

Feilding Baptist Church *Te Haahi Iriiri o Aorangi* Annual Report



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2021 LEADERS

Minister:	Martin Baldwin
Elders:	Ruth McGee, Michael Taylor, Reon Hince
Worship:	
Children:	Anne Sanson, Michelle Ward, Diane Baldwin
Cuppa Chat n Play:	Tanya Carter
Girls Brigade:	Lynne Prior
ICONZ:	Geoffrey Ward
Overseas Mission:	Eleanor Keyte-Bailey
Office:	Eleanor Keyte-Bailey
Communion Steward:	Heather Relf

FEILDING BAPTIST VISION STATEMENT

Building a community of God's people
Engaged in ministry individually and collectively
In the church and community

Grounded in sound theology
Guarded by clear accountability
Leading to spiritual maturity

Minister

From the middle of a worldwide pandemic, we entered 2021 with a little uncertainty and even fear. So it is with surprise and gratitude we saw so much that was positive during the year. We have much to be thankful to God for!

In a slightly amusing January incident, a visitor to town called in to ask, “What is this place?” To be fair, our front wall was completely blank. We were awaiting local artist Joe McMenamin, husband of our Anglican vicar to begin our street frontage mural. The finished product has certainly lifted our profile and made us easier to be found.

We are grateful for Bill and Nola Brogden who left money for a sign. It’s surely much grander than they could ever have

dreamed. And we are very thankful to Joe who gifted his time and talent to design and complete the work.

A new initiative this year was Cuppa, Chat n Play. We were keen to create something that

was free, enabling access to all. Tanya Carter stepped up to lead this, with a team of helpers, and Elaine Telford baking for morning tea. It was great to watch it flourish, with the last term really gaining traction.

An outlandish statement in

2020 that ‘if you get the Gospel wrong, you get everything wrong’ developed into a Monday night series in March and May as we unpacked this. Mick Duncan and Pauline Simonsen led us as we learned



how to Know, Live, and Show the Gospel.

Not that there was all work and no play, nine of us went south to Wellington for a free tour through Government House. The lunch at Maranui Café afterwards was excellent too.

We also had lunches on Sundays, one welcomed newcomers, 31 in around 18 months, another couple for the worship team, and a winter soup lunch in two homes.

But the best was the hot ham sandwich lunch in December, as a means of thanking everyone who had contributed to our church during the year. It was so good, another brilliant Barb Funnell idea!

A couple of Sunday afternoon events saw 28 people stay to look into Funeral Matters, what

to expect, what the costs might be, how to plan. And a Hymn Sing, where favourites from the green Baptist Hymn Book and others were aired.

Sunday morning worship has been a real variety due to the pandemic. We responded to varying Levels of restrictions, and then the ‘Traffic Light’ settings, finding ourselves with gathering limits of 100, 50, 25 and even 10 at one stage. And there was another lock down that saw us fully on Zoom for a

few weeks. In a response to these limits we even tried two services each Sunday in December, with around 30 at each setting. It was a good experience but did require a lot of extra energy. While we had

some scares during the year, no Covid flourished in Feilding for which we are grateful.



When it came to preaching, the highlight of the year had to be working through Revelation in two blocks (seven Sundays then five) shared with Geoff and Sonja Dixon from Hokowhitu Baptist.

Something of a church history lesson resulted after a nationwide requirement to read through church minutes and records from 1950 to 2020. That's 70 years worth, minutes from; Church, Deacons, Elders, Girls Brigade, Boys Brigade, Sunday School (who met every month until 1987 with a page and a half of notes each meeting. Why did we have to do this? To feed into a NZ Baptist submission to a Royal Commission into Abuse in Faith Based Institutions. Sadly our past meant treating this task with the gravity it deserved. Thanks to those who helped with the reading.

There were some fascinating findings, like the special church meeting called in 1977 to vote on whether to purchase an overhead projector.

In the wider community in 2021 we had involvement briefly with Woodlands Retirement Village church services, Coombrae Rest Home services, and hosted the inter-church prayer meeting on the first Sunday of each month. We also worked with other church leaders in Easter and Christmas events.



1 *Our nativity scene at the Manfeild Christmas Parade*

In people news, the pandemic that didn't allow Catherine Clement to celebrate her 50th in the meaningful way she had planned, but it didn't stop Val Wilton being baptised on Easter Sunday. It was great to host her friends from Wellington for this.

Several people moved home, the Wickham's and Will Telford to Coombrae, and Jean Signal back to Feilding after 17 years in Hunterville.

Behind the scenes Elisabeth Hince serves us as the Prayer Team coordinator, keeping pressing needs before a committed group of 17 people. This is a very important role and I'm very grateful for her.

Finally, finances. We were most grateful to be able to contribute fully to the Baptist Union again, and can look at increasing our giving to mission. We will propose an increase to NZBMS in 2022, and begin support for Jess and Benji Hunt with MAF in PNG. We also supported the work of CBM during Advent, passing on the unmarked Sunday offerings.

And since the late 1970's Brian Philps has been involved with counting either the Sunday offering or mission offering. He has called time on this role. We can be extremely grateful for the hours of faithful service given to God through our church. Thank you Brian.

And how can we say thanks to Esmé Haigh who completes her role as Treasurer. It was never meant to be this long, but I'm so glad it was. We have been blessed having someone so skilled and knowledgeable. Thank you Esmé.

Little Lights

One of the best things about a clear, dark night is being able to star gaze, to admire God's amazing creation in a vast universe. As His word says, He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. It puts things into perspective and is a joy to behold His workmanship. It also is a joy and privilege to teach our youngest generation of children at our church.

At the beginning of the year we looked at the book of Revelation. We had a visual story and illustration on the board that was added to as each week progressed. This enabled us to better grasp and understand what was happening and the many events and details that were involved. We continued our lessons throughout the year using the Knowing God curriculum that is filled with lots of great stories about the Bible and key themes, fun game ideas and some crafts. We were able to complete the last workbook of the whole series through to the end of the year and now have completed a full cycle.

During the year we also had some focused time on Easter, Prayer and Self-denial, Mothers' Day and Christmas, with a gap involving lockdown.

We begin each session on the mat, with roll call and prayer time, followed by celebrating birthdays and sharing time. These can be a lot like shooting stars, with anything from reporting about a missing tooth, a new karate move, new shoes or having a sleepover at the grandparents. Then we move onto a story and teaching time while enjoying some morning tea snacks. A game normally follows and lastly a craft activity that consolidates the learning that has taken place.

A very appreciative thank you to Eric Relf who is a valuable part of Little Lights. He has a number of creative ideas and wisdom to share. To Lily and Charlotte Hince and Jolie Taylor, thank you for always being so willing to come and help out if needed. And Catherine Clement for your diligence in coming out and

letting us know when the service is near the end.

And lastly to the children who attend Little Lights, it has been a joy teaching you! May you continue to shine bright and

Michelle Ward

J Team

There were up to seven children in J Team this year, another 'pandemic year'. The growth in the children was noticeable with the younger members far more confident and settled and the older members well ready to move up to Nexus.

The assistance from Hermione Chapman, bringing her energy and creativity was appreciated.

Diane Baldwin

Nexus

2021 saw a small group of young people make up the weekly Nexus group. It was interesting

sparkle with the love of God in your hearts and when you look up at the night sky and see the southern cross, may you always remember that God loves you and will guide you home.

Our programme this year included some of Jesus' Parables, looking at some of the animals God used in the Bible, before ending the year recognising how God is in control, with the challenge to put God first in our lives.

Once again this was a very rewarding year, a privilege to be part of these children's lives.

for me to discover that 100% of the young people attending Nexus, were at church (and in

Nexus) because they had a faith and a belief that was important to them, beyond their family beliefs. These young people are at church because they want to be here, to worship, learn, fellowship and grow in their faith.

We started the year studying Revelation at the same time as Martin was preaching on Revelation. The group found this an interesting book in the Bible, not scary but hopeful.

We continued, during the year, to try and follow the passages that Martin or guest speakers were preaching from.

Anne Sanson.

Cuppa Chat n Play

A relaxed place to feel welcome, valued and noticed. People who are friendly and accepting, who love playing with kids and always have time to listen to Mums, Grandmothers and Carers. Bible stories, crafts, music and dancing, toys and morning tea.

We often had discussions about how the Bible relates to our lives and we can find daily guidance in this remarkable collection of books, letters and songs (Psalms).

This group is about discussion and learning as well as a good place to ask questions of faith.

If time permitted the group played a variety of games, and had time to make connections with each other (i.e., a chat with their church friends).

‘Traffic light’ depending, we look forward to being able to journey on together in studies through the Bible in 2022.

A place where it’s easy to talk about God and learn more.

When we started our first session of Cuppa, Chat & Play in February 2021 we wanted it to be all of these things, and following God’s leading we were

thankful to find that our preschool playgroup really did become a warm, welcoming place for our community children and their carers.

I joined the team in this new venture without having been part of Mainly

Music, so it was easy to have a fresh approach. We began with the very firm foundation of a team who prayed together, supported each other and willingly shared their time and skills. Each session was relaxed, with a short structured time of Bible-related music and a story or activity, before morning tea and more free play (with plenty of time for adults to talk together)

Elaine's outstanding baking skills delighted everyone each week. Eleanor's sparkling personality and warm ways showed God's love to everyone, especially newcomers. Heather is an absolute machine in the kitchen

and her bright manner and organisational skills ensured we were all fed at the perfect time, with the cleaning up happening in the blink of an eye. Brenda is famous for her rapport with children, and there were moments when she was the perfect person to

dry a few tears and keep a tired child entertained and happy. My role was to plan and lead each session and communicate any changes in rules regarding Covid-19. Everyone worked together to set up and pack down the toys and equipment, including James who joined us at the end of the morning to help tidy up.

Eleanor and I had both enjoyed opportunities to get in touch with some Mums outside of our sessions, doing home visits to deliver baking or meet a new baby. We all found that during the year the group began to feel like a support system for the adults who had concerns, often relating to the pandemic, and



who recognised Feilding Baptist as a safe place to talk with friends. It's worth noting that while other play groups required vaccine passes, our group was able to welcome anyone at all. This made a big difference to many of our Mums who were relieved about this.

Tanya Carter

Girls Brigade

Our 2021 year started with our annual family picnic and registrations, held at Makino Aquatic centre. We made great use of the fine weather and had three weeks of water fun, including lots of water balloons. Lots of fun and everyone getting very wet.

We created an Anzac wreath, which our girls placed at the Cenotaph at the Anzac dawn service.

Our Easter activity focused on each girl creating their own set of resurrection eggs and learning what each egg

We are looking forward to continuing with our group and seeing what God wants to do this year. We are grateful that Martin is happy for us to use the church for this ministry each Monday.

represented as part of the Easter Story.

Five of our Pioneers attended an Awesome Leadership Course at Mangawhai Heads during the Term 1 holidays. Four completed their 2nd year and 1 completed their 1st year.

The Juniors created letters and poems for Mother's Day, Random Acts of Kindness; painting rocks, bookmarks, friendship bracelets and made notes of gratitude to give to others. Juniors learnt about the Lord's Prayer and sang this at breakup.

The Seniors followed on from the watery start with a study on the Water cycles and experiments with water, and in Term 4 prepared a dance for breakup.

The Pioneers spent much time in the kitchen, making pasta, pizza, rolls, and lots of other yummy things. They were challenged with an evening of archery and spent many nights being very creative, like button art pictures and art work based on our GB Motto 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ'.

The Juniors and Seniors got to know what is in their backyard, and the importance of birds and bugs. Everyone made animal trackers, and set them in their gardens. We found that there were lots of ants in peoples gardens, and we did find mouse prints in one tracker. The girls also all enjoyed making bird feeders, and a bug hotel to further encourage insects and birds into their own garden.

The whole company took on a Teddy bear project, where we

learnt the history of the Teddy bear.

The Juniors made felt teddy bears, or finger puppets. The Seniors made Teddy bears out of socks and one out of a towel. The Pioneers made a Teddy bear out fabric and used sewing machines to put them together. At the end of the term, we had a Teddy bears picnic, with heaps of food.

August came and we went into lockdown, but we made the most of it, we had Zoom GB! During this time, we learnt about Africa. Everyone had to either make or draw an African animal and name three facts about their animal, the following week we did the same choosing an African country. When we were able to be back together we created a quiz using the facts the girls had shared.

Our fundraising focus this year was for our national GB Camp, Fonomarae. We held a High Tea at the church which was well attended. All the groups did cooking towards this. The girls planning to attend Fonomarae

were the waitresses for the day. We sold oil packs, and Sand Art Brownies, and collected sheep poo. Unfortunately, Fonomarae became another victim of Covid, and sadly was cancelled.



Lauretta Hannah

ICONZ

Feilding ICONZ runs during school term time on Wednesdays, 6-7.30pm. We have 2 divisions: Adventure section for boys 8-12 years old and the Extreme Section for boys 12 years old and over.

This year we were blessed with \$2000 from Feilding Lions to assist with the running of ICONZ. Some of this money subsidised Oscar, a young up and coming leader, to attend the BB & ICONZ

We had 6 new girls join GB this year.

Our Numbers as of 24th Nov 2021

Juniors:	5-8 year olds	15
Seniors:	9-12 year olds	12
Pioneers:	13-17 year olds	9
Total		42
Leaders:	6	

A huge thank you to Feilding Baptist for their continued support.

National Leaders Development Course at the Nelson Lakes National Park. This course tested the young men with heights, braving the elements, team work, problem-solving, extreme distances and some terrible weather.

In the Adventure section we did some research on countries and communities living in extreme poverty. It was heart breaking what people have to live

through and the boys wanted to do something about it.

Thanks to Annie for teaching us how to make drip and mould candles which looked and smelt amazing. The boys practiced sales pitches and developed presentations to sell the candles, raising \$719.60 for CBM (Christian Blind Mission).

As it was the 2020 (held in 2021) Tokyo Olympics we looked at various records and events and finished off with a ridiculous tabloid Olympics event. Jacob taught the boys some fencing moves and various styles of dance.

Eric, Heather and Co. organised a very cool camp on the Baxter's farm with archery, target shooting, shelter building, hunting, orienteering, sled riding and delicious food.

Finally, we completed the Kartz badge. Kyle shared his racing go-kart and its various components. He also made 4 push go-karts which we raced in teams on the grass at the back of FBC. Miraculously, the boys followed

the agreed racing rules and there were no major incidents.

Feilding ICONZ Extreme boys started 2021 with a bit of community work where we cleared some people's yards, mulched some gardens and established some gardens where there were none. We then combined with Boys Brigade in Palmerston North for a camp in tents and had a lot of fun target shooting, cooking and car boot sledding.

We hit the gym and the pool in the colder months and developed some skills to keep us fit and active. We reconnected with Boys Brigade Palmy for a craft camp and then finished the year off learning forging techniques to make a slingshot.

Throw into the mix a Covid enforced lockdown during the final third of the year and it was another busy year. Martin did a fantastic job emceeding our final event of the year; our prize giving and dessert evening where we just managed to scrape under the 100 person limit. Thanks be to God for

making this year a success and for keeping all of us safe,

Geoffrey Ward

Mission

2021 saw our Church continue to support three overseas mission contexts; NZBMS in Kolkata and Thailand, CBM, and MAF. Within New Zealand we supported Palmerston North Hospital Chaplaincy, Grapevine Magazine, Eden Christian Kindy, and the three Feilding food banks.

Andrew, Roanna and family have completed their time with NZBMS in Thailand. They have the reward of knowing they have established and left Woven Life in good capable hands, settling into new roles in Wellington, grateful for God's provision.

Ryan & Sophie also returned New Zealand. Ryan will work by distance from Christchurch. We will continue their support in 2022.

especially as our activities are on the more adventurous side.

Carol works with mums and children in a very challenging environment. She has created many initiatives over the last year and is clearly being a blessing to her adopted town.

Early in the year we were introduced to Benji, Jess and Elliott one Sunday morning after their break from serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Papua New Guinea. Benji is an aircraft engineer, Jess is a nurse and helps with the health at a nearby orphanage. It is proposed we support the Hunt family in a similar way to the way we supported Andrew & Roanna.

We began our support to the Hunts by tithing our 2020 operating surplus with \$2200 passed on.

We also hosted Bridget, a pilot from MAF who was transferring from Timor-Leste to PNG. She spoke to the Girls' Brigade and to an evening gathering.

We receive regular updates from these people, if you would like to receive newsletters please let Eleanor know. And please pray for them.

Prior to Christmas, food items were collected via 'The Giving Tree' (take a labelled food item of your choice off the Tree & donate that item the following week) supporting Manchester House Food Bank. Each Sunday during the year our Food Basket offering supports the Salvation Army Food Bank. And we provided volunteers for Vinnies,

Eleanor Keyte-Bailey

Admin Team

The most remarkable thing about 2021 was the number of repairs that we were able to complete. A couple of years earlier, we simply didn't have the money. These repairs simply

helping package and delivery food hampers.



Our NZBMS Self Denial Appeal netted \$2149.30 and those using the Missionary Boxes contributed \$123.90.

The loose change appeal during Advent again supported CBM netting, \$768.00. The visual information each Sunday told of the transformation in children's lives. Great to be able to help.

would have had to wait or we would have had to find second hand replacements.

Firstly was the hall heat pumps, where two of them had broken fans in their roof units. Then there were the under verandah smoke detectors. These had begun to corrode, and had already resulted in a false fire alarm one morning in 2020. This was a significant cost, but they have been replaced with units that are weather proof, so our children shouldn't have problems with those. And then, right in the middle of Easter, when we had multiple performers staying over for Easter Camp, the fridge stopped. Thanks to Andrew and Hazel for providing one we could borrow. It was so good to be able to buy a new fit for purpose model later in the year.

But the biggest improvement, was a hot water upgrade. We replaced the aging cylinder, future proofing ourselves, at the same time creating a means of safely heating our baptistry. We can be very grateful to Colin

Funnell for sleuthing a solution and completing the work. The way our Sunday services are



conducted to keep people safe during Covid seems second nature now with hand sanitiser stations, distanced seating arrangements, increased ventilation, doors left open, online access to services, no offering bags passed around, people wearing face masks, scanning and signing in, and weekly attendance roll taken.

Thanks for the excellent turn out again for our annual Spring Clean. The building was looking considerably sharper by morning tea. And to James Woodfield for diligently cleaning each week.

Financial

2021 has been an encouraging year FINANCIALLY. Our income has continued to meet our needs without any anxiety. Praise the Lord.

Covid restrictions have encouraged more members to change from envelope giving to Internet banking. This has meant an increase in giving for some – as it was said – “I found I have given more this year” – small regular amounts have made the difference.

Eleanor Keyte-Bailey

With Westpac restricting access to tellers and demanding the use of the deposit machine in the foyer – banking is not nearly as pleasurable! We are grateful to Brian Philps for probably over 40 years keeping records and calling at the bank to make deposits, and counting large sums of cash. Audrey Hollingworth stood in the gap if he were on holiday. Thank you.

I am very grateful to Esme Haigh for her advice and encouragement.



FEILDING BAPTIST CHURCH
Te Haahi Iriiri o Aorangi

tūrangawaewae

a place to stand

tupu whakarangi

growing heavenwards

manaaki tangata

to care and look after people