**Island Bay Presbyterian Church**

**2022 Annual Report**

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# AGM LETTER FROM THE MINISTER – AGM 2022

Years seem to take longer than they used to these days, but then, paradoxically, times flies by as well and here we are moving to the end of 2022. Our third AGM of life under Covid is upon us.

2022 began with a fantastic prayer retreat together after the service on January 30th. We had taken a few Sundays to explore Jesus’ first sermon in Luke 4:14-21, and we built on that to go deeper into this reading on our retreat to see how it might speak to us amidst the challenges of life in this season. There was a lot of sharing and discernment, and we came up with the IBPC 2022 manifesto which is stuck to my office door and to the front of the pulpit. This manifesto has really guided me as the year has gone on. I will frame this year’s letter around our manifesto.

1. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me…”
We seek to be **a Community of Prayer**, praying and seeking the Spirit’s anointing on the things we do.

A real focus for prayer for me as this year began was our youth work. We were thrilled to welcome Harry as our youth pastor in the beginning of 2021 and our church youth group was picking up while our Berhampore youth group was in a season of re-visioning.

* The Berhampore group hasn’t attracted younger youth as we had hoped, but it has thrived with the youth we have, and we have already secured funding for a re-imagined youth project there in 2023.
* Meanwhile we learned the benefits of having a ‘Berhampore Youth Group’ well-resourced by grants, contrasted with our ‘IBPC Youth Group’ based on our church and with limited hours for Harry. We brought a proposal to our last AGM which you endorsed, and we then sought out greater resourcing by seeking a partner for an ‘Island Bay Youth Group.’ In all of this we were seeking your prayers!

This all came together with the local Catholic parish agreeing to help fund a joint youth group not tied to one church, and as a result the numbers and energy have grown considerably. On the basis of this being a non-denominational group we were also able to secure some modest grants funding for extra resourcing (thanks to Craig for keeping track of all these grants!)

Thanks to you all for praying for this and our other ministries; to God be the glory for how well things have come together; thanks to Harry and our many volunteers who run both groups and keep up the adult to youth ratios; and thanks to Mel and Harry for the vision and hard work behind our impending ski trip. As we move forward, I’d appreciated the focus for our prayers of anointing to be on Bruce and the visioning and planning for Tēpu Mō Tātou after the Granville flats have come down.

1. “…for he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor…”
We seek to be **a Community of “Good News”** – proclaiming the Counter-Factual good news of Jesus in the face of all the bad news of the world.

This part of our manifesto has in particular inspired my sermons on Sunday mornings. I can tend to melancholy and concern for the future for my children, but this has reminded me that in Jesus the news is good, we have a hope and a future in Christ our Lord.

Thanks to all those who have preached sermons and contributed to the running of our Sunday services in all the different ways that are required – music, sound, flowers, cleaning, morning tea, putting out the chairs, prayers, kids’ talks, our child helpers. I appreciate the high level of congregational participation in our services, from all ages and abilities. A big thanks again is also due to Graeme for setting up and running our Zoom streaming, enabling those isolating or at a distance to still be able to worship with us.

Since our last AGM we have had sermons from Bruce, Paul, Amber, Jeanne, David, the Nourish team, Michael, Margaret, Fiona, Rev Richard Noble – and one or two from me. We’ve looked at topics like the Tree of Life, Friendship, the life of David before he became king, the war in Ukraine, Rahab, and we are currently exploring Exodus.

We’ve also had all-age services at Palm Sunday (with Jack the donkey), Pentecost, and our first Sunday morning Matariki service. In all these things we have sought to remind ourselves of the good news of Jesus.

1. We seek to be **a Community of Re-framing** –
‘Sabbath’ instead of ‘self-isolation!’

We are seeking to put this into action especially around the news that the Granville flats in which we have journeyed and ministered for nearly 7 years now, is to be demolished by the end of 2023. We love the people there, the community is flourishing, we have invested much in that place. But God is a God who brings life out of death, and new beginnings out of endings – what new seeds could be sown and bear fruit from this change?

1. We seek to be **a Flexible Community** –
We will make “maps of opportunity” not “plans!”

This is a key strategy for a season of Covid, not to hold our plans too tightly, to have the flexibility to change direction. Despite this we have managed to hold many events: a church get-away to the Wairarapa, 2 garage-sales, Christmas gatherings and our all-age services, Anzac Day, the new Youth Group with their activities, a GB sleepover, and the annual Queens Badge service (which we had to do after our 10am service to meet capacity regulations). Thanks especially to Helen in the office for rolling with the punches on this front!

1. We seek to be **an Inter-dependent Community** –
We need each other at this time.

More than half of us have spent time isolating over this last year, and you can always call on us to help. Church is more than Sunday, there is a lot of love at IBPC, and people have shown again that they are more than happy to help if needed. Thanks to Liz for heading up our prayer and pastoral care work.

From our community we have seen the Barraclough family return with our prayers to the UK. We have been deeply blessed to welcome Julie, whose first Sunday was pretty much our AGM 2021! We honoured the passing of Cass Burgess who used to come with his mum Margaret, but has been too unwell to attend in recent years, as well as our dear friend Faye Hall who had moved to Papamoa. So too for Ngaire Stagg in the last weeks, a long-term member of IBPC. We were very sad to see Reza and Vanessa move to Auckland to attend Bible College, but have received regular updates. We celebrated the birth of James McGimpsey, and are still adjusting to life without Elaine. Teresa Keen wasn’t a member of our church but was often present at community gatherings and generous in her support - we remember her passing in January.

So, 2022 has been a good year! We look forward to another year of prayer and worship, service and discipleship, fun and food together. I am excited to see where our youth work goes, how Tēpu Mō Tātou adjusts to a future without Granville, to meeting any new people who may join us in the coming year on the journey of faith, and to seeing how God moves among us to save and heal.

A big thanks to everyone for what they do. It is a blessing to serve here.

Nathan

# PARISH COUNCIL

While the last year was plagued with lockdowns, we have been able to worship together while different families take turns isolating or travelling!

This has opened the opportunity to start broadcasting the services on Zoom every Sunday. Which has largely been a success with reports from our people attending service this way that they can hear and watch the services unfold as well as interact with the other families on Zoom. We were also able to utilize this technology to stream a fond farewell to Ngaire Stagg, a stalwart of our congregation throughout the years.

It has been great getting back together and being able to worship together as well as spend time with one another in God’s grace.

Our different groups have been going from strength to strength with Harry doing an amazing job with the Youth groups along with Mel’s, seemingly, tireless energy devoted to Sunday Club as well as the Brigades. Dan has taken the reins for the Boy’s Brigade and, with support from Irene, Rich, Paul and Peter, it has been going really well. All of this culminating in the thoroughly well-deserved award for Brenda for the service she has freely and happily given to our community over the years. She has touched many lives with care and love. You are a God given blessing to the community along with your ever supportive husband, Roger.

God’s blessings are boundless, and His wisdom has been much appreciated as we prayerfully consider the challenges before us.

We have all heard about the plans for the Granville flats. We are still considering our future there and what God has in store for our ministry there. We are considering the next steps in the ministry and where God is taking us on that journey. Please keep this in prayer.

Finally, we want to share our thanks to all of the tireless work people put into everything we do. The musicians in the band and ensemble for providing us a soundtrack to worship to. Our children’s leaders in Sunday school, Kiddiccino, BB, GB and the Youth Groups. Your influence is a blessing to all. To everyone who is so willing to take part in services, lending your voices to read, preach and teach, thank you.

Thank you to our amazing administrator, Helen. Your work is invaluable and appreciated beyond anything else.

Thank you to Bruce and the team for your work in the community. You are all such a blessing to everyone you are in touch with, and your influence is incalculable.

Thanks to Nanu as he finishes his 6 years of service on Parish Council, we have appreciated your wise and stable presence in our team.

Finally, thank you to Nathan. Your constant support and leadership are absolutely God given. Thank you so very much.

God bless!

Andrew Bruce

Parish Council: Reverend Nathan Parry (Minister and Chair); Nanu Matautaava; Bruce Hamill (Community Minister); Liz Bruce; Melanie Heaphy (Chifam worker); Kezia Bennett; Jeanne Wissing; Sally Jackson, Sue Riddle, Helen Reynolds, and Andrew Bruce (Parish Secretary).

# ADMINISTRATOR

This year has felt more settled through the Administrator’s lens. While the 2021 Centre bookings diary had whole weeks with the words ‘LOCK DOWN’ writ large, 2022 has been easier to cope with. But it has impacted all of us as we’ve ‘isolated’ either with or against Covid-19. ‘50 people limit’ or ‘100 at indoor gatherings’ were noted across numerous bookings. While Covid Level Orange – the pass to greater freedoms – kicked in on 13 April, it’s been a year of cancelled or no parties for local children as caution was observed. Many regular bookings were, last minute, overwritten ‘Cancelled – Covid’. However, good events went ahead, like our annual Prayer Trek, and we boldly held a garage sale in September 2021.

Managing all manner of Centre bookings remains core work, as is monitoring property work and keeping on top of housekeeping tasks. Producing a weekly newsletter for you is a nice routine; thank you all for your contributions. We have a growing awareness of environmental responsibility and there are popular initiatives around plastics recycling. Work is in train to have better awareness and processes for reducing waste to landfill and I continue to invite all our programmes and event leaders to consider ways to further reduce waste streams.

**Groups:** A super friendly Swing Dance Group took over the hall for Saturday nights for the last quarter of 2021. New groups starting this year were a Monday Ballroom Dancing Class run by Keri, who has, herself, practised in the hall for some years now, and recently, a Monday Tai Chi group. Mary runs this, and the large group enjoys the auditorium’s spaciousness (and great carparking). Island Bay School is again enjoying our hall for a Friday class for the rest of the year. We have been fully flexible with groups cancelling at short notice for reasons of illness, and some groups like Rappelkiste German playgroup taking a winter break while their numbers were low.

**Our core hire groups remain:** After School Care, Move It Danceworks, Plunket, Guides NZ, Weavers and Spinners, Anne’s preschool music, and the Korean Presbyterian Church. Church groups run every day of the week bar Saturday. If I include the Board of Managers and Parish Council meetings on Tuesdays; the Centre is busy again!

**Special services and events:** A Baptism was held in February, Ngaire Stagg’s funeral was held here this August, and no weddings took place here during the year. We held our highly enjoyable ‘Creation Unmasked’ weekend-long art exhibition in February as part of the new South Coast Arts Trail. Other events: Stations of the Cross walk, Prayer Trek at Owhiro Bay, Curry night for Ukraine; a Kaibosh fundraiser dinner and a June garage sale.

**Communications:** Much of my connection with you is via email these days, but when I see familiar faces, I try to touch base and can often include a quick ‘bit of business’. Several church groups now use phone-based apps to connect among themselves in a timely way, which is great to see. Social media have become an important way to connect, and our Facebook pages are active and useful. The church website now offers most value for core information about church programmes, policies and our facilities. IBPC is well connected to the Island Bay community, and I feel we are perceived to be friendly and active in the Bay, inviting folk to join in our many family-oriented occasions.

My thanks to key people who’ve supported this role during the year: Nathan, Graeme and Craig. To a degree I am a bit of an AV (autonomous vehicle) at IBPC but do appreciate the ad hoc chats I have with many of you. I endeavour to be here two hours each day so I can respond to matters in a timely way. The variety of work I do, and the friendly people, is what keeps me enjoying my job. Particular thanks to our Health & Safety team, who’ve helped me navigate expectations around our Covid response this last year and supported in practical ways.

Helen Scobie

Administrator

# MANAGERS

Managers wish to thank everybody for their support over the last year. There are many people that keep the property in good condition and able to serve the call of God in this community of Island Bay and beyond.

People that come to mind include Nathan Parry who works hard at getting grant money to support the varied ministries of the community; Craig Bennett, who manages the finances and all that that entails; Irene McLachlan who manages the rosters; Helen Reynolds and Janice Hopkins who manage the gardens; Graeme Mahoney who does many of the smaller jobs around the buildings; Helen Scobie who administers the buildings and their usage; Michael McLachlan who does a lot of the cleaning and Nathan McLachlan and Graeme Mahoney who do the sound and Zoom stuff for the services.

There are also all the people on the rosters, including flower arrangers, lawn mowers, people who put the auditorium chairs out, do morning teas. Without all these contributors our community would be all the poorer.

Managers report that their largest projects this year have been to obtain a valuation for insurance purposes (see separate discussion document around insurance) and because of the Presbyterian Church’s policies around the earthquake readiness of church buildings we have had to have a detailed seismic assessment (DSA) done on the Church Auditorium. This requires a suitably qualified Engineer. The hall and lounges had a sufficient rating under previous ISA (Independent Seismic Assessment, previously IEP) to not require the next step (DSA).

We have been let off lightly, with the report only identifying the lack of bracing on the side walls of the church and foyer as the most likely failure point in the building. Managers have decided we will go ahead with replacing the internal plasterboard lining with structural ply. The engineer is creating a document for builders to quote from and recalculating the effect of the strengthening to give the building its final rating.

Other projects of note include the building of the raised beds at the southern end of the property. The repair of the deteriorating asphalt in the car park, as a freebee by Fulton Hogan (they do small jobs for charities on the last day before Christmas) and the introduction of regular Zoom broadcasts of the church services on Sunday mornings.

**Manse**

The tenants seem settled and stable. We raised the rental by a small amount at the beginning of the year

**Future**

We are noticing that the paint on the halls and lounges in some places is starting to peel and that these areas should be repainted soon. We also were warned that the weatherboards on the Manse should be painted within two years (which was two and a half years ago now).

We have also been looking at the aisle and stage carpet in the auditorium which are well overdue for replacement.

Graeme Mahoney

For Managers

# FINANCE REPORT 2021-22

**A big ‘thank you’** to all our faithful givers! The contributions of money and time from many enable our church to be part of God’s mission in our community. If you’d like to part of our team of regular donors through the Planned Christian Giving Scheme (which also enables you to claim an annual donor rebate from Inland Revenue), please come and talk with me.

**Financial Statements 2021-2022:**

The deficit for the year, including depreciation, was $4,015 compared to a deficit of $6,447 from the previous year.

Regular giving from the congregation increased by 5%, although this was partially offset by a decline in loose offerings of $2,700 as we no longer take offerings during the service. Rent for the manse and church complex continue to make a significant contribution to our income, although rent for the church complex was down 12% on last year due to the 2020 election the previous year and a few weeks of lockdown in August. Grant income increased as we had a youth worker for the full year in 2021-22 but only part of the previous year.

Expenditure in other areas was broadly similar to last year, with the major changes being:

* Manse repairs – a decrease of $22,600 as last year’s costs include attending to a maintenance backlog as we got the manse ready for rental
* Other repairs and maintenance – an increase of $6,000 with the need to get an insurance valuation and a Detailed Seismic Assessment of the church.
* Youth worker – an increase due to having a youth worker for the full year rather than a part year as in 2020-21.

As in previous years, the wages and costs of the Community Minister and the Youth Worker for the Berhampore outreach were funded by grants

The Financial Statements have been reviewed by Robert Toothill. A full copy of the financial statements, plus a copy of Robert's Review Report, is included with this Annual Report as **Annexure A**.

**Budget 2022-2023**

The budget assumes a full stipend for Nathan, a half-time stipend for Bruce (funded by grants from Presbytery and other organisations), and four part time appointments (Children and Families Worker, Office Administrator, Cleaner, and Youth Worker). For the Youth Worker, the Berhampore portion is funded by grants, and the church portion from the Duncanson Fund, as agreed at the AGM of 2018.

On the income side, the assumption is that this will continue to be similar to 2021-22, with a projected increase overall of 1.5%.

**Expenditure is projected to increase by 8%. The main reasons for this are:**

* An increase of 20% in levies from Presbytery and the national church.
* The increase in weekly hours (from six to eight) for church youth work from May 2022, applying for the whole year.
* An increase in expenses for the Berhampore youth work, which is covered by grants.
* An expected increase in insurance costs.
* An allowance of $10,000 to improve the church’s seismic rating (we have yet to receive an estimate for this; this estimate is based on the work identified in the Detailed Seismic Assessment). This is a one-off cost.
* There will be a separate discussion of these latter two matters at the AGM.

The expected increase in expenses results in a projected deficit for the year, including depreciation, of $20,454. As we don’t pay out any cash for depreciation, on a cash basis there is a projected deficit of $7,938 (i.e., we expect to spend $7,938 more than we receive). Over time, we aim to at least break even after allowing for depreciation in order to build up funds for longer term maintenance – this year it looks unlikely we will achieve this.

Craig Bennett

Treasurer

# PRAYER ENABLER

*JUST BE THERE*

*Silent company is often more*

*healing than words of advice.*

Our church community has again been richly blessed by those who have led our service prayer times. Thank you. We recognise that time and thought goes into each one.

Home of Compassion welcomes all to a Taizé service on the first Friday monthly from 7 to 8pm. A few of us attend, giving a special opportunity for quiet reflection, singing and prayer in stunning surroundings. It was a privilege to be asked to lead the Intercessions on May 6. Taizé style services were offered early in the year on alternate Sunday evenings at IBPC.

For use by anyone, the Prayer Box in the Hall foyer is for prayer requests. It is checked regularly, and issues are prayed for.

November 20 was a popular day. Fifteen of us plus two friendly dogs met at Princess Bay for another Prayer Trek The theme was Finding God in Isolation; opportunity to lay down our fears; and recognise God in Rocks & Stones; in Shadows; in Wings and in Feathers. The kind weather enabled most to enjoy lunch outside the Alice Krebs Lodge. We ensured to allow time to return and join Granville Flats residents for the opening of their Fence Murals.

Another Prayer Trek was held on 18 June this year; this one around Red Rocks from 9.30-11.30am; specifically to pray for the people of Ukraine and the end of war. Twenty people, two dogs and five horse riders joined to walk and pray. What a blessing to have fine, still weather. We carried small replica Ukrainian flags. We completed the Trek at the Memorial Stone of Robert Logan, remembering his life's work to secure public spaces for future generations to enjoy.

The next Trek is planned for Spring at the Anne Frank memorial Installation in Mt Victoria.

The Labyrinth was offered during each Sunday of Lent prior to Sunday Services. Thank you to those who assisted in laying down and packing away.

Good Friday was kind weather for Jan to again lead the Stations of the Cross Walk, using the well-trodden track up through the Golf Course and overlooking Berhampore, with opportunity to prayer for our Tēpu ministry.

A big highlight for me personally was a trek in the awesome Queen Charlotte Sounds; my first adventure on NZ’s Trails. On 20 March, Dana, Chris, Margaret, Irene, Janice and I enjoyed a stunning flight in a 9-seater across to Picton. We had prepared by taking day walks for some months in advance. Our package gave 5 days together with treks on 4 days and a rest day between. We overnighted in luxury lodges and trekked as able. The time out in nature was a rich blessing to me as I praised, prayed and sang my way over the 70km trail. An outdoor labyrinth in the grounds of Lochmara was special.

I have had opportunity to prepare and lead a number of short times of meditation and prayer in the church at times when grief can overpower, or world events deeply disturb. These are times to draw together. Please feel free to ask if you have such a need.

Liz Bruce

# PRAYER CHAIN

‘Pray without ceasing.’ – 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Jesus urged this. Many topics have been covered during the past year and it has been encouraging to get feedback on many of the prayers that have been answered.

Three people pray regularly for all prayer requests – some ordinary and mundane items and others quite spectacular. We believe that God hears and answers accordingly and it is not up to us to query the how and why of His response.

Extra telephone pray-ers are always welcome. If you feel you can offer to do this task between 8-8.30am on Tuesdays and you wish to know more about this vital behind-the-scenes side of our parish life, please contact Janice Hopkins (ph. 027 646 2191) or Liz Bruce (ph. 022 185 5357).

Janice Hopkins

On behalf of the pray-ers in the Prayer Chain

# EPRAYER

Email is used each Thursday to share the requests of Tuesday's Prayer Chain; include 3 names from our Church Directory for prayer; and add points for prayer especially for our church ministry in all its facets. It is a special thrill to be able to add a Give Thanks ... note for answered prayer! It's also a delight to have reassurance of action in a response email saying 'Praying'!!

Would you like to share with us? Email me: e.a.bruce@outlook.com

Liz Bruce

# PASTORAL CARE GROUP

During the past year we have tried to meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except January). At times when we have not met it is because some members are away, or extra work loads and verbal reports have been sufficient.

Meetings consist of:

* a time of sharing experiences since we last met
* raising matters of pastoral concern, including issues/people for prayer and visiting
* prayer for those in need

The weekly **email** continues to be sent from Nathan and the Church Office to those people who are on the email mailing list along with Nathan’s sermons (or the person preaching) which are very much appreciated by the recipients.

Because of the confidentiality of our times together there is not much to report other than the above.

Janice Hopkins

on behalf of the Pastoral Care Task Group

Members: Rev. Nathan Parry, Liz Bruce, Janice Hopkins, Hayden Mellor

# CHURCH BAND

(One of many Musical Groups within the Church)

As I had a few moments of spare time on my holiday down on the West Coast – in Greymouth – I decided to write this annual report just as Nathan Parry is about to send a reminder.….

As a result, it only seems like a few months ago I was writing an annual report and what do you know, here we are again setting to and writing this year’s report.

As usual a big ‘***Thank you’*** must go to everyone who is involved or has been involved in the band in the past year.

* First off and the most important person, *Graeme Mahoney* on the sound desk, as without him we would not be here, or you wouldn’t be able to hear us! Along with his also capable sound desk person *Nathan* *McLachlan* – on the occasions when Graeme couldn’t do it.
* *Joe Fecteau* who has this fantastic ability to be able to sing, whilst playing drums or piano, you are awesome! As well as *Bahman,* being new here but also a capable player on the drums.
* *Andrew Bruce* for his ability to suss out a tune on his guitar, and then help us come in at the right place when we can’t find the right place to come in! You are a unique person Andrew, keep it up!!
* *Ed Mahoney* who has once again settled into the band way of life with playing his bass guitar.
* *Brenda Watkin* for her piano playing – even being as busy as she is in other areas of our Church Community.
* *Angela Kilford, Graham Langton and myself* (the author) as we continue to amaze ourselves with the various harmonies we try out and sometimes they pay off! – usually at practice and sometimes on Band playing days.
* *Richard Bruce* – for his encouragement and enjoyment of singing with us. (We do love the Haka on occasions!!)

We hope you have all enjoyed the music we present but we do like to get feedback, as this is the only way any musician can grow their repertoire.

*In one way or another, all of us are a gift from God, and as such we all have our own uniqueness quality which we should cherish and enjoy. Whatever we have to offer, may we look to the Lord for inspiration and follow his lead, and then shall we find our own Peace and Harmony.*

*Gods Blessings on each of you!*

Irene McLachlan

Band Member (and Author)

18 August 2022

# ENSEMBLE

**2021-2022**

The New Zealand Dictionary explains Ensemble as 'all the parts of a whole, seen or considered together'; 'any small group of musicians'. That sounds like us!

A highlight and a challenge for me is that, however many or few we are, we provide background music to support the worship of our Church Family.

Our practice time is Saturday afternoon in the church, prebooked with Helen, so that we know we won't be disturbing anyone, except perhaps the flower arrangers! Early comers often get to set out the chairs for Sunday.

Songs are selected from a healthy and growing Church File, or from personal choice. Music is sourced, with help from Google or better still, CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International).

Grateful thanks to players of piano, recorder, violins, and guitars, with vocals by Janice, and Band Vocals too especially when we have a new song to learn.

We sit happily with the vision of providing musical support to enrich the theme of the sermon, to enhance our hour of worship and to provide lyrics (thanks to PowerPoint) that remain with a worshipper long after they have left the church.

*When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,*

*Whatever my lot, You have taught me to say “It is well, it is well with my soul”*

Liz Bruce on behalf of Ensemble

# THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Well, what could be nicer than getting together with about ten other people that you see regularly at Sunday Service or just round and about Island Bay?

We chat, we enjoy Michael’s coffee (and Michael usually joins in the chat to start with), we also enjoy the biscuits (mostly of the chocolate variety) and then we get down to the ‘hard stuff!’

Because there are times when the Bible does seem to consist of ‘hard stuff.’ The Old Testament so often contains the words ‘This is the Law’ and stories of sacrifice and vengeance. Only with Nathan’s knowledge and learning are we able to understand the meaning of these stories.

And then the New Testament with the teachings of Christ contained in the parables recorded by the disciples. And again, it is Nathan’s learning that helps us dig deeper than we normally would: to understand the deeper meaning that each parable holds.

Above all, by studying the words of Christ, we learn to love each other unconditionally.

Thank you, Nathan, for helping us to understand and accept this teaching. We are, after all, just ordinary people with ordinary faults. To share this knowledge with each other is a great gift and comfort.

So, if this sounds of interest to you, come along on Thursday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 and join in the chat!

Thanks,

Beryl Skipper

# THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY / HOME GROUP

This time last year, Kezia wrote, ‘Home Group this year has continued working through the Essential 100 book we started last year – 100 readings from throughout the Bible that tell the Bible’s overall story. By the time you read this, we will have not long begun the New Testament section.’

Well, we’ve actually only just begun the New Testament section a few weeks ago, for various reasons!

Home Group still consists of Kezia and Liz – new members very welcome! – and meets at 7.30pm on Thursdays at Kezia’s house.

Like last year, prayers for continued spiritual growth would be appreciated.

Kezia and Liz

# CHIFAM & SUNDAY CLUB REPORT

This year I’m combining the ChiFam and Sunday Club reports, as the activities are intrinsically linked.

In the last 12 months Covid, general sickness, overseas trips, etc. have meant that our weekly numbers have been a bit all over the place – more so this year than since Covid came on the scene initially. This has been the case for all our groups – Sunday Club, Kiddiccino and to a lesser extent GB & ICONZ.

**2021**

* We finished the last Term of 2021 by making a video of the 3 wise men story at Island Bay beach. This was part of the Online Advent Series that we made instead of the Community Carols afternoon which was cancelled due to Covid. The series included a walk around the Bay to find pieces of the Nativity story and was well received.
* We also did the ‘Tu Meke’ Christmas play as our end of year pageant, and wrapped things up with a picnic at Shorland Park. Our annual IBPC Family Christmas was attended by the whole congregation, and it was lovely to celebrate together. Another highlight of Term 4 was a trip to Patuna Chasm in Martinborough.
* At the end of Term 4, Xav and Calvin graduated to our Intermediate Group.

**2022**

**Term 1** sessions were quite sporadic due to Covid.

* **Palm Sunday** went really well with a visit from Jack the Donkey, his mate Merlin the pony and a selection of their farmyard friends. Lots of people came along to the service which was great.
* **Easter** was also a special time – the Good Friday service and bonfire at Princess Bay was a real blessing.
* Once again, we had a big church presence at our local **Anzac Day** service, held at Island Bay School. This year we added a parade from St Hilda’s to the school and were joined by horses from the local Pony Club. This, along with the bagpiper, made it a really special commemoration.

**Term 2**

* In Term 2 we started a series on the story of King David – from when he was young and fought Goliath, as a bestie to Jonathan, and how he managed with King Saul. Term 2 also included an all-age **Matariki Service** – particularly well attended by the Girls’ Brigade. The kids loved cooking fish in church and making flax fish as part of the service.
* We held a **pop-up curry night** in June to raise money for people with disabilities in Ukraine. It was well attended and raised over $300.

**Term 3**

* In Term 3 we started making movies of Bible stories. We did this a few years ago, and it’s been fun letting the younger kids have a turn. Noah, Jonah and Moses are the stars of this year’s movies.

Thanks to all the people who have helped with Sunday Club over the past year – taking sessions, supervising sessions and remembering us in your prayers. It’s much appreciated!

**Kiddiccino**

Thanks also to Jackie, Janice, Kezia, Brenda and Roger who faithfully come along to Kiddiccino every week. Couldn’t do it without you! Our numbers at Kiddiccino have been hit every time a Covid wave went through the Bay. But they have recovered each time to around 20 kids, with a lot of new families coming along which is encouraging to see.

Mel Heaphy & Amber Parry Strong

# YOUTH GROUP

**Island Bay Youth Group**

At the beginning of 2022, the Island Bay Presbyterian Church parted ways with the Wellington Boys’ and Girls’ Institute (BGI) and formed a partnership with the St Francis de Sales Catholic Church. This partnership involved the Catholic church half-funding the church-based youth group. To acknowledge the change in funders with adjusted the name from the Island Bay Presbyterian Church Youth Group to the Island Bay Youth Group.

The year was kicked off with a bonfire at Princess Bay. Throughout Term 1 we spent our fortnightly Fridays at the St Francis school hall transferring to IBPC lounge and hall for Terms 2 and 3.

Coming up we have the Rintoul and Island Bay Youth Group combined Ski Trip from Thursday 29 September through to 2 October. We are also exploring the potential for a camp combined with St Johns in the City and St James Whanganui at the end of the October school holidays. Prayer over these times away together would be much appreciated.

Thanks to Andrew Bruce, Mel Heaphy, Nathan Parry, Richard Turner, Pete Chew, and all the other people who make these groups possible.

**IBPC Sunday Youth Group**

As a Lenten study in 2022, the Sunday Youth Group explored the parallels between ‘The Greatest Showman’ film and the foundations of Christianity. The group is currently exploring the mission of caring for creation and what being an Eco Church can mean for us not only as the Island Bay Youth Group but also as a congregation.

**Rintoul Street Youth Group**

The beginning of 2022 marked a change from weekly Youth Group to fortnightly. The focus for the group has been about creating a safe space for the youth to relax in. This often has involved them processing events from school (or equivalent) with us during these times. At the beginning of the year the group was opened to intermediate kids. This didn’t go successfully for probably a multitude of reasons. A significant reason is that most of the intermediate youth already have connections to other youth workers or mentors.

Looking forward, we have the Rintoul and Island Bay Youth Group combined Ski Trip from Thursday 29 September through to 2 October. Hopefully this is a great time for the youth to gain experiences they otherwise potentially wouldn’t.

A huge thanks to Zac and Vanessa Shilston who finished their season as volunteers with the Rintoul Street Youth at the end of last year, along with Jan Hamill and Sara Turner who have stepped into leading with the Rintoul Street Youth Group for 2022.

Harry Troughton

# 11th WELLINGTON GIRLS’ BRIGADE

* We have 7 kids attending on Monday nights (aged from 12-15) and 26 on Wednesdays (aged from 5-11).
* Due to Covid we didn’t run in Term 1. Instead, we organised 3 lots of craft-care packages which we delivered to all our GB families from 2021. Pleasingly, all girls from 2021 came back when we restarted in Term 2 – possibly helped by the fact we kept in touch despite not meeting in person. Unfortunately, GB National Office is charging us for Term 1, so we have to do quite a bit of fundraising this year to cover the fees.
* Thanks to Kezia for helping on Mondays, and Roger, Nathan, Melanie, and Usha for helping on Wednesdays. Special thanks to our College student helpers Jarna, Sarina, Georgia, Molly, and Jana for their help on Wednesdays.
* Thanks to our 2022 planning team - Usha Stewart, Naomi Matautaava, Jarna Stewart and Melanie Heaphy for fabulous ideas.
* Thanks to Margaret Cantwell for being our Treasurer and Rev Nathan Parry for being our Chaplain and giving us support.
* Our 2022 focus has been GB Friendship in Europe. Each session has included a variety of activities including singing, crafts, and sport skills, loosely related to the Europe.

Highlights of the year include:

* At the end of 2021 we finished the year with an Award Ceremony at the zoo and a fish & chip dinner.
* Painting sunflower canvases and raising $200 for Ukraine.
* A wonderful Mother’s Day Devonshire tea to celebrate the Queen’s jubilee.
* Blowing and creating pysanky eggs.
* Rock candy experiment.
* A tsunami drill and treasure hunt to Janice’s house, including parachute games on her lawn.
* A magical Matariki sleepover.
* A midwinter Christmas party.
* Ice skating at Queen’s Wharf pop up ice rink was a big highlight.
* Commonwealth using the gym equipment was great fun.

We thank parents and leaders for their awesome support, positivity through this year of so many concerns and challenges.

Team Leader Brenda Watkin

# ICONZ

**Wellington South ICONZ Anchor Unit Report for IBPC 2022**

At the end of last year our 5 boys proudly received their trophies and a cute Christmas Cracker Soldier.

We started back in Term 2, 2022 within the challenges of Orange Traffic Light Covid system. It was great to see the same families glad to be back to the new normal, returning each week, and another 3 new boys have joined us.

This is a delightful energetic group of enthusiastic, nice 5-8-year-old boys. They love our games which teach them sport skills and teamwork. Indoor Gymnastics simulating the Commonwealth Games has been fun.

Their chat over afternoon tea has been a great opportunity for sharing.

Each week there is a craft for them - such as paintings on canvases to raise money for children in Ukraine, and sometimes cooking/ baking.

We thank St Hilda’s for the use of their hall and wish them all the best for the completion of renovations to the frontage of their church complex.

I give sincere thanks to our team of helpers, Richard Bruce and Roger Watkin with the Walking Bus, and Scarlett James who assists as part of her Gold Duke of Edinburgh.

A special thanks to our Chaplain Rev Nathan Parry and our ChiFam worker Melanie Heaphy for their support through the year.

TEAM LEADER

Brenda Watkin

# BOYS BRIGADE

Boys Brigade has had another eventful year – with Covid-19 hanging around Aotearoa New Zealand we have had to juggle having face to face meetings alongside Zoom meetings. In most cases the Boys have all enjoyed what we have put together as a programme.

We have held onto most of our leaders from last year, these being Daniel McLachlan, Peter Martin, Irene McLachlan and help from Richard Bruce and Brenda Watkin. However, we had to say goodbye to Joe Fecteau who decided to step down after a good long term of being a Boys Brigade Leader but with him stepping down we found a parent willing to step up and help us out – Paul Vickers.

**Term 3 2021**

We started this term with looking at starting to build Electric Circuits but then Lockdown 2 struck in August, so we headed onto Zoom meetings doing various games and activities by the end of term we were back face to face.

**Term 4 2010**

We did cooking, making various biscuits and hashbrowns. We then organised what we were going to do for breakup, followed by a couple of weeks of games nights, as we were not doing this after break up for this as we usually did.

**Team 1 2011**

We started as we usually do by doing some summery activities. This included making kites, but yet again with Covid around we were finding families not being to attend due to isolation, so we decided to have a few weeks of Zoom meetings.

**Term 2 2011**

We split the boys into three squads for the year, which they will participate in for the squad shield. For classes we focused on various knots – mainly to help when out camping.

Sure & Stedfast, God bless,

Irene McLachlan

30th Wellington Boys Brigade – Leader/Helper

# A LETTER FROM THE COMMUNITY MINISTER 2022

Kia ora e te whānau IBPC,

This last year has seen further waves of Covid with all the limitations and opportunity these have created for us. It has also heralded significant change and need for reflection. Immediately following the last AGM, I was working through a standard requirement for Presbyterian Ministers these days – the Ministry Development Plan. This proved to be a fruitful exercise for me, and I have a set of development goals with some more immediate plans to: manage my planning and distractibility; better manage my relationships with needy and vulnerable people; bring more fun into my life; strengthen my marriage relationship; go deeper in my relationships with tenants and community; lead from vulnerability; and build teaching opportunities and theological depth into the ministry.

2021 finished with some significant moments: Parihaka celebrations; a strong advocacy movement for fair rental arrangements (led by some Granville and Rintoul tenants). We also held a major event to celebrate the opening of the Granville wall mural. This involved visiting performances by a local kapa haka group and a local choir and speeches by members of our team, tenants and local politicians. The WCC team is so proud of Granville that they use a picture of our mural on the bottom of their emails. Near the end of the year, I attended a course on Mental Health First Aid. It was useful but more focussed on depression/suicide than the kinds of issues I deal with most often – schizophrenia, anxiety, bpd and bi-polar episodes and how they affect communities. The year ended with Christmas parties as usual. Rintoul Street Party deserves a special mention as it highlighted the wonderful spirit of participation and hospitality that has developed at Rintoul Street. Lots of people cooked up a marvellous feast and there was a sense of unity and whānau that just wasn’t there 5 years ago.

Harry will report further about the Rintoul Youth Group however, my sense of it is that they are in very good spirits and there is a lot of excitement building around joining in the ski trip with Island Bay youth.

The new year brought a fresh wave of Covid isolating. Along with the Urban Vision team, Tēpu was involved in helping tenant communities support those isolating and dealing with Covid. We worked with WCC and held workshops so people understood the situation could make good plans. In February when Covid was coming through I supported a tenant family after the tragic death of a young man (son/father) and helped lead karakia and tangi for a young man. Shortly afterwards I was isolating myself with Covid.

In May, the City Council announced that they would be demolishing Granville at the end of 2023 and would re-house all tenants in upgraded flats selected by tenants from those available across the city. Council had decided to return the leased land to the Tenth Trust after years of leasing the land at a very minimal rent. Tenants were shocked and had a range of responses. Some were glad at the thought of a new flat. Others were disappointed and angry after promises of upgrades – especially those who have lived in Granville many years. Others who were just putting their roots down in our community (after significant periods of instability or homelessness) were also very upset. The Council has been working hard to soften the blow and facilitate the transition for all involved. I am working with Council on various elements of the transition.

Granville Lunch (generously provided by IBPC folk and Pandoro’s Cafe) has been a significant source of community support in these changes, especially during the awful winter weather we have been struggling to keep out of. Thanks so much to Liz, Jenny and Lindsay. Granville folk are beginning to have a heightened appreciation for what they will be losing and are sharing the journey together.

Nourish has been a rich source of community and discipleship again this year, thanks in no small part to the hospitality of the Cross family. Holy Communion every Wednesday morning has been nourishing the body of Christ in Granville and surrounding the community in prayer.

The Fruit and Vege Coop continues to help locals with affordable nutrition. We have added eggs (free-range dozen for $7) to what is available. Thanks to Harry and Lindsay who have substituted for me when I was away on leave.

Kaibosh in both Rintoul and Granville (thanks Nathan, Sara, Lindsay, Ange, Liz, Janice, Amber, Ann and tenant supporters – Theresa, Debs, Debbie, Anita, Niwa, Jacob and many more) has continued to play a key role in mitigating the waste in our economic system and supporting those on very tight budgets. It is also diversifying the nutritional input for many.

Matariki provided a vehicle for various things this year. We held a successful fundraiser for Kaibosh in the church hall (thanks, Tēpu team). We had another party at Rintoul Street to celebrate the changing of the year together (thanks UV et al). At Granville we put on our own hāngī. It was a massive community exercise drawing on the accumulated hāngī knowledge of residents and the kindness of Deane Stewart up at Tapu te Ranga (providing baskets, irons, sacks). Unfortunately, the dampness of the soil took the heat out of our hāngī pit, so everyone had to pitch in and complete the cooking in ovens across the Granville flats. A lot of help was also provided by Tēpu and other non-tenants (thanks, Ann, Clare, Jan, Susan, David, Maria). We then had a lovely meal together. We started a display of photos and memories (and hopes) on the walls of the Community Room.

Community life continued during the winter (and under the shadow of dispersion) in the form of workshops (led by tenants) on card-making and on sewing (tights, bags). Vaporisers are still helpful at times, for some. I can provide these as well as rides for those without transport, and spare fruit and veges (from the Coop, aided by donations from others). Others have provided driving lessons (thanks, Joe), pastoral support and more. By means of Facebook and Berhampore Peeps I have taken on a role of mediating between folks who have stuff to give away and folks in social housing who need things. The van is very useful for this process of redistributive justice.

The Granville demolition news has meant that Tēpu has begun a period of discernment about what the shape of our future ministry to social housing and to Berhampore will look like. Early in this process I felt the need to go on my own discernment retreat and had a very productive 4 days in the ‘prayer hut’ at Ngatiawa River Monastery. While there I was struck by the fact that the community at Ngatiawa is a significant resource to support people struggling in the flats and the city. I took one resident up to visit and check out the possibility of a period of respite and renewal.

Three of four of our Granville tenants have already shifted away. As it is happening, I feel a growing sense of loss with the breaking up of Granville. It has been enormously satisfying to see the sense of belonging that has developed in our wonderful rag-tag community. We have stuck together through many dramas and conflicts and joyful celebrations. I am also enormously grateful to God when I see how lives have been changed over the last 6 years. Tenants are currently gathering signatures on a petition to ask the Council to build a new complex to Granville people can remain together. It is a long shot, but it represents the solidarity we feel.

Thanks everyone for your support. Please pray with us at this time of change.

Koinei āku mihi ki te Atua mō te maha o ōna koha. Koinei aku mihi e rere atu ana ki a koutou katoa mō ō koutou manaaki mō ō koutou tautoko i tēnei mahi. Arohanui e te whānau.

Bruce

# BERHAMPORE FAMILY MINISTRY

As the volunteer Berhampore Family Ministry Coordinator, I take this opportunity to look back with gratitude for the ongoing relationships with Berhampore families living in Rintoul St and the Granville complex of Wellington City Council social housing.

One of the highlights of our year was an overnight camping trip at Battle Hill Reserve for a group of families and individuals. For many folk this was their first time camping, and an enjoyable time together of building memories and exploring nature.

A significant part of our year was providing a support network for whanau who had to isolate due to Covid. We supported a number of families by delivering food parcels, supplying kids’ activities and keeping in touch via regular text/calls.

Our team enjoyed the Christmas and Matariki events with the Rintoul St families, which was attended by a good number of families and children.

It has been a quieter year for large group activities due to Covid, so the UV team has restarted a Tuesday afternoon craft/game drop-in at Rintoul St to be available in the community regularly.

I have also supported families to connect with other agencies such as arranging some second-hand bikes for two families and a free school holiday programme for four Berhampore children which was all much appreciated.

Looking ahead, I hope to support the Rintoul Community Garden leaders to enable more children and families to join in on the gardening activities planned.

I am very grateful for the support from the Berhampore Urban Vision team, for their prayer and participation in events to grow connection between Berhampore families, and to Island Bay Presbyterian for the welcome and hospitality they show Berhampore whānau when they are able to join in on church wide activities.

Maria Cross

# NOURISH

Nourish is a church plant led by Urban Vision Berhampore and members of Tēpū Mō Tātou. We meet fortnightly at 4:30 pm on Sundays in the home of David and Maria Cross for our service with a light dinner following at 5:30 pm.

**Highlights of the past year include:**

**Increasing intimacy and vulnerability**

In the sharing of kai together, the sharing time during the service or when asking for prayer, we have witnessed people opening their hearts and lives, despite the presence of pain and difficulty. This vulnerability has been a real taonga for our group as we hold each other and cultivate a safe space of healing.

**God’s faithfulness and presence**

We have felt held by God during a season of change. Against the backdrop of Omicron, Nourish proved adaptable and focussed on supporting one another. Over the summer season, we were able to hold our gatherings outside at the earlier time of 4:30 pm and our kai changed to a more finger food style. While we moved back indoors as the weather cooled, we continue at the earlier time and with a simpler food option.

**Neighbourhood Mission**

Knowing that many of our friends in the social housing community would find self-isolation restrictions a challenge, Nourish leadership prayerfully discerned and launched a community response to assist and support social housing tenants. Our Nourish community contributed towards workshop training, communications and the delivery of this project. We are thankful for the opportunity to respond so practically and in such trying times.

**Thanks**

The Nourish team is made up of the Urban Vision Berhampore team, and Bruce and Jan Hamill, Joe Fecteau and Angela Kilford from Island Bay Presbyterian Church. I am thankful for their prayers and their commitment to God’s mission in Berhampore. I am most impressed by the way they connect and support the Nourish whānau.

My gratitude is also extended to the IBPC congregation for your prayerful support and interest in this pioneering work.

God Bless,

David Cross (on behalf of the Nourish team - Maria, Bruce, Jan, Joe, Angela, Zac, Vanessa).

# FORGE AOTEAROA PIONEER COURSE

A large focus of this year, for Paul and me, has been the first ever Forge Aotearoa Pioneer Course. We’re part of the small team from Alpine and Central presbyteries, KCML and PressGo devising and delivering the course. It is being piloted in 2022 to respond to a demand for training and formation for people who feel a desire to do fresh, start-up mission and ministry outside traditional church contexts.

Most of the fifteen course participants are from Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand churches, but have diverse missional contexts, or are actively discerning a pioneering venture. The course draws extensively on material shared by Forge Scotland. It includes readings and reflections to interpret mission and context in praxis, and four face-to-face weekends in Canterbury aimed at building community, teaching and exploring pioneer mission tools.

The use of coaching huddles and mentors is part of a supportive framework for pioneers to process experiences and learnings. It’s an invigorating bunch of people to be around – followers of Jesus who are not afraid to question ways of being and doing church, and show a vulnerability and openness to new and often costly ways of living and being missional. We are buoyed by the many years of the Scotland experience, where their analysis has showed that, on average, 6.5 out of 10 pioneer course participants are involved in a pioneer ministry, church plant or fresh expression 18 months after the course.

This 2022 course will be reviewed, and we are hopeful it can be tweaked from lessons learned and continue in 2023 and beyond.

Fiona Prestidge

# ANNEXURE A – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & BUDGET

Please refer to the separate document.