



Newsletter for Saints A and A

Northcote and Birkenhead Presbyterian Parishes.
October 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

Some of my favourite times, I was going to say were, but they continue to be listening to stories. My parents read us bedtime stories, Sunday mornings on the radio there was, there still is 'story time', which I sometimes listen to on the way in to worship Sunday mornings 6- 7am. What is it about stories that capture our imaginations, that allows us to 'hoot' with laughter and feel the

agony with a character? I guess in part the children's stories we get to hear take us on a quick journey from beginning to end, having engaged all our senses in one sitting. Doctor Grundies Undies is one example of using poetry with a sense of adventure, encountering difficulties, intrigue and mystery.

Reading scripture; we get to read a small thread of that greater narrative. Maybe stories like Samson we know from beginning to end and parts of the more astonishing Israelite journey from slavery. We can miss the richness, adventure, intrigue and encounter of the whole narrative of the Hebrew people if we haven't read it from beginning to end. Our personal stories are much the same. People meet us for a mere moment in time, an encounter, a portion of our narrative. Those episodes, adventures, encounters that make us who we are today, rich, intriguing and some of us a little quirky, these are our narratives. I guess we are the only ones who know our narrative, the twists and turns, ups and downs the stories of adventure and near-death encounters are better in the telling.

Happy storytelling,

Colin

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCILS

From Saint Aidan's Church Council

AGM

Saint Aidan's AGM will be held on Sunday 18th October after a shortened Café Church service. AGM booklets will be available prior to that Sunday, and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance at the AGM.

Work Group

The Work Group will meet for the first time on September 29th. We wish the members well as they work to make progress towards the establishment of the new church from Saint Aidans and Saint Andrews.

Circles of Trust

The revised dates for the Circles of Trust Retreats are Saturday 3rd October, 31st October and 28th November. There are still some places left, so if you have not already registered your interest in attending these retreats, please contact Colin as soon as possible. We will look together at a number of very important aspects of our journey towards a merged new church, with the very experienced facilitator, Mennie Scapens. See bulletin for Sunday 20th September for more information.

Cheques

The use of cheques will be phased out by July 2021. We know that a number of people make their church donations by cheque, and the Finance Team is considering alternative options that could be suggested. Please talk to Rosemarie or anyone on Church Council if you have ideas or questions about this.

Photocopier

The new photocopier has been purchased for use by Saint Aidans and Saint Andrews. It is housed at Saint Aidans, and if you need to use the copier for church activities, PIN numbers are available and displayed.

Worship Services

From the end of September we hope to be able to worship in person once more. We have appreciated the opportunities to worship by means of Zoom, and there will be both 'in person' and Zoom services for a period so that those who prefer to worship from home can still do so. Thank you to Colin for organising and leading the Zoom services, and to all those who take part.

Colin will be on leave on Sunday 11th October, and we are very happy that we will welcome Dr Greg Morgan to take our service that day.

Nan, for Saint Aidan's Church Council

From St Andrew's Church Council Minutes 22 9 20

Thank you to Rev. Colin Gordon and the new music group from St Aidans and St Andrews who have been able to provide Zoom services on-line over lock-down, to keep in touch. These will continue while we are still in Level 2 and Level 1.

Our new Music Mentor, Rev. Robyn Goudge is practising with enthusiastic singers and musicians every Thursday, alternating afternoons and evenings at Level 2 and 1. Come and join them if you wish.

St Andrews is pressing ahead with planning a Play Group with our very successful *mainly music* embedded, for two mornings a week for next year. It will necessitate selling pews and buying chairs for more flexibility in the use of church spaces. The congregation will be asked to approve this major purchase.

The Pastoral Committee has enjoyed keeping in touch especially with the elderly and infirm during lock-down. The new printer will be kept at St Aidans.

Rosemary, for St Andrews Church Council

Thank you to all our older people

I am writing to express great appreciation of our 'older persons', our most senior members. We acknowledge the support and help that our older people give to churches. They have led, toiled, served, and stood firm in their faith communities. They have sacrificed and offered the best years, in fact, all of their lives for our churches, for their faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The ideal perfect community is where we have all ages, from babies and infants to the most senior - 70, 80, 90 even 100 years. Parishes that do have all generations are blessed. For me, it is the most significant sign of a healthy community. A church of all ages, where each is valued and treasured, relevant and significant. The life of these communities is...the people, the people, the people...he tangata, he tangata, he tangata, says the Maori proverb about what is most important.

As we face the challenges of 2020, it may not seem it but we are in a better position in Church life than at any other time in regards to our people, buildings, assets, finance, and investments (land, property, and people skill sets). Our senior folk have committed themselves and set up well the next generation for whatever the future holds. They have been through many hard experiences that will help our walk of life.

"Wisdom belongs to the aged, and understanding to the old" - Job 12:12.

Over time, age and longevity in years has been seen and expressed by our senior peoples as true wisdom. My favourite learning in life is at the feet of older people; whatever the event, occasion, discipline, field, ie Bible Study, prayers, fellowships, fishing, gardening, in fact in any area of life. I liken learning and being enlightened by older folks as to drawing on or being filled from the oasis of God's abundance of knowledge and grace. Senior people have experienced goodness of, and a longer relationship with God than we have experienced. Thank you, our mighty warriors for Jesus Christ. Lead on.

I offer a word of encouragement for our senior people. C.S Lewis wrote, "You are never too old to set a new goal or dream a new dream". Continue to live life to the full. This is also inspiring and real motivation for the next generations to look up to. Old age is a blessing from the Lord. We should never be afraid of aging. One sure certainty in life, with the blessing of

God, and we pray good health too, most will each reach senior life. How exciting. I can't wait...oh, I'm nearly there! It's going to be something wonderful with the blessings of my family, church and community.

God bless each and every one of our dear and beloved older persons. You are amazing. Your inspiration and example are precious to us all. Please share this message with all the beloved older people in your church and community.

Fakaofu

Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio
Moderator Presbyterian Church of New Zealand
E moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

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. The first of these is this Saturday 3 October ,9-4.30 at The Cedar Centre @ 56A Tramway Road, Beach Haven,

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.**

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

DINNER GROUP will meet on Saturday 2 . If you would like to join in for a meal out in the evening contact Dale on 021 02345087 or adalekerr@gmail.com.

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank has remained open all year through our various levels of shutdown at the Salvation Army depot at 430 Glenfield Road.

They have been glad to receive more online contributions of money over this time when it has been difficult to give in kind. To organize this you go to the website for

the Foodbank Project which is > <https://www.foodbank.org.nz>>

However now that we are at Level 2 and starting to resume worship in person your contributions brought to any of the weekly Sunday Services are able to be taken in.

They always appreciate
any pantry supplies
and especially SHAMPOO
NB

Fresh fruit or vegetables eg potatoes, carrots, onions delivered to the depot on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9.30 am would also be appreciated *but the weekly collections at church are dry goods only.*

GOOD USED BOOKS WANTED !

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



PACK A SHOEBOX FOR CHRISTMAS

Every year Samaritan's Purse, a Christian aid agency, sends out millions of shoeboxes to children all over the world for Christmas. St Andrews and *mainly music* families have been filling boxes for about 5 years now and October is the time to start packing again. OCtober is known as Operation Christmas Child month and there are boxes available at both St Aidans and St Andrews.

When packing a box remember to include items from these categories:

- Something to play with – cars, balls, dolls, games
- Something to wear – hats, t shirts, shorts, socks
- Something hygienic – soap, flannel, hair ties, combs, brushes
- Something for school – pens, pencils, colouring books, writing pads
- Something special – jewellery, cuddly toy, torch (include batteries)
- Include \$10 to cover delivery costs etc.

Decide if you want to buy for a boy or girl and a particular age group – 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. On the brochure is a label which you need to tape on your box and tick the relevant boxes.

Boxes need to be returned to church by the first week in November.



If you want to know more talk to me sometime.

Pauline

MASKS:FUNDRAISER for St Aidans.

Re-usable masks for sale. Variety of colour and patterns available or made to order.

\$10 for adults, \$5 for children.

Perfect for public transport use. Barbara Westra 021395824

Northcote Takapuna Methodist Parish
“Compassionate Creative Connected Communities”



Community Development Worker

Are you interested in leading this parish in supporting rapidly changing North Shore communities to make their places better for everyone through community led development?

- You understand and value the contribution community expertise and experience can offer to both people and place.
- You value relationships and confidently build trust and relationship with diverse groups on issues that matter to them.
- You are confident working in agile and iterative ways that grow local leadership and agency and that support learning by doing.
- You are a joiner as much as a leader and can work confidently on your own as well as part of a diverse team.
- You have a commitment to, and ideally are experienced in, strengths-based Community Led Development principles and practice.
- You are an excellent communicator and can work in partnership within both church and community.
- You are a suitably qualified person in good standing with your own faith/values and wider community.
- You will be able to work to the Methodist ethos, including its bicultural commitment.

A Position Description is available from
takapunamethodist@xtra.co.nz, or speak to
Superintendent Rev Peter Norman Tel: 489 4590.

To apply, please send your CV and cover letter to
The Parish Administrator, Northcote Takapuna Methodist Parish,
P O Box 33 1013, Takapuna, Auckland 0740 or
takapunamethodist@xtra.co.nz .
Expressions of Interest close **4 October 2020**.

A Marmalade Sandwich for your Hat?



A wise bear always keeps a marmalade sandwich in his hat in case of emergency, according to Paddington Bear. The bittersweet zing of a good marmalade can be the common flavour of your breakfast year round, whether it's orange, lemon, lime or grapefruit marmalade.

Traditionalists may argue that Seville marmalade, made from

the orange associated with the southern Spanish city, is the best of the bunch.

Otherwise known as the bitter orange, this citrus fruit wasn't always part of the Spanish eco-system. In fact, the origin story of all oranges and citrus fruits brings us to the foothills of the Himalayas.

According to the findings of scientists who analysed the genomic data of more than 60 different varieties of citrus fruits, published in the scientific journal *Nature*, if you were craving a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice 8 million years ago the only place you could have got it was the foothills of the Himalayas.

However, today, you can have freshly made grapefruit and lemon

marmalade for \$3 jar from Barbara Wesley at St Andrews. The money raised is given to the Rehabilitation Centre in Indonesia who have set up a

Riding for the Disabled in Malang. Ibu Endang, from Malang, Indonesia, visited St Andrew's church about four years ago, and gained a lot of information and expertise on the subject while travelling around NZ accompanied by a NZ journalist, Duncan Graham, and his Indonesian wife, Paulina. Our NZ marmalade is made straight from the fruit off a tree in Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead. It can be bought from church, or delivered to your home, or collected from 193 Hinemoa Street, or by phoning **4809123**.



Spring has sprung, at least it has in Auckland. My friends in Dunedin have been covered in snow hoping that their spring foliage (which had been looking stunning) will survive the -0-degree temperatures.

The seasons have been very strange this year, I think even our winter has not been so bad. Hopefully now with the summer ahead of us our antibodies will become stronger, the virus will lose interest in trying to overcome us and we can look forward to a Christmas and New Year leaving the 2020 worries behind us.

From Nan and Kerr Inkson – We were supposed to be overseas for all of September; we had planned to visit our grand-daughter (and her parents) in London, and then to see family and friends throughout England and Scotland. Perhaps we'd even manage a couple of mini-breaks in Europe. But that was not to be. So – undaunted – we spent a few days in Hamilton. We enjoyed the beautiful themed Hamilton Gardens which showcase various styles of gardens, English country, Italian renaissance, Chinese Scholar's garden and so on; at Hamilton Zoo we were able to see fauna from different parts of the world; and we enjoyed meals from various ethnic restaurants. In addition, we walked among native New Zealand plants and particularly enjoyed watching squabbling tui amongst kowhai blossoms. Not quite the overseas trip we had planned, but a pretty good few days closer to home.

Rosemarie and David have been on the road again - as soon as we moved to Level 2.5 and could leave Auckland - off to Taupo to stay with friends and do some driver training, in David's sports car, at the Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park. We each had an instructor and participated fully in the day's activities. At the end of the day, Rosemarie was more confident and her lines were better than David's! The high-light was the afternoon, which put together the skills training of the morning, when we did 4 - 5 laps of the track in 15-minute blocks. The next weekend, off to Kerikeri, to stay with a friend and for David to attend to some business for Presbyterian Support Northern.

Laughing Matters: When God sends help, don't ask questions.

She hurried to the pharmacy to pick up the medication. When she got back to the car, she found her keys locked inside.

The woman found an old rusty coat hanger on the ground, she looked at it and said, "I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and asked God to send her some help.

Within five minutes an old motor-cycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off his cycle and asked if he could help.

She said, "Yes, my husband is sick. I've locked my keys in my car, I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car and in less than a minute the car was open.

She hugged the man and through tears said, "Thank you, God, for sending me such a very nice man."

The man heard her little prayer and replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday, I was in prison for car theft."

The woman hugged the man again sobbing, "Oh, thank you God! You even sent me a professional!"

Go well. Enjoy the Spring.

Grace.

ROARING WATER

We had a contemplative service at Church on Sunday. Colin, our Minister, played the sound of rushing flood water and asked us where it took us.

I was right back as a fourteen year old, in my canoe, watching and hearing the roar of Bullock Creek in flood. The colour of frothy beer, it was pouring into the Pororari River and I could track its path there by its colour.

Bullock Creek starts miles away back in the mountains, sometimes underground and winds its way through bush covered hills. It passes through flatter country where a Punakaiki farmer fattened cattle and on through bush until it reaches the Coast Road between Greymouth and Westport. Just before a bridge, it drops about twenty feet to sea level and passes, green and beautiful between high rock walls into the Pororari River.

This day though, high country rain had turned it into a mad thing. I had all this excitement to myself. My Mum was stuck back at our bach keeping her friend company. The other four baches were empty. It was an isolated spot in those days.

At the point where they join, the Pororari is flowing North and the creek comes from the East, so the river will slow the creek down before they turn West into the Tasman sea. Hopefully. Otherwise my loved canoe and I would be gone...rough river, rough sea meeting...not a good place to be.

I was in the calm water of the lagoon, calculating. I dipped my paddle into the water and I was off! It was so exhilarating! No need for the paddle, I skimmed along at an amazing speed, which thankfully slowed down before the river turned towards the sea and I was able to paddle my canoe into calmer water, back to where I had started. I spent a happy morning riding my jet stream until I heard my Mum's whistle blast in the distance, that meant lunch was ready.

In all my seventeen years of holidays at Pororari that was the only time I ever knew Bullock Creek to flood like that. We could hear its roar from our bach. I had such fun. Fourteen year olds are invincible.

Margaret Larsen.

A PARABLE

On the importance of love. “Meanwhile, there remains faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love” (Corinthians 13:13)

Part A

A good Christian, his life's journey over, approached the gates of heaven. Saint Peter guarded the gate, and beyond him stood the Lord, waiting to welcome those who entered. When Christian reached the gates and was about to pass through, he suddenly stopped. There, in front of him, passing through the gates, was a dark skinned man with a small white hat on his head. Christian recognised this as the mark of a devout Muslim, one who in his lifetime had made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Christian was dumbfounded and protested to St Peter “Surely you know this man is not a Christian?” he asked, “how can he be allowed into heaven?”. St Peter replied, “It is the Lord's wishes. He welcomes all into his kingdom”. Christian was quite put out and protested “But what about Jesus' words – I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the father but by me? This man ahead of me has never known Jesus.” St Peter again replied, “That may be so, but Jesus has known him, and is even now taking him to the father”.

Christian was quite put out, but the Lord himself appeared. “Christian,” he said, “this was my final test to see whether you were truly worthy to enter my kingdom. Shouldn't you be glad that my love extends to those of other races and creeds? Should you not show to this stranger the same love that I have shown to you?”

Christian was unable to reply.

Part B

A devout Muslim, her life's journey over, approached the gates of heaven. One of Mohammed's Caliphs guarded the gate, and beyond him stood the Lord, waiting to welcome those who entered. When our friend, called Fatima, reached the gates she suddenly stopped. There, in front of her, was an old friend, a Christian Fatima had known all her life. Fatima greeted her joyfully and went to pass through the gates with her.

The Caliph, however, intervened and explained as kindly as he could that only Muslims were allowed in; Fatima could go in, but her friend, being a Christian would have to remain outside. Fatima protested, and pleaded for her friend to be allowed in, but to no avail. The Caliph would not yield to her wishes.

Fatima was very distressed, and stood outside the gates wondering what to do. Eventually she put her arm around her friend, and spoke a last word to the Caliph. “My companion here and I have been friends all our lives. I cannot desert her now. If she cannot enter the gates of heaven with me, then we must both remain outside. And she turned to walk away with her friend.

At this point the Lord himself appeared and intervened. “Fatima” he said, “this was my final test to see whether you were truly worthy to enter my Kingdom. The love you have shown your friend I have rarely found, not even in Christendom. Call back your friend and enter these gates together”.



ROSTERS FOR OCTOBER 2020

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Reading	Prayer for Others	Morning Tea
Oct 4	Mary Boyd	Laurie W	Laurie	Mary	Pauline, Robyn Thornton
Oct 11	Gary Pash	Robin Baxter	Robin	Gary	Robyn and Ian Bogue
Oct 18	Dalia S	Karen Davies	Cathy Fraser	Dalia	Rachel and Robin Baxter
Oct 25	Ian Bogue	Rosemarie D	Linda Buckthought	Glenys Skudder	Keith and Paquita

DATES FOR OCTOBER 2020

Sat Oct 3	9 am -4pm	1 st Circles of Trust Retreat		Cedar Centre
Sun Oct 4	9.30 am	Service	Rev Colin Gordon	St Andrews
Sun Oct 11	9.30	Service	Rev Greg Morgan	ST Andwrs
Tues 13 Oct	7 pm	Come To Quiet		Lindisfarne Lounge, downstairs St Aidans
Sun 18 Oct	9.30am for 10	Cafe Service	Rev Colin Gordon	St Andrews
Sun 25 Oct	9.30am	Service	Rev Colin Gordon	St Aidans
Sat 31 Oct 9-4	9am -4 pm	2 nd Retreat		Cedar Centre
Sat 21 Nov	2 pm	Floral Affair		St Aidans

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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