

Sunday School 100th Anniversary	November	1953
Centennial Jubilee of Church	November	1953
Seventy-fifth Anniversary of present Church	3rd-5th December	1960
Y.M.B.C. 75th Jubilee	July	1964

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Free Church of Scotland petitioned to send Minister to Wellington, 15th November, 1851 and congregation was formally established	17th November	1853
Sunday School opened		1853
Mt. Cook branch Sunday School, Francis Place		1872
Mission started at Newtown, now St. James, under Mr. Robert Hopkirk		1874
First Service at Wadestown by Rev. James Paterson		1879
Church Organ installed		1886
Bible Class movement started by Sir George Troup		1888
Services started at Brooklyn by Mr. John Reith		1904
Stained glass windows at South end, given by the Hon. J.G.W. Aitken, in memory of St. John's B.C. men who fell in the 1914-18 war		1920
Stained glass window at north end dedicated to the memory of the Hon. J.G.W. Aitken, first layman Moderator, 1917		1923
Church Praise introduced 1884, New Church Praise 1910, and Church Hymnary		1937
Choir Gowned (first of Presbyterian Choirs in N.Z.)		1944
First Women Managers appointed		1951
Window facing the vestibule dedicated in remembrance of the devoted women, who, through 100 years, worshipped and served in St. John's		1954
Martin Window dedicated	July	1965

**CHURCH NEWSPAPERS:**

"The Record"		1892-1896
"The Torch Bearer"		1930-1931
"The Review"		1936-1938
"The Messenger"		1941-

**PUBLICATIONS:**

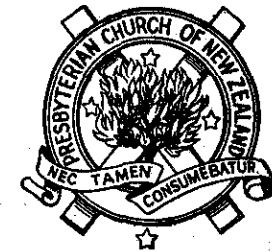
Jubilee Booklet of Diamond Jubilee		1913
Jubilee Booklet of Y.M.B.C. Golden Jubilee		1938
Jubilee Booklet of Church Centennial		1953

# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Willis Street, Wellington

## ANNUAL REPORT

1966 - 1967



## One Hundred and Fourteenth Report

covering period

1st July 1966 to 30th June 1967

To be presented at the  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
on Sunday 30th July 1967. at 2 p.m.

Minister: Rev. J. Kingsley Fairbairn, M.B.E., B.A., The Manse,  
2 Kelburn Parade, W.1., Telephone 46-492.

Session Clerk: R. Bruce Fowler, 48 Homewood Avenue, W.3., Telephone  
78-777.

Clerk to Board of Managers: I.S. Lowman, 65 Alexandra Road, C.4., Telephone  
81-608.

Church Treasurer: A.T. Penney, 10 Rewa Road, E.2., Telephone 81-591.

Organist and Choirmaster: Ken MacKenzie, M.Sc., 70 Mortimer Terrace, Telephone  
58-000/6737D.

**OFFICE BEARERS OF ST. JOHN'S  
KIRK SESSION**

		Inducted
Spratt, F.C., Q.C.,	69 Pitt Street, N.2.	1928
Blake, L.R.,	29 Rawhiti Terrace, W.1.	1933
Fowler, R.B.,	48 Homewood Avenue, W.3	1933
Smith, H.B.,	25 Maida Vale Road, C.4.	1941
Martin, J.S.,	91 Eden Street, S.2.	1946
Pumfrey, R.E.,	41 Puriri Street, E.4.	1946
Woods, N.S.,	38 Harrison Street, S.W.1.	1950
Marshall, Rt. Hon. J.R.,	23 Bolton Street, C.1.	1950
Wall, A.L.,	55 Madras Street, N.5.	1951
Baber, A.J.,	38 Waitoa Road, E.2.	1960
Dornan, Alford,	19a The Crescent, Roseneath, C.4.	1960
McKenzie, Stuart,	15 Hoggard Street, S.W.1.	1960
McLennan, R.A.,	26 Clifton Terrace, C.1.	1960
Van Zweeden, M.,	33 Rata Road, E.2.	1960
Anderson, K.L.,	50 The Parade, Paekakariki.	1962
Keyes, A.W.,	Flat 6D Aston Towers, Abel Smith Street, C.2.	1962
May, H.S.B.	47 Mornington Road, S.W.1.	1962
McLellan, D.,	20 Apuka Street, S.W.1.	1962
Oed, G.V.,	89 Wilton Road, N.2.	1962
Vink, J.W.,	25 Mantell Street, E.5.,	1962
Chappell, F.E.	28 Stoke Street, S.1.	1965
Thomson, J.,	101 Gordon Wilson Flats, C.1.	1965
Garratt, F.,	109 Grafton Road, C.4.	1965
Lowman, I.S.,	65 Alexandra Road, C.4.	1965
MacKenzie, Ken. Senr.,	17 Karepa Street, S.W.1.	1965
Shiels, A.,	19 Fernhill Terrace, N.2.	1965
Arnold, R.D.,	2 Maurice Terrace, C.2.	1966
Aker, F.S.	289 The Terrace, C.2.	1967
Kensit, F.J.	149 Miro Miro Road, Normandale,	1967
Strong, M.,	C/o The Bridge, Vivian Street, C.2.	1967

## THE MINISTER'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

I suppose that as one grows older time seems to pass more quickly. But it is true that when we Christians are fully occupied in our Lord's work, in this Church, we are often aware of the passage of time. So the year has sped and we stand on the threshold of new days.

Jesus once remarked; "Are there not twelve hours in the day?" Assuming that the content of each hour must be filled with loving caring service.

Our Church has had a busy year. The organisations have been outgoing and our youth activities are well led. The women's groups have had their annual meetings and all are performing a fine service in the Church. The A.P.W. is a reminder that we work as a part of a larger family in the Presbytery.

At the same time there is not one of us but is conscious of the many things we ought to have done. We have to remember that human nature always needs the grace of God to change it and the continuance of the Holy Spirit to control and subdue to His will.

We have suffered deeply by the death of some wonderful people. When God calls His saints to their reward we realise vividly how much these folk mean to us all.

It has been heartening to feel a mounting concern among our members and adherents; a concern for the coming closer together of the different branches of His Church; together with a renewed emphasis on the urgency of communication of the Gospel. It is thrilling to see more and more young people attending the Church and being welcomed by our robust Bible Classes.

May this coming year find St. John's even more involved in His world in outgoing service and evangelistic concern.

Your Friend and Minister

Kingsley Fairbairn.

## COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY SESSION

CHOIR AND ORGAN: J.W.Vink (convener), R.N.Fleming, K.MacKenzie Senr., R.E.Pumfrey.

YOUTH LIAISON: A.Dorman (convener), K.L.Anderson, J.W.Vink.

TROUP HOUSE: Rev.J.K.Fairbairn, F.E.Chappell, Mrs Hughes, Rt.Hon.J.R. Marshall, N.G.Robertson, J.W.Vink, N.S.Woods

## THE KIRK SESSION

An amazing change has occurred in what constitutes our congregation of St.John's. We have been inclined to think of ourselves as having a membership composed of a large student group and a high proportion of elderly and retired folk. Recently Session has revised its ideas on this and here are the figures that emphasise the change. (The figures are for communicants only). Students represent 5% of the congregation. Young people other than students who are in the under 35 age group, many of whom are young marrieds 26%. Those two figures added together make 31% of the congregation to be in the younger age group. Between the 35 and retired people we have 37.8% i.e. working people and married women. The retired or fixed income group comprise 22%. The other 9.2% are people not classified due to insufficient information and these probably are divided proportionally among the above. This knowledge makes us realise that far from being a down town church we are a real family group and as such must nurture and encourage the young people coming to us who will possibly soon move on to new or suburban areas. It is in this role of "The Mother Church" that the Session sees one of its main tasks to lie.

The attendances at the quarterly Communion were: September 305, December 324, March 358, June 278. At Easter 156, World Communion Sunday 189 and Home Communion was taken to several of our elder members and those in Woburn Home.

There were 17 baptisms and our Communicant Roll now stands at 470 there having been 21 admitted by profession of faith and 55 by certificate. 34 disjunctions were issued and 47 names were removed through death and purging of the roll.

Mr Fairbairn has had a particularly busy year because as well as his untiring efforts for us he has been Moderator of Presbytery. His special gift for upholding those in sickness, need or distress

are known to all and both he and Mrs Fairbairn have been an example to each of us in their concern for others.

Miss Margaret Bear, St John's Own Missionary, has continued her work as Tutor Sister in Jagadhri Hospital and we have upheld her in our prayers. We look forward to seeing her shortly when she comes on furlough

Mr E Darroch, who had been an elder with us since 1942, moved to Hastings. He was a faithful member of Session and before our last Communion together the Minister paid tribute to him and invited him to serve on his right hand.

Mr L.D.Stout, who was also our treasurer, began theological training in Dunedin. The members of his district in Kelburn combined with the Session to say goodbye to him and gave him a cheque towards his books.

Four new elders have been inducted: Messrs.R.D.Arnold, F.S.Aker, F.J.Kensit and M.Strong. Some elders districts have been reorganised and we have tried to bring before the congregation the mutual help that can be derived through the Christian Fellowship of the elder with those in his district; in this, our church magazine "The Messenger", has helped and we thank Miss D Feakins who so ably edited it until April when Miss E Andrews took over this considerable task.

Mr Garratt has continued to lead the Adult Study Group each Sunday morning and this has proved of incalculable value to many.

The combined Lenten Studies were supported by only a small proportion of members but the benefit of sharing with other Communion was realised even though many found the study material disappointing.

An inspiring service was conducted by the British and Foreign Bible Society at which Dr Coggan, the Archbishop of York, brought before us the urgency of constantly revising our Bible reading.

The General Assembly was held within St John's from the 2nd to the 8th of November when over 100 of our members assisted in various ways in ensuring that every facility was available to delegates. The Sunday telecast service was a memorable one.

We receive a message and spiritual uplift from varying sources; the light slanting through the church windows and highlighting the lovely flowers has brought its own thoughts. This must be rewarding to the conveners, the Misses E.M.Brodie and M.I.MacKenzie, and those who have helped them in the care of the church flowers. And sometimes as the choir has sung we have been carried with them into heights unknown. Their selfless devotion to practice and praise under the fine guidance of Mr Ken MacKenzie makes us feel humble.

We have said we are a family and as such we have experienced the joys, the frustrations, the gladness and the sorrows of family life.

Some of our members have been ill and we miss them.

St John's has lost some members by death and we give thanks for their Christian Witness while remembering their dear ones.

IN MEMORIAM - extracted from the minutes of the Kirk Session:

Henry Glover, elder of this church since 1921, died in his 90th year on the 26th. of May 1967. He rendered to St John's a lifetime of service for which we give thanks to God.

It may be that his early training as a stonemason helped to build into his nature the strength of character and unshakable faith that his whole life testified.

A man of kindly disposition with a quiet humour; his generosity was abundant.

Many were the works he carried out on our behalf and when convener of the property committee he was largely responsible for the change from gas to electricity. He also planned and built the strong room where our records are stored.

He was a keen athlete and on many occasions the youth of our church were entertained at the Glover home ....

In all his work he was lovingly supported by Mrs Glover and our thoughts are with her and their family.

IN MEMORIAM .. from the minutes of the Women's Association:

On June the 24th. 1967 St. John's Church lost one of its most lovable members. Miss Mary McMillin Chappell was a woman of rare gifts - gifts which were dedicated to the service of her Lord during her long span of years. Strength and tenderness, wisdom and courage, love and sympathy and a delightful sense of humour radiated from her. Her administrative qualities were of a high order and she held many offices both in the church and in community affairs. Her lifelong interest in the Bible Class was honoured by a life membership.

She will be remembered with deep affection by all who knew her for her life was an inspiration.

"For such a life, so dear and great and true,  
We thank the Lord of all who deigns to send  
Interpreters to show His ways to men."

## THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Bell, G.R.D.	47 Fraser Avenue, Johnsonville
Brodie, Miss E.M.	143 The Terrace, C.1
Caldow, K.	23 Williams Street, E.2
Clackan, Miss M.C.	22 Ohiro Road, C.2
Clyde, Miss H.D.	90 Kelburn Parade, W.1
Don, J.R.	13 Donking Street, SW.1
Fleming, R.N.	9 Oban Street, N.2
Hughes, Mrs Gladstone	160 Oriental Parade, C.4
Hunt, J.	24 Krull Street, SW.1
Johnston, Miss J.S.	33 Central Terrace, W.1
Jones, P.D.	90 Wexford Road, E.4
Kraft, W.H.	135 Kelburn Parade, W.1
Lees, Miss P.	47 Upland Road, W.1
MacKenzie, Miss M.I.	60 Kelburn Parade, W.1
McLeod, G.	C/o Box 498, Wellington
Penney, A.T.	10 Rewa Road, E.2
Piper, Mrs H.W.	31 Bidwell Street, S.1
Roberts, I.	28 Mortimer Terrace, C.2
Robertson, N.G.	169 Karori Road, W.3
Yule, A.C.	C/o Wellington College.

## GENERAL COMMITTEES

PROPERTY & FINANCE: J. Hunt (convener), L.R. Blake, F.E. Chappell, R.N. Fleming, S. McKenzie, R.A. McLennan, G.V. Oed, N.G. Robertson, A.L. Wall, N.S. Woods.

ENVELOPES: Miss E.M. Brodie (convener), Mrs Mortimer, Mrs Wall.

ROLLS: Mrs Hughes and R.B. Fowler.

ROOMS: Miss P. Lees, C/O P.S.S.A. and Home number 27.182

NEW BUILDING: J. Hunt (convener), L.R. Blake, R.N. Fleming, A.L. Wall and Mrs H.W. Piper.

(The Session Clerk & Clerk to Board are ex officio members of all committees)

At the last annual meeting four managers who retired at the end of their three year period were re-elected namely: Misses Brodie and Johnston, Messrs, Caldow and Fleming. Messrs, A.T. Penney and I. Roberts were elected as new members. Messrs, A. Cameron and J. Weatherup resigned

on their departure from Wellington and Messrs Aker and Kensit were ordained as elders. Mr L.D. Stout, our treasurer, resigned this position in February on his going to Knox College to undertake theological training. Mr Penney was appointed treasurer in his place. He has been greatly helped in taking over the books by Mr George Robertson whose expert knowledge has been invaluable.

The church officer, Mr C.W. Morgan, resigned in November and was not replaced. The cleaning of the building was let to commercial cleaners and the church cottage was passed over to the Troup House Committee for development as an extension of the young men's hostel.

Work undertaken and completed included the fitting of new church doors and the sealing of the side paths. The southern courtyard was upgraded and sealed by the New Zealand Educational Institute in return for the use they had of it whilst their building was being erected and as a part of a common access to their new premises and our church.

Thanks are due to Mr John Hunt for marking out seven car parking spaces, for taking care of the church grounds and for the many other jobs he has done for us. We thank Mr Fred Chappell and his assistants for repainting the floor of the church, also Mrs Hughes for covering all the Bibles and the Boys' Brigade for painting the ante-room of the hall prior to Assembly.

A contract was let for the painting of the church and buildings. Overdraft facilities were arranged for this; repayment of which has to be made within five years. This work has been delayed by bad weather and is still in progress.

The Presbytery notified their approval of the rebuilding project and commended St John's members "For the courage and foresight shown in embarking on this major scheme". Miss H.D. Clyde was appointed to compile a list of past members who could be approached for assistance in raising a portion of the finance needed for such a building.

A legacy was received from the estate of Mrs Isabella Wilson for the sum of £250 to be used for general purposes.

As the financial year drew to a close it became evident that a special effort was necessary and Mr John Hunt, convener of the Finance committee ably put before us the state of affairs and our members generously rose to the occasion as can be seen in the financial statement.

The meticulous care with which our buildings are maintained by the supervision and help of so many members has preserved what is officially recorded as one of Wellington's historic churches.

## THE CHOIR

PRESIDENT: The Rev. J. Kingsley Fairbairn, M.B.E., B.A.

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER: Mr. Ken. MacKenzie, M.Sc.

LIFE VICE PRESIDENT: Miss H.D. Clyde.

LIFE MEMBERS: Misses E.M. Brodie, D. Chappell, P. Lees, M.I. MacKenzie,

Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Strong, Messrs. R.E. Pumfrey and A.L. Wall.

SECRETARY: Mrs. M. Mortimer, 55 Madras Street, N.5. Tel. 37.023

We have had an average membership of 29 with a steady attendance of 25. We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Weatherup, Miss Anne McBride and Mrs Bennie Thomson.

Just before Easter we were grieved to hear of the death of Edward Speirs, for, during his time with us his quiet and friendly manner had endeared him to all. Another link with the choir was broken by the death of Mrs Kerry, once a choir member and wife of a former organist.

Both Christmas and Easter music took the form of meditations. Mr William Austin read most sympathetically the verse for the Christmas one and it is always a pleasure to listen to his reading.

At Assembly time we took our part and the telecast service required a high standard of singing, discipline and effort of practice.

On three occasions we have assisted with the service at Mount Crawford and on New Year's Day their choir paid us a return visit.

At Christmas time we toured around our elderly and shut-in people to sing carols which we also sang at the railway station.

On the 27th of June we led the singing for the funeral service of Miss Mary Chappell and five of our old members joined us to honour her.

Highlights of the year were the picnic and the wedding of our Choirmaster to the Minister's Daughter.

We have many friends who encourage and help and we thank them all; including Miss Lees for her duplicating of words for special occasions which is so important in helping the interest of the congregation, Miss Speirs for her work as librarian and our wardrobe mistresses for keeping us looking so smart. And not the least our Choirmaster and Organist who in spite of our shortcomings carries on with his outstanding ability and good humour.

We are aware that we fall short of what we are trying to achieve but our aim is to serve our Master in song and to His Glory.

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Mr A.J. Baber, 38 Waitoa Road, E.2

**TEACHERS:** Misses F. Ellis, J. Garratt, G. Higgs, E. Marshall, L. Mumme, T. Trachsel. Messrs. J. Mumme and C. Smith

The Sunday School has enjoyed a successful year with an increase in the number of pupils particularly in the Primary Department.

The Misses L. and N. Button and Glennis Jefferies left when they went touring in Australia. We were sorry to lose their assistance as all had given long and faithful service. We were happy to welcome Miss Elizabeth Marshall as a teacher in the Primary Department.

The principle prizes won were the Hopkirk Memorial Prize: Wondy Noall and Donald Sharp; the R. Bruce Fowler Prize: Giselle Pickard and Maryke Van Zweedon; Scott Memorial Prize: Alan Vink.

Miss Margaret Bear has written thanking us for the money which the children have given for Samuel and which is being used to help him receive a Christian education.

Other projects supported have been the collecting of used stamps and Torch Bearer activities.

The children have taken part in some special services; the Sunday School Anniversary and the Youth Service. They were trained in their singing by Miss Joy Garratt. They have also been present at the baptismal services and helped in the November telecast.

We thank the parents for the help they have given and we have been encouraged by their interest.

## THE BIBLE CLASSES

**EXECUTIVE:** Chairman: Miss Adrienne Woods; Secretary: Miss V.E. Speirs;

Treasurer: Mr H. Baber; Members of Committee: Miss T. Bennet

H. Mortimer; Messrs. A. Milkop, I. Bayliss and Rowan Bilton.

**LEADERS:** Miss E. Andrews, Mrs J. Ellis, Miss Helen Woods, Mr J. Vink, and Mr John Marshall.

In 1966 we raised £145 by selling tickets for the Ngaio Revue Club's performance of Brigadoon. The £60 profit from this was given to Operation 21.

Other activities included a debate with St Andrew's, a hike and barbecue and a Youth Service taken by members.

The serving of coffee in Troup House Lounge on Sunday evenings has enabled us to welcome new people to the Bible Class and the scavenger hunt and progressive dinner also gave us the opportunity to get to know newcomers. We are grateful to the members of the congregation who fed over forty hungry wanderers.

Among our special efforts is the raising of funds towards the rebuilding scheme and this will be included in next year's report.

A camp at Reikorangi was ably led by the Rev. Ross Pilkinton and the 7 a.m. Prayer Service recently held was well attended.

We were invited to the "Official Opening" of the new Troup House quarters "The Cottage". This commenced with ice skating followed by an excellent dinner.

Among the many who have shown their interest and given help we thank especially Mr and Mrs Fairbairn and our Class Leaders.

## TROUP HOUSE

**COMMITTEE:** The Rev. J.K. Fairbairn, Mrs Hughes, Messrs. F.E. Chappell, N.G. Robertson, J. Vink, N.S. Woods and the Rt. Hon. J.R. Marshall.

The extension of the committee's responsibility to include the caretaker's cottage has provided expansion from four residents to a maximum of twelve. Over 120 church members and friends helped in the renovating and equipping of the cottage. Alterations were made to increase toilet facilities and to provide fire protection. This work was paid for from the funds of Troup House as was the new bedding and the gaylene put down on the floors of all main rooms. As can be seen from the financial statement there are still some funds in hand for future requirements.

Present residents are Ian Bayliss (warden), Maurice Ellett, Alex Gosling, John McKinney, Noel Thompson; but undoubtedly next year will see a house full.

The boys would like to thank the many hard workers and generous people who have provided them with such a comfortable home, especially Mr Fred Chappell for his outstanding contribution, and they thank too the Troup House Committee for its impartial administration of their affairs.