

# Highgate Parish Church

Annual Report 2008 - 2009



*Maori Hill - B@tCH*

**To help people to know Jesus we will:**

**Live worshipfully,**

**help others**

**and have the habits of faith**

## **Notice of Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Highgate Presbyterian Church is to be held in the Stewart Hall, Maori Hill Church on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 at 6.00 pm. (starting with a fish and chips tea)

### **AGENDA**

Opening prayer

Apologies

Minutes of meeting 2008

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Approval of accounts/budget

Recommendations/Proposals

General Business

## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Highgate Parish 11am, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2008**

Present: Rev Fyfe Blair (moderator) and approximately 55 members  
Apologies: Iris Campbell, John and Marilyn Yates, Harold and Margaret McMaster, Patricia Sutherland, Marjory Anderson, Frances and Sandy Ross, Ian and Patricia McDonald, Wilf Govan, Andrew Nicol; Mayford Dawson

Minutes: Minutes of the 2007 Annual meeting had been circulated in the annual report. That these be accepted as a true record of the meeting

*Scott Gray/Eric Scharpf – agreed*

Reports: That the printed reports be accepted

*Doreen Holding/Rory Grant –agreed*

Business from reports:

1. Allan Paulin commented that the reports give a better understanding of what is happening than previously
2. Peg Makinson expressed thanks for the team work in the office which makes things go very smoothly
3. Mary Corbett asked that Judy Oakley's work with the Friday Group be acknowledged, as she had been one of those who started the group. Mary also asked for assistance with transport on a Friday.

Treasurer's Report:

Netta Noone moved the adoption of the Financial report as printed in the Annual reports, *seconded Arthur Barnes - agreed*

Netta moved the adoption of the budget for 2008,

*seconded Veronica Cordes.*

Netta made some explanation of aspects of the budget and asked for questions.

1. Graham Redding asked if we need to make more allowance for Youth. What will happen when the donation for the Children and Families worker ends? Netta replied we have money in hand in beneficiary funds to cover this if necessary.
2. Eric Scharpf asked what needs to be done to get rid of the budgeted deficit. Netta replied that the budget is a living document and not set in concrete and we have reserves to call on if necessary. Of course more income would help!
3. Fyfe explained the situation with youth ministry and acknowledged the work of Naomi and Allister Lane who will shortly be

leaving Dunedin. There is to be a meeting in October to look at developing the ministry.

4. Celia Paulin expressed appreciation for a clear budget and the work done to achieve this.

5. Gil Barbezat commented that tax refunds will shortly be available and he thought maybe people might consider giving some of this relief to the church

6. Murray Rae expressed thanks for the budget but concern for the small amount budgeted for Sunday School. Netta replied that the amount reflected spending in previous years and anyone concerned with limited budgets could talk to the Finance and Property committee.

Netta thanked the members of the Finance and Property committee

### General Business

1. Fyfe spoke about the display of “Where we have been”. He emphasised our rootedness in Christ which is important if we are to bear much fruit. He expressed the belief that after a period of change and development we are now ready to move towards fruitfulness. To this end Parish Council has redefined roles of leadership. A small group known as the “Session” of Parish Council will have oversight across Highgate with each of the hubs being responsible for their own matters. The new Session will have members of the ministry team, representatives from each hub, three members from Highgate@10 elected by the Session, and the two Presbytery representatives as ex officio members. Those already proposed are:

Gil Barbezat and Allan Paulin      Highgate@10

Charissa Nicol and John Huston      B@tch

Jill McDonald      Caim

That these be appointed *Scott Gray/Judith Borick – agreed*

2. Buildings: Bruce Smallfield used a Power Point presentation to show the state of the buildings at Roslyn and Maori Hill, what has been done and what is needed. He posed the questions:

How do our buildings best serve the mission of Highgate?

What should they be used for?

What are our mission and ministry priorities in relation to our buildings?

He suggested that there were no immediate answers but we should think of solutions and possibilities and dream dreams.

3. Fyfe acknowledged the work of Parish Council in doing the “rootwork”
4. There had been a question from a member relating to the use of our “logo”. Fyfe referred to Acts Chapters 10 and 11 which is the story of Peter and Cornelius. He talked of shaping our Church life so that we can witness to Jesus Christ. This will be a matter of consideration for the Session.
5. There may be a meeting of the congregation in October to reconsider the Terms of Call.
6. Fyfe acknowledged the work of all individuals in Highgate and expressed the feeling that “God has done amazing things with us here”. Barry prayed for Fyfe as he goes for two months’ study.

The meeting ended with the Benediction pronounced by Rev Barry Kelk.

## **Session Report for Highgate Parish**

Session was reconstituted to make it a smaller executive working group.

Outline of smaller Session with a number of working groups was established by the Reverend Fyfe Blair before he returned to Scotland. We are very grateful for all the work and thoughtful planning he put into this. It seems that we are now reaping the benefits of his guidance in establishing this strategic plan. It was with great sadness that we said farewell to Fyfe, Gillian, Rachel and Anna Blair in January following Fyfe's resignation.

The new Session included representatives from:

Highgate @ 10 (Allan Paulin, Gil Barbezat)

B@tch (Charissa Nicol, John Huston)

The Caim (Jill McDonald)

Presytery Representatives (Beth Scarlett, Netta Noone)

Treasurer (Netta Noone)

Ministry Team (Barry Kelk, Jono Ryan)

Session Secretary: Marilyn Yates

The Inaugural Meeting of Session started with a dinner at the Kelk home on 14 October. Meetings were then held every fourth Tuesday of the month (except for December and January).

Interim Moderator: Rev Alan Kerr, until his tragic death a few days after our last Session Meeting for this Financial Year on the 20th of June. Rev Ian Guy has been appointed as a replacement Interim Moderator.

The sudden illness and unexpected death of our Session Clerk Robin Maclaughlan (died 15 January 2009) was a great shock to all. She and her immense contribution are sorely missed.

Strategic matters considered on Session agendas have included:

- Parish Appraisal report from Rev Susan Jones.
- Appointment of Jill McDonald to part-time staff to help with pastoral care.
- Discussions on needs of Parish and future development; work in progress for strategic position.
- Assistance with setting up new Settlement Board to seek appointment of a fulltime Minister (Rev Geoffrey Skilton to moderate).
- Guidelines for baptisms in our Church family
- Resignation of Netta Noone from her long term as valued position as Parish Treasurer and counsellor.
- Discussions on organisational structure of Church leadership

## MINISTRY TEAM

### **Highgate at 10 Minister's report - Jono Ryan**

“How’s it all going?”—a question I am frequently asked, in relation to my creative pairing of roles as a minister in the Highgate team, and as national coordinator for Servants. Though I am not sure that this is my question to answer, my personal response, as I now come to the conclusion of my first year at Highgate, is that “it’s going well.” While some weeks have stretched me a little, I am nonetheless coming to enjoy the creative tension between these two roles, where one week I may find myself squatting around a simple feast on a floor in Kolkata, and the next breaking bread around our communion table at Highgate. Though an unusual arrangement, it is one that I am grateful for, particularly to the vision of the Settlement Board, who were able to formulate realistic and sustainable ‘terms of call,’ and to the Highgate at Ten congregation, who have been so gracious and supportive with my coming and going.

Conducting Highgate at Ten worship services is my primary role, and one that I have thoroughly enjoyed. We are fortunate to have such a great team of people contributing to these services each week: from preparing the rosters to serving morning tea, and everything in between. For me, our Advent and Holy Week services were particular highlights, and I valued these opportunities to collaborate with the Caim and B@tCH. During the week, I’ve also continued my involvement with the Caim, working closely alongside Jill McDonald. Reflecting on the last twelve months, the departure of Rev. Fyfe Blair undoubtedly marks a low point. It is fair to say that it was Fyfe’s thirst for mission and appreciation of “the table” (his words) that initially drew Julie and me to the Caim, and later to Highgate. Working together as colleagues was an exciting prospect, but one that concluded much too soon. In many respects (though certainly not all), it has instead become my task and privilege to pick up where Fyfe left off, particularly Highgate at Ten services, at the Caim, and also through my participation in parish leadership.

Among the many high points of this last year, for me it is the growing relationships within the ministry team and new parish leadership that stands out. The weekly ‘team time’ gatherings with Barry, Jane, Jill and Louise are a constant source of encouragement and inspiration. We are all “bitsers” (Barry’s term for our part-time status), but collectively we seem to be holding together a credible ministry. I have

also been impressed by the development of our new parish leadership structure, particularly the Highgate Session, and the Highgate at Ten working group. While we are still exploring the functionality of this new structure, it has been an impressive start (and one that I believe does Fyfe's original vision proud!).

Finally, Julie and I have been especially grateful for the support and hospitality of the parish following the birth of our first child, Daniel. It has been a demanding month for us, and the regular encouragement and meals on our doorstep has been greatly appreciated!

### **B@TCH Minister's report - Barry Kelk**

Included in the annual report are some offerings about B@tCH and the home groups as seen by members of our team. I wish to report on life in the 'Parish' as one of your 1/2 time Ministers here on the Highgate.

First and foremost I am well supported by a wonderful team at B@tCH and in particular, especially while we were on leave, Patricia McDonald who led the team so well. Her attention to detail, pastoral insight and love of the people ensured that B@tCH was in excellent hands. A huge blow for me was the Blairs' sudden departure for Scotland, notwithstanding the fact that we are all at sixes and sevens again, I miss their friendship and collegiate support. This was a very difficult time for me within the Parish. Jono and I along with our Highgate team mates, Jane, Jill, Marilyn and Louise meet for prayer and mutual support every Thursday. We have gelled well as a team and within our operating, try hard to keep alive the vision Fyfe had for us. I believe we can be very encouraged by the new Kirk Session. This group now represents the whole Parish. Their gifting and passion for God and His church stand us in good stead as we journey through some more uncharted waters. I have continued my study as before but confess to being more excited about researching churches and styles in the here and now. I am close to finishing my original requirements and look forward to following up on some contacts made while overseas highlighting cutting edge, mission focused, operations which could well become '*son of B@tCH*'! In addition to my set requirements I have enjoyed being able to sit in on a number of lectures with the interns at the Knox Centre. I have especially enjoyed Graham's teaching around *worship and liturgy* but even more so the fellowship of students and staff which makes a nice change from the loneliness of distance studies. I wish to acknowledge two other folk in the Parish who have worked so hard to make Ministry life easier and more productive. Netta and

Bryan, deacons in the truest sense of the word, have worked tirelessly to resource my Ministry and B@tCH's mission. You are legends.

Finally only Kerry and Tom really know what it's like to have a me in the Ministry and the demands on time, energy and resources. Your prayerful, practical and loving support are vital to this ministry and I thank God for you constantly. Forgive me for the times when I have forgotten to thank you.

### **Pastoral Worker Report – Jill McDonald**

In March of this year I began in my role as Pastoral Worker. This is a ten hour per week position to meet the pastoral needs of the Highgate at Ten congregation. Following Fyfe's departure it was identified that there was a need for pastoral visiting to help plug the gap of not having a fulltime Highgate @ Ten Minister.

Initially I began visiting people within the parish who were not able to get to services due to failing health but as time as gone on I have spread the net wider and am slowly making my way around the congregation. I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know everyone on these visits and I constantly marvel at the number of wonderful people we have within our parish, so many interesting people and so many great stories.

As well as the regular visiting I have attended the APW meeting and was guest speaker at their AGM. I have also conducted two funerals within the parish.

It is great to have the support of both the staff team and the Pastoral Support Cluster to aid me in my work.

I am thoroughly enjoying this work and feedback seems to be that my visits are being well received.

### **Children and Families Jane Davis**

The changes in the Ministry team over this last year, with Fyfe's resignation and Jono and Jill joining the team has meant a bit of readjusting of roles. I have found that I have been doing a lot more pastoral support and care of families in a variety of ways over this time. The team meetings on a Thursday morning continue to be an invaluable way to keep lines of communication flowing and to support and pray for each other and the Parish as a whole.

The number of children and families who now attend B@tch has increased again this year and I have taken on the role of supporting the BK leaders organising resources so that the leaders are not having

to source material themselves. Lynley McArthur has continued doing a fantastic job being the Co ordinator of the BK's team; organizing the rostering of people each week and keeping the day to day running of things ticking over. With more children attending each week the leaders have sometimes been a bit stretched trying to cater for all ages of children on their own and we may need to look at addressing this over the next terms.

This year we have formalised meal rosters for families that have had new babies across both Highgate @ 10 and B@tch congregations. Families have really appreciated this support and it is a wonderful ministry that a lot of people can be involved with.

The Kids @ leaders team for Highgate @ 10 has had a few changes this year. We have had some new people offer to join our team which is wonderful and it has meant that others, who have worked in this area for many years, have been able to step down and take a break.. It is a great supportive team who all work together so well. We still have the two age group classes that meet together for the start of kids @ time and then spilt off into the two groups for their age group lesson. Judy Goroncy has very kindly offered to take over organising the singing sessions for the children. We hope to be able to get the children to have a bit more input into the services leading music from time to time.

I continue to be involved in wider church initiatives like the Light Party Committee and a Kids Friendly Co ordinator group, supporting Cheryl Harray in her role as Kids Friendly Co ordinator for Dunedin.

I have started a Kids @ weekly email to families attending Highgate @ 10 this last term. This has been in response to a wider congregation initiative of trying to keep communications lines more open so people are kept informed of what is going on. This seems to be appreciated by those who receive it and it also means that those who don't attend so regularly are still kept "in the loop".

I have also begun supervision this last month which has been fantastic and I plan to meet every 6-8 weeks with my supervisor. Although this has only just started I can see it being a very useful channel to help focus the direction of my ministry to the children and families at Highgate.

## **Breakfast @ the Coronation Hall -B@tCH**

B@tCH is now an established event in the outreach of The Highgate Mission and indeed in the life of Maori Hill village. From humble beginnings in October 2003 we have grown to a gathering averaging around 140 people. All ages are represented from newborn infants to grandparents in their eighties.

There is an air of excitement and anticipation from 6.30 am when a group come to set up the Hall. The casual relaxed atmosphere does not happen by chance. Prior to 8.30 am, the official opening time, technical equipment, tables, seats, BK (B@tCH Kids) resources, heaters, urns, bread, muffins, pastries, milk, table cloths, cutlery, crockery, the Cross, the candles, the mirror, the musical instruments, the food bank basket, the offering box, the babies' changing space, toys, games, towels in the toilets, carpets, songs, reflections and the "talk" have all been turned on, set out, set up, rolled out, collected, delivered, prepared, chosen, practised and handed over to the Lord in prayer. This is the B@tCH shop front.

After the service nearly everyone helps with the tidy-up and we are on our way and the building vacated by 10.20 am. Musicians, singers, technicians, furniture movers, doorman, BK teachers and especially the kitchen staff, preacher and worship leader all breathe a little sigh of relief tinged with elation. This is basically what happens every week during school terms and on a few extras as well, including Labour weekend, Christmas Eve and Queen's Birthday weekend.

There were a number of special events in the life of B@tCH during the year. In chronological, rather than order of importance, they are as follows. In July Elizabeth Jackson, Rosemary Jackson, Tom Kelk and Deborah Lambie were Baptised after public Professions of Faith. In August and November respectively Emma Hutton and Michael Ross were Confirmed after public Professions of Faith. In early December there was a Helpers' Coffee and Dessert in gratitude for their dedication and hard work. The Shoe Box Project supplied Presbyterian Support with more than 70 gifts for individuals bereft of family encouragement at Christmas time. Home Groups took responsibility for three Advent services. The first funeral for a B@tCH member, Noeleen Nel, was in January. In February our first two Elders to Parish Council, John Huston and Charissa Nicol, were ordained at Maori Hill Church after a parish breakfast hosted by B@tCH. In March at the B@tCH @ Prayer Day several fresh faces led the nine half-hourly sessions. The Prayer Ribbon Team who pray for individuals each Sunday morning developed from the prayer day. Highgate@10 joined

us to celebrate Easter Day. In May, on the first day of Term 3, the Coronation Hall floor was being resurfaced. We were grateful to John McGlashan College for the use of the Chapel. The Dedication of baby Emily Lokman was later in May.

The ordinary routines of B@tCH continued with weekly Thursday Prayers at the Hall and the posting of Email Flyers, prayer ministry being arranged as requested and Home Groups multiplying in response to growing numbers. Our missionary focus is the Student Life outreach at Otago University and further afield. In response to the economic recession and Presbyterian Support's increasing needs we have week by week targeted giving for the food basket. Although Barry led and spoke at most of the services, others shared this responsibility with him during the year. The Leadership met twice each term.

Barry, Kerry and Tom went overseas on 30 May. Overall pastoral care was handed over to Patricia McDonald. Worship leaders and speakers were drawn from the B@tCH congregation. There was also much involvement of others including a personal testimony, a Holy H@tCH drama and Dorothy Hutton's wonderful oversight of the musicians and singers. The B@tCH Leadership team stepped up to the challenge of the "Boss's" absence. All seemed to run smoothly.

Since the B@tCH way of "doing church" is still evolving, the Leadership was unsure of how people would respond when the call came in June for nominations for the Ministry Settlement Board. We appreciated that B@tCH was permitted to handle this matter independently. Richard Koele, Donald Lewis and Gary Wilson, three highly capable individuals, offered to represent us on this important body.

This report would be incomplete without mention of how well Barry Kelk serves his congregation. We are truly blessed through the depth and range of his still-developing ministry. Thanks are due also to Kelk Photography for the flexibility with which Barry can be released and available when pastoral needs arise and to Kerry and Tom for their generosity in sharing so much of his "free" time.

When all is said and done at B@tCH, however, the purpose of it all is to honour our Heavenly Father, to introduce others to The Lord Jesus Christ and to seek and follow the leading and nudging of The Holy Spirit at one end of The Highgate Mission. We thank Him for the blessings, growth and fun we enjoy.

*Patricia McDonald*

## **B@tCH Kids**

Another busy year for our children! Numbers are on the increase with younger children filtering through. The tables are a real hive of activity during the service and most children appear to feel at ease knowing that their caregivers are within the same room. New bean bags on the stage for the children's talk, are proving very popular. The BK's are currently saving for the Tear Fund *Gift for Life*, which was set up last Christmas. A big thank you to all the rostered helpers and to Jane for a wonderful programme.

*Lynley MacArthur*

## **B@tCH Music**

It is great to make a joyful noise to the Lord, and in this world of 'mission statements' the B@tCH music group are happy to claim that one as their own. We continue to enjoy making music together, and to bring people to a point of worship is a really important work of the group. The acapella singing group currently has 13 members, (welcome Theresa) and enjoys singing together two or three times each term. All music is now being practised at 8.00am on a Sunday morning. (if you are getting up early, what's another half hour). I continue to admire and give thanks for the dedication of those early risers, who are in fine voice by 8.00am on a Sunday. Dorothy, Jonathan and Matt have joined us this year, and we really value their talents. Dorothy and Matt both stepped up while Tom and Kerry were away. Thanks to them both, it was great to know everything was in good hands.

*Kerry Crosland*

## **Study Groups**

### **Huston Home Group**

We meet weekly and for this year have been focusing on material from Rob Bell. We have five couples who regularly attend with two additional couples who are currently traveling... The group has enjoyed a relaxed time of getting to know each other and stimulating discussion about our faith based on Rob Bell's DVDs.

We like having fun and eating desserts which means as a home group we are trying local eating establishments.

Leaders *John and Nathalie Huston*

*Don and Ann McKinnon*

## **The Fortnightly Wednesday Home Group**

This group of 13 meets every second Wednesday at the home of Frances and Sandy Ross. People arrive from 7.30 – 7.45 and have coffee, biscuits and a catch-up. At 8.00, the leader begins with prayer, and the study follows, involving input from audio or DVD, scripture, responses to study questions, a worship song, and prayer to finish. This year, we have studied *Ordinary Heroes*, a video series by Rob Harley, and two Scripture Union series with an audio commentary, *Serve the Lord* and *Love One Another*. We are learning together, growing in our faith, and sharing our lives with each other.

## **B@tCH Monday Night Home Group**

We meet weekly during school terms. We start with tea or coffee and baking, usually provided by one of the group. There are about a dozen in the group with an average attendance of nine. This past year we've discussed material from Rob Bell, Rob Harley and Philip Yancey. We've also taken an afternoon service at Ross Home and one of the B@tCH Advent services. We are enjoying getting to know each other better and we have some pretty lively discussions, not always on the topic, but always interesting and related to our Christian experiences.  
*Leaders: Ian & Patricia McDonald*

# HIGHGATE at 10

## **Highgate@10 Working Group**

Since the re-configuration of the leadership of Highgate Parish in the past year the Highgate@10 Working Group has been functioning as a coalition of dedicated Cluster Groups, each with a focus on a particular area of work within the Highgate Parish. This has shared the workload and has drawn on the specific skills of the former Parish Council and the wider congregation.

All the cluster groups report back on their activities at combined bimonthly meetings. Once every four months these Working Group meetings are open to the wider congregation.

The Working Group consists of the following Cluster Groups:

### **Worship Cluster:**

Mission Statement *To ensure regular worship services for Highgate @10*

The members of this cluster have maintained the smooth running of Sunday Worship during the ministry vacancy by calling on many in the congregation and beyond to assist with preaching and leading services.

Members: Andrea Grant, Beth Scarlet, Ray Scarlet, Scott Gray, Bobbie Mackie, Peg Makinson, Jane Davis-Rae, Jono Ryan, Shirley Hudson

### **Pastoral Care Cluster:**

Mission Statement *The Pastoral Care cluster is responsible for regular and crisis pastoral care issues*

Pastoral care in the parish has been greatly enhanced by Jill McDonald, appointed as Pastoral care Worker, to work alongside the rest of the team, ensuring that contact is kept with parishioners. We have continued visiting in Districts and a good number of members receive the Live Wire by email. We also transport members to Church and meetings where ever possible. Pastoral Care also takes place through Jane Davis-Rae with Children and Families and through Celia Paulin with Tuesday Music and Movement. Much pastoral work is done privately by caring friends and neighbours.

Sunday afternoon communions have been held at Roslyn Church, occasionally during the year. These services cater for those who are

unable to be at morning communion and for those who would like to attend. They are always advertised in advance.

We have farewelled with love, yet regret, several of our members. We have marked their lives as a celebration :

Margaret Ross, Alan Palmer, Norman Foster, Jose Standage, Harold McMaster, Joyce Walker, Jack Thomson, Robin McLaughlin, Esse Craw, Dulcie Pullar, Alwyn Adamson, Fynn Randel (Shirley and Ray Hudson's grandson), Betty Borrie, Rev Alan Kerr (our Interim Moderator).

Thank you to you all, as you care for your families, your extended Church family, your friends, and those you come in contact with as you do the Lord's work at Highgate.

*Patricia Sutherland (Convenor)*

Members: Jill McDonald, Shirley Hudson, Peg Makinson, Fionna Ogilvy, Lois Ball, Patricia Sutherland, Scott Gray.

### **Hospitality Cluster:**

Mission Statement *To serve the members of Highgate@10 in times of sadness or celebration and to enhance opportunities for Christian fellowship.*

Often working behind the scenes, the hospitality cluster provides suppers, morning and afternoon teas at celebration, funerals and fund raising events.

Members: Lois Ball, Celia Paulin, Betty Scarlet, Patricia Sutherland, Susan Scharpf

### **Discussion Group Cluster:**

Mission Statement *To advocate for and resource various different types of house groups as appropriate to the context and needs of the Highgate@10 congregation.*

This group which has organised a wide variety of small group discussions that are topic specific. They have included short courses on Easter Studies, Environmental Issues and Faith; ongoing study groups explore the Arts and Faith, and Wine Tasting and Theology.

Members: Celia Paulin, Murray Rae, Michelle Thompson-Fawcett, Ray Scarlet, Graham Redding, Kate McKinney

## **Children and Families Cluster:**

Mission Statement *The Highgate @ 10 Children and Families Cluster Group aims to actively promote a welcoming environment for children and families to live worshipfully, help others and have the habits of faith within the community of Highgate @10.*

Kids@ actively welcomes and nurtures all children and their families at Highgate@10 and encourages participation in the full range of church and community activities. Leadership is also nurtured.

Members: Jane Davis-Rae, Peg Makinson, Mark Thompson-Fawcett, Judy Goroncy, Eric Scharpf

## **Communication Cluster:**

Mission Statement *To co-ordinate information relating to Highgate Parish activities so that it is readily available and useful for all parishioners and the communities we serve*

This cluster has worked to ensure timely distribution of church news both in the printed newsletter and on the church's website. Foyer displays have been prepared to inform the congregation of the activities of each cluster within the Working Group.

Members: Wyn Barbezat, Netta Noone, Patricia Sutherland, Kate McKinney, Steve Dunn, Michelle Thompson-Fawcett

## **Mission Focus Cluster:**

Mission Statement *To raise awareness, promote and coordinate Highgate Parish role in supporting Mission activity at local, national and international levels.*

This cluster reviewed Highgate@10's extensive mission activities. Recommendations have been made for funding priorities from the Parish's budget.

Members: Gil Barbezat, Allan Paulin, Margaret Arnold, Judith Borick, Gwenda Holmes, Betty Scarlet

The structure of the Highgate@10 Working Group has demonstrated that it is an effective way to utilise the many talents within the parish. It is a forum where small groups meet to discuss future plans and activities and join forces where appropriate, thereby avoiding duplication.

It is clear that all the on-going activity has ensured the smooth functioning of the Highgate@10 hub. I would like to thank all the

members of all the Cluster Groups for their continuing hard work and their support to me, as Convenor of the Working Group, and Patricia Sutherland, (Secretary) in our new roles with this group.

*Wyn Barbezat, Convenor*

## **Study Groups:**

### **Monday Morning Discussion Group**

On the third Monday of the month this small group meets at 10 am at Maori Hill for fellowship, devotions and discussion using the theme of the previous day's sermon as our topic.

*Gwenda Holmes*

**The Wine and Theology Group** has been meeting monthly for most of this year. It is a very convivial group. The first half of our meeting is devoted to wine tasting; the second half to a theological discussion on a topic of interest. Leadership of the group has been passed from Graham Redding to Kevin Ward.

**The Film, Theology and Literature Study Group** has met monthly on Thursday evenings and a group of 6-8 people each evening have enjoyed viewing movies, considering examples of Christian Art and Architecture, and discussing how the various works shed new light on the nature of human life and the ongoing drama of God's purpose for the world. We have yet to extend our discussion into the field of literature but will do so in the months ahead. We welcome any new members who would like to join the group. Meetings require no preparation, only an interest in how a range of art forms can help us to see with new eyes, the claims and challenges of Christian faith.

*Murray Rae*

### **Environmental Group.**

This group which met throughout the autumn studied around the PCANZ publication "Caring for God's Creation." Although the members were not always able to attend we had 12 people involved and lively discussion took place. Several of the members are also involved, along with people from St John's, with the garden development Project, GDP, which assists people to establish a vegetable garden and provides some ongoing mentoring and often some seedlings and sometimes compost

too. A community garden behind our church was also established giving people an opportunity to gain further gardening skills and the grown vegetables were given away.

Several members of our discussion group went to hear Dr Bill McKibbin from the USA speak passionately on the need to limit the carbon particles in the atmosphere to 350 per million.

Later we also had a more public meeting in the Stewart Room addressed by Rev Selwyn Yeoman who is undertaking doctorate studies in the whole area of environmental impact from climate change.

We have also made some tentative steps towards measuring carbon footprint of our homes and are working on doing so for our church plant too. We plan to have a further set of discussions and those who would be interested in joining would be most welcome.

*Allan Paulin*

### **Monday Evening Group (MEG)**

Monday Evening Group has a familiar ring. Why? It seems to have always been there. Yet we do always study something fresh, or familiar, or look at the Bible and Life with new eyes. An interesting theme recently "Why did they do it?" For personal gain, conspiracy, for love of a neighbour, a call from the Holy Spirit. Names like Euodia and Syntyche have gone down in history.

We did not meet on the coldest nights in the winter but more recently met on Monday mornings in the comfortable bay window area in the hall, which proved very successful. Our prayers are for local needs, global problems and for the missions our Church supports.

There is also much pastoral care as we ensure our friends are well. We take an interest in each others' families and provide transport to church and meetings. You are so welcome to join us at our meetings or perhaps join for a short term course especially around Easter and Christmas when there is always a study directed at the Season.

We are grateful for Gwenyth Wilson for the use of her home and the welcome we always receive. We thank Celia Paulin for her leadership, her knowledge and her long-term commitment.

*Lois Ball for MEG*

## **APW**

APW has had an interesting and varied year with our small group of enthusiastic members.

The programme was:-

August – Gwenda Holmes spoke on “Walking part of the Central Otago Rail Trail”.

September – Kate Hill from the Fire Service spoke. A fire appliance came and members were able to “inspect” the essential working parts.

October – the group again visited “Youth Grow” to enjoy the plants (and some purchases). Then on to Ross Home for afternoon tea where we were joined by past members Paddy Tait and Jean Hendry.

November – Wyn Barbezat spoke about her experiences at Akane Avoke in Madagascar.

We began 2009 in March with fun poems by Sheila Charles which was a bright and happy start to the year.

April – again saw Ross Home residents visiting us to play Bocca and enjoy a fabulous afternoon tea arranged by our hostess Joyce Pullar. It was appreciated by all.

The generosity of our members enables us to give \$200 to each of our two mission projects:-

Kathryn McDaniel, prison visitor in Thailand and  
Friends of Jagardhri, India.

We were saddened by the death of Dulcie Pullar who, although with us for only a short time endeared herself to all.

My sincere thanks to Secretary, Shirley McChesney and the Committee for their faithful and continuing service, and to those who helped during my absences.

*President: Margaret Arnold*

## **Pre-School Music**

Being part of a group which provides a weekly gathering for many families to share in a variety of musical activities is an amazing experience. These families come from several areas of Dunedin bringing children aged one week to five years. Most of the children would be under four but it is good to have some older children continue. Mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers are all part of the mix. This children's reaction to the variety of songs/action rhymes is enthusiastic and "theme" days such as autumn leaves are real "hits". The "live" music is special for them. We are very grateful to Louise Drummond, keyboard, Dulcie Gunn, violin, and Shirley Hudson, singing, for sharing their time, talents and enthusiasm with us. Our opening on to Highgate means that Gwenyth Wilson's willingness to remain at the door is invaluable.

A welcome strength this year has been the extension of our support team so that there are always three or four people to be involved with the families. An extended team of Lois Ball, Patricia Sutherland and Mervyn Aitchison have been assisting Celia Paulin to interact with the families. We are appreciating this opportunity to get to know the families better. Pastoral involvement emerges from this. It is very helpful to have a group of ten sharing the morning tea roster.

We feel that through this venture we are able to share the love of God to a wide variety of people. Our facilities are ideal but we would still appreciate the involvement of others. It is most rewarding.

From the gold coin donations we are able to provide our own equipment and give donations to the Food Bank. Sometimes we can help a family in need.

We are grateful for this vibrant activity in the midst of our parish life.

*Celia Paulin*

## **Tuesday Night Club**

A stalwart group gathers on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the lovely warm hall to enjoy 500, scrabble and supper. Come along and enjoy the fun whenever you have a spare 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday you are guaranteed of a very warm welcome.

*Iris Campbell*

## **Friday Scrabble Group**

We are a small but enthusiastic Scrabble group who meet at 12 noon every Friday for lunch, (soup and toast and anything else anyone brings) followed by scrabble. This year Judy Oakley who started the group quite a few years ago and worked hard to maintain it, has been unable to attend. Thank you Judy, we do appreciate all that you have done over the years. We were also distressed to lose Edna Payne, who passed away unexpectedly several months ago. We could certainly do with more members, and they do not have to be Church members, so if you would rather play scrabble in the afternoon than the evening, or as well as the evening, please do give me a ring, Mary Corbett, ph 473 8393. If you do not know how to play and would like to learn here is your chance. It is \$3 a week for expenses and transport can be provided if necessary.

*Mary Corbett*

## **Friday Morning Tea / Coffee**

Friday Morning Coffee meet in the sunny corner of Stewart Hall, Maori Hill, between 10 and 11 am on Fridays. It is an excellent chance to chat to others, including any staff members who come through briefly for a cuppa. Numbers don't matter. Whoever is there is welcome. Regulars may put their names on a date of their choosing to be host/hostess for the morning but there is no pressure. If you have never been before and just happen to be in the area on a Friday morning, or at home with nothing important to attend to, you are most welcome to enjoy a cuppa and something to go with it in our very pleasant venue.

*Netta Noone*

## **Caim**

Caim continues to provide an important space for contemplative worship each Wednesday evening. The service centres around the daily reading and the eucharist. Prior to the service a number of 'Caimers' meet together for a potluck tea at one another's house in what has been coined the 'Caimfeast'. It is a wonderful way of building fellowship by breaking bread together at home before breaking bread together at the service.

Last July when Linda Pollock spent some time with the Highgate Parish she led a service of prayers for healing from the Iona Community and for the last twelve months we have continued to have these on a two monthly basis.

Although around 7 people have always taken turns at leading each service, Fyfe was always a significant contributor so his leaving at the beginning of the year was keenly felt. Caim manages to flow along with hardly any meetings but we did all gather together for a very good meeting at the Churchers to look at how we were going to do the things that Fyfe had previously done. This has worked well.

In February we had the opportunity to 'showcase' Caim by having Jono's inauguration service to his permanent position as half time minister in Caim style but at the Maori Hill church. It was a lovely service and it was good to be able to give the wider parish a clearer sense of what we are about.

There are around 20 who attend on any given evening, some of whom this is their only place of worship for the week while for others it is in addition to attending either Highgate @ Ten or their own church.

Caim is in good heart and it is wonderful the way in which it has become an important congregation within the Highgate Parish.

# YOUTH

## **Holy H@tCH (years 7 and 8) Highgate Youth at the Chisholm Hall)**

Holy H@tCH (Highgate Youth at the Chisholm Hall) year 7 and 8 youth group started with a bang at the beginning of February. Every week we have a mixture of Bible-related sporty and creative fun games, which lead into group discussions, followed by food and time to socialise. As leaders, we encourage the children to voice their opinions and take turns reading the Bible. Our themes deal with issues relating to their age group including friendship, acceptance, forgiveness, popularity and how God can impact on their lives. Prayer has been discussed from many different angles. The children all have prayer notebooks in which they can give thanks to God and pray for those in need. Some of our highlights have included a film study on "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe", a quiz evening, treasure hunts and a prayer walk starting at Roslyn Church and finishing at No. 7 Balmac for hot chocolates! Our most recent event was a film and food night which 15 children attended. We currently have 19 on the role. It is an honour to work with such lovely awesome kids!

*Helen Owen, Trevor Cray and Caitlin Owen*

## **Years 9-13 youth group**

The last year has been one of transition for the leadership of our senior youth group. 12 months ago we had a settled and stable leadership with Rory & Andrea Grant and Allister & Naomi Lane supported by Steve Dunn, Rachel Blair and Jordan Redding in the week to week running of the group. At the end of term 3 2008 we bid a fond farewell to Allister and Naomi as they prepared for their big move to Wellington where Allister has been called to minister to St. John's in the City. Rachel has moved to Scotland to prepare for university and the Dunns have also taken a step back from the week to week goings on of youth group to take on an oversight role for the wider youth ministries here on the Highgate.

The group has continued to thrive during this time largely thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of Jordan and our junior leadership team: Eddy Davis-Rae, Mel Redding and Joel Linscott. We continue to meet on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 to 5:30 at the Roslyn hall for fellowship and discussion with a membership of around 2 dozen young people in years 9-12 (3rd-6th form). The topics we've covered in the last year

have included a series on movies, the book of Acts. We're working through a series on relationships and youth issues this term.

With Andrea and Rory moving away at the end of the year, there is a real need for some new people to get involved in the leadership team. Our prayer, as always, is that God will continue to work through the Highgate youth group to draw young people into a closer relationship with Him. Please hold these two issues, leadership and ongoing spiritual growth, before the Lord in prayer.

### **Year 12 and 13 group**

A year 12 and 13 Homegroup style group has just begun (as of July 2009) which is run in the home of Andrew and Julie Torrance.

### **Post Secondary school group**

At the start of this year, a home-group for young adults (post secondary school) began meeting fortnightly at Andrew and Charissa Nicol's. Each gathering has a mix of food and hot drinks, Bible based discussion lead by one of the group, prayer and support of each other in our faith.

### **Christian Religious Education**

We are grateful for the continuing decision of the Highgate parish to make the CRE programme at Maori Hill School part of its local Mission Outreach. Our close proximity enables the parish to have positive interaction with the school. The Advent Service, prepared by the C.R.E. teachers, gives a real sense of community celebration early in the Advent season. The parish provides morning tea for the 200 or so pupils and an increasing number of parents-about 80 last year. Another significant involvement is the payment by the parish for the teaching materials for the five classes taught CRE. From our parish, both Jane Davis and Barry Kelk are directly involved in the teaching programme weekly while Celia Paulin, as team leader, liaises with the school, organises the teaching programme, and the teaching team which also includes two members from the Brethren Church and one from Elim. As a group we provide morning tea for the school staff annually and a school singing time each term. This is popular with the whole school being greatly assisted by Kerry Crossland's enthusiasm and accompanying skills.

We value the prayers of many parish members and we give thanks for the opportunity to share our Christian faith with the emerging generation.

*Celia Paulin*

## **Finance and Property**

The Finance and Property committee have met monthly throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to work with a small but dedicated team this year. We are extremely appreciative of the major input that Netta Noone our Treasurer has made to the smooth running of the Church. We extend our sincere thanks to her for the significant contribution she has made. Netta has announced her resignation as Treasurer, but has agreed to retain an involvement with F&P for the short term. We wish to extend our heart felt appreciation to her, for the uncountable hours that Netta has contributed to the role of Treasure over her 15 year term.

We have prudently managed the financial and property interests of Highgate Church. It is very pleasing to achieve the result this year where our income covered our expenditure, but as with last year this result was only achieved because of the vacancy in our Ministry Team (following the resignation of Fyfe). It is important to recognise the contribution that many people have made in the parish. We offer our sincere thanks for your regular giving and for the substantial donations aimed at specific projects and also the general operation of the Church. Money from a trust supporting our Children and Families worker is in its final year. We have committed to funding any shortfall until June 2010 from our general fund. Thank you to those who have assisted with maintenance, repairs and upkeep of buildings and grounds your contributions have saved the parish significant expense.

Our Manse at 71 Drivers Rd was put up for sale. There was a significant amount of work undertaken to prepare the property for sale and Richard Koele and his sub committee are to be congratulated for the work undertaken to achieve the best possible return in a difficult market. Sale of the Manse has been negotiated but has still to be finalised, due to complications with completing the easement agreement with 574 Highgate and the issuing of the new titles. We have also continued to progress the upgrading our Church buildings. New heater units have been installed at the front of Maori Hill church and these have significantly increased the heating capacity in the church. Inspection of the roof vents has shown that they have been closed off. Repairs and repainting to the exterior of the vents is continuing. The committee has also investigated what is necessary to remedy the flaking walls inside the Church. Approval of the congregation has been obtained to proceed with the work and an application to Presbytery F& P for approval for the expenditure has been made. These are still ongoing problems with the leaking roof at Roslyn Church we are endeavouring to correct.

*Bruce Smallfield*

*Convener Finance and Property*

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