

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD AUGUST 2016

“If winter comes, can spring be far behind?”*

Oh yes, the worst of winter is now behind us and we still have quite a pile of firewood yet to burn.

So it's not too early to give notice that our special spring service will be on 11th September, as on the first official Sunday of spring, the 4th, we have some other significant happenings. More on that later.



Our “winter of discontent”** wasn't so bad, was it. We had some inspiring services, notably on Disability Awareness Sunday when we had a visit from Mark and Chris Grantham with some very moving words from them both.

Chris, you'll remember, is the one you'll find selling chocolates in Newmarket to support his refugee families.

In early July David and Lindsay went to the Diocesan Ministry Conference at the Diocesan School for Girls, a thought provoking gathering.

Its theme was “Re-imagining Worship” and from both the key-

note speakers and group discussions we garnered lots of interesting ideas.

Some of these we introduced in our own St Francis workshop on worship on Saturday 16th July. Warm thanks to the 13 lively participants and to Anne who organised the content. We'll use some of these ideas as we go on.

And our newly acquired organ is adding welcome sounds to our worship. Thanks to all involved, especially Wayne who is helping our other organists to master and use the capabilities of the instrument.

*Shelley's “Ode to the West Wind”

**Shakespeare's “Richard III”

Today at 11.15am we have a healing service. This will be repeated every other month, the even numbers, at 11.15am

The next after today is 2nd Oct.

There are those for whom attending a service at 9.30am is extremely difficult, usually for health reasons.

So at 3pm on the last Sunday of every month there will be a celebration of Eucharist at 3pm at St Francis.

The next will be on Sunday 27th August.

Diary notes

September

4 reports

11 Spring

27 3pm service

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Funeral brochure available at back of church

A special welcome to our visitors today

Cheerful workshop produces interesting ideas for the future

Our Worship Workshop at St Francis on Saturday morning 16th July gave some lively response from the 13 participants.

We started with an open forum discussing two simple questions: what are we doing well, where is there room for improvement.

It was heartening to hear quite a list of things we are doing well: our welcoming atmosphere, the quality of our services, our readiness to accept change, the inclusion of people in a relaxed, friendly way, grounded in structure, a strong framework, the way liturgists supported the priest, and so on.

Some suggestions for improvement: using CDs to learn new music; using recorded music and

poetry in our services; improving audibility; making space for spontaneity; use of mime and other drama; passing the peace in different ways, front to back for example, and so on.

Then we divided into two groups, one for liturgy one for intercessions. There was fruitful discussion in both camps.

One suggestion already in place is the use of the Lord's prayer in contemporary language, just occasionally! We're interested to hear what you think about that, and indeed, any other matters in our worship and intercessions.

Yesterday we held a workshop on preaching and sermon evaluation. Our thanks to Anne for her work in preparing this.

**"...to
accept
change..."**

More on "What is Local Shared Ministry"

(continued from page 3)

It works with and is trained by an Enabler, our link with the Diocese.

It meets monthly

It works together in shared leadership

It works to find the cutting edge of ministry in the local community

What then is the role of the congregation?

The congregation

Enthusiastically welcomes and incorporates new people and their gifts

Shares the Christian faith and encourages each other in ministry

Takes responsibility to further their own spiritual growth

You have a great MST team and Council, but we need some more

help so we thought it was a good idea to revisit - What is Local Shared Ministry.



Do ask those on the MST team or Council or me any questions you have so that we are ready to make decisions for the future.

Blessings and prayers
Anne Moody

It's important to remember that all those serving at St Francis in any capacity are volunteers. Occasionally travel expenses are reimbursed.

Our enabler Anne asks again— So what is Local Shared Ministry?

Anne writes: When I was here a decade ago, the decision was made to become an LSM unit. It was a scary time and perhaps it still is for some.

We have some significant services coming up in the next few months:

- Visioning – where you are now and where you see St Francis in 5 years;



- Stewardship, which is about our time, talents and our financial contribution;
- a calling for some more members of the team, an Administrator, a Pastoral Care Coordinator and another priest.

A reminder: what is Local Shared Ministry?

Bishop Wesley Frensdorff, from the USA, dreamed of a church

“in which all the members know surely and simply God’s great love, and each is certain that in the divine heart we are all known by name”

A church in which worship is lively and fun as well as reverent and holy; and we might be moved to dance and laugh; or be solemn.

A church so deeply rooted in gospel and tradition that, like a living tree, it can swing in the wind and continually surprise us with new blossoms.

A ministering community rather

than a community gathered around a minister.

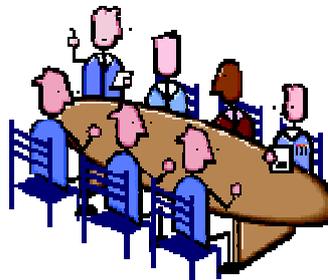
And finally, let us dream of a people called to recognise all the absurdities in ourselves and in one another, including the absurdity that is LOVE, serious about the call and the mission but not, very much, about ourselves, who in the company of our Clown Redeemer can dance and sing and laugh and cry in worship, in ministry and even in conflict.”

from Reshaping Ministry Essays in Memory of Wesley Frensdorff pp 2-6

LSM is a way of structuring ministry so that the local church is responsible for establishing its own priorities for mission and ministry. LSM developed from a conviction that in every faith community God has placed spiritual and practical gifts for ministry through the Holy Spirit, sufficient for the needs of that community

LSM is about becoming *disciples of Christ*, rather than *members of a church club*

LSM asks you to think about how you live out your life as a Christian in ministry



We have a Ministry Support Team (MST) - What does it do?

It organises and supports the congregation's ministry with the support of the Council

(Continued page 2)

“...a
living
tree..”

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Sundays 9.30am
3pm last Sunday

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Readings for August

7th Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Heb 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12:32-40

14th Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80; Heb 11:29- 12:2 ; Luke 12:49-56

21st Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Heb 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17;

28th Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81; Heb 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14

September

4th Jeremiah 18:1-11; Ps 139; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

We're very happy to see Dorothy Ashbolt, John Hyatt, Judy Evitt and Valerie Parker returning to health.

Thoughts and prayers to Hans and Anke, Joyce McNeal, the Morgan family.

Remember appropriate prayer is always available at the altar rails after the service.

Notes and news from here and about

Help in the sanctuary:

Norman is taking a well deserved holiday to visit relatives in the UK in September.

Someone is needed to set up the sanctuary each week, that is, set out the elements, put up hymn numbers and mark the lectern bible, and occasionally swap over the banners etc. Please see Norman or phone him 817 5016 if you can help.

Help at the lectern:

Do you feel you'd like to read the lesson one week, or evaluate one of the sermons or become an intercessor?

We'd love more volunteers to come forward. Training given.

Readers and intercessors: please phone or see Christine 817 1419

Evaluators please phone or see Judy 827 3436.

Mostly Craft etc:

Next "Mostly Craft" is 10th September. Friendship Circle is 10.00am Wednesday 24th August at St. Francis.

Calling November 6th:

Norman is stepping down from the Administrator's role.

Christine is stepping down from the Pastoral Care co-ordinator. And we seek another priest.

Think and pray now to discern who could fill these roles on the Ministry Support Team.



Coming soon:

We will be looking at Stewardship and our visions for the future; it's called "visioning."

Study:

The Monday night group continues and all are welcome. See Freda for details.

On 4th September, as we mentioned page 1, we have something special. There will be a report on synod held that weekend, and an introduction to our visioning.

Our spring service follows on Sunday, 11th September.

