

# All Saints' Church

The open door

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## Vestry Meetings 2022

The Vestry of All Saints' Gladstone meets monthly at 7.30pm, usually on the third Tuesday of each month. The dates for Vestry meetings for the coming year are:

Tuesday 16 August  
 Tuesday 20 September  
 Tuesday 18 October  
 Tuesday 15 November

## Into the Future...

While we await the unpacking of the recent work by Tony Gerritsen around possibilities for the future of All Saints' and the Invercargill Anglican parishes, I thought it might be useful to look at where we are at now and what we might be seeking to achieve going forwards. Right now most of us, if not all, are worried about some trends that we are seeing. The declining attendance post-Covid, declining outreach opportunities, declining giving, and a general decline in the outward effectiveness of the church. And most of us really desire to see these trends turned around. We are praying that All Saints' will be as successful and as effective as possible within our community. The temptation is to look for a quick fix, but I would like to suggest that there's another way. The need to slow down seems counter-intuitive at times like these. But the reason for slowing down is this: in the same manner that it takes time for any church to develop its problems, it also takes time to sort out solutions and apply them to the specific contexts in which they are required. It's all too tempting to attend a conference or seminar and to return with a one-size-fits-all solution, but that's not going to provide a lasting outcome. Such a solution may address the symptoms, but it will seldom solve the underlying causes. Another reason not to jump too quickly into a solution, is that churches historically tend to move slowly through change. Think icebergs and large ships.

**Cont. p2**

Saints  
*Alive!*

**From p.1**

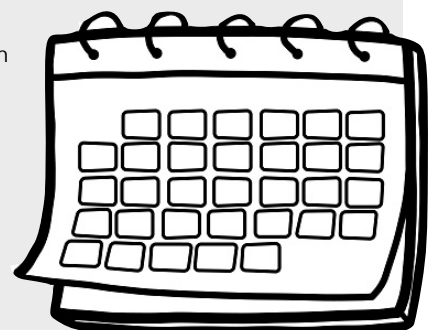
So we have to take our time and do things properly. We have to ascertain what the solutions to our problems may be, and then we have to work together and with the specific issues to implement change in lasting and effective ways. It's no easy matter to ask a church to consider changing how it operates so that it can become more effective. Together we need to carefully discern the biblical mandate for what we feel we want to achieve and how we can get there together in line with God's plans for us.

One of the ways that this may be possible is to spend time focussing on biblical discipleship within a relational environment. This sounds challenging and new, such things are often unappealing because they are unknown and create a sense of anxiety. My encouragement to everyone is that we stay pliable, humble and teachable. We begin by focusing on working from the core outwards. Starting with the philosophy first, on why change is needed, then we can know why things are done and begin to adapt our thinking to the particular situations in which we find ourselves at All Saints' Gladstone. Secondly, we need some practical adaptation - first we know the "why", then we work out the "how".

Be encouraged that we aren't alone in all this. God always shows up and does His part perfectly. As we step through whatever unfolds in the next few months, God will help is to discern the biblical principals of the changes as opposed to any personal preferences. God rewards those who seek him, and we all need God's strength to draw us out of our comfort zone and into the uncertainty of change. So whatever your role in church, whatever your level of learning, and no matter if you've been a Christian for thirty years or thirty weeks, God will do something remarkable in and through you as we seek him in the future of All Saints' and the Invercargill Anglican parishes.

**Coming Events...**

2 August	Archdeaconry Meeting at Holy Trinity, Windsor at 12.00pm
3 August	All Saints' AAW Meeting at All Saints' Gladstone from 2.00pm Pizza and Prayer at 20 Russel Street from 6.00pm
6 August	Prayer Breakfast at Holy Trinity, Windsor at 8.00am
7 August	Said Eucharist at 8am; All-Age Worship Service at 9.30am Winter Brunch - Soup and Rolls at All Saints' Gladstone after the 9.30am service
12 August	Ecumenical Rest Home Service at Ascot BUPA at 11.00am
14 August	Said Eucharist at 8.00am; Holy Communion at 9.30am
16 August	Cake and Prayer at 20 Cunningham Street at 10.00am Vestry Meeting in the Meeting Room at the Office at 7.30pm
19 August	Ecumenical Rest Home Service at Rowena Jackson at 11.00am
21 August	Said Eucharist at 8.00am; Holy Communion at 9.30am
24 August	Vicar departs for Discipleship Conference
28 August	Extended Communion at 9.30am Oban Presbyterian Ecumenical Service at 10.30am



## Praying for the Future...

It's great that we have the opportunity to talk amongst ourselves about the future directions for All Saints' Gladstone and for the Invercargill Anglican parishes, but we shouldn't forget also that we have every opportunity to speak with God about our worries and our concerns as well. So as a means to help get us started and to assist in helping us to stay focused, the following prayer has been assembled as a guide. In it we give thanks for all those who have faithfully come before us and who set us up as a parish for ministry into the future. We give thanks that God has the ultimate plan for what will happen and we acknowledge that we are in God's hands. We acknowledge that we need God to open the hearts of the community so that we can work among them; and that only God can grant us the grace to achieve what needs to be achieved in order for God's plan to be fulfilled. I would like to thank Linda Te Au and Debra Murphy for their work in putting this together to support us all as we move ahead.

### Prayer for the Future

Gracious God who has been at our beginning and will be at our end. We give you thanks for our parish of Gladstone and our churches of All Saints and St Andrews. We recognise and remember with gratitude all those who came before us and built up your ministry here in this place.

Gracious God in this world of uncertainty You already know our future path and we your loving and faithful people pray that we can accept with gracious hearts the journey that lies before us.

We look to You for a new vision in our community. We know You will lead us into a future full of hope, joy and promise.

Give us the courage and the wisdom to openly discuss a new way forward that glorifies your Holy Name and brings a resurgence of life to your Anglican church in Invercargill.

We pray for our Bishop Stephen, for our Vicar Richard and all those who lead us and guide us towards us a new tomorrow. We pray for those whose path is connected to ours that they would make thoughtful and compassionate decisions.

Give us the grace to listen to each other, to acknowledge past hurts, to reconcile as one united people in your Holy Name.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we would be inspired to dream, be prepared to risk losing everything to gain a better, brighter future where You are at the centre.

May it be your words we hear, may it be your light we follow.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus who died that we might live.

Amen.



## AAW Out and About...

Last month the ladies of the AAW, accompanied by the Vicar, went to have lunch at the SIT Café housed in the Narthex of the former Saint John's Anglican Church. This building was deconsecrated and sold to the Southland Institute of Technology over two years ago and since then has undergone considerable renovation, seismic strengthening and modification. The old hall was demolished and a new three story teaching block was added on the footprint and connected to the extended Narthex of the former church building. Many of the original church features have been restored and maintained, and one can still see the font, the stained glass, all the pews, and the plaques embedded in the stonework. The new structural steelwork has been incorporated sensitively into the building to give it the strength needed to survive a seismic event.



***Pictured above from left to right:***

Barbara MacDonald, Barbara Wooton, Elizabeth Lucy (AAW President), Hap Naylor, Doreen Metzger, Richard Aitken (Vicar), Lee Anderson, Debra Murphy, Leila Stokes, Carole Edginton, Christine Aitken, Liz Cruickshank, and Elizabeth Fraser.



**YESTERDAY I SAW AN  
AD THAT SAID 'RADIO  
FOR SALE, \$1, VOLUME  
STUCK ON FULL'**

**I THOUGHT, 'I CAN'T  
TURN THAT DOWN'**





AOTEAROA - NEW ZEALAND  
**XSOZO**  
SAVED HEALED DELIVERED  
BASIC TRAINING


## Invercargill

5-6 August

Costs \$50 including basic training manual  
To register, email  
[admin@christiancentre.org.nz](mailto:admin@christiancentre.org.nz)

church@PRESENTS

## THE 80'S HITS

PROCEEDS GOING TOWARDS THE  
 Southland  
Charity Hospital

SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST @ 5.15PM  
OTATARA COMMUNITY HALL  
146 DUNNS RD // OTATARA

\$60pp (includes 3 course meal and entertainment)  
Win a weekend away for two for the best dressed  
FOR TICKETS EMAIL [EVENTS@CHURCHAT.NZ](mailto:EVENTS@CHURCHAT.NZ)  
[WWW.CHURCHAT.NZ](http://WWW.CHURCHAT.NZ)

## Giving at All Saints

As a Parish we are very lucky and extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of our Parishioners. We celebrate and thank you for your contribution to the running of the Parish, Missions, various appeals and the organisations we support.

There are different ways that you can give or contribute to the Parish.

- Internet Banking: Gifts given in this way still count towards your annual gifting receipt for IRD purposes. Our account is with the ANZ, account number - **06 0925 0171362 00**. Please use your name as the reference so the Parish Recorder can issue a receipt for tax purposes at the end of March each year.
- Envelopes: These are available through the Parish Recorder and you can make a donation using your envelopes. The amount you give remains entirely confidential and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes at the end of March each year.
- Cash: This can be put in the collection plate as it circulates during the Offertory Hymn. Cash is not able to be receipted.
- Bequest: Please speak with your advisor or trustee about leaving a bequest to the Parish.

## Continued communion Practices at All Saints' Gladstone...

The last few months have seen us administering communion in one kind - the bread only - and this was undertaken as a concession to the pandemic; and as a way of safeguarding the well-being of everyone at All Saints'. However, as with all things different, after a while there are questions as to why such precautions are being continued. Even though it is now discretionary, the Vestry have decided that, for the ongoing safety and well-being of all our parishioners, we will continue to administer communion in one kind. Should there be any change in Alert Level/Traffic Light colour, then this will be revisited and reviewed at that time. These changes to long-standing practices can be hard to live with after a while, but they won't last for ever and the Vestry is grateful for your patience and understanding. Should you have any further queries, please see either the Vicar or Wardens in the first instance.

### All Saints' Gladstone: Contact Us

**VICAR**

Rev'd Richard Aitken  
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People's Warden: Linda Te Au - 027 357 2069

Vicar's Warden: Wynston Cooper - 217 5281

Parish Administrator: Karen Jones

Parish Office open Friday, 8am-11am

[www.allsaintsinvercargill.org.nz](http://www.allsaintsinvercargill.org.nz)

*find us online on  
these platforms...*

