

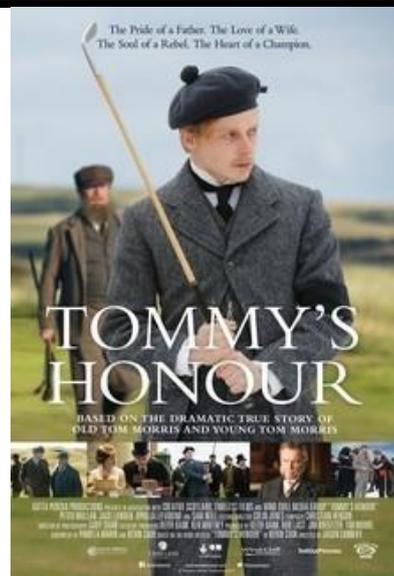
St Alban's News August 2017

We've been a bit remiss with written news updates this year, so here's an update with some of what's been happening and coming up soon.

Film Night

A huge thank you to Joy for doing the initial organising of our film night on Sunday, and to Patsy and Heather for picking up where Joy left off when she went away. And thanks to so many others - who bought, sold or donated tickets, contributed items for the raffle baskets, prepared beautiful food platters, and gave general donations. From feedback we've received, you enjoyed it! There was lots of catching up with familiar faces and making new connections too.

There seems to be quite a bit of support for another film evening as many people asked "When's the next one?" So if you'd like to pitch in to help run another one, or have suggestions for a good film coming up, let Patsy know. With a full house in the biggest cinema at The Lighthouse in Petone, we made a profit of \$1500.



Visit to St David's, Naenae

Last Sunday we gathered for our Sunday morning worship with the faith community of St David's Naenae. Since our church closed we've visited the Cathedral, St James' Lower Hutt, and St Paul's Waiwhetu on Sundays when Wellesley College has another booking. Each of those parishes have commented what a blessing it has been to welcome us to their place, and several of the St David's people wondered why we don't all visit each other's places from time to time! For many of us here at St Alban's it's been one of those unexpected blessings in the midst of the changes we find ourselves in, as we make links across our parish boundaries and worship God together. Later in the year we'll gather with the faith community of St Augustine's in Petone (where Ann and David Best now worship on Sundays) - another of the parishes in our local cluster and archdeaconry.

KnitWits

Earlier in August the KnitWits gathered at the home of Sheila Johnson to keep knitting.... Among the projects on the go at present are strips to sew together to make multi-coloured blankets, for cots or as knee blankets. We welcomed a woman who came along with her 7 year old daughter, recently arrived from an orphanage in India. She is learning to knit, and tells us that in the colder weather children's beanies, socks and jerseys would be very welcome at the orphanage. You might remember a few months ago we invited donations of stationery for this orphanage. There are plans to send over some donations of clothes soon, so we hope to add some knitted items to her parcel.



Take A Break

Our monthly Take a Break for seniors is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 11am-1pm, straight after our 10am Eucharist at St Ronan's. A typical session begins with a cuppa, followed by a speaker, a sing-along with Bill Wollerman, and then lunch. A team of helpers is coordinated by Elaine Parr, with about six helpers on any one day, including drivers to pick up seniors from their homes and take them home afterwards. Some seniors like to come to the 10am Eucharist first, others come along at 11am.

Recent speakers have included Don McIlroy sharing slides of his trek around Mont Blanc in Europe, and one participant sharing her fossil collection. We acknowledge the financial support of the Eastbourne-Bays Community Trust for a grant that enables to cater the lunches for Take a Break.

Earlier this year Reverend Ellie began bringing a group of Wellesley College senior students to Take a Break, and Libby Bloomfield has continued this pattern. The boys help set up the chairs and tables, serve morning tea, take part in the sing-along, and talk with the seniors attending. Some boys may not have grandparents living nearby, so this is a chance for inter-generational links to be formed.

Elaine welcomes volunteers to assist with driving seniors to and from Take a Break, and coming along to help host sessions. You don't need to be able to help every month; Elaine phones around and gets together a team each month, so if you can help every so often she'd love to hear from you. Call or email her 027 349 8635 elaine.parr@me.com





*Wellesley students helping
Take a Break*

Women's Coffee Club

A monthly gathering at Hive café on a Monday morning was started in June as a way of creating a social gathering space during the week. Jennie Lovell-Smith wanted to start something that enables a bit more of a catch-up than is sometimes possible at morning tea after church. It's also a chance to invite women who might not necessarily want to come along to church on Sundays but who are open to getting together somewhere else. So Jennie copied the Guys' Group idea of meeting at a local venue in the village. It's held on the 3rd Monday of the month, so the next one is at **10am on Monday 16 October**. It's either downstairs or upstairs at Hive café - it just depends on where there are tables free. All women welcome.



Reflection Time for Women is another opportunity for women to gather, held every Tuesday night for an hour in the Fellowship Room at St Ronan's, at 7.30pm. This is a chance for women to have a catch-up, with the added focus of a reflection and prayer time, including praying for particular needs of people in our community. To find out more about either of these gatherings for women, call Jennie Lovell-Smith, 562 0242.

Guys' Group - an open invitation to guys in the parish and community to meet up on the first Monday of the month at The Still Room in Oroua St. The next one will be on **Monday 4 September at 6pm**. In addition, a men's Bible reading group commenced a few months ago, meeting on Mondays approximately fortnightly. Contact Philip Plimmer 562 8211 if you're interested in this.

UP! Last Sunday of the month, 7pm

UP! is our monthly informal worship gathering with freeflowing music, reflection and prayer. This month's is tonight, 27 August, at 7pm in the Wellesley chapel/hall. All welcome.



Vestry Update

Vestry members met for an "away day" on Saturday 12 August to focus on expectations of Vestries shared by Bishop Justin and Reverend John

Hughes at a diocesan training day in May. Bishop Justin focused on the “big picture” of Vestry governance/leadership, and Reverend John shared some “nuts and bolts” about the workings of Vestries.

Key points:

- A Vestry is primarily a “worshipping community of disciples” that models being a community which prays and reflects on scripture together, and shares what’s going on in their lives. A Vestry’s “business task” of governance and leadership rests on this foundation.
- The character and spiritual formation of Vestry members is central to their governance role.
- Vestries must listen to the Spirit of God and ask “What is God saying to us?”, rather than looking at issues solely through a “rational” lens. Time and time again in the Gospels, Jesus asks people to do risky things, like step out of boats!
- When Vestries give priority to spending time in prayer and listening to God, the time they spend on business decisions is much more productive.
- Our primary life together in our parishes and across the diocese is as a “movement”: parishes are the “church of the diocese” with a local expression in each place.
- The task of a Vestry is to “hold the vision” of the wider diocese.

Over the past few years, our Vestry has intentionally shaped its life together around these principles. Underpinning its business task and the individual skills Vestry members bring to that task, is a strong focus on prayer and reflection on scripture, as it debates the governance issues before it and collectively discerns the direction in which God is calling and leading our parish.

In our present time of change, this discernment is more crucial than ever.

Vestry also met for its regular monthly meetings in July and August.

- The comprehensive pastoral roll update is nearing completion, with phone calls to each family on the roll nearly finished. This has been a big task. When finished, we will work on identifying “parish link” people in each of the bays, to be local contact points as needed. We

will also be able to progress the “opt in” St Alban’s family phone book that we know many people are keen to see produced.

- Recent “cook-ups” to provide meals for the parish freezer have resulted in a good supply of meals to take to people to help them out in situations of pastoral need.
- The Wellesley College chaplaincy continues to go well with Libby Bloomfield in the school on Mondays and Wednesdays. She provides pastoral support for students and teachers, assists at weekly chapel services, attends senior leadership team meetings, and links in boys with Take a Break once a month. She also offers weekly prayer for interested staff and does lunch-time playground supervision once a week.
- We are arranging a property and maintenance “stock take” by members of our property team to look particularly at the vicarage, as well as fences etc around the property, to identify items that may need attention. Some tree thinning will be happening soon for trees near the office. The remaining coloured plastic play equipment on the church lawn is being donated to a Pop in and Play family.
- Our finances are looking healthy. Direct giving is on target for the 7 months and is looking to match or exceed the 12 month budget.

Nominations Process

Thank you to all who attended the recent parish consultation which refined our parish goals. Here are the re-worded goals agreed at that meeting. Our goals are to:

- be a community which deepens discipleship and encourages mission and outreach to all
- offer worship opportunities for everyone
- strengthen the parish connection with Wellesley College and support its Anglican ethos
- continue the parish’s ministry of contemplative prayer, retreat, and hospitality
- provide facilities to best meet the worship, ministry, and mission priorities of the parish.

Vestry is in the final stages of preparing the parish profile with the parish and diocesan nominators, which will provide information about the parish for the nominations process and prospective applicants for the role of vicar.

Buildings Update

Everyone on our parish email list was recently sent an update from Cushla Jamieson, Chair of SEAT (St Alban's Earthquake Action Team) outlining the steps so far on our buildings consultation process. This update was also sent to the Herald for inclusion in the latest issue. A report from SEAT will be submitted to Vestry soon for consideration. We are fortunate to have the skills, experience, and expertise of several people assisting us in our buildings discernment process, particularly Rob Moonlight and Nick Young from the diocese, and Reverend John Hughes and Geoff Lee from the parish of Karori, as they share their insights and learnings in the midst of their parish redevelopment project.

This process calls for patience from us all, and careful discernment of God's call. A good process is a thorough process. We have the amazing opportunity to make decisions that will help shape the presence of the Anglican church in Eastbourne and the bays for generations to come. It is both an awesome and a daunting responsibility.

Bishops' News

August 2017

In our first joint Bishops' letter we shared the challenge, gift and commitment that we have each made to this new season of episcopal



partnership. For us, this is one of the ways that we personally are moving from the “it’s not about me” to the “it’s about we”. Last month at our Ministry Leaders’ Family Camp we got to live out our family principle.

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matthew 7: 24-27, NIV)

If, when the rains come (as they absolutely did that weekend!), we are seeking to live in partnership, we will know that we have built a strong foundation for God’s church. We celebrate that together we are raising a new generation of children and young people who know they deeply belong to a big family of faith.

This last month has been a very busy one for both of us, each experiencing the power of our people partnering together to be agents of transformation in our world. I (Justin) have been on hikoi with youth workers, hearing afresh the faith stories of our Diocese and beyond at Hiruharama, Parihaka and Turangi. Bishop Ellie has been involved with the Tip of the Iceberg conference, exploring issues around people trafficking and labour exploitation; a conference wonderfully organised by Chris Frazer and supported by the American Embassy and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Together at the Cathedral we hosted the election forum on housing injustice (thanks to Kate Day for her amazing organisation); challenging

our parliamentarians to work together with the resources and power that they have at their disposal to the same extent that we know our people are committing themselves.

We have been struck across all of these recent events by the nature of innovative and deliberate collaboration. It is sometimes hard to navigate across cultures and both manuhiri and hosts of these events have done an amazing job of acknowledging their differences and continuing to build friendships.

At the Iceberg conference, an incredible range of individuals were present as both speakers and participants: including government policy makers, international subject experts, ambassadorial staff, corporate representation, primary industry officials, and 'on the ground' advocates and changemakers who work daily with those affected by exploitation. All of these groups came to the issue of labour exploitation with very different viewpoints, but across the two days the common goal came to find ways to collaborate with intentionality – knowing that it will not be easy, but being willing to listen, to accommodate and to keep having conversations with each other.

What a brilliant model for our diocese and a Christ-centred model for our church – knowing that our relationship with God and our approach to faith is ultimately not about 'me' – but rather about 'us', and together, us looking out for the 'other'. Again, we see in embodiment 'we are family, we are disciples, we care for the last, the lost and the least'.

One final thought, in relation to some of our recent media coverage of diocesan events – isn't it interesting that it's thought newsworthy that introducing someone to Jesus can transform a person's or social group's life. After hundreds and hundreds of years, people are surprised by this being the Church's core business; that the Church is a place of transformed lives. That reality is surely cause for sober reflection.

As we head towards our Diocesan Synod next month, may we keep this in mind as we seek God's will for the next year of our journey together.

+Justin and +Eleanor 17 August 2017

Coming Up....

In the coming months we look forward to welcoming several visiting preachers at our Sunday worship.

Reverend John Hughes, who is supporting the parish during our interregnum, came to preach in June and meet with some of our 3dm leaders, and will be with us again on 10 September and 19 November. Reverend David Day, former member of this parish and now living in the Hawkes Bay, will be visiting and preaching on 1 October. Also in October, we will welcome Assistant Bishop Ellie, and The Very Reverend Digby Wilkinson, Dean of the Cathedral.



Later on our own preachers Don McIlroy and Stuart Mossman will take the pulpit, and we have an Art Sermon with Canon Peter Stuart and Phyllis Mossman on Christ the King Sunday, 26 November.

Synod

This year's diocesan Synod will be held on 16-17 September in Palmerston North.

Matters being considered include a report on the structure and function of Synod and a draft

Synod Canon, and the Interim Report of the Primates Working Group on Motion 29 (a motion from 2016 General Synod inviting further consideration of the issue of blessing same gender relationships). Copies of an update on this latter issue are on our notices table on Sundays, and in the parish office. Five copies of the full 30 page Interim Report are also available for borrowing (or can be emailed to you on request from the parish office).

As is our custom, our Synod reps will share some feedback from Synod in our sermon slot on the Sunday after Synod.

Keep up-to-date

There's lots happening, in our parish, in neighbouring parishes, around the diocese, across our province (Aotearoa NZ and the Pacific), and around the world. Check these websites regularly to keep connected with the Anglican church all over the place!



St Alban's news

For what's on, sermons and pew sheets see our website www.stalbanschurch.nz



News from our diocese

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News from around NZ

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St Alban's Anglican Church, Eastbourne

Interim Reverend Judith Wigglesworth 973 9036 / 021 0338 155
Priest In Charge (*Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun*) vicar@stalbanschurch.nz
Vicar's Warden Heather Molloy 562 8513 **People's Warden** Philip
Plimmer 562 8211
Vestry Joy Baird, Libby Bloomfield, Annie Hayward, Denis Packer,
John Nippert, Jen Young
Pastoral Care Jennie Lovell-Smith 562 0242
Coordinators Jean Martel 562 7415
Priests (Hon) Reverend Canon Peter Stuart, Reverend Tony Gardiner
Parish Office Wednesday & Thursday 1 - 3pm 562 6269
office@stalbanschurch.nz

***St Alban's Anglican Church • 11 Ngaio Street • Eastbourne • Lower Hutt 5013 •
New Zealand***

***Telephone / Fax 562 6269 • Website <http://www.stalbanschurch.nz/>
Facebook St Alban's Church Eastbourne***