

## **St Augustine of Canterbury Stewardship 2023 Follow-up.**

Dear Friends in Christ

Last Year we had an idea. We shared it with others and listened to what they had to say. We asked for support, financial and practical. We prayed about and listened to the voice in our hearts. We agreed to make it work. Now we have our beautiful Memorial Garden. We had another idea. We talked about this too. We asked for support, financial and practical. We prayed and listened to the voice in our hearts. We agreed to make it work. And now we have the St. A's Kid's program. We also have children worshipping with us on Sunday mornings and often taking part in the services. We sought the will of God, and collaborated with the work of God, to the Glory of God, and we now have our Memorial Garden and our St. A's Kids Programme.



### **People of St. A's, how did we collaborate with God? – How is this good stewardship?**

- We provided enthusiasm, encouragement, and support. We acted on the ideas we were given. We volunteered to do some of the work.
- We completed and returned those Estimate of Giving Forms, thus helping to finance these and other expenses of our church, local and national, and to pay the salaries of the people such as our Rector and Bishop, who have, and will continue to, provide compassionate, effective leadership. We remained cheerful and positive and continued to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And for all of this we give thanks.

### **We remember this year's Stewardship theme: the words of St. Augustine of Hippo, 'Without God we cannot. Without us God will not.'**

- We are now entering into a new Church year and the season of Advent, with a healthy church and our prayers for a Children's program, answered. Inspired by God and guided by the Strength-to-Strength Initiative and our mission statement to 'live Christ in community', we now have new ideas on which we feel called to focus.
- God has blessed us with useable space, our annex, and lower hall. It is up to us to develop these spaces to the Glory of God and the benefit of our local, and church, communities, meanwhile earning money from appropriate rentals. Many parishioners have already taken the initiative and have begun to develop these areas. The annex is beautiful, and we have begun to refresh our lower hall and washrooms. A lot of volunteer work and donated funds have made this possible.

### **'Without God, we cannot.' – 'Without us', (our labour, time, enthusiasm, financial support) 'God will not.'**

- 2024 is going to be an interesting year at St'A's. Our Kid's programme is growing, and we see the need for providing appropriately for young people who age-out of our Kid's programme. As we grow, we need to acknowledge the work of our office staff which is steadily increasing. We will continue to develop our land and serve our neighbours. Much of this will challenge our finances. Eventually there will be some income from space rentals to supplement our funds, but our financial foundation remains, and will continue to remain, the generosity of our congregation. I for one will be looking for areas where I can contribute financially from time to time, over and above my Estimate of Giving.

*Thankyou again for participating in our Annual Financial Stewardship Programme. Your generosity and willingness to become involved, will ensure that our parish can continue the work of Jesus, as we look upon God's world with compassion, and work for justice and peace for all God's beloved children.*

***Please remember to attend the Parish AGM in February – that is Stewardship too.***

***God bless and Happy New (Church) Year! Val McCormack.***