

St. Luke's

Wadestown
with Wilton and Crofton Downs

**Annual General Meeting
Reports Book
SUNDAY 22nd March 2020
11.30 am**

St Luke's Anglican Church,
34 Pitt Street, Wadestown, Wellington 6012
Office Phone 04 473 6472
Email: office@slw.org.nz
www.slw.org.nz

Offices held at St Luke's in 2019

Priest in Charge:

Rev Michael Brantley/Rev John Loong

Vicar's/Bishop's Warden

Katherine Wharton

People's Warden:

Barn McDavitt

Vestry:

Barn McDavitt, Nick Duncan, Liz Prins, Jim Green,
Katherine Wharton, Wilbur Dovey (Vestry Secretary),
Lorraine Fraser

Synod's Representatives:

Nick Duncan
Megan Davis

Treasurer:

Peter Milne

Parish Recorder (for giving):

Rachael Green

**ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WADESTOWN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA - 2019**

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of 2019 AGM and Matters Arising**
- 4. Vicar's and Churchwardens' Report**
- 5. Looking Ahead - Parish Discussion**
- 6. Finance Report and 2020 Budget**
- 7. Ministry Reports**
- 8. Any other business**

St. Luke's Anglican Parish, Wadestown

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 24 March 2019 following the 10am service

Present: Priest in Charge (Chair), Vicar's Warden, People's Warden and 21 parishioners.

Apologies: Lindsay, Rachel and Joshua Bluck, Liz Prins, Susan Timmins, Kerry Hollingsworth, Nick Duncan, Janet Waite, Megan Davis..

The meeting opened with prayer led by Roger Falloon. The Priest in Charge (Michael Brantley), then expressed his thanks to everyone for their contribution to the parish over the past year. He reminded those present that they needed to vote for office holders for a two-year term, not a one-year term as in previous years, and each person elected needed to receive 50% of the votes of those present at the meeting. Voting forms were distributed to all those present, to be filled out and handed in later. A scrutineer had been appointed.

Minutes of the previous AGM: The minutes of the 2018 AGM were confirmed as a true and correct record.

MOVED: Barn McDavitt **SECONDED:** Kate McDavitt **CARRIED**

Priest in Charge's Report: Michael said his report, contained in the AGM Reports Book, asked parishioners to look back and acknowledge the amount of change that has occurred in the parish over the past year such as work with refugees, work with the City Mission, participation in community events and prayer. He paid tribute to the amount of prayer which took place in the parish and expressed his thanks for the kindness that had been shown to him since he took up his position at St Luke's.

Wardens' Report: In speaking to the Wardens' Report, contained in the AGM Reports Book, Katherine Wharton (Bishop's Warden) emphasised the positive contributions made by the parish in support for refugees, particularly the work done by Susie Beasley in organising contributions for their settlement. She thanked Barn McDavitt (Peoples' Warden) for his care and good humour, Michael Brantley for his support and energy, Vestry for its good decisions and Rachel Baskerville for her work as Treasurer. She thanked the congregation for its time given to the parish, for its love and for its financial support and exhorted us to love each other and love God.

Barn McDavitt referred to the decisions made on the parish's financial future and the parish consultation. He said it had been a hard year with Kay Webster leaving unexpectedly which had forced Vestry to face up to hard decisions such as deciding that the parish could not afford to appoint a full-time Vicar. We have a duty of care to support the present incumbent on an 80% stipend and to

redistribute duties accordingly. There was a need to increase planned giving to cover the \$6,000 loss in 2018 over 2017 and to give in a more intentional way. The budget showed that we needed to start the year with a clear plan to increase planned giving by \$13,000 by the end of the year, which still only allowed for a Vicar on an 80% stipend. This year would be about building a larger community looking to the future. The Mission Statement developed at the Consultation listed priorities, some of which were already under way. The Dinner for Eight project was one of those. The more ideas put into action, the more community involvement there would be. 2019 is a pivot year. Everyone should think what they will be able to do to help within St Luke's but also in the wider community and beyond. He finished with the Prayer for growth developed in the Consultation document which headed the Wardens' Report.

John Stevens expressed his thanks to the Wardens and Vestry for their guidance. Bethney McLennan expressed thanks to the people in the parish who did small tasks. Mary Stevens supported more use of Te Reo Maori, a wish expressed by some parishioners in the Consultation Document.

That we accept the Priest in Charge's report and the Wardens' Report

MOVED: Elspeth Preddey

SECONDED: John Stevens

CARRIED

Finance Report: Rachel Baskerville spoke to her report, noting that the Review was now done by the Diocese rather than a Reviewer appointed by the parish. She thanked Glen Williams, Project Accountant for the Diocese, for his support. She said that parishioners had been incredibly generous, but she would like to see Missions and Outreach giving at a level of \$10,000 plus rather than the \$5,872 given in 2018. She noted that there was little energy for fundraising and the Advent Appeal was a substitute for fundraising activities. AMSIF was an Achilles Heel for the parish as it was a volatile return, showing an \$86,000 shift from 2017 to 2018. Her report showed negative equity.

Barn McDavitt responded that increased giving was the way to eliminate negative equity and the parish should look to the future to increase its income. Growth would come through outreach. Future funding would be needed to cover earthquake strengthening.

That we accept the Treasurer's Report

MOVED: Barn McDavitt

SECONDED: Mary Bluck

CARRIED

Rachel has decided to stand down as Treasurer. She was presented with flowers and a card signed by parishioners.

Earthquake strengthening report: Speaking to the report contained in the AGM Reports book, Barn thanked Kerry Hollingsworth, Jim Green, Jo McWilliam and Wilbur Dovey for their contribution to the report and asked those present to note the reasoning behind the Vestry's recommendations.

That we note the Vestry's recommendations under Section 1 of the report

MOVED: John Stevens

SECONDED: Peter Milne

CARRIED

That we commence a specific fundraising campaign to offset the costs of the proposed strengthening and organ refurbishment works

MOVED: Barn McDavitt

SECONDED: Mary Stevens

CARRIED

Jim Green recommended that this should be coupled with community activity and acknowledge the importance of the memorial window to the community.

Lorraine Fraser believed we should encourage the relationship with the community above all else. Betty McFadgen believed that the organ and the window were of wider interest beyond the church or Wadestown community.

Barn McDavitt urged that we should coordinate all our efforts.

That the parish adopt Option C as our course of action for 2019

MOVED: Barn McDavitt

SECONDED: John Stevens

CARRIED

That the additional reports contained in the AGM Reports book be taken as read

MOVED: Priest in Charge

CARRIED

Appointments and Elections: All appointments up for election were supported (People's Warden and Vestry)

Michael urged everyone to speak with grace in parish meetings and to operate on trust. There should be no reason not to trust the Wardens and Vestry. For the year to come we should be Jesus in every relationship around us. He gave the gathering four words to keep this in mind:

- Proximity – do things on their turf
- Presence – be present in ordinary time
- Powerlessness – be equal and caring
- Proclamation – God loves us.

We should take this as being an opportunity to speak hope and see it as the planting of a seed. For the Dinners for Eight there is no agenda but to know and be known. We should live in true trust and give honour and grace to one another. He quoted Romans 10: 14-15

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Barn closed the meeting with a prayer for healing love.

The meeting closed at 1.30pm.

<i>St. Luke's</i>	Our Mission is
To strengthen our relationship with God	
<p>A delight in prayer, Love for the Word, a desire to follow the way of Christ, and food for the journey. To be a safe place to find God and express our faith.</p>	
To build stronger relationships with	
Each Other	Caring and welcoming, we connect, share, support celebrate and encourage each other on our faith journeys and in our lives
Our Local Community	Visible and active, we are doers of the Word, sharing our faith in a way that is relevant. We are an anchor and a gathering point providing care and support
Our Partners	Link and work with others to provide care for those in need both locally and overseas
To be good stewards	
<p>To be responsible managers of our assets To be guardians of God's creation from one generation to the next</p>	
To be a growing faith community by	
<p>Drawing in our local community, Developing specific activities aimed at youth / families, and older people</p>	

Vicar's Report (A pastoral letter as Interim Priest-In-Charge)

I thank God for the joy to be part of the St Luke's community over the past few months. You have made Dara and I feel welcomed. My special thanks to Barn, Katherine and the vestry for their support and encouragement. I thank God for your faithful service. Above all, we thank God for his grace and blessings over our church.

Since I have not been long at St Luke's, and the wardens have our past year's activities covered well in their report, I am writing this as a pastoral letter with a view to our future.

Dear Past, thank you for all the lessons. Dear Future, I am ready!!!

This quote helps to set the scene for what I am about to share.

In the Book of Acts, we read how the early church functioned. Acts 2:42-47 says: "And they *devoted* themselves to the apostles' **teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread and the prayers**. And *awe* came upon every soul, and *many wonders and signs* were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were *together* and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and **breaking bread** in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **praising God** and having favour with all the people. *And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*"

I believe the **Acts Church** is every bit relevant for us as we journey into the future. I seek your partnership in building up ourselves and our church.

A. Let us pray for our church.

The Acts Church - "And they *devoted* themselves to...**prayers**."

Prayer is important. Jesus prayed much. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "*pray without ceasing*." In praying we communicate with God and, in the process, the heart and mind of God are revealed to us. When we look at the spiritual powerhouses of the past, we know that prayer was immensely important to them. C.S. Lewis once said, "*I pray because I can't help myself*."

... I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

Paul reminds us again in *Philippians 4:6*, "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" Through prayer we receive God's divine help. That is why prayer must be central, not peripheral, in our lives, our families and our church. I appeal to you to commit our church's life and future to God through prayers, in our quiet time with the Lord, in all our gatherings, in our worship, and in our corporate prayer meetings.

Let's pray boldly for our church!

B. A Biblical model for our church

As we plan ahead, the status quo is not a viable option. Where we wish to go will determine the what, when and how of what we do now, and that is going to challenge our thinking as well as our willingness to move out of our comfort zone and even take risks. As I shared with the vestry, I believe we need to focus on the essentials in the life of our church – *Worship, Instruction, Fellowship and Evangelism*, with an orientation towards the future, and how we may do things better or differently. The acronym **W.I.F.E.** helps us understand and remember the **four objectives** on why we exist as a church;

1. **Worship** - (vs 42):
2. **Instruction** - (vs 42a):
3. **Fellowship** - (vs 44-45).
4. **Evangelism** - (vs 47).

1. Worship:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

What marked their gatherings? They saw God moving, with signs and wonders, and were in awe. They met because they enjoyed God and they enjoyed his people. We need to rekindle that joy in our worship, that awe in the presence of God, and the vibrancy in worshipping together.

The Church is a worshipping community and that must always be our priority. We are to be a body of committed, worshipful people. There was a profound reverence, and *"everyone was filled with awe"*.

Our worship needs to be *authentic, from the heart* and with a *breath-taking awareness of God's holy presence!* Our worship draws us close to the awesome, living God.

Let's worship with a fervent heart and uplifted hands!

2. Instruction:

"They devoted themselves to the Apostle's teaching".

As we read the book of Acts, we discover the importance of teaching the Word of God emphasised again and again. In Acts 4:4, the church grew as many of those who had heard the message believed. Then a few chapters later, the Church started growing even more. In 6:4, it tells us that the apostles continued to devote themselves *to prayer and to the ministry of the word.*

2 Timothy 3:16 says “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for *teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.* It was never given just to inform, but it was given to us to transform, to change our lives and to make us right with God and right with others.

Let the Word of God transform us!

3. Fellowship:

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship...”

Paul in Ephesians 4:1-6 reminds us the importance of Unity in the Body of Christ, true fellowship that encourages and supports one another.

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

When the first Christians came together, they were not like a bag of marbles banging against one another. They were more like a bag of grapes. And when they were squashed by persecution they bled on one another.

Let us build our future together!

4. Evangelism:

“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

The church is an *out-reaching* body. The Acts Church came together to worship, for instruction and to have fellowship with one another. Then they scattered to evangelise. They hit the streets, the highways and byways.

Let us be a church without walls!

I believe God has a plan for our church. Let us ask God boldly to build up our church through these essentials – *Worship, Instruction, Fellowship* and *Evangelism*.

Do we believe it? Are we willing to fight for it?

Wardens' Report (for 2019)

Creator God,

Open our hearts to what you want our St Luke's family to become. Show us your vision for us and this place. And, by your Spirit, help us to grow and make the changes we will need to fulfil your promises to us. Amen.

At last year's AGM we identified that 2019 would be a pivot year to turn ideas for growth and wider community involvement into action plans. At various times during the year we have sought input on fellowship and outreach ideas and activities. Ahead of this AGM, Vestry are developing a five-year plan which builds on the strengths and skills within St Luke's which will help build stronger relationships with each other and our local community.

Our major activity during the year has been the ongoing Dinner for Eight events. Six groups have met 2 – 3 times over the later part of 2019. We appreciate the role the hosts have played in drawing people together. We would welcome parishioner feedback on proposals to extend these events to reach a wider community base.

Our Interregnum Year

It would be fair to say that 2019 has not been a smooth year, as our Interregnum has continued longer than we had hoped for. Momentum was disrupted by the departure of Michael Brantley to St. Christopher's in Christchurch in July. We wish him well in this new calling, and a number of parishioners took the journey to attend his induction.

During August we were blessed to have Cath Growcott join us. However, Cath was appointed as Priest-in-Charge at St Barnabas in Roseneath, so our time together was brief. Through September/ October we welcomed back Tric Malcolm, who was able to preside over several Sunday services. Tric was also present for our Patronal Feast, where we welcomed John Loong and his family.

John joined us in October and continues to lead and guide us on our journey.

Our substantive vacancy remains unfilled. The vacancy has been advertised a number of times during the last 18 months, and is one of several which the Diocese are seeking to fill at below 100%.

During this year of disruption, we have accepted that some changes in the way we worship are inevitable, especially when different priests from different perspectives lead us. We have tried a few different things (shared lunch, lay-led service) and have accepted that some compromises are required, e.g. the first Sunday 8 am Service was dropped for a few months in winter. As we look to the future, we will also need to consider what changes we may wish to make in our worship. Feedback from parishioners on options are welcome.

Activity

St Luke's remains an active and engaged community, through the many and varied ways we support each other and help with special events. It is heartening how everyone brings their skills and talents to make the regular and special events happen.

Sharing a meal together has been a theme for the year. We started the year with a Parish Shared Brunch, held in the hall (special thanks to the Fraser family for overseeing this). Several Lenten Studies groups met around a meal. The Dinner for Eight groups gave an opportunity for parishioners to come together on a recurring basis and share and learn more about each other. It is our hope that these can now be extended to our neighbours, and that deeper friendships will continue to be made. In October we held our Annual Patronal Lunch, with an opportunity to discuss in more detail the strengths of our fellowship.

The Wadestown Fair (2019) was again rained off, but this time there was a great buzz in the hall as stallholders decamped to our space (and to WPC). Coverage in the Independent Herald showed how well our hall works as a community hub. Thanks to Rachel Baskerville, Janet Waite, and Mary Stevens for making it happen.

Partnership with WPC

We continue our strong partnership with Wadestown Presbyterians, sharing services and events. We congratulate Donald Gordon on his recent appointment as Minister at WPC. However, this does mean that WPC will no longer be sharing office space with us, and as a result a change in our printing regime is also likely. We have enjoyed having Megan Smith working alongside us, and wish WPC all the best. We hope that we can continue our strong relationship.

Growth / Planned Giving

At last year's AGM, Vestry set an ambitious target to increase Planned Giving by \$13,000. This was to be achieved through increases by current pledgers and introducing new givers. It is rewarding to record that overall Parishioner Giving (excluding specific fundraising) increased by over \$10,000. Throughout the year, Vestry monitored income and expenditure. We opened an Advent Appeal when

there was a projected year-end deficit at end of October. The Advent Appeal raised \$4,835 and our year-end result was an operating surplus (the first time in a number of years). Thank you for your support.

However, this result was in part achieved by reducing the number of hours for our Priest in Charge. John is currently employed at 26 hours per week or 0.65 FTE.

Vestry have developed a 2020 budget, which seeks to balance aspirations with income reality. It is noted that our income streams are fluctuating and that to employ a full time 100% Vicar we would need an extra 5 – 6 new households.

Looking Ahead

As this Report is being prepared, Vestry are developing a longer-term plan to progress the prioritised activities identified in the 2018 Parish Consultation. It is anticipated that at the AGM we shall discuss some specific actions for wider community participation around:

- a) Developing ways to share our faith that are relevant and connect to our neighbours
- b) Connecting with neighbours and friends and draw them into our St Luke's community
- c) Better connecting with fellow parishioners; sharing, supporting, celebrating our lives together (beyond Sunday)
- d) Developing activities which draw in older people

Property Management

Last year's AGM agreed to defer any earthquake strengthening work until

- i. The diocese clarified its stance on the 66% NBS (New Building Standard) requirement (by 2024)
- ii. The full timing and cost implications of the organ refurbishment report were understood
- iii. A fundraising campaign established and identified funding options

Diocesan advice is that their 66% NBS requirement may change. We are awaiting confirmation at this year's (2020) Synod before we make plans and set timeframes.

The final version of the organ refurbishment report was received in May. It identified significant costs for a full restoration (\$500,000), which includes removal, off-site overhaul and re-installation of the pipes. This activity would be best be done at the same time as any strengthening work inside the church.

The organ report included an initial set of remedial maintenance work. For 2020, Vestry will seek to undertake this work, estimated at \$10,000 and to be funded via the Organ Bequests Fund.

In relation to the fundraising campaign, no specific fundraising committee was established in 2019. We await a better understanding of the timing of these works before we commence any activity.

Appreciation

As your wardens, we appreciate the vast range of things that parishioners get on with and make happen. We know that all these often hidden / off-roster efforts make our fellowship stronger and closer together.

In addition to the team of people who provide leadership and direction across the Parish (Vestry, Treasurer, Synod Reps, Musical Director, Band Leader, Parish Recorder, Sacristan and Parish Administrator) we would specifically like to acknowledge

- Peter Milne – who stepped into the role of Interim Treasurer “for a few weeks”, and has ended up managing our finances for the whole year. During this time he oversaw the introduction of Internet Banking, bringing quicker payment and the removal of cheques.
- Lorraine Fraser – through 2019 as a Vestry member and Nominator, provided immeasurable guidance and direction, especially with projects associated with fellowship building. Prior to that Lorraine has had a long history of involvement in all things St Luke’s. However since November she has stood down from all these roles.

We also acknowledge the direction and dedication given to us by the clergy who have worked with us over the last year. We especially thank John Loong, who over recent months has become part of our community. We welcome John’s efforts, both in providing pastoral support and a challenging call to action. Finally, we thank you – the parishioner – for your ongoing contributions and support of our fellowship. We look forward to a further year of achievement and growth as we seek to strengthen our relationship with God and with others.

Katherine Wharton (Bishop’s Warden)

Barn McDavitt (People’s Warden)

EDUCATION

Monday Night Study Group Report

Katherine Wharton

There are approximately eight regular members of this group. We usually meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the atrium. We learn more about God, faith, the world and each other through looking at the Bible and a range of other books. We have some lively discussion and we listen and learn (and sometimes laugh!).

From February 2019 to January 2020, we looked at “We Make the Road by Walkiing” by Brian McLaren, which followed the readings from Sunday services (most of the time) and was about walking on the road and making the road with God. It was encouraging and thought-provoking. We are now taking a break over Lent to join Lenten study groups and take the chance to share with different people. We will pick up the book of Genesis from chapter 26 of the Bible after Easter.

Please contact Katherine Wharton if you would like to join the group:
kmdovey@gmail.com

Thursday Study Group

Shirley Falloon

In 2019 the Thursday Study group met during Lent to participate in the Diocesan Lenten studies. Between 6 - 9 people attended each week to discuss the studies on Grace. Throughout the rest of the year the group met every 2 - 3 months for outings to various garden centres for coffee and fellowship.

WORSHIP

Director of Music Report

Paul Rosoman

It is with pleasure to be enjoying 10 years of playing at St. Luke's and it is encouraging to see that the music of the church still enjoys great support and it is lovely to lead a congregation which joins heartily into the music of the liturgy. The organ is starting to show its age a little more than last year but still more than able to support our singing.

Thanks to Roger and the Band as always for their input and support of the musical life of St. Luke's.

Healing Team Report

Wilbur Dovey

The Healing Team's main function is to offer prayer support at the back of the church during Communion at the 10am Sunday service. Those who come for prayer may be seeking healing for themselves or those close to them, or giving thanks for healing of themselves or others close to them. The team also welcomes other opportunities to share prayer with those in need of healing either in person or through the Prayer Chain for which Julie Chapman is the point of contact. The Healing Team in 2019 comprised Julie Chapman, Liz Prins, John Stevens, Mary Bluck, Mary Stevens and Wilbur Dovey.

Prayer is a very important part of worship and shared prayer is an important part of our Christian ministry. We would like more people to come and seek healing prayer with us. We promise to respect the confidentiality of anything you share with us.

Most of us have been part of the team for some years and we have often been encouraged by seeing a positive outcome to prayer that you have shared with us. It is a role we gladly undertake, and we would welcome others to share that role with us.

Please contact John, Wilbur or any other member of the Healing Team if you are interested in becoming part of our healing worship team. Training will be provided.

Prayer group

Betty McFadgen

Mid-day prayer was said in the Chapel on the first Friday of each month until July when I couldn't go due to family matters and ill health.

Prayer Chain

Julie Chapman

To date there are thirteen members on our St. Luke's Prayer Chain. It has been well utilized again this past year with a variety of requests, mainly for healing and support for those in need or bereaved.

The majority of requests are from within the Parish, but the Prayer Chain is committed to those who would like prayer wherever they may be.

The process of the Prayer Chain operates effectively, but is always open to suggestions for improvement. Prayer requests are received either through our Vicar or emailed to me directly. I usually respond with an email confirming that the request has been received and will be forwarded onto the Prayer Chain. All types of requests are received and remain confidential. It is wonderful when we receive feedback and are able to give prayers of thanks.

I am happy to continue to co-ordinate again this year, however, if someone else would like the opportunity then I am happy to relinquish the role.

Christian Meditation Group

Elsbeth Preddey

Our small group of meditators has met weekly throughout the year. For this group of parishioners from St Luke's, it is the 10th year of taking part in silent meditation.

It is an ancient spiritual practice, often referred to in Christian terms as "The Prayer of the Heart". We meet in the Lady Chapel on Tuesday evenings, for half an hour, 8-8:30pm. Newcomers are welcome, and we've had a few come along last year.

We are grateful for the support of the Vestry in making the Lady Chapel available to us, and for office support in advertising our meetings.

Community days for reflection are held 3 times a year in different parts of the Wellington region, run by the NZ branch of the World Community for Christian Meditation (www.christianmeditationnz.org.nz).

Dates for 2020 are Saturday 7th March, Saturday 13th June and Saturday 10th October.