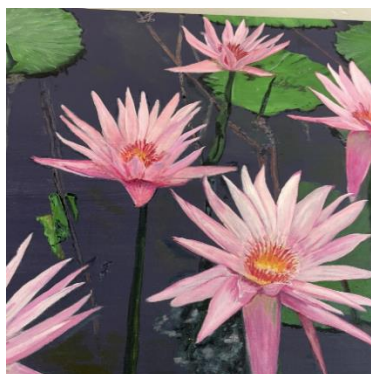


Celebrating Creative Gifts Sunday

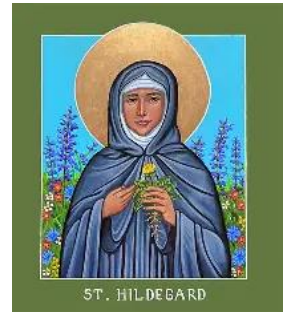
21st September 2025

Notes from Yukiko's Desk

Dear AGAC whānau,

17th September marks the feast of **St. Hildegard of Bingen** (1098-1179), one of my favourite saints.

St. Hildegard grew up with a very personal understanding of God and his love. Her writings include 3 volumes of visionary theology, 70 musical compositions with accompanying poetic texts, a morality play and 9 books on science and medicine.



She also created her own alphabet and led her religious community as abbess. It's almost simpler to list what she didn't do! We can look at her life and marvel at all she achieved, but I think St. Hildegard would challenge that take: ***It was not she who accomplished that litany of works, but God who accomplished these and more through her.*** We might separate these aptitudes into a hierarchy ordered by perceived usefulness. And to what end? When we narrow our understanding of what it means to be **creative**, we run the risk of minimizing the gifts God has given us and not fully employing them for his glory.

St. Hildegard called attention to the connectedness and the presence of God in all things. Her ability to see the whole picture of creation in such a way surely contributed to how she used her gifts to guide souls toward God and help them strive toward heaven.

This Sunday at Holy Cross, we will celebrate different creative gifts that God has given us. Should our gifts lie in painting, science, business, education, homemaking or elsewhere, may we, with St. Hildegard's intercession, cultivate and share them in our own varied songs of thanks and praise.

May your joy be full,

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events



This week is the end of term 3. We will have two weeks break. The sharing moment question for this week was “What is your guilty pleasure when it comes to television?” What are your thoughts on this question?



Morning Tea @ Settler's

Next meeting: Wednesday **15th October** at **10 am** at Settler's lounge.

Bishop Ross' latest video news.

Please click on; [Watch It](#)

SYNOD Updates & More

You can find the Bishop's Charge and Eucharist Sermon and other resources. Click on; [Catch Up Now](#)

Diocesan Ministry Training Hub - Spring 2025

Sunday 12 October, 1-4pm (Lunch included)

St Aidan's Anglican Church, 5 Ascot Avenue, Remuera,

- *Preaching - next steps, with Nathan McLellan and Emily Paterson*
- *Including Children in the whole Church, with Angela Blundell*
- *Crisis Care - a pastoral response through a Family Harm lens, with Diana Rattray*
- *Youth Resources - where they are & how to adapt them, with Steph Brook.*

If you are interested in going, please let Yukiko know.



**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Season of Creation 2025

Would you please email some photos to office@agac.org.nz on the theme of creation?

Here are some photos from our parishioners.



(1)



(2)



(3)

(1) Patrick & Diana's Prunus Campanulata (Taiwan Cherry Tree)

It is much loved by Tui for its sweet nectar and usually they hear a lot of happy singing from at least 3 pairs!

(2) Alpacas-Val's Garden trip in Cambridge

(3) Cactus flower in Val's Garden

Photo of your animals

Send a **photo** and the **name** of your animal (whether living or dead)- which we will use during the service. The photo on the right is my dear Louis.

Your animal is welcome to join if he/she is used to staying inside.



SEASON OF CREATION @AGAC



7th Sep: Flora & Fauna Sunday

14th Sep: The feast of Holy Cross

21st Sep: Creative Gift Sunday

28 Sep A guest preacher:

Dr Nicola Hoggard Creegan

1st Oct (Wed): A Half Day Retreat

5th Oct: Celebrating Creation and Blessing of Animals

All welcome

Inquiries: office@agac.org.nz



**1st Oct (Wed): A half Day Retreat: Venue:
Patrick and Diana's cottage in Riverhead
(10 am to 12 pm)**

Join us for a quiet half day of retreat on the theme of creation. Thanks to Diana and Patrick, we can meet at their lovely cottage in Riverhead. Morning Tea will be provided. If you need a ride, please let Yukiko know so that we can arrange the transport. We will meet at Holy Cross at 9:40. For a catering purpose, please let us know or sign up in the sheet at Church if you want to attend the retreat. Everyone is welcome.



We pray for:

- The family and loved ones of all who have lost someone to political, gun, or ideological violence.
- Children, families and teachers who are going to have two weeks holidays; May God watch over them, guide them, and bless them abundantly.
- Albany singers, Albany women' singing group, Korean Methodist Church and the ST. John Paul II Catholic Church who all meet at Holy Cross; May God guide them and bless them.
- Our Church community in Albany Greenhithe

This Week's Bible Question

What specific materials was Bezalel skilled to work with, according to Exodus?

- A: Iron, clay, and stone B: Gold, silver, and bronze
C: Wood, leather, and fabric D: Copper, tin, and lead

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: Joyful joyful we adore thee
Gospel: I have called you by name
Offertory: Give thanks with grateful heart
Recession: Here I am lord
Music: Stephanie & Yukiko

Sentence for the day

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

(1 Peter: 4:10)

Thoughts over rosé at brunch (redux)

It sounds like summer rain on a tin roof
children playground shouting in spring
or the crunch of freshly toasted bread
hot-buttered perhaps, and roughly cut

Twinkling poplars in a southern breeze
the dumb-struck poet's eloquent sigh
or the howl of hurt too great to hear
raw throated, recalling love once lost

To give voice to a world so phrased
in bittersweet draughts of joy and pain
that linger on tongue just out of reach
like star songs hung in a wintering sky

To care for words, to bear them to birth
the constant bard's most blessed curse

by Rhona



Readings

	<u>21st September</u>	<u>28th September</u>
1 st Reading:	Exodus 31:1-6	Job 28:20-27
Psalm	-----	Psalm 29
2 nd Reading:	1 Peter 4:10-11	1 Corinthians 1:21-31
Gospel:	Matthew 5:14-16	Luke 8:22-25

Summary of the Scripture

- 1st Reading: God give people the ability, knowledge, and craftsmanship to devise artistic designs.
- 2nd Reading: As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
- Gospel: Our good works are to be the shining of the light to the world so that they see the way to God.

Collect for the Day

Creator God,
we thank you for the gift of creativity.
May we use our creative talents
to bring glory to your name and to bless those around us.
Guide us in our creative endeavors,
and may we always recognize that our abilities
reflect your divine creativity.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.

Liturgical Colour

GREEN

This Week's Bible Question Answer

B. Gold, silver, and bronze

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>21st September</u>	<u>28th September</u>
Sacristan	Alison Coughlan	Val Deas
Welcomer	Trish Duncan	Dorothy Schultz
1 Readings	Trish Duncan	Patrick Harris
2 Readings	Bernadette	Diana Harris
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	Robert	Beatrix Jones
TV Setup & Slides	Graham Wood	Patrick Harris
Morning Tea	Valerie & June	Beatrix & Robert
Flowers	Ria Gormley	Ria Gormley
Music	Stephanie & Yukiko	Karin

St Michaels

	<u>21st September</u>	<u>28th September</u>
Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Brian Simpson	Bruce Goertz
Presiding	Bruce Goertz	Les



The Hundred Acre Wood

“Pooh sat quietly on the wooden step with a little jar of honey beside him, the morning sun spilling softly across the Hundred Acre Wood.

It wasn’t a day for adventures, or even for questions—it was the sort of day that reminded you how good it feels just to sit still and be.

‘Funny,’ thought Pooh, ‘how having just a few things makes you feel like you have quite enough.’ A small circle of friends, a warm place to sit, a pot of honey... and suddenly life doesn’t seem so very complicated after all.’

The breeze rustled the trees, carrying with it the sound of bees busy with their work and the faint laughter of his friends far off in the meadow.

Pooh leaned back, paws resting on his tummy, and let his heart feel full—not from grand adventures or great treasures, but from the simple comfort of knowing he had all he truly needed.

Perhaps, Pooh thought, that was the secret: not in gathering more, but in keeping close the things that mattered. A happy heart, a clear mind, and the peace that comes when you stop looking for more and start cherishing what you already hold.

And so he smiled, in that quiet way Pooh always did when he understood something important without quite realizing it.

Life, he decided, was best when it was simple. And honey tasted sweetest when shared with those who made the world feel like home.”



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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 Parish

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