

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NORTHCOTE

- PARISH PROFILE -



NOVEMBER 2020

PARISH PROFILE | 1



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Section 1 Our Vision

Section 2 The Person We Seek

Section 3 Parish Location

Section 4 Parish Buildings

Section 5 Parish Life

Section 6 Parish Community

Section 7 Contact Details



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the position of Parish Vicar of St John the Baptist Northcote parish

We trust you find sufficient information in this profile, to encourage your interest in the challenge we are providing through this position, and that it helps you discern your sense of God's call to this role.

It was clearly agreed at the recent parish consultation that like many others, the Parish is at a crossroads. We can continue to do what we have done, and see our focus as the existing congregation of predominately age 60 and above members. The result will be a continuing steady, and inevitable decline, to a point the parish cannot be sustained. The existing congregation is characterised by a supportive community feel. People care for one another.

However the consultation clearly showed that a majority of members now recognise a substantial change in focus and vision is urgently needed

The profile endeavours to show this strong desire for a radical change in focus, by not starting with all the facts about our current status and assets etc, but rather starts with the vision we want our applicants to resonate with, and feel they have God's call to this big challenge.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact details can be found on the back page.



SECTION 1

OUR VISION

Our vision for the parish

- We want to reorient our focus to next generations.
- We want to connect in many and varied ways with the wider communities in Northcote Point, Northcote South and Central, Akoranga, Hillcrest and Glenfield.
- We want to better integrate the use of our great buildings and spaces, so that they are used in ways that provide real opportunities for us to connect faith to those who are using them.
- We want St John the Baptist Northcote to be seen by the wider community as a place where Christian love and care are clearly expressed, and provide a bridge between our faith community and those outside it.
- We want to better integrate with other faith communities we currently engage with, such as the Korean and Syrian congregations that share our facilities, as well as other surrounding Anglican communities.



SECTION 2

THE PERSON WE SEEK

The Priest we are seeking should...

- See this vision for radical change in focus, and be excited by the chance to lead us in that process.
- Have the skills to help the existing congregation to embrace change, and grow their confidence that this change in focus is both possible, and an opportunity to see God at work through us in the community.
- Be able to lead by example in carrying out the mission of the church as outlined in the Catechism , and be able to equip our members for this task.
- "To proclaim the good news of God's Kingdom, to make disciples, to work for justice and peace, and to strive for reconciliation and healing in a broken world"
- Be able to relate well to the missing generations from our parish roll, and have a desire to build new initiatives to reach these groups.
- Have competent digital skills, and be comfortable with social media and other modern means of communication.
- Have a heart for pastoral care, and recognise the centrality of this to our witness, and be prepared to work

with the support of a team in ensuring this core activity is carried out.

- Have a clear understanding that they are starting with a small and older congregation, but have the ability to identify skills and life experience that exist within the current members, and be able to help mobilise these human resources towards the vision we share.
- Demonstrate a spiritual, Christ-centred life that contributes to the teachings of the Christian faith.
- Be able to share practical application based teaching from the Bible, that supports and encourages us to share the challenges we face in our everyday world.
- Build our commitment to carry out God's call for us.
- Recognise that finances are an integral aspect of church life, and be prepared to support the Vestry by offering teaching and stewardship in this area.

As We Seek a New Vicar

Dear God, we ask you to guide us in our search for a priest willing to join our parish and share in our life as a community. May this person be moved by your Spirit and hear our call. Give us the confidence to rejoice in all that this new priest has to offer so together, we may lovingly serve you and your Church by reaching out to our neighbours and the community beyond.

Dear God, grant us the ability to act wisely, to be of one accord and to do our best to fulfil the promises you have made.

*In your name be the Glory, now and forever,
ake tonu atu,*

Amen



SECTION 3

PARISH LOCATION

WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

St John the Baptist, Northcote belongs to the Diocese of Auckland, an area that covers from Cape Reinga in the Far North to the Waikato River and on across the Hauraki Plains including the Coromandel Peninsula.

There are three regional Archdeaconries. St John the Baptist, Northcote belongs to the Northern Region.

The Diocese of Auckland has more than ninety Anglican parishes, mission districts and local shared ministry units whose activities also involve a number of associated agencies such as the Auckland City Mission, the Anglican Trust for Women and Children and the Selwyn Foundation.

In Auckland members of the Anglican clergy often serve as chaplains in schools, hospitals, prisons, universities and military installations.

WITHIN THE CITY OF AUCKLAND

Northcote known by Maori as Totaratahi – One Totara, used to be a quiet, unhurried place surrounded by sea that ambled easily along a number of the sandy bays, tidal creeks and volcanic craters on North Shore of the Waitemata harbour.

Although some of this local character remains, today Northcote seems to be defined by its proximity to the Auckland Harbour Bridge and the advantage that this convenient location gives to commuters. Off peak, Northcote is only a five minute journey across the harbour bridge to the Auckland CBD. When traffic is flowing freely, Northcote is just over a forty minute drive to Auckland International Airport in Mangere.

The church of St John the Baptist, Northcote is close to a number of major bus routes that regularly travel to and from central city Auckland. Outside of rush hour this journey is relatively quick. For those wanting to travel to other places on the North Shore there are frequent bus services that feed into the hub at Akoranga Station and connect with the Northern travel network.



Aerial view of Northcote, Auckland

Unfortunately since the historic wharf fell into disrepair the relaxing and much loved ferry service from Northcote Point to the bottom of Queen Street in the Auckland city no longer operates.

Whilst the Church is in Northcote Point, the parish includes Northcote South and Central, as well as Akoranga and Hillcrest. The link below gives a lot of information about the huge housing and town centre redevelopment taking place now in the area, all of which should have real relevance to our mission.

<https://northcotedevelopment.co.nz/>

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Excellent educational facilities are available: Northcote Primary, St Mary's Primary, Northcote Intermediate and Northcote College are all in walking distance of the church and vicarage.

Within the boundaries of the parish there are also a number of tertiary institutions, including Massey University in Albany, Auckland University of Technology and the Millennium Sports Institute.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Acknowledged as part of the Northcote Point heritage area the church and vicarage are also within walking distance of art-house cinema the Bridgeway and local landmark the Northcote Tavern. Close by on the other side of Little Shoal Bay, up the steep hill off Maritime Terrace is the neighbouring suburb of Birkenhead where a number of good cafes ethnic eateries, restaurants and boutique shops can be found.

Not far from the church and vicarage is the Little Shoal Bay Reserve, where depending on the tide, access to the sea is available. There are also picnic facilities, children's playground, lawn bowling club, outdoor basketball court, open grassy area and on the edge of the regenerating wetland a series of urban- nature, bush walking tracks.



View at high tide from Little Shoal Bay across the reserve with children's playground and boat club.

ADVANTAGES

Situated within sight of the largest city in New Zealand, Northcote is very close to a significant population centre. Right on the edge of the beautiful Waitemata harbour, Northcote is also close to many safe swimming beaches as well as a number of parks, reserves, sports fields and shopping-centres that because of our mostly warm and temperate climate can be used and enjoyed all year round.

Scenic and tucked away, Northcote is a pleasant surprise. Although celebrated for its cliff-top pohutukawa and shoal bays perhaps the most surprising thing about Northcote is not the peace and serenity of the landscape but of its people.

Thanks be to God.

View at low tide from Little Shoal Bay across the hard toward Northcote Point, including the Auckland Harbour Bridge, city and Sky Tower.



SECTION 4

PARISH BUILDINGS

CHURCH

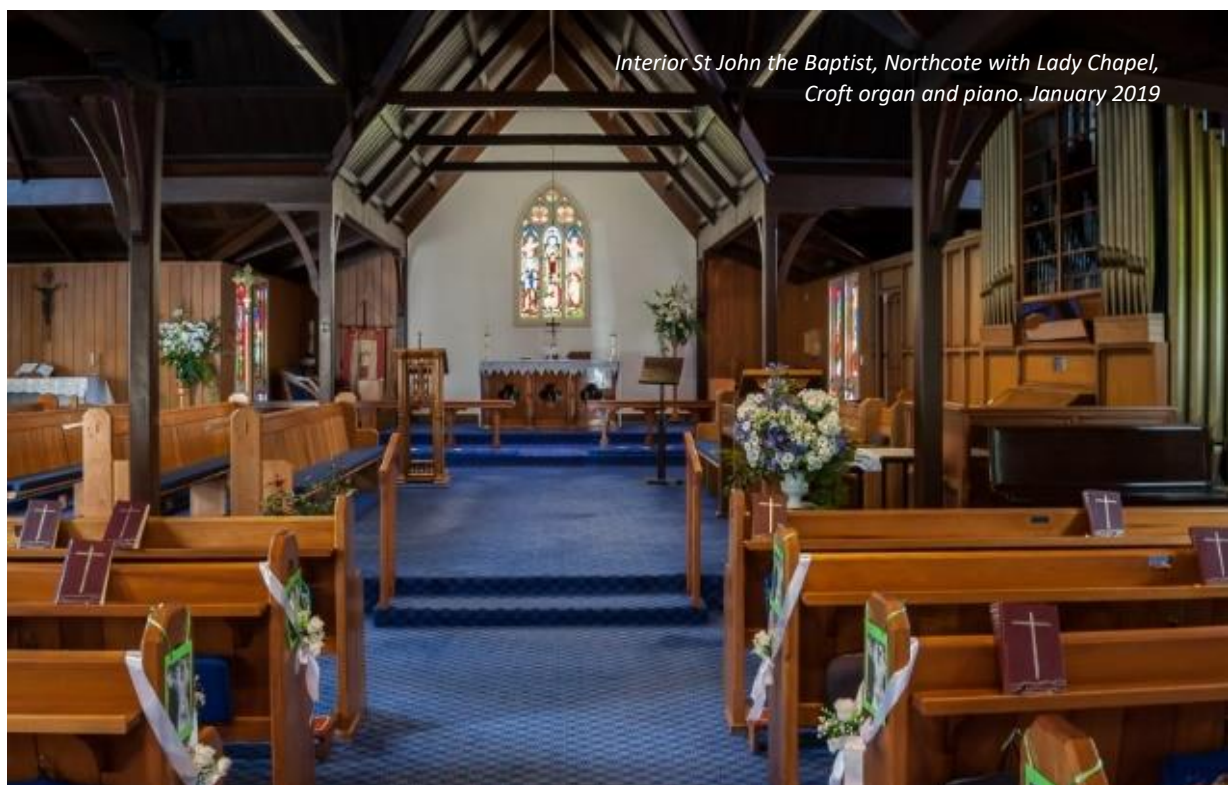
St John the Baptist, Northcote, was built in the 1860s and is an expanded Selwyn church able to seat up to 150 people.

Located at 47 Church Street, just off Onewa Road, St John the Baptist, Northcote, is on one site that includes a church, hall, vicarage and church administration buildings with ample off-street parking at the rear as well as easy access parking for the disabled at the front entrance.

St John the Baptist is well appointed with all the traditional and electronic assets necessary for the celebration of both ancient and modern Anglican worship.

The church has a Croft pipe organ with foot pedals and two manuals as well as a piano, sound system, three large video monitors, plus ample prayer books, hymnals and kneelers required for Sunday service.

The worship space is divided into four areas, a glassed-in, cork tiled foyer that can be opened up for worship, the body of the church itself, used for Sunday services, the Lady Chapel used for mid week service and the small but intimate shrine dedicated to Mary.



Interior St John the Baptist, Northcote with Lady Chapel, Croft organ and piano. January 2019

CHURCH COMPLEX

Built around the original church is an interconnected complex that includes a large hall with a well-equipped kitchen, the St Judes room - a small hall and multi-purpose space, a small kitchen off the foyer, a courtyard garden and shaded outside deck.

There are separate offices for the Vicar and Parish Administrator with access to high speed photocopy machine, computer, Wi-Fi and all the other resources required to maintain the website and publish the weekly order of services and monthly parish newsletter.

All the buildings on the site at 47 Church Street receive regular structural and cosmetic maintenance. This work has to be on-going in order to ensure that the historic heart of the complex remains up to standard and in sound condition.

LYCH GATE

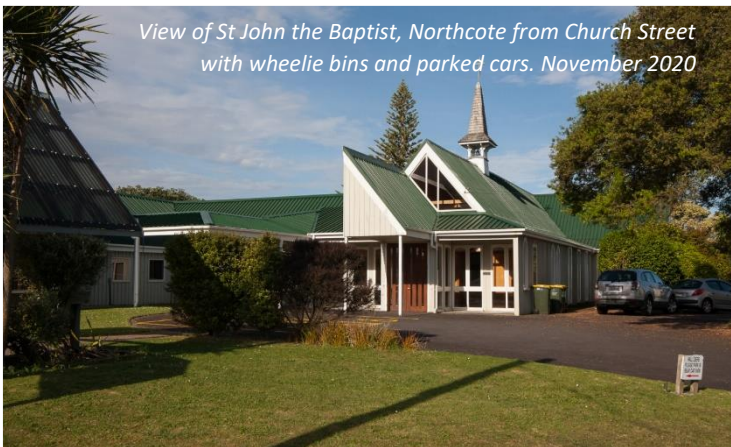
Situated in the grounds of the church the Lynch Gate is often used by local people as a place to sit, enjoy the gardens and reflect. To maintain this welcoming, outdoor environment the parish has employed a part time gardener.

VICARAGE

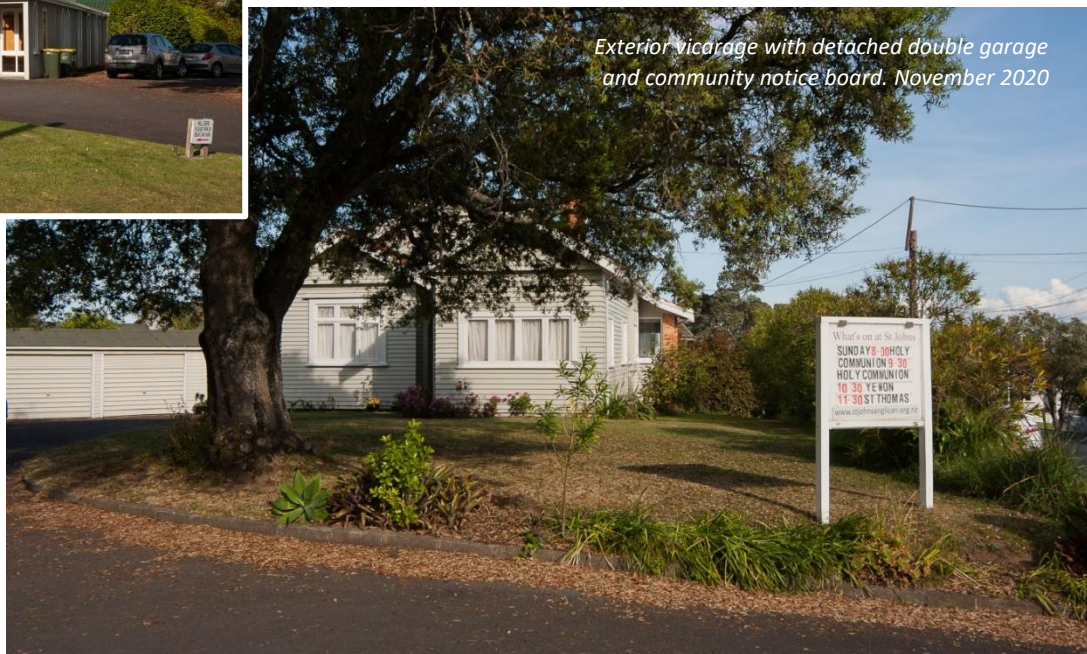
The vicarage adjacent to the church is a solid timber building with a tiled roof and fabulous views out across the water down to Little Shoal Bay.

Built in the 1930s with three bedrooms, study, open-plan dining and sitting room, much of the vicarage's original character has been retained. A relatively recent extension to this space has been the addition of a detached aluminium double garage with built in studio/workroom. There is secure parking at the vicarage with off-street parking available for guests.

View of St John the Baptist, Northcote from Church Street with wheelie bins and parked cars. November 2020



Exterior vicarage with detached double garage and community notice board. November 2020





SECTION 5

PARISH LIFE

WORSHIP

Regular Services

Regular Services are held on Sundays

8.00am – Holy Communion

9.30am – Family Eucharist

Wednesday 10.00am - Holy Communion

Order of Service

St John the Baptist Northcote uses the New Zealand Prayer book in our worship where both the 8am and 9.30 am congregations read from the Eucharistic Liturgies section.

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the 1662 Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion is used at the 8am and 9.30 am services.

At 8am service there is no music.

At 9.30 am service the congregation are encouraged to join in hymn singing.

Members of the congregation organised according to roster assist the Vicar and during services read the lessons, help attend to Holy Communion and lead the liturgy.

ATTENDANCE

On average about 15 people attend the 8:00am service and up to 50 people regularly attend the 9:30am service.

Many of our congregation are now in the 60 + age group but once a month this demography is revitalised by the regular participation of the Sunday School.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Lent and Holy Week

Special services are held for Palm Sunday, Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Mass of the Dawn on Easter Morning.

Advent and Christmas

Special services include the Advent Carol Service, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Mass on Christmas Day.

During Advent a there is a combined service with the Syrian Orthodox community of St Thomas and the Korean Yewon Church. These congregations are the two other communities who use St John the Baptist, Northcote for their worship.

In the lead up to Christmas at what should be a happy and festive time for all a special service is held to support those coming to terms with bereavement, sadness or grief.

Additional Services

Other occasions where the congregation of St John the Baptist, Northcote come together to celebrate and remember include our patronal festival honouring St John the Baptist, as well as special services held for St Cuthbert and St Francis.

At All Saints-tide invitations to join us in worship are also sent to those who, during the previous year have held or attended a funeral at our church.

An observance and special service are also held for ANZAC Day.



Interior St Judes Room prepared for special service of remembrance and thanksgiving January 2019



SECTION 6

PARISH COMMUNITY

VESTRY

At St John the Baptist, the vestry consists of seven elected members who, along with the clergy team, the churchwardens and synod representatives attend a monthly vestry meeting chaired by the vicar.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The parish has a Pastoral Care Team consisting of the vicar supported by a pastoral care worker and volunteers.

At St John the Baptist, Northcote the provision of pastoral care is a priority ministry.

We are an aging congregation. Not only are a significant number of our parish elderly but they are also not as mobile as they used to be and some are no longer able to live independently and are now residents of nursing homes and hospitals.

For those who cannot attend church in person the Pastoral Care Team will arrange a visit where communion is able to be taken and the Reserved Sacrament offered.

During the Covid19 lockdown, the Pastoral Care Team was very aware of the digital divide where many senior members of our congregation who are not well connected and without access to smart phones, social media and email

were in danger of being disadvantaged. To ensure that everybody at St John the Baptist was being looked after and kept informed the Pastoral Care Team successfully revived the pre-internet parish 'phone tree'.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

To date St John the Baptist, Northcote does not have a Children and Youth Team. This is a ministry our parish also recognises as a priority if we are to pass stewardship of the church on to a generation that follows.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Support and study group that meets twice every month for bible reading, discussion and supper. This group started 4 years ago, and has become a well supported regular time of support and encouragement.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meet once a month in the evening. The focus for this group is all about enjoying the company of others. Activities begin with a short devotional reflection, followed by a brief meeting that often continues with either a presentation by an invited speaker and discussion or film screening or occasionally a shared pot-luck dinner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This used to Convene during the 9.30am service on the 4th Sunday of every month. At the conclusion of singing the first hymn the children leave the worship and return later to make their Communion. The children of our parish learn by doing and are involved in many fun activities including the presentation of a Christmas play written and produced by a member of the congregation. However currently numbers have dropped to just a few children, and is not always operative.

STUDY GROUP

Meet at the church, 5pm on Sundays for guided Lenten and Advent lessons or programme of scripture based discussions such as the “Living the Questions” series. Organised by the Ministry Team these sessions are facilitated by the vicar.

COMMUNICATION

Communication with parishioners and the wider community is facilitated by a weekly pew sheet, monthly newsletter and notice-board outside the church as well as a number of e-mail lists and website.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Hospice

An annual fundraising morning tea is held for hospice.

Food Bank

Donations left in the food basket kept in the church are gathered together by the Pastoral Care Team then passed on the Auckland City Mission and others for community distribution.

Garage Sale

A mega, mostly annual event the Garage Sale is an opportunity for all three congregations who worship at St John the Baptist Northcote to work together. Able to generate much needed funds the Garage Sale not only raises essential revenue but it also provides a dynamic demonstration of the diversity within our parish and of our ability to reach out and connect proactively with different communities.

PARISH FINANCES

Cost Centres

The parish supports a full stipend plus the standard allowances for travel, books and hospitality.

The parish also supports four part-time staff including a pastoral care worker, hall hire co-ordinator, editor/production manager newsletter and pew sheet as well as a gardener.

Associated Charitable Organisations

The parish supports the Auckland City Mission, Anglican Board of Missions, Seafarers’ Mission and the Leprosy Mission.

Wilfred and Katherine Evers-Swindell Trust

The vicar and churchwardens serve as trustees of the Evers-Swindell Trust established to distribute funds to needy persons within the parish. Provisions made by the Evers-Swindell bequest are not available to cover the on-going costs of maintaining the parish itself.

INCOME / FINANCES

The primary source of income at St John the Baptist, Northcote is derived from offerings, fundraising, church and hall hire. Community organisations currently hiring parish facilities include:-

- Al Anon family support group
- Anna's Chinese Adult Singing
- Book Club
- Chinese New Services Trust
- Early English Dance
- English Folk Dance
- Essentrics Breast Cancer Support/rehab exercise Class
- Fit Bods – Yoga for Cancer Recovery
- Joy Russ – Adult Dance
- Jumping Beans
- Mi Casa ASC Ltd – After School Care
- Holiday Programme
- Northcote Steps
- Positive Balance Yoga
- Scottish Country Dance
- Soccer for Tots
- St Thomas – Syrian Church
- Target Education
- Yewon Korean Church

This revenue stream is supplemented by very generous donations from parishioners where provision has been made for the up-keep of the church, its buildings and the infrastructure. However this situation will remain tenable only if the parish continues to be financially viable.

Copies of the most recent Annual Accounts can be obtained from our parish office and a Certificate of Means has been issued.

SUMMARY

Like many other churches, St John the Baptist Northcote, faces increases in the costs of building maintenance, rates, insurance and discretionary incomes but this expenditure is now the financial responsibility of less than 100 registered parishioners.

For many years the financial results at St John the Baptist, Northcote, have been positive where prudent overview and good management have maintained a satisfactory level of reserves. However a drop in income received from offertory and hall hire has been reported, but in 2020 this recent decline can partly be explained by the consequences of the Covid-19 lockdowns.

It is envisaged that the Vicar will, supported by Vestry, take a role in prayerfully encouraging the congregation at St John the Baptist, Northcote to increase their levels of giving and to keep fundraising not only to provide for the challenges that are ahead but also to invest in the future life of our parish.

Further details about St John the Baptist can be found on the parish website www.stjohnsnorthcote.org.nz



CONTACT DETAILS

In the first instance applications and further requests for information can be directed to the Parish Nomination Committee Link person:

Peter White
Email : peter@wpi.co.nz
Mobile : 021 755345

Applications will close on Friday 22nd January 2021

Application to include:

- C.V.
- Covering letter, responding to the Parish Profile and their call to the position of Vicar of Northcote
- Two referees – one lay and one clergy (preferably one who you are currently working with – note the referees will only be contacted if you are shortlisted for an interview)
- Two recent sermons