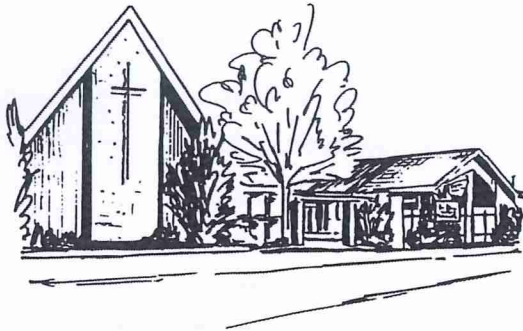


Annual Report

ST DAVID'S UNION CHURCH

Allenton – Ashburton
July 2024– June 2025



“Called, Equipped and Sent”

ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on
Sunday 21st September 2025
after the worship service.

IN MEMORIAM

We would like to acknowledge the work of all those who have gone to be with the Lord since our last meeting and pray that God will comfort their loved ones.

Funerals for the following were held during the year under review.

Lorraine Ward *
Olive Philpott
Ron Bush *
Maureen Baynes *
Shirley Jamison*
Natalie Read *
John Wallis *
Jeanette Prebble *
Irene Birkett
Joyce Dalley*
Faye Ruddenklau *
Errol Stewart *
Allan Lilley *

*** *Member of St David's***

Dear Lord, you are the God of compassion, all comfort and peace. We are grateful for all your servants who served you in the life of your church and now are resting from their labour. We humbly pray for their families left behind in this world. Grant them your peace and strengthen them Lord we pray. 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 21st September 2025 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. If you need a copy of the 2023-2024 minutes, please kindly get in touch with the office. The annual accounts and budget will be made available before the meeting.

AGENDA

Opening Prayer – Rev Henry Mbambo

Call to Order – Peter Yates (Parish Council Chairperson)

Apologies

Approve Minutes for Congregational Meeting: - 2023– 2024

Matters Arising

New Business -

Receive Annual Reports - Minister's report
Parish Council report
Parish Visitors report
Christian Education Committee
Walking Group
Midweek Service
Foot Clinic
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, whom we serve.

God has graciously given us another opportunity to reflect on our shared journey during the 2024–2025 parish year. Our annual reports and parish meeting are not just administrative milestones—they are sacred moments of thanksgiving. We gather to celebrate God’s faithfulness, to reflect on His work among us, and to seek His vision for the future with hope and prayer.

A Decade of Grace: “Ebenezer”

This year, 2025, holds special significance. It marks for me and us together, a decade of shared faith, growth, and service. The word that resonates most deeply with me is Ebenezer—“stone of help.” It beautifully commemorates God’s faithful interventions throughout our journey together. Truly, we can say, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

Gratitude for Faithful Servants

I extend heartfelt thanks to those who have served with dedication and love:

Janet Fisher and Philippa Yates, our Parish Visitors, for their pastoral care and partnership in ministry.

Jan Squires, our Administrative Secretary, whose diligence and spirit make her a joy to work with.

Rachel Nixon, for her continued leadership in the Children’s Ministry through Fit Kids. Her teaching background has enriched the programme, and we rejoice in the growing number of children participating.

David Henson and Peter Yates, who have led our Parish Council with wisdom and support. I’m grateful for their close collaboration throughout the year.

David Fisher and the Finance Committee who are diligent in looking after the resources of the parish.

Carl Ruddenklau and his team who work on the building and keeping the grounds looking good.

Jim Young and the Christian education team for continue Christians education in the parish.

Our musicians and song leaders, who prepare and lead worship each week with passion and commitment. I remain thankful for their support in managing the music and worship roster.

My beloved wife Chileya, whose unwavering support has been a source of strength in my ministry.

Serving the Community

We also give thanks for the many volunteers who serve across ministries:

Those working with children and older adults-
Anna Reith and the team organising Mid week service lunches.
Organizers of Fit Kids and the mid-week service led by Anna Reith
The team at the Foot Clinic, led by Joy Nicolas
Church groups who organize lunches, walks, and newsletter distribution (Pam Love).
Roger and Margaret Snowden who organise the Greenstreet services.
Thank you all, for your faithful service and contributions to parish life.

Your service is a living testimony of Christ's love in action.

Remembering with Love

In the 2024–2025 year, we held 13 funerals for members and friends of St David's. We honour their lives and contributions to our church. May God continue to comfort their families and surround them with peace.

Looking Ahead with Hope

As we read the reports from our committees, I pray they uplift and inspire you. I am deeply grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and wisdom. Many of you have walked alongside me in pastoral care and worship preparation, and I thank you sincerely.

May God continue to use us to build His Kingdom here on earth.

In Christ's service,

Rev Henry Mbambo
Minister

Chairman's Report

This year, David Henson and I have shared the chairing of Parish Council as David is away frequently. As David is still overseas, I am writing this year's report.

Parish Council reviewed the necessity of meeting monthly and as a result agreed to meet bi-monthly for business and meet on the alternate months to discuss other aspects of our parish life that we normally do not have time for. This to a degree is a 'work in progress' but does seem to be working at this stage. We are also able to meet and vote on-line when required. I am very appreciative of the support that Parish Councillors give and their service, often behind the scenes, keeps all the operations around the church running smoothly. As examples, over the year, fences have been erected and replaced on both of our side boundaries and windows were replaced in the hall.

Our facilities are well maintained and are flexible in their use, hence the regular use by many different groups. The finances are professionally and prudently managed by David Fisher and his knowledge in this area ensures that Parish Council is aware of their status. Thank you all for the offerings and tithes given over the year that enable us to keep the church buildings well maintained, our very important people employed and make our commitment to the wider church and missions.

I understand that we also have a good number of children and their parents attending Fit Kidz programme each week and I thank Rachel for her work in this area and to the helpers who ensure the set up and clean up is done and morning tea is made for everyone. The support helpers give the other programmes is also recognised and appreciated.

It is heartening to have seen a number of new people join our parish over the past twelve or so months. Let us pray that this continual refreshing of our parish continues. I was not entirely surprised when Henry said at his 10-year anniversary that we have had funerals for over 80 of our parish members in that time.

As mentioned above, just after the June year end, Henry completed 10 years of leading us in worship and pastoral care. We are so grateful that Henry and Chileya have been serving us all over this decade and pray for God's continuing blessings on them and their service.

We have strong groups studying the Bible at different Bible Study groups each week and we have monthly evening services which have a committed group attending.

Over the year, Janet Fisher and Philippa Yates in their volunteer roles as Parish Visitors have been very busy meeting with many of our people in their homes. Henry also does lots of visiting and all these visits help meet the needs of our people who need our pastoral care.

There are so many in our parish who serve in so many different ways including technical, music, prayer, baking, leading, praying, serving, maintaining and more, that it is not possible to mention everybody but your work is both essential and is recognised here and I thank you all for the work you do.

May God bless you all.

Peter Yates

Parish Visitors

We have had a busy year visiting our St David's people in their homes, rest homes and hospital.

We have been appreciative of the kindness we have received. Thank you for inviting us into your homes.

A big thank you to our parish members who have been our eyes and ears for any needs in the community.

If there is anyone who wants us to visit or knows of anyone who would like, or may need a visit, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Philippa Yates 0273087644

Janet Fisher 0274139326

Walking Group

The walking group meeting on Tuesdays welcomes everyone. A friendly chat and the opportunity to make new friends is always on hand. Interest during the year has continued. A café stop is part of the morning and anyone wishing to drive to meet us is also welcome.

Pam Love

Midweek Service

When you see the big smiles on the faces of the elderly as they arrive for the service, you realise how important it is to them. Most would not be able to attend the earlier time of the Sunday service. We have some new members and now average about 20-25 people per week.

Joy must be thanked for contacting everyone on Monday and arranging transport to get there and coping with walking frames etc. Thank you to the drivers who give of their time and the use of their cars. The chatter over the meal makes it all worthwhile for those in the background doing the preparing of the meal.

Henry—after 10 years with us spreading the word of our Lord God—everyone looks forward to your message.

Anna Reith

Foot Clinic

Where did that time go? Here I am again reporting on another busy year for the Foot Clinic. It's hard to believe that we'll be marking our 15th milestone in September. We accommodate approximately 28 clients every six weeks, with a waiting list in case of cancellations. Many of our clients have been coming for years and tend to book two clinics ahead to be sure of getting an appointment. On the other hand, some just come every second time because their toenails don't grow very fast. The need for a service such as ours is growing and the other two foot clinics in Hampstead and Tinwald report a similar situation.

Our takings for the 9 clinics in the last financial year were \$2,778.50 less supplies of \$381.90, a net profit of \$2,396.60 to the Church.

I would like to thank our amazing volunteers who faithfully turn up every six weeks to set up, deal with the bookings, the spa baths, cutting of toe nails, massaging and providing a delicious afternoon tea. A special thanks to Carl, who has the room nice and warm for us.

If anyone has a spare afternoon on a Tuesday every six weeks, or even every 12 weeks and would like to assist us, come along and we'll show you the operation.

Joy Nicholas

Missions Report

During the year two out of our three missionaries/missions we support returned to New Zealand.

Erica Aarsen finished in South Sudan with SIM. She still may return to the Mission field and at present is in Westport working as a nurse.

Daniel and Anita Muir finished their service in Zambia owing to Daniels ill health. Daniel is now a Youth worker at the St Albans Presbyterian church in Palmerston North.

We continue to support the Sunday School Teacher Training work in Malawi which Jim and Diane Young spearhead from NZ with a team working in Malawi.

To replace Erica and the Muir Family we began supporting –

Cath Drummond who is a SIM missionary who arrived in Myanmar in January 2025. She has settled in well considering the country has suffered an earthquake and the government is at war with some fractions. Cath's main work is teaching English at a centre set up by SIM.

Naomi Smith who is with the Interserve Mission organisation arrived in a Central Aisa country in June 2025. Naomi intends to work as a Physiotherapist. She is also settling in well.

During the year we have been keeping you informed with regular reports in the Parish newsletter.

Financial donations were given to the following-

STUM- Malawi	\$700
Naomi Smith -	\$1200
Cath Drummond -	\$700
Shining Light Trust -	\$500 (distributes the Hope Booklets.)
24/7 Youth ministry -	\$551 (Youth ministry at the Ashburton College).

This includes the coin for mission amount.

Thankyou to everyone who have contributed to this over the year.

Jim Young

Parish Christian Education

Bible Study Groups -

Two groups have continued to meet weekly one on a Tuesday afternoon at the church and the other group in members homes - mainly Alison Early's home.

The number of regular attenders are approximately 18 people.

We use the study material produced by CWCI. CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International) is a worldwide Bible-based non-denominational faith ministry, which initially began in Australia in 1957. Some ten years later CWCI was introduced into New Zealand. The Bible study booklets that each participant uses are called KYB- Know Your Bible. Over the last year we have studied the New Testament books of Luke and Romans. The participants generally find the lessons stimulating and practical in helping in ones spiritual growth.

We encourage more members to take the opportunity to join the groups.

Youth Group. Youth group finished at the end of 2024.

Children's work. There is a separate report for Fitz Kids.

In regard to children when they come to church we provide toys for infants and for older children Henry provides material based on the theme for the day.

Jim Young

Fit Kidz

This year has seen several children leaving us to go to school, but we still have been having a reasonable number of participants at Fit Kidz sessions, our highest number being twenty-four and our lowest, seven. We have a wide range of ages, from newborn to four-year-olds, and a couple different ethnicities in the group.

Parents, caregivers, and children are being blessed by the weekly connection with other families and church volunteers. Sometimes it can be quite lonely for parents at home with children, so this ministry is fulfilling an important need in our community, as the parents really enjoy catching up with other parents. This weekly connection has allowed me to build relationships with these families.

We have a range of songs and rhymes at Fit Kidz, and we use lots of resources such as bells, bears, scarves, bean bags and of course, bubbles! We now have poi and rakau for use in session five. We read books, dance and do a bit of ballet. We are incorporating Sunday school songs, sign language and Te Reo Maori songs into the sessions. It is lovely to see the children growing and developing their language skills as well as their movement and dancing skills.

Earlier this year we had a teddy bears' picnic at St David's due to the picnic being cancelled last year. My daughter had hip surgery at that time. The picnic went really well. We had a bear hunt and bubbles outside. We also played parachute games and ate teddy-themed snacks.

We have acquired a new blue-tooth speaker for use in the Fit Kidz sessions. This allows us to play music from our phones and attach a microphone too – which is really useful when we have larger and outdoor sessions!

Thank you for the support given to me by Pastor Henry, the volunteers, who put on a lovely morning tea for the families, in particular, Anna, who sets up every week and does lovely baking, Nikki and Isobel, who take over when I'm away, and the wider St David's Church. May God bless you and keep you. May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you!

Rachel Nixon

Annual Property Report

It only seems like yesterday I was sitting at the computer doing an Annual Property Report and here I am again. "I am so lucky to still have a job"

It is once again my pleasure to present my Property Report for happenings with the Property since my last report.

As usual many thanks to all who have helped me in some way over the year. Just to name some like the lawn mowing roster, George and Lucille Brown with the garden tidy ups, all the helpers when Christmas Star is erected along with the scene in the front windows, the Easter Crosses just to mention a few. The band of helpers with general maintenance tasks. We save the church a huge amount of money with all this input. Many thanks to my right-hand man Lindsay Jones - he is a great help to me.

As I have done before I will go through the year and a brief summary from my Parish Council Reports

Sept-Oct 2024: Badly rusted spouting on McCaskill Hall was renewed at a cost of \$2264.00 ex GST. The Church lawn mower was serviced ready for the season ahead. Some flat weeds in lawn were spot sprayed. A new group started using the hall on a Wednesday evening called "StarJam" for handicapped and disabled children.

It was decided in conjunction with the Annual Fair to have a spud in the bucket competition.

Replaced two door locks at the House and dealt with a water leak in kitchen, from a faulty fitting. An ant problem at the House.

Nov--Dec 2024: Had an issue with the cordless microphone - a faulty connection.

Ongoing weatherboard repairs to McCaskill Hall, along with paint scraping (a slow laborious job) and then some painting. More to do this spring/summer.

Sadly the "StarJam" Group went into liquidation, (well the parent body did). I made a donation so they could keep going till the end of the year.

Jan—Feb 2025: Early December the Christmas Star was erected. Thanks to Geoff Read Ltd for the use of a telehandler for this job. The Christmas scene was set up in the front windows which was the illuminated in the evenings, along with the wise men and shepherds. A lot of good comments on how it all looked. Well done to all who helped. Had two leaks on roof over kitchen that I addressed with my trusty bitumen tape along with some magic bitumen paint.

McLeods Real Estate did a revaluation of Church facility and the Church House for insurance purposes. Church is now valued at \$4,135,000.00, and the House at \$880,000.00. Aon account for the insurance on the Church facility, \$17,710.00. A considerable cost.

Five new aluminium windows for McCaskill Hall ordered from Heartland Aluminium at \$600.00 each, to replace existing windows that had rotted. A request from tenants in the house regards making an opening in the wall between living room and the lounge. By the original house plan there was to be provision in the build for that to happen if required. As yet had no further mention of this. The question of selling the house is being investigated, but it is a complex issue.

Mar-April 2025: Had all six heat pumps serviced by Electraserve. Had a load of soil kindly delivered by Tarbottons and the three Easter Crosses were erected. Tarbottons later came and removed the soil. We are indebted to Tarbottons for doing this for the Church.

May—June 2025: The five new windows were fitted in McCaskill Hall, perfect fit and look great. There again the money saving by us doing the removal of the old and fitting the new.

Had a request from the kindergarten to replace the boundary fence with new posts and rails and reusing the corrugated iron. They had a quote to do the job of \$14,500.00, and then we would need to pay half of that. I thought that a bit on the costly side. Had a chat to my right-hand man Lindsay Jones and with our labour in at a profitable sum, \$7,500.00 for same replacement. There was a section at each end still good and sound and would be difficult to get at and they were happy with that. Lindsay repriced at \$6627.27, and they accepted. Work to be done at the end of June-July holidays. The job was completed in two days, and my thanks to Lindsay as project manager how well it went. Thanks again to Geoff Read Ltd for the use of a digger with post hole borer attachment and the band of helpers.

We have also addressed the issue of what I call "Lake David" in the carpark when it rains. Dug a soak hole, lined with cloth, and filled with stone.

Downpipes from hall and from a sump are piped into the soak hole. I am hopeful the profit from the fence job will cover most of this work.

Greenstreet Church: What would we do without Roger and Margaret Snowden up there? Roger just attends to things. Many thanks to you both for what you do.

Conclusion: Along with the above mentioned there are a multitude of small maintenance jobs that need attention. Thanks again to the lawn mowing team and if there is someone out there that would like a turn at walking behind the mower let me know. Great exercise and doing a worthwhile job at the same time.

Once again thank you for entrusting me to look after the St David's Property.

Carl Ruddenklau,
Property Convenor

Finance

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

The 2025 annual financial accounts show a deficit for the year as expected when the budget was completed last year. This is mainly due to giving continuing to reduce.

Regular giving is down on last year and this is mainly direct credit giving, due to deaths and people moving from Ashburton. Envelope giving is slightly down on last year. Cash and other donations are well down on last year. The Annual Appeal is also well down on previous years. Our annual fair income at \$6,053 was higher than last year and the Spud in the Bucket is probably the reason for this. This is the last year for income from walnuts and is about \$7,000. Rentals for our buildings has improved with some new groups using the buildings. The manse is rented out as Henry has his own home. The rent covers the housing allowance paid to Henry.

Expenses are generally around budget.

The Annual Appeal is still in progress and looks to be down on previous years. 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. Every extra increase in regular giving, no matter what amount, is very helpful as our costs are always increasing and means that we can continue the local outreach of the Church.

Our financial position is sound with sufficient reserves to cover expected costs along with some for contingencies. However, with our aging congregation our regular giving is reducing regularly as noted above. It is good to see extra income coming in from rentals of buildings. We therefore need to remain aware of income opportunities, big and small, to help cover costs.

Thank you for your support.

David Fisher

Greenstreet Ashburton Forks Community Church

Annual Report year ending June 2025

Thank you to everyone who makes it possible for services to continue in the church; to Henry for leading the services, and our organists Fairlie Matsinger and Joan Wright.



We continue with four morning services, August, November, March (harvest thanksgiving) and June.

Harvest produce is given to Presbyterian Support.

The Christmas Eve service was well attended, the church being virtually full.

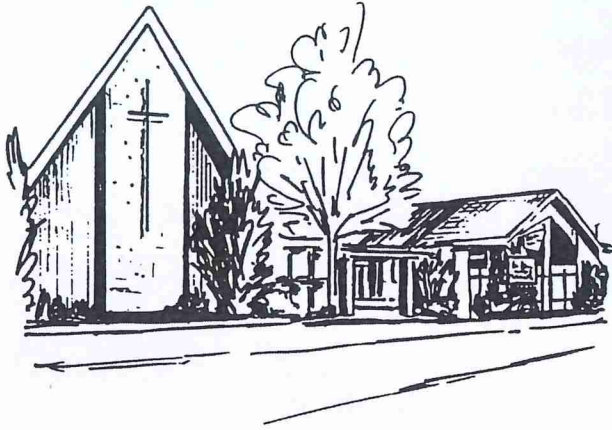
We enjoy the fellowship after the services with a light lunch following the morning services, and a supper on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to Joy and Murray for preparing the church for services, and Shirley and Stan for mowing the lawn.

Thank you too, to those who contribute food for lunch.

Everyone's help is much appreciated.

Roger and Margaret Snowden



Soli Deo gloria
(To God alone be glory)