hall was constructed in 1967, the entire cross was moved closer to Remuera Road. In the late 1970s, the cross was rotated through 90 degrees to its current position and the inscribed names were cleaned and restored.

John Priestley
<http://www.aucklandheritage.org.nz/history/we-memorials-and-plaques-at-st-aidans-church/>

Parish Life



Top Left: Coffee after the K's in Mission Bay **Top Right:** Coffee & K's walking group at Point England
St Aidan's Day - Left: Combined congregations **Centre:** The Choir performs **Right:** Welcoming Wesley to his new 'home'
Bottom Left: St Aidan's Day lunch celebrations **Bottom Right:** Young Adults commemorate Tarore of Waharoa

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day

Tuesday 17th February
5:30pm - 7pm

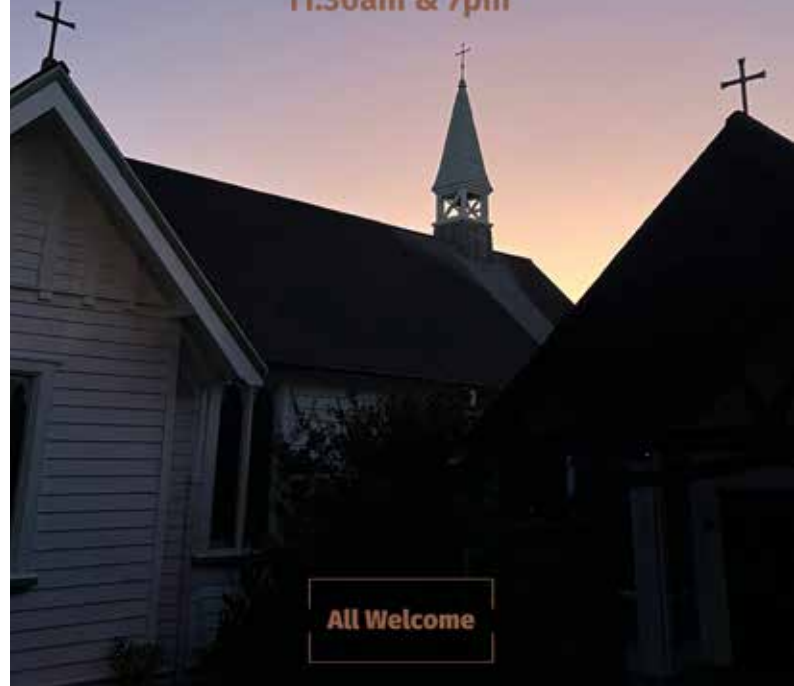
All Welcome



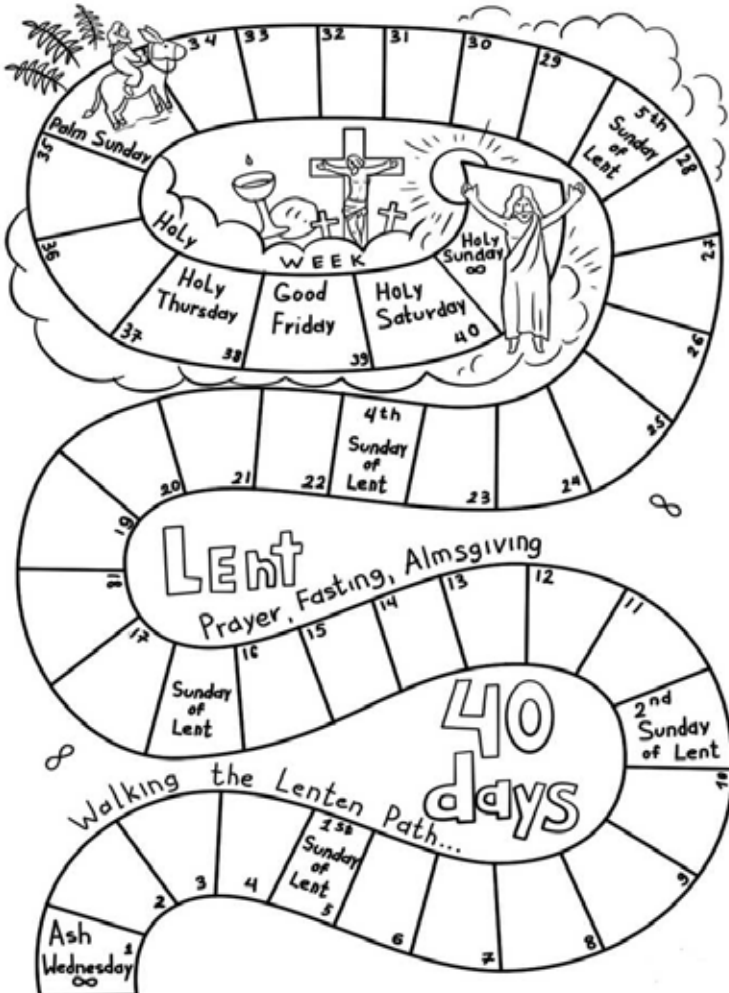
Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 18th February
11:30am & 7pm

All Welcome



Lent 2026



When Ash Wednesday rolls around each year, it can catch us off guard, especially when it comes to our prayer life. We know Lent is important and that it helps prepare us for Easter, with most of us recognizing Lent as a solemn period where we repent. As such, during Lent, we might feel pressure to 'up our game' when it comes to prayer.

The reality is that prayer is important during Lent. Very important. But so too are all the other actions we might take to help us let go of our own desires and align with God's call for us.

God doesn't call us to pray *longer* during this time. Or pray 'better'— whatever that means.

A great starting point for drawing closer to God and improving our prayer life during Lent is simply the desire to improve our prayer life during Lent. If you're reading this, chances are you already have that desire. So let's start there. †

God, may Your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace. May I stand in solidarity with all my brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering. May we all be united in your love, and work to build your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Community Noticeboard



Friday 12th December
7:30pm
 For tickets and more info:
www.holy-trinity.org.nz

aym

Op-shop Ball
 Coming in Feb 2026

Save the Date
 Saturday 28th February

St Aidan's Hall
 Remuera

Fundraiser to keep Efest affordable for all

aym

HOLY REBEL

RISE UP STAND OUT LIVE FREE

E
 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Willow Park Christian Camp Eastern Beach
 April 3: 2pm - April 6: 12pm Cost \$225.00pp
 Live worship Mad games Creative spaces

THE BIG MISSION HOME

17k in WALK

Saturday 22nd March 2026

TE TĀPUI ATAWHAI
 AUCKLAND CITY MISSION

Christmas at Holy Trinity

Christmas @ Holy Trinity
 with special guest **TIM BEVERIDGE**

North Shore Brass performing all your Christmas favourites.

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Cnr Parnell Rd & St Stephen's Ave
Saturday 6th December, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
 0800 BUY TIX (289 849)

AtwC

SHARE THE Aroha

This Christmas, we invite you to be part of something truly special.

By sponsoring and donating a Kindness Case, you're not just giving gifts, you're delivering aroha, dignity, and choice.

Imagine waking up to a pillowcase filled with treats, a handwritten note, and a voucher to choose what matters most. That's the feeling we want every whānau to have this Christmas.

Choose the way you Share the Aroha:

- \$30** a Kindness Case - Goody Bag filled with yummy treats.
- \$50** a Goody Bag + Whanau Gift - something they can enjoy together and make memories with.
- \$90** a Goody Bag + Whanau Gift + NZD \$50 Grocery Voucher - supporting dignity, choice, and celebration.

By sponsoring and donating a Kindness Case, you're not just giving gifts, you're delivering aroha, dignity, and choice to families

How to help:

- Sponsor a Kindness Case
- Donate your own Kindness case
- Spread the word

Let's make sure every whānau feels the warmth of community this Christmas.

FROM YOUR *Hearts* TO *Homes*

If you want to pack your own Kindness Case / Goody Bag, please email marketing@atwc.org.nz for the list of items.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CHARLES DICKENS

2nd to 7th December

This December, the award-winning stage spectacle, Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", arrives at **The Civic** to lift your spirits.

Auckland Live is proud to partner with Auckland City Mission – Te Tāpui Atawhai for this special season.

Dickens' timeless tale is as relevant today as it was when it was written in 1843 and reminds us that compassion can transform lives. The Mission offers food, housing, and support to people facing hardship and as you enjoy this performance, we invite you to embrace the spirit of giving and make a donation to the Mission's Christmas Appeal - your donation can help provide festive meals and gifts to brighten lives across the city.

Brimful of song, humour, love, and lashings of festive joy, "A Christmas Carol" is a magical, grand-in-scale production. Complete with live music, yule-tide carolling, innovative video design, lavish costumes and, of course, snow. This show is perfect for the entire family.

Book online at:

www.aucklandlive.co.nz/show/a-christmas-carol

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](#) with more details about the Trust can be downloaded from our website, and is also available just inside the church. If you would like to speak to someone further about the Endowment Trust, please contact Russell Florence or John Priestley. †

Advertise
here



'The Apostle' is a free, full colour A4 magazine distributed to the St Aidan's Anglican Church, Remuera community. Your advertising will be seen in the 120 hardcopies printed per magazine, and also digitally via staidans.co.nz

Magazines are produced in April, August and November. Adverts must be of high quality and align with our values.



From the Registers

October 2025

Baptisms

Kieran Donovan

Gia Simpson

Funerals

Prudence (Prue) Olde

Gail Hodder

Stuart Forgie

Ngaire Browne*

*Held at Purewa

Kids' Zone

Christmas Nativity Find-a-word - solution on page 6

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

DONKEY
BETHLEHEM
SHEPHERDS
EMMANUEL
WORSHIP
JOSEPH
TRAVEL
CHRIST
MANGER
STABLE
GLORY
GIFTS
PEACE
SHEEP
HEROD
JESUS
STAR
BABY
MARY
MAGI



All my life I thought air was free... until I bought a bag of chips.

Never ask a starfish for directions.

Why do they call it 'beauty sleep', when you wake up looking terrible?

Those who snore always fall asleep first.

Doing nothing is hard, you never know when you're done.

With great power comes an even greater electricity bill.

A bald spot is like a lie, the bigger it gets the harder it is to cover it up.

He who laughs last didn't get it.



The Big Little Bible app from Bible Society New Zealand features 30 of the most popular stories taken straight from the easy-to-read Contemporary English Version of the Bible, as well as over 100 full colour illustrations.

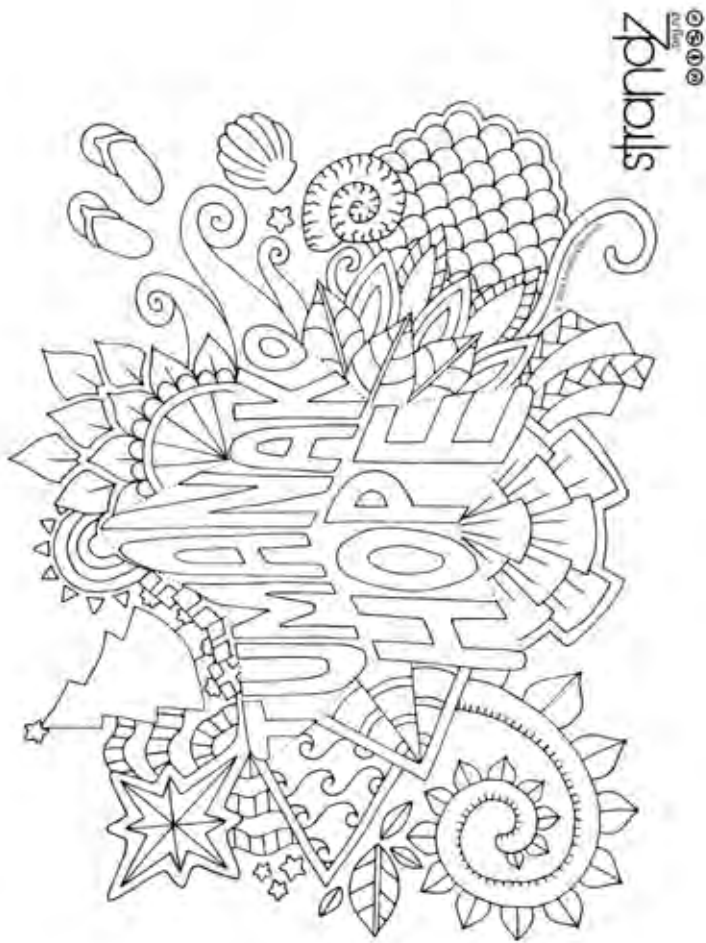


Download the app from Apple iTunes or Google Play. Search: "The Big Little Bible", or enter qrco.de/bfj8Lj in the address bar of your browser



KIDS' AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24th December
4pm - 5pm
5 Ascot Avenue, Remuera



These illustrations have been created by the talented Annelies Berends and are available courtesy of Strandz.org.nz. Colour them in, glue them onto plain card, and give your friends and family a hand made card this Christmas.

Contacts @ St Aidan's

Office Administrator
Anne Godman-Funaki
office@staidans.co.nz
09 929 4670 ext 1
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3:30pm

Priest in Charge
The Rev'd Dr Kim Benton
kim@staidans.co.nz

Priest Associate
The Rev'd Wesley Fifita
wesley@staidans.co.nz

Priest Assistant
The Rev'd Christina Turner
christina@staidans.co.nz

mainly music Coordinator
Hannah Pospos
mainlymusic@staidans.co.nz

Children'd Ministry Coordinator
& Kids' Church
children@staidans.co.nz

Youth Leader
Nic Mercer
youth@staidans.co.nz

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

Vicar
The Rev'd Sarah Stevens-Cross
Currently on leave

