Weekly Newsletter

1st Sunday of Advent

29 Nov 2026





albany greenhithe anglican church

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear friends of AGAC

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9: 6

This Sunday we mark the beginning of the ***Advent*** season by lighting the first of our wreath candles, the candle of ***Hope***. ***Advent*** is above all a time of ***Hope***. Isaiah's words in Chapter 9 speak directly to that longing. He writes to a people weighed down by oppression and uncertainty, yet he lifts their gaze toward a future in which God Himself intervenes through the birth of a child. ***Advent*** mirrors this experience: we acknowledge the brokenness and unrest of our world while looking forward with confidence to God's redemptive action. The titles that Isaiah gives for the coming Messiah in this verse deepen this ***Hope***. "***Wonderful Counsellor***" offers divine wisdom, guidance, and peace. "***Mighty God***" reminds us that the child born in humility is also the one who has divine power. "***Everlasting Father***" affirms God's enduring care and presence, especially comforting at the start of a season that can stir loneliness. Finally, "***Prince of Peace***" proclaims that true peace – shalom- will be established not by human effort but through God's Messiah.

In lighting the Candle of ***Hope***, the church echoes Isaiah's message: God has not abandoned his people. The promised child is both the fulfilment of ancient prophecy and the source of present and future hope.

I am inviting you to ponder how we can live out this hope and share it with others, offering the light of Christ to those who are weary and in need of encouragement.

Hope in Christ,

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events

AGM and new vestry members
Thank you to those who were there last Sunday. For those who were not able to attend the AGM, hard copies of the reports are available from the Church office.
We welcomed returning and new vestry members, as follows:
Patricia Duncan- appointed as Vicar's Warden
Dorothy Schultz- elected as People's Warden
And the elected Vestry members
Valerie Churchill, John Churchill, Gary Wells, Patrick Harris, Bruce Goertz, Jeff Zhou, Robert Heeps, Christian Nwarueze.

Who to contact if there is an emergency
As I mentioned in AGM, it would be helpful for us to have names and contact number in case there is an emergency. We will not disclose their number without your permission.

Advent Devotion
As an Advent practice, it would be good if we can do something together. So, during Advent, you will receive an essay written by various people and some questions for you to ponder. This week, I have chosen one written by Rowan Williams, a former archbishop of Canterbury. There will be printed copies available for those who are unable to read electronically. I am aware that people are busy around this time, but it would be good if we can share with each other about what God is speaking to us. I am planning to have a morning tea in the middle of December at Holy Cross (Date: TBC).

Our whanau had a trip to Browns Bay this week! It was a lovely morning. The weather was ideal- cloudy but fine and warm. It was their first time at the beach!

Wedding for Florence and Bill
11 am on 27th November at Holy Cross
Our new Church family, Bill and Florence are tying the knot and Yukiko will officiate the marriage. You are welcome to attend the ceremony.

Christmas Carol Service at Fairview Rest Home
4th December 11 am
Please join us in singing carols for our friends in Fairview Rest Home. If you can join, please let Yukiko know.

Diocesan Confirmation Service
The annual confirmation service for the Auckland Diocese will be held **on 6th December at 5pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral.** Jonathan, Dorothy S and Rhona are getting confirmed at this service. It would be wonderful if some of us can be there for the celebration and support. If you would like to come, please let Yukiko know. We can arrange transport to get there.

Morning Tea @ Settler's
Next meeting: **16th December** Wednesday **at 10 am** at Settler's Lounge. This will be our last morning tea for the year.

We're Auckland Angels this Christmas!
This year in the lead-up to Christmas, we will be collecting gifts and food for the Auckland City Mission as part of their Auckland Angels fundraiser. Until mid-December, please bring along **donations of new, unwrapped and non-battery-operated gifts**, or **non-perishable, alcohol free food items.** You can also donate online on our Auckland Angels webpage.
Donate Online Here

We pray for:

- Those who will be ordained at the Cathedral on 28th Nov.
- Bill and Florence who will get married at Holy Cross on 27th Nov.
- Our new vestry
- our nation and its leaders as a new government is finally formed
- those most exposed when technology falters — the elderly, the sick, the poor, and all who depend on a screen for their income, medicine or safety — that they would not be forgotten.

Readings

	29 November	**6 December**
1st Reading:	Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm	80:1-7, 17-19	85:1-2,8-13
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel:	Mark 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8

Summary of the Scriptures

1st Reading: On the verge of returning to their homeland, the Israelites remember their failings and hopes.

2nd Reading: Paul greets the Church in Corinth, where he spent 18 months, and looks to Christ's return.

Gospel: Using Jewish imagery, Jesus prophesies the climax of history and the second coming.

This Week's Bible Question

What is said about God in relation to the Corinthians? God is..

A)Just B)Loving C)Faithful D)Powerful

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening:	Once in Royal David's City
Gradual:	Carol our Christmas (Upside-down Christmas)
Offertory:	O Come O Come Emmanuel
Closing:	Star Child

Sentence of the Day

Restore us again O God: show us the light of your face and we shall be saved. ***Psalm 80:3***

Collect for the Day

God of hope,
When Christ your Son appears
may he not find us asleep or idle,
but active in his service and ready;
through the same Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Rosters

Holy Cross	**29 Nov**	**6 Dec**
Sacristan	Karenne W	Alison C
Welcomer	Ria G	Barry G
1st Reading	Diana H	Trish D
2nd Reading	Patrick H	Linda
Presiding	Les	Yukiko
Prayers	Yukiko	Rhonda
TV Setup & Slides	Patrick H	Karenne W
Morning Tea	*Shared Morning Tea*	Beatrix & Robert
Flowers	Diana H	Ria G
Music	Trish G	Andrew
St Michaels	**29 Nov**	**6 Dec**
Prayers	Bruce	Bruce
Readings	Bruce	Brian
Presiding	Bruce	Yukiko

Liturgical Colour: Violet

This Week's Bible Question Answer: C

Contacts

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Feedback welcome:
If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please contact the wardens, Dorothy & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Church Bank details:
ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20
December, 10:30am
Holy Cross
Anglican Church



Joint Christmas Service with Shore Grace Church

Thursday 24
December, 8pm
St Michael and All Angels

Joint Christmas Carol Service with Albany Presbyterian Church

Thursday 24
December, 9:30pm
Albany Presbyterian Church



Christmas Service

Friday 25
December, 9am
St Michael and All Angels

Christmas Service

Friday 25
December, 10:30am
Holy Cross
Anglican Church

Advent & Christmas

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