



St Stephen's

The Anglican Parish of Whangaparaoa Peninsula

Annual Reports



Annual General Meeting 02 April 2023

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Receive the Parish Roll
4. Minutes of 2022 AGM
5. Vicar's Report
6. Finance Committee Report
7. **Other Reports:**

Wardens'

Children and Families

"mainly music"

Op Shop

Pastoral Care

Rest Home Ministry

Library

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 Wednesday 29 March)

2023 AGM Vicar's Report January 2022 – March 2023

Post-COVID Recovery

COVID19 was a huge blow to our society in many ways as we have been living cautiously and with reduced social contact since March 2020. It has been good in 2022 increasingly to come out of lockdown and relax as the numbers decreased through the year. Nonetheless, it has been a slow recovery.

I am very grateful to Alison Vedder, the Revd Anne Aspden and Christina Jensen who with me formed the Parish COVID Advisory Group. They have worked to help us navigate the changes to our practices and ways of gathering to help keep us safe and make us feel safe together.

Our 8am congregation was exceptional in that it bounced back with vigour with an attendance of 150% of normal and then has slowly and steadily climbed through the year showing a growth of 36% from an average of 22 up to 30. My observation is that this is not new growth but more regular attendance of members of the 8am service serving to increase the weekly average.

The 10am congregation had a loss of five families over the COVID period with families choosing to move out of the parish and mostly out of Auckland. This reduced average attendance by 20 (10 being children) immediately. Attendance still has not returned to pre-COVID levels although it has recently been around 40 present with up to 12 children.

From August to December, the average weekly number of video service views has been 29. This figure may represent more people since a video may be watched by more than one person together. If video views are added onto the service attendance the combined attendance is back to pre-COVID levels.

Video Streaming

This year saw the completion of the video streaming project. St John's College Trust Board offered grants to parishes to build video capacity – this paid for most of the project. Michael Ng joined us bringing prior video experience and masterminded the design of our system. It came in under budget with more advanced capability than I envisaged. The great advantage of Michael's design is that it provides presets which allow the sound operator simply to type a digit on the keyboard to change cameras and where they are pointing. It is simple to operate and effective. He even managed to fit a third camera into the budget to be used in the chapel when desired for a funeral or wedding.

We now offer live streaming of the 10am service and we post an edited version

of it later in the day.

Telephone System

We have moved the office, vicarage and shop telephones onto a common system which is cheaper and gives us a better and more flexible service. Our thanks to Desmond Jackson for his advice and referral to a good provider.

Resthome Ministry

We continue to offer a monthly communion service at the Peninsula Club and rest home services in Halldene Hospital, Northhaven Hospital and Beachfront Rest home.

Intergenerational Services

Intergenerational services are intended to allow both children and adults to discuss and explore the Biblical passage or concept being offered. They use an imaginative variety of approaches. They differ from family services in that they are not aimed at children with adults being patient for the children's sake, but they aim to engage both adults and children together and in so doing build relationships between the generations.

This last year, Wendy led our Good Friday and Easter services in this style which was well received. About the

middle of year, we decided to introduce a monthly service in this style. It takes some creativity to think of ways to engage both children and adults in activities together. Alison Vedder, Wendy



and I have attended seminars about Intergenerational services and the Diocese now has an Intergenerational Facilitator. We are involved in the Diocesan Intergenerational discussion group which allows parishes to swap ideas and discuss what works and what does not.

Sunday School

Wendy has reduced her hours as Children and Families Minister now focussing on the Intergenerational Service and Messy Church. She has also provided activity sheets and some crafts for Sunday mornings which help engage the children in the gospel account while they remain in the service.

We held a parents' meeting to discuss this change and Siew Mei Ng (assisted by

Robyn Jackson) volunteered to run Sunday School once a month, giving us the Intergenerational service on second Sundays, Sunday School on 3rd Sundays and Messy Church on the last Sunday of the month.

This has worked far better than I expected. On one Sunday, I had to go back and tell the children that church has finished and everyone was having morning tea if they would like to join us. They were too engrossed in their activities to leave the church!

We have advertised for a Children's and Families' Minister for months with only one response which did not work out. I am told by the Diocesan AYM person that there is a real shortage of people for Children's and Youth work across the denominations. It appears that the solution must come from within.

Just recently, Siew Mei has generously offered to run Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month as well.

There is now a group of Intermediate and secondary school aged children. We sponsored six of them to the Scripture Union Surfing Camp at Raglan in the summer holidays which was greatly enjoyed. I feel we need to start a Youth group for them and I am in discussion with parents about that at present.

Op Shop

The Op Shop has performed wonderfully well since we came out of lockdown in late 2021, with new managers working under the Vestry Subcommittee of Alison Vedder, Gill Henderson, Andrew Bruce-Brand and Phred Thurston. Alison has worked very hard both to direct and to cover gaps and the shop has performed at the highest level we have seen.

In budgeting for the year, we wondered if we dare budget for sales of \$240,000 with a profit of \$44,000, whereas in fact the shop made sales of 295,000 and a profit of \$100,000.

Well done to Alison, the subcommittee, the managers and all the volunteers for a record effort. These results allow us to be adventurous and generous in our ministries and giving as a parish.

Lay Licences

During the year, Vestry and I applied for Lay Licences for Wendy Fowler (Children and Families' Minister), Peter Lloyd (Preacher) and Helen Hardcastle (Pastoral and Preaching).

Alpha Course

We ran the Alpha Course for Families again this year. We had six adults and up to seven children attending as guests. We saw two adults and at least one child come to Christ and the rest of the adults deepen their relationship with the Holy Spirit. We are grateful to God for these results and to all who helped make it possible by catering, organising and leading.

Property

The garden seat under the oak tree has been replaced with a new one. This became a gift to the parish from two families as a memorial to their loved ones.

The Memorial Wall has now paid for itself.

Vestry has decided to open up the remaining space under the church as a usable storage area. This involves laying a concrete floor and opening up the accessway as originally designed by the architect. The space is already provided with lighting and smoke detectors.

Mission

The parish has been blessed with a bequest from the estate of John Moxon to be used for mission purposes at the behest of the Vicar. In consultation with the Vestry, this has been used initially to fund the parish's sending a short term mission team with SOMA NZ to Vanuatu. In August, the fund will largely pay for the parish to send a team to Kondoa Diocese as invited by Bishop Given.

As our finances have improved again, it is good to be able to be generous again in our mission support.

Parish Registers since the last AGM

Baptisms: Oliver Webb, Angelica Baumann, Jamie Baumann.

Funerals: Warwick Webb, Phyllis Roberts, Rae White, Claire Robertson, Robert Shotton, Sven Jensen, Sandy Callinan, Athol Agnew, Pat Franks, Sandy Callin.

Wardens' Report

"Living with the virus" became the new catch phrase for 2022. Services started to look a lot more normal, but although restrictions at Red level were

not as severe as previously, people were still cautious about gathering. As a church we have been guarded in relaxing restrictions and it is pleasing to note that although parishioners have caught the virus there has been no spread as a result of attending church. Thank you all for your part in containing the spread. As time goes on it is good to see people becoming more willing to engage.

We planned a dinner to celebrate our Patron Saint, St Stephen, but it did have to be delayed by a month until numbers of people with covid-19 subsided. We chose the theme of a Hat Party and the creations made were interesting to say the least! Thank you for all the very willing hands that made light work of everything - especially the clean up afterwards. This readiness to help is part of



Winners Best Family Set	Winner: Spikey
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what makes our church community great to be a part of.

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.

Our entrance way has been significantly enhanced thanks to the hard work of Uta Humphries and Phread Thurston.



Phread does a great deal of work around the church and the Op Shop, looking after the maintenance at both sites as well as co-ordinating contractors and being responsible for collections and deliveries for the OpShop. A vote of thanks is due to him.

We are very thankful to God for the way his Spirit has been supporting us and the blessings bestowed on us. We look forward with hope to the future.

Torben Sorensen (People's Warden) and **Alison Vedder** (Vicar's Warden)

Children & Families Ministry

As we crept into 2022, Tonga suffered a devastating earthquake and tsunami on January 15th. The children put on a Mission Lunch at very short notice on 23 January to raise funds to send, raising \$2200. It was fortunate indeed that the decision was made to not delay as New Zealand entered Red Level of the new Covid-19 framework and with the Omicron variant raging people were a lot more cautious about gathering. This also delayed the start of **Messy Church** for the year, so we started with 2 sessions in May (1st and last Sundays), and although the team was hit by Covid in June others stepped up and made sure it went ahead - thank you to all involved! Attendance at Messy Church is approximately 40 each time.

Half way through the year we moved to holding **Sunday School** monthly rather than weekly, and the children being in the service alongside their parents. Tables on 1 side of the church became a permanent feature for the children to work on activity sheets relating to the Bible readings for the day.

Intergenerational services started on the second Sunday of the month with the aim of learning from each other and facilitating meaningful interaction between multiple generations, creating a sense of family.

We have so far not been able to employ a youth group leader, but 6 of our young people were able to be sponsored to go to Scripture Union Camp at Raglan in the Summer holidays. They felt it was an



incredible experience to be able to connect with each other and others from different parishes, with lots to do including Bible study with a focus on the Beatitudes. They hope to be able to attend more camps in the future.

“mainly music”

Mainly Music numbers are showing signs of returning to pre-covid times, and the delight on the faces of children as they recognise words and actions of a song they are learning, is priceless.

Our difficulty is to find sufficient volunteers to have good coverage for the sessions. Likewise, the morning tea team which helps to create good

interaction, is shorthanded.

We have been blessed to have Glenys Michael presenting the music session on Tuesdays for some time, but now, she and her family are moving offshore. She leaves a big gap. Thanks Glenys. Also, Wendy Fowler will be taking maternity leave for a good part of term 2. We hold Wendy close in our prayers for a safe delivery and an excellent recovery.

Faye Pennington has joined the Wednesday team to replace Kathy Anderson, who retired last year, after years of welcoming families through our doors, so beautifully. Thanks Kathy. Faye is doing a great job and is a true team member. Finally, thanks goes to our faithful longstanding team members, with whom we would not be able to continue this rewarding ministry.

Gill Cranch and Wendy Fowler, “mainly music” leaders

Op Shop Report

The shop has enjoyed record success in 2022, and the overall appearance of the shop goes from strength to strength. A vote of thanks is due to our managers and our amazing band of volunteers who happily donate their time and take real pride in the part they play in the shop’s success. This year marks 25 years since volunteer Lorraine started being a part of the St Stephen’s Op Shop project – she has seen people come and go and huge changes in premises, coming 3 days a week to work with books and toys. Her knowledge is invaluable. As well as the people who work onsite, we also have volunteers who work offsite with washing clothes which have not been laundered prior to donating, and checking puzzles and games for completeness as well as driving our van for collections and deliveries.

Providing a reliable service for accepting donations of goods has been the biggest challenge for the shop, and we have frequently had to say “No donations today” or limiting what we are accepting - e.g. during summer heaters, blankets, duvets and winter clothing not accepted. This is largely due to lack of storage space in the shop. We are grateful that Vestry has approved completing the development of the unfinished basement area to provide a large storage space both for church use and storage of off-season donations for the shop. Being able to consistently accept all donations will enhance our reputation in the community and enable us to fulfil the aim of the shop of “Helping people dispose of their surplus items in a good way.”

“Charity of the Month” programme In addition to the tithe to local charities the profits from the shop have enabled us to provide a roof for a new church in Kondoa and support the work of the parish such as funding six young people to go to Scripture Union camp in January. With the success of the shop Vestry agreed to donate 2% of monthly profits to the Disaster Relief fund so that the church is able to respond quickly to future events. This amount may be increased in future.

Month	Charity	Amount
January	Firefly	\$820
February	Youth in Transition (from 2021 voting)	\$611
March	Canteen	\$580
April	WanderSearch	\$733
May	Foodbank	\$1,034
June	Hospital Chaplains	\$1,104
July	City Mission	\$787
August	Te Pa (Formerly Prisoner’s Aid)	\$636
September	Love Soup	\$928
October	Orewa Christmas Lunch	\$1,565
November	Youth in Transition	\$1,500
December	HBC Coastguard (Paid 2023)	\$700
Total		\$10,998

Charity of the Month amounts donated

Alison Vedder, Gill Henderson, Andrew Bruce-Brand and Phread Thurston
Op Shop Committee



Pastoral Care

As I ‘write’ this report, Rob & I have personally been able to be on the receiving end of others’ love and care. Having broken my arm four weeks ago, Rob is having to do the typing as well as the cooking and bottle washing etc, but we have been inundated with beautiful meals and invitations plus help with washing, ironing and house cleaning in the first couple of weeks. We are

so grateful!

Over the past year our Covid pandemic team has come together whenever needed, to plan or modify our planning for the various scenarios we were likely to be dealing with in the parish. Whilst it has been possible to gather for worship and this has been a joy for those who have attended, there has also been reluctance of others to come to Church because of health issues and possible Covid related fears. We are grateful to Ian and Michael for the recording and broadcasting of the Sunday 10 am service. Whilst we know this has been greatly appreciated by those not able to attend, it has nevertheless meant a loss of social contact with some parishioners which is sad for everyone.

Once again we were aware that without regular face to face contact some people were more likely to become discouraged and could feel isolated or depressed. Trying to make contact with people by phone, text or email has not always proved easy, however we have continued to endeavour to make contact with parishioners.

Earlier in the year we still had a number of older people and others with special needs, who, under lockdown conditions, required help with shopping, since those with major health issues and the frail elderly were required to stay home. Not everyone had a family member close by who could shop for them, so we were again very grateful to younger or more able-bodied parishioners who offered help collecting and delivering shopping to people who needed this kind of assistance. Knowing that such offers of help were available has made a difference for people, and the phone calls from time to time to see if people had need of assistance with shopping, doctor's appointments, picking up prescriptions etc., have been appreciated.

Home and Pastoral Visits

Ian and I have talked at regular intervals about who might need visiting or for home communion. Hazel Richardson has provided valuable support in assisting with home communions. My thanks also go to Lindy Austin, Terry and Paul Huffam, Max and Gill Cranch, Sylvia Gudsell, Gill and Jon Henderson, Wendy Fowler and Christina Jensen for their continued help with pastoral visits and regular contact with people. Sylvia G has continued to assist with hospital visits which has been greatly appreciated.

Thank you Lord, for the good that has been able to be done pastorally and the help given during the past year. In spite of the continuing Covid related pressures, we have been grateful for opportunities to share God's love with others.

Prayer Chain:

Our small team of eight prayer chain members have continued to faithfully pray for people as requests have come in. We have been amazed at the number of answers to prayers we have received in response to our and others' prayers.

As Co-ordinator of the requests that come in it has been gratifying to see God's faithfulness, and I am very grateful to this team for their commitment

Taste and See Meals:

A number of meals have been provided for parishioners from time to time and some meals have continued to be given to Love Soup where possible for those in need.

When requests have been made for particular support following a spell in hospital or during several weeks of convalescence, meals have been made for families or individuals.

We were able to do the Christmas baking for delivery to people in December and gave out 100 trays of baking. Thanks to all involved and who contributed in some way.

Northhaven Rest Home Ministry:

Ian and I take turns in visiting Northhaven providing two communion or morning worship services on both the second and fourth Wednesday of the month for the residents and family members who have wished to attend, when Covid restrictions permitted.

Occasionally we are asked by staff to bless a room following a family bereavement, or to visit a resident who may be dying and perhaps meet and spend time with family members at what is clearly a time of particular need.

Knitters and Chatters Group:

We have continued to meet when we could as a small group on Thursday afternoons in the church meeting room. We commence with prayer and fellowship over a cup of tea. Then people set to work knitting clothing for babies and toddlers, shawls & blankets for adults and children. Scarves & beanies for all ages, prayer shawls and other items. We have given away all of the above, some to North Shore Hospital, some to Women's Refuge and some to the Police for needy families and to other individuals as we learn of needs. We have a lot of fun and growing friendships with one another whilst enjoying giving out to others.

Anne Aspden (Pastoral Care Coordinator)

Selwyn Centre

2022 – Post-Covid lockdown disruptions and back into our regular Selwyn Centre fun.

We managed to hold 39 Selwyn Centre sessions in 2022 (Up from 26 in 2021) with guest numbers (19-20) and an average attendance of 15-16 guests.

Stand out highlights were our Midwinter Christmas Party at McHugh's of Cheltenham in June. We were all looking forward to a repeat Christmas Party Picnic at Shakespeare Regional Park in December, but the weather unfortunately did not favour us, followed by a summer of weather disappointment and chaos. However we all enjoyed our Christmas Party at St Stephen's with great food, games and even a visit from Santa to hand out the secret Santa gifts.



A big thank you to our faithful volunteers Jean Holgate, Margaret Heath, Anne Aspden, Mary-Therese Caldwell and Kay Stark who all make Whangaparaoa Selwyn Centre what it is today. Our sessions continue to be the highlight of the week for many of our guests, looking forward to the social interaction, morning tea chat, activities, and games with their friends. We have had some great fun with themes in 2022 including our French Day and our Pink Ribbon fundraiser. Our volunteer Mary-Therese never fails to outshine everyone with her spectacular stand-out outfits.



Thank you to our faithful kitchen volunteers Pam Cunningham and her sister Jan Broadbent, Sylvia Gudsell and Jo Little who together with the fabulous Margaret and Anne faithfully come each month with lovely morning tea contributions and their presence making our sessions extra special and our tummies a little bit bigger. If anyone else would like to come and join Selwyn Centre or help with morning tea you would be more than welcome and very much appreciated.

Julie Taylor, Selwyn Centre Whangaparaoa Co-ordinator

Maintenance Report

The Church buildings and grounds are in pretty good shape. Being able to write that means we have been quietly working away at our maintenance and that has been the case in the last financial year.

The front outside is dominated by the Oak tree. This was pruned in a major way (up to the limit without having to gain Council permission) and weren't we fortunate that we did this? The weather events of early 2023, apart from curling the leaves earlier than autumn, did not affect the tree. And under the tree the seat was replaced with a new 'Penrose Timber Seat'. Thank you Rob Aspden for discovering this comfortable seat and recommending we use it as our replacement.



Our outside entrance area has been a discussion issue for some time and Uta Humphries came up with a wonderful design. The rock stone garden is striking, and the plants are doing well. Uta also works away around the remainder of the gardens updating and injecting new life into them.

Still outside we have our Memorial Wall fully operational, however there is still a minor issue of rust appearing upon the bottom steel angle of the wall. This issue has taken some time and no resolution is available at the time of writing this report.

A lawnmowing roster has been instigated and the lawns get mown regularly. Thank you to those on the roster. The mower is stored in the storeroom and access is via the roller door. A door remote was installed on the wall in a lockbox allowing access to whoever was mowing the lawns without having to access the building and disarm the alarms.

Inside the Church, brackets were installed for the cameras, videoing our services. Being able to install them up high has allowed for the videos to avoid taking images of our Parishioners. The fridge in the kitchen decided that being cold was not an option, so this was repaired.

The building itself, and more explicitly the windows of the building got a wash to eradicate the spiders that had made their home in every nook and cranny - an ongoing issue for they are tenacious.

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 try to keep a focus in our Missions support so that our efforts are not diluted too broadly. We maintain contact with Kailakuri Hospital in Bangladesh, and Firefly Children's Home in Nepal and Kondoa Diocese in Tanzania and Andrew Pound flying for Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Kondoa

Kondoa is a poor area of Tanzania - itself a poor country. Each year there are two rainy seasons. If there is too little or too much rain the crops fail. Late in 2022, Bishop Given launched an appeal for help for those who were suffering from a shortage of food. We raised \$3,500 to buy maize for him to give to those in need. He expressed his gratitude for our help.



Bishop Given was very keen for Helen and me to visit in June last year to be present at the consecration of the new cathedral. Due to the uncertainties of COVID at that stage we did not feel able to go, but we were delighted to see photographs of their celebrations. What an amazing achievement it has been. Apparently, it was largely funded by one family in England. They also celebrated ten years of the Bishop's ministry.



The Revd John Qbei (who visited us in 2017) thought he had completed all the papers for his bachelor's degree in the Christian University of Uganda. However, this year, he learnt that there had been a mix up and one of those papers did not qualify for the degree. So he and several other students have to return to Kampala for two months later this year to complete that last paper.

Last year, we were able to help the parish of Amani roof their new building. Since the Op Shop had done exceptionally well, Vestry decided to make a grant of \$3,500 from Op Shop profits as has previously been our practice.

Bishop Given has invited us to send a team in August this year. I have been asked to lead the team which will be organised under SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad). Let me know if you are interested in being part of the team – there are a few places left.

Kailakuri Hospital

The hospital was established in Bangladesh by Dr Edric Baker a New Zealander. It aims to provide healthcare for the poor by the poor. Before he died he trained villagers in medicine and even general surgery. Their recent annual report shows impressive statistics of the number of people they are treating and how efficiently they use the funds they are given.

They serve 22 villages providing health education to 28,000, antenatal care to 583 women, 44,373 outpatient visits (including TB and diabetes), 1407 inpatient admissions. They treated 1,596 diabetes and 115 TB patients. All this was accomplished for \$NZ464,538 or \$17 per patient contact!

Our giving to Kailakuri comes from your initiative by specifying sums to pass onto them. We would have to agree it gives very good service for the money given.

Mission Aviation Fellowship

The Pound family, who visited us in 2021, are now established in South Sudan. Andrew has completed all the formalities to allow him to fly in those African countries and the type ratings for the MAF aircraft in use there. The children have adapted well to the change in country and culture and each month, Andrew sends a readable and entertaining newsletter of developments and events they encounter.



Vanuatu Trip

In March 2023, Posiano Iosefa and I set off on a SOMA short term mission to a remote diocese in Vanuatu and the Province of Melanesia. The team was lead by the Revd Andrew Allan-Johns from Rangiora. We were invited by Bishop Worek of the Diocese of Banks and Torres Islands.

As we were about to leave two tropical cyclones passed over the southern islands of Vanuatu in three days.



All flights were suspended for a week. As we were thinking of postponing the trip some months, we had a renewed invitation from the Bishop: "We are eagerly expecting you. Come!" and confirmation from

the airline that we were booked on the next day's flight with domestic flights from the capital to the outlying destination island of Vanua Lava for two days later. So we went.

When we arrived, we found that cyclone damage in the capital was mainly broken trees with some panel damage to buildings. The Bishop told us that his diocese had escaped damage altogether. However, the airline was not actually flying to the outer islands. After some days of being told that we would fly any day, we found that although the airfield was open, the aircraft were held for emergency use and scheduled flights would not resume until after our departure home. So we had to leave and come home again.

We did get to visit a local parish church and lead healing prayer after the service with about six people being healed. Importantly, I think, we had good discussions and fellowship with the Bishop who is under considerable strain and who seemed to appreciate the opportunity to talk with outsiders and pray with us for his diocese.

Ian Hardcastle



Finance Committee Report

Although we started the year with a budget suggesting a deficit of \$10,000, the final reports show that St Stephen's Church has finished 2022 with a surplus of \$59,886! This was largely due to receiving two significant bequests totalling \$39,000 and that while a full time Children & Families worker was budgeted for, Wendy reduced her hours considerably and we have not been successful in engaging someone else. We continue to seek another leader for this ministry and thus have included it in this year's budget. We are, however, one of many churches who are seeking to employ such a person.

The shop has exceeded expectations in contributing \$101,000 after expenses and direct charitable giving of \$13,500. Should we succeed in engaging a full time Children & Families Minister, the proposed budget would be likely to be in deficit as shown. Having significant reserves, this is not of concern to Vestry but could then suggest the need for a review of our giving.

We needed to replace the Chapel organ, and this combined with other maintenance came to \$23,532 which was considerably more than budgeted for, however this was able to be paid for from general funds rather than needing to call on the Property Maintenance Special Fund which continues to grow at a rate of \$500 per month. This will stand us in good stead when the time comes for major repairs such as painting both the Chapel and the Church.

The people of St Stephen's are generous in their giving to others in need, the accompanying table summarises donations to a range of missions.

Finance Committee
(Vicar and Wardens)

Name of Mission	Amount
Auckland City Mission	\$400
Anglican Missions Board:	
Tonga Eruption Appeal	\$2,200
Ukraine Appeal	\$30
Barnabas Aid	\$200
Christian Broadcasting Assn	\$400
Firefly Orphanage	\$271
Hospital Chaplaincy	\$400
Kailakuri Hospital	\$800
Kondoa:	
Bishop's Stipend	\$5,000
Evangelists rent	\$2,600
Food Appeal	\$3,500
Church roof (ex-Op Shop)	\$3,500
Total	\$19,301

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

22nd May 2022 at 11.45 am

Present: The Revd Ian Hardcastle (Chairman) and 21 parishioners.

Apologies: Gill Cranch, Rev. Graham Lamont, Rev. Paul Huffam, Terry Huffam, Rev. Pamela Cunningham, Garth Cunningham, Julie Walker, Jo and Peter Little, Siew Mei Ou Yang

The Revd Ian Hardcastle opened the meeting at 11:57 with welcome and prayer.

The Parish Roll was tabled.

Motion: That we receive the Parish Roll Chairman - Agreed

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th April 2021 were approved

Anne Aspden/Guinny Sorensen. Agreed

Matters Arising:

The Charman clarified that the surplus reported in last year's finances included the donations made to the Memorial Wall of \$60,000. He also reported on actions taken about changing the service times as proposed last year. Vestry surveyed the congregation as to how it would affect them and learned that some 10:00 families would not attend anymore with the time change and the service time change did not seem to be benefiting many from the 8:00 congregation. It was therefore decided not to proceed with the proposed change.

Vicar's Report

2021 was of course dominated by the extended lockdown for almost four months, yet much was accomplished through the year. We ran a successful Alpha course which was transformational in its effect. We planned some a significant Bicultural programme with a Marae visit followed by Café Theo with two engaging speakers. This had to be postponed due to lockdown but we wish to reintroduce the programme when that is again possible.

Op Shop

In 2021, the opening of the wall made an immediate positive difference. Security cameras with police action has reduced the dumping of rubbish at night. The till system was upgraded. Our new managers started during the latter stages of

lockdown and have brought skills and energy to the job share with an immediate increase in sales value. The Shop has performed remarkably well in spite of the restrictions. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Alison for her oversight and, when necessary, direct management of the shop through a demanding year.

AFFIRM Hub Zoom series.

We took advantage of the AFFIRM Hub Zoom training courses offered through the year on subjects ranging from theology, through cross-cultural engagement, practical training in healing and spiritual gifts to personal evangelism. Helen and I gave a four session training in Healing prayer.

Family Ministry

We held a Passover meal as well as the annual Patronal Festival.

Wendy organised a youth ski trip for our youth which we subsidised and during lockdown she arranged a special Zoom seminar from the Parenting Centre for families.

We have made a successful application to Diocesan Development fund for a subsidy for youth work which can help with some of the wages and expenses of developing a youth programme over three years.

Video Technology

Vestry purchased a conference camera and speakerphone to allow vestry members attend by Zoom who would otherwise find it difficult. A second video project is to record and live-stream our services. Michael Ng has put many hours into the design of the system and testing five possible cameras to identify a reasonably priced, quality system. We have purchased the main items now and should soon have the necessary fibre connection into the building to support a live video feed. Michael has discovered a way of controlling the camera which is simple for an unskilled person to use, so overcoming the concern that we would not be able to provide operators for the videoing.

Service Attendance

Our service have slowly headed back up after lockdown. It should be acknowledged that some people will be concerned about the risk of gathering and are staying away still.

8am service is back to pre-lockdown attendances. 10am service is still down about 25 on average. We know 10 regular attenders have moved out of Auckland. But, if we add on the video viewing figures it shows that there is some

transfer online attendance. Thursday service is down by about 5 people. When I talk to Diocesan and other denominational leaders, I hear the same story and worse reflected all over Auckland in particular but also across New Zealand. We have weathered this storm better than many churches and financially amazingly well.

Recorded Lockdown Services

Through the lockdown, we maintained video services each week. They are very time-consuming to produce taking about three days to prepare, film and edit. A good number of people contributed to these with content or production. We introduced Zoom morning tea after the Sunday service time which helped to maintain social connection between members of the congregations.

COVID Policies

Considerable work from the Diocese and within Vestry on establishing safe practices and adapting our behaviour to comply with Health advice. When we moved to the Traffic light settings, the Diocese issued a strict draft policy. It required all gatherings (with only occasional exceptions) to use "My Vaccine Passes". We protested that we should not excommunicate the unvaccinated. Rather to my surprise, the policy was eased to allow regular services without using the Pass provided a well thought through safety plan was approved. I offered such services through December and January but only one person responded, so we took home communion there instead.

Early 2022

The planned Church Army training in evangelism was deferred due to COVID sensitivities. We were able to host the World Day of Prayer service - thank you, Lady Rhyl, for organising it.

Our church delivered one third of the Hope Project Hibiscus Coast Zones - the most of any of the local churches. Well done, St Stephen's! We have replaced the chapel organ in the chapel and had the oak tree professionally pruned.

Thanks

The Vicar thanked the many who contributed to the parish running: so many volunteers, the outgoing vestry, the wardens, treasurer and Secretary, Synods Representatives, our retired clergy and Wendy as Children's & Family Minister, musicians, roster organisers, Gert Strydom for singlehandedly mowing the grass and Phread Thurston for the tremendous amount of maintenance work around the church and shop.

Parish Registers

Baptism: Ivan Thorns.

Wedding: Daniel and Michelle Burnett.

Funerals: 2021: Tim Cocks, Evelyn Cox, Pauline Coates, Effie Rowlands.

2022 to date: Eleanor Battley, Frank Brindle, Peter Gudsell, Win Chadwick.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

2022 Ahead

We are still regrouping and rebuilding after the impact of lockdowns. This is probably the worst single impact on the church since WWII. It will take time to recover. At the moment, we remain cautious while 8000+ new infections occur per day and in the last two months we have had more parish families infected than in all the time since the beginning of 2020. Assuming another variant does not set us back again, we will continue to emerge and reinstate our plans. In June, we have the next AFFIRM Hub Zoom series with the Revd Mark Beale - a most successful church planter in South Auckland. Once we get out of Orange to Green, we can set dates for the postponed activities including Café Theo and the Church Army training. Meanwhile, we are working on plans for the development of Children and Youth work amongst us.

The Vicar asked for a round of applause to thank those who served on vestry during the last year.

Motion: That the Vicar's Report be received.

Guinny Sorensen/Bruce Vedder - Agreed

Motion: That we thank Ian for his work during this difficult time.

Christina Jensen - Passed by Acclamation

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Torben Sorensen, provided an overview of last year's financial accounts. He gave an overview of the financial workings of the Parish, discussing how the church treasurer works differently these days (now that TIML prepares the reports). He spoke to St Stephen's being well served through Ian as an exceptional business manager, with great knowledge of the detailed inner workings of the Parish, and with Alison overseeing many things at the Op Shop but also working very hard to keep things ticking over day by day in our services, outreaches, and property.

The financial year started with about \$130,000, and we ended with approximately the same figure. Torben felt this was extraordinary since the Op Shop

had to be closed for months during the lockdown that began in August, and we were not able to worship together in the building. However, more Parishioners are using electronic payments for giving and we were able to gain much assistance through Covid measures: From the government subsidies, reduction in rent, and from decreased rent of the Vicarage, we have received roughly \$50,000 total of assistance in relation to the Covid lockdown.

Motion: A vote of thanks to Torben and to Alison for the work that has been going on behind the scenes and the care they have used regarding Parish finances.

Anne Aspden - Passed by Acclamation

The Rev. Don Battley spoke of financial trends of the last few years, in that we have had significant reserves. As we have a substantial cushion, he suggested that Vestry have permission from AGM to spend money as intended on mission that will aid in the growth of this church. He expressed a desire to see reserves as expendable funds rather than bankable funds.

Torben spoke to Don's comments referencing that In August when we did not know where the lockdown would take us, we did need to be cautious as the Op Shop needed to stay closed for a significant amount of the year, and then in a reduced capacity. He reminded us that St Stephen's church is quite a sizeable business, overturning approx. \$400,000 per year, and that we need to have a certain amount in reserve (approx. \$85,000) to be able to respond to situations that emerge.

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 2021, 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.

Torben Sorensen / Alison Vedder - Agreed

Torben spoke to the upcoming budget for 2022 as the most difficult budget that he has ever been involved with. He gave a few warnings in considering the budget for the year, that there would be no COVID assistance, and that full rents would be required this year. With lack of assistance, we would need to find an additional \$50,000 to maintain current reserves, which we have been fortunate to hold steady as they have been through 2021.

During the next year, we may need to increase clerical wages to facilitate new

initiatives. He noted that to maintain our financial situation throughout this year, we would be reliant on the Op Shop, or from our held reserves. As the Op Shop is performing well already this year, we are approximately \$10,000 better than budget expectations so far for 2022.

In the area of Children and Family Ministries, which last year's AGM indicated we need to invest more in this area, we have been awarded a \$13,000 grant for the Diocese, to be used as we are able to initiate certain projects.

There were questions raised regarding the projection that offerings would amount to \$140,000 (an increase of \$7,000 from last year). There were also questions regarding the increase to 80% of Op Shop surplus going to costs, as this would only allow up to \$42,000 to be used for church purposes. Torben provided further detail on some costs (Rent now costs \$72,000 per year as rents rose significantly as the area became more developed; rubbish removal is also a significant cost to us). He also explained that profits are already more than \$10,000 ahead of what was projected for this year, and that expectations are likely to keep being exceeded.

Motion: That the proposed 2022 Budget be accepted and used for monthly management of this parish. Torben Sorensen/Don Battley. Agreed

Scrutineers

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

Ian Hardcastle/Don Battley - 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 9 total members on vestry, including 5 ex-officio members, requiring the election of four members.

Motion: That we elect 4 members to vestry.

Lady Rhyl Jensen/Lorraine Lloyd - Agreed

Formal vote of thanks to Graham Lamont for his exceptional and persevering work and careful attention to detail on the Memorial Wall, and his diligence to see it through.

Helen Hardcastle/Don Battley - Agreed by Acclamation

Don Battley expressed concern about significantly reduced attendance, noting that other Parishes in the Diocese are being forced to close as recovery from Covid proves insurmountable. He warned Vestry against treating the year as business as usual, noting the need to be creative in engaging with our community, and reminding vestry that the AGM has granted permission to spend in order to grow our congregation. He asserted his preference to see more people in the seats than money in the bank.

Wendy Fowler addressed Don's comments. She recently resigned some of her CFM duties which had not yet been made public, so Ian and Torben were not able to be as transparent during the earlier part of the meeting regarding future planning as they might otherwise have been. She stressed that we have been able to start running Mainly Music and Messy Church again, and that these forms of outreach have been going well, with good attendance that shows they are meeting community needs. She expressed her belief that future growth in the area of Children and Families will come from investment of time in these relationships.

Jon Henderson and Rhyl Jansen thanked Wendy for her work in demonstrating love to the children and families over the last three years, and for being there for St Stephen's when the church needed her. Ian advised that Vestry intends to advertise for a new Children and Families Worker. He also reminded the AGM of God's provision for a CFM worker in our Parish in 2013: at the beginning of that year, Ian had prayed for a Children and Families Minister, and very soon after, God provided one. He can do so again.

There was a session of prayer to grow this church, for life and for new life in withering parishes; for unity in leadership; for openness for us to hear the voice of God; and his will for us to engage in our community.

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

Anne Aspden/Peter Lloyd - Agreed

Election of the People's Warden

Candidate for People's Warden: Torben Sorensen.

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

Torben Sorensen was elected as People's Warden.

Election of Synod's Representatives

Candidates for Synods Representatives: Peter Llyod and Gill Henderson.

The ballot was held and the Scrutineers left to count the ballot. They returned

the result that both candidates were elected.

Election of Vestry members

Candidates: Andrew Bruce-Brand, Desmond Jackson, Gill Cranch, and Michael Ng. The ballot was conducted and 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. She gave a brief introduction to each of the charities.

Vestry Election Results

The scrutineers returned Vestry Election results with the voting papers: All candidates were elected.

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.

Andrew Bruce-Brand/ Gill Henderson - Agreed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:56 pm.

