

116th
Annual Report
2020 – 2021



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BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals conducted at Somervell, taken by the minister at other venues or conducted by other ministers at other venues since the last Annual Report

Baptisms

Jean Robinson 11 April 2021

Weddings

Nyasha Chaza and Tatenda Kurewa 2 April 2021

Funerals

Graeme John McDonald 16 September 2020

William Bruce Goodfellow 28 December 2020

Philip David Galloway 18 June 2021



Floral contribution by Christine Carter

SESSION REPORT

Though we are currently in lock down for the fifth time due the Covid pandemic, nevertheless I look back with thankfulness that for much of the year we have the freedom to meet and worship together.

Broadcasting services online has become the new norm. Despite the challenge to come up to speed technologically, it is making a difference. Many of the new folk visiting have commented that they checked us out online first.

If we are to thrive in uncertain times then, a good understanding of who we are and what we stand for and aspire to, is pivotal to our well-being as a community. Over the last year Session have been discussing the guiding principles, strategic values and aims for Somervell. One of the outcomes of these discussions is to formulate a descriptive snapshot of who we are. This document will be used in places such as the Church website, and will also be the basis for preparing mission plans and initiatives.

I have been encouraged at the outward activity being undertaken. As in prior years, we have continued to support the PSN foodbank and Island Child. The Op Shop volunteers continue to do an amazing work keeping the church Op Shop running and interacting with their clientele. The playgroup, run by our Kindergarten staff, continues to be in high demand.

Under Fiona Crummey's lead, many from Somervell are involved in supporting Sunday Blessings, an initiative to feed and support the homeless in Central Auckland.

Art week organisation is in full swing under the lead of Dorothy Laing Bhanabhai and Art week committee. This year's exhibit Waiata Manu, bird song, will draw many from the community into the Somervell building.

The anti-racist book club, led by Amanda Martinez, continues to challenge our attitudes and response to those of different ethnicities and cultures.

A highlight for me this year was Jordan Grimmer's paper to Assembly on criminal justice. This paper, supported by Somervell, calls on Assembly to interact with Government to repeal a number of manifestly unjust current laws and to advocate for a criminal justice system that is compassionate and just to offenders and prisoners.

It is with Sadness I record the passing of a number of members. Bruce Goodfellow, Graeme McDonald, then shortly after the church year end, Judith Bridgeman and Helen Alison.

The Kindergarten Teachers and Committee have had a disrupted and challenging year. The Kindy is held in high regard and respect. The feedback from parents is overwhelmingly positive and testament to the calibre of the teaching staff and programme run.

We have had two members step down from Session: Gwynne Urquhart in April and David Wards in August. Both have been on Session for decades and we will miss their counsel and support. Session have granted Gwynne and David the status of Elder Emerita and Elder Emeritus respectively.

The Admin Committee, and particularly John Kernohan, oversaw the major final stage of the Church building weather tightness program. The roof should now stand us in good stead for the next 30 – 50 years. Thank you to Kylie and Roger Windle for their Treasury and fiscal oversight.

Immense thanks to the Ministry Team and Office staff: Ivan, Won Hyuk, Tsana, Sharon and David. This year we have had the assistance of Won Hyuk as a ministry intern, and David Laxon has taken on a part time role co-ordinating youth activity. Shortly after year end Sharon Sweeney Lauder resigned from her position as Somervell Office Assistant, a role which she had held 13 years.

Special thanks to Christine Clark for the pastoral care, visitation and support she provides to many in the congregation and also to Debbie Watkin, Amanda Martinez and Joanna Laxon for the work they do with Triple S and youth.

Finally, thank you Martinez family. It is a joy to have you with us. Ivan and Amanda, we much value the leadership and care you have demonstrated to all in the Somervell community.

To all of you who have prayed, preached, taught, cared, volunteered, entertained, organised, and served.

Blessings

Brian Rowley
Session Clerk



Blessedness (2112) by Jim Feist, in the style of Henry Moore – displayed during Lent

MINISTER'S REPORT

This year, like last, has been a challenge. We have demonstrated resilience and resolve in moving through the various lockdowns and restrictions. We have established our online presence and become experts at Zoom-ing. Many thanks to the office staff and Matt Ensor for helping us set this up. One positive thing about this is the fact that since emerging from our first lockdown of this year more people have visited and joined our fellowship as a direct result of checking us out online.

I want to personally thank you for all of the love and support you have shown to me and my family. Despite the rather chaotic nature of my first full year, I have continually been reminded of what a loving and caring community Somervell is. The children are well settled in school and Amanda has integrated well into her part-time teaching.

I also want to extend a special thanks to all of our staff. There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes and we are fortunate to have such a committed and able group to support our work. Tsana keeps a good handle on our buildings, renters, community groups, as well as providing support to Uplands Kindy. Sharon, who by this report will have left our staff, has been a life-saver in terms of all the small details of the Somervell community that I am still unaware of. I want to especially thank her for her support in music on Sunday. She has been pressed on both sides, often having to figure out if a hymn I have chosen is known, and in what tune it should be sung. Michele has done an amazing job downstairs with both the Kindergarten and the playgroup. Uplands remains one of our gold standard community facing ministries. Special thanks goes out to the committee and Elliott Kernohan for supporting and overseeing this important ministry.

This year we also took on Won Hyuk as our intern. Won Hyuk has grown and developed in countless ways and his skills in ministry have been a boon to us in such strange times. It is encouraging to think of Somervell as a teaching congregation. It has also been wonderful to have Hannah, Ethan, and Ireh with us as well. We look forward to him finishing with us and taking up his new role planting a new faith community in the Grafton area.

I want to thank the youth support team and David Laxon for putting together the beginning of a renewed outreach to youth in our wider community. It has been so great to see so many youth at our gatherings. I know a lot of work has gone into this and I appreciate it so much. Alongside having David on staff, we have also added Minrui Yang as our music enabler. Her skills and faithful approach has been much appreciated. I look forward to what she will help us to do in terms of music.

Of course, where would we be without the contribution of so many key volunteers. Janet Rowley has not only guided the Op-shop to weather this pandemic, but this year it returned its best result ever. This helps not only the church but so many community organisations. Fiona Crummey has helped us to engage food and housing insecurity through our participation with Sunday Blessings. Eleanor Black has kept us on the frontline of supporting transitional housing alongside Island Child. Amanda Martinez has provided the connection with May Road School as well as bringing us our Evolving Faith studies. Debbie Watkin has maintained our safeguarding and child protection work as well as devoting so much to the children in Triple S. Joanna Laxon and Jordan Grimmer have guided our young adults home group SOHO through its launch. Kylie and Roger Windle have kept tabs on our finances, no small task.

This year we also undertook a major renovation of our roof. John Kernohan and the administration committee saw this project through to its completion and brought the work to a close on budget. It

was a major amount of work and we are much better off for it. The entire Admin committee does such a wonderful job ensuring we operate in a professional and Christian way.

As you will see in this report, this year has been one of significant change and adaptation. It is an understatement to say that this year has exacted a personal cost on all of us. I want to especially point out the work of Christine Clark as Pastoral Care Coordinator for keeping her finger on the pulse of the congregation. Our care groups formed in lockdown continue, and represent a most caring response to these strange times we all find ourselves in.

I hope you recognise how deeply faithful and responsive in love we have all been this past year. To God be the glory.

Grace and Peace,

Ivan Martinez



SOMERVELL STATISTICS JUNE 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Members:	103	103	101	99	93
Associate members	46	46	42	34	49
Worship attendance (adults):	67	64	58	59	81
Children and Youth	14	11	25	22	22



Matariki Stars – display created by Christine Carter, using artwork created by Uplands Kindergarten

MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SOMERVELL MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HELD ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH 2020 AT 11.15 AM.

Constitution: The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator

Present: Rev Ivan Martinez (Moderator), Mr B Rowley (Session Clerk) and 47 members and associate members.

Apologies: Mrs Christine Clark, Mr Alan Burton, Mrs Sharon Sweeney Lauder, Mr A Laxon, Mrs Fiona Crummey, Mr Jordan Grimmer and the Youth Group members.

Memorial Tributes: Mr Bryan Cammell
Mrs Betty Brown
Mr Graeme McDonald

The Moderator led prayer as tribute in recognition of the contributions to Somervell of those mentioned.

Previous Minutes: The minutes of the 2019 AGM held on September 22, 2020 and those of a Congregational Meeting on September 1, 2019 were confirmed.

Reports: The Moderator and Clerk commented briefly on the Session Report and sought questions or comments on the remaining reports other than the Treasurer's reports. Both commented on the difficult second half of the year which severely disrupted the normal life of the Congregation. Appreciation was expressed at the way everyone adapted to the circumstances particularly with the help of technology. **All the reports apart from the Treasurer's Report were received.**

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer spoke briefly to his report. He noted that while the accounts had not yet been audited, based on similar experience in past years he did not expect any adjustment to the accounts when the Audit/Review Report was received. He noted the significant contribution to the result made by the Uplands Kindergarten in spite of the disruption. He then spoke to the Current Year budget.

The accounts for the 2019/20 Financial Year and the Budget for the 2020/21 Financial Year were approved and adopted by the meeting. The Treasurer and Kylie were thanked by applause for their work during the year.

Approval of Manse expenditure: A paper and recommendation from Session seeking approval of the expenditure undertaken on the Manse during the past year had been circulated. The Minister thanked the Congregation for the work done on the Manse and noted it was very much appreciated by his family. **It was agreed to approve the expenditure of \$160,000 on Manse renovation and maintenance and to seek Presbytery and Property Trustees' approval.**

Approval of Stage 3 of planned work on the church building roof. An extensive paper and recommendation from Session seeking approval to spend \$287,000 on completing replacement of the roof membrane originally started in 2014, and additional work involving replacement of failing wall cladding, installing flashings and a new interior access to the roof had been circulated. The Session Clerk spoke in support of the work noting that it was a large building and its value in the recent past was estimated at \$11.5 million and needed to be kept in good repair. **It was agreed that the**

Congregation approves the expenditure of \$287,000 on Stage 3 of the membrane replacement plan and also on replacing failing cladding installing new flashings, attending to remaining leaks and installing an interior roof access and to seek Presbytery and Presbyterian Church Property Trustees approval accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 11.37am with prayer and the saying of the Grace.

Moderator: _____ Date: _____

LIFE AND MISSION COMMITTEE

The following reports have been written by those most closely involved with each area of our church's life that the committee oversees.

PASTORAL/SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Pastoral Care comes under the umbrella of the Life and Mission committee. Life and Mission committee members during the last year have been Ricky Waters, Sharon Sweeney Lauder, Tim Watkin, Debbie Watkin, Christine Clark, Heather Laxon, Brian Rowley, Joanna Laxon, Rev Ivan Martinez (minister). Meetings are held bi monthly during the year.

During the year we have welcomed 2 new members to Somervell. Amanda Martinez and Dr Ian Dittmer were both received into full membership.

On 11th May 2021 we celebrated with Jean Robinson in her baptism.

Somervell has 103 full members and 44 associate members on its membership roll. In addition, we welcome others who regularly attend our Sunday morning services. Sunday mornings have seen on average a core group of 9 children, (under 13yrs) and 5 youth (13 to 17 yrs.) attending.

We were saddened to lose two of our long-standing members from our roll this year. Graeme MacDonald (associate member) died on 16th September 2020 and Bruce Goodfellow (full member) who died on 28th December 2020.

We have seen a number of new people start to attend Somervell and in May we held a morning tea to welcome our new attendees. Those able to attend were Bernard Ritchie, Emima Peter and their son Sean, Margaret and Sean Toland, Nick Somerville, Sonia Wyngaard, Jermy Linn, Vincent Godinho. (Shirley Xie and Tam Tyuyen were unable to attend). A visitor's book continues to be available on the entry table in the hall way on Sunday mornings and we would like to encourage visitors to write in it.

In May Ivan and I were able to celebrate with Jomy Mathew in a house blessing for her and her daughter's new home.

In December the volunteers' lunch was held for our volunteers from the Op Shop, walking group and bowling group. Since December 2020 a lunch has been held once every 4 to 6 weeks on a Thursday when there has been the opportunity to enjoy a meal and share in fellowship. Approximately 12 to 15 people have attended the lunches.

The elders continue to have a pastoral care group of people to keep an eye on and keep in touch with.

Robert Gray has continued to ably coordinate our prayer chain during the year.

Pastoral visits are always available. If there is anyone who you are aware of who is in need or would like a pastoral visit, please let myself or Ivan know.

Christine Clark
Pastoral Care Coordinator



Free 4 Lunch, December 2020

SOMERVELL SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIPLE S REPORT

During Term Three of 2020, Triple S took a look at the lives of people of faith who were “Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints” (from a book by the same name, written by Daneen Akers). We learned about Rachel Held Evans, Rumi, Saint Francis of Assisi, Bayard Rustin, Fred Rogers, Wangari Maathai, and Florence Nightingale. The bulk of this term was taught through zoom, which the teachers and children agreed was not our preferred method of teaching and learning. Having said that, the kids generally had fun (sending silly chat messages) and were able to maintain community and connection.

Term Four brought a more consistent routine of in person church, thankfully! We learned about two more “Holy Troublemakers”, Alice Paul and Regina Jonas, before moving on to all things Christmas pageant. With Debbie leading, the children and youth worked together to perform a funny and light-hearted Covid-themed Nativity play.

The end of the year also marked a time of transition for our Year 6 and 7 students. There was a special Sunday where they engaged in joint activities with older youth and a games night where they were taught some very fun games and traditions of SomYouth.

From a planning perspective, Children and Youth volunteers gathered to imagine what church could be for our children and our newly forming Intermediate-aged youth group. We made goals for 2021, including but not limited to: recruiting some new volunteers for Sunday morning lessons and starting a games-based evening for the intermediates. We also reviewed several curriculum options before choosing Illustrated Ministry’s lectionary-based curriculum which seemed to be the best fit for our group and the structure of our school year and lessons. We began using Illustrated Ministry’s Children’s worship bulletins during the Christmas season and summer holidays. These provided a theologically sound option that aligned to the lectionary texts and sermon.

Term One 2021, once again saw us heading in and out of lockdown, just as we were trying to establish the new routines of our two Sunday morning groups (Triple S and SomYouth). The Triple S Kids used the Illustrated Ministry curriculum while SomYouth explored the ideas of wealth, caring for the planet, and being a leader through Rob Bell’s Nooma videos. Both groups were very pleased

with the new arrangements (siblings having time apart!), and the transition has been good for everyone.

In Term Two both groups used the Illustrated Ministry curriculum, which provides a good framework for lessons, but lots of freedom for the teachers to make it their own. This has meant there have been a variety of activities from cooking for Sunday Blessings to playing a Disney emoji guessing game to creating pentecost flames and palm fronds to help reenact the story of Palm Sunday.

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to this ministry. During this time we typically had between 8-14 children on any given Sunday. We also had at least 14 volunteers rotating through the teaching responsibilities in the past year.

Amanda Martinez
Triple S Co-coordinator

SOM YOUTH (Year 7-13 Youth Programme)

2020 has seen a reorganisation of Somervell's youth group as members moved on and we welcomed new members into the programme. The old members of Som Youth who are now university-aged have started a new group called SoHo which meets regularly using material from the evolving faith series. This is currently a small group looking to attract new members and grow.

There is a program for Som Youth on a Sunday morning that uses a curriculum which offers youth the chance to learn more about and deepen their relationship with God. I have also been running games nights for Som Youth since Term 2 2021 to build relationships with the community and make Somervell a welcoming place for young people. The games nights usually consist of a mix of physical games such as crab football and more creative tasks like making the best picture of the church out of toilet paper, followed by dinner. So far we have seen great engagement, with 10-15 regular attendees and it's exciting to see where it will go from here.

David Laxon
Som Youth Coordinator

ISLAND CHILD CHARITABLE TRUST

Somervell has got behind two big projects for Island Child in the past 12 months.

The first was the annual Christmas present drive, which in 2020 was the biggest ever, particularly heartening given the impact of Covid-19 on the community. We collected new gifts for babies, toddlers, children of various ages, their mums and a few dads - 45 people in all. As Island Child has grown in capacity, the church has continued to give gifts to support each family in residence at Christmas.

As in previous years, several members of the congregation made generous personal Christmas donations to Island Child.

Our second significant project was a large collection of cleaning products, which are always in high demand at Island Child. This time we bought packs of cleaning products from Will and Able, a local

social enterprise that makes eco-friendly cleaning products (such as laundry liquid and dish soap) and employs people with intellectual disabilities.

We aimed to buy 20 cleaning packs (each a month's worth of basic supplies) but there was so much enthusiasm for the project that we ended up giving 26 cleaning packs.

Thanks as always for your support and aroha.

Eleanor Black
Coordinator

PRAYER CHAIN

The Somervell Prayer Chain presently consists of fourteen members. Requests for prayer have usually been related to health issues. My wife, Audrey, and I have recently experienced the power of prayer which was related to a major health issue. The surgeon knowing the details of Audrey's health history said to her: "You have defied death twice". The prayer support we received from the Prayer Chain was greatly appreciated.

There is so much in life, for which we need to constantly thank God. David, the author of so many of the Psalms in the Old Testament frequently pleaded with God for protection from his adversaries, but also gave thanks to God for the protection he received. Prayer involves asking but also thanking.

Joseph Scriven, the author of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" was a wealthy, and very devoted Christian whose fiancée drowned the night before their wedding. It is recorded that, "he could find the solace and support he needed only in his dearest friend, Jesus." His hymn reminds us that we should be taking all the challenging issues we face to the Lord in prayer.

A warm welcome is extended to any member of the congregation who may feel a calling to support others in their need for prayer support to contact Christine Clark or me.

Robert Gray
Coordinator

ANTIRACIST BOOK CLUB

Many people in the congregation felt the need to respond to the international reckoning with racism that took place after George Floyd's murder in May 2020. The groups' consensus was that we wanted to learn more, to challenge our assumptions, and understand our privilege. More than 20 people embarked on a journey of studying the book *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F Saad. As is apparent from the title, this book proved to be a provocative and challenging read. From the group discussions, I feel confident this book had a practical impact on the lives of everyone involved in the study.

Once the book was finished, we decided to hold an AntiRacist church service to invite the congregation into our learning. We chose music and liturgy that expressed our learnings and the sermon was brought in the form of four reflections around the themes: we are disturbed by racism, we are reminded of our sin, we are called to confession, and we are called to action. The service was

well-received, with many sharing personal anecdotes and others asking to borrow the book to read for themselves.

Book club continued into 2021, where we have dipped our toes into fictional stories. *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid and *Red at the Bone* by Jacqueline Wilson both illustrate many of the concepts from *Me and White Supremacy*. There are fewer people involved now, but more are always welcome. We hope if you are interested, you will join us as we continue to unpack this ever-evolving societal issue.

Amanda Martinez
Coordinator

EVOLVING FAITH

A number of Somervell people enjoyed attending the “Evolving Faith” meetings, which were held regularly between February and July 2021.

Somervell had purchased recordings of the Evolving Faith conference, which was held in the United States in October 2020. The conference is for question-askers and wonderers, who are “searching for answers at the intersections of faith, justice, belonging, scripture, church, and life”.

The speakers included theologians and pastors of many different theological perspectives. Many spoke from their experiences in the church relating to race, gender, sexuality, illness, or disability. At the meetings, attendees would watch a speaker before breaking into groups for discussion. The discussion was always thought-provoking, usually challenging (in the good sense), and sometimes vulnerable.

Organised by Amanda Martinez, Joanna Laxon and Jordan Grimmer, the meetings were originally planned for a short run – to be held weekly, on a weekday evening, during Lent. By popular demand, however, the group continued meeting every second week from May to July 2021. Attendance was usually between 10 and 20 people. Those who attended found the sessions valuable, and it can be hoped that something similar can be held in the future.

Jordan Grimmer

SERMON LAB

Sermon lab has been a source to delve into various perspectives on the Bible readings for the week. Every session has been a rich conversation bringing various theological food to the table to share. Especially when we talked about our human point of view on scripture, particular Bible characters of the time and its culture reinterpreting into our modern diverse culture made it more interesting to discuss. In future, we would love to see more diverse perspectives joining us to deepen our conversation even more!

Won Hyuk Joung
Ministry Intern

MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

It's been 7 months since I was placed at Somervell as a ministerial intern. I must say, it has been a wonderful experience with the lovely people of Somervell. During the 7 months here, my understanding of being a church has expanded, theologically widened, and I have started to have the confidence to lead worship with diverse people of the church. I truly believe this was possible only because of the warm-hearted people of Somervell, allowing me to make mistakes, be myself, being given positive feedback & encouragement from young to old families of Somervell. My family is grateful for what we have experienced so far at Somervell and we look forward to continuing to enjoy what the church will offer over the remainder of the year.

Won Hyuk Joung
Ministry Intern

SUPPORT TO PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT NORTHERN AND TO MAY ROAD SCHOOL

Our main contribution to Presbyterian Support Northern (PSN) continues to be in the regular giving of food to the Foodbank. Food is delivered to the Foodbank by Colleen and Jim.

The church and the Op Shop continue to answer urgent, one-off calls from PSN for assistance for items such as clothing, household goods, and bedding.

A new partnership has begun this year, hampered somewhat by the lockdowns during the year, between our church and May Road School, in particular their Pataka Kai. Donations have been given to their kitchen so that families can learn more about cooking healthy meals.

Amanda Martinez

EPSOM CANDIDATES DEBATE

While moving Covid alert levels kept us guessing for a while, the Somervell Epsom Candidates Debate 2020 was held on September 29, in front of around 100 socially distanced voters.

I moderated a nearly two hour event featuring ACT Party Leader David Seymour, National's Paul Goldsmith, Camilla Belich from Labour, the Greens' Kyle MacDonald and Faith-Joy Aaron from Advance NZ.

We began with our now traditional questions asking each candidate to offer their view of what was the most important issue in the country and the most important in the electorate. I then responded with questions delving into the key issues they had identified, before throwing the evening open to questions from the floor.

Most focused on the Covid-19 response as a key issue (and some care needed to be taken with Aaron's conspiracy theory views on the 'Covid hoax'). But Seymour dominated the debate by reaching out into other topics such as housing, transport and local schools – all good push-button issues for Epsom voters.

Perhaps because of the weight of Covid weighing heavy on people's minds, the debate was less energised and feisty than previous years. Seymour's safety in the seat and Labour's commanding poll lead probably also affected the mood.

We covered the referenda on Seymour’s End of Life bill and legalising cannabis.

It got more lively towards the end, as we debated Covid vaccines, as Aaron argued against them and tried to grab the microphone from Seymour at one stage. Goldsmith, as National’s Finance spokesman, had made a critical mistake in his pre-election budget, and took some stick on the night.

Various news networks reported Seymour’s most controversial comment of the night, that one of the reasons for the gender pay gap was that women were often not available for late nights and extra work because of their traditional roles.

The candidates were weary – and a little wary – close to the election, but they stayed to talk to voters who were grateful for the chance to meet and greet.

For the 1st time in 15yrs of hosting the event, the debate was broadcast on the Somervell Youtube channel to allow a broader audience. To date, that video has been viewed over 200 times.

Tim Watkin
Debate Moderator



Epsom Candidates Debate September 2020

OPPORTUNITY SHOP REPORT

Over the past twelve months we have had one lockdown in August 2020, but otherwise we have returned to a normal pattern of opening three mornings a week, and informally opening on a fourth morning (Tues) when a group of us are in sorting and tidying. Post Covid times have brought the unexpected bonus of a rise in the popularity of op shops, as an ethical and economic way of shopping. This is particularly good for our shop as it gets little foot traffic and needs to be a destination shop. The shop has a gentle presence on Instagram and I am aware more promotion in this area of social media may well be helpful.

Our volunteer base remains steady due to the faithfulness and hard work of the volunteers themselves, and we have had a few customers interested in joining the volunteer team. Gwynne retired from op shop duties after many years of helping out, and being the “on call” person, often filling in at short notice. We acknowledge she gave a considerable number of hours, and we are very grateful for her long service.

The donations continue to diminish, almost but not quite to the point of being concerning. We are aware donations left outside the building are often stolen or sorted through before we get to them, so it is difficult to know how many donations we are missing.

It has been an unusual year for me, and I have had to step back while undergoing treatment for breast cancer, but I am returning in full force from August onwards, and thank you to the volunteers who helped plug the gaps until now. James has done a very valuable job addressing the electrical goods we receive and disposing of those we can't use.

We now have eftpos in the shop and the volunteers have all done a superb job of learning how to use it. The introduction of eftpos is likely responsible in part for our increased profits, as well as changes in shopping behaviours. I also take some goods to Mortimers, who sell on behalf at better prices than we can get, and occasionally sell items on Trade Me, when they are too niche to likely sell in the shop. Our takings for the past year are nearly \$25,000, and this reverses the downward trend of the last five years.

We continue to support charities with goods, as needed, and these include Plunket, Give a Kid a Blanket, Presbyterian Support Northern and the SPCA.

As we return to a new normality, Somervell Op Shop continues to provide the interesting and unusual, as well as the mundane and useful, to its customers. I hope the shop provides a sense of team for the volunteers who work there, as we all do our part, on different days, sometimes serving, sometimes buying, but both are essential parts of a successful shop. I hope we are all part of a successful coming year, which is due to the kindness and hard work of the op shop team.

Janet Rowley
Somervell Op Shop Manager

SOMERVELL WALKING GROUP

The Somervell Walking Group has met every Tuesday morning except during Lockdown Levels 3 and 4. Several members for health reasons, decided they could no longer walk each week, but continue to keep contact with the group by joining us occasionally for morning coffee at Somervell.

During the year we gained two new members and one longstanding member moved out of Auckland. There are currently 13 active walking members and we have undertaken easy walks of around 45 minutes in different locations across our region of Auckland.

In the past year one of our members made a significant donation of furniture to Island Child and the group also supports Somervell's Christmas present programme for them as well. Most days while walking we see unexpected things and also keep track of changes to the landscape in our region. So, walk with our group and experience not only our friendly company, but also nice surprises.

John Kernohan
Leader

PLAYGROUP REPORT

Somervell Playgroup is held each Thursday morning (during term time) from 9.30am-12.00pm in the basement room next to the Op Shop. Numbers in 2020 declined as the year progressed and Covid took its toll on opening and attendance.

Marketing is through Uplands Kindergarten, word of mouth and social media (Neighbourly/Facebook). Many children from playgroup are feeding through to the kindergarten.

The teaching team from Uplands (Michele, Jenn, Maggie and Joyce) take turns each week to lead the music session. The room is open and set up for parents to arrive and make themselves at home. Music is at 10am followed by morning tea. Each teacher brings their own unique love and style of music to the group.

A huge thanks to Tsana Plessius who comes down to Uplands Kindergarten when necessary to release a teacher for playgroup duties. She is a valued part of the Uplands teaching team.

Michele Morrissey-Brown
Head Teacher
Uplands Kindergarten
Faith Learning Life

UPLANDS KINDERGARTEN

As last year, this is a report from lockdown; cause to reflect on our resilience as a service and as a community. Uplands remains a source of stability and growth, an anchor for our enrolled tamariki and support for their whanau, and a place where our team continues to thrive. I believe our programme continues to grow in strength, and our cycle of self-reflective improvement is evident in the learning outcomes of our children.

Covid-19

The team's response to the pandemic continues to be exceptional. The talents which emerged during our earliest lockdowns are now second nature, ensuring that all our families remain connected through the regular posting on Storypark of stories, songs, prayers and activities including crafts, art, science and cooking. Families reciprocate, sharing videos and commentary of their activities at home back through the online platform. Also, making regular 1:1 contact with each family gives every child the knowledge that they belong, even when not physically present. In Level 3 we opened under strict Covid protocols with 2 staff each day for approximately 6 children of essential workers, while continuing to engage those at home. The team itself is engaged in constant chatter on Zoom and WhatsApp, inspiring and entertaining one another. The feedback I receive from the Ministry of Education and parents from other centres indicates that Uplands is a true outlier and innovator through these periods.

Curriculum

As well as distance learning, the team has focused on tracking children's individual development plans into their learning outcomes, in keeping with the changing emphasis of Te Whariki, the early childhood curriculum. Storypark is once again a key tool for documenting this process and the teachers continue to innovate in that platform to articulate those pathways. Another area which the team has developed significantly concerns learning plans for neurodiverse children. In particular, Joyce has almost completed a 2-year post-graduate diploma specialising in this field, which has coincided with us now having 8 enrolled children with neurodiverse learning profiles of one kind or another. As well as better outcomes for those specific children, we notice benefits in our curriculum design overall, and for other children's social development, through this emerging capability. Across the team and committee we have also been working to increase our understanding of and commitment to core Māori concepts of pedagogy and community.

Our perennial favourite activities including grandparent mornings, Christmas concert, emergency services visits, Ambury Farm and a theatre visit were supplemented by two shared dinners, something of a culinary world tour reflecting increasing diversity amongst our group of families. Parents' own journeys are supported by our team both 1:1 and through workshops such as Debbie Watkin's session on child protection. We were also thrilled with the turnout for the twice-postponed Uplands Church service, the long queue for face painting providing an opportunity to cement connections between parents and congregation.

Financial and regulatory

Uplands completed FY21 ahead of budget, lockdowns notwithstanding. When children can't attend through Levels 3 and 4 we waive all parent charges, but we continue to receive normal ECE funding, roughly 70% of our usual income. This is enough to cover wage costs for the whole team. Although ineligible in FY21 for the Covid-19 wage subsidy, strong enrolments and Michele's cost management enabled us to fulfil our budgeted contribution to Somervell by year end. Throughout FY21 we supported one family in need with free extra sessions.

Enrolments remain fairly strong, slightly below the exceptional highs of the last 2 years, and so we would hope for a similar recovery again this year. Looking ahead, we aim to take advantage of the government's enhanced funding for quality ECE services, thanks to our long-standing policies on teachers' pay and qualifications.

In Term 2 we underwent a Ministry audit for the first time in many years; Tsana takes great care and was well prepared, resulting in the all-clear. More recently (July '21) we hosted the Education Review Office. Normally we welcome our 3-yearly ERO visits as an opportunity to showcase and improve, but this review was highly adversarial and an exceptional ordeal. We await the final public report, having swiftly addressed the one or two matters requiring substantive action, and comprehensively rebutted a schedule of claimed shortcomings that are baseless.

Team

It's our privilege to have such an outstanding teaching team led by Michele. Jenn has joined committee and developed her role to take in more leadership and management responsibility. Joyce will shortly complete her post-graduate study. With great sadness we farewell Maggie home to China at the end of September to care for her parents after a 13-year association with Uplands, initially as a parent, then trainee, and for the last 5 years as a qualified teacher. We're excited to welcome Huiping Li, a very experienced ECE educator with a strong multicultural and Christian background who begins with us in Term 4. The teaching team also extends to two wonderful relievers Pauline and Karyn, plus Ingrid and Bees, both of whom are support workers for specific children, funded by CCS.

With Ivan joining the committee our sense of outreach and mission is more assured, and it's exciting to feel momentum in that direction. This past year the committee has farewelled Anneliese after almost 7 years, and more recently Caroline as both of their families and interests have moved on. We are blessed by the generosity and talents of our parent reps, and we are thrilled to welcome Emily Wong into that role, with Christine, Michele, Jenn and Tsana now making up a governance group of seven.

My thanks to all for their dedication, resilience and creativity in all weathers. Aku mihi ki a koutou katoa.

Elliott Kernohan
Chair, Uplands Management Committee
Faith Learning Life



Creating a Place of Welcome – display created by Christine Carter, in conjunction with Uplands Kindergarten

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee of Session is charged with finance matters, supervision of non-ministry staff, all property matters including insurance and compliance, use of buildings and repairs and maintenance, and Health and Safety. Routine property matters are handled by Tsana Plessius, our Church Administrator.

The past year from July 2020 continued to be disrupted as the whole of New Zealand society was attempting to return to normalcy as much as possible including churches. Activities of the Committee were focussed for a period on the reorientation of church life. However, the experience has pointed to areas where we can extend the Somervell Mission and we have begun to look at this in our budgeting and staff activities in the direction of modern communications technology.

There have been no injuries which required reporting to WorkSafe during the period. During the response to the pandemic, Health and Safety of folk in our buildings required continued attention and careful management including extra cleaning and recording of contact details of people using our building. Staff are trained in the importance of recognising and addressing health and safety matters. Of course in spite of our efforts, external users of our buildings are not at all times under our control, though we instruct them in the importance of a safe environment.

Weather tightness in our Church building was addressed with a major project during the year completing the three stage roofing maintenance programme first begun in 2013. The Committee prepared a \$287,000 proposal, subsequently approved by the Congregation and Presbytery, to undertake the work. At time of writing, it appears that the work including some additional items, are well within the approved budget. There were no unexpected surprises in the course of the work.

Once again we are especially grateful for those who have given time to weed and tend the buildings and grounds. Our thanks to Jim Feist and Christine Carter and others who have assisted including for removing trailer loads of rubbish to the transfer station. Also to Zachary Kernohan for helping with Manse gardening.

The Manse roof is in urgent need of replacement and we plan to undertake this work this coming summer.

One of Somervell's important activities is the operation of the Kindy. Financially, Somervell depends very much on annual surpluses from Uplands Kindergarten. It is by far our largest single income source. While by no means the only benefit of the Kindy, we are delighted that the Kindy surplus this past year was well above budget, thus continuing to make a significant contribution in financial terms as well as being an important part of Somervell's mission activity. Volunteers serve the Kindy Committee and again have assisted in the upkeep of the Kindy rooms and its facilities. We thank the staff, led by Michele, all of whom continued to provide outstanding learning and caring support to our students throughout the lockdown. We also thank the Committee, Chairman Elliott Kernohan, and all those who work so hard to make our Kindy a success.

The Administration Committee notes that the Op Shop has been able to continue due to dedicated folk. Maintaining income is increasingly difficult in spite of great effort to maintain its revenue. We give thanks for the contribution of our Op Shop and recognise that it is not solely a contribution of funding for outreach activity.

The Treasurer's report is included separately, but we are also indebted to Roger Windle and particularly Kylie in so ably undertaking the Treasurer shared responsibility. This area runs very smoothly and competently.

We recorded a loss in the past financial year largely because of the roof repairs and we also plan a loss for the 2022 year. After that, we project returning to breakeven. However, our overall cash position remains very sound with total investments and in the bank of the order of \$500,000.

The Committee once again expresses its indebtedness to the Church Administrator Tsana Plessius, and Administration Assistant Sharon Sweeney-Lauder who served us so well this year particularly working from home while the Church building was closed and in the extraordinary times before and afterwards when special attention to regulations requiring additional work was needed with people using the building. Just after the end of the Church year, Sharon advised us of her resignation. The Committee thanks Sharon for her long service. A review of the administration requirements of Somervell by time of writing has been undertaken particularly in light of the changing communications needs of Somervell.

The Committee's membership has been augmented for the 2022 year by the addition of CJ McEwen who has special skills and experience valuable to the Committee in the property management area.

We give thanks to God for all of those both paid and voluntary who have assisted the Committee in its work during 2020 and 2021.

John Kernohan (Convenor) Brian Rowley, Craig Brown, Roger Windle, David Wards, Ivan Martinez, Elliott Kernohan, CJ McEwen.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year Ended 30 June 2021

The Financial Statements (unaudited) are attached as an Appendix to the Churches Annual Report. These detail the activities of the church for financial year up to June 2021 as compared to budget and also include the budget for the year ended June 2022.

FY21 Operating Result

An operating deficit of **\$56,698** (Somervell Church and Uplands Kindergarten) has been declared for the year.

- a) Church Operating Result: Net Loss of **\$176,906** vs. Budgeted loss of **\$160,392** and Last Year Loss of **\$127,385**.

At the time of preparing the June 2021 budget we were in the middle of Covid lockdown and so had no idea how this year was going to be affected. As a result, we were conservative in our estimation of income from all sources – offerings, Opportunity Shop and rental income. The result turned out more favourably, with total income exceeding budget by \$56k. However, this favourable variance to budget was more than offset by the cost of the roof repairs. Even though we had set aside funds in previous years to cover this expenditure, the final cost exceeded that provision by \$62k. In addition, we had extra salary costs due to our Intern Minister.

- b) Uplands Kindergarten surplus: \$120,208 vs. Budget \$90,000 and Last year \$164,012.

Uplands rolls have been at capacity for most of the year ended 30 June 2021 resulting in additional (unbudgeted) revenue of approximately \$25k. The budget was prepared conservatively – again due to uncertainty over the impact of Covid-19. Total operating costs were \$5k under budget.

FY22 Budget

A loss of **\$58,029** has been budgeted for the coming year to 30 June 2022.

Kylie Windle
Treasurer

Budget Variance
Somervell Presbyterian Church
1 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021

	30 Jun 21 ACTUAL	30 Jun 21 BUDGET	30 Jun 21 Variance	30 Jun 22 BUDGET
Income				
Offering Income				
Donations	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$0
Offering - Envelopes	\$14,850	\$9,000	\$5,850	\$10,000
Offering - Envelopes Direct Credit	\$138,345	\$129,195	\$9,150	\$135,000
Offering - Plate / Other	\$5,791	\$5,934	-\$143	\$6,000
Total Offering Income	\$160,985	\$144,129	\$16,856	\$151,000
Outreach Income				
Avalon Donations	\$600	\$600	\$0	\$0
Other Mission Donations	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0
Outreach - Opportunity Shop	\$25,588	\$13,750	\$11,838	\$20,000
Outreach - Playgroup - MOE	\$1,469	\$2,018	-\$549	\$1,000
Total Outreach Income	\$28,157	\$16,368	\$11,789	\$21,000
Property Income				
Rental Income	\$84,837	\$57,000	\$27,837	\$80,000
Total Property Income	\$84,837	\$57,000	\$27,837	\$80,000
Sundry Income				
Dividend Income	\$280	\$0	\$280	\$250
Interest Income - Church	\$9,722	\$10,000	-\$278	\$10,000
Total Sundry Income	\$10,002	\$10,000	\$2	\$10,250
Total Income	\$283,981	\$227,497	\$56,484	\$262,250
Less Operating Expenses				
Church Expenses				
ACC levies - Church	\$190	\$180	-\$10	\$300
Accounting and Audit Fees	\$3,891	\$5,004	\$1,113	\$3,000
Advertising	\$120	\$240	\$120	\$150
Assembly/Conferences	\$454	\$0	-\$454	\$500
Bank Fees	\$125	\$249	\$124	\$150
Catering and Kitchen	\$2,057	\$1,151	-\$906	\$2,000
Christian Education	\$1,711	\$0	-\$1,711	\$1,500
Computer Maintenance	\$1,763	\$1,761	-\$2	\$1,250
Entertainment	\$332	\$0	-\$332	\$0
Freight & Courier	\$0	\$141	\$141	\$0
General Expenses	\$1,331	\$1,095	-\$236	\$1,200
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions - Church	\$3,895	\$3,912	\$17	\$4,000
Minister Kindergarten Fees	\$4,614	\$3,800	-\$814	\$4,500
Office Expenses	\$833	\$1,200	\$367	\$1,000
Plant Hire	\$843	\$924	\$81	\$1,000
Printing & Stationery	\$2,380	\$2,923	\$543	\$2,500

Salaries - Church Administration	\$53,219	\$51,408	-\$1,811	\$55,000
Salaries - Ministry and Worship	\$90,059	\$70,596	-\$19,463	\$117,598
Staff Health Insurance allowance	\$2,505	\$2,832	\$327	\$2,500
Staff Training - Church	\$990	\$600	-\$390	\$1,200
Superannuation - Beneficiary Fund	\$2,890	\$3,012	\$122	\$3,000
Telephone & Internet - Church	\$3,237	\$3,346	\$109	\$3,200
Telephone & Internet - Manse	\$2,584	\$2,639	\$55	\$2,400
Worship costs	\$4,434	\$600	-\$3,834	\$2,000
Total Church Expenses	\$184,457	\$157,613	-\$26,844	\$209,948
Outreach and Wider Church Expenses				
National Church Levy	\$17,103	\$15,000	-\$2,103	\$16,848
Op Shop Expenses	\$785	\$242	-\$543	\$1,000
Outreach Expenses	\$222	\$600	\$378	\$6,000
Outreach Mission Contributions	\$4,960	\$6,000	\$1,040	\$250
Playgroup Expenses	\$28	\$500	\$472	\$250
Presbytery Expenses	\$4,100	\$4,800	\$700	\$4,000
Total Outreach and Wider Church Expenses	\$27,276	\$27,142	-\$142	\$28,348
Property Expenses				
Church Facility				
Cleaning - Church	\$11,324	\$12,000	\$676	\$16,500
Depreciation - Church	\$47,095	\$45,600	-\$1,495	\$47,000
Insurance - Church	\$16,305	\$18,000	\$1,695	\$16,500
Light, Power, Heating - Church	\$7,843	\$6,661	-\$1,182	\$7,500
Rates - Church	\$2,541	\$3,600	\$1,059	\$2,750
Repairs and Maintenance - Church	\$137,639	\$75,000	-\$62,639	\$75,000
Security - Church	\$4,715	\$4,200	-\$515	\$5,083
Total Church Facility	\$227,460	\$165,061	-\$62,399	\$170,333
Manse				
Depreciation - Manse	\$16,501	\$18,000	\$1,499	\$16,500
Housing Allowance	\$21	\$6,024	\$6,003	\$0
Insurance - Manse	\$1,601	\$1,649	\$48	\$1,650
Light, Power, Heating - Manse	\$322	\$0	-\$322	\$0
Rates - Manse	\$332	\$6,400	\$6,068	\$500
Repairs and Maintenance - Manse	\$2,917	\$6,000	\$3,083	\$3,000
Total Manse	\$21,693	\$38,073	\$16,380	\$21,650
Total Property Expenses	\$249,153	\$203,134	-\$46,019	\$191,983
Total Operating Expenses	\$460,887	\$387,889	-\$73,006	\$430,279
OPERATING PROFIT	-\$176,906	-\$160,392	-\$16,514	-\$168,029
Non-operating Income				
Uplands Kindy Result	\$120,208	\$90,000	\$30,208	\$110,000
Total Non-operating Income	\$120,208	\$90,000	\$30,208	\$110,000
NET PROFIT	-\$56,698	-\$70,392	\$13,694	-\$58,029

Balance Sheet
Somervell Presbyterian Church
As at 30 June 2021

	30 Jun 2021	30 Jun 2020
Assets		
Bank		
ANZ - 00	\$57,912	\$29,151
ANZ - 03	\$563	\$581
ASB - Uplands	\$15,419	\$9,527
Kindy - 50	\$1	\$1
Total Bank	\$73,895	\$39,260
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Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable - Church	\$6,653	\$162
less Provision for Doubtful Debts	-\$500	-\$500
ECE Funding Due	\$33,074	\$31,835
Fees Due - Kindy	\$30,803	\$24,757
Insurance Pre-paid	\$1,487	\$1,546
Petty Cash	\$158	\$88
Prepayments	\$828	\$782
Total Current Assets	\$72,504	\$58,670
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Fixed Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation on Fittings and Equipment - Church	-\$96,076	-\$94,994
Accumulated Depreciation on Organ	-\$128,021	-\$127,817
Buildings - Church	\$2,994,661	\$2,994,661
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Buildings - Church	-\$87,906	-\$43,953
Buildings - Manse	\$151,327	\$151,327
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Buildings - Manse	-\$20,617	-\$10,247
Computer Equipment - Church	\$26,148	\$20,269
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer Equipment	-\$17,126	-\$15,272
Equipment and Fittings - Manse	\$60,211	\$57,450
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Equipment and Fittings - Manse	-\$33,701	-\$27,570
Fittings and Equipment - Church	\$99,864	\$99,864
Fixed Assets - Kindergarten	\$61,604	\$60,349
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Fixed Assets - Kindy	-\$29,201	-\$25,871
Organ	\$129,054	\$129,054
Total Fixed Assets	\$3,110,220	\$3,167,250
<hr/>		
Non-current Assets		
PIF Kindy	\$245,000	\$245,000
Presbyterian Investment Fund	\$177,573	\$337,876
Total Non-current Assets	\$422,573	\$582,876
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Total Assets	\$3,679,192	\$3,848,056

Liabilities**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable -Church	\$28,548	\$4,942
Accruals	\$3,100	\$8,920
Avalon - Payable	\$56	\$56
Employee Benefits	\$34,553	\$30,550
GST - Church	-\$8,801	-\$422
Ministry Fund	\$2,736	\$2,736
PAYE Payable	\$14,318	\$13,224
Provision for Roof Repairs	\$0	\$126,630
Rounding	\$0	\$0
Special Reserves payable	\$5,000	\$5,040
Wages Payable - Payroll	\$6,400	\$6,400
Total Current Liabilities	\$85,910	\$198,077

Non-Current Liabilities

Accumulated Funds - Church	\$2,051,049	\$2,095,636
New Church Pledges	\$1,440,417	\$1,440,417
Reserves - Centennial Fund	\$89,229	\$101,340
Reserves - Outreach	\$11,743	\$11,743
Reserves - Youth Fund	\$518	\$518
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$3,592,957	\$3,649,654

Total Liabilities**\$3,678,867** **\$3,847,731****Net Assets****\$325** **\$325****Equity**

Current Year Earnings	-\$56,698	\$36,627
Retained Earnings	\$57,023	-\$36,302
Total Equity	\$325	\$325