



**St Alban's Parish
Eastbourne**

Annual Report 2015

**Presented to the
Annual General Meeting
Sunday 13 March 2016**

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The 2015 Financial Report and 2016 Budget and Trust Board Reports are in a separate booklet.

"31 Purpose of annual general meeting

The purpose of the annual general meeting of the parish is to-

- (a) review the spiritual life and the management of the parish; and*
- (b) enable the business of the parish to be carried out through the democratic election of office holders."*

Diocesan Parishes Canon

Agenda

Annual General Meeting 13 March 2016 at 11am

In accordance with the Manual of Diocesan Canons Resolutions and Standing Orders 2013, No. 15: Diocesan Parishes Canon

- 1 Opening Prayer and Welcome
- 2 Present *Circulation of the Attendance List*
- 3 Apologies
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- 5 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 22 March 2015
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- 12 General Business *Items advised by 6 March 2015*
- 13 Closing Prayer

Minutes of 2015 AGM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE ST ALBAN'S CHURCH HALL ON SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2015 COMMENCING AT 11.00AM

The meeting opened with a welcome from Rev Ellie Sanderson.

PRESENT

Rev Ellie Sanderson, who chaired the meeting, and 46 parishioners. The attendees list is attached, taken from a copy of the parish electoral roll, which was circulated at the meeting.

APOLOGIES

Sue & Rob Burridge, Geoff & Jean Martel, Valerie Carson, Keith & Rosemary Young, Jutta Chisholm, Wendy Cooper, Marion McCree, June Aslett, Libby Bloomfield, Katherine Fahey, Cushla Jamieson, Ron & June Aslett, Jill Chinn, Margaret Turner, Bev Fisher, George Tuffin.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 30 March 2014 be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting.

Rev'd Ellie Sanderson/David Best

OPENING PRAYER

Rev Ellie Sanderson gave an opening prayer and a period of silence was maintained in memory of parishioners who had died in the past year.

MATTERS ARISING

Becoming a Transition Church

Vestry noted it was aware of the range of Eastbourne people and groups in the parish already involved in environmental issues. It was considered the matter of becoming a transitional church required further discussion and consideration before any decision could be made.

Parishioners with a special interest in Transition Church were referred to two websites – those of St Albans and Transition Church.

CORRESPONDENCE

Rev'd Ellie noted during the year she had received a number of thank you cards or letters thanking the St Albans community for support in funeral ministry. The funeral of the late Jean Gilmer in January was a recent example.

ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Vicar's Warden: Heather Molloy was appointed Vicar's Warden

It was moved Vestry total 9.

Mike Parker/Penny Grigg

People's Warden: Philip Plimmer was re-elected as People's Warden.

Nominations for Vestry were received: Joy Baird, Libby Bloomfield, Keith Levy, John Nippert, Amelia Ward, Jerry Wellington and Jen Young.

There being no nominations from the floor, these nominees were elected.

Rev'd Ellie Sanderson/Heather Molloy

REPORTS

Rev'd Ellie noted the combination of all the reports, the financial statements and the budget, provided the opportunity to consider the "big picture" in relation to shaping the future for St Alban's.

Rev'd Ellie Sanderson: Vicar

In her report, Rev Ellie spoke of the remarkable, challenging and diverse experiences which had shaped the parish in the past year.

She thanked those who had played an important part in caring and sharing and supporting each other in pastoral care.

She spoke of the extension of ministry and mission into a number of new and challenging areas this year, including reading in community schools, supporting family and children's ministry, hosting retreats, supporting work at the library and partnering in transformative work in Taita-Pomare. She welcomed the arrival of Rev'd Judith Wigglesworth, with the skills she brought to St Alban's ministry and administration.

Rev'd Ellie spoke also of areas of future change and challenge, which will influence St Alban's, examples being her increased role at Wellesley College and potential growth in developing a ministry of retreat. Parishioners were encouraged not to be fearful and to face future challenges with hope and courage.

Authors spoke briefly to their reports and questions were also invited from the floor.

Heather Molloy Vicar's Warden

Heather Molloy spoke to her report and highlighted the many special events during the year, including the visit of Bishop Justin, the awarding of the five Bishop's medals, retreats both undertaken and hosted, shared meals hosted by Vestry and fund-raising gatherings. She made a special presentation to retiring vestry member Tim Sanderson, thanking him for stepping into the breach in a year of transition.

Philip Plimmer: People's Warden

Philip Plimmer reminded us of the new prayer and discipling opportunities during the year and encouraged people to get involved in the many mission and ministry streams within the life of our church.

Priest Associate and Ministry Co-ordinator: Rev'd Judith Wigglesworth

Rev'd Judith thanked the people of St Alban's for their welcome to her and her family in June 2014, and highlighted her involvement in worship, children's ministry, retreat ministry and parish ministry activities.

Discipleship and Outreach: Keith Levy

Keith Levy focused on how discipleship and outreach involve the support of people at home and abroad through the displaying of Christian love in action.

Mission: Joy Baird

Joy Baird suggested the concept of 'mission' applied to everything undertaken on our Christian journey. She outlined mission work in various locations Kokiri Marae, Taita-Pomare and Tanzania and noted CMS mission speakers to talk at St Alban's in May.

Children & Young Families Ministry: Libby Bloomfield

Libby Bloomfield's report highlighted activities at the Sunday Clubs and Pop in and Play and the opportunities these provide for participation in the faith community. She thanked the many adults involved.

Youth Group: Guy Randall

Guy Randall outlined the fellowship and social activities in which young people had been involved during the year. He noted in particular the Youth Alpha course and changes to youth activities to meet the needs of older teenagers.

A vote of thanks was given to Guy Randall, who recently stood down from his co-ordination role in youth activities.

Property and Maintenance/Works and Development: Tim Sanderson

Tim Sanderson outlined the many areas of maintenance covered during the year, including lighting, heat pump maintenance, wifi extension, and children's play equipment. Major repair work was done to the bell tower. He also paid tribute to those involved with the church lawn, including the Rimutaka Outreach Team and Margaret Turner and Mike Parker for the church gardens.

Question Arising from Reports

Earthquake Strengthening

It was explained that work is progressing to consider the assessments by two engineering firms on the best and most cost effective work for phase two and future work. During the next 12 months, expenditure for stage two assessment work only will be required.

Hutt City Council does not have the church or hall registered as an earthquake risk.

The previous report on earthquake requirements is available on request, in hard copy or electronically.

All the reports be received.

Delwyn Randall/Stuart Mossman

Stuart Mossman prayed on conclusion of receipt of all the reports, giving thanks for all the work done and praying for all that will be done in the year ahead.

Trust Board Financial Report

John Sladden spoke to this report and explained the portfolio of investments. He advised it had been a quiet year with preserving capital the major task. The Trust was conscious of major work likely to be required in the future.

The report be received and accounts approved.

Jerry Wellington/Penny Grigg

The Trust Board members be re-appointed for next year

(Vicar (ex-officio), Jerry Wellington (Vestry representative), Geoff Martel (Chair), John Sladden (Secretary/Treasurer), Jim Gibbons, Cushla Jamieson.)

Jerry Wellington/Penny Grigg

Parish Financial Report: Jerry Wellington

Jerry Wellington spoke to his report, explaining the triple foci of giving, sharing and making (retreat revenue).

He advised of work undertaken in moving the financial system to Xero, with assistance from Keith Levy, the layout is now different and further changes and improvements are to be made.

Depreciation has been included in the budget, which produces a deficit.

The arrival of Rev'd Judith has assisted in changes and improvements to administration of areas such as the memorial wall.

John Tippet's work with Ezee meals had resulted in a contribution of \$1260 after costs.

Jerry Wellington advised the budget is ambitious and challenging, with areas where information for 2015 is not yet available. (This includes the plan for the chaplaincy role being completed by Wellesley College and the outcome of the Stewardship campaign.)

It was noted church roof repairs have been done, but a major replacement is coming up.

Questions/Comments Arising from Discussion on Financial Reports

It was asked that a break-down of bequests and fundraising be provided in future reports. There were approximately 7 bequests in the previous year.

The budgeted income of 25k for bequests/fundraising in 2015 will be a challenge.

Parishioners present agreed the 2015 budget provided was clearly aspirational, with the incoming vestry carefully considering the fundraising and offertory programmes and how they would be achieved. Whether the approximately 300 households on the pastoral roll could make a significant change for the next decade was a matter requiring prayer and practical action.

A question was raised about insurance premiums, and it was noted that the Trust would pay these, as in the past.

In relation to the Memorial Wall it was noted further discussion was required in relation to responsibility for replacement of illegible plaques. Vestry will consider this issue, and any further extensions to the Memorial Wall that may be required.

The 2014 financial report be accepted.

Jerry Wellington/Peter Baldock

The budget for 2015 be accepted

Jerry Wellington/Mike Parker

George Tuffin be retained as auditor

Jerry Wellington/Mike Parker

Votes of thanks were made to George Tuffin (in his absence) and John Sladden for their work and a presentation was made.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Presentation

A presentation was made to outgoing Vestry member Tim Sanderson and one had previously been made to Franziska Plimmer.

Further information

The Vicar initiated a commitment to the parish that the Vestry would give feedback to the parish on the two significant areas of budgeted income (from the Wellesley College chaplaincy role and the Stewardship campaign) that were not clear at the time of this AGM.

Meeting Closure

The meeting closed with a prayer and Bishop Justin's benediction at 1.35 p.m.

Vicar's Report

"Most of us have become quite good at the church thing, and yet, disciples was the only thing that Jesus cared about, and it's the only number Jesus is counting. Not our attendance or budgets or buildings. He wants to know if we are "making disciples"...Do the lives of our people look like the lives of people we see in Scripture?" (Building a Discipleship Culture, p.11)

Jesus challenges us. He tells his disciples that they will do greater things than him and he challenges them to be people who will say that same thing to their own disciples. That challenge has never ended. We should still be people characterised by a discipleship relationship that enables us to lead, equip and enable people to know God better and closer than we have known God, to live out their faith in Christ with greater impact, greater influence in our world than we have. The enlivened story of Jesus can not stop with us.

Much of our vestry focus this year has been undergirding our organisational foundation to ensure the sustainability necessary to the ongoing life of the Jesus story amongst us. Firstly our concern has been that there are structures to support sustainability and secondly, on facilitating structure that release people to follow their God-given passions. To address the challenge of sustainability, our focus cannot simply be on our own fulfilment of a role, but simultaneously on linking and raising up others to whom the baton will be passed. This dual focus must become the natural way we think and operate in every area of our church life and is the responsibility of all. The generational bias of our church reality simply means that if we have not taken responsibility for passing on and sharing the ministry that we love to someone of the next generation, we can not expect the future church leadership to have the capacity to do so on our behalf. That is an unrealistic expectation.

This year we have worked to support sustainability by creating and augmenting gatherings of people with similar passions and gifts in the core areas of our church life, such as our property and maintenance team, our finance team, our mission team, our pastoral care team, our new capital and resources committee (which very importantly brings together members of vestry and the Trust in a forum to consider the long term resource foundation of our church) in order that there are means by which responsibilities are shared and structures in which those responsibilities can be passed on.

The Diocese is also working to support sustainability in key areas alongside and underneath parish ministry. Of particular significance for us this year has been the Diocesan wide programmes for Anglican Schools and youth. Our own closer

involvement with Wellesley College has been enabled in part by a very strong leadership by Bishop Justin and Sue Fordyce on relationships and connections with our Anglican Schools. All Anglican School Heads and Board Chairs have a regular invitation to fellowship at Bishop's Court, new human and educational resources for supporting the Anglican ethos of schools have been invested in, the Anglican Schools Pilgrimage has become an annual invitation, and Bishop Justin himself invests a significant amount of his time visiting and being in the classrooms of every school in our Diocese.

The new initiative for a Hutt Valley wide Youth Worker, Andrew Spence, has also considerably supported our parish youth work and supported Amelia Ward who has shown huge initiative and commitment in taking on her role as our Youth Intern. We have also been deeply blessed by Anna and Paul Negrulescu joining our parish and their passion to disciple teenagers. Anna and Paul have also been able to be part of the Diocesan support for our youth leaders. As the generational reality of our church is taken seriously, it means that our younger generations have to operate on a different scale to that of traditional parish boundaries. The sustainability of Jesus' missional challenge to us is also similar: to effect the good news of the Gospel in our society requires us to operate on a scale beyond our immediate church community. This need has been powerfully demonstrated by the combined response of our churches to the refugee crisis.

Jesus answered the challenge of sustainability with the solution of discipleship. We are ALL to be disciples who make disciples. Answering the challenge of sustainability requires

- 1) recognising what has not been a sustainable passing on of the Jesus story through the generational absences evident in our current experience of church, which in effect is tackling the challenge of discipleship afresh
- 2) church leadership to discern supportive structures that can enable people to share and pass on the life of Jesus that flows through their own life
- 3) every individual to take seriously the responsibility to ensure that the gifts and passions that animate the Jesus story in their lives do not end with them.

Jesus invites us. Jesus invites us into the mystery of God. Jesus invites us into the oneness and wonder of the Trinity. Jesus invites us to encounter God beyond all the capacity of language, ordering and thought – because God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

There is a conversation that has become familiar to Judith and me this year. Someone will come to this sacred place, sometimes for the first time (whether delivering something, attending something, requesting something) and find themselves powerfully affected by the presence of God that they experience in this

place. God is alive. We can not plan, programme, or contain God. As we hear Jesus' invitation to us, an invitation that comes with genuine unconditional love, we are free to be simply enfolded in the mystery of God. As a family of God we offer that same experience unconditionally to others. I want to sincerely thank everyone one who serves so sincerely to enable that to be the case. I want to thank the steadfast faithfulness of the generations who have so tended this sacred place with love that God is pleased to dwell here. I want to especially thank those who stepped forward to lead Oasis this year, and through your own hospitality invite others in our community to experience and understand the invitation to be nourished by God. This coming year the invitation to Oasis will multiply and so will the invitation into Bible study, retreat, prayer and contemplation.

As we move into a new year I want to invite you to think and pray through the following questions.

In relation to Jesus' challenge:

- 1) who do I have a passion to love and serve?
- 2) who else do I know that has that same passion?

In relation to Jesus' invitation:

- 1) How am I encountering God's unconditional love for me?

This year I want to help every member of this parish answer those questions. Come to me, talk with me and pray with me so that together we can grow deeper into the mystery of God and the ongoing transformational incarnation of Christ in this world.

Ellie Sanderson



Wellesley College

During 2015 Wellesley has deeply appreciated Rev Ellie being a guide in our Anglican traditions and supporting our staff and students in pastoral matters. It has highlighted the need for us to consider the model we have used in having Ellie at the school on a weekly basis, which has strengthened ties with the Diocese and offered opportunities for the spiritual growth of our community.

In particular this model has benefits for both St Alban's Parish and the College. In my view, the need for offering our young men opportunities to develop themselves in the guiding values of the Anglican faith is of particular importance. Our students have engaged whole heartedly in events this year that tie with St Alban's and I would like to see this grow. To this end we would like this ongoing relationships of Ellie's presence in the school to continue and for us to continue to strengthen the bonds between Wellesley College and St Alban's Church.

Brendan Pitman
Principal

The beginning of this year has seen the launch of a new Strategic Plan for Wellesley College. This plan emphasises the commitment to enable every boy to excel in body mind and spirit. Undergirding the values and vision of the College as it moves



forward into its second Century is a deep appreciation of the Anglican ethos and the importance of being connected into significant broader relationships that facilitate the boys learning and contribution to society. Our greater connection with the College is an important part of this journey. In 2016 Wellesley families will be invited to join our congregation in a special service each term which members of the College will help to lead. Each term, the College houses will also come to experience chapel services here in our church building in a mid week regular rhythm of worship. The Deputy House Captains will have a special focus on working with me to lead our school Chapel services. Our new Head of Religious Studies, Chevon O Leary, and myself are supporting the staff in applying the religious studies commitment within the school curriculum.

In 2015 I have been deeply privileged to pastorally support a range of students and staff. As the College moves forward with an emphasis on personalised learning, the importance of a hands on chaplaincy in the fabric of the College is clearly evident in facilitating excellence in body mind and spirit.

Reverend Dr Ellie Sanderson, Chaplain

3DM



The 3DM journey so far in Wellington and New Zealand...

Learning Community 1

2013 – end 2015 Tim Bustin, John Hughes and Ellie Sanderson from the Wellington Diocese were part of the first 3DM Learning Community in Australasia, **(LC1)** involving four “intensives” held every six months in Melbourne, led by a team from 3DM in the UK. Each of the four intensives has its own theme:

Building a Discipling Culture
Multiplying Missional Leaders
Launching Missional Communities
Leading Kingdom Movements

Tim, John and Ellie attended as representatives of both the Wellington Diocese and their own parishes; Ellie attended with the approval of the St Alban’s Vestry. As part of this 2-year Learning Community journey, Tim, John and Ellie were part of a fortnightly global “huddle” (by Skype) with the leaders of that Learning Community based in the UK. Huddles are small groups at the heart of the 3DM movement.

St Alban’s First Huddle

Mid 2014 – Ellie Sanderson began a huddle in St Alban’s parish, involving Ellie, Libby Bloomfield, Keith Levy, Jennie Lovell-Smith, Philip Plimmer, Stefi Plimmer, and Tim Sanderson.

Learning Community 2

May 2015 – May 2017 Tim, John and Ellie worked with Bishop Justin and 3DM UK to launch the first NZ 3DM Learning Community in May 2015 **(LC 2)**. LC2 meets every six months in Karori. Part of this Learning Community are teams from: the Presbyterian church of NZ; the Anglican Dioceses of Christchurch and Nelson; Church Missionary Society (CMS); individual parishes from the Anglican Diocese of Wellington (including St Alban’s); and a range of other denominations and church planters from around NZ. The next learning intensive is in May 2016. Members of the St Alban’s Learning Community team are: Ellie, Heather Molloy, Philip Plimmer, Stefi Plimmer, Libby Bloomfield, Jen Young, and Jerry Wellington. Others from the

parish involved in a huddle or in ministry leadership also attended the November intensive: Jennie Lovell-Smith, Tim Sanderson and Paul Negrulescu.

More St Alban's Huddles

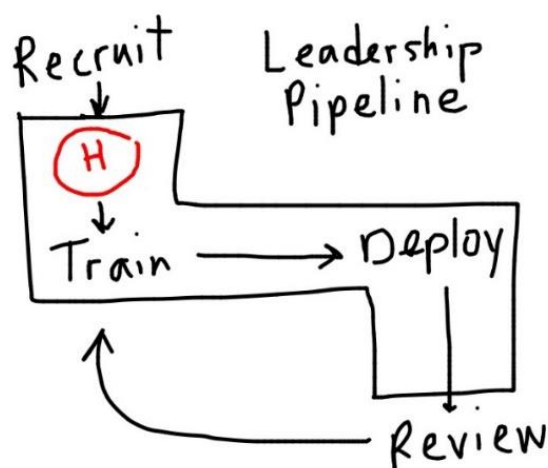
Late 2015 - The members of the first St Alban's huddle (Libby Bloomfield, Keith Levy, Jennie Lovell-Smith, Philip Plimmer, Stefi Plimmer, and Tim Sanderson) started their own huddles (in pairs) in late 2015, so there are now four huddles operating in the parish.

Diocesan Huddles

February 2016 A 2 day intensive on Introducing Discipleship through huddles was held in February 2016 to begin a new wave of huddles based in the Anglican Wellington Diocese. Huddles are being formed among: Archdeacons, those involved in pre- and post-ordination training, all school chaplains, all Anglican youth ministry houses, some new parishes, and Blueprint church (a church based in Newton covenanted to this diocese).

Learning Community 3

September 2016 – September 2018 A further Learning Community (**LC3**) will begin in September 2016 based in the Wellington Anglican Diocese and led by 3DM leaders in NZ and Australia. This will include those who attended the 2 day intensive in February 2016, and will also draw in new Learning Community teams.



3DM Vision, Mission, Valuations, Vehicles and Values

As part of a learning community intensive, each learning community team attending works to explore and discern the vision, values etc for their own faith community. The following were discerned by the St Alban's LC2 team who attended the intensive in November 2015. These were considered by our Vestry in late 2015 and approved in February 2016:

Vision: "Every household in the Hutt Valley is connected to a household of God".

Mission: "Together committing to God, together committing to God's family, together committing to our neighbourhood and our community."

Valuations: *How do we know if we are fulfilling our mission?*

- How many discipleship groups in the parish?
- How many all together services and fellowship gatherings?
- How many intergenerational gatherings?
- Is the parish leadership following and building a discipleship culture?
- How many missional outreaches are happening outside of the community?
- What % of our people are involved in a group outside of Sunday services?
- What examples of bi-cultural connections and community are we fostering?

Vehicles: *What are the vehicles that will enable us to fulfil our mission?*

- Eucharist: committing to being together
- Rhythms of worship
- Family Rhythm of Life
- Women's / Guy's/ Youth Groups
- Parish family events
- Oasis
- Discipleship: EFM/3DM/Cursillo / Catechumenate Adult Way of Faith
- Retreat Ministry

Values

What are the values that we need in order to fulfil our mission?

- accountability
- passion
- honesty / integrity
- forgiveness
- servants hearts
- faithfulness
- obedience / perception
- commitment / perseverance
- honouring one another
- loving
- non-judgemental / accepting
- trust
- welcoming / openness
- peace
- hope
- joy
- unity



Our Discipleship Journey

Reverend Ellie invited Vestry members to share some insights about their discipleship journey in the past year:

“Discipleship – It’s about my walk with God, reflecting and practising what Jesus taught and growing in faith. It’s lifelong and it’s challenging!” **Joy Baird**

“I have been involved in 3DM which has formed the foundation for my discipleship journey last year with the focus on following Jesus' example of UP time with God, IN time with fellow believers and OUT in the hurting world. I have been challenged to express overwhelming joy, enjoy the blessings of each day, allow the Word/Truth to sink deep into me, 'connect' with people where they are at. I have been fed/stimulated through 3DM huddles, prayer partner, personal mediation, Vestry Bible study, connection with St David’s Naenae and Richard Rohr mediation app. My current challenges are: family relationships, depending on God daily (laying everything at the foot of the cross) and allowing myself to be transformed, and feeling I am making a minimal contribution in the OUT dimension
- teaching/healing in the broken world.” **Libby Bloomfield**

“Reverend Ellie, in the quote at the beginning of her Vicar’s report, wanted to know if we are making disciples. Me, a disciple? What is a disciple? ‘I give you a new commandment that you love one another, just as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.’ My discipleship has been to try and follow the guidance of our Lord, and I have also been working towards being able to listen to that small, quiet whisper of God’s voice.” **Keith Levy**

“It has been encouraging for me over the past year, especially with Vestry and Warden duties, to see how deeply God works when we utterly trust Him. The promises in Jeremiah 29:11-13 became particularly precious to me:

*I know the plans I have for you declares The Lord
Plans for your welfare not calamity
To give you a future and a hope
You will call upon me and I will answer
You will seek me and find me when you search with all your heart.”*

Heather Molloy

“‘Discipleship journey’: Yes indeedretrospective reflection on a bumpy path of spiritual discovery. Like most travellers, you try to plan, anticipate, prepare and trust all will go well. Yeah right! Following Jesus has been rewarding...no doubt

about it, once you lost a little language, your well thought out travel map, and realise there's not only a language barrier but a cultural one as well. Yes indeed I have found myself stuck, burdened down, tired, with no clue about my next step ...but luckily a little trust and/or faith has lightened the load, lit the way and given direction and comfort.

Connecting with fellow travellers, EFM, huddles, vestry and getting out of bed too - gathering as we do in so many different church destinations and cultures around the world, because of Jesus Christ. Amen.”

John Nippert

“New dimensions in my journey with God have opened up over the last year. The huddles in particular, but also retreats have given me a much more satisfying and deeper connection with St Alban's people which is far more meaningful to me. I love being around people who are real about their challenges and where I can share and be part of lives, and see each other grow towards the fullness of life that God promises.”

Philip Plimmer

“Where am I with my discipleship journey: Grow in Community, and service in the world. Growing healthy relationships and learning to serve the world around me knowing that Jesus and God are there with me and guiding me in my Journey.

What has fed me: Ellie asked me if I wanted to go the Abby – the Abby is a place for all the Anglican youth leaders to gather, train and to be encouraged, celebrated and equipped for the role of youth leader. I gained a lot from going to this event. After going to the Abby Ellie asked me if I wanted to help run the youth group at church this year. Having Andrew (the Hutt youth worker) invite me to other youth events in the Lower Hutt and helping us run the youth group at St Albans has fed me a lot. We are very lucky to have Andrew helping us.

What has stimulated and challenged me:

- Going to the Abby- youth leaders meeting
- Helping run the youth group in 2016
- Going to youth events around wellington and Lower Hutt
- Going to the group that Ana and Paul run for the older youth
- Helping with the Sunday clubs”

Amelia Ward

“Over the past year I've been challenged to make time to wait 'on God' and wait 'for God'. In waiting 'on God' I have needed to make a conscious commitment to spend time apart reading, listening and meditating on His word. This is something I've struggled with at times but with the help and support of my huddle group I am making progress. Waiting 'for God' has been about letting go of my will and opening myself up to His will. This has helped me to learn to trust Him and to realise that He has perfect timing. I'm still on the journey and I thank God for His sense of humour and His ongoing patience and guidance.”

Jen Young

Vicar's Warden

As Vicar's warden I meet with Ellie regularly to hear where she is at, help where I can, plan and pray with her – Prayer is the powerhouse of God and Ellie is a woman of prayer.

Ellie and the family came under enormous stress last August when Tim was hospitalized seriously ill with Viral Encephalitis and little Joe with Pneumonia. With Ellie in hospital supporting them both it was wonderful to see how the church family so willingly stepped forward to help and support them as needs arose,. The family are very grateful for the love shown to them in so many ways - hospital visits, meals delivered to hospital and home, child minding, and of course constant your prayers. it was Christianity in action – thank you...

Our Ministry Team

We are richly blessed, encouraged, challenged, and inspired by the teaching we receive from the pulpit each week and we are truly grateful to God for the dedicated Ministry team that lead our Parish under the prayerful leadership of Ellie our Vicar who has a passion for revealing God to the people of Eastbourne, enabling disciples, and helping each one of us to reach the full potential God has for us.

Judith has the administration and co ordination of the Parish running like a well oiled machine, she has her finger on the pulse of the Parish and we are grateful for the work she puts into our well being. Hers is the friendly face people often see first, she is always ready to help, listen or pray with anyone who needs it.

We are also extremely privileged to have Peter Stuart and Tony Gardiner as retired clergy in our Parish who lead, preach or participate in our worship and life together. They bring their strength and experience to our Parish and we thank God for them.

Farewells & Welcomes

Late last year we said farewell to Revd. Alex Brunt as he moved to Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. We presented Alex and his family with gifts from our parish family to acknowledge his ministry at St Alban's. We wish Alex, Elisabeth and CJ God speed and blessings for the future.

It is exciting to see new faces and families joining us at St Albans and offer them a very warm welcome, may you find this to be a place to be with God and with God's people.

Wellesley College Chaplaincy

Ellie's and St Albans' commitment to Wellesley is a full day every Wednesday, alongside her role as a Bishop's Representative on the Wellesley Board.

Her work at Wellesley continues to grow as an extremely important part of our ministry in the Eastbourne community and to these young boys and their families. At the school she is involved as an advisory to students, teachers and parents alike, has been part of the strategic planning in this prior year and sits on the Senior Leadership Team at the College.

3DM Learning communities

After her initial training in Melbourne Ellie has been instrumental in coordinating 3DM in New Zealand, which supports the growth of Missional Community alongside our established church activities and equips churches to principally be places of disciples who make disciples.

Virginia Theological Seminary

You may remember in 2014 Ellie was invited to the Virginia theological Seminary in America as **keynote speaker at their Anglican women at prayer conference**, she was subsequently appointed an Honorary Fellow of the Seminary – an honor indeed! Ellie has been invited back again this year, to be resident for one week as the Centre launches a year focusing on the role of women in the Anglican Communion. She is in the process of finalizing this week long trip around dates, family and Parish commitments. It is an honor for Ellie to be reinvited to their platform and shows the high regard they hold her in.

Here in our own Diocese we celebrate Ellie's recent appointment as **Diocesan Canon Theologian** by Bishop Justin. Ellie works closely with and supports Bishop Justin as he endeavors to guide our Diocese in a closer walk with God and the people around us.

Finally I would like to Thank God for the way He has faithfully lead us through this past year and ask His guidance and blessing on the year ahead.

Heather Molloy
Vicar's Warden



People's Warden

Our Wellington Anglican vision is that: "*We are family; we are disciples; we care for the last, the lost and the least*". Our parish is committed to seeing that vision become reality. We are becoming far more of a sense of family, and as family we want to care for one another in deeper ways. Ellie has often preached with the idea of us being family in her sermons. We hope our church family enables all people to take the opportunity to become connected in more supportive and enabling ways. This happens slowly and organically over time, and as each person willingly responds to God's call or willingly pushes into deeper relationship in faith and live for God and each other. A call to be family can be unsettling for some (families are organic and often messy realities) but for many others this will answer the deep cry in their heart.

St Alban's is also a leading church in the discipleship vision - through the 3DM movement. Ellie has had a key role in bringing this to the whole diocese, which your vestry has blessed. We have all been convicted of Jesus' instruction to make disciples. Some of you will fear discipleship as a scary word reserved for high-achieving Christians, but its real meaning is very different: a disciple is a learner at the feet of Jesus. What has started out as a small pilot discipleship group at St Albans has grown into 4 small groups of people who "huddle" together on an awesome journey. This huddle experience specifically equips and releases people to lead and disciple others. Our vision is that as people grow curious - that every person has an opportunity to be part of a similar group. The 3DM discipleship process is now being used across the Diocese and the core means of training our church leaders.

Finally we care for the last, the lost and the least. These people exist both in our community, and also within our St Alban's community. Many of you serve these people in multiple ways, and are an inspiration to us. Thank you for every act of service and kindness done in Jesus' name.

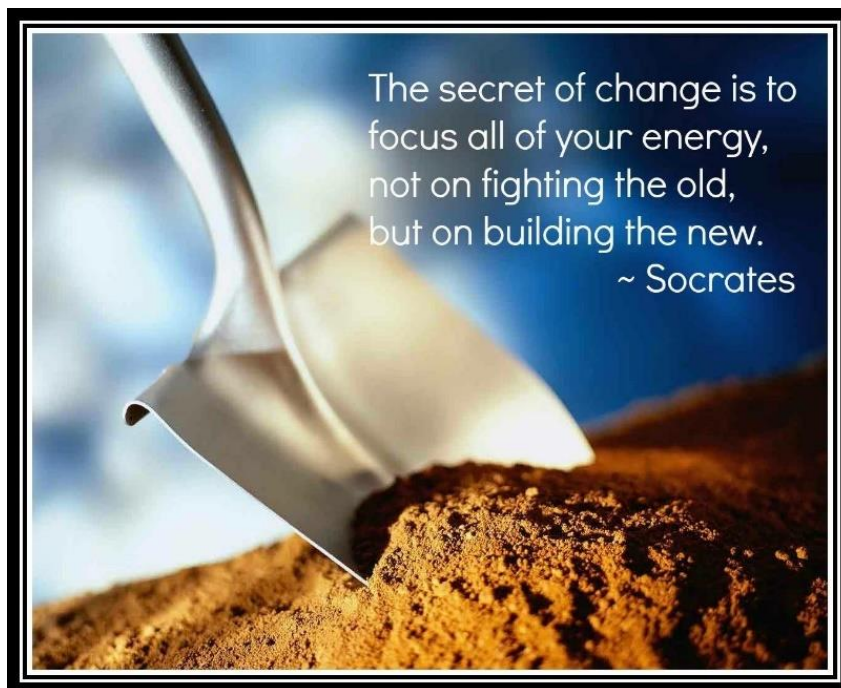
In context however, we do live in a world that is changing faster than any generations before us. Our lessened appeal to younger generations is a direct outcome of the changes and a consequence of discipleship not having always been the centre of our planning, focus and activities. All of us love to have the families and children in our midst. The relative absence of these generations is a reality which troubles us all greatly and one which we all need to own.

As People's Warden, I want to encourage all of you to face our situation and vestry's responses to it with courage and support for the future. For every person who laments any change to our emphasised way of being church, be aware that we

have at least as many younger generation people who are equally unable to engage with the expression of church that have served many generations before us well. I exhort you as your People's Warden to be part of our future with God. In this way our lovely community will grow like a mustard seed and become like a tree where all the birds of the air gather and perch.

God bless you all.

God bless
Philip Plimmer
People's Warden



Priest Associate and Community Ministry Coordinator

2015 was a year of consolidation for me in my role as Priest Associate and Community Ministry Coordinator. It is a joy to see those I have worked alongside in 2015 step up with more confidence into the various ministries that have “come under my wing”, particularly children and families ministry, and our growing ministry of retreat hospitality.

I continue to value the opportunity to gather our community in worship and wish to thank you as members of the St Alban’s faith community for your encouragement, support, wisdom, and constructive feedback.

The improvement in administrative processes which I commenced in 2014 has continued and I feel as if the office processes are “nearly there”! I perceive scope for further enhancing the ways we communicate news of both local and diocese-wide ministries and activities among our St Alban’s community and to the local community of Eastbourne and the bays. I have a few thoughts “on the radar” and would welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

An image that comes to mind when I think of my role is “glue”.....in a sense my ministry is to be “glue” that helps to focus and hold together the many strands of our parish ministry and mission. It is a privilege to serve among you, and I thank you all for the many and varied strands that you represent – who you are, and who you are growing to be in Christ’s name.

God bless,

Judith Wigglesworth



Mission

The wide mission role of St Albans reflects very much the role outlined for itself by the Anglican Missions Board. This highlights a “spirit of partnership and the sharing in the global dimension to Christ’s mission of proclaiming the Gospel, nurturing believers, responding to human need, transforming society and caring for creation”.

During 2015 our mission activities changed and grew. Many more people became involved. Some of us would not have thought of what we were doing as “mission”. The broad definition above helps us to recognise how wide mission is. So what did we do at St Albans?

Anglican Missions Board (AMB)

St Alban’s has for many years given a regular grant of \$4,610 to AMB. This is not tagged to any specific projects, though it could be, but provides general support towards AMB projects in Polynesia, Melanesia and Africa.

Overseas Mission

For a number of years, St Alban’s has chosen to support the Good Shepherd Secondary School in Kagera, Tanzania. In early 2015, the school advised us they had two big future plans - to build a dormitory so girls from a wider area could attend the school and to provide scholarships to increase the numbers of both girls and boys able to attend. This year we provided \$3,387 for these projects, a very significant increase on previous years. Money raised from our regular mission table, was added to by a special collection from the Wellesley College final assembly, \$450 raised on stalls at our Mission Day in May (thanks to our Sunday clubs and Youth Group for the lovely goodies they made for the stalls), and a parishioner’s generous donation.

Local Mission

Our food basket in the church foyer each Sunday receives non-perishable food for the Wellington City Mission. This continues to be well supported, with a big thanks to all our contributors.

In June we generously responded to a call from Whanganui for new knickers following the floods there, and in October several of our parishioners got involved with other local parishes to help the City Mission “Feed the Kids Too” in conjunction with the Wellington LUX Festival.



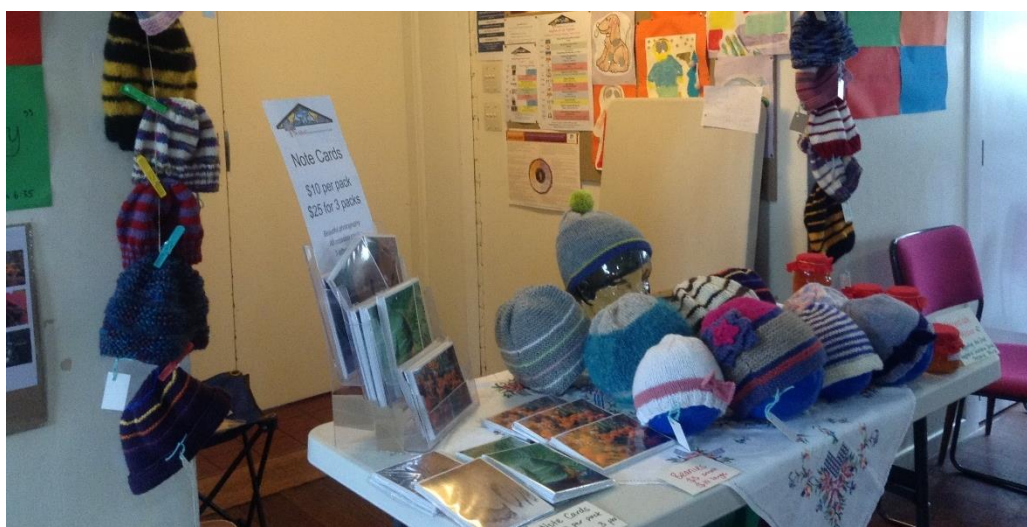
Two new local initiatives flourished in 2015. St Matthew's Taita community op shop was started by Elaine Parr and volunteers to meet the needs of food bank regulars. Elaine had already been running free sewing classes on Thursdays and Fridays, could see the social impact of such a meeting place and was very happy to get the community involved. Elaine has taken the opportunity to involve local volunteers and now has Kathy, Lynn and Margaret taking pride in both the shop and sewing classes.

The Taita op shop is committed to providing \$1 items to all those in need and pass on sewing skills within this amazing community and in the process, building a welcoming and sociable place for all to gather.

The shop has always relied on generous donations from St. Albans parishioners and now as word spreads, the larger community. (Remember our decluttering can become someone's *taonga*!)

All shop proceeds have gone back into the upkeep of the St Matthew's hall, keeping it at a high standard and promoting community pride among Taita residents. Funds were used to tile the hall in a maze design constructed solely by volunteers, a group outing to the Lighthouse Cinema in support of Greenstone doors (which supports young parents) and in general helping minister Charles Noanoa to support families in need. This extended to grandparents who bring up their grandchildren, needing assistance with clothing and general supplies.

Then there are the St Alban's Knitwits, formed in August who commenced knitting beanies. They meet regularly as small groups in each other's homes. There are now 30 knitters on the email list, which includes women new to Eastbourne as well as people who are not regular parishioners. (Any men knitters are welcome, but none have volunteered as yet!) In November at the Garden day the Knitwits had a stall selling beanies and raised \$150, which was donated to the Taita op shop. Thanks to Jackie Levy, Sheila Johnson and Hedda Bleasdale, who with me, have hosted the Knitwits. After a summer recess, we'll be picking up the needles again soon.





For many years St Albans has sold Ezee meals. There were a number of changes to the Ezee meals system during the year, including sale of the business by the City Mission and suspension of production for some time. After a big drop in sales and a review by St Albans, it was decided in January to cease providing meals. A big thanks to John Tippet, who has been the reliable face of Ezee meals for St Albans for a long time.

Mission for Refugees at Home and Abroad

Recently, we've had other important calls, to support refugees and displaced people. During February, St Albans responded generously to a call to provide kitchen and bedroom items to furnish a house for one of a number of Syrian Moslem refugee families being settled in the Hutt Valley, Porirua or Wellington. We've been advised a further request is likely to be made in April or May this year.

We've also been invited to provide financial support to *Open Doors*, an initiative which serves Christians who are persecuted for their faith in Syria and the Middle East. The work of *Open Doors* involves assistance with the welfare, support and discipleship of Christian families who choose to stay in Syria. Vestry has discussed this request to support *Open Doors* and wants to obtain the views of the wider parish before making a decision.

Future of Mission

Vestry has talked a lot about mission recently, suggesting some challenges to the way we could provide our mission support in 2016. The mission team is to expand, with the leaders of our mission initiatives invited to become part of the team.

We could recommend our grant to the ABM is tagged towards specific projects. We could continue to support Kagera and in addition support an initiative closer to home. As I write this I'm listening to reports of damage from the cyclone in Fiji. Communication with our faith community contacts in the Pacific would identify priorities for our support.

Can we improve the way our mission table works? Should we consider targets - of money, goods, energy, people - for the mission initiatives we support? Are there new mission initiatives we should consider or current initiatives we should cease?

Mission is an important aspect of our faith. There is scope for us to contribute to mission in many ways. What will be your contribution to mission at St Alban's in 2016?

*Joy Baird
for St Alban's Mission team*

Children and Families Ministry

In 2015, after a period of discernment about the shape of our Children and Families ministry, we introduced a “Rhythm of life Together”. This rhythm sought to establish a pattern of fellowship and gathering with families and children that was sustainable and which offered a variety of ways to connect with one another.

The rhythm involves:

1st Sunday of the month: Families Brunch at a family home

2nd Sunday of the month: “Sunday Club” during the 9.30am service

3rd Sunday of the month: Ecumenical Messy Church at 4.30pm, with the venue rotating around St Alban’s, St Ronan’s, and San Antonio’s

4th Sunday of the month: “Sunday Club” during the 9.30am service

5th Sunday of the month: 9.30am All Together Service

This rhythm is working well, and we have welcomed several new families into our midst, particularly through Messy Church and Pop in and Play.

It was a great pleasure to welcome the Eastbourne Community Children’s Choir to our All Together Service in August, and the Cathedral Children’s Choir to the Advent All Together Service in November.



Families Brunch

Families Brunch: Twice a term during 2015 we held at brunch at the Bloomfields with a simple meal provided. This informal gathering has offered an opportunity for families to relax, play games, chat together and build relationships.

The families brunch on Te Pouhere Sunday was a beautiful time of fellowship as we renewed the connections we made with families of Taita Pomare at the retreat on Matiu Somes Island earlier in the year.

E Te Kai-raranga, ko koe te kai-whatu, ko mātou te muka i mahia ai e koe a Te Pouhere, te whāriki whakakotahi i ō mātau tikanga i Aotearoa puta noa i Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

Master weaver, you are the creator and we are the flax with which you have plaited Te Pouhere, a whāriki which unites our tikanga in Aotearoa and across Te Moananui a Kiwa.



Sunday Club

Each term we explore a theme to guide our Sunday sessions. In 2015 we explored the “I Am” statements of Jesus in John’s Gospel, and we will start 2016 by exploring what the kingdom of God is all about. We thank our team of Kate Brownsword, Jenni Champion, Rose Odlin and Amelia Ward who have led our sessions in 2015.

Christmas Craft Morning

Our Christmas Craft morning on the Monday before Christmas was a huge success, with double the numbers we were hoping for. Over 50 children came along for a morning of craft activities, and there has been an amazing positive response for the community who want it to happen again this year. Thanks to Stefi Plimmer and Francie Randall who augmented our leaders’ team for that morning.

Messy Church

Messy Church is becoming more and more established with growing numbers, as the word spreads in the community. We have new signage which will help to raise the profile of Messy Church this year. A challenge of this initiative is that so far most families attending have been coming through connections with St Alban's and the St Alban's community. This year we seek to affirm and strengthen the ecumenical commitment to work together to connect with more local families.



We were very fortunate to have the expert guidance of Neville Gardner to get us going with Messy Church throughout 2015. This year we go it alone. Thanks to the positive feedback from families who attend, we are hoping that this year will be a year of further growth of Messy Church as we deepen connections among all three local churches and local families.



Pop in and Play

Pop in and Play was started in 2002 as a community playgroup where parents could connect, and to offer play and socialisation opportunities for pre-school children. It also offers the opportunity for families to see St Albans as 'their' church even if they are not actively involved in the church in other ways. We are a drop-in playgroup, so families do not have to commit to coming every week, and are only asked to pay a nominal sum (\$4 per family) when they do attend. Pop in and Play is open every Friday morning during school term time.

We aim to offer a welcoming environment with high quality play equipment. The church garden is a huge draw-card both in terms of its loveliness and as a great play area. We offer good coffee and very nice morning tea for both adults and children. We also aim to require nothing from our parents - actually they are helpful and supportive during the session - but we do not ask them for any commitment, again this is part of our appeal for many families. We also offer discreet support for parents, both in terms of providing a relaxed environment in which they can meet and form networks with their peers, and also through the experience and listening ears of Ann, Kate, Amelia and Judith. Helen's piano playing enhances our environment and gives the children an opportunity to experience live music. Judith is our Pop in and Play minister.

We are a Ministry of Education certified playgroup, which means we have to meet specific criteria and are then funded by the Ministry by some extent. This year Vestry has kindly supported us by agreeing to waive the hall rent historically paid by Pop in and Play. This reflects Vestry's desire to regard Pop in and Play as a mission activity under its umbrella, rather than as an external user of the hall. This makes Pop in and Play more sustainable financially and fosters stronger links between the parish and the community.

We average 15 or 16 children per week attending, on average 17 in the summer and 14 in the winter. Most of the children who attend are under three. Towards the end of 2015 there were several new families attending, and we are looking at producing a new street flag to put out on Fridays to raise the profile of Pop in and Play. In March we will also seek a special grant to buy a new trampoline, to replace our current one which is in a deteriorating condition.

Many thankyou's go to our volunteers Ann, Helen, Amelia and Sarah, who are truly invaluable. Many thanks also to Ben Grenfell and Jennifer Jackson, our set up team.

Pop in and Play Finances

Expenditure budget 2016

Supervision/co-ordination	\$2400
Set up of equipment	\$ 800
Morning tea	\$ 500
Equipment	\$ 200
Total	\$3900

Actual 2015

\$2120
\$ 560
\$ 565.42
\$ 184.64
\$3430.06

Income budget 2016

Koha collected on the door	\$1600
Ministry of Education funding	\$2250
Total	\$3850

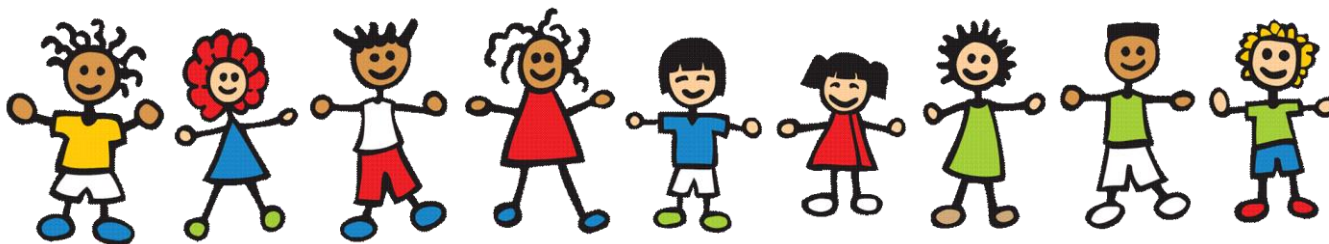
Actual 2015

\$1185.09
\$2244.61
\$3429.70

In 2015 we also received a one-off grant of \$900 from the Anglican Diocese Social Services Community Development Board, which went towards the cost of new grass matting under the outside playground and some new equipment.

As you will see, we are expecting a shortfall in our accounts this year, which should be covered by our reserves. We increased the *koha* requested from families in October 2015 to \$4 per family (up from \$3). This was the first increase since Pop in and Play started.

Kate Brownsword
Coordinator
Pop in and Play



Youth and Young Adults

At last year's AGM we farewelled Guy Randall from his leadership of youth group.

During 2015 Amelia Ward and Andrew Spence (Hutt youth worker) planned a new intermediate youth group called "Backstage" (complete with "Backstage" T-shirts), to start in 2016 on Thursdays 5:30pm-7pm, and with the Wainuiomata youth group joining us for some Thursdays. We start off with food and have 2 or 3 games inside and outside. Then we look at part of the Bible and have a talk about it, and do activities to go with the Bible talk. Then - more games and food!

So far attendance has been very low so we are now in the process of re-thinking this group.

The young adults group for college youth, Year 9 (3rd form) and upwards is led by Ana and Paul Negrulescu.

We also have a youth group Facebook page: St Alban's Youth Group Eastbourne which Amelia Ward update with events coming up.

At the end of 2015 youth and families came to St Alban's and the local beach for the end-of-year Hutt Valley youth gathering. Thanks to the Guys' Group for the BBQ.

Amelia Ward



Our Community Life

Guys' Group

A Group of blokes from the Parish have met regularly on many a Sunday afternoon for fellowship, witty banter and the sharing of experiences. Regularly corralled into attending by Tim Sanderson, what has developed within the group has been a concern for helping others who cannot necessarily help themselves. Apart from the good fellowship, they have succeeded in filling a 'refugee jar' with loose change, found themselves building steps and handrails, pitching in at working bees at the church and San Antonio's, manning barbecues and waiting at table for the ladies Christmas evening. An evolving group with no set agendas - watch this space!

Denis Packer

Women's Coffee and Catch up

Several evening gatherings for women during 2015 were convened by Jennie Lovell-Smith and Stefi Plimmer. It was very encouraging to see so many women come along following the open invitation to all women. The aim of the informal evenings was to get to know each other a bit better, to have some fellowship together along with some reflection, discussion and prayer.

A women's Christmas evening was also a brilliant success, with the hall filled with women enjoying a sumptuous supper and entertained by a quartet from the New Zealand Youth Choir (who tour to Europe in July 2016). Special thanks to the Guys' Group and huddle members who served and manned the kitchen on the night.



Fundraisers

Two fundraisers during the year provided a chance not only to raise some funds for the parish but also to have fun and connect with the local community and beyond. About 100 keen dancers gathered for the Latin Dance evening at Wellesley College in June, as we enjoyed a dance lesson and performance by NZ dance champions Erik and Margarita. A silent auction of art by the late Hilda Walker, plus several wonderful raffle prizes, all contributed to a wonderful evening. Thanks to all who made it happen and supported the event.



The November Garden Tour organised by Penny Grigg and her team went ahead in spite of rather inclement weather, but nevertheless was a huge success. The parish hall café was a warm gathering place and the plant sale with a huge range of donated plants and seedlings attracted a steady stream of customers. Thanks to the many people who pitched in in a variety of ways to make the day such a success, raising over \$6,500. There are plans to hold a smaller but similar event in November 2016 – a Garden Party and Plant Sale here at St Alban's.



Study Series

Two study series in 2015 provided an opportunity for discussion and reflection. The Lenten study focusing on *The Last, The Lost and The Least* provided a challenging focus during Lent.

Later in the year, a series focusing on the Pope's Encyclical *Laudato Si – On Care for our Common Home* – reminded us of our call to be good stewards of the earth: "St Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." Thanks to Reverend Canon Peter Stuart and Monsignor Charles Cooper for convening this study series.



Prayer and Prophecy

Our rhythm of prayer including Wednesday Centering Prayer and morning prayer continued throughout 2015. Though small gatherings, each is an opportunity for a quiet reflective space to centre ourselves in God's presence. All are welcome. In August/September Reverend Ellie gathered a group of parishioners with an interest in prophecy for a six week DVD course on the gift of prophecy. There may be another opportunity later for this series to be repeated for others who are interested.

Oasis

A new initiative in 2015 saw the birth of "Oasis", a four-week course introducing the Christian faith, led by Reverend Ellie and parishioners keen to encourage and walk alongside those exploring the Christian faith. Thanks to Don McIlroy for hosting this course in his home. Two further Oasis courses are scheduled for 2016.

Book launches

We have some deep talent within our faith community! In the past year or so we supported the launch of several books written by parishioners:

- *Coracle*, by Peter Stuart
- *Growing up in Ganges Road*, by Pauline Steele - we celebrated this book in July with "Love Songs and Love Stories" – a reading of extracts from Pauline's book, and a sing-along led by Bill Wollerman
- *A Sense of More Than*, by Tony Martin

We know there are several other writers among us, including Julia Stuart whose latest book is due to be published in late 2016, so we'd quite like to create a "St Alban's authors' collection" – a shelf of books written by members of our faith community for people to borrow and read.

Links with Kaumatua

In February we welcomed the Hutt Valley *kaumatua* to our place, as about 70 people gathered for a day of fellowship, sharing food and exercise. Thanks to Ann Best for facilitating this visit. It was a powerful reconnection of bonds between this parish and Tokomaru Bay, as Julia Stuart presented a blanket that was made by Ann Best for Julia's mother (Helen Mason) to Farena Pahina, so it could be returned as a *taonga* to Pakirikiri Marae in Tokomaru Bay.



In October the Hutt Valley *kaumatua* and the *whanau* of Wainuiomata returned our hospitality by welcoming a group from St Alban's and Wellesley College to the Wainuiomata marae. Both these events were opportunities to deepen our fellowship and connections with those beyond our parish boundaries.



RSA Links

Reverend Ellie, as padre of the local RSA, led the ANZAC Day service at the Memorial Gates, Muritai Road, and was also *kaikaranga* at a special commemoration to mark the centenary of the Rata Street Memorial and Field of Remembrance.

Community Christmas Carols

Angel Ellie and Angel Phil gathered with a crowd in the Muritai School Hall to sing carols and tell the Christmas story at the annual Eastbourne Community Christmas Carols at Muritai School. \$799.50 was raised for the Refugee Family Reunification Trust. Thanks to all who planned and supported this favourite community event.



Ministry Gatherings and Parish Community Korero

Early in 2015 we gathered several ministry groups together so those who share a ministry across our different congregations could meet one another and share their wisdom and insights about the ministries they love. Welcomers, liturgical assistants, intercessors and readers gathered to spend time with one another, and we would like to gather other ministry groups together in 2016. If you are part of a

particular ministry and would like to host others who share that ministry at your place for a catch-up sometime, just talk with Reverend Judith or Ellie.

Two parish community *korero*, in May and August, provided further opportunities for fellowship and to hear about how God is inspiring and equipping those among us. In May we heard from several people called to our ministry of retreat hospitality, and in August we heard about the different models of discipleship, including Cursillo, 3DM, EFM and the Catechumenate. We will continue the pattern of parish *korero* to hear about particular ministries or topics in 2016.

*We thank the many, many people who contribute day by day and week by week to the many ministry and mission activities within and beyond our faith community.
May God bless you, as you bless others.*

Judith Wigglesworth



Retreat Ministry

Welcoming Groups to St Alban's 2015

The passion for Retreat Ministry at St Alban's is alive and well. Over the past year 14 groups have been welcomed to St Alban's for retreat. In May, Ellie hosted the Wellesley College Lower School. Those of us who helped her welcome, share our faith and ministry with these young boys were truly blessed. The boys' openness in Question and Answer time was an absolute joy. Urban Vision held a second Discernment Day with us in September which was enjoyed by all who attended. They felt a real-ness about our hospitality. Another highlight was the Naenae Epuni Spring BBQ in November. This was a great opportunity to meet people from the Naenae Epuni parish and share food, wonderful music and fellowship with them. Some people also shared their testimonies which was a very humbling and uplifting experience. As is often the way with retreat ministry, we are blessed as much as we are a blessing.



2016

We already have retreats booked for 2016. I'm sure as the year progresses more opportunities will arise, not only to share the beauty of our church and surrounds but also to share God's wonderful gift of generosity of spirit which abides in our St Alban's parish. As well as welcoming particular groups who wish to come to St Alban's, we plan to offer and run a Women's Retreat day in 2016, after a very successful pilot in late 2015, as well as two retreat days on Grief, Loss and Healing. These will be open to people from the local community and advertised around the diocese.

Retreats for St Alban's Family 2015

Four retreats were held throughout 2015. The Quiet Retreat held in July at Magnificat Community in Featherston, was an unforgettable experience for all who attended. The setting and the people who ran the venue radiated a wonderful feeling of peace and love. I would strongly urge anyone thinking of attending this year to do so, you will be truly blessed. Many thanks to Judith who ran this retreat with such grace and passion.

At Labour Weekend, several young families gathered for a spring retreat focusing on “God of Earth, Sea and Sky” at Foxton Beach. A wonderful beach house accommodated all 20 people, and there was lots of fun, fellowship, and good food as they all explored the abundance of God’s blessings together.



2016

The Families Overnight Camp was held in the church hall in early February with a BBQ, swim in the sea, Night Prayer, fireworks, and Sunday 8am worship (in pyjamas!) It was a great success and we aim to do this lots more.

Three further retreats are scheduled for 2016:

- 5 March Retreat taster day at the Magnificat Community
- Queen’s birthday weekend 3-5 June: Quiet Retreat at the Magnificat Community
- Labour Weekend 21-23 October: Families Beach retreat.

Jenny Duckworth and St Alban’s Parish Hosts Gathering

In October Jenny Duckworth came to speak to the Parish Hosts team. Jenny’s message was very encouraging and highlighted the need for a committed core of people for whom hospitality is their gift and passion. She also spoke about presenting our ‘face’, 2 or 3 people who are at the forefront at a particular time who are wholeheartedly on deck for welcoming, hosting and contact. She talked about generosity and balance and how the giving needs to be real and that hospitality is not a small ministry but absolutely needed in a church. Jenny shared

some of her thoughts about St Alban's Retreat Ministry, about our simple yet profound call to reflect the welcome of God, sharing the gift of listening, giving people the space and silence to explore and let God show up, feeding people spiritually and physically. Jenny felt that what we offer will influence beyond Eastbourne – not just those who come here for events from other places, but other parishes in the diocese who see what we are doing. She also spoke about the importance of building up the Parish Hosts team, welcoming people who wished to join, to have people who are the 'face' of the event, meeting to plan and pray before and after an event, to know the team is in this together. This is 'generous hospitality'.

I would like to acknowledge the generous grants we received from the Wallis Trust:
\$800 for the Matiu Somes Island retreat;
\$1000 for the July Quiet retreat and the October families retreat (\$500 each).

We have put in a further application for the retreats planned for this year.

Thank you to all who have heeded God's call to Retreat Ministry at St Alban's. Your willingness to be part of this calling is so inspiring. To anyone who is considering joining the Parish Hosts group I pray God will lay upon your heart the encouragement you need to take the first step. May God continue to richly bless this ministry and all who participate in it.

Jen Young

A summary of the retreat hospitality ministry to date at St Alban's is on the next two pages.



St Alban's Ministry of Retreat Hospitality

Welcoming Groups to St Alban's	
2014	
Sunday 28 September	Urban Vision Discernment Day
Saturday 11 October	Pauatahanui Meditation Group Retreat Day
Saturday 22 November	St Michael's Parish Kelburn, Covenanters retreat day
2015	
Wednesday 18 February	Hutt Valley Kaumatua and Whanau
Tuesday 3 March	St Aidan's Parish Miramar Retirees' Coffee Club visit
Friday 6 March	Diocesan Hui Flax Gathering and Weaving
Thursday 16 April	VUW Chaplains' retreat day
Tuesday 12 May	Wellesley College Lower School
Wednesday 20 May	Mothers Union Wellington
Saturday 13 June	Hutt Baptist Churches Alpha Day
Thursday 27 August	Women's Retreat Day (<i>offered by St Alban's including one individual additional retreat day/overnight</i>)
Sunday 27 September	Urban Vision Discernment Day
Tuesday 3 November	Archdeaconry quiet day
Saturday 7 November	Cambodian Refugees Reunion
Sunday 11 November	Naenae Epuni Spring BBQ
Saturday 14 November	St Michael's Parish Kelburn, Covenanters retreat day
Wednesday 25 November	Individual retreat day (<i>Priest from another parish</i>)
2016 so far	
Saturday 16 January	Hutt Valley Baptist Youth Leadership Retreat day
Thursday 25 February	Individual retreat day (<i>Priest from another parish</i>)
Saturday 5 March	Individual retreat day (<i>Two lay people from other churches</i>)
Saturday 11 June	Women's Retreat Day (<i>offered by St Alban's</i>)
Sunday 26 June	Grief, Loss and Healing Retreat Day 1 (<i>offered by St Alban's</i>)
Sunday 9 October	Grief, Loss and Healing Retreat Day 2 (<i>offered by St Alban's</i>)

Retreats for St Alban's family	
2014	
Fri – Sun 28-30 November	Quiet retreat/families retreat at Magnificat, Featherston
2015	
Saturday 21 February	Vestry retreat day at St Matthew's Taita
Saturday 21 March	St Alban's Lenten Quiet Day
Fri – Sun 27-29 March	Retreat on Matiu Somes Island (with families from Taita Pomare)
Fri 24-Sun 26 July	Quiet Retreat at Magnificat, Featherston
Labour Weekend	Families Retreat at Foxton Beach
2016	
Sat 6 - Sun 7 February	Families Overnight Camp at St Alban's
Saturday 5 March	Retreat taster day at Magnificat, Featherston
Saturday 2 April	Vestry retreat day
Queen's Birthday Weekend	Quiet Retreat at Magnificat, Featherston
Labour Weekend	Families Retreat eg Foxton Beach



Property and Maintenance

A newly convened property and maintenance team met twice in the latter half of 2015 to take stock of property and maintenance issues. As a result good progress was made on several fronts.

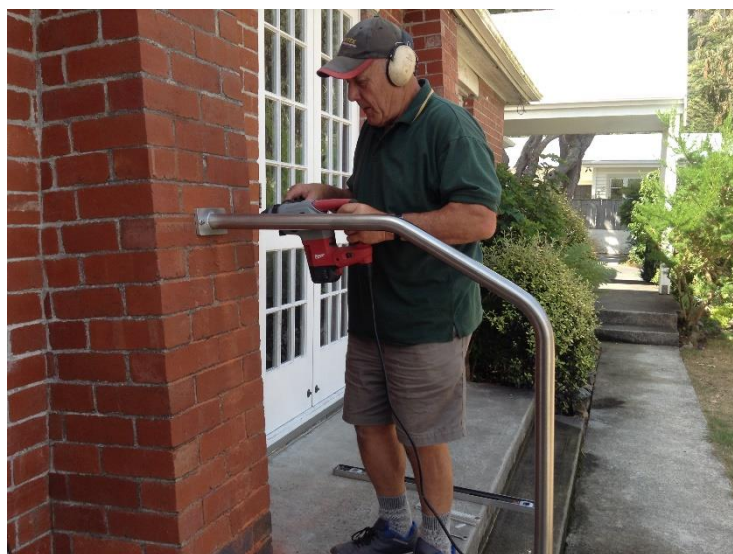
Working Bee

A very successful working bee in October coordinated by Mike Parker resulted in many jobs in the garden and the church property being completed. Thank you Mike for your wonderful coordination and organisation and everyone who pitched in to help.



Major maintenance tasks

- Cracked kitchen windows have been repaired.
- Stage 1 hall windows - garden side - have been replaced (plain glass)
- Stage 2 of hall windows - fence side – repairs to be done this year (existing frosted glass)
- New handrails have been installed on the outside stairs beside the vestry (Vicarage side) and from the hall (between the French doors)



- Vestry approved a Memorial Wall extension on the hall/office side of the path opposite the existing wall, and designs are being prepared

Garden and Lawns

Thanks to Margaret Turner for her continuing dedication and commitment to our gardens. It is good to welcome Harold and Julianna Knight to the gardening team to assist with both gardening and watering. We also thank Hamish Pilbrow for taking on the mowing of the church lawn. Many, many people comment when they visit St Alban's on the beauty of our gardens, and recognise the time, energy and care which goes into tending them so lovingly.

Office Equipment

2015 was a year of upgrading key items of office equipment. Just before Easter, the office computer gave up and thanks to Jerry Wellington and Philip Plimmer a new computer was purchased and installed. In June, after careful consideration over several months by Vestry, a new B&W/colour photocopier and scanner was installed in the office, under a licence arrangement with Wellesley College. This machine enables us to scan documents and do our copying in-house rather than travelling to Wellesley College. We can also produce brochures and notices of a high quality. The machine is leased with a pay-per-copy arrangement, and all replacement consumables (apart from paper) are provided free of charge as part of the licence agreement. We thank Wellesley College especially Garth Johnson for facilitating this arrangement, and we thank the Fuji Xerox trainers and technicians for their advice and site visits.

Hall and Kitchen Hire

During 2015 there was a steady stream of users of our hall and kitchen facilities. Food for Thought remains the main user of the commercial kitchen. This business changed hands at the end of 2015, with Kelly Mouat taking over the business from Megan Brugh.

NuFood, a company that processes almonds and produces almond butter, started using the kitchen in late 2015 and we are in the process of putting in place a regular hire arrangement.

We have entered a new contract arrangement for the cleaning of the kitchen grease traps, which can now be done on a less frequent six-monthly basis, with the permission of the Hutt City Council. We received a glowing kitchen inspection report recently, and the kitchen continues to be advertised on the Council website as a commercial kitchen available for hire.

The hall continues to be used by the Wellington Ballet Studio two afternoons a week, with an increased number of classes in 2016. The Eastbourne Community Children's Choir also plans to continue using the hall once a week. Both of these activities are a good opportunity for us to link in with local families.

A steady stream of hall hire for children's birthday parties continued in 2015. We received very positive feedback on the venue and facilities we provide.

Memorial Wall

An audit of the Memorial Wall niches, following up reserved but unpaid for niches, has been completed. Two reserved niches remain unpaid but this is being resolved. There are 25 remaining niches available in the existing walls, with many additional spaces available for plaques only. The new wall approved by Vestry late last year will be a welcome addition as a steady stream of enquiries continues.

Two badly deteriorated plaques (made by our previous plaque supplier in Dunedin) have been successfully restored, and a task for 2016 is to explore the repair/restoration of other such plaques. Vestry has approved an arrangement involving sharing the cost of restoration with the families concerned, if they are agreeable to restoration. We thank Keith Young for his care of the Memorial Walls and the plaques, and his gentle practical presence with families as we gather for interment ceremonies.

John Nippert, Judith Wigglesworth

Capital and Resources

The new Capital and Resources Committee brought together members of the Trust, Vestry and people with particular skills and wisdom needed for a "big picture view" of the stewardship of our capital and resources.

In 2015 we gathered to review and look ahead at the earthquake strengthening project. After consideration and discernment the Vestry and Trust approved a revised quote for Stage 2 of earthquake strengthening which we received towards the end of 2015. We are in the process of appointing a project manager to oversee this work, which we hope will commence as soon as possible.

Ellie Sanderson, Philip Plimmer, Geoff Martel



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