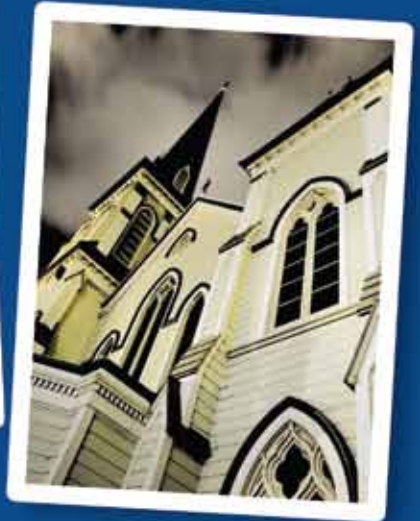


# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

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## *160th Annual Report*

### *2012-2013*



St John's  
in the City  
Presbyterian Church

Cover photos taken by Antonia Milkop,  
Naomi Lane, Nathan Stevens, Allister Lane,  
Lesley Shaw and Mary Hutchinson and entered  
into the Lynn Pollock Photography Competition.

# Foreword

It has been an extremely busy year and much has happened around the world, in New Zealand and here in our faith community of St John's. Maybe one of the things in the forefront of our minds at the moment is the repetitive rolling and shaking of our region. Many people are living with anxiety. Many buildings are now considered unsafe. Being a central city Church, we too have felt the seismic pulses that shake without discrimination. So how have we responded?

The Annual Report this year shares stories of hope which are built on the strong foundation of our faith in Jesus Christ. Throughout the year the St John's Session has provided leadership around three main goals: growing faith, building community and encouraging participation of those who share in the life of St John's. These three goals have guided us forward as a Church, and are all very apt in these uncertain times.

*this year our theme has been 'renewal'. What a powerful theme amidst abundant evidence of breakdown, disintegration and destruction. As you read the stories throughout this report, you will recognise the witness of the many lives of people who have faithfully, graciously and lovingly sought to work out these priorities*

Furthermore, this year our theme has been 'renewal'. What a powerful theme amidst abundant evidence of breakdown, disintegration and destruction. As you read the stories throughout this report, you will recognise the witness of the many lives of people who have faithfully, graciously and lovingly sought to work out these priorities. You will hear stories of people involved in Christ's business of renewal.

We hope that as you read this report you will be blessed. We hope you will experience the Spirit of Christ calling together a community of faith and renewing people from fear to peace, despair to joy and death to life. We hope you are inspired by all that the people of St John's in the City are doing in the name of Jesus.

*Yours in Christ*

**Stuart and Allister**

(The Ministers)



*Rev Allister Lane and Rev Stuart Simpson*



# Session Report 2012 / 2013

St John's Session started the year with a series of theme discussions actively seeking to know God's will for the future direction of St John's. We put a lot of time in meetings and prayer into thinking about Session priorities and agreed on three:

- growing faith
- encouraging participation
- building community, both in St John's and in the wider Wellington community.

Session will continue working to these priorities for several years. I'll refer to what we're doing in these themes in this report.

Faith can grow through the teaching programmes we have for children and youth; on a Sunday by Sunday basis as we hear the rich teaching of our Ministers, Allister Lane and Stuart Simpson; through our many study groups and seminar programmes; and through groups such as "Enquire", led by our Ministers to help people understand their faith better.

Faith also grows through the participation of many in various forms of outreach, mission and teaching. We thrill to see the partial emptying of the Church, in a good cause, on Sunday morning as many leaders, children and youth go out to their Sunday programmes.

Because the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) that we belong to asks us to gather statistics each June, we know how many are involved: 114 people are involved in age 13 or under children's Ministry throughout the week, including 24 in leadership roles; and 33 are typically involved in 13 to 17 year old Ministry, including 9 leaders. For adults, we have 147 people involved in Christian formation groups, including 20 as leaders. These include study groups, seminars and our three main Christian music groups, the Choir, Sunday morning music group and Sunday evening bands. Many fine musicians contribute and lead, including Eleanor Carter as Music Director, Eric Sidoti as Choir Conductor, and Dayle Anderson.

This year we had 412 people on our official roll, compared to 389 last year, concentrated in the 26 to 65 age range, with 20 under 25 and 51 over 65. Understandably, younger people are less represented on the roll and more represented in worship. On a typical Sunday in June, we had 45 children under 13 at worship, 9 youth aged 13 to 17 and 165 adults.

None of this work would happen without people's time being given to it. Many people make a huge

contribution. PCANZ asked Churches to gather data on the hours contributed by both paid and volunteer staff. Members of the congregation should give thanks to God for the generous contribution of time from our professional staff – it goes well beyond simple paid hours. While being grateful for this, we must be careful to respect their time off duty, so they can also enjoy the rest and family time they need. We are very well blessed with the quality of leadership, pastoral care and teaching from Allister and Stuart, and the support of their families, especially Naomi and Lala. Anna Davis' leadership of Children and Families Ministry continues to be outstanding in attracting participation and making Christ known to our children. Heather Walker ably assisted in this work and having stepped down at year end, has been replaced by Belinda Clare whom we warmly welcome to the team. Dave Adams and Nga Larsen, under our contract with the BGI, make our youth outreach happen – just look at the enthusiasm in the Bulletin each week!

Pastoral care is well coordinated by Marg Gilkison, bringing together an estimated team of 12 volunteers with an estimated 40 hours per week contributed. Across all our activities, we were able to advise PCANZ that we estimated the volunteer time per week added up to 130 hours across just the pastoral care, youth, Children's Ministry and Administration categories asked for. This excludes much activity but is at least indicative that we have much more than 3 full time equivalent staff's effort each week from the 66 people involved. You start to get a sense of the participation!

Some of our most loyal work over the years has come from the Girls' and Boys' Brigades. Sadly, the 2nd Wellington Boy's Brigade has moved into recess after very many years of service, as its leaders moved on. The boys were offered the opportunity to move to an Island Bay Brigade while our main remaining youth outreach remains with our youth group and support of BGI.

Our five, mostly part-time, office and caretaker staff also have supported our Ministry effectively and deserve our thanks, always willing to help the Congregation and also support each other when needed. After year end, one of our Secretaries, Barbara Newdick, retired after seven and a half years of great work in the St John's office and will be missed. Our staff play a big role in supporting the wider community too, particularly in making our conference and gym facilities available, with a large proportion of the hires made to community groups.

Perhaps one of the widest reaching outreaches to the community is through our billboards on Willis St. Many

people know us by them as the Church with the quirky sense of humour. The billboards also bring people to our events – particularly with the creativity of Jessie Boston, Elizabeth Gibbs and the Communications Committee behind them.

Some new areas for further strengthening Session's work under our priorities have come to the fore. The rejuvenation of the Church Library is one of those for growing faith. It will now be operating in the Church and the Hall for the Evening congregation and St J's Kids, as befits a Kids Friendly Church.

An important milestone was the 125th anniversary of the Women's Association, celebrated during the year. The Association is to be congratulated on transforming itself into the St John's Fellowship group, seeking to widen its participation.

Just getting underway is a People's Book, led by Rob Ewan, which will record the lives of people who have made particular contributions to St John's, rather like the Women's Book in the Chapel.

Another area of work consistent with the Session priorities is the work of the Future Finance Group, a joint Committee of Session and Council set up to help close projected ongoing deficits. St John's started the year with an unsustainable projected financial deficit of over \$300,000. Because of low inflation, the deficit has been much less in 2012/3 but it has not gone, and Session, with Council, will continue to have to grapple with how the gap can be closed. This also brings opportunities, as we grapple with which of our funded activities make the biggest contributions and how we can all best contribute to those activities.

St John's has been enthusiastic to support a wide variety of outreach over time, including children's work and youthwork, BGI (with whom we negotiated a new partnership agreement), community projects, overseas mission projects, lecture series and the wider work of PCANZ. This work is very much building community and encouraging participation well beyond St John's.

We added to our financial challenges by agreeing last year to contribute \$300,000 over 5 years to the Presbyterian parish of Knox, Waitara for its new Church and community building. This is truly valuable work, supporting a less well-off community in effective outreach in a lively congregation, and is very much part of the ethos of PCANZ – that we support each other in extending the national mission of the Church, making the gospel known in new ways and new areas. It was a pleasure for St John's Session members to celebrate with Knox Waitara as they opened their new \$3m building, free of net debt, in February. A wider relationship has been built with visits both ways

between the two parishes, allowing us to discover much that we can learn from Knox. St John's is willingly carrying its share of the financial challenge facing the whole national Church. For us, participation means supporting that work financially. Such giving is part of our Christian life, not just a financial matter.

Another part of our participation in PCANZ is taking part in Presbytery, where Ailsa Salt, as our Commissioner, and others made important contributions. Session made submissions on matters sent to Church Councils for consideration by the General Assembly in 2012, at which I represented St John's. A highlight of Assembly was receiving on St John's behalf the appreciation of the Assembly for our contribution to growing Knox Waitara's outreach, part of an effort to grow the mission of the national Church through the "Press Go" campaign.

Much of Session's work is in its Committees. Particularly important was the work of the Organ Refurbishment Committee, convened by Glen Labrum, which reported a way forward for possible refurbishment of the organ, and was supported by Session, subject to satisfactory financing and approvals to come, including from the Congregation. The Future Finance Group is considering the funding questions. Other active Session Committees include Outreach, Christian Education, which oversees all our Christian Education work, convened by Geoff Annals and Ted Cizadlo over the year, and Session Executive, which organises the work of Session, convened by the Session Clerk.

I would like to thank the Session Committee Convenors who work hard for the Congregation, particularly Glen Labrum, Geoff Annals and Ted Cizadlo who all stepped down during the year as Convenors. A number of Elders have taken long term leave of absence or retired from Session during the year and we offer a warm thank you for their contributions. These include Andrew Johnston, Allie Crombie, Lesley Shaw, Ted Cizadlo (on leave to study for a PhD) and Geoff Annals. Session has been considering bringing new members on to Session, partly to ensure it is more representative of the Congregation.

There are too many people to thank everyone individually, but please be aware that all your many contributions to St John's and our wider community outreach are warmly appreciated as we continue to make the gospel known in and beyond Wellington.

**David Galt**  
Session Clerk

# Council

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 about 90 minutes and are open to observers.

Key activities of the Council in 2012/13 included close oversight of the Property Committee's work on seismic strengthening and presentation of this material to the congregation in a timely but non-alarmist manner. The Council is also involved in on-going work concerning the rising cost of insurance in the wake of major natural disasters in New Zealand. On a more prosaic level, the Council undertook some research on parking options around the Church on Sunday mornings. The Council was tasked by Session with providing advice on options for funding the refurbishment of the organ, should the Church wish to proceed with this. At the time of writing, this work is being led by the Future Finances Group.

## Council membership

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

In 2013, Geoff Annals stepped aside as Convenor of the Christian Education Committee and is yet to be replaced. Other members remain unchanged. The Council therefore currently comprises the following:

Anton Ojala	Chair
Rev Alistair Lane	Minister
Rev Stuart Simpson	Minister
Mary Gibbs	Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand / St John's Fellowship Group
vacant	Christian Education
Elizabeth Gibbs	Communications
Ross Chesney	Finance
Ailsa Salt and John Atkinson (co-conveners)	Outreach
Committee inactive	Pastoral Care

David Wood	Property
David Ensor	Social
David Galt	Session Clerk (and Staffing Committee Convener)
David Coplon	Ex-officio Secretary (Finance and Admin Manager)

The Council would like to warmly thank Geoff Annals for his contribution as Convenor of the Christian Education Committee, and his active management of a number of challenging issues during the years he held this responsibility.

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

The Council welcomed the willingness of Judi Ferguson to take on the role of Roster Coordinator, replacing Malcolm Shaw. The Council expresses its appreciation to Malcolm for his work in this role over twelve years, and its appreciation to Judi for taking on the position. The Roster Coordinator is important in ensuring that the numerous roles associated with Sunday morning services are carried out and we welcome interest from those attending services in taking on one or more of these roles.

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.

## The Year Ahead

Major forthcoming issues for Council include implementation of some of the recommendations of the Future Finances Group, contributing to decisions on the future of the organ, and, in particular, overseeing the implementation of the seismic strengthening of our buildings. All these decisions will continue to require careful, prayerful consideration by the wider Church leadership, including Council.

### Anton Ojala

Chair of Council

# Worship

We have not had an exclusive 'Worship' report in the St John's Annual Report before. But we have had some moments over the previous year that we want to celebrate and acknowledge all involved.

Baptism is the sacrament that marks our entry into Christ's church and we have felt the joy of these declarations of faith a number of times over the year. April Ojala provided the first occasion for St John's to have a baptism pool set up in the church for a full immersion Baptism.



Both Ministers, Allister Lane and Stuart Simpson, took leave over most of October last year. This gave a chance for others to lead worship services. We gratefully acknowledge those willing and gifted leaders: Jonathan Boston, Rob Anderson, Ted Cizadlo, Carlton Johnstone, Petra Malcolm, Ashley Milkop, Paul Ramsay, Oliver Redding and Gina Williamson.

Every week we have a different team of dedicated volunteers who support both the morning and evening services by serving in different capacities. People read the Bible, lead prayers, greet people, serve tea & coffee, ring the bell, operate the sound system, provide for Communion, look after the crèche and generally make things 'hum' each Sunday. This is so much about being a church community, and we love the role modelling of 'servant leadership' you all do.

We continued our tradition of celebrating Advent and Pentecost with combined services of worship with our neighbour churches, St Mary of the Angels and St Peter's.

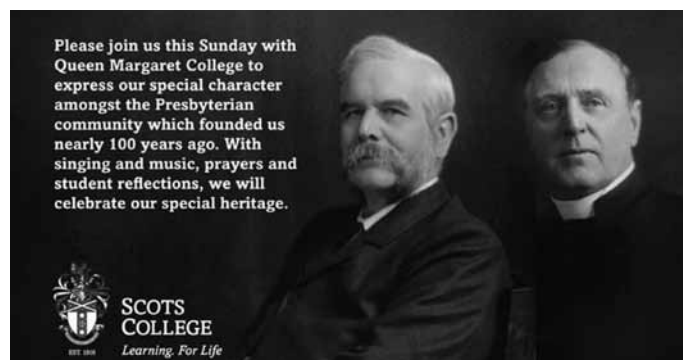
In the summertime we continued one of our more recent 'traditions' of conducting Picnic Church at the Troup Picnic Area in Otari Wilton Bush. This gives us the opportunity to worship outdoors enjoying God's creation.



At the evening service we had a teaching series titled 'QUESTIONING FAITH' that ran over seven consecutive Sundays. Different people explored each week's topic and posed specific questions for small group discussion. People appreciated the way the topics fed into each other across the weeks, and so we will do more teaching series at the evening service.

Although not strictly worship, the 'Enquire' deepening faith series was offered again this year. Led by both Ministers, the approach surveys the basic doctrines of the Christian faith by discussing the new Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand confession of faith, the Kupu Whakapono.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed hosting services of worship for our Church Schools, Scots College and Queen Margaret College. Both Colleges were begun by St John's people and we cherish our ongoing relationship with these communities.



Worshipping together is central to St John's as a Church community, and we look forward to celebrating both our regular and our special Sundays with everyone in the coming year.

***Rev Allister Lane***



# Music

We continue to be privileged at St John's with many talented musicians who give huge amounts of time towards leading the music in all our services.

The Senior Choir, conducted by Eric Sidoti, sings in the morning services, leading hymns and singing a wide range of anthems. We combine every year at Pentecost with St Peter's and St Mary of the Angels for an evening service that is always a musical highlight of our church year. This year, the 3 choirs sang Mozart and Buxtehude, accompanied by a string orchestra, in St. Mary's. We look forward to hosting the Advent Carol service this year.



The instrumentalists who play in all our services consistently provide good accompaniments to our singing and musical interludes when required. The expertise and willingness of all these people is greatly appreciated by us all.

The Junior Choir works hard, beginning rehearsal at 9 am most Sunday mornings. RSCM White Level Badges were earned this year, by Yestin Ojala,

Harena Simpson, Sarah Walker and Amy Walker. This choir will miss the Walker family contribution and we wish Caitlyn, Sarah and Amy all the best with their French adventures. The Junior Choir is for children aged about 4 to 13 and anyone is welcome to join in at any time of year.

All the music groups work on a voluntary basis and it is always good to have a large base of people to call on, so if any musical people would like to help with any aspect of music at St John's, please contact Eleanor Carter.

## *Junior Choir 2013*

Amy Walker, Sarah Walker, Manda Simpson, Harena Simpson, Alice Carter, Hugo Carter, Benjamin Carter, Rebekah Wood, Yestin Ojala, Jacob Troughton, Harry Troughton, Aria Troughton, Millie Troughton, Kezia Liando.

## *Instrumentalists 2013*

Alex Read, Thomas Read, Andrew Chesney, Anton Ojala, April Ojala, Maddie Ojala, Kathryn Ojala, Beth Cizadlo, Ted Cizadlo, Dayle Anderson, Elisabeth Auchinvole, Elliot Lawes, Ginny Abernethy, Jonathan Boston, Lala Simpson, Michelle Knight, Mary Gow, Sam Bennett, Sophie Macaulay, Tessa Macaulay, Stephanie McHardie, Tony Fuell and Zoe Henderson.

## *Eleanor Carter & Eric Sidoti*



# Senior choir

The Senior Choir is one of several groups of dedicated musicians who devote their energies and talents to serving and worshipping God in music. The Choir sings at most morning services, leading hymns and providing anthems where appropriate. In any given year this amounts to nearly 40 anthems presented as an offering to God.

There were several highlights of the year, including the anthem *I Am Alive and I Can See*, presented on 28 October with Robert Gray as soloist and a trio of brass, *Kumbaya* presented on Christmas day with Lala Simpson on drums, and the spectacular pieces on Easter Day. We were also blessed again this year to share in musical fellowship with St Mary of the Angels and St Peter's Anglican Church – a Christmas Carol service and the evening Pentecost service, both at St Mary's. It is always wonderful to work with our fellow Christians in singing His praises.

Eleanor, Dayle and I work together, along with the Ministers, to ensure that our music ties into the liturgy and/or the theme of any given service. We have a cooperative spirit between us all that allows us to function as a team, being the stronger for working together than any of us could achieve on our own. Because of the long lead times needed to get new music in (when we need that), we often plan 3-4 months ahead. It is a joy and blessing to be able to contribute to the overall life of St John's and God's children in this place.

We have a very mobile choir, with many members departing for a month or more at a time. We would love to have more singers, not only to experience the immense joy and fellowship that we share, but to augment the numbers on Sunday mornings. Please speak to any of us if you might be interested.

Conductor	Eric Sidoti
Sopranos	Beth Cizadlo, Pat Isherwood, Elisabeth Lawes <sup>^</sup> , Tae Soon Lee, Lala Simpson*, Linda Van Milligan, Jeanette Westermayer
Altos	Dayle Anderson, Winifred Bain, Bonnie Dunstan <sup>^</sup> , Mary Gow, Stephanie McHardie, Katherine Sutherland
Tenors	Evan Dumbleton, Robert Gray <sup>^</sup> , Daniel Jang
Basses	Ted Cizadlo*, Rob Ewan, David Galt, Tony Fuell, David Wood*

\*occasional member

<sup>^</sup>member on leave

**Eric Sidoti**  
Choir Conductor

# The St John's Library

After a couple of years of being out of the limelight, this year Session made reinvigorating the library a priority as a way of supporting members to grow their faith. Whether you are inspired by biographies of the heroes of our faith; want some poetry and praise; want to delve further into understanding the faith; or are looking for books for children, there should be a book in our library that will appeal to you.

So far the new Library Committee has edited and sorted the existing books and identified gaps that they are working on filling. The trolley that used to

be in the foyer is now in the St John's Centre so that the Evening Service and the childrens' groups have their own "branch library". We also have invited the St Mary's congregation to borrow books while they meet in our building.

Over the next few months, the Property Committee will provide us with more shelving and lighting so our "wing" of the foyer is more attractive, but even before this happens, we encourage everyone to start using this wonderful resource.

# Outreach

This last year has seen the congregation giving support to, and being involved in, a number of outreach projects and activities. These started in July 2012 with our Visiting Scholar, Professor William Cavanaugh, whom we hosted with Victoria University, and ended with one of our St John's Public Issues Fora on Child Poverty in June 2013, with visits to and from Myanmar, support of overseas and local mission and outreach, and keeping up our relationship with Victoria University in between. Thanks to everyone who has given prayer, time and money to our projects.

It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that leads the content of our outreach and a paper to a congregational meeting in 2002 saw three aspects of the dimensions of outreach.

- 1 **Shaping the mind** - Jesus exercised a teaching ministry and his parables challenged people to think in new ways about God, religion, themselves and others.
- 2 **Shaping the whole person** - Jesus exercised a disciplining ministry, making disciples and instructing his followers to do likewise, bringing his good news to those who do not have it and being mentored as one grows in his ways.
- 3 **Responding to people's needs** - Jesus exercised a healing ministry, showing compassion for all people, regardless of the religious and social credentials.

So, in the light of those three dimensions, what have been St John's main outreach activities this year?

## Shaping the mind

**Victoria University Lectureship:** We continued support towards the *Lectureship in Christian Theology* with a grant of \$35,000 and cemented our contacts with the University through the *Visiting Scholar Programme*. Associate Professor Chris Marshall's courses at Victoria University continued to be of significant interest and the five week evening lecture series on Paul that he led at St John's was very well attended and appreciated. His clarity of thought and his ability to make Paul's more complex writings

clear was greatly appreciated. The University has seen Chris's presence at Victoria as '... immensely successful. Feedback from students who have taken his courses, and the colleagues with whom he works, has shown him to be an inspirational colleague and mentor.'

**Visiting Scholar:** Another highlight of the year was *Professor William Cavanaugh's* visit hosted for a week by Victoria University and St John's. He is a Senior Research Professor at the Centre for world Catholicism and Intercultural Theology and Professor of Catholic Studies at DePaul University of Chicago. His series of lectures under the general title of "Migrations of the Holy: Challenging the Myths of a Secular Age" were stimulating and enlightening and attracted high attendances of students, lecturers and St John's members, a number who attended every lecture.



Professor William Cavanaugh

**Public Issues Forum:** The General Assembly resolved that the PCANZ should look at ways it could help children in poverty in New Zealand. Professor Jonathan Boston, one of our members who was Co-chair of a group advising the Children's Commissioner on the matter, gave a very enlightening seminar on the topic as one of the public interest fora we promote.

## Shaping the whole person

**BGI Support:** Our partnership with BGI offers St John's an infrastructure for mentoring relationships to be established in the community, and we make a grant to their work with young people in Wellington. We have worked this year to help clarify and strengthen that relationship.

**Mission Overseas:** Our missionaries overseas have been doing the Lord's work in the support they give to people in great need and where there is no one else to turn to. We have continued to provide financial and prayerful support to them throughout the year. Their home visit last year gave us a fascinating insight into the conditions which they were working in and the people they are working with and we are thankful for their commitment to supporting those in such dire circumstances. Those of the congregation who make regular gifts for them are much appreciated.

**Myanmar:** St John's relationships with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) grew significantly during the year with visits from members of the PCM to the General Assembly 2012, and then time at St John's meeting members of the congregation. We also had Stuart Simpson and Gina Williamson from St John's participate in a PCANZ group visit to Myanmar. The PCANZ has been involved with the PCM for some time and three years ago St John's became a formal and active participant in the mission. The relationship includes education, capacity building, gender justice, income generation, health, and local mission. We continue our involvement in the coming year.



Matt Potts and Petra Malcolm in Myanmar (second and fourth from left)

## ***Responding to people's needs***

**Grants:** The interest from the Andrews Family Memorial Trust and the Woods Trust (both legacies), has been distributed to the Downtown Community Ministry and to Presbyterian Support Central, while a grant was made from the Carter Fund to the Prisoners Aid Rehabilitation Service to assist with their activities at Arohata Women's Prison. Grants were also made to Mt Cook School for their swimming programme, the Wellington Rape Crisis Centre for supervision and professional development training for workers, Wellington Ecumenical Chaplaincy, Berhampore Primary School to support off-school learning and Niue Kaufakalataha towards their Access Radio programme to teach NZ born young Niueans their language, history, customs and so on.

**Christian World Service:** Our Christmas Day offering goes to CWS and this year we have joined with St Andrews on the Terrace to raise \$5,000 for the provision of water cisterns to homes in Palestine. A concert is being arranged in November in the Church to raise funds. The Fellowship Group is also supporting the CWS programme.

If you have questions on the above, or want to know more about the outreach work at St John's, speak to one of the committee members. They are John Atkinson and Ailsa Salt (Co-convenors), Allister Lane, Stuart Simpson, Rob and Dayle Anderson, Beth Cizadlo, and David Galt.

# The Wellington Boys' and Girls' Institute Incorporated

Tēnā koutou

We really value the partnership relationship BGI has had with St John's since its inception 130 years ago. It has been exciting to see this grow and develop over the last 11 years as we learn from one another and discover new ways of working together. Over the last year BGI and St John's have developed a Partnership Agreement (PA) that formalises and clarifies our relationship, and that will guide our relationship heading into the future.

The PA demonstrates the long-term commitment shared by BGI and St John's to continue working, learning and growing together. As part of the agreement, the representatives of the governance of BGI and St John's will meet together every three months. We will also have an annual shared worship service where our two communities will be brought together.

During the last year a number of opportunities have arisen out of our relationship with St John's:

**Community Kitchen Internship:** Zoe Henderson, a member of the St John's evening service community, became involved with BGI through her passion for sharing food with people, an interest which built close relationships in the evening service. Zoe has recently completed an internship with BGI sharing her skills and passion for food by kick-starting our 'Community Kitchen Project'. This has involved receiving donated fresh food from Kaibosh, and planning and cooking healthy meals for BGI programmes and families. This has been a mammoth task and we have been really blessed to have Zoe contribute to BGI. We have learnt a lot from Zoe and from the evening service community about how food and community connect and it's been exciting to see this project develop.



The new Challenge for Change intake enjoy their matching dinner at St John's Conference Centre, made with donated food through Kaibosh and Pandoro Bakery

**Knox Waitara Partnership:** BGI has been privileged to join in with St John's partnership with the Knox Waitara community. We have been really inspired to see the partnership between the two churches grow and develop, and especially enjoyed hosting a 'mocktail hour' for the Knox Waitara Session. We heard from Dave about the recent trip to Waitara where both youth groups competed in sports. This competition resurrected the New Zealand Presbyterian Young Men's Bible Class Union and Institute Championship Memorial Athletic Shield (what a mouthful!) which had been discovered in storage a few years ago, founded in 1903, and last won by St John's in 1935. This was a fantastic opportunity and we are committed to sending up other BGI groups to Waitara to learn and share with them.

**BGI Youth and Community Place:** Twelve years ago St John's invited BGI to move into Troup House, during a time when we were regrouping and reevaluating how we could best serve our community. We are now running about 20 regular youth programmes, have 16 staff and are committed to continuing to serve young people and their families in our community. We love being next door to St John's, and the close connection





we have with the Church community. BGI is currently planning a building redevelopment that will enable us to stay in Troup House long-term, while providing facilities that meet the needs of the young people and families that we serve. The BGI Youth and Community Place will be a multi-purpose facility that will provide a 'home away from home' for young people and families, and will be used by many other organisations and community groups. Our Board is really excited about this project, and we appreciate the support of the St John's Session.

## ***BGI Update***

We are continuing to run a number of programmes for young people and families, which have been outlined in previous reports. One highlight from this year has been seeing two young people who were mentored through our Challenge for Change programme a number of years ago return as mentors. It was really inspiring for all of us to see how these young people have grown and developed and are now in a place where they can support other young people through difficult times. We have had some other new developments:

***Community Kitchen Project:*** BGI has been aware for some time that many families in our community struggle to provide healthy food for their families, due to low income and/or limited skills and knowledge about cooking healthy food. BGI has begun an exciting venture called the Community Kitchen Project, where we receive donated fresh food from Kaibosh (food that would otherwise be discarded by supermarkets etc) and pass this on to families, along with recipes and tips for using fresh produce. We hope to develop this project further to include cooking lessons for young people and families, and 'whanau feed' community events where people connect through cooking and sharing food. Families are really excited by this project, and it is clear that this is meeting a serious need in our community.

***Organisational Development:*** BGI has been looking for ways to improve our strategic planning, and was fortunate to receive Ministry of Social Development funding, which will enable us to develop strategies that will help us to be more effective at serving our community. The BGI staff have also been looking for ways to grow and develop, and our team recently participated in the Strengths Finder process, which helped us to learn more about ourselves and one another, and how we can work together better as a team.



BGI staff reflect on the year at Paraparaumu Beach

***Relationship with mana whenua:*** we have been strengthening our relationship with local Māori through talking with mana whenua about how we can make our building and facilities more whanau friendly. This has opened up some exciting opportunities for working together in the future.

***Relationship with Wellington City Council:*** we have continued to grow our relationship with the Council and the Mayor, and have really valued their input over the last year. Mayor Celia Wade-Brown attended a recent celebration for a young person at BGI who has secured his first full-time job, and it was great to be able to share with her more about what we do, and the issues facing young people in our community.

We look forward to seeing what new opportunities and relationships grow as the Partnership Agreement beds in.

Ngā mihi  
***Tanya Duncan***  
Chair, BGI

# Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

Pastoral care reflects God's love to others. It is not just about *feeling* love towards others, but love in *action*. We see this action at St John's.

If you think about what Jesus would be like in our day-to-day world, you would find him embodying love in real and active ways: feeding people physically and spiritually, touching and healing their bodies, mind, and soul, holding their hands, speaking and listening to them – all actions to change people's physical conditions, personal situations and relationships with each other. At St John's, *you* are the channels of Jesus' love and pastoral caring.

My role is to coordinate pastoral care at St John's making sure people get the care they need, when they need it, and from the appropriate person. There are always situations that flow through life that require help and support, our love and care, our love in *action*. This may be help with the sick and dying, those in crisis, those who need encouragement, friendship or support, those who need practical assistance, the vulnerable, or the sad and lonely, just to name a few. This past year has been no different to other years, but what is encouraging is that people feel inspired to ask for help, knowing they will receive this in trust and confidence.

At St John's we have so many people providing pastoral care. Not only do we have the ministers, the elders, various other leaders and our pastoral assistants, but we have *you*, the people of our Church community. Pastoral care is alive and well at St John's. I am constantly impressed when I hear of the many and varied acts of kindness happening within our Church family, apart from those that get my attention. This is wonderful – thank you for your care of each other and those in the wider community. What amazing outreach this is.

## Special thanks

A big thank you to our pastoral assistants, who respond to my calls for help. Knowing I have helpers to take people to hospital or doctor's appointments, visit, deliver meals or assist in other practical ways, is wonderful.

To those of you on the transport roster to get people to and from church on Sundays – a very big thank you for this commitment. We now have 26 people involved with this.

Special thanks to Cynthia Krogh, who manages our pastoral freezer. It is well utilised and appreciated by those who require a helping gesture from time to time. This year the Children's and Families Ministry had a big cook-up, replenishing the freezer shelves with delicious meals. Thank you Anna and your team for this wonderful contribution. And to all of *you* who provide meals for the freezer from time to time, my sincere thanks.

A big thanks to Gail Higgs-West, who coordinates our prayer chain, providing up-to-date prayer lists and also words of wisdom, inspiration and encouragement for those praying for others.

Many thanks to Linda Shaw, Carolyn Goudswaard, Janice McCallum and Allie Crombie, who act as Hosts each Sunday morning. Hosts provide a valuable service in welcoming newcomers and getting their details, if they would like us to keep in touch with them. Welcoming newcomers warmly is a vital role for *us all*. We want visitors to feel they belong and wish to return. Morning tea is a great time for us all to be aware of strangers in our midst and extend our pastoral caring.

God has entrusted us to "journey with others" and God will be journeying with us, holding and strengthening us as we travel forward.

Well done, you good and faithful servants. Through your service, may your faith grow and God's grace bless you abundantly.

**Margaret Gilkison**

Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

# Christian Education Committee 2013

The Christian Education Committee fosters initiatives, seeks approvals, and maintains oversight for the programmes and activities at St John's that provide and support ongoing Christian education for faith development.

The Christian Education Committee is accountable to Session for the important ministry areas that express practical nurture and growth.

Separate reports follow for the various ministry areas of Thrive Youth (Senior Youth Group), EPIC (Junior Youth Group), Children and Families, and the Girls' Brigade.

Recognising there was only limited demand for the Boys' Brigade programme and no leadership available beyond the end of 2012, the Christian Education Committee consulted with all whom felt they had an interest. The recommendations to Session were that Boys' Brigade not continue after 2012, and that the families involved have the opportunity to join in the Island Bay BB Company.

We gratefully acknowledge the commitment Matthew Bayliss made in his time as Boys' Brigade Captain.

It has been important to offer the opportunities of annual faith and leadership development (like Connect and Going Further) and so subsidies for these have continued to be budgeted for to encourage attendance.

We are pleased Margaret Galt and her team of helpers are bringing renewal to the St John's Library, and we have offered to encourage and support this initiative to sustain it into the future, for the benefit of Christian Education at St John's.

The Christian Education Committee is 'greening' with new members, and will continue to seize opportunities to bring renewal to faith – for both young and not-so-young!

## Thrive Youth (Senior Youth Group)

### Introduction

Thrive Youth is the senior youth group of St John's in the City. We are an intentional faith-based community who seek to do just as our name suggests...Thrive.

We have two youth sessions a week. Friday Nights (socialising central - packed full of games, fun, opportunities to meet new people and a brief faith-based thought of the week). Then for those a little more curious about the notion of 'faith', we have our Sunday morning session (where we take a deeper look into faith, the Bible, its application, answer burning questions and have fun at the same time).



As a youth group we have a mission statement that reads; *Gather, Grow, Go*

### Gather

At Thrive youth, one of our core missions is to gather and connect our youth. We want to be a community that is inclusive and that cares. This year we have sought to connect youth within Thrive, between our Junior and Senior youth groups, to the wider church community of St John's and to other churches within our community.

### Progressive Dinner

This is becoming an annual event in the Thrive Calendar and for good reason. It gives us a great opportunity to share a meal with the families of our youth group and members of the wider church community.

### Parachute Music Festival

This year we took a large group of 38 youth and leaders. This is one of the biggest highlights on our calendar year; it allows us to welcome in friends of youth and create memories that last a lifetime.

## ***Japan Night***

This was a great evening packed full of fun; Karaoke, Sushi Making, Table Tennis and DIY Sumo Wrestling. Very memorable and a great way to bond as a group.



## ***Real Life “Where’s Wally?” Night***

Each term we intentionally have 2-3 nights where we combine with EPIC (the intermediate youth group of St John’s). On this night, Dave Adams dressed up as a real life replica of Wally and hid in town; there were prizes depending on how long it took groups to find him!

## ***Family Fun Day @ BGI High Ropes***

We ran a free afternoon at the high ropes for Thrive, EPIC, their families and their family’s friends. We had a total of 87 people join us for an afternoon of fun and excitement. Such a blessing to be able to connect with so many people!



## ***Grow***

Our second core mission as a youth group is to grow and equip our youth and leaders. We want to help our youth to grasp onto faith and to make it their own.

### ***Relationship Panel***

We want to be a part of an open conversation to teach and learn from our youth. On this night we invited in a series of young Christian married couples to field questions about dating and marriage.

### ***Leadership Development Group***

This is a group for senior youth group members that aims to give them practical leadership skills and opportunities to use those skills to lead youth projects. Examples include aiding in the planning of our terms and the creation of our film fest entries.

### ***Guys/Girls Weekend Away***

Something that we find really beneficial is to take either a group of guys or young women away for a moving weekend of Bible studies and fun. We are lucky to have generous members of St John’s lend us their bach for the weekend.

### ***Connect Youth Leaders Conference***

Each year, one of our initiatives to ensure our volunteer leaders are confident, enabled and mobilised, is to make the Connect Youth Leaders Conference a priority. This year 7 leaders from Thrive attended. An inspirational weekend that is helping to shape our youth ministry.

### ***Sunday Morning Studies***

This year we have had a large focus on connecting the activities and themes of Friday nights into a deeper study on Sunday mornings. This has been quite successful. Notable topics that we’ve covered include ‘Keeping your fire burning’, ‘does God have a sense of humor?’, ‘The Kingdom of God’, ‘Stress’, ‘baptism’ and many many more.

## ***Go***

Our final core mission as a youth group is to ‘go’ and put our faith into action and to give back to our community. Here are some of the ways that we have tried to do that this year.

### ***Random Acts of Kindness (RAK)/Serving Nights***

As part of our core mission, it is a commitment of Thrive that at least one night per term is devoted to giving back to the community and those in need. Most commonly we do this by running either a RAK night, or by offering service. RAK night involves us asking the youth to bring \$5 each. We then split them into groups, pooled their money into each group, gave them a bit of time to brainstorm, and sent them out into Wellington to creatively bless



people with their random acts of kindness – a fun and easy way to put our faith into action.

On serving nights, Youth offer their time to help families babysit or with chores around the home.

## ***Year Ahead***

### ***Volunteer Leaders***

We receive and rely on the support of our awesome volunteer leaders, of whom we are blessed to have. This year has seen a 'changing of the guard' of sorts with 7 departures from leadership (Gina Williamson, Sophie Macaulay, Yoon Ji, Petra Malcolm, Jessie Boston, Rebecca Bullen and Rose Morris) and 6 additions to the Thrive team (Alexandra Cooper, Aaron Doody, Jule Barth, Madeline Enright, Jenny Adams and Kotuku Riwaka (BGI intern)).

We also would like to acknowledge the support and aroha we receive from the parents of our youth and the wider St John's community. All the meals, offers of transport, prayers and encouragement don't go unnoticed, thank you greatly.

## ***Our Youth***

We have youth who attend from a multitude of schools from around the Wellington Region including;

Scots College, Newlands College, Wellington East Girls College, Tawa College, Wellington College, Queen Margaret College, Hutt Valley High, Onslow College, Wellington High School and Wellington Girls College. We get between 20-30 youth any given Friday night but usually around 45 unique different youth attending across a term & an average of 10-14 participants on a Sunday morning.

### ***Dave Adams***

Youth Ministry Worker



## ***Epic Youth Group***

EPIC Youth Group is our intermediate-aged youth ministry at St John's in the City. We facilitate a programme for any year 7 and 8's that want to join us on Friday nights and Sunday mornings. Our group at the moment is mainly made up of young people from St John's but we also have some key friends who join us from the wider Wellington region.

EPIC has been supported by the amazing leaders; Michelle Knight, Tessa Macaulay, Nicky Read, Ross Davis, Elliot Rolston and myself, Nga Rolston. At the end of 2012 Jack McCarthy, sadly for us, stepped down from leading. He is dearly missed by the guys at EPIC. I would like to thank this strong team of

leaders for all they have done this past year to serve our young people; without all they do, EPIC would miss out on the strong diversity each leader brings.

Over the last year EPIC has been very busy having fun with water fights, beach bonfires, Laser Force, dress-up nights, learning scripture through drama skits, mini golf, photo missions, real life 'Where's Wally', biblical activities that help EPIC to learn the week's scripture using the Seasons of the Spirit teaching resource, plus so much more.

We meet each week during the school term so it gives us a lot of time to create a diverse programme that keeps our young people engaged. As a leadership team we aim to provide a year that helps each young person on Sunday mornings gain more knowledge about life with God. On Fridays we focus more on social connection with their peers. We do this through activities that encourage the building of trust, challenges that take them out of their comfort zone, or teach them new skills and opportunities that broaden their knowledge.

On Friday 22 March 2013, we sat down with EPIC and ice cream sundaes to plan out the whole year. As a leadership team, we asked EPIC what they



wanted to do this year and it is from that list that we have planned each term in conjunction with other activities that we think would benefit the group dynamics. This year we really wanted to focus on EPIC having a strong voice in how EPIC works for them.

This is also the plan for how we will create our Film Fest entry this year. In the past EPIC has created entries but they have been heavily leader driven. This year, though, we are dedicating three weeks just to plan our JYMC Film Fest entry. We want to gather their ideas, teach them what makes a strong entry



and help them to identify as a group what they want to create over the school holidays between term 2 and term 3. I can't wait to see what they create.

If you would like to help EPIC in any way, please contact me. It could be through joining us for one evening to help with transport, sharing your skills or joining our leadership team. Also if you have a young person in year 7 or 8 who is keen to join, please also get in touch, as we'd love to have them join the whanau.

***Nga Rolston***

EPIC Youth Worker

(04) 385 9549 [nga@jymc.org.nz](mailto:nga@jymc.org.nz)

# Children and Families

It's been another good year for the Children's ministry. Activities and involvement in the wider Church family have continued similar to previous years, as they have proven to serve our ministry to children and families well. These include Starlight Storytime, Wheels Afternoon, St J's Kids Morning Tea hosting, KidsWorship@5, Pantry Raid for Downtown Community Ministry (DCM), Picnic Church, Community Cook up, All Age Worship, and activities that follow the church calendar, such as the journey of the Nativity characters around peoples' homes during Advent, Faith@Home Advent activities, Shrove Tuesday Pancake breakfast and Holy week drama on Palm Sunday.



Heather Walker resigned from her role in May of this year after working as Assistant Children & Families Ministry Worker (ACFMW) for 2½ years. This is a big loss to our team and to the children and families under her care. Heather has been a strong advocate for children and families, using her phenomenal organisational skills and past experience working with families to contribute significantly to our St John's commitment to be authentically 'Kids Friendly'.

The position is in the process of being advertised with the aim to fill the position as soon as possible.

St J's Kids continues to be the backbone of St John's Children's ministry with a very strong leadership team bringing a variety of experience, continued commitment, enthusiasm and ability to connect with the children in different ways. Included in this are some of the young people from Thrive (Senior Youth Group).

New people continue to join our team supporting increased numbers of children, adding strength to our leadership. This year more men have been regularly involved which is particularly helpful role modeling for the boys. Many of the experienced leaders have been mentoring the newer leaders.

Epic (Yr 7&8 Youth Group) continues to be under the St J's Kids umbrella on Sundays, offering seamless opportunities for leadership development in this age group within the St J's Kids context.

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.

## ***Regularly rostered St J's Kids Leaders and Assistants:***

Adrienne Troughton, Alex Read (G), Alice McEnaney(G)^, Anna Davis, April Ojala(G), Ashley Dunstan^, Belinda Clare\*, Belinda Gilkison, Brigitte Hicks-Willer^, Bronwyn Wood, Cathy Screech^, Chris Purchas, Cilla Toroa\*, Connor Driver-Purchas^, David Wood\*, Diane Shaw, Elliot Lawes\*, Elliot Rolston(E)\*, Farina Kusmana, Fiona Coughlan, Fiona Purchas, Geoff Troughton\*, Heather Richardson-Barbour^, Heather Walker^, Iris Webster, Jack McCarthy^, Janet Davis\*, Janie Pack, Jason Fyfe\*, Jeff Liando, Jemma Simpkins^, Kathryn Ojala, Lala Simpson^, Linda Shaw, Lydia Grove\*, Madi Ojala(G), Michelle Knight(E), Mindy Simpson, Ngahuia Rolston(E), Nicholas Grove\*, Nicki Read, Nina Liando, Olivia Tuatoko, Ross Davis, Sarah Johnstone^, Susana Pramana, Tessa McCaulay(E)\*, Tony Tuatoko\*, Vicky Wood.

^ Stepped down during the year

\* Started leading / assisting during the year

(E) EPIC (junior youth group) leader

(G) Children's greeter

## ***Sunday morning Holiday programme Leaders and Assistants:***

Adrienne & Geoff Troughton, Allie Crombie, Angela & Phil Garrity, Anna Davis, Antonia Milkop, Briar Trench, Carolyn Goudswaard, Connor Driver-Burgess, David & Vera Burton, Fiona Coughlan, Heather Walker, Ingrid, Alice & Lucy McEnaney, Jinny Irvine, Janet Davis, Jonathan Boston, Julia Buck, Lala Simpson, Libby McKinnon, Margaret Carmen, Margaret Gilkison, Maria Biedermann, Mary Hutchison, Nina & Jeff Liando, Ross Davis, Sophie & Jason Fyfe, Susana Pramana, Vicky Wood



Preschool Music & Movement group (M&M) is flourishing with a small and steady team of music leaders, i.e. Anna Davis, Heather Walker, Kate Wasson & Vicky Wood, and the group morning tea roster. It is strongly pastoral in nature, underpinned by the St John's family. Just under 50% of the group attend St John's. Betty Robertson and her team of helpers providing monthly Coffee & Chat morning teas continue to be an integral part of this group. M&M celebrated its 10th birthday in November with Janet Channon from Kids Music Company who supplies most of our music, visiting from Auckland to run a parents' workshop and one of our music sessions.

The Alpha Marriage Course was not held this year. Instead 2, five week Alpha Parenting courses for parents of 0-10yr olds and 11-18yr olds were held concurrently over May & June. There have been a number of requests to run the Marriage Course again and, due to the enthusiasm of participants on the Parenting courses, our aim is to run the Marriage Course and the Parenting children course again in Term 2 of 2014.

## **Highlights:**

### ***St J's Kids Advent Activity Stations:***

75 children signed up to meet in mixed age groups for 3 weeks during Advent to explore the Christmas story using media of their choice e.g. sewing, baking, clay, painting, crazy facts, dance, woodwork and drama. This culminated in the 4th week with an invitation for the congregation to 'step inside the Christmas story'. As part of All Age Worship, the congregation journeyed around different stations to hear and experience the children's insights into the Christmas faith story via their chosen media. Epic & Thrive partnered with St J's Kids as well.

### ***The highlights:***

- Each week, the atmosphere in the St John's Centre was 'electric' – children bursting with enthusiastic anticipation, the sound of drumming downstairs and Hip Hop music upstairs
- Adult leaders from the congregation connecting with the children by sharing their skills over a period of time and enjoying each others' company in the process
- Children going 'deeper' into the Christmas story
- Encouraging intergenerational relationships across all ages
- St John's being prepared to meet the children in their space as part of Worship

### ***St J's Kids theme for 2013 & launch day***

**Theme:** St J's Kids has chosen to interpret the St John's pastoral theme for this year, 'The Year of Renewal' as 'God gives us new life'. We are planning to develop this more when we introduce the new church Season in to the Church year, the 'Season of Creation' in September.

**Launch day:** An aspect of Renewal we chose for our launch was celebrating our Creator God who has created us and all living creatures and plants. God has given us nature to enjoy and we're 'designed by God' to be renewed when we're in the midst of it, e.g. swimming in the river or sea; walking/tramping in the bush; being cool in the shade of a tree; biting into a juicy plum...



### ***The highlights:***

- Children experiencing sacred space when they were invited to reflect on Psalm 148 in the darkened hall with slides projected on the ceiling illustrating the Psalm with background music. A sacred moment without hype
- Godly laughter as children were 'refreshed' as they ran through a spraying water hose
- Youth group partnership through providing barbecued sausages after church for everyone



## ***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast:***



Our third annual Pancake Breakfast was held to mark the beginning of Lent. This year the Men's Breakfast group were the Chefs rather than the families, reinforcing its identity as a whole Church event rather than simply a children & families event. This was also apparent with a wider range of ages attending. \$160 koha was collected for the Myanmar Rice Bowl fund – the first year there has been a significant koha for mission.

## ***Easter Sunday:***

A team of 12 St J's Kids leaders and parents led approximately 65 children – regulars and visitors – through a dramatic story telling of the events leading to the Resurrection followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.



### ***Highlights:***

- Involvement of 3 young people from Epic, Aina Simpson, Ethan Webster & Harry Troughton in 'Celebratory drumming' as children entered the Hall, building on a skill they had learnt in their Christmas Activity group last year
- Involvement of Rod Baxter (from BGI) drawing the mural in advance depicting events leading to the Resurrection
- Providing a sacred space for children to reflect on the events leading to the Resurrection through watching a silent movie of a line drawing depicting these events

- Children being engaged in placing themselves in the story by adding themselves to a huge line drawing mural copy of the movie images
- Leaders moving around the children supporting and engaging with them and allowing children to connect with the story in any way they wanted
- The results! which can be seen on the Hall wall in the St John's Centre

## ***The Big Cookup:***

In May, M&M parents, St John's people and some people from BGI met in the St John's Centre kitchen on a Saturday afternoon to cook dinners to fill the pastoral freezer.



### ***The highlights:***

- This year it 'morphed' into a Community Cookup for the whole church including BGI – a chance for the M&M parents to blend with the wider St John's community and BGI in a natural way, and for people from within St John's and BGI to get to know each other
- 1 full freezer and the chefs got to take a meal home (for which they paid a koha)
- All ages turned up - great community building/connections made between people of different ages instead of just parents of pre-schoolers

## ***Children in church highlights:***

Children bringing the Bible in: It has become part of the St John's culture for the Duty Elders to make sure a child has been asked to lead in the Children's Bible rather than depending on someone connected to St J's Kids to do this. 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 – not just in the

worship service but how the blessing reminds them of God's presence at times throughout the week. This is a powerful example of the ability of children to minister to adults. The children are often reminded of the impact their blessing has and the responsibility that goes with it.

## ***Numbers:***

***St J's Kids/Epic:*** The average weekly attendance over the 2012/2013 year was 29 families and 58 children. During 2012/2013, 44 families attended at least once. In addition 10 families are in regular contact with us but haven't attended St J's Kids.

***M&M:*** 60 families have been part of our group over 2012/2013. Average weekly attendance has been 26 adults and 25 children. 14 of the regular families are connected to St John's in some way.

I wish to firstly acknowledge with gratitude the contribution and commitment of our dynamic St J's Kids leadership team involved during Sunday mornings as well as throughout the week and our many activities throughout the year – St J's Kids is not just a Sunday thing!

Also, a big thankyou to Betty Robertson and her team of helpers for their ongoing support of M&M. Thanks also goes to Lesley Shaw, Creche Coordinator, who offers ongoing weekly support to many of the parents attending M&M, and supporting parents of preschoolers throughout the week who come on Sundays.

The children's ministry 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. Thank you for your support of the children in our midst – for your practical assistance, the generous giving of your time and energy, and the warmth, acceptance and interest you show to the children.

***Anna Davis***

Children & Family Worker

## ***Preschool Music and Movement***

This year Preschool music and movement turns 10! As original members of the group, Anna and Heather continue to share their experience leading the group, and have been ably supported by several members of the current group – Jo Wu, Vicky Wood, Kate Wasson and Naomi Lane. In 2012, we have had several new families join for whom English is a second language.

***Group involvement:*** Morning tea provision, as with Music leadership, continues to be delivered by the parents in the group. Many members of this group also belong to St John's. Others choose to participate occasionally in St John's activities, such as Baptisms, All Age Worship services, hosting the Nativity set and St J's Kids social events.

***Equipment:*** We are grateful for the purchase of a portable microphone headset this year that enables the people leading music to be heard more easily without straining their voices. The group are also very appreciative of the high handle that has been recently installed on the internal foyer door to the St John's Centre ensuring children can't escape into the courtyard.

***Easter Baskets:*** In partnership with Betty Robertson and her assistants, the group provided baking and compiled and delivered Easter baskets to members of the congregation unable to get out and about much. This is always well received and the group appreciated the many letters of thanks.

***Big Cook Up:*** In June, M & M parents, along with some St J's Kids parents, met in the St John's Centre kitchen and cooked dinners to fill the pastoral freezer. This was a great community building afternoon and prompted participants to suggest we cook together more regularly to fill our own freezers. Thanks to Naomi Lane for coordinating this event.

***Thanks:*** Many thanks to Betty Robertson and the women who assist her to support our group with Coffee and Chat and for staying connected with so many of the parents. It is with sadness we no longer have Lynn Pollock with us – we miss her 'naughty' lollies put out for the children's morning tea and her photographing the children.

## ***Alpha Marriage Course***

Now in its fifth year, 6 couples attended one course finishing in October 2011. Other courses were scheduled in Terms 2 & 3 of 2012 but there hasn't been the interest so both courses were cancelled. A number of people have expressed interest in doing the course in 2013.

Thanks goes to Nicki and Richard Read for facilitating the course held during 2011. Also to the St John's office staff for preparing the space every Monday - it made a significant difference to the ease of running the course.

***Anna Davis and Heather Walker***

# 8<sup>th</sup> Wellington Girls Brigade Company

Girls Brigade is reaching out to girls who do not attend regular Church Worship.

In 2012, only 2 of our girls attended Church and devotions are an important part of our weekly programme. Our Chaplain, Stuart Simpson, takes regular devotions with the girls as well as presenting them with the awards at breakup.

Our physical aspect of our programme has had the girls doing Zumba and Self Defence.

Rebecca Howan and Sarah Bayliss took the Seniors for candle making and these were used at breakup to tell the Meaning of Christmas Spirit.

We farewelled Rebecca so she can continue her Studies at University.

The Juniors have involved their parents at special events. For Mother's Day, the Juniors served their mothers a cup of tea with a baked biscuit, as well as a card and gift made by them. For Father's Day, the Juniors invited their fathers to a card games evening.

Cooking is a favorite activity with all age groups and the Juniors have made scones, chocolate muffins and chocolate chip biscuits. Seniors worked on Floral Art and First Aid.

We combine both age groups for games so the girls all know each other.

Each age group has its own programme based on Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Social. The Juniors (5-8 years old) work on 10 different star points of 3 weeks per subject to gain a Star badge at end of year. The Company (9 years & upwards) work on 5 Badge subjects for 6 weeks and earn a circle at end of year. The Company girls are involved in what badge subjects they would like to do each year.

We are a small group of loyal girls with 100% attendance each week.

Our aim for the next year is to have more girls join us on Tuesday night upstairs in the St John's Centre.

The Captain has been leading the Company for 26 years and I would like to thank my supportive team for all their help in leading and encouraging the girls each week in 8th Wellington Company. The team is Dianne Little, Pauline Little, Avis Marshall, Sarah Bayliss and our Chaplain, Stuart Simpson.

**Katherine Sutherland**  
8<sup>th</sup> Wellington Captain

## Crèche

The crèche continues to be a positive force at St John's, with new parents meeting other parents and getting to know how St John's operates. The crèche workers are very conscientious and never forget they are on duty. Most children attend crèche until they are about three years old when they can attend St J's Kids.

We have been given a comfortable two-seater couch which is proving ideal for mothers who have to feed their babies. The chapel chairs are not comfortable for this. The big stacks of chairs have been removed as they constituted a Health and Safety issue with children climbing on them.

The Chapel is a very convenient venue for the crèche as parents are close by and can pop in if necessary or can be fetched by carers if necessary. Every effort is made to keep the crèche quiet so as not to disturb worshippers, but this is not always possible. But after all babies are the congregation of the future and they are not always 'seen and not heard'.

More crèche helpers would be welcome. Please see me if you are keen to help.

**Lesley Shaw**

# Home Groups

## ***Monday Night House-Group***

We have continued to meet in Karori with about ten to fourteen of us most Monday nights. This year we have covered an eclectic set of studies, ranging from the normal “book of the Bible” type (e.g. discovering the large parts of Daniel without lions) to theme discussions (prayer and Christian doctrines) to the more unusual. We particularly enjoyed exploring C.S. Lewis’ Screwtape Letters which are imaginary letters from a senior devil to his junior tempter on how to mislead Christians.

During the year, Janice McCallum had the privilege of attending the state funeral for Margaret Thatcher as she was one of her nurses for many years. This led us to do a study on Margaret Thatcher’s address to the Church of Scotland’s General Assembly, which must be one of the most interesting reflections on how a major world leader felt her Christian faith informed her political views.

We also had some other highlights. Our two missionary members returned to us at the end of 2012; two members, Paul Clarke and Carol Chen, got married in January; and another, Thomas Lissington, submitted his MA thesis for assessment.

Of course we also had our traditional social events with our Christmas party at Mary Gibbs’ and the start of the year BBQ at the Galt’s. We always welcome new members – ours is a very mixed group, men and women, couples and singles, ranging in age from 21 to 81 – so anyone would fit in and everyone is welcome.

***Margaret Galt***

## ***Newtown Home Group***

Newtown Home Group was formed at the beginning of the year to cater for the growing numbers at the Evening Service. So every Thursday a handful of students / young professionals meet from 7-9 pm at my family home in Mt. Cook / Newtown to discuss life and wrestle with God.

We have been working our way slowly through the study book by Tom Wright, exploring Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. Each week one of us leads the discussion and we spend time unraveling Paul’s words and what it means for us here and now.

To be fair we often go off on tangents and end up talking about a whole range of issues, laughing and crying together. But I think that’s what living in

community is all about. God wants to be a part of our relationships with each other and help build stronger Christian communities. Essentially that is also what Paul is saying to the Corinthians; build a strong Christian community and be a light to rest of the world.

God Bless

***Jessie Boston***

## ***English as a Second Language Bible Study Group***

The English as a Second Language Bible Study Group (ESL) is going very well. We have around nine people who attend the group from different parts of the world. Some have been coming for quite a while and others only over the last few months. The ESL study group meets every Thursday fortnight from 6:30-7:45 pm in the St John’s Office.

Over the year we have had a number of studies covering an array of topics, including looking at questions about faith, such as, ‘Isn’t Christianity a Straitjacket?’, ‘Isn’t the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice?’, ‘How Can a Loving God Send People to Hell?’, ‘Can You Take the Bible Literally?’, ‘What is the Problem of Sin?’ and ‘Religion VS Gospel’.

Infused with this study have been wonderful food, warm fellowship and a willingness to learn from Scripture and from each other. 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 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 also do, please let them know about the ESL group or contact me.

Yours in Christ

***Stuart Simpson***



## ***Brooklyn Homegroup***

A group of 6-8 young adults usually meets fortnightly at Carlton and Sarah Johnstone's place. Following our study of 1 Corinthians that members took turns leading, we began a DVD series called the "Jesus Driven Life." This has generated stimulating discussion.

More recently we have been trialling a new DVD resource made specifically for young adults called "Animate." This is aimed at generating animated discussion on issues of life and faith. Topics include "Reclaiming Religion" and "God: Faith is a Quest."

Quite often we will eat dinner together. It is a gift to have such an articulate, thoughtful and caring group of young adults, who are passionate about being followers of Jesus, meet in our home regularly to discuss life and faith and pray for one another.

### ***Carlton and Sarah Johnstone***

## ***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.

After attending Chris Marshall's lecture series on 'Who is Paul?' during September and October, we met with Missioners to learn more about their experiences. We also explored some of the themes

from the 'Christianity and the Ecological Crisis: Lament, Hope, Action' conference that was hosted at St John's.

We finished one year with a hearty Christmas dinner and started the next with our traditional New Year barbeque!

With the early arrival of Lent this year, we met weekly to reflect on the traditional Lenten disciplines of almsgiving, fasting and prayer.

After Easter, we started a new study series entitled 'Your Money and Your Life' which explores how to handle your money and possessions in a way that leaves you free to find true satisfaction, generosity, and contentment with what God has given you.

Anyone is welcome to attend the group at any time. It can be for just a single evening, for a specific study series (as some have done), or for as long as you like. Each person is an important part of the group, and offers a unique and valued perspective on the journey of faith that we share together. The most important thing is that the group encourages and supports you in this journey.

Prayer also underpins the life of the group, and every time we meet we spend time in prayer and reflection.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Paul or Louise Ramsay on 386 2755 (home) or 494 3716 (work) or email [paul@clear.net.nz](mailto:paul@clear.net.nz).

# St John's Badminton and Table Tennis Club

Last season ended on a high note with 20 people present. Stuart presented certificates to the winners.

The badminton was won by:

- Daphne Chua – Women's singles
- Ross Davis – Men's singles
- Harriet Johnston and Kai Joeng – Mixed doubles

The table tennis was won by:

- Daphne Chua – Women's singles
- Andrew Davis – Men's singles

This season the average attendance has been eight, which is quite good as one does not have to wait around long for a game.

These are good fortnightly Sunday afternoon social activities for people 14 years and upwards. There is no upper age limit as I am still playing!

**Kai Joeng** (Captain)

**Harriet Johnston** (Secretary)

## Stitchers' Group

In February this year, a new group was formed for people who like to stitch or would like to learn some kind of stitching. There is a core group of six to eight women who come regularly to stitch and chat. A couple of 'younger' women have attended but study and work constraints mean that we don't see them very often. One was taught to crochet in the group and is continuing to turn out crocheted squares

at a great rate. The Fellowship Room is ideal, as the natural light is a great help when doing close work. So far the crafts practised include applique, patchwork, embroidery, knitting, crochet, felt work, beading and of course, crochet.

More members are most welcome and they don't have to be women!

**Lesley Shaw.**

## Prayer Chain

It is encouraging to report that in 2011 we had 26 members on our Prayer Chain. This month we reached 40 members. I would like to thank all our members for time spent in prayer, and for their concern and love for those in need of prayer.

### Spurgeon's "boiler room"

*Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their*

*guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was Charles Spurgeon.*

Our Daily Bread

We still need more people who believe in the power of prayer and are willing to spend time in prayer for others.

Will you consider becoming part of this chain? Anyone wishing to become a member of the Prayer Chain or who would like to request prayer can contact the Ministers, the Church Office or Gail on 3889746 or email [decision@clear.net.nz](mailto:decision@clear.net.nz).

**Gail Higgs-West**

Convenor

# St John's Women's Association

It is with pleasure that I present this 125th Annual Report of St John's Women's Association. We've not always been called this, but it is a fantastic achievement to have had such a long connection with the past and, I am sure, into the future. Almost as long as there has been a St John's Church in Wellington, there has been a Womens' group providing a Christian witness here in the City as well as nationally and internationally.

Our 125th Birthday celebrations, held over a 3 month period, were all organised by Grace Jarvie and Brigitte Hicks-Willer. They began with a Gala Film evening in the Church, which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Betty Robertson, one of our life members, cut the cake and gave us a brief history of her very long involvement at St John's.

Our Christmas service, always a special occasion in the busy build up to Christmas Day, was especially splendid this year. We had 80 people attending a sit-down Anniversary lunch in the Hall. Recycled gifts were a particular highlight.

We also honoured Betty Littler and Anwyl Fowler with life membership. Two truly amazing Christian women whose spheres of influence are immeasurable.

Thank you to all, particularly Grace and Brigitte, who helped to mark our 125th Anniversary.

## ***What else happened during the 2012/2013 year?***

The monthly activities included the following guest speakers:

July	Prof. Nigel French from Massey University spoke on "Bean sprouts and other killers".
August	Stephanie McIntyre, Director Downtown Community Ministry, talked about the work of her organisation, especially with the homeless.
September	Victoria Ussher and Lai Chin Tan from the English Partners NZ (formerly ESOL) provided an insight into the difficulties migrants have assimilating into NZ society.
October	We had our own Julia and Arthur speaking about their work and the difficulties they have faced.

February	A social get together at Tae Soon Lee's home when Daniel Yang gave us an insight on working and living on the Mission Ship Logos Hope.
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April	Gina Williamson gave a very interesting talk on her visit to the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar and on-going support for the Rice Bowl Appeal.
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May	Micheal Earle from Christian World Service spoke on the work in Tonga that will be supported by the Presbyterian Women ANZ Annual Special Appeal.
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During our November church service, Rev. Allister Lane incorporated our on-going devotional theme of Women in the Bible by highlighting the role of Mary, Mother of Jesus. The Easter service was led by Rev. Stuart Simpson where we contemplated the hours before Christ's Crucifixion.

## ***What else have we done?***

At our planning meeting in January, we discussed how to improve our numbers at the monthly meetings. We decided that the St John's Womens' Association name was not gender-inclusive. We also noted that the older men of the congregation had no specific group to belong to. So a motion will be put to today's meeting that "We change our name to St John's Fellowship Group" and invite men, especially retired men, of the congregation to attend.

This year we are exploring the lives of Prophets during our devotional time.

We have also stopped having a sales table, while the collection & selling of stamps had ceased earlier in the year.

We continue to be involved in the Wellington Region Presbyterial meetings and hosted the Christmas service.

Thank you to all who continue to support and help at our meetings and throughout the year. Without this commitment we could not continue to provide fellowship and fun to each other.

Thank you and God's blessings

**Mary Gibbs**  
President

## ***Mission Report – Elizabeth McKenzie***

One of the aims of the Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) is “to encourage an informed interest in Worldwide Mission and evangelism”.

St Johns Womens’ Association endeavours to fulfil this aim by supporting the PWANZ and MWF annual special project. This year’s appeal supported the NZ group Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network towards publishing a book called “Welcoming Churches.”

The overseas part of the project will go to the Tonga Community Development Trust, which runs the AMA TAKILOA programme designed to empower women to actively participate in development at the local village level by providing training and practical assistance. We had an excellent talk by Michael Earle from the Christian World Service on the work already underway in Tonga, which allows for the women to become self sufficient through gardening and sustainable water supplies.

Many thanks to all those who gave so generously to the retiring collection, which raised \$793.

We are also keen to support the “Rice Bowl Appeal” of Myanmar and we had a fascinating presentation by Gina Williamson and her experiences in Myanmar.

## ***Coffee and Chat – Betty Robertson***

On the 2nd Thursday of each month the Music and Movement have a shortened programme. Two or three older members of the congregation provide a tasty morning tea to the little tots and their mothers, nannies and fathers. Often there are visiting grandparents. The children are served first and when

finished, they play with an array of toys while the adults have the opportunity to meet each other and chat over their tea and coffee.

## ***Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee Roster – Betty Robertson***

The Womens’ Association is responsible for organising a roster to serve tea and coffee in the foyer after the morning Church service. Serving the tea and coffee is a great opportunity to meet others. Every endeavour is made to include as many people of varying ages as possible (married couples, members of house and youth groups, etc) onto the roster.

## ***Leprosy Mission – Judi Ferguson***

\$551 has been raised this year from the current money box holders. It is pleasing to see that the recent publicity has resulted in an increase of the members to 12.

## ***Birthday Mission – Katherine Sutherland***

We wish to thank our 51 members for their contribution to the Birthday Mission. Total raised was \$895. The idea of the Birthday Mission Appeal is to give rather than receive gifts on your birthday. The money raised is used towards Mission projects and emergency aid in times of crisis.

A membership drive will need to be organised for this coming year to replace those members who have died. Currently we have no birthdays in July, the only month with nobody to celebrate.



# *Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand*

We have had a busy year with 2 major activities hosted by us here at St John's. On 2 December the Wellington Presbyterian and Methodist Womens' Fellowship held their annual Christmas Service. The theme was "Celebrating Christmas Globally". Using members whose first Christmases were not celebrated in NZ, we had a very diverse range of traditional customs. Our grateful thanks go to the Monday Night House group for their front-of-house and supper duties.

On 25 May we were the host Church for PWANZ Annual General Meeting. At this meeting, a new logo for PWANZ was launched alongside our new name (we are no longer Association of Presbyterian Women) which has been approved by the General Assembly. New ways of working at the national level created a lot of discussion, with the decision that the

United Nations Convenor be appointed rather than elected. Also decided was that a paid co-ordinator be elected using money from the late Rev Nan Burgess bequest. The new President is Lafulafu Vanilla Ekenasio from Wellington.

## *Annual Special Appeal*

A big thank you to all in the congregation who gave so generously. We raised \$793 in support of the NZ group Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network, and the Tonga Community Development Trust, which were this year's PWANZ and MWF projects.

**Mary Gibbs**

Parish Liaison Representative

# *St John's Men's Breakfast*

We have had a great year so far with an average attendance of 12-15 men every fortnight. Throughout the year we have had times of prayer, study and fellowship all under-girded with great food. Shortly we will be having our first social, which will be tenpin bowling. Below I've outlined in more detail what we have been up to.

Rev Phil King, who is the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's Global Mission Coordinator, was our guest speaker. Phil shared about some of the PCANZ's partner churches.

We talked about the whole issue of being a father in this day and age. We shared our own experiences of raising, at times, moody children/adolescents and also our own experience of adolescence.

Walter Brueggemann, arguably America's leading Old Testament scholar and theologian, through six DVD sessions, took us on a wild ride through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel's history, and, most significantly — and at times challengingly! — drawing connections between Israel's sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America today.

We explored questions such as, what was the message of these remarkable poet-prophets in their own time and place? What is their message for us today? Who are today's prophetic voices? How has the contemporary Church been co-opted by culture? What steps can we take to reclaim the prophetic message of distributive justice, nonviolence, loss and hope? And what is our role in bringing God's perspective to today's society?

This year the Men's Breakfast helped with the Pancake breakfast, using their vast knowledge of cooking and ability with kitchen utensils.

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 Thursday fortnight, 7:30-8:30 am in the St John's Centre.

Blessings

**Stuart Simpson**

# St John's Communications Committee

If Jesus was alive today, I have no doubt he would be using all the available forms of media to preach to his followers – face-to-face, print, television, website, Facebook, Twitter . . .

One of our challenges has been how to present God's message to an increasingly time-poor and technology-connected audience outside of the regular Sunday services. To this end, we have undertaken a review of the ways we have communicated and what would work for the 21st century Christian.

Although we are not “cutting-edge”, we have used the internet and Facebook. However, I confess I am yet to get to grips with Twitter!

Facebook has proved popular with approximately 150 people “liking” us. We are putting details of our events, particularly the evening services, on Facebook, so if you haven't checked it out yet, please go to Facebook and search for St John's in the City.

One of our big projects this year was to revamp the website. Although not quite finished, we are making good progress at transferring the current information on our site into a new and fresher format. David Galt and his team of website updaters have my huge gratitude and thanks for continuing to keep up the existing site with weekly notices and other information while we have been developing the new site.

Visitors to the existing site increased by 8.6% over the last year to a total of 38,822, downloading 46 GBs over the year. That's a lot of data being downloaded and people visiting, and with the revamp we hope to make our site even more popular – for the current congregation, potential newcomers and overseas visitors.

As usual we have produced a number of billboards for the corner of Willis & Dixon Streets. Some of these have been informational, such as the Visiting Scholar lectures and the Chris Marshall Series. Some have been fun, such as the “From First Teeth to False Teeth” and “From Bald to Bald” (which incidentally provoked a complaint from a member of the public and we therefore apologise to all those with hair loss if they were offended by this sign). And some have been both, such as our Easter sign “Sure to Rise”, and our Advent sign. Our intent is to re-use these billboards as much as we can over the next couple of years in order to get our money's worth out of them.

Other projects included the design and layout of the Annual Report (last year's and this one), the update of the information sheets for people new and old to St



John's to be able to find out what we do and how they can get involved, and the placing of some advertising. We are moving away from print advertising except for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas and perhaps a lecture series or public forum, as we believe our money can best be spent elsewhere.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the members of the Communications Committee for their hard work and support this year:

Jessie Boston	Shane Fairhall
David Galt	Rev Allister Lane
Ivan Miskovic	Dane Nowitz
Paul Ramsay	Rev Stuart Simpson

If you have graphic design or communications skills, have an idea for a sign, or are just interested in how we operate and what we do, please get in touch with any of the committee members and/or come along to one of our meetings. We would love to have a pool of graphic designers that we can call on when Jessie's university studies have to take precedence over designing a sign or other publication! Our meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 6pm in the St John's Centre.

## Elizabeth Gibbs

Convenor, Communications Committee



# Property Committee

There's always plenty to keep a property committee occupied when it oversees a large and historic church building, two commercial buildings, an historic cottage and a large manse.

The church building also happens to be Earthquake Prone, despite its timber construction. However, *because* of its timber construction, the building has a decent margin between "failure" of some structural elements and overall building collapse. For this reason, it is appropriate to continue to use the building for worship each week. See the notice on the inside of the front doors for a summary.

We are working on having the design of seismic strengthening work completed, so that a full strengthening scheme can be described to the congregation and other interested parts of the wider Church. Pricing, tendering and construction will follow to a programme yet to be finalised. Our hope is that strengthening work can be completed within the next 18 to 24 months.

Our historic cottage has now been completely refitted, with the completion of a full exterior paint and interior decoration of the downstairs space as a much improved home for our youth groups.

Other exterior painting to tidy up and weather trim, windows etc will occur over the next year. A wash of the church will help to hold the paintwork just a bit longer while we get the seismic strengthening done, with a major re-paint to follow as soon as possible thereafter.

The Lewis pipe organ is another historic item requiring maintenance. Following a major review of the instrument and a very detailed technical and financial report by the organ committee, staged maintenance with affordable improvements is being considered to ensure reliability and playability in the medium term.

A number of smaller tasks also occupy the committee at present....see if you can spot the results in the next few months.

Thank you to our committee, caretakers and facilities management guru for their ongoing commitment in making the St John's buildings and grounds function as they do.

**David Wood**  
Convenor

## Register for the Year Ending 30 June 2013

Number of Baptisms:	8
Number of Marriages:	8
Members joined during the year:	13



The deaths are recorded of the following members:

Richard Kennedy Pearce

Robert John Ferrier

Gerald Norman Janes QSM

Grace Anwyl Flower

# *Finance Committee Report*

From a financial perspective, it has been a year of grace for St John's. This time last year we predicted poor market conditions for the Trust Fund and, with little discretionary expenditure to enable short term reduction, an expected deficit of almost \$400,000. In fact interest rates held at 5%, equity investments provided strong returns and there was very low inflation (only 0.7%). With our committee convenors carefully monitoring expenditure, especially property, we managed to break even.

However, our projections for significant deficits over the next five to seven years remain unchanged. History tells us that current market conditions are not sustainable and we need to better balance income and expenditure over the medium to long term. Our single biggest cost is now insurance which has increased from \$28,000 in 2010/11 to \$155,000 - a huge increase of 550%. Significant work is being undertaken nationally to manage these huge increases and we are working with the national church to develop the most cost effective option for St John's. Earthquake strengthening the Church will be another major cost over the next few years. While we can fund this from capital reserves, there will be a consequent reduction in interest income.

To determine how to best address these impacts Session established the Future Finances Group - an enhanced Finance Committee - to work through all aspects of our income and expenditure. The

Group's conclusions are that, if we wish to maintain our current Christian Education and Outreach programmes, we need to address our shortfall in income. Our view is that over the last 20 years we have relied on the Trust Fund to provide for these programmes as well as its primary objective which is to maintain our historical buildings. While the Trust Fund will continue to meet our property and administrative requirements, we now need to step up and actively fund our ministry and mission programmes and activities.

The Trust Fund can't, and shouldn't, pay for everything. Our view is that we, the congregation, should pay for the majority of the costs of our programmes. There is strong theology around the need to give. Our culture and actions at St John's has been more about only giving to meet a need. As a congregation, we need to engage with the need to give as a core aspect of our Christian life.

Resolving these major financial challenges is a key priority particularly if we are to maintain and grow our youth ministry, outreach and wider mission. By thinking and praying about the need to give as a key element of our Christian faith and worship, we are confident that St John's as a whole will grow and develop even more strongly through Christian education, outreach and wider ministry and mission activities.

***Ross Chesney***  
Treasurer



# *Investment Advisory Committee*

About 60% of the St John's Parish income comes from the Capital Trust Fund. The Fund was established in 1987 and at its inception the members of St John's made a prudent and visionary decision that the capital value of the Fund should be increased in line with the change in the consumer price index, thus preserving in perpetuity the true earning capacity of the Fund. As a result the Fund has grown from \$7,038,000 in 1987 to \$13,997,164 at the end of the current year. Full details of the Trust Fund financial performance can be found in the Parish Accounts.

The Fund is invested substantially in secure fixed interest bonds. Unfortunately the interest rates for such bonds are at historically low levels, and it was expected that the Fund reserves would be reduced over the past year as a result of lower income and increased expenditure. Withdrawals from the Fund did increase by about \$200,000, mainly because of increased insurance premiums, and interest income

also dropped by \$100,000. However, an increase in the value of managed share funds of \$160,000, together with a lower than expected inflation indexation requirement, resulted in a one year reprieve for the Fund which maintained its reserves.

The current year looks challenging with essential capital expenditure required to strengthen the Church against earthquake and no sign of increasing interest rates in the short term. Any reduction in reserves will not only reduce the income available to St John's, but will also require the sale of more volatile, but higher yielding share holdings, to ensure that the Fund will not fall below its inflation indexed value if a reduction in the value of shares should occur. It is in this context that the Future Finances Group is considering the future financial sustainability of our Parish. Everyone will need to play their part in meeting the coming challenge.

***Peter Isherwood***

Chair, Investment Advisory Committee

# Plain English Financial Summary

Plain english summary of performance for the year ended 30 June 2013

	2013 \$000's	2012 \$000's	
<b><i>St John's received income from the following areas:</i></b>			
Weekly congregational giving by direct credits, envelope system and weekly collection	151	145	Small increase in congregational giving
Other donations and fundraising	23	25	
Legacies received	0	3	
Interest on legacy and reserve balances	66	56	
Rents received from leasing space in Troup House and the conference facilities	199	212	Includes A & J \$3,000, VUW Lectureship \$5,900 and Myanmar \$2,800
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	717	734	
<b>Total Income available for General Use at St John's</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,175</b>	Reflects decreasing average interest rates partly offset by very low inflation
<b><i>St John's incurred expenditure in the following areas:</i></b>			
<b><i>Church Activities</i></b>			
Salaries paid to the Ministers and support staff	348	356	
Contribution to Christian education	142	144	
Other costs	86	87	
	<b>576</b>	<b>587</b>	Reflects significant increase in insurance costs - \$28,000 in 2009 to \$155,000 in 2013
<b><i>Property Costs</i></b>			
Expenditure on maintaining the Church, manse, conference facilities & Troup House including rates, insurances, and repairs	248	170	
Depreciation to recognise previous capital expenditure	77	76	
	<b>325</b>	<b>246</b>	
<b><i>Wider Work</i></b>			
Contribution to the operations of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand	91	91	Lower cost due to visiting scholar cancellation
St John's financial support for the Victoria University Lectureship	36	45	
St John's financial support for the BGI	30	30	
Other outreach including community groups, DCM, Presbyterian Support Central and overseas mission	101	104	
	<b>258</b>	<b>270</b>	
<b>Total expenditure to deliver programmes and outreach</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>1,103</b>	
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) before transferring legacies and planned property maintenance to reserves</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>73</b>	Significantly better than anticipated result because of good returns on equity investments, very low inflation and careful spending
<b><i>Other resources were used as follows:</i></b>			
Funds transferred to legacies	(28)	(30)	
Funds transferred to Planned Maintenance Reserve	(60)	(60)	
<b>Net (deficit)/surplus</b>	<b>(91)</b>	<b>(17)</b>	

**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 2013, 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 assets, 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 so as to allocate the cost of the Church, Spinks Cottage and the Manse assets over their economic lives.

Had St John's in the City adopted this policy, depreciation for the year ended 30 June 2013 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 and the Unallocated Reserves by the same amount. The carrying value of the fixed assets category Buildings and Improvements would have decreased by \$334,950 the accumulated depreciation would have increased by the same amount 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 2013, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

*BDO Wellington*

**BDO Wellington  
24 September 2013  
Wellington  
New Zealand**



# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for the year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	\$	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>INCOME</b>				
Congregational Giving		151,056		145,069
Donations, Fundraising and Miscellaneous Receipts		23,061		24,901
Legacies Received		-		2,500
Property Rentals		199,333		211,985
Interest on Legacies and Reserves		65,666		55,753
<b>Total Church Operating Income</b>			439,116	440,208
Capital Trust Interest and Dividends		838,534		927,497
Capital Trust Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Shares and Units		-		(21,301)
<b>Total Income from the Capital Trust</b>			838,534	906,196
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>1,277,650</b>	<b>1,346,404</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Church Activities</b>				
Staff Costs		347,716		355,562
Christian Education		141,638		143,784
Worship and Music		11,610		14,491
Congregational Activities		881		2,913
Communications		6,222		3,861
Session Costs		3,991		5,150
General Expenses		28,833		29,910
Audit Fees		11,655		10,345
Accounting Fees		10,100		7,160
Legal Fees		-		871
Consultancy Fees – Earthquake Assessment of Church Building		13,080		12,766
Capital Trust Administration and Brokerage Fees		23,852		34,236
<b>Total Church Activities</b>			599,578	621,049
<b>Property Costs</b>				
Church Running Costs, Insurance and Repairs		196,041		129,832
Manse Rates, Insurance and Repairs		8,734		5,773
Troup House Running Costs and Repairs		43,509		34,371
Depreciation		77,428		75,790
<b>Total Property Costs</b>			325,712	245,766
<b>Wider Work</b>				
Presbyterian Church Assembly Assessment		91,025		91,025
Outreach Committee Distributions	2	97,133		101,570
Other Donations		3,655		1,994
Contribution to the BGI		30,000		30,000
VUW Lectureship		36,164		45,445
<b>Total Wider Work Expenses</b>			257,977	270,034
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>1,183,267</b>	<b>1,136,849</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>94,383</b>	<b>209,555</b>
Less: Transfers to Inflation Protect the Capital Trust	5		(97,299)	(137,622)
Less: Interest and Bequests Transferred to Legacies	5		(38,431)	(40,296)
Less: Transfers to Planned Maintenance Reserve	6		(60,000)	(60,000)
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO UNALLOCATED RESERVES</b>			<b>(101,347)</b>	<b>(28,363)</b>
Plus: Donations Transferred from Legacies	5		10,695	10,449
<b>TOTAL MOVEMENT IN UNALLOCATED RESERVES</b>			<b>(90,652)</b>	<b>(17,914)</b>

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 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
Net Surplus for the Year		94,383	209,555
Investments Revaluation Reserve	5	276,686	(143,266)
<b>Total Recognised Revenues and Expenses for the Year</b>		<b>371,069</b>	<b>66,288</b>
Total Equity at beginning of year		24,088,751	24,022,463
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF YEAR</b>		<b>24,459,820</b>	<b>24,088,751</b>


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 2013

	Note	\$	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash at Bank		21,545		6,975
Accounts Receivable		44,025		41,045
Prepayments		52,431		-
Interest Receivable	3	27,188		77,574
Capital Trust and Other Investments	3	12,030,998		12,492,873
Total Current Assets			12,176,187	12,618,467
<b>Non Current Assets</b>				
Capital Trust Investments	3	4,546,345		3,724,397
Fixed Assets	4	7,846,448		7,876,607
Total Non Current Assets			12,392,793	11,601,004
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>24,568,980</b>	<b>24,219,471</b>
<b>less Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable		109,160		130,720
Total Current Liabilities			109,160	130,720
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>24,459,820</b>	<b>24,088,751</b>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>	5		<b>24,459,820</b>	<b>24,088,751</b>


  
Treasurer


  
Council Chairperson

24 September 2013

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 2013

### 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 International Financial Reporting Standards**

In December 2002 the New Zealand Government announced that New Zealand International Financial Reporting Standards ("NZ IFRS") will apply to all New Zealand reporting entities for the periods commencing on and after 1 January 2007. In September 2007 the Accounting Standards Review Board announced that small to medium-sized businesses which satisfy certain criteria would not be required to apply the NZ IFRS until further notice. St John's in the City satisfies these criteria.

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 investments are held at market value and have been valued at market value at balance date. 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 \$276,686 are included in the assets (2012 - \$50,960 unrealised loss).

##### **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 2013 (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:	2013
Special Mission – Arthur & Julia	
- Fundraising & donations	\$9,000
Myanmar Mission	
- Fundraising & donations	(\$2,762)
- Project Costs	<u>\$3,358</u>
	\$596
Downtown Community Ministry	\$4,800
Wellington Ecumenical	\$2,000
Mount Cook School	\$3,500
Berhampore Junior School	\$2,000
Nuie Kaufakalataha	\$2,500
Wellington Rape Crisis	\$2,000
Prisoner's Aid Rehab Society	\$10,695
Knox Waitara Church	\$60,000
Sundry	<u>\$42</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$97,133</u></b>

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2013 (continued)

### Note 3 - Investments

	Maturity Date	Yield	Maturity Value \$	2013 \$	2012 \$
<b>On Call</b>					
Presbyterian Investment Fund				11,056,002	7,745,418
<b>Stocks</b>					
Powerco Corporate Bond	September 2012	9.84%	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Morgan Stanley Bonds	September 2012	6.22%	750,000	-	747,168
ASB Bank Bond	November 2012	8.73%	1,000,000	-	1,000,287
Telecom Corporate Bond	March 2013	6.92%	500,000	-	500,000
Westpac Bond	November 2013	6.43%	1,000,000	1,002,184	1,007,461
ANZ Senior Bond	April 2018	5.82%	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Transpower Indexed Bond	May 2020	3.75%	989,200	1,053,143	1,047,406
		(+inflation)			
<b>Shares and Units</b>	<b>No of Units</b>		<b>Cost</b>		
ASX 200 Fund	16,602		860,787	883,512	812,632
Tyndall SRI Equity Fund	1,018,064		906,688	1,109,690	856,898
				<b>16,604,531</b>	<b>16,217,270</b>

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

	2013 Cost \$	2013 Current Year Depreciation \$	2013 Accumulated Depreciation \$	2013 Net Book Value \$	2012 Net Book Value \$
Furniture & Fittings	84,140	5,550	58,413	25,727	4,947
Musical Equipment	81,683	3,026	51,295	28,334	30,203
Hall Equipment	91,217	5,796	76,056	13,722	12,731
Church Equipment	2,797	-	2,797	-	-
Office Equipment	172,537	5,822	160,216	10,055	14,554
Building & Improvements	5,391,487	57,234	572,877	4,818,610	4,864,172
Land	2,950,000	-	-	2,950,000	2,950,000
	<b>8,773,861</b>	<b>77,428</b>	<b>921,654</b>	<b>7,846,448</b>	<b>7,876,607</b>

### Note 5 - Capital and Reserves

	Balance 2012 \$	Net Movements for the year \$	Balance 2013 \$
Capital Trust	13,899,865	97,299	13,997,164
Legacies	682,257	27,736	709,993
General and Property Reserves	1,680,704	(90,652)	1,590,052
Planned Maintenance Reserve	434,983	60,000	494,983
Property Brought to Account	7,370,845	-	7,370,845
Investments Revaluation Reserve	-	276,686	276,686
Staff Training Reserve	20,097	-	20,097
<b>Total Capital and Reserves</b>	<b>24,088,751</b>	<b>371,069</b>	<b>24,459,820</b>

# ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2013 (continued)

### Note 5 - Capital and Reserves (continued)

The movement in the Capital Trust of \$97,299 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 2013, was 0.7% (2012 – 1.0%).

The movement in the Investment Revaluation Reserve of \$276,686 (2012: \$143,266 decrease) is represented by the increases in unrealised capital gains from the investments in units in the Tyndall SRI Equity Fund of \$205,806 (2012: \$50,311 decrease) and the ASX 200 Index Fund of \$70,880 (2012: \$114,257 decrease).

Legacies are represented by the following bequests.

	Balance 2012	Interest income for the year	Movements for the year	Balance 2013
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Tied Legacies for Sunday School prizes/funds	4,202	237	-	4,439
A W Reed Memorial (Kelburn) for Ministers books	1,959	111	(91)	1,979
Endowment Fund	32,598	1,841	-	34,439
E Carter Trust	218,700	12,348	(10,695)	220,353
A Gordon Estate	9,780	552	-	10,332
D Chappell Estate	9,780	552	-	10,332
Joan Andrews Estate – Specific or Special Item for St John's	126,920	7,169	-	134,089
Joan Andrews Estate – Andrews Family Memorial Trust	124,827	7,048	-	131,875
Noel Woods Estate	94,792	5,352	-	100,144
Alford Dornan Estate	1,630	92	-	1,722
J E Hetrick Estate	4,331	244	-	4,575
J C White Estate	6,440	363	-	6,803
N Owen John Estate	32,769	1,850	-	34,619
W S Barrett Estate	10,579	597	-	11,176
Scott Trust	450	25	-	475
Lynn Pollock Estate	2,500	141	-	2,641
	<b>682,257</b>	<b>38,522</b>	<b>(10,786)</b>	<b>709,993</b>

The interest distributions made from the Edward Carter Trust were as follows:

- Prisoner's Aid Rehab Society                      \$10,695

### Note 6 – Movement in Planned Maintenance Reserve

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Balance of Planned Maintenance Reserve	494,983	434,983
	<b>494,983</b>	<b>434,983</b>

The transfer to the Planned Maintenance Reserve is \$60,000 (\$60,000 in 2012) 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 of Aotearoa, New Zealand (PCANZ). 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	2013 \$	2012 \$
Church, St John's Centre & Spinks Cottage (reinstatement value for insurance as at 1 June 2011)	12,244,700	12,244,700
Troup House (reinstatement value for insurance as at 1 June 2011)	3,504,500	3,504,500

## ST JOHN'S IN THE CITY

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2013 (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 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 entered into a three year commitment with Victoria University to fund a Christian Theology lectureship. The current commitment which was renewed in January 2011 will expire on December 2013.

At balance date, the commitments amount to:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
- Current	17,500	35,000
- Non current	-	17,500

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:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
- Current	60,000	60,000
- Non current	120,000	180,000

St John's in the City has committed outreach funds for the 2013 financial year for travel costs for one St John's members on the PCANZ Global Mission Myanmar visit (\$2,747); St John's Missioners home visit (\$3,489); New Zealand Church Missionary Society (\$4,500).

At balance date, there were commitments to:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
- Current	10,736	19,349
- Non Current	-	9,000

St John's in the City has agreed to contribute \$50,000 to BGI should they proceed with plans to upgrade Troup House.

At balance date, there were capital commitments to:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
- Current	50,000	50,000
- Non current	-	-

#### Note 10 - Contingent Liabilities

There were no Contingent Liabilities at balance date for the current financial year (2012 – \$Nil).



## ***Ministers***

Minister	Rev Allister Lane	November 2008
Minister	Rev Stuart Simpson	January 2010

## ***Elders Emeriti***

Hunt, Mr John	248 Kimbolton Rd, Feilding 4702	1968
Littler, Mrs Betty	40 Cheshire Street, Wilton	1968
Ferrier, Dr Robin	57 Wadestown Road, Wadestown	1974
Darroch, Mr Alan	50 Sefton Street, Wadestown	1975
Lloyd, Mr Roger	3 Winsley Tce, Churton Park	1979
Stewart, Mr Charles	42 Braithwaite Street, Karori	1979
McCay, Mr Robert	Flat 7/300 Oriental Parade	1980
Lawson, Mr Sandy	200 Pembroke Road, Northland	1987
Ewan, Mr Rob	12/25 Tacy Street, Kilbirnie	1990
Robertson, Mrs Betty	407/2 Karori Rd, Karori	1992
Gould, Mr Russell	129 Barnard Street, Wadestown	1993
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
Ferguson, Ms Judi	114 John Sims Drive, Johnsonville	1987
Galt, Mrs Margaret	11 Lewer Street, Karori	1987
Goudswaard, Mrs Carolyn	20A Epuni Street, Aro Valley	1987
Ewan, Mrs Muriel	12/25 Tacy Street, Kilbirnie	1990
Pearse, Ms Elaine	85 Beauchamp Street, Karori	1990
Van Milligan, Miss Linda	7 Colchester Crescent, Newlands	1990
Labrum, Mr Glen	114 John Sims Drive, Johnsonville	1992
Allen, Mr John	76 Weld Street, Wadestown	2001
Irvine, Mr John	39 Frederick Street, Wainuiomata	2001
Ramsay, Mr Paul	27 Arawa Road, Hataitai	2001
Shaw, Mr Malcolm	434 Evans Bay Parade, Hataitai	2001
Webster, Mr Lawrence	5 Ngahue Crescent, Elsdon, Porirua	2001
Crombie, Mrs Allie	4 Lytton Street, Wadestown	2003
Davis, Mr Ross	32 Talavera Terrace, Kelburn	2003
Poutoa, Mr Mila	78 Leicester Street, Porirua	2003
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
Shaw, Mrs Lesley	434 Evans Bay Parade, Hataitai	2004
Cizadlo, Mr Ted	53 Ponsonby Road, Karori	2004
Annals, Mr Geoff	142 Rakau Road, Hataitai	2006
Chesney, Mr Ross	1 Rossiter Road, Tawa	2006
Gilkison, Mrs Margaret	5 Henderson Street, Karori	2006
Salt, Ms Ailsa	221B Karori Road, Karori	2006
Johnston, Mr Andrew	61 Bayview Road, Paremata, Porirua	2008
Beard, Mrs Beth	135a Washington Avenue, Brooklyn	2008
Atkinson, Mr John	14 Thorby Street, Northland	2010
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

## ***Council 2012-13***

A. Ojala, Chair; D Galt, D. Ensor, R. Chesney, P. Ramsay, D. Wood, E. Gibbs, M. Gibbs, A. Salt, J. Atkinson

# 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
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
125th Anniversary of the Womens' Association	August 2012

# *Interest Groups at St John's*

## ***Women's Association***

Meets fourth Tuesday of the month at 11am in the St John's Centre

## ***Monday Home Group (evenings)***

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

## ***Tuesday Home Group (evenings)***

Meets at 8:00pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from February to November at various homes throughout Wellington city. Contact Paul and Louise Ramsay on 386 2755, or paul@clear.net.nz.

## ***Whitecastle Home Group (evenings)***

Meets Tuesdays at 7:00pm to 9:30 at varying locations. Mainly young professionals/uni students, but all welcome. Contact Michelle on 027 385-8287 or lil.mis.mash@gmail.com.

## ***Brooklyn Home Group (evenings)***

Meets fortnightly on Wednesday at 7:30pm, 248B Ohiro Road, Brooklyn. Young adults discipleship. Contact Carlton or Sarah Johnstone on 027 272-0012.

## ***English as a Second Language Bible Study***

Meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings, at 6:30 – 7:45pm, in the church office lounge. Contact Rev. Stuart Simpson on 385 1546 or s.simpson@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz.

## ***Wine & Theology Discussion Group***

Meets on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm in St John's office lounge. Contact Beth Cizadlo at bcizadlo@xtra.co.nz.

## ***Choir***

Meets Sundays 9.20 – 9.50am and 11.15am – 12.00 noon. Monthly evening practices are held on Thursdays. Contact Eric Sidoti at silverwyrml3@yahoo.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

## ***Girls' Brigade***

Meets on Tuesdays during term-time at 6pm. For girls aged from 5 yrs upwards. Contact Katherine Sutherland on 471 0202 after 5pm.

## ***St J's Kids***

Friendly Sunday School and crèche from ages 0 to 12 years, Sundays from 10am until 11.15am. Special events once per term. Contact Anna Davis on 385 1546 or 934 2167

## ***Pre-School Music and Movement***

Meets weekly, on Thursdays from 10am until 11am in the Hall of the St John's Centre. Contact Anna Davis or Belinda Clare on 385 1546

## ***St John's Youth***

Junior Group ages 11 – 13 yrs  
Sundays at 10am and Fridays 6.30 – 8.30pm  
Senior Group ages 13 – 18 yrs  
Sundays 10am and Fridays 6.30 – 8.30pm  
For more details on any youth activities, contact Dave Adams on 385 9549.

## ***Men's Breakfast Group***

Meets fortnightly from 7.30 – 8.30am in the St John's Centre. Contact Stuart on 027 215 5145

St John's in the City Presbyterian Church,  
Corner Willis and Dixon Streets, PO Box 27-148, Wellington 6141  
p: 04 385 1546  
e: enquiries@stjohnsinthecity.org.nz  
www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

