

St. Luke's

In Wadestown

**Annual General Meeting
Reports Book**

**Sunday 17th March 2024
11.30am**

(after the 10am service & morning tea)



St Luke's Anglican Church,
34 Pitt Street, Wadestown. Ph 473 6472
Email: office@slw.org.nz, www.slw.org.nz

Offices held at St Luke's in 2023

Priest in Charge

Rev John Loong

Vicar's Warden

Barn Mcdavitt

People's Warden:

Liz Prins

Vestry:

Rachel Baskerville, Susan Timmins, Lorraine Fraser,
Kerry Hollingsworth

Vestry Secretary:

Susan Timmins

Synod's Representatives:

Kerry Hollingsworth

Treasurer:

Kerry Hollingsworth

Parish Recorder (for giving):

Rachael Green

**ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WADESTOWN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA –17th March 2024**

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of AGM 26 February 2023**
- 4. Election of Roles for 2024 (People's Warden, Vestry & Synod Rep)**
- 5. Vicar's Reports**
- 6. Warden's Report**
- 7. Vestry sub-groups reports**
- 8. Finance Report (see separate A4 document)**
- 9. Earthquake Strengthening Project Report**
- 10. Ministry Reports**
- 11. Director of Music Report**
- 12. Declaration of Roles for 2024**
- 13. General Business**

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

**St Luke's Anglican Parish – Wadestown
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Sunday 26 February 2023 at 11.30am following the 10am service**

Minutes of the previous AGM: The minutes of the 2022 AGM were confirmed as a true and correct record subject to correction of the spelling of Elspeth Preddey's family name.

MOVED: Susan Timmins SECONDED: Kate McDavitt CARRIED

Sunday 26 February 2023 following the 10am service

Present: Priest in Charge (John Loong) (Chair), Priest in Charge's Warden, People's Warden and 22 parishioners

Apologies: Mary Stevens, John Stevens, Mary Bluck, Rachel Bluck, Josh Bluck, Elspeth Preddey.

The meeting opened with prayer led by John Loong.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM Meeting

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2022 AGM.

Acknowledgment:

The Priest in Charge acknowledged the service provided to the parish by Jim Green and Wilbur Dovey who were stepping down from Vestry at the end of their terms and gave thanks to God for their faithful service. Each was given the gift of a plant.

Election of roles for 2023:

John Loong announced the appointment of Barn McDavitt as Vicar's Warden for 2023 and Janet Waite and Jim Green as scrutineers for the election of Vestry members and the Synod Representative. The election of the Vestry members was for one year only instead of the normal two-year period in order to bring St Luke's into line with the rest of the Diocese for its election of officers.

Liz Prins was elected People's Warden for 2023. Vestry members elected for 2023 were: Rachel Baskerville, Lorraine Fraser, Kerry Hollingsworth and Susan Timmins. Kerry Hollingsworth was elected Synod Representative for 2023.

Priest in Charge's Report:

John Loong spoke to his report which had been distributed beforehand. He made reference to the strong link between his report and the Wardens' Report. He spoke of our service to the parish needing to be both missional and relational. We were good on the relational side of parish work to parish members but needed to be missional to people outside the church.

THAT the Priest in Charge's report be received.

MOVED: Kate McDavitt SECONDED: Rachel Baskerville CARRIED.

Wardens' Report:

Barn McDavitt spoke to the report submitted by both wardens and circulated beforehand. He saw the report as a way of trying to draw our ideas together. What future do we see for St Luke's and what are we prepared to do about it? The next generation isn't there to take over the management from the present incumbents. We need to improve our contacts with the community and change the path we are on to connect with the wider community. Vestry doesn't have the answers and cannot do it on its own. It needs the support of all of us. And it requires commitment and determination. The average age in Wadestown is younger than the age of the current New Zealand Book of Common Prayer.

Lorraine Fraser commented that we need to go beyond our involvement with BUPA. Rachel Baskerville commented that we already had some participation with the wider community. John Loong responded that we needed engagement with the community more than participation. We need to invest time in each other's space to achieve meaningful engagement. Janet Waite suggested engaging with the children at the Wadestown Fair on 11 March.

John Loong referred back to his suggestion the previous year of a Saturday activity for families which would involve meaningful engagement, not just participation. He put forward three words to consider: **Focus, Determination and Commitment**. We could do better with God's help. He referred to the words in 1 Kings 11, when following Solomon's consecration of the temple, God was angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord and he had not completely followed the Lord but built high places for other gods and raised up adversaries to Solomon. Our hearts should be fully committed, and we should work together. He would present a preaching series during Lent and would put forward extra questions in each Lent study on our own specific

questions as well as the global ones in the study series. The conversation starts today and should be carried on through small groups or meetings or any other ways we can have more conversations.

Megan Davis said we need to have a conversation with the community on what it wants from St Luke's, what they need in their lives and how we can provide it and how their lives are. We should be offering and listening. John Loong would like to organise a simple meal with the groups using our facility as to how we can be of help to them. We can't wait for them to come to us. Rachael Green suggested we should send out a monthly flyer to community letter boxes.

Kerry Hollingsworth referred to the written past history of St Luke's where there had been mention of the parish resisting despair at certain periods in the past and getting through that with faith and commitment. Rachael Green suggested that Vestry provide in each post-Vestry email and pew newsletter an account of major items discussed at the previous the Vestry meeting.

Lorraine Fraser said that distractions stop her nieces from coming to church functions. John Loong asked if we could do anything to engage the public if Sunday morning doesn't suit. We need to teach church to people where they can and want to come. Do we stick to what we do now, or do we become creative?

Rachel Baskerville warned that we should not get bogged down by negativity and suggested that we should look at activities towards the end of the year when we can avoid other commitments.

Janet Waite suggested that we need better teaching off Bible stories for younger people. Did the Diocese have resources that we could use? Should we get together with other parishes of any denomination to produce something? We do have a need for younger people in the parish.

Susan Timmins said we need to get ideas from the community.

Kate McDavitt responded that we can't rely on other people to supply resources and we should propose doable ideas. John Loong said the present discussion was a starting point and we should continue the conversation.

Barn McDavitt summed up by saying that we need to see what people can commit to. Encouraging participation at the Wadestown Fair was a starting point.

Lorraine Fraser added that we should not forget current members of the community in need.

THAT the Wardens' report be received.

MOVED: Barn McDavitt SECONDED: Rachael Green CARRIED

Finance Report:

Kerry Hollingsworth presented the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2022 which had been circulated beforehand. He noted that there had been financial tension throughout the year which had meant that we had to take money from the investment we have with AMSIF which had taken a hit with the account losing over \$100,000 in the past year.

The earthquake strengthening would take another \$100,000 so there would be only \$500,000 remaining instead of the \$700,000 at the beginning of 2022. It shows the value of having such a fund which covers the cost of clergy housing, the maintenance of church facilities and a contribution to the parish's share of the Diocesan budget. Its current decline in value shows we need to focus on those items of expenditure we can control.

There is a need to balance the cost of maintaining our Christian outreach and worship in the face of rising costs and the volatility of financial markets.

THAT the Finance Report be received.

MOVED: Kerry Hollingsworth SECONDED: Lorraine Fraser CARRIED

Draft budget:

Kerry Hollingsworth explained that the budget was not yet firm but would be useful to the new Vestry. It assumed St Luke's could break even if our costs and income remain stable. Rachel Baskerville asked about the cost of using a commercial cleaner rather than a family member or a student. Kerry explained it was a balancing issue between the quality of cleaning and the cost. It will cost a bit more and the quality will be consistently good.

THAT the draft budget be received.

MOVED: Kerry Hollingsworth SECONDED: Susan Timmins CARRIED

Earthquake Strengthening:

Kerry Hollingsworth introduced the discussion by saying it could be a useful project for St Luke's to connect with the local community on what we were intending to do with the space. We already have the support of the Highland Park Progressive Association in our applications for funds. It was a useful example of the three words John Loong had used in the discussion on the Wardens' Report.

Kerry went through the illustrations made by the architects on the proposed structural alterations to give an idea of what the changes would look like. Thanks were expressed to Kerry for his work on this project.

Ministry Reports:

Reports from the Monday Night Study group, Sunday School Programme, Thursday Morning Study group, Director of Music, Prayer Chain, and the Christian Meditation Group were all considered as one item.

THAT all Ministry Reports be received:

MOVED: Susan Timmins SECONDED: Liz Prins CARRIED

Other Business:

Acknowledgement was made of the recent death of George Preddey and our best wishes to Elspeth.

Election Results:

People's Warden: Liz Prins, Vestry: Rachel Baskerville, Lorraine Fraser, Kerry Hollingsworth, Susan Timmins. Synod Representative: Kerry Hollingsworth.

The meeting closed with prayer at 12.56 pm.

Vicar's (Priest-in-Charge) Message

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I always thank God for His grace and providence over our church family for apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). I am filled with gratitude for our willing and able team of wardens, vestry, secretary, treasurer, synod representative, leaders and coordinators of various ministry roles, who help to keep St Luke's ticking along. Our members too are supportive in prayer and participation. St Luke's is a small and amazing team, to God be the glory!

Like many parishes across the Anglican diocese (source: <https://anglicanmovement.nz/blog/synod-news-3>), St Luke's is ageing and, over time, facing declining numbers. In the face of this reality, I want to commend you for acknowledging the challenge we face as an aging church and coming together last year to discuss the way forward. It is a conversation that must be had together as a church family.

We may be small and greying but soul care continues. Among us are members who visit the homebound and the lonely, care for the frail, comfort those who are grieving and hurting, help those in need, open homes to extend hospitality to others, amongst other good work. It doesn't take a big church to do these, it takes compassion – people moved to action. I pray that St Luke's members may be the "light shining before others, that others may see their good deeds and glorify the Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

We may be small and greying but soul care continues. I want to honour the two study groups that meet regularly throughout the year for bible study discussions. These groups are consistent and faithful in meeting to learn from God's word. Listening to sermons alone is not enough 'feeding', we need to read and reflect on the word in order to grow in our faith. I pray that St Luke's members will desire God's words for "they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body" (Proverbs 4:20-22).

God will never leave us nor forsake us; His Holy Spirit is with us. I want us to get to know the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is your advocate to help you and be

with you forever. He will enable, empower and sustain you. We may be a small and greying but the Lord sustains us (Isaiah 46:4). I pray that St Luke's members will know the Holy Spirit, for he lives with you and will be in you (John 14:15-18). Only the Holy Spirit can enable us to know Christ and to make Christ known.

As your vicar, I'm not envisioning a young or old church. I'm envisioning a church vibrant in their faith, filled by the Spirit. Is that possible? Yes and Amen.

Yours in Christ
Rev John Loong

Wardens' Report for 2023

As we reflect on the last year, we can discern a pivot upon which St Luke's has turned. So that at this year's AGM we are reporting on a range of activities and developments which are improving our connections to the local community and our physical presence in the community. Looking ahead, we can see further opportunities to develop our connections, help make an impact on other's lives and grow our community in Christ.

At last year's AGM (26 Feb 2023) we opened a conversation concerning the future of St Luke's. We identified we were "at the crossroads" and asked if parishioners were willing to take action to support community outreach and growth or whether we should focus on supporting our fellowship and age gracefully.

We used Lent as a time to reflect on God's call to us and what our witness might look like. At Pentecost (28 May) we held an SGM to explore levels of energy and commitment towards:

- Activity within the fellowship
- Inviting new people to come to church
- Engaging with community groups
- Openness to change in worship styles

That meeting expressed a willingness to reach out more and seek growth options. So over the following weeks, Vestry honed in on specific target areas for outreach, specifically young families and elders in the community, whilst also maintaining an on-going pastoral and fellowship focus. It is encouraging to be able to report that we are now implementing outreach initiatives, alongside maintaining our very strong internal connections.

Details of the specific sub-groups are provided further in this booklet. As part of preparing ourselves for change, we set about some basic administration work including revising our internal networks and refreshing fellowship connections. There is much more to do to improve our communication channels with the local community, and the leadership team is currently looking at options here, including a revised website and social media presence.

Another area that we have begun to address in the last year is our property management. Apart from the significant seismic strengthening work that gets

underway in February 2024 (see separate report), a revised Property Maintenance plan has been developed. This includes the known roof leaks, lighting, and heating upgrades. Initial work was undertaken during 2023 to investigate the Chapel roof leak and develop a remediation plan – it looks like the full roof will need to be replaced.

Meanwhile, we have also replaced the chairs in use across the St Luke's Centre (in Feb 2024). This is a significant part of upgrading our 20 year old Centre as we seek to connect more directly with our local community.

With the seismic strengthening and these other property management initiatives there is and will continue to be considerable calls on our Clergy Housing & Facilities Management Fund. As well, our day-to-day operational costs are constrained. So, the Wardens were very encouraged by last year's Advent Appeal, where we raised over \$13,000 in the few short weeks ahead of Christmas, with some responding by increasing their regular giving.

It is important to remember we are not seeking funds just to buy chairs or pay the rates, our overall mission remains to "know Christ and make Christ known". Therefore our primary purpose is to connect with the community and to "make a difference" Improving our facilities and links with the local community are part of that wider programme. As we pray for our outreach initiatives, we pray that more people will become part of our St Luke's family.

We also recognise that change in styles, approach and worship are necessary to better reflect and attract the community we serve. We acknowledge the introduction of the 5th Sunday Prayer Service in the last year, and the opportunities this has given for people to worship in a more reflective way.

However, we still need to challenge ourselves to invite new people to join us for these new events, as well as remind our neighbours of our regular events.

As time progresses we acknowledge that some members of our community will no longer be as active as they once were. The passing of the baton is a natural phenomenon, as is change in styles of leadership and worship. In particular we acknowledge this transition as this is the last Wardens' Report we write. The depth of expertise, enthusiasm and "getting on with it" that resonates across St Luke's is something that we cherish. As a Warden, we become aware of the individuals who have a hand in every facet of the upkeep of a working Church. To these people we give our thanks for your ongoing service.

There is much to look forward to in 2024 and the coming years as St Luke's rebuilds and looks outward.

Barn McDavitt
Vicar's Warden

Liz Prins
People's Warden

Finance Report for 2023 (see separate A4 document)

Vestry sub-groups reports for 2023

1. Community Kaumatua (Elders) Group report

The mission of this group is to engage with the elderly of the Parish through visiting, phone calls and outings, and to engage with the elderly in the community.

Many parishioners already do engage with the elderly, particularly those in our parish, and that is very encouraging. I would like to thank them as they quietly go about this – be it transport, visiting, phone call or taking them to a café.

While this Vestry group is under my leadership, we don't have an official organising group but many people helped during the year and I have so appreciated their help.

LUNCHESES

We have had two lunches – one in August 2023 and another in November 2023 – both well attended. We have paused the lunches as I thought the noise from the seismic strengthening work would be too disruptive.

Depending on the progress of the strengthening work of the church I am hopeful that we could start again with a lunch in May 2024, especially now that we have brand new , comfy clean stable chairs (thank to Kerry Hollingsworth for sourcing).

BUPA

We hold two Holy Communion services at BUPA Crofton Downs on the second Wednesday of the month followed by a shared morning tea with the Apartment residents. Rev John Loong accompanies on his guitar, with some robust singing in both the Care Home and the Apartments service. The worshippers are from different religious backgrounds. We as an Anglican faith community in Wadestown are privileged to have the opportunity to share the good news and the love of Jesus with our neighbours at BUPA.

I would like to thank Barn McDavitt, Liz Prins and Wilbur Dovey, who have assisted Rev John with the services. And, as always, the catering team – Rachael Green, Rachel Baskerville, Janet Waite, Mary and John Stevens and Jim Fraser.

Please join us if you can from 11.15am for morning tea followed by the service on the second Wednesday of the month.

It is a joy.

AGED CONCERN

Age Concern started up an exercise class for the elderly on 21st September 2023 in the Atrium. Unfortunately they didn't get the numbers they needed to make the classes financially sustainable so the classes ended in December 2023. They plan to review any future classes in April 2024.

I would like to encourage all who are able to be involved, even just with one elderly person. It really is very rewarding.

Thank you. Lorraine Fraser.

2. Report on Family activities

Christmas Gospel Dramatisation This was an improvisation based on a script with three narrators and two carols.

Peter Milne, Naomi Waite and Rachel were the three narrators. Joshua Bluck was a very fine Joseph and Kun (who lives with me) was Mary.

Next Year:

Recommend we plan and report anticipating this event to parishioners i.e.

Notify parishioners coming with children to come as shepherds or angels.

Accumulate more dress-ups.

- Do not required a prior practice but make it a “live” improvisation (with dignity).
- The morning tea afterwards was well enjoyed by all and widely appreciated.

Carols in the Park. This morphed into a year-end celebration by The Music Box Academy, and Roger and Tom provided a spiritual interlude. There was a very very full church and a wonderful celebratory atmosphere. Thank you to Kerry for liaison.

Noah's Ark Music for preschoolers

I was the music leader, and disappointed with the turnout although those who came along certainly enjoyed the time. Alan and Lorraine assisted the last two weeks, and Helen Milne the first two weeks. Participants have asked to be advised if we hold it again. It was viewed as “a good idea” and I am willing to try it again next January.

Do we have a critical mass of children for structured activities to be offered every 10 am services?

Dara made an energetic effort to get these rolling but there was insufficient regularity of attendees. This should, however, continue to be seen as important if children attend.

Future proposals

“Come with your Pet” Sunday.

The timing of this is often planned to coincide with the feast of St Francis (October 4th) but in order not to muddy with our Patronal Festival (18th October) we could hold it anytime. E.g. long holiday weekend such as Matariki (Sunday June 20th). It is not necessarily only a Family/children’s event, in fact it is said to be well appreciated by the older decile.

Anzac Day Service proposal. Previously planned for April 2024 but instead plan for April 2025. There is very strong reason to hold it in the church itself (memorial book, plaques, Memorial window). Wadestown Side School is interested.

Rachel Baskerville

Fellowship Subgroup Report 2023

We have enjoyed fellowship on a regular weekly basis, over the coffee cups, following the 10am Communion Service on Sundays. This is the mainstay of our rich family life at St. Luke’s. We also continue this tradition after our midweek services both at St. Luke’s Church and at the Crofton Downs care home.

We have had a couple of pleasant afternoons in the hall, by kind invitation, from some of our adventurers. In June, we had an excellent talk, with a slideshow, on Kerry and Susan’s Sound to Sounds Cycling Adventure, followed by drinks and nibbles. In October, we were treated to a beautiful photo presentation and a talk by Paul Rosoman entitled “The Beauty of the Baroque” followed by afternoon tea. Both talks were well attended and opened our eyes to other worlds not experienced by many.

In October we celebrated St Luke’s Patronal Festival with a shared lunch, following the 10am service, and on Christmas Eve we had bubbles and mincepies in the church, after the 10pm service. This was a lovely way to enter into the Christmas season.

Liz Prins and Susan Timmins

Seismic strengthening: Project update for 2024 AGM

Our seismic strengthening project is well underway. Building work started on 12 February 2024 and is due to be completed in early May 2024.

We expect to have the church available for services by mid-June, once intensive maintenance work on the organ is complete and the floor has been refurbished.

There will be an opportunity to step into the church on 17 March just before we start the AGM.

You'll see protection around the organ and memorial window, the new floor structure under the chancel and some of the new steel structures in place. This will give everyone a good sense of the breadth of work underway that will improve the church building.



The total cost of the project will be around \$365,000 excluding GST. That is the cost reported to previous AGMs. However, after considering advice from our engineers about the elements that would be the most beneficial within our budget, Vestry scaled back its earlier ambitions. The priority now is to strengthen the chancel and the nave. Vestry decided not to do three lower priority pieces of work – support the arch, add mass to the external buttresses and add new mullions outside the organ wall. Those changes in scope mean we won't fully achieve the 67% target we were aiming for.

Funding for the work is coming from five sources: the 2021 AGM approved up to \$100,000 from our own resources toward the project; We also secured a grant of \$132,000 from the David Luke Heritage Bequest (administered by Heritage NZ, another grant of \$60,000 from the Lotteries Environment and Heritage Committee and a loan of up to \$72,000 from the Diocese. We received a donation of \$1,000 as well.

The builders are Quayle Construction Co Ltd, a Lower Hutt-based family company that has done work at St Luke's in the past. Their team is enjoying working in the church and is very respectful of the building's heritage. The work is contracted to take 60 working days.

Vestry has started planning for a community-facing event in the church in July to celebrate the successful completion of the seismic and organ work.

Kerry Hollingsworth
Project convenor
28 February 2024

Ministry Reports

Monday Evening Study Group Report *Katherine Wharton*

There are approximately seven regular members of this group. We usually meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month at St Luke's. Recently we've been enjoying Alan and Lorraine Malpass's hospitality for some of the Lenten studies.

We pray, have a cup of coffee (and maybe some biscuits), and then have a discussion. We learn more about God, faith, the Bible, and each other through reading the Bible and other books. The group usually follows the diocesan Lenten study during Lent. We have been looking at the book of John from the New Testament, which led nicely into the Lenten study.

Please contact Katherine Wharton if you'd like to know more or to join the group. We'll be starting a new topic or book soon.

Thursday Morning Study Group Report *Liz Prins*

The Thursday morning study group has continued to meet regularly, on Zoom, on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We started the year by doing the Diocesan Lenten Study on 1 Peter, meeting weekly through Lent to Easter. We next turned our attention to an excellent study of Psalm 23, a study series written by Bishop Ellie.

For the remainder of the year we have been following the Alpha Film Series course and we thought it was really good, maybe something the whole parish would enjoy and benefit from doing. We have a regular group meeting of 10 people and we welcome new members.

Liz Prins
Coordinator

The Prayer Chain Report

Julie Chapman

The Prayer Chain has continued to be used regularly again this year. There are thirteen active members from our parish on the Prayer Chain, which includes our vicar.

Prayer requests vary in nature and we pray, not only for our parishioners but also those in the wider community. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with the Prayer Chain this past year.

I welcome suggestions to improve the process and I am happy to continue to coordinate the Prayer Chain this year. However, if someone else would like the opportunity then I will step aside.

Director of Music Report

Paul Rosoman

The last year has been wonderful to be able to continue with congregational 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. It has been interesting to make the transition from the church to the hall while the seismic strengthening is being carried out and the acoustics of the atrium are very different to the church.

The organ is starting to show its age even more than last year but still able to support our singing.

My thanks to Roger and the band as always for their input and support of the musical life of St. Luke's.

Paul Rosoman

Declaration of Roles for 2024

General Business