



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORTS

**PREPARED FOR**

*Blenheim Anglican  
Parish*

**AGM DATE**

*Sunday  
10 March 2024*





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## 164<sup>th</sup> AGM MEETING MINUTES

### 1. **Welcome, Worship and Prayer:**

Stephen Sheat (Chair) opened the meeting followed by a time of prayer led by Jennifer Bennett-Burrows.

The meeting remembered in prayer those parishioners who have died over the last year. Sandra Bird, Shirley Bowie, Doug Dean, Anne Dillon, Christine Glanville, Nancy Hammond, Roy James, William Kingston, Mary Knight, Don McIntyre, Norma Richards, Lawrie Saunders, Ian Woolley.

**Present:** Janice Allen, Jennifer Bennett-Burrows & Alan Burrows, Zane Braunstein, Alison Brice, John Briggs, Catherine Bristed, Christine Brunt, Sue Cambridge, Tom Campbell, Chris & Rosimeire Cookson, Don Cross, Konrad Cross, Elaine Daines, Phillip & Hilary de Bruyn, Shirley Dean, Alastair Elliott, Rosemary Francis, Beverley Goodin, Suzanne Gosling, Eileen Guard, Caroline Hanson, Margaret Hastings, Vivienne James, Margaret Jarman, Beverley Kingston, Miriam McNamara, Janice Marshall, Iemke Moore, Dion & Rosalind Mundy, John & Pam Neal, Keith Noble, Gail Pickett, Brian & Rachel Powell, Shirley Ramsay, Pam Rentoul, Suzanne Sampson, Peter Sangwine, Elizabeth Saville-Smith, Richard Shattock, Ken & Gina Smeaton, Alastair Smith, Alex Smith, Barry & Ruth Struthers, Conway & Kathy Taylor, Malcolm & Miriam Taylor, May Tidy, Jenny Tyney, Kerry Walshe, Virginia Williams, Peggy Woolley, and Hilary Youngman.

**Apologies:** Glen & Sarah Ashworth, Jenni Bowers, Paul & Jan Burrough, Jane Clarke, Beverley Cross, Julia Davidson, Kaye & Richard Dyer, Gaye Elliott, Janet Guard, David & Paulette James, Stephen & Nicola Leitch, Gerrie Mead, Shirley Nicholl, Wendy Noble, Raewyn Parkes, Anna Smith, Roger & Pauline Tisch, Rod Tyney, Heather Wadsworth, and Alan & Liz Walker

Moved: Margaret Hastings

Seconded: Margaret Jarman

**CARRIED**

### 2. **Confirmation of Minutes of the 2022 AGM:**

The minutes of the 2022 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**MOVED:** *That the minutes be taken as read, and as amended, accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

Moved: John Neal

Seconded: Elaine Daines

**CARRIED**

### 3. **Matters Arising:** NIL

### 4. **Correspondence:** NIL

### 5. **Reports:** (taken as read)

- i. Vicar's Report
- ii. Wardens Report
- iii. Health & Safety Report
- iv. Mission & Ministry Report
- v. Children & Youth Ministry Reports

**MOVED:** *That the Vicar's report, Warden's report, H&S Report, Mission & Ministry Reports, and Children & Youth Ministry Reports be received.*

Moved: Beverley Kingston

Seconded: Konrad Cross

**CARRIED**



vi. Building Redevelopment Report

Conway Taylor provided an update on the building redevelopment progress.

- Builders have removed bricks from the Eastern side where the new kitchen will be.
- The painters are starting tomorrow to paint the soffits and then gutters can go back up and the scaffolding can be removed.
- The project will ramp up shortly as more labour becomes available.
- Nativity had a successful clearance sale yesterday where we raised over \$1500. Conway thanked all those who helped and especially thanked Beverly Kingston who had been working on this for weeks.
- Nativity has just received the first progress claim so Conway couldn't report on how we are tracking against the budget. However, Nativity did save 30% on the asbestos job as we didn't need to do the western side of the hall.

Hilton Place

- Hilton place went on the market in January and has been tidied up the best we can without spending a lot of money.
- The agents have commented that the entire market is now flat with a lot more hesitancy from buyers. Unfortunately, it is not the same market as a year ago so our price expectation will need to be less. Conway expressed frustration that we didn't move sooner but it is a good house in a good location so expect that it will sell for a fair market price. At present, that figure is between \$750 and \$800 thousand.

Elaine Daines again commended Beverley Kingston for the work she did to prepare for the hall clearance sale. This was met with a round of applause.

**MOVED:** *That the Building Report be received.*

Moved: Rose Francis

Second: Phillip de Bruyn

**CARRIED**

iv Treasurers Report

The parish accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Kathy Taylor clarified her role as being to enact the wishes of the vestry regarding maintaining the daily operating finances, as well as preparing the budget and things like end of year giving receipts. All future reports will be labelled as 'Finance Reports' rather than 'Treasurer's Reports' in the absence of a treasurer.

With regard to the parish accounts, Kathy made the following points:

- Some figures in the financial statements differ slightly from what was shown in the budget comparison due to the budget being prepared before the 2022 accounts were fully reconciled.
- Envelope and plate offertories were down significantly in 2022 due to the lengthy period in which offertories were not taken during the services due to Covid19 restrictions. These are bouncing back now that things are returning to normal.
- Nativity Courts service fees did not cover all expenses in 2022. The deficit was covered by funds held in the Nativity Courts call account. Moving forward, the service fees have been significantly increased in 2023 to cover anticipated expenses.

Elaine Daines queried whether the Fundraising Committee call account was solely monies raised by the Fundraising Committee or if there were other funds combined with this.

Kathy confirmed that this amount was solely from the Fundraising Committee and that additional money was from accrued interest.

**MOVED:** *That the Finance (Treasurer's) Reports be received.*

Moved: by the Chair

**CARRIED**

**vii. Presentation of 2023 Budget**

Kathy Taylor clarified the following points about the budget:

- Budgeted income from the Anglican Missions Board is lower than previous years since most funds generated by the Missions Board go overseas and are therefore not eligible for a tax rebate. The AMB has encouraged parishioners to donate directly to the AMB. However, Nativity has committed to supporting the AMB at a similar level as in previous years.
- Nativity has budgeted for an Eldercare Coordinator position with interviews currently underway.
- The Tunes for Tots budget looks to be high due to the need to hire the Wesley Centre for most of 2023. Around \$6,500 of this is being covered by the Tunes for Tots proceeds accrued over the years.
- Insurance premiums have increased by around 17% since 2022 – hence the significant increase since the 2022 budget.
- Overall, while it appears our operating budget is running at around a \$4,000 deficit, we are likely to end up with a surplus given that we tend to receive more money than budgeted and spend less than budgeted. Kathy encouraged the parish to continue to support our ministries – especially since the parish would like to increase ministries in 2023 and beyond.
- Regarding investment properties, Hilton Place has been removed from the budget as is reflected in the drop in budgeted income.
- Nativity's trust fund income is based on those funds NOT associated with the church and hall redevelopment. As we are likely to accrue additional interest on the funds reserved for the redevelopment throughout 2023, this is a conservative estimate.

**6. Elections:**

- i. Kate Bristed offered thanks and prayer for those standing down from office at this AGM: Jennifer Bennett-Burrows & Stephen Sheat. They were presented with gifts of thanks from the parish.  
Stephen and Jennifer expressed their thanks.
- ii. Jennifer Bennett-Burrows prayed for those offering themselves for office.
- iii. **Election of Officers:**  
VICAR'S WARDEN – the Chair briefed the meeting on how the Vicar's warden was chosen for Nativity. He advised that Phillip de Bruyn was chosen as Vicar's warden.  
PEOPLE'S WARDEN – Ruth Struthers was the only nomination for the position of People's Warden so was declared elected.  
VESTRY –Konrad Cross, Janet Guard, Stephen Leitch, Dion Mundy, Alastair Smith, Conway Taylor. There being less than ten nominations, they were declared elected.  
SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES: Elected today for a three-year term: Kate Bristed & Rachel Powell

**7. General Business:**

- i. Stephen Sheat and Jennifer Bennett-Burrows thanked Rosalind Mundy for her service in the role of Parish Receptionist and presented her with gifts on behalf of the parish. Rosalind expressed her thanks.
- ii. Iemke Moore was introduced to the parish as the new receptionist and was greeted with applause.
- iii. The Chair thanked the outgoing 'Fun, Fundraising and Fellowship Committee' for their years of service in this ministry. The committee is comprised of:
  - Elaine & Lyall Daines
  - Pauline & Roger Tisch
  - Miriam McNamara

- Jocelyn Wilkes

Elaine Daines thanked Rosalind Mundy for getting the garden helpers started. She asked if there were any more willing volunteers to help clear the steps in front of the centre during the week and asked that they would contact her.

Thanks were also given to Glen and Sarah for leading the parish throughout 2022.

There being no further business, Stephen Sheat ended the meeting with prayer. He thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 11:10 am.

Provisionally confirmed:

_____ <i>Signed</i> (Rev. Glen Ashworth)	_____ <i>Date</i>
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Confirmed:

_____ <i>Signed</i> ( )	_____ <i>Date</i>
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# VICAR'S REPORT

BY GLEN ASHWORTH



## General

2023 has been a positive year for Nativity. We began the year looking to fill the Eldercare role and it wasn't until June that we employed Bianca Shepherd. With her energy, skills and enthusiasm for evangelism, she was a great candidate for the role and began, on reduced hours, in the middle of that month. Our Family Ministry and Mission Leader role had sat vacant since 2021 when we first had the vision to employ someone to develop this area of our church life and, after a much-needed family holiday to Brazil, Rebecca Silva accepted the position. As a trained teacher, a Pastor's kid and someone involved in kids' ministry from an early age, she was also a great candidate for the role. Rebecca began in August and has provided crucial support and leading for our Sunday children's program and outreach ministries such as Tunes 4 Tots.

We once again had a great gathering for Easter Friday organised by the Blenheim Christian Ministers Association, some wishing we did this sort of event every month. With around 700 attending it is a great event for the church and for those that we can bring along. The costs associated with this are high and we are always looking for supporters.

In May I spent three weeks on sabbatical leave which was taken up by attending a course on gospel proclamation. This is an area of interest for me but also an area for development for the church as well. It was an opportunity to prepare for the larger chunk of sabbatical leave this year and I have already begun making plans to complete some more work on this around July.

We had a couple of great fundraisers this year. Our traditional Bamboo gardens event was a real hit with lots of laughs and some great bids for various items donated to the cause. The fundraising team then outdid themselves with the Christmas house tours and Advent afternoon tea. A big thank you to the team and their team of volunteers and the people who opened up their homes – amazing. We already have plans for next year – Nativity does nativity scenes...?

One of the joys for me this year has been to be part of a regular bible study with recent Christians and those who have come through the Alpha program. We have had some great conversations exploring Christian faith and I enjoy the openness and commitment each person has in this.

Regular Sunday worship, our care cells and events throughout the year continue to build in spirit and, in some cases, attendance. A big thank you to all who give of their time and talents in making this happen – there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes and I certainly appreciate the team effort that we have here.

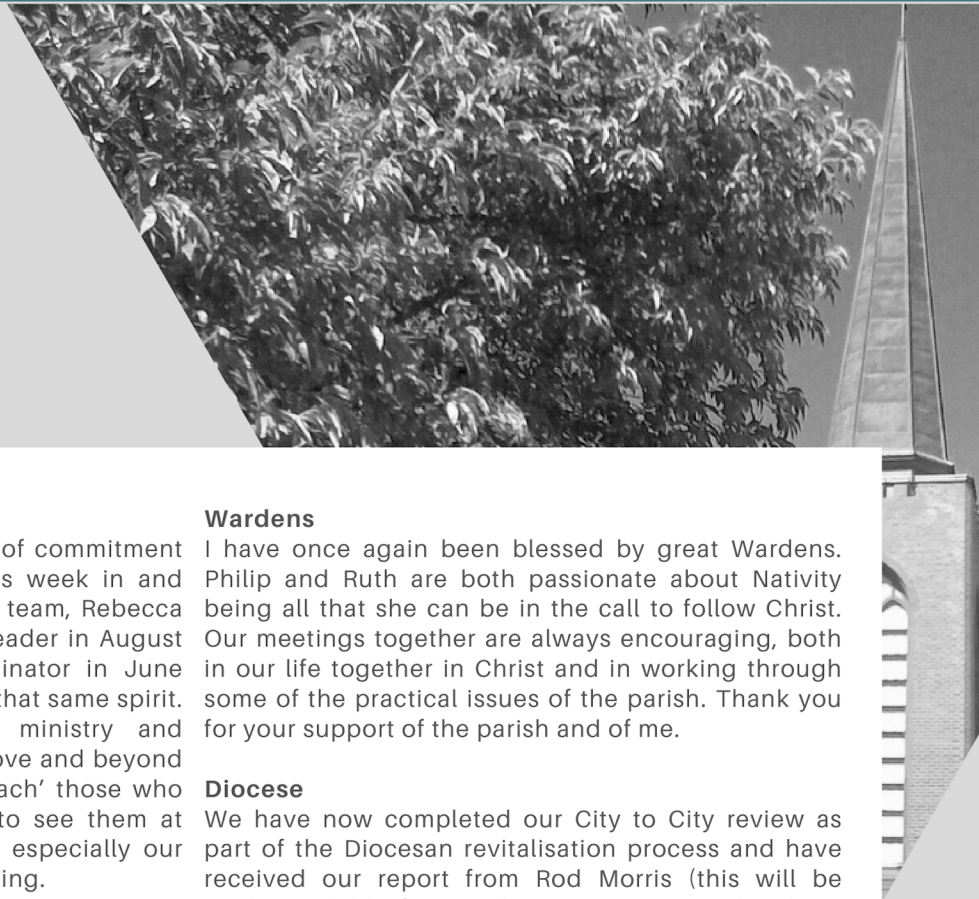
Finally, I want to mention the Convergence camp that a few of us attended at the beginning of the year. This year's speaker and topic were particularly relevant for me as it was in line with much of my thinking and focus for the year. A big part of that was a focus on prayer – both as a church community and as individual disciples. We have initiated monthly and weekly prayer meetings and will continue to find ways to develop individual prayer throughout the year.

*The Psalmist wrote, 'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain'*  
- Psalm 127:1

I have certainly been challenged in seeking God's direction and will be working on this as being core to every aspect of our life together.

## Deaths

We acknowledge in our AGM report those who have passed away during 2023 and we are reminded of the loss and grief these families and the community have experienced. It has been amazing to see the faith and support of Nativity through this and although we continue to experience grief, I am grateful for the ongoing offers of love and support.



### Staff

I continue to be amazed at the level of commitment and ownership that our staff give us week in and week out. The latest members to that team, Rebecca as our Family Mission and Ministry Leader in August and Bianca as our Eldercare Coordinator in June have fitted in well and contributed in that same spirit. They all deeply care about the ministry and parishioners here, regularly going above and beyond what is required. Not wanting to 'poach' those who do not attend here, it is still great to see them at various Nativity services and events, especially our newly scheduled monthly prayer meeting.

### Building Development

It was very exciting for us at the beginning of 2024 to be using the refurbished facilities and begin to dream of what this new space would mean for us.

*We had our first monthly prayer meeting in the Hall and although we are yet to have the official launch, it was great to begin to pray in and for this space.*

There has already been a great amount of interest in hireage and we are currently working to develop efficient booking and cleaning systems. At the top of the 'to do' list is the fencing and landscaping of the area out from the Hall deck - very much looking forward to it being fully operational. Acknowledgements must first and foremost go to Conway Taylor who has done the absolute lion's share of managing this project through with no small amount of contribution of his time, expertise and own labour - we are very grateful for this and in many ways, his involvement has ensured a great outcome for Nativity.

### Vestry

My huge thanks to all on Vestry for 2023 - a team focused on solutions and committed to serving the parish. To those standing again, thank you for your ongoing commitment and to those standing down, thank you for the time you have given, the contributions you have made in various ways and the governance you have provided the church over the last year.

### Wardens

I have once again been blessed by great Wardens. Philip and Ruth are both passionate about Nativity being all that she can be in the call to follow Christ. Our meetings together are always encouraging, both in our life together in Christ and in working through some of the practical issues of the parish. Thank you for your support of the parish and of me.

### Diocese

We have now completed our City to City review as part of the Diocesan revitalisation process and have received our report from Rod Morris (this will be made available for parishioners to view - details to follow). Thank you to all who were engaged with Rod. Vestry received the report in our February meeting and we had a brief discussion about how we might go about unpacking its findings. This will likely involve mapping this with our own findings in Vestry visioning meetings and processing any other recommendations, the task for Vestry 2024.



**Nativity Vestry Members & Synod Reps 2023**

Thanks to our Synod Reps who attended Synod in September. It was a great time together and without a lot of controversial business, it was a good opportunity to connect as a Nativity team in thinking through any aspects of Diocesan-wide life that relate to our mission and ministry in Marlborough.

Blessings,

Rev. Glen Ashworth



# WARDENS REPORT

*BY PHILLIP DE BRUYN  
& RUTH STRUTHERS*

It has been both a privilege and a steep learning curve for us both coming new to the roles of Vicars warden and Peoples warden. We are grateful to both Glen and Kathy Taylor in her Admin role, for smoothing the way for us.

## **STAFF 3 New Appointments.**

It was a pleasure to welcome Iemke Moore to the role of Office Receptionist early in the year. She has been the cheerful, competent presence in her part-time position while managing the disturbances around her, as the Hall alterations dominated her environment.

Midway through the year, Bianca Shepherd was appointed as our Eldercare Coordinator. We've appreciated her quick grasp of this new role, her warm friendly manner, and her enthusiasm for the job.

And recently Rebecca Silva accepted the position of Family Mission and Ministry Leader, to work with our children, youth, and their families. It is exciting to have her commitment and her expertise for this important ministry.

## **PARISH EVENTS**

A mix of fundraising and social events has ensured that our 3 congregations have had time to mix and mingle during the year. These have included the Bamboo Gardens Dinner, Winter Lunches, The Parish Picnic at Christine Smith's, and the Joy of Christmas House Tours.

Combined services have been well attended and we have appreciated attending and getting to know the Sunday "8 o'clockers" and the Thursday "10 am-ers" at their services.

Thank you to Jenny and Rod Tyney who helped us host newcomers to the Parish with a welcome lunch at their home.

## **FAREWELLS TO CHURCH LEADERS**

Towards the end of the year, we farewelled John and Pam Neal, and David and Paulette James. These four had given so many years of ministry and leadership to Nativity and will be missed.

## **MEETING WITH GLEN**

We have continued to meet regularly with Glen to consider and pray about matters of the Parish and to prayerfully discuss themes and teaching topics for church services.

We are blessed with Glen's love of the Lord, his biblical focus and his gifts of preaching and teaching. We acknowledge the care and support given by Sarah and the family.

We know we are in good hands as we look to the year ahead.

God Bless and love.

Philip and Ruth



Ruth Struthers  
People's Warden



Phillip de Bruyn  
Vicar's Warden

# HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

BY ALASTAIR SMITH



Nativity Church continues to have good awareness of Health & Safety requirements & this is pleasing to report.

All accidents are reported, and fortunately, these are few & far between, and where possible adjustments are made to avoid a repeat occurrence.

Risk Assessments are routinely filed before any event held by Nativity Church groups, which again is good practice.

The biggest issue we face is the ongoing onsite H&S refresher training for volunteers, such as fire wardens and programme team members.

Nativity is also very compliant with the SafeHere training of members, although we have several members who are yet to complete their SafeHere refresher course. The following breakdowns are reported below

## SAFEHERE STATISTICS AS FOLLOWS:

Numbers Qualified as Coordinators:	2
Numbers Qualified as Team Leaders:	10
Numbers Qualified as Team Members:	36
Percentage Up to date with Police Vetting:	100%
Percentage up to date with training:	77% (two members to complete M1 & M2, 8 to complete refresher)
Number of current SafeHere compliant church programmes:	10 regular programmes
In-House Training Activities offered in the past year:	None in 2023 <i>M1 &amp; M2 training sessions were offered in 2023. People preferred to complete online or via paper copy</i>

My thanks to you all.

God Bless

Alastair Smith  
Vestry Health & Safety Advocate

*“Let us not tire of doing good” and continue to uphold the health & wellbeing of all those involved with Nativity Church.*

# BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT REPORT

BY CONWAY TAYLOR



As promised in last year's report, we have seen a major transformation of the Nativity Centre in 2023. Although the initial timeframe was for the project to take around 8 months, it extended to just over 12 months, spanning from February 2023 to March 2024. Despite the prolonged timeline, the hall has been in use since before Christmas, offering a chance to appreciate the facility. The last big job was to install the fire exit stair which is now in. As I write, there are still several small jobs to complete before the council does their final inspection but hopefully, this will have taken place by the time of the AGM.



Over the next few months, we still need to paint upstairs and consider how we will landscape and fence the outdoor areas. Like most building projects, the landscaping happens last and may take years for new plantings to get established. Nevertheless, the potential of the outdoor areas is now evident, promising a fantastic space for church groups and other facility users. As with any project, successes and challenges marked the redevelopment journey.

## What went well?

Communication with the lead builder was very good with decisions being made in a timely fashion. The other builders performed well, with no major mistakes or rework needed. The subs contractors also did well with most arriving when required and completing the work to a high standard. Fortunately, there were no major incidents or health and safety issues.

## What did not go so well?

Initially, progress was slow due to only two builders being onsite, but eventually, this increased to three and four towards completion. Delays in the delivery of bricks and bathroom vanities created pressure towards the project's end. There was an issue with an unsupported internal wall in the bathrooms that took time to resolve with the council, resulting in a 1-2-week delay and additional costs.

Around November, the builders started another project which divided their time, contributing to a missed opportunity to be 100% finished by the end of the year. Consequently, contract works insurance needed an extension till the end of February. There were several painting mixups with the initial contractors leaving partway through the job. It took a while to find a new painter. The job was eventually completed, however, there remain quality issues with the gib and paint finishes.

There are some quality issues with the carpet tiles, but we have been reassured these will be resolved in the coming months. There was also a leak from an air conditioning pipe, but this was quickly resolved. Unfortunately, this leak did damage some of the kitchen joinery and vinyl which are yet to be replaced. Finally, communication with the builders at the management level could have been better but as the saying goes, we got there in the end.

It may seem like a lot of things didn't go well, but on a project of this nature, there were always going to be challenges. Now that we have gone through the pain of being without the hall for the best part of 2023, we can look forward to many more years of enjoyment. It has been great to hear the response of parishioners to the finished product and exciting to get feedback from other groups who plan to hire our centre. Moving forward, we have implemented an online booking system, SpacetoCo, which is expected to simplify the booking process, increase facility usage, and generate additional revenue.

The final billing from the builders is pending, but no major surprises are anticipated. We will provide further details on this in future reports.





# MISSION & MINISTRY REPORT

*BY DION MUNDY*



## MISSION

### OVERSEAS MISSION

Nativity continues to support a range of overseas mission partners and we will work to provide regular updates on these to the church. I would like to thank Pam Neal for her years of service in coordinating the overseas mission for Nativity church and keeping us all up to date with what our partners have been doing. I already miss all the help she provided me with updates to include to vestry.

In 2023 Nativity continued to support Chris and Catherine who were sent out from our church a number of years ago now. We continue to pray for them in the work they are doing and I am sure any additional support that could be provided would be welcome.

## OUTREACH IN MARLBOROUGH

We currently support a range of outreach activities in and around Marlborough, these include Healing Horticulture, Repair Café, Tunes for Tots and Alpha Marriage as well as other non-Nativity lead activities such as the general Alpha course.

### HEALING HORTICULTURE



Healing Horticulture with Don Cross at the helm has continued to connect people to the "garden angels" (the trained helpers on the course) proving a hedge at the top of the mental health cliff.

This year the course was offered in Renwick and the team continues to look for ways to grow the coverage of reaching out in love to those in need.

### REPAIR CAFÉ

Repair Café has continued from strength to strength with a core team running the event. At the end of 2023, Gerrie Mead stepped back allowing for a change of leadership so that she could focus on other ministry callings. We thank her for all the time and energy she has provided as a great advocate for this ministry and we know that the team is well-founded for a continuing outreach into our community.

The team is looking for more repair people and people who can engage in conversation with the people coming in. If the team can grow then more special topic events can happen and some rest months can occur for the core of workers.



We are also looking for next steps events to bring nonchurched members of the team too so that, as for all our outreach, we have a pathway to bring people to Christ.

## CONNECTING THE DOTS

With representatives from Health Horticulture, Repair Café, Rebecca representing Tunes for Tots and Bianca representing the Diocese funding for outreach to seniors, Glen and I have been meeting monthly to discuss how we as a church can be more purposeful in connecting those in the community we have contact with and drawing them into our activities. We would like to be able to invite people to have contact with members of our church family, to build relationships, and from things that allow for that natural flow of the sharing of the Good News.

The missions and ministry portfolio can always benefit from prayer and involvement from our whole church family, and we would love to hear your ideas.

# FUN & FUNDRAISING

BY JANET GUARD



2023 saw a new team of fundraisers step up, having big shoes to fill from the previous committee. The core team has included Nicci and Stephen Leitch, Konrad Cross and Janet Guard.

There were two main Fundraising events in 2023 organised by the new committee:

## BAMBOO GARDEN DINNER & SILENT AUCTION



The first was the Bamboo Garden Dinner and Silent Auction which was a fun and relaxed night out. Around 90 people attended. We raised \$4,280.00. Various Carecells and individuals donated prizes that were food-themed. The prizes included catered afternoon teas, hampers, baking, a wine-tasting, winter warmer, macron-making demonstrations, donated wines and 'Vicar's Choice' craft beers.



## JOY OF CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOURS & AFTERNOON TEA

The second event consisted of a two-day pop-up Advent High Tea run in 'Barnies' in conjunction with the "Joy of Christmas" self-drive tours which involved six beautifully decorated houses opened to ticketholders. This event raised just shy of \$6,000.



Both these events were designed to be more than just fundraising opportunities; They were great outreach opportunities – a chance to invite friends or family.

For the church community, it involved working together in Carecells to come up with ideas, skills and resources to contribute to the silent auction and later in the year, the Christmas Fundraiser. It was humbling to see so many generous and hard-working people in our church involved.

I know it has helped deepen the relationships in our Carecell as we met together sometimes twice a week for many weeks, to help get the Leitch house Christmas-ready.

In total, over \$10,000 has been raised which will be going towards the building upgrades.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY REPORTS

## TUNES FOR TOTS

BY REBECCA SILVA

This group is an amazing outreach opportunity in the community and continues to be popular with Marlborough caregivers, mums, dads, preschoolers and babies. Each week we have a craft such as a paper craft or playdough. Children and grown-ups join in with the action songs, including many new Christian songs, and listen to a story. Some stories are from the bible, others fit in with the theme for the week (teddy bears, numbers, colours etc). The playtime after morning tea includes several different types of play (active, constructive, creative, make-believe). We have lots of preschool boys at the moment who particularly like the cars and toy garage.

With the renovations to the church hall Tunes for Tots shifted to the Wesley Centre for last year. This temporary relocation brought its own set of challenges, including carting equipment to and from Nativity each week. However, the Tunes for Tots team rallied together and were just thankful to be able to carry on.



There was a bit of a drop in numbers last year with sometimes only 20 children but the group that has attended has been friendly and participative. With the move back to Nativity numbers seem to be growing again. However, each week I pray that God brings the ones He wants to and that he enables us to show them His love. I really appreciate that caregivers and parents seem to be much more involved in joining in with their preschoolers and participating not only in the music but also in building relationships with one another at morning tea.

On behalf of the Tunes for Tots team, I would like to say thank you to all of our wonderful helpers - particularly the various volunteers who led the music over the first part of the year, including Kathy and Sarah.



## FIRST STEPS

First Steps continues to have a small group of regular children working through the Beginners Bible Curriculum. The key focus for this group is that children would begin to know God's enormous love for them and learn some of the key stories from the bible.

Bryony has led this faithfully for many years and is thankful for the continued support of parent/grandparent helpers. This year Mary Butler will also be leading the group with Bryony and we will continue to rely on help from caregivers and family. From Bryony, "It was nice being in the foyer where everyone could see us. Please, now that we're back in the lounge don't forget about us!" Help with cleaning up after the little ones is always appreciated.

## NATIVITY KIDS



Last year Nativity Kids had a steady group of around 10 kids. Led by a remarkable group of volunteers they followed the Jesus StoryBook Bible for the majority of last year, looking at how the story of Salvation weaves itself throughout the Bible. Towards the end of the year we switched to Scripture Union's XStream curriculum which challenges children to grow their faith while working through stories in the Old and New Testaments. The key aim for this group is that children would come to understand God's Salvation plan, own it for themselves, grow in their faith and begin to reach out to others. Many thanks to the volunteers who make this group possible. Ros Mundy and myself are leading the group this year.

# SUNDAY PROGRAMS

*BY REBECCA SILVA*

## INTERMEDIATES

BY KATHY TAYLOR



On behalf of all of us who have volunteered with the Intermediate age group, may I say what a joy it is to spend each week delving into the teachings of Jesus with this fantastic group of 11 and 12-year-olds!

In the beginning of 2023, we centred our discussions on God's reliability, examining the narrative of Job, and then delving into God's unwavering faithfulness as illustrated through the life of Abraham. Following that, we explored the theme of God's sovereignty, drawing insights from the compelling story of Joseph. Wrapping up the year, we focused on the initial five commandments of the Ten Commandments, exploring their significance in our understanding of God.

Within the Intermediate group, our primary aim is to guide our young participants in closely reading the Scriptures and discerning how these teachings relate to their lives. Ultimately, our journey revolves around cultivating a profound relationship with Christ and providing our 'tweens with the opportunity to connect with Him on a more personal level through the study of God's word.





## YOUTH

BY DI SMIT

2023 was a year of growth in the Youth Ministry at Nativity. It is so exciting to see the spiritual growth in the youth and their faithful desire to follow Jesus. They are inspiring in the ways that they are not ashamed of their faith and shine for Jesus in their day-to-day lives.

A prime example of this was the Baptism/Confirmation Services held early on in the second term last year. Every one of the Youth took this invitation seriously and some deep discussions were held before 7 of them decided to be Baptised and 4 were confirmed. It was gratifying to see all of the Youth group up front supporting each other on the day.

Throughout last year I was ably supported by a group of adults notably, Karen, Conway, Ruth and Zane. This year Zane is stepping into the role as co-leader and it is wonderful to have this extra support. At the beginning of 2024, we farewelled May and our thoughts and prayers are with her as she starts a new adventure studying at UC.

As usual, our Sunday lessons are always a time when the youth are keen to learn more and study God's word. Last year we ended the year looking at Ephesians and have started 2024 examining how God can use our setbacks as opportunities for growth and comebacks.

An area that we are still very keen to develop is that the talents and energy of the Youth are used more in church life. We have a wonderful group of young people who are so committed to our community and if there are opportunities where they can be used to help others, please let Zane or I know. We are also looking at providing opportunities for the youth to bring friends to events as well as linking with other youth groups in town.

Please continue to pray for our youth, a very special group in our church community.



## SOLID ROCK

BY REBECCA SILVA



Last year this group continued to meet fairly regularly during term time at the Silva house on Lee Street. We had delicious desserts, some excellent discussions about the bible, and some great games of spotlight and sock bomb battleships (ask the kids!).

Solid Rock continues fortnightly on Wednesdays from 6.30pm to 7.30pm targeting intermediate and youth. Liz and Rob Ward will be getting involved with leading this group in 2024.

## RESTORATION STATION

This holiday programme was particularly aimed at reaching out to unchurched primary-aged children with the good news that we can find restoration in Jesus the ultimate restorer. We used a Scripture Union Resource and advertised in the local primary schools.

We had around 30 children enrolled and a great turnout for the four days. I would say roughly 30% of the children were not from church backgrounds. We had a group of wonderful volunteers that helped out each day and I would like to give thanks to all the amazing bakers and givers who helped behind the scenes. Some Nativity Youth and Intermediate put themselves forward and got involved as small group leaders, attending training sessions, sacrificing time in their holidays, and doing an excellent job of communicating the love of Jesus with their groups. We had some excellent conversations with children and pray that we will see some of them and their families back at other church events this year.

*Please remember to pray for effective outreach programmes like Restoration Station, shown at left.*



*a year's overview*

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*BY STEPHEN LEITCH*



Dear Members of the Parish,

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the past fiscal year, reflecting the financial health and stewardship of our parish. This report provides an overview of our income, expenses, and key financial activities.

### 1. INCOME:

#### *Regular Giving:*

We are grateful for the consistent and generous support from our parishioners through regular giving. This source of income has shown a steady increase, reflecting a strong commitment to sustaining the operations of our parish.

#### *Property Sale at 22 Hilton Place:*

The successful sale of the property at 22 Hilton Place significantly bolstered funding for our building redevelopment.

#### *Trust Accounts and Interest:*

Interest from our trust accounts exceeded expectations, contributing positively to our overall income.

#### *Fundraising Initiatives:*

Our fundraising initiatives, including the 'Mid-Winter Dinner' and the 'Joy of Christmas House Tours,' have been successful in mobilizing community support and supplementing our funding for the building redevelopment. These events not only fostered a sense of community but also made meaningful financial contributions.

### 2. EXPENSES:

#### *Building Redevelopment - Stage One:*

We are thrilled to report that Stage One of the building redevelopment is near completion. This monumental progress has been made possible through the dedicated efforts of Conway Taylor, who has worked tirelessly in overseeing the project. His commitment and hard work are truly commendable, and we extend our sincere gratitude to him for volunteering his time.

#### *New Hires:*

In 2023, we made strategic additions to our team with the employment of Iemke Moore, Bianca Shepherd, and Rebecca Silva in key roles. The associated expenses are aligned with our budget, and we believe these hires will contribute positively to our parish's mission and outreach.

#### *Planned Repairs and Maintenance:*

The increase in R&M expenditure is primarily attributed to planned repairs and maintenance to the vicarage and church. I am pleased to report that these expenses were anticipated, budgeted for, and covered by funds held in the Buildings and Maintenance Trust.



### 3. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK:

The overall financial outlook of our parish is looking positive. The successful property sale, the increase in regular giving, and the effective management of expenses contribute to our financial stability. We remain committed to transparent financial practices and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to each member of our parish for your continued support and dedication. Your financial assistance in the ministry of the church makes you a partner in this ministry (Philippians 4:15). And may I remind you that we do not support Christian ministries in order to earn God's favour, we do not pray in order to earn God's favour, we do not attend church in order to earn God's favour, we do not do anything in order to earn God's favour. We do everything in response to the favour he has graciously shown us, and continues to graciously show us each day, and will graciously show us forever.

God bless,

**Stephen Leitch**  
Treasurer



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**BLenheim (NATIVITY) 2023 BUDGET**

**INCOME**

CODE	NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>PARISH GIVING</b>				
1000	Offerings Envelopes	8,000.00	6,873.10	7,200.00
1050	Offerings Plate	15,000.00	9,861.10	9,000.00
1100	Offerings Direct Credits	205,000.00	213,107.18	215,000.00
1170	Donations General	2,000.00	3,047.00	2,000.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>230,000.00</b>	<b>232,888.38</b>	<b>233,200.00</b>
<b>OTHER GIVING</b>				
1200	AMB Missions Income	2,000.00	1,175.00	1,000.00
1210	Corins Income	3,500.00	2,955.00	3,000.00
1220	AMB - Specific			
1230	Christmas Appeal			
1290	Special Appeals		5,116.50	
1320	Other Missions		40.00	
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>	<b>9,286.50</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>
<b>DIOCESAN &amp; OTHER GRANTS</b>				
1400	Sustentation Grant			
1420	Support Development Grant			
1430	Ministry Intern Grant			
1440	Seeding Development Grant			15,000.00
1450	Elder Support Grant	18,728.00	6,585.99	19,367.00
1460	Training Grant			
1480	Maintenance Grant			
1490	Other Grants			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>18,728.00</b>	<b>6,585.99</b>	<b>34,367.00</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>				
1500	Church Fundraising	1,000.00	-	-
1520	Fundraising Committee Income	5,000.00	13,796.17	20,000.00
1550	Hall Rental	-	797.19	17,000.00
1560	Church Rental	6,000.00	6,866.06	6,000.00
1570	Carpark Rental	400.00	1,304.35	1,050.00
1600	Interest Received	25.00	1,040.73	25.00
1610	Eldercare Worker Income	200.00	205.00	200.00
1620	Group and Course Income	2,000.00	2,044.34	2,000.00
1630	Ministry Events	500.00	40.00	500.00
1650	Food Bank Donations	-		
1670	Tunes for Tots	2,000.00	1,678.38	2,000.00
1700	Other Receipts	500.00	14,376.23	1,000.00
1720	Merchandise Income	-	153.86	200.00
1750	Photocopying Charges	100.00	83.04	100.00
1850	Special Event	500.00	140.00	500.00
1900	Weddings / Funerals	2,000.00	1,600.00	2,000.00
1910	Minister's Fee	-		
1960	Gain On Asset Disposal		167,501.96	-
1970	Grants - Exterior			
1980	Grants - Counselling	4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
2470	Children's Ministry Income	6,000.00	11,320.36	6,000.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>30,225.00</b>	<b>224,947.67</b>	<b>60,575.00</b>

**OPERATING INCOME**



BLENHEIM (NATIVITY) 2023 BUDGET

INCOME

CODE	NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
	TOTAL INCOME	284,453.00	473,708.54 306,206.58	332,142.00
DONATIONS				
	1150 Offerings Special Projects			
	1160 Building Fund	5,000.00	20,235.30	5,000.00
	1165 Church Redevelopment	2,000.00	250.00	2,000.00
	1180 Donations Specific	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
	Total	8,000.00	21,985.30	8,000.00
	TOTAL INCOME INCLUDING DONATIONS	292,453.00	495,693.84	340,142.00

OPERATING INCOME

## BLENHEIM (NATIVITY) 2023 BUDGET

## EXPENDITURE

CODE	NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Actual Projected	2024 Budget
<b>STAFF EXPENSES</b>				
<b>CLERGY</b>				
3000	Stipends	56,500.00	57,979.96	59,868.00
3020	Clergy Allowances	3,500.00	2,118.56	3,500.00
3040	Clergy Mileage	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
3060	Housing			
3080	Pension	5,100.00	5,086.15	5,388.00
3100	Telephone	500.00	341.77	500.00
3120	Clergy Insurance	1,000.00	1,022.74	1,153.00
3130	Assistant Priest Stipend			
3140	Assistant Priest Allowances			
3150	Assistant Priest Mileage			
3160	Assistant Priest Housing			
3170	Assistant Priest Pension			
3180	Assistant Priest Telephone			
3190	Assistant Priest Insurance			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>67,600.00</b>	<b>66,549.18</b>	<b>71,409.00</b>
<b>STAFF</b>				
<b>Wages/Levies</b>				
3200	Administrator Wages	26,500.00	25,673.86	27,653.00
3210	Ministry Intern			
3330	Organist	1,000.00	787.80	1,385.00
3360	Eldercare Worker	17,674.80	4,735.76	21,608.00
3410	Children & Families Worker		10,541.55	28,673.00
4640	Contract Administration Staff	38,000.00	33,705.00	38,000.00
<b>Supervision and Training</b>				
3260	Supervision Staff	-	-	600.00
3490	Staff Training	300.00	-	600.00
<b>Allowances</b>				
3280	Staff Allowances		62.24	400.00
3300	Mileage Staff	200.00	-	280.00
3470	Travel Expenses		1,154.61	
3790	Eldercare Worker Expenses	1,805.60	295.10	1,805.00
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
3230	Telephones - Staff	-	-	
3380	ACC Levy/Workplace Insurance	700.00	755.00	650.00
3460	Donations - Staff			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>86,180.40</b>	<b>77,710.92</b>	<b>121,654.00</b>

## OPERATING EXPENDITURE



## BLENHEIM (NATIVITY) 2023 BUDGET

## EXPENDITURE

CODE	NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>MINISTRY</b>				
<b>Fundraising and Events</b>				
3500	Group and Course Expenses	2,500.00	1,812.12	2,000.00
3510	Fundraising Committee Expenses		2,736.36	2,400.00
3520	Ministry Event Expenses	1,000.00	603.25	1,500.00
3540	Special Event Expenses	500.00	265.11	500.00
3630	Church Fundraising Expenses		-	
<b>Ministry Expenses</b>				
3530	Church Ministry Expenses	1,500.00	1,443.16	1,500.00
3550	Christian Education	500.00	70.87	500.00
3570	Counselling Expenses	4,000.00	4,410.00	4,000.00
3610	Ministry Subs	500.00	-	-
3650	Flowers	250.00	53.47	250.00
3660	Gifts & Presentations	500.00	632.00	500.00
3700	Library	500.00	981.57	500.00
3720	Merchandise Expenses		66.90	200.00
3850	Worship Expenses	2,000.00	1,121.27	2,000.00
3960	Visiting Speaker Costs	300.00	-	300.00
4600	Laity Training	500.00	-	500.00
<b>Children &amp; Youth Ministry</b>				
3670	Children's Ministry Expenses	2,000.00	4,113.75	2,500.00
3820	Tunes for Tots Expenses	9,000.00	7,280.57	1,000.00
<b>Pastoral Care</b>				
3800	Pastoral Care General Expenses	250.00	-	250.00
3830	Social Welfare Grants	200.00	-	200.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>25,590.40</b>	<b>20,600.00</b>
<b>OFFICE</b>				
<b>Accounting and Banking</b>				
4450	Bank Charges	200.00	12.70	20.00
4500	Bank Interest			
4630	Legal Fees			
<b>Daily Operating Expenses</b>				
4400	Advertising	2,000.00	1,485.41	2,000.00
4550	Computer Hardware & Maintenance	500.00	565.00	500.00
4700	Photocopier Expenses	7,000.00	6,548.11	7,000.00
4750	Postage	100.00	8.87	100.00
4800	Miscellaneous Office Supplies	1,000.00	324.85	1,000.00
4840	Subs, Licences & Administration Fees	4,500.00	4,847.77	5,000.00
4850	Telephone & Internet	6,000.00	5,228.55	6,000.00

## OPERATING EXPENDITURE

## BLenheim (Nativity) 2023 BUDGET

## EXPENDITURE

CODE	NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>Other</b>				
4830	Synod AGM Expenses	-		900.00
4900	Wedding and Funeral Expenses	500.00	-	500.00
4910	Vicar's Discretionary Expenses			
4950	General Expenses	500.00	184.21	200.00
4960	Hospitality Expenses	1,200.00	1,017.47	1,000.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>23,500.00</b>	<b>20,222.94</b>	<b>24,220.00</b>
<b>MISSIONS</b>				
5300	AMB Missions Expense	10,000.00	9,999.96	1,000.00
5310	Bishopdale Theological College	480.00	480.00	480.00
5330	AMB Missions Specific (5330)			
5350	Christmas Appeal (5350)			
5410	Corins Expense	6,000.00	4,920.00	3,000.00
5450	Special Appeals		3,481.50	
5500	Other Missions Expense			
5580	Donations		5.00	
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>16,480.00</b>	<b>18,886.46</b>	<b>4,480.00</b>
<b>DIOCESAN CHARGES</b>				
5600	Quota Diocesan Ministry Team	11,900.00	11,903.04	12,050.00
5620	Quota Payroll & Admin			
5640	Quota Sabbatical & Removal			
5660	Quota Trainee Grants			
5690	Quota Wider Church			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>11,900.00</b>	<b>11,903.04</b>	<b>12,050.00</b>
<b>PROPERTY</b>				
<b>Church &amp; Administration Buildings</b>				
5800	Insurance Buildings & Contents	25,850.00	31,739.28	36,054.00
5850	Power Heat & Light	11,000.00	11,530.00	12,000.00
5900	R & M Church	2,000.00	7,546.25	2,000.00
5920	R & M Hall	500.00	1,745.72	1,500.00
5930	R & M Barnies	1,000.00	859.55	1,000.00
5950	R & M Grounds	6,000.00	5,896.50	6,000.00
6050	R & M Vicarage	2,000.00	9,046.32	3,000.00
6060	R & M Church Office	2,000.00	2,046.83	2,500.00
6100	Cleaning & Rubbish Disposal Costs	8,000.00	7,221.96	8,000.00
6150	Rates	7,500.00	5,769.76	7,500.00
6200	Security		197.65	
6210	Fire Alarm & Monitoring	2,000.00	3,067.24	3,000.00

## OPERATING EXPENDITURE



## BLENHEIM (NATIVITY) 2024 BUDGET

## EXPENDITURE

CODE	NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>Assets &amp; Loans</b>				
6000	R & M Plant & Equipment	500.00	262.87	500.00
6010	R & M Communications & Sound	500.00	173.91	500.00
6020	Low Cost Assets	2,500.00	2,382.03	2,500.00
6750	Interest Loans			
6770	Depreciation	21,838.65	25,603.20	26,000.00
6780	Loss on Disposal of Assets			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>93,188.65</b>	<b>115,089.07</b>	<b>112,054.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>324,849.05</b>	<b>335,952.01</b>	<b>366,467.00</b>

		2023	2024
<b>Projected Operating Income</b>	284,453.00	306,206.58	332,142.00
<b>Projected Operating Expenses</b>	324,849.05	335,952.01	366,467.00
<b>BUDGETED FUNDS AVAILABLE -</b>	<b>40,396.05 -</b>	<b>29,745.43 -</b>	<b>34,325.00</b>

## ASSETS

7800	Fixed Assets Land and Building			
7801	Building Redevelopment Costs	1,311,045.60		
7805	Church Redevelopment Expenses		14,862.50	15,000.00
7900	Fixed Assets Furniture and Equip.	15,000.00	67,437.95	15,000.00
7920	Fixed Assets Computer Hardware	1,500.00	932.57	1,500.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,327,545.60</b>	<b>83,233.02</b>	<b>31,500.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING ASSETS</b>	<b>1,652,394.65</b>	<b>419,185.03</b>	<b>397,967.00</b>

**NOTE:** Funding for fixed assets and building repairs is kept in the Blenheim Building Maintenance call account.

7502	Blenheim Building Maintenance	86,355.42
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## OPERATING EXPENDITURE

BLenheim (NATIVITY) 2023 BUDGET

INVESTMENTS

CODE	NAME	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>INVESTMENT PROPERTY INCOME</b>				
<b>Investment Properties</b>				
1800	Investment Property Rent	92,500.00	84,126.41	81,000.00
2110	Investment Property Interest Received			
1830	Nativity Courts Repurchase Fees			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>92,500.00</b>	<b>84,126.41</b>	<b>81,000.00</b>
<b>INVESTMENT PROPERTY EXPENDITURE</b>				
6300	General Expenses - Investment Properties	500.00	2,800.00	600.00
6310	Audit Fee - Investment Properties			
6320	Grounds Maintenance - Investment Properties			
6330	Insurance - Investment Properties	1,763.00	-	-
6340	Legal and Valuation Fees - Investment Properties		28,477.95	
6350	Rates - Investment Properties	-	749.10	-
6360	Water Rates - Investment Properties			-
6370	Repairs and Maintenance - Investment Properties	5,000.00	14,699.36	5,000.00
6380	Nativity Courts Service Fees	21,120.00	20,280.00	22,560.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>28,383.00</b>	<b>67,006.41</b>	<b>28,160.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT PROPERTY INCOME</b>	<b>64,117.00</b>	<b>17,120.00</b>	<b>52,840.00</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>				
2500	Trust Income	14,929.95	49,494.32	16,000.00
2510	Trust Income - Capital Distribution			
2550	Legacies / Bequests		1,300.00	
2600	Grants / Special Donations			
2990	Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Land and Buildings			
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>14,929.95</b>	<b>50,794.32</b>	<b>16,000.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>79,046.95</b>	<b>67,914.32</b>	<b>68,840.00</b>

INVESTMENTS



*Please note that the  
2023 financial  
reports will be made  
available as a  
separate document as  
soon as published by  
Nelson Diocese.*



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