

Anglican Parish of
St. George's Epsom
Diocese of Auckland

Parish Profile, 2020



OUR COMMUNITY VISION AND CORE VALUES

*He Tangata, he Tangata, he Tangata.
It is the people, the people, the people.*

**"I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also,
because that is why I was sent."**

Jesus Christ, in Luke's Gospel 4:43

"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

1 Corinthians 3:9

**"It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world,
but the God of mission who has a church in the world."**

Chris Wright *The Mission of God's People*

Two Scripture verses and a quote that go to the heart of who we aspire to be at St. George's. We are a Christ-centred community, seeking through the power and leading of the Holy Spirit to be instruments of the healing, restoring work of Christ, in all arenas of our lives. Co-workers in God's service, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God for the salvation of all Creation.



We have one question that informs and challenges every aspect of how we do ministry and mission here at St. George's.

How do we reach out and connect to those who no longer reach out and connect to Church/Christianity today?

4 core values that speak into this challenge.

A Place of Grace –

'Grace meets us where we are ... but never leaves us where it finds us'.

We are a community in Christ who come 'just as we are' everyone valued and empowered to be the person God intended us to be.

Diversity is a Gift –

A life-affirming, life-enhancing community, celebrating our God given differences and growing deeper in our relationship and formation in Jesus Christ.

Creativity and Justice –

Encouraging and releasing our creative gifts in all arenas of life, and advocating the intrinsic value and dignity of all people, the land, and all living creatures through the ethos of Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship)

Daring Greatly –

Having the courage and trust to follow the Spirit's leading. To see beyond what we already see, to become more than we already are. To be an outward focused church, creating pathways into the community and people we are privileged to serve.

**We do not draw people to Christ
by loudly discrediting what they believe,
by telling them how wrong they are
and how right we are.
We draw people to Christ
by showing them a *light that is so lovely*
that they want with all their hearts
to know the source of it.**

Madeleine L'Engle

Our New Priest Associate

We are seeking a committed, collaborative Priest Associate with a strong sense of calling to meeting the challenge of communicating the Gospel in ways that are creative and relevant to today's society. We take it as a given that you have a passion for people to come to know Jesus and the importance of listening to the Spirit's leading in all areas of ministry. The Priest Associate will be working with a Staff team that are committed to working collaboratively with a spirit of servant heartedness. A passion for Online Church expressions and the evangelistic possibilities, along with a knowledge and capacity in this technological area, is important.

Personal

- Well-developed interpersonal skills and able to connect with all ages.
- A collaborative and pastoral heart.

Theology

- The centrality of Christ within a Trinitarian understanding of God.
- The centrality of Holy Scripture testifying and witnessing to Christ, the Word of God
- A Generous Orthodoxy
- A recognition of the call to be Kingdom people and co-workers in God's service and mission.
- An engaging Scripturally based preacher, able to apply the Word of God to everyday life.

Leadership

- Working as an effective team member
- Vision and energy
- A strong passion and commitment for Online engagement with the capacity to execute this.
- Drawing people to, and encouraging them in engaged, committed lay ministry.
- Equipping people for ministry and discipleship.

Management

- Work collaboratively and effectively with the leadership team and the parish through servant leadership.
- Help manage parish resources, the staff team and a large number of volunteers.

ABOUT ST GEORGE'S EPSOM

Our Worship Services

Sunday

8:30am – Traditional & Contemporary with Holy Communion

10:15am – Contemporary Family Service with Holy Communion

5:00pm - Café Style

Wednesday

10:00am - Holy Communion

“One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.”

Psalm 27: 4

At St. George's we are enriched by having services that offer mixed 'styles and flavours' of worship, whilst still retaining core elements of Anglican worship. At each service we emphasise the preaching of God's Word along with Confession, Intercession, Holy Communion and Christ-centred worship that can touch and transform lives. Within these different 'flavours', we remain open to the creative power of the Holy Spirit for fresh expressions so that we remain vital and relevant to all who seek the will and purpose of God in their lives. The services offered include:

The Sunday 10.15am Service is the largest service with an average attendance of 170 weekly and is the main family service. This is where we creatively explore fresh expressions of worship. The ethos of the service is Anglican informal, with an aspiration to encounter the deep movement of God for our lives, in ways that are real and relevant. The Eucharist is a core feature of every service.

It has been especially gratifying to hear from people who have previously had unhelpful experiences of church communities to experience a journey of healing at St. George's. As they re-engage with a church community, it is the culture of grace they value the most.

Celebrating as a whole church whanau is core to who we are, so our Youth and Children always begin the service in worship with us and come back from their groups for communion together. We are intentional about regularly having services where our Youth lead musical worship, prayers and preach.

It has been encouraging to see new people joining the community, including an increased diversity of ethnicities and cultures and Christian faith traditions. We have been very intentional in trying to integrate people from our ESOL (Asian) community into this service as well as at the 8.30am service.

Music Worship is band led and draws from the rich treasures of worship at our disposal from Hillsong to Taize and everything in between with a growing inclusion of Te Reo. We are blessed at St George's with so many gifted musicians and a strong feature of our worship life is to cultivate and encourage a wide participation. On Christmas Eve and other special occasions, we have a choir and orchestra gathered from our congregations for a one off coming together

The Sunday 8.30am Service is more centred on *A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*, using Powerpoint. Averaging an attendance of around 55 people, it is an open and welcoming congregation, which is a feature of all our congregations. It is also a mixture of traditional and contemporary worship. A band leads worship but our organist also plays with the band on songs as well as leading hymns solo.

The Sunday 5.00pm Service is a small Café style service with a regular community of people who gather weekly around tables for worship, friendship, discussion and discipleship. The service ethos is one of invitation to 'The Table' as an expression of Christ's open approach to all people, who invites everyone to come and dine with Him.

The Wednesday 10.00am Service is a traditional Anglican Communion Service meeting the needs of our surrounding community for weekday worshipping, relationship and belonging. The service is led by Judy Carey, a lay pastor using her vast experience in ministry, who is supported by a team of loving mature Christians. On the first Wednesday of the month there is a Healing Service with prayers and loving support.

Our Staff Team

Rev'd Josh Jones Vicar Full Time

Steph Brook Youth, Kids and Families Pastor 30hrs

Lisa Dorotich Operations Manager 25hrs

Leanne Stralen Accounts and Admin 25hrs

Lynette Eaton Children's and Families 8hrs

Hayley Lewis Mainly Music Children's and Families Assistant 4hrs

Olivia Wells Verger 14hrs

Rev'd Stan Thorburn & Rev'd Duncan McDonald

Non-stipendiary, retired Priests who assist with sacramental duties and funerals.

Our Ministry with Children

**"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16**

Our vision for KidsChurch ministry is to be a place of belonging and nurture, where the kids feel safe, loved and are supported to develop their own personal relationship with Jesus. Having a sense of fun and belonging is an important foundation on which their learning and trust can grow, and we are committed to sharing the message of the gospel in a real, life-affirming way. We try and align our teaching as much as possible with what is happening in big church.

We continue to be blessed with a wonderful group of leaders that are tireless in their commitment to the care and nurture of our kids and families. Hayley Lewis, who is both responsible for Mainly Music and contributes significantly to the running of KidsChurch, has skills in administration, running events, and creativity.

Our Ministry with Youth

We have a vibrant community of committed young people who gather together on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings during term time. We enjoy heading away for weekend camps both run by ourselves and through AYM (Diocese of Auckland Anglican Youth Ministries). We also enjoy meeting up with other youth groups in the Diocese for worship, sports and challenges. We have some amazing, deeply committed leaders who have journeyed with our young people since they were young people themselves and are committed to developing leadership and discipleship potential in all our young people.

Our vision is that young people would grow to know what they believe and why, and that they would continue to live a full, purpose-filled, adventurous life of faith, filled with love for Jesus, and for all those Jesus loves.



Pastoral Care

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.”

2 Thessalonians 1:3

Our primary Pastoral Care Team consists of:

- Staff
- Life Group Leaders
- Service Congregations
- Parishioners

In a large multi-congregational church community like St. George's, the nurturing support of a pastoral care team is crucial to fostering a caring community in Christ. Part of our sustainable ministry strategy is to delegate areas of ministry. We work closely with our pastoral care team to ensure overall care and concern for our Church community.

We are mindful that pastoral care also happens organically, across the many networks of caring relationships, including existing friendships, Life Groups, ESOL and Mainly Music ministries, Dinner in Homes - to name just a few.

Life Groups

St. George's currently has a network of 14 Life Groups. These groups meet in one another's homes, and each group has a distinctive flavour. They are generally based around Bible Study, prayer and fellowship, but also cater for wide ranging interests such as cycling or a book club. The leaders are members of the congregation and there is support from the ministry team. We encourage anyone who would like to be a part of a Life Group to make use of this well-established and organic ministry.

Prayer

We seek to be a church that is open to God's leading through the Holy Spirit and that means we are called to be a prayerful church, one that is both listening to what God is saying and interceding that His purposes would be fulfilled through us.

St George's has various "rhythms" of prayer, which shape our life as a church:

Saturday Prayer: There is a weekly Saturday prayer meeting in the pastoral care room from 8.00am – 9.00am during term time.

Prayer before Services: There is a time of prayer at 8.00am in the pastoral care room at the chancel end of the church.

Prayer within Services: We have different forms of prayer within each of the three Sunday congregations and Wednesday congregation. Sometimes of prayer may include formal intercessions, at other times we may use interactive prayer.

Prayer Ministry: After every service there are always people available to pray with anyone who requests it. All those offering prayer have been trained to pray with others.

Prayer Chain: We operate a prayer chain for mobilising prayer when particular needs arise.

Our Ministry with the Elderly

We enjoy a rich and fruitful connection with the Elizabeth Knox Care Home across the road from the church. A regular group of residents come to church services on Wednesdays and Sundays, and we have a weekly presence at the Rest Home, with informal pastoral visits to residents, and a regular Bible Study. We also offer a fortnightly communion service at the nearby Cornwall Park Care Home facility for Advanced Dementia patients. This community ministries are led by Judy Carey.

Ministry & Outreach to our Community

We seek to serve our community and reach out with the love of Jesus through a variety of ministries and activities such as:

- ESOL
- Mainly Music
- Alpha courses
- Third Space
- Te Papapa Preschool
- Tō Wahi (community shop)
- Kiwi Pilgrimages
- Lunch on the Lawn

To find out more about these activities, please visit our website, www.stgeorgeseppsom.org.nz

Our History

St. George's 1914 – 2020

Prior to the building of St. George's Church, a primary congregation was established between 1913-1914. The district was part of the Parish of St. Mark's, Remuera at that time and Anglicans either attended St. Mark's Church in Remuera or St. Andrew's Church in Mt Eden. Travelling in those days was not easy, road conditions were less than desirable. A group of Epsom residents voiced the need for a local church venue. Mr W Morrison, owner of the Wapiti Homestead, offered the use of his converted stable for meetings at no charge. This served as a temporary place of worship for the next two and a half years.

On 16 July 1914, the first officially recorded meeting of parishioners took place. It was at this meeting that a proposal to fundraise for a new church was formally discussed and a committee created to explore the options.

Major and Mrs Frederick Nelson George had owned the large 'Wapiti' estate before selling up and returning to England. After the Major's death, Mrs George sailed back to New Zealand for a visit and was rather surprised to find church services being held in the stable of their old estate.



In 1915, Mrs George donated a generous piece of land in Ranfurly Road East and arranged for the construction of a church building in memory of her husband. The foundation stone was laid on 19 December 1915.

During the 1990's the church, hall and vicarage house had much alteration work done. The grounds were re-shaped and landscaped. Car park spaces were increased. In subsequent years a continuing regime of improvements and maintenance has kept the church buildings and grounds in a fine and attractive condition. Its photographic appeal attracts much public attention and make it a popular wedding venue.



Weddings

St. George's is a popular venue for weddings. Our office and operations staff co-ordinate all aspects of managing wedding bookings. We also have a mature older couple who offer marriage preparation mentoring for engaged and pre-engaged couples. Many couples bring their own Christian celebrant to officiate at their ceremonies.

How to Apply for the position of Priest Associate?

Applications or enquires should be emailed to the Vicar, Rev'd Josh Jones by Friday, **14th August 2020**.

Contact details: joshj060@gmail.com or mobile 021 075 3232

Please include:

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
2. Covering letter
3. Names and contact details for three referees