

ALL SAINTS PARISH PROFILE – July 2023

All Saints' Church Palmerston North is the largest Anglican church in the greater Manawatū/Wanganui/Rangitīkei region, and has the vision of being '*a community who follow Jesus, and through enduring mission and God's transforming love, will spread grace, hope, and love throughout our city and beyond*'.

Our mission is '*following Jesus, forming community, transforming cities*'. (see attached vision document)

We have a motivated leadership team and a strategic framework, and we are now seeking a leader who will help and encourage us to live out our vision, develop the ministries we're committed to bringing to fruition, run effective teams and implement enabling management processes and handle the diverse personalities that will be encountered on the way. We want someone who wants to join the All Saints' family, bring their personality, passions and skills to a large parish context. We are a church who want to see new believers and are seeking the right person to lead us in our journey for Jesus.



MEMBERSHIP

Palmerston North has a population of 90,400. It is a university town with a high proportion of students during term time, and associated lulls over the summer and winter semester breaks. There are over 50 churches in Palmerston North, with significant growth in the number of congregations over the last ten years.

All Saints' Parish has an electoral roll of 334 and pastoral roll of 503 (as at 29 June 2023).

WORSHIP IN THE PARISH

The parish comprises seven congregations in three venues spread throughout the city.

All Saints' church is located in the city centre, right on the Square. The older, brick building stands at the front of the property, but due to earthquake risks, is no longer in use as a meeting place. Instead, a purpose built Community Centre behind this building is the focus for a number of services and events:

- i) 10am on Sundays – a family service with worship led by talented and lively musicians, with communion on the last Sunday of the month, and Bible-inspired teaching for children from 0 to 13y. This congregation has grown significantly in the last few years, to the point where some decisions need to be made about how to accommodate this growth. (148 attendees)
- ii) 5pm on Sundays – a reflective, contemplative service varying between traditional choir-led, Taizé, and quieter keyboard styles. (55)
- iii) 7pm on Sundays – a youth-oriented, multicultural space for the exploration of faith. (30)
- iv) On the first Friday of each month at 4pm the church hosts Messy Church – an active, busy and wonderful way to engage those who are not as comfortable with more traditional services. (120)
- v) There is also a monthly disabilities service. (15)

In the suburb of Takaro is St Oswald's church. There are two services held here, both more low-key, traditional, prayer book based, communion services. One is held on Thursdays at 10am (28 attendees), the other on Sundays at 9 am (32).

In Linton, on the outskirts of Palmerston North, is St Columba's Church. Here, Sunday services alternate between communion and more informal prayer and discussion. The congregation comprises 15 people.



PARISH ACTIVITIES

All Saints' is a diverse parish, with many and varied activities and programmes occurring on a weekly, monthly, and annual basis. These are predominantly run by volunteers, although

some have part- or full-time staff to support or run them with support from a volunteer team. Most active parish members are involved in at least one of these activities.

The main activities are as follows

- a. There are 11 Small Groups where people meet for fellowship and Bible study.
- b. Monthly meals, held in various homes, for building relationships and a sense of community.
- c. Prayer Rhythms, an open time for prayer, are held twice weekly, generally at All Saints'.
- d. Youth group, which meets on a Friday night, as well as holding additional activities and camps. Over 35 youth attend, supported by a paid staff position and a team of volunteers.,
- e. Children's Church, held during Sunday 10am services, led by two paid part-time staff and a team of volunteers of all ages. There are over 30 children on the roll of regular attendees, though numbers can vary up and down from this on a weekly basis,
- f. Mainly Music Pre-school runs at All Saints. Over 30 pre-school children attend each week with their parents or caregivers. These, along with Messy Church, see a large number of families that All Saints parish would not otherwise be associated with.
- g. SPACE (Supporting Parents Alongside Children's Education) provides support for 12 months for up to 10 parents at a time There are two sessions on a Friday, at St Oswald's hall.
- h. Messy Church enables families to learn about and engage with God, through music, drama, crafts and food. Attendees include church families, but also a large number of non-church (and in some cases church but non-All Saints')..
This occurs monthly on a Friday night at All Saints' with over 100 participants.
- i. We have a team of faithful prayers. They meet before services or during the week to pray, including on behalf of people who have made special requests.
- j. Pastoral Team. This is being re-developed, starting with a core team and seeking to grow. It is intended that all services with have at least one pastoral team member keeping oversight. In addition, the team members are involved in visiting local retirement homes.
- k. Worship Teams. All Saints' is very fortunate in having a strong group of gifted musicians that supports worship across multiple services. There is also a choir of dedicated people who enjoy being part of the more formal 5pm service.
- l. City Mission Palmerston North. This is a charitable trust associated with All Saints' and using our facilities three times per week during week days. It provides friendship and support for 80 senior people and 25 ex-refugees, and also provides a transport service using vans which are stored at All Saints'. A new addition is the launch of a Youth Initiative that will support young people.



MINISTRY AND MISSION

Worship

The patterns of worship described above are the patterns of the last three years. The aim of our variety of services is to allow opportunities for people to worship in ways that best suit their temperament while adhering to our vision of following Jesus, forming communities, and transforming cities.

The strategies involved in fleshing out the three aspects embodied in our Parish Vision are:

Disciples following Jesus

Growing leaders

Services

Prayer Triplets

Prayer nights

Worship nights

Small groups

Internships

Diocesan training days

Forming Community

Age groups

Services

Social activities

Small groups

Food

Parish wide meals /services

Hospitality

Celebrations

Pastoral care

Transforming Cities

City Mission

Small Groups

Messy Church

Mainly Music

Church/congregation plant

Prayer/healing ministry

Alpha

Playgroups

The sorts of things we have done recently to fulfil our vision include:

- In the past few years, as Covid restrictions have allowed, All Saints' has offered a series of Alpha courses. These are seen to be spaces where friends can be invited to ask questions of faith in a non-threatening environment. It is intended that at least two such courses will be held each year, and each member of the cohort will be encouraged to be part of a small home group as a continuation of their journey with Jesus.
- All Saints' volunteers have helped facilitate diocesan training days for a number of years, and have contributed to other events in the diocese.
- The generosity of our parishioners enables us to offer food parcels to individuals and families where there is need.
- Aside from teaching in services, the main way All Saints' has sought to nurture its family is through home groups and other small groups (including youth groups and other ministries). All Saints' also hosts Emmaus Bible school lectures in the evening.
- One new initiative is the leadership training programme All Saints' now runs for all leaders and upcoming leaders throughout the parish. This has typically had over 40 people attending, and will continue until the end of the year.



BUILDING CHALLENGES

One unique challenge All Saints' faces over the next several years is the strengthening and enhancing of our main worship building on the main site on The Square. This is well over 100 years old, of brick construction, and the bell tower is rated low (potentially down to 3-15%) in terms of the current building code.

The agreed plan the church has already adopted and is working towards involves strengthening the bell tower, the walls, and then opening the front with a major new frontage which provides greater engagement with the community, literally opening the church to the street. The church has also passed motions to remove all the pews and replace this with flexible seating, and together with plans to upgrade all sound and lighting, there is potential for the building to be a key venue in the city for many events, Christian and other, as it has been, previously (including as a concert venue). The cost of this is not insignificant, and, frustrating as this distraction can be, navigating the issues and decisions involved over the next period of time will be part of the new Vicar's responsibility.



FINANCIAL VIABILITY STATEMENT

The position of Vicar is advertised for a full time full stipend. There is also a recently renovated house available for the Vicar's use. Other allowances are book and petrol.

The parish is in a good financial position. The current 2023 budget was approved at the recent Parish AGM. Direct Giving for 2022 was \$489,000 and there are no arrears to the diocese.

The likely cost of the building work required in the next five or so years is well over \$10 million.

There are two trusts associated directly with the parish the interest from which provide income to support our work.

- a) All Saints Endowments and Legacies Trust. (All Saints support and development) \$ 800k
- b) Ashworth Trust (elderly) \$20k

All Saints also has affiliations with:

- City Mission Palmerston North Trust
- Palmerston North Childrens Trust
- ACROSS (Anglican Catholic Rangitāne Social Services)

There are five paid staff. This includes an Assistant Priest (0.5), two part-time children's workers, Youth Pastor (1.0), and Parish Manager (1.0). The total cost of staff is over \$250,000.

COMMUNITY

There is a vast amount of free-source information on Palmerston North. In particular you might like to read:

- [Palmerston North City Council 10 year plan](#) (2021-2031),
- General information on living in our city,
- [Quick stats from the last census](#),
- [List of all churches in Palmerston North](#).

Palmerston North is a growing city with a wide range of both outdoor, sport, art, and theatre activities. The general economy is good, although, like most other cities in NZ, there is a mix of wealthier areas, and areas of social deprivation. Consequently, there is always the opportunity to shine out God's love to all people from all parts of the city.

Student outreach is a key area, and a real growth opportunity for All Saints'. Students come for only a few years, however these are critical years in the life of all students. There is an opportunity to bless and encourage them during what can be a vulnerable time, as students are often away from home for the first time, sometimes away from their home country. Students are also a real blessing to the church as they have, over the years, been a vital source of youth leaders, children's leaders, music teams, and helpers for other programmes. They also give us a unique opportunity to shape and grow the future leaders of the church in New Zealand. All Saints' has a close involvement with The Centre on the Massey University campus, with two of our parishioners being chaplains there.

All Saints' has a growing relationship with other Anglican churches in the region. The Vicar has traditionally been a core member of the Palmerston North Christian Leaders Association. In addition, the church has become more engaged with the wider diocese and attends all diocesan events, including worship services, training events and other events from time to time. All Saints' has had positive relationships with the city council.

CONCLUSION

All Saints' has traditionally been, and continues to be, one of the strongest Anglican Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand. All Saints' has a strong core of families and parishioners who are committed to seeing All Saints' be the heart of God in the heart of the city, and being an effective, growing and united church that can make a truly positive difference in the life of our city.

Are you discerning a call lead us in that journey?