

Making Music

Music is a gift from God. And like all gifts God gives us, offering it back to God in praise is its supreme 'use'. Therefore, it was appropriate we concluded the recent Musicathon with worship together.

Like all God's gifts, music is given freely and enjoyed universally connecting with a creativity and appreciation deep within our being. Precisely when the beauty of music is understood as coming from God, we are able to use it in expressing our worship back to God. And in the context of corporate worship, music is used for the purpose of worshipping God. In worship, music is not important in and of itself; it is not chosen for its own value or interest. Music is a servant of worship, assisting our worship to flourish and better express our response to God.

The Musicathon enabled us to raise a lot of money for access to water in the Westbank. Jesus once stood beside a well in that region having a conversation with a woman...

Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ...the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...' (John 4:21,23)

Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well shows us the importance of the character of worship: "in spirit and in truth". Therefore the way we use music in worship matters, and it is necessary to always use music to help us draw close to the living God.

Of course we will not always get it right. Music that is offered genuinely to enhance our worship may be heard as entertainment; and music that is performed with no greater consideration can stir a powerful devotional response. This paradox is something we can acknowledge as we commit ourselves to grow in our understanding of what we do and why as a worshipping community. Together we can seek to enjoy music primarily as an expression of our love for God, using the gift of music God has given us to offer back to God the praise of our hearts.

Allister

Allister is one of the ministers at St John's, since 2008. He is married to Naomi and they have three children.

His email is

a.lane@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

EDITORIAL

There is nothing like cold air to awaken you fully and help focus the mind. In the early hours of Sunday 10 August, the sky was clear and studded with stars, the temperature a crisp 4 degrees, there was not a breath of wind and a frost beckoned. By contrast inside the church was deliciously warm and cosy. There were about seven hours remaining in the musicathon. Sitting in the church for a few hours in that pre-dawn Sunday provided the opportunity to reflect on this event. Even though it was not finished it was clear that the musicathon was going to be a huge success.

In my mind there are many reasons for this success. First and foremost the purpose of this continuous concert was to raise money for a cause that resonated with many people. People gave generously. Second, the whole event was meticulously organised. The organisation committee under the leadership of David Galt deserve all the credit for this. They met regularly and considered every detail. Third, the congregation 'owned' the event. Whether performing, working in the Conference Centre or in some part of the church everyone who willingly donated their time did their allotted job efficiently and graciously. Fourthly, yet again our location was pivotal. From Saturday morning until Sunday morning lots of foot traffic came along Willis and Dixon Streets. Many people drawn perhaps by the slick advertising or by curiosity came into the church to listen to the concert. Many of them stayed longer than they anticipated.

Apart from raising a significant amount of money for "Water for the West Bank" the concert was successful on so many other levels. There was a real sense of community

over the weekend, community generated by people working together and being together. People had the chance to have a chat beyond the perfunctory 'hello' in the foyer as they enter or leave church Sunday by Sunday. There was the chance as well to catch up with friends who came to support the concert as well as the opportunity to welcome new people. It was particularly good to meet people from our neighbouring parish, St Andrew's on the Terrace. Finally, if we didn't appreciate it already, the concert was a reminder that in our congregation we are blessed by a remarkably talented group of musicians of all ages.

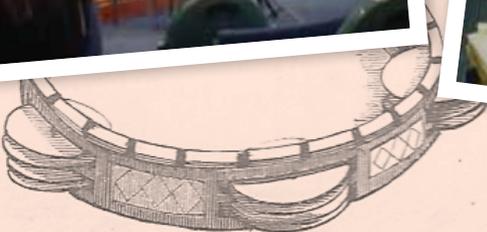
The Musicathon was an imaginative and bold venture that shows us what can be achieved, 'with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world.'

Rob Anderson



Sandy Lawson on duty at 4am in the vestibule

From the Musicathon...



DEFF—TAMBOURINE.





The 9/10 August Musicathon

Music is one of God's great gifts to mankind. Sometimes there is an opportunity to use those gifts to good effect.

It all came about when St Andrew's on the Terrace approached the Outreach Committee about a joint venture to raise funds for Christian World Service, a charity raising money for poverty and disaster relief through churches for many years. We settled on raising money for water supplies in the West Bank of Palestine, as a social justice issue. The Palestinians are kept on a tight leash by Israel, with both sides being driven by fear and distrust. Whatever the underlying rights and wrongs, the Palestinians have come off worst, with clear deprivation.

We made a false start, with a proposed concert with a single main band not getting off the ground.

As the Outreach Committee pondered its next move, we looked for something that could:

- Raise substantial money to a target of \$5000 – enough to fund two cisterns for water supply
- Use the talents that we have
- Utilise a sponsorship model – sponsorship has worked well on other occasions because it gets lots of people involved, including those beyond our Congregations

The Outreach Committee agreed to proceed with the idea of a 24 hour concert, utilising our talents and those of some of our contacts. St Andrew's on the Terrace has a rich tradition of supporting music with lunchtime and other concerts, so we knew they could make a big contribution, and sure enough, they came on board.

There was work involved for the Committee, as more than 130 event-related documents on my computer testify. Others quickly came on board and agreed to participate as musicians. Potential performers were not so enthusiastic about making music through the small hours of the night that largely fell to the committed, core musicians of our organising Committee. We had tremendous support from other artists including Wayne Te Wiremu Jarvis, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra cello players, jazz band and musician contacts of mine, former St John's members and members of other churches. Amongst those participating were members of Khandallah and Island Bay Presbyterian; All Saints Anglican Hataitai; Catholic Churches, especially St Mary of the Angels; and no doubt others.

By the finish we had over 110 musicians and 30 direct supporters rostered through the event.

It proved easy to ask people for support for the Water for Westbank cause, sadly in part because of publicity about the Gaza conflict, in which people can see need starkly on their TV screens. Support came from colleagues willing to sponsor us; members of the public willing to donate; media such as the Dominion Post, the Wellingtonian and Radio New Zealand's Concert

Congratulations

For the Baptisms of:

Miriam McIvor

For the publishing of:

“Child Poverty in NZ” by Jonathan Boston
and Simon Chapple

For writing a chapter in the book:

“Te Rongapai 1814: Takoto te pai” – Geoff
Troughton (copy in our church library)

For achieving his black belt in karate:

Sam Allen

For the 90th birthday of Nola Anderson

For the weddings of:

Brett Denham and Jen Stone
Bethany Gould and Michael Edridge

For the births of:

Sunet Pretorius daughter of Chris and Junet
Sylvie Carran daughter of Liam and Shirley
Jeremy Clarke son of Paul and Carol



*“They also serve who stand(sit)
and wait” Carol Shortis who was
sponsored to sit through the 24 hour
concert*

Programme; storekeepers willing to put up posters; and most of our own Congregations. New Zealand Symphony Orchestra patrons gladly accepted our leaflets.

So what was achieved? We:

- raised up to \$17000 This will make a material difference to CWS's programme for the West Bank.
- had fun and enjoyed some very high-quality music
- achieved wide participation of all ages
- built a sense of being part of the community, partly thanks to media.
- strengthened relationships with sister churches
- learnt what we can do with commitment and God's help. Prayer constituted our committee meetings for this just matter, just as on other occasions in the Church
- And a few of us found we could do things we never dreamed were possible. What more can we do?

Reflecting a Kingdom of...

Music runs in our family and there probably isn't a day when someone isn't playing the piano, singing, hitting the drums or listening to the radio. I enjoy music but would have to say I am more the listener in the Simpson household. I have thought, tongue in cheek, of becoming the family band manager. In all seriousness the reason I'm talking about music, as others have in this issue of the messenger, is because of the great impact music has on people's lives. The musicathon

is a case in point. I was captured by the effort my children put in to preparing for the Musicathon. On the Saturday I thoroughly enjoyed listening to their performance knowing what had gone into the groundwork and also knowing that other listeners had been moved by what they heard.

I recently reflected at the Evening Service how I thought the musicathon reflected God's Kingdom. Not only was it a time of music to raise money for a worthy cause, but it was a spectacular time where people gathered to share their gifts; gifts given by God, developed over time, with people from all walks of life. A member of the congregation shared with me that the combined service of St Andrew's and St John's was the first in 40 years: the musicathon brought some reconciliation. Three times as much was raised to support the work of Christian World Service's appeal 'Water for the Westbank': the musicathon provided for the most vulnerable. The weekend of the musicathon, I believe, reflected God's Kingdom, a Kingdom of loving worship, provision and reconciliation.

Yours in Christ

Stuart

Stuart is one of the ministers at St John's, since 2009. He is married to Lala and they have three children.

*His email is
s.simpson@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz*



Lala Simpson sings Edith Piaf

Visit By Professor Richard Bauckham

St John's 2014 Visiting Scholar, Professor Richard Bauckham's fleeting visit to Wellington has come and gone. Professor Bauckham fitted in his trip to Wellington in the middle of a series of six lectures delivered at Otago University as the Burns Fellow.

Professor Bauckham arrived in Wellington on Saturday afternoon, 16 August, preached on Sunday morning, had a lunch time question and answer session with a group of invited clergy and delivered a public lecture at Victoria University on the Monday and flew back to Dunedin on Tuesday to recommence his Burns lecture series.

Despite the brevity of the visit Professor Bauckham had quite an impact. An estimated 350 people attended his lecture on 'The Gospels As Eye Witness Testimony.'



Jesus and the Eyewitnesses

The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony

Richard Bauckham



2014 visiting scholar, Professor Richard Bauckham

Geoff Troughton introduced Professor Bauckham and Allister Lane managed the questions from the floor at the lecture's conclusion. Professor Bauckham's detailed and informed responses to a wide range of questions underlined his status as a Biblical Scholar and Theologian.

Professor Bauckham was delightful company, and also the quintessential academic. He retired early as Professor of New Testament Studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in order to concentrate on research and writing at Cambridge University. Professor Bauckham is a prolific writer of theological books. Many have been translated into various languages including: Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Spanish, Portugese, French and Farsi. As well as being acclaimed for his theological tomes, Richard Bauckham has published poetry and written two popular story books for Children about the MacBears of Bearloch.

Rob Anderson

What's Happening at St John's?

October

1	Session
2	Men's Breakfast
8	Communication Committee,
12	Communion
13	Stitchers' Group
15	Council
16	Men's Breakfast
19	St John's AGM
20	Stitchers' Group
27	Labour Day
28	Fellowship Group, Outreach Committee
30	Men's Breakfast

November

3	Stitchers' Group
5	Session
9	Communion
12	Communication Committee
13	Men's Breakfast
17	Stitchers' Group
19	Council
25	Fellowship Group Christmas Service, Outreach Committee
27	Men's Breakfast
30	Advent 1

December

1	Stitchers' Group
3	Session
7	Advent 2
10	Communication Committee
11	Men's Breakfast
14	QUARTERLY COMMUNION, Advent 3
15	Stitchers' Group
18	Men's Breakfast
21	Advent 4
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day