



St Stephen's
The Anglican Parish of Whangaparaoa Peninsula

Annual Reports 2020



Annual General Meeting 18 April 2021

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Receive the Parish Roll
4. Minutes of 2020 AGM
5. Vicar's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. **Other Reports:**

Memorial Wall
Wardens'
Children and Families
mainly music
Op Shop

Pastoral Care and Rest
Home Ministry
Hosting & Reception
Library
Selwyn Centre

Everyman
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

10. Service times changes

11. Authorise Vestry to confirm AGM minutes

12. Any other business (as notified by 11th April)

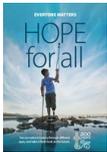
Vicar's Report

Alpha 2020

Early in 2020 we ran Family Alpha. Family Alpha is an invention of this parish where we provide a parallel children's programme to the Adults' teachings and discussions. This means the whole family can attend and parents of young children are not excluded. We ran the course with Hibiscus Coast Parish which had the benefit of refreshing their leadership team in running Alpha while also modelling the idea of Family Alpha to them.

There was a strong response with 14 guests (including 5 from HBC parish). There were 9 in the children's programme and 5 in the crèche. We had a team 14 of whom 3 were from HBC parish. Had we not provided the children's programmes 12 of the adults would not have come. It is a big commitment to run this programme like this but we are reaching mainly music, Messy Church and regular church families. Special thanks to Gill Cranch who ran the crèche with help from Helen's sister, Mary and to Helen and Lesley Bruce-Brand who have taken on the challenge of the children's programme. As the course progressed, the first lockdown occurred. Having started the course, we were able to continue on Zoom video conferencing which worked remarkably well.

Hope Project deliveries



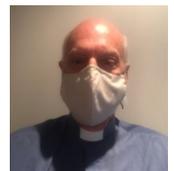
The Hope Project aims to deliver a booklet to every household in NZ at Easter. In 2020, the decision was made to ask churches to undertake the delivery in cities. Our people rose strongly to the challenge and we were able to deliver to 30 out of 54 zones in the HBC area. Other churches covered the rest of the area. This was an impressive effort for one local church – well done.

And if I can leak some 2021 news in here too, we did as much again in 2021!

It is wonderfully providential that the subject of the 2020 booklet was the Christian basis of healthcare. That should struck a chord with people concerned about a certain threat to health!

COVID-19

COVID-19 dominated 2020. I was to have taken a Sabbatical with plans involving training in USA and time in England and a further visit to Konda. However, such ideas were laid aside firstly because of the need to be here with the parish during a crisis and secondly, international travel was out of the question.



Parish Protocols

We assembled a Parish Pandemic Planning Group of Anne Aspden, Alison Vedder, Christian Jensen (all retired nurses) and me, to plan our response to the virus. We were well supported by the Diocesan team who gave clear advice on principles parishes should implement. We met initially to think through scenarios and then progressively

to adjust our initial thinking to real-life developments.

Through Level 4, Alison moved the parish office to her home and did a sterling job of keeping communications flowing each week including hand delivering material to parishioners without email.

Wendy undertook to shop on behalf of any who were shut in and to co-ordinate offers of help from parishioners. As a parish we were able to provide food and financial help to some families who were in more challenging situations which had slipped between the cracks of the government support.

Part of our Group's planning was for the protocols as we returned to church meetings when the lockdown levels reduced. It was very helpful to have those ideas worked through beforehand especially on the second, third and fourth times when so much thinking and planning had already been done.

The Op shop provided a successful "Click and collect" service at Level 3 which actually cleared stock which had not sold under ordinary conditions! Thank you to Cindy and Alison for organising that.

As the first lockdown, I was very concerned for the financial viability of the parish and led the Vestry and various services and prayer meetings in prayer for God's help and support to survive the storm. With no meetings and the shops closed we could have faced with no income and many expenses – potentially wiping us out. In fact, giving continued by Automatic payments and some people made the switch from envelopes to APs; the Landlord volunteered a significant rent discount on the shop rentals and the government brought out the wage subsidy. Those combined with significantly reduced expenses during the lockdowns meant we survived the storm well. Thanks be to God and to his people.

Video Services

When the first lockdown came upon us, I rapidly made a switch to video services. It was a steep, albeit fascinating, learning curve. Holy Week was about two weeks into lockdown and during that week, Helen and I produced 9 videos covering both Holy Week services and some extra material for the Alpha children – we were competing for camera time!



As we continued, I was able to involve a number of other households in contributing to the Online services: Roy Smith, Peter Lloyd preaching; Alison Vedder, Anne Aspden, Don Battley interceding; the Crosbie and Wong families and Julie Courtenay reading from the Bible. Our four organists recorded music for us, Chara played several preludes and Craig regularly produced recordings of himself singing, playing the keyboard,

drums and other accompaniments up to eight overlaid parts to form a one-man worship band!

Video services take a lot of preparation. Typically an hour long video service took twelve to fourteen hours to co-ordinate, record, edit, subtitle and post on the internet. During Level 2.5 – 4 lockdowns, we were getting up to 116 views of the videos, each view of course may be more than one person.

For a time after the lockdowns, I continued with videos of the church services for those who were not able to attend. A recording of a live service needed about four hours of post-production for editing, subtitling and posting. In time as normality returned the views of these videos dropped down to under 20, so I discontinued them. However, we did have a few far flung viewers: France, England, America.

We have been given a grant by St John's College to install cameras so we can more easily video services. The design of the system is intended to take away much of the post-production burden by allowing the operator to edit the video as it happens so reducing the burden of production considerably. This would allow either live-streaming of services or the posting of edited videos but with much less effort than was the case last year. The key requirement will be to build a team of videographers.

Top Priority Prayer Meeting and Home Groups online

The Wednesday Morning Prayer service actually became stronger through 2020 and continues with a loyal and consistent group each week. Anne Aspden is organising the meetings using the NZPB Daily Services. Typically attendance is around 8-10. During lockdown we met by Zoom and since then have continued to meet as a group in person with some joining us on Zoom as well. These find it convenient to stay at home for various reasons but are glad to join in. A good community of mutual care has developed in this service.

After the Alpha course, Roy Smith developed a new online Home Group. This provided continued involvement and support for some of those who had just completed Alpha and some from a previous Alpha course along with a few other parishioners. It proved to be a surprisingly good environment for home group discussions.

Gill Henderson also rose to the challenge and successfully moved her homegroup to Skype. It may seem daunting in prospect but we have all found it was straight forward once attempted.

Musicians

We continue to be so grateful to our regular musicians at all three services: Gill Hender-

son, Terry Huffam, Sylvia Gudsell, Craig and Wendy Fowler and Helen Hardcastle. Your committed service to us of music is a great blessing.

During last year, we had the delight of the first appearance of the Youth band which Craig Fowler has been mentoring. They led a song in a morning service. Progress has rather been hindered by all the lockdowns and disruption but it was a good start. It was also a delight to have Chara Fowler contributing to the 8am service with preludes, communion music and latterly accompanying a hymn. At 10am, Matthew Nonweiller made a debut playing a duet with his father! All credit to Wendy for teaching and encouraging children in music and bringing them into our worship.



Our 2 youngest organists

Memorial Wall

After years of planning, negotiating and designing, finally early in 2020, we were ready to launch the Memorial Wall fund raising project – and then COVID19 struck! What a disastrous time for a fundraising campaign. But remarkably, the combination of pre-sales of ash niches and plaque sites combined with some very generous donations meant that it was possible to build all three sections of the wall immediately! Now it is in place, the general view is what a good and fitting solution it is to the need that was first raised to memorialise our dead and provide a place of interment of ashes. Well done to Graham Lamont for driving this project forward and to those parishioners and vestry members who served on the committee dealing with all the questions and difficulties that had to be answered before the design was finalised.

Phread Thurston deserves special mention: his practical skills as an engineer, draftsman, handyman and gardener to the project overcame several problems and saved us significant fees.

Bishop Ross was due for a routine visit in October– which turned out to be the first Sunday back at Level 1. We were just able to get the wall ready for dedication and so it was a delight to have our bishop with us on 18th October, presiding and preaching at the 10am service and then dedicating the wall. Wendy organised an excellent “Mission Munch” where the children (and helpers) provided a lunch for the parish with the Koha going to the mission of the children’s choice.



Christmas services

The November Messy Church started the Christmas season for our children with the theme of the Nativity. The children made crafts which related to or illustrated the Nativity account. I was shown a crib with two plasticine figures in it. I was told they were Baby Jesus and his teddy!

The Carol service took the form of a narrated nativity play interspersed with carols. As parts of the story were told, children brought nativity pieces forward to build the nativity scene. This was followed by the children being given a Christingle (orange with a candle) and lighting it.

2021 Programme

We have a strong programme for 2021, which offers excellent Theological input and training in evangelism and the practice of walking in the Spirit. In summary the programme includes:

- Two Alpha courses
- Six AFFIRM Zoom training sessions: 3 theological; 1 evangelism; 2 equipping in spiritual gifts.
- “Live the Life” – a six week course led by Helen on bringing people into Christian freedom.
- Dates reserved for 3 Café Theo evenings.
- Way to go Conference – SU training of Children’s leaders.
- Youth Group Ski trip
- Parish Dinner

In Memoriam:

Pauline Salt, Louis Duval, Darrol Walton, Desmond Knight, Richard Larsen, June Rudge.

Baptisms:

Zoe Carstens, Chara Fowler, Bella Bickerston.



Appreciation:

I must express my real appreciation for the outstanding ministries that the Revd Anne

Aspden, Alison Vedder and Wendy Fowler exercise among us.

Anne is virtually ubiquitous and ever-ready to help. Rob gives strong practical service in so many ways in the church itself and in the Op Shop. Anne and Rob, we thank you and bless you for your love and service.

Alison is a great gift to us in administration and a wise patient head in management. She carries a lot for us all in the parish. Thank you, Alison, for your support for me both in administration and as my warden.

Wendy works incredibly hard to build family involvement and programmes with the children. I am so grateful for all she does and what she notices and provides for people. We have all benefited from the meals she organises and takes particular delight in providing for the parish. Besides that she builds contacts with families through school, pre-school activities, library work, our own mainly music and has developed Messy Church to the next stage. Last year she also audited a paper at Carey College and from 2021 is undertaking a programme of study to increase her theological skill base.

As always, there are so many to thank: the retired clergy who faithfully and humbly serve in our midst, our People's warden and Vestry members who give hours of work to governance as well as other voluntary work to the parish. Finally, a parish cannot run just with governance and administration – you the people give in all sorts of ways and I thank you all for being part of us and giving to this worshipping community.

Ian Hardcastle, Vicar

Completion and Dedication of Memorial Wall



Sunday 11 October 2020 will be remembered as a significant day in St Stephen's history. It was the day on which Bishop Ross Bay formally dedicated and commissioned our

Memorial Wall. The commissioning ended nearly five years of discussion, planning and fund raising.

The Wall is unlike most similar constructions in that it was built without internal steel reinforcing. Instead, recently developed glass-fibre reinforced concrete was used. This material is self-reinforcing and the resulting structure is significantly less heavy than a conventional wall would have been. More importantly not having to use approximately one third of the total area to 'house' reinforcing steel means that we can inter a much larger number of ashes canisters within the Wall. The front side of the Memorial Wall is scored to resemble conventional masonry blocks. Each of the block faces is designed to take a 140mm square bronze plaque. The interior of the Wall is like a piece of oversized honeycomb that provides niches that line up with the block faces. Specially designed sheets of toughened acrylic glass have been used to cover the back side of the Wall and keep the niches secure. The resolutions passed at earlier Annual Meetings envisaged that the costs of building the Memorial Wall would be covered by donations. It's pleasing to be able to report that almost all of the necessary funds were received from foundation donors, including some parishioners who pre-purchased niches for future use by themselves or members of their families. This means that the income received from future niche sales can be used to meet general parish costs as well as for maintenance of the Wall and its surroundings.

The Vestry has defined the categories of people whose ashes may be interred in the Memorial Wall. Those for whom approval will be given must have been either someone who has been listed on the Parish Roll, or a first degree relative of a person listed on the Roll or a relative who has been in the armed forces, or a person whose funeral has been held at St Stephen's. Over 150 niches remain unsold. It is possible to purchase the right to use a niche in advance of a bereavement, and arrangements can be made to reserve an adjacent niche for a partner. Fees for the purchasing a niche are:

1. Niche fee (fixed) \$869.57+gst (\$1000 gst incl):
 - a) Niche including special canister.
 - b) Storage of the ashes.
 - c) Entry in memorial book
2. Interment fee: (variable costs to be determined at time of interment):
 - a) Plaque manufacture, inscription and installation.
 - b) Placement of the canister in the niche and fixing of the plaque.
 - c) Upkeep of wall and niche.

Enquiries about eligibility to use the Wall and purchasing the right to inter ashes should be addressed to the Parish Manager. The Vestry has decided there should be a standard format for the plaque inscriptions. The agreed template allows for the inclusion of the full legal name and birth and death dates of the deceased, details of the immediate

family and a single line of tribute. The Parish has arranged for Bronze Plaques NZ Ltd to do the layout of the plaques, supervise their manufacture to an agreed standard, and then install them. The Parish Office will help Memorial Wall users to finalise and approve inscriptions and give instructions to the plaque makers.

From the outset the advocates for the Memorial Wall hoped it would provide a more personal place for the burial of loved ones' ashes and also be a way of honouring parishioners who have contributed to the life and witness of St Stephen's. And they hoped that the Wall might serve as a focus for a place of remembrance and quiet contemplation. With this in mind, screening vegetation will be planted alongside the Wall in the autumn.

Many people have contributed to the success of the Memorial Wall project. They include those who had the vision for what might be done, those who worked on the committees that produced numerous plans, the foundation donors who contributed generously and the designers and tradesmen who worked to ensure that what was built was of high quality. We should be grateful for their faithful commitment.

Graham Lamont, Convenor of Memorial Wall Working Party



Wardens' Report

Wardens Alison and Roy have continued to work as a team, combining their roles as church/vicars' wardens. This has proved to be of great value with each of the wardens building on each other's strengths and supporting each other's weaknesses.

As is to be expected with the building nearing 10 years old, paintwork is beginning to show some wear and tear and this will need attention soon. Phread Thurston has attended to maintenance issues as they arose throughout the year so that the building remains fresh in appearance. The grounds also have benefitted from grooming by Gert Strydom with regular lawn mowing, and Phread has been regular in his weeding and pruning so that our church looks loved and cared for. A vote of thanks is due to both Gert and Phread for their work. Thanks are also due to Rob Aspden who ensures that the signboard on the road frontage is kept current with relevant information.

In spite of the challenges caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, looking back over 2020 it is pleasing to see various successes and much to be thankful for:

- Alpha completed online
- Our first online homegroup
- Worship services continued online when we could not meet in person – a fast, steep learning curve for those involved and especially for Vicar Ian – with each week he learnt more about how to improve the presentation. Having our own people in front of us leading the services helped minimise feelings of isolation, something not available to many parishes. A vote of thanks is due to Ian for his perseverance and dedication in this.
- Contact being maintained through the telephone tree – thank you for being a part of this
- Our own facebook page (@StStephenswgp) was started, proving a useful way to get information out to parishioners and the local community quickly. If you haven't already, we suggest you follow the page. Thanks to Christina Jensen for ensuring it is kept up to date with news from the diocese.
- Youth Group started
- Completion of the Memorial Wall project, with its associated fundraising. We are very grateful to the committee for the work put in to this, and especially to Graham Lamont for the many hours researching and negotiating with suppliers to achieve a quality result
- Justice Conference Watch Party online involvement (expect to hear more about this during 2021)
- The 2 Op-shops combined into 1. Unfortunately we could not get this fully

completed before the end of 2020, but this has been achieved early in 2021.

Having been confined to home for a long period, it was a real joy to be able to meet up with people again, and Pentecost seemed a very appropriate day for our first service after lockdown. Chatting with people over a cup of tea or coffee after the services was a renewed pleasure, and this was perhaps most evident after the Thursday service. It wasn't long before Wendy Fowler produced a "We Are Family" celebration dinner and special thanks are due to her for her imaginative menus and hard work in instigating these very enjoyable occasions.



Celebration morning tea after the Thursday morning service on 11 June

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.

Alison Vedder (Vicar's Warden) and **Roy Smith** (People's Warden)

Family & Children's Ministries

Sunday Mornings

This has been a year of restructure, as Covid has sometimes challenged how we do things, and sometimes inspired us to get creative as we fluctuated through different lockdown levels. My pride and joy of the year



has been the progress made in our Sunday morning program through enlisting help from a full roster of teachers across the congregation. We currently have two fully staffed sessions where all volunteers contribute with partners once per month. During the next year I hope and pray that we will be able to open a session specifically for the middle age. We have mums, dads, grandmothers, great grandmothers, ordained priests, and others who have been in ministry for 50 + years committing to growing the faith of our youngest parishioners in the Sunday morning sessions. This is crucial in our aim to become stronger as an intergenerational congregation, as the interaction in Sunday morning sessions opens doors to relationships and connection which is increasingly difficult to find in today's world.



Some of our Sunday morning vision: The Key aim for our children at St Stephen's is to develop and deepen their relationship with God, and self, and others. We believe that all children arrive with a spiritual capacity, and we expect that God will be forming a relationship with our children. It is a relationship that we encourage to grow, and it is personal to each child. Throughout the year, we provide a balance of the big picture story of the Bible, so that we can better understand our need of Jesus and how He changes everything. In practice, we spend approx. ½ year working through the Old testament, and ½ year focusing on the life of Jesus in the Gospels. This allows for children to better understand the redemption that is brought through Jesus and to increase their understanding of God's story.



We recognise different needs for different stages of development and faith, and place adults in the rooms who are uniquely equipped to work with specific stages. We encourage questions, and encourage children to search for their own answers. Faith is a lifelong journey which we are all on, and we communicate that to children through our interactions and conversations with them. We consider ourselves to be guides, or shepherds of the children in our sessions.

Messy Church

During the last week of March 2021, we were able to put on our second Messy Church of the year. Considering the rocky start of the year Covid level wise, this feels like quite an achievement! We also celebrated Thanksgiving together in November, which seemed a fitting topic in a world where messy church is still often only happening at home. We were very thankful for the opportunity to feast together. During the last two sessions,





both in March, I noticed a trend of “invite along a friend” starting to manifest itself. We are seeing families that have been with us for a while show up the door with friends they have asked along, and we are seeing older children arrive with friends they have invited for the evening. I feel that this speaks volumes about the environment of Messy Church, that word is spreading in our community that this is a safe space to be and a way

for doing church for families that were not able to before. We truly have amazing volunteers, and without them Messy Church would not be possible. Please know that you have my endless gratitude. I still feel that we are well on our way in achieving the five aims of Messy Church- that we truly are all age, Christ-centered, hospitable, creative, and worshipful, but I would like to recognize that some of the pillars are stronger for us than others. Pillars such as all-age and worshipful could use a bit of reinforcement, and that can be accomplished best from within our own congregation, from our own seasoned worshippers who already find it a natural part of them to give glory to God, and who also might be able to increase our age diversity. Please consider if God might be asking you to come and worship alongside some of these new families.



Youth Group

Yes, we’ve started a youth group!! We’ve had two sessions so far with another one scheduled, and there’s been lots of fun. For Christmas, the youth group baked and delivered some treats to some of our Selwyn residents- it was delightful when we discovered that one of the kids got



to bake for her own grandmother! We’ve seen a variety of young people at our youth group so far, with some from our own congregation, some from the Messy Church congregation, and others coming with friends.

We have a ski trip planned for July, and some smaller events in the meantime. I’m very much looking forward to the opportunity of spending time with and getting to know these kids better.

Another new endeavour just getting off the ground is the teens and preteens worship group headed up by Craig. There was a lot of effort that Craig and the kids put in to be able to play together, and I was so





thrilled to see them lead worship in front of the congregation for the first time. I hope they feel encouraged for it to continue.

None of these programmes would be possible without the gift of time given so generously by the many people who help. I thank you all, you are making a difference in the lives of the children & young people of St Stephen's.

During the past year I have been able to grow through conferences and courses at Carey Baptist, which has grounded me in the vision for what I would like to see at St Stephen's regarding our children and families. I would like to thank my own family for their sacrifice in releasing me to become better equipped for this role, and for vestry's wholehearted support in facilitating my growth. I am truly blessed to work with all of you.

Wendy Fowler (Children & Families Minister)

mainly music

In February 2021 Mainly Music celebrated 20 years of service at St Stephen's, Whangaparaoa.



The past year has been disjointed with lockdowns disrupting regular sessions.



A highlight for the Wednesday group has been, and continues to be, a small group of year 5/6 pupils from Gulf Harbour School coming each week and taking an active part in the sessions. Thank you very much to Mel Crosbie for organising this very creative way of filling our team. The younger children especially love playing with the cool older kids at playtime, and

it brings so many smiles to the mums' faces.

Wednesday team was depleted after Susan Newbold moved to Wellington and Ivy moved back overseas, but with the help of Wendy and latterly Di Carrs, who has joined us, we managed.

Our Tuesday group welcomed Glenys Michaiil from Whangaparaoa Baptist to help lead the sessions, and it has been so great for the mums to see her at the front with her little one Amy by her side. Amy makes a very cute volunteer in her little mainly music shirt! Our morning tea ladies valiantly kept on with usually only 1 person in the kitchen. We thanked Bev Lord and Pamela Newby at our last session 2020.

Wendy has agreed to take on the main leadership mantle of MM at St Stephens, allowing Gill to continue with less responsibilities.

Thanks goes to all our MM helpers and a special vote of thanks to those longstanding members, some of whom have been active for most of the last **20 years!** of this rewarding ministry.

Gill Cranch and Wendy Fowler mainly music leaders

Op-shop Report



The Op-shop certainly had its share of pandemic related challenges over 2020, and some of these have continued into 2021. In spite of this, with the support of the Covid-19 Government Wage subsidy, and some assistance from our landlord, the shop still managed to give \$3387 to various charities and make an operating profit of \$35,353. Unfortunately the restricted trading of 2020 has interrupted the Charity of the Month programme significantly as there have been months when there have been no profits to distribute. Due to the delay in receiving December financial reports, payment to “Steps Forward” is yet to be made. Until Covid-19 is well and truly in the past we cannot guarantee that there will be sufficient profits to give a meaningful contribution to chosen charities in any particular month, so for the foreseeable future the “Charity of the Month” will not be advertised although distributions will continue to be made. We do still want the input of volunteers and parishioners to determine the recipients, and parishioner voting for op-shop distributions recipients will take place during the AGM.

Charity	Amount
Foodbank	208.25
Youth in transition	461.48
Women's Refuge	390.00
WanderSearch	925.00
St John Ambulance	500.00
Hospital Chaplains	614.50
City Mission	287.90
Total Donated	3387.13

With the lockdowns of Covid-19 came a new hobby for some in our community – clean out all the accumulated rubbish and take it to the community opshops for dumping. While this has long been a problem, the issues became much worse during 2020 for all the local opshops. It has been very disheartening for Cindy and the volunteers to arrive at the shop to find a large pile of rubbish that has to be disposed of, and thus we are looking into external security camera options.



Volunteer Workforce

Due to a combination of the lockdowns, and increasing infirmity of some of our older volunteers, several of our long term volunteers did not return after the 1st lockdown. This made managing the 2 separate units even more challenging, with Unit 2 having to be closed at times. In July Shop 2 was closed 26% of the time, and in September this increased to 73% of the time. It is normal practice to thank the volunteers with a Christmas dinner but unfortunately due to Cindy's hospitalisation this did not happen in 2020.

Joining of the 2 shops into 1

This project has been worked on since September 2018, with many hold-ups by Council in the consenting process. The consent was finally granted in November, and with financial assistance provided by our Landlord for the work, we have finally been able to have the work completed with thanks to Will Kupa (builder) and the ever willing Phread Thurston (plasterer, painter and general odd jobs). This has made a big difference to the overall look of the shop and ease of management. Work continues to improve the sorting areas at the back of the shop.

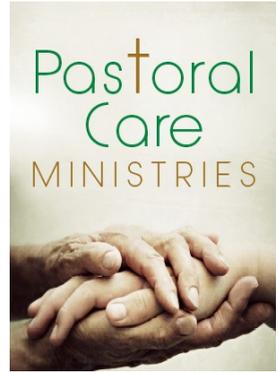
Thanks are very much due to manager Cindy Basson, relief manager Marion Nel and the amazing volunteer workforce for all that has been achieved in 2020.

It is worth noting that the shop does provide a significant income for the church, allowing us to do things we would not otherwise be able to do. We encourage you to think of ways that you can show your support, whether it be working in the shop, donating goods, or perhaps taking a batch of home baking for the volunteers morning tea to show appreciation for their hard work.

Alison Vedder and Roy Smith—Opshop Committee

Pastoral Care

What a strange year 2020 has been, with everyone being challenged in some measure with the advent of the Covid virus, both around the world and here in New Zealand. Whilst visits to individuals in their homes, or hospital, and rest home visits were able to take place during the first few weeks of the year, and Holy Communion could also be offered, when appropriate, once we became aware of the dangers of Covid, it was necessary to look at different ways of demonstrating care for each other. A small Covid pandemic team (namely, our Vicar, Ian, Alison Vedder, Christina Jensen, Wendy Fowler, Gill Henderson and myself) came together to plan for the various scenarios we were likely to have to face, as a parish. We realised that without regular face to face contact, people could become discouraged and feel very isolated. A telephone tree was established to see that everyone in the parish had someone else from the parish making regular contact with them by phone. We also had a number of older people and others with special needs, requiring help with shopping, since under lockdown requirements those with major health problems and the elderly were required to stay home. Not everyone had a family member close by who could shop for them, so we were very grateful to younger parishioners who offered help collecting and delivering shopping to people who needed this kind of assistance. Such regular offers of help were not always taken up every week, but the kindness and thoughtfulness of those making the offers and those keeping in touch by phone were appreciated. As in previous years, the regular offers of help and practical acts of kindness demonstrated by parishioners to others around them have made the effects of being in lockdown week after week more bearable. Once out of lockdown, the continuing acts of kindness shown by parishioners, in providing transport to doctor's or hospital and specialists' appointments, or simply taking people out for a coffee or to the hairdresser, or out for a meal, have been greatly appreciated by those on the receiving end. One piece of good news, in this country and reflected in what happened in our area and parish, has been that winter saw a drop in the numbers of people suffering from the usual winter ailments, including influenza, simply because there had necessarily been far less social contact; under Covid restrictions, so this was a huge plus!



However people's ability to attend face to face worship, under Levels 4 and 3 Covid requirements for health and safety, were curtailed, and severely limited under Level 2 restrictions. But, thanks to Our Vicar, Ian's expertise with technology, and his patience in instructing people to engage with Zoom meetings, and the hours and hours he and Helen, and the Fowlers, Alison and others have put into the provision of intercessions, sermons, worship hymns, songs, music and Ian's preparation of worship videos, have meant that a good number of people in the parish have learnt to engage with worship

services online; this has been a new, stretching and stimulating experience for those who have linked into our worship online. A huge thankyou to Ian and so many others who have assisted him in this vital provision of worship in difficult circumstances under Covid. I also particularly want to acknowledge the support of Terry and Paul Huffam, Max and Gill Cranch, Gill and Jon Henderson, Wendy Fowler and Christina Jensen with pastoral visits and follow up where needed, when we have been able to operate more normally in the parish.

Home and Hospital Pastoral Visits:

I have continued to liaise with Ian most weeks, about who might need a visit at home, or who may have landed up in hospital and need a visit; we have also updated each other with who we have actually managed to see, when visiting has been possible, and who has received communion and who might need to be taken communion.

Because I have continued to help in a number of other areas, such as the Selwyn Centre, Messy Church, the Op Shop, Mainly Music, Northhaven services, I have tried to fit in visits where and when I could, depending also on whether we were at Covid levels where such visits were permitted, and possible. Having a husband and family members who have sometimes needed assistance, and other household pressures from time to time, (cooking, housework, gardening, etc.,), I regret that I have not been able to do more. Thankyou Ian for your encouragement, guidance and support. For what we have been able to achieve, together with the Lord's help, I give thanks.

Prayer Chain:

Our parish is fortunate to have a dedicated group of Prayer Chain members who have faithfully upheld those in need, as the prayer requests have arisen. Sometimes we have had a large number of requests suddenly coming in over a relatively short period of time, and then we may have had a quieter week or so; but I have continued to coordinate these requests, and updated the Prayer Chain members as and when progress has been reported, or any new requests have been received. My thanks to the prayer chain members for this special way of showing care and concern for others and to God, our Father, for the many answers to prayer received.



Taste and See Meals:

At the beginning of the year I refilled three drawers of the freezer upstairs with meals, and then did a second batch of meals in February to fill the downstairs freezer shelves: (about 200 meals in all).

This was in order that there would be meals for those who might be going through a hard time. But then Covid occurred. Some of the meals had already gone out, but quite a number were still available after we came out of the first lockdown. Most of the

mains were then given out, but quite a few desserts remained. Since then, I have cooked up three or four batches of soup, (around 40 containers), in late winter, and otherwise have concentrated on providing family size meals for 4-5 people, as and when needed. Several families have required meals over a period of weeks when the person who would normally prepare the meals has been incapacitated. From time to time, I have had assistance with the cooking of these family size meals, or the packing of the food into containers, the labelling, and delivering, which has been much appreciated. At Christmas time we made around 110 trays of Christmas cookies, which was an extraordinarily generous offering from all those who contributed, and made it happen. One newer member of our congregation decided that they would also like to make 2 dozen small containers of trifle, and these were a hit!! The Christmas baking seemed to be well received by those to whom it was distributed. Thank you Belinda, Cassie, Katherine and to everyone who has helped with our Taste and See outreach!

Northhaven Rest Home Ministry:

Ian and I have taken turns in visiting and providing two communion services on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, (one at 10.15am and the second service at 11am) for some of the Northhaven residents and staff, when that has been possible. But of course with Covid restrictions, we have only been able to go to visit the residents and take services under Level 1. So in terms of regular worship and social contact, their year has been much disrupted. However they are delighted to see us when we are allowed in there. We have also sometimes been asked by staff to bless and cleanse rooms following a family bereavement, or to visit a resident who may be dying. Being able to offer pastoral assistance at such times, to the family concerned, to friends and perhaps also to staff members who have been intimately involved in the care of the resident, is greatly appreciated, and continues to be a privilege for us.

In spite of the ups and downs experienced by so many of us this past year, we do have much for which to be thankful. To all who have contributed in any way to our network of care and support, my grateful thanks. Your assistance has been much needed and appreciated.

The Revd. Anne Aspden (Pastoral Care Coordinator)

Beachfront Rest Home Ministry:

The welcome that Sylvia and I receive from the residents and Penny a staff member, when taking the monthly communion service is a delight to us both.

I take communion to residents in their rooms when requested.

The effect of the Covid lockdowns for the rest home residents and staff is enormous. I have not been able to go and take Communion Services during these times, instead I prepare a small service for staff to give.

The residents I am told miss Communion and do not feel they have attended church.

A Maori gentlemen gave Sylvia and I a Waiata at the end of the one service – what an honour.

In God's Grace we continue to serve at Beachfront Rest Home & Hospital.

Sylvia Gudsell, Pianist

The Revd. Pam Cunningham, Minister

Hosting & Reception

When possible, the weekday morning reception team have continued their duties to make the Chapel available for visitors and parishioners. They have been able to provide assistance when required to the office staff, and provide a welcome to people calling in. Thanks very much to all involved. People coming for a chat and a cuppa are very welcome

Rob Aspden, Co-ordinator

Library Report



With the disruptions caused by the Covid lockdown, library issues have been down this year. However, there have been a number of new titles added recently, so remember to check the display stands for books that might interest you. The culling of old stock has been completed, which leaves more room for the new additions.

Reading is a great way to learn from other people of faith. If you have bought a Christian book recently that you have found helpful, please consider donating it to the library and recommend it to your friends. It would be good to share our reading experiences, so please contact me if you could review a book from our library. Short recommendations could go into an enclosure in the KIT sheet, while more comprehensive reviews could be posted near the display stand.

Please speak to me if you have any suggestions or queries.

Gill Henderson, Librarian

Selwyn Centre

2020 A year to remember!

Who could have forecast the magnitude of disruption the Covid-19 Pandemic would bring.

Our Centre has survived and thanks are due to our exceptionally able and creative Centre Coordinator Julie Taylor for running the programme throughout the year, and especially managing throughout the lockdowns.



There were 18 weeks when lockdowns prevented us from meeting. Julie ensured regular weekly contact with all of our guests by through a telephone tree, helping them with some shopping and other assistance. In this she was assisted by several volunteers: Jean Holgate, Margaret Heath and Marie-Therese Caldwell, plus in the kitchen, a willing team of ladies providing and serving very tempting morning refreshments. To all our volunteers we express our sincerest thanks for their valued and cheerful service.

Whereas 29 people were on our books when we entered the first pandemic lockdown, we ended the year with about 22; this reduction is occasioned through natural attrition, e.g, poor health, moving into care, or moving out of the district. Attendance: an average of about 18; number of weeks lost because of lockdowns; 18.

A chronic issue for our Centre is finding enough volunteers to meet our needs, particularly in the kitchen.

Paul Huffam Chairman, Selwyn Centre Management committee.



As with the rest of the church and the country, Everyman has been considerably affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. However, we still managed to hold 5 meetings during the year. Three of them after the introduction of the COVID Alert levels. Two at Alert

level 1 and one very carefully in Level 2 with no meal, social distancing and limited numbers. Apart from one Saturday breakfast they were held on Friday evenings with the usual light meal. The subjects included “Sugar & obesity”, a film about St Paul, ‘experience during Lockdown’, the Euthanasia referendum, and ‘sailing the BC Canada coast’. We made donations totalling \$350 to CAP, Barnabas Fund, City Mission and youth yachting.

Everyman 2020							
Date	Alert Lvl	Speaker	Topic	EM/EP	Meal	Donation	To
14-Feb		Torben Sorensen	Sugar & obesity	EP	F & C	75	CAP
13-Mar		Film	St Paul	EP	Pz	85	Barnabas
11-Jul	1	None	Lockdown experience	EM	Brkfast	80	City Mission
14-Aug	3	Postponed					
2-Oct	2	Don Battley	Euthenasia Referendum	EP	None	0	None
20-Nov	1	Mike Pigneguy	Sailing BC Canada	EM/EP	PZ	70	Youth yachting

I have decided to step back from leading the program and am currently having discussions regarding continuation of Everyman. Thanks to members and speakers for patience and help.

Rob Aspden, Program co-ordinator

Knitters and Chatters Group

A small group of 4 to 7 of us have met week by week, during term time when such gatherings have been safe and permitted, under the Covid constraints. We have made and passed on about a dozen knitted blankets, 8 or 9 prayer shawls, more than a dozen scarves, beanies and pairs of mittens, and several tussy mussies. The latter have gone to Northhaven along with several of the prayer shawls. The blankets have gone to children and families in need. Some prayer shawls have gone to parishioners and others to people in the local community. Jean Webb passed on the scarves etc., to the



police for their outreach to families in need in the area. This has been a great effort and meantime we have provided support for one another. Thank you to everyone involved and to those who have donated wool for our use.

Anne Aspden (Pastoral Care Coordinator)

Maintenance Report

There was no major maintenance carried out during the year. It was not because of the lockdowns or other external issues, it is that the Church is in quite good shape. However this doesn't mean that nothing happens on the maintenance front. There is always a job to do.

An annual job is to wash the Chapel, the timber paintwork, clean the gutters and wash the roof. This year we achieved cleaning the bell spire as well which was a bonus. Cleaning the Chapel may seem rather a large cost but it certainly helps preserve the paintwork and means you get the maximum life from the paint which in the long run makes good financial sense.

The next task was to seal the cracks (longitudinal ones running down the left hand side of the entrance driveway). These cracks are the result of movement in the kerb line (not much) and the cause is debatable. I don't see this as a major issue but we should keep an eye out for any further movement.

During the year the trees and shrubs were cut and the gardens weeded. There is a war on Agapanthus. A couple of small trees (not sure of their names) were relocated to place them in an amphitheatre arrangement where the chair is under the Oak tree. It was a dry summer last year and these relocated trees required watering twice a week for about eight weeks and it's good to report that they survived.

Internally not a lot has been required. Work commenced to get the East facing windows seen to by the firm that designed and installed them, for when a strong easterly blows, with rain, the carpet down that eastern side gets wet. No solution to the problem yet, as the firm (NuLook) are very tardy with their work programming. It will get completed in 2021. Regular use of the chairs and tables in the hall gives rise to replacing screws and replacing the padded seats and back rests when the fabric wears and frays.

That covers the maintenance for the past financial year. If you see something that needs attention, do get in touch with the office.

Phread Thurston

Missions Report

Kondoa Mission

2020 had its challenges for Tanzania although not significantly from the pandemic. Floods were a greater challenge with very heavy rain washing away crops and causing buildings to collapse. However, in 2021, the pandemic has caught up with them and many have been died particularly in the cities. Bishop Given wrote that last year, the pandemic was just a story, now it is real. There was lockdown for educational institutions last year but since then the government has refused to acknowledge the pandemic. Now people are self-isolating in fear. Fortunately in Kondoa no pastor died from Covid19 so far. Bishop Given wrote recently:

We are having some very tough time in our history. I have not seen people dying like this in my life. Life is uncertain. People need to go to find food and it is like running from [a] lion jumping into the tree for your safety and there you find a black big snake ready to bit you! You are in dilemma to choose which should kill you snake or the lion! As one lady told me - she would rather choice to die from COVID19 than die from hunger! We kindly asking you to pray for us!



Kailakuri Hospital

We have maintained support for Kailakuri Hospital. We hear from them that as it happened the American doctors had gone back to America for a holiday when the pandemic struck. So they have been away from Kailakuri for a time. Meanwhile the local trained staff and volunteers have maintained their work in spite of the pandemic. What a legacy Dr Baker has left!

Mission Giving

Mission	Donated
Anglican Missions Board	5,000
Auckland City Mission	275
Christian Broadcasting Association	275
Christians Against Poverty	740
Church Army	75
Firefly Orphanage	700
Foodbank	50
Hospital Chaplaincy	275
Kailakuri Hospital	1,050
Kondoa: Bishop Given's Stipend	5,130
Kondoa: Evangelists' Support	2,420
Kondoa: Special needs	3,803
General missions giving	3,059
Radio Rhema	150
Total	\$17,452

Of the above, Vestry initiated \$5,000 to the Anglican Missions Board for general missions and \$1500 towards Bishop Given's stipend. Nearly \$11,000 was parishioner mission giving.

Well done, St Stephen's,

Ian Hardcastle

Sunday Service times report to AGM 2021

In 2020 Vestry was requested by an 8-00am worshipper to consider making the start time of that service later to assist the now aging congregation. Various benefits to such a change were claimed. The 2020 SGM requested vestry to have considered the matter in time for the 2021 AGM.

Vestry discussed the question in depth and passed it to a working party for thorough consideration. The working party's findings are available as Vestry Report *Draft Report to Vestry on decision regarding times of Sunday Services* which is available on request from the office - office@ststephenswgp.org.nz or from Don Battley - donb.revs2@xtra.co.nz.

The Working Party clarified that there are many interconnected issues that determine start times of services. These include the amount of time the priest needs between the services to interact with people and to prepare for the second service and issues with car parking as the driveways are narrow and vehicles can block each other if cars are both exiting and entering at the same time. The Working Party was convinced that the amount of time between the services, currently around 45 minutes, could not be reduced.

Therefore any change to the 8-00am would move the 10-00am start time to later, making the ending of that service later (i.e. a 10-30 start would end close to 12 noon). This in turn would impact unfavourably on those people's lives, especially those with children. Vestry sees the steady development of our ministries to families as our top mission priority and is not willing to jeopardise that development.

Although the Working Party could see that the 8-00am worshippers could be helped by a later start, the matter thus seemed to be stalemated.

A breakthrough came with a suggestion that we adopt the American practice of having two seasonal timetables: a summer timetable (8-00 and 10-00 starts) and a winter timetable of 8-30 and 10-30 (probably for just three months of a year). A response from the person who has raised this matter seemed supportive. The earlier (present) summer timetable is suitable for a recreational community such as ours and the later winter one recognises the impact of daylight saving and dark mornings including health and safety issues.

Vestry therefore has decided that we try this idea experimentally for this coming winter. We will survey worshippers beforehand to find if the experiment is supported, and do a more comprehensive survey of worshippers towards the end of the trial period. This is not a commitment to adopt the change - it is a trial to test it out. Vestry are aware of the risk of 'the law of unintended consequences' so we need to proceed with care and mutual openness.

It is therefore being reported to the AGM that the parish, subject to conducting a parishioner survey, will trial starting Sunday services at 8-30 and 10-30am for three months of the 2021 winter, with a further survey of worshippers at the end of the trial.

D H Battley, on behalf of Vestry.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th July 2020 at 11.30 am

Present:

The Revd Ian Hardcastle and 39 parishioners.

Apologies: *Uta Humphries, Rev. Dr. Don Battley, Rev. Neville and Janice Cooper, Dr. Lindy Austin, Christine Curtis, Pauline and Keith Colbert, Rev. Graham Lamont, Alan Lyth, Bob and Susan Newbould, Peter and Jo Little, Joanne and Michael Nonweiler, Di Hillas, and Rev. Lorraine Lloyd*

The Revd Ian Hardcastle opened the meeting at 11:42 with prayer.
The Parish Roll was tabled.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 February 2019 and 17 March 2019 as confirmed at the Vestry meeting of Tuesday 23 April 2019.

Matters Arising:

No matters raised

Vicar's Report

The Vicar referred to his published written report

Motion that the Vicar's Report be received.

Ian Hardcastle/ Guinny Sorensen
Agreed.

Treasurer's Report

Torben Sorensen gave a report highlighting the change in treasurer's role to oversee now that we entrust accounting to TML. He discussed that while there has been a slight drop in income, St Stephen's was able to retain a surplus of \$26,000 in the last year largely due to the financial management of Alison Vedder and Ian Hardcastle. We were helped by several factors during the Covid 19 crisis, including a government subsidy of \$23,000 and quota relief from the Diocese, and as we currently do not meet the government's minimum income loss going forward we will not be receiving any more assistance from 1st July. Torben noted that there is more uncertainty in the coming months as to the church's financial wellbeing, and vestry will need to actively manage these circumstances.

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 2019, 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

Jon Henderson asked for clarification regarding how much the church depends on the Op Shop for income. Torben Sorensen (as treasurer) noted that the Op Shop seems to be doing well, generating a profit of \$60,000 during the last year and that the post-lockdown performance has been encouraging. Although we do depend on the Op Shop to fund our programmes, St. Stephen's currently has some cash-in-hand that could temporarily cover this position with a view to it becoming self-sustaining in the future.

There was discussion around whether vestry should be able to increase the number of hours available for the position. Rhyl Jansen suggested budgeting for a 40 hour/week position but allowing flexibility with the allocation of hours between staff, while Sue Smith questioned whether there would be many people interested in taking a position that only offered 10 hours per week and encouraged vestry to make the new position (if it was created) a 15 hour per week role.

Discussion continued regarding whether the church's finances could support the additional payroll expense. It was noted that while the Op-Shop is performing well, it is dependent on volunteers who may not be able to continue serving beyond the end of the year. Rev. Ian Hardcastle reminded attendees that the Op-Shop is not the only source of funds, and the position could be financially supported through increased giving.

Rev. Anne Aspden prayed that children and families would come to St. Stephen's, and that as a congregation we would be inspired to give as needed to fund this venture.

Dr. Craig Fowler and Brian Crosbie each noted the danger of burnout should one person try to carry the role single-handedly, observed that in *trying* to carry the role alone, Wendy was vulnerable to burnout. Craig observed that children and families ministry has become increasingly labour intensive, and stated his belief that the highly relational nature of the role means that a person would be hard-pressed to fulfil it in just 20 hours per week.

Motion: That vestry be encouraged to fund the Children and Families ministry for up to 40 hours per week Christina Jensen/ Wendy McInnes
Agreed.

Motion: vote of thanks to Wendy and Craig for the huge amount of work that they do.
Anne Aspden Received by acclamation

Scrutineers

Motion: 'that Rev. Trevor McCracken, Baffin Wong, and Rhyl Jansen be appointed as scrutineers for the ballot'
Ian Hardcastle/

Agreed

Number of members of Vestry to be elected

Motion: 'that the number of members of vestry be 7
tle/

Ian Hardcas-

Agreed.

Receive the name of the Vicar's Warden

The Vicar named Alison Vedder as his Vicar's Warden

Motion: Vote of thanks to Alison Vedder for her hard work

Ian Hardcastle/
Agreed

Election of the People's Warden

Roy Smith was introduced as the sole nominee for Peoples' Warden

Ian extended thanks to the outgoing vestry members- to Rob Aspden for his work on property, to Christina Jensen for her work on health and safety especially through the Covid crisis, and to Becky Wong for her work on personnel and employment matters.

Roy Smith was elected as People's Warden

Election of Vestry members

There were 7 nominations for Vestry; voting papers were distributed.

Nominees listed were Don Battley, Wendy Fowler, Gill Henderson, Brian Crosbie, Torben Sorensen, and Di Hillas

Craig Fowler raised the matter that Jo Nonweiler's name was not listed on the ballot, and the ballot called to vote for 6 .

Motion: That we manually alter the ballots and add Jo's Nonweiler's name and change the number of positions to vote for to seven instead of six.

Peter Lloyd/ Trevor McCracken
Agreed.

Vestry Election Results

The scrutineers returned Vestry Election results with the voting papers, and the following were elected: Brian Crosbie, Gill Henderson, Jo Nonweiler, Di Hillas, Don Battley, Torben Sorensen, and Wendy Fowler

Op Shop Financial Distributions

Alison explained the process for voting of receivers of the monthly 10% of Op Shop profit, that the top three picks of volunteers' votes go forward for remainder of this year, and that the top three picks of parish votes go forward.

Possible receivers listed were Local primary schools- garden to table, canteen, I've got

your backpack, St Johns, Hospital Chaplains, City Mission, Anglican Trust for Women and Children, Stepsforward (Family/ Whanau Support Centre), Love soup, Whangaparaoa Girl Guides, Whangaparaoa Play Centre, Orewa Community Christmas Lunch, Scouts, and Foodbank

Consideration of Memorial Precinct Proposal

Alison read Graham's Memorial Wall presentation:

Earlier this year the Vestry agreed to recommend to the AGM scheduled for 22 March that parishioners endorse proceeding with the building of a Columbarium Memorial Wall beside the Stanmore Bay Road side of the Chapel. The proposal envisaged that the Wall would be approximately 7.5 metres long and 1.2 metres high. In order to make the structure lighter, the intention was to use self-supporting Glass Fibre Reinforced Concrete rather than conventional steel reinforced material. The Vestry looked forward to being able to advise parishioners that, between them, a number of people had undertaken to give approximately \$35,000 of the \$42,100 that would be needed to build the Memorial Wall. The Covid-19 emergency caused the 22 March AGM to be postponed. It also made it necessary to review the Wall proposal, in particular because some of the people who'd undertaken to donate indicated that they would no longer be able to give what they'd hoped. This prompted the Wall working party to investigate whether the Wall could be built in sections rather than all at once.

The working party was pleased when the designers produced a plan that envisaged the Wall being built as three self-contained sections. The new design envisages retention of the following features of what had been proposed earlier.

- i. The foundation for the Wall will be a three step, piled-beam footing that will make it possible to avoid significant oak tree roots.
- ii. The Wall panels will be pre-cast, using Glass Fibre Reinforced Concrete, in the Liquidstone factory and then installed on the footing.
- iii. The Stanmore Bay Road side of the panels will be scored to look like a conventional block wall comprised of 180mm square blocks, with a capping along the top.
- iv. The Chapel side of the panels will look like honey comb with niches that will allow a canister of ashes to be interred behind each of the block faces.
- v. The relatives of those whose ashes are interred will be entitled to have an appropriately worded, 160mm square, bronze plaque mounted on the relevant block face on the front side of the Wall.
- vi. Once a canister has been interred the relevant niche will be permanently capped.
- vii. A path will be built in front of the Wall. The path will provide easy access for people, including those using walking frames, to view the plaques.
- viii. In order to provide added weather protection, and to lessen the risk of anyone tampering with the sealed niches, sheets of tough acrylic glass will be attached to the back of the Wall. When an interment is being made the relevant cover sheet will be removed but it will be reinstalled immediately after the interment.

In May the Vestry gave approval for the Wall project to proceed but on the under-

standing that no contracts would be let until the necessary funding had been received. Since then, between them, a number of parishioners have given over \$35,000 to finance the construction of the footing, the design and manufacture of the first Wall module and the laying of the access path. This has enabled the Vestry to let the relevant contracts. Liquidstone has already begun work on manufacturing the first module and the foundation contractor hopes to begin building the footing within the next two weeks. At its June meeting the Vestry also considered Liquidstone's offer to produce the second Wall module at a discounted rate. It decided, in effect, to lend the Wall project \$10,000 so that the second module could be made and installed along with the first one. The Vestry agreed to underwrite the second module in this way on the understanding that parishioners would be invited to contribute to paying off the underwriting.

A funding Appeal Brochure has been produced. It shows that people can contribute either by making a direct donation or by pre-purchasing a niche to be used for the interment of a relative's, or one's own, ashes. Already contributions that cover 25% of the Vestry's underwriting have been made. Making a start on the building of a Memorial Wall means that the dreams and hopes shared by many of those who've worked and worshipped at St Stephen's over many years are now being realized. It would be wonderful if we could complete this project, pay off what the Vestry has underwritten, and develop this corner of our grounds as a Memorial Garden, a place for meditation, perhaps by the time our Bishop comes to visit us in October. I ask you to pray for the success of the Appeal and to consider whether you can help us achieve our target. Thank you in advance!

Alison referred to the vote of thanks to Graham made earlier in the meeting Frank Brindle asked a question of how many sets of ashes could be interred per niche, it was confirmed that it is only one set.

Possible candidates that could be interred are First degree relatives of Parishioners, members of armed services, and other situations based on Vicar's discretion.

Motion of Proxy Voting to Synod

Ron McInnes began discussion of presenting a Motion of Proxy Voting to Synod. He expressed his concern that proxy votes to meetings are not allowed, as they are forbidden by the Diocese. He referred to this AGM, as there were 40 present from a roll of 200 Parishioners, and that therefore 80% of the roll was not allowed to vote.

He relayed that Peter Lloyd as Synod Representative had indicated that it is too late to submit a motion to Synod for this year, therefore it would need to be put before next year's Synod.

He reinforced that as a congregation, we want to have our meetings as democratic as possible, and in it's current state we are not democratic. He stated his motion asks that Synod again review this statute, and allow proxy voting.

There was discussion of the motion centred around the fairness of proxy voting, and Gill Henderson agreed with Ron in the unjustness that disallowed proxy voting had caused him to not be able to participate in several recent meetings due to travel, even though he would have liked to have contributed. She also pointed out that if there was a divisive issue in the parish, it would be easy for someone to collect proxy votes from amongst the parish to support their motions.

There was discussion that in large those who attend the meetings are those who care deeply about the parish, and through sitting in the meeting we are allowing the Holy Spirit to intervene in ways proxy voting would not allow. It was pointed out that in the future it might be possible to be remotely present and able to vote electronically. It was also noted that the motion asks for an amendment to the statute, while some Parishioners felt more comfortable asking for a review of General Meeting rules.

Motion: 'that our Synod representatives present a bill to the next Synod to amend the Statutes to allow for proxy voting

Ron McInnes/ Paul Huffam
Lost 9/20

Timing of Sunday First Communion Service

Paul Huffam led discussion on the timing of the first communion service, expressing concern for the older part of our congregation, as it is harder for them to prepare in the morning. His proposal is as follows:

This is not a sudden issue; for about the last 5 years I have become increasingly concerned for the welfare of our congregation, particularly the most elderly. For some time it has been felt by some of our congregation that a start time of 8.30am instead of 8.00am would be very warmly welcomed. I am of the same opinion, and propose that we change to an 8.30am start time.

Some relevant factors are outlined:

1. 19 years ago (when I arrived in this parish) old people were the 75 -85 year olds; nowadays the old folk are in their late 80s and 90s (with a few centenarians). At 82 I know that in our 9th and 10th decades getting up in the morning and preparing to go out takes significantly longer. As a result, some people have stopped coming to the 8am service. This I feel is reflected somewhat in our attendance numbers.
2. While a small number of parishioners choose to attend the Thursday 10am service the majority at the 8am service prefer to keep to Sunday worship.
3. The 10.00am service does not appeal to some older folk for their regular worship as much as the traditional 8 am service which for them is more satisfying.
4. In considering this request we should bear in mind that a good proportion of our church here for many decades, and in a good few cases, for example during the fund-raising for our new church, they gave considerable financial support. While this is not necessarily an influencing factor in the matter of worship service timing, people gave

their wholehearted support which indicates their wish to see our parish grow and flourish in our community. Currently, I would not be surprised if the regular giving of these older people might well be a very significant proportion of our parish income. If so, our parish should ensure we do not lose them, and do what we can to maintain their place in our congregation.

5. I believe keeping the 8.00am start time simply because that's the time it has always been, is not a credible stance because of the changed nature of our nation-wide demographic, for instance in the increased proportion of people in their 80s and 90s.

6. Reducing the gap between the two services might put a little pressure on the presiding priest, but this I believe could be alleviated by one or more of the following:

- i. changing the second service to a 10.30am start;
- ii. Reverting to the use of "worship leaders" (liturgist) in both services which could ease pressure on the presiding priest;
- iii. holding the 8.00am service in the Chapel.

7. I feel we should show our older and elderly parishioners that we really care about them by showing some real consideration for their faithfulness. It would not involve extra funding, and possibly it may prove a catalyst to increase and in some cases, restore our attendance numbers.

8. Finally, a survey of the parish on this matter could test the will of our people.

Discussion followed, with questions raised on attendance numbers, the will of the majority of the 8:00 Parishioners, and if vestry should be advised to take Daylight Savings Time into account when making their decision. There were a few solutions brainstormed, Rev Hardcastle also advised the congregation that this was a very complex matter that vestry had already deliberated 65 minutes of meeting time over and that each solution presented a host of problems in vestry's deliberation.

Amendment: that we add the words "taking into account daylight savings"

Ron McInnes/ Paul Huffam

Carried 17 yes

Motion: 'that, in the matter of the timing of the first communion service on Sundays, the proposal by Paul Huffam, dated 25 Feb, 2020, be fully considered and resolved on or before the 2021 AGM, taking into account daylight savings

Paul Huffam/ Pamela Newby

Carried 18 in favour

6 against

Approval of AGM Minutes

Motion: 'that Vestry be given the power to approve the minutes of this AGM at the next Vestry meeting'.
Moved from the Chair. Agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.36 pm.

Confirmed as a correct record at the Vestry meeting of 21 July

Minutes of Special General Meeting

14 October 2020 at 7:00 pm

Present:

The Revd Ian Hardcastle and 28 Parishioners

Apologies: Jon Henderson and Guinny Sorensen

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7.03pm by Rev. Hardcastle, who opened the meeting with thanks to those in attendance and prayer for wisdom in the meeting ahead.

Motion: “That we receive the copy of the Parish Roll”

Proposed: Ian Hardcastle

Agreed

Motion: “That the Church proceed to join the two Op-shops together with two openings.

Proposed: Alison Vedder, Roy Smith

Alison Vedder (Parish Manager and Vicar’s warden) stated that the restructure of the Op Shops has been mooted for some time and explained that the landlord has offered a rent reduction contingent on completing the “Hole in the Wall” (HitW) by year’s end.

Arguments in favour of the supporting the HitW were made by several parishioners, including the wardens, treasurer, and Op-shop volunteers. Proponents of the HitW noted that management of the shop would be easier were the shops physically linked, and emphasized that staffing difficulties may also be ameliorated by the HitW which would allow the second-space shop to be open more regularly. As such, it would also be more profitable—and its profits are needed to support ongoing parish ministries.

The Vicar clarified upon request that two holes had always been intended, with one hole being planned to connect the trading portions of the shops, and a second being planned to link the two backroom areas.

Concern was expressed that running such a large enterprise as the Op shop distracts our modest sized parish from its focal ministries and strains volunteers.

Concern was also expressed that the cost to reinstate the wall could later drain Parish reserves and might result in parishioners being called upon to cover the cost. Rev. Don Battley explained why this concern was not warranted given the healthy state of parish

reserves and the amount already saved in the building maintenance fund.

Amended Motion Part One: That we change the wording in the stated motion from “Our Church” to “The Parish”

Proposed: Paul Huffam, Michael Schiska

Carried

Amended Motion Part Two: addition of the words “and to set aside a reserve fund of \$10,000 to cover the cost of reinstating that firewall if needed”.

Proposed: Paul Huffam, Michael Schiska

Lost

When discussion of the original motion continued, parishioners reinforced that necessity of funds from both shops with respect to the sustainability of current ministry programs, especially those that relate to families and the future of the church. Other parishioners observed that the HitW would improve efficiency, allow better use of floor space, and permit more sense of community among shop volunteers.

Several current volunteers encouraged those in attendance to volunteer as they were able and spoke to the joy they received from working at the Op Shop.

Restated Motion: That our Parish proceed to join the two Op Shops together with two openings.

Proposed: Alison Vedder, Roy Smith

Agreed

The Vicar thanked everyone for listening with an open mind. The Rev. Anne Aspden closed in prayer.

The Vicar declared the meeting closed at 7:58 pm

Confirmed as a correct record at Vestry meeting of 20 October



Communion Service 5th July 2020

Prisoners of Hope



Trinity Sunday 2020



Love & Reconciliation



Who do you say that I am?

Morning Prayer 23rd August 2020



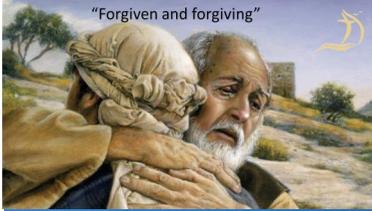
Sunday 10am Communion Service
14th June 2020

At Level 1!



Walking on Water: Faith Comes by Hearing

9-Aug-2020



"Forgiven and forgiving"



Communion Service
28-June-2020

The Cost and the Reward



"Even the dogs ..."

16-Aug-2020



Morning Prayer
Sunday 17th May 2020

Wheat and Weeds



Matthew 13:24-30,36-43



He is risen indeed

Morning Prayer
for Sunday 19th April 2020



Morning Prayer
26-April 2020



Sunday Service
2nd August, 2020

Stephen:
full of the Holy Spirit