

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

# ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD DEC 2015

## Variety ahead as Christmas nears

"...the old year lies a-dying.  
There's a new foot on the floor,  
my friend,  
And a new face at the door, my  
friend,  
A new face at the door."

Yes, 2015 is rapidly coming to an end, but not at all lacking in vigour and vitality.

Today we welcome a number of readers from the community to celebrate our "Readings and Carols", a revised version of the traditional "Nine Lessons and carols". Greetings to you all.

Next week we plan something a little different as a lead up to Christmas. See later for more details of Christmas Day.

"...a new foot on the floor.." It's with some sadness we say goodbye to our current enabler, the Rev Sarah Stevens-Cross. We've greatly enjoyed her presence with us this year, her enthusiasm and her encouragement, her thoughtful, insightful sermons.

### A Christmas play planned next week

It's a short, amusing and thought provoking production!

If you are interested in being in the play, PLEASE come to a rehearsal at 3pm on Saturday 19th December at the church.

I have an angel and would love some more children to be ani-

Her new position as enabler for more northern groups will mean far less travelling, a change from her demanding schedule this year. Our love and best wishes go with her. She and her husband are settling at Opuia



At our service last week we presented Sarah with an Auckland potter's piece featuring a tui on flax, a strong link to our Titirangi surroundings.

It's not a new foot really but a returning foot! Our new enabler is the Rev Anne Moody, our enabler and assistant priest from some years ago. You'll read later of our plans to welcome her in the new year.

You'll read too of other recent events. 2015 is departing boldly!

mals or shepherds (as well as some adults!)

See me now! The play will be in the sermon slot, Sunday 20th December, 9.30am.

*Christine*



### Diary notes

Dec

20 Play

24 11-30pm Xmas

25 9.30am Xmas

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*A special welcome to our visitors today*

## Auckland Diocese Local Shared Ministry conference shines

Local Shared Ministry is alive and well!

This was the over-arching impression that I took away from our recent LSM conference, held this year back in the familiar surrounding of Grafton Hall.



**“...church  
in a  
different  
way...”**

“Sowing the Seeds” was the title given to the event., and yes, there was a discernable focus on this. It ran from Bishop Jim’s opening address on Friday night, “Adaptive Leadership”, through Jacolize Becker’s “Engaging with Younger generations” through to Jacynthia Murphy’s address on the Maori perspective and Sarah’s session on the international scene.

Ian Render was there too to plant some new ideas on music.

But for me the most exciting thing was absorbing the positive vibes given out by other LSM units, hearing of their triumphs—and disasters! - and knowing that we were part of a nation-wide, *world*-wide movement of local involvement.

### Successful year has bright conclusion

“Mostly Craft” rounded off a most successful year at their final gathering on Saturday, 14th November.

It was especially heartening to hear our enabler Sarah’s comments in her final sermon, encouragement on and confirmation.

She said “Mostly Craft” was indeed “doing church”. That those

As a sideline it was interesting to hear Bishop Jim’s comment that he found pastoral care to be stronger in LSM units than in vicar— led parishes.

Jacolize is the newly appointed Children and families Facilitator for the Diocese of Auckland.

I saw her comments and suggestions as having general application for St Francis as we seek to engage with our whole Titirangi community, not just the youth.

She made particular reference to Titirangi’s Mostly Craft activity as an example of “doing church” in a different way.

It would be an over-simplification to say that everything in the garden is rosy in LSM. Some units do struggle.

But from Bishop Jim through his assistant Chris Harris and the enablers to the parishioners in the pews there is a positivity and good humour that augurs well for our future. Warm thanks to our council for financing our participation



involved did not come to church on Sunday was irrelevant.

Congratulations to all those involved. Tentative dates for 2015 have been dawn up, and no doubt new initiatives will be explored. “Mostly Craft” is a very positive involvement with the Titirangi community.

## “Adopt a family” catches the imagination of many people

As we go to press, our Adopt a Family project has proved very successful. Thanks to your generosity, we have very full boxes of Christmas goodies for four needy families in our nearby areas. We also have enough money donated to buy Lynmall gift vouchers for the adults and teenagers.



As you know, these families have been identified through Christian Love Link and Helen Philip who works for CLL will pick up the boxes on the 15th December and deliver them around the 18th.

This has been such a worthwhile and local cause jointly operated by Pastoral Care, Friendship Group and Discovery. (Herman

calls them his Dream teams!) Thank you so much to everybody for all the donations - and a special mention to Janice who encouraged her Laingholm kindy parents to participate.

*Christine*

***Our organ, generously provided by Wayne, has proved to be beyond repair.***



***Thanks to Eva, we have bought her home instrument, and our organists are now getting used to it.***

***We are much blessed in our musical talent, and we give the team our warmest thanks.***

“..a

local

cause...”

## Advent season a step along the way

Again this year we gave our Advent Sunday service a special treatment, built on suggestions for Neil, Jenny and Lindsay.

The sanctuary was stripped bare, the altar shifted, the empty font placed prominently, and the congregation asked to sit at a different angle.

Christine explained the significance of all this: the emphasis on change and repentance, the similarities to Lent, and the chance of new beginnings.

We’ve restored the seating to normal! But we’ll keep the surrounding relatively simple and bare

through to Christmas. We’d be interested to hear more feed-back on your experiences of all this.

### **Bob Foster RIP**

There was a good representation of St Francis folk at Bob Foster’s funeral recently. He was 103.

Christine spoke on our behalf and passed on Lindsay’s thoughts about a memorable 6 day hike around Ruapehu in blizzard conditions when Bob was 80! It was good to catch up with Shirley who remains in good heart.

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Sundays 9.30am**

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**Readings for December and January**

13<sup>th</sup> Please take today's service if you wish.  
20<sup>th</sup> Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45  
24<sup>th</sup> communion: Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14  
25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14  
27<sup>th</sup> 1 Sam 2:18-20,26; Col 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

**January**

3<sup>rd</sup> The Epiphany  
Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12  
10<sup>th</sup> Baptism of the Lord  
Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21-22  
17<sup>th</sup> Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10; 1 Cor 12:1-11; John 2:1-11  
24<sup>th</sup> Neh 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Ps 19; 1 Cor 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21  
31<sup>st</sup> (Candlemas) Malachi 3:1-5; Ps 24, 7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

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

## News and events from the parish

Easter is very early next year, nearly the earliest possible. It all has to do with phases of the moon. So Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is 10th February.

On Shrove Tuesday we again plan to make pancakes in the village. We'll have them at church too on Sunday.

Also in February we'll have our annual Beach Service, date to be finalized.

***A plea from the kitchen: we urgently need some more helping hands in the kitchen. They have a very happy team and Moira would be delighted to welcome you. Talk to her now.***

**Fairy lights:**

Acting on a Worship Committee suggestion, a string of lights has been purchased and thanks to Aaron is now strung from the St Francis gutters.

We'll turn them on later this week with a timer so they won't be on all night. We hope you enjoy them.

**Interesting concert:**

The Auckland Trio presents "Christmas and Beyond" Sunday 20th December, 4pm here at St Francis. It's a very attractive programme, from Bach to Bacharach. Parishioners \$10, others \$15. This really does sound well worth supporting.



**Coming services**

- 20th 9.30 Eucharist and play
- 24th 11-30pm Christmas Eve
- 25th 9.30am Christmas Day
- 27th 9.30am Usual Eucharist
- Normal Services continue

**2016 enabler appointed**

Welcome to Anne Moody as our enabler for next year! We have very fond thoughts of her when she was with us a few years ago during our joint parish days.

We are delighted to have her back with us offering workshops and "enabling" us to grow in faith and learning.

Anne will preach at our 24th January service, followed by a shared lunch to get re-acquainted and to meet with our new parishioners.

A short ministry support team meeting to plan for the first half of the year will then be held.

