

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD DECEMBER 2014

“Spring will be a little late this year”

Spring was indeed a little late this year (*Frank Loesser wrote the song*), but local weather guru Ken Ring assures us summer will bring a heat wave. “*Summertime, and the living is easy..*” from *Gershwin’s “Porgy and Bess”*.

But November did have some stirring events. We saw a gathering of musical enthusiasts to practice with Chris some fresh hymns, mostly from the recent LSM conference and Ian Render.

We’ll be introducing some more of these over the coming months.

We rejoiced also in the visit of the Rev Anne Moodie, our sometime enabler and longtime friend.

Advent was ushered in a somewhat unusual way, with the altar moved to the opposite end of the church and the seating changed.

It was an arrangement that some found awkward, especially as we had our local mini-market the same day.

Lindsay explained the reason: Advent is a time of rejoicing in the coming of Christmas, but also a time of repentance and penitence, of turning around. Hence the church furniture was turned around to help emphasise the possibility of change.

The purple vestments in Advent are the same as the purple of Lent, another season of penitence leading up to Easter.

Our All Saints’ Day service also went well, using the same liturgy that the St Francis congregation helped put together last year.



As ever, the worship committee, who meet this week, will welcome your comments about this or any other service.

So we head into summer—at last—with our Nine Lessons and Carols next week at 10am. See inside for more on this.

And this afternoon at 5pm we welcome the Show West Singers for their annual visit. It’s \$15 at the door. Some fine music is assured.

Christine thanks her actors Eve, Isabel, Aaron and Lindsay for their contribution to the play today.

Diary notes

Dec

- 7 **Choir visit**
14 **9 lessons**
24 **11.30pm Christmas service**
25 **9.30am Christmas Day service**

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A special welcome to our visitors today

Margaret reports on “Mostly Craft” and a successful year

Our final “Mostly Craft” session for the year in November was Christmas themed and a lot of fun. Our church is lucky to have such a devoted, enthusiastic team to run this successful outreach.

“...team
has it
in
spades...”

It takes flexibility and competence to run this sort of event, and the team has it in spades! We are also fortunate in the help of Junior Leaders, older children who have been coming for some time.

We have had about 150 children through the door this year, many of them repeats, a mixture of church and unchurched fami-

lies. Some come from the website, some from notices around the village, some hear of it through family and friends. We rely on you to 'Gossiping the news'. Some even come from services such as Blessing the Pets and last time a family came in off the road to investigate the fun! We continue to reach out in love to the community.

We are sorry to lose Lucy Tregidga from our congregation; she has a new job in Wellington. In her brief time she impressed with her enthusiasm, and she set up our facebook page. Our best wishes go with her.

Friendship Circle finds new life

The Friendship Circle resurrected itself enthusiastically last Wednesday meeting in the new church lounge, a great venue.



We plan to meet monthly next year beginning with an outing probably to the Wallace Collection at Pah Rd homestead in Hillsborough 21st January, the 3rd Wednesday.

It was great to welcome newcomers and gain ideas from them. It's mainly a social gathering, though we always have a moment of prayer for others.

And we are open to any suggestions for the future: study, pastoral care, learning belly dancing, gardening, experimenting with wine making. Any offers for home brewing?

Margaret

Neil reports on “Songs of Advent” at St Francis

“Silence is golden” the old song went. Did Mary, Zechariah and Simeon receive their angelic visitations in silence?

Probably.

Our Eternal God dwells in silence, out of which he/she speaks to us the living Word.

You're invited into that silence, in our Songs of Advent gatherings: scripture, silent prayer, sharing together.

The series has started well. You're welcome to join in.

Tuesday Dec 9 and 16, 10.30-11.30am.

Wednesday Dec 10 and 17, 7.30-8.30pm.



Festival of Nine lessons with Carols is a traditional service

Next Sunday 14th December at 10am (note the different time) we again hold this community event.

We try each year to gather a fresh cross section, though you will see some familiar faces from time to time.

The traditional Anglican service of Nine Lessons with Carols started in 1880 with the purpose of keeping men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve. Since 1918 it has been a special feature at King's College, Cambridge, England, and it is their principle of involving the City and community that we mark.

Do bring friends and neighbours to share singing some familiar carols.



Final Mini Market brings buyers to St Francis

A good number of folk came down from the big market to browse and buy. We sold many smaller items and the result was around \$420.00.

A big thank you to those who helped set up on the Saturday, and to those who helped on the day. However, selling from 11 until 2 is a big task and at the end of the market only Judy, Pam, Christine and Aaron were left to put everything back into the garage.

This is a big ask and we would be very grateful for more help next time, probably at the end of March. Pam is our mini market organiser, so if you have any queries or can help give her a call.

*“...more
help
next
time...”*

Notes and news of happenings

Another big thank you to those who helped bring back the furniture to re-set up the office etc.

Particular thanks to the firm of Dougal Rolland and Son and to John Hyatt's Suzie and son-in-law to be! We were very grateful for your help especially in lifting all that heavy stuff.

Judy and I oiled and polished all the furniture in the sanctuary and dusted off everything else, so we are a little more ship shape, and Norman has the computer and office up and running again.

Christine

Our enabler Chris and his wife Christine are back from their trip to England.

We'll be delighted to see Chris on the 21st, but this may be his last visit with us. We are unsure who will be our enabler next year, so watch this space!

Deborah Rolland advises that the bi-centenary celebrations are coming and there will be live TV3 coverage of events at the Marsden Cross on Christmas Day. Did you note the piece in the Herald about Bishop Jim White kayaking up to the Bay of Islands for the celebrations?

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**Worship Times:
Sundays 9.30am
First Wed 10am(SMT)**

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Readings for December:

7th Isaiah 40:1-11; Ps 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

14th 9 Lessons and Carols with Community readers

21st 2 Sam 7:1-11,16 ;Psalm 89:1-4,19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

24th Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

25th Christmas Day: Isaiah 62:6-12; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:1-14

28th Isaiah 61:10 to 62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

January

4th The Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

Your prayers please:

For Shirley and Bob Foster, Jill Pearson, the Elcoats.

Elizabeth and John Cole in England (John has not been well, and they and their family are still grieving over the tragic death of their granddaughter.)

News of Mission Giving and other events

Every year at this time the Council considers our annual commitment to the organisations we support.

The bulk of our giving goes to our own Anglican Missions Board. They are working in the Solomon Islands where the population is coping with the effects of the devastating floods of three months ago, in Africa where the Anglican Church in Ethiopia is having to deal with a major refugee problem and a team from Picton is working on education projects in Tonga.

The Anglican Missions Board has received \$3,000 from us.

We have generally increased our giving to our regular beneficiaries by about 10%. The Auckland City Mission does marvellous work in Auckland itself and receives \$1,000 while Hospital Chaplains and the Anglican Trust for Women and Children have been sent cheques for \$700 each.

We have also supported the TEAR Fund and Christian World Service for some time now and they receive \$275 each. We have added the West Auckland Hospice this year and give \$450 to them while Christian Lovelink is supported financially by a donation of \$400.

In all, our regular giving for the year amounts to \$6,800. In addition, we gave \$250 for the Gaza appeal back in August as a discretionary donation.

And the Collecting box for the parishioners to donate to the City Mission appeal yielded \$100. Well done everyone!

John Hyatt, Treasurer

A special birthday:

Andrew, Annette and AJ are celebrating AJ's first birthday with Annette's relatives in India. The first birthday of a son is one of great importance in Indian culture.

Readers and Greeters urgently needed:

If you'd like to read a lesson and/or become one of our greeters, please let me know.

You would only be required around once every four or five weeks if we have enough people.

Greeters or sidespeople are our visitors' first introduction to St Francis, so it's an important, smiling job!

Christine

4th Jan after church: bubbles for LWN's 80th

