



ST MARGARET'S

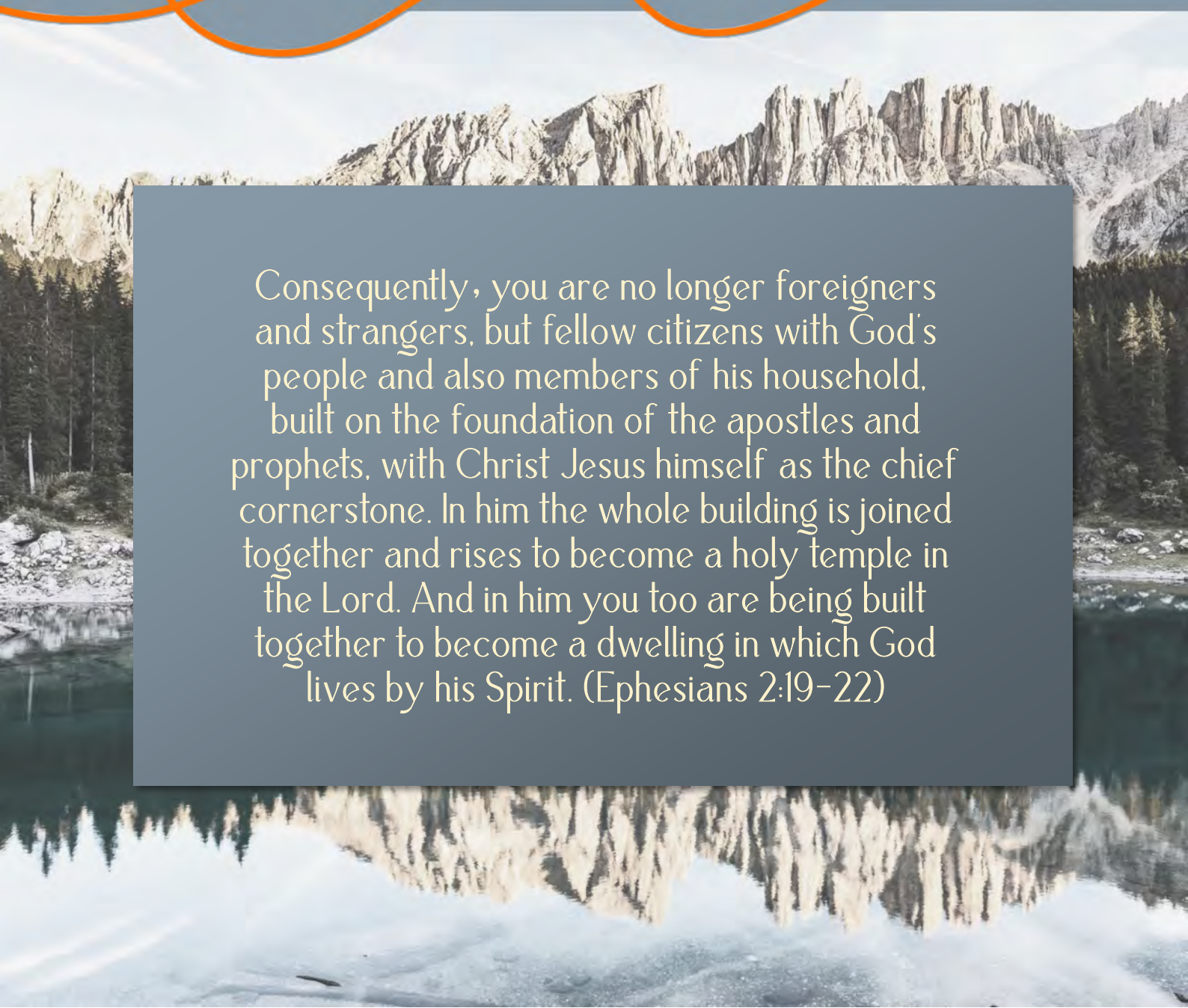
# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MAKING JESUS KNOWN  
SEEING LIVES TRANSFORMED

# Welcome

Welcome to our review of 2023. This Annual Report will give you a glimpse into the complexity and beauty of the body of Christ expressed here in Hillsborough under the banner of St Margaret's. We have seen thousands of hours of selfless living and giving of the people who call this their spiritual home. My hope is that as you read this you will be inspired to 'pour yourself out like a drink-offering' (2 Timothy 4:6) before the Lord as we live for the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:12).

Blessings  
Fraser



Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

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## A Vicar's View

### Giant-sized: Problems or Opportunities?

The Lord said to Moses, 'Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.' So at the Lord's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites. [...] Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.'

Fraser McDermott



[...] Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, 'The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.' (Numbers 13:1-3, 30: 14:6-10)

The Annual Report is an opportunity for to look back and see the God-journey of last year, and to look forward to see and imagine the next part of our journey with God, as His people at St Margaret's. It is this dynamic that reminds me of the story of God sending the 12 spies into the Promised Land way before they possessed it.

It was called 'The Promised Land' because of God's promise to Abraham: *"I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to take possession of it"* (Gen15:7, see also Gen15:18-21). As Whitney Wollard, writing for The Bible Project, puts it: *This land that God promised [...] is not simply a geographical backdrop, it acts as a picture of covenant faithfulness as God's people try to live out their divine calling.* God is the one who promises, and we are called to be faithful and walk into his promises with confidence that He will always be good to them.

In the story of the twelve spies, ten spies could only see the giant problems in the land and thus were defeated before they even began. Two spies (Joshua and Caleb) could see giant opportunities by seeing what God could see: *a land flowing with milk and honey*. Though all of them could not imagine how God could give them the land, yet they all knew that God had parted the sea for them and had guided them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. And yet, ten of them could not allow God's past action to inform their trust in His future purposes. Fortunately, two of them could see and sadly they were the only two that survived to see God's people step across the Jordan on dry land and into the Promised Land.

How Joshua and Caleb behaved is the enduring picture of faith. We remember what God has done in order that we may have courage for what God will do in the future. God is always faithful to his promises which He performs through us to His glory.



# 2023 – What God has Done!

When looking back we can see the marvellous and gracious hand of God in 2023 through the highs and the lows. There is so much to share and so little space!

## January

- ◆ Auckland was hit with massive flooding. Some of our church families were completely flooded out of their homes and others had severe damage to their properties. Our church community responded with great generosity and helped many of the families with donations of goods and money to help get them back on their feet.

## February

- ◆ Cyclone Gabrielle devastated large parts of the North Island.
- ◆ Paul and Dale Williamson came and ran evenings called Regather, Renew, Refresh where we had sweet times of worship and encountered the power and presence of Jesus.
- ◆ We started a special monthly Women's Bible Study hosted by Maidalyne Beazley.

## March/April

- ◆ Our annual Gift Day saw an extraordinary response of God's provision to the Vision set before us.

## May

- ◆ We sent a mission team to Bangladesh to work with Operational Mobilisation.

## July

- ◆ We celebrated our 101st Anniversary. Thank you to everyone for the hours of organisation that went to making such a wonderful event. Bishop Ross was delighted and it was wonderful to have a church full to the brim of new and returning people. There was a great sense of optimism and a lovely time of past and present members coming together.
- ◆ We also saw the appointment of Warren Duncan as our new Director of Worship.

## August

- ◆ Saw the start of our Monthly Midweek Communion Service & Invitational Lunch led by Linda Duncan, Kay Durrans and Jim Peacock.
- ◆ Our first large LCD Screen was installed in the church sanctuary.

## September

- ◆ Our Young Adults enjoy a weekend away retreat.
- ◆ Alpha Course starts with 7 guests.
- ◆ Bishop Ross extended Rev Emily Paterson's partially funded curacy through to the end of 2024.
- ◆ I was also laid low with some cardiac issues which, by God's grace, is now under control. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to serve.

## October

- ◆ Our Men's group went on a mission trip to Great Barrier Island where they ministered to and with the local Anglican Church. There they saw the LORD do a significant work of healing and reconciliation in that church.
- ◆ Our CAP Debt Centre had an amazing fund-raising dinner with moving testimonies of God's work in people's lives.

## November

- ◆ Vestry agrees to engage the work of Redeemer City to City for 2024 onwards.
- ◆ Our iServe campaign saw many volunteer to serve in the life and many ministries of the Church.

## December

- ◆ Our second large LCD screen was installed in the sanctuary in time for our Christmas celebrations.
- ◆ We celebrated Christmas with the church full of life and visitors.
- ◆ We also helped with the Carols in the Park in Three Kings Domain.

Throughout the year we welcomed new people every week and our Newcomers Lunches were very popular. What an amazing year!



# 2024 - What God Will Do!

When we look forwards, we do so knowing that God always has plans for His Church which are for our good and His glory (Jeremiah 29:11). The job we have is to be still enough to discern what He is saying. It is therefore vital that we become even more a people of prayer.

**Prayer & Prophecy.** Amos 3:7-8 says that God does nothing without first revealing his plans to his servants the prophets. Hearing God's voice is the most important thing we can do. It comes from creating a space for Him to speak as we pray. We will continue to press into the space of prayer. We want to continue to develop our prayer life as a community. While individual prayer is really important, there also seems to be a special thing that God does when his people gather to prayer together. This year can I encourage you to attend at least one Church Prayer Meeting a month? Perhaps you could also help us develop different spaces and expressions of corporate prayer. This year, we will be hosting another 24/7 Prayer Week in late May. Come join us in prayer and listen to the voice of God with us.

**Revisioning and Equipping the Saints.** 2024 will see us working with Redeemer City to City (Australia) (CTC) with our Lead Consultant, Rev Jamie Bester. CTC is a Church Consultancy organisation that aims to revitalise local churches for the work for the kingdom. Their expertise includes leadership coaching, vision distillation, church systems enhancement, evangelism training, preaching development, and setting accountable and realistic goals. They will work with us for an initial two years, with the potential for a five-year partnership. This year they will help us to discover a refreshed vision for St Margaret's which will inform everything that we do and help us to set accountable and achievable goals.

**Lynfield Community Church.** The Lynfield Community Church will be joining us at the beginning of May. We will together, become one worshipping body under the banner of St Margaret's. It is our intention that within 12 months we will be planting a new morning service back into Lynfield with a new church planting team. Will God be sending you? We will be looking for people to commit themselves to serving and growing the church in Lynfield.

**Regen24.** As part of a wider vision to be a blessing to the NZ Church, we will be the venue for the ACM Regen24 conference. This conference is a chance for anybody to be inspired by a greater vision, equipped by great teaching and blessed by the worship and Holy Spirit ministry times. This is our opportunity to give ourselves afresh to the work of God.

**Teaching, Training & Leadership.** Over the next year we will be aiming to explore opportunities for deeper teaching and training in theology and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This will be available to people outside of St Margaret's with the possibility of us becoming a Northern Training Hub where leaders can be grown and equipped. We will also be looking at developing and training a church planting team and will be growing our musical worship as a church.

**Staffing.** We will need to grow the staff team (clergy and lay) ahead of these developments so that we may be able to grow into all that God has ordained for us to be. We hope to retain the services of Rev Emily beyond 2024.

**Conclusion.** In all these things we look to the Lord who calls us into the things he has already ordained to happen. Our job is to keep looking at him and be sensitive enough to hear the changes he may want to make. As Joshua and Caleb said: “If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.”

This will take faith and commitment, knowing that there may be battles ahead, but the Lord is the one who has the victory. As our mission statement says, we are to 'Go and make Jesus known and see lives transformed'. It is by his Spirit and our obedience and faith that we will see this happen. But we must go...

May this be our prayer:

*Father, here I am. I am willing to go. Send me and use me for your glory. Do such things through us that makes your reputation glorious and shows your name to be great. Amen.*

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.

Be strong, be courageous, be steadfast.



Fraser McDermott

# Vestry's Secretary

Shami Chand

(...) on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Matthew 16:18-19

In 2023, the Vestry continued to maintain its bi-monthly meetings, consistently upholding responsibility and ensuring sound governance through regular reporting and decision-making. They remained diligent in their management of finances and property, ensuring their appropriate handling. Throughout this year, Vestry was aware of God's guiding hand in building His church.

## **St Margaret's Centenary**

St. Margaret's main highlight this year was the grand Centennial celebration in July, marking a significant milestone for the church. This momentous occasion dominated the first half of our calendar and was a resounding success, blending celebration with reflection as we thanked God for His constant presence over 101 years.

In honouring this milestone, we acknowledged those who came before us, and their vision, and dedication to Jesus's teachings. Their legacy paved the way for the jubilant Centenary day. Looking to the future with hope, the celebration inspired us to spread God's love, ensuring all encountering St. Margaret's are blessed. The Centenary showcased our community's strength, members' faithfulness, and God's guiding grace. It served as a reminder of our mission, renewing our commitment as we step into the next chapter of St. Margaret's history with gratitude and purpose.

The Vestry extends heartfelt gratitude to the Centennial Working Group for their tireless efforts in making the celebration truly unforgettable and also thanks everyone who played a part in this momentous event for their contributions. Your dedication and support are deeply appreciated.

The following is a summary of the major pieces of business Vestry attended to in 2023. The Vestry approved the following:

- ◆ the deposit of \$100,000 with Christian Savings Bank for an initial period of one year at the applicable fixed term rate (currently set as 5.4%pa).
- ◆ the St Margaret's mortgage Loan (Ref 225.1) is to have a floating rate for the next 12 months.
- ◆ budget \$20k extra mortgage payments for the next 12 months, which will be dispersed quarterly and will equate to \$5k per quarter.
- ◆ the appointing of a Director of Worship and allocation of extra funding to enable the position to be half-time.
- ◆ the application for a faculty from the Diocese of Auckland for the installation of a 101 centennial plaque to be installed in the church foyer.
- ◆ to enter into negotiations and discussions with the Parish of Lynfield Community Church and the Bishop of Auckland regarding a possible church revitalisation project.
- ◆ the installation of the second screen in the church and to approach the church for an appeal to support this project.
- ◆ to engage in a discernment process with City to City (Australia) to determine if we would engage them as church consultants. (Vestry subsequently agreed to an initial 2-year consultancy period with an option to extend it to 5 years.)

In closing, we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who dedicated their time to serve on the Vestry this year. We wish the new Vestry a successful and fulfilling year ahead in 2024.

# Churchwardens

Tony Mitchell & Muriel McIntyre

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2: 21 – 22.

The church wardens meet with Fraser on a regular basis, and in addition to our roles on the Vestry, we are members of some working group committees.

This past year has been a time where we enjoyed regathering and our life together as a community.

There has been an increase in regular member attendance and also welcoming a number of new people into the church.

It feels as there has been a consolidation in where we are currently, and now have a sense of confidence and readiness to where this next season will lead us.

While it's felt like quite a steady year, in the background Fraser and our staff have again tirelessly and cheerfully continued to work and maintain the rhythms of a busy calendar of regular activities, often being required to go beyond what it is normally required.

During the year Fraser was on leave on several occasions, under Emily's very capable leadership, we all carried along the demands of a busy church. This reflects the commitment and capability we have within our community.

In July, it was a great joy to welcome Warren Duncan as Director of Worship. He very quickly settled in and is already extending and developing the worship and media teams, especially the participation of some junior youth in serving on both worship and tech teams.

Our Centennial celebration at the end of July was the culmination of a lot of hard work from staff, vestry and volunteers to bring together a memorable day. We cleaned, gardened, decorated, cooked, created visual displays: just some of the background preparations for a joyous gathering, worship and reunion. Bishop Ross Bay officiated at the service and later unveiled a plaque commemorating 101 years in the Hillsborough community. Sharing stories and being reminded of what we have been entrusted with from those who helped shape the church to where we are today.

The Op shop in Onehunga continues to serve the community where there is evidence of real needs so is perfectly positioned to fulfill this ministry. Sarah and the small team of volunteers (both church and community) are well known by many local customers. Being volunteers it can be quite a challenge for Sarah to cover all the shifts, so additional church support is always needed to best support this ministry.

As we open up to more activities outside regular office and church hours, it is becoming apparent there is a need for a Verger to manage building security rather than total reliance on the Vicar, so we will continue to seek someone to step into this limited scope position.

Each year the staff and vestry look at how to live out our vision statement and consider how to extend our vision beyond current activities. Late last year we elected to become one of the AFFIRM parishes to engage with the City to City Australia consultancy services who will work alongside us on this revisioning journey. Work is already underway with an initial church-wide survey and interviews so we eagerly anticipate this next season and where God is taking us.

# Staff

Fraser McDermott

We are incredibly thankful to the Lord for being one of the few churches that can sustain a staff team, and what a great staff team the Lord has assembled here! I want to acknowledge and thank (in alphabetical order):

**Shami Chand.** St Margaret's Administrator of the year! With such grace and poise she has faced the many challenges of a growing church and a busy vicar! Her graphic design skills have been breathtakingly good. In her spare time she has also masterminded the decorations for Easter and Christmas. She remains a precious gift from the Lord to us all.

**Warren Duncan.** This last year were able to employ a Director of Worship after a kind donor offered to help. It took nearly a year to find one but when we did it was worth the wait! Warren has returned to us after worshipping with us in his early years and has slotted right into the staff team. He brings a freshness and new jazz perspective to our worship and has a passion for Jesus.

**Taiana Filimone** continues to work as our part-time Op Shop Assistant Manager and volunteers many more hours in the shop. She is pure gold to the work in supporting Sarah McDermott in this outreach work in the Onehunga community.

**Losana Fonua** has successfully completed her Diploma in youth work provided through the Praxis Youth Worker training course. She joined our staff team as Youth Work Intern and helped organise a sustained Friday night youth club. She also organised the teaching for Sunday morning Youth (10-14yrs).



**Alfred and Punitha Luther** have been faithful in continuing to supply great food and hospitality as well as faith pastoral field workers. Alfred has cooked and delivered meals to some of our CAP clients and members of the church all year. They have also catered for our events at Easter, Christmas and Newcomers Lunches.

**Sarah McDermott** has managed the Op Shop for over 7 years. This year the shop saw a record turnover of over \$100,000! She has done this while struggling with limited volunteers and overwhelming donations. The Thursday Sorting Team seems to be a hive of activity and laughter! Her voluntary hours are filled with prayer meetings, the flower roster, helping at services and many other things.

**Rev Emily Paterson**, our Associate Priest (and busy mum) continues to grow in confidence and ability. Her preaching is stunning. She continued to oversee a growing young adults ministry, has mentored our new part-time staff, and willingly and with great gifting, put her hand to the many demands of parish and wider church life.

**Juliette Porter** joined the staff team for a year as our Childrens' Ministry team leader while also in her final year of her Law and Theology degrees. Through her enthusiasm and hard work we saw new life breathed into our Children's Sunday ministry.

**Rev George and Janet Stonehouse** remain a constant source of Godly wisdom and encouragement. Their insights and pastoral heart have helped support many people through the year.

**Wardens.** Our church wardens, Tony Mitchell and Muriel McIntyre, are honorary staff members. We have all appreciated their wisdom, constancy and encouragement throughout the year.

All our staff willingly give far more hours to the work of the Church than those for which they are paid. The challenge is to encourage them to rest and to develop others who they can train and release into greater fruitfulness to the glory of God's name. Well done good and faithful servants.



# To God be the Glory





Great things He has done



# Property Workgroup

Tony Mitchell

The last year has seen a large number of repairs and maintenance items addressed. Whilst there was no focus or advancement of the asbestos roof replacement, air quality tests have been conducted and the monies set aside for the replacement remain allocated in the budget. I expect to see a renewed emphasis on addressing this major building item in the coming years.

During the year many smaller items were addressed either by friendly subcontractors (Auckland Plumbing Group) or by teams of dedicated parishioners. A big thankyou to Ian McIntyre and Terry Ryan who with their teams have done a whole lot of work behind the scenes.

Significant items addressed in 2023:

### **Overhead Screen Displays (Dual OHP)**

Following the success of the 1st 85" commercial display screen, installed in time for the 101 celebrations, a second screen to match was installed just prior to the Christmas services.

A big thank you to those who made this happen.

### **Air Condition Units**

Several air conditioning units failed during the year. These were at 'end of life' and replaced. The one needed in the crèche will hopefully be installed prior to winter 2024.

### **Church Building Lighting**

Terry's team continues the systematic replacement of the fluorescent lights with modern LED fittings. The difference where they have been installed is remarkable. The hall fittings were also 'rejuvenated' by me retrofitting new LED fittings into the existing lighting reflectors. Two high bay end fitting are yet to be completed.

### **Pigeons**

The church pigeon roosting issue has an on-going solution by an occasional night shot for the armchair hunters in the parish. If you want to be involved, please let me know.

### **Hall Acoustic Tiles**

A team of installers glued the ground level acoustic tiles around the hall. This has completed the amount of acoustic deadening planned for that space.

### **Repairs to Kitchen**

Various appliances have been replaced in the Kitchen.

### **Ongoing Maintenance Plan**

This has been revised and priorities added, primarily by Ian Goodwin but agreed to by the property and finance working group.

I would like to thank all those who participated in making the church buildings and surroundings look so good both for the 101 celebration and the 2023 Christmas services. This year we will be hosting some conference functions and expect plenty of visitors. I trust the same level of presentation will be afforded these events.





# Reaching Up

## Preaching

Fraser McDermott

Our hope is that everyone has a regular habit of reading scripture and allowing the inspired Word of God to influence and direct our lives. Our gathering on a Sunday is a chance for us together to:

- a) be inspired and transformed by God's Word in scripture;
- b) find a common vision and purpose as the People of God;
- c) draw closer to God and one another, and;
- d) allow a hunger for God's word to propel us into the world as agents of the Kingdom through His empowering presence.

Throughout the year we vary our Sunday messages through preaching overarching biblical themes, and books of the Bible, trying to look into both the Old and New Testament. Our aim is to build confidence in the integrity and relevance of scripture to our lives and give everyone the ability to be able to study the Word in groups and individually.

We continued to enjoy the development of home-grown speakers from within the church fellowship as well as a few guests from outside the church. Thank you to all our speakers this year who delivered with eloquence and prayerfulness.

Our preaching series in 2023 were:

### **God's Story, My Story**

We invited different people from with our fellowship to share their journey of faith into Jesus and in following Jesus. We started this series in Summer Church and then at different times through the year. The purpose of the series was to get to know one another a bit more and to give each one of us the confidence to be able to share our story of faith with each other and with others who we may meet in our daily lives.





## Kingdom Parables

We enjoyed an extended series on Jesus' parables on the Kingdom of God. In his ministry, Jesus preached and demonstrated the reality and presence of the Kingdom of God — God's rule. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The Kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!' (Mark 1:15). His message announced the

Kingdom, his parables explained the kingdom, and his miracles bore witness to the presence of the Kingdom of God on earth right now. We encouraged one another to be shaped as Kingdom People, impacting our everyday values, attitudes, and priorities.

## Mission Sundays

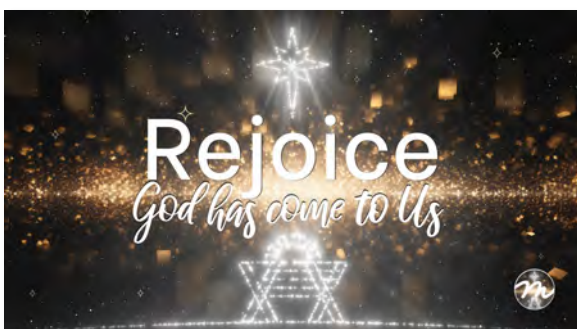
We also like to keep external mission fresh in our hearts and minds and so we heard from our own people and invited guest speakers from different agencies we may be supporting to hear of God's work beyond our boundaries. This year we heard from: Juliette Porter, on her mission to an unknown location in Asia; Michael Mysolla and Andrey Borro on a summer mission week in Nelson; our mission to Bangladesh team and Operation Mobilisation; Chris Ayres from Pioneers NZ; Jolene from her long term work in the Middle East, and; Peter & Karen Brookes from CMCT (India).



## Living Hope — Studies in 1 Peter

This series was born out of the concept that, as Kingdom people, we are agents/carriers of hope in a troubled world. If we do not understand this all-encompassing hope across all fields and disciplines of our lives, we will find that our light will shine very dimly in the world. We will also be easily side-swiped by life's changes and chances

in the world. We are called to live informed by an active and real hope made possible by the resurrection of Jesus. Hope informed by the indwelling Christ will give us the hope for an active faith today.



## Rejoice! God has Come to Us

Our Advent series was all about joyful waiting having full confidence that God's Kingdom is at work in our world, and his promise of return will be fulfilled. We journeyed through the biblical story, toward Christmas, we noticed the way God's people rejoice in him and his work along the way. We did so to learn to be people of joy and

cultivate the fruit of joy in our lives through all circumstances. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."

Philippians 4:6





# Midweek Service

Emily Paterson

After a long hiatus during the covid years (2020-2022), we relaunched our Wednesday Communion service during Lent 2023. We began with a weekly service; however, the number attending was small. As the year went on it became clear that it was time to re-imagine this service and consider how to best minister to those involved.

We took a break during July and during that time made the decision to replace our weekly service with a monthly communion service followed by an invitational lunch. The vision being that the meal would provide a point of connection for those who are free during the day and an opportunity to invite non-church friends.

Kay Durrans, Linda Duncan, and Jim Peacock agreed to co-ordinate and host this new lunch, and in August we relaunched in the new format. The monthly services had an average attendance of 10 during August to December, with an additional 3-5 people regularly joining us for the lunch afterwards. There is a growing sense of community among those involved, and we pray that God would continue to use this service to help people feel connected to one another and to God.



# Thursday Prayer Meeting

Sarah McDermott

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

It has been a pleasure in 2023 to return completely to in-person prayer meetings. There is something about being gathered in the same room to pray that helps us focus on God and share what we sense he is calling us to pray.

At the Lift prayer meetings, we pray for all aspects of the life of St Margaret's Church. This year, we moved our start time on Thursdays to 7.30pm, and Penny Ockleston, Anne Segedin, and I have continued to lead the meetings. It is uplifting to enjoy our different styles and emphases and we have also loved having some new people join us to pray. We have listened for God's mighty voice, humbled ourselves in his holy presence, sought his perfect will, and prayed for those who have put a prayer request in at the shop, and prayed for his powerful intervention.

Barbara Murdoch wonderfully leads the Prayer 31 team and, once a month, the Grandparents Prayer meeting with a strong and faithful group calling out to God for their young ones. Punitha Luther continues to coordinate the Prayer Chain, for which we are so grateful, and many of us have been blessed by the prayers of this team of faithful prayers, that we and our loved ones might be helped and held by God in times of crisis.

May I encourage you to come and sample one of our prayer meetings.  
All are welcome.

# Grandparents Prayer Group

Barbara Murdoch

'Even to your old age and grey hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you.' Isaiah 46:4

What an encouraging scripture this is for us. And as grandparents we value, beyond all else, the promise of God to sustain, carry and rescue us as we bring ourselves and our families to Him.

The Grandparents' Prayer Group here at St Margaret's comes together each month to pray for our families, particularly our grandchildren. The times we live in are often difficult and challenging for our grandchildren, their parents and carers, and so to have this time set aside to pray for them all is of great value to us.

It is also very encouraging for us to pray for each other in our role as grandparents. Sometimes we can feel at a loss to know what to do in situations and it is such a privilege to support each other in prayer. The effect we can have in each other's lives, as we bring them to God, is huge.

As we share the struggles, heartaches, joys & successes of our loved ones, and bring them to God in the safe place of prayer, we are reassured of His faithfulness to us, His abiding love for us & His hand upon us, no matter whether we are 2 or 102. To hear the stories of answered prayer brings a special joy to us all. It is such a privilege to stand in the gap for our loved ones.

We meet on the first Monday of each month at 1pm in the church café, and all grandparents are welcome. And, we do welcome those who are not yet grandparents, but are praying for their children, & grandchildren yet to be born. You are very welcome to join us.





# JESUS



# Worship Ministry

Warren Duncan



## **Introduction:**

It has been a joy to witness the level of growth we have experienced in the Music Team, notably over the past 6 months. The Word of God is clear, stating “GOD is Spirit, and His worshippers must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.” This has set the precedent for us as a team, as we desire to grow in our level of spiritual connection with the Father not only during our Sunday praise and worship, but through our daily living. As is the case with many of our ministries at St. Margaret’s, we are blessed to see active participation from our members ranging from pre-adolescents to retirees. This has created a special environment for learning to take place as insight is shared and fellowship is encouraged.

### **Future Building:**

From June 2023 we welcomed Warren Duncan as the Director of Praise & Worship to continue the work that God has been doing across our Music & Sound departments. Since joining he has been focused on implementing team growth through relationship building, encouraging youth participation, and developing musical abilities with the aim to elevate the standard of praise and worship in our church.

At the end of August, the Music team assembled for a summit that was held in the church where we realigned ourselves with a vision based on John 4:23-24. As a result, our vision is to exemplify Spirit-filled praise and worship through musical excellence.

Branching out from this vision, we as a team identified the need to encourage more of our youth & young adults to get involved while building on the relational strengths that the team already carried.

Standing in agreement, we prayed that God would partner with us to see the fulfilment of this. We are happy to see that there has been progress made in this area; we've welcomed 7 new/ returning members all of whom are regularly involved on a weekly, fortnightly, or monthly basis.

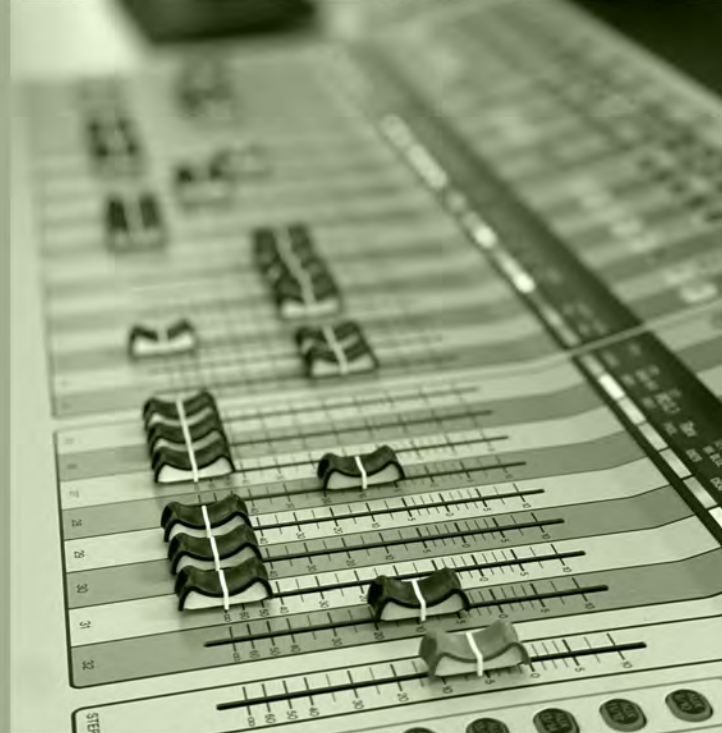


Over the Christmas season and heading into our Summer Church period, we were able to explore a variety of musical formats as our team members remained faithful in their service. Our Carol Service on December 17th welcomed worship with Jazz, while the incredible work carried out by our musicians involved in the 8am Sunday service meant that we could cater for the traditional element with hymns & festive praise.

Coming into 2024 the team took the opportunity to gather at Cornwall Park for some needed sunshine and a chance to fellowship with one another. Tying in with the vision, relationship building within our team outside of the four walls of church is of equal importance to what is done in service at church. This day was a success for all; having the opportunity to spend time breaking bread, playing games, and conversing with those in attendance.

### **This Year & Beyond:**

The Music team continues to be a fundamental part of the body at St. Margaret's Church. We look forward to bringing more uplifting, Jesus-centred praise and worship this year that will encourage our congregation to dive deeper into the revelation of who our GOD is. It is a blessing to have different members of our team serving consistently from week to week, all sharing a genuine love for GOD while experiencing growth in each individual's spiritual journey. The standard of operation shown in our traditional & informal family services is like a badge worn with pride, all a result of the respect given to practice times and improving in our commitment to the progression of our team. We anticipate a greater year ahead with the building blocks we as a team have put in place and look forward to seeing more of what GOD will grow within us.





## Sound Team

Our Sound Team has taken some big strides in the right direction coming from the end of 2023 into 2024. Our group has experienced growth in size, understanding and focus as we partner with the Music Team to deliver quality praise and worship experiences for every service. In Psalm 98:4-6 David rejoices in the Lord through musical expressions with shouts of joy, sounds of singing and instruments being played “before the Lord, the King.” We aspire to embody this expression by being excellent in our delivery of quality sound support to our musical ministry as well as ensuring a consistent flow for our service leaders, preachers, and ministers alike.

Acknowledgement must first be given to those who have remained steady in service for our Sound Team. Having the likes of Sindy- Leigh Urima, Tony Mitchell, Abraham Victor, and Augustine Cadelis giving of their time to this department has been a blessing. The tail end of 2023 (after the iServe Sundays) presented us with the opportunity to grow our team, with the injection of some younger members stepping up to the call. We have been able to welcome on board Tez Hubert, William Scott, Azubah Fonua and Fraser Baird all of whom are bright prospects to carry the standard of our team forward.

In the month of February 2024 our Praise and Worship Director Warren Duncan held a workshop with the younger members of the team to guide them through their responsibilities and equip them with some useful insight into the role. We share in the vision of the Music team, and a big part of that is helping to equip our youth to fruitfully grow within our ministry.

As we progress in 2024, we are welcoming the opportunities to push our youth forward in their involvement within the team while tapping into the knowledge the longer-serving team members can offer. We believe there is a nice balance of ages and cultural diversity to ensure that this is a well-rounded team committed to honouring GOD through service.

# Tithe & Mission Giving

Julie Arnold

St Margaret's has a longstanding policy of tithing 10% of parish income in line with Biblical principles. We are very privileged to be able to do this. It is such a joy to be able to support individuals and groups, knowing that it makes a difference to not only the recipient, but to others who come to know of Christ and whose lives are impacted through them.

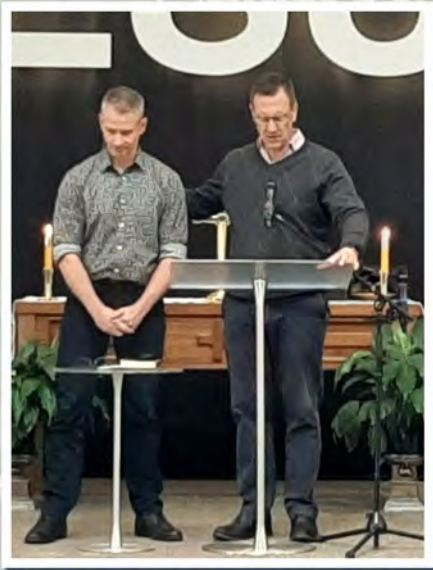
This year we have undertaken, and completed a review of all donations to ensure we have a considered approach to ongoing funding. We have set processes in place so that there is an even and broad distribution of funds; overseas, nationally and locally.

Due to gift day donations and increased giving through rising congregational numbers we had more money to allocate this year.

Approximately half the funds available support our overseas and local mission partners. We were able to give them a small increase in support for the first time in several years, due to the increased giving.

We have distributed funds to local and national initiatives and are in the process of completing due diligence with other organisations that we have identified as possible recipients.

The Tithe committee: Julie Arnold, Craig Elliffe, Jeba Jebamony, Alfred Luther.



# Mission Support

Alfred Luther

The year 2023 began with the preparation for a short-term mission trip to Bangladesh. It was in February 2023 that a team of six from our congregation put up their hands to volunteer to go on a mission support journey along with Operation Mobilisation, New Zealand to Bangladesh in May 2023.

St Margaret's Church in partnership with Operation Mobilisation (OM, NZ) is helping equip and educate over 100 children in Bangladesh. Our partnership with OM will enable Christians across Bangladesh to grow spiritually and will strengthen local church leadership. This mission helped meet urgent needs of the under privileged and spread Jesus' love across Bangladesh.

## **Christmas Appeal 2023**

We continue our mission through the Anglican Missions, New Zealand, to provide "Water for All" for the communities in Fiji, with a particular focus on improving rural communities' access to clean water. Water tanks (which come with their stands and fittings) will be installed using local labour and locally sourced materials. More than 200 people in six or seven villages will directly benefit from the safe, accessible and consistent supply of water that these tanks will provide. St Margaret's church partnering with Anglican missions, New Zealand to make a difference.

## **Partnering with St Saviour's Church, Kaitaia**

The Christmas appeal went well, providing 27 Kaitaia church families with \$80 food vouchers each presented in a personally addressed Christmas card. We continue to support them with Food Bank donations once a quarter.



Our Long-Term Mission Partner, Jolene D, continues to work in the Middle East despite some uncertainties a few months back. She has committed to continue to work with her team which has now reduced to just one other. Her vision is to see a movement of third generation believers who follow Jesus and are transformed by Him, who in turn lead others to Christ. She continues to work among women and children, however, her prayers are that more men would turn to Christ through the women, as one or two men show interests in studies with them. She was on a furlough in New Zealand recently and was re-commissioned for service in February 2024.

On a concluding note – it is the endeavour of the MSG not to relegate compassion and social justice to an optional afterthought of outreach and mission. We believe that a good understanding and practice of evangelism promotes an essential component of healthy corporate spirituality. We aim to achieve this by taking a bold and a radical leadership, moving the church ‘into the world’ (externally focussed) for those who are hungry for spiritual life, for those who are desperate for the life of God, to fill our church – all in the name of Christ and by His power.

# Local Mission

Emily Paterson

As God's People, we are all called to mission, and we all desire to share the good news of Jesus with our family, friends, and local community. As a church we want to help resource and facilitate everyone in that. We have some specific ministries that are engaged in Local Mission (CAP, Alpha, the Op Shop), which will be reported on separately, so this report will focus on other events and initiatives that took place during 2023.

After many of our invitational events were halted during the covid years, it was wonderful to once again be able to gather and provide these opportunities for invitation in 2023. We held our Shrove Tuesday Pancake event at Church at the end of February and we held a 'just for fun' Quiz Night in November. Both were attended by some visitors.

Lion Yang co-ordinated our Church Choir which sang at our Easter Services as well as our Centenary Celebrations. This group provided an opportunity for some beyond the Church to participate and get to know our members.

During Advent, our big focus was to invite people to our Christmas services. Our Women's Fellowship made shortbread and delivered it to our neighbours on Hillsborough Road along with an invitation to our Christmas Services. We also did a 'parish-wide' mailbox drop of invitations to our Christmas Services during December.

Throughout the year we had an ongoing focus on Jesus' call to 'Pursue the One.' As part of this, life groups were encouraged to do a 3-week course called 'Life Shared' during June. This course focused on evangelism and sharing our faith, and many took up the opportunity to do this.

We also work in partnership with several other local churches/ organisations with whom we share a common mission:

- ◆ In December we supported the local churches of Mt Roskill as they worked together to put on 'Carols at the Kings' at Three Kings Reserve. It was the 65th anniversary of this event, and wonderful that the council allowed a clear Christian focus to return to this event once again.
- ◆ We continue to support the ministry of New Hope Church in Onehunga and Roskill South Oasis Hub, particularly through the regular provision of meals for those to whom they minister. A few volunteers from St Margaret's also helped New Hope with the assembly of their Christmas Hampers in December last year.
- ◆ Some St Margaret's Church volunteers are part of the Prison Ministry Team of The New Zealand Tamil Christian Fellowship who gather for a fellowship service at the Auckland Prison. On the fourth Sunday of every month, the volunteers gather for a time of prayer and sharing the gospel in one of the units in the high security prison in Albany. It is encouraging to see ten to twelve inmates come regularly for this time of fellowship and prayer.



And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

The Op Shop has a three-fold purpose: to spread the good news of Jesus Christ through word and action, to serve the local community with good quality items at a low price, and to provide income for St Margaret's.

In January, we started with a flood from a leaky roof but in February, unlike so many, we escaped pretty much unscathed from Cyclone Gabrielle. Happily shop life settled into its usual rhythm and the sense of godly community serving others continues to grow.

We are so thankful for our many volunteers, from church and from the local community. Our sorting team has grown again this year and we really enjoy our weekly time together, working and chatting, enjoying friendship and praying for one another's needs. On Sundays, our washing boxes stars have enjoyed the Laundry Bubbles game, where a number hidden in the box can be handed in to claim a prize!

At the shop, we see God using us to bless so many who come in, some enjoying a chat or being prayed for. Mid-year, we were glad to welcome another community work volunteer from the Drug and Other Addictions Treatment Court to the shop, who was a great blessing to us in his positive attitude and cheerful hard work. Our prayer for all our community work volunteers is that they might encounter God in us in a way that will impact them and foster a faith in Christ.



The Pay it Forward programme continues to bless many and, although donations have slowed down, we have enough to give clothes and household goods to those in need. While we often have people stealing, occasionally we have given them the goods that they were taking. We have been able to give these gifts as Pay it Forward donations and through this, we hope to show God's radical grace and generous provision – we always tell them there is no need to steal from us!

Pay it Forward has also continued to give towards the work of Alfred and his team as they deliver meals to many.



The prayer requests box is used often and nearly every week we have some people to pray for at Lift, the Thursday prayer meeting. We have even had a couple of people come back to thank us and tell us how God has answered their prayers.

Taiana Filimone, as the Assistant Manager, is an indispensable strength to the team. As she serves so faithfully and willingly, she is an example to us all of servant leadership and I am so grateful to her for the incredible support she gives to me and to the shop. We are both so thankful for all who volunteer; at the shop or sorting room, to those who take washing home, who pray, who bring us coffee! You are helping to declare the goodness of God in so many ways.

The shop tithes a proportion of its income and we were able to support New Hope Church in Onehunga, Elevate Christian Disability Trust and Christians Against Poverty.

Please do pray for the shop – that God will be glorified through our work and that people will come to know him as we live and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Please pray for the team – for protection and provision for me, Taiana, and all the volunteers.

# Alpha

John Eccles



## The Alpha Course

Alpha

In 2023 we ran Alpha on Wednesday evenings from July to September. We had eight guests including six from outside the church. Each session started with dinner at 6:30pm and we enjoyed delicious food prepared by Alfred or Sarah.

We used the Alpha Film Series in which hosts, Toby Flint and Gemma Hunt join Nicky Gumbel to unpack the basics of the Christian faith in an updated and engaging way. The guests agreed that the presentation was interesting and top quality.

Each night the video was followed by a group discussion in which everyone was encouraged to ask questions and say what they think.

When we run an Alpha course, we pray that the Lord will work in their lives progressively through the course. We pray that people will come to Christ and ask Him into their lives or that existing faith will be reawakened. We pray that they would encounter the Holy Spirit and His power. Praise God — we saw all of that happen over the course. And we saw new people coming to church after the course.

We'll be running Alpha again in 2024 starting at the end of April. We pray for more people to come. In the last course, everyone who came was invited by someone from St Margarets. The more people we get to know and invite to Alpha, the more people will come. Who can you invite and bring to Alpha?

# CAP Debt Help Centre

Sharon Eccles

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

We currently have 7 client families on a budget working towards becoming debt-free. Most of these will not be debt-free for at least another 2-3 years. We do have one family, however, that has paid off nearly all of their debt and they are due to reach their debt-free goal by April.

There are sadly always a number of clients who drop off at some stage of the journey. We are confident that the contact we have had with these people has been a positive experience for them and that they have been touched by God in some way.

One example is a woman who, after some months, was still unable to supply all the information we needed to create a budget for her and we reluctantly decided to close her account. She knows that she is welcome to return to us for assistance again at any point in the future. While we were working with her, she attended an event we held at the church and through this she got to know Sarah McDermott who now sees her quite regularly at Countdown, where the client works.

We now have around 10 church members who have attended client visits with me as “support friends” and have continued to follow these people up beyond our three official home visits. We have had several of our CAP families attend events at St Margaret’s – the most recent of which was the Shrove Tuesday event which three of our CAP families attended.

We are currently looking at starting up CAP Money Courses as part of the service we offer. This is a course that runs over 3 sessions (once a week) for people wanting to gain basic budgeting skills. We are hoping to run a course in April and already have some people who have expressed interest in attending.

The cost of running our Debt Centre has always been a challenge. However, we ran a very successful fund-raising dinner in October at which we raised enough money to keep us going for the next year at least. It was also a great opportunity to hear from one of our clients who gave a moving account of his CAP journey and what it has meant to him and his family.

# Children

Juliette Porter

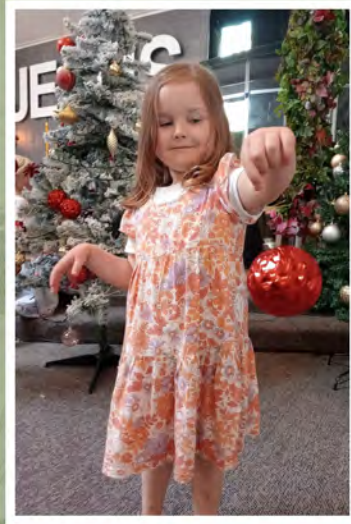
Coordinating the children's Sunday programme and overall ministry was definitely one of my highlights of 2023, although it was also a big learning curve. I was blessed that God provided (and continues to provide) an amazing team of volunteers who were committed to seeing the children not only have fun at kid's church but also grow in their relationship with God. In particular, Rachel Collis regularly led some of the Sunday morning sessions which gave me more time to plan, and also more space to settle into the role.

Over the year we had to be flexible as we gradually figured out how to run the programme in a way that works well and best suits the needs of the children. We initially kept all the children together in one big group, but as the number of both children and volunteers grew, we divided the children into groups of 3-5 year olds and 6-8 year olds in order to do lesson and activities that catered to their different abilities. We also started having morning tea together at the very beginning of the programme to give the children time to feel comfortable and get to know one another, and experimented with different ways of teaching memory verses and various games and activities. I was grateful for the volunteers' flexibility, support and feedback over the year, and for the constant encouragement and prayer from the staff.

Throughout 2023 we went through a lot of stories from the Old Testament, including the creation story, characters like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the 10 Commandments. We also looked at topics like prayer and hearing God's voice, and allowed time to teach about important events in the church calendar, including Easter and Christmas. It was exciting to see the children grow in their knowledge of God and curiosity about him. Sometimes we had a hard time keeping up with all their questions! ('How does Jesus speak to people? Does he shout down from heaven?' 'How do we know that the stories about Jesus are true?' 'If Jesus' power goes out from him, how does he get it back?' 'Is heaven made from clouds?' etc...)

Overall, I was very grateful to see the way God worked in 2023 to bring the children closer to him and allow them to know him more. Looking forward to 2024!





# Youth

Losana Fonua & Syndi-Lee Urima

## Sunday Youth

In 2023 our Sunday morning Youth Programme met during the 10am service and included those aged 10-14 at school.

Before I begin I would like to acknowledge the helpers who have taken the time for Sunday mornings to contribute to support our young people. Donald Titus; thank you for building and creating a relationship with our young people, Sharyn Elliffe; thank you for your patience and kindness in serving alongside myself and being a listening ear for our youth and to Sharon Mitchell; thank you for all the knowledge you have offered. So, thank you leaders for all that you have served and done.

During the first half of last year, the youth looked at stories from the Old Testament. Through these stories they were able to understand their faith and learn from the stories and what they taught about life, values and history. Then our youth worked through Youth Alpha. These were interactive sessions where we could create a space of Talanoa (word for storytelling or conversations) where we could be open to big questions of life and faith. The youth really enjoyed youth alpha. Here is some of the feedback:

*“Youth Alpha has helped me a lot because it talks about how everyone sees faith. I really enjoyed it because it allowed me to see how others had perspective on who Jesus was and the questions really challenged my thinking so, I encourage other young people to try out Youth Alpha, especially if you want to grow a bit deeper.”*

This year, Karen Newton has joined the Sunday Morning Youth Leadership team. She has a background of teaching faith and also leading Sunday Schools. Having her by my side will allow me to learn from her experience. As a team and a church we want to acknowledge Karen for stepping up and giving us an opportunity to all learn from each other. Thank you Karen.

## Friday Night Youth

Losana and Syndi-Lee would like to thank all the parents, caregivers and grandparents who have been dropping or picking up their kids for Friday night youth. Last year was amazing and we are hoping for an even better year in 2024.

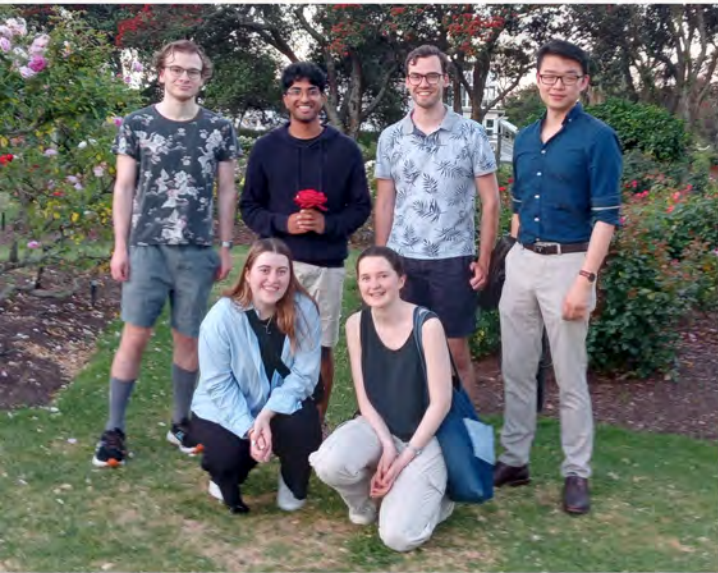
We had many fun events at the church such as Mafia, board games and basketball in the hall. Our kids got to host a game evening with another youth group, which they enjoyed. Through it they built friendships within the wider Anglican church community.

We had three girls attend the E-Fest (Anglican Youth Ministries Easter Camp), which was also great fun for the leader and kids; the girls came back with a greater love for Jesus and excited to see how their faith can be made stronger.

Looking ahead into 2024, one of our prayers has been answered with Andrey Burro, Loisi Fine and Michael Mysolla all putting their hands up to help lead our youth this year, and to build friendships with them. Our main goals for Friday youth nights is to develop better friendships within the youth and to figure out how the youth can build friendships within the wider church community. We have several young people already excited to assist with the media desk and join the Worship team. This includes the sound desk, live streaming and data teams which is amazing and exciting!

We are planning to include some life skills nights e.g. cooking, changing a tyre, etc., if there is something you think can teach our youth, please let us know.

Finally, we would appreciate continued prayer from our church family for our youth. Also, if you could chat to them after church, this would be much appreciated; they are shy and nervous but once you get to know them, they will remember the time you spent with them and it may lead to more meaningful relationships as they grow in their faith.



# Young Adults (18–30s)

Emily Paterson

Our Young Adults gather weekly on Tuesday evenings to connect, discuss the Bible & Faith, and pray for one another. Thank you to Elizabeth Jackson who has hosted us in her home over the past year, and always provided us with amazing baked treats to eat!

We began 2023 by participating in the Church-wide ‘Regather, Refresh, Renew’ sessions held during Lent. During May we spent time sharing our testimonies with one another. Throughout the rest of the year we did studies series on Evangelism (Life Shared), Mental Health & Relationships (Soul Talk) and how to hear God by praying the Bible (Lectio Course). Sharon Eccles also joined us for three weeks in October to lead us through the ‘CAP Money Budget’ course. We have also had many board games evenings, as well as a great Pizza Night in August.

This group has developed a great sense of community over the year. It has been wonderful to welcome some new members, and sad to say farewell to one or two as they have moved onto new places.

Beyond the Tuesday night life group, our young adults serve in various ways across our Church – within our Children’s Ministry, Youth Ministry, Music team, and the Sound & Tech team (to name a few!) We are grateful for the contribution they make to our church. I look forward to seeing how God continues to work among this age-group and expands our ministry here.

# Women's Group

Penny Ockleston & Maidalyne Beazley

*StMags Women meets frequently throughout the year, mostly on Saturdays. There are two groups, one focus on social gatherings and the other dedicated on Christian studies. These programmes are advertised in our weekly Enews.*

## **Women's Fellowship**

Following the success of Women's meetings on Zoom during lockdowns, a group of us decided to arrange monthly afternoon teas for the women of St Margaret's to meet and get to know one another better.

Unfortunately, our first planned event for the year in February (a trip to Piha) had to be rescheduled due to the rain but we had a very enjoyable afternoon tea and chat in the church café instead.

Thankfully, the weather in March was better and a group of us met in Monte Cecilia park for a picnic afternoon tea under the trees.

Our April get-together enabled us to hear from Kay about her time with YWAM ships doing volunteer medical work in Western Papua New Guinea.

In May Anne Segedin led us in a quiet "slow down" afternoon of guided reflection and prayer.

The women from the team who went to Bangladesh (Sarah, Florence and Marina) reported back to us in June. We heard about their experiences encouraging, supporting and helping the Operation Mobilisation team there who are planting churches, teaching literacy, computer and tailoring skills and working with children and young people from the slums.

This was followed in August by our third mission talk, when Juliette told to us about her 6- week Mission trip to Central Asia at the end of 2022.

We had a great time of sharing and testimony in September as we asked women to bring along a significant or favourite verse to share.

In October Sarah, Margot, Suzanne and Sandy led us in a creative afternoon of “Fun with flowers” where we learnt how to arrange flowers in a vase, create a table decoration, make a small floral gift and arrange flowers for church.

Finally, in November a team of 12 of us spent the afternoon making and assembling 46 packs of shortbread to be delivered to our church neighbours, along with an invitation to our Christmas services.

As we hoped, these have been times where women have enjoyed each other’s company and got to know each other better.

Anne Segedin, Marineke Goodwin, Maidalynne Beazley, Penny Ockleston, Sarah Gambitsis, Viv Alborough

## **Women’s Bible Study**

It was decided to offer an in-depth Bible study for women of all ages during 2023. Maidalynne Beazley, Barbara Murdoch and Muriel McIntyre, together with Lynnette Wood from St George’s, shared the responsibility to facilitate a Beth Moore series: “*Believing God: Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith*” which explored what it means to believe God and not just merely believe in Him. This was a video-based course along with a workbook for every participant. We broke out into small groups to discuss our homework. We had an average of 25 women, (including some from outside St Mags), who committed to this 10-week course meeting every alternate Saturday morning from 9.30 to 12.00. We avoided Saturdays in the public or school holidays, so it went from February until our final time in August.

From the feedback women found it invaluable for their personal lives and like “water to a thirsty soul”. In response to this overwhelming enthusiasm for another Beth Moore series, this years course will be starting in May, 2024.

# Men's Group

Neil Bennett

The Men's group has been operating for the past six years. There are around 10 to 12 members who meet on a regular basis.

Our mission is to support and encourage and pray for each other in our Christian walk. Where possible, we provide "Men's" support to any church family and the church.

We meet on a Friday morning at church at 6:30. This gives us an opportunity to do some men's talk over a shared breakfast.

This year we did an outreach to St John's Church, Great Barrier Island. We had a Men's Breakfast on Saturday morning, there was a good attendance from the local men and a lot of prayer and ministry was done! On Sunday, we conducted the church service, which was well received.

It is encouraging to have a core group of men praying for the church.







# Life Groups

Anne Segedin

Life in 2023 was a bit more normal even though Covid was still around. It did show us all that we can be connected and support one another without seeing each other in person. Some Life groups are still using zoom for some of their meetings which has allowed many to continue to be involved.

A big thank you to all who have put time into leading and attending Life Groups. May you be blessed by your contribution to others lives and journeys with God.

There seemed to be a growing number of people ready to join a group so during the year a new group was proposed. For a number of reasons this did not work out. There is a new Life Group starting this year.

There were 6 Life Groups meeting and the Men's Breakfast which met on Friday mornings. The leadership of several groups changed over 2023. Thanks for the work done by those who stepped down and those who took up the leadership role. A temporary group was also formed during the year to support those who had completed the Alpha course here at St Margaret's. There are groups meeting on Monday and Tuesday nights, as well as Thursday afternoons. Prayer is an important part of all. The content of each Life Group depended on the interests and needs of those involved. Some followed books of the Bible, others used Podcasts, or studies on different issues. The Alpha studies were particularly thought-provoking for many.

The Life Groups have begun again. The new group will be starting soon on Tuesday nights, fortnightly. Anyone interested in joining contact Karen.

I would encourage everyone to consider joining a group as a way to be challenged in your faith and become part of a supportive community.

# Anglican Community of St Mark (ACM)

Fraser McDermott

## 'Helping Build Hope-Filled Churches'

St Margaret's became one of the first churches to join the Anglican Community of St Mark (ACM) in 2018. ACM's purpose is to have a community of theologically like-minded Anglican churches and individuals thus giving a legitimate and safe place within the Anglican Church. As an ACM parish, we have our theological heritage and future protected by Church law. This enables St Margaret's to minister and proclaim the gospel uninhibited by decisions that may be contrary to such.

ACM aims to help build hope-filled churches in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. We endeavour to follow our calling to be a people of WORD and SPIRIT, discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church and responding in all humility.

Through:

- 1) Continuing to develop a community of like-minded Christians with a sense of connectedness and relationship across Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
- 2) Building an active community of leaders - within ACM and beyond
- 3) Partnering with those developing new worshipping communities and new models of church, taking their learning and sharing with others
- 4) Training and equipping leaders to strengthen the Church

- 5) Building for the future by progressing a leadership pathway to ordination
- 6) Assisting to strengthen churches that are struggling
- 7) Creating an active space for resource and wisdom sharing to bless the whole Church
- 8) Continuing to develop positive relationships with all our bishops and other denominational leaders and Church organisations where possible
- 9) Seeking relationship and community with the Three Tikanga Church, to share learning and community across the three tikanga, aiming to bring together all peoples of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia under the one banner of Jesus Christ
- 10) Actively connecting with all dioceses, all current and potential ACM church leaders and members, and any who are isolated.

Rev Fraser has an external role as NZ National Chairman of (ACM) and has been Chair for the last four years. This last year has seen him involved in:

- ◆ The development of national video lectures
- ◆ the steady growth of the network by welcoming and encouraging new churches
- ◆ development of international connections with the Anglican leaders in USA and Canada
- ◆ the planning for the delivery of our first conference in 2024 (Regen24)
- ◆ attendance of the AFFIRM Network board meetings
- ◆ attendance of the Nelson Diocesan Ministry Conference
- ◆ chairing of various standing committee meetings
- ◆ leading the community with setting vision and clarifying strategy

2024 looks to be a busy and strategic year for ACM both nationally and internationally as we start actively to engage with leaders of Tikanga Māori and Tikanga Pacifica. We are also doing our part in developing a worldwide network of like-minded Anglican Church leaders.

We remain very thankful for the oversight of our Protector Bishop, Steve Maina (+Nelson).

# Sad Farewell

In Memoriam



Patricia Una Catherine  
**FORDYCE**

**30/11/1929 -12/3/2023**

Patricia was a regular worshipper at our Sunday 8am Communion Service. In her later years, it became easier for her to attend our Wednesday midweek Communion service. Patricia was a quiet, faithful and prayerful servant of Jesus' church. Over the last few years, her health prevented her from attending any service. Patricia is sister-in-law to another congregation member Marion Fordyce.

Our deepest sympathy goes to her sister-in-law Marion and their wider family.



Denis Edward  
**WELLS**

**12/5/1934-15/4/2023**

Denis was a character larger than life with the enormous hands of a semi-professional soccer goalkeeper. Originally from England, he was widowed twice and raised his children as a solo dad. When he moved to St Margaret's Church, he kept saying that he 'loved Jesus, this church and everyone in it!' Sadly, he was diagnosed with an aggressive terminal illness that ended his life far too quickly. Many of us miss him still.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his extended family in the UK and in New Zealand.



Lindley Margaret  
**BELTON-SMITH**  
**9/9/1951 - 16/7/2023**

Lindley was Muriel McIntyre's younger sister. Lindley worshipped at St Margaret's with Muriel for a while. During this time, she started to rediscover her childhood faith in Jesus. However, due to increasing ill health, she was unable to attend since before COVID. She passed away suddenly and unexpectedly one Saturday evening.

Our deepest sympathy goes to her sister Muriel and Ian McIntyre and their wider family.



Cornelia (Corrie) Johanna  
**VAN WERKUM**  
**10/8/1927 - 24/11/2023**

Corrie was 96 years old and a long-standing member of St Margaret's. Originally from Holland, she had a long and colourful life. She simply and radiantly loved the Lord Jesus and was never afraid to share, with such joy, what she felt the LORD was saying to anyone. In recent years, she had been living in Gracedale Care Village and was unable to worship with us regularly. However, she was a deeply spiritual woman who would pray for us all frequently. She will be missed by us all.

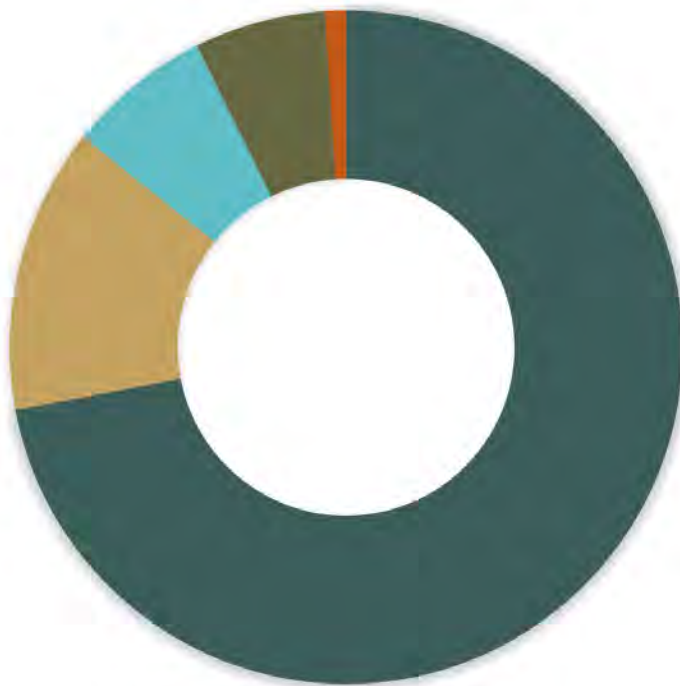
Our deepest sympathy goes to her daughter Marineke and Ian Goodwin and their wider family.

*May all these friends rest in peace and rise in glory.*

# Financial Charts

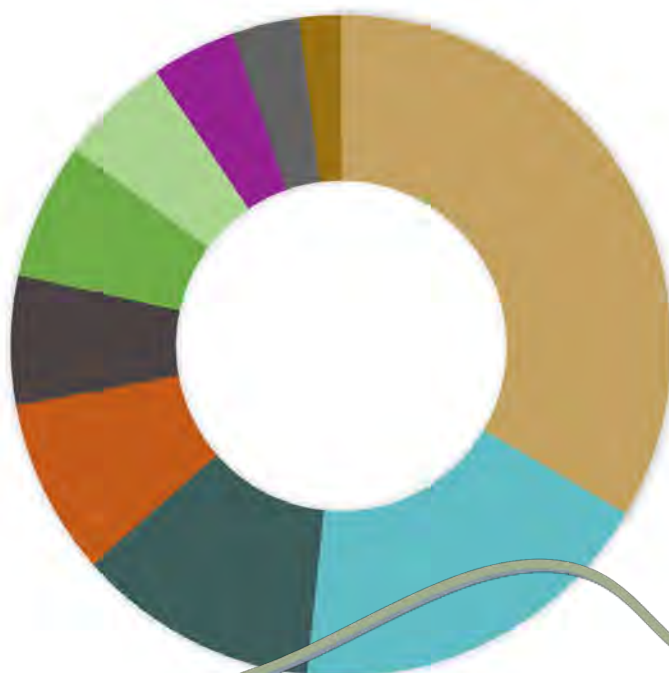
Jeba Jebamony

## 2023 INCOME \$734,029



- Planned Giving  
72% (\$528,621)
- Church Shop  
14% (\$100,712)
- Donations  
7% (\$50,947)
- Property Income  
6% (\$46,337)
- Other Income  
1% (\$7,412)

## 2023 EXPENDITURE \$462,278



- Staff Costs  
33% (\$205,774)
- Property Costs  
18% (\$111,680)
- OpShop Costs  
12% (\$72,985)
- Tithed Giving  
9% (\$52,700)
- Mortgage Interest  
6% (\$38,934)
- Ministry Costs  
7% (\$41,092)
- Administration  
5% (\$33,323)
- Diocesan Costs  
4% (\$25,341)
- Beyond the Parish  
3% (\$20,194)
- Special Funds  
2% (\$12,585)

CHURCH PRE 1976



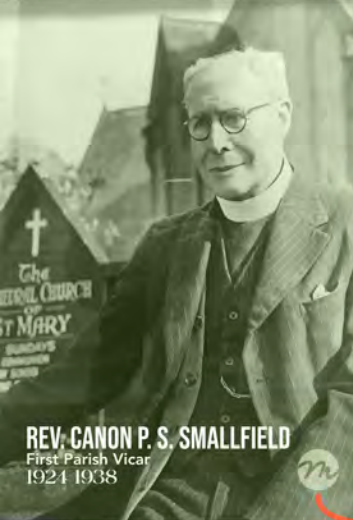
WELLS ANGLICAN LOYALTY DINNER  
Held in the premises of Keith Hay Ltd.  
Wednesday 15 May 1956

1922

LAST SERVICE IN THE HALL  
Sharing of Peace  
1975



PANCAKE RACE  
Roy E. Murray B.  
1970s



REV. CANON P. S. SMALLFIELD  
First Parish Vicar  
1924-1938



ORDINATION - REV. IAN PATTERSON  
2022



CORRIE VAN WERKUM  
GRAHAM SIMPSON & BEN GOODWIN  
1998



LAST SERVICE IN THE HALL  
1975



Thank



PANCAKE RACE  
1970s



REV. BILL HEALD, REV. FRASER McDERMOTT, REV. GEORGE STONEHOUSE  
2017



REV. J. C. GUINNESS  
Parish Vicar  
1944-1947



CHURCH IN HALL  
1960s



REV. C. L. MOUNTFORT  
Parish Vicar  
1953-1955



2023

THE RIGHT REV. ROSS BAY  
Bishop of Auckland  
Sunday 22nd March 2015



COUNTING COLLECTION  
Roy and Marin  
1960s