



All Saints Anglican BIRKENHEAD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

From the Vicar...



Last Sunday we launched our new Sunday School ‘Small Saints’. It was great to see the children learning and exploring their faith through craft and song. We owe thanks to Robyn O’Kane for her leadership and coordination of this ministry. At this stage we are running the Sunday School on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at the 9.30am service. This month we are introducing a new section to our Newsletter where we profile members of the congregation as a way to get to know those who make up our parish. This month we are introduced to Robyn, her background, work and ministry.

Blessings, *Jordan Greatbatch, Vicar*

DATES FOR DIARY

Saturday 13th October

Church fair – 9am-12pm

Saturday 15th September

Woman’s Breakfast – 7:45am

Saturday 22nd September

Men’s Breakfast – 7.30am

Sunday 23rd September

Contemplative Service – 5pm

Monday 24th September

Days for Girls Sewing Day – 10am

Wednesday 26th September

Mother’s Union Service – 10am

Peoples Profile: Robyn O’Kane



I was born in Gisborne 1955, the first of four children. Mum and Dad were young, active in the church, the community, and the outdoors. We moved to Christchurch when I was four. During our eleven years there we travelled frequently to explore the South Island’s “2000 Acres of Sky” landscapes. I now call them “landscapes of the heart”, and unconsciously seek their likenesses, even after 47 years in Auckland.

Term holidays were also spent wandering the hills of Banks Peninsula. Mum and Dad were “Camp Mother and Father” there at the YMCA’s Camp Wainui. At Erewhon, in the wilds of the Mackenzie Country, I fell in love with the breed of dog called “Samoyed”. Eventually I was owned by two of them! They answered the call of the wild within me. I miss them still. In Christchurch during my primary and secondary schooling I was, at the same time, a private music student at Loreto College. The Sisters of Mercy at the convent there taught me piano, singing, and the Theory of Music. Sister Mary Emmanuel became my great friend and mentor; a stabilizing influence in my early teenage years. In Auckland, from my middle teenage years onwards, this training was continued by Sister Mary Leo, Sister Francis Xavier and Sister Mary Joan. The nuns’ kindness, dedication; their expectations, and their gifted teaching, have shaped my life.

The creative team of educators at North Shore Teachers College also continued to develop my performance skills. I owe them a huge debt of thanks. Ten of my Auckland years were then spent as a practising musician in the NZ Music Industry; in bands, and commercial/television music, (on and off screen).

What fun! In 1990/1991 my family lived in Harrow-On-The-Hill, NW London. My husband Gary and I were asked to help with the music for the Youth Ministry at Harrow Baptist Church.

When we returned to NZ, we became involved in the Music Ministry here at All Saints Anglican Church! After my youngest child went to school, for ten years I held music teaching positions in three North Shore Primary and Intermediate Schools. These involved the teaching of curriculum music; the planning, preparation and teaching in school-wide singing programmes; the training of specialist vocal and instrumental groups. The groups performed for other schools and in the wider community.

After I retired from this work, I established a private music tuition practice from my home. I have taught piano and singing in various styles (mostly contemporary), along with the Theory of Music. The age range of students has been from 7 years old to 44 years old. Parents, siblings, and their family dogs have been known to sit in class too! I am serious! My other interests are World Music, Astronomy, Mediterranean culture, (especially Cyprus); and Waiheke Island. In some ways Waiheke echoes with the “spirit of place” I found in Banks Peninsula as a child.

Sadly, my lovely Irish husband Gary is in long-term care with an incurable illness. But I spend much time with my unconventional, (and typically Celtic), extended family. I have immersed myself in Celtic music, history, culture and Christianity. My adult sons and my granddaughter keep me “young”. I am constantly adapting to life’s surprises!

Robyn O’Kane, 16 August 2018.

WHAT'S COMING UP

2018 CHURCH FAIR - SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER 9.00AM -12NOON



This is our major fundraiser and its success depends on you! Put it in your diaries and start to put together any items you may want to donate. We love to have those cakes baked, make those jams and chutneys and sort out those books, baubles, toys and plants. Donations of items for the Hamper raffle would be greatly appreciated. These should go to Colleen Stott PH: 4183094 who suggests chocolates, fancy biscuits and Christmas goodies. Closer to the date we will have the hall open during the week to drop off items.



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST



The Women's Breakfast group meets monthly (on the 2nd Saturday) at 7.45am, in different members' homes. A continental breakfast is followed by a discussion/talk led by a member on a topic of interest, eg members' life journeys, travels, etc. All women of the parish are welcome: \$3 for breakfast plus a coin (or two) for the *Days for Girls* project. We meet next on **15 September** (note, this is the 3rd Saturday this month), at the home of Suzanne Harper, 115 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead, and Christine Ball will update us on news from Synod, held the previous weekend. Please contact Suzanne to let her know if you are able to attend, Ph.418-3697, gsharper@xtra.co.nz.

If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact Lorelle George, Ph.418-4325 or Margaret Bowater, Ph.482-0250; or email Lorelle to add your name to our email loop: ldgeorge@xtra.co.nz



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join the men of the parish on the 22nd September at 7.30am for a cooked breakfast, stimulating conversation and a guest speaker. \$10 donation. Please RSVP to Chris Ball at cball@xtra.co.nz.

CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE - TAIZE

Our contemplative service takes place on the 4th Sunday of the month 23rd September at 5pm. This uses elements of Taize worship incorporating chants, silences and scripture. All are welcome.



DAYS FOR GIRLS SEWING DAY



A morning of knitting, craft and chat, all are welcome. Monday 24th September, starting at 10am.

MOTHER'S UNION



Join us for the Mother's Union service on Wednesday 26th September starting with a Eucharist at 10am (all are welcome) followed by a meeting in the lounge area of the hall for Mother's Union members.

TRADE ME FUNDRAISING

Do you have any goods you could donate? Geoff Newton (480 8538), with help from Rachel Haggie (444 1438), continue to raise funds by selling goods on TradeMe. You can donate goods for auction or Geoff will sell on your behalf with a small commission (minimum of 10% for larger items) going to church funds.



LIBRARY NOTES for SEPTEMBER '18 – HEALING

This month we highlight some different aspects of healing, which has always been a primary focus of ministry in Christian life. Karen Hitchcock in "Dear Life" writes with passion of how to care more effectively for the needs of the frail elderly, not seeing them as a burden. Dr David Galler of NZ's Middlemore Hospital, writes movingly in "Things that Matter" of how modern medicine is saving lives in intensive care. Darrell Scott and Beth Nimmo in "Rachel's Tears" tell the story of their teenage daughter's death in the Columbine School shooting, and the powerful effect of her faith in

God. Arthur Pine writes a practical manual of philosophy for recovery from serious setbacks in life:

"When One Door Closes, Another Door Opens." And Paul Coelho writes a remarkable wisdom-story, "The Fifth Mountain," about how the Prophet Elijah struggled with God through adversity in the process of learning to trust God to guide him.

FROM THE DIOCESE

HOSTEL OF THE HOLY NAME FUND APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN



Applications for funding from the Hostel of the Holy Name Trust are now open. The Hostel of the Holy Name is looking to support projects that deepen the devotional life of women. Examples include workshops, quiet days, retreats, or ministry events for women. [Read more and apply here](#). Funding criteria info can be found [here](#).

SYNOD INTERCESSORS



If you love to pray, come join the Synod Intercessors group at the Cathedral. The dates are Thursday (evening) 6th September to Saturday 8th September. On Thursday night there is a stunning service at St Mary's chapel to kick off Synod. The intercession days are Friday and Saturday 9-4pm. We will be meeting downstairs in the Oak Room. If you'd like to know more info please email lougrant@me.com

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Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, Sunday 9am-5pm.
(Monday Off)

Wardens: Michael Burnell 486 7595, Jean Green 418 2609

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