



Anglican Parish of Northland-Wilton

AGM Reports for 2022

Our Vision:

To be the church at the heart of the community

Our Mission:

We are family, we are disciples, we care for the last, least & lost

REPORTS

Vicar's Report

I'm so proud of the journey that we've been on over the last year as a parish. It's been a challenging and testing year, mainly due to the Covid pandemic. Yet time and time again, through many changes, stops and starts, we have shown ourselves as a resilient and loving community.

Many of us continue to sacrificially give and serve to enable the Kingdom of God to flourish here in our community. In other words, working towards our vision of being the church at the heart of the community become a reality. It's as if ripples of love and light spread through the community because we choose to follow Jesus and serve our community.

A few things to celebrate:

- Parish Dinner - it was such a wonderful evening for our wider St Anne's family to gather. Over 130 people attended, a real sense of joy and community.
- Children's Church - wonderful to see a team being formed, which a variety of contributions and ideas of how best to serve our children.
- House Churches – for some, it provided a welcoming and more accessible way of doing church. It was also a testament to our ability to adapt as a parish through challenging times.
- Guys' small group - out of the Curry & Beer group we had a small group of guys journey together for 3 months, discussing the topics found in the book of Lost Connections, mostly around our mental health and wellbeing. It concluded with a weekend away.

People to thank:

- Rev Catherine Froud - we said goodbye to Catherine after 3 years of service to our parish. We miss her and her husband Jeff. But are very thankful of their service to our parish.
- A big thank you to the Anakotta Family, as they leave us mid 2022 after more than three years. They've made a wonderful contribution to the life of our church during their time, and we've thoroughly enjoyed their friendship.
- So many of you faithfully contribute week after week to the life and mission of our parish. So to those of you on the rosters, those in our various parish teams, and to those of you who just quietly do the unseen jobs - thank you!
- In regard to worship, thank you to Neale Howcroft for his faithful work behind the scenes to support the running of our regular worship. Thank you to the musicians, Cathy Edge, Bridgett Parkin, Mary Cordery, Susan Agnew and Geoff Bertram, we really appreciate your involvement and contribution to our worship.
- Children's Church team - Cathy Edge, Susan Agnew, Heather Kirkham, Teresa Edge.
- To Nicky Wilson, our Parish & Hall Administrator, who works hard behind the scenes.
- Thank you to the vestry who so diligently and faithfully provide the spiritual leadership in our parish. I enjoy our robust and healthy discussions. So thank you to Barry McCaul, Johnny Lowe, Barbara Murray, John Anakotta, Elizabeth Newman, Cathy Edge.

- Thank you to our wardens, Neale Howcroft and Elizabeth Smith, for all your hard work behind the scenes. We meet regularly and I really appreciate their support, as the three of us provide leadership to the parish.

As we look forward, we face figuring out what our 'new normal' is, as we engage with the challenges and opportunities before us. We desire to stay true to who we are, that is, a people who seek to be the church at the heart of the community here in Northland and Wilton. Yet we open ourselves to what God might be saying to us, as we seek to be disciples, live out what it means to be family, and care for the last, least and lost in 2022 and beyond.

Blessings,

Rev Paul



Weekend away for the small group formed out of the Guys Curry & Beer - October 2021

Wardens' Report

2021 has again been a challenging year for us all with the need to control the Covid-19 virus. Nevertheless, the church and we as individuals found ways in which to worship and support each other in accordance with our Lord's exhortation to love one another.

From Paul's letter to the Philippians 1:3-4: "³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you."

The 1957 history of St Anne's entitled "**Call to adventure**" made the following observation:

'Here's the church, and here's the steeple: look inside, there's all the people.' The childish old jingle goes right to the heart of the matter. St Anne's has always been a family church, not merely because whole families have supported it and worshipped in it, but because the whole congregation has, in some indefinable way, felt itself to be a Christian family. Joys and sorrows have, in this atmosphere, being shared. Joys have been increased; sorrows lightened in that sharing.

Today, we hope also to widen the fellowship. It is to that adventure, the building of a greater worshipping community in Northland and Wilton, that we now call you (our emphasis)

The introduction of 'House Churches' during the difficult period of 'lock down' demonstrated that Worship does not need to be confined to a church building, but also recognising that this is favoured to promote fellowship, and neither does Worship and Prayer have to be confined to Sunday only.

Our Bishops Justin and Ellie issue weekly "Silver Bullets" which include a call to daily prayer groups, and we refer you to the St Anne's group who meet each weekday morning at 8:00am on Zoom (www.zoom.us ID:892 314 145 password: prayers). As a member of the St Anne's family, you are welcome to join us.

A Bible reflection group met in the Church Hall in 2021 on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 1:15 – 2:30pm led by Catherine Froud, for those seeking further understanding of the written word. The study group reflected on St Paul's letters to the Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon, and Bishop Ellie's insights and experiences of Psalm 23.

Currently there are three discipleship groups participating in the 'Lenten Study', based on the Diocesan resource "Sentinels: Discerning New Life" where we explore the transforming work of God in our lives and community and together strive to become God's hope and love in our world. Look out for future opportunities for further worship and study opportunities via the pew sheets.

In St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 12:4, Paul recognises various gifts/talents given by God to each of us. Are you willing to use your gifts in the service of St Anne's, and the Northland community in furtherance of our claim to be "the church at the heart of the community", for example Vestry, ministering, discipleship, morning tea, cleaning, administration, maintenance. We all have gifts of some sort to contribute to the body of the church, no part of that body being of no-more importance than the rest, and as a small church community we need each of us to contribute to our church life.

We would also recommend the Diocesan News in the Anglican Movement email publication www.movementonline.org.nz for current happenings, events, within the diocese, including our Bishops' news.

We now address the issue of the parish finances. To be blunt, we have a shrinking and aging congregation, dwindling assets, and aging property. Not a good combination. Without a significant increase in our congregation and/or our income, we are facing a difficult and limited future in our present form. We currently have 29 regular offertory givers. For the five-year period 2016 to 2020, expenses have equalled or exceeded our income. There has been no significant change to our income, from offertory, donations, or fundraising for some time, exacerbated by the effects of Covid 19. As the result, no additions to our reserves have been made, nor any provision made for long term maintenance, in fact, for some years, we have been using our cash reserves to 'top up' our income, reserves which should be used for the unexpected, not the day to day or foreseeable needs. For the Year 2021, as the Treasurers report shows, our expenses exceeded income by \$43,200. Over the next 3-4 years without an increase in our income, our operating costs will increase by the cost of living, additionally, we shall be facing some significant maintenance costs for the vicarage, the hall, and possibly the church which will

result in further depletion of our reserves. Without significant increases in our income, we will have a situation where our expenses will continue to exceed our income depleting not just our cash reserves but requiring the sale of our investments. Depletion of our investment reserves to fund our operating expenses has a finite time limit and is unsustainable.

The St Anne's-day dinner was held on 25th July 2021 in the Northland Community Centre. Approximately 140 Guests from across all ministries and the community made it a most successful evening for adults and children alike. Thanks to all who hosted tables, organised food and entertainment and helped with the set up and dismantling. We look forward to seeing you again in July 2022.

The Messy Church congregation coordinated by Catherine McIntosh and Tamie Anakotta, continued to attract young families from around the parish, supported by many in our congregation, and culminating pre-Christmas in the telling of the Advent story, led by Tamie, with many of the children, parents and regular congregation participating, all being supported by an entertaining slide show. Grateful thanks and recognition must be given to all who served the church by participating.

Mainly Music held each Wednesday at 9:30 am during school term time, led by Catherine McIntosh and Cathy Edge, is a church outreach to the young mothers in the parish giving them time to connect with others facing the challenge of raising a young family, to give them some respite, and to entertain the children with music.

The St Anne's regular congregation together with attendees of Messy Church and Mainly Music made generous donations of food throughout the year and toys to the City Mission Christmas appeal to help those who are struggling at that time of the year, all in living support of - **'it is better to give than to receive'**. Grateful thanks to all who supported us.

Thursday Munch held on the fourth Thursday of each month, except for the restricted Covid-19 period, maintained a steady attendance of mainly retirees enjoying companionship, with tales of years gone by in NZ or Tony's famous quizzes followed by lunch comprising a variety of foods provided by willing helpers.

Blokes Curry and Beer evenings held on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00pm at Delhi 7 to give blokes in the parish time to talk to other men from a variety of backgrounds. A steady attendance has continued to grow with 25 participants comprising members of our congregation, and the wider community. An offshoot of this for those who wished to delve deeper into life, met for a two-month period and was considered by all to be a success.

Free Food Friday on the second and fourth Fridays' of the month continued in its outreach to the community, providing a hot sausage on bread to feed the inner man, woman and child. The regularity of this event was affected by Covid 19

The Annual Fair was another victim of the uncertainties of the Covid-19 restrictions and was replaced by an early December Market, coordinated by Elizabeth Newman and Tony Dawbin, it was well attended which gave us contact with the community and much needed additional revenue to provide for church operation.

The Craft Group co-ordinated by Elizabeth Newman meets fortnightly in the Church Hall Sunday from 2:00-5:00pm for craft and companionship.

The wardens met regularly with Paul and Catherine Froud to review the Parish life and commitment, and to set the vestry agenda. Vestry met regularly throughout the year, including meetings via Zoom during the restricted periods, to carry out their function of discipleship, worship, prayer, and parish governance. We thank the Vestry for their service and commitment to the life of our parish and thank Paul and Catherine for their leadership.

Catherine Froud as Assistant priest has proved to be a valuable assistant to Paul and has been an active participant in the Parish Life and an able and fortunate presence as Priest-in-Charge during Paul's absence on sabbatical in early 2021. We thank Catherine for guiding and sustaining us during this period. Catherine's period of service to the parish concluded at the end of November with a celebratory lunch to thank her and Jeff for their service to our parish life.

Last but by no means least, we thank all of those who worked so hard maintaining our church and contributing to our parish life and worship.

Neale Howcroft and Elizabeth Smith – Wardens



Our Parish Dinner in July 2021

St Anne's Worship Team Report

Bridgett

Our sung worship during 2021 was again disrupted by Covid with the lockdown in August and subsequent Level 3 and 2 restrictions. This resulted in the formation of house churches, in which we were able to explore a wide variety of music through YouTube.

We continued the practice of doing things differently on a 5th Sunday. In January we celebrated with New Zealand liturgy and music in Te Reo and English. At the end of May we were joined by Archdeacon Wiremu Kaua and some of his whakaminenga for a korero about the inclusion of Te Reo in our service, in particular The Lord's Prayer. We had planned a Taize Service for August, but this was cancelled due to the lockdown. We hope to hold this sometime during 2022.

I stepped down from worship leading at the end of November to allow space for others to grow into this role.

Cathy

Christmas services were held in person, in the church, in great spirits. Three teams of musicians led worship, focusing on traditional carols in various styles. We were especially pleased to have young Anna and Zoe leading from their schools repertoire.

The summer worship in one congregation had us singing joyfully together. We hope this will continue under a variety of musical leadership into 2022. Your contributions are valued.

“Let us come together. Praise the name of Jesus!”

Bridgett and Cathy



Christmas Services – December 2021

Love Out Group Report

The St Anne's Love Out group had planned on 2020 being a year of consolidation of its Outreach programme. Although almost all of our planned activities got underway, many were interrupted by the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic. On the positive side, there have been some new contacts with members of our local community and an increase in the interaction between members of the various groups.

This coming year our aim will be to increase group numbers and further build on the synergies between the groups. We remain mindful of our aim of 'taking the love of the Church out into the community'.

Activity	Comment
Craft and Coffee	The Craft and Coffee Group have continued to meet every second and fourth Sunday afternoon. Up to a dozen crafters at each session have produced a variety of handmade outputs to stock the fair's Craft stall. The group continues to encourage anybody who just feels like a Sunday afternoon cup of coffee and chat to join them.
Curry and Beer	The Curry and Beer group continue to meet regularly at the Delhi-7 every second Wednesday of the month. There have been new faces joining us nearly every month and the core group is now over 20 strong. The blokes have enjoyed lively conversations and it was good to see so many of the group at other Church activities such as the Fair and Messy Church. It is interesting to overhear individuals arranging help with DIY projects or getting together for family mountain biking trips.
Environment	Our environment programme has still not got off the ground, but we must thank Sue for her work keeping the Church garden tidy.
Free Food Friday	One of our longest standing Outreach projects, we continue to offer free barbequed sausages every second and fourth Friday of the month. While our original target group (hungry students) have never materialised in great numbers, we now have a number of regular after school care customers. Special thanks to Jan Atkinson who has regularly supplied our barbeque chefs with cups of coffee and yummy biscuits.
Otari Reading	The Otari School reading programme continues with our volunteers offering their weekly reading services. The school staff is very grateful for our contribution – another of St Anne's long standing Outreach activities.
Refugees	Sue continues to be our contact with the Red Cross refugee programme. St Anne's can again expect to be asked to help with their next family housing project, but Covid-19 has slowed the arrival of new groups of refugees.
Christmas Market	Another loss to Covid-19 was the 2020 Spring Fair. Some groups were already well advanced with their fair stall preparations, so in early December we ran a smaller market event focusing on Christmas with just plants, books and craft. With limited advertising we were pleasantly surprised by the number of customers and the resulting takings – over \$2k. This year we are getting in early planning a Church Fair with an Easter theme in late March.

<p>Thursday Munch</p>	<p>The Munch programme continued with meetings every fourth Thursday of the month. While numbers are down a little (with about 16 regulars), it is great to see some of our less mobile seniors making the effort, arriving by taxi (or even taxi van). Entertainment alternated between guest speakers and team quizzes, with our Christmas edition being especially popular. This year we hope to arrange a couple of visits to the Northland Memorial Community Centre to watch classic films. Special thanks to the kitchen group who somehow always manage to come up with a delicious, shared lunch. The aim for this year is to actively promote 'the Munch' in the hope of attracting some new attendees. It is clear that it is providing an important social connection for some of the senior members of our parish.</p>
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Tony Dawbin and Elizabeth Newman



Christmas market - December 2021

Literacy Programme at Otari School Report

The Anglican Parishes of St Anne’s, Northland-Wilton and St Luke’s, Wadestown have been involved with the Literacy Programme at Otari School since September 2000. Volunteers from both Churches as well as the local communities give the children individual reading practice each week. In 2021 there were 9 volunteers across 5 classes. Jill Jones, Rosemary Tomlinson, Barbara Murray, Hugh Cordery & Diana Steele represented St Anne’s. The teachers select the children and the books for the programme depending on their age and ability. Each pupil reads to the volunteer, who helps, when necessary, with words and comprehension for 10 – 15 minutes. Due to Covid we didn’t resume the programme in term 4 given the uncertainty regarding the pandemic. We enjoy reading with the children and the school is always appreciative of our contribution.

Diana Steele

Mainly Music Report

Mainly Music continues to delight and reach new people. In 2021, a total of 37 pre-schoolers and their caregivers enjoyed together an interactive music session in St Anne's Hall on Wednesday mornings. It's all about encouraging and connecting with the community, especially the next generation. We ran four small sessions in 2022 before needing to pause Mainly Music due to Omicron.

We have a fantastic Mainly Music team who welcome, bake, serve morning tea, offer a listening ear over a cuppa, and play with the children. We farewelled stalwart members of the team Jan Lowrie and Catherine Froud in 2021, as well as little Charlotte whose heart-warming role was demonstrating the actions to the other children ever since we launched Mainly Music in 2018! Let me know if you would be interested in contributing to this vibrant ministry.

Catherine McIntosh



Mainly Music Christmas session

Messy Church Report

Messy Church continues to be an amazing connection into the whanau within Northland. Despite all the uncertainty and challenges with COVID over the past year, God has been faithful (why did we doubt!). This monthly Sunday afternoon congregation has roughly 40-50 people attending each week, with a regular group of around 30 who come every month. If everyone on our contact list showed up in the one week we would be overflowing. The service includes crafts and activities, a short message and shared meal. Despite COVID, we only missed one month last year, however, since the beginning of 2022 we have only been able to meet once.

This past year we focused a majority of our time looking at the life of Jesus and some of the amazing stories he told. We explore the good Samaritan, focused on what talents God has given each of us and how we are using them, and how we can shine like stars for Jesus. We also had a very popular activity to taking apart old electrical appliances as we learnt that God looks at our heart (1 Sam 16). Of course we finished with our traditional Christmas pageant which is always so much fun.

Each month we try to have a range of activities from drawing and cutting through to blind-folded obstacle courses and science activities. The majority of children attending are between the ages of 4-9 and we continue to see children drop-off in the later primary years.

Reaching the later primary age children is a key gap in our Northland community. Another key challenge for 2022 will be the loss of key helpers - the Anakottas leaving and Cathy spending some much needed time in Canada. This will leave a huge hole in the Messy Church team. Please pray for further help or even better volunteer – it's a great team. A huge shout out to our amazing Messy Church volunteers – from welcoming, hospitality and food preparation, activities and worship. Your servitude is amazing and a blessing to Northland. Thank you.

Tamie Anakotta



Messy Church 2021

Children's Church Report

Children's Church was busy, noisy and lots of fun over the last year. We met during the 9:30 am service twice a month during term-time. There is a core group of children from 3 families that attend. The teachers were Teresa Edge, Susan Agnew and Heather Kirkham (who rotate), and we are generally supported by at least one parent helper- thank you parent helpers!

We're always impressed by how much the kids already know and how they think about things from different insightful perspectives! They are quick to put up their hands with answers and learn new activities

In 2021 we generally followed the lectionary, however from term 1 2022 we are trying a few changes. We were challenged by Bishop Ellie about what church would look like if it were child centred. Reflecting this, and encouraged by Cathy Edge, the teachers are trialling having children's church start at the same time as regular church, and to follow its own theme over each term, with the stories, songs and games all building on each other over the term. The current theme is the life of Jesus as we lead into Easter. We still share with the rest of the church what we have been up to after the prayers, and the kids love bringing the offertory basket up as they come to the front of the church. We can then stay up the front during the Great Thanksgiving and join our families during communion. The "kids corner" has also been moved to the front pew to make it easier to engage in the service when we are not in children's church.

Looking ahead we're already feeling sad about the Anacotta's return to Australia and are grateful for all the talents and community spirit they have brought to St Anne's.

Thanks as always for making kids feel welcome at St Anne's. It's great to see them be comfortable and playful in the church building and take ownership of things like taking up the basket and putting out the candles. If you have other ideas for including children in the wider service don't hesitate to let us know :)

Teresa, Susan, and Heather

Admin Team (administration & finance) Report

The Group has continued to meet regularly during the year taking action and making recommendations to Vestry where appropriate.

Matters covered are as follows:

Maintenance of Church, Hall, and Vicarage

Hall- the re-polishing of the Floor was arranged and carried out mid-year with little disruption to use. A working Bee was held to clean and repair the chairs – thank you to the band of helpers.

Vicarage - It was found necessary to replace the wiring and consequently the switchboard during the year along with smaller matters of maintenance.

Graeme Hydes has continued his good work in monitoring and attending to small items around the church and Hall and we are extremely grateful for his expertise and willing assistance (especially removing leaves from the guttering)

The Group suggests that annual inspections of the Church and Hall are made as is required for the Vicarage.

The Hall continues to provide a regular income to help meet its running costs despite the disruptions of Covid.

Tony continues to monitor our *health and safety requirements* – thank you Tony

Finance A review of our investments was undertaken with a view to increasing income. After discussion and the taking of appropriate expert advice a re-arrangement was carried

out which we hope will prove advantageous. Our thanks to Brian Steele for his facilitation of this.

It is of some concern to the Group that the continuing deficit budgets are eating into our capital at an ever-increasing rate. It is important to be stewards of the future as well as providing for our current needs and protecting our assets.

We urge Parishioners to consider how we can raise funds and /or increase our giving to help meet our needs.

Rosemary Tomlinson, Convenor