

# Annual Report

## ST DAVID'S UNION CHURCH

Allenton – Ashburton  
July 2022– June 2023



*“Called, Equipped and Sent”*

### ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on  
Sunday 8th October 2023  
after the worship service

## IN MEMORIAM

We would like to acknowledge the work of all those who have gone to be with the Lord during the year and pray that God will comfort their loved ones. Funerals for the following were held during the year under review.

Graeme Wylie

Don Church \*

Betty Watson \*

Marg Greenaway \*

Gaylene Beckley

Margaret Bruce \*

Cecelia McDowall \*

Jill Walkham \*

Rona Hayward \*

Marie Kennington \*

Robin Corbett

### **\* *Member of St David's***

Dear Lord, God of compassion and God of all comfort and peace, we are grateful for all your servants who served you in the life of your church and now they rest from their labor. We humbly pray for their families left behind in this world. Grant them your peace and strengthen them. As you encourage and strengthen us in our times of trouble, so help us to do the same for others out of the help we receive from you.

In Christ's name.

Amen.

## **CALL FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND AGENDA**

The annual meeting of the congregation of St David's Church will be held on Sunday 8th October 2023 immediately following the church Service. The annual meeting may consider such business as hearing reports of the parish council along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the finance committee and transacting other business as appropriate.

### **AGENDA**

Opening Prayer – Rev Henry Mbambo

Call to Order – David Henson (Parish Council Chairperson)

Apologies

Approve Minutes for Congregational Meeting: - 2021– 2022

Matters Arising

New Business -

Receive Annual Reports - Minister's report  
Bible Study  
Parish Council report  
Parish Visitor report  
Christian Education Committee  
Walking Group  
Midweek Service  
Foot Clinic  
Worship Committee  
Property Committee  
Mission Committee  
Greenstreet

Receive Budget and Treasurer's Report - David Fisher

Hymn and Benediction

Morning Tea

## From your Minister

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus and *Kia ora koutou*  
We have another opportunity to reflect on some of the work we did together in the year that has just ended- 2022-2023.

This annual report as well as our annual parish meeting must be a time of thanksgiving to God, a time of reflection, and celebration of God's faithfulness in the past year. It is also time to pray for God's vision looking to the future with hope.

I would like to thank Nikki Read our Parish Visitor who is a joy to serve with in pastoral care. Jan Squires our Administrative Secretary is a great person to work with and we are blessed to have her in the role. This year, we have been joined by Rachel Nixon working with the Fit Kids in the Children's Ministry of our church. We are thankful to God that she brings her teaching background to the role and we have seen steady numbers of new families coming to Fit Kids.

Thanks to a supportive parish council led by David Henson. As chairperson, David has worked closely with me and may I continue to ask you to pray for David Henson and Annalie as David continues with this important responsibility. Thanks to all the conveners and members of committees working on Finance, Property, Christian Education and other roles in the life of this church. Thank you for serving God and God's people.

I am thankful too for a supportive team of musicians and song leaders. Thanks to all who help in worship preparation and leading every week. This year I have taken over the responsibility of doing the music and worship roster since Frank went into care. Thanks to all who have made this responsibility manageable. May I also thank Frank Tasker for the work he did when he was convener of worship and music committee.

I would like to take this opportunity also to thank Chileya my wife for praying for me and being very supportive of our ministry through the St. David's Church.

Finally, I would like to thank the many volunteers who have been good at working with children and young people. Thanks to all who organize the mid-week service led by Anna Reith and those serving the community in the foot clinic led by Joy Nicolas. Many thanks also to all the church groups organizing lunches, walks and distribution of newsletters.

Looking to the future, one asks what our hopes are for 2023-2024. Remember that Christ has called us, and is equipping us so that we may be sent and be His Church in the community.

I encourage us all to continue to participate in the work of this parish, bringing our talents, time and treasure so that we may serve God together. It has been a joy and privilege to connect with our young people and strengthen our links that already exist with them and also with parents of the children who come for Fit Kids and the holiday programmes. I pray that we will be a church that is intergenerational.

7 young people have been coming to youth group and 4 of them will be leaving high school at the end of the year. This means that we will have 3 in youth group next year. We are not sure how youth group will be in the coming year but we will continue to be present for the young people of our community.

I am sorry to report that in 2022-2023, we had 11 funerals of people who were members of our church and others who were associated with St David's. We give thanks to God for their lives and their contribution in the life of our church. We continue to pray for their families and trust that the Lord will continue to comfort them.

In conclusion may I thank you all for your prayers and words of encouragement and wisdom that you have given me during the year. Many people have worked with me in pastoral care and preparation for worship services and I am deeply grateful for that. I hope that the reports you read from all the committees will uplift you. May God continue to use us to build His Kingdom here on earth.



Henry Mbambo  
Minister

### **Chairman's Report**

We thank God for His ongoing blessings over this past year although we have seen several of our members pass from this life to eternal life with their Lord and Saviour, and several others going into care or becoming too frail to regularly attend services.

But we have also been richly blessed with several new members and people coming to faith and enjoying the worship and fellowship at St David's. There are several positive signs of growth: The Bible Studies are making a real contribution and more folks are encouraged to get involved; Fit Kids is going very well and reaching more and more young

families, the youth group helping to nurture young people, Foot Clinic, Greenstreet services, mid-week services, the craft group, walking group and walnuts all serve to bring people together to fellowship and grow the congregation.

Henry, Nicky, Jim and others have continually reminded us of God's grace and compassion and remind us of our responsibility to be God's agents in our community. "Called, Equipped and Sent". Our sincere gratitude to Henry and his team for their love, care and prayers and all the dedicated hard work they put in.

Parish Council met 11 times during the year. My thanks Peter Yates for taking on the Chair during my regular absences, but also to all members who each in their own way make a major contribution to our church, and are a wonderful easy team to work with. We so appreciate Nikki's pastoral care and the team that work with Fit Kidz and the after-school programme. To Jim who does so much for Christian Education and the Holiday Programme together with many willing helpers, and his commitment to prayer and missions.

David Fisher does a massive amount of work behind the scenes with his financial and administrative abilities and we thank him for his services.

In addition to the regular and meticulous maintenance which Carl oversees (and mostly does himself!) the sound desk and live streaming video have been bought to full use – thanks to Peter and Ian for making that happen. It was good to get the church beautifully repainted during the year.

Thank you to all those who provide tithes and offerings which help with the employment of staff and improvements to our facilities plus contributions to missions and other community work. We thank too those who have made bequests to support the work of St David's.

May God bless you all with his unwavering love.

David Henson

### **Parish Visitors Report**

I am thankful for the opportunity I have been given, in the role as Parish Visitor. It is a blessing and privilege to be part of St David's team sharing God's love and fellowship to our church family and in our community. This year with covid restrictions behind us and now 'no masks' our visiting, especially in Rest homes is so much easier.

Thank you for allowing me to visit and all who have welcomed me into their homes. I am grateful for the opportunities of getting to know our people in a greater depth and fostering God's faithfulness in our daily lives.

My role involves supporting Henry with funerals, Rest home services, fortnightly Mid-week services, supporting Fit Kids and visiting and praying with people in our community in their homes and the times when they are in hospital. We have a growing number of people in our parish who have been unwell and some who have gone into care. Pastoral care needs are growing, and I thank you for the volunteers that help me and support this ministry with me; you are vital in the ongoing care of all. Thank you to Henry who leads the fortnightly Mid-week Services and Anna and her team of volunteers who organise the luncheon afterwards. This time of fellowship together with our elderly is so encouraging and to witness their joy, it's always a special time of connecting. Thank you to Joy Nicholas who has been co-ordinating drivers and our elderly people who want to attend Mid-Week Service.

Thank you to our Pastoral Care team for the distribution of newsletters. We try to meet every 3-4 months to share, support and encourage each other on how we can best connect with our community and church family. Thank you to our team who are involved in this outreach ministry.

Thank you to Rachel, who leads Fit Kids and creates the programmes for the music sessions. Rachel's ministry with the mothers and young children has helped nurture this growing group and filled a need in our community to bring mothers, children, and caregivers together.

I enjoy working alongside Henry and thank you to his encouragement and wisdom in the sharing of pastoral care, and thank you to Jan, who works in the office, and the support she gives me throughout the year. Thank you to Anna, who supports us with the Fit Kids programme and supports Henry and myself with the Rest home services.

A big thank you to you all who have kept me informed of the needs of family, friends and loved ones in and around our community. I love my work and sharing Gods love at St Davids and the wider community.

*Nikki Read*

## **Christian Education Committee**

### **Bible Study Groups -**

**Evening study group:** It has continued throughout the year usually meeting at Alison Early's home. We have a regular group of 6-8 people. It has studied the Book of Revelations.

**Daytime Bible study group:** We started a new group in May on Wednesday afternoons. We ran a KYB study on the New Testament Book of Revelations. It started with 8 regular participants.

### **Childrens holiday programme:**

Children's Holiday programme- 11th - 13th October 2022. The number that attended was up on the last few years - day one- 10. day two- 15. day three-16. They came from different parts of town. The theme - Jesus as King. It was based on a Scripture Union Holiday programme. We had to adapt taking into account a shortage of leaders. So we did not have small groups and we relied more on using videos of bible stories and songs on the theme. Overall it kept the interest of the children and hopefully they grew in their understanding of Jesus Christ and how he was a different type of King. Three leaders, Alison Early, Jeanette Crutch and Jim Young were involved in preparing the teaching and visual Aids. Vera Smollett helped with the games along with two youth group members, Lusungu and Caitlin. We were thankful for their help. Once again Shirley Patterson organised the morning teas which we were very grateful for. Henry Mbambo did the advertising of the programme and we were very grateful for him downloading the videos and presenting them through the church system. Thanks to Nikki Read for the advertising and helping in other ways also. It was good being able to use the church worship part of St David's and take advantage of the video facilities.

### **Social Report.**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May a social activity with the Henson's sharing their experiences when they returned 'home' to Africa. The night started with a potluck tea and was a very informative and enjoyable evening.

Jim Young



## **Walking Group**

An enthusiastic group of walkers meet on a Tuesday morning for a 9.30 am start. Our group is an average of 10-12 walkers with newcomers very welcome. We are a social group and you don't need to be super fit! A café stop is part of the morning. Come join us and make new friends.

Pam Love

## **Midweek Service**

This is a very essential service for the people who are unable to make the earlier time of the Sunday services. The services are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month with communion celebrated on the first week.

Joy Nicholas must have a special thank you as she contacts everyone before hand on the Monday to see if they are able to attend and organises the drivers to pick up the ones who need transport. With so many on walking frames this is a juggle to get those with cars to suit. So thank you for the drivers who give up their time to help.

Thank you to Henry for the special time which he spends with us. The smiles tell it all and chatter make those who work in the background feel it is worthwhile and a privilege in their witness to our Lord God.

Anna Reith

## **Foot Clinic**

Well, here we are again reporting on another successful year for the Foot Clinic. We average 28 clients each six weekly session with a waiting list in the event of a cancellation. We're meeting a need in our community as ours is one of three clinics; another in Ashburton and one in Tinwald. Our clients seem to enjoy the experience and appreciate the camaraderie. It's a social outing for many of them.

The Church won't get rich on this operation but our takings (less expenses) go into the coffers and these amounted to approximately \$2000 for the last financial year.

Special thanks to our amazing volunteers, some of whom have been with us from the start. The clinic is a wonderful outreach for the Church so let's keep on keeping on.

Joy Nicholas

## **Worship and Music Report**

We would like to recognise the work that Frank Tasker did over the years organizing the worship and musicians' roster. A lot of work goes into organising this part of the life of our church. Frank is now in care and has not been able to convene the worship committee, but he left clear and helpful information on the work of the worship committee which we have continued to use. At the moment, we are not physically meeting as worship committee, but are doing all the rosters by email.

### **Worship**

In the year 2022-2023, I have been working on the worship roster in consultation with Jeanette Crutch. Worship services have been going well at St David's on Sundays and Midweek, Greenstreet and in Rest-homes. Many people who attend these worship services appreciate the ministry of this church. Thanks to the team who have support the minister. During the year, worship services have been led by the minister and when the minister was on holiday, guest preachers were invited to lead worship. Jim Young, Richard Drury, Paul Eden and Helen Wallis covered for the minister when he was not leading worship.

### **Music**

The minister arranges the music roster, and we are blessed to have four regular musicians at present. We are blessed to have Lesley Blain who organises the music needed by the musicians and plays two Sundays/month. We are blessed also to have Carolie Andrew who plays at least once/month and the music team has also been joined by Joan Wright and we are blessed to have her. Fairlie Matsinger plays for all our rest home and Greenstreet services as well as the Mid-week services. We are blessed to have her.

We have a number of song leaders who faithfully lead us in worship each week and we are grateful to God for these people who share their singing gift with us in our worship services.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement in this area of our life together.

Henry Mbambo

## **Property Report**

Once again it is my pleasure to present this Property Report for the last 12 months of things that have involved the property at St David's. Firstly I must say a big thank you to all the willing helpers when they are called on to give a hand when the need arises, like putting up the Christmas Star and Christmas scene, Easter Crosses on the mountain of soil kindly delivered by Tarbottons. There are numerous times when help is required and always have that assistance when needed. The lawn mowing team did the usual great job and this had some help with lawns from some young lads from the Samoan group that use our Church. Lucille & George Brown have been in charge of the gardens along with help from Jim Lischner, Lindsay Jones and others to keep them tidy. Many thanks. Any time I need a hand and put the message out for some help, there is always someone there.

I will do a summary of notes from my monthly reports for Parish Council to give you an idea of what has happened over the year. It would take too much space to cover all the minor things that I regularly attend to.

### **August 2022**

The old carpet in the lounge/foyer by toilets and side store room was replaced with carpet tiles the same as in the Fellowship Room. The old carpet went up to the Staveley Campsite to be used as weed mat, so that saved us some dump cost and of some help to Campsite. The recent repaint of the same areas with now new flooring have freshened those areas a lot. The cost of the painting was covered from a donation from a loyal church member.

The Kapindula Family were renting Church House while they were building a new house for themselves.

### **September 2022**

Still waiting for the exterior repaint of Church to start, but weather has been a hold up so hope it can be done in the warmer weather.

Had some bad luck with our walnut freezers. Had to replace a thermostat in one and the other the compressor failed and it is not worth fixing.

Lindsay Jones and myself replaced the lock on kitchen door to bring it up to code ready for the WOF of buildings next year. A new rental agreement with the Samoan Group that use our facility was arranged. The new rent per each Sunday is to be \$85, up from \$76. The same charge applies for any extra use of the Church or hall per session. Replaced some suspect nails on house roof because of a few leaks, with screws. More to be looked at later.

## **October 2022**

Dennis Bird and Lindsay Jones helped me with a hedge trim along shop side of Church Had two lads from the Samoan Group helped us with the clean up. Took trailer load of trimmings to Ashburton Eco Park (Greg Donaldson) at a discount rate.

Talbot Security did a check of fire extinguisher & fire hoses. The six fire alarm points I do a 3 monthly check.

## **November 2022**

Had a meeting with some from the Samoan Group re using the sound system and computer TV set up as has been a few problems when our people come back to use, with settings changed, lapel mic not returned etc, We are progressing well with the walnut opening.

## **December 2022**

The Christmas Star erected and a Christmas scene set up inside the Fellowship Room that is lit up at night time. Was decided not to put up the old stable doors. They seem to get heavier each year. Maybe it us getting weaker. Many thanks to the team of helpers that turn out for this job, well done . Many thanks to Reads for use of their Telehandler that makes the job of getting Star up, easier and safer. Lindsay and myself had another afternoon on house roof and putting in screws and sealing few suspect spots.

## **February 2023**

Scammells started on a repaint job in February and were on it for over two weeks. We decided to repaint the concrete facade in front of the Church to freshen up. That was a time consuming fiddly job, but was needing to be done with rest of paint looking nice and fresh. With Peter Yates and Lindsay's help we replaced a few more boards that had signs of rot, while the painting scaffold was in place on some higher areas. Having a few water leaks in the kitchen. Think it will be some rust under the flashing. Will need to be kept an eye on.

## **March 2023**

The repaint job of the Church came with an end cost of about \$20,000; not a cheap operation, but now looks good and should keep it right for some years to come.

The Kapindula Family will be moving out of the House end March/April so we are looking for new tenants. I think it is timely to look at us owning the house to rent out. Need to look at the whole set up with the house.

### **April 2023**

Load of soil from Tarbottons on 27<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter Crosses were erected.

Been in contact with the building engineers Engco Ltd. to give us a quote to do detailed seismic assessment for the hall. We have been requested to do this by Presbyterian Property Trustees. In my opinion it is a waste of money. As yet have not received the quote and have not been back to them, but I guess will need to follow up at some stage.

### **May 2023**

Easter crosses removed and Tarbottons came and carted the soil away. I did contact them to express our thanks for their continued help, that is much appreciated.

Had to replace the small lock in the control cabinet, because the key may have been used to lift the lid instead of the handles.

Church House was vacated by the Kapindula family about the end of March. A new dishwasher was installed in House kitchen and attended to a few small fix it jobs ready for next tenants, due about mid April. Reads to attend to the pantry door. Had a tidy up in the garden and lawns and edges tidied up. Thanks with those that helped with that over the Easter break. Many thanks to Murray Early and his ute for the big load of rubbish he took up to the farm to deal with. Finished picking walnuts and John and myself have decided to make this our last year for the walnut project.

### **June 2023**

A team of helpers, George & Lucille Brown, Jim Lischner and Lindsay Jones had a garden tidy up. A Conifer tree at back of Church was removed. A suggestion has been that the Silk tree at the front of the office be better removed. It makes a lot of mess on footpath and in the spoutings, many times during the year.

### **July 2023**

Had Four Seasons Tree Care cut down the Silk tree \$250. If we want the stump ground down \$100. Comment just grow a creeper over it.

Had FFP in for the annual building WOF & all fine with them. Sprayed concrete paths with 30 secs to stop green algae that gets slippery when wet. The garden helping team had a tidy up back area of Church.

That covers most of the main happenings with the property at St David's Church.

**Greenstreet Church:** My grateful thanks to Roger & Margaret Snowden for all their work looking after the Greenstreet Church. Roger may have more to report in his own report.

**Walnut Project:** As mentioned earlier in my report we are making this our last year doing the walnuts. Our team are all getting older and a few less of us now to do all the work involved with it. We didn't want to start another season and struggle to get enough helpers. On behalf of John Pringle and myself, many thanks to our loyal band of "nutters". The farm is currently on the market for sale. Another service club has shown interest in it, so we just wait & see.

I have probably missed something out that I should have mentioned. Once again thanks for entrusting me to look after the Property of St David's.

Carl Ruddenklau

### **Missions Committee**

The Missions task takes two strands in our work - local and overseas. The work has been allocated \$3000 from the church budget.

#### **Local:**

**Flood relief Support.** At our March meeting we past the motion to give \$2000 of our \$3000 budget to the flood relief in the north Island. Thank you also for individual donations for the appeal that raised another \$1420. In total therefore we gave \$3420.

**Foodbank.** Thanks to everyone who has supported the food bank support through your giving of grocery items each month, plus those who support it directly.

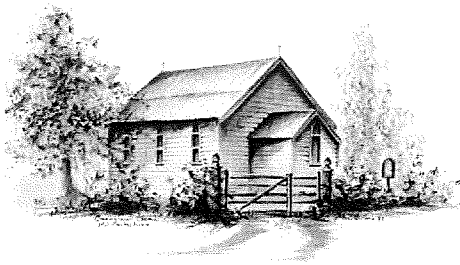
#### **Overseas:**

**Missionaries.** We have given throughout the year regular updates on our missionaries. \$500 was allocated to each of our mission partners - Erica Aarsen South Sudan; Muir family Zambia; STUM work Malawi. Thankyou for your prayers for the missionary work.

**Coins for Mission.** Thanks to everyone who contributes to the coins for mission and also with general donations. To the end of May nearly \$500 came in and it was allocated to Missionary support.

**Christmas Appeal.** We supported the Christian World Service appeal in raising money for water for communities - help farmers improve irrigation and growing methods/ water and hygiene supplies in an emergency/water tank, guttering and pipes to catch the water.

Jim Young



### **Greenstreet Ashburton Forks Community Church**

We have had five services this year. Four of these were morning services, August, November, March and June, and an evening service on Christmas Eve. Our warmest thanks to Henry for leading our services, and to Fairlie Matsinger our organist. Morning services continue to be followed by a lunch, and we enjoy this time of fellowship.

Our Christmas Eve service was well supported and we enjoyed supper on the lawn afterwards.

At our March service we celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving; the donated produce going to Presbyterian Support.

We record with sadness the recent passing of Jill Walkham and Rona Hayward. Rona has been our regular organist for many years and we valued her support for our services. Jill lived in the Greenstreet district for the greater part of her life and supported the church in many ways; not least of which with her lovely floral arrangements. We have been fortunate to have had such willing service from Rona and Jill and we remember them with love and respect.

Thank you to those who help maintain the church and grounds; Stan and Shirley Hydes for mowing the lawn; Joy and Murray Hydes for their 'housekeeping' and Joy's floral arrangements, and the many people who bring food for lunches. We appreciate all you do.

Roger and Margaret Snowden

