

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD MAY 2016

Hot times at St Francis keep you warm

An Indian Summer, it's called. It's a term that comes from the North American Indians, given to a time of fine sunny weather in late autumn.

And so our southern hemisphere Autumn continues. What wonderful weather we've had.

Our Harvest Festival was a little later this year but you responded magnificently. Judy took our bounteous offerings to Vic at the Waitakere Community Outreach food bank. He was thrilled, and his letter of thanks is on the board.



In the northern hemisphere, of course, it's quite a different story, the stirrings of spring. On the first May morning English people went "a-maying", to fetch fresh flowers for their homes and to crown the fairest local maid "Queen of the May." There were games and sports, and the setting up of the Maypole for Maypole dancing, still observed in some places. May-day, I note, was formerly the

London chimney-sweepers' festival too. Perhaps because of this it became "International Workers' Day", with associated huge parades in some cities

Our October "Labour day" is but a shadow of these celebrations of workers' rights. Remember the 40 hour week?

Next Sunday 8th May is Mother's Day. Once again we'll be taking posies to give away in the village, always a delightful event. Many thanks to Betty and the team who are preparing the posies.

Any blooms or greenery from your garden will be greatly appreciated.

We're still in the season of Easter, so "Christ is risen; Alleluia!"

And you reply, "Alleluia! He is risen indeed!"

ANZAC Day in Titirangi saw St Francis well represented. Our team was one of the many who laid wreaths.

Lindsay led the prayers, which included responses from the large crowd attending, and later gave the Benediction.

Our local MP David Cunliffe read a psalm with clarity and expression—very impressive—and there was the usual selections of hymns. A very fine memorial service.

Diary notes

May

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Funeral brochure available at back of church

A special welcome to our visitors today

Read on for promising new services here at St Francis

Some interesting additions to our services have been made. As you read last month, there are those for whom attending a service at 9.30am is extremely difficult, usually for health reasons.

So at 3pm on Easter Sunday Christine was privileged to celebrate an extra Easter Holy Communion with healing prayers.

Following this initiative we have established on the last Sunday of every month this 3pm Eucharist. Anne will preside at the next on Sunday 29th May.

Another initiative will develop our healing ministry. On the *first* Sunday every other month, the *even* months, on a trial basis there will

be a healing service at 11-15am. This will start on 5th June, with David to preside.



Morning tea should be finished by then, and any additional conversation could continue in the lounge.

Let others know of these new services. All of course are welcome. As always we are interested in your feed-back and comments.

“...on

a

trial

Saturday afternoon reflections in May

basis...”

Here’s news of another trial venture:

Silence is golden, writes Neil

Join us for a Saturday afternoon season of silent reflection on a Psalm, one per meeting.

We gather, open our Bibles to an assigned Psalm, spend 25 minutes in silent contemplation, briefly share our discoveries, then depart.

Date: starting Saturday 21st May for a season of 6-7 weeks.

Time: 4-5pm.

Venue: St Francis Church.

Bring your favourite Bible and, if you wish, a big cushion or bean chair.

Enquiries: Neil or Jenny Keating, 833 1931.

Mini Market this month

Sunday 29th May, 11am-1pm

This is our first market for the year so let’s make it a great one! All donations of goods from yourselves, friends or family are warmly appreciated.



I will need helpers on the Saturday prior for setup and the Sunday of the market for it to be manageable.

Just let me know or feel free to call.

Many thanks, Pam Ph. 817-6503.

Easter season reaches fitting climax at Pentecost festival

Pentecost marks in a significant way the end of the Easter season. It's sometimes seen as the birthday of the church, and we are encouraged to celebrate in a festive way. Be sure to wear something really bright and cheerful.

It's a fortnight off, 15th May. 9.30am as usual. But be prepared for a few unusual happenings, planned by David and his team.

Be ready also to say the Lord's Prayer in another language if you are so equipped. We have a number of people with wide language skills.

Read about it in Acts 2. We don't promise quite the same dramatic events, but who knows! The Spirit moves in mysterious ways.



Possibly also in May we'll be marking Disability Awareness day, but final details await confirmation.

Large congregation sees Ordination

David's Ordination last month was another important day in the life of St Francis Church. Bishop Jim was here to officiate, and an old friend of David's, Dr Tim Meadowcroft, preached an inspiring sermon.

The church was packed with friends family, and parishioners, and we joined heartily in singing some of David's favourite hymns.



Splendid refreshments followed, rounding off a significant event.

We now have a team of three Sacramental Ministers, so we are well equipped for the future.

Another significant event was the celebration of Val and Bob's

Golden Wedding. Congratulations again from us all!

We all appreciate the huge contribution these two have made to the life of our church over so many years. And they continue to do so! All you do is greatly valued—thanks!

Mostly Craft

Saturday 7th May 2016

1:30 - 3:30pm

Children 5-11 years (Accompanied)

Crafts, Sausage Sizzle, afternoon tea.

Call Donna 817-5412.

Please note the new times this year.

Esther Gilder is moving to Australia and had some items to sell. They include: British Hotpoint freezer; Salton hot tray (keeps food warm); garden tools and saws, in good condition. Ph 817-1994.

Bishop Selwyn lecture, Holy Trinity, 7.30pm Thursday, 19th May; Prof Douglas Campbell; "Sex, Gender, and Marriage."

**"...wide
language
skills..."**

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Readings for May and Jun 5th

1st Acts 16:9-15; Revelations 21:10 and 22: 22:5; John 14:23-29
18th Acts 16:16-34; Revelations 22:12-14, 16, 17, 20, 21 John 17: 20-26
15th Pentecost. Special service: readings to be announced.
22nd: Trinity Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
29th Te Pouhere: Isaiah 42:10-20; Acts 10:34-43; John 15:9-17

June:

5th 1 Kings 17:8-16; Gal 1:11-24; Luke 7: 11-17

Readers: If you have any question about your reading, phone Deborah 817-6618

Eva thanks you all for your prayers during her recent episode of shingles. She's now back at work and feeling much better, singing this week end in Wellington with her sister Amanda. Nice work, Eva!

Friendship group will meet next on Wednesday 25th May. More details later.

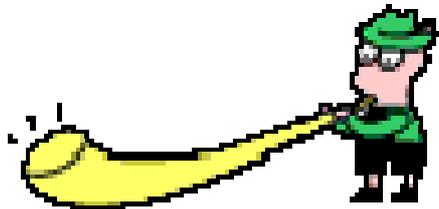
Appropriate prayer is always available at the altar rails after the service

News and notes from here and there

Council Corner:

At our first Council meeting after the AGM the following officers were elected:

Chair: Christine Nash
Treasurer: John Hyatt
Secretary: Donna Glover



Organ:

Unfortunately the organ we currently use has not received a good "warrant of fitness" from the organ specialist. He can fix a few things to tide us over, but some are unfixable, the organ being 45 years old.

We have therefore decided to investigate purchasing a new organ with at least a ten year guarantee, under advice from Ralph Cullen of Organ specialists. We will, however, need help from the Diocese for this purchase.

A small sub committee has been formed. We will keep you updated.

A huge thank you to Val and Bob for the donation of the beautiful new altar cloth.

Good bye!

Cynthia leaves us this month to return to England. She writes of her enjoyment each time she visits St Francis and of her joy in seeing the progress in Alice, her perseverance in overcoming difficulties. Thank you, Cynthia: your presence always brightens our congregation.

Local Shared Ministry:

There is no Diocesan conference this year. Instead there are three regional conferences.

Ours, the central Region, will be at St Chad's. Huapai, on Saturday 12th November.

How are we doing?

At our last worship committee meeting we discussed a questionnaire we would like you to answer. Look for it in June.

It's not demanding, just a couple of questions. It links up with an overall "visioning" exercise we'll be engaged in later this year. Your comments and questions are always welcome.

We're off! See you later!
Christine and Lindsay

