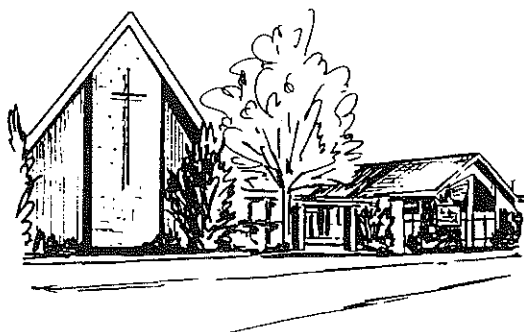


# Annual Report

## ST DAVID'S UNION CHURCH

Allenton – Ashburton  
July 2020– June 2021



*“Called, Equipped and Sent”*

### ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on  
Sunday 29th August 2021  
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.

Shelagh Templeton \*

Ivan Taylor \*

Patty Tasker \*

Joyce Chambers \*

David Beckley

Freda Green \*

Norrie Wilson \*

Bruce Boothroyd \*

Joyce Maw

Betty Flay \*

### ***\* 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 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 – Peter Yates (Parish Council chairperson)

Apologies

Approve Minutes for Congregational Meeting: - 2019– 2020

Matters Arising

New Business -

Receive Annual Reports - Minister's report

Parish Council report

Worship Committee

Christian Education Committee

Mission Committee

Property Committee

Greenstreet

Receive Budget and Treasurer's Report - David Fisher

Hymn and Benediction

Morning Tea

## From your Minister

Greetings in the name of Christ and *Kia ora koutou*

We have another opportunity for reflecting on some of the work we have been able to do together in the year that has just ended- 2020-2021. With a lot of uncertain days since the pandemic which has affected the world, we can say today that the Lord has been with us in New Zealand and we pray that the Lord will be with our brothers and sisters around the world as they struggle with Covid-19. After the first lockdown last year, we had concerns that church attendance would dramatically go down, but I am delighted to inform you that our weekly attendance has generally remained the same as pre-Covid and for that we are thankful to God.

This annual report as well as our annual parish meeting, as always must be a time of thanksgiving to God and a time of reflection, celebration of God's mercies in the past year and with God's vision look to the future with hope. This year is even more special in that we are celebrating the golden jubilee of the consecration of the St David's Church building. We hope that the celebrations will be joyful ones as we reflect together on God's goodness.

I would like to thank Nikki Read our Parish Visitor who is a joy to serve with. Jan Squires, our Administrative Secretary, is a great person to work with and we are blessed to have her in the role she has and it is always a joy to work with.

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 of committees who have been very supportive. I am also eternally grateful to God for Chileya and our kids who prays for me and encourage me in my faith and ministry journey.

I am thankful for a supportive team of musicians and song leaders. Thanks to all who help in worship preparation and leading every week. Thanks to Frank and Jim who have preached when I have been away on leave or when attending to presbytery duties. It was wonderful too to share the pulpit with ministers who came as guest preachers while I was on study leave. May I take this opportunity also to thank Chileya who has been very supportive of my ministry through the St David's Church.

Finally I would like to thank the many volunteers who have been good in 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 Nicholas. Many thanks also to all the church groups organizing lunches, walks and distribution of newsletters. I am also thankful for all who come to open walnuts, raising funds for the mission of our church in this community and beyond.

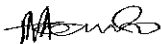
Looking to the future, one asks what our hopes are for 2021-2022. Remember that Christ has called us, and is equipping us so that we may be sent and be His Church in the community.

May I again encourage us 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 Kidz and after school programmes. Three years ago, I had hoped that we should be seeing ourselves as a church that is intergenerational. I still have that hope; that we will continue to create room for an intergenerational church life, growing and thriving together, young and older members of the St David's church family. It has been a privilege this year to lead youth group and what a lovely group of young people who come every week and growing together in their faith journey.

It was sad that in February, 2021, our new TV set was stolen and this was stressful for many, including myself as we reflected on that incident.

I am sorry to report that in 2020-2021, we had 10 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 committee will be uplifting for you. May God continue to use us to build His Kingdom here on earth.



Henry Mbambo  
Minister

## **2021 Chairman's Report – Annual General Meeting**

The 2020/21 year has been a good year for St David's and we thank God for His ongoing blessings. Henry and others through their preaching have continually reminded us of His Grace, His unmerited favour and in turn our responsibility to be God's agents in our community; "Called, Equipped and Sent".

My thanks to Henry and Chileya, and all members of Parish Council for their unwavering dedication to our congregation. Henry's talents in so many areas, and his sensitivity to the needs of his Parish are sincerely appreciated. Chileya's constant reflection of joy and compassion are greatly valued. We support Henry taking on the youth work which is going well. It is vital we focus more attention on the young church and recognise that they do not serve God the same way as we do. I would like us to free Henry up from some of his older generation work to focus more in this area. This may involve more supply ministers about every 4-6 weeks which has been included in the budget.

We value Nikki's pastoral care, and the team that work with Fit Kidz and the after school programme. The recent service run by this group was a delight for us all, and great to see how much work and effort is going into these young folk. The 40 hour famine was also a huge success thanks to all the generous sponsorships which encouraged the participants.

Other programmes that continue to run, almost below the radar are the mid-week services, aged care services and visitations, foot clinic, Greenstreet services, Wellness support, Foot Clinic and walnuts to name but a few. It is good to see our facilities used so regularly for the community too, with some days up to six different activities through the day.

Parish Council met 11 times in the year. I wish to thank all members for their support and contributions. It is good to have Peter Yates back on Council who has already made a big contribution so many areas. David Fisher does a massive amount of work behind the scenes with his financial and administrative abilities and we thank him for his services.

At last year's AGM we had a poll regarding several significant changes to our church. Thank you all for your participation, and special thanks to Carl, Lindsay, Peter, Frank, Ian, Anna and so many others who so ably implemented the changes which included the bright new screen, the replacement of the worn carpet with hardwearing floor tiles, the new chairs

and updated video camera and ancillary equipment. I hope we all agree that the changes have been worthwhile, the colours work well and the flexibility of use is significantly enhanced ready for the next 25 years of ministry.

There are still aspects we shall look at in the year ahead depending on fund availability. These include an upgrade to the sound system, a sound and video desk at the back and a steriliser. We are very grateful to those who have given generously to the Church over the years to enable us to make these changes. Thank you too to those who faithfully contribute every week.

Finally I wish to thank Peter Yates for standing in for me as Chairman of Parish Council while we are in Zimbabwe. I am sure you will all give him your full support.

May God bless you all with his unwavering love.

David Henson

### **Parish Visitor**

This year I have continued working in the role of Parish Visitor. I am blessed and privileged to be part of St David's team sharing God's love, comfort, and fellowship to our congregation and out in our community. This year has continued to be challenging with covid-19 restrictions especially in our Rest homes.

I would like to say a big thank you to all who have welcomed me into their homes in the past year and I am grateful for the opportunities of interacting and sharing in their joys, sorrows and struggles encountered along life's pathway. It has been a real privilege to walk and pray with you during those times.

My role involves supporting Henry with funerals, Rest Home services, fortnightly Mid-Week Service and visiting people in our community in their homes and the times when 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 Joy Nicholas who has been co-ordinating drivers and our elderly people who want to attend Mid-Week Service on a fortnightly basis, this has allowed me more time to visit people in their homes.

The Pastoral Care team for newsletter distributors meets 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.

Working alongside Henry is a privilege, his faith sharing, teacher of the Word, wisdom and knowledge in pastoral care has been invaluable as I learn and grow in my spiritual walk with our Lord. A special thank you to Jan Squires, who works in the office, and supports me in the Pastoral Care of our elderly.

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 the love of Jesus to you all and fostering faithfulness in our daily lives.

Nikki Read

### **Christian Education**

During the past year the Christian Education Committee has met on a monthly basis to give oversight to the Christian Education programmes and support the Youth Ministry Team, Family and Children's Ministry Team and Bible Study Ministry groups.

Bible Study discussion on a Thursday evening, is meeting weekly, with studies completed on Psalms and recently we are doing a 6-week study course from the Shining Lights Trust called "Knowing When to Paddle". We have had a lot of interesting discussions from this study of equipping and motivating us to have conversations that connect and encourage faith in others. A quote from the first study night "Programmes don't reach people... people reach people". Each week a member of the group has an opportunity at leading the group, this has been very successful, supportive, and encouraging for each other. Of recent, thank you to Jim Young who has lead and put in an extra effort in organising the study material.

The Education team have worked together to continue the Children's Holiday Programme running in October, March, and July. The programme is run by volunteers with Co-ordinators appointed for each day with the minister overseeing the programme. The youth have also been an integral part running all the games with the children and helping with craft activities.



A new initiative in October 2020, the Christian Education team started a weekly After School's Children's Church Programme on a Wednesday afternoon. We start at 3.15 pm giving the children afternoon tea, games, a bible message, craft, and finish at 4.30pm. At the end of the year this group was involved in a Christmas Play inviting all their families to attend the Family Service. At the end of June, we had another Family Service inviting the families to attend. The children and leaders sang a song that covered the theme "God's Instructions" written by Alison Early. Recently we have farewelled Helen Parks-Rive from our team due to her moving south.

Madi resigned from the Youth Leadership at the end of 2020, recognising that she needed a break. Her resignation was accepted, and we thank Madi for the wonderful leadership she gave to the Youth; Henry has continued to lead the Youth along with help from volunteers. At the end of each term the Youth and Leaders have celebrated with a meal out together; and a high-light at the end of June was the 40-hour famine.

Fit Kidz continues to meet on a Thursday morning with Rachel, Anna and Nikki leading the music sessions and a wonderful group of volunteers working in the background to help and support this ministry. A huge thank you to the group of ladies who serve the morning tea, help, and meet our young mothers, and encourage them in their faith and life as a Mum.

I would like to thank all the members of the Christian Education Team, leaders and volunteers who help keep all the programmes up and running. Without all these people helping, our Christian Education ventures would not be so successful. May God continue to open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to spiritual growth and fellowship in St David's family.

Nikki Read

### **Pastoral**

Contact with parishioners is maintained via monthly newsletters. When possible, a personal visit takes place. Thanks to Rae Magson, the co-ordinator. Much appreciated are the folk who update the office with changes. This helps keep the parish roll current.

Pam Love

### **Walking Group**

Tuesday morning 9.30 am, an enthusiastic group of walkers leave from the church for a time of exercise, socialising and a welcome café! We average 15 walkers and everyone is welcome.

Pam Love

### **Midweek Service**

This is a very special service for the less able to still feel part of our St David's family. We have services on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and communion is celebrated on the first Wednesday. Henry and Jim have been very much appreciated with their messages of faith. Fairlie continues with her wonderful music. We had an average of 23 attend over the year.

A special thank you must go to the many helpers who give of their time in the kitchen and provide the food; to Joy who keeps contact and organizes the transport, as it is not everyone who can cope with walking frames. Thank you again. The smiles and chatter over the meal make it all very worthwhile. We find it a privilege to help as a witness to our Lord.

May the Lord God be with you all.

Anna Reith

### **Foot Clinic**

Well, the "happy feet brigade" has had another successful year. We're now in our eleventh year and last September we celebrated our 10th Anniversary with a well attended lunch at Cleavers.

We have a steady clientele with a maximum of 27 per session. Our volunteer team consists of three nurses (organised by Carol O'Reilly) cutting nails, three working on the foot baths, two massaging and one in the kitchen providing a delicious afternoon tea, plus Trish Solway, our bookings lady, on the desk. We're truly blessed with our volunteers half of whom are from the community and not connected with St David's. Many thanks to our reliable St David's team, who turn up every six weeks to contribute to this important outreach.

If you know someone who is struggling to cut their toenails, please suggest that they contact Trish on 3089053/021 02773483.

Joy Nicholas

## **Worship Committee**

The committee comprises Rev Henry Mbambo, Jeanette Crutch, Allan Lilley, and convenor Frank Tasker.

Weekly worship continues at St David's, beginning with two songs of praise and worship selected by a roster of song leaders. The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday each month. Prayer ministry is offered each week following worship, and fellowship is shared over morning tea in the fellowship room.

It is a real privilege to have Rev Henry Mbambo as our minister. Henry has good rapport with people of the parish and the community. His services and sermons are well prepared, meaningful and topical.

Since the arrival of COVID-19 last year, knowledge has been gained placing videoed services online on the church website. The ability to do this is still being improved and with the purchase of the technology to do this those involved will improve their expertise in this field.

Worship services are held at Greenstreet, our small country church, approximately five times per year, although recent flooding of the Ashburton river in May meant the June service had to be cancelled.

Special services throughout the year have included Spring Flower Sunday held in September and Harvest Festival in March with produce being delivered to either Presbyterian Support or the Salvation Army foodbanks.

Wednesday afternoon Kids' Club presented a special event at worship in late June, when they shared their learning of the Ten Commandments.

In the lead-up to Christmas the choir presented a programme of carols, and at Easter the choir again presented a programme of Easter music which was well received.

Mid-week services continue at 11:30am each first and third Wednesday of the month which are continuing to meet the need for elderly folk to worship and following worship they meet for a fellowship lunch in the church lounge. Thanks is due to the wonderful team of people who prepare this lunch each fortnight.

Services organised by the Ashburton Christian Ministers Association continue on a rostered basis with other churches in the town, at rest homes and at the hospital chapel, all of which are greatly appreciated by those who attend. St David's are solely responsible for the monthly services at Radius Millstream.

Lay Preachers, Nikki Read and myself as well as Rev Jim Young, Rev Helen Wallis, Rev Silvia Purdie, Rev Heather Kennedy and Rev Johanna Warren have lead services of worship during the year on occasions when Henry has been on holiday or on leave or study leave.

**Music:** Music continues to be an important part of worship at St David's. A dedicated team of musicians provide music leadership on a rostered basis at weekly services, at Greenstreet and the many hospital and rest home services.

The music team for the year has been Lesley Blain, Margaret Lovett, Jim Lischner, Diane Young, Nikki Read, Peter & Philippa Yates, Colin Wolfreys, Rona Hayward, Fairlie Matsinger and myself. Lesley has provided musical accompaniment at many funerals during the year with Sylvia Watson and Graham Gunn being available when Lesley is unavailable.

For the two choir events, Easter and Christmas, Ruth Swansbury was choir accompanist.

Finally, I offer thanks to all who have taken their part so that our combined worship experience is a pleasant and meaningful one. Those who arrange flowers, those preparing communion, those serving the morning teas, those on sound, data, our wonderful team of musicians and all the many activities required to make our worship a real celebration of the love of Christ. Thank you all.

*Frank Tasker*

Convenor

### **Property Report 2020-2021**

It is my pleasure to present this Property Report for the last 12 months at St David's.

Firstly I must thank all my willing helpers that come and lend a hand when the call goes out, like the lawn mowing team, when the stable doors and star go up for Christmas, at Easter when the crosses are on the hill of soil and so it goes on over the year. On top of all these regular jobs, this year with all the upgrade work done in the Church many hours of help was given. If we had to pay for all that work it would come to a considerable amount of money. Special thanks to Lindsay Jones for coming to my aid with repairs and maintenance issues, as his building knowledge helps immensely.

**Church Upgrade:** In September an 86" TV was put up on a steel frame to replace the projector screen. This is controlled from a lap top computer and has proved to be a vast improvement. Sadly on the third weekend in February the Church was broken into and the TV stolen. The theft was reported to the Police, but no luck with that. The TV was replaced on insurance, but it cost \$1000 of excess on our insurance and extra work of shifting the TV from the hall until the replacement TV arrived, and then putting that up.

Leading up to replacing the carpet with the tiles, I spent some time freeing the loop hearing aid wire from around the edge of the Church, so as when the old carpet was pulled up, this wiring was not damaged. Also had about eight mates join in to go along the Allens Road wall. On Sunday afternoon 15<sup>th</sup> November, a team of us removed the pews from the Church. Redmonds team started laying the carpet tiles on the Monday morning. Had Electraserve working on removing wiring that fed power for the underseat heaters. Some of that existing wiring has been used for some extra power points, as well as wiring for TV/computer etc. The tile laying was completed by Friday afternoon and some of the pews put back in place and some extra chairs as a funeral was planned for Saturday morning. A tremendous effort by all involved to manage all that in the week.

The 180 new chairs that were ordered mid September arrived in Christchurch at the end of December. With the very generous offer of a van truck and driver from Stuart Cross of Wrights Drycleaners, these chairs were delivered free of freight cost to the Church early January. Peter Yates and myself went up with Stuart for loading. Very many thanks to Stuart and Neroli for doing this for the Church. That afternoon a team of helpers unpacked the chairs, fitted the book racks and all the plastic wrap and cardboard to recycling by 4.30pm, with chairs neatly placed in their rows, another great effort.

A few of the pews had been sold for \$100 each but the rest were not moving that well. I inserted an advert in the "Courier" and had two enquiries. Had a phone call from Mick Jensen a reporter from the "Courier", interested in doing an article of what we were doing, so that was how I come to have my photo in the paper. In a matter of a few hours my phone rang hot and had sold the 20 we needed to sell within 24 hours and 8 on the waiting list. They have gone in different directions, some for unusual things. That write up and photo did the trick.

The video camera has been mounted on the Allens Road wall, and trial recording has been done and now to a stage of making a control centre unit for that along with sound to operate from. The cables etc will then be tidied up. It has been a busy 12 months with all this work along with all other day to day operations of St David's.

**Greenstreet Church:** Many thanks to Roger and Margaret Snowden for all their work involved in the operation of Greenstreet Church. Services are held periodically.

After the flooding event we had at the end of May we had two dehumidifiers running for two weeks to dry the floor out. Water did not enter the Church, but flooring did soak up a lot of moisture. Thanks to Allan Lill for help with this job and providing some "air freshner" for the cluster flies, that seems to have worked for the moment.

**Church House:** The shower room is to be redone with wet floor tiles and walls to overcome the ongoing problems. The shower tray developed a split, resulting with a water leak. Doing this sort of work is expensive, but it needs to be done properly. As well it needs an extraction system that is compliant. There are some boundary fence repairs and repainting to be looked at.

**General:** We had a problem with the left front door of the Church, with the door "slow closer" having lost the slow closing ability. It would slam shut, was dangerous, as well as a chance of breaking the glass. Had a price of \$1,160 for two technicians from Christchurch to come and do the job. Through Reads, we got the replacement unit for about \$480 and Lindsay and myself sorted that out, once we worked out how to remove the door. Some exterior painting along east side windows and area facing the street needs attention. Planning for spring when the weather warms.

**Walnut Project:** This is back up and running after missing out last year with Covid. By the time we get the last few still on drying trays bagged, we should have about 1300 kg to be opened. We are getting continued good support for the picking, bagging and opening work. We have 10 to 15 helpers on a Wednesday morning in the Youth Room. On behalf of John Pringle and myself, we say many thanks to our loyal band of helpers. I say thanks to John for all he does behind the scene for walnuts, looking after the mower and keeping grass mown that makes for easy picking. John bags the nuts ready for sale and is always on the lookout for a new outlet.

I have probably forgot something I should have mentioned, but I see the bottom of the page is coming up so time for me to say enough is enough. Thank you for having me looking after the property for St David's.

Carl Ruddenklau  
Property Convenor

### **Parish Mission Committee**

Its responsibility is for the work of outreach in New Zealand and overseas. When it started two years ago it had as its core event the Fish and Chip mission nights. That did not generate the support that was needed to continue it. Occasionally the committee meets consisting of David Henson, Henry Mbambo and myself. The parish allocates in its budget \$3000 for mission.

#### **1. Kai for Kids.**

Thanks to David Fisher for his work with this project. The parish gave \$800 towards this for the financial year and there are no plans to change the amount at this stage. Originally we supported Allenton School, but they did not need the support, so we changed to Netherby School and then the charitable trust, Kai for Kids took over. They are currently working out of the Ashburton Racecourse kitchen. For your interest, here is the report received from Jo Taylor in April.

#### **Kai for Kids Programme Update – April 15, 2021**

Dear David

Thank you for the support we have received from St David's Church towards the Kai for Kids Programme. I am pleased to report that we have had a very busy, and long first term for 2021 as it draws to a close tomorrow for the school holidays.

The Kai for Kids team has been working hard to cook and deliver nourishing lunches to the children at Ashburton Netherby School every day. We have also trialled 3 days at Hampstead School with the view to supplying these children lunch every day from Term 2.

We have secured some funding from the Ministry of Education to support this programme in the two schools which is fantastic. This covers the cost of the food we are preparing and we will still need to secure community support for some of our operational needs as well as to extend the lunch support to other schools in Mid Canterbury.

In summary:

9164 lunches have been made for Ashburton Netherby School every day of term one and for 3 days at Hampstead School.

We have made some great new community support connections with:

1. Salvation Army to use their van for delivery on some days  
Canterbury University – Teacher Training – We have provided placements for 5 second year students to do their 25 hour community engagement training as part of their degree.

Our Plans for Term 2, 2020

1. To add 338 Hampstead School students to receive a Kai for Kids lunch every day for the rest of this year.
2. To add 30 students at Chertsey school to receive Kai for Kids every day from May 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. To add 100 lunches to be provided to other schools to feed children who do not have any food at school.

We are in the process of finding a larger kitchen to work from each morning as we have outgrown the capacity of the Ashburton Trust Event Centre. ATEC and their staff have been so supportive of this community project. We will be seeking community funding to purchase our own van and some new kitchen ovens and a freezer.

Any support that the St David's community can contribute towards this programme will be very much appreciated.

Jo Taylor

## **2. Foodbank**

Thanks to everyone who has been contributing to the Foodbank. We continue to gather it together on the first Sunday of the month. Thanks to Derek Prebble who takes the groceries to the appropriate organisations each month. There seems to be a even greater need for the foodbank then ever before. Keep in mind when you go shopping that the supermarkets also have a foodbank collection point.

## **3. Coins for Mission**

The money collected totalled \$1,258. Thanks everyone who has contributed to this through a variety of ways - coins/donations/sale of produce. Special mention of Alison Early in the sale of produce she makes and also plants. \$500 has been given to David and Anita Muir, missionaries in Zambia. The balance of the money still to be allocated.



#### **4. Mission Partners**

We are now supporting Erica Aarsen in South Sudan working as a nurse. \$1000 was sent to her through SIM (Serving in Mission). Also we are now supporting David and Anita Muir and family in Lusaka, Zambia in university work with SIM. They received \$500. We have been supporting in prayer Bruce and Christine Turner in Uganda who are AIM (Africa Inland Mission) missionaries. They finish in Uganda later this year and return home to New Zealand. All of these missionaries apart from John Msowoya visited the parish in the last 12 months.

This year we have continued to support the work of STUM in Malawi. Under the leadership of John Msowoya it has been a challenging year with Covid 19 affecting the work and the process of rationalization in closing the STUM office and making staff redundant. John employs people as needed for trainings of Sunday school teachers. The printing of Sunday school teachers books continues on having been very thankful for the money raised by St David's in the past for the printing of 500 books. The parish gave \$1000 for STUM during the year.

Jim Young  
Convenor

#### **Parish Bible study group**

It has meet regularly on a Thursday evening at different people's homes from 7.30-8.45pm. We have had studies from throughout the scriptures. It is a very enjoyable time of learning and sharing. We welcome new members.

Jim Young

#### **St David's Parish 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>-Sunday 22nd August 2021**

The celebrations will be held on the Saturday evening with a meal and time of reminiscing and display of photos and parish records. On the Sunday will be a service at the normal time. We are looking forward to a number of previous ministers and office bearers being present.

Thanks to David Henson who worked hard on preparations before he left for Zimbabwe and will not be back in time to join in. Keep these dates free!

Jim Young



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

We have had three services this year. Two of these were morning services, August and March and an evening service on Christmas Eve. Our warmest thanks to Henry for leading our services and to Rona Hayward and Fairlie Matsinger our organists/pianists.

Our organ has had a minor repair; to correct a key that was sticking. 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.

Heavy rain caused the cancellation of our November Service.

Our June service was cancelled as our district (and wider Canterbury) experienced severe flooding at end of May and beginning of June. While the church was surrounded by water, fortunately it didn't enter the building. The Ashburton river systems could not cope with the phenomenal rainfall; stop banks were breached, roads and many hectares of farmland and farm structures severely damaged and animals lost. Some homes were flooded and will not be habitable for some time. At this time [end of June] the roads are now passable and the huge task of repairing homes and farms has begun.

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

## Finance

My thanks to my fellow committee members - Lucille Brown and David Henson - for their input and work over the year.

The annual financial accounts are likely to show a surplus for the year of about \$30,000. This is mainly due to the 2020 and 2021 annual appeals being mainly received in this financial year and grants received for the data projection equipment replacement. The 2020 annual appeal started later than usual due to Covid-19.

Giving is up on last year, although last year was affected by Covid-19. Our annual fair was very successful last year at \$7,624 so similar to the previous year. Other sundry income, such as walnuts, rentals and interest, has come through about on budget.

Expenses all appear to be around budget, with major differences being additional repairs and maintenance with extra work on the manse and an increase in our cleaning costs to market rates. Cleaning costs were at a discounted rate previously.

The Annual Appeal is in progress and we expect a good total even without being able to receive cheques now. Thank you to Lucille Brown for coordinating this.

The committee encourages members of the congregation to look at their regular giving and consider paying by direct credit, if not already on direct credit. This is the preferred method of giving as it reduces administration, however the envelope system continues to be available. Every extra increase in regular giving, no matter what amount, is very helpful and means that we can continue the local outreach of the Church.

As cheques are no longer able to be used, the Finance Committee has recommended that St David's have an Eftpos facility. Parish Council have agreed and this will be set up soon. There is a small monthly cost to have this facility. This facility will only accept Eftpos transactions, not credit card transactions.

There has been significant capital spending over the year which has come out of reserves and previous donations – chairs, camera, carpet, data projection equipment, television. It was unfortunate that the television was stolen soon after installation however replacement was covered by insurance, apart from the excess.

Our financial position is sound with sufficient reserves to cover expected costs along with some for contingencies. However we need to remain aware of income opportunities, big and small, to help cover costs.

Thank you for your support.

David Fisher

