



Newsletter for Saints A and A  
Northcote and Birkenhead Presbyterian Parishes.  
September 2020

The Community of St Aidans

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**Haere Mai, Aere mai, hwan-yeong, Fakaalofa lahi atu,  
Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai, Talofa Lava,  
Cantonese - Foon Ying Malay - Selamat Slovak – vitajte- Welkom**

## Minister's comment

### *Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate*

Spring is here. Well the 1<sup>st</sup> of September heralds Spring, though the lambs are already bouncing around our paddocks and the cows are looking in various stages of close, to not sure. Not sure if the bull did what bulls are supposed to do.

It should be Easter as Easter is a Spring festival which they do celebrate in the Northern Hemisphere with beginnings, joys and celebrations of New Life. It is a beautiful time of year with daffodils and other such wonderful colours and

green shoots starting to liven up those pale winter shades of grey. With our latest onset of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown, Spring doesn't feel so joyous for many. People do struggle with the winter blues, and the euphoria of a novel and extended summer break has well and truly gone. The thoughts and feelings of restrictions have hit many people emotionally quite hard this time around.

However;

*You've got to Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the positive  
Eliminate the negative  
And latch on to the affirmative  
Don't mess with Mister In-Between*

*You've got to spread joy up to the maximum  
Bring gloom down to the minimum  
Have faith or pandemonium's  
Liable to walk upon the scene*

To *Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate* the positive latch on to the affirmative takes a particular type of energy and a specific kind of sensitivity to acknowledge that others will not feel the same way. Never-the-less we are 'called' to get alongside others with grace and mercy and be with others through these difficult times helping to bring gloom down to a minimum and spread joy to the maximum. Remember you may be the only person another ever gets the opportunity from to know that life is worth living and feel kindness.

Peace to you and yours

Colin.

And the Moderator of the General Assembly the Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio writes in his Covid -19 message.

“There is hope.

...I remind you: “Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.” (Proverbs 12:25). This is as true now as it was when it was written. Have a kind heart in your interactions with others. Reach out to those in need in whatever way you are able. If you are in Auckland, make lockdown the best it can be by enjoying time with those in your bubble.”

## FROM THE CHURCH COUNCILS

**From St Andrews Council Meeting meeting Tuesday, 25. 8. 20**

**Music and Worship Mentor:** Rev. Robyn Allen Goudge

We are delighted to report that Robyn, a fine musician, will lead a music and worship ministry with

St A and A. She will be meeting with Colin soon to establish ways of working together with our enthusiastic singers and musicians in this developing ministry. She is “thrilled” to be working with us all. Read her letter later in the newsletter and reply to the Questionnaire !!!

St Andrews’ Accounts are in the process of being transferred to Xero and will be processed by Business Professional Services, as St Aidans’ are. This should make things easier for Ian Bogue who continues to be St Andrews’ Treasurer. We thank those who continue to give their offerings online and by envelope.

St Andrews’ AGM is Sunday 13 September after the Sunday service. Council has approved the AGM Reports. We continue to work towards selling the pews and buying more easily moveable chairs to facilitate the setting up of a playgroup with mainly music embedded for February next year.

Colin presented an interesting challenge in his report. We “need to change from a ‘problem solving’ approach to ‘exploration’ , having a passion for something and doing something about it without the need for a committee’. Hard for Presbyterians and their myriad committees??

We continue to work toward merger with our friends at St Aidans.

**Rosemary Bold**

### From Saint Aidan’s Church Council

#### **Work Group**

At our congregational meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup> we agreed ***that the merger of Saint Andrews and Saint Aidans is approved in principle, permitting phase 2 of the merger process to be undertaken as set out in the 19 July 2020 ‘Reference Document for Congregational Meetings’ and in accordance with Book of Order requirements.*** The next step towards the merger is the establishment of a Work Group to undertake the required work to develop and present a detailed proposal for the joining together of the two churches. This will be co-led by Rev Colin Gordon and David Hansen.

We are happy to report that **Cathy Fraser** and **Rachel Hurr** will represent Saint Aidans on this Work Group, and we thank them for taking on this important task.

#### **Photocopier**

A new photocopier has been purchased for use by Saint Aidans and Saint Andrews. It will be housed at Saint Aidans, and as soon as possible it will be delivered there and people will be trained in its use. We look forward to having it available. Thanks to David and Rosemarie and the Finance team for arranging this purchase.

### **Fundraising Activities**

We are all disappointed that our Concert planned for August 15<sup>th</sup> had to be postponed when Auckland went into level 3 lockdown. Ticket money will be refunded and it is hoped that the Concert can be re-scheduled. We still hope to hold our Floral Affair **on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October** (which is also Election Day) and it will be important to sell as many tickets as possible for the Floral Affair, and the re-scheduled Concert.

You are reminded that offerings and donations can be made to the Church bank account while we are not able to make them at Church.

*NB See account numbers on last page of newsletter Ed*

### **Making a joyful noise**

Music in Church is important to us, and we appreciate all those who help to make it joyful and enjoyable. And now there is to be more!

In an exciting new venture Rev Robyn Allen-Goudge from Zion Hill is to work with singers and musicians to further enrich our worship services and hopefully to take our music into the wider community. At present the singing group leads music on the second and fourth Sundays each month, and Robyn will be present at one of these (second Sunday one month and fourth the next month). She will also mentor, encourage and rehearse the group(s).

Robyn is a very talented musician – you may remember her wonderful harp playing – and we look forward to what she and our church singers and musicians will do. The singing group is to be open and welcoming to all people with varying degrees of ability; all that is required is the passion for making a joyful noise. This could mean you!

### **Church under lockdown, and afterwards**

Sincere thanks to Colin who quickly arranged worship services and meetings by zoom when we were no longer able to physically attend church, and to Rosemarie who organised our August Church Council meeting by zoom.

Rosemarie has now acquired a QR Code for Saint Aidans and this will be displayed at the church doors for us to use. I am sure that there will also be a sign-in sheet for people to use if they prefer. Rachel and the Health and Safety Team will make sure that the building is thoroughly cleaned before we return. We look forward to being back together again, but we appreciate the way that technology allows us to be together, even at a distance.

Thank you all for all that you are doing to keep in touch with members of our church family. Stay safe and well.

**Nan, for Saint Aidan's Church Council**  
**NOTICES**

## **Circles of Trust**

A series of three one-day 'retreats' has been organised to look at a number of very important aspects of our journey towards a merged new church. They will be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October (covid-19 permitting) from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at a venue to be announced later.

The facilitator, Mennie Scapens, is very experienced; some of us took part in a 'taster session' with her, and she is very good. **You are invited to attend these important retreats.** You can read more about them in the Bulletin for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August service

*(The idea would be ideally to go to the series of all 3. Ed)*

**Please contact Colin as soon as possible if you wish to attend.**

The Grief Centre ( a well regarded organization based at 92 Hinemoa St Birkenhead is currently offering a series of webinars detailed below. The live sessions can be viewed afterward for anyone who has registered but cannot attend at the time.

### **WHEN A FAMILY HURTS**

Supporting families in a world changed by Covid-19

Tuesday 18th August, 9:00am - 12:00pm

[Information Flyer Link](#)

### **WHEN ANXIETY BUILDS**

Supporting children, young people, or adults experiencing challenging times or increased anxiety

Thursday 27th August, 9:00am - 11:00am

[Information Flyer Link](#)

### **WHEN HELPING OTHERS HURTS**

Self-care for professionals whose roles involve supporting others through tough life situations

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 9:00am - 11:00am

[Information Flyer Link](#)

**If you wish to register you can do this by visiting this**

**link | <http://www.griefcentre.org.nz/EventsTraining/Webinar.html>**

## GOOD USED BOOKS WANTED !

For the Hughes Place garden project in Taneatua - [see article in this newsletter]

Books sought are gardening books on growing vegetables, modern novels, light romance ['potboilers'] and children's books.

Pass to David Hansen who will ensure these get delivered via PSN  
[Presbyterian Support Northern]

THE DINNER GROUP will provisionally meet on Saturday 19 September. If you would like to join in for a meal out in the evening contact Dale on 021 02345087 or [adalekerr@gmail.com](mailto:adalekerr@gmail.com).  
Note that if we are still at Level 2 then it will be the first 10 to book with Dale.

### **Thomas Merton** on silence

When we have really met and known the world in **silence**, words do not separate us from the world nor from other men, nor from God, nor from ourselves because we no longer trust entirely in language to contain reality." — **Thomas Merton**, Thoughts in Solitude

## On Paying the Price of Sin - a Parable

There was once a woman who was happily married with two children, a son and a daughter. They lived in England. During the war her husband fell ill with cancer and died. Her son entered the army and was killed in France. To put her sorrows behind her, the woman immigrated to New Zealand, taking her 17 year old daughter with her. Her daughter was a particularly good daughter, who did all she could to help her mother, who naturally treasured greatly the one remaining member of her family.

One evening, while on a pedestrian crossing, the daughter was killed by a car driven by a 19 year old drunken lout. He had been showing off to his equally drunk passengers. The youth did not stop and was never caught. This last blow was more than the mother could bear. She grew more and more embittered as the years went by, and eventually died "cursing both her fellow human beings and God himself".

The youth went on for some time with reckless living, but one day he came into contact with a Christian group. He was attracted by their very different values, and one evening at an evangelistic meeting he became a Christian. He was concerned about his past, but the preacher assured him that his past sins were all forgiven. Any wrongs he had committed were wiped clean – the price of his sin had been "paid by the blood of Jesus". It was as though such sins had not been committed. So he lived out his life in the comforting belief that his sins were indeed all forgiven, and looked forward to his place in heaven when he died.

But who really paid the price of the young man's sins?

An argumentative Old Testament character named Elihu makes some observations on this topic in Job, Chapter 35:6-8 - have a look.

– Laurie Wesley

## GRACE NOTES

### *Rosemarie & David*

Recently David and Rosemarie took a campervan road trip around the East Cape. We were in a green Jucy van that was fully self-contained, the sort that is normally seen being driven by the younger age group!

We travelled up the Te Kaha coast, around the top, down to Gisborne and back through the Waioeka gorge. Most of the time we were freedom camping, arriving around dusk and making a leisurely departure the next morning.

The East Cape contains some of the most isolated country in NZ and it is a great reminder as to how many people live - much less sophisticated lives than in the 'big smoke'.

Some are totally off grid, power from a generator and no road access during winter. This is not a place for retail therapy!

Most towns listed on the map sell fuel, groceries and have a cafe/takeaway.

Some have a pub.

But the scenery is great and on the Gisborne side there are a lot of remnants from early history. We drove out to Lottin Point at the top of the Cape - very narrow and at times steep road - to a stunning location. No beach here but the rock fishing is legendary, the best in NZ they say. We enjoyed a coffee [delivered in a 6 cup plunger!] at the 1960s style motel. Hicks Bay, Tokomaru Bay and Tolaga Bay all have very long wharves from which mainly wool and meat was loaded onto coastal steamers. Hicks Bay once had a freezing works. So this side of the coast is much more developed and populated because there is much more flat and undulating land suited to farming. The week before our trip the Cape reportedly had 1,500mm of rain in 5 days - the consequence was road washouts/slips, a vast amount of logging rubbish washed onto Tolaga Bay beach and significant river erosion. Logging is also big business with trucks arriving at the Gisborne port every few minutes. We enjoyed Gisborne, dined out, cycled around and took in the sights. Gisborne is second to Tauranga in volume of logs exported.

While down that way we visited a Presbyterian Support Northern project in Taneatua and met a wonderful couple who have lead this project. We write about this community regeneration later in this newsletter.

We came back through Rotorua and enjoyed a soak in the Polynesian Pools.

## *Robin*

### Thoughts from a parishioner on the merger venture.

- >A Leap of Faith - Sharing the workload is a joy.
- >The uncomfortable pews and getting oneself upright from seated is a challenge.
- >My hope and dream is that energy is generated to renew the congregations and 'New Blood' inspired to join the Saints A. & A. Family
- >Resistance to change is the biggest challenge.
- >Unwillingness to dispense with place or practice that has been familiar for so long is a big hurdle.
- >We require honesty to oneself and others to journey forward and embrace change and new friends."

Go well

- Grace

Dear Friends,

Tena koutou katoa, Talofa lava and Warm greetings to you all.

I am thrilled to be starting a music and worship ministry with you, and am looking forward to getting to know you better and learning about your hopes and plans for working together.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, we must be creative and flexible about how we work together as we begin, but I think it will be possible to have gatherings of 10 or less people and keep safe and observe social distancing. It is also good to have phone and zoom conversations.

I'd like to build together an inclusive team that works flexibly and creatively, using each person's particular gifts and strengths.

To help me get a beginning overview of our people and resources, I would like to find out about your particular music and worship interests, your past experience, skill sets, time availability and musical preferences, as well as your hopes and ideas for future development.

So I have prepared a little questionnaire for you to think about (below). You can send it back to me by email. Don't worry if any question does not apply to you, I'm just wanting some basic information to start with.

I'll be meeting with Colin early next week and will get back to you all soon with an outline for the next steps.

Arohanui,

Robyn Allen Goudge

Please return answers to:

>r.a.goudge@gmail.com<

## QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name
2. Address
3. Home Phone
4. Mobile Phone
5. Email address
6. Home Church (St Aidan's or St Andrew's)
7. Any instrument that you play
8. Approx. number of years you've been playing
9. Any music exams or qualifications
10. Singing voice type (SATB? if you know it)
11. Do you read music or learn by ear
12. What languages can you speak
13. Daytime availability (eg working 9-5, retired)
14. Evenings available for rehearsal
15. Previous experience/ roles held in church/community music
16. Music genres/styles that you enjoy/prefer
17. Church hymn/music books that you are familiar with
18. Other gifts and skills (eg Lead prayers, bible reading, welcome, preaching, photocopy music, filing, prepare powerpoint, sound system, hospitality)
18. Hopes, dreams, goals for the future

Te Taurahere Whatumanawa – Heart String: “The rope that ties our hearts together”

**Hughes Place** – Food production project

“We promise to CARE AND SHARE with one another” – NO ONE TO BE EXCLUDED

Wow – what promises and vision – a garden in Taneatua delivering community transformation.

Honey and Rev Tamiana Thrupp are the spiritual stewards and backbone of this thriving community garden situated on about a quarter acre. There is a mixture of raised garden beds and tyres providing kai for the community. There is also a kids’ play area with a sandpit, a shade house for propagation; old fridges for a library and seed bank; a sun shelter and picnic benches. This is a safe place for the local tamariki to be.



During COVID-19 Level 4 the gardens and supporting partners organised to care for the community, providing / distributing food parcels to all in need – there is always some food in the pātaka kai pantry at the entrance.

David and Rosemarie visited Hughes Place on their recent road trip – and the whānau farm ‘5 minutes up the road’

which also provides for the project – pork, poultry, milk, eggs...

We met this amazing couple, and others involved, who are doing so much for their community.

Talking over a cup of tea, we learned a lot about the people of Taneatua – the home to the Whare of Ngāi Tūhoe; gateway to the Ureweras.



This project started with the vision of Whakatane Minister Rev Chris Barnard and Presbyterian Support Northern’s Anne Overton inspiring Honey and Tamiana Thrupp. From the beginning it has been supported by Presbyterian Support Northern (PSN) and Te Aka Puaho. St Kentigerns College and local businesses also provide support; it is a community driving visible and measurable change.

**Is this the sort of project that could be supported by the people of St Aidans and St Andrews?**

Do you have memories of when everyone clustered around the radio to hear the war news from London? There would be a hush as Big Ben chimed, followed by a very English voice, saying, "This is the BBC London, calling."

75 years ago, on 15th August 1945, Peace was declared.

## When the Boys Came Home.

15th August 1945.

The end of the War, and the boys started coming home. For my Aunty Annie in Wellington, whose five sons had left for the war and all five came home it was a time of great rejoicing. My grown up girl cousins in Auckland were not so lucky, their brother Les was one of the tens of thousands who didn't make it. Aunty Francie's son Ron from Auckland had been torpedoed by the Japanese when the ship he was a lieutenant on was racing towards Australia after the Battle of the Coral Sea. For me, aged seven, these big cousins who had been away for most of my life were just names.

I remembered the man from the sweetie shop though. He sold squares of Hokey Pokey covered in chocolate and other delights. One of my earliest memories was of sitting in my pushchair, munching Hokey Pokey contentedly and suddenly being aware that my mother was having a struggle to get the pushchair up the kerb. Dear Uncle Harry from Wellington took me for a walk to the sweetie shop and bought me an extravagant lot of sweet delights. My mother wasn't too impressed when I was sick on reaching home. I was dismayed to find the front of the shop boarded up shortly after and a sign painted on it. My Mum said it read "Gone to the War." It stayed like that for years and then was replaced by a new home, so I guess that was another nice man who didn't come home.

The grocer's delivery boy got his old job back. He walked in the back door with our box of groceries and my mother looked at him and said "Oh John, what have they done to you?" Half his face had been blown away. They stood there weeping, their arms about each other.

My next soldier boy was on the train coming home to Greymouth from Christchurch. My Mum said "Don't you bother that soldier boy, he will be too tired to want to bother about you. However, when I grinned at him, he grinned back and beckoned me to sit next to him and we had a pleasant time with me chattering away, until my Mum said "come on Margie, this young man needs to rest now."

My third soldier boy was rather special. He taught me English in my first year at college. He got us all to read *The Wind in the Willows* which he said was compulsory reading for all third formers, because it was a favourite of his and gave him a chance to read it again. This was followed by Kipling's *Kim* and *King Solomon's Mines* and *Aesop's fables*. Then we had to write a fable. I wrote about the barber who lathered up the Twelve Apostles Range every Winter\*. He wrote at the end... this has the ring of a true fable. I was so pleased and grinned at him, remembering the time I had first seen him at the end of the war. We were coming home to Greymouth from our bach after School holidays and a soldier in uniform was coming home from the war, on the bus.

John Burns stopped the bus just North of Greymouth and went to open the luggage compartment at the back of the bus. The soldier followed and hoisted his kit bag onto

his shoulder. This area is called Coal Creek Flats and is green dairy farm country. There was a farmhouse set back quite a way from the road and while the driver and the soldier were at the back of the bus, I saw the farmhouse door open, and an elderly man came running out. The soldier saw him and as the bus started off again, road dust swirling around us, I saw them both running as fast as they could towards the best sight in the world for both of them.

Note:

\*The Barber is a freezing thick white fog that pours down the Twelve Apostles Range in Winter and freezes everyone in Cobden and lower Greymouth until the sun comes out.

- Margaret Larsen.

Recently Colin preached on the Parable of the Weeds and asked if we had ever been referred to as a weed. Not me! Being in Lockdown once again has brought me into close contact with many of the weeds in my garden. As I pull and attack these monsters I often reflect on their uselessness and wonder why God even put them onto this earth.

During one of my coffee breaks I revisited Matthew 13; 24- 43 and read Jesus's parable about the weeds (King James Version calls them Tares). It was consoling to know that the weeds were condemned to the fires of hell but maybe we are challenged to help the people who fall into this category of being bad people to change their ways before it's too late.

Back in my garden for another round of weeding I started to think about my own plot and how these weeds can dominate and destroy. The following story formed itself so I thought I'd share it with you. It's probably more suitable for children but who doesn't enjoy a kid's story?

*A Modern Parable about Weeds.*

*A beautiful plant named Rose spent her days in the garden of a loving gardener. In summer she was covered in delicate pink flowers and shared her sweet perfume with anyone who came near her. She was surrounded by her friends Daisy and Lily. One cold winter's day as she was preparing to snuggle down into the cold earth for a long sleep she felt a tug on her stem. It was Ivy and Jasmine – 2 of the pesky weeds who lived in the garden next door. They waved their long tendrils at her and suggested that she join them as they rampaged through the garden choking anything that got in their way. She shook her branches, telling them to leave her alone as she needed time to rest.*

*Throughout the cold wet days of winter Ivy and Jasmine ran all around the garden strangling any plant that was in their way and sending their roots deep down into the soil. Their friend Buttercup joined in their game and was soon spreading her seeds everywhere.*

*Rose woke up one warm sunny day to find that winter had disappeared and spring was spreading her cheerful bright colours everywhere. Her friends Daffodil and Hyacinth had pushed their way up through the rich soil and stretched their bright green leaves toward the sky. Bright colours and welcoming smells issued forth from their stems. The gardener returned, trimmed off Rose's dead branches and gave her a good feed of plant food to start her growing again. As she looked around she saw Jasmine, Ivy and Buttercup all being pulled from the ground, chopped up into small pieces and thrown into a rubbish bag. Well, she thought, I'm glad I didn't follow them and cause chaos in this beautiful spot. I know that the gardener cares for me and it is now time for me to flourish and bring joy to her. Those bad weeds have been banished from here forever.*

And now I'm going back out to the garden to do battle with my other arch enemies – oxalis and kikuyu, but that's another story.

Pauline

### **ANOTHER DAY CHANGE FOR COME TO QUIET**

At our August meeting we agreed that the **second Tuesday of each month** would actually be a more suitable time for us to meet. Apologies that there has been another change, but we hope to stay with this day in future.

*As you slide down the bannister of life, may the splinters never be pointed in the wrong direction*

## ROSTERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Reading	Prayer	Morning Tea
Sept 6	Zoom		Anne Green	Barbara Wadams	n/a
Sept 13	Margaret L	Helene M	Helene	Margaret	TBA
Sept 20	Rachel H	Lynda B	Café Team	Rachel H	Café Team
Sept 27	Barbara Wesley	Rosemarie D	Barbara	Rosemarie	TBA

## DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun 6 Sept	9.30 am	Zoom Service	Rev Colin Gordon	Andrews
Tues 8 Sept	7 pm	Come To Quiet **		Lindisfarne Lounge, downstairs St Aidans
Sun 13 Sept	9.30am	Service	Rev Colin Gordon	St Andrews
Sun 20 Sept	9.30 for 10	Café Service breakfast first	Rev Colin Gordon	St Aidans
Sun 27 Sept	9.30am	Service	Rev Colin Gordon	St Aidans

\*\* Note date change.

### DONATIONS AND OFFERINGS

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO USE THEIR INTERNET BANKING TO MAKE DONATIONS.

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING BANK NUMBERS.

BOTH ACCOUNTS ARE AT BNZ BIRKENHEAD.

PLEASE BE SURE TO PUT "DONATION " AS THE REFERENCE AND YOUR NAME IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A RECEIPT.

St AIDANS    02-0112-0024699-00

ST ANDREWS

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