



2014/2015

St John's in the City

162nd Annual Report



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Foreword

Have you noticed the various brass plaques around St John's, and how many of them have the inscription "To the Glory of God"? The plaques often commemorate a building, or the life of someone, dedicated to 'the glory of God'.

Just what is 'the Glory of God'...?

In the Old Testament, the glory of God describes a present quality of God that is weighty and worthy. Sometimes the glory of God is described as physical (Exodus 40:34-35), sometimes spiritual (Isaiah 60:1-3), and sometimes it is both (Isaiah 6:1-5).

In the New Testament, the glory of God refers principally to the revelation of the character and the presence of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He is the outshining of the divine glory (Hebrews 1:1-3). The presence of the risen Jesus shines God's glory into our world, but no altar or tabernacle or temple needs to be built because the Word of God has pitched his tent in the human flesh of Jesus Christ (John 1:14).

So when we dedicate something to the glory of God we do not create God's glory, but participate in how Jesus shines God's glory into our world. Our efforts, our accomplishments, and the fruit of our faith – those things that express our living for God, rather than for ourselves – these, we believe, are what it means to live out the words of scripture: "whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

In the following pages are many examples of our St John's church community living for God, as together we participate in the shining of God's glory into our world.

As you read we hope that you will see the Spirit of God in the wonderful things that are happening at St John's, and that together we will be encouraged and inspired to take our part, as God prompts and provokes us.

This Annual Report is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Yours in Christ
Allister and Stuart
(The Ministers)



***Welcome one another, therefore,
just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.***

- Romans 15:8-9

Session Annual Report 2014/15

Once again this year, Session has worked towards its three goals for St John's:

- 1 Growing faith
- 2 Encouraging participation
- 3 Building community, both in St John's and in the wider Wellington Community

A retreat in February 2015 considered what our most important issues for the year would be. For the near future, we considered that we would need to prayerfully approach three issues:

- Building participation further, which we considered later at a Session meeting as a special topic or 'theme discussion'. This involves thinking about talents and encouraging opportunities for people to use their talents for Christ. A good example is the 'Clubs Day' held in March, which allowed members of the Congregation to find out about activities across St John's and sign up to participate in them. Thanks go to Chris Wansink and Jason Fyfe for organising this event.
- Improving current outreach ministries. We have a very active Outreach Committee which organises financial support to mission activities, organises visiting lecturers and much more. At another level, our services and programmes within St John's are also part of outreach – an important way of sharing the Gospel with others. However, we are always looking to see if the mix of activities is right – for instance, we were asking if we are engaging enough with the communities we live in. More thought will be needed on this.
- Living with diversity within unity. We are people with a wide variety of views on many issues. In 2014, General Assembly made a decision on marriage, which only authorises Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) to solemnise marriages

between a man and woman. And there is a diversity of views at St John's on the issue. All Church Councils (Sessions) throughout the PCANZ are requested to respond with their views on this decision before the Assembly decision can take full effect. Session has provided opportunities for St John's to consider these issues directly, offering two Congregational Forums in July 2015 after year end, to allow members of St John's to participate in thinking about these issues and help inform Session's deliberations.

Session has tackled quite diverse issues itself over the last year. We have done the following.

- » Held an 'Elders Encounter' for children of the Church, where children and elders could meet each other. Both enjoyed this occasion which helped Session to recognise the perspective that children might bring to the Church.
- » Agreed to support further development of a proposed partnership with the University of Otago for a Wellington-based lectureship with their Theology and Religious Studies Department. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted, under which St John's will be the primary supporting partner, with further financial contributions from other parties.
- » Agreed to support General Assembly's decisions on Council of Assembly membership (the body that runs the national church between Assemblies) and on PCANZ being a cross-cultural and multicultural church with a bicultural commitment.
- » Reviewed the Evening Service and supported the resulting vision for it: 'that within the wider mission and goals of St John's in the City, the Evening Service seeks to engage young adults, encouraging and equipping them to grow in and live out [their] relationship with God.'
- » Reviewed how Elders' pastoral care should be organised and renewed our commitment for elders to be in touch with all members of the Congregation from time to time.

This might be through a visit, phone call, coffee or other means that work for both elders and members of the congregation. We are still working on how this might be best organised and are conscious that there are members of the congregation who have not yet been matched with an elder. Carolyn Goudswaard has taken on the important role of helping to organise these contacts and we started a process to bring nominations of new elders to a congregational meeting in the New Year, to help provide sufficient Elders for the purpose. (If you have any questions about how the Elders provide pastoral care, and/or would like to know if you have an Elder assigned to you – please contact one of the Ministers.)

- » One practical way to provide more pastoral care for the congregation was the establishment of two Life Groups for members of the Evening Congregation.
- » Session was pleased to support a leave application for Rev Stuart Simpson to visit Madagascar with his family from October 2015 to early January 2016.

Much of Session's work is conducted through committees, which means many Session members have at least two nights a month to get involved in leading and supporting St John's work. One such Committee, the Christian Education Committee, was reorganised during the year so that there is now more involvement by elders, with Rob Anderson taking over the lead from Beth Beard. Our thanks go to Beth and longstanding retiring committee members, Anna Davis and Kathy Sutherland, for their contributions.

Thanks also go to Ailsa Salt and the Outreach Committee for a huge amount of work. Our outreach is far more effective because of it. Other committees report to the St John's Council rather than Session but Session members provide substantial leadership there too. In particular, David Wood (Property) Ross Chesney (Finance), Anton Ojala (Council Chair), and Mary Gibbs (St John's Fellowship Group) give sterling service that supports St John's overall mission and outreach.

We have had a large number of changes in Session's make-up this year. Elders stepping down from active service on Session included John Atkinson, Rob and Muriel Ewan, Malcolm Shaw, Glen and Judi Ferguson and Ted Cizadlo. Gina Williamson has leave of absence to work in Tonga. All of them have made big contributions to Session and St John's which deserve our gratitude. The pending election of new elders will help to fill the gap left, as will the return of John Allen to Session after a leave of absence.

We continue to be blessed with the unstinting, sacrificial leadership of our two Ministers, Allister and Stuart.

We are also blessed by the contributions by our paid staff. This year there have been substantial changes. Anna Davis has provided superb leadership to our Children's and Families Ministry but stepped down at the end of 2014, leaving the very capable Belinda Clare to take up the challenge of leadership until the appointment of Monika Demuth-Barber, to be taken up after year end.

Vicki Watson has taken up one of our Secretary positions after the resignation of long-serving Fennie Dewar. In youth work Richard Hpa replaced Nga Rolston and Brett Reid replaced Dave Adams for a year while he takes a well-earned OE. And Graeme Coppell resigned, while Mark Farrow has continued to provide an excellent contribution as caretaker.

We thank all our staff who have given good service, including Evert van Reenen and Jennifer Hammond who continue in their roles in the office, helping especially to keep the St John's Centre working well for both St John's and the wider community. Eleanor Carter, Eric Sidoti, Dayle Anderson, and others who work with them and evening service musicians also deserve a good round of applause for their support for worship.

There has been an increase in Congregational attendance this year – up 13% from 220 across both services per week in June 2014 to 248 per week in June 2015. Total membership recorded in the roll fell slightly to 333.

There are too many volunteers at St John's to thank everyone but it is pleasing to record that we have 111 volunteers recorded in leadership roles right across our activities in our annual statistics for 2015, concentrated in youth work, administration and pastoral care. There are many others giving service to St John's and to their Lord that we are not asked to record by PCANZ.

To end this report on the note it began, there can be no doubt of the continuing effort by the congregation to grow faith and the real outreach and participation we are seeing to share the Gospel.

David Galt
Session Clerk

Register for the Year Ending 30 June 2015

Number of Baptisms:	6
Number of Confirmations:	0
Number of Marriages:	1
Members joined during the year:	7

The deaths are recorded of the following members:

Jean Boyd

Lorna Esme Warren Rodgers

Tony Viliame Tuatoko

Alan Walton Darroch

John Livingston Marshall

6



0



1



7



Council Report

The Council of St John's in the City is responsible for making sure the financial and property operations and other administrative matters of St John's proceed smoothly. Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the St John's Centre. The meetings usually last up to 90 minutes and are open to observers.

Major areas of work for the Council in 2014/15 included seismic strengthening plans for the church building, working with the Boys and Girls' Institute on the refurbishment of the space they lease from St John's in Troup House and monitoring the overall financial position of St John's in light of a significant expected deficit.

The seismic strengthening work on the church building has continued to make progress. To speed things up and to allow the painting of the exterior of the church building to take place in the summer of 2016 as scheduled, the strengthening work has been divided into exterior and interior components. Completion of the exterior work is scheduled to begin late this year, with the painting taking place after that. The interior work can be done a little later. As well as making the church safer, completion of this work will see a reduction in insurance costs for St John's because of the improved seismic rating.

The Council, and in particular David Wood and Ross Chesney, have been closely involved in negotiation with the Boys and Girls' Institute (BGI) on the refit of levels 3 and 4 of Troup House. The work on the refit began in late June 2015 and is due to be completed in October. David and Ross's work on behalf of St John's, in addition to their activities as conveners of the Property and Finance Committees respectively, is noted with appreciation.

It is pleasing to note, for reasons set out in the Finance Committee report, that the financial situation of St John's is not as bleak as it seemed at the start of the year. This is not however a cause for complacency and Council will continue to monitor the financial situation closely.

Council membership

Council is made up of the conveners of the standing committees of St John's, the Ministers and the Chair. The Finance and Administration Manager is the ex officio secretary.

In May 2015, Rob Anderson agreed to take over the Chair of the Christian Education Committee from Beth Beard. This followed a useful process of consideration by a sub-group of Council of the role of the Christian Education Committee, reflecting a desire to ensure that the Committee took a strategic approach to all Christian education within St John's. Beth's contribution to the Christian Education Committee from the time of her appointment in September 2013 is warmly acknowledged by the Council, including her initiative in raising the matter of the focus of the Committee's work referred to above.

As Rob is not able to attend Council meetings because of other commitments, Christian Education Committee interests are represented in Council meetings by the Ministers, who attend the Christian Education Committee in an ex officio capacity. Apart from this, Council membership remains unchanged. The Council therefore currently comprises the following:

Anton Ojala	Chair
Rev Allister Lane	Minister
Rev Stuart Simpson	Minister
Rob Anderson (represented by the Ministers)	Christian Education
Elizabeth Gibbs	Communications
Ross Chesney	Finance
Ailsa Salt	Outreach
Committee inactive	Pastoral Care
David Wood	Property
David Ensor	Social

David Galt

Session Clerk (and
Staffing Committee
Convener)

Mary Gibbs

St John's
Fellowship Group

Evert van Reenen

Ex officio Secretary
(Finance and
Admin Manager)



Baptism of James Lane

The Pastoral Care Committee remains inactive since its disbanding in 2012. The Committee position remains on the Council list, subject to further consideration of the work previously undertaken by the Committee.

Through its approval of this report, the Annual General Meeting will be asked to endorse the appointment by Council of Anton Ojala as the Chair of Council for a further year.

Anton Ojala

Chair of Council

Worship

All the activity of our community is ultimately an expression of our worship of God. The weekly patterns of our corporate worship sustain habits that fuel us for our ministry and mission. We gather together with attentiveness to God's Word, practising our prayer and praise, to grow in our understanding and love of God.

The sacraments of Baptism and Communion are our practices of worship that ground us in the tangible grace of God. Baptism is the sacrament of welcome, and Communion is the sacrament of nurture. They both bring our faith to life as celebrations that are impossible for us to ever experience on our own.



Aroha for Vanuatu, 19 April 2015. (Photo by Phil King)



Rev James Gibb.
(Photo from the
Alexander Turnbull Library)

We have continued to host worship services for our Church Schools – Scots College and Queen Margaret College – at Easter, Christmas and Founders Day. At different times we also welcomed students, families and staff from Uttley House, Aitken House, and Mawson House from Scots College to join in our Sunday morning worship services.

Regular combined worship with our neighbouring churches of St Mary of the Angels and St Peters has been celebrated at Advent, Ash Wednesday and Pentecost. And St Mary of the Angels has continued to worship weekly at St John's while their building is being strengthened. As part of the special Musicathon event we hosted a joint Communion service with St Andrew's on the Terrace.

We give thanks to God for these expressions of Christian unity.

We are thankful to all who contribute to our worship together – those who welcome at the door, play music, sing in the choir, read the Bible, lead prayer, run the sound system, count the offering, ring the bell, serve tea, coffee, lunches, and evening meals. We are enriched as we use our gifts together to glorify God.

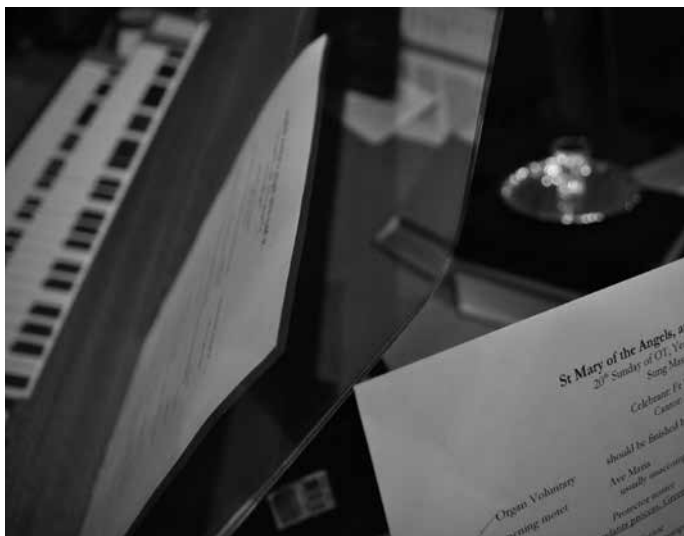
Rev Allister Lane



Combined Pentecost service, 24 May 2015



Richard Read at the sound desk



Music always plays a big part in the lives of the St John's community, as was evident from the huge number of people who took part in the Water for Westbank Musicathon, held at St John's in August 2014. We heard different styles of music from a large range of musicians, both from St John's and St Andrew's on the Terrace congregations. The audiences were impressive, especially in the small hours of Sunday morning!

Musicians at St John's continue to be dedicated to rehearsing and performing in church services week after week. We are grateful for all the hard work that goes into playing for services in the morning and evening from the instrumentalists and singers.

Dayle Anderson does a wonderfully thorough job of coordinating the morning musicians. Many thanks to; Ginny Abernethy, Jonathan Boston, Benjamin Carter, Tony Fuell, Mary Gow, Phil Garrity, Michelle Knight, Elliot Lawes, Kathryn, Anton, Madi and April Ojala, Daniel and Thomas Read, Lala, Aina, Manda and Harena Simpson, Malvino Sitohang, Harry Troughton and Caitlin Walker.

It is really lovely to hear the younger generation of musicians playing so confidently and regularly for us.

Thrive has its own band, which is very impressive! They have played for some services recently and we look forward to hearing more from them as they develop.

The evening service music team is delightfully fun to play with. Thanks to Aaron, Angus, Connor, James, Jen, Jonathan, Keryn, Miri, Petra, Phil and Stefan, and all the other people involved in organising that part of the music here.

The Senior Choir continues to lead the singing in most morning services, ably conducted by Eric Sidoti. The choir is very small at the moment, due to some departures at the end of last year. Beth Cizadlo (and occasionally Ted) and Stephanie McHardie gave many years of beautiful singing to the church.

The permanent members of the choir are augmented, on occasions, but our usual choir is:

Sopranos:

Joyce Gibson
Pat Isherwood
Tae Soon Lee
Linda Van Milligan
Jeanette Westermayer

Altos:

Dayle Anderson
Winifred Bain
Mary Gow
Katherine Sutherland

Tenor:

Evan Dumbleton

Basses:

Tony Fuell
David Galt

It is always pleasant to welcome back musicians who have made music a career. Recently flutist Lucy Anderson has spent some time back in Wellington and we were privileged to hear her play many times, in services as well as in concerts.

Eleanor Carter

Music Director

Outreach

This has been another busy year of outreach work in St John's with most of the congregation being involved in some form of outreach or mission activity. Some of the highlights are covered below.

Music for 'Water for the West Bank'

This was an event that St John's in the City and St Andrew's on the Terrace ran in conjunction with Christian World Service to raise funds for water tanks for homes in the Palestinian West Bank. And with the meticulous planning led by David Galt and Dayle Anderson and their team of organisers, an undreamed of amount of over \$20,000 was raised at our 24-hour Musicathon from 10 am Saturday 9 August to 10 am Sunday 10 August 2014.

As Rob Anderson said in the September Messenger "The congregation owned the event. Whether performing, working in the Conference Centre or in some part of the church everyone who willingly donated their time did their allotted job efficiently and graciously." Those contributing their time and talents and those making significant donations all gave generously. The numbers in the audience were greater than expected, especially during the wee small hours of the night and Carol Shortis, who was sponsored for attending for the whole 24 hours of the concert, had amazing support. It was altogether a meaningful and successful two days.



Musicathon musicians Beth Cizadlo, Andrew Chesney, Elliot Lawes, Anton Ojala, Ted Cizadlo, Tony Fuell, Lala Simpson.



The Troughton family performing at the Musicathon.

Other overseas mission grants

CMS Missioners have had great support this year with St John's being able to transfer over \$15,000 for the Missioners support for the year. This includes \$6,500 from St John's overseas mission funds and \$8,673 donations from individuals.. Their work continues to be challenging and they appreciate the support given by the St John's congregation.

Budgeted funds of \$5,500, in addition to the Missioners grant, were distributed as follows:

- \$1,500 to the Ebule Technical College, owned and run by the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, for its rebuilding fund
- \$ 2,000 to St Paul's School, Church of North India, for support of four disadvantaged students in Himachal Pradesh
- \$2,000 towards the costs for a Vanuatu women pastor to study for a theology degree at the Pacific Theological College, Fiji.

Myanmar outreach

Contact has been continued with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM), and the St John's Myanmar group has reviewed plans for ongoing activities. This includes increased communication on PCM activities and mission, and encouraging members of St John's to continue an active interest in these. The work of the rice bowl fund will be promoted. In doing this, St John's will work with PCANZ Global Mission which maintains the ongoing contacts with PCM.

Visiting Scholar programme

Our 2014 Visiting Scholar was Professor Richard Bauckham, who retired early as a Professor of New Testament Studies at St Andrews University in order to concentrate on research and writing at Cambridge University. Professor Bauckham is a prolific author of theological books, many having been translated into other languages. Around 350 people attended his lecture on 'The Gospels as Eye-witness Testimony' and his responses to a wide range of questions underlined his status as a Biblical scholar and theologian.

Plans are well in hand for the visit of David Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University, Atlanta, Georgia, who will be St John's 2015 Visiting Scholar from 3 – 6 August.

Legacy grants

DCM and Presbyterian Support Central (PSC) received grants towards their work from the interest on the Andrew's Family Memorial Legacy and the Noel S Wood's Legacy, while PSC also received funds from the Edward Carter Legacy to assist with the project they are running for prisoners and parolees in Arohata Prison. The committee is giving consideration to recommendations to Council how the Anwyl Fowler legacy may be used.

Links with other organisations

The Outreach Committee's terms of reference encourage the committee to develop working relationships with organisations with similar goals, particularly those that were actually started by St John's Church. These include Queen Margaret and Scots Colleges and Presbyterian Support Central. St John's has connections with around 20 organisations, and this year has been pleased to enhance its relations with PSC through its Out of Gate project. This offers eligible offenders who are being released from Arohata support in reintegrating into the community. It is intended that the relationship will continue to grow.

Otago University Wellington-based lectureship

Following the decision by Victoria University not to replace Professor Chris Marshall, the Outreach Committee has been exploring future possibilities for similar projects as the Lectureship in Christian Theology. The following important features and principles were identified for any further project. It should:

- offer authentic expression of our Christian identity and witness
- make a recognisable difference in Wellington and beyond
- equip and encourage church communities and leaders in a meaningful way
- provide leadership for a venture that would be unlikely to happen without St John's involvement and resourcing
- take the Gospel message into new areas, with credibility and authenticity.
- The University of Otago has a substantial Theology and Religious Studies programme and they are very interested in having a lecturer based in Wellington. During the year we have had a constructive dialogue with representatives of the University. These discussions have been supported by Session. We expect to be reporting to the congregation on an exciting project later this year.

Christian Education Committee

In May, St John's Session agreed to new terms of reference for the Christian Education Committee. The committee continues to 'be responsible to session for the oversight of Christian Education programmes and activities at St John's. This is a governance role. The management and mentoring of the employees is the responsibility of the ministers concerned.'

I was invited to chair the committee. Thankfully, Beth Beard who had done such a wonderful job as chair of the previous Christian Education Committee agreed to be a member of the new committee. I am grateful to Beth for agreeing to stay on.

It will come as no surprise that my initial impressions of the Christian Education programmes are that they are in good heart. The vibrancy of these programmes owes much to the dedication, initiative, creativity and energy of a large number of leaders who are committed to this pivotal ministry. I know that Session places

high value on Christian Education at St John's. This is mirrored by the enthusiastic response of the congregation to the participation of the younger members of our congregation. One visitor to a service commented how the tempo of the service changed significantly when the young people came into the church to join the rest of the congregation for communion one Sunday.

There are always many people to acknowledge in the course of a year. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work of Youth Ministry workers Dave Adams, Nga Rolston, Brett Reid and Richard Hpa and Children and Families Ministry Workers Belinda Clare. These people have been, and continue to be, tireless in the exceptional work they do.

We have so much to be thankful for.

Robert Anderson

Christian Education Committee

Midnight Ministries

St John's Evening Servers identified a critical need to fulfill: inebriated University students 'walking' down Dixon St en route to Wellington city during Victoria University Orientation Week (the week before University starts). And they acknowledged that something had to be done about it. So, with a little bit of baking from this person and that person in the congregation, some strong coffee, PB n Js, spag 'n cheese on toast, and some can-do attitude, a dedicated group of Evening Servers took to the entrance of St John's, between the hours of 10pm and 2am, and served our inebriated brothers and sisters. As exhausting as this type of outreach can be, it is incredibly life giving, and a pleasure for all involved. This ministry isn't possible without the generosity of the congregation: the baking, other donations, prayers, and support.



Evening servers doing their bit for Midnight Ministry.

Brett Reid

Children and Families

The Children and Families Ministry (CFM) here at St John's continues to go from strength to strength. Over the 12 months that this report covers, we have farewelled Anna and we are about to welcome Monika Demuth-Barber. Over that time, we have run many successful events as well as our usual Sunday morning programme. We could only have done all these things with the wonderfully dedicated volunteers that make up the children and families ministry. They are always ready when called upon and do so with enthusiasm and love for what we do. We also are encouraged by the fantastic kids and families who turn up – full of diversity and eagerness. They are the reason that it all happens. My thanks go to each and every one who is involved in the Children's and Families Ministry here at St John's.

I have been covering the interim period between Anna and Monika as CFMW, here in the office, with lots of support from the rest of the St J's Kids family and the wider community at St John's. During this time I have increased my hours to 20 hours a week with Bonnie Dunstan and then Libby Allwood employed for five hours a week with set tasks to do as well as supporting me in general. They have been great at taking some of the pressure off me and have also helped as a sounding board for some of my wild ideas.

Anna had been on six-month's leave from her position as the Children & Families Ministry Worker during 2014 and came back for Term 4, 2014. She then resigned and finished up at the end of Term 4. Anna has been involved in the CFM, first as a volunteer and then in her paid position, for many, many years and the children's ministry you see today is the vision she had for what it could be all those years ago. Her tireless dedication and constant enthusiasm for the children's ministry here at St John's was something to aspire to. We thank her for all her years of inspiration and commitment to this ministry.

Activities and involvement in the wider church family have continued along the same lines as in the past, as they have proven to serve our ministry well. For example:

- St J's Kids Morning Tea hosting
- Picnic Church
- All Age Worship
- activities that follow the church calendar, such as the journey of the Nativity characters around homes during Advent, Shrove Tuesday Pancake breakfast and Holy Week stations on Palm Sunday.

We also were a part of the Church Camp that was a fantastically fun time for everyone who attended.

St J's Kids

St J's Kids continues to be the backbone of St John's Children and Families ministry with a very strong, diverse leadership team bringing a variety of experience, continual commitment, enthusiasm and ability to connect with the children in many different ways and levels. We have had new people join our team, adding strength to our leadership. One of the great aspects is the number of men who have been regularly involved, who are particularly helpful as role models for the boys we have attending.

As a team, our continued challenge is to connect the Good News of the Gospel with children in ways that make sense to them, that are authentic and resonate with their past experience and everyday lives including that of their parents/caregivers. Part of this is creating space for children to experience God's presence and direction in their own way, so they can 'wonder' at the power of the gospel without judgment – without being told how to think about God. We also have been encouraging the children to ask questions about faith and to listen for God's quiet voice.

St J's Kids & EPIC Leaders and Assistants:

Pre-school Group:

Vicky Wood	Diane Shaw
Antonia Milkop	Fiona Coughlan
Belinda Gilkison	Heather Walker*
Bonnie Dunstan	Lydia Grove^

Year 1&2 Group:

Janie Pack	Linda Shaw
Nina Liando	Farina Kusmana
Kristin Carden~	Mayhaka Mendis
Adrienne Troughton	Nicholas Grove^

Year 3&4 Group:

Bronwyn Wood	Iris Webster
Chris Purchas	Geoff Troughton
Ino Sdh*	Jo Cribb^

Year 5&6 Group:

Alan Clare	Steven Carden~
Janet Davis~	Olivia & Tony Tuatoko^
Jeff Liando	Nicki Read
Jason Fyfe~	Kathryn Ojala^

EPIC:

Nga & Elliot	Amy^
Rolston^	Jack^
Michelle Knight^	Mike^
Tessa Macaulay^	Thomas^
Dave Adams^	Beth Beard*
Campbell^	Brett Reid*

Casual Assistants:

Dave Wood
Libby Allwood
Andrew Gilkison
Fiona Purchas

^Stepped down during the year

*Started leading/assisting during the year

~ Changed classes for 2015

It was decided in Term 1, 2015 that EPIC would stop being a part of the St J's Kids ministry and be joined with Thrive to be included in the Youth Ministry. For this reason, from Term 2, 2015 it is not included in the Children and Families Ministry report.

We lost one of our own this year with the incredibly sad death of a beloved St J's Kids leader – Tony Tuatoko. He was a truly inspiring teacher of our Year 5 & 6 class and had been a part of our family for many years. His smile lit the room when he entered, he always taught with his passion for God and the Word, and his Year 5 & 6 kids were blessed to be taught by a man who lived and taught what he believed. We are the better for having known Tony, and know we have been in the presence of a Man of God.

Greeters:

Piper & Oliver Clare	Yestin Ojala
Luke & Tyler Gibbs	Myah Webster
Aina & Manda Simpson	Jacob Troughton
Rebekah Wood	Mindy Simpson

Sunday Morning Holiday Programme Leaders:

Anna Davis	Lesley Shaw
Belinda Clare	Margaret Gilkison
Carolyn Goudswaard	Maria Biedermann
Farina Kusmana	Naomi Lane
Hamish Clare	Vera & Dave Burton
Heather Walker	Vicky Wood
Jinny Irvine	



Highlights:

Advent Electives

We've done it before, and it was such a success, we decided to do it again – Advent Electives! We had eight activities to choose from – Clay, Pebble Painting, Applique, Woodwork, Computer Research, Baking, Drumming and 3D paper nativity set. These were run over four weeks and every Sunday it was fantastic to move through the St J's Centre and to see a hive of activity and excitement as so many children and adults were involved and working on things together. Thank you especially to our team leaders (Vera & David Burton, Gail West, Janie Pack, Alan Clare, Vicky Wood, Lala Simpson, Heather Walker, Nga & Elliot Rolston) and to everyone who was involved and made it all happen.

St J's Theme for 2015

This year we started with one word – seeking. We planned to go seeking for God, to go seeking through the Bible, to go seeking with each other and we're not going to stop for anything. With this in mind we plan to do this each Sunday and will be reminded by the big art work of the word SEEK up in the hall (thanks to the kids at the holiday programme for helping with the decorating). Therefore the names for the groups are the Treasure Seekers, Intrepid Explorers, Super Sleuths and the Inquisitive Investigators.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast

Our fifth annual pancake breakfast was held to mark the beginning of Lent. The Men's Breakfast group cooked the pancakes again rather than the families, reinforcing its identity as a whole Church event rather than simply a children and families event. Approximately 70 attended (not so many older people and not so many youth as other

years). This year the koha went to the Guardian Angel charity within Family Works. \$110 was collected and given towards helping this important charity.

Picnic Church

This is always a highlight in our calendar – a chance to meet and worship God in the great outdoors. It was a beautiful morning and by the end, the sunscreen was being handed around! Our theme was 'Seeking' based off Jeremiah 29:1-14 and Luke 15:1-10. There was a pirate, a treasure hunt for chocolate coins, a great communal prayer time, lots of singing and then a fantastic lunch afterwards – what more could you want on a Sunday morning!

Easter: Palm Sunday

This year we rotated through the four stations that we have done in the past (The Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane, Peter's Denial & The Crucifixion) – with both EPIC and our Year 5 & 6 group actually performing and presenting each station. This was a great experience for all the children involved as it helped the older ones put their faith and knowledge into action and showed the younger ones the faith in action of the older ones.



Easter Sunday

This year after the children were shown a short video clip of Easter Sunday, we all enjoyed our Easter Egg hunt and then we had activity stations in the hall where the children were able to move through them as they wish. We even had a real bunny (not that that was the focus). All the children and adults seemed to enjoy themselves and were able to pick the activities they were interested in – be it the clay, puzzles, art/craft, or books.

All Age Worship:

The last event during this report period was All Age Worship. Our theme was Wholeness – Hauora & well-being with the sub-theme: seeking. A worship time is always going to be good when it starts with muffins and milo, and the morning only got better. I think the highlight was the group discussion time and the large group mural that was created from it. It is great to stay together and worship as one big family and is always a fun time for everyone.

Children in church

Children bringing the Bible in:

Each Sunday, a child brings in the Children's Bible at the beginning of the service, and then leads the children out, on their way to St J's Kids. This active involvement with the children is a sign of St John's being authentically Kids Friendly!

Children singing the blessing:

Many people have commented on how meaningful the children singing the blessing to them has become – and it is lovely to hear the congregation sing it back to us as we leave church for St J's Kids.

Numbers:

St J's Kids/Epic:

The average weekly attendance over the 2014/2015 year was 26 families and 48 children. During this period, 45 families attended at least once.

Preschool Music & Movement group (M&M)

This delightful group is flourishing with a steady team of music leaders of Anna Davis, Kate Wasson, Naomi Lane, Vicky Wood, Shirley Carran, Bonnie Dunstan and myself, and the group morning tea roster. It is strongly pastoral in nature underpinned by the St John's family. Many of the group do not attend St John's. Betty Robertson and her team of helpers have provided monthly Coffee & Chat morning teas which finished up at the end of 2014 – thanks to Betty and her team for the years of dedication to this ministry. We often think that this is for the children to enjoy but as one mother said to me recently – M&M is the highlight of her week – she gets to meet with other adults, do an activity with her kids, have a great cup of coffee and some delicious morning tea and know that her kids are having fun too! 64 families have been part of our group over this year. Average weekly attendance has been 20 adults and 23 children.



I wish to firstly acknowledge with gratitude the contribution and commitment of our dynamic St J's Kids leadership team involved during Sunday mornings and throughout the week and our many activities throughout the year – St J's Kids is not just a Sunday thing! I especially want to thank everyone who has supported, encouraged and stepped up while we were between a CFMW. Big thanks also go to Lesley Shaw, Crèche Coordinator, who offers ongoing weekly support to many of the parents attending M&M and supporting parents of pre-schoolers throughout the week who come on Sundays.

The Children's and Families Ministry at St John's would not be possible if it wasn't for the ongoing involvement and contribution of you, the St John's congregation, in so many different ways and we could not do it without every single person doing their part. We are always eager to hear from anyone who would love to get involved in this fantastic ministry – in whatever capacity. The great thing about children's ministry is there is such a range of

roles that we can find a place for everyone no matter what skills you have, or time you have available to help. Please consider volunteering, and get in touch with me in the office – 385 1546 so we can chat – I would LOVE to hear from you.

Belinda Clare

EPIC and Thrive youth groups make up the Youth

St John's Youth groups

Ministry at St John's in the City. St John's Youth Ministry fosters an inclusive, inner-city community of young people that supports teaching and development in faith, friendship and fun.

We have two youth-specific sessions a week. Friday nights provide more of a chance to socialise – with games, fun, opportunities to meet new people and a faith-based thought of the week, relevant to our Sunday morning session. Then the Sunday sessions are a chance for our young people to explore their faith a little deeper.

Within the St John's Youth Ministry we have at least two combined EPIC and Thrive Friday evenings a term. These enable our young people and leaders to share moments of fellowship with each other doing activities that usually make them go outside of their own comfort zones.

In Term 1 of this year the St John's Youth Ministry had a change in leadership. We said goodbye to Dave Adams and Nga Rolston and welcomed two new Youth Ministry workers, Brett Reid and Richard Hpa.

Term 3, 2014

Film Fest

St John's entries this year were very successful! EPIC celebrated third place once again with their film *'I'm so sorry'*. And Thrive took away first place for the second year in a row with their hilarious film *'La faute à nos citrons'*.



The winning Thrive Film Fest group.

Term 4, 2014

Zoo sleepover

To end the year on a high note, both EPIC and Thrive groups had a sleepover at Wellington Zoo. The Zoo staff took us on a guided tour after hours where we were shown things you wouldn't normally see on a normal outing at the zoo. No one in the group had ever experienced this before and it was great to see what happens at the zoo behind closed doors.



Fun at the zoo.

Summer Holidays

Summer Camp

We didn't even take time to grieve over the loss of our dearly beloved Parachute. NO! We were too busy preparing for Summer Camp, 2015. A strong EPIC and Thrive cohort, joined by our Pressy buddies from St Alban's in Palmerston North, travelled to Highland Home Camp for a weekend of worship, fellowship and teaching. Neil Ballantyne, from World Vision, talked to us about wealth and food inequalities in the world, and about a few practical ways that we might address these issues from here in Aotearoa, New Zealand.



Summer camp.

Term 1, 2015

Easter Camp

We once again took a group of youth to the annual Presbytery Central Easter Camp at Palm Grove Christian Holiday Camp. This is one of the biggest, and most anticipated, events on the Youth Ministry calendar! Thrive was joined by many youth groups from all around the greater Wellington region. It was a great time to make new friends and catch up with old ones. Thanks to our own Rev Allister Lane and Khandallah's Rev Ryhan Prasad for taking us on an amazing walk with God, and for allowing us to learn a lot more about each other's faith. It was an amazing weekend of faith, fun and fellowship.



Easter camp.

Term 2, 2015

Shield Competition

We hosted Knox Waitara Youth group for a long Queen's Birthday weekend of competitive madness. The NZ Presbyterian Young Men's Memorial Shield, which had lain dormant for 78 years, and only recently been won back by Thrive, was once again up for stakes. After a fiercely close competition Thrive managed to retain the shield and keep it at St John's for another wee while. Until next time Knox. Thanks for all the baking St John's congregation!



We've kept the NZ Presbyterian Young Men's Memorial Shield for another year.

Wellington Regional Service

Presbyterian Youth Ministries from the Wellington region were welcomed to Knox, Lower Hutt for a wonderfully entertaining evening. Hosted by Acts29 Youth, and their new youth minister Derek Saumolia, we were brought together to contemplate how best to activate Aotearoa, New Zealand's young people in discipleship. We are looking forward to hosting the next regional service in Term 4, 2015. Watch this space.



At Knox, Lower Hutt.

Combined EPIC/Thrive ice skating

The last night of Term 2 was an exceptional way to join together and end the term on a high note. We all travelled down to the Wellington ice skating rink and had a fantastic evening on the ice. It was a great opportunity for we leaders to watch the young people helping each other out, and seeing them literally draw closer to each other on ice. What a great evening of fellowship!



Richard and Brett trying not to fall over ice skating!

Our volunteer leaders:

We can't do any of what we do without the continued support of our awesome volunteer leaders. We are truly blessed to have them and love them to bits! Next time you see them around give them a high five:

EPIC Youth group:

Abigail Chan
Josiah Denham
Amy Fowke
Sarah Ramsay (Junior Leader)

EPIC Sunday morning:

Beth Beard
Laetitia Brunnell
Jo Cribb
Michelle Knight
Sarah Ramsay (Junior Leader)

Thrive Youth group:

Samuel Allen (Junior Leader)
Hyden Cho
Josh Dominikovich
Alice McEnaney
Genevieve Murnion
Campbell Simpson

Our youth and you

We get between 25 and 30 youth on any given Friday night and an average of 25 to 30 young people on Sunday mornings. We are always looking for more opportunities to have increased congregational participation in the Youth Ministry, so we would love to work with YOU in any way possible. Do not hesitate to contact Brett if you would like to get involved!

We are truly blessed

It has been, and continues to be, an absolute treat for all of the Youth Ministry team to walk alongside our young people. We are more than blessed to have a community at St John's that encourages youth participation within the different ministries it offers. And we hope to see the youth take more of an active role in the future.

Brett Reid

(Youth Ministry Worker)

Richard Hpa

(Youth Ministry Worker)

The Wellington Boys' and Girls' Institute. (BGI)

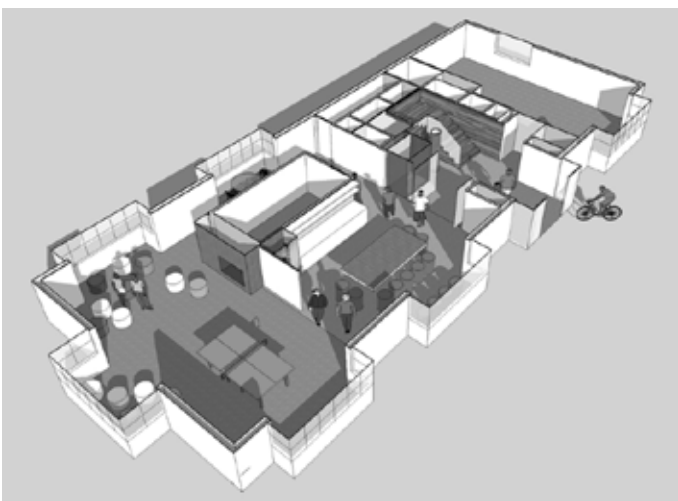
Kia ora whānau! The past year has seen some dramatic and significant developments for BGI and we're excited about what this means for our future, particularly our partnership with St John's in the City.

During the year I was appointed Board Chair, taking over from Tanya Duncan in January who had finished her two-year term as Chair.

Troup House Renovations

As indicated in last year's report, we have been working closely with St John's to redevelop levels 3 and 4 of Troup House as a youth, family and community space. Architectural plans are complete. Building consent is granted. The team has temporarily relocated to Willis St. Demolition is underway!

We are expanding the level 3 kitchen with much greater food storage and capacity for many people to come together and cook meals. We hope to teach young people and parents to create more nutritious kai and make use of donated food. The windows on level 3 will connect more openly with the street, making this Community Kitchen extremely welcoming and inviting. There's a generous room for groups of mentors, youth and parents to gather in for our core programmes, plus we've retained space for other like-minded organisations to come and work alongside us.



Troup House renovations plan.

Level 4's office is improved with an open-plan workspace for our 10 staff, a creative arts room, meeting room and a mezzanine loft for reading and reflection. We're including an internal lift to improve accessibility. At the heart of the renovations, spanning both floors is our poutokomanawa carving.

Poutokomanawa

BGI's 130+ year story is being carved by Ihaia Puketapu into a totara tree that will greet everyone upon arrival. Before the tree was cut down, Rev Allister Lane, Director Ross Davis, carver Ihaia Puketapu and a group of Taita boys gathered around it in Te Marua. Allister prayed that the totara would be something that represented transformation of lives.

The poutokomanawa shows significant people in BGI's journey, many of whom were also significant figures at St John's, including J G W Aitken, W Allen, G Troup and Harry Drummond. The base of the pou acknowledges our faith-based foundation, particularly St John himself. We're also including reference to the Young Men's Bible Class. You will note the pou recalls places as well as people, representing the places BGI has been located in such as Wakefield St, Arthur St, Tasman St and of course, MacDonald Cres.



Poutokomanawa sketch.

Rediscovering our history

The carving has inspired us to clarify and rediscover more about our history. Sandy Lawson has been a significant contributor, along with fellow Board member Duncan Reid. It is worth noting Duncan is our youngest Board member and extremely interested in our oldest stories. He stepped into governance after participating for several years in our youth leadership group Link. Emma Ramsay also volunteered to research our archives and prepare documentation that supports the images carved.

Craft beer connoisseurs Tuatara recently transformed our former Arthur St building into a micro-brewery, which presented a public opportunity to showcase our history in media. As a result, we are starting to see descendants of ancestors such as Harry Drummond contact us. One example is Ann Drummond who has been researching her genealogy and was searching for Harry's memorial tablet, which we'd rescued from Tasman St. Sandy Lawson, Director Ross Davis and youth worker Rod Baxter met with Ann at the carving studio and showed her Harry's figure on the pou. Together, this group walked up to St John's Church and discovered Harry's name, alongside other relatives, listed on several plaques. It is a joy to explore our shared history in this way.

Expanding our support for the wider Presbyterian Church

Wellington Presbytery joined Central Presbytery, and Nga Rolston's role with Joint Youth Ministry Committee expanded to Presbytery Central Youth Ministry Task Group, whose convenor is Rev Stuart Simpson. Nga's now one of two Youth Ministry Enablers in the lower half of the North Island who support churches in the region and work collaboratively with a wider national team.

Nga grew up in St John's youth group attending the very same camps she now organises and facilitates. The wisdom she shares with other youth ministry workers is grounded in her formative experiences within St John's. It is worth celebrating the involvement St John's church family have had in Nga's development and ultimately how this is now benefitting the Presbyterian Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Nga Rolston.



Joe Denham.

Interconnectedness

Each week at BGI's staff meeting the team concludes by contemplating the concept of interconnectedness: observing opportunities where young people and their families can maintain multiple relationships with our staff and volunteers and enjoy several programmes and events over the course of their lives. It's a long-term approach.

Josiah Denham is a prime example of this. Joe joined EPIC when he was in intermediate and Nga was co-ordinating this ministry at the time. Joe moved onto Thrive and, now, in Year 12 at Wellington College, is volunteering as a youth leader with younger peers in EPIC. Joe's also participated in Link for several years, assisted on Challenge for Change mentoring camps, and works part-time as our office cleaner! What a talented guy Josiah is!

We pray that we witness an increase in interconnectedness between BGI and St John's that directly benefits young people like Josiah and supports staff like Nga. Please join us as we return to Troup House and celebrate both our history reflected in the poutokomanawa as well as the future potential the new space holds.

Arohanui
Iris Webster
Board Chair

Property Committee

The Property Committee continues to be busy with a lot of work, some of which is summarised below.

Major work

Completed in this financial year

- St John's Centre painted at a handy cost saving.
- Troup House strengthening – some floor strengthening was found to be necessary, following a seismic assessment of the building by the engineer for the BGI fit-out project, as part of the building consent requirements.
- Geotechnical investigation to inform the design of new foundation anchors, as part of the proposed seismic strengthening of the Church building.

Underway

- BGI's fit-out project for their Troup House facilities at levels 3 and 4 (accessed from MacDonald Cres). While scaffolding is up for the fitting of louvres, windows and new operable skylights/vents, Troup House will receive a necessary exterior re-paint. A new colour scheme will distinguish Troup House as BGI's building, as our major tenant.

Scheduled for the coming financial year

- Costing of preliminary seismic strengthening proposals for bringing to congregational, Presbytery and Church Property Trustees approvals.
- Detailed design of exterior strengthening works for the church building.
- Completion of exterior strengthening of the church – foundation anchoring at each buttress and improvement of buttress head ties.
- Church exterior painting once exterior

strengthening works are complete.

- Renovation of St John's Centre kitchen, which is quite heavily used by both church groups and mid-week users/hirers of the centre.
- Re-working of garden area in front of Spinks Cottage. Several options are being considered, including cosmetic re-paving and retaining works through to replacement of the garden with a more open frontage that might encourage better access and use.
- Re-roofing of the church foyer to deal with leaks.

Thank you to our highly capable and enthusiastic staff and committee.

David Wood

Convenor



Communications Committee

The committee continues to use a variety of communication methods to foster and grow our Church community and spread God's message of love and hope. These include:

- this Annual Report to let you know all the things our church community has been up to over the past year
- the quarterly Messenger newsletter to keep you informed and inspired
- the signs on the corner of Willis & Dixon Streets to keep you thinking
- our website and Facebook page to keep you up-to-date with what's happening at St John's.

There have been lots of coming and going on the committee this year, so it has very much been a consolidation year. I must say a big thank you to all those who have given their time, energy and efforts over the last year.

This year we farewelled:

- Shane Fairhall
- Ivan Miskovic
- Dane Nowitz

Current committee members are:

- David Galt
- Elizabeth Gibbs
- Richard Hpa
- Rev Allister Lane
- Jeff Liando
- Paul Ramsay
- Rev Stuart Simpson
- Jo Anne Tay

Rob Anderson has been editing the Messenger for the last eight years, and has decided that it is time for him to step down from this role to concentrate on other activities for St John's. We thank him for all his efforts – he's going to be a hard act to follow!

Our new-look website was launched in September 2014 and has been well-received. It contains all the information from the old website and more. Of course, there's still lots to do to add and improve the information available. The table below shows some statistics for the new website.

Note that these are not for the full year, but cover the period mid-September 2014 to end-June 2015.

Number of sessions

7,894

Number of users

6,358

Page views

19,833

Average pages viewed per session

2.51

Average session duration (minutes)

1.29

Devices used

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| • Desktop computer | 77% |
| • Mobile | 15% |
| • Tablet | 8% |

How people get on the site

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Organic search
(e.g. church in Willis St) | 46% |
| • Referral
(from another website) | 28% |
| • Direct
(www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz) | 25% |
| • Social media
(Facebook, Twitter, etc) | 1% |



Our Facebook page now has over 258 'likes', but many more visitors to the page. Thanks to the Ministers and the team who regularly update this page with details of events, the evening service information and more. Go and check it out if you haven't already (and don't forget to 'like' us!) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-In-The-City-Wellington>

We've re-used a lot of our signs this year at various times, and have spent some time brainstorming ideas for new ones (particularly 'fun' and witty ones that can be re-used). You should see some of these coming out over the next year. Our main efforts this

year were helping out the Musicathon committee with ideas for flyers and posters and developing a 'Hire the St John's Centre' sign.



Communication is a two-way thing, so if you have an idea for a sign, a suggestion on how to improve the website, or would just like to find out more about what we do, please talk to any member of the Committee. If you'd like to join the Committee, you'd be very welcome too!

Elizabeth Gibbs

Convenor, Communications Committee

Social

Another year has flown and once again we can look back on a job well done by a committee who provided such excellent service. I am very grateful to the team of regulars who assisted me with organising and preparing a variety of functions throughout the year.

The major accomplishment of the year was the 24 hour Water for Palestine fundraiser which eventually raised over \$20,000 for this great cause, a fantastic achievement given our target was initially \$5,000. The leadership that David Galt gave to this activity in organising the musicathon was outstanding and the Social Committee was very pleased to be part of this wonderful occasion.

As the summer months progress, we hope to organise more al fresco functions in the courtyard, particularly the quarterly communion lunches. We also intend to introduce more variety into the John's entertainment calendar over the next 12 months. Watch this space!

Home groups

Monday Night House Group

Yet again the group has had a convivial year of meeting to study the Bible. We have covered a large range of topics ranging from Proverbs, to the Sermon on the Mount, Christian virtues, and the Moderator's white paper prepared for the General Assembly called 'It's a matter of Faith' about the trends in the wider Presbyterian church. As always, the members of the group took turns to lead the study, and with a standard attendance of about 15 most weeks, the discussions are both interesting and quite discursive.

Food continues to be a feature of the group. Some, though not all, of us begin the evening with the Chinese takeaways that have been the standard dinner for the group for so many years that we are known by name at Wing Long takeaways, and we always end the study strictly at 9 o'clock so there is time for supper as well. We also had a number of social events, including our Christmas party at Mary Gibbs'.

Tuesday Night Home Group

The Tuesday Night Home Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from February to November at various homes around the city.

This year we have reflected on Psalms; been 'Surprised by Hope'; shared a Lenten study on 'Gratitude and Grace'; heard from Dr Joseph Bulbulia of Victoria University about the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study; explored our responses to issues such as suffering and the rise of Islamic State; and discussed the Moderator's white paper on a number of challenges facing the Presbyterian church today.

Prayer underpins the life of our group, and every time we meet we spend time in prayer and reflection. There is also plenty of time for fellowship and laughter, too, with our traditional Christmas dinner, New Year barbeque, and the occasional pot-luck meal.

It has been great to have a number of new people join us over the course of the year, with some just coming for a specific study. Anyone is welcome at any time, and everyone is a valued member of the group.

If you are interested in coming along, please feel free to contact Paul or Louise Ramsay on:

Home

386 2755 (home)

Work

494 3716

Email

paul@clear.net.nz.

Paul Ramsay

Young Adult Life Groups

With the concerted help of the St John's Session we have begun two new life groups this year aimed to provide mid-week fellowship for young adults interested in growing their faith. The idea to offer new groups emerged from a review Session conducted of the Evening Service, as a way to enable pastoral care from the (slightly) older leaders and also from peers.

The new life groups, which started at the beginning of the academic year in 2015, function in harmony with the recent Session goals of 'building faith, encouraging participation and building community'. They explore faith issues relevant to young people using a range of materials and resources.

My thanks go particularly those who have offered their time, energy and wisdom in stepping up to lead these new life groups: Paul Ramsay, Michelle Knight, Steve and Judith Lorimer and Mike Wong.

Rev Allister Lane

English as a second language Bible study group

Over the year we have had a number of studies covering an array of topics, including, Mission, Salvation, Prayer, Sacraments, Worship, Money, Service and Community. Infused with this study have been wonderful food, warm fellowship and a willingness to learn from Scripture and from each other.

We have around seven people who attend the group from different parts of the world. Some of the members have been coming for quite a while and others only over the last few months.

As much as they say they learn from Scripture and from my teaching, I have learnt as much,

if not more from them. Being part of this group constantly reminds me that no matter where we come from, no matter our cultural heritage when we follow Christ we are brothers and sisters. The ESL Bible study group is a wonderful part of St John's and I feel blessed to be involved in it.

If you know of anyone who speaks English as a second language and would like to meet with some others who do please let them know about the ESL group or contact me. The ESL study group meet every second Thursday from 6:30-7:45 pm in the St John's Office.

Yours in Christ
Stuart Simpson

St John's Men's Breakfast

We have had a great year with an average attendance of 15-19 men every fortnight. Throughout the year we have had times of prayer, study and fellowship, all supported with great food. Below I've outlined in more detail what we have been up to.

For much of the year we have been exploring a series called 'Challenges we wrestle with' in relation to our Christian faith. Some of the challenges we've discussed were:

- How should we respond to some of the hard words in the Old Testament? How do we reconcile to the contents of some of the OT books, such as Joshua, Judges, Judges and Samuel?
- Do we need to go to church every Sunday? How do we deal with competing interests for time which all happen at the same time?
- What is 'worship'? Does God demand it, and if so, why? If not, what is the purpose of worship?

- Why do we need faith when so many people seem to do fine without it?
- Where is God when it hurts? Where is God when someone comes into a church and shoots the people praying?

This year the Men's Breakfast helped with the Pancake breakfast, using their vast knowledge of cooking and ability with kitchen utensils. We've had a bible quiz and begun a new series that explores themes such as prayer, food, worship, sacraments, money, service and community.

If you are a man wanting to join a great group, looking to grow in your faith, seeking to be encouraged and supported, and love eating, then come along to the Men's Breakfast. We meet every second Thursday from 7:30-8:30 am in the St John's Centre.

Yours in Christ
Stuart Simpson

Wine and Theology

The Wine and Theology group meets monthly on the first Friday of each month in the church lounge, and is ably led by Rev Allister Lane. Attendance ranges from 12 to 20 members, mainly from the St John's congregation.

The format of the meetings is that, for the first 30 minutes, two wines are blind-tasted with members giving their opinions. Then a discussion occurs for next 60-70 minutes,

based on a video or on notes circulated in advance.

The intention is to find a theological perspective to a current moral, ethical, or political issue. A major subject this year has been looking at the theology and background of German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Malcolm Shaw

Visiting Scholar Programme

The idea of inviting an overseas scholar in Theology or Religious Studies began as a way to enhance the lectureship St John's supported. The lecturer based in Wellington could work collaboratively with a colleague in the same area and there would be an opportunity to offer public lectures and other stimulating forums.

The Visiting Scholar Programme has become an important annual event of outreach for St John's, and has developed further through an arrangement with the University of Otago to host the scholars who come to New Zealand every two years to give the Burns Memorial Lecture Series.

So in 2014 we hosted Richard Bauckham as the St John's Visiting Scholar in Wellington, after he delivered the Burns lectures in Dunedin. Although he is based in the UK, we had to only cover his airfare from Dunedin.

The public lectures really are the highlight of these visits, and we can celebrate that St John's is contributing significantly to theology being available in Wellington in such an accessible way. When St John's hosts the 'full-blown' Visiting Scholar Programme', as we will with Prof David Gushee in August 2015, we are able to make the visiting scholar available to speak in other centres around New Zealand. The Visiting Scholar Programme is specialised Christian outreach



making a significant difference for the promotion of sound Christian theological inquiry and reflection in this country.

As well as those who serve the work of the St John's Outreach Committee, I am thankful to Geoff Troughton and the Religious Studies Programme at Victoria University for their vital input to the successfulness of the annual Visiting Scholar Programme.

Rev Allister Lane

Fellowship Group

President's report

A warm welcome to everyone as I present my twelfth annual report. The group is quite different to what it was when I first became your President. Of course there are still some of the same members attending, our monthly meeting, and we still follow our tried and true format of a business session, guest speaker or activity and a shared lunch.

Changes, some big, some small, have been an ongoing aspect of our group as we adapt to our changing environment and our own personal circumstances. These have included our own name change, our parent body name change, difficulties in filling all key roles, and declining health which has forced members to stop attending.

We are facing quite significant change again at the national level of PWANZ as there are two very different proposals on the table for discussion at the September AGM. And also the changes that the Charities Commission has required the Presbyterian Church to devolve its charity structure to individual parish level.

However, despite this, or perhaps because of it, we continue to be a group that plays a significant role in the life of St John's and beyond.

So, what have we done over the past year? You will have already noticed that this report is for 13 months rather than the usual 12. We are now tied into St John's annual year (1 July to 30 June) – rather than 1 June to 30 May.

Monthly activities

June 2014

We held our AGM. Rev Stuart Simpson chaired the election of officers and informed us of his experiment with the Blackboard Ministry on the Willis St wall of St John's.

July

Rob Anderson took us back to 1974 and then recounted some of the events and projects connected with St John's over the following 40 years.

August

This meeting was a social gathering where we shared stories about an 'object' that we had bought. These meetings are always great fun and help remind us of our personal journeys and how we ended up here at St John's.

September

Roger Lloyd entertained us with his theme of 'Impact flowers have had in our lives'. Not only here but also in all cultures. He had over 35 artefacts that he has collected over the years, all telling stories.

October

Father Barry Scannell, Parish Priest of St Mary of the Angels, presented a slideshow detailing what is involved to bring that iconic church to current local body earthquake strengthening requirements. He also talked about the enormous amount of money needed to do this.

November

Rev Allister Lane led us in an early Advent service, based on the reflection of 'An angelic perspective'. An opportunity to begin the Advent season, firmly fixed on what is important during this hectic festive time.

January 2015

This is when we organise the coming year's programme of guest speakers and social functions, always subject to change of course. This year we decided that our devotional theme be changed to 'Occupations of biblical people'. A very interesting way of delving into the Bible and enhancing our knowledge. A special thank you to all those who rise to the challenge of taking devotions.

February

Began with a barbecue in the courtyard on a lovely sunny day. We also filled in the questionnaire from the publication of 'Creating welcoming churches', which had been part of the PWANZ/MWF Special Project Appeal in 2011/2012. (Just as an aside, I collated the answers of each group and presented the findings to Council and the also to the Property committee. Some of the suggested improvements will be included in this year's maintenance budget.)

March

Another highlight as we always have a special Easter service in Easter week. This year Rev Stuart Simpson conducted the service. This service and the Advent service are always an opportunity for us to be involved in the service, and to sing some of our very old favourite hymns.

April

Tracy Lawson, President of Diabetic Youth NZ, Wellington Branch, set the scene as to why the Special Annual Appeal was helping to provide funding for camps to help teenagers with Type 1 diabetes. By attending these camps, teenagers are able to feel 'normal' and meet others with the same problem and difficulties as themselves.

May

George Borthwick QSM gave us an insight into the work of the British Sailors Society and how volunteers like himself help assist with the many challenges faced by sailors to our shores. He has been Chaplain for several years.

June

Judi Ferguson reminded us of our mission link to the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. She had visited with a group of New Zealand women to look at helping them with their arts and crafts.

Womens groups within churches have always been involved in a number of 'behind the scenes' which are vital to ensure the local church functions with a minimum of effort. Over the years here at St John's, some of these duties have been organised into separate groups (for example, the flower roster). The beginning of this year saw our monthly

involvement with the Music & Movement group cease. Betty Robertson and her team had been involved with a Coffee and Chat group and had incorporated this into the Music & Movement group. However, the time had come to discontinue our group. A huge thank you to Betty for her ongoing commitment.

We were involved in the Clubs Day on 1 March. Brigitte Hicks-Willer and her team did us proud! Thank you. I am sure that many members of the congregation were unaware of our varied involvement in overseas mission, and also our work within St John's, especially helping serve a cuppa and food at funerals. This service is very much appreciated by families, and Grace Jarvie, who organises these occasions along with her team, is also to be thanked for her organisation.

As always, our Fellowship Group is a team effort. Without the help and support of each other we could not continue to function. A lot of support is ongoing during the monthly meetings, especially when members are unwell. Phone contact is always a boost to our spirits. It also reflects the St John's priorities of 'growing faith, building communities, and encouraging participation'.

Thank you all very much and God Bless you all.

Mary Gibbs

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa Report

Last year saw the ongoing celebration of the Association of Presbyterian Women now known as PWANZ. Regional meetings were held throughout the country. Here in the Wellington region we had a splendid day hosted by the PIC Church of Christ in Porirua, with Winnie Laban as the guest speaker in the morning and an arts and craft afternoon.

The combined Christmas service (with MWF) was held at the Johnsonville Uniting Church on 8 December.

This year the AGM of PWANZ will be held at the PIC Newtown in September. I am, along with Lois Robertson (Regional Coordinator), involved in the programme planning for the day. At the AGM the future direction of PWANZ will be discussed.

PWANZ, like our own Fellowship Group, is facing declining membership, an inability to fill all the key leadership roles, the ageing of our current membership, and the younger women of the parish having their faith needs and fellowship met in different ways. See the copy of the August *Gleanings* (our official publication) for full details of the proposals.

Mission activities have always been a key role of PWANZ. Currently we have a special relationship with Vanuatians. The Annual Special Appeal is also an opportunity to serve and help organisations both here in New Zealand and overseas through the office of the Christian World Service. I continue to be humbled by the generosity of St John's members who support our retiring collection. This year we raised \$736.

We support Turakina Maori Girls' College in Marton by contributing money for their scholarships. This year the college celebrated 110 years – a great milestone.

I have represented the Wellington region of PWANZ at the Wellington branch of National Council of Women. However, I have now resigned. There are two vacancies if anyone is interested in attending.

So, in spite of all the problems, PWANZ still lives up to its ideal of 'think locally and globally'.

Mary Gibbs

Parish Liaison

Mission Report

St John's Fellowship continues to take an interest in, and support, the Special Project organised by the Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Methodist Women's Fellowship.

The 2014-2015 was entitled 'Together we can'. The New Zealand part supported Diabetes Youth NZ in their aim of educating and connecting families. They aim to run well-structured teenage camps where the youth can get together and realise they are not alone.

The overseas part of the project supported the coastal communities of the Tamil Nadu people of South India, working with the fishing

communities to improve their threatened livelihoods and campaigning for the rights of women and children.

We continued to support the work of Turakina Maori Girls' College and the work of St John's Outreach committee.

We support and pray for Arthur and Julia and take an interest in the work of Global Mission.

We think especially of the people of Vanuatu following the devastation of Cyclone Pam.

Elizabeth McKenzie

Birthday Mission

Birthday mission is where instead of you receiving a present on your birthday, you give a donation to the Church. We have had an increase in our donations to \$863. Our total membership at 30 June 2015 now stands at 41, but we can always use more members. For example, we have no members with a birthday in July, so why not join us?

Katherine Sutherland

Leprosy Mission money boxes

Eleven households have money boxes for their loose change. Collected twice a year, the total for this year was an amazing \$956.20. Our loose change can make big changes in the lives of people afflicted with this disease. If you would like a Leprosy Mission money box, please contact me.

Judi Ferguson

Coffee and Chat

One Sunday afternoon in 1986 the Trade Hall parents and children gathered for afternoon tea in the Conference Centre and the mothers expressed a desire to meet more often. Coffee and Chat became a regular monthly time together.

When Music & Movement was established, Coffee and Chat linked into that programme. It was arranged that once a month there would be a shortened musical time and members of

the Womens' Association would provide morning tea for the mothers and carers to have a longer time to chat.

After nearly 30 years we have hung up our aprons for these monthly sessions. But not completely – we will continue our interest in the mothers and their children by occasionally serving morning tea (perhaps at the start of term and at Christmas).

Betty Robertson

Josie Williams

This minute records the outstanding services of Josie Williams to the life of womens' activities of St John's in the City.

Josie commenced worshipping at St John's shortly after being transferred from Masterston to work in the city. She joined the active group of the Evening Guild and participated in all its various projects, serving as Secretary for a number of years. On her retirement from business she became a member of the Womens' Association and her secretarial skills and reliable support were again greatly appreciated. She was appointed as an Honorary Vice President.

Wherever Josie gave services she gave herself quietly with a caring strength and meticulous fulfilment of whatever she undertook. She was steadfast in her Christian witness.

Badminton and Table Tennis Club

These are good social activities held during the winter months on the first and third Sundays in the afternoon for those 14 years and older.

Numbers are not high so it allows for plenty of games with little waiting in between. Our total membership is 10.

Badminton and Table Tennis have been functioning at St John's since 1955 except for the two years the hall was closed. That is a good record!

Kai Joeng & Harriet Johnston
(Captain) (Secretary)

St John's Stitchers' Group

The Stitchers' group meets fortnightly, on Monday mornings, in the Fellowship Room. The morning is very sociable and we welcome women aged from 30 to 99!

The coffee is particularly popular and the women enjoy discussing the stitching they are involved in and helping others with any problems they might have.

(As well as sorting out problems of the world!) Numbers attending are anything from eight to 12 women. Men are (of course) welcome, but strangely enough we have not had any turn up.

We look forward to another successful year.

Lesley Shaw

St John's in the City Crèche

The crèche, which is held in the Aitken Chapel, continues to be a safe and happy place where parents can leave their children – or stay with them – during the church services.

There is a good group of women on the roster. We even had a new grandma offer to be rostered on so she could get used to dealing with babies and tots. Any other offers would be gratefully received.

Lesley Shaw

St John's Library

This year the Library Committee has focused on improving the selection of books, weeding out those that were tattered and frayed, and buying new books by a wide range of authors, including our visiting speaker, David Gushee.

We now have 680 books in the library and the number of books being borrowed continues to grow. We can assure you that nothing pleases the Library Committee more than seeing the books going off the shelves or out of the display in the foyer. We also have a trolley full of books for children, parents and adults over in the hall to cater for the St J's Kids and the evening service.

This coming year we plan to continue to improve our offerings, so suggestions of good books are always welcome.

The Library Committee

***Margaret Galt, Janice McCallum,
Cynthia Krogh and Thomas Lissington***

Prayer Chain

In 2011 we had 26 members on our Prayer Chain. By 2013 this number increased to 40, and here we are in 2015 with 57 members. It is so wonderful having new people asking to join, especially young people from our youth leadership. Even when folk have moved to other districts and churches they have remained on our Prayer Chain. This is encouraging as they still want to be prayer supporters and part of our wider church family

Anyone is most welcome to request prayer.

We understand that confidentiality these days is of major concern and we endeavour at all times to be very careful and not give out more details than necessary. Requests are sent out on a monthly basis by email or post. If a request for prayer is urgent then we will send out a request as soon as it is received.

Thank you to all our members who faithfully pray for others. May our dear Lord bless and keep you safe.

The Prayer Chain takes requests for healing and help of all kinds for those both within and outside the church. All information is kept confidential, and requests can be made either through the parish office or to the Prayer Chain coordinator by email at decision@clear.net.nz or telephone 04 3889746.

New members are encouraged to join the Prayer Chain.

Gail Higgs-West

Prayer Chain coordinator

Pastoral care

My role as Pastoral Care Coordinator is to help coordinate pastoral care at St John's.

This past year has shown that God is alive and well in our pastoral caring. Love in action has featured regularly, sometimes obvious, sometimes just quietly in the background.

Pastoral care has been provided by our Ministers, the Elders (Session), and by the leaders of our Children and Youth groups. Pastoral care has also been shared within our many groups here at St John's. It has been evident when we have gathered to worship on Sundays, listened to God's word and shared Communion together, when we have come together for social functions and lunches, and as we have gathered at funerals to farewell loved ones. There have been phone calls and visits, and willing helpers to assist some members get to church. We have provided meals from our pastoral freezer in times of need (thanks to Cynthia Krogh), and our prayer chain continues to offer prayer support (thanks to Gail Higgs-West).

Welcoming newcomers to our church in a warm and caring way is something I feel passionately about. Allie Crombie, Carolyn Goudswaard and I take it in turns to be a Host each Sunday, welcoming in particular those visiting for the first time. This pastoral caring can make a big difference to how visitors feel about our church, whether they go or stay. I would like to encourage each one of you to help others feel at home, offer the hand of friendship, talk to newcomers, notice people standing alone and get to know those you don't know. We all need to be cared for. Let us reach out to others. A smile and a warm hello go a long way.

I extend my sincere thanks to you all for your caring, big and small, and in particular, for all the many things done unnoticed. St John's is in good heart.

Let us continue to provide love in action at St John's, grow in our faith and continue to be grounded in our relationship with God and others.

Margaret Gilkison

8th Wellington Girls' Brigade Company

The vision of Girls' Brigade is 'Developing skills, discovering life - empowering girls to succeed in tomorrow's world.'

Our weekly programme starts with devotions from our Faith Box and teaches girls about different aspects of Christ's life. The girls give items for prayer and these are prayed for. Our Chaplain, Stuart Simpson, comes in at end of each term to take devotions with girls as well as breakup.

This is followed by a time of games before badge work.

Juniors (5-8 years) have done the following topics for their star:

- African dancing
- practised Barbie song which was sung at the Musicathon
- practised a Nativity play for breakup
- chocolate making for Mother's day with a card
- Chinese cooking
- swimming
- God's Book.

The Seniors (9-13 years) for their circle have done:

- home nursing
- African dancing
- Musicathon
- painted pictures of the characters on card for the Nativity Play, as well as learning their parts.

We did Christmas crafts in the last term for the whole company. We finished our 2014 year with a family outing to Staglands.

In 2015 we had three fun nights – PJ party, games night, and family tea with limbo dancing. One of our fathers taught the girls for three weeks about Chinese cooking.

We have made pancakes, painted eggs for Easter, and made chocolates. We have completed three weeks of swimming at Kilbirnie followed by Mini Sports in the Hall.

I would like to thank D Little, P Little, A Smith and our Chaplain for all their support over the past year.

Katherine Sutherland

8th Wellington Team Leader

St John's Camp



'Life Together, Building Community' church camp was held from 5-7 September 2014. Bringing together people from all ages and stages of the St John's family, camp was the first time in nine years an event of this type had been held. Forrest Lakes, in Otaki, proved to be a wonderful, relaxing backdrop for the 130 attending church members to get to know one another on a new level and to explore what it means to be a part of Christ's community, within a weekend residential environment.



spiritual challenge, fun interactive activities, and dedicated small-group time led by leaders who ensured everyone felt included and supported. An afternoon of choice where participants could choose from a rotation of fun activities followed more structured times. This included many options. For example, abseiling, zumba, craft, breadmaking, ten pin bowling, hip hop, mudslide, and contemplative labyrinth. The Saturday night concert and bonfire were highlights for many.



Run along the line of a Scripture Union camp, convenor Fiona Purchas intentionally structured the weekend for purposeful interaction between age groups, with a programme that focused on deepening relationships through small groups,





were encouraged to think about how what we considering at camp might apply back at church, in our families and communities each week.

Camp was run by a group of dedicated volunteers and special thanks must go to speaker Carlton Johnson, Vicki Wood for managing all registration information (and many other jobs!), Margaret and Ian Garratt for putting together registration packs and constantly being on hand during the weekend for any small jobs, Nicki Read for organising the kids programme, Ted Cizadlo for organising the music team (thanks to all musicians too), Alex Read for putting the kids camp booklet together, Alan Clare for being the camp adjutant (keeping things moving), and first aiders Dave Wood and Kathryn Ojala. Our small group leaders were Richard Read, Chris Wansink, Kathryn Ojala,

Angela Garrity, Linda Van Milligan, Margaret Gilkison, Heather Walker, Anna Davis, Gina Williamson, and Dave Wood. A big thanks must also go to each of the activity station leaders – there are too many to name individually! Camp was a real team effort and proves what amazing things can be done when the creative juices of many flow!

Feedback after camp was overwhelmingly positive and many people have asked when the next one will be held. The answer to this being.... whenever the community decides, I will happily convene an organising team!

Fiona Purchas
Camp Convenor



Investment Advisory Committee

The proceeds from the sale of the airspace over our Church property in 1987 constitute the St. John's Capital Trust Fund. This inflation-indexed fund makes a major contribution to St John's income and it is not an exaggeration to state that it supports the outreach activities of our congregation.

The Fund is now substantially invested in a diverse portfolio of very secure fixed-interest bonds through the Presbyterian Investment Fund (PIF). All our fixed-interest investments are now in the PIF as it has provided the best returns available for secure fixed-interest bonds. The only exception is one inflation-indexed bond. Over the last few years the earning rate on our fixed interest investments has reduced from over seven percent to now less than five percent per annum. With inflation at around two percent per annum, this has the effect of reducing income from five percent per annum to less than three percent per annum - a very substantial reduction with a significant impact on the interest income received by the Fund. This trend is continuing. It has been fortunate that inflation has been at a low level over the last few years as this has reduced the amount

of income that is required to meet our statutory requirement to inflation-index the Fund.

Our reserves position is sufficiently strong to permit a relatively small investment in more volatile diversified index-linked New Zealand and Australian equities, and in the past three years these have made worthwhile capital gains which may not be repeated.

It has been very timely for the members of St John's to review and increase their giving to our Church. This has permitted the Fund to maintain its reserves. Nevertheless the next few years will be demanding, with substantial expenditure likely to be required to earthquake-strengthen the Church and an expensive repaint job for the Church also imminent. It will be necessary to reduce our sharemarket holdings if the reserves are reduced and this will have an adverse impact on earnings. There is a greater need than ever to maintain or, better still, increase our giving.

A R Marshall

Finance Committee Report

A good way to sum up the 2014/15 financial year is that we are fortunate indeed, for over this past year, economic conditions have been surprisingly beneficial for St John's. The financial statements show a strong surplus for the year, although if you look closely you will see there was an operating deficit of \$30,000 (shown in the Plain English Summary of Financial Performance). This is because:

- » There was higher than expected income available from the Trust Fund because there was virtually zero inflation. This meant that almost all of the Trust Fund income was available for St John's activities rather than a portion required to inflation-protect the Fund. The budgeted operating deficit of \$182,000 was thereby reduced to a deficit of \$30,000, a very significant improvement; and
- » A capital gain of almost \$198,000 was realised from rebalancing Trust Fund investments. This gain is not available for St John's operations and was reinvested by the Investment Advisory Committee as part of St John's investment strategy.

Trust Fund

The Trust Fund has the most significant impact on our financial position – it contributes the biggest share of income and poses the greatest risk which comes from the unpredictability of income and inflation from year to year. The income available from the Trust Fund is the difference between the interest rate and the rate of inflation.

To manage this risk, we need our other income streams, mainly congregational giving and rental income, to be stable and reliable from year to year. This is very important as most of our expenditure cannot be easily varied, especially the costs of our Ministry team and staff, Christian education, music and worship and outreach.

Other highlights

Other highlights included:

- The stunningly successful Musicathon event which raised over \$20,000 for water reservoirs for the West Bank.
- Our Vision for Giving, which started in 2013, has seen congregational giving gradually increase and, while not yet reaching our target of double that of 2013, now reaching a level of \$70,000 more than it was two years ago.
- Increasing use of the St John's Centre which resulted in a net increase in revenue for St John's, while providing many community organisations with subsidised use. Subsidised use by community groups amounted to about \$60,000 for the year, which is a significant community contribution.
- Strong financial support for the ongoing work of our overseas missionaries.

Expenditure

Expenditure has been managed to similar levels to the previous year. This includes the one-off costs for geotechnical and design work for earthquake strengthening the Church.

Insurance continued to be our single biggest expense. The key driver of this cost is the Church building. Without earthquake strengthening, the church building would be uninsurable. Once strengthening has been completed, insurance costs should drop significantly.

The Outreach Committee continued to deliver financial support to many community organisations as you will see from Note 2 of the Financial Statements.

This included \$15,500 to our overseas missionaries, use of interest from legacies to support DCM and Presbyterian Support Central, and the fourth instalment of \$60,000 towards the building of Knox Presbyterian Church Centre in Waitara.

The Christian Education team, including a huge number of volunteers, has continued to provide a vibrant children's and youth ministry. Congregational giving underpins expenditure on Christian education.

There are a myriad of day-to-day activities that happen around the St John's site which are dealt with by the team in the Church office. Their input behind the scenes provides an often unseen but

key part in the effective functioning of St John's - everything from producing the Bulletin for Sunday worship to the maintenance of our furniture, fittings and equipment and the set-up and support of all those using the St John's Centre, and much, much more.

Many people play a part in St John's financial management, particularly St John's Council and Committees and we are grateful for their combined effort and commitment. We look forward to the future with much to be thankful for.

Ross Chesney

Treasurer

Plain English Financial Summary

Plain English summary of performance for the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015 \$000's	2014 \$000's	
<i>St John's received income from the following areas:</i>			
Weekly congregational giving by direct credits, envelope system and weekly collection	222	213	Vision for Giving campaign – increase in giving of \$70,000 in two years
Other donations and fundraising	38	35	
Legacies received	15	34	Includes Musicathon donations
Interest on legacy and reserve balances	66	69	
Rents received from leasing space in Troup House and the conference facilities	222	216	
Net interest income from St John's funds and the cash received from the air space sold above St John's in the late 1980s (the "Capital Trust"), less the adjustment for inflation to protect the Capital Trust for future years	657	453	
Total Income available for General Use at St John's	1,220	1,020	Reflects almost zero inflation releasing most Trust Fund income for Church activities
<i>St John's incurred expenditure in the following areas:</i>			
<i>Church Activities</i>			
Salaries paid to the Ministers and support staff	365	357	
Contribution to Christian education	136	147	
Other costs	118	64	Includes design and geotechnical work for Church seismic strengthening
	619	568	
<i>Property Costs</i>			
Expenditure on maintaining the Church, manse, conference facilities & Troup House including rates, insurances, and repairs	297	308	
Depreciation to recognise previous capital expenditure	74	76	
	371	384	
<i>Wider Work</i>			
Contribution to the operations of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (Assembly Assessment calculation)	98	90	Includes Water for Westbank from the Musicathon fundraising event of \$20,240
Other outreach including community groups, DCM, Presbyterian Support Central and overseas mission	129	129	
St John's financial support for the BGI	30	30	
Other donations including CWS Christmas appeal	4	5	
Visiting Scholar (and wind up of VUW lectureship programme)	(1)	19	
	260	273	
Total expenditure to deliver programmes and outreach	1,250	1,225	
Net (deficit) from Church activities before transferring legacies and planned property maintenance to reserve	(30)	(205)	
<i>Other resources were used as follows:</i>			
Realised gain/(loss) on Capital Trust units sold and reinvested	198	(55)	Realised gain from rebalancing Trust Fund investments and reinvesting capital gain
Funds transferred to legacies	(31)	(48)	
Funds transferred to Planned Maintenance Reserve	51	0	
Net (deficit)/surplus	188	(308)	

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
To the Congregation of St John's in the City
(St John's Presbyterian Church)

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of St John's in the City on pages 1 to 8, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, and the statement of movements in equity, and statement of financial performance for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

This report is made solely to the congregation, as a body. Our audit has been undertaken so that we might state to the congregation those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the congregation, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Council Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and for such internal control as the council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view of the matters to which they relate in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, as well as evaluating the presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion on financial position and financial performance.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, of St John's in the City.

Basis for Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance

As stated in the Statement of Accounting policies on page 4 of the financial statements, St John's in the City has not provided for depreciation on the Church, Spinks Cottage and the Manse, all of which are heritage assets. This is a departure from Financial Reporting Standard No. 3 - *Accounting for Property, Plant and Equipment* which requires that depreciation is charged on assets including heritage assets, against the Net Surplus for the year so as to allocate the cost of the Church, Spinks Cottage and the Manse over their economic lives.

Had St John's in the City adopted this policy, depreciation for the year ended 30 June 2015 would have increased by \$30,450. The effect of this on the financial statements would have been to decrease the Net Surplus for the year the Unallocated Reserves by the same amount. The carrying value of the fixed asset category of Buildings and Improvements would have decreased by \$395,850 being the amount of the accumulated depreciation that should have been provided for as at balance date for the Church, Spinks Cottage and the Manse assets.

Qualified Opinion on Financial Position and Financial Performance

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph above, the financial statements on pages 1 to 8:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
- present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of St John's in the City as at 30 June 2015, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

BDO Wellington
28 September 2015
Wellington
New Zealand

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	\$	2015 \$	2014 \$
INCOME				
Congregational Giving		221,574		213,313
Donations, Fundraising and Miscellaneous Receipts		37,521		34,952
Legacies Received		15,495		33,500
Property Rentals		222,263		216,158
Interest on Legacies and Reserves		66,227		68,684
Total Church Operating Income			563,080	566,607
Capital Trust Interest and Dividends		707,392		749,558
Capital Trust Realised Gain/(Loss) on Shares and Units		197,710		(55,216)
Total Income from the Capital Trust			905,102	694,342
TOTAL INCOME			1,468,182	1,260,949
EXPENDITURE	32			
Church Activities				
Staff Costs		364,766		357,197
Christian Education		136,416		147,003
Worship and Music		7,119		6,684
Congregational Activities		1,444		729
Communications		4,150		4,916
Session Costs		2,234		1,820
General Expenses		30,118		31,495
Audit Fees		11,926		11,375
Accounting Fees		14,615		7,150
Legal Fees		825		-
Consultancy Fees – Earthquake Assessment of Church Building		45,228		-
Capital Trust Administration and Brokerage Fees		14,825		27,341
Total Church Activities			633,666	595,710
Property Costs				
Church Running Costs, Insurance and Repairs		255,582		260,087
Manse Rates, Insurance and Repairs		7,712		8,370
Troup House Running Costs and Repairs		34,051		39,478
Depreciation		73,931		76,491
Total Property Costs			371,276	384,426
Wider Work				
Presbyterian Church Assembly Assessment		98,153		90,180
Outreach Committee Distributions	2	128,764		129,038
Other Donations		3,540		5,068
Contribution to the BGI		30,000		30,000
Visiting Scholar & VUW Lectureship		(645)		18,921
Total Wider Work Expenses			259,812	273,207
TOTAL EXPENSES			1,264,754	1,253,343
NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			203,428	7,606
Less: Transfers to Inflation Protect the Capital Trust	5		(35,287)	(268,745)
Less: Interest and Bequests Transferred to Legacies	5		(53,392)	(83,969)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO UNALLOCATED RESERVES			114,749	(345,108)
Plus: Donations Transferred from Legacies	5		21,982	36,382
Plus: Transfers from Planned Maintenance Reserve	6		51,105	-
TOTAL MOVEMENT IN UNALLOCATED RESERVES			187,836	(308,726)

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Net Surplus for the Year		203,428	7,606
Investments Revaluation Reserve	5	22,404	196,676
Total Recognised Revenues and Expenses for the Year		225,832	204,282
Total Equity at beginning of year		24,664,102	24,459,820
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF YEAR		24,889,934	24,664,102

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2015

	Note	\$	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank		7,926		5,134
Accounts Receivable		18,369		41,467
Prepayments		32,380		47,200
Interest Receivable	3	4,979		4,979
Capital Trust and Other Investments	3	13,393,331		13,347,308
Total Current Assets			13,456,985	13,446,088
Non Current Assets				
Capital Trust Investments	3	3,817,464		3,558,128
Fixed Assets	4	7,706,270		7,773,909
Total Non Current Assets			11,523,734	11,332,037
Total Assets			24,980,719	24,778,125
less Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable		90,785		114,023
Total Current Liabilities			90,785	114,023
NET ASSETS			24,889,934	24,664,102
CAPITAL AND RESERVES	5		24,889,934	24,664,102


Treasurer


Council Chairperson

28 September 2015

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 - Statement of Accounting Policies

General Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

The financial statements presented here are for the reporting entity St John's in the City (St John's Presbyterian Church), Wellington.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Differential Reporting

An entity is exempt from certain requirements of financial reporting standards if it satisfies the criteria laid down in the Differential Reporting Framework issued by the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants. Such an entity is called a qualifying entity.

St John's in the City is a qualifying entity by virtue of the fact that it has no public accountability and is not large as defined in the framework. The Church has taken advantage of all available exemptions.

Measurement Base

The measurement base adopted is historic cost unless otherwise stated.

Basis of Preparation

Adoption of Public Benefit Entity Accounting (PBE) Standards

The External Reporting Board (XRB) has introduced a revised Accounting Standards Framework. The revised framework intends to introduce Accounting Standards for Not For Profit Public Benefit Entity (NFP PBEs) comprising NZ International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS) modified as appropriate for New Zealand circumstances.

In December 2013 the Financial Reporting Act 2013 was enacted and brings the revised framework into law. Under the revised Accounting Standards Framework St John's in the City is expected to prepare annual financial statements in accordance with NZ IFRS FBE suite of standards for the first-time for the year ended 30 June 2016.

All the financial information in these financial statements has been prepared in accordance with current New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, (NZ GAAP).

Specific Accounting Policies

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at expected realisable value.

Capital Trust Investments

The discount or premium on the purchase of investment bonds is amortised, on a straight line basis, over the term of the investment so that, at maturity, the book value of the investment equals its face value. Interest income is recognised in the statement of financial performance using the effective interest rate method.

Dividend income is recognised in the statement of financial performance when the right to receive income is established. For public traded securities this is the ex-dividend date.

Equity and bond investments are held at market value and have been valued at market value at balance date. For these "available for sale" investments, which are not held for trading, revaluation increments are recognised directly to the asset revaluation reserve. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance except where the decrement reverses a revaluation increment held in the asset revaluation reserve.

Unrealised gains in the value of investments of \$22,404 are included in the assets (2014 - \$196,676 gain).

Fixed Assets

At 30 June 2001, previously uncapitalised Church Land and Buildings were included in the Financial Statements based on their Registered Valuations prepared by Telfer Young as at 30 June 2001.

The Registered Valuations of these specialised properties have been accounted for according to Historical Cost principles on the basis of these valuations, in accordance with FRS-3: Accounting for Property, Plant and Equipment. These Assets, with the exception of the Church and Spinks Cottage will be depreciated.

All other Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015 (continued)

Depreciation

With the exception of the Church and Spinks Cottage, depreciation is charged on a straight line basis so as to write off the cost of the fixed assets over their expected economic lives. The estimated economic lives are as follows:

Musical Equipment	15 years
Office Equipment	3-5 years
Furniture and Fittings	5 years
Church Equipment	5 years
Commercial Buildings	50 years
Building Improvements	3-10 years
Website	3 years

Legacies

Legacies and Bequests are included within the Reserves of the Church. New Legacies, and income and expenditure specifically relating to legacies are recorded in the Statement of Financial Performance. The net surplus or deficit for the legacies in the period is transferred from unallocated reserves to the legacies.

Edward Carter Funds

Income from the Edward Carter Special Assistance Fund is allocated to special projects. Any unspent income is carried forward to the next year and is available to meet future special projects.

Goods and Services Tax

The financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis except for Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable which are disclosed GST inclusive in the Statement of Financial Position.

Taxation

St John's in the City is exempt from Income Tax and Resident Withholding Tax by virtue of its status as a charitable organisation under Section CB 4(1)(c) and Section CB 4(1)(e) of the Income Tax Act 2007.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policy. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

Note 2 – Outreach Distributions

Outreach distributions comprise:	2015
Special Mission – Arthur & Julia	
- Fundraising & donations	\$15,500
Downtown Community Ministry Subscription	\$4,800
Downtown Community Ministry	\$6,112
Presbyterian Support Central	\$10,112
Wellington Women's Health Collective	\$1,500
Christian World Services - Musicathon	\$20,240
Wellington Rape Crisis	\$1,500
Wellington Churches Education Commission	\$3,000
Berhampore School	\$1,500
Mount Cook School	\$2,000
Wellington Pacific Bible College	\$2,500
Knox Waitara Church	<u>\$60,000</u>
Total	<u>\$128,764</u>

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015 (continued)

Note 3 - Investments

	Maturity Date	Yield	Maturity Value \$	2014 \$	2014 \$
On Call					
Presbyterian Investment Fund				13,393,331	13,352,287
Stocks					
Transpower Indexed Bond	May 2020	3.75% (+inflation)	989,200	1,121,916	1,065,788
Shares and Units	No of Units		Cost		
ASX 200 Fund	27,602		1,515,374	1,597,962	901,987
Nikko Wholesale SRI Equity Fund	787,308		790,655	1,097,586	1,590,353
				<u>17,210,795</u>	<u>16,910,415</u>

The balance of the Presbyterian Investment Fund includes legacies (refer to Note 5) and the residual balance from the sale and purchase of manse.

Note 4 - Fixed Assets

	2015 Cost \$	2015 Current Year Depreciation \$	2015 Accumulated Depreciation \$	2015 Net Book Value \$	2014 Net Book Value \$
Furniture & Fittings	86,207	6,653	72,145	14,063	20,715
Musical Equipment	81,683	3,075	57,446	22,183	25,258
Hall Equipment	97,582	4,188	84,841	11,301	11,011
Church Equipment	2,797	-	2,797	-	-
Office Equipment	172,537	3,561	168,951	1,320	4,880
Building & Improvements	5,393,300	56,454	685,896	4,707,403	4,762,045
Land	2,950,000	-	-	2,950,000	2,950,000
	<u>8,784,106</u>	<u>73,931</u>	<u>1,072,076</u>	<u>7,706,270</u>	<u>7,773,909</u>

Note 5 - Capital and Reserves

	Balance 2014 \$	Net Movements for the year \$	Balance 2015 \$
Capital Trust	14,265,909	35,287	14,301,196
Legacies	747,580	31,409	778,989
General and Property Reserves	1,281,326	187,836	1,469,162
Planned Maintenance Reserve	494,983	(51,104)	443,879
Property Brought to Account	7,370,845	-	7,370,845
Investments Revaluation Reserve	473,362	22,404	495,766
Outreach Committee Special Reserve	10,000	-	10,000
Staff Training Reserve	20,097	-	20,097
Total Capital and Reserves	<u>24,664,102</u>	<u>225,832</u>	<u>24,889,934</u>

Unrealised gains in the value of investments of \$22,404 are included in the assets (2014 - \$196,676 gain).

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015 (continued)

Note 5 - Capital and Reserves (continued)

The movement in the Capital Trust of \$35,287 represents the amount of Capital Trust income required to be reinvested to preserve the real value of the Capital Trust against inflation in accordance with the Rules to Govern the Capital Trust Fund. Inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index for the year ended 30 June 2015, was 0.25% (2014 – 1.92%).

The movement in the Investment Revaluation Reserve of \$22,404 (2014: \$196,676 increase) is represented by the increases in unrealised capital gains in the ASX 200 Index Fund of \$41,387 (2014: \$18,475 increase) and the \$55,288 unrealised increase in value of the Transpower Indexed Bond. There was a decrease in unrealised capital gains from the investments in units in the Nikko AM Wholesale Equity Fund of (\$74,271) (2014: \$178,201 increase).

Legacies are represented by the following bequests.

	Balance 2014	Interest income for the year	Movements for the year	Balance 2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Tied Legacies for Sunday School prizes/funds	4,596	233	-	4,829
A W Reed Memorial (Kelburn) for Ministers books	2,188	111	-	2,299
Endowment Fund	36,402	1,845	-	38,247
E Carter Trust	229,233	11,619	(4,000)	236,852
A Gordon Estate	10,920	554	-	11,474
D Chappell Estate	10,920	554	-	11,474
Joan Andrews Estate – Specific or Special Item for St John's	141,733	7,184	-	148,917
Joan Andrews Estate – Andrews Family Memorial Trust	125,713	6,372	(7,381)	124,704
Noel Woods Estate	95,532	4,843	(4,843)	95,532
Alford Dornan Estate	1,820	92	-	1,912
J E Hetrick Estate	4,836	245	-	5,081
J C White Estate	7,191	365	-	7,556
N Owen John Estate	27,889	1,414	(5,759)	23,544
W S Barrett Estate	11,814	599	-	12,413
Scott Trust	1,201	61	-	1,262
Lynn Pollock Estate	2,792	142	-	2,934
Anwyl Fowler Estate	32,800	1,663	1,606	36,069
L Rodger Estate	-	-	13,889	13,889
	747,580	37,896	(6,488)	778,988

The distributions made from the Joan Andrews Estate, the Noel Woods Estate, the Nora Owen John Estate and the Edward Carter Trust were as follows:

- Presbyterian Support Central	\$10,112
- Downtown Community Ministry	\$6,112
- St John's Pastoral Care	\$5,759

Note 6 – Movement in Planned Maintenance Reserve

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance of Planned Maintenance Reserve	443,879	494,983
	443,879	494,983

The transfer out from the Planned Maintenance Reserve is \$51,104 (\$nil in 2014) to provide for the planned refurbishment of the Church, Troup House and the Conference Centre.

Note 7 - Statement of Resources

The Church is the beneficial owner of a number of properties that are legally held by the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees. The reinstatement value for insurance purposes of the Church, St John's Centre, Spinks Cottage and Troup House are based on valuations prepared by Appraisal Property Consultancy Limited, as follows:

Property	2015 \$	2014 \$
Church, St John's Centre & Spinks Cottage (reinstatement value for insurance as at 31 October 2013)	13,229,100	12,244,700
Troup House (reinstatement value for insurance as at 31 October 2013)	3,647,100	3,504,500

ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2015 (continued)

Note 8 - Related Party Disclosure

St John's in the City's premises and rental properties are registered under the name of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees, although St John's in the City is the guardian.

St John's in the City has Capital Trust Funds and bank deposits that are managed by, and registered under the name of PCANZ, although St John's in the City is the beneficial owner. Day to day investment management, reporting and custodial services are provided under contract by Grosvenor Financial Services in a similar manner to the services Grosvenor provide the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees.

Note 9 - Commitments

St John's in the City has pledged their support to help fund the redevelopment of the Knox Waitara Church complex. The commitment is to donate \$300,000 over five years.

At balance date, the commitments amount to:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
- Current	60,000	60,000
- Non current	-	60,000

St John's in the City has agreed to undertake capital improvements to Troup House estimated at \$350,000 in conjunction with a refit of levels 3 and 4 by BGI.

At balance date, there were capital commitments to:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
- Current	350,000	340,000
- Non current	-	-

Note 10 - Contingent Liabilities

There were no Contingent Liabilities at balance date for the current financial year (2014 – \$Nil).

Ministers

Minister	Rev Allister Lane
Minister	Rev Stuart Simpson

Inducted

November 2008
January 2010

Elders Emeriti

Lloyd, Mr Roger	3 Winsley Tce, Churton Park	1979
McCay, Mr Robert	Flat 7/300 Oriental Parade	1980
Gould, Mr Russell	129 Barnard Street, Wadestown	1993
Robertson, Mrs Betty	407/2 Karori Rd, Karori	1992
Hunt, Mr John	248 Kimbolton Rd, Feilding 4702	1968
Lawson, Mr Sandy	200 Pembroke Road, Northland	1987
Stewart, Mr Charles	42 Braithwaite Street, Karori	1979
Ewan, Mrs Muriel	20A Karu Crescent, Waikanae	1990
Ewan, Mr Rob	20A Karu Crescent, Waikanae	1990
Littler, Mrs Betty	40 Cheshire Street, Wilton	1968
McKenzie, Mr Bruce	Unit 33/389 Adelaide Rd, Berhamphore	1993
McKenzie, Mrs Elizabeth	Unit 33/389 Adelaide Rd, Berhamphore	1993

Kirk Session

Anderson, Mr Rob	137 The Ridgeway, Mornington	1980
Galt, Mr David	11 Lewer Street, Karori	1981
Galt, Mrs Margaret	11 Lewer Street, Karori	1987
Goudswaard, Mrs Carolyn	20A Epuni Street, Aro Valley	1987
Pearse, Ms Elaine	85 Beauchamp Street, Karori	1990
Van Milligan, Miss Linda	7 Colchester Crescent, Newlands	1990
Allen, Mr John	76 Weld Street, Wadestown	2001
Irvine, Mr John	39 Frederick Street, Wainuiomata	2001
Ramsay, Mr Paul	27 Arawa Road, Hataitai	2001
Webster, Mr Lawrence	5 Ngahue Crescent, Elsdon, Porirua	2001
Wood, Mr David	29 Donald St, Karori	2003
Gibbs, Mrs Mary	7 Severn St, Island Bay	2004
Read, Mrs Nicki	200A Mitchell Street, Brooklyn	2004
Read, Mr Richard	200A Mitchell Street, Brooklyn	2004

Chesney, Mr Ross	1 Rossiter Road, Tawa	2006
Gilkison, Mrs Margaret	5 Henderson Street, Karori	2006
Salt, Ms Ailsa	221B Karori Road, Karori	2006
Beard, Mrs Beth	135a Washington Avenue, Brooklyn	2008
Ojala, Mr Anton	64 Eden Street, Island Bay	2010
Milkop, Mr Ashley	119 Creswick Terrace, Northland	2010
Webster, Ms Iris	5 Ngahue Crescent, Elsdon, Porirua	2010
Williamson, Ms Gina	66 Mein Street, Newtown,	2013
Shaw, Ms Linda	30 Fitzroy Street, Wadestown	2013
Liando, Mr Jeffry	4 Hampshire Street, Wilton	2013

Council 2014-2105

A Ojala, Chair; D Galt, D Ensor, R Chesney, D Wood, E Gibbs, M Gibbs, A Salt, R Anderson

Historical Record

Ministers of St John's

Rev John Moir	1853 – 1867
Very Rev James Paterson (Moderator 1902)	1868 – 1903
Very Rev James Gibb D.D. (Moderator 1901)	1903 – 1926
Very Rev Dr JR Blanchard B.A.	1927 – 1939
Rev P Gladstone Hughes B.A.	1940 – 1947
Rev William P Temple M.A., B.D.	1948 – 1957
Rev FH Liffiton B.A. (Assistant)	1954 – 1955
Rev Kingsley Fairbairn M.B.E., B.A.	1957 – 1968
Rev DTD (Jock) Kinloch	1968 – 1975
Rev Dr Llewellyn K. Anderson	1975 - 1976
Very Rev Dr D Steedman M.A., B.D., Ph.D.(Moderator 1982)	1976 – 1985
Rev Dr J Veitch B.A., M.Th, Ph.D. (Hon Assistant)	1978 – 1985
Rev Maurice Brown B.A.	1986 – 2000
Rev Brett Johnstone B.A., B.D. (Assistant)	1989 – 1991
Rev Dr Ed Wulfekuehler B.A., B.D.-M.Dib., D.Min. (Assistant)	1991 – 1993
Rev Jane Griffith B.A., B.D. (Hon Associate)	1993 – 1994
Rev Neil Johnston M.A., B.D. Associate	1994 – 2002

Very Rev Dr Graham Redding B.Com., B.Theol., Ph.D. (Moderator 2008/10)	2001 – 2006
Rev Helen Martin B.A., Dipl. Rel. Educ., Post-Grad. Dipl.Theol. (Assistant)	2003 – 2007
Rev Allister Lane, B.C.A., B.Theol. (Hons)	2008 – present
Rev Stuart Simpson, NZCE Telecommunications, BMin	2010 – present

Parish Counsellor

Rev Jane Griffith, B.A., B.D.	1991- 1996
Mrs Joan Baber M.A. Hons.	1993 – 2004

St John's Own Missionaries

Very Rev George McNeur, Chinese Mission Field (Moderator 1926)	1913 – 1940
Sister Margaret Bear, India	1958 – 1979

Deaconesses

Miss Lillian Lang	1905 – 1907
Miss Mabel Cartwright	1905 – 1911
Miss Norah Dick	1912 – 1915
Miss Nessie Morgan	1945 – 1948, 1951 – 1959

Jubilees

Diamond Jubilee of Church	November 1913
Womens Association Golden Jubilee	August 1937
Young Men's Bible Class Golden Jubilee	1938
Young Women's Bible Class Golden Jubilee	November 1953
Centennial Jubilee of the Church	November 1953
75th Anniversary of Present Church Building	December 1960
Young Men's Bible Class 75 Jubilee	July 1964
125th Anniversary of Church	November 1978
Centenary of Present Church Building	8 December 1985
50th Anniversary of the The Boys' Brigade, 2nd Wellington (St John's) Company	1999
Opening of the St John's Centre, Troup House and Mackay Chapel	April 1994
150th Anniversary of St John's in the City	November 2003
125th Anniversary of the Wellington Boys' and Girls' Institute Inc.	2008
60th Anniversary of the The Boys' Brigade, 2nd Wellington (St John's) Company	June 2009

Interest Groups at St John's

Fellowship Group

Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11 am in the St John's Centre. There is a different topic each time and a shared lunch.

Monday Home Group (evenings)

Meets at David and Margaret Galt's home. Contact them on 934 4422.

Tuesday Home Group (evenings)

Meets at 8 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at various homes throughout Wellington city. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Paul or Louise Ramsay on 386 2755 or email paul@clear.net.nz

Evening Service Life Group for Young Adults

Wednesdays 7 pm at lower Taranaki Street.
Hosts/leaders: Steve & Judith Lorimer.

If you are a young adult who would like to get involved, please contact Rev Allister Lane.

Men's Breakfast

Meets Thursday (fortnightly) from 7.30–8.30 am in the St John's Centre. Great food, great fellowship and great discussions. For more information and to register your attendance (for catering purposes) please contact Rev Stuart Simpson on 385 1546 or email s.simpson@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

English as a Second Language Bible Study

Meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings, 6.30–7.45 pm in the church office lounge. Contact Rev Stuart Simpson on 385 1546 or email s.simpson@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

Stitching Group

Meets each alternate Monday mornings, 9.45–11.45 am in the Fellowship Room. We knit, embroider, quilt, applique, crochet and any number of things done with needles. We can give tuition if required. All welcome. Tea and coffee served. Come along for a stitch and a chat. For more information please contact Lesley Shaw on lesleyjanet@hotmail.com

Wine and Theology

This discussion group usually gathers the first Friday of every month in the St John's Office lounge, from 7.30–9 pm. All are welcome. If you have questions please contact Malcolm Shaw on preludio@xtra.co.nz

Girls Brigade

Juniors (5-8 years old) 6.30–7.30 pm. Seniors (9 years upwards) 6.30–8.15 pm on Tuesdays. Please contact Katherine on 471 0202.

Choir

Meets Sundays 9.20–9.50 am and 11.15–12 noon. Monthly evening practices are held on Thursdays. Contact Eric Sidoti at Misttermusicnz@gmail.com or Eleanor Carter at mcart@xtra.co.nz

Contemporary Music Group

Guitars, drums, double bass, violin, flute, singers and could involve you, too! Contact Dayle Anderson on 934 5786 or dayle.anderson@vuw.ac.nz

St J's Kids

Friendly Sunday School and crèche from ages 0 to 12 years, Sundays from 10 am until 11.15 am. Special events once per term. Contact Monika Demuth-Barber on 385 1546.

Preschool Music and Movement

10 am every Thursday (during the school terms) in the St John's Centre. For more details contact Monika Demuth-Barber on m.demuth@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz or call 385 1546.

St John's Youth

EPIC:

Junior Group (ages 11–13 years)
Sundays at 10 am and Fridays 6.30–8.30 pm

Thrive:

Senior Group (ages 13–18 years)
Sundays at 10 am and Fridays 6.30–8.30 pm

For more details on any youth activities, contact Brett Reid at brett@bgi.org.nz or Richard Hpa at richard@bgi.org.nz.

Office

St. John's in the City Presbyterian Church
Corner of Willis & Dixon Streets,
PO Box 27-148, Wellington 6011

Phone:

04 385 1546

Email:

enquiries@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

Website:

www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-In-The-City-Wellington/197057586974092

