

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD DECEMBER 2013

Ring out the old, ring in the new!

Momentous times! Today we celebrate the first Sunday in Advent, the first day of summer, and our first December without Cynthia Hyatt. Her funeral on Friday was a memorable occasion, and a reminder of what she and John have given to St Francis. See inside for more.

Last weekend we had another fine LSM conference, possibly the best yet. At St Francis we greeted Bruce Dale once again, and enjoyed his distinctive presence.

Earlier in November our experimental All Saints' Day service went remarkably well, with all sections of the congregation contributing to its content. Thank you everyone, for taking part so cooperatively.

Sunday 8th December for carols

Our special carol service at St Francis next Sunday evening at 7pm is shaping up to be something very special. There's a combined choir of over a dozen mixed voices and David has chosen a lively mix of familiar and fresh carols.

As hosts let's turn out in force to welcome our Presbyterian colleagues, and also all the other expected visitors. Friends and relations all welcome.

So now we move towards Christmas through the four preparatory Sundays of Advent. We wait, yes indeed, but let's be sure we are open to every opportunity to share God's love with all around us, right here and now.



Next Sunday evening we have a new venture, a Combined Carol Service, with David at the helm. Don't forget next Saturday 3—5pm at St Francis, another meeting of those interested in the Discovery programme led by Freda and Valerie.. See them for further information.

The choir has had a couple of practices, and David is delighted with the way the music is developing. We look forward to a splendid occasion. Thanks to all concerned.

Become someone's Angel! The Auckland City Mission Angel appeal is on right now – see <http://www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz/> For ATWC Ruth Pretty Christmas cake, contact Deborah by 8th Dec 819-6618

Diary notes

Dec:

8th 7pm Carols

15th 9 lessons

Christmas services

24th—11.30pm

25th—9.30am



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A special welcome to our visitors today

Council Comment: a busy 2013 nears its conclusion

“...his
many
tasks...”

Bob Aitken: Bob is gradually relinquishing some of the very many tasks he has been doing so willingly, wisely and well for more years than he remembers!

Thank you to those who have stepped in to take on some of them. Thank you Moira, Herman and Aris for re-arranging chairs, thank you Norman who will be setting up the sanctuary each Sunday.

The presiders for the Wednesday services at Soldiers' Memorial will now set up the elements.

And thank you Donna for taking over as Secretary of Council. There are many other “Bob” tasks, so we will gradually look at who will do them. Bob, however, is not being let “off the hook” so easily—his input and experience will be invaluable.



Parish recorder: John White has been our recorder for many years and needs an off—sider to help for the times he is away. Hans van den Brink has agreed to do this. Thank you, Hans.

Sustainability Report: We are pleased to announce that we did well on this report. For example, our heating was approved as being the most suitable and economic. We are using, as far as possible, fair trade products. However, our fluorescent light bulbs are old and we will replace them.

Kitchen: Hans has done a feasibility study on installing a dishwasher. It has been decided meanwhile to

look at this in the New Year as we would dearly like to give the whole and old kitchen a makeover, which will include a suitable place for a dishwasher.

Website: This seems on target now. A few more meetings and it should be up and running. Thank you to Andrew Hutchinson who has agreed to be ‘webmaster’ ensuring information is updated when needed.



Organ: Council and Ministry Support Team have agreed that it is time to let go of the little organ, and we have gratefully accepted Wayne’s offer of the new organ which we have been trialling. Many thanks for this, Wayne; it will be a great asset.

The small organ is being repaired and then we will advertise it for sale.

Final meeting: Our final meeting for the year will be on 10th December. If you have any queries, ideas or concerns please let Norman know.

Christine, Chair

Thanks to all those involved in our last Mini Market. There were not as many customers as usual, but we still raised over \$500!

There are now available three large print liturgy books, which contain all three liturgies. If you would like to use one during the service, just ask the greeter when you come in.



Cynthia Mary Hyatt— R I P

Friday's funeral for Cynthia was a tremendous tribute to this remarkable person. We at St Francis knew about her current range of talents, but we also heard for the first time about her remarkable early life both here and overseas. Was she a spy during the Cold War?

St Francis was packed with friends and family, and it was great to meet so many of Cynthia's clan, a group who were obviously proud of their roots.

There were some lovely tributes from friends, and especially from her immediate family. Christine

had gathered some comments from a variety of St Francis people, and these brought out what a major but unassuming role she had played in our parish life, especially under LSM.

Her blithe spirit, her wicked sense of humour, her unquestioned devotion are already greatly missed.

Our warmest support and sympathy go to John and the family

"...her

blithe

spirit..."



LSM puts "Cards on the table"

Stimulating, alarming, refreshing, inspiring, disturbing: the 2013 Local Shared Ministry conference was an exciting mix. St Francis was well represented by Christine, Eve, Helen, Margaret, Valerie P, and Lindsay.

"Disturbing" were some of Bishop Jim's opening comments on Friday night, facts and figures from around the world. But there was encouragement too, and this was heightened on Saturday. "Trump cards" was a chance for each LSM group to describe their success story. We heard of a number of enterprises, and Titirangi added "Mainly Craft".

Earlier we had a session with an enabler Martin Dickson where we looked at strengths and struggles both in our churches and in the community, thought provoking but a little confusing too.

Ian Render's session on contemporary music introduced some really swinging new music and a great website, resoundmusic.org Visit it

and listen to "On Christmas day." We heard interesting ideas about making a "music policy."

Sunday morning the enablers presented a series of ideas.

"Collaboration" was a term that recurred, and we must see what we can do with our neighbours.

Eve saw the conference as going some way to exploring "unity in diversity" and "unity in Christ of God." We were reminded, Eve said, of our "inclusive openness, our Christian values and our ability to analyse social justice as well as caring for creation."

I was refreshed and stimulated by the buoyant, positive atmosphere, typical I think of the LSM approach. Of the 20 LSMs in the Auckland Diocese, 10 are doing well, 10 not so well and of these 5 are struggling. Of the 10 doing well, 5 and doing **very** well, and St Francis is seen to be one of those 5. No room for complacency, but to all our teams, well done!



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Readings for December:

Our guest preacher on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is Jolyon White, so the gospel reading may change for those days as there are several alternatives he may wish to tie into a theme.

8th: Isaiah 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-7,18-19;Romans 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

15th 9 Lessons and Carols. Community readers

22nd Isaiah 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7,17-19;Romans 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25

24th Midnight communion Isaiah 9:2-7; Ps 96;Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

25th Christmas Day: Isaiah 62:6-12; Ps 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2

29th Isaiah 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23

Please keep in your prayers: the Hyatt family, Barbara Guthrie, Olive Vinsen, Susan Wightman, Anke van den Brink, Shirley and Bob Foster, the Elcoat family, Bob Aitken.

News and notes on sundry events

Every year at our November Council Meeting we consider our Mission Giving for the year. The bulk of our giving goes to our own Anglican Missions Board. Their needs include providing for a Priest in Fiji, assisting the Diocese of Polynesia for those living in poverty, dealing with HIV/AIDS etc, and helping to fund training and counselling services to women in Fiji. They receive \$2,750 from us.

We have increased our giving to our regular beneficiaries by 10%. The Auckland City Mission does marvelous work in Auckland itself and receives \$825. Hospital Chaplains and the Anglican Trust for Women and Children are regular organisations we support, and receive \$660 each.

We have also supported the TEAR Fund and Christian World Service for some years now and they receive \$275 each. In addition, we are giving TEAR Fund \$500 for Philippine Typhoon Relief which they are handling, and the CWS \$150 for the Water Crisis Appeal they are running.

We continue to support the Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust. They receive \$225. Finally \$400 goes to our own local charity Waitakere Commu-

nity Outreach. All in all our giving for the year amounts to \$6,790 which is about 8% of our budgeted income.

Thank you John

"Mostly craft" finished on a strong note for the final session of the year with a Christmas theme. The children and grown-ups enjoyed the biscuits they had decorated so colourfully. They also "brought in the manger", up to the altar, tucked in the baby, and sang 'Little drummer boy' and 'Away in a manger.' A sausage sizzle is planned for next February, Saturday 15th.

The friendship circle were sad to miss meeting at Moira and Herman's for our final time this year; Moira was briefly in hospital. Fortunately she was soon home and we pray will be up and running for our planned picnic meeting next February.

Discovery Course continues, with keen discussion about how our church may explore meeting community needs. Our 4th session will be on Saturday Dec 7th 3— 5pm. come whether you've been before or not. Add ideas to the 'melting pot". We will continue next year, dates to be advised

Valerie & Freda