



# St Stephen's

The Anglican Parish of Whangaparaoa Peninsula

## Annual Reports



Annual General Meeting 17 March 2024

# Contents

Agenda	Page 3
Vicar's Report	Page 4
Wardens' Report	Page 8
Synod Report	Page 9
<i>"mainly music"</i>	Page 10
Op Shop Report	Page 11
Pastoral Care (incl. Rest Home Ministry)	Page 13
Café Theo report	Page 16
Selwyn Centre	Page 17
Maintenance	Page 18
Missions Report	Page 19
Finance Report	Page 24
Minutes of Last AGM	Page 27

# Agenda

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Receive the Parish Roll
4. Minutes of 2023 AGM
5. Vicar's Report
6. Finance Committee Report
7. **Other Reports:**

Wardens'

Synod Report

*"mainly music"*

Op Shop

Pastoral Care

Rest Home Ministry

Café Theo

Selwyn Centre

Knitters & Chatters

Maintenance

Missions

## 8. Elections

- A. Appoint two Scrutineers
- B. Decide the number of members of Vestry to be elected  
(Note Vestry has continuing power to fill vacancies on Vestry until revoked)
- C. Receive the name of the Vicar's Warden
- D. Elect the People's Warden
- E. Elect Vestry members

## 9. Op Shop Distributions

11. Authorise Vestry to confirm AGM minutes
12. Any other business (as notified to office by 4pm Sunday 10 March)

## **2024 AGM Vicar's Report January 2022 – March 2023**

### **Passover meal**

Our Holy Week observance included a Passover meal – the first since COVID. It was a good time together as we grew in our understanding both of the Jewish Passover and the foundation of our Communion service. 67 people including 14 children attended. It was pleasing to see some people from “*mainly music*” and Messy Church families.

### **King's Coronation Lunch**

To mark the King's coronation, we held a combined service followed by a pot-luck lunch. It was a great success both socially and gastronomically with 65 attending!



### **Children's Ministry**

During the year, Michael Ng has worked with our youth to form a worship band. They have twice led the music in a main service. Many thanks to Michael and Craig for their coaching of the youth and “Well done!” to the band for taking the lead. Michael also led a group on the Auckland City Mission sponsored walk.



We were able to send some of the young people to a Scripture Union Surf camp which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Wendy has served extremely well with the range of children's programme: helping run Wednesday “*mainly music*,” running Messy Church, co-leading the Intergenerational Service and providing materials for the children's tables in church each week. Messy Church recovered last year to pre-COVID numbers which means about 55-60 people attending.

Wendy has developed Messy Church by re-timing the Intergenerational Service to the week following Messy Church and having the same theme running on from one to the next. This is to encourage families to attend on Sunday mornings. It is early days yet, but we have seen two families use the connection. The Intergenerational Service is



intended to allow both adults and children to engage with the subject and with each other. It is not an easy result to achieve, and we are grateful for the engagement shown by many of the adults with a different service.

## **Café Theo**

Café Theo returned this year, with a bicultural theme. We had Archbishop David Moxon to speak on the Treaty of Waitangi and the Revd Jacynthia Murphy, who looked at the “Three Tikanga” reorganisation of our church. Both evenings saw attendance from people outside our normal congregations who were drawn to these discussions.

As we continued our bi-cultural exploration, Gill Henderson arranged a visit to the marae at Silverdale where we could learn about marae protocol. In fact, it exceeded our expectations as we were welcomed warmly and generously onto the marae and told that we were now permanent members!

## **Short-Term Missions**

This year, we have been able to embark on three short term missions which is amazing. These trips to the Diocese of Banks and Torres Islands, and Kondoia Diocese are covered in the Missions Report, so I will just say here that it is very healthy to be able to send people, both for obedience to the Great Commission and for the healthiness of an outward focus. It is demanding, challenging and stretching but under those circumstances, we learn to rely on God.

## **Parish Revitalisation**

Back in August 2022, I was approached by an individual who was concerned about the lack of outreach in Auckland Diocese. He was prepared to fund a fulltime role for five years to try to turn things around. As a result, I embarked on an exploration of ideas with Lorraine and Peter Lloyd, which included the discovery that Christchurch and Nelson Dioceses had launched programmes of revitalisation for all their parishes out of the same concern. As part of our investigations, we discovered the LYCIG conference being held in Wellington. “Leading Your Church into Growth” is an English programme which helps parish leadership find the way back to growth.

We sent a team of four to the conference. It was inspirational and restored our hope. Part of the realisation there, was that we were already growing again after the battering we had taken along with all other churches from the COVID lockdowns. In fact, when I prepared the statistical report for 2023, I found that

our average attendances across all the services had grown by 12% in 2023 from the previous year. Furthermore, the video services account for as many views as we have people attending the 10am service!

The result of the challenge and sponsorship offered by the donor, has been to engage an organisation called “City to City” to run their Church Revitalisation Programme with initially three parishes in Auckland, including ours. LYCIG had many good ideas but given that we were also embarking on a programme to be designed with CTC, we are holding them awaiting the report from CTC.

The CTC Consultant, the Revd Dr Cameron Munro, visited us in February to gather information on the parish and find out where we want to be in 5 years’ time. It was an encouraging visit; he said many parishes he visits do not have the new converts and baptisms that we experience. He will produce a report with recommendations by late March. Vestry will then consider then and decide which to adopt. If we choose to continue with CTC, they will develop a plan and provide coaching to help us achieve it.

Coincidentally, Dr Munro visited on the same weekend that Lucas Ng was baptised - that was a good celebration of Lucas’ decision to follow Christ. In November, it was a delight to see Rayne Berry and Keita Elmiger baptised by Keita’s grandfather.



Southwell School choir visited with two coach-loads of children and parents. They were on a choir trip to Peter Snell camp and chose to worship with us. They sang a delightful anthem during communion.

Another visit was from the Orewa Sea Scout Keas, led by Siew Mei Ng. They came to fulfil a “Duty to God” badge requirement – learning about church and Christianity.

## **Garden**

Thanks to two benefactors, we were able to replace the garden bench under the oak tree. It makes a nice place to sit and be still for a while. This brings to completion the Memorial Wall development.

Uta Humphries assisted by Phread have transformed the garden beds which are really showing now the results of Uta’s design and both their labours.

A great amount of maintenance and development work has been completed in the last year. That is reported on elsewhere in the reports, so I won't elaborate here. Suffice it to say thank you to Uta and Phread for their excellent work.

### **Grant Norsworthy visit**

Helen organised a visit from Grant Norsworthy, a noted Church musician, to coach and develop the 10am music teams and train the sound technicians. It was a good evening of encouragement and extension and well worthwhile.

### **Gratitude:**

We have much to be thankful for in this parish. We are seeing recovery and growth again after the long slump of COVID. We have good people contributing so much to run the things we do.

I am grateful to the Wardens for their good leadership and wise council and to Vestry which has worked co-operatively and well as a team together.

Anne Aspden had a very tough time last year with poor health but has returned to ready and generous service for which we are all grateful. Wendy works wonders in the kitchen and with an endless stream of creativity for the children's programmes. Julie Taylor runs Selwyn Centre with boundless goodwill and kindness.

Our musicians at all services serve us faithfully. Special thanks to Sylvia who has played for 18 years but is laying it down now due to ill health. Meanwhile, Terry and Gill faithfully play on, now with some input from Chara and Wendy. At 10am, we are glad to have a fourth music team in the persons of Warren and Sarah Watson who have volunteered to play on fourth Sundays.

To all who contribute in the many, many ways around the church, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" We could not do it without you and you are very much appreciated.

**Ian Hardcastle**

### **Baptisms:**

Rayne Berry  
Keita Elmiger  
Lucas Ng



## **Weddings:**

Harlem McKenzie and Jessica Linnell

Nicholas Mitchell and Laura Roderiguez

## **Funerals:**

Joan Jenkinson

Jan Maxwell

Angelica Baumann

## **Wardens' Report**

We celebrated with a Passover Dinner before Easter last year, with traditional Jewish foods and celebrations, including a reserved seat for our Lord Jesus. Thank you, Ian and Wendy, for all the thought and preparation that went into celebrating this event so successfully. We're sure many came away from the evening having learnt a lot.



Wellington Diocese hosted a LYCIG conference (Leading Your Church into Growth) in October last year. Attendees were Ian and Helen Hardcastle, Alison Vedder and Andrew Bruce-Brand. We all felt we gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and ideas to grow our church. This has laid a solid foundation for us to build on with “City to City.”

We thank members of Vestry for their hard work in getting the Church on board with “City to City.” Groundwork has already started happening with a consultant – Cameron Munro. Cameron has indicated that from the extensive interviews he has conducted, he will be submitting a report to us mid - to late March 2024.

The Church held a Family Picnic event at the Wenderholm Reserve in October



last year. A lot of fun was had by all, and some valuable conversations were had. Sincere thanks to all who helped organise and cater for the picnic.

We had a fun-filled family event on Shrove Tuesday before the beginning of Lent last month. Pancake-themed races had children and adults keenly competing with one another



before plenty of savoury and sweet pancakes were enjoyed by all.

Three Café Theo events were held last year, two in the hall with exceptionally talented and accomplished speakers: The Right Reverend Dr Sir David Moxon and The Reverend Jacynthia Murphy. Both spoke eloquently and informatively on the Treaty of Waitangi and answered and discussed questions from those who attended. A third event was a visit to the local Marae, all who attended gained much.

We conclude by saying a heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteer their time to the smooth running of the church, be it up front in Worship Leading or providing music, or behind the scenes with keeping the property maintained and tidy or in the kitchen, and everything in between. You all contribute hugely to the life and health of this church and are very much appreciated.

A special thanks to Uta Humphries and Phread Thurston for the many hours of hard work maintaining the grounds and plant.

We are deeply grateful to God for His Holy Spirit and for supporting us with His wisdom through the year and especially for His provision in both the facilities we have been blessed with and the finances of our church. We look forward in hope to growth in our church and growing people in Christ.

**Alison Vedder (Vicar's Warden) and Andrew Bruce-Brand (People's Warden)**

## Synod Report

The most important part of Synod 2023 was in the Bishop's Charge. This was the Bishop both reporting to Synod but more importantly "charging" the Synod with responsibilities and actions that he feels are necessary in the life of

the diocese. In part of his charge he said the following:

**LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES:** At the commissioning of a priest in a mission district recently, I said this:

“I name some issues that are not yours alone, but are ones that we face right around the Diocese: ageing congregations, decline in attendance, juggling finances to balance the budget, managing the multiplicity of compliance issues, a reluctance by people to commit, and more. You choose which of those fit your situation, but they are the kind of issues which present a growing crisis for the Church. When do we find time for mission and, even if we can, what are we meant to do?”

“I can’t stand here and give you the answer about what you should be doing. I am not there. You are there. Each of you is a strong part of the communities within which you live. You know those communities. You know their needs, the ways in which healing might come to people and places and thus the opportunities for the Word of Truth to find a place. Those are the mission opportunities which God opens up before you.”

He went on to invite the Synod to discuss the issues he had raised. In the debate that followed the issues around our reluctance to share our faith were discussed in a positive and honest way. For me, that was a watershed moment. In all the years I have been at Synod the only kind of discussions around this issue were negative or combative. Bishop Ross has given a clear "charge" to the people of the Diocese of Auckland to begin to discuss this at the local level and see if we can find ways to identify why we are so reluctant and what can we do about it. My prayer and hope is that this be done with the same spirit that was evident at Synod. It is also my hope and prayer that our involvement with “City to City” will help us do this.

**Peter Lloyd, Synod Representative**

### ***“mainly music”***

Mainly Music 2023 was a season of changes and adaptations for the volunteers, but by the grace of God we made it through the year.

At Easter, we farewelled Glenys Michael, who had led the Tuesday group for some time.

Toni Wentworth, quite wonderfully, took over Glenys’ role, with no experience

of *mainly music* sessions. Bravo Toni! Some juggling took place when Toni went overseas and Ian, ably, filled that position, and when Wendy had maternity leave, Marg Willimott stepped up. We were thankful for two new recruits, Tessa Waller and Jan Martell, who help the Tuesday team.

Between the two weekly sessions, I estimate we average about 30 children plus their mums/caregivers. This means we may have 50 people, young and old, come through St. Stephen's front doors for *mainly music*, per week, during the term time.

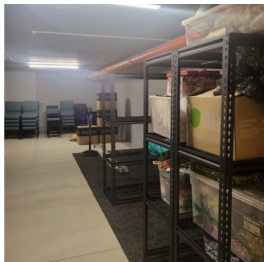
We value the Parish prayers for this important ministry outreach from St Stephens.

**Gill Cranch, “*mainly music*” leader.**

## **Op Shop Report**

The shop has continued to perform very well, enabling the church to carry out ministries it would not otherwise be able to do. It has also been able to donate to various charities in it's “Charity of the Month” programme and build the Disaster Relief fund. This enables the church to respond quickly when disasters strike, and we were able to quickly send \$1700 for famine relief in Kondoa just before Christmas.

Being able to store off-season donations in the new storeroom in the church basement has made a huge difference to our ability to accept donations of all types throughout the year. Sadly, there are still times when we have to limit donations to enable the team to get mountains of donations processed, checking that items are clean and in good, saleable condition, priced and put out for sale attractively displayed.



This operation is only possible due to the hard work of our managers and the wonderful band of volunteers who give so selflessly of their time, and we thank them for their support and loyalty. Working in the shop brings its own rewards of companionship, much laughter, satisfaction in a job well done and knowing that you're making a significant difference to our customers and the work of the church. We encourage parishioners not already involved to give thought to ways they might participate - whether as part of the team on site or helping with “out-work” - checking puzzles and games for completeness, washing clothes where necessary, or driving our van for collections and deliveries.

**The “Charity of the Month” programme** is going well and our volunteers enjoy having their say into which charities are supported by voting at the annual “Thank-You Dinner”. The charities are thrilled to receive the donations and show their appreciation in a variety of ways - to quote an email from HBC Coastguard *“I have just received your wonderful email. Thank you all so very much for your generosity in this regard. We are truly appreciative of this and can assure you that these will go directly towards the day-to-day running of our Unit.”*

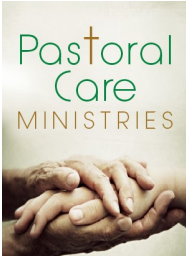
One of the charities, Nga Tangata Microfinance, was unable to accept donations and so the donation to them was transferred to the HBC Coastguard - a month where the shop did not make a profit partly due to being a short month with the Christmas season closure, and some increased expenses.

### **Charity of the Month amounts donated**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Charity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
January	Firefly (From 2022 voting)	\$750
February	I Got your Backpack	\$750
March	WanderSearch	\$1100
April	CAP (Christians Against Poverty) (From 2022 voting)	\$500
May	Steps Forward	\$840
June	Youth in Transition	\$820
July	Firefly	\$700
August	CAP (Christians Against Poverty)	\$600
September	Te Pa (Previously Prisoners Aid)	\$700
October	Nga Tangata Microfinance	Unable to accept
November	Love Soup	\$800
December	HBC Coastguard (Paid 2024)	\$900
Jan-December	Disaster Relief Fund	\$1772
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$10,232</b>

**Alison Vedder, for Op Shop Committee**

## Pastoral Care



This past year has been one of considerable challenge for Rob and me. Following my having a broken arm early in the year, and a short time away visiting family in the South Island, we returned home and both went down with Covid. Not long after recovering from that, I suddenly ended up in hospital with major kidney problems. Once back home and surrounded with the love and care of both family and the parish, I made a good recovery, but daughters living in Auckland thought that we should move closer to them. This meant that there was a period of time when we were seriously investigating moving into a retirement village in Hillsborough; But then, having decided such a move was not appropriate for us at that time, we instead decided to concentrate on getting rid of years of accumulated 'clutter' in order to have our house repainted inside and out. By the end of December 2023 there still was a fair way to go in order to complete the house renovations. Such major upheaval has meant that during the past year we have had to considerably scale back our level of involvement in many areas of parish life, including my ability to give much pastoral input.

What I said at the beginning of the 2022-23 AGM pastoral care report, would prove to be true for so much of this past year. We have been blessed with being on the receiving end of the loving care and support of our vicar Ian and his wife, Helen, and of so many parishioners in countless ways; a huge "thank you" to all who have visited, provided meals, mown lawns, cleaned gutters, delivered boxes of goods to our Op Shop, and taken rubbish to the tip for us, and so much more.

During this past year, a number of parishioners have needed help when Covid has struck; others have shopped for them, picked up prescriptions as needed and kept in touch by phone or email. This has been greatly appreciated.

Others have been assisted with transport to and from various appointments. Home, rest home, and hospital communion has been taken to people where either it has been requested, or it has been seen to be appropriate.

Our thanks to all who have given pastoral visits to the frail, elderly, housebound and any who were sick or convalescing from illness or surgery. Thanks to those who have taken people communion, kept in touch by phone, and also those who have provided transport or just a listening ear from time to time. Especial thanks go to the Vedders, the Cranches, the Huffams, the Hendersons, the Ngs, the Lloyds, the Fowlers, Sylvia Gudsell, Lyndy Austen, Christina Jensen, Hazel Richardson, Phread Thurston, Sue Harper, Kirsty Elmiger, Mike Walton, and of course our vicar Ian, and Helen Hardcastle.

There continues to be immense gratitude for the thought and care put into our weekly services, including the production of recorded services. People enjoy the amazingly high standard of these, especially when it has not been possible for them to get to church.

More recently, I have again been able to find out from Ian who might need a home visit, or who may have landed up in hospital and need a visit. We have also updated each other as to who we personally have actually caught up with, when visiting has been possible, and have been able to check who has received communion or who might need to be taken communion. My thanks go to Ian, for his wisdom, practical insights and encouragement. Our grateful thanks to our Lord Jesus for all the ways in which he has given us opportunity in this parish to share love and show genuine care and regard for others, no matter what the challenges and difficulties we may personally have been going through at such times. Father, to you be all the thanksgiving, glory, honour, and praise, in Jesus' name.

### **Prayer Chain:**

God's faithfulness has again been seen in so many, many answers to prayer over this past year, for which we give grateful thanks. Our small team of pray-ers have continued to uphold those in need when prayer support has been requested, and both they and I have been delighted to hear news of real progress following surgery, thanksgiving for healing and reports of such things as freedom from pain, peace of mind, renewal of strength, and improved mobility. Please remember the prayer team in

your prayers from time to time, as they too have had their own health and personal challenges to face.

Our thanks to God for the team's faithful, and devoted service as prayer warriors over this past year.

### **"Taste and See" Meals:**

When requests have been made for particular support following such times as a spell in hospital, and during the ensuing weeks of convalescence, or during the later stages of pregnancy, and the first few weeks following the arrival of a new family member, then a number of us have taken turns to make up meals and deliver them to people's homes. Other meals have been provided for parishioners from time to time and some meals have again been given to Love Soup for those in need. We made up over 80 trays of Christmas baking to distribute to people prior to Christmas and these were gratefully received. My thanks to all those who helped with this initiative, in particular to Marg Willimot, Jo Little, Robyn Denise and Barbara Sloan.

### **Northhaven Rest Home Ministry:**

Ian and I have continued to take turns in visiting and providing two communion or morning worship services on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month; for those Northhaven residents and family members who have wished to attend.

Recently the service times have changed and we have a 10.40am start upstairs, and a second service at 11.15am downstairs. Both staff and residents have expressed thankfulness for our offering of worship services. Occasionally I have been asked by staff to cleanse and bless a number of rooms following family bereavements, and Ian has been asked to visit a resident who may be dying and perhaps meet and spend time with family members at what is a painful time for them. Being given such ministry opportunities is always a privilege for us.

### **Beachfront and Halldene Rest Homes:**

After Ian's years of monthly services, Toni Wentworth has capably taken over monthly services of worship in these two rest homes. Thank you, Toni!



## **Knitters, Chatters and Creators' Group:**

A small group are meeting once again on Tuesday afternoons in the church foyer. Having committed our time to the Lord, we pray for each other, and also pray for those to whom the results of our creative efforts would be given (baby clothes, crib, cot and larger blankets, shawls, knee rugs, children's jerseys, beanies, scarves and mittens.) We then enjoy a time of fellowship, with some homemade baking or some other treat to share. Once made, the various garments, blankets and shawls have been brought into church to be blessed during a service, and have then been distributed to the police for needy families, the Women's Refuge, the Op Shop, to Northhaven for residents, and North Shore Hospital. Our thanks to those who from time to time have dropped of wool for us to use. We are thankful for each other and the opportunities we have through this small group to grow in friendship and love.

**Anne Aspden (Pastoral Care Coordinator)**

## **Café Theo**

In 2023 the theme of Café Theo was "Exploring our Treaty Partnership in the Anglican Church."

In June the Right Reverend Dr Sir David Moxon gave an insightful talk on the Anglican Church's involvement in the signing of the Treaty and the covenant that was made. In July the Reverend Jacynthia Murphy gave us a stimulating talk, challenging our understanding of the relevance of this covenant in our church today.

As a practical flow-up to these sessions, in September we visited the Silverdale marae, Te Herenga Waka, where we were warmly welcomed. This gave us a better understanding of marae protocol and began building links with this community, which is making a very valuable contribution to our area.



We hope that the insights we gained in this series can be applied in our worship and in our future relationships with Tikanga Maori.

**Gill Henderson. Café Theo Organiser  
2023**



## Selwyn Centre

We have had a great year at Selwyn Centre sessions in 2023 with an average attendance of 20 guests.

I am sure guests would agree a standout highlight was our Midwinter Christmas Party at Wainui Golf Course in June but also, they would say that each session was the highlight of the week for some of our guests, just getting out and having social interaction, morning tea chat, activities, and games. The photos are of the coronation celebration, which was another highlight of 2023.

A big thank you to all my faithful volunteers who turn up each week with a sense of fun and enthusiasm—and fabulous morning tea contributions! We are more of a family than guests and volunteers. Jean and Kay have taken up organising a group each month to attend the Hoyts Senior screening with morning tea which many of the guests look forward to.

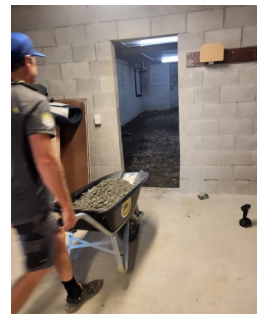
**Julie Taylor, Selwyn Centre Whangaparaoa Co-ordinator**



## Maintenance Report

The big event last year was the Anniversary weekend rain and subsequent torrential rainfalls for the next month or so. St Stephen's survived this, basically due to its compliance with Auckland City Council's by-laws, and particularly, the stormwater drainage system. We did have neighbours inquire if we did comply as they considered that the runoff from our site gave rise to problems on their properties. With open dialog and cooperation, we sorted these issues out with our neighbours. We did have some minor water get into our building and these were investigated and considered that it would be a future watch, as this event would not repeat for many years to come. (This is a statistical statement.)

The major work of the year happened downstairs. The end result of this work is wonderful. We got mechanical air flow into the Youth Room as we have this area closed without windows open most of the time. The next job was to break a hole in the wall to open up the unused area at the other end of the building from the Youth Room. Once inside we got the area concreted and it was this job that gave us a huge step forward for managing excess stock from the Second Chance Shop and our own overflow needs, eg chairs etc. Not having open use of this area previously, we did not know that the wall leaked. Once discovered, and this was quick due to the heavy rain we were getting, we got onto the issue and did a fine job sealing the walls. So all is well down there, and you should pop down and have a look. Outside, the trees and shrubs were getting out of hand, so we did a major clean up over three days. This worked on the major trees, and after our very successful working bee, (we are so grateful for your help,) we got a firm to clean up privets and other weed shrubs, including a root grind on the front garden so Uta could plant the rosemary hedge. In a year or so the front boundary from the entrance to the Vet's side of our property will be a rosemary hedge. Uta has also been working in our gardens and has them looking good. Our car park lines were repainted and that sums up what we did outside last year.



Inside the rubber was replaced around all the front entrance windows, and the windows of the hall were checked out to see if they could be easier to open.



Unfortunately, it's a design issue in that if it gets worse in the future it may require some substantial funds to correct. The front doors were corrected so they could open and close more easily. In the cleaning cupboard, brackets were installed to put the mop/broom etc up onto the wall.

So that was what happened on the maintenance front last year.



As always, if you see any area of our Church that requires maintenance, tell us about it, for getting onto maintenance early is the trick in keeping our

church well maintained.

## **Phread Thurston — Maintenance Coordinator**

### **Missions Report**

We have continued our existing support for overseas and local missions. Vestry contributes \$5000 each year to the Anglican Missions Board, which supports the Church Missionary Society and various mission endeavours on behalf of the NZ Anglican Church. In addition, our major focus remains support for Kondoa Diocese in Tanzania where Vestry and parishioners provide funds for the Bishop and ten evangelists.

Bishop Given wrote in December:

“We continue to thank God because of the support we have been receiving from you for our Bible College, supporting our house rent for our pastors and evangelists, church planters and for Bishop's ministry. Indeed, without your support we would not receive the success we have been seeing. Although you



are far away yet you are here with us. The growth of the church in Kondoia would be impossible without St Stephen's adopting this mission work and support. St Stephen's is one of the strongest supporters of this Missionary Diocese.

It was God's divine power and providence for us to meet the good people of St Stephen's church. I always say it was God's divine power to allow us to come to NZ and meet you so that you could be a tool for his kingdom to grow in Kondoia. This our God. God is good. You have been a great source of encouragement to us. And you know one method which has been a great tool for church growth in Kondoia is healing ministry. It would be very hard for Muslims to come to Jesus Christ without the method of healing ministry. Healing ministry is a great tool for us to grow as a church."

### **Short Term Missions**

Amazingly, in 2023, we were able to mount three short term missions! These were almost totally funded by a generous bequest from John Moxon, late of this parish, "for mission work at the direction of the then vicar." In consultation with the vestry, it was decided to fund these mission trips with the bequest. John's son, Archbishop David Moxon, expressed his pleasure at this decision writing, "Dad would appreciate your careful stewardship of this money. He would also value the great good it is doing through the links you are supporting. I have forwarded your message to the family. They will give thanks for this update and the mission it involves." In addition to this bequest, Vestry contributed \$3,000 only. Team members paid for their own food and personal expenses.

### **Vanuatu**

The first attempt at a trip to Vanuatu by Posiano Iosefa and the Vicar under SOMA NZ (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) was cut short due to the damage caused by the two tropical cyclones which hit the nation just before our first trip date. We got as far as Port Vila but were unable to reach the Diocese of Banks and Torres Islands. However, we met the Bishop four times and we were able to pray with him and encourage him at a difficult time.



When SOMA mounted a second attempt in August, given the travel insurance payments received, Vestry was able to send Posiano on this

subsequent trip. This time it was a team of five drawn from also from Christchurch and Wellington.

Again, the airfield on the destination island of Vanua Lava was closed – this time it had been waterlogged for two weeks. The airline only told the team this when they arrived for the last leg of the flight. Rather than return to Port Vila to wait, they decided to fly to the nearest island, Gaua, where they arrived unexpected and unheralded! Undaunted, the local Anglican priest invited them to run a mission in his parish over the weekend. They reported many healings of backs and eyes.

After three days, suddenly news came that a boat had arrived to take to Vanua Lava. All aboard, 3 crew and 5 team into a small launch with a single outboard heading out into 2-3 metre swells in the open Pacific for a 2½-hour very wet trip. Praying all the way, they arrived safe but soaked.

There followed a successful mission to the Diocese of Banks and Torres Islands with clear teaching, plus many healings and deliverances.

The Vicar General, the Revd Maurice Vaes, wrote, “Your coming to our diocese had given us a new approach to healing. Most of the clergy and people still calling me through phones that they have learned a new approach to healing from you and it would be better if every priest in [the Diocese] should apply this method in their ministry of healing in their various district and regions.”

## **Kondoa**

Ian was asked by Bishop Given to bring a SOMA team to Kondoa in August. We were able to send a team of four from our parish: Ian and Helen with Tony Wentworth and Michael Ng. They were joined by three from Rangiora Parish, including the Revd Peter Akester. It was arranged for them to minister to the Bible School students and principally to three remote villages in the South-West of the Diocese. They saw many healings and deliverances including the amazing restoration of a withered leg to full strength and function! Helen was called upon to assist a young woman in labour, and the baby was named *Heleni* !



Mission	\$ Amount sent
Anglican Missions	5,000
Bishop of Kondoa support	5,000
Kondoa Evangelists	2,600
Kondoa Disaster relief	1,700
Auckland City Mission	800
Christian Broadcasting	400
CAP Budgeting	50
Firefly Children's Home	810
Hospital Chaplaincy	400
Kailakuri Hospital	700
Appeals - Turkey Syria Earthquake and Cyclone Gabrielle	2,118
Vanuatu trips (2 + 1 people)	4,830
Kondoa trip (4 people)	19,682
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,090</b>

We were humbled by the devotion, courage and joy of our African sisters and brothers. Having seen many healing miracles before our eyes, we were all lifted to a higher level of expectancy and faith in God.



### **Disaster Relief**

As a parish we have a Disaster Relief fund to allow us to make a rapid response when tragedy strikes without waiting to collect money first. Late in 2023, we learnt that there had been very unseasonable rain and flash floods in parts of Kondoa Diocese. We sent the \$1700 from this fund and since then, your contributions have almost exactly restored matched that amount, restoring the fund ready for the next crisis.



## MAF

This February, we had a return visit from Jonathan and Michele Pound working with Mission Aviation Fellowship in South Sudan. Two years ago, Jonathan and Michele visited us when they were still preparing to go overseas. Now, after two years, they returned on furlough, still very positive about their calling to South Sudan. In spite of reporting that few missionaries or aid workers have their families with them, they reported that the children have adapted well to the change, and that family life is happy. Jonathan's work flying in South Sudan is challenging and rewarding.

A major theme of their talk was the call of the Lord and the need to trust that call. Support for MAF is on an individual basis by parishioners who choose to make a contribution via MAF.

When we review the mission giving from the parish for 2023 we find we contributed these funds shown in the chart opposite.

All these funds have come from direct parishioner giving for these nominated missions, apart from (as already mentioned) Vestry voting \$1500 towards Bishop Given's ministry and \$3000 to top up the Short Term Mission fund. Well done, everyone, on a good year of support for these missionary outreaches!

**Ian Hardcastle**



## Finance Report

### Income/Expenditure

Summary income/expenditure for the Y/E 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 is set out below.

		Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Church</b>	Income	139,811	138,700	1,111
	Expenditure	(197,420)	(189,066)	(8,355)
<b>Profit/Loss for Church</b>		(57,609)	(50,366)	(7,224)
<b>Second Chance</b>	Income	288,413	279,999	8,413
	Expenditure	(212,026)	(205,299)	(6,726)
<b>Profit/Loss Second Chance</b>		76,387	74,700	1,687
<b>Profit/Loss for Church plus Second Chance Shop</b>		18,778	24,334	(5,556)
<b>Other Activities (1) Expenditure (2)</b>		(16,241)	(27,259)	11,018
<b>Profit/Loss Overall Operation</b>		2,537	(2,925)	5,462

### Balance Sheet

Total Bank Balances were reduced from \$184,789 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to \$135,802 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The reason for the reduction in bank balances is set out below. These are items that do not appear on the Profit & Loss sheet.

<b>Assets</b>	Upgrade to basement	\$19,739
	Fit-out for basement	\$1,133
<b>Movement of Special Funds</b>	Mission Trip to Kondoia, and Mission Trips to Vanuatu	\$24,575
	“Leading Your Church into Growth” Seminar	\$1,694
<b>Insurance accrued</b>		\$2,306
<b>Total</b>		\$49,477

Notes:

- 1) Other activities include Alpha, Café Theo, Conference Hosting, Family Ministry & Adventures, Messy Church, Taste and See
- 2) The main reason for the reduction in expenditure compared to budget in 'other activities' is less money used on Family Ministry @ Adventures and Messy Church. That is, \$14,418 and \$3,099 respectively.

On reviewing the accounts mention should be made of the large sums of money that needed to be spent over the past year on repairs and maintenance, and on "one-off's". These were due to the age of the building, storm damage and assessments to the property to ensure compliance with regard to water run-off.

These are:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Carpark painting	\$ 1,589
Door closer repairs	\$ 804
Drain assessment	\$ 2,283
Ducts in basement reattached	\$ 696
Fire extinguishers	\$ 1,050
Oak tree broken branch	\$ 450
Pruning of back yard trees	\$ 4,000
Replace fire alarm switches	\$ 104
Replace rubber in front windows	\$ 2,806
Replacement microphone stands	\$ 326
Smoke detector replacement	\$ 314
Storeroom garage door motor replaced	\$ 764
Youth room ventilation system	\$ 2,708
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,894</b>

In summary, it may be said that despite a challenging year, the accounts are in good order, with Total Bank Balances exceeding \$135,000.

**Torben Sorensen, Treasurer**

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on 2nd April 2023 at 11.45 am

**Present:** The Revd Ian Hardcastle (Chairman) and 26 parishioners.

**Apologies:** Andrew Bruce-Brand, Wendy Fowler, Trevor McCracken, Marion McCracken, Jo & Peter Little, Siew Mei Ng, Wayne Walker, Max Cranch.

The Revd Ian Hardcastle opened the meeting at 11: 53am with welcome and prayer.

The Parish Roll was tabled.

**Motion:** That we receive the Parish Roll      Mover: Ian Hardcastle / Agreed

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 May 2022 were confirmed at Vestry meeting on 21 June 2022.

## Matters Arising:

There is concern for the waning numbers in the congregation, especially in the second service.

## Parish Reports

All reports are in the reports booklet, and have been available for parishioners on the table in the Foyer.

**Motion:** That the Parish reports, having been circulated, be received.

Mover: Ann Aspden/Seconder: Gill Henderson/Agreed

**Motion:** That this Annual General Meeting of parishioners adopts the unaudited annual financial accounts for the Parish of Whangaparaoa Peninsula for the year ending 31 December 2022, as prepared by Trust Management and based on information supplied by this Ministry Unit; and notes these financial accounts will be audited as part of the Diocesan Consolidated Accounts Audit.

Mover: Torben Sorensen/Seconder: Rob Aspden/Agreed

**Motion:** In view of the parish's surplus and financial strength, that Vestry investigate whether the Diocese will receive a larger quota from us.

Mover: Don Battley/Seconder: Jon Henderson/Not passed

Votes of thanks went out to all gathered for supporting St. Stephen's Church; Ian Hardcastle for his unwavering dedication and leadership, and that of Helen

in all she does. A special thanks to Alison Vedder for her exceptional role in keeping the Op Shop as well as St. Stephens Church running smoothly. Phread Thurston was thanked for his invaluable services all around the church and Op Shop.

**Motion:** In acknowledgement of Phread’s hard work, that we organise an autumn working bee for the Saturday after Easter.

Mover: Helen Hardcastle/Seconder: Toni Wentworth/Agreed

**Motion:** That the proposed 2023 Budget be accepted and used for monthly management of this parish.

Mover: Alison Vedder/Seconder: Guinny Sorensen/Agreed

## **Scrutineers**

**Motion:** That Phread Thurston and Bruce Vedder be appointed as scrutineers for the ballot.

Mover: Alison Vedder/Seconder: Ann Aspden/Agreed

## **Vicar’s Warden**

The Vicar announced that Alison Vedder would continue as his Warden.

## **Number of Elected Vestry Positions**

Vestry recommended that there be 8 total members on vestry, including 5 ex-officio members, requiring the election of three members.

**Motion:** That we elect 3 members to Vestry.

Mover: Ian Hardcastle/Agreed

**Motion:** That Vestry be given the power to fill casual vacancies on Vestry.

Moved: Ian Hardcastle/Agreed

## **Election of the People’s Warden**

Candidate for People’s Warden: Andrew Bruce-Brand.

The ballot was conducted. The Scrutineers left to count the vote.

Andrew Bruce-Brand was elected as People’s Warden.

## **Election of Vestry members**

Candidates: Craig Fowler, Christina Jensen and Michael Ng.

The ballot was conducted. The scrutineers retired to count the ballot.

## **Op Shop Financial Distributions**

Alison Vedder explained the process of choosing Op Shop charities, where each member of attendance is given 12 stickers to use in voting for their preferred

charities. The top three chosen by the AGM become charities of the month alongside the top three chosen by volunteers. After those charities are determined, the next six highest polling charities from combining the votes are chosen. Alison gave a brief introduction to each of the charities.

## Vestry Election Results

The scrutineers returned Vestry Election results with the voting papers: Craig Fowler, Christina Jensen, and Michael Ng have been elected as a Vestry members.

## Authorise Vestry to Confirm AGM Minutes

**Motion:** That Vestry be given the power to approve the minutes of this AGM at the next Vestry meeting. Mover: Ian Hardcastle/Agreed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:57pm.

