

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

153rd Annual Report 2005/2006

FOREWORD

One of the photos of this year's parish activities that stayed in my memory is that of a number of our ladies, including the Session Clerk and Assistant Minister, posing with hats on at the Garage Sale. A lot of hard work by a large number of people was involved in putting that event together, but the photo suggested that in the midst of all the work there was a lot of fun. It encapsulated a sense of camaraderie, of community. The same could be said of the fashion parade. What a wonderful night that was! For me, this last year has been notable for the number of significant fundraising events that have also served the purpose of strengthening the sense of community here at St John's.

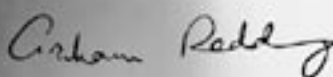
We are very fortunate indeed to have such a vibrant and gifted congregation. This is certainly evident Sunday by Sunday in our worship; it is also evident in the various groups and activities that make up the life of the church between Sundays. The reports that follow will give you some idea of the range of activities we are involved in. They make for encouraging reading.

Of course there is always more we could be doing. We are by no means the perfect church. But we are a church with a sense of direction, as articulated in our updated strategic plan, and we are a church that is extraordinarily blessed with committed and gifted people, excellent plant and a strong balance sheet. We are well positioned to strengthen our life together and extend our involvement in our Lord's mission in the local community and beyond. In this regard, our partnership in mission with the BGI is worthy of special mention because of the rich fruit that it continues to bear.

As we review the past year and look forward to the next, I encourage you to keep praying for the life and mission of St John's. Amidst all the fun and creativity, pray that we will remain faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In closing, I want to thank on your behalf Muriel Ewan for the leadership that she exercises in her role as Session Clerk. Muriel gives many hours to this role, and always does so graciously and with good humour. We are very fortunate indeed to be the beneficiaries of her dedicated service.

Grace and peace to you all.



Graham Redding



Session Report

The Session meetings each month focus around a theme discussion on many topics pertinent to church life. In the past year these included Elder training, Youth work and Holy Communion to name but three, and more recently a critical review of our mission statement focusing on the commitments and opportunities for St John's in the City. These discussions provide a forum for elders to critically evaluate areas of spiritual and pastoral growth in the life of the congregation. The Senior minister, the Rev Dr Graham Redding, provides information and thought-provoking papers as required, as a basis for such discussions. His depth of knowledge, vision and commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ is evident here as in all aspects of his ministry. Graham is always in demand by PCANZ and we are proud to support him in the wider work of the church.

Session acknowledges the strength of leadership from Graham and our Assistant Minister, Rev Helen Martin. Members of the congregation of all ages are most appreciative of the worship services and the relevancy of the sermons for today's changing world. We are, indeed, fortunate to have such a caring and inspirational ministry team.

The Pastoral committee under the guidance of Helen Martin and the Convenor, Ann Simpson, has had a busy year in all avenues of care. After-church lunches for small groups, especially new members and tertiary students, have been a regular feature and are always well supported. We are fortunate to have Allie Crombie in the role of Pastoral Worker. She is a very important link between the church and those in need or temporarily house-bound. Allie works closely with both ministers and reports to Session when necessary.

The continuation of the Planning and Prioritising Work Group provided the opportunity to review areas of our work, with particular emphasis on the administration structure and finance. Some changes have already occurred and other areas will be closely monitored. Two major fund-raising events, a Garage Sale/Fair and 'Fashion at the Abbey' fashion parade were a huge success. Both not only raised considerable funds but also provided the occasion for the St John's family to work together to achieve their goal and have fun doing it.

A Family Quiz night also proved very popular and again there was a wonderful atmosphere.

Due to a number of requests for more regular services of Holy Communion, Session agreed to trial monthly communion at morning worship from March to September. Here again, Graham's paper on the theology and history of this

most important sacrament was very helpful. The sacrament of Baptism is always a high point in any service, both for the participants and the congregation. It's interesting that while parents continue to bring their babies for baptism, adults are also coming forward to be baptised prior to confirmation. Two of our students chose total immersion at Oriental Bay and that was special for those involved. Several times each year, new folk are welcomed into membership, some through confirmation and others by transfer from another parish.

Christian Education committee continues to challenge with programmes for all ages. Helen Martin's leadership is invaluable. Both she and Graham work tirelessly providing support for convenors and leaders. There are currently eight house groups of differing types as well as Sunday School, Youth Groups, Tertiary groups and the Boys' and Girls' Brigades. Thank you to all our St John's leaders who give much time and effort to the ministry of our young people, and to those who lead house groups. Session was pleased to endorse the continued leadership of Ani and Ryhan Prasad and Rod Baxter as youth leaders and acknowledged the support of the BGI.

During the year, Ian McKinnon, Betty Robertson and Elizabeth McKenzie retired from Session. Their years of service and loyalty to the Eldership were acknowledged by Session. Betty and Elizabeth are Elders Emeritus. In February, we welcomed six new elders to the session: Geoff Annals, Ross Chesney, Margaret Gilkison, Ani and Ryhan Prasad and Ailsa Salt.

Music is a very important part of any service of worship at St John's in the City and we're very fortunate to have the services of professional and highly-skilled musicians. Thank you to our Music Director and Organist, Eleanor Carter, pianist Dayle Anderson, the Choir, and the members of the music group. To the greeters and those who provide the morning teas, Jinny Irvine and the social committee, Winifred Bain and all who provide floral arrangements each week, a very big thank you.

On behalf of the Session, I acknowledge and thank all convenors and members of committees and groups who have contributed in any way to the life and work of St John's in the City. I also thank all the elders for their loyalty and support. My grateful appreciation to the staff for their willing assistance, dedication and going the extra mile.



M Ewan
Session Clerk

St John's Council

I closed my report last year with the statement that the financial picture was grim, but that we were a rich congregation and would find a way to draw on our resources to get through the tough financial times. I am very pleased to report that the congregation did indeed rise to the occasion, and the projected shortfall for this year came out much smaller than expected.

The Planning and Prioritising Working Group (PPWG) met several times last year and the early part of this year and issued a set of recommended cuts in spending. These cuts were harsh but strategic. It was recognised that an across the board reduction of expenditure in programmes would lead to critical failures across a number of programmes. The decision was made to eliminate some programmes entirely in order to allow others to survive. The bad news was that even after the first round of cuts, we were well short of our goal of a balanced budget. A second round of cuts was proposed and these were brought to Council for approval. Council enacted these cuts also. The PPWG then turned its attention to the positive side of the ledger, and suggested a new committee be established to encourage congregational giving.

A new committee was formed, which chose the name "Stewardship for Mission". This committee, chaired by Rob Ewan, has had its terms of reference approved by Council and has worked to increase congregational awareness of work that St John's is doing, and thereby raise the level of giving. The results have been very encouraging indeed, with the planned giving figures up significantly.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee continues to administer the funds available following the evaluation criteria approved by the congregation in October 2003.

The Committee considers applications twice per year and meets on other occasions as the need arises.

Following the congregational decision some years ago to broadly support fewer larger "partnerships" we now concentrate on such larger partnerships rather than seek to distribute assistance to a wider range of worthy groups in smaller amounts.

At present the major beneficiaries are the Boys' and Girls' Institute, a lectureship in Christian Theology at Victoria University of Wellington, the Downtown Community Ministry, and Presbyterian Support Central.

However we are not out of the woods yet. We still face major financial challenges. It is likely that the inflation rate is going to increase, and interest rates may not keep up. It is important that we maximise the income we can achieve through our investments and rental property, and keep expenses to a minimum in order to achieve a sustainable budget.

Although finances have been a pre-eminent focus of Council, they have been in no way the only focus. Communication and coordination between committees and the Ministerial team shape a large part of the Council agenda. At every meeting of Council the convenor of each committee submits a report of the activities and plans of their committee. Often feedback is sought, and conflicts are ironed out. This behind the scenes activity is necessary to keep St John's working smoothly.

An organisation like St John's in the City cannot function without a large committed group of volunteer workers. As we plan for the continued challenging financial times ahead we will need to look increasingly to volunteers for support of key parish activities. I would like to thank all of you who give freely of your time to St John's, and would encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved further to contact the Ministerial team.



Ted Cizadlo
Chair, St. John's Council

Under current accounting arrangements, around 50% of the committee budget is paid automatically on levies on a formula basis to head office for national services provided by the Presbyterian Church. Such services are not controlled by the committee.

Smaller grants have also been made to Mount Cook School, to assist in swimming instruction for new arrivals, Wellington Women's Health Collective Inc for counselling services to women, and to St Ronan's Presbyterian Church, Eastbourne, to assist refugee and migrant families.

Committee members are Rev Dr Graham Redding, Rob Munro, Muriel Ewan, Allie Crombie and Dayle Anderson. During the year we said goodbye to Janet Thomson who is now working in Scotland and England, but intends to return to St John's before too long. We wish her well in her travels.



Rob Munro
Convenor

WORSHIP

In our strategic plan, we describe ourselves as a “gathered community, drawn together in all our variety to joyfully worship the one God.” It is the act of worship, more than any other, that most defines who we are as a church and what we’re on about. And, for the most part, this appears to be going well. We have been fortunate over the past few years to see a gradual but steady increase in the number of people who attend worship on Sunday mornings. Alongside the increase in numbers, it is encouraging to see the inter-generational and multicultural makeup of our congregation. At a time when the Presbyterian Church in this country is in a state of decline, and has been for several decades, we can count ourselves very fortunate to be a congregation that is not succumbing to the prevailing trend.

Session spent some time this year talking about various aspects of our worship. It considered the principles that undergird what we do, and concluded that Christian worship should:

- have discernable Jewish roots;
- be informed by biblical patterns of worship; flow from a Trinitarian doctrine of God (i.e., worship is not so much an act of collective self-expression as it is an event of being raised by the Holy Spirit, through the Son, into the presence of the Father);
- Have a proper appreciation of the mediatorial role of Christ. The New Testament refers to him in various ways as the Pioneer and Perfector of our faith, our risen and ascended Lord, and our Great High Priest. As such, it is He (and not the ordained minister or the music group or some other substitutionary figure), who is the true leader and mediator of our worship;
- be structured according to an integration between Word and Sacrament;
- be participatory (i.e., the congregation must be participants in the act of worship, not mere observers);
- allow the components of worship to be informed by the above-mentioned principles.

In conjunction with the above principles, Session talked about the frequency of celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion, and instigated a six-month trial of monthly communion services. In deciding what will happen in the longer term, Session will weigh up that congregational feedback against a range of theological and historical considerations, including the principle noted above concerning the integration between Word and Sacrament.

While worship here at St John’s generally follows the lectionary, exceptions are made for services that are devoted to exploring particular themes. Such themes this year have included “creation and climate change,” “Islam-Christian relations,” and a “Wellington anniversary service.” St John’s was also asked to record this year’s Easter service for National Radio. Many favourable comments were received from those who listened to the broadcast, including the following: “Thank you St John’s for an enheartening, thought-provoking Easter morning service. Presbyterianism at its best!”

Our evening services, which are held in the chapel, attract a small but loyal group of people. From time to time, Session has considered closing down the evening service because of a lack of numbers. But St John’s is one of the few remaining churches in the inner city that has an evening service, and it does attract quite a number of visitors who happen to be staying in town on a Sunday night. Moreover, the evening service is more intimate, and allows for more interaction and flexibility than the larger and more formal morning service. On the final Sunday of each month, the evening service is given over to the youth group to conduct a service that is more in keeping with their age group. We are grateful to Rob Anderson, Paul Ramsay and Chris Parkman for their conduct of evening services from time to time.

St John’s is fortunate to have a large number of people who contribute in significant ways to the weekly conduct of worship. These include the choir and musicians, floral arrangers, greeters and duty elders, Bible readers and people who lead in prayer. There are also those who play a significant part in our all-age worship services, which are held once a term. There are far too many people to name individually, but we do want to record our special thanks to Eleanor Carter and Dayle Anderson for the wise and competent leadership they offer in relation to music. We also look forward to Guy Jansen becoming part of the music leadership team. Eleanor will continue as Musical Director and Organist, with overall responsibility for music, Guy will take over the reins as Choir Director, and will work alongside Dayle in relation to contemporary music.

Finally, we want to record our thanks to Winifred Bain, who is retiring from the position of flower convenor. Winifred has done a fantastic job, not only coordinating the Sunday roster, but also arranging the flowers for many of the weddings and funerals that are held at St John’s. We are very grateful for the time and expertise that she has given to the task, and for the graciousness with which she has done it.



Graham Redding

MUSIC REPORT

The year just passed has highlighted for me what a wonderful, versatile team of musicians St John's has. We cater for all ages and all tastes extremely well. Having taken a lot of time off this year, to have a baby and then to rest a worn ligament, so unable to play the organ, we were fortunate to have Nigel Williams do the lion's share of the Music Director's job. The highlight of his tenure was the recording of the Easter service for radio broadcast and the magnificent organ playing for the particularly tricky choir anthem *Christ the Lord is Risen Again* by John Rutter. Of course the choir worked very hard for this particular service too and has continued to evolve musically throughout the year.

We are fortunate to have an interesting array of instrumentalists willing and able to play every Sunday morning, led by Dayle Anderson and, recently, Ted Cizadlo. We have also enjoyed with much interest, the progress of the young band, *Kerygma*. Led by Jordan Redding, this is a group with a fresh but maturing musical and spiritual output and we welcome their contributions to the life of the church.

For the very young, Anna Davis leads the Sunday School music and the Tuesday morning Music and Movement class. This is a really fun activity for those with pre-school aged children.

The Friday night concert series was not operational this last year, but we did have one concert in November, to raise funds for the organ. Douglas Mews, Lucy Anderson, Peter Baillie and the Iota String Trio gave this concert. *'Mainly Mozart'* was organised by Rob Anderson and was extremely successful so we hope to do a similar thing this year.

Music at St John's continues to be an integral part of my daily life and I hope that my enjoyment of it is realised for all to hear.



Eleanor Carter
MMus(RCM), Dip RCM, ARCM(PG), ATCL.
Music Director



STEWARDSHIP FOR MISSION

This committee was established in January 2006, with a purpose to initiate, manage and conclude projects and fundraising activities for St John's mission. This committee evolved following the work done by the Planning and Prioritising Work Group.

St John's exists today through the gifts of people's time, talents and treasure given over 150 years. Most of what we do can be described in a single word –

'Mission' and for St John's mission to remain effective it must have the necessary resources.

It has been shown that people give generously when they see their gifts being of benefit to others. So, a significant part of the committee's work to date has been encouraging the congregation to see giving for mission as an important part of their personal relationship with God. In that context, the committee has adopted a strategic approach. An essential part of this has been a monthly focus on a specific St John's activity aimed at increasing awareness within the congregation.

This has had a dual benefit. Promoting a specific activity and building awareness that our 'mission' is made up of many parts. Whether by coincidence or as a direct result, congregational giving has been 17% higher than last year and 6% ahead of budget!

One of the most striking features of Jesus' parables is the number of them that have as their central character a person who gives freely and generously.

The stronger the congregation's mission
The stronger the giving
The stronger the congregation's giving
The stronger the mission.

The committee membership consists of Rob Anderson, Ted Cizadlo, Paul Ramsay, Rob Ewan, and Muriel Ewan (ex officio), and has representation on St John's Council.



Rob Ewan
Convenor

MISSION REPORT

This year, our main effort has gone towards the APW mission projects.

The overseas project was supporting the Church Of Uganda's Grassroots Development Programme. The main elements of the development programme are supporting and enabling:

- improved agriculture production
- livestock improvement
- savings and credit schemes
- land resource management
- rural water and sanitation
- health support services

The NZ project involved supporting the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Charitable Trust.

A fundraising lunch was held following the Sunday Service. We were privileged to have Cecilee Donovan, the Trust's Regional Coordinator as our guest speaker. She spoke of the difficulties, challenges and joys involved in raising one's own grandchildren at a time when most people are retiring and experiencing the "freedom years."

LEPROSY MISSION REPORT

Over the past year the St John's in the City supporters of the NZ Leprosy Mission have raised \$492.05.

Our particular area of support is in Chittagong, Bangladesh. The need in this country is great – with over 50 million people living in chronic poverty, the conditions are ripe for the spread of disease including leprosy.

The Leprosy Mission Projects include community-based health education as well as rehabilitation programmes for people who have been left disabled by the crippling effects of leprosy.



Elizabeth McKenzie

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee has now been in existence for just over two years, and continues to evolve as we seek creative ways to:

- Build up the congregation as a community that supports each other in our daily lives; sharing the burden, healing the wound, celebrating the joy, and walking the road together and
- Foster the outward expression of the love of God active in relationships which affirm, support, and celebrate personal worth.

Members of the committee support individual parishioners in various ways, including visits at home, but this year we have been keen to foster '*community*' in the congregation as well.

A series of 'Sunday lunches' was started in January. These were to be social occasions for 15-20 people, with simple good food provided by committee members. The original intention was to have weekly lunches during January, for people remaining in Wellington during the summer holidays, but due to a low response rate to invitations, there were only two. These lunches however, were very enjoyable, with people of different ages and background getting to know each other better in a relaxed setting. A lunch for young adults in March attracted 25 people, and positive feedback. Lunches were also held in May and June.

Much effort in recent months went into the planning of the seminar, "Looking Forward to the Future". There was a perceived need for information on preparing for the chal-

lenges – and opportunities - of retirement and ageing. We were delighted to welcome about 70 people on the 29th July. The programme included talks from invited speakers spanning health, legal, financial and accommodation issues, interspersed with Tai Chi exercise sessions. There was an impressive 'expo' of stalls at lunchtime, with several stallholders sharing a wealth of information on a range of topics. The day was enhanced by a wonderful catering service provided by volunteers from the congregation. In fact, the whole day was a great team effort, with many people helping behind the scenes in preparation and 'on the day'. We have had encouraging feedback, and plan to hold a similar seminar during the winter months next year.

In the coming year, we would like to develop a pastoral support group by identifying people with time or skills to share this building up of the congregation as a community, and caring for one another. We plan to continue hosting small lunch parties after the church service about six times a year, inviting a range of people from the congregation.

The committee has been pleased to welcome new members Cynthia Krogh and Margaret Gilkison during the year. Other members are Allie Crombie (Pastoral Worker), Helen Nixon, Lynn Pollock, and Anne Simpson, with the Ministers and Session Clerk (Muriel Ewan) ex-officio.



Anne Simpson,
Convenor of the Pastoral Care Committee,
August 2006

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

My part-time work as Pastoral Worker with St. John's during the past year has been rewarding.

With my background as a Registered Nurse, my role often revolves around health issues.

I am happy to visit the unwell whether at home or in hospital, so please let your elder or the church office know of any concerns. I work closely with our ministers, Helen and Graham.

As an advocate, I accompany some parishioners to medical/hospital appointments as a support person, but also to ask the questions, offer explanations to the medical jargon, or to reinforce relevant consultation points. It is helpful to have an extra pair of ears, especially if there is a language barrier or if one is hard of hearing.

There are a growing number of parishioners with English as a second language so assistance is given pastorally as required. Networking can be very useful and it is heart-warming to see how other parishioners respond to requests for help.

I encourage older parishioners to use the services that they are entitled to, especially if that enables them to remain independent in their home. It can be confusing working through the system.

It is good to be able to support parishioners as they make life-changing decisions to downsize house or move into a retirement residence/care. This can be heart-wrenching and energy-sapping for them.

On July 29th it was satisfying being part of the Pastoral Care committee in organising the seminar here at St. John's : "Looking Forward to the Future" where we addressed some of the above issues that I come across in my work. There is a lot of information out there so it was satisfying to see folk utilising the day and enjoying the fellowship.

Pastoral care knows no age boundaries. Whether it is a Mum struggling with a new babe, a ten year old with fears, or a 90 year old dealing with loss of mobility, St John's cares.

I am privileged to work as pastoral worker at St John's and feel we are blessed with a caring church family.



Allie Crombie

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Our group meets once a month to overview the range of Christian Education activities carried out at St John's in the City. The committee, consisting of Anna Davis, Helen Martin, Ani Prasad, Linda Van Milligan, Katherine Sutherland and Elaine Pearse (Convenor) has recently been joined by Ryhan Prasad, Joy Pearce and Maryan Coleman. The following reports cover some of the array of work carried out by the groups specially targeting children, youth, the 20's to 30's plus, and the growing number of house groups. Throughout this range of age groups, leaders seek to increase members' understanding of the Christian faith and to help them on their spiritual journey. Also, a key focus is on leadership training to develop leadership skills. Other key Christian Education events in the past twelve months include the:

- Da Vinci Code Group who meet on Sundays after Church to discuss issues raised by the movie based on Dan Brown's popular novel of the same name;
- Parish Camp at Forrest Lakes;
- Islam and Christianity discussions; plus
- The two new study groups started this year; i.e. the young parents' 'Breathe' at Beth Beard's, and Mary Hutchison's group exploring 'Renewal'.

Thank you everyone for all your work that has helped so many of us feel at home at St John's, as well as stimulating us to think and grow in our faith.



Elaine Pearse

BGI ANNUAL REPORT

Tena koutou e hoa ma,

BGI has experienced continued consolidation over the past year, and it's been thanks to St John's that we've been able to further realise our mission: developing young people physically, mentally, spiritually and socially from a relational perspective that takes seriously family, cultural and religious contexts.

BGI continues to need St John's encouragement and prayers to maintain a distinctly Jesus-like community service, as there are strong pressures from our culture to slide into being just another secular 'agency'. Modelling the way God has built life changing relationships with us through Jesus, BGI's business is in building relationships with young people, their families and communities, to aid a successful transition from childhood to mature adult life.

Our flavour of youth development means it's important we're more than just instructors in 'good values'. We also strongly believe in the importance of relationships themselves -especially that Spirit-relationship the Father seeks with us and all people through Jesus. We celebrate the strength of relationship we have within our team, and that which we experience with the church. The ever-developing relationship between BGI and St John's is an excellent example of the same youth development principles we uphold with teenagers.

The St John's community helps us remain connected into God's larger plan for the world. Thanks to Board members and volunteer hosts at parenting programme nights. Thanks to the always-enthusiastic Youth Group and their families for such rewarding, long-standing relationships. Thanks to you for your support.

Arohatinonui



Fuimaono Tuiasau,
Chairman



Ross Davis,
Director

Our Core Initiatives and Staff:

Challenge for Change (co-ordinated by Jacinta Krefft) A highlight this year was the launch of a children's adventure story Jacinta wrote. The launch was at government house and a good group of St John's members attended. We very much appreciated Her Excellency, Dame Silvia Cartwright, allowing us to use her house. Dame Silvia was quite taken with

the launch event and she contributed some of her own money towards the launch cost as a parting gift to Wellington youth.

Challenge for Change matches 9-13yr olds with a positive role-model 'mentor' to help guide them (and their families) through periods of difficulty with depression, abuse, repeat offending, low esteem, or limited social skills.

'Footsteps' (managed by David Clegg) designs tailor-made programmes for adolescents who find themselves on the periphery of society: new migrants, mental health consumers, severe offenders, and those struggling with suicide.

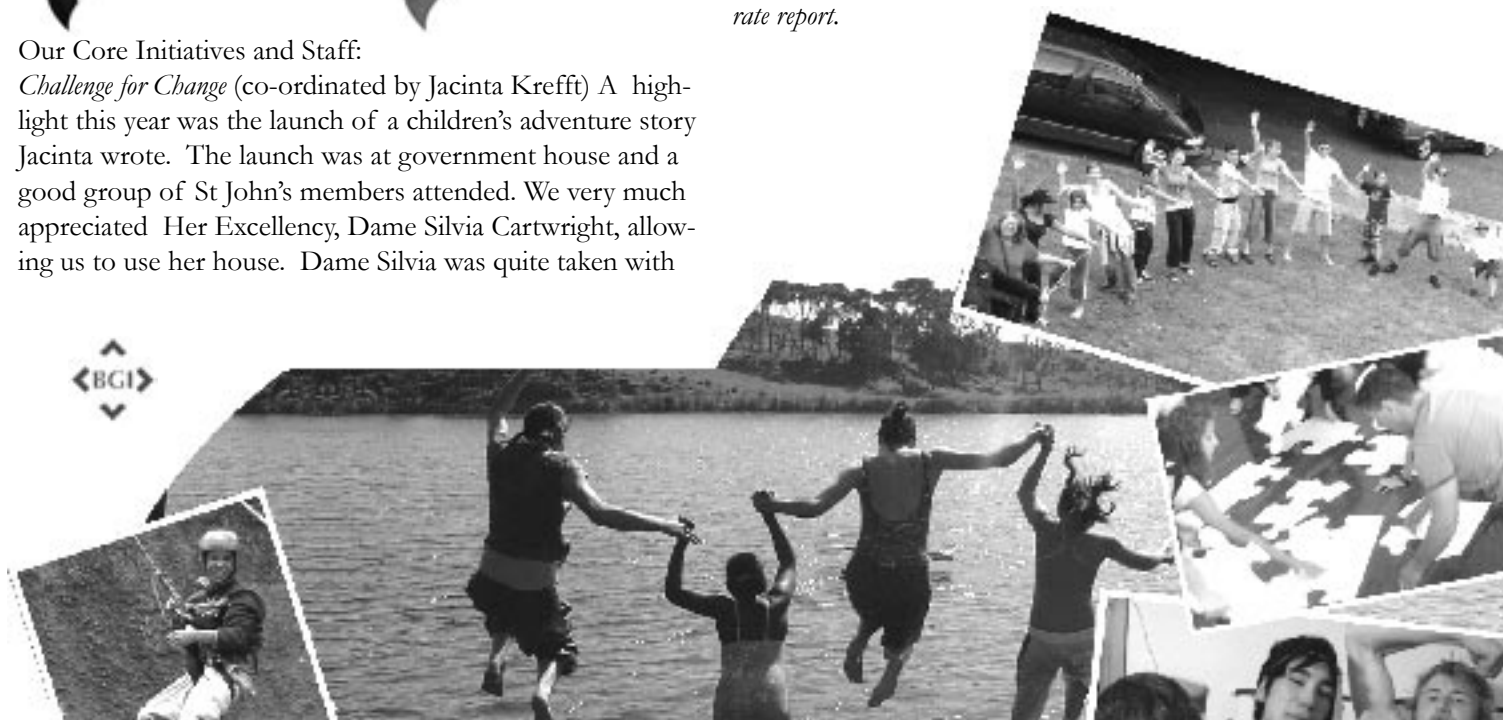
'Positively Parenting Programmes' (facilitated by Anna Davis and James Makowharemahih) are a vital partner to the *'Challenge for Change'* programme. We recognise the significance of the child's home environment and endeavour to provide parents with new skills. Alice Potts, along with other volunteers, has been assisting with the hostessing, food and childcare.

'ConfiDance' (tutored by Ani Prasad and Josh Mitikulena) runs three new dance programmes (combining funk, kapa haka, hip hop and jazz) from the Conference Centre gym. The classes are for 7-17yr olds and are most popular with boys. The intermediate team was in the top four teams in New Zealand this year and has seen good growth in numbers.

'Training & Development' (facilitated by Rod Baxter) is the branch of BGI that offers contracted services to external agencies. This year, we've trained hundreds of youth workers across the country from Kaitia to Wanaka and everywhere in between.

'Spinks Youth Café' (managed by Ryhan Prasad) has focused on the resource consent process this year. A new design that seeks a compromise with Historic Places Trust has been proposed.

St John's Youth Group is also run by BGI and is covered in a separate report.



ST J'S YOUTH - INTENTIONAL MINISTRY

When Paul wrote his letters he discussed many topics, some of which were highly controversial and are still being debated today. But the thing about Paul was that all his letters were specific and intentionally directed to a specific audience. This is much like youth work, we have to be intentional to a specific audience of young people and even more specific to particular groups of young people within that audience. Would the Friday night and Sunday Morning programmes we run for young people appeal to the normal parishioner? I doubt it. Likewise with young people and traditional Church Services. So while there is a different delivery vehicle, the end result is the same – the creation of a relationship with God and a belonging to a worshipping community. Last year we asked one person why they came to youth group and we were told “because of the people”. This year I took it a step further and did a quick text survey (while I am writing this report in fact!) of the senior group and here are some of the answers I got:

'because of the ppl'

'da people'

'I enjoy the company of the people there'

'To learn more about God - to grow closer in my faith, through talking to others'

'for friends'

'Blonging'

Obviously the connection between the young people here at St John's is a strong one and it is good to see the relationships between our young people grow and prosper. As you read this report, be encouraged that the young people at St John's are connected, committed and constantly having fun! – just like we were when we were young!

This report presents various events, programmes and activities that have happened in the past year. Mo Mansill, National Youth Coordinator for the Presbyterian Church, says a successful youth group is one that has a balance of the three following elements working together in balance. The three elements are:

LOOK IN

encourage young people to grow in a Christ-centred faith in God.

Sunday Programmes: Building young people in the knowledge of God and his living word

Junior yr6-8/Senior yr9-10/Senior yr11-13

These three groups run at St John's during term time between 10 -11am on Sunday mornings. We meet in the youth group rooms in Spinks Cottage and also up at the BGI. Time is spent exploring the bible and how it helps us to live out our faith with God.

Contemporary services: Discovering God together

These services are held on the last Sunday of each month.

The essence of the contemporary services is to serve the St John's community by sharing and worshipping together. It's about discovering God in the midst of our busy lives and how we can serve one another and worship God in

one body and spirit. The young people enjoy the challenge of learning what the scriptures are saying and how we can discover what they are saying as we plan out the service together. Some of our service themes this year have been: global mission and unity, fair trade, worship, and a combined celebration service for some of our emerging young leaders from the “going somewhere” programme.

Recently, we have also formed a worship band that has run the worship for contemporary services and these young musicians are going from strength to strength.

We have been glad to have the young people from Wadestown attend these services regularly as well.

LOOK AROUND

encourage young people to grow in Christ-centred communities

Friday night social groups: Making a place for people to belong

Junior group and senior group meet on a Friday night during term time. Two examples:

Joint Youth Ministry Committee: Doing youth ministry with others

This committee aims to offer training, support and the facilitation of large events to grow Presbyterian and Methodist youth ministries regionally. St John's Youth are part of this committee and help with running various events like the Film Festival and Easter Camp.

The youth group also helped and participated in Church Garage Sale and the St John's Quiz Night.



LOOK OUT

encourage young people to grow Christ-centred mission hearts to serve

This last year has had a really strong social justice theme, both in the Friday night and the Sunday morning programmes. We participated in the CWS fair trade café evening at Knox Church, and in the World Food Programme 'Walk the World March'. We also held a World Vision 40hr

famine event that simulated a sweat shop working environment, to help educate and raise money to help those trapped in child labour.

We have continued to sponsor Dennis, our World Vision child.

FRIDAY NIGHT JUNIOR GROUP

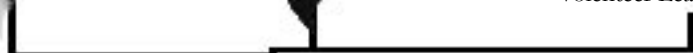
Kiri
Paid 6-8 hrs



Jenni
Super De Duppa
Volunteer Leader



Stephanie
Super De Duppa
Volunteer Leader



Year 7&8

14 people under our pastoral care with 10 people attending on average

Highlights have been the Ten Pin Bowling, Wacky Racers, and seeing Kiri take over from Ani with no problems

FRIDAY NIGHT SENIOR GROUP

Raz
Paid 20 hrs



Rod Baxter
Paid 7 hrs



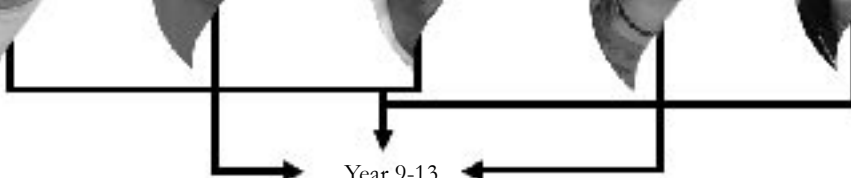
AJ
JYMC Intern
30 hrs



Alice
5 paid hours
plus a Super
Volunteer
Leader



Nga
Super
Volunteer
Leader



Year 9-13

41 people under our pastoral care with 20 people attending on average

Highlights have included: the growth and success of Kerygma, the Zoo Sleepover, Going Somewhere Leadership Course and the Croc Bike Rally

SUNDAY MORNING JUNIOR GROUP

Margaret
Super Dooper
Volunteer
Extraordinaire

Mark Edgecombe
Amazing Volun-
teer Leader
and All Round
Good Guy



Year 7&8

A highlight has been the way the kids are engaging with the topics they are covering – there are really good active discussions with full participation.

ST JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP NUMBERS

We have 60 members in our youth group, with an average of 50 different young people attending our programmes each week.

The major difference in our youth ministry this year has been the increased number of young people attending the Sunday morning programme. We have on average 20 young people attending the senior programme on Sundays and in the juniors. This is a substantial increase from last year. We have had two confirmations this year, as well.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

We have a strong group of leaders who give so much of their time and passion to St John's youth ministry. Thank you, thank you, and thank you for all that you do as part of this ministry.

SUNDAY MORNING SENIOR GROUP

AJ

Alice

Raz



Year 9&10

Year 11-13

8 young people on average attend

12 young people on average attend

A highlight has been getting to know the kids and seeing the more reserved and shy ones become more confident and participate more.

A highlight has been the increased numbers attending and the Da Vinci Code movie and discussion session.

THANK YOU!

Everyone at St John's for your support in helping the youth ministry flourish and grow. Thank you to the pastoral staff of Helen and Graham for their guidance and insight during the past year; you have helped and encouraged us immensely.

Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for your unwavering positive support and enthusiasm which give us energy to stay on top of our game.

Thank you also to all of our volunteer leaders, without whom this ministry would not be possible. You are the branches of the vine from which the fruit will flourish.

And thank you to the staff at BGI who provide us with the amazing creative environment and awesome resources which allow us to put our heart and soul into this ministry. We are so blessed to have your whanau support to encourage and enable us in our mahi.



Arohanui ki a koutou
Ryhan Prasad

ST J'S KIDS

It's been a great year as we involve children in congregational life in ways that are meaningful for them. Our continued challenge is for children to be able to call St John's their home and to know that they belong and have a significant contribution/role to play in our faith community.

LEADERSHIP

In December 2005 Nicki Read stepped down from jointly coordinating St J's Kids with me continuing on in the Coordinator's role. Nicki's time and energy have been greatly appreciated in this role.

We have a good team of teachers, - just enough to provide Leaders and Assistants at each age level. However, we could do with more people as some class numbers are beginning to grow too big.

CHILDREN

There are approximately 36 families on the roll (about 60 children), with an average of 27 children attending each week.

We have the following groups:

Preschool - 5yrs:

Leaders: Heather Walker & Anna Davis

Assistants: Ingrid McEnaney & Beth Beard

Yrs 1 & 2:

Leaders: Janie Pack & Iris Webster

Assistants: Olive Alexander & Andrew Atkinson

Yrs 3-6:

Leaders: Richard & Nicki Read & Ross Davis

Assistants: Sam Bennett & Jenni Redding

The energy of the children and their Leaders has been captured in their creations, such as the cardboard coat of many colours depicting Joseph's life journey in August 2005, and the beautiful fabric Lenten symbols banner made by the older children, with the help of Judy Ferguson, in May 2006. Both these creations were used in All Age Worship.

In December 2005 the children were involved in a Christmas Pageant, with Benjamin Carter (Eleanor & Mark's baby) stealing the show as baby Jesus. The service concluded with a combined morning tea with the congregation in the Conference Centre afterwards.

CURRICULUM

At the beginning of 2006 we changed our curriculum to 'Seasons of the Spirit' which follows the lectionary readings used in church. The aim of it being to lay the biblical story & example of Jesus Christ alongside the concerns and life choices we must face each day.

EVENTS

St J's Kids have enjoyed their involvement in church events such as the Church Camp in September, the Garage Sale in October and the Fashion Parade in March. These events have contributed to the children's sense of belonging in the wider church family.

Each term, St J's Kids has one main social event providing the chance for children to invite friends and to build relationships with each other, their leaders, and between families. These were a 'Wheels afternoon' at Kilbirnie Rec' Centre, Waitangi Adventure Day with the Youth Group, and Starlight Storytime with the Intermediate Youth Group providing leadership plus some brave congregational members enacting the story of "10 in the Bed" with others being our dynamic storytellers.

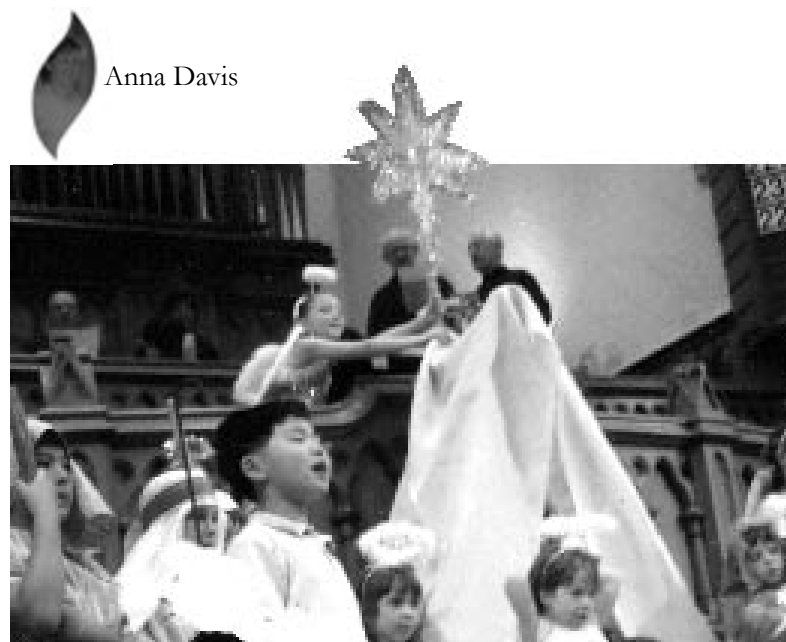
HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES ON SUNDAYS

During the school holiday break and long weekends different people from the congregation care for the children from a prepared box of activities. The children have enjoyed connecting with different people in the congregation and having a more relaxed atmosphere with a less structured programme.

A special thanks goes to the leaders and assistants of St J's Kids including David Wood who sets up the rooms as we want them every week. Your regular and ongoing commitment is crucial to 'St J's Kids' existence and the children's sense of belonging to St John's. Thanks also goes to all the people of the congregation who have been involved in areas such as the holiday programmes and social events. Your enthusiasm to make time to come alongside the children of St John's has been very encouraging.

Please continue to support the children of our church family at St John's through prayer, encouraging their leaders, and by getting to know them and their families.

Anna Davis



PRESCHOOL MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

The preschool Music and Movement Group continues to meet weekly on Tuesdays for 30 minutes of music followed by morning tea, linking up monthly with the Coffee & Chat group. Thanks go to Betty Robertson, Margaret Hunt and Lynn Pollock for supporting our group 'via' Coffee & Chat.

Shared involvement of group members through morning tea and music leadership rosters continues, as do the spontaneous evenings out and invitations to wider church events such as Baptisms, All Age Worship and St J's Kids social events.

The group baked for, compiled, and delivered Easter Baskets for elderly parishioners in April during a Coffee & Chat morning. The women enjoyed contributing to St John's in this way and really appreciated the many thank you cards written by the recipients.

Vicky Wood organised an end of year picnic at Otari Wilton in December which was attended by 10 families and proved to be a relaxing afternoon with children playing and adults talking amidst the end of year busyness!

The weekly gold coin donations continue to cover running costs, the latest outlay being for large carpet squares to cover the gym floor which have proved particularly helpful for the adults with babies.

In May 2006, Margaret Gilkison became involved on a weekly basis to help support the running of the group and build relationships with the adults and their children. It has been fantastic to have another 'child free' person involved offering this type of support.

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS

During the second half of 2005, numbers dropped from an average of 20 regularly-attending adults and their children to 15. Since May 2006, numbers have steadily increased and at present we are averaging 23 regularly-attending adults and their children, with about 30 adults on our roll.

In August 2005 Music and Movement for 4 yr olds was disbanded due to small numbers and lack of leadership time. A few of the adults who attended this group are now attending the morning group with the younger siblings of their 4 year olds!

LEADERSHIP & TRAINING

In the second half of 2005, the sessions were jointly led by Heather Walker, Vicky Wood, Kerry-Lynn Sorrell and me on a rostered basis. In 2006 Heather, Kerry-Lynn and I have continued to lead the sessions.

In April 2006, four members of the group attended a Kids Music Company workshop on their latest CD, 'Teddy Jumps' which is aimed at under twos. This was very timely as we have had an influx of babies into the group and it has helped us pitch our sessions more appropriately.

BREATHE

This is the new name of our home group which has been meeting for 20 months and evolved from group members wanting to talk intentionally on Faith issues. Beth Beard coordinates this group. We continue to meet monthly and are studying "40 day quest", an adaptation of "40 days of purpose"



Anna Davis



8th WELLINGTON GIRLS' BRIGADE COMPANY



There has been a Girls' Brigade Company at St John's since 1948, reaching out to many Wellington girls. We are seed-sowing and do not know the effect Girls' Brigade has had on many girls' lives. The Girls' Brigade Programme works on a four square programme: Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Social, which is the basis of the many different Badge topics the girls study for their awards.

We are an international movement and last year we studied one of the Pacific Island countries where we have Girls' Brigade. Louise Murphy, who is Tongan, came and taught the girls Tongan Dancing, Cooking, and Tongan Language, Singing, and the names of the different islands. At the end of Term 3, the girls' parents joined us for an evening, for the girls to show them Tongan dancing. They then joined in, doing the dances with the girls. Louise went through 8th Wellington Company and gained her Queen's Badge. Louise continued to help with the Company until she left us in 2006, on a working holiday to the UK.

The break-up featured some of the girls performing musical items on the drums with Alec Carlisle. The girls shared some of the singing they had learned with Fiona Bayliss during the year, and the parents joined in the singing of a round consisting of three different choruses.

The 2006-year started with enjoying the long summer evenings doing different activities, such as Laser Force. We had tea and swimming at Oriental Bay which the girls enjoyed. We appreciated our Chaplain, Rev. Helen Martin, coming

and taking Easter Communion with Juniors and Seniors. Badge work done in 2006 has been varied: Friendship bracelets, Making an Easter Banner, painting a picture of Manners Mall through teenagers' eyes. The Seniors have checked all the fire escapes in the complex, as part of their Fire Safety Badge, and know where to assemble in case of fire. The fourth year Seniors have done Hostessing and Cooking which culminated in a 3-course meal and hot chocolate being served at their Captain's house. The girls enjoyed all the preparation leading up to it and learnt that they should have started 30 minutes earlier to prepare the meal.

At the end of each term, the Pioneers organise a fun evening for the Company which has been tea at MacDonald's, and a video evening. The Officers get together each term and have had a Christmas Afternoon at our Chaplain's house, dinner at the Fisherman's Table, and lunch at a café.

The Company numbers are down but we have 100% attendance at our regular meetings.

We rely on the continuing loyalty of our team of Officers: Jo Nyberg, Pauline Little, Dianne Little and Avis Marshall. The Captain appreciates their support.



Katherine Sutherland
8th Wellington Company
Team Leader

THE BOYS' BRIGADE – 2ND WELLINGTON COMPANY



Introduction: For the past 57 years St John's Boys' Brigade has challenged young men and boys for life through a programme of informal education, underpinned by the Christian faith.

THE COMPANY SECTION – 1/7/05 – 31/12/05

LEADERSHIP

Training plays a large part in the development of young men in our Company. This is undertaken at local and national level and is always of a very high standard. In July 2005, Ross MacKay attended a National Leadership Development Course at Stage 1 and Simon Anastasiadis at Stage 2. In addition our own officers, Nathan Smith and David Jackson, also attended these courses but as Assistant leaders. This proves how highly regarded our leaders are by the national movement.

QUEEN'S AWARDS

Ross MacKay, well known to the St John's congregation, received his Queen's Badge, the highest badge in The Boys' Brigade. In December the three staff sergeants, who

gained their Queen's Badge the previous year, went to Government House to receive their certificates. These young men were Simon Anastasiadis, Nathan Bayliss and Peter Jackson. I was privileged to attend the ceremony with them.





BADGE WORK

A number of St John's people took classes on various subjects and this was much appreciated. Dr Redding was one of these people and he also took the Opening Devotions once a month and always had a topical subject which was of interest and benefit to the Boys.

CUPS AND SHIELDS

The 2005 awards were presented to the following:

The Alford Dornan Drill Shield

Matthew Bayliss

The Cup for "Excellence Of Character"

Hugh Slobbe

The Physical Recreation Cup

Tonga Puroku

The Squad Cup: Squad 2

RETIREMENT

After 40plus years as an officer in the Boys' Brigade I retired from the Captaincy of the Company Section at the end of December, 2005. I continued, however, to run the Team Section until 30 June 2006. I thank God for this tremendous privilege. I would also like to thank those who have supported me over the years especially Dr Redding, Sandy Lawson and Ross Davis.



Harriet Johnston

THE COMPANY SECTION 1/1/06 – 30/6/06

PROGRAMME

Our programme since February has included our first camp in several years, visiting with the Tawa Company, training in Drama, Christian Education, Communications, Gymnastics, Teamwork and Leadership. One of the slogans BBNZ has been trialling this year is "Training Tomorrow's Leaders Today" and I am pleased to say that this is what we have been doing at the 2nd Wellington Company.

LEADERSHIP

Simon Anastadiadis and Peter Jackson have both come onboard as Staff Sergeants. After receiving his Queen's Badge Ross MacKay has also become a valued member of the team, stepping out of his comfort zone and teaching the senior boys' drama class. I am also very pleased to have had Sandy Lawson and John Hunt in eldership over the Company. Sandy has been invaluable, helping me with areas new to me. John Hunt has assisted with outdoor activities, explaining compass use, map reading and safety before we set out on our day's hike during our camp.

I would like to thank all the leaders who are committed to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys. They are all encouraged and blessed by their involvement.

NUMBERS have decreased this year, but attendance has been more consistent. We are now beginning to find ways of attracting more boys.

Since I accepted Captaincy in January 2006 it has been fantastic to see Christ's Kingdom continuing to be advanced.

It is an honour to be associated with such a great group of guys.



David Jackson, *Captain*

TEAM SECTION is progressing well and has a balanced programme covering a number of subjects. The evening starts with a NZ Flag ceremony followed by Devotions and Simple Drill before class work and fun and games. There are special favourites in the games such as Prison Ball, Soccer and Hurlly Burly. Treasure Hunts and Pizzas are also popular! We held our own BB Commonwealth Games with the presentation of gold, silver and bronze medals. (Foil-covered chocolate money).

The MVP for 2005 was Andrew Davis.

THE ANCHOR SECTION was led by Indri Joeng during 2005. Their programme was with the Team section for part of the evening but they finished earlier. Indri took some very interesting crafts with these younger boys. All the Anchor section Boys transferred to the Team Section at the beginning of 2006.

RETIREMENT

I have also now retired from the position of Lieutenant in Charge of the Team Section. As from 1 July 2006 Nathan Smith will take my place and will be assisted by Nathan Bayliss. Both of these young men have been in BB 18 years and 14 years respectively so are well able to run the Team Section.



Harriet Johnston

MONDAY NIGHT HOUSE-GROUP

The Monday night house group has continued to meet most Mondays this year. We have done the normal wide range of studies, usually spending 6 to 8 nights on each topic. Among the highlights have been looking at Graham Redding's book on prayer; a study on global trends in Christianity based upon Philip Jenkins' book, *The Next Christendom*; a Lenten series on the Resurrection in the four gospels; a series on Romans; and a series on the "I am" sayings in John, run by Malcolm as part of his Bible College course. As always, the discussions have been as illuminating as they have been wide-reaching. Keeping on topic is not the strongest attribute of the group!

We also have had a range of social events including a Guy Fawkes party and our Christmas dinner. Our standard format (of meeting at 7 for Chinese takeaways, having a study which finishes in time for supper at 9) means that we also have ample time each week to catch up with each other.

Most nights we have 8-12 members at our meetings. If you are interested in joining us, please feel free to call David or Margaret Galt on 934-4422, or speak to any of the members. We are always interested in having the fresh insights that new people bring to the discussions.



Margaret Galt

ST JOHN'S WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The monthly meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month are regularly attended by 25 women from St John's in the City and St Giles' churches. The usual format is a short business meeting, followed by a guest speaker, and then a shared lunch in the Conference Centre. This is a time of fellowship together and we are always pleased to have Graham and/or Helen join us for lunch.

GUEST SPEAKERS

We have some very interesting speakers and this year just ended was no exception. They included Anna Nauta, one of our members, who spoke of her life growing up in Holland and her immigration to New Zealand in the 1950s; Getrude Matshe, who spoke of her life and efforts to improve conditions for orphaned children in Zimbabwe; Beverley Benton who spoke of her 2 lives in retailing in Wellington; Frank Andrews, a Companion of the Royal Society, and an astronomer and educator at the Carter Observatory; Lesley Hall from Victoria University who spoke about Women Scientists in History; and Peter Barrett from the Royal Society who spoke about Climate Change. In February, Tae Soon Lee hosted us at her home in Churton Park.

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES

The Christmas Service was conducted by Rev. Helen Martin and the Lenten Service in April was led by Rev. Dr Graham Redding.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee meets twice a year to plan the list of guest speakers and other activities as required.

ST JOHN'S COUNCIL

Mary Gibbs attended the monthly meetings and reported on the work and activities of the Women's Association.

COFFEE AND CHAT GROUP FOR YOUNG MOTHERS

These are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, along with Music & Movement. A very enjoyable time for those involved.

MISSIONS

The main mission projects this year have been the Uganda Grass Roots Development Programme and the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Charitable Trust. A parish function was held after church to raise funds for these projects.

OBITUARIES

Janet Pack and Betty Harris. These were long-serving members of the Women's Association who contributed in many ways and we acknowledge the considerable contribution made by each of them.

ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (APW)

Carolyn Goudswaard is the current liaison person on APW and we thank her for her work in that role. St John's hosted a regional meeting on Saturday 8th October, where Dr Chris Marshall was the guest speaker. Helen Nixon represented St John's at the National APW Conference in Christchurch in April this year. She found this a most rewarding experience and was grateful for the opportunity to attend.

And, finally, I would like to remind you of the aims of the APW which are:

To unite all in prayer, study, fellowship, and service, to enable them to make a Christian witness in home, church and community.

To support at home and abroad the work of the parent churches.

To encourage an informed interest in worldwide mission and evangelism.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The last twelve months has seen the usual luncheons after quarterly communion and helping with suppers.

To each and every person who provided food or assisted in the kitchen, thank you.

The family quiz evening organised by Rob Anderson was good fun for all who attended (even though my group wouldn't listen to my answers and lost).

It was clever of Rob to organise a rugby game and hot pies to follow the quiz!

I am so grateful for the help that my committee gives: Margaret Lau, Eleanor Clark, Linda Shearer and Grace Jarvie. Sadly, Linda Shearer has returned to England and we wish her well. Anyone who feels a burning desire to join our small committee would be welcomed with open arms. Should this appeal fail, a 'Press Gang' may be required!!



Jinny Irvine.
Convener, Social Committee

EMBROIDERY GROUP

Our group started meeting in 1989 and we are still meeting in the Cartwright Room at St John's Conference Centre, at 10.00am on the first and third Monday of each month, except December and January.

Over the years we have made several sets of pulpit falls, altar cloths, stoles and bookmarks to fit in with the seasons in the church calendar. These are seen in both the church and the chapel at St John's. One pulpit fall is now framed in the chapel.

We have enjoyed gifting our work to other churches and chapels, as well.

There is no area we need to cover at St John's and we were very happy to help and advise another church recently with their work.

At present we are completing a white pulpit fall for St John's.

We will remain as a group and are happy to consult and help anyone in the church embroidery area.



Please direct all calls to:
Heather Smith
Convenor - 04 3851675



FLOWERS IN ST JOHN'S

As this group's Convenor, I am again very pleased to report that 2005/2006 was another satisfying year of continuous activity for our small group of volunteer flower arrangers. Thank you to our helpers who have enthusiastically and generously provided such a wide variety of colour and style to enhance our Church, and to inspire worshippers throughout the year. I am very conscious of the time commitment that this entails. The flowers and foliages came from gardens, markets and shops.

This past year we assisted with a greater than normal number of weddings.

We enjoyed the additional challenges and pleasures of the major floral displays for the Church's Christmas and Easter events, and other special occasions.

Financially, Flowers in St John's expended \$ 1,496.00 during the year, excluding weddings that were paid for to Church Office by the marrying couples. This cost was below the approved annual budget of \$ 1,650.00.

Now that we are into 2006/2007, we welcome anyone to our group who is interested in flower arranging, either by themselves, or with someone else. Assistance will be available to anyone wishing to ease into the role gradually.

Personally, I have advised Rev. Graham Redding that I am standing down as the Flower Convenor, within the next week or so. I feel that it is time someone else, with fresh ideas, took on the role. I want to continue contributing with flower arranging, if required. My sincere thanks to our group for all your wonderful support over the years.



Winifred Bain

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

I was going to begin this report – “Another busy year...”, but realised that this is precisely how most of these reports have begun. With such a large investment in property, - church building, cottage, conference centre, Troup House and two manses, - there is never any shortage of things to be addressed and dealt with. Most of our work this year has been regular maintenance with necessary up-grading of the manse whitewear, curtains and paintwork etc. Some leaks had to be stopped and we are still faced with the inevitable replacing of part of the Lower Watt Street manse roof. David organised for the leaks in the underground garage roof (the courtyard) to be sealed (we hope). John Hunt designed and constructed a clever and aesthetically-pleasing verandah extension to give shelter outside the office entrance.

Lesley has done her usual superb job, maintaining the various gardens, and a hard-working group spent a couple of days wrestling the Ponsonby Road gardens into shape, with pleasing results. It is proposed that this property now be sold as it no longer meets our requirements.

Jan's consistent efforts have ensured full use of our commercial space and parking areas. Her ability to keep a finger on the pulse of what goes on with our property has headed off many a crisis at the pass.

Once again, I thank God for the resources at our disposal, both financial and human, which allow us to carry out the myriad tasks required to keep all our properties and buildings to the high standard they are.

My grateful thanks again to our hard-working, wonderfully willing committee of Jan Stiebert, Lesley Shaw, David Wood and John Hunt.



John Irvine
Convenor, Property Committee



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Firstly, thanks to Gail Higgs-West and Ross McKay for serving on the committee this year. As we are small, we have been meeting mostly by email. Thanks to Lesley and Malcolm Shaw for continuing to keep the phone list and name tags up to date, to Wyn Beasley for doing a great job with the *Messenger* and to David and William Galt for continuing to keep the web site relevant.

As well as helping to promote the events of other committees, such as the public lectures, fashion show, and seminars on ageing, the church signs have again been the focus of our work. I was encouraged this year when I spoke after church to a new person, who'd just turned 27, and asked her why she had chosen St John's. She said that she had visited the Church on a Monday, had a look around and come back on Sunday because of two things: firstly, the friendly signage that contrasted the new and the old and looked like something was happening; secondly, the tidy, cared-for looking grounds! So, Communications and Property, working together, can help encourage new members.

With the help of our Senior Minister, we have continued the "Yeah Right" signs, and tried a few new ones. Ryhan Prasad's idea of a "cross" word sign at Christmas, to build on the puzzle/sudoku craze, made an impact. We had quite a bit of community feedback (by way of graffiti), so we obliged, by providing a removable marker on a string, to encourage slightly less permanent comments! All in all, a worthwhile experiment.

We have been using quite a few black and white photo-copied banners in the Willis street sign board boxes this year, to help effect our significant saving compared to budget. However, the hot Wellington summer decided to melt the Christmas sign onto the Perspex sign-box cover. So, on Boxing Day, Graham and his distinguished visiting German theologian found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time and spent a few hours with solvents and scrapers, trying to remove toner that had become infused. Thanks Graham! The remnants of this remain on one sign board, adding a creative effect something like the Te Papa thumbprint logo (but without the Satchi and Satchi million dollar design fee). God works in mysterious ways!

As planned, we moved the flame-shaped sign from the corner to the driveway entrance as it provided quite a bit of detail that will be more visible there. We have also had designed a slightly larger corner sign with minimal text which will go up shortly.

Because we have lost members on the committee this year, we have used the full Council for feedback on some communications' work-in-progress and want to take this opportunity to thank the Council for its detailed and helpful feedback. We have been asked by Council to do a review of church publications and their effectiveness. We have started with the church weekly *Bulletin* and have helped Barbara develop a slightly revised format and a more efficient means of formatting and production. The next step will be to look at other publications like the *Messenger* and Annual Report. Any feedback on any church publication is welcomed. We need more members to help with this process and have searched for new committee members on a number of occasions. Finally, it looks as though we may have someone. More are welcome.

The Annual Report is the major communications budget item. This year, we have taken inspiration from Jan Stiebert's suggestion to use part of a church window in the cover design. Thanks to David Jackson, our new Boys' Brigade Captain (and a graphic design graduate) for his design and layout of the annual report, for a small fraction of the commercial rate. Thanks to BGI for the use of their software and equipment to effect this.

Last year, I concluded with the verse "*wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road*", based around our flame signs. Next year, we hope to do more around our brief to help facilitate our Senior Minister respond to issues of the day in the local and national media. We hope this will further communicate the message that here is an orthodox, yet modern, church which is on fire, is friendly, and has something distinctive to contribute.

Go St Johns!
ma Ihowa koutou e mannaaki (God Bless you!),



Ross Davis
Convenor, Communications Committee



WEB SITE - OUR VIRTUAL CONGREGATION

2005/6 was another year of strong growth for the web site.

The table below shows how visits to the site have doubled over the last two years:

YEAR	UNIQUE VISITORS	NUMBER OF VISITS	PAGES VIEWED
2003/4	7,296	17,351	37,252
2004/5	12,898	32,901	53,666
2005/6	19,948	35,399	82,402

Growth continues even at the end of the year, with June 2006 up by around 20% for all these statistics compared with June 2005. The numbers do not include automated web crawlers. Overall, we have almost 700 visits per week, roughly 3 times the number of people who come to church on a typical Sunday morning. Interestingly, people are coming to the site for the inherent content of the material. We are not actively promoting the site and might well attract even more if we did. We are steadily adding to what we have to offer over time though.

What do they come for? This table shows the top 10 most popular pages in June 2006:

PAGE	NUMBER OF VISITS
Sunday School Resource	1,007
Front Page	520
Information on Baptism	291
Church Diary	201
Parish Marriage Registers (19 th C)	174
Marriages (19 th C)	135
Sermons and other lectures	131
Sitemap	127
Information about St John's	116
Contact details	113

These are encouraging statistics. They show that our free, original Sunday School plays and other resources (largely written by Margaret Galt when taking Sunday School Classes) are immensely popular, helping Sunday School teachers all over the world with conveying the core stories in scripture or key concepts that children need to know. We're still trying to work out what makes "Paul and Silas in Prison" the most popular play.

There is scope for much more of this material. If our present teachers of youth and children have good original material they could add, it would be most welcome.

People are very interested in what Graham Redding has written about baptism, often coming to St John's web site to find out how it differs from christening.

The Church Diary is popular too – encouraging given that that takes more time to update than most of the rest of the material. The notices in the Sunday Bulletin go in, edited to preserve some key elements of privacy and ensure that burglars don't get a ready index of street addresses to visit during Sunday services. You can usually access this material a day before you get the Bulletin on Sunday each week through the year.

Our marriage records remain popular with genealogists. Does anyone feel like doing data entry so that we can extend their availability into the twentieth century? Importantly, the genealogists accessing our records might just find something more about us that is of interest too.

Other items not included in the table that people often look up include details of our youth programmes, who our staff are, all the Messengers of the last few years and our Annual Reports. They keep coming back for all the old ones. The electronic audience will exceed the audience for the hard copy versions of our regular publications over time.

New ideas and original material for the site are always welcome. As the site is still largely as designed 5 years ago, the time might come when we need a more general review and update.

Many thanks to all those who contribute, especially to Barbara Newdick who provides the Bulletin material each week.

Don't forget to bookmark the site yourself!



David Galt



MINUTES OF THE 152nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY HELD IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER 2005 AT 5-30PM

The moderator, Rev. Dr G. Redding, addressed the meeting and constituted it with prayer.

PRESENT:

Rev. Dr Graham Redding, Rev. Helen Martin, Muriel Ewan (Session Clerk), Ted Cizadlo (Chair, St John's Council), and 50 members.

APOLOGIES:

D. Chesney, G. Durante, A. Fowler, M. Galt, R. and W. Gould, T. and P. Hastings, G. Janes, E. and B. McKenzie, F. and A. Nauta, H. Nixon, N. Owen John, E. Pearse, L. Pollock, N. Read, K. Simpson, C. Stewart, G. and K. Sutherland, L. van Milligan, J. and G. West, J. and G. Westermayer, Rev. Dr E. and D. Steedman, S. Lawson.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the 151st AGM of St John's, held 09/10/04, were confirmed and accepted.

M. Ewan/R. Chesney - AGREED

PRESENTATION FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

R. Munro spoke to his report. The Outreach Committee conducted a thorough review of the BGI relationship and was pleased to conclude that BGI has sound leadership and is achieving excellent results.

The committee used the Outreach Fund to support four other organisations during the year: Downtown Community Ministry, Mt Cook School, Presbyterian Support Central, and Catholic Social Services' free counselling service.

BGI:

The Chair of BGI, Geoff Annals, introduced the staff of BGI who then gave a comprehensive presentation on the range of projects run by BGI across a continuum of need.

PRESENTATION FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT:

T. Cizadlo talked about the financial position and wondered where we could make cuts. He warned that if we discontinue important projects and services, they might not be able to be revived, so we must take care not to act in haste.

M. Ewan spoke of the growth of our congregation and membership which is contrary to trends in the rest of New Zealand. Our groups are led by skilled and caring people and we must keep the focus on mission and acknowledge the good things that are happening.

PPWG:

The Planning and Prioritisation Working Group was represented by Ross Chesney. He said inflation seems set to increase, which will mean that a greater part of the Trust Fund will be needed for inflation-proofing and that this will not be available for spending. We must try and be less reliant on the Trust Fund. David Galt pointed out that we must seek God's guidance in prayer, and parishioners must also prayerfully consider increasing their giving. We must support further reductions in spending and support the PPWG.

FINANCIAL POSITION:

Ross Chesney presented the 2005 financial report and the 2006 budget, which showed a deficit of \$ 177,000, putting pressure on our cash reserves.

The moderator opened the floor for questions. A suggestion was received that the investment advisory group should be more pro-active and report to the AGM.

There was a motion of thanks to the PPWG.

R.Davis/R.Read - AGREED

A Salt thanked Anna Davis and Nicki Read for the invaluable work leading the Sunday School team and noted that it is great to see the large numbers of enthusiastic children each week. Anna replied, saying that they are desperate for helpers. Relationships are being built between congregation and children by older members running the holiday programmes. There is a need to build a stronger teaching team.

MOVE TO RECEIVE REPORTS & ADOPT THE BUDGET

T.Cizadlo/M.Ewan - AGREED

CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE CONVENORS:

Chair:	T.Cizadlo
Christian Education:	E. Pearse
Communication:	R. Davis
Finance:	R. Chesney
Outreach:	R. Munro
Property:	J. Irvine
Staff:	J. Marshall
Social:	Jinny Irvine
Women's Assn:	Mary Gibbs
R. Ewan/C. Goudswaard - AGREED	

ELECTION OF OUTREACH COMMITTEE:

The following were re-elected to the Committee:

Convenor: R.Munro, Dayle Anderson, Allie Crombie, Janet Thomson. Ex-Officio:

Ministers and Session Clerk.

G.Annals/M. Gibbs - AGREED

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER AND AUDITORS:

R. Chesney was confirmed as Treasurer and BDO Spicers as auditors.

T. Cizadlo/M. Ewan - AGREED

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Darrell Bootherstone expressed his thanks to Rev. Helen Martin and members for all the help and support he has received this year during his illness and having to move into residential care.
- Paul Ramsay expressed the thanks of the congregation to the ministers and noted that we are indeed fortunate to have leaders of high calibre.
- Roger Lloyd expressed his thanks to the BGI and noted the sterling work they do.

GREETINGS:

Letters of greeting to be sent to the following:

Rev. M. and Mrs M. Brown, Mrs M. Fairbairn, Rev. N. and Mrs B. Johnston, Mrs Norah Owen John, Rev. K. Orange, Rev. Roxborough, Rev. V. and Mrs L. Solofa, Rev. Dr D. and Mrs E. Steedman, Mrs J. Temple, Mrs S. White, Rev. Dr E. and Mrs C. Wuelfekuehler.

The meeting concluded with the Grace at 7.30 p.m.

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY Register for the Year Ending 30 June 2006

Number of Baptisms:	13
Number of Marriages:	17
Members joined during the year:	10

The deaths are recorded of the following members :

Betty Dorothy Harris

Janet Marjory Pack

Kevin Bruce Coleman

Barbara Elizabeth Wallace

Dorothy Pearl Bowe

John Dougal Durry