

THE APOSTLE

St Aidan's Day 2025

Welcome Wesley pg 3

Season of Creation pg 12-13, 17

Sustainability Champion pg 16

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church



The Vicar Writes...

This exciting edition of The Apostle coincides with our Patronal Festival on August 31, 2025 and is published on the threshold of the Season of Creation (1 September to 4 October every year). Within these pages we look back in reflection and forward in hope, reflecting on this year's global ecumenical theme: Peace with Creation. See pages 12, 13, and 17 for some inspiring words and prayers as we explore Peace with Creation.

Each saint has a unique charism which shapes the life and ministry of those communities named in her or his honour. The life and ministry of Celtic bishop Aidan of Lindisfarne (d. 651) may be a world away from ours, but it still has power to inspire.

Aidan was known for his simplicity and humility. He was a bridge builder and peacemaker, working across cultural boundaries, with patience and sensitivity, raising up future leaders and empowering others. The communities of Iona and Lindisfarne, by which his life was shaped, remain places of prayer and worship today, inspiring those who visit and sending others out in service. St Aidan worked in partnership with the weak and the powerful giving generously to those in need.

How might his life inspire our spirituality of presence: slowing down, listening well, being accessible, and valuing deep and abiding relationships with people, places and the land? How might St Aidan encourage us to seek reconciliation, celebrate diversity, and work together for justice.

As we farewell our children and families minister, Izzi Hoskyn (see page 5), and look towards a new phase of ministry with young people, how might St Aidan be a

model for our commitment to being together across the generations, empowering and inspiring the faith, leadership and service every member of our church?

Or inspire our action on inequality, child poverty, the needs of those on the margins, climate justice and sustainable living.

The late Rod Oram was known to say:

"We will never do enough until we care enough; and we will never care enough until we rediscover our spiritual relationship with all of God's creation on her Earth."

May St Aidan and this Season of Creation help us to rediscover our spiritual relationship with each other and with God's good creation, that we may care enough, and therefore do enough, to protect and live in peace with all that is. †

Yours in Christ,

Sarah



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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 Christmas edition of 'The Apostle' magazine. Deadline: 3rd November 2025.

Find us online:

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Welcome, Wesley!



Introducing our new Priest Associate, the Reverend Wesley Fifita.

I was born in Tonga and raised in an Anglican family. After leaving high school in Tonga, I attended the University of Auckland and obtained

a Bachelor of Arts. I further attended Unitec New Zealand and gained a postgraduate diploma. I worked for a nonprofit community organization for five years and later joined the New Zealand Corrections Department. It was in these fields of work that my call to ordination became very sincere. During discernment, I had a sense of belonging, that God had been calling me to ordination, and, prayerfully, I tested that call and was discerned to train in 2021.

Additionally, I realize that God carried me through educational exploration and life work experiences to discover a way of being in my calling for ministry. By the end of 2021, I obtained a diploma in Christian studies from St John's Theological College. I continued my education and completed a Bachelor of Theology with a major in Biblical Studies at the University of Otago in 2023.

While at St John's Theological College, I was placed in St Chad's, and during my time there, St Aidan's, as a neighbour, was in my thoughts.

Since 2023, St Philips and Glendowie Anglican Church have hosted me for my curate training. At St Philips, I gained practical experience in the core and foundational formation of parish ministry. I am thankful to God and to this parish for their patience during my training, especially toward the vicar in charge, Reverend Father Matthew Griffiths, Julie White, and the vestry members. The space and its location become my training grounds for future exaltations of the Almighty.

Being married to Viola, and being a proud father to four boys, is a blessing. We are prayerfully supportive of these God-gifted children so that they continue to grow and to tell the glory of God wherever their lives may be.

May the blessing of the Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be always with us all. †

The Reverend Wesley Fifita



Young Adults

The young adults have been busy!

We continue to have a bi-weekly home group down in the youth room, where we look at the bible and have very fun, healthy discussions around life and all things Christian.

Izzi, Nic, and Isobell also attend Community of Ordinary Saints (COS), the group they travelled with last year. This group also meets bi-weekly in Parnell.

New members are welcome to either group!!

Our [COS Pilgrimage 2024 Journal](#), a day by day diary is now available for anyone to read online if you want a more detailed window into our journey from Aotearoa to Iona, to Assisi and home.

The COS group went over to Waiheke for a mid-winter retreat in July... it was a great weekend to take time to slow down, spend time in nature, reflect, eat, and share joy with one another. We were very blessed weather wise, too! †



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.
mainly music	Wednesdays during term time at 9:30am. Music and play for families with pre-school aged children. Contact Hannah Scharf.
Men's Ministry	Meets for breakfast, last Thursday of the month at 7:30am. Contact John Priestley.
Pins & Needles	Meets monthly on 2 nd Monday of the month. Contact Gail Hodder.
Small Groups	Contact Sarah or Christina for more information.
Vestry	Our governing body currently meets monthly on the 4 th Tuesday. Contact Sarah.
Young Adults	Meets every 2 nd Sunday 4:30pm-6:30pm plus occasional social events.
Youth	Ages 11+ during the 9:30am Sunday service. Contact Nic Mercer.



Top Left: Nic talking to the Young Adults about Te Pouhere Sunday **Top Right:** Kai at our Pentecost Lunch
Bottom Left: Some recent Pins & Needles creations **Bottom Right:** The church gathered for Kieran's baptism



Izzi's Farewell

It was with sadness that we farewelled Izzi from her official role with us as Children's Ministry Coordinator on 13th July. Thank you so much for your dedication, energy, hard work, creativity and delightful joy that you've shared with us over the last four years, Izzi.

At her farewell, Izzi was presented with a pounamu from St Aidan's, as thanks for her service.

The children also presented her with some cards, homegrown flowers and crafts. †

It has been a genuine blessing working as the Children's Ministry Coordinator over the past four years, and I feel deeply honoured to have gotten to be a small part in the kids' faith journeys. They have each reminded me so much of the importance of curiosity and play in faith, and I will carry their wisdom with me for a long time.

I'd like to thank Sarah and the wardens for holding space for me to feel all the emotions that have come from this transition. There have been many!

While this is an end, it is certainly not a goodbye! I look forward to remaining active within the St Aidan's community, just in a different capacity. That being said, I feel this quote from Winnie the Pooh very accurately reflects how I feel about stepping down from the role - "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." †

Izzi Hoskyn



An Ode to Mother Earth

Papatūānuku, Mother Earth, wrapping her arms
around me tight —
As my worries flow from my soul —
Giving me space to breathe —
In and out —
In and out —
Eyes closed. Own world.

What a gift it is to be a pilgrim —
On this journey we call life.
Often a solo path to walk —
But, never alone.

I find myself halfway across the world —
Yet I feel at home.
Taking in all the little flowers —
A blessing of creation.

Papatūānuku, Mother Earth, wrapping her arms
around me tight —
As my worries flow from my soul —
Joy seeping from my bones —
The warm wind gliding through me —

I feel her presence now.
Placing my hand upon the earth —
And my feet into the breaking waves —
I am grateful —
I am home. †



An Ode to Mother Earth - written to honour my connection with God and nature.

I've created various versions of this written word, this one reflecting my specific experience in Iona last year.

I found that I had many beautiful moments with God through nature on the Isle of Iona.

The original written word was based on my experience in Ohinetonga Scenic Reserve, pictured on the front of the magazine. The trees make one feel like you are walking with ancient beings, who have much to teach us.

Spending time in nature helps me spend time with God, and spending time in nature also reminds me that I need to help take care of Mother Earth. †

Soft Plastic Recycling

One thing I have been trying to work on is my soft plastic recycling!

I had put off getting into soft plastic recycling, thinking it was just too hard to do... but boy, was I wrong! And it's been fascinating to notice how much of my rubbish is actually soft plastic.

What I find useful is using things like my carrot bag (as seen in the pic to the right) to use as a bag for the soft plastic, because it can zip up like a sandwich bag. Easy storage at home and transport to the recycling bin, and you can fit so many bits in there too!

I recycle my soft plastic at my local supermarket. Why not have a look where you shop and see if one is available? Maybe you could give it a try!

What is soft plastic, you say? The Soft Plastic Recycling website says, "Basically anything made of soft plastic which can be scrunched into a ball". †



Find out more here: www.recycling.kiwi.nz

All Aboard the Slow Fashion Bus

Shopping secondhand isn't just about grabbing a good deal – it's also a powerful way to help protect our planet.

Not only do the items get a second life, it also helps to slow down the overproduction of products, particularly clothes!

"Fast fashion not only impacts the environment but has created concerning consumer behaviours, with alarming global statistics:

- ▶ *One in three women consider a garment "old" after one wear;*
- ▶ *On average 80% of the items in our wardrobes are never worn;*
- ▶ *The fashion industry is responsible for 40 million tonnes of textile items going to waste each year."*

Quoted from The NZ Herald, "All aboard the slow fashion bus".



Our Mission Shop is open Thursday - Saturday from 10am until 2pm, which is all possible thanks to the great support from our volunteers. †



Mission Shop

You may have noticed the wonderful new flags outside our Mission Shop. Our grateful thanks to John Glenie and his team for making that happen! Our Mission Shop is now very visible from the road.

We are pleased to welcome some new volunteers to our team and we hope they enjoy this very worthwhile ministry.

Remuera New World has an advertising screen in store (above the exit behind the checkouts) which advertises local businesses, retirement villages, etc. You will soon see our Mission Shop advertised here thanks to the Remuera Rotary Club. †

Jenny Haggitt



Pins & Needles

Sincere thanks to all of our St Aidan's knitters and crocheters, and outworkers, who continue to work busily, producing large numbers of teddies, beanies, clothing, and blankets for our distributing mission partners.

No scrap of wool goes to waste, with many coloured items (see photo on page 4) made from balls left over from larger projects. †



Stewardship: Abundance, Gratitude, and Grace

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a spirituality - a way of life which calls for our response by:

- Receiving the gifts of God with gratitude
- Cultivating them responsibly
- Sharing them lovingly with others
- Standing before God in a spirit of accountability

Stewardship says that God has entrusted to us all that I have, and that we have the responsibility to use it both prudently and generously - individually and collectively.

The Gifts of God

Think of God's gifts in broader terms, beyond simply the material goods or security we may enjoy. Consider the preciousness of the following gifts:

- Our faith, hope and love
- Our family and relationships
- Our intelligence, skills, imagination and vision
- Our world in all its beauty
- God's promise of eternal life

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

What talents and abilities has God given me?

Do I use them in service for others?

How can I become a more effective steward?

Jesus is our Model Steward

In the gospel record, Jesus speaks more about money, possessions, clothing and food than any other subject. He tells us to trust in God, not in riches.

Through our baptism we are called to follow in the way of Jesus, who not only taught about being good stewards of God's gifts (cf Mt 25:14-30, Lk 12:42-48) but who demonstrated this attitude through his commitment to living God's will. Jesus gave his life away for the sake of others. The church exists to do the same thing: to give itself away that others may find life in Christ. The more we can reflect on the life of Jesus, as the ultimate steward, the greater our capacity to follow his example of living life gratefully, generously and responsibly.

What does the bible say about how we give?

- Gratefully - in response God's blessings
- Freely - by our freewill, as we feel inspired
- Cheerfully - making a choice that brings you joy



- Generously - generosity is a fruit of the Spirit
- Privately - it is only between you and God
- Intentionally - with careful thought and prayer

What will Stewardship ask of Us?

Stewardship calls us to embrace a radical vision of discipleship every day and in every area of our life. When we see and experience life as a gift from God we are invited to be thankful, generous and accountable for what we have been given.

Stewardship challenges us to put into action the prayer we pray regularly during the Eucharist service: *"All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours, and of your own we give you"*. It invites us to use the gifts we receive from God (time, talent and treasure) to benefit others and to further the reign of God - both through the church and through other relationships and groups in the community.

What are the Benefits of Stewardship?

It is a radical and life-giving spirituality for life. As we focus on the gifts we receive from God our sense of God's abundance grows. As we share these gifts with others we receive blessings in return. We know that we are contributing in practical, spiritual and financial ways to the common good and to the development of the mission and ministry of this place.

Some Practical Ways to Live Stewardship

- Give thanks each day for God's provision
- Consider prayerfully the choices you make regarding your time, talents and resources
- Participate fully in the life of the Parish
- Share your time and talents with others
- Reviewing your household budget to ensure that your allocation of spending reflects your values
- Actively caring for the earth and all creation. †

Matariki at St Aidan's

For the second year in a row a group of parishioners gathered at the foot of Ōhinerau/Mt Hobson early in the morning to celebrate Matariki.

As we made our way up and approached the top of the mount it became clear that, unlike last year, it was partially cloudy and would be hard to observe the nine-star constellation rising.

However, as we observed the serenity of the city in the early morning, the true spirit of Matariki was not lost on us.

And so, accompanied and led by Anne Priestley's carefully selected prayers and songs, we reflected on the past and remembered those whom we have lost, gave thanks for the present, and embraced the future as the sun rose and the city woke up.

When the time came, we made our way back to church where Anne, Jenny, and the team had set up another wonderful breakfast to indulge in. Warm drinks, delicious breakfast and good company left us in good spirits to embark on the rest of our day.

Celebrating Matariki in such a way provided an incomparable opportunity to connect as a community. Doing something out of the ordinary, stepping out of your comfort zone, and embracing an experience like this, reminds us of what's really important.

Thank you everyone for creating another memorable Matariki experience. †

Hannah Pospos



**E te Atua, generous God,
we give thanks for the food we have gathered,
a gift from the earth and your creation.
May it nourish us in body and spirit,
and remind us of the abundance you provide.
May we share this food with compassion,
remembering those who may not have enough.
Amen.**

Annual Quiz Night

Thanks to everyone who helped support  at our Annual Quiz Night. We raised over \$2,300.

Kirsten Finucane spoke to us about Heart 4 Kids' most recent mission trip to Fiji, having just returned in July. The funds raised will contribute to their next mission trip which is planned for October.

Congratulations to the winning team, 'May Contain Nuts', with 'St Aidan's Sailors' a close second, and the best costumes prize was awarded to the 'Vintage Doctors'. †



Evening Fellowship

Our monthly Evening Fellowship meetings have featured a range of speakers and we have seen increasing numbers of both men and women attending.

We were pleased to learn more about Richard Cross (our Vicar's husband) in April. He talked about his life starting from growing up in the UK, colourful stories of his sailing from there to New Zealand and other yachting adventures, as well as how he met Sarah.

Caroline Shepherd had just returned from a trip to Japan when she talked to us in May. She tramped along the Kumano Kodo trail, sister to the Spanish Camino de Santiago pilgrim's way. We enjoyed seeing pictures of it and respected the challenges of the terrain.

There was a big turnout in June to hear our organist, Graeme Fuller. He told us about the history of the pipe organ. Then we adjourned to the church to see and hear more about how the organ works.

Our respect for his mastery of this complicated musical instrument was enhanced when we learned more about it.

Christina Turner, our Priest Assistant, spoke on *Exploring Celtic Spirituality* in July. She outlined the history of celtic spirituality characterised by the Celtic cross which pictures a circle over the cross depicting that God is the creator of the sun. Her family participated by reading poems and providing beautiful local photographs.

After the presentation, we have time to discuss it and chat with one another over supper; a great opportunity to get to know each other better. †

Christine, Jan, Elisabeth, Penny, Terrie, Ronnie



Caroline in Japan.



Graeme showing us the organ.



Henry Turner's photo of Mt Maunganui at dawn accompanied Christina's presentation.

Prayers from 'The Celtic Resource Book' by Martin Wallace

God be with thee in every pass,
Jesus be with thee on every hill,
Spirit be with thee on every stream,
Headland and ridge and lawn.

Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
Each lying down, each rising up,
Each trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
Each step of the journey thou goest.

Carmina Galdica



I am the wind that breathes upon the sea.
I am the wave on the ocean.
I am the murmur of the leaves rustling.
I am the rays of the sun.
I am the beam of the moon and stars.
I am the power of the trees growing.
I am the bud breaking into blossom.
I am the movement of the salmon swimming.
I am the courage of the wild boar fighting.
I am the speed of the stag running.
I am the strength of the ox pulling the plough.
I am the size of the mighty oak tree.
And I am the thoughts of all people.
Who praise my beauty and grace.

Robert Van de Weyer

St Aidan's Anglican Church 5 Ascot Avenue, Remuera



St Aidan's
Anglican Church
**mainly
music**

Wednesdays 9.30am
St Aidan's, Remuera

music & dance
community & play
developing together



mainlymusic@staidans.co.nz

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*

St Aidan's
Anglican Church



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SEASON OF CREATION

2025 Prayer

Each year from **September 1 to October 4**, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are cocreators and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is **"Peace with Creation."**

"We thank God for our part in Creation, for the call to treasure it, to be good stewards and to discern the signs of the times. May we act for justice together to safeguard people, animals and the natural world."

Bishop Anthony Poggo,
General Secretary, Anglican Communion

Creator of all,
we praise you for the gift of life
and for the faith that unites us in care for our
common home.

We confess how estranged we have become—
from one another, from your Creation,
and from our truest selves.

We acknowledge that our greed and destructive
impulses have fractured our relationships with you,
with others, and with the Earth.
Fertile fields have become barren,
forests lie desolate,
oceans and rivers are polluted.
Thriving communities have become places of
suffering,
and the earth cries out.

Beloved Christ,
who spoke "Shalom" to frightened hearts,
stir us to compassionate action.
Inspire us to work for the end of conflict,
and for the full restoration of broken relationships—
with you, with the ecumenical community,
with the human family,
and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace,
through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity
with the woundedness of others,
of creation, and of the world.
Through your resurrection,
make us people of hope—
with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares
and tears transformed into joy.

May we come together as one family,
to labor for your peace—
a shalom where all your people
may dwell in safety,
and rest in quiet places. Amen.



ST FRANCIS DAY PET SERVICE

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER | 4PM
Bring along your pets, teddies or
photos for a blessing

All are welcome

Make a Paper Plate Peace Dove

You will need:

- ▶ Glue
- ▶ Scissors
- ▶ Orange & black pens
- ▶ Paper plate or white cardboard

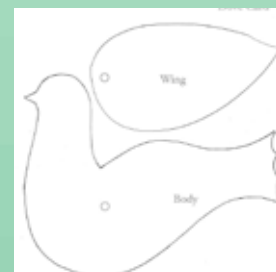


Instructions:

Cut out two wings and one body from the template.

Glue one wing to each side of the body, varying the angle a little to give the bird dimension.

Draw an eye in black and colour the beak in yellow. †





Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Our Biblical text for this year is **Isaiah 32:14-18**.

The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.

There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth.

To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.

The 2025 Symbol is inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18. Titled "Garden of Peace," it depicts a white dove flying over a tree. The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape¹. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable.

Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden. Through this year's Season of Creation, we will reflect on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace.

The white dove with an olive branch is a globally recognized symbol of peace. In the story of Noah, it also signifies new life after destruction.

Find out more: www.seasonofcreation.org †

A Prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God,
Creator of the earth,
this sacred home we share:

Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.

Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.

Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and sea, and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.

Give us new hearts to recognise the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.

Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape beloved community.

For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free,

And it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.
Amen.

These pages contain extracts from [Season of Creation Celebration Guides and Resources](#).

Invitation to Confession

All Creation is full of God's praise,
and we are called to join in with joy,
righteousness and peacefulness.

Yet as we look around us,
we see conflict and destruction.

We acknowledge: We ourselves cause conflict and destruction, and often fail to walk the path of peace. Everywhere on the planet, humans cause great harm, even as we know that the scope of destruction varies, and that everywhere human beings are among the victims of our deep conflict with Creation.

All too often, we fail to live as we are called to live. We fail to be ambassadors of peace, righteousness and reconciliation.

Let us confess our sins.

Let us come before the Triune God
and ask for forgiveness and renewal. †

¹Note: This logo is not meant to diminish the unique value of desert ecosystems and their creatures, which are also part of God's creation. Furthermore, the desert holds a significant role in the Bible.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

**ST AIDAN'S REMUERA FAMOUS ANNUAL
GARAGE SALE**

SATURDAY 13TH SEPT, 8AM

5 ASCOT AVENUE, REMUERA

SALEABLE ITEMS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

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

St Aidan's 
Anglican Church

Afternoon Fellowship

Over the past few months, we've had wonderful meetings with interesting speakers.

In May, Andrea McLeod and Linda Potauaine from The Anglican Trust for Women and Children told us about their new Winter Programme. They were appealing for warm clothes, beanies, blankets and heaters. The group gave them two large boxes of pyjamas, beanies and socks.



Our next speaker, in June, was Katherine de Courcy. Her talk was entitled, *"Is it real gold? Twenty years in Special Collections at Auckland Libraries"*. Katherine brought along some wonderful old books, manuscripts and posters for us to look at and enjoy.

We enjoyed a talk and demonstration by Gail Hodder and Barbara Clephane as they showed us how they arrange the silk flowers for the various vases in the church. It was interesting to learn about the gradual change from garden flowers, to bought flowers, to now using artificial silk flowers.

In August, we heard from Margaret King, from the Tamaki Drive Protection Society, on their project, "Walk Tāmaki Drive".

This year we've had very good numbers at our meetings, which always begin with a short service in the church, and finish with a wonderful afternoon tea and plenty of time for fellowship. †

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



Collection Points

Did you know we are a collection point for a few 'give back' initiatives?

Curtains for Habitat for Humanity: Changing your curtains to a new style? Don't throw them away! As long as they are in good condition, bring them in so they can be repurposed to help those in need.

"Together we can create warm, healthy homes"

Foil Packets for Chip Packet Project: Bring along your clean foil packets to church, so they can be turned into blankets.

"Making something from nothing, for someone who has nothing"

Wine Bottle Tops: The Lions Club of New Zealand initiated the Kan Tabs programme to raise awareness and funds for Kidney Kids. Save your tops and turn them into something good! †



Creation Care: Small Acts, Big Impact

What comes to mind when you hear the word sustainability?

Perhaps a greener world, growing your own vegetables, reducing waste, recycling, reusing, switching to electric vehicles, or saying no to plastic. Sustainability can look different for each of us. For some, it's woven into daily life; for others, it may not yet feel possible. But that's okay. What matters is the intention behind our choices, and the direction we're moving in - towards caring more deeply for God's creation.

Sustainability isn't about perfection. It's about stewardship - the thoughtful and prayerful use of our resources, time, and energy. It's not just an environmental issue, but a spiritual one. As Psalm 24:1 reminds us, "The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." We are merely caretakers, entrusted with a world that was created good, beautiful, and full of life.

At St Aidan's, we believe creation care is an act of worship. It's part of our identity, woven into the life of our church in both visible and quiet ways. Here are just a few of the actions we've taken as a parish:

- * Our church grounds have been intentionally planted with native trees, flowers, and pollinator-friendly species to support biodiversity and provide a peaceful place for reflection and prayer.
- * We've taken part in community tree planting days, contributing to local ecosystems and strengthening intergenerational bonds.
- * We transitioned from single-use plastic communion cups to reusable glassware, aligning our liturgy with our values.
- * At our Annual Garage Sale, we carefully sort waste, repurpose unsold items, and donate what we can - reducing landfill and supporting our community.
- * Our Pātaka Kai (community food pantry) shares fresh and non-perishable food with anyone in need, as it helps prevent food waste, and because sustainability also means caring for people.
- * ASTA writing group quietly advocate for justice by writing letters and signing petitions that address climate policy, biodiversity, and care for vulnerable communities.

Much of this work doesn't happen on the stage or in the spotlight. Behind the scenes, many faithful parishioners are doing incredible, often unseen work.

Whether it's choosing fair-trade coffee for morning service, planting a garden, fixing a leaking tap, mending linens, or making the extra effort to wash and dry reused items - each small act is a prayer for the Earth.

We are so grateful for the individuals and groups who give their time, energy, and wisdom to this mission. Their quiet, consistent efforts are what sustain our community's witness to creation care.

Our local actions are part of a wider Diocesan mission. The Anglican Diocese of Auckland has committed to becoming Carbon Zero by 2030 - a bold and faithful step toward ecological justice.

The Diocesan Carbon Zero Plan asks all parishes to:

- * Measure and actively reduce carbon emissions
- * Transition to renewable energy wherever possible
- * Make mindful choices in how we travel, build, and consume
- * Protect and enhance biodiversity in church grounds
- * Encourage formation and education about creation care across all ages

At St Aidan's, we're already contributing to this vision, and we believe we can do more.

Sustainability is not a project with a finish line, it's a way of life, and it thrives when it's shared.

If you feel called to join this journey, we'd love to have you in our Sustainability Team. Whether you're passionate about native planting, reducing waste, energy efficiency, creative reuse, education, or advocacy, there is a place for you here. Bring your ideas, questions, and your hands.

Please contact Anne in the office if you would like to be part of the team. †

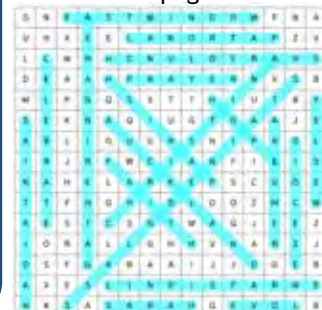
Emily Paul
St Aidan's Sustainability Champion

Giving to St Aidan's



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

Find-a-word Solution from page 26





Top Left: Coffee & K's group in Point England Reserve **Top Right:** 'Guess the Flag' at the Pentecost Lunch
Bottom Left: Hannah and John cutting their wedding cake **Bottom Right:** Newcomer's Lunch in May

Our Hope: Creation will find Peace when Justice is Restored

*"Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field."
(Isaiah 32:16)*

There is hope for a peaceful Earth. Biblically, hope is active - it involves prayer, action, and reconciling with Creation and the Creator through repentance (metanoia) and solidarity. Isaiah 32:14-18 envisions a peaceful Creation where God's people live only when justice is achieved. Righteousness leads to peace and restores the land's fertility:

*"The effect of righteousness will be peace; and the result of righteousness, quietness, and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."
(Isaiah 32:14-18)*

Creation is God's sacred gift, entrusted to our care. Christians are called to protect and nurture Creation in peace, working in partnership with others and passing this responsibility on to future generations. Its deep interconnectedness makes peace both essential and fragile.



SEASON OF CREATION

Pope Francis challenged us:
"What is the goal of our work? What need does the Earth have of us? Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is up to us" (Laudato Si', 160).

Churches engage globally in climate, agriculture, and biodiversity efforts, grounded in theology and a prophetic call for repentance and justice. Only through reconciliation with and genuine justice for all living beings will Creation find peace, fulfilling Isaiah's vision. (32:14-18) †

"Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children."

Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.



ANNUAL BAKE-OFF

SCONES
SCONES
SCONES
SCONES



SCONES

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

After our 9:30am service (approx. 10:30am), a mystery judge will taste all of the competing scones.

The rest will be sold for \$1 each, as part of our Annual Garage Sale Fundraising.



DRINKS &
NIBBLES

Thank you

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
YOUR HARD WORK FROM THE
2025 GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

6-7.30PM
GATHERING AREA

ALL VOLUNTEERS INVITED



'SING YOUR
FAVOURITE
HYMN'

ST AIDAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
5 ASCOT AVE, REMUERA

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER
2:30PM

Anita Banbury will lead,
with Brian Millar on the organ.
Followed by afternoon tea.

FREE
ENTRY

Thank you!

to all of our wonderful
Volunteers

We would love you to join us for a...

Special Morning Tea

on Sunday 23rd November

after both the 8am or 9:30am service, so we can thank you in person!



ST AIDAN'S REMUERA FAMOUS ANNUAL
GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 13TH SEPT, 8AM

5 ASCOT AVENUE, REMUERA

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

St Aidan's
Anglican Church

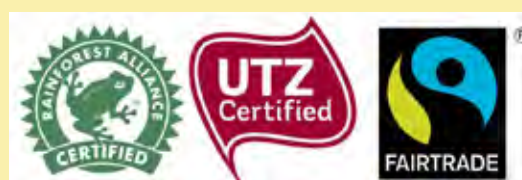
12 Ways to Live More Sustainably

Sometimes environmental problems seem overwhelming, but small changes in lifestyle DO make a difference to the environment, are better for your health, and can save money. There are so many things we can do that are just, fair, and respect the beautiful world that God has made. But change is not always easy, so make things fun and take small steps towards change - think simplicity.

- ✓ **Think twice before shopping:** Before you buy, ask yourself if you really need it. If you do, consider buying secondhand, or look for products made from lower-impact materials and minimal packaging. Buy food according to LOAF principles: Local, Organic, Animal-friendly, Fairly-traded.
- ✓ **Ditch plastic and switch to reusable:** Switch from single-use to reusable products every chance you get. Every piece of plastic avoided is a win.
- ✓ **Use the four R's:** Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle. Avoid single use/throw away items. Support our Mission Shop and Garage Sale.
- ✓ **Simplify the holidays:** Celebrate your next birthday or Christmas with food and decorations from your garden, give homemade or secondhand gifts, trim your menu, or provide guests takeaway boxes so you're not throwing out excess leftovers.
- ✓ **Choose organic:** Pesticides are pervasive, pollute the air, water and soil, and contaminate our food. Grow your own organic veggies and fruit. Beans, carrots, lettuce, and potatoes are popular crops for spring planting. Herbs are great grown in pots.
- ✓ **Ditch fast fashion and animal-based textiles:** The number of new garments made per year has nearly doubled over the past 20 years. Slow down your fashion by caring for your clothes, repairing when possible and, when you need new clothes, shop secondhand or join clothing swaps.
- ✓ **Be water wise:** Take shorter showers, fixing leaky toilets, turn off the tap, and choosing low-flow and low-water appliance options.
- ✓ **Drive less, drive green:** Walk, bike, use public transportation, combine errands to make fewer trips. Or join a carpool - perhaps to church.
- ✓ **Green your home:** Adequate insulation and energy-saving windows and lightbulbs, install solar panels, choose a power supply company which produces more power from wind, solar and other clean sources.
- ✓ **Boycott products that endanger wildlife:** Look for products made from materials which don't destroy natural habitats (e.g. bamboo), and choose sustainably sourced kai. Go vegan if you can, or have a meat free day once or twice a week.
- ✓ **Fight for the right to choose when and if to start a family:** Better education and access to family-planning services decreases family size and our overall carbon footprint.
- ✓ **Take action. Use your voice:** Vote for parties, MPs, and council candidates with strong environmental platforms. Lobby your local reps to pass stronger policies to limit greenhouse gases, fight climate change, protect wildlife and public lands. †

List courtesy of www.biologicaldiversity.org

Look out for these logos, visit fairandgood.co.nz for The Ethical Directory and bcorporation.com.au for businesses that meet high standards of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency.



Being 'Rich Towards God'

What more do we want? Luke 12:13-21

Christina's children's talk on 3rd August revolved around asking the children about their favourite board games, and telling them about one she's played: Monopoly.

Not my favourite game. But interestingly, it began life as 'The Landlord's Game,' with different rules. Its inventor hoped for social and economic change. She wanted to teach ordinary people that they could benefit, and be housed, by buying and developing land cooperatively. 30 years later, with changes to the rules, it became the game we know. And the lessons we learn from it are... also different.

A family game and, in the Gospel, a rich man with a problem - too much stuff: they aren't a million miles apart.

The problem in the Gospel is not actually money, or possessions, at least not in themselves. Money and things can be powerful forces for good.

Money can provide for you and your family,
it enables choices,
it can be shared with others in need,
it can be used to create jobs and serve the general welfare of society,
it can make possible a more comfortable life.

But money and things won't produce the kind of full and abundant life that each of us seeks, and that Jesus promises.

In Jesus' story, the rich man's problem is that he has forgotten about everyone other than himself. It's all about him: he thinks of what he can do and how satisfied he'll be when he's done it: but he doesn't think of the people who helped him produce what he owns, he doesn't think of his neighbours or the people around him, who may need his generous help, in the least. It is all about his control of 'his' resources.

The rich man's biggest problem is that he is not 'rich towards God.' He has forgotten that he will die like anyone else, and when he dies, he can't take his stuff with him. He has forgotten what it is to be a human being, part of a community, dependent on others, and ultimately vulnerable. Rich as he is, he cannot control life itself, the gift of God.

What more do we want...?

Now it mightn't be more barns for grain, but our consumer society is designed to make us want more.

It's designed to make us itch for things we didn't even know we needed.

Advertising often focuses on negatives, exploiting our sense of insecurity. It exaggerates something we worry about - our breath, our image, our lack of time. Then it offers us something to buy - mouthwash, miracle creams, some magic shortcut to happiness, something to take away our anxieties.

Or else it sells the message, 'you deserve this': the new phone, the new card with better rewards, an overseas holiday. The hidden message: you don't have enough, you aren't sufficiently valued. But if you buy this, or get that, you'll feel good about yourself.

Even if we manage to avoid buying [this or that], a sea of deliberately created insecurity washes around us, and it's hard to avoid getting wet.

Our hidden fears generate desires - for resources or experiences or status - which lead us into wrong turnings, like the sins listed in the letter to the Colossians.... greed, immorality, anger, lying. There are many ways by which we turn away and hide from God.

In the world as it is, a big question for us is how to make good choices, how to keep on choosing the good and live a life that's 'rich towards God.'

A first step is to become aware of that deliberately-created insecurity inside and all around us. When we become aware, we gain some leverage/choice about our actions, some awareness of their implications. Becoming aware of how we take part in the consumer society, is a big first step. Then we may find other ways of satisfying our needs. Our Garage Sale, for instance, is a community answer to many needs and wants.

A second step is that wonderful spiritual practice of naming our blessings. The elements of abundant



life that Jesus describes throughout the gospels. Things like relationship, community, love, purpose, are less tangible than material goods but every bit as powerful.

Each of us experiences new blessings every day: the joy of a good conversation, the sense of purpose that comes from helping another person, the warmth of a loving relationship, the feeling of community from being with friends or family.

We may be grateful for material things: clean water running from a tap, electricity at the flick of a switch, good nourishing food.

When we acknowledge the blessings in our daily life, we put down deeper roots into God's own goodness.

Do you have trouble remembering your blessings? You might make a short daily prayer of gratitude, write a brief email or note of thanks to someone for something, draw your blessings or write them down, keeping a 'blessings diary'. These are all powerful ways to make blessings real, creating something you can feel and see.

We can also help one another notice blessings, and thus share the blessings and the thanks. That brings us out of our isolated individual lives, and into community: a community centred on God, based on giving and receiving, where everyone has something to offer, where everyone will serve and be served.

Which brings me to one last word. In the end, being 'rich towards God' means living the kind of life which God values, whether or not there is an obvious reward or blessing attached to it. The kind of life which is its own reward, as we become what we were made to be.

In God alone, as Teresa of Avila says, our soul finds rest and peace. But rest and peace do not always come easily to us. We may find God's peace only through pain and sorrow. It may be a hard way, where we weep with God in anguish, on the way of the cross. But this is a way which Jesus knows, and it too can become a road to God.

The story of how the game of Monopoly came into existence, and the complex stories of our own lives, gifts misused, paths taken in error, blessings shared: all these stories remind us that to live well, 'rich towards God', we must keep returning to the One who is the source of all life and goodness, God who is always more.

And so to God who is greater than all our insecurities, to God from whom we come, to whom we go, who walks with us, to God who satisfies all our deepest wants and needs: Thanks be to God for ever. Amen. †

Anne Priestley

Volunteer/Donate

Forest and Bird



Supporting [Forest and Bird](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) is one of the best things you can do for New Zealand's environment.

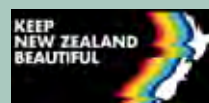
Get involved in upcoming activities and events: www.forestandbird.org.nz/volunteer-events.

Project Jonah NZ



Marine mammals face many threats. Whilst many of these problems need long-term solutions, [Project Jonah](http://www.projectjonah.org.nz) are dedicated to being part of the solutions through rescue, action, and protection.

Keep NZ Beautiful



We all want to [Keep New Zealand Beautiful](http://www.keepnzbeautiful.org.nz), and there are lots of ways you can get involved! Its establishment in 1967 was all about litter, but a lot has changed in over half a century.

New Zealand Clean Up week is from 19th to 25th September. Watch out for event details in our weekly newsletter.

Eastern Bays Songbird Project



The [Eastern Bays Songbird Project](http://www.easternbays.org.nz) is a community conservation group with a vision of creating an area vibrant with bird life; where tūi, fantail/pīwakawaka and kererū already present in the Eastern Bays are joined by visiting kākārīki, bellbird/korimako and kākā from the nearby pest-free offshore islands in the Hauraki Gulf.

You can get involved by trapping pests, monitoring birds, and creating habitat.

Pātaka Kai



The [Pātaka Kai](http://www.patatakakai.org.nz) (Open Street Pantry) Movement is a resident led, grassroots, crowd sourced solution to immediate and local need, rescuing food and encouraging the co-sharing between neighbours to strengthen communities.

Those who wish to contribute may do so at their own discretion when convenient.

"Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi - With your basket and my basket we will sustain the people"

These are just some of the wonderful local projects helping to make a cleaner, greener Aotearoa.

Parish Life



Top Left: Movie Night **Top Right:** Graeme's talk on the history of the pipe organ **Middle Left:** Hannah & John's wedding **Middle:** The Reverend Vicki Terrell on Disability Awareness **Middle Right:** The Reverend Harry Gereniu on Sea Sunday **Bottom Left:** 'Chefs' at the Annual Quiz Night **Bottom Right:** 'Vintage Doctors' best dressed table winners

Community Noticeboard

INTERGENERATE AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND

LIVING THE STORY

Being intergenerational in Aotearoa, New Zealand



What happens when all ages truly connect in community?

Join us for a transformative day exploring the power of hearing and living God's story—together.

Tuesday 7th October 2025
9.00am-4.30pm
St Mary by the Sea, Auckland
Cost: **\$85** (includes food)

Your story matters. Join us
Registrations open soon!

www.intergenerate.com.au/events

Remuera Library Chess Club

Come & Learn to Play Chess

Supported by the Auckland Chess Academy

Experts will be here to help you develop your skills and master your strategy!

Ages 7+

Every Tuesday During the School Term
3:00 to 4:00 pm



Diocesan Ministry Training Hub

Date Sunday 12 October
Time 1pm - 4pm
Venue St Peter's, 11 Killarney Street, Takapuna
Cost \$18pp (lunch included)

Workshops for this Hub:

- Worship Leading & Preaching: Storytelling in preaching
- Pastoral Care: Crisis care
- Children & Families: Strategies for including children in the whole church
- Youth: Youth resources – where are they, how to adapt them.

Register ONLINE: aucklandanglican.org.nz/event/diocesan-ministry-training-hub-october-2025/



A FESTIVAL OF CHURCH MUSIC

18th & 19th October

Holy Trinity Cathedral Parnell

- ? Does your church choir dream of singing in the magnificent acoustics of Holy Trinity Cathedral?
- ? Is your secular choir eager to perform sacred music in a liturgical setting?
- ? Are you a singer without a choir, looking to join others in making glorious music?

RSVP to music@holy-trinity.org.nz now!

Registration between 12noon and 1pm in the Visitors Centre. There is a \$20 per person charge to assist in covering costs, payable on the day either by cash or EFTPOS. Free parking in the Cathedral parking areas off Parnell and Brighton Roads.

St Aidan's Mission Shop

Open Thursdays - Saturdays
10am until 2pm

Quality pre-loved clothing, accessories
and knick-knacks at reasonable prices.



Money raised through our shop is given to
charity and community projects, with a
Charitable Purposes Group deciding on where
the money goes each year.

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. †

From the Registers

April to August 2025

Baptisms

Noella Olsen

Robert Bufton

Weddings

Hannah Scharf & John Pospos

Judie Tieu & Keng Yii

Shin Chen & Chester Lai

Funerals

Muriel Sharman

Claire Smythe

Alistair Peach

Moira Andrew

John Stephenson*

Edith Yearn

Alison Morton

Patricia Harvey

Vivienne Parker*

*Funeral held off site

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.

\$180 A5 21x14.8cm	\$50 A7 7.5x5.2cm
\$40 5x10.5cm	\$90 A6 15x10.5cm
\$70 10x10.5cm	

*ALL PRICES EXCLUSIVE OF GST

Kids' Zone



We now have a volunteer roster helping to deliver Kids' Church since Izzi's departure.

Volunteer Callout

Do you have a passion for our youngest parish members?

Responsibility for their spiritual formation belongs to us all. We are looking for volunteers to support our children's ministry this term.

Do you have skills in activity planning? Session leadership? Resource acquisition? Please notify one of our Wardens or Clergy. Please note: police checking required. †

St Aidan's Day Find-a-word - solution on page 15

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

SAINT AIDAN
PATRONAL
REMUERA
STAINED GLASS
SARAH
PARISH
DIOCESE
HOPE
CHRISTINA
GATHERING AREA
FAITH
EAST WINDOW
AUCKLAND
CELEBRATE
PRAYER
WESLEY
LOVE
LINDISFARNE
SHARED LUNCH

Laughter is the best medicine



Why can't Elsa from Frozen have a balloon?

Because she will "let it go, let it go."

What musical instrument is found in the bathroom?

A tuba toothpaste.

What do you call a dog magician?

A Labracadabrador.

What building in Remuera has the most stories?

The library.





IN THE BEGINNING...

GENESIS 1

*"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it,
for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers."*

Psalm 24:1,2

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Juli Mercer

People's Warden
Lynne Trenwith

