

# **Buller Anglican Parish**

**AGM**

**Wednesday 24 March 2021**

**7pm**

**Reports**

## Parish AGM Agenda

**Wednesday 24th March 2021, 7pm at St John's Westport**

1. Opening Worship & Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of 2020 AGM and matters arising
4. Vicar's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Other reports
7. Election of Officers
8. General Business

**Minutes of the Buller Anglican Parish Annual General Meeting by ZOOM held on 24 May 2020 at 3pm.**

Opening Devotion: Acts Chapter 1, read by Rev. M Watts.

Prayer said by Rev M Watts.

Present: 23 members attended. Rev M Watts, (Chair) B Hopkinson, J Willman, R Taylor, I Hedgeman, R Hedgeman, L Hydman, M Fripp, J Pirie, R Johnson, N Van Greevenbroek, L Donaldson, M Wearing, K Murphy, P Fairbrass, L Newman, S Garlick, C Teichert, R Scheer-Hughes, F Stone, R Halsall, L Palmer, A Cook.

Apologies: Juliet Cooper, Evelyn Nixon, Dave Stone, Bruce Currie

1. Minutes from 2019 AGM

Accepted: B Hopkinson. Seconded: Nel Van Greevenbroek

All agreed

Matters Arising from the 2019 AGM Minutes: There were no matters arising.

2. Reports:

Vicar's Report: read by Rev. M Watts. Matt moved that his report be accepted. Seconded: P Fairbrass

Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements:

Faye Stone spoke about financial reports expressing her thanks to those who, during the course of the year, had helped her with money counting and banking duties.

Faye produced a pie chart showing percentages of income categories and expenditure categories for the year. Faye advised that careful financial management will be needed for the forthcoming year. Matt thanked Faye for all her hard work. Rev. Rona thanked Faye for the presentation of the pie chart. Faye welcomed Joy Willman for the new financial year, with regards to banking duties.

Moved: M Fripp

Seconded: S Garlick.

Other Reports:

Vicar's Warden report

Karamea report

Eldercare worker reports

Priest Assistant report

People's Warden report

All reports read and confirmed as attached. Prayer and library report to be submitted. Rev. Rona expressed thanks to everyone for their reports.

Moved: Len Newman

Seconded: Lee Donaldson

All agreed



Joy Willman proposed forming a Fundraising subcommittee.

Moved: Joy Willman

Seconded: Faye Stone

All agreed.

Ian Hedgeman said thanks to the Church Wardens.

Bryan Hopkinson thanked Rev. M Watts for making Zoom meetings available during the Covid 19 lockdown period.

5. Closing prayer said by Rev. Rona Halsall.

6. Meeting closed 4pm.

### **Vicar's Report to AGM 2021**

What word would you use to sum up the last 12 months in the life of our parish family? The word that came to me as I was writing this report was "unpredictable".

Firstly, we have had the obvious challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and changing alert levels. It was during the lockdown that we lost two much-loved parishioners, Margaret Stringer and Mike Hartley.

Secondly, some key leaders are no longer available to minister in our parish. Lay preacher Gail Howard and her husband Charlie moved back to the United States after over 30 years association with our parish and the Westport community. Gail brought passion for the Gospel coupled with strong organisational skills to many roles in the parish over her time here. Lay Missioner Alan Wright has stepped back from ministry in our parish due to health concerns. We so appreciate the way that he would travel all the way from Hope to minister in Granity and Karamea once a month, and the strong pastoral focus of his ministry. And in perhaps the

most keenly-felt loss, Marilyn Wearing has had to step back from all ministry roles in the parish, in order to look after her own health. Marilyn poured a huge amount of love and energy into our parish. As our People's Warden she was approachable, pastoral and discreet. She served in many roles behind the scenes. She also was much loved as our Sunday School Leader, and her preaching was appreciated by many. She has made it one of her goals to welcome and support the vicarage family. Marilyn cared for her brother Barry during the last months of his life, which coincided with the Covid-19 lockdown. Barry's funeral was held at St John's in June, and we recognise that his passing leaves a huge hole in Marilyn's heart. We look forward to when Marilyn will be able to return to worship with us at St John's but we offer her time and space, knowing that she will return only when she is ready.

Thirdly, I took 2 weeks sick leave in December after experiencing some symptoms of burnout. I am very grateful for the support which the wardens, the diocese and my wife and family gave me during this time. As I look back at 2020, I am aware of the demands of ministry, including ministering in a parish with 3 worship centres, the energy involved in training new leaders, and the balance between supporting traditional forms of ministry as well as encouraging new ventures. At the start of 2021 I have put boundaries around my ministry hours, keeping Friday and Saturday as clear days off. I'm also thankful to the Dellaca family for providing temporary office space at Epic Westport, and look forward to the new office being built in St John's Church Hall.

As I look back at 2020, there are also many things to be thankful for, and people to thank for their contribution to parish life.

Bryan Hopkinson has been a great source of support and perspective as Vicar's Warden. Over the last 12 months he and his wife Joy have instigated the parish picnic, the St John's Christmas Fair, and re-established the building committee. A team has been formed for each of these, evidence of Bryan and Joy's abilities at motivating and encouraging others.

Sharon Garlick has played an important part in parish life over the past year. She has grown hugely through her internship and studies at Bishopdale Theological College. She has been licensed as a lay preacher, and is continuing through the ordination discernment process. Her ministry has been appreciated in Karamea, Granity, Westport 8am and 10am services, at O'Connor Home and in the Bible study group she leads on Monday afternoons. In December 2020 she was elected as People's Warden, and we are so thankful for her filling this role. However, we know that it will only be for an interim period, as, once she is ordained deacon or priest, she is no longer eligible to serve as People's Warden. So please be praying about who God might call to take on this role long term.

Revd Rona Halsall continues to have a special ministry of pastoral care and bereavement ministry in our wider community. Many of us have been touched by Rona's caring and prayerful approach. I also appreciate her leadership and preaching in the different worship services in our parish.

Faye Stone deserves a great deal of thanks for her work as our treasurer, as well as the other roles she has in the parish. Faye has an aptitude for accounts, and manages the complex role of treasurer role well. Particularly in a year when we have been planning major work on St John's Building, Faye has given wise

counsel in vestry discussions. This year, Joy Willman has assisted Faye as Parish Recorder, by overseeing the weekly banking and offertory records.

I'm also grateful for the ways in which my wife Jacqui is able to partner with me in ministry. We have always seen our call to Buller as a call on us as a couple. Jacqui brings many qualities to her ministry, including empathy, strong faith and ideals for God's purposes. This year she has continued to invest in women of the parish through a weekly bible study and other events. She has been a key part of the Messy Church team, and has recently taken on the co-ordinator role. Her preaching and music ministry have contributed to parish life, as well as the many one-on-one conversations and pastoral support that she has offered.

Raewyn Johnson has stepped into the role of Sunday School Leader and SafeHere co-ordinator. Raewyn has formed relationships with many families in Westport already through her employment as a breastfeeding advocate. She has a strong commitment to helping the next generation grow up following Jesus. I'm also thankful for the support that Raewyn and her husband Geoff have given in the setting up phase of the Mission House, MTB (see separate report).

Stephen Young and his wife Margaret joined our parish family in August, following their move from Canterbury to Buller. Stephen has been employed since October as our Parish Administrator, working 8 hours a week on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings. I'm grateful for support that this gives me, releasing me to focus on other ministry priorities. Margaret and Stephen also bring their own ministry of preaching, pastoral care and spiritual

direction, and I look forward to how these can be used in the life of our parish.

Our Eldercare workers Sylvia Raikes, Lynne Maguire and Pam Milligan have provided valuable support to elderly both within and outside our parish family. Pam stepped down from her role in January, and we are currently recruiting for a new Westport eldercare worker. Thank you Pam, for the love, dedication and considerable professional experience that you brought to the role over the last 18 months.

I want to thank vestry members who have indicated that they are stepping down this year. Richard Taylor's friendship and perspective have been appreciated over the year he has served on vestry. Lynette Timothy has served for a number of years as synod rep and vestry member and has done so with a passion for mission and evangelism and the courage to bring a different perspective. Of course I also thank the vestry members who will continue in their roles for another year, as well as any who join us for the first time.

At St Peter's in Granity, I have been encouraged by the way the new leadership team has begun thinking through how the church can best prepare for the next season of ministry and outreach in Granity and surrounding districts. We also recognise the role that each member of St Peter's plays in enabling the church to function as the Body of Christ.

In Karamea, we are in the process of setting up a leadership team similar to the model used in Granity. We recognise the many ways in which Ian and Ruth Hedgman have served, and continue to serve the church in Karamea. However, with Ian expecting surgery in the near future, we are aware of the need to share the

responsibility for ministry amongst a wider group. I'm thankful for Lynda Hyndman stepping up both as a vestry member and as a preacher. And thank you to those others who have volunteered to take on new roles or to join the leadership team.

I began my report by mentioning some lay preachers who have had to step down this year. However, it is encouraging that others have joined, and the current preachers team is as follows: Rona Halsall, Lois Palmer, Kathryn Murphy, Sharon Garlick, Jacqui Watts, Faye Stone, Rob Burdekin, Stephen & Margaret Young and Lynda Hyndman. There have also been opportunities for one or two others to preach occasionally. I also want to acknowledge those who lead Bible study groups across our parish. Thank you to each person who, through their ministry, helps the Word of God come alive in people's hearts and lives.

I also want to thank and acknowledge other leaders and volunteers who help in many other ways: service leaders, musicians, prayer teams, children's leaders and helpers, communion and sanctuary assistants, PA and tech helpers, morning tea caterers, musicians, sidespersons, welcomers, cleaners (especially with the extra vigilance required with Covid-19), lawnmowers, those who help with maintenance inside and outside our buildings, Messy Church team and youth group team. All play their part in the body of Christ, and whatever part you play, I thank you for your ministry in our parish. I also want to remind us that our primary witness to the Gospel takes place outside the walls of our church buildings: in homes and families, through friendships and volunteer agencies, in workplaces and community meeting places. As we reflect on the life of our parish at the AGM, let's also remember the people and places God calls us to from Monday to Saturday. As I've been reminded recently,

Jesus promises to build his Church, and our job is to be on deck to assist where we can.

Revd Matt Watts, 11 March 2021

### **Vicar's Warden Report**

I present my report to the Buller Anglican Parish AGM.

This is my first full year as Vicar's Warden, a role I took over following the death of Peter Duston. Peter is still fondly talked about by our parishioners. Peter had an unfailing faith in our Lord which has encouraged me as I have gone about things over the past year.

The Vicar's Warden's role has been challenging but rewarding over the last 12 months. A key factor is to maintain an open style of leadership and communication. Working with Matt has been successful based on having an excellent rapport and mutual respect for each other.

My role has been full of variety with, firstly, coping with Covid 19 and the implications that had for our parish e.g. keeping in touch with our parishioners and the phoning groups which were effective. I continue to liaise with a group of men who live on their own. The regular contact (popping in for a cuppa etc) has been beneficial and rewarding.

The vicar has continued to work tirelessly as the spiritual leader for our parish and works hard to maintain a balance between Karamea, Granity and Westport.

Several positive changes have occurred in recent months to support Matt's role and enable him to focus on streamlining his workload to a more manageable level. An Administrator – Stephen Young - was appointed towards the end of 2020. Stephen has strong Christian beliefs and had previously worked as a Prison Chaplain. We are very fortunate having Stephen working with us. The second change has Matt having 2 days a week off, now Friday

and Saturday, which will help balance his home/work life. A third exciting project is to develop an office in the St John's Hall in order to keep the Vicarage for home life. In the meantime an office space has been made available in the Epic Centre.

One of the highlights last year was helping organise the Christmas Fete, a first for the church and an excellent example of working together for a project (raising funds to help paint St John's). We raised \$5000 all up so thanks to all those involved. We've also had 2 successful potluck dinners here in Westport and the Parish picnic Saturday 27th February at Mokihinui. This was a great day for all age groups. 67 people attended from Karamea, Granity and Westport. It was a wonderful experience seeing everyone mixing and enjoying themselves. All the sausages and ice cream were consumed! It was perfect picnic weather.

I would like to thank Rona Halsall (Assistant Priest), Sharon Garlick (People's Warden), Ian Hedgman (Karamea Leader), and Faye Stone (Granity Vestry Leader) for their strength and commitment in stepping up to organise the various services in the Parish while our Vicar Matt was on leave during December and January.

In conclusion I would like to recognise Marilyn Wearing's devotion to our Church and for the many years she held the role as People's Warden. Thank you Marilyn.

Finally, thanks to Vicar Matt and Jacqui for their faith in me to continue to carry out the role as Vicar's Warden.

Bryan Hopkinson

Vicar's Warden

Buller Anglican Parish

March 2021

### **People's Warden report**

With the resignation of Marilyn in November, we were made aware of the huge gap left after her many years of service. As a

parish, she has our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for her ministry and her witness. She was always reaching out to others in kindness, living her faith.

It is exciting as we move into this new year, leaving the challenges of last year behind us, knowing our Lord leads us as we continue to seek him. A special thank-you to all those who stepped in to fill gaps in the last three months. Every gift of ministry was appreciated, no matter how small, and contributed to us functioning as the body of Christ.

In Westport, this year as we look at the variety of ministries (prayer team, Raewyn's ministry to mums and children, the music team, maintenance team, Stephen in the office, eldercare, service leading and preaching, Bible studies, O'Connor Home (now lead by Kathryn), Messy Church and the potential of the mission house together with Matt and Jacqui's ministry), we are challenged to see where we fit, where we can get involved or where God is inviting us to become part of what he already is doing.

Both Granity and Karamea are such welcoming congregations, and it has been a pleasure to fellowship with you and observe your witness and enthusiasm to share Christ in your communities.

I want to recognise the many years of service by Ian Hedgeman at the church in Karamea and we prayerfully support him and Ruth in the weeks to come, as he faces surgery.

Each congregation has had changes as (sadly) people have moved away, and then been blessed by new arrivals who have decided to settle in this wonderful part of the world. Welcome to you all. May you feel at home here in the family of God.

Personally, I would like to thank-you all for the generous support and encouragement I have had in becoming People's Warden. In particular, I would like to thank Matt, Rona, Bryan, and especially Paul, who continue to both support and challenge me.

Sharon Garlick

People's Warden

9.3.21

### **Priest Assistant Report to Buller Anglican Parish AGM, 2021**

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout our Buller Anglican Parish family.

Following a tumultuous year of uncertainty and change we emerge now with a greater appreciation of the things that are close to our hearts: our families, our health, our surroundings, our communities, and the freedom to come and go, to be employed, to socialise, to fellowship and to travel.

What was taken for granted suddenly became very precious and vulnerable as the months of 2020 passed and the fear of contracting Covid 19 became a real threat.

Thanks be to God that strong and courageous medical and political leadership has kept us safe and healthy and, as long as we don't become complacent or careless, we can continue to enjoy the freedom we treasure so dearly.

My sympathy to those whose loved ones passed away during lockdown, and particularly to the families of Michael Hartley and Margaret Stringer whose funeral services needed to be delayed. We all miss their ministry and their fellowship.

My sincere thanks to Matt for his leadership and oversight of our parish and to Jacqui for her ministry gifts (especially that of music), whilst acknowledging their children Luke, Katrina and Isaac.

We are indeed blessed in our Wardens, Bryan and Sharon, also acknowledging Marilyn Wearing's faithful service as People's Warden through several years. Bryan and Sharon faithfully led our parish with commitment and understanding during Matt's time-out late in 2020.

Thank you Bryan for the social gatherings you and Joy have organised for us to participate in and to enjoy, and Sharon as you continue your internship studies with Bishopdale College. It has been a joy to observe and experience your growth in your ministry commitments amongst us all here in our parish.

My appreciation and thanks also to those in leadership positions at Granity and Karamea; it is always a joy to join our folk there for worship and fellowship, but I also express my disappointment in being unable to travel to Karamea during these past 12 months because of health circumstances.

The various groups at all three centres including our Lay Preachers, Prayer team and Bible Study members, and AAW in Westport, continue to thrive, offering fellowship, support, enlightenment of the Scriptures, and encouragement.

Thank you to those who oversee and lead these groups, and especially to Evelyn who faithfully continues to lead our AAW group with imagination and energy.

I also acknowledge Pam Milligan, until recently our Elder Care person. Those in Karamea and Granity continue to fulfil this vital ministry to our parishioners.

To each person sharing responsibility for enhancing our worship and fellowship - Sunday School teachers, our music teams, grounds people, cleaners, linen and The Lord's Table carers, morning tea hosts and hostesses, our Parish Administrator Stephen and to all who support and encourage us - may God bless your unique gifting as you minister to us all so personally and so sincerely!

As we each step out in the Name of Jesus Christ to our community may God grant us all courage, faith, hope and wisdom, and especially love and peace, giving Him the glory.

Reverend Rona M. Halsall  
Priest Assistant  
Buller Anglican Parish  
26.02 2021

### **Mission House (MTB)**

On 8<sup>th</sup> November, 35 members of the parish and wider community gathered for the blessing of 10 Bright Street as MTB (Mission Training Base). Although this house is owned by Matt and Jacqui, the purpose of the house is to support the ministry of our parish. The vision is for mission-hearted Christians to come and live at the house for 6 months plus, and to volunteer 10 hours in the church or wider community. We see this as particularly valuable as we seek to reach out to and disciple the younger generation.

As a parish the hope is that we can:

- invest in the lives of those who come to live at MTB
- mentor and disciple them while they are here;
- support the growth of a lifelong passion for mission!

In February 2021, Marianna Richards and her two children Pedro and Felipe moved into the mission house on a 6-month contract. Marianna will be assisting with Messy Church and creche at St John's as well as supporting the Watts family with childcare and other practical tasks. Marianna and her husband Malcolm have been living in Fox Glacier, which has been hit hard by the lack of international tourism, and their long term plan is that they would move to Hokitika. Please pray for Marianna and family whilst they are here, and also for others who God will call to Westport to assist us in our mission here.

We are currently setting up a small oversight group for MTB, with the following membership: Matt & Jacqui Watts, Raewyn & Geoff Johnson, Dazz McDonald (Salvation Army) and Shane Jette (YWAM Nelson)

Matt Watts, March 2021

### **Ignite Youth Group**

Ignite Youth has now been running for 18 months as a combined youth group run by leaders from different churches in Westport. We have a regular group of 12 young people coming along on Thursday evenings. We always include Christian input in the programme, and this last term we have been watching a video series of the last week of Jesus' life which has provided a great discussion starter. We also took a group of 6 young people away to Spring Camp at Bridge Valley run by the Nelson Anglican Diocese.

Our current leadership team is as follows:

Group Leader: Matt Watts

Deputy Group Leader: Katie Jarvie

Junior Leaders: Levi Garrett and Chiquitta Lindblom

Helpers: Robyn Murray and Elizabeth Minato

We also thank those who have stepped down as leaders at the end of last year: Lynda Pitcher, Loren Cropp and Richard Taylor. We are in need of new leaders and helpers. You don't have to be a streetwise skater(!), just someone who has a heart for young people and a willingness to give things a go.

Matt Watts, March 2021

### Messy Church AGM report March 2021





Our monthly Messy church re-started in February after a summer break. Over the past year, we have consistently had attendance of between 35 and 60 people, always with more children than adults! There has been a regular number of families returning, as well as new families coming. It was a struggle to connect with our Messy Church families during lockdown, but we did deliver craft packs and a bag of feijoas (provided by a parishioner) to as many families as we could.

We have a committed team of helpers but are still looking for confident team members who could take more of a lead. We recently welcomed a few new people onto the team (Daz, Adrienne), and said a sad farewell to Pam, with thanks for her many years of investing into Messy Church. At the start of the

year, Matt passed on the oversight of Messy Church to Jacqui, but it has been a struggle to find suitable times to meet with team members & helpers, given constraints of family & work commitments. We are particularly praying that God would send father-figures to invest into the lives of those coming, and grandparent-age people too! Messy church is meant to be about all generations discovering more about Jesus together, and it works well if we have representation across all age ranges to journey together! It's particularly helpful to have 'connector' people, who will simply chat and include people.

Some of our highlights recently include our hilarious interactive Nativity service (with 2 x Mary & Joseph!), and our February 'Building Strong Foundations' session. A special thank-you to John Pirie for his creative enthusiasm and commitment to helping bring stories to life.

Jo Duston heads up our meal team and continues to provide generously her own gift of love & service for these families. If there are people who may like to help provide and/or prepare healthy snacking platters (veges etc) for the meal tables, for when folk are waiting to receive their meal, please contact Jacqui.

We are exploring whether there are any funding channels we could apply to, so that we can supplement the food & craft resources already provided.

Please continue to pray for this ministry!

Thank you.

Jacqui Watts



**ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN**  
**St John's Evening Fellowship**  
**Annual Report to Vestry**

2020 – the year that was and the year that wasn't. The year started off with much excitement as St John's Evening Fellowship was to host the Nelson Diocesan AGM. The registrations were rolling in. Sixty-five women were registered to attend. However along came Covid19 with the subsequent lockdown and the event had to be cancelled. We were pleased that so many people in the Parish were prepared to assist us with the running of this event. The Diocesan Overnighter at Teapot Valley also had to be cancelled. When we entered Level 2 and it was possible to hold meetings again, we had lunch at Kathrin's, and afternoon teas at Kathrin's, in my home and in the Church Hall. The decision was made to continue as a group in spite of falling numbers. We also decided to change banks and to change our name. We are now called Westport St John's Association of Anglican Women. Several of us worked to provide plans for the plant stall at the Church Fete. We were grateful for the support we had from members of the congregation in providing many varieties of plants. A special thank you to Tui; your native plants were extremely popular. Pip and I travelled to Murchison for Nelson Diocesan AAW Executive Meetings. We also travelled to Runanga for the Mawhera AAW AGM. The Mawhera Area was saddened to say farewell to Pat Cogger who had been Group Leader, Area Leader and Diocesan President. We will miss her sense of humour, the great prayers

she wrote and the guidance she gave to us all. We are looking forward to all that 2021 brings.

Evelyn Nixon  
Leader

### **Property Report**

During 2020 a property committee was formed for organising and overseeing the building projects at St John's Church and the vicarage.

Maintenance items have been identified in the Vicarage and work has been carried out within the budget allocation.

The St John's work has a priority with repairs to the roof, coordinating funds, raising money and applying for community grants. The major painting project has been let to a local firm, Carmine Painters, who started work on the church in March. Other ongoing projects have included developing a 10-year maintenance plan for St John's.

Vestry has given approval to build a dividing wall in the hall to develop an office for the Vicar and Administrator.

Thanks to the property group for their continued support to ensure successful outcomes for the projects and to the tireless volunteers who clean the church and mow the lawns in the parish. A special thanks to John Pirie for his can-do attitude in attending to the many maintenance tasks.

Bryan Hopkinson  
Property Convenor

### **Prayer Ministry Report AGM 2021**

Lamentations 3:22-23 says:

"Because of God's great love we are not consumed  
for His compassions never fail

they are new every morning

Great is Your faithfulness”

Last year the prayer ministry had to temporarily stop due to various lockdowns and it is quite remarkable that it took some time for parishioners to come again for prayer when needed. This brings me to ask the person serving the communion to clearly mention the presence of the prayer ministry.

Prayer ministry has such an impact on our own prayer life with our Heavenly Father.

My prayer is that our private prayer, church prayer and prayer ministry is and will be one of the foundation stone of the Buller Anglican Parish.

Some of the impacts of prayers are God’s love and compassion, God’s blessings, God’s healing, and God’s encouragement for us to trust Him, to listen to His voice and to wait patiently on Him as He never leaves us nor forsakes us.

Nel van Greevenbroek

### **Parish Library**

The library at St John’s, which has been managed so well for many years by Nel van Greevenbroek and Gail Howard, has now been passed over to Ingrid Taylor and Joy Willman. Nel and Gail have enabled this transition to be smooth, and the library is well set-up and in good shape, with both donated and newly purchased books being added over the last 12 months.

There has been some reorganisation of shelving, and an effort to promote the use of the library. We will continue to bring the library to parishioners’ attention and encourage borrowing of the books.

Thanks to all parishioners for their donations and support of the library.

Ingrid Taylor.

## **Sunday School Report from Raewyn Johnson**

As with many things during 2020, Covid had an impact on Sunday School, with classes not being able to resume until schools went back.

During the year some of our Leaders and helpers needed to step down. Thank you to Marilyn and Kate for the time they put into teaching the children at Sunday School, and Lee for helping out. Their retirement leaves Matt and myself as Leaders, and Pam, Donna, and Chiquita as helpers. We welcome Lynette to our roster of helpers this term (February to April). Matt and I are extremely grateful to the helpers, as without their presence and support we could not teach the children about God and His relevance in their lives.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> term of the School year (October to December 2020) 5-12 children attended each week. We had a total of 18 children attend at least once that term (8 boys and 10 girls), with 7 children attending 4 or more times.

During 2020 we continued to work through the Mosaic “God is here” series. This year we are using two Mosaic curriculums, “Celebrations” and “God’s Power”. During Term 1 we are learning about Easter.

Last year, just before she retired, Sue Fallow visited Westport and it was really helpful to have a session with her. From that meeting, we decided that we would implement some new teaching styles. The children now start the session by writing their name on a card and attaching it to a lanyard. Every time they are listening, using good manners, being attentive, etc, they are rewarded with a hole punched in the card. We are trying to “catch

them when they're good" rather than disciplining them/sending them out to parents when they're being disruptive. Members of the congregation are encouraged to ask the children about their cards and the number of holes/their good behaviour!!!

Sue also suggested the use of "buddies" for the younger children. We had three 5-year-olds start in the last term of 2020 – Frank, Isaac and Sabrina. Some of the older children were asked to be a buddy for the younger children. This was moderately successful for a short time, but then circumstances changed for some of the children and it didn't really work so well. It was great to have Cindy come out to Sunday School with Sabrina this term.

### **St Peter's Granity – Report for the Buller Anglican Parish AGM**

- Attendance

There are usually between 15 to 25 adults attending services along with 3 teenagers. Recently we have gained an additional two pre-teens and reasonably often have other children visiting. We hope to repair and restore the shed to use as a venue/facility for children and youth.

- Changes in members:

Sadly Margaret Stringer a beloved member of St Peter's died during lockdown. Margaret was a spirit filled woman of deep faith and wisdom. We greatly miss her.

Several regular members of St Peter's have moved to other parts of NZ and we hope they will visit often. However numbers have not diminished because new people have come along to services some of whom have recently moved into the area.

- Lockdown

During lockdown we organised a phone tree to keep in touch with members of the church and other people in the community.

Naturally St Peter's members who were technically able to, joined the rest of the parish in the Zoom Sunday services. When permitted by the lowering of the alert levels we held small group communion services and discussions in parishioner's homes. Through this time members strengthened their relationship with one another.

- Congregational meetings and leadership team

Approximately every second month a congregation meeting has been held where discussion and decisions re St Peter's are made. In addition a leadership team of Lynne and Laurie Maguire, Rob and Kirsten Burdekin, and Faye and Dave Stone has been formed. Both these are working well.

- Alpha and Bible Study:

At the start of the year Rob and Kirsten held an Alpha course. This has become a home group bible study meeting. Two non-Christians have given their lives to Christ, new and existing Christians have increased their knowledge and deepened their faith.

- Craft and Chat:

After Easter to late Spring Lynne with co-leader Juliet have held a craft and chat group where women from the local area come along for a shared lunch and to work on a craft they enjoy. Fellowship and friendship among those who attend has been greatly valued and appreciated by those who come along.

- New St Peter's sign:

Laurie has made a new sign outside St Peter's and is regularly putting up new bible verses and changing the message.

- The Carol Service and Community Christmas Dinner:

We held the carol service on the last Monday evening before Christmas. The Westport municipal band came to play. We had hoped they would be able to perform from the Granity band rotunda. Unfortunately the weather did not permit this, so the

service was held in the Ngakawau Hall. Despite the terrible acoustics the evening was enjoyed by those present. After the carols we had tea coffee and sausages.

The Community Christmas dinner was celebrated at St Peter's on Christmas Eve. About 40 people came to enjoy the meal. There was a range of ages from about 5 to 90. Kristijan from Millerton played the keyboard to entertain us while we ate.

### **Mokihinui, Granity and Waimangaroa Elder Care Report**

Submitted by: Lynne Maguire

Area covered: Mokihinui bridge – Waimangaroa

Time: 6 hours / week

Elderly / Needy visited and / or contacted regularly

Waimangaroa – 3

Granity – 4

Elderly visited and / or contacted casually

Waimangaroa – 3

Granity – 6

Covid-19 Restrictions had an impact on our elderly folk. I rang them at least once a week, often more, as they grappled with loneliness and the practical issues of living such as, medical care, grocery shopping and keeping warm. These amazing people have lived through many hardships and I am constantly amazed at their strength and fortitude. I was able to deliver food, pick up prescriptions and deliver firewood. (Thanks to Laurie for his help as well).

Craft and Chat group continued as practicalities around Covid-19 restrictions allowed. We were due to start meeting after Easter, but this was delayed until we were in Level 1. The group met each Thursday from 10am – 2pm, bringing along craft projects and a plate for a shared lunch. Most people donated a gold coin that was given to treasurer Faye Stone at the end of the year. I'd like to acknowledge the great help and support from Juliet Cooper with this group. Her organisation, energy and fun will be missed this year. Each session we hosted 5 to 8 women. It is a wonderful opportunity to talk, share, problem-solve and ponder life's issues while keeping hands busy with the various projects on the go. We are looking to reconvene after Easter 2021.

Practical help: I have been able to assist the elderly in a variety of ways over the past 12 months. Some of these include wood supply and delivery, eggs and fresh produce from the garden, computer assistance, prayer, and trips to Westport and Greymouth for shopping and/or doctor's appointments.

Bereavements – Mike Hartley passed away over Easter. This was a very difficult time for Pat, his wife, who I visit regularly. Margaret Stringer also passed away in April. I was admitted into Margaret's family bubble and travelled into Westport most days to spend some time with her and her family. Reading Margaret's Bible to her and praying with her during her last days was a privilege that I hold dearly.

2021 - Eldercare in our area continues with some folk leaving and new folk needing help. I am always made to feel welcome when I visit people in their homes. It is a privilege and I am grateful for the opportunities in our community to help as I can. I think this

year will be busy and the 6 hours allocated for elder care is easily used with all the aspects the job requires.

25/02/2021

### **KARAMEA REPORT 2020-21**

Holy Trinity Community Church continues to be a special meeting place in Karamea for prayer and worship each Sunday for local Christians and visitors alike.

Our service time is 11 a. m. followed by morning tea.

Bible Study is held each Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at various homes or the church, decided each Sunday.

The C.W.C.I. Ladies' visit is very welcome with their extensive range of Christian books and the effort they go to each year to cover the coast.

On the last Fri of every month we have a ladies' morning tea at the church 10.30 a.m. as an outreach. We have also started having a morning tea to celebrate ladies' birthdays and have 4-6 church members enjoying this, which is held at one of our homes most months.

We appointed Sylvia Raikes as the elder care worker who has taken the role previously held by Sue Isabeth. Sue and John have now moved to Rakaia.

Lynda Hyndman has stepped forward and has very ably taken on a preaching role on a regular basis. Laurie has taken an important role in the music team with Ruth or Diane Allen, supplemented by the "I Sing" programme.

Our Carol service on Christmas Eve held at Church was filled to the brim with people, with Jenny organizing and leading the evening involving locals. The Jones family and Laurie supplied the music. There has been a lot of positive local feedback.

As always Sunday attendance varies greatly but all are welcome

regardless of numbers.

Several pot-luck meals have been held and were well attended by regular members and families, followed by songs of praise.

The first combined picnic was held last February at Mokihiui and a few of the Karamea members attended.

The Allen family (Donald and Diane) are now back in Karamea with their daughter Melanie, and Stewart, and four boys all coming when possible on Sundays, which now requires a children's talk for us all. As with all churches we conformed to the Covid 19 requirements, complete with Zoom meetings.

We give grateful thanks to our team of workers both visible and behind the scenes including all lay readers, and Matt, Jacqui and family.

Our entire fellowship is of one mind as we face the uncertain future with the full confidence of God's leadership and provision as to the future.

Quote; Psalms 18 v2:

The LORD is my Rock and my Fortress and my Deliverer;  
My GOD, my Strength, in whom I will trust.

Lynda and Ian, Vestry Members.

### **Karamea and Little Wanganui Eldercare Worker**

There are 17 contacts on my list for visitations, of which 4 are couples who share themselves and our time together.

I have allocated both Monday and Friday for these visitations; completing 12 hours a week initially and since February, the hours have been reduced to 10 hours a week.

I am usually able to visit 4 or sometimes 5 households per day with the travel between.

This often means I am able to visit many people usually once a fortnight, with visits of about an hour or sometimes more when needed.

I am becoming more aware that some people may need a weekly visit, as they have little or no family members to visit them, so trying to prioritize them into a weekly visit.

3 contacts are people who attend our local church (1 frequently and the other 2 occasionally). There are 2 other contacts who attend the Catholic congregation. 2 others have a personal faith, however do not attend a church. The remaining 11 contacts have not revealed a personal faith although are willing for me to visit and I have had opportunities to share my own personal faith and God's goodness in my life.

I have been visiting the elderly now for over 10 months and am still developing trustworthy, sincere and caring relationships, where we are able to share about ourselves, our lives (trials and tribulations), as they unfold in our daily life.

These opportunities have allowed us to discuss compassion for one another and at times allowed me to input about how God helps me to rely on him for strength and answers to difficult situations.

Some have allowed me to pray with them and others to just hold hands and have a cry.

Many times we have shared laughter and joy at sharing one another's stories.

Matt and the other Eldercare Workers from the Buller parish have a fortnightly zoom meeting, where we are able to share our progress and ask for advice if needed. I have found this beneficial, as at times have gleaned helpful suggestions from both Matt and Lynne. Also, I have strong support from my local church, where

both Jenny and Ruth have been a tremendous support on individual situations as they know so much about the people I visit and have both got a wonderful spiritual guidance to offer regarding issues.

This has been a real blessing to have such amazing support.

I feel blessed to have been able to visit these incredibly diverse people who over their years, have experienced so much, and pray that God can give me the wisdom to share and enhance them also.

May God bless those I visit and enable me to share the goodness of Christ.

Humbly,  
Sylvia Raikes  
4/3/2021