

Wardens' Report 2024

As David Thompson has well stated in his report this has been a year of change. John and myself are so encouraged by the way we have seen God lead the church these last years. This seems especially evident in the way God has led us to the purchase of the buildings we now find ourselves in on Colombo Street. It has been a huge encouragement to us to see the way the church has supported these efforts and celebrated God's goodness to us.

Ministry Team's Work

In a year of change our ministry team has served us so well.

Dave Clancey finished strongly doing so over a whole year, even while the nomination process was ongoing. He gave a great model of how to finish strongly, and the farewell event we enjoyed with them showed the love you had for him and Amanda and family. Thanks for making that a great time.

Aimee Gray has left us with a great music team and a great culture of meeting one to one among women. It is so good we stay partnered with her supporting her development for further ministry in the future.

David Thompson has served so well this whole year and has led us well in the intermediate period before James starts and when Dave was not with us. Thankyou David for your hard work and your great preaching of the word to us.

Mackenzie's work has also been huge and her efforts that resulted in such a great church camp are just a small example of the effort she puts in.

James starts soon and it will be so good to celebrate with the whole church next week as he is Inducted as our new senior minister. Thanks to the kindness of all those that have welcomed them well.

The Building Journey

In our report last year, we reflected on the journey we'd come on, with major developments including purchasing 253 Colombo St and then developing renovation plans and obtaining building consent and were looking forward to pricing the redevelopment. This was costed and we had a further pledge round and committed to the project. At the start of October we were presented with a draft contract which we were to confirm in mid November. Great thanks should be given to the hard work of many people who worked so hard to get us so close to a great build.

Previously we had been firmly told that the Parish of South Christchurch had no appetite to sell us St Saviour's, however we were informed of a changing attitude amongst their vestry and there was an intention to sell St Saviour's. Our initial

reaction was that “that boat had probably sailed”, but felt we were honour-bound to undertake due diligence on the possibility of purchase. After discussion with Bishop Jay, we met with Bishop Peter Carrell and Mark Barlow (vicar general) on the 24 October to see if an offer from us was worthwhile and that it would be considered. After further to-ing and fro-ing and a bit of a whirlwind, as you are all aware, we are now the owners of this church.

This is the product of a huge amount of work by many people and the enormous generosity of many people. As you can see from the photo below, taken in the men's toilet after our first Sunday service, these are not new buildings and we will have ongoing maintenance and property ownership issues to deal with. At this stage, we don't have definite plans for the use of 196 Colombo St. We will further evaluate the ministry needs for use of the space and our financial commitments to repaying parishioner loans. If the space isn't needed in the short term, we may consider renting to outside parties. The eventual sale price of 253 Colombo St will inevitably have a bearing on these decisions.

Thanks to our Treasurer

We say this every year but huge thanks should often be given to our treasurer David Wong, it is my hope that he will never have to deal with such stressful large transactions as he has had to deal with over the last few months as we have settled and purchased the properties around 200 Colombo Street. It has been a great help to the whole church the way David has repeatedly helped the church in our SGMs with clear statements of the financial position, and easily understood targets and needs.

Parish Council

Thank you to everyone who has served on the parish council over the past year. We have been blessed to have faithful men and women who have brought a wide mix of skills and experience which have improved the quality of all our decisions and made our job as wardens much more straightforward.

To Finish

I have often joked that a warden's main job is normally associated with ensuring that buildings are managed well, and that because we had no buildings we had a much easier role as wardens. Well that just changed radically. It has been a great blessing to see how many have stepped up to serve us in our new buildings with Richard, Burrige , Wayne Wright, Ta Karati already stepping up and helping so well. It is also great to hear of some many who are excited by how we can use these buildings to the glory of God to declare the gospel in our community.

But it was also great on the first Sunday to be assisting in surgery for the first time with John Mckie (pictured below surgery of water works was successful). It is so

good to have such a practical and wise fellow warden who loves this church and I am honoured to serve with him in that role.



Yours in Christ,

Tim Wilson
Vicars Warden

John McKie
People's Warden