

St. Luke's

Wadestown
with Wilton and Crofton Downs

**Annual General Meeting
Reports Book
SUNDAY 21st March 2021
11.00 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 2020

Priest in Charge:

Rev John Loong

Vicar's/Bishop's Warden

Katherine Wharton

People's Warden:

Barn McDavitt

Vestry:

Nick Duncan, Liz Prins, Jim Green, Wilbur Dovey (Vestry Secretary),

Synod's Representatives:

Nick Duncan
Megan Davis

Treasurer:

Rachel Baskerville

Parish Recorder (for giving):

Rachael Green

**ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WADESTOWN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA - 2021**

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of 2020 AGM and Matters Arising**
- 4. Elections**
- 5. Finance Report and 2021 Budget**
- 6. Ministry Reports**
- 7. Declare Results**
- 8. Any other business**

St. Luke's Anglican Parish, Wadestown
Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 21 June 2020 following the 10am service

Present: Interim Priest in Charge (John Loong), Vicar's Warden (Chair), People's Warden and 26 parishioners

Apologies: Paul Rosoman, Shirley Falloon, Betty McFadgen, Desiree Hales, Mary Bluck, Rachel Bluck, Josh Bluck, Kate Bluck.

The meeting opened with prayer led by John Loong.

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

MOVED: Bethney McLennan SECONDED: Kate McDavitt CARRIED

Finance Report: Barn McDavitt introduced the Finance Report and expressed thanks to Peter Milne for being Interim Treasurer for the year.

Peter reported that there was a small surplus in the report thanks to the Advent Appeal, but there was still not enough in the accounts to pay for a full-time Vicar. He thanked Rachel Baskerville for helping to pull the report together.

Kerry Hollingsworth questioned the wording in page 3 of the report which referred to the notional income from the Parish's investment in the AMSIF fund as being available to purchase a Vicarage if needed in the future, stating that the income from the fund was for the clergy housing allowance and maintenance of the church, not for purchasing a Vicarage.

Peter said that the accounts had been audited this year. He thought this was because of some changes he had made. Barn responded that the parish had been audited as part of a Diocesan-wide audit.

Peter reported that he had introduced internet banking for the Parish during the year. This was because the use of cheques was being phased out. It would still require two people to approve payments. The accounts are now on Xero which should make life easier and take pressure off the Wardens being approached at morning tea to sign cheques.

That the Treasurer's report be received.

MOVED: Peter Milne SECONDED: John Stevens CARRIED

Barn McDavitt thanked Peter for his work in setting up internet banking for the Parish.

That a vote of thanks should be given to Peter for his services as Interim Treasurer.

MOVED: Barn McDavitt (Chair)

CARRIED

Rachel Baskerville noted that the Parish should be distributing the funds available from the windup of the Ark Trust (\$40,000) in a period of need. Katherine Wharton reported that \$5,000 had been given to the Wellington City Mission to help the elderly in need in our area, \$5,000 to the Wadestown Medical Centre to assist people with payment for medical services or prescription payments and \$2,000 to Otari School to use for sponsorship of children to attend school camps and extracurricular activities.

Barn McDavitt reported that Vestry would consider funding for missions in July or August. He also reported that the **Budget for 2020**, which had been circulated beforehand, had been prepared in February. The amount shown in line 52, \$5,000 for Fellowship Building, was for new things the Parish might like to do. The \$1,500 extra maintenance items in line 70 had been spent on a new printer which had replaced the Parish's former printer which had died. During the time the WPC's office was co-located at St Luke's we had used its printer. Thanks to Peter Milne, a replacement had been installed at short notice.

That the 2020 budget be tabled.

MOVED: Barn McDavitt

SECONDED: Elspeth Preddey

CARRIED

Interim Priest in Charge's Report: John Loong spoke to his report. He intends to focus on the future. He thanked the Wardens, Vestry and the church as a whole for their support. He asked us to continue to pray for the church and what is to happen. We should build each other up in outreach.

That the Interim Priest in Charge's report be received.

MOVED: John Loong

SECONDED: Gwynn Narraway

CARRIED

Looking Ahead: Parish Discussion:

Barn McDavitt introduced this item. He characterised the parish as looking to an outsider like a parish of rosters, with everyone dedicating their time and talents. We should take the opportunity to look at what we would like to be in 12

months' time. Should we be extending the Dinner for 8 programme to outsiders? Would we like our worship to look different? Those present were given the option of attaching themselves to one or more of four groups to be led by a Vestry member who would then report back to the meeting after a 10-15-minute discussion.

Evangelism: Nick Duncan reported that the idea of open services, an Alpha course, meditation and instruction courses had found favour. The website could be improved by being something easy to maintain with an attractive style. A promotional fair was suggested and frequent changes to the outside billboard

Worship: Wilbur Dovey reported support for continuing with the present form of liturgy but additionally more open services to be able to attract those not familiar with the traditional form of Anglican services by giving them something that they could more easily relate to.

Fellowship: Liz Prins reported that her group would like to place emphasis on building the connection with our local community. A Harvest Festival and Christmas Fair were suggestions as were seminars which the local community could be interested in. More child-friendly activities might be another area as well as being seen as an open, welcoming community such as being a place where space could be provided for the country to give thanks or prayers for events.

Instruction: Katherine Wharton reported that her group had stressed the importance of connections with the local community through offering courses in meditation, literacy and numeracy and Te Reo Maori. John Loong summed up the discussion by saying that this is our church and by all of us working together, Saint Luke's will move.

Wardens Report:

That the Wardens' Report be received.

MOVED: Kate McDavitt SECONDED: Jim Green CARRIED

That the Ministry Reports be received.

MOVED: Barn McDavitt SECONDED: Mary Stevens CARRIED

The meeting concluded with prayer at 1.15 pm

Vicar's (Priest-in-Charge) Report

I started as your interregnum priest in October 2019. Five months into the role, the nation went into a lockdown on 23 March, interrupting more than just our Lent study groups. Our church, with the rest of Aotearoa, was thrust into uncharted territories. For the first time in centuries, the Church was closed. Weekly services as we are used to will cease for the next 7.5 weeks. That was a lot of thinking time for a new interregnum.

Coming out of the lockdown in May, the leadership and I seemed to have to catch up on lost time. We were on full throttle. We wanted to strengthen relationships within our parish and also extend friendships to people outside the church. We want St Luke's to be a place where friendships are formed and where people want to be.

With the help of the Fellowship group members namely, Liz Prins, Susan Timmins, Desiree Hales, Rachael Green and Dara Choo, we organised a lineup of events beginning with a thanksgiving service, *Bears and Prayers*, in June. This was followed by a very well-attended Curry Night in August and then a more targeted *Wadestown Neighbours' Dinner* in November which saw some of you inviting your entire street! We hope that you will use these fellowship opportunities to befriend someone, to invite someone, to connect with someone. Let people know that they can find a friend in you. Sharing faith starts with being a friend. Also, pray for the people God brings through the door.

In the area of worship, in August we introduced *Not Your Usual Sunday* (NYUSunday) which happens every first Sunday of the month. The idea was to offer a form of worship that is accessible to the unchurched person on the street. A service with less or no liturgy and with a less formal approach to how we conduct Sunday services but not any less reverend or worshipful. I want to acknowledge your important support and participation in this new effort. It is still early days, we will review this service in time to come and see how things develop.

Last year's efforts will continue this year. We will continue to create opportunities to be a friend to someone. This year, I urge us all "To know Christ and to make Christ known". In 2021, we will see a stronger emphasis on personal and interpersonal discipleship because it is not the size of the church that matters, but the spiritual state. I want us to be a healthy church regardless of size.

John Loong
Priest-in-Charge

Wardens' Report

The year in review

2020 can be best summed up as year of change. Some forced on us, some we experimented with and some we have embraced.

Over recent years we have explored aspects of change in how St Luke's operates and interacts with our community. 2020 proved to be a year of sudden change, where we came to understand the importance of the fellowship and connection that we make. Through March & April the primary task of Vestry became keeping in touch with each other while Aotearoa went into a Level 4 lockdown. Contact trees were established and we also established Sunday Zoom gatherings. We appreciate how well everyone responded to these changes, while we were unable to physically gather together for Easter and to the changes required when we were able to resume gathering together. (Communion in one form, no contact during the peace and initially no morning tea). On reflection, these externally imposed changes help us appreciate what we value in our worship and that is helping us as we continue to introduce change to better connect and remain relevant with the community we serve.

During the year we have gradually introduced new aspects to our regular worship. Including the 10 am first Sunday Not Your Usual Sunday (NYUS) and more specific community focused events. These changes are aimed at drawing more people toward God so we appreciate when parishioners invite others to join us for these occasions.

Connecting with community

Our recent focus has been developing ways to share our faith that are relevant and connect with our neighbours. Ideas to progress this theme were explored at last years (delayed) AGM. At the end of June we held a community invited Bears & Prayers service. Following this success our Fellowship sub-group have also hosted a Community Curry Night (August) and Neighbours Dinner (November). We will continue to explore ways to connect and share with our local community. We appreciate the efforts of many to make these occasions a success and look forward to hosting more events in the coming months.

Stability looking ahead

One stabilising aspect for our future, was the formal appointment of John Loong as our Priest-in-Charge¹. John (and Dara) have been with us since October 2019 and it was with great joy that the nominators were able to announce that John

¹ The titles can be a bit confusing! "Vicar" is a title used for a full time position. John was our *interim* part time priest-in-charge, and now has been appointed to work for St Luke's part time, so he is now our *permanent* priest-in-charge.

would be working with us permanently. This gives us greater security in planning future events and implementing the types of changes that will bring about growth through connection with our community. The Installation in December was well attended and gave us all a chance to celebrate John's calling.

Vestry have approved a small increase to John's hours. He will now be working 28 hours a week. This is not yet a full-time role, due to our income streams.

Growth

Our ongoing aim remains to grow our community, not only as a missional intent, but also to increase our income and afford to return to a full-time vicar. Income from planned giving remained relatively steady year-on-year. Given the issues we faced, it is reassuring that we were only down 3% on 2019. Through 2021/2 vestry will need to continue to explore ways to increase our community and increase our ongoing income before we can budget for a full-time vicar.

Property maintenance

During December scaffolding was erected on the Pitt St side of the church, allowing access to the roof and gables. Contracted plumbers undertook a roof inspection and some roof repairs were done where possible. Gutters, downpipes and roof surfaces were cleaned. Further work is planned for 2021, including downpipe and drain work on the Pitt St corner, to resolve the dampness impacting the organ. The roof leak in the Atrium is also on the list for the plumber/roofer to address and lichen spraying the glass canopy.

Scaffolding also enabled repair of rotting barge boards and re-painting, including the most eastern roof crosses and external doors. While here, the painters also undertook a refresh of some downstairs spaces, especially the former Sunday School room.

At the end of November the book rest surfaces of the pews were revarnished in time for John Loong's installation. The Lower Meeting Room was re-carpeted in February 2021.

We wish to acknowledge the efforts of Rachel Baskerville, who has project managed this work and the on-going efforts of our property maintenance volunteers.

Ark Trust distribution

During 2020, vestry approved distribution of \$17,000 from the Ark Trust Fund. The fund was established in 2018 from the proceeds of the sale of the Ark Trust housing units. In early 2020 Vestry confirmed that funds could be distributed to organisations that support the needy and/or elderly in our area.

Specific grants in 2020 were:

- \$5,000 to the Wellington City Mission to help the elderly in need in our area,
- \$5,000 to the Wadestown Medical Centre to assist people with payment for medical services or prescription payments
- \$2,000 to Otari School to use for sponsorship of children to attend school camps and extracurricular activities
- \$5,000 to the Wellington City Mission Night Shelter, to assist our street-living community

At the end of 2020, there remains approximately \$30,000 available for distribution.

Appreciation

At our recent Patronal Feast (October 2020) we gathered together with the theme “Remember the Past, Imagine the Future”. Jim Green, Gillian Robertson and Nick Duncan spoke on aspects of their connections with St Luke’s and what is important to hold onto as we move forward. We each bring our own stories to this fellowship and our special gifts, things we hold dear, and new ideas we seek to connect with.

St Luke’s exists because of the skills and talents, efforts and ideas within our fellowship. We function well because of the many roles we all play. We celebrate together and join together, be it for a grounds working bee, the Wadestown Fair, or helping out on one of the many rosters. The wardens and vestry acknowledge all these efforts and appreciate the “get on and do it” attitude that many bring to our community. We thank you all for your contribution to the body of Christ at St Luke’s.

As we introduce change, so that we can connect and be relevant with our wider community, some of the ways we do things will change. We all understand that if we stay as we are, we cannot expect to draw in others. But we also know that change can be challenging and confronting, be assured that if we stay strong to our faith and to each other, God will guide us in the ways which will make the best impact at this time.

Katherine Wharton
Vicar’s Warden

Barn McDavitt
People’s Warden

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. Our meetings are relatively unstructured – we pray, have a cup of coffee, and discuss what we've been reading and learning. We often throw questions around.

From February 2020 to January 2021, we finished the book of Genesis and had a look at 2 Peter and 1 Peter (in that order!). During 2020, we moved to Zoom for meetings when we were in lockdown.

We are now a weekly Lenten study group and hope to have some new members for that time. After Lent, we will look at "How the Bible Actually Works" by Pete Enns and "The Living Church" by John Stott.

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

Thursday morning study group report

Liz Prins

The group has met regularly since the Lenten Studies series of 2020. We started meeting at St.Luke's but we become zoomers once we entered the first Lockdown, and have continued to use zoom for our meetings ever since. When we had worked through the Lenten Study series, we started to study the gospel reading for the week and we adopted the Six Symbols Bible Study Method. We take it in turns to lead the studies and there are 7 regulars at our meetings. We meet on the First and Third Thursday of the month (apart from the Lenten Studies which are weekly) and all are welcome to join us.

Director of Music Report

Paul Rosoman

Another year of glorious music making and it is encouraging that the music of the church still enjoys great support. It is a joy 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 of offer prayer support at the back of the church during Communion at the 10am Sunday service was badly disrupted by COVID19 but we hope to get back to normal in 2021 by offering healing at the 10am service on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays in 2021. At the time of writing this report we are looking forward to the Healing Service that John is arranging for the 10am service on 7 March which may point us in new directions for 2021 and beyond.

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 2020 comprised Liz Prins, John Stevens, Mary Bluck, Mary Stevens and Wilbur Dovey.

We would like to emphasise that 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.

It has been heartening during the year to learn of several occasions on which our prayer ministry has played a role in actual healing experiences.

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 Chain

Julie Chapman

The Prayer Chain has continued to be used regularly this year. There are thirteen active members of the Prayer Chain which includes our vicar.

Prayer requests vary in nature and we pray not only for our parishioners but those in the wider community. I would like to thank all those involved with the Prayer Chain.

I am happy to continue to co-ordinate and welcome suggestions to improve the process.

Christian Meditation Group

Elsbeth Preddey

Our group of regular meditators met on most Tuesdays apart from Lockdown periods and the Christmas holidays. We meet in the Lady Chapel of St Luke's Wadestown at 8 pm for half an hour of silent meditation.

We are grateful to Vestry and members of the parish for supporting our practice of meditation. Our Priest in Charge, John Loong, and Dara joined us one evening. Others are always welcome, and several newcomers joined us for a few sessions during the last year.

ZOOM was used in Lockdown periods by many in the wider Christian Meditation Community, here and overseas. See christianmeditationnz.org.nz. My first effort to introduce this ancient form of prayer to St Luke's Anglican was over 10 years ago. Thank you for giving me a home base to work from.