

St Aidan's   
Anglican Church

Parish Annual  
Reports  
2024

**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 10:45AM**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Any other items for General Business
4. Minutes of the Previous AGM
5. Matters Arising
6. Vicar's report – *The Rev'd Louise Anderson will present her final Annual Report orally at this meeting, with a printed copy being made available following the meeting.*
7. Appointments and Elections
  - a) People's Warden
  - b) Synod Reps (Not applicable)
  - c) Vestry members

Note 1: The Church wardens are members of Vestry by right. The Synod Representatives, elected in their own right, are also members of Vestry, serving a 3 year term.

Note 2: The AGM must elect at least *three* other parishioners to Vestry, but not more than *fifteen*.

*Thanks to those retiring from their office*

8. Other Reports
  - Wardens
  - Finance
  - Property
9. General Business
10. Closing Prayers and Blessing

## **ST AIDAN'S WARDENS REPORT**

This is our final Warden's report with both James and Desre stepping down from our respective roles at this AGM. Thank you to everyone for the support you have provided as we have sought to discharge our duties to the best of our abilities.

Looking back at Warden's Reports of recent years there has been a regular theme of change and 2024 has proven, once again, that change is the one constant.

From a physical building perspective we welcomed change at the start of the year with the delivery of our new gathering area kitchen and unisex hall toilets. The delivery of this project once again highlighted the way in which the St Aidan's parish comes together whether it is through the giving of financial resources or the provision of hours of volunteer time. The combination of which is so critical to achieving so much in relation to our Church life.

Change continued in February with Kerry announcing his resignation in order to take up the vicar's role in the parish of Altona in Melbourne. On 7 May we farewelled Kerry and Vaoa who had both contributed so much to St Aidan's during a stay that, as they acknowledged, was much shorter than they had anticipated.

The third significant change came with Louise announcing her intention to retire in early 2025. Louise's decision to make her retirement plans known so far in advance provided us with the opportunity to pursue a managed transition of the Church leadership. As Wardens we are very grateful for Louise's selfless decision to enable this approach to be taken. We do also wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the additional workload Louise has borne in leading the Church since May without the support of a Priest Associate.

Next month we will welcome Sarah Stevens-Cross as our new Vicar, which will be a time of celebration as we look forward with positivity and hope. For now, we wish to thank the Nomination Committee, particularly our Parish representatives, Juli Mercer, Izzi Hoskyn, and James Parkinson for their considered discernment that ultimately resulted in Sarah's appointment.

We extend our thanks to all staff that have contributed so much through the course of the year frequently going well beyond their job description to do whatever is required. To Anne, Izzi, Isobell, Nick, David, and Hannah, thank you.

Vestry has operated very effectively over the last year benefitting from an experienced Vestry team. There has been a good spread of experience, expertise, and perspectives that has been brought together for the benefit of our Parish. Our thanks to Vestry as a whole for the hours you have committed and the way in which you have prioritised Church matters to enable us to make considered decisions in a timely manner whether at our monthly meetings or via email, as required.

David Jamieson needs to be acknowledged for his nine consecutive years on Vestry as Synod representative. This year sees Julie Barnes and James Parkinson stepping down from Vestry after many years of service and thanks go to both for their contribution. Looking forward, it is important that Vestry continues to attract a diverse range of parishioners that are willing and able to actively contribute at meetings and in the delivery of a wide range of projects and initiatives.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of so many volunteers that contribute to St Aidan's, whether it be as part of regular activities or more specific projects. Your dedication makes so much possible.

We look forward to 2025 with much anticipation. May God bless each and every one of you.

James Parkinson (Vicar's Warden)

Desré Simpson (People's Warden)

## DEACON ASSISTANT

Period of Time: Feb – Nov 2024

I began life as a newly ordained deacon in the Parish of St Aidan's in February of this year. This was for me a notable change in terms of my own life and journey of faith. Standing 'on my own' and apart from those with whom I had journeyed for many years taking some adjustment. This adjustment has been aided by the people and clergy of St Aidan's who live into the fullness of their relationship with God in a very clear and intentional way, seeking to be a community of worship – celebrating God's love; caring – being God's love for one another, and mission – taking God's love into the world. I am truly grateful for the kindness and support I have received as I have sought to learn how I too might live into this vision as an ordained person.

The gift of a stole from the Saint Aidan's community to mark the beginning of ordained ministry was most warmly received. This stole has been worn every Sunday during ordinary time and continues to remind me that in and through the ordinariness of life God continues to work in our lives. It was not long after I arrived that preparations for Easter Worship Services began. I was, alongside Kate Shrigley and Kathleen Pullen – a student from the UK, invited to lead one of three services during Holy Week. Participation in this week allowed for creative, interactive, and integrative services – and these were a joy to be part of. Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday was a first for me – and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet and to eat some delicious food alongside a few parishioners. This was not to be my last opportunity to gather and to dine alongside parishioners – the Matariki Breakfast, the parish picnic, and the St Aidan's Day lunch later in the year also created some lasting memories for me.

Being a very active and intentional parish St Aidan's always seems to be 'on the move' - there is always something on just around the corner. And so, it wasn't long before the next event, so to speak, was in the making. In the lead up to Kerry and Vaoa's farewell and their goodbye I gained some insight into the strength of the relationships and history within a parish that creates a sense of belonging in terms of its worship, care, and outreach. This was highlighted once again at the New Comers lunch, where parishioners spoke on the many varied ways that St Aidans expresses itself including in worship services, retirement village services, ASTA, a pins and needles group, mission shop, Mainly Music, prison and hospital ministry, prayer meetings, AAW, WEF, Choir, Men's ministry, pastoral care and small groups. It has been a real blessing to be a part of some of these ministries this year and I have been

encouraged by the many faithful people in the parish who contribute to the life of the parish in so many different ways.

Another highlight for me this year has been connecting with those ‘beyond the walls of St Aidans’. There has been Mainly Music on a Wednesday alongside Dave Finn and then Hannah Scharf – with singing and dancing, and meeting with people over a cuppa. So too, I have very much enjoyed being a part of the ministry to Retirement Villages including Waimarie, 7 Saint Vincents, and Rawhiti. And then of course there was the quiz night and the garage sale. Both these events demonstrating St Aidan’s ability to connect with the wider community to benefit a wider cause.

So too, I have been able to gather alongside the pastoral care team once a month to see how the people of St Aidan’s show genuine care and concern for one another in the provision of freezer meals, prayer, and connecting with one another. I have enjoyed being a part of the prayer group that meets every Thursday morning, and I have enjoyed meeting up with parishioners on a one-to-one basis - I am grateful to those who have shared their knowledge, wisdom, stories, and memories with me.

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

I am grateful to be continuing my ministry at St Aidan’s and look forward to the year that lies ahead.

Christina Turner

## **PASTORAL CARE**

A dedicated team of parishioners continue to meet regularly to support and pray for those in our congregation for whom we know, are in need.

Many thanks to the Prayer Circle group, led by Karel Lees, they pray privately for those in need, who have informed Karel of their prayer requirements.

Our Parish Grapevine continues to be lead by our dedicated group of “Callers”, who each have a group of folk they call about four times a year. It is a chance to chat to someone who they may not chat or see regularly in Church, while also keeping up to date with any changes occurring in the parishioners lives. (e.g. Change of address, or personal needs, which can be passed on, if the person so wishes). I would like to thank all our Callers, who willingly keep this Grapevine alive!

Pastoral care also offers prayer ministry on a Sunday after the service, in the side Chapel, where someone will meet to pray with you about your concerns. This is also a confidential opportunity to “share the load” or just give grateful thanks to our God.

We have a supply of frozen meals in our deep freeze, for those in need. Be it a short term need recovering from ill health, or maybe just someone who comes to the office in need of a meal. Thank you to our team of dedicated ladies, who provide the meals.

Another large proportion of Pastoral care is delivered by our Clergy, who offer regular services at the retirement villages, that fall under St. Aidan’s parish. The clergy are assisted by a dedicated small group of helpers, which enables them to have a monthly service the following retirement villages - 7 St Vincent’s, Remuera Gardens, Rawhiti, and more recently, Waimarie. We also have a “coffee catch up” with our parishioners, who live at Ed. Hillary, and at Meadowbank Oceania.

All the abovementioned activities are under the leadership of our Vicar, Louise Anderson. We would like to give grateful thanks to her, for her dedicated caring and support for this group, as well as those they visit. We wish Louise happiness and good health in her retirement. May she continue to be a blessing in her new community.

Desré Simpson  
Pastoral Care Coordinator

## **MISSIONS & OUTREACH**

### Auckland City Mission

Our support of the City Mission's Food Bank is an ongoing part of Parish life. Parishioners' donations of non perishable food items are collected on Sundays and are blessed at each of our Church Services.

Parishioners also responded generously to our traditional Winter Appeal over a period of four weeks when we aim to boost donations of items in short supply on the Mission's Food Bank shelves.

It was important for us to view, as a Parish, an interview between Bishop Ross and the City Missioner, Helen Robinson, which highlighted the struggles faced by low income families and individuals for whom food insecurity is a daily fact of life.

In the light of this message, we were delighted that the decision had been made to choose the Food Bank as the recipient of the proceeds from our Parish Annual Quiz night in August. A total of \$ 2070 was raised at this fun event.

### Auckland Angels

It is hoped that, in the lead up to Christmas, we can once again give parishioners an opportunity to participate in the Mission's Auckland Angels programme. As Christmas Angels, we can donate new toys, books and other items which will be given as gifts to children who otherwise will go without.

Barbara Weir

### Habitat for Humanity

The Parish values its support of the Habitat for Humanity Curtain Bank project as St Aidan's continues to act as a drop off point for used, full length curtains.

The Curtain Bank is engaged in cutting, sewing, and repurposing these donated curtains. Last year around 5500 curtains were installed enabling families and individuals to have warmer, healthier homes and thereby contributing to a reduction in energy bills.



## Charitable Purposes Group

The Charitable Purposes Group will meet at the end of November so that a recommendation can be made to Vestry for an appropriate distribution of the year's income from the Parish Mission Shop. It is hoped that we can continue to support the same agencies as in previous years and in addition make a significant increase in our giving to the City Mission's Food Bank.

Previous recipients of donations were: NZCMS, Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Christians against Poverty, Prison Chaplaincy Aotearoa NZ, Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy, Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Services.

The dedicated team of volunteers in the Mission Shop, led by Jenny Haggitt, make possible these outreach donations from our Parish.

Barbara Weir

## Prison Ministry

Women at Wiri continue to benefit from the ministry which St Aidan's provides.

The two teams alternate on the fourth Sunday of each month. Hein and I go together. It is unusual for a man to offer ministry at Wiri, but we have been told that this is beneficial as it is good for the women to see a husband and wife team (see a positive male influence).

The Spiritual input is well received by those attending, and the Chaplains at Wiri have reported that ladies are much calmer after 'Prison ministry'.

Sometimes we are fortunate to have the designated 'Spiritual Space'. This area is used by all faiths, hence the name. The environment is more relaxed here, as it is frequented by the women who are living in units and not cells. At other times we visit the 'Mothers and Babies Hub'. This is always rewarding as it is a unique area of ministry, often one on one.

Other times again we enter the 'High risk' area, where one has to be very vigilant. We always offer prayer, no matter where we are ministering.

Long may this ministry continue!

Sheryl Swanevelder

## MISSION SHOP

It is good to see that we are now represented on the signpost at the front of the church.

The Mission Shop and Stage clothing had a very good Garage Sale, but a lot of the summer clothes left boxed up on the stage ended up at the ATWC instead of coming back into the shop, so we are a bit short of summer clothes for the racks. Luckily the weather has stayed cool during spring so we are still selling warmer clothes. We are getting the usual donations so we should be fine when the summer weather comes.

The Salvation Army made two trips with their truck after the Garage Sale and took away superfluous stuff like bags, hangers, shoes, suitcases, electrical gear and many other items left over from the GS that ended up in the shop. They are happy to take off season clothes and shoes anytime as well. Some other electrical items went to the Dove Shop in Glen Innes where they have someone who can test the electrical gear.

We will close the shop on Saturday 14 December and open again on Friday 7 February 2025. Also we will have our usual pop-in days during January for the volunteers to sort out the donations that never stop coming in.

To date our total is \$15,775. We will meet in November to distribute the proceeds to our various charities. Our heartfelt thanks go to Louise for her help, guidance and support over the years.

Jenny Haggitt

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

The new office year started with quite a few bangs, as the Gathering Area kitchen and Hall toilets refurbishment project had already begun before my return to the office. What a wonderful job the team from Stryde did! My thanks to Sean for his obliging and collaborative oversight of the project, adjusting the work schedule to allow for our various groups and property needs.

On a personal note, January brought to light a complicated medical issue in my family, however the diagnosis, combined with a path forward for treatment, has given us a much more positive outlook. Kiko and I were very blessed also to have Louise officiate at our wedding in January. Thank you again to everyone who gave us cards, well wishes, and gifts. Your love and support has been very humbling.

As the year progressed, it was sad to have so many 'last's with Kerry and Vaoa. While their departure has left a very big void, we know God's plans always work for our good (*Romans 8:28*), so we sent them off with blessings. Their farewell was a beautiful celebration of their ministry within the St Aidan's family.

We welcomed Ronnie onto the Finance Committee this year. Her expert knowledge and understanding has already proven very helpful to the team of Kumar, Russell, Louise and myself.

Thank you Izzi and Kate for your work as vergers during this year. It has been great to have some of the pressure off with a larger team, and although Kate will, sadly, be moving on very soon, Hannah has now come on board to train as a verger in addition to her role running the mainly music programme.

As Kerry's departure neared, we all received the (dare I say, devastating?) news of Louise's plans to retire early in 2025. Louise has been a great friend to me ever since we began working together after my arrival in New Zealand in 2018. As I reflect on how difficult it will be for me to see her go, I remind myself again of God's plans for us (*Jeremiah 29:11*) and the ever-changing nature of life and workplaces. I am very glad to know her new home will only be a relatively short drive away. I look forward to working with the Rev'd Sarah Stevens-Cross in due course, and pray that we will have even a fraction of the same camaraderie as I have been blessed to share with Louise.

We welcomed two new regular Hall hirers this year, and the complex continues to be very well utilised. I consider many of our regular hirers to be

good friends, having seen them come through our doors virtually every week over my last six years with the Parish, including one lady who has been coming to St Aidan's for exercise classes in excess of 30 years now! Our future plan for a Hall kitchen upgrade will elevate our premises even further. We had held costs to the same rate for a number of years, however with the rising cost of electricity and insurance it is no longer possible to do so, and a 10% increase will be applied across our hiring spaces from the start of 2025.

My regular office duties keep me busy, as always, and the sheer volume of information coming across my desk be a bit overwhelming at times. The newsletter information alone is constantly changing, and it's sometimes tricky to get my head around which week I'm dealing with at any given time. My thanks to Christine for taking over the proof reading of weekly newsletters since Marie's 'retirement'.

As we prepare the next edition of our parish magazine, 'The Apostle', I sincerely thank all our contributors for articles, photos, and ideas. It has, in my humble opinion, gone from strength to strength under the careful designing eye of Isobell, and I enjoy collaborating with her immensely. I hope you enjoy each of these publications we produce annually for Easter, St Aidan's Day and Christmas. Know that we put as much of our effort, thought, and talent into them as we possibly can, striving to make each one a little better than the one before.

As we race toward this Christmas season, I pray we are all able to find time to focus on Jesus, keeping our eyes on Him as we enter a new year with all its new, and I'm certain, exciting challenges.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and trust, and please get in touch at any time if I can be of assistance.

Anne Godman  
Administrator

## YOUTH

It has been a mixed year for youth. The youth group has decreased in size slightly, with somewhere between 6 – 8 regulars. The main difference in this year to previous years is that the number of youths attending each week has gone down, affecting both Friday night and Sunday morning programmes. The main reason for this is due to many of the youth having other commitments throughout the year. This has meant that it has been challenging to get most or all of the youth in one place on a regular basis in order to try and build on the community that has been so strong over the past few years. The affect has been felt more on Friday nights, which has resulted in us pausing our regular programme and instead have one-off social events during the year. We also hosted a Youth Group open day in May, which allowed youth from around the community to come along and see what we are all about.

Even though numbers may be down, our Sunday morning programme has continued as normal, looking at the same themes as the congregation week to week. This was a deliberate change from previous years in order to create some continuity for them as they would be able to discuss the same theme/topic with their families and has also allowed for easier collaborations with Kid's Church as it now means we are both looking at the same topic each week. Speaking of Kid's Church, it has been great to be able to do more combined sessions this year (even if that has been mainly due to myself or Izzi being away or sick). This has allowed the youth to interact with the kids more, allowed for relationships to be built, and with some of the kids nearly at youth group age it is great to have this connection so that its' not so weird moving from Kids' Church to Youth Group.

At the start of this year, we were able to come up with what we consider to be the core values of our youth group at St Aidan's. In the past few years, we have started by creating a treaty (or rules) for the year that everyone agrees to. By creating these values it allows us to show the wider community what the youth group aims to be and doesn't need to be redone at the beginning of each year. The values that we came up with are Community, Acceptance, Leadership, and Manaakitanga, creating the acronym CALM.

The youth continue to be great contributors to parish events, with many of them helping out on St Aidan's Day, the Garage Sale, and other events during the year, which has led to me receiving some positive comments from visitors who have been impressed at how the youth get involved. It is really encouraging to see their willingness to be a part of these events and allows

them to interact with the St Aidan's community outside of normal settings and showing them, they are valued members of the parish community.

We have once again been fully involved with Anglican Youth Ministries (AYM) events during the year. This has included the annual Easter camp, E-Fest, and worship nights. At the time of writing this report, we are only a few days away from hosting the final worship night for the year at St Aidan's. By attending these events it allows the youth to build relationships across the diocese and the potential for some combined youth sessions with other youth groups in the future.

Personally, this year, I have been able to complete some training around suicide awareness, while looking to refresh my first aid and boundaries training early next year. I was also able to head down to Waikanae to attend The Abbey, the annual national youth conference. This was a chance to attend workshops on various topics such as Making Welcoming Spaces and Neurodiversity, which has challenged me and helped my planning in the youth space.

I am continuing to look at ways to grow this ministry and make a space that allows the youth of our church to deepen and explore their faith and what it means to them. I have already started planning for 2025 and hope that it will be a year of growth and adventure for all involved.

Nic Mercer  
Youth Leader

## MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly Music at St Aidan's has seen a few changes in staff throughout 2024. First welcoming David Finn who took over from Vaoa and then myself as Coordinators, the knowledge and experience was kindly able to be passed along with each change. David's experience as a teacher, counselor and parent himself was helpful for building relationships with the families and creating an overall familiar atmosphere during the sessions. Thus, we had very loyal attendees whose feedback was overall very positive.

For Easter, David took the children into the Church to visit the tomb display and watch a short video about the significance of Easter. This was followed by an easter egg hunt and little gift bags for each child to take home.

The wonderfully thought-out Mother's Day session was unfortunately very sparsely visited, but well received, nonetheless. There was a colourful corner to take polaroid pictures together, some special decorations and a curated selection of songs as well as some homemade cookies.

I took over as a Co-ordinator in June. I've continuously been introducing more reworked songs into the song database, as well as new probs. For Father's Day we prepared decorations, a DIY for each family to take part in as well as a baking mix to prepare and enjoy together at home. We tried hard to remind everyone to bring male family members to celebrate them and had a wonderful turnout of fathers and grandfathers.

Overall, there has been a decline in attendance in 2024. Whereas in the beginning of the year up to 10 families would come to a session, 9 months later we barely ever have more than 5 families present. This might be a sign of the times, due to increased funding for childcare or other factors. We've had to say goodbye to several children moving on to full time daycare, most of them at the age of 2 ½. Also, a few mothers with advanced pregnancies stopped coming along. Lastly, there have been a few families moving away from the area choosing to look for more local opportunities to connect.

We've also created a poster that was hung up around public places in the neighbourhood to spread the word.

There have been a handful of new families coming along, just very few on a regular basis, though. However, those who do stick around actually enjoy the small size of our current group, as it gives some of the more introverted children a space to enjoy themselves.

We've had many caretakers voice their relief in feeling that our mainly music

sessions are a place to enjoy interactions with their children; a relaxed, fun environment. Specifically, the high engagement of the selection of songs and having morning tea available for parents to mingle while the children engage in some free play have been pointed out as a favourite.

All in all, even though we've experienced low numbers, everyone who does come is enjoying their time. We're hoping that new families will continue to join us so we can extend our community.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year, specifically the Christmas session in December and will continue to extend our warmest welcomes to anyone joining us for our Wednesday sessions.

A big thank you to the wonderful volunteers Christina, Anna and Louise as well as everyone helping out with hospitality who are always kind, friendly and incredibly important in making mainly music a success.

Hannah Scharf

mainly music Coordinator



## MUSIC

The biggest change on our music scene is a new organist. Graeme Fuller, known to many superior singing artists around Auckland, asked at the beginning of 2024 to practise on our organ just before my cardiologist recommended that I desist from both playing and singing. Since February I have joined the online congregation to watch with delight as Graeme has been so warmly welcomed into our congregation.

Last December saw a return of Nine Lessons and Carols when Cantemus choir asked to use St Aidan's as a suitable venue for their yearly production. To everyone's great delight and inspiration, especially the thunderous New Zealand composition. It was followed by a sumptuous supper which could have been called 'Strawberry Fair'. Members and choristers have informed me how readily they anticipate Cantemus Choir's return on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

Our Anne in the office, to my great joy, voluntarily took over organising this year's, "Sing Your Favourite Hymn", approaching Anita Banbury directly. Immediately, an old primary classmate of mine, Brian Miller, volunteered to play the organ again. 3<sup>rd</sup> November saw Anita, whose expertise is in high demand, inspire our attendees to the best congregational sound for a long time, before she rushed off to the Cathedral, late for choral warm ups for Faure's Requiem. Our thanks go to Anita and Brian for such a delightful afternoon, and for Sue Williams' team for rewarding our efforts with such well appreciated afternoon tea delights. Of special interest to our singers was singing Bishop Peter's lyrics of, "As we make the Pilgrim Journey", as Anita pointed out, appropriately to the tune 'Marching'.

Also on the programme was a favourite of Rev'd Kerry's, "I vow to thee my country", to Holst's Thaxted, which we had last sung during his farewell service in May. Under his encouragement our choir's favourite Māori hymn was "Tama Ngakau Marie", while "Whakaaria Mai" is perhaps the congregation's.

Many thanks to the faithful choral leadership provided regularly by our choral members, helped so much by Jeannette Wong's capable organisation of musical copy. They continue to provide a weekly 9:30am Communion hymn while I eagerly follow their singing, online. It was a joy to hear my choices sung so ably – and still feel 'included' as I heard Rev'd Louise's hymn choices using many of my weekly suggestions. We have continued to be blessed by Louise's musical confidence, competence, and wide knowledge of hymns, as well as her tunefulness over the microphone. Many thanks to the AV Team for

facilitating such a faithful and clear sound online, that includes overseas listeners.

As a congregation, we continue to be well blessed as we unite to sing his praise together.

Antoinette Pope  
Music Facilitator

## **SMALL GROUPS / HOME GROUPS / HOUSE CHURCH**

Small groups are an integral part of the St Aidan's ministry.

We would like to include the Men's breakfast group who meet at Brown's Café. Food attracts men and this has proven to be a winner, wonderful to have a group of Christian men out in the wider community!!

Other groups meet on various days at a variety of times during the week, and over the years women and some men have slotted into the groups that suit them.

These groups are led by members from the church. Each leader chooses what study to do, and this works well and runs on 'well-oiled wheels'.

Each group has their own flavour and style of presentation, and this adds to the variety of choice, but the focus is always God's word.

- Anne Mercer
- Christine Roke and Lynne Florence
- Annmarie Raffel
- Isobell Tregoweth (Young Adults group)
- Sheryl & Hein Swanevelder
- Anne Priestley runs a Contemplative Writing group

Louise Anderson Vicar an online Group. This is a huge outreach as it reaches those who are housebound for various reasons.

May these Ministries continue to grow and flourish

Sheryl Swanevelder

## **PROPERTY**

General Maintenance work has been ongoing for minor repairs such as toilet seat replacements and malfunctioning locks. Bulbs are being replaced by LED as applicable. The property team, James Patterson, John Glenie, David Cotton, Andrew Maclean and I have worked to keep the assets in serviceable condition. From me a thank you to each of them for all the hours they have put in over the past year. We have been ably assisted this year by many others. For all of these people who have helped us we thank you. Your help is always welcome. Thanks must also go to all for their patience as we resolve these issues. The Maintenance Team continues to work away at every opportunity keeping our precious buildings looking cheerful and up to standard.

The main major works completed this year was the upgrade to the gathering area to accommodate larger groups. This was supervised by John Glenie. Our thanks to him for this turning out so well and now being enjoyed by all.

The men's toilet in the hall has been fully refurbished and switched to individual stalls.

### **Major works done this year**

Vicarage

- 1) Installation of healthy homes items for new vicar

No 8 - None

Church

- 1) New kitchen completed and in operation
- 2) Downpipe on gathering area replaced
- 3) Sanctuary light refurbishment

Hall & Office

- 1) Men's toilet refurbished
- 2) Hot water heater replaced with instantaneous one in Hall kitchen.
- 3) Mission shop toilet replaced

### **Works planned/likely to occur for next Year**

Church - None

Hall

- 1) Addition of a handrail for the existing hall access from the Gathering Area driveway.
- 2) Replacement of lights at high level
- 3) Replacement of fridge and adjustment of overhead cupboard

Vicarage - None

No 8 House - None

Simon Lee

## **PINS AND NEEDLES**

The Pins and needles Group have been meeting each month over the past year providing many lovely, knitted blankets, garments and teddies. We knitted many beanies for the homeless donating them to Auckland City Mission who very kindly distributed them throughout the winter months.

We had several donations of knitted garments from outsiders for which we are very grateful. We can always find a recipient. We know that our knitted, crocheted and sewn articles always get to the “coalface” where it is needed most. We request that it is not sold and that it be given to those in need to keep them warm and healthy – from newborns to the aged.

Our “angel babies” are not forgotten and we have a sewer, Zoya, who makes special little shrouds for those little ones.

We have had attendances between 8 and 19 ladies who are welcomed with morning tea and then share ideas where we can show what we have made over the previous month. We welcome those who have not had the chance to knit and encourage all to come and share a cuppa and a chat – communication is so important.

Thank you to all who participate so willingly, and we look forward to the future where we can fulfil our intention of providing warmth to those less fortunate.

Gail Hodder  
Coordinator

# **ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN'S AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP GROUP 2023/2024**

## **NOVEMBER 2024**

It is my pleasure to present this report on behalf of the group and outline the activities of the past year.

2023 finished with our usual Christmas themed afternoon which began with a communion service in the church and followed by a special afternoon tea and carol singing. Our first meeting in March 2024 was held in the Social Lounge with a short service lead by Mary Parkinson, followed by Rosemary Atkins as our impromptu speaker as Paulene Murdoch in hospital.

During the rest of the year our speakers were Sumant Khedkar from BNZ, "Scam Savvy", Nigel Evans "My Connections with Cambridge University", Shantelle Chandra from Dilworth Hearing, "The Effects of Hearing Loss on the Brain and Cognitive Function", Jan Beaumont, "Poet", Dr Alex Bartle from Sleepwell, "The Importance of Sleep and How we can do it better", Mike Rake from HomeGround, Auckland City Mission, "Auckland's Place of Transformation and Healing", Mary Parkinson and Christine Kennedy, "Sailing through the Panama Canal".

Our financial members totalled 40 and we averaged around 30 at our meetings throughout the year. We remember Shirley Bevins and past member Enid Bull who passed away during the year.

Thank you to those who have assisted in organising and leading us in our services, especially the Rev'd Louise Anderson, Rev'd Kerry Davis and Christine Kennedy. I would also like to thank Anne Godman for helping to set up for our speakers.

During the year we have fundraised for the flowers for Anzac Day, pyjamas for ATWC and have donated financially to the Auckland City Mission and ATWC. These funds are raised from the trading table, ably run by Terrie Hawley and Ruth Backhouse and cash donations during the year.

Your committee has worked very well together during the year phoning members monthly and organising the afternoon teas at meetings. The sharing of these tasks assists our group to remain strong and vibrant. Marie Taylor is retiring from the committee after many years as leader, social concerns representative etc. Thank you, Marie, for all that you have done for this group. The rest of your committee members are happy to remain for another year and

I thank each one of you for your work and support.

Mary Parkinson

## **EVENING FELLOWSHIP**

2024 Evening Fellowship have had nine interesting Fellowship Evenings, with a good variety of speakers.

February We had Margie Vincent speaking on the Family Centre she set up in Romania.

March Parishioner Emily Paul on the Impact of Sustainability Beyond the Environment, with the help of her children.

April Terrena Griffiths showing the blankets & pillows made from chip packets etc. for the homeless, & explaining the work in the making.

May Our friend Alison Gofton on Baking from the 1940's to the present day.

June Our Team member Christine Roke on her trip to Iceland, the Land of Fire & Ice.

July Josephine Anandanayagam, Parishioner, "The Way" the walk Camino de Santiago.

August Suman! Khedkar, from the B.N.Z helped us to be scam savy on our phones & computers.

September Sue Cooper, from The Remuera Heritage Society spoke on a past Remuera resident, Jean Batten.

October Vikki MacLean (Andrew's wife) spoke about their son Ollie's Journey to the Olympics, including showing his silver medal.

November 19<sup>th</sup> We will finish the year with punch, Christmas desserts, carol singing, & fellowship.

We encourage Parishioners to talk at our evenings as we have so many interesting people with varied, travel, hobbies & interests, & we welcome all to come, (not only the ladies) & spend an evening of Fellowship.

Jan Evans, & the team, Alison, Christine, Elisabeth, Penny & Terrie.

## ASTA – ADVOCACY AT ST AIDAN’S

*Jesus sent out his disciples, saying, ‘As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have [skin diseases], drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. (Matthew 10:7-8)*

*The disciples were sent to announce good news and to demonstrate it in action. The sick could be healed, set free from restrictive ideas about sinfulness (which was then thought to explain sickness). The boundaries of life and death were rolled back. Untouchability, social barriers, would end. There was no reason to fear people who were different. The existing world order, the oppressive ‘powers that be,’ were to be challenged and overthrown.*

*And today... What would the coming kingdom of heaven look like in our day? What changes are needed, to let God be revealed? What assumptions should change, what fears eased, what powers in our world confronted?*

*Does such work sound like political or social activism? But this was what Jesus’ work - and the disciples’ work - sounded like, back then. Upsetting the status quo. Enough to get a man killed.*

*And who will do the work now? – Oh! If Jesus has touched our lives, **we** are sent out to be God’s good news, God’s work in the world.*

This is the first report from ASTA. The group began as the Writing Group towards the end of 2022. Until the end of 2023 the group remained very small. End-of-year activities in both years drew interest within and from outside St Aidan’s: each October we draw and write cards for people in NZ prisons, a project coordinated by the Prisoner Correspondence network, and in November we participate in Amnesty International’s Write for Rights campaign. These campaigns were well supported in both years.

At the end of 2023, more St Aidan’s people became keenly involved. Although we had to suspend activities for the first half of 2024, we restarted vigorously in July 2024.

The group has begun to draw in people from elsewhere, which is pleasing. Advocacy can be lonely, difficult work, and it helps to join others and share skills. So we are especially fortunate to have some experienced Amnesty members join us, after the Remuera Amnesty group closed this year: they are glad to have more people interested in the issues, and we have much to learn from them.

With the new burst of energy evident among us, we began to look for a name which better reflects what we are doing. We settled on ASTA, and a logo.

Since July 2024, we have written letters

- on the case of Idris Khattak, a Pakistani human rights defender and independent researcher, who was forcibly 'disappeared' for some months. In 2019-2020. When he 'reappeared' in custody, he was tried and sentenced in a military court, contrary to international norms for a civilian, and is still in jail
- in support of Maria Ressa, a courageous independent Filipina journalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has been hounded by successive governments
- taking the government of Pakistan to task over failures to bring to justice people involved in (mainly anti-Christian) riots
- to Winston Peters, seeking support for an independent international accountability mechanism for Afghanistan – this in response to the disastrous human rights situation in that country, particularly affecting women and girls
- to the Hon Louise Upston, the Prime Minister and our local MP, seeking restored financial support for the Auckland City Mission (and similar bodies) for the provision of food to people in need.

In connection with the latter, two nervous advocates from among us attended a street corner meeting with the Hon David Seymour, at which we hand-delivered him a copy of our letter and raised the City Mission funding issue. His electorate office phoned us the following day. A well-researched reply was promised... we're still waiting (31/10/24) for this to arrive. Advocacy is taking us out of our comfort zone.

- In August we had a guest speaker, Cathy Bi-Riley, who spoke about Common Grace, a Christian advocacy group, and about how to make a submission on the Second Emissions Reduction Plan, NZ's plan to deal with our carbon emissions. Some submissions were produced.
- We have also produced 51 cards which will reach people in prisons this December. This is always fun work, drawing on our artistic skills!

We begin each session by lighting a candle and joining in a very brief reflection. After our work, we have morning tea, a chance to get to know one another and share ideas.

New members/visitors welcome! Our final session for this year is on Friday 29 November.

Rev'd Anne Priestley



## REMUERA CHRISTIANS TRUST BOARD

Main item to report this year is extensive renovation of the three bathrooms in the house. This was prompted by an audit from Te Whatu Ora the results of which were passed onto us by WALSH. The upshot was an agreement with WALSH that we would undertake the work and, in consideration of the considerable cost involved, WALSH would commit to a new lease. The existing lease had expired some time ago.

David Hunt from St Pauls, as usual, tackled the work with his typical efficiency. We had been given estimates of cost, and I understand only minor increases all over those estimates have actually been charged.

In return, WALSH has agreed to take up a new lease for a further three years with right of renewal for a further three years. A market rental valuation was obtained. The last valuation had been obtained many many years ago. There was a substantial increase but, again, we have allowed a discount of nearly 20% as a contribution by the Trust to WALSH operations.

Apart from the foregoing, WALSH continue to operate the house satisfactorily I'm also pleased to report that we have a full board of trustees, David Boswell having been appointed by St Lukes and Sharon Sweeney Lauder by Somervell. From my point of view, it's a considerable help to me to have board members available to assist when required.

Miles Brown

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS OF  
ST AIDAN'S CHURCH, REMUERA, AUCKLAND

HELD IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2023 at 10.50 am.

1. **Opening with Prayers:** Reverend Louise Anderson opened the meeting at 10.50 a.m. in prayer and thanked all those present for attending.
2. **Attendance and Apologies:** Attendees were asked to sign a clipboard which was at the entry door and which was then passed around. Apologies received were read out and Reverend Louise Anderson asked for any other apologies.

**Present:** Rev'd Louise Anderson, Rev'd Kerry Davis, Juli Mercer, Ron Haydon, Elsa Haydon, Desre Simpson, Keith Simpson, Shivanti Mather, Manel Weerasena, Geraldine Burbush, Nic Mercer, David Jamison, Christine Roke, Robyn Bridgman, Ronnie Kay, Cynthia Dove, Lynne Trenwith, Rosemary Atkins, Marie Taylor, Annemarie Raffel, Simon Oxner, Stuart Gray, Fiona Gray, Mark de Courcy, Jacqui Parkinson, Hamish Parkinson, James Parkinson, Russell Florence, Anne Godman, Anne Priestley, Jenny Haggitt, John Priestley, Isobell Tregoweth, Mary Parkinson, Vaoa Davis, Kumar Mather, Kate Shrigley, Steven Rengan, Emily Paul, Steven Khoo, Priscilla Mui, Terrie Hawley, Barb Clephane.

**Apologies:** Sue and Garth Williams, Julie Barnes, Gail and Murray Hodder, Yvonne Kennedy, Barbara Weir, Caroline Shepherd, Alison Ross, Lynne Florence, John and Gill Harman, Jan and Nigel Evans, Elisabeth Wilson, Alison Dodds, Jill Bignell, Gillian and Harold Coop, Christine Ford, John Glenie, Penny Raybould, Veronica and John Black, Anne Mercer, Miles Brown, Tony Clephane, Colin McGowan, Shirley Bevins, Stuart Sinclair, Patsy Dillon, Bryan Haggitt, Deepak Selvaratnam, Ev McGowan, Melanie Fernando, Joy Bell, Sheryl and Hein Swanevelder, Jeanette Wong, Kiko Funaki, Di and John Button, Sarah Tang, Pamela Grayburn, Celia and Dave Finn.

**MOVED:** That the Attendance and Apologies be accepted. Moved: Rev'd Louise Anderson. All agreed.

3. **Any other Items for General Business:** There were no other items for General Business.
4. **Minutes of the Previous AGM:** The Minutes of the AGM held on November 20<sup>th</sup> 2022, having been displayed in the Gathering Area and on the St Aidan's Church website, were taken as true and accurate.

**MOVED:** Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Robyn Bridgman. Agreed.

The Minutes of the SGM held on 27 March 2023, having been displayed in the Gathering Area and on the St Aidan's Church website, were taken as true and accurate.

**MOVED:** Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Desre Simpson. Agreed

5. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

6. **Vicar's Report:** Rev'd Louise Anderson noted that her Vicar's Report has been displayed in the Gathering Area and on the St Aidan's website. She summarized her report to those present.

**MOVED:** That the Vicar's report was taken as read and accepted. Moved: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: John Priestley. All agreed.

## 7. **Appointments and Elections:**

James Parkinson will continue as Vicar's Warden.

Five names have been put forward for Vestry being Jenny Haggitt, Steven Khoo, Kumar Mather, Mark Rushton and Isobell Tregoweth.

Rev'd Louise Anderson thanked Asher Stonehouse for his contribution to Vestry over the past year.

**MOVED:** It was proposed to elect five members to vestry with the power to coopt another member as vestry sees fit.

Moved: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: James Parkinson. Agreed.

Louise presented the Parish roll and explained that anyone on the parish roll are able to vote who are aged 16 and above. The Church Wardens are members of Vestry by right and the Synod Representatives, are elected in their own right and are members of Vestry, serving a three-year term. She also noted that the AGM must elect at least three other parishioners to Vestry, but not more than 15.

The scrutineers elected were Rev'd Kerry Davis and Ronnie Kay.

**Election Results Announced:** (All nominees had a simple majority.)

**People's Warden:** Desre Simpson

**Vestry:** Jenny Haggitt, Kumar Mather, Steven Khoo, Mark Rushton and Isobell Tregoweth.

All agreed that the election forms will be destroyed after the meeting.

The vestry will be as per the names above with the following names making up the remaining vestry

**Vicar's Warden:** James Parkinson

**Synod Representatives:** Julie Barnes and David Jamison  
and Reverend Louise Anderson and Reverend Kerry Davis

## 8. **Other Reports:**

**Warden's Report:** James presented his report as printed in the papers and available in the Gathering Area. He spoke to most of this. Desre thanked him on behalf of the Parish.

**Finance Report:** Kumar presented the nine-month figures and report as shown in the papers available in the Gathering Area.

- He especially thanked Russell Florence, Anne Godman, Rev'd Louise Anderson, who met regularly to support his work.

- He also noted regular donations have increased to pre-covid levels, term deposit funds have not been used and volunteers save a considerable amount by donating their talents.
- He is aware that old church buildings, such as St Aidan's, require a lot of expense.
- The Kitchen and Toilet Project fundraising is ahead of target.
- The Endowment Fund received a donation of \$ 2,000.

Kumar was thanked for his report.

**Matters Arising:**

Russell Florence explained to Parishioners that \$ 150,000 of the Richdale bequest was deposited into the Endowment Fund ...and this has increased to over \$ 200,000. (Over the years, due to the fund's performance and other bequests received the Endowment Fund now stands at \$ 208,235)

Ray White Real Estate pays \$ 1,100 per month to use allotted carparks at St Aidan's. This was ascertained as a market rate.

**MOVED:** That the Finance Report and Warden's Report be adopted. Moved: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Mary Parkinson. All agreed.

**MOVED:** That all other reports are in the Gathering Area and are taken as read and accepted. Moved: Rev'd Louise Anderson. Seconded: Jacqui Parkinson. All agreed.

**9. General Business:** There was no General Business.

**The meeting finished at 11.40a.m.**

**Closing Prayers and Blessing:**

Rev'd Louise Anderson closed the meeting in prayer.