

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD SEPTEMBER 2017

Suddenly it's spring!

Today we celebrate the first official day of spring with a service specifically crafted for the day. You'll be invited to participate in a number of different ways, and you'll be guided every step so have no worries.

Our thanks to David and his team for the work they have put in.

But as we rejoice in the return of the sun, we remember with affection those who are not in full health. They know they are supported by our prayers.

Remember in your prayers too the members of the Auckland Diocese synod that starts its deliberations this Friday.



In particular we hold in our thoughts Deborah and Judy, our synod reps. They will be reporting back to us next Sunday.

Pray too for Margaret Strid who will be leading an intercession group behind the scenes at synod.

Last Sunday we received and blessed a lovely piece of craft

from Valerie Parker. It's a frontal for the table where our font rests, featuring our New Zealand Anglican logo, a specially designed cross.

You'll find a full explanation of the various elements in this design on the notice board. Our warm thanks to Valerie for this gift.



"Do you mind Mrs Trimble: I'm about to conduct a Christening!"

We do try to give suitable prominence to our font. It's interesting how the locale of baptism has shrunk, from the river John the Baptist used to the small, almost tea-cup sized dish for water seen in some places.

At this season of the year we keep the font full of water, a symbol of God's ever present, overflowing love for us. Richard Giles puts it this way: "The font is not a dried-up symbol in a corner, used once a lifetime, but a place where the community gathers week by week to renew its life."

If you like, dip your fingers in the water as you pass.

Diary notes

September

30 Creation story

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A special welcome to our visitors today

Very cool time shared with friends on a Saturday afternoon in spring

We've had jazz before, we've had wine before, but never have we put the two together. Well, we proved they *do* mix, and about 15 were there to bear witness on Saturday 27th August.

Participants were invited to bring their favourite jazz disk with a matching wine, suitably "masked" so it was a blind tasting.



**"...many
good
insights."**

It proved a swinging session. Two guests from Te Atatu's St Paul's joined in: how often do you do this, they asked! They'll certainly come again.

Feature of the afternoon was the wildly inaccurate guessing of wine type by cellar master Lindsay and the fine food provided by Moira.

How about opera and wine?

"Being Christian" With Rowan Williams

Not exactly with him, but reading his book 'Being Christian', then discussing it with others, occasionally, book-club style.

He looks concisely at four essentials: baptism, Bible (listening, reading, meditating), eucharist and prayer. He has many good insights.

Cost to buy book is \$12.95 from Book Depository, UK. One book shared with another would work fine. We could meet a couple of times between now and Advent for discussion. Tell Neil if you'd like to take part.

Don't miss these workshops to die for

Are you in good voice? Two voice workshops are planned in September to help all those who speak to our St Francis congregation.

This includes all readers, preachers, liturgists, intercessors and priests. Indeed, if you plan to continue, you are expected to be there for one of the days, 17th or 24th September, straight after church.

"Your first duty is to be heard" applies as much in the church as it does in the theatre.

Christine has a long history of directing for the theatre as has Lindsay, a registered teacher of speech and drama. They've run similar workshops before with good re-

sults reported from those who attended.

The focus will be on clarity, but time will also be spent on phrasing, variety of expression, and the use of pause.

Each session will last up to two hours, depending on numbers. All printed material will be supplied. It's free, so just bring yourselves and a pencil.

Please see Christine or Lindsay with your preferred date.

Don't forget to vote! - Saturday 23rd September. If necessary arrange to make a special vote if you're out of town. But do vote!

St Francis hears good news and constructive comment in review

It was a very great pleasure to welcome the Rev Sarah Moss to St Francis a couple of weeks ago to present her summary of our review.

And what a pleasure to see so many staying after the service to take part in two workshops, 21 of us.



There were many positives. The figures were presented in a series of slides which showed the statistics in various visual forms.

There were also some areas where the review showed the congregation felt there was room for improvement.

A major strong point was clearly the loving, caring community at St Francis. 73% of the number surveyed attended weekly. 85% reported they felt "very attached."

Also highly regarded was the "gift oriented ministry" and the opportunity given people to share their talents.

In the second workshop we divided into four groups to consider four different areas where future plans could be made. What would we like to see happening in five years time?

Some very creative ideas were put forward by the different groups, and these will be typed up and sent back to us.

It was a positive experience, and one which presented stimulating ideas for future developments.

Our thanks to Sarah and all who took part in the survey.

**"...share
their
talents..."**

Bring children to this fun—filled event

C & F (Mostly Craft) will be running a Spring/Creation story session at St Francis, Saturday 30th September, 1.30 - 3.30pm.

We will be telling stories "In The Beginning" and "The Singing Tree" with associated Craft activities - music, games (at primary school level).

We also hope to help water the 'eco' plants and take home seeds to care for. There's afternoon tea and all are welcome. Bring the family/friend; meet young families from our area.

Above all, please help us publicise this event by gossiping the news to others, putting on Facebook, etc.

Margaret

You'll have heard about the Auckland Marathon.

It's on Sunday 29th October and includes sponsored participation for Sweet Louise, a cancer support group.

Our family are running/walking as the "Cool Beans" team, supporting my grand daughter Emily. (I've been training too, but I find I'm away examining.)

If you'd like to sponsor Cool Beans through Sweet Louise go on line sweetlouise.co.nz and see details about sponsorship.

Contact the editor
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Readings for September:

Today: Spring service

10th Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

17th Exodus 14:19-31; Ps 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

24th Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105; Phil 1:21-30; Matt 20:1-16

1st October Blessing of the Pets

To hold in your prayers:

Susan Wightman in Auckland hospital. No visitors please. Dorothy Ashbolt, now home from hospital. John Hyatt, staying with his daughter to recover from a severe chest infection. Joan Sagggers, recovering after a fall. Joyce P. on the mend. Jenny fighting off the flu.

Bon voyage and happy landing for Freda and other travellers. Neil and Jenny are going south next weekend to sample some alpine delights.

Remember: 3pm Holy Communion last Sunday every month.

11.15am Healing service 1st Sunday even months: 1st October.

News and events from around the town

The blessing of the pets:

Note it now—Sunday 1st October 10am. This is the last newsletter before that time, so do spread the word with friends and family. We'll have some posters and flyers nearer the date. All are welcome. There'll be no Eucharist that day.



Prayer for world peace:

Especially do we pray for peace in Palestine in the week 17th—24th September 2017.

Cathedral concerts:

There are several coming up so can hear the amazing new organ. We own one pipe! Look on the notice board for the dates. Perhaps a group?

Wanted!

Regretfully, Susan can no longer do her tasks at church and has asked for replacements.

Thank you to Margaret Strid for offering to launder the church purificators.

We are still looking for someone to team with Moira in hospitality – a person who can take responsibility for organising teas, light food for events etc, not necessarily to have to serve

every week

Our Eco awareness:

The seedlings in the plant nursery are ready for potting on, and we will do that at 10am on Saturday, 16th September. We are looking for willing hands who can pitch in for an hour or two. See Susan.

St Francis Liturgy:

We have a small sub committee from the Worship Committee working on putting together a fourth liturgy to use in rotation with 404, 456, and 476 that we use at present. We plan to have it ready by our patronal festival on Sunday 8th October. If you have any comments or suggestions, see David or Lindsay.

Synod:

We note on the Auckland synod agenda motions to do with climate change, gender equality, and housing shortage. Let's hope these significant matters don't get shunted to the last, hurried session.

Wouldn't it be great if the combined bishops of NZ could hit the media with some strong, political comment about one or other of these social issues.

**And we haven't forgotten it's
Fathers' Day today**