

Newsletter for Saints A and A



A New Church Emerging

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**Haere Mai, Aere mai, Hwan-yeong, Fakaalofa lahi atu,
Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai, Talofa Lava,
Foon Ying Selamat Datang, Vitajte, Welkom,
Welcome**

MINISTER'S THOUGHTS

Kia ora tatou nga whanau,

This past week we have been in the celestial movement of Equinox. I find it a fabulous energising time of the year. When we resonate with day and night rhythms, we should be getting equal amounts of sleep and wakefulness. Oh, for the modernity of lights and Netflix to keep us awake. What I enjoy is getting up and often travelling in the period we call sunrise or the dawn. I find it awe-inspiring being up with the stars, the moon falling over the horizon, then the morning glow of the sun breaking rays into the new day.

Being Celtic, Pacifica or Maori (and many others), our ancestors mostly resonated with rhythms of creation, day in and day out with their eyes on the future, planting today for sustenance in the years ahead. Growing for food is one sustenance, and growing values is another. Planting small initiatives towards building a society with high moral character development and the importance of values in the long journey of life is a purposeful mission. Without this society, the community breaks down - our ancestors knew this.

The whakatauki, "Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua:" 'I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past' speaks to Māori and Celtic Christianity perspectives of time, where the past, the present and the future viewed as intertwined, and life as a continuous cosmic process. Within this constant cosmic movement, time has no restrictions – it is both past and present. The past is central to and shapes both present and future identity. From this perspective, the Whanau/Hapu/Iwi carry their past into the future. The strength of carrying Whanau/Hapu/Iwi's future is that ancestors are ever-present, existing both within the spiritual realm and in the physical, alongside the living as well as within the living.

This is why for a liminal moment in time, Maori and Christian spirituality resonated. Worship, as with meetings, are opened with sacred readings and prayer. In the communion, we acknowledge and remain with the saints both past, present and future.

How do these thoughts guide our present posture, conversations and decisions?

Back to the beginning, this equinox time. On Easter Sunday, some of us will gather for a Sunrise Service to celebrate the Son and the light of the divine, the cosmic presence. Then the Dawn Service on the 25th April where we remember the past, those young men and women fallen in the horrors and hauntings of war. I find these services, and this time of day to be mysteriously engaging.

The Sunrise, The Dawn, a mysterious intertwining of time past and present, giving us sustenance for a hopeful future.

Peace to you and yours in this time of imagination and creativity.

Colin

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Notes from the St Aidans and St Andrews March 2021 Congregational Meetings.

Joint Congregational Meeting One was held on Sunday, 21 March 2021, at St Aidans at 9.30am as part of the Sunday morning Cafe Service.

1. The first paper was entitled “***The Future Church and Facilities***“, introduced and summarised by David Hansen, from the Genesis Property Sub-group. Three propositions were presented for discussion.

Step One: Worship at one church, maximise the community use and income from both churches and hold community events in the other.

Step Two: Plan to develop one or both sites – long-term view.

Step Three: Discussion with Methodists and others, very long-term view.

After the round-table discussions, the following motion was formulated, put and carried. 89% at each church.

“That the congregations of St Andrews, Birkenhead, and St Aidans, Northcote, approve proceeding with Steps One, 2 and 3, and that Church Councils are to decide when we change to worshipping in one church (St Andrews) until we have a new worship centre.” 89% Carried by each church voting separately.

2. The second paper was entitled, ***“The Consolidated Guiding Principles – Governance.”***

Membership of the New Church was discussed and would consist of two forms: Membership and Associate Membership as defined by PCANZ and the New Church.

Motion: ***“That Northern Presbytery be asked to approve the Consolidated Guiding Principles for the (New Church Entity)*** This proposition was to be put at the next Congregational Meeting, Thursday 25 March at 7pm. This was not done but will be discussed at a future meeting

Joint Meeting Two between the Congregations of St Andrews and St Aidans Thursday 25 March at 7pm at St Aidans

Introduced and led by Greg Morgan using flower principles and a light, happy touch but leading to depth of understanding of the outcomes needed for the formation of a New Church.

The main focus of this meeting was Vision, Mission and Values – very aspirational.

The vision statement agreed upon was as follows: **We aspire to be an active and innovative Christian Community that provides leadership and builds partnerships in our fast-changing world.**

We will:

- **be innovative in our approach to life and worship**
- **demonstrate our willingness to share life experiences and spiritual awareness promoting the teaching and practice of Jesus.**
- **Seek out opportunities to promote inclusiveness, interfaith awareness and collaboration, especially through partnerships with local organisations.**
- **Be visible in the community as we live our values.**

Name for the New Church. Much discussion but no decision. Possibly Onewa Christian Community. To be mulled over for a later decision.

Two Blessings from the Circles of Trust

I hope the time ahead with the joining of the two churches is blessed with joy and fruitfulness.

May we be helpful to one another in that we agree to compromise on all discussions.

We hope to have great companionship and fellowship and that the future flourishes in our Christian faith.

Lord, we ask you now
To bless us as we go away
From where we have been planning, thinking,
discussing and growing.
As we go forward now along a road that's still
unknown to us,
To this new exciting place where we are going:
Give us the energy and drive
To let your new church grow and thrive
Bless us now, Lord
And let our efforts
To lift others to your love and care
Bounce back to us to bless us once again
And guide us everywhere Amen

From Saint Aidan's Church Council

Easter services

Good Friday service will be held at Saint Aidans at 9.30 p.m. on Friday 2nd April. This will include a procession from Zion Hill down to St Aidan's. If you can, park at Zion Hill before 9am to process down. Otherwise meet at St Aidan's.

Easter Sunday service will be held at Zion Hill at 9.30am. *N.B. Sunday 4th April is the end of Daylight Saving, and clocks will have gone back one hour by that Sunday morning.* The service will be followed by an Easter fest in the carpark – food, children's activities and music. Please bring a small plate for morning tea.

Colin on leave

Colin will be taking leave due to him from Monday March 29th till Thursday April 1st, and then from Monday April 5th to Monday April 26th. You will note that he is coming back to Auckland for Easter – thank you, Colin.

Services while Colin is away

April 11th – Youth Leader from Forrest Hill Presbyterian Church

April 18th – Café Church

April 25th – Greg Morgan

Rev Roxy Gahegan

We were delighted to learn that Roxy is available to 'look after' us while Colin is on leave. She hopes to be able to spend some time around Saint Aidans and/or Saint

Andrews on Tuesdays/Thursdays, and possibly attend some Sunday worship when she is not required to lead services at Saint Peters. We really look forward to seeing Roxy again, and I know we will make her very welcome.

Winter start time for services

We agreed some time ago that we would move to a 10.00 a.m. start time for services at the end of summer time, and this will happen. However, Daylight Saving Day, April 4th, coincides with Easter Sunday and a service at Zion Hill. So – **from Sunday April 11th, services at Saint Aidans and Saint Andrews will start at 10.00 a.m.** Café Church will still start as usual with a 9.30 breakfast and a service starting at 10.00

Nan for Saint Aidan's Church Council

NOTICES

MOTHERS' DAY CONCERT - FUNDRAISER



Saturday May 8 at St Aidan's at 2pm.
Please help sell tickets - \$25 each - for a lovely afternoon of entertainment followed by an afternoon tea of scones jam and cream. Tickets Dale 418 3793

Lockdown Marmalade

FOR SALE

\$3 jar. All proceeds go to the Rehabilitation Centre in Indonesia, a Mission that St Andrew's has supported for many years.

(See Barbara Wesley for large orders, or take the jars from the foyer.)



DINNER GROUP

All welcome! Saturday 17th April. Please let Dale know if you would like to come. Dale: 021 02345087 or adalekerr@gmail.com.

FOOD BANK

Please bring contributions to church for the food basket. Toiletries are especially welcome. The Salvation Army is always glad to receive online financial contributions for their foodbank. Go to: <https://www.foodbank.org.nz>.

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



IONA CLOSE

The St Aidan's Presbyterian Property Trust is looking for volunteers to join the Trust which manages the cottages at Iona Close. Meetings are held about four times a year and a very experienced chairperson means meetings are usually one hour or less. Tasks are not onerous – many hands make light work! If you would like to contribute to this community outreach please contact Colin Reid 480 5749 or Cathy Fraser iain_cathy.fraser@xtra.co.nz.

STORY TIME

Years ago, when my dear friend and I were swimming and sunbathing with our children at Charcoal Bay, she told me this story about her mother's family. I wrote it in books for my Grandchildren. All the people in the story have passed on and I read it to my friend and asked her if she would mind if I sent it to our Newsletter and she was pleased.

Farm at Charcoal Bay

Long ago, but not so very far away, four children lived with their mother and father on a small farm overlooking Charcoal Bay. Their names were Ernie, Thelma, Nancy and Mary.

On the farm there were cows, ducks, hens and bee hives and there was Chummy. Chummy was a small Jack Russell terrier, much loved by everyone. Every day before school, the children helped to milk the cows and afterwards their father caught the bus to catch the ferry boat to Auckland City, where he was a swimming instructor. When he got off the bus at dinner time

Chummy would be waiting at the farm gate to welcome him home, his tail wagging happily.

One Saturday, when the family had been swimming in the Bay, Thelma looked back to see a yacht sailing into the Bay. That afternoon, Chummy was missing from the milking shed, where he usually turned up for a drink of fresh milk. After dinner there was still no sign of him. Everyone called and hunted for him until after dark, but they couldn't find him. In the days that followed the family looked everywhere they could think of, but Chummy had vanished.

Two years passed by and one day the children's Grandmother took Thelma, Nancy and Mary to visit their other Grandma who had just moved house to Balmoral.

In the street where their Grandma lived, a small dog ran out of a gate and threw himself at the girls. It was their darling Chummy! It seemed unbelievable. They were so happy to see him again. Chummy was so excited that he nearly wagged his tail off. He ran to each of the girls and jumped up for hugs. They were all so glad to be together again.

Dogs aren't allowed on buses or ferry boats so Thelma tucked him inside her coat and climbed on the bus holding him close to her. Chummy kept as quiet as could be all the way home on the bus and then the ferry and the next bus home. He was a very knowing little dog. When they arrived home Chummy and the girls raced inside to tell their mother the great news.

That evening, when their father got off the bus, Chummy was sitting in his old place at the bus stop waiting to greet him. Their father burst into the house with his great news. "Who do you think I found at the bus stop?" he said. Everyone laughed with delight and they all

hugged Chummy all over again. Chummy lived happily with his family for many more years.

The children grew up. Thelma, Nancy Mary and Ernie, all had good families of their own. When I was twenty one, Ernie built the home for my Sweetheart and I, where I still live happily today.

Margaret Larsen

GRACE NOTES

We are so blessed in NZ with our climate. The summer has provided us with some extraordinary weather to get out and about and enjoy the countryside.

Fred and I have had the opportunity, after the last lockdown, to travel north. We stayed in Whangarei, Ngunguru and Kerikeri visiting some of the beautiful coastal beaches on the way. It was many years since I had been that far north and had forgotten how lush and tropical it all was.

Pat and Colin have had an interesting 5 weeks drive in the South Island. They drove 5,500 kilometres, beginning with a family gathering in the Kahurangi National Park in the northwest of the South Island. Highlights in Golden Bay area were the Farewell Spit Tour and the Takaka Hill Caves Tour. A short stay in Nelson came next, followed by the beauty of Westland. They investigated some new places like Karamea and the remarkable feat of engineering that is the Denniston Incline; and others they had seen before like Punakaiki. Everywhere the beauty of our own country impressed them greatly. In every town or tourist attraction enjoyable walks can be found. The Franz Joseph, Fox


and Tasman Glaciers have receded a lot since they last saw them. Pat recalls her first visit to the Hermitage with a school party in 1953 - the most special day was the one they spent walking up the Glacier to the Ball Hut. Now there is a four-wheel drive road up to the Ball Hut (though even that is not navigable just now after a storm 2 months ago), and the Glacier is almost out of sight. A few days at their favourite town of Wanaka followed their stay at Aoraki Mt Cook. In Christchurch a special day with their grandson Nick included a walk along the banks of the Avon in the "Red Zone" seeing vacant land where there were once beautiful houses.

I came across this quote by Stephen Jay Gould and would like to share it.

No scientific theory, including evolution, can pose any threat to religion – for these two great tools of human understanding operate in complementary (not contrary) fashion in their totally separate realms: science as an inquiry about the factual state of the natural world, religion as a search for spiritual meaning and ethical values.

ROSTERS FOR APRIL 2021

Date 9.30am <u>unless</u> <u>stated</u>	Elder	Door Duty	Reading	Prayer for Others	Morning Tea
Good Friday April 2 at St Aidan's	Greg Skudder	Robin Baxter	Robin Baxter	Greg Skudder	Hot Cross Buns?!
Saturday 3 April	Put your bed on	Clock Saturday	Back one night	Hour	Before
Easter Sunday April 4 Zion Hill	<i>Please Bring a Small Plate</i>				
April 11	Jocelyn Collinge	Helene Muller	Jocelyn C	Helene Muller	Pauline F & Robyn T
April 18	Café Team	Lynn Carter	Café Team	Café Team	Isabel & Robin
April 25	Rosemarie Dawson	Gary Pash	Rosemarie D	Gary Pash	Fiona and John



Mothers Day Concert

Saturday 8th May

**St Aidans
97 Onewa Road, Northcote**

Tickets \$25

Price includes a wonderful afternoon tea of Scones with Jam & Cream

Contact Dale on 418 3793