

St John the Baptist Anglican Church

Newsletter October 2018

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A note from Stan...

Again we were very fortunate to have our representatives at Synod this year. My contribution this month contains the reports from our delegates Rosemary Saunders and Louise Collette. Note that the concerns they highlighted and noted are consistent with what we are discussing when designing plans for our future. My sincere thanks to our two members.

On a different note, spring is here! Whilst it is the prelude to summer, Maureen our chief organist reminds me that it is time to think about our Christmas. Not the silly season, but that special period when we prepare for the coming of Christ. This has all the excitement and drama for me! I do not need the hype to buy this or that for whom ever!

So, here are some thoughts about Christmas - a children's service on either the 9th or 16th December, and the combined carol service with our Korean and Syriac congregations on the 23rd. There will be a midnight service on the 24th and our celebration on Christmas day.

On the 28th October we will celebrate those saints who had a special affinity with animals - St Francis, St Cuthbert, and St David. We will celebrate Eucharist at 8am and open our 9.30am service to those who wish to acknowledge their pets, service animals in society and stuffed toys. Please bring the children, animals, yourselves to a very interesting service.

Finally, thank you all for your queries and concerns regarding my health. I am improving every day. Enjoy our interesting spring.

Kindly,
Stan

Third session of the fifty-fifth Synod of the Diocese Auckland - September, 2018

From Thursday the 8th September to Saturday the 10th September, this year, Louise and I were closeted in Holy Trinity Cathedral with synod reps from the Far North to Coromandel. This is one of the nice things about Synod - meeting people from all over! Another nice thing is the way we are fed over the two days! Lovely venue, good food and fellowship.

The service on Thursday evening was uplifting as always but I found I could not hear much of the sermon or readings - being fairly deaf and at the back plus the acoustics are not great in St Mary's.

I fared better at the sessions in the Cathedral. Synod ran very smoothly, without wasted time and with good humour. Many, many topics were discussed, bills presented for passing and motions put to the vote. I felt that the Auckland Diocese is aware of the huge problems we have with poverty and housing in the Diocese and this topic was debated and discussed from several angles. The work of ATWC, the City Mission etc., for example were brought to the fore.

Louise has covered many Synod items more fully and I will touch on some other aspects so that our reports complement each other.

The Bishops' charge on Thursday night talked of the Diocesan vision, priorities for the Diocese, the General Synod passing of the blessing of same-sex marriages, our world and the crises facing us - e.g. environmental issues around climate change which is of urgent concern to our South Pacific members. The rebuild of the Auckland City Mission was touched on - \$90 million needed and \$70 million raised already! There will be a Lenten appeal for this in 2019. This year we celebrate 20 years of 'shared ministry' - a new way of doing church which has been very successful. Shared ministry with other protestant denominations has been fruitful for all. The vision of the Diocese is "to come to the measure of the full stature of Christ." What will it look like? The bishops have some new strategies in place: a) Knowing God - worship b) Shaping community c) Growing in Christ d) Living beyond ourselves - we need to face intergenerational differences.

We had a heart-warming speech to a motion from the Disability Community Chaplain - Rev. Vicki Terrell. Basically she asked for Ministry Units to review their buildings, programmes, worship, etc. for suitability for the disabled; to develop workshops on accessibility and inclusion and to make achievable improvement toward full accessibility and inclusion and for the Diocese to have an audit system to ensure all Ministry

Units are fully accessible this time next year. A big call, but it was passed. Vicki is herself disabled but a powerhouse of energy and brains!

Some bills/motions were passed, with tweaks that dealt with 'housekeeping' issues such as Tenancy laws which asked Synod to represent its feeling to the government; two amendment proposals about forms of the Eucharist; endings of the collect etc.

However, one I found really interesting and causing obvious anguish in the Diocese is the necessity at times for Ministry to face closure through being no longer viable. This Motion (number 10) was about a process which has already happened and proposed measure to make it as painless as possible. The motion was basically to put the decision firmly back in the hands of the ministry unit to decide about possible closure – not to having it imposed 'from on high.' This met with favour and involved discussion about the distribution of funds from any sale of buildings/property. Great care appears to be taken to make the outcome of such a painful process as inclusive of everyone's wishes as possible. This was passed.

With such a lot of poverty in NZ, which really impacts badly on children, a group called Aotearoa Alliance put a motion forward 'that this Synod welcomes and supports the formation of the Aotearoa Alliance as a broad-based coalition to advocate for the elimination of child poverty and agrees to provide moral, political and financial support for the Aotearoa Alliance.' They envisaged being up and running in three years and then would apply/ask for funds. Quite a lot of discussion came out of this and the motion was soundly defeated. Louise and I were against it. For my part I felt there are enough agencies already working to eliminate poverty and another agency, even though perhaps as a coalition, is overkill and diverting energy and funds already in place for this purpose.

We also discussed suicide prevention and intervention, sustainable development goals, the Church Army and other things of interest.

A full programme but we finished everything in the schedules and on time by 3.30pm on Saturday afternoon.

This is my last Synod, after six years, and I would recommend anyone who is interested to put their hands up for the next round of Synod operations (a three year cycle) as it is very interesting and helps you feel that at least we are trying to do, and spread,

the Gospel as a Diocese– which after all, is the very reason for our existence as a church.

Thank you for sponsoring me as a Synod Rep. It has been a privilege.

Rosemary Saunders.

Synod 3 of 55 2018

Opened Thursday 6.30pm with Eucharist. Preacher was Chris Clarke talking about Rev Samuel Marsden who may or may not have been understood by his hearers and who inspired by the Holy Ghost ignited a message still being heard today. However, today unfortunately, only half the population of N.Z. know how their local churches operate. Lately with bad press, re failings of the past, how are we going to be heard in Aotearoa today? We should be seen & heard, *(rather than let others tell our story)* by gathering folk to us. More of this later.

The Bishops' charge followed, however Bishop Kitto was unable to attend owing to illness. Anglican Trust for Women & Children gave a power-point illustration on how they were helping unmarried mothers care for their children. Rod Oram presented us with slides showing that NZ has fulfilled one of the eight SDG requirements owing to its ability to create energy. However, the Diocese is working on reducing its emissions, e.g. electric cars, etc. Following this we heard that the City Mission is now focusing on the 3Hs, housing hunger & health. (15,000 food parcels, 28% Kiwi kids living in hardship, i.e. where income is less than 60% of minimum wage, 1/3 of NZ families affected by drugs or alcohol abuse, - taken from statistics reported in the past four years). There is going to be an Indaba II where meetings will be across ministry unit boundaries e.g. local churches.

The Synod supported the SDG (Social Development Group) which supported Health, Education as the most important.

Services of the Church Army were recognized as a valuable tool and with that in mind we could use their services to promote our church. It was also interesting what other churches were doing to let people know they were there, budgeting and alpha courses, (some of these were just gatherings-not structured i.e. young mother's get togethers, simple meals, bake offs for men).

Louise Collenette

In and around St John

Sunday Services: 8am, 9.30am, Eucharist.

5pm (study/discussion group). All welcome, come as and when able.

Fourth-Sunday School: 4th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Evening Women's Fellowship: 7.30pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Men's Supper & Bible Group: 7.30-9pm twice a month on a Wednesday. Check the weekly service sheet for each venue.

Hall Users

Rowe Dance - ballet classes for 3-8 year olds on Monday 2.45-4.30pm, Wednesday 3.45-5.30pm and Thursday 3.30-4.30pm in term time.

Rowe Dance - dancing for adults, Friday 10-11am.

Rowe Dance - Personal tuition by arrangement.

Joy Russ Dance - Monday 8.30-9.30pm.

Positive Balance Yoga - Mon, Tues 6-8.30pm, Thurs 5.45-8.15pm in term time.

Weight Watchers - meet in St Jude's Room weekly, Tuesday 5.30-7.30pm.

Jumping Beans - Wednesday 9am-1pm in term time.

Scottish Country Dance - Wednesday 7.30pm - 10pm throughout the year.

Northcote Steps - meet in the St Jude's Room, Friday 7-10pm throughout the year.

Soccer for Tots - Sat 9am - 1pm during term time

Northern Performing Arts - Saturday 4-8pm.

English Folk Dance - 2nd Friday of each month, 7-10pm

Early English Dance - 4th Friday of each month, 7.30 - 10pm

AlAnon family support group - 3-5pm first Sun of each month.

The Korean Yaewon Church: Sunday 10am-5pm (hall), 1.40pm-3pm (St Jude's Room).

Plus occasional use by...

Northcote Residents Association

Northcote/Birkenhead Boat Owners Association

St Thomas, Syrian Church.

Readings for the month

October 7 Ordinary 27

Reading: Job 1: 1; 2: 1-10

Epistle: Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12

Gospel: Mark 10: 2-16

October 14 Ordinary 28

Reading: Job 23: 1-9, 16-17

Epistle: Hebrews 4: 12-16

Gospel: Mark 10: 17-31

October 21 Ordinary 29

Reading: Job 38: 1-7 (34-41)

Epistle: Hebrews 5: 1-10

Gospel: Mark 10: 35-45

October 28 Ordinary 30

Reading: Job 42: 1-6, 10-17

Epistle: Hebrews 7: 23-28

Gospel: Mark 10: 46-52

November 4 All Saints

Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-9

Epistle: Revelation 21: 1-6a

Gospel: John 11: 32-44

ST JOHN ON FACEBOOK

St John now has a **Facebook** page! Please look up **@NorthcotePoint** or **St John the Baptist Anglican Church** on Facebook and **Like** the page!



PASTORAL CARE REPORT

On the first two Sundays of September I served as Locum Priest. It was the contribution I could make to caring pastorally for Stan as the Parish rallied around when he was unwell and admitted to hospital. The other Service taken was at Shoal Bay Villa on Thursday 6th. The Wednesday 10am Morning Prayer continues week by week but took a break on 5th because access to the Church was limited by a major road closure for ongoing upgrade work.

A late winter season virus, to which a number of people succumbed, meant quite a few visits to the hospital with several follow ups by telephone. The Home Communion were postponed for a month, but I made three other home visits. I am grateful to people who have let me know of pastoral needs.

The Parish Roll is as up to date as 25 September. Our Synod Representatives (Louise Collenette and Rosemary Saunders) advised there had been discussion on this subject at Synod. The revised regulations will be to hand shortly and I can check that our Roll is compliant. To conclude, I have begun work on a welcome note which could be given to visitors or potential new parishioners. A draft should be ready for Vestry's perusal at its next meeting.

Vivienne Hill (The Reverend)

EVENING WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Evening Women's Fellowship meet this month on the 9th October at 7pm at Northbridge Village for a card-making evening. This should be a lot of fun and we will finish around nine.

Members please mark in your diaries and let me know if you cannot come. Note the earlier start time. Cost for the night is \$3.00 each to cover materials. I will contact you all with details on where to meet beforehand. Rosemary S.



MEN'S BIBLE READING & SUPPER GROUP



All men are welcome to join us for a great night out, twice a month.

We meet at 7.30 – 9pm on...

10th and 24th October both at Peter W's place (14 Vincent Road, Northcote Point).

- We'll have a good ol' chat n catch up.
- We'll hear two of our guys telling us interesting stuff from their experiences and those who have influenced them through their lives.
- We'll read a chapter of the Bible and have a chat about it. This is always a refreshing time when we read a passage from the Bible.
- And we'll end the evening with **Fabulous Food to Feed our Faces**. We enjoy the suppers, (which we bring and share), not only because we enjoy the food, but it's another great chat time and story-telling!!

Any enquiries, call Richard Lewis 4199 026 or mobile 021 109 4530

FINANCES

Congratulations - we achieved an average of \$1000/week from envelope and cash donations during September. Special thanks also for two extra donations. We had a large account for checking fire extinguishers and the sprinkler system but repairs and maintenance are still within budget.

Doug Dempster, Treasurer.

VESTRY MEETING NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2018

Some points of interest from our meeting this month:

- a) The Hall hire invoices are mostly up to date. Jansyl Andrews is working on these now.
- b) Gill reported on the Internet. The Facebook page is up and running. The administrators are Gill and Natalie Roffey, the editors are Stan and Peter White. Peter M said we need to promote the Facebook site in church – all agreed. Gill said the Parish website is still a work in progress and will take longer to get up to date.
- c) Gibbs Farm visit. Barbara is to go ahead and apply for a date in February and send in an application for the parish. Information to follow.
- d) Fundraising: Many ideas were discussed: There will be no garage sale this year. Everyone is very tired and we have decided to leave garage sales for 2019 and see how the Gibbs Farm idea works out. Stan suggested we have a small market at Easter where we can have a BBQ going, and hold some small stalls ourselves to raise funds. We will include Yewon Church and the Syrian church in this.

Thank you – Parish Secretary.

MINI BIO: ROSEMARY SAUNDERS



I came into the world in Whakatane 76 years ago when my parents lived in Galatea. A sister, Carolyn, followed 16 months later. When I was around five, my father got a job with the Dairy Company as a herd tester in Motukaraka, in the Hokianga. I guess my brother Ted was a baby then and while in the Hokianga my final sibling,

Val, was born in Rawene Hospital. We had a carefree life up there though it was hard work for my parents as the house was lacking in many modern amenities and my mother was a most resourceful housewife who could turn her hand to anything. It was an idyllic lifestyle for us children. I made friends at the little school there – one who has been a friend for life. Many of the people who knew Mum and Dad while there were also lifelong friends.

When I was about nine the whole family moved to Whangarei where we settled until we all 'flew the coop'. I went to Hora Hora primary school and Whangarei Girls High School. Social life in those days for me, as for many, revolved around the church and organisations like Girls' Brigade. We belonged to the local Methodist Church which was very lively, full of young people and we had the most amazing socials, Easter camps, rousing services, musical Sunday School anniversaries – the lot.

I left school to go to Ardmore Training College to train as a primary teacher. I enjoyed college but not teaching so much and left after my first couple of years. John and I married in 1964 and I was working at Whitcombe and Tombs until my first pregnancy. We have had two children, Helen and Hugh and now have grandchildren and great grandchildren to enjoy. For me, my Christian faith and family, friends and meaningful work are the most important things in life. I became an Anglican at 22 after marriage and felt I had 'come home' – the Anglican Church has nourished me and built on the strong foundation from my younger years in the Methodist Church.

John and I have had some wonderful years- first with the growing family, our various interests, shared and apart, our many travels together when the family had grown and lots of fun as well as the sad times. I have been fortunate to take up university study in later life, achieve a degree in the Humanities (the study was a highlight of my life), carve out a career in librarianship, which I love and still work at part-time. Earlier, I also sang in the Auckland Choral Society on and off for 18 years. This gave me an appreciation and love

for sacred choral music as we sang many of the great works, like Elijah, Messiah, the B Minor Mass and the St Matthew Passion in my time. In fact, choir was the love of my life at one time. I have worked at a few jobs in my life and one I enjoyed greatly was for several years as secretary at the Catholic Chaplaincy at Auckland University. Now, settled in Northbridge Village, we live a contented life, still busy with interests and friends, family and travel. We have good health and are so lucky still to have each other.

Would you like to have a go at writing a mini bio? I'd LOVE to hear from you! Please send your piece or any questions through to Natalie – sjbanglican@gmail.com.

Contacts

Vicar:

Rev Stan Pilbrow 480 7568

Wardens

Vicar's Warden: Doug Dempster 418 1448

People's Warden: Karen Perrett 418 3715

Pastoral Care:

Rev Vivienne Hill 441-4325

Synod Representatives

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Louise Collenette 441 3055

Fourth Sunday School

Karen Perrett 418 3715

Hall Hire

Jansyl Andrews 027 217 2627

Recorder

Wendy McPherson 473 3448

Women's Fellowship

Rosemary Saunders 489 5830

Men's Supper and Bible reading group

Peter White 419 4380

Catering Committee

Barbara McIlroy 418 4117

Office Admin, Newsletter and Website

Natalie Roffey 0226074376

Your newsletter is prepared by Natalie. You can contact Natalie by emailing her at sjbanglican@gmail.com. The newsletter is published on the first Sunday of the month and the deadline for submissions is the previous Tuesday.



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1: 9

This Newsletter is sent to all email addresses as provided for the Parish Roll. If you do not wish to receive this communication by email, please write to sjbanglican@gmail.com.