

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD JAN 2016

“Time is the great Physician”*

Oh dear! - grey skies ushered in the early hours of 2016. But there are many bright and interesting events planned for the coming months.

For example, on Sunday 24th January we welcome back the Rev Anne Moody as our new enabler. Anne was our priest during the experimental Joint Parish Project before we became a Local Shared Ministry unit. We look forward to renewing the warm, stimulating relationship we shared then. Please do join us in a shared lunch that day.

Later this year the Bishop will ordain David Crawley as our third Sacramental Minister, adding a very strong string to our bow.

Later this year also we plan to explore “Services of the Word”, alternative non-Eucharistic liturgies that we think you’ll find inspirational.

And in just a few weeks we’ll celebrate our annual beach service—if it has stopped raining by then. Possibly 14th February.

Today is a special day too, the Epiphany, the “showing forth” and proclamation of Christ to the world. The mysterious “wise men” from the east represent the many cultures of the known world, and Jesus is revealed to them all.

Their story, recorded by the way only in Matthew, gets intertwined with Christmas, which perhaps takes away from Epiphany’s emphasis on revelation to the whole world.



Next week we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, another facet in the season of Epiphany, with its emphasis on the launching of Jesus’ public ministry.

The themes of Epiphany—light, recognition, showing forth, anointing, and commissioning for public ministry—are well suited to new beginnings, creativity and mission here at St Francis.

Let’s see what we can do!

We had season’s greetings from a number of overseas friends including Elizabeth and John Cole, Brenda and Dusty Miller, Sally and Clive, and Cynthia Walker.

Some of them we’ll be seeing later in 2016.



Diary notes

Jan

24 **Baptism and lunch**

Feb

9 **Shrove Tues**

10 **Ash Wed**

14 **Beach?**



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A special welcome to our visitors today

“Adopt a Family” catches our imagination here at St Francis

Your support of this combined project between Christian Love Link and St Francis exceeded expectations. A wonderful range of gifts, produce and money to purchase Lynmall vouchers was collected for the four families nominated by Christian Love Link.

When Helen Philip and Christine Nash delivered these parcels, we were met with thankful tears. A humbling experience.

**“...met
with
thankful
tears...”**

The success of this venture was not only because of everyone’s gener-

osity at Christmas, but also because it felt more local and personal.



We would like to look at a similar venture sometime in the middle of the year. *Christine*

Every little helps in time of need

As you will have read, the City Mission had more calls upon its work than ever before, and sent an urgent request to churches just before Christmas.

Our congregation supported the Mission well, but as a footnote, unfortunately St Francis Council annual donation of \$1,000 was very late in being forwarded to the Mission by the new centralised accounting body even though Council actioned it at the beginning of December. We have sent our concern regarding this late payment to the Bishops’ office.



Your continued donation of non perishable items for the City Mission throughout January is appreciated.

A quick look ahead

Easter was quite early in 2015. This year it’s *really* early, Sunday 27th March. So the season of Lent will begin second week of the school term.

On the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday 10th February, there will be a special service at 7pm followed by a simple supper of bread and soup.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the two main fast days in the church year—you might like to try it—then join us in the evening.

The day before, Shrove Tuesday, is in contrast a day when you eat big (Mardi Gras), and we’ll have pancakes in the village from mid morning.

We’ll also have them in church, probably Sunday 7th after service.

Joyful marking of Christmas season ends 2015 fruitfully

Variety and vigour marked our December services, culminating in a really festive Christmas.

As noted last issue, we gave Advent Sunday a slightly different treatment this year. The following Sunday saw our Readings and Carols take a new shape too.

Again the readers represented different aspects of the Titirangi community, but the texts were a mix from different sources.

For example, we had a hilarious treatment of Dylan Thomas's "A child's Christmas in Wales," in a very convincing Welsh accent.



Completely different but equally effective was the reading we heard of TS Eliot's "The Journey of the Magi." Its dramatic presentation revealed unexpected nuances.

It was good to hear Barbara Guthrie too. Our warmest thanks have been sent to all these readers.

Study groups get ready for 2016

Preparations are under way for Lenten Studies. These will begin mid February at times and days yet to be decided.

All interested are of course welcome. Neil will be giving more details later. Meanwhile give some thought to which days might be suitable for you.

In the sermon slot on 20th December we had a short play, "Away with the Manger", delightfully comic but with a serious message." Our thanks go to all the participants and director Christine.

A brief word of thanks too to Aaron who hung the string of lights around the church.



Our Christmas services were very well attended. Both featured hearty carol singing. "Midnight Mass" created atmosphere with indirect lighting and candles. There was thought-provoking preaching too from David and Neil.

The church looked bright and welcoming with lovely flowers and bright banners. Our thanks to all those involved .

It was a very special moment to greet Alice Elcoat who was there with her family on Christmas Eve. May her amazing recovery continue!

**"...a
serious
message"**

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The "Monday Night group" will also reconvene in February. If you are interested this joining gathering, please see Freda or David.



**Worship Times:
Sundays 9.30am**

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Readings for January

January

3rd The Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

10th Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17,21-22

17th Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10; 1 Cor 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

24th Neh 8:1-3,5-6,8-10; Ps 19; 1 Cor 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

31st (Candlemas) Malachi 3:1-5; Ps 24, 7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Please pray for:

Bob Aitken, the continued improvement of Alice Elcoat and a rapid recovery for Susan Wightman.

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

News and events from the parish

Thank you!

A big thank you to the following folk who made the church look so lovely for the Hyatt wedding.



Moira and Eve for the beautiful flower arrangements, Christine and Val for tidying, vacuuming, cleaning and polishing, Susan for making the brassware gleam and laundering the white linen, Lindsay for water blasting the porch entrance and walkway.

There are always tasks at church – thank you to Joan for offering to clean the brasses in future. Any other volunteers most welcome!

A reminder about 24th January:

For those of you who don't know her, come and meet our new enabler the Rev Anne Moody.

She will be the preacher for that day, and we will have an early shared lunch. If you can bring a plate, please talk to Moira.

Also on 24th January:

We are delighted to announce the Baptism of Lorraine and Brandt Bregmen's grandchildren. Arthur Ormerod (24 months) and Annabelle Eve Ormerod (7 months) will be baptised on the 24th of January during our communion service.

It's been suggested that not everybody, especially relative newcomers in the congregation, is familiar how Local Shared Ministry is organised. St Francis is indeed a Local Shared Ministry unit.



For example, the working of the Sacramental ministers, the preaching team, the worship team, the pastoral care team, and so on.

So in coming weeks we'll try to outline some of the principles that underpin our worship here at St Francis.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions, see our administrator, Norman.