All Saints Ponsonby
PARISH PROFILE 2026



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Introduction



All Saints Ponsonby is a parish poised to begin a fresh new chapter.

It has a secure income, and has completed remedial work to ensure the beautiful church building is in good shape.

Now it is ready for new things, and is looking for an enthusiastic Vicar to work alongside its people.

Our Location

All Saints Ponsonby is situated on Ponsonby Road, in the heart of the vibrant and largely affluent Ponsonby commercial and residential area with its fashion shops and cafés.

The current church building, erected in the 1950s, has a spacious feel, and around it is an attractive village green, a large pohutukawa tree and a church lounge, hall, office space, and behind it, a car park which is rented out during the week, while the vicarage and two rented apartments are alongside the property.

The church sits at the centre of the Ponsonby, Herne Bay, Freemans Bay, Karangahape Road, Westmere and Grey Lynn areas, within walking distance of downtown Auckland and two universities.

Many parishioners come from nearby suburbs, while a good number travel from further out.



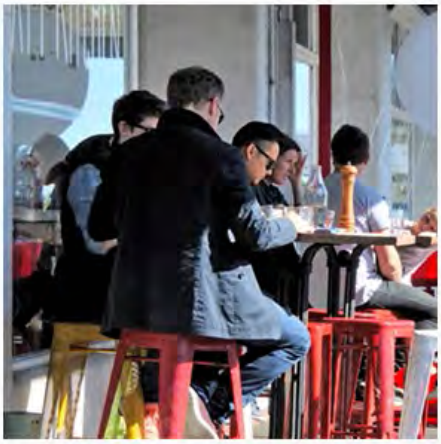
The Suburb











Ponsonby, once a poorer working-class district, and then a home to many Pacific migrants, became a trendy affluent area from the 1970s, with a significant proportion of students, and young families.

The estimated median value of property was $2.3m, the median age, 39 years.

It is now a community with a very low level of religious adherence (63.6% no religion, 26.6% Christian) and there are not many Anglicans (5.2% or 276 people).

The Ponsonby Business Association is an active body drawing together the up-market shops and cafés.

What happens here now

All Saints has a core group of dedicated parishioners who not only undertake practical tasks but also run small groups which will provide the foundations for a spiritual renewal.

- Women's, men's, youth, children's, theology groups
- Rosters of committed parishioners who serve as ministers of the word, preachers, readers, intercessors, sides people, flower-arrangers, servers
- Teams who provide monthly breakfasts, monthly parish lunches, regular Sunday morning teas, Wednesday morning scones and coffee
- A stable and hard-working Vestry
- A small team who make sure the church is open every day for anyone to come in and pray or enjoy its tranquillity
- A community garden maintained by parishioners as part of our 'Eco-church' commitment.
- A magnificent organ and regular organist
- A group of parishioners who form a singing group for Easter, Christmas and special occasions

A good introduction to the parish is found on the All Saints website (see QR code below) but also take a look at our Facebook page.

Each Sunday a pew sheet is provided to people who attend church.

This is also sent out electronically, on the Friday beforehand, to all those on our emailing list.

Two or three times a year, an edition of the parish magazine *Saints Alive* is printed in the parish office and sent to everyone on the parish roll.



Scan me

All Saints Website

Worship

The 10.00am Sunday service is a sung Eucharist.

We have an organist and a fine pipe organ, and on special occasions a singing group to lead worship.

There is a 'said' service at 8.00am on Sunday attended by 6–15 people, another at 10.00am on Wednesday attended by 5–12 people.

Attendances at the 10.00am Sunday service range from 30 to 80, and there are 129 people on the roll.

Among the regular congregation are a few families with young children – mainly in their intermediate to secondary school years – but most parishioners are in their forties to seventies.

There is a desire for services to be open to youth participation and accessible for children, through careful structure of the service and the choice of music.

Sometimes we have requests for baptism from people who are not actively part of our community. We generally incorporate baptisms into our 10 am service and celebrate them as a community activity. We also have a few requests to use our church for funerals and are happy to oblige, and make known these to the church.

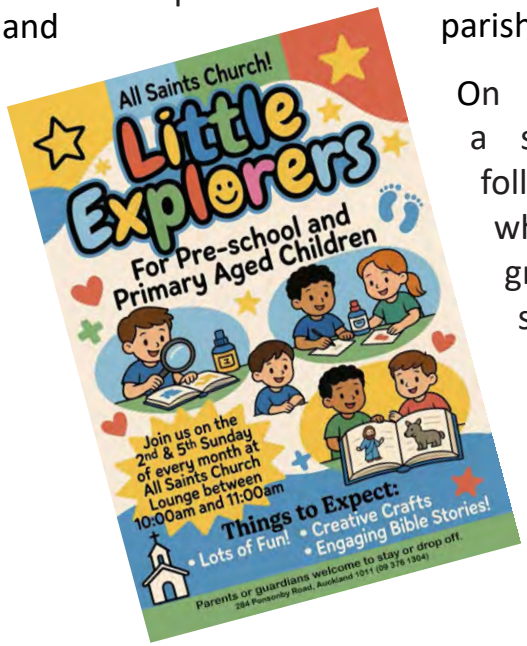
We also are happy to see our church used for weddings.

In our 10:00am worship we sing both traditional and contemporary hymns, songs aimed at younger people, and we frequently sing hymns and the Lord's Prayer in Maori.

We employ an organist for the 10am service, but no longer have a regular choir. A singing group is brought together to lead at special services such as Christmas, Easter and All Saints' Day.

Many people take an active part in services as Ministers of the Word, readers, preachers, sides people, intercessors, servers, acolytes, bell ringers (subject to the re-installation of the bells) and cup-bearers. A two-monthly roster is prepared by the priest in charge and parish administrator.

We have been strengthening our provision for younger people, and now have **Little Explorers**, aimed at the under 12s, which meets on the 2nd and 5th Sundays during the 10am service and is led by parishioners.



On Wednesdays there is a small Eucharist held, followed by morning tea which attracts a small group of parishioners, some of whom only attend this service.

Youth and Other Groups

The Youth Group is for young folk aged 10 to 18, meets Friday evenings in term time, and is led by Tague Bradley who is employed for several hours a month to undertake this.

Men's Group There is an active monthly men's group, with 6–10 attendees.

Crafty Women's Group: The monthly women's group is popular with 8–14 participants, many of whom bring crafts to work on.

A theology group meets monthly, with 6-10 attending, which explores different topics suggested in advance by group members.

In Lent we have one or two weekly study groups following a selected study book.

Eco-Church: a group of 'green' parishioners who work on special projects, currently mainly garden-focussed. Some of their members support the Eco-church organisation and join with other parishes and denominations and host events in our facilities as requested. Working bees are held two or three times a year to keep the church and the garden tidy.

Youth group





Crafty Women!



Working Bee!

Parish Life

Members keep in contact through a weekly email from the office, there is a phone tree for keeping in contact, and there is a weekly message for prayer on Tuesdays for those who wish to keep involved.

After the 10.00 am service, tea, coffee, milo and biscuits are served in the parish hall, attended by half to three-quarters of those who have attended the service.

Another important event is a monthly parish breakfast, between the 8.00am and 10.00am services, largely to enable people who attend the different services to get to know one another.

And Soup Sundays or Sandwich Sundays are held monthly after the 10am service for the same reason.

After the weekly Wednesday service, there is a shared cuppa' and scones.

Typically, there are celebratory parish lunches for Easter and All Saints Day and other special occasions. There is also an annual weekend camp for all ages for all parishioners who want to attend and includes a Sunday worship service. These are all valued opportunities for people to get to know their fellow parishioners and their vicar.




All Saints Ponsonby Summer Camp
(mostly!)

Church interior



Relating to the Community

Most of the pastoral work has been undertaken by the Vicar, with some help from lay volunteers. But with the advancing age of some parishioners, including some who can no longer attend church services, there is possibly a need for more lay people to be trained, and for some activities for older people.

The church is open during the week, and a few people come in every day to light a candle and pray. The lawn in front has park benches and a Little Library, and is often enjoyed by members of the community. The space has been used for the burial of ashes, and a list of those interred is on display in the church. Recently an ice-cream and coffee cart has been allowed to use part of the roadside verge on a trial basis.

We seek to have some activities which encourage the local people to engage with us, including a text on the side of the road, and pancakes on the lawn on Shrove Tuesday. At Christmas we seek to remind passers-by of the meaning of Christmas by a nativity scene, and sometimes carol singing on the lawn.

The previous vicars have been active in the Ponsonby Business Association. Ponsonby Road has three market days a year, and the church regularly has a sausage sizzle and small stall as part of the day, and often our lawn is used for a music group arranged by the Association. The money we raise goes to the City Mission.

The Eco-Church group runs a community garden beside the carpark, and this is popular with members of the community, who are encouraged to harvest vegetables and fruit for themselves. There is a garden shed beside it which stores gardening equipment, barbecues and Christmas nativity scene!

All Saints maintains a fund to support Edgewater College. Parishioners may choose to contribute via a monthly AP to a special account for this south Auckland decile 2 school with many underprivileged children. We currently give $600 monthly plus a couple of top-ups a year and a junior ($1,000) and senior ($,2000) academic scholarships.



All Saints Eco-Garden



Outreach @ Jervois rest home

We have a strong affiliation with the Auckland City Mission. We collect a basket of food for the Mission at Sunday services. Twice a year we have a stall as part of the Ponsonby market days to raise funds for the Mission.

Members of the parish are active in the wider community and in the diocese.

The church hall and lounge are hired out many evenings by community groups including some "Anonymous" groups. A karate group uses the hall and lounge each week. They all pay, but as they are non-profit groups the rental is kept low and is not seen as an income-earning device.

The Cantorum Choir uses the church for choir practices and concerts. We are considering a request by another church to use our church on Sunday afternoons.

The members include LGBTQ people, Auckland Rainbow Community Church holds a fortnightly group in the lounge, and when the Rainbow Parade takes place in February, a service of blessing is held before All Saints joins with the Rainbow Church and other churches in a parade down Ponsonby Road.

There is an increasing population of homeless people in Ponsonby, including a number who choose to sleep in the Church vicinity. Many people in the church support doing more for the local homeless.

Recently the Auckland Council enquired about using our facilities as a place of shelter during a civil emergency. The congregation support some members with mental health issues and mobility issues.



All Saints Little Library and garden benches

All Saints Early Learning Centre

Formerly known as the All Saints Crèche, the All Saints Early Learning Centre, run in the church hall every weekday, has recently received the highest rating for its teaching practices.

It is a non-profit enterprise, loosely under the auspices of the church, but self-sustaining.

It draws children from the local community, which is largely reasonably affluent although some come from nearby apartments.

We maintain a close relationship with the teaching team and have a Memorandum of Understanding and meet regularly with their management committee.

On Friday mornings we run a short session of music and age-appropriate religious teaching in the Centre.



Early Learning centre

Facilities

The church is well endowed with a comfortable hall, a lounge with kitchen facilities, and a car park. Adjoining the church property, on Ponsonby Terrace, there is a vicarage and two town houses built in 2007. These are currently rented out.

The vicarage is two-storey, including an office near the front door, and a double garage. We see this as a strategic location and would prefer it to be used as a vicarage by the new vicar.

We have recently upgraded the church to earthquake proof standard and improved the access through the front doors.

The bell tower had to be removed because it was structurally unsafe and the bells are in storage, awaiting a decision on how to re-house them.

Other minor maintenance has been carried out over the past few years, including weather-proofing the hall and repairing guttering. The toilets and kitchen have been upgraded, including the addition of an accessible toilet.



Vicarage



Carpark!

Vestry

The Vestry, elected annually, comprises around 10 people including a people's warden and clergy warden. It has a number of 'working groups' who meet irregularly as needed – financial, health and safety, pastoral, community and outreach, education, children and young people, fundraising and stewardship, worship and music and maintenance.

The vestry keeps in contact with the various activities, and hears reports from all the working groups.



All Saints Vestry 2026

Administration

We have a part-time parish administrator, Patrice Jones, who works 13 hours a week on administration and day-to-day finances. There are paid part-time workers or contractors who deal with church cleaning, lawn-mowing and maintenance issues, as needed.

Tasks such as flower arranging, and laundering church linen are carried out by rostered volunteers, and we have working bees several times a year to spruce up the church and grounds before special services.



All Saints Website



Patrice Jones

Finances

All Saints has a sound financial basis as a result of regular income from two town-houses, hall rental and car parks rented during the working week, a 'temporary' coffee cart recently allowed to park beside our church, as well as gifts from parishioners. The Parish contributes fully towards Diocesan quota requirements.

The car parks and the town houses and rentals of the hall and church bring in a significant income for the parish.

A significant proportion of the members give regularly through automatic payments, and so the church is financially stable. Recently the church was earthquake-strengthened, partly financed by a legacy, but at the time the bell tower had to be demolished. The vestry has just approved the repayment of a loan for the remainder of the repairs.

The bells currently are kept in the vicarage garage until a decision is made about rehousing them. The other maintenance issue likely to arise is the replacement of the roof of the church.



Planned Giving

Some 80% of congregation giving is by automatic payment or envelope system, and we have recently run a stewardship campaign which may even increase this percentage.

In addition to covering overseas mission (NZABM) $3,700 p.a., and the Auckland City Mission $1,300 p.a., there is $7,500 p.a. given by parishioners to a low decile school (Edgewater College) to support some pupils in financial need.

The parish has long supported the Kiwi Tree Nursery in Uganda, an initiative that was started by parishioner Dr Helen Gardyne.

Fundraising done by the parish is largely directed to community engagement, passing on surplus funds to the Auckland City Mission.

Maintenance

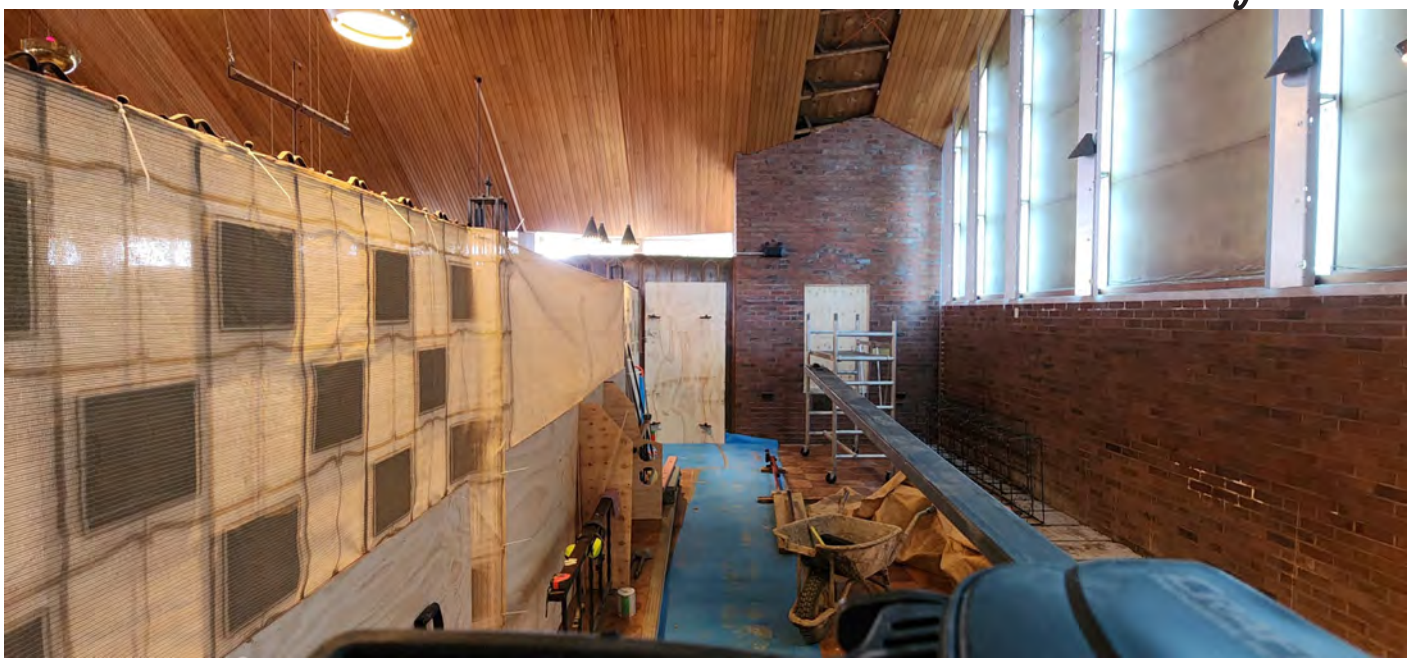


The Parish actively monitors maintenance requirements and annual expenditure is over $10,000.

However, there are several long-term projects which require funding: the church roof, a structure to house the bells and organ refurbishment, which will need to be considered over the next five to 10 years.

(Photos below were taken during remediation, now completed.)

South internal wall of building



South external wall of building



What Needs Attention

In the parish consultation, a number of priorities were raised by parishioners:

Some were focused on relating to the community. We would like to strengthen links with the large number of people who walk by every day, and to communicate with them, perhaps by more activities on our lawn, including Christmas carols, more engaging use of the message board on the corner, and a new structure to house the bells. Creative landscaping might induce more to come onto the property.

We need to strengthen links with the local schools, and perhaps there would be a possibility of a Selwyn group for older people. We are aware of rising homelessness and need to respond to this in positive ways.

In terms of Congregational life, we recognised that there had been a decline in the size of the parish roll over recent years and an aging of the community, and it was therefore important to engage young people, and to ensure that our activities attract more engagement from parishioners, and the roster includes more names. More members of the parish need to reach out for pastoral care in significant times of their lives. We need to respond better to people with mental health issues. We are conscious that those who are employed live very busy lives, while those who are retired are gradually reducing their involvement.

Mission and Ministry Priorities

At the parish consultation, groups were asked to identify priorities for the coming three years. The following were identified:

Some focused on our Sunday worship. Members wanted thought-provoking sermons, a weekly Eucharist, liturgically based worship, combining Anglican traditions and connection with current experiences. They wanted to have a high quality of musical participation. They wanted a welcoming atmosphere with an inclusive emphasis and encouraging the use of the gifts and talents of parishioners.

Other priorities focused on the wider life of the parish, with greater engagement in existing programmes, calling on pastoral care, and the development of new groups that were open to a variety of backgrounds and experiences. They wanted to engage with people who have limited mobility and health issues, including taking the Eucharist to people in local rest homes. They wanted a focus on renewing the faith, spirituality and life of parishioners who have weakened in their engagement or who need new challenges.

The final theme was the need to refresh engagement with the local community, both in the suburb of Ponsonby and beyond it.

Key Leadership Qualities

In the parish consultation, the following priorities were identified: We seek a vicar who is an able preacher, able to provoke thinking and reflection, and also someone adept at leading liturgical worship, and using the gifts of others including the organist. The person needs to be a good communicator.

We seek a good pastor, able to encourage spiritual life across the parish, and supportive to people in need.

We need a vicar who is warm, personable and outgoing, able to relate to the Ponsonby community and able to reach out to people in need.

They need to be inclusive, engaging with people from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities, and able to relate to young people as well as older people.

We expect our vicar to have an active social conscience and concern at emerging needs.

We don't want a vicar who wants to do everything; we need a team player, someone who can encourage the engagement of others and the use of their gifts and can network with others in the community. But of necessity the vicar needs to be a competent manager and well organised administrator.



Parish Data

In the 2023 census, there were 6,286 people in Ponsonby made up of:

83% European

9.8% Māori

8.9% Pasifika

9.4% Asian

LGBT people comprise 4.9% of the population.

Schools

The area is well served by highly respected schools. Schools within Parish boundaries are:

Ponsonby Primary	www.ponsprim.school.nz/
Richmond Road School	https://www.richmondroad.school.nz/
Bayfield School	http://www.bayfield.school.nz/
Ponsonby Intermediate School	http://www.ponsonbyintermediate.school.nz/
Auckland Girls Grammar School	http://aggs.school.nz/
Western Springs College	https://westernsprings.school.nz/

About the Parish

Selected statistical information on All Saints Parish from 2026 Yearbook:

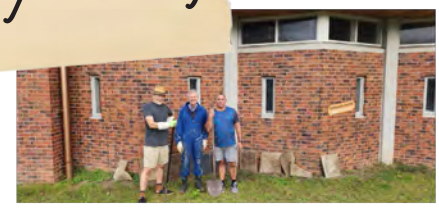
1	Number of persons on Roll	Male	56
		Female	73
2	Number of Baptisms		7
3	Number of Confirmations		0
4	Number of Marriages		2
5	Number of Funerals		2
6	Total Attendance All Other Services		3,488
7	June 2026 attendance (5 Sundays):		
		Sunday AM	296
		Weekday	27
8	Acts of Communion During the year		3,012
		Christmas	99
		Easter	68
9	Number of Sunday or weekday groups (under 11 years old)		1
10	Total number attending Sunday / weekday Schools / groups		3
12	Total number of those attending Youth Groups		7
13	Number of Adult Study / Prayer / Home groups		2
14	Number of persons participating in those groups		16
15	Groups other than Church groups using buildings	Secular	6
		Other Denominations	1
16	Number of people giving by envelope/automatic payment		54
17	Number of Clergy (prior to current vacancy)	Full Stipendiary	1
		Part time youth worker Youth	1



All Saints Ponsonby community







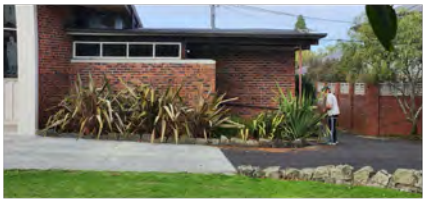






































How to Apply

Please send your application to the Archdeacon of Auckland, Rev Carole Hughes,

Email carole.hughes@aucklandanglican.org.nz

Telephone 021 247 6214

You are welcome to call in confidence to enquire into any aspect about which you would like to know more.

Please include in your application

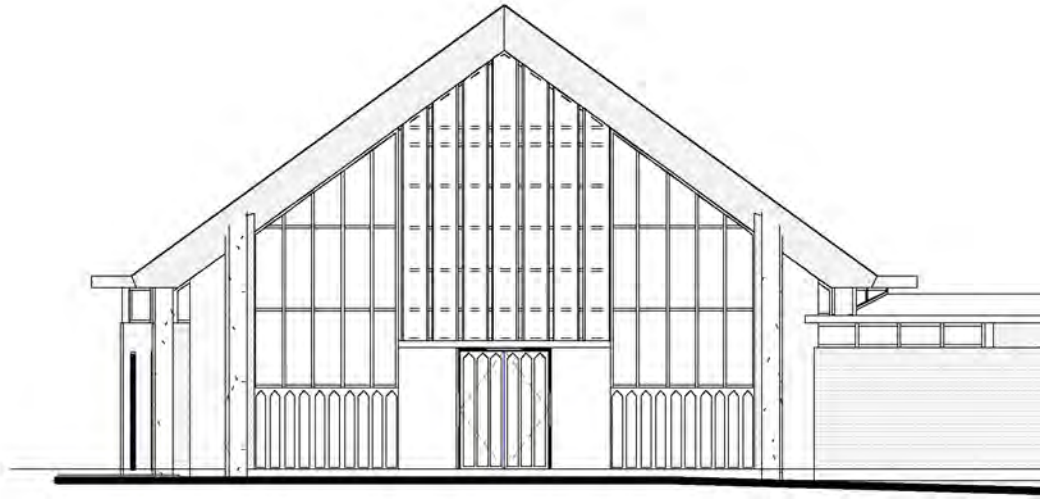
- **A covering letter,**
- **Your curriculum vitae,**
- **Three recent sermons (with one preferably in video format),**
- **Details of three referees, one of whom should be a layperson.**

The closing date for applications is Sunday 17 January 2027.

Interviews for short-listed candidates are likely to take place on or about 3 February 2027 in Auckland.

All Saints Ponsonby
284 Ponsonby Road,
Ponsonby,
Auckland 1011

allsaintsponsonby.org.nz



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