

Feilding Baptist Annual Report 2025



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Minister

Thankfulness is a common theme as I reflect on 2025. We did so much, and achieved so much, together. An example of that was Good Friday, where a creative prayer space provided a time to focus and prayer for others. I am thankful for those who contributed to this initiative, led by Susan Saunders, and to those who appreciated it.

The activity of builders, engineers, inspectors, bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, painters, certainly added a vibe to the first half of the year! This was for the upgrade of our toilets. As the months went by, the finished product emerged, with prayers of thanks and an ice cream truck to mark the completion, something of a major milestone.

Even with the toilets out of action, Girls Brigade and ICONZ continued as usual with both groups blessed with good teams of leaders.



By far the largest event we hosted this year was the two day Lower North Island Baptist Regional Hui (13th – 14th June). The 110 delegates were taken aback with the quality and maintenance of our buildings, our hard-working team of hosts, the good food we provided, and the positiveness from start to finish. Feedback was overwhelmingly affirmative. Needless to say, we have been invited to encore!

We have contributed well to the local church network and community. Our buildings and hospitality were again appreciated by Hato Hone St John, when we hosted their annual awards night. My involvement with the local governance committee concluded at the end of the year. But chaplaincy continues when needed.

Each month we host and I chair the Keep Feilding Beautiful meetings. It is a privilege to be able to contribute to the well-being of our community,



not only with rubbish clean ups, but creating beauty with planting and green spaces.

We contracted our local theatre to screen the Bonhoeffer movie for us. Around 30 from both our church and others came to remember Dietrich's great life.

And each month we invite and host churches to pray for our town and the world. These are often encouraging and energising gatherings, with Graham Conlon helpfully providing some musical worship at beginning and end. We note with gratitude the continued privilege it is for our church leaders to be invited each month to open the local Manawatu District Council meetings in prayer.

We were part of a combined churches evening service on Pentecost Sunday, with Justin Duckworth, the Anglican Bishop speaking. This was a full house at St Johns. And at the end of the year, we did our usual Around the Town Carols, with 18-20 people reminding people of the reason for Christmas, before finishing for supper at Robert and Anne Campbell's.

We note with sadness the closure in the middle of the year of Knox Presbyterian Church on the corner of Kimbolton and North Street. However, this has blessed us with a number of new people for which we are grateful. We should note at this point the departure of the Schuurman family who contributed much in their time with us before being redeployed from Ohakea to Whenuapai.

The second half of the year was vastly different! Baptist ministers these days are offered a sabbatical. This is some time away to refresh every five years. However, my fifth year was during the Covid pandemic, so it was delayed. From mid August, after nine years, I took three months to freshen up. I chose to bike 3200 kilometres from Cape Reinga to Bluff. It fully did the job, also providing an incredible sense of satisfaction.

Thanks to our team of Elders; Ruth McGee, Geoffrey Ward, Jo Berrington-Hince, Sharon Douglas, Peter Howe, who led the church extraordinarily well during this time. They have been nothing short of outstanding. What a blessing this team has been to us, and to me. We can be grateful for the way they and



our guest speakers served God and us over those thirteen Sundays.

Thanks also to Geoff and Lynda Noyes for leading the Coombrae services while I was away. And also to Gillian Drayton, Esmé Haigh, Eleanor Keyte-Bailey for singing and music support through the year at Coombrae.

Finally, I am also thankful for all the people who make up our congregation. At the end of the year,

we have traditionally said thank you to all the volunteers, and everyone and anyone who has contributed in any way to our church during the year. This year we asked people to note the things that they are grateful for and appreciate about Feilding Baptist. A sample below of the responses provides a good picture of us in 2025. Thanks to Colin and Barb Funnell for the energy and effort in putting this end of year meal together.

Thanks be to God.

What we appreciate:

- Church lunches
- Sermons
- Nexus
- The drawing table
- The food the church provides
- Pizza
- New painted walls
- Regional Hui
- Picnics
- Graham's sausage rolls
- New auditorium
- Funeral helpers
- Ice cream truck
- New basketball hoop
- The cleaners
- Those who serve in the kitchen
- Musicians
- Fellowship and friendship
- Prayer
- The people
- New foyer
- Hot chips
- New curtains
- New carpark





- Bible based preaching
- Love and care shown to everyone
- Grateful for an awesome and caring kids' ministry
- For an amazing kids' church
- People who uphold others in prayer
- Friends
- Singing
- Pizza
- J Team and who has run it
- Council car park and footpaths
- Our awesome children
- For being a friendly welcoming church
- Morning teas and lunches
- For all the ministries we support
- For the financial stewards of the past who managed the money so well we didn't have to borrow for the toilets
- For the support from church family during hard times
- All who serve
- Helpers at funerals
- Family atmosphere
- Love and care by kitchen helpers
- Knit n Natter
- Elders
- People who buy eggs for mission
- Gluten free options!



- Caring
- Girls Brigade and ICONZ
- Friendship x4
- Friendly women
- A sense of belonging
- Our young people
- New toilets



Statistics

Sunday Attendance

	Adults	Teens	Children
2025	95	9	12
2024	83	13	9
2023	79	15	14

2025 Guest Preachers

Christa McKirland (mp4)
Susan Saunders x3
Ruth McGee
Geoffrey Ward x2
Sam Schuurman x4
Paul Windsor (mp4)
Elisha Howe
Geoff Dixon
Kelly Brunton
George Wieland (mp4)
Richard Goodwin
Johnny Weir (mp4)
Sonja Dixon
Paul Jones (Carey)
Mike Burnard

New Members

Pete Howe
Pauline Cox
John Batty
Graham Douglas
Sharon Douglas
Lauretta Hannah
Sal Nielsen
Brian Walker
Gail Walker

Births

Dedications

Deaths

Ross Haigh - 17th April
Heather Muldoon - 7th August
Jean Signal - 14th November
Viv Jones - 19th November

Baptisms



Worship Team

We are grateful for the faithful leading of Sharon Douglas and Sal Nielsen who have led us through Sunday after Sunday.

On the stage we've had a competent mix of musicians who added positively to our worship.

And behind the scenes were several of our young people upskilling on the essential skills of sound system and computer.

After waiting a very long time new auditorium speakers with amplifier arrived in the country, replacing the remaining speaker, which made an immediate impact in volume and quality.

Going into 2026 additional leaders are something to look to gain, and it would be great to have someone to play the drums, and bass guitar.





Little Lights

It has been a great year of spending valuable time together with the children and learning and growing together in our walk with God. A few highlights have included our prayer time, alternating using Prayer Bear and the prayer bag to encourage being grateful and thanking God, and also praying for others. Our weekly news-sharing time has provided our children the opportunity to share with the rest of the group something that is important to them that has happened during the week, or an item from home, e.g. a soft toy. They have all been fully engaged with this activity.

The children have also been doing very well memorising Bible verses, with the added benefit of receiving a chocolate once this is achieved! My hope is, in years to come and in the present, that they may continue to remember these verses and be able to use them when needed.



And of course, morning tea always seems to be well received too!

Most Sundays we have between 4–6 children attending, ranging from 2 to 6 years old. Anne Sanson finished her time in March as the Little Lights teacher; we were very grateful to have had her. Anne had been working her way through

the *Beginners Bible* on Jesus and His ministries, and I continued on with this.

During the year we have also spent some time in Genesis, looking at the days of creation and focusing on different aspects of what God has

made. The children were very receptive and interested in this. We also spent six sessions on Old Testament stories, a collection of stunning books we were given, well illustrated and with text ideal for this age group.





Near the end of the year, we spent time looking into the birth of Jesus and the Christmas story leading up to Christmas and creating a Nativity stable scene out of shoeboxes and cut-out Bible characters. This was a fun activity and a lovely idea from Barb Funnell.



group, and we put on an “ice-cream” farewell party for her.

It has been a privilege to lead Little Lights, and I have really appreciated the different helpers we have had, and Catherine Clement for diligently letting us know when the service is about to finish each Sunday. Thank you also for your prayers for

We also sadly farewelled Luca, as she moved back to Auckland with her family. She was a very valued part of our Little Lights

this group.

Michelle Ward

J-team

We continued with a similar format to the previous year, exploring Bible stories that were often presented through media. A favourite resource was the *Kids on the Move* video collection. This worked well for the slightly older group we had become, offering more practical application and prompting deeper thinking and conversation as we sat around the morning-tea table



to talk and pray before moving on to a craft or game.

Big thanks to Rachel Schuurman and Michelle Ward for taking great care of the group while I accompanied Martin on a three month very enjoyable sabbatical. One week during the year we even got to have Raewyn Moodie (one of National Children and Family Ministries leaders) take our



group, thanks to some influence of two of her grandchildren in J-team.

On our return I enjoyed basing the last few lessons of the year around photos I'd taken between Cape Reinga and Bluff with the accompanying 'God lesson'.

The above photo of a resilient Beech Tree at Mavora Lakes was accompanied by the verse Ephesians 3:17 "Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong."

We then used water colour paints to make the roots on a printed tree by blowing through straws to shape

them and challenged the children to memorise this verse which some successfully did.

As a Sunday School volunteer, there is nothing I'd like more than these children to truly know the reality of their lives being strongly grounded in God's love.

We finished the year with the Schuurman family moving on to new adventures in Auckland and others graduating. This, along with some fluctuation in numbers, lead us to take some advice and look at how we could successfully combine the two groups going into 2026.

Diane Baldwin

Nexus

I have enjoyed working with the youth this year and I hope they have enjoyed each other's company. We spent the year working through Acts, following the birth and growth of Christianity, driven through the Holy Spirit. We ate cookies, if I remembered to grab them off the bench. Our favourite game seems to

be handball. We operated every 2nd week or so on the off weeks they could help out in church in various capacities.



Geoffrey Ward



Knit & Natter

During 2025 a group of ladies have met every second Thursday afternoon at the home of Gail Healey, and another group met every second Wednesday evening at Barb Funnell's. As the name of the group suggests, we meet and do crafts together. But it is so much more than that. We are building relationships, sharing, and having needs met – both



practically and prayerfully. It is wonderful to see what crafts people are doing or learning, as we learn more about them as people.

Anyone is welcome, and no, you do not have to do crafts. Some do puzzles, and some come and have a good natter. The

door is always open.

Barb Funnell & Gail Healey

Girls' Brigade

The Year opened with an adventure on the farm, where girls and their family's enjoyed tractor and trailer rides. The girls prepared Nachos on gas cookers. Followed later by toasting marshmallows and eating gooey s'mores. One of the



biggest highlights was the magic carpet ride, which quickly became a favourite for everyone who tried it. It was an enjoyable way to start the year.

Later in the term, the girls explored Feilding through geocaching, discovering hidden

treasures in the most surprising



places—from high up power poles to cleverly disguised caches tucked inside fake water tables.

Mother's Day brought lots of creativity, with Seniors baking treats and cards, while Juniors made unique bookmarks, 3D art, and their cards. The Juniors also embraced Random Acts of kindness, painting rocks, making Pom Pom Pals, and writing notes to brighten others' days. We focused on Papua New Guinea, where we wrote letters to Bridget from

(MAF) —who replied to every single one. We welcomed Martin, who shared stories from his time living there as a child.

Junior cooking sessions turned into delicious experiments, trying gluten-free baking. The girls learnt how to play Ukulele and wrote a song for breakup. For Father's Day they made wood-burned coasters and cards, while devotions centred on the "Bee Attitudes," guiding the girls in how to live with purpose and kindness.



The Seniors dived deep into their devotions, unpacking memory verses with thoughtful discussion. Their cooking programme focused on the humble egg—how to cook it, why it matters, and the science behind it. The seniors

sewed unique GB Bible bags and impressive pin cushions, which they proudly completed. For their Father's Day project, they built rustic frames from small branches and used pebbles to form people inside them.



The Pioneers utilised the basketball court, played lots of games, and a wide range of crafts, from

bracelets and artwork to woodwork and nature-inspired creations made from leaves and branches. True to tradition, plenty of cooking found its way into their programme too.

Special events added even more sparkle to the year. ICONZ hosted a ball as part of their badge work, and everyone arrived dressed beautifully for a night of dancing. A bonfire night at the farm brought the thrill of hobo



stoves and marshmallows toasted in front of a roaring fire. Bring-a-Friend Night overflowed with balloon games, tiny teddy-bear cars, and ice cream treats. In September, the girls rolled up their sleeves for the “Keeping Feilding Beautiful” project, collecting an impressive 40 kilograms of rubbish before celebrating their efforts with hot chips and hot chocolate.

We had three of our Pioneers go to Auckland for Awesome Leaders training, they all came back full of enthusiasm.

ICONZ

Kia ora Tatou

The past year has been action-packed for the Feilding Boys Brigade. The main activities over 2025

As the year ended, the company embraced the festive spirit with a flurry of Christmas crafts, ending a vibrant, joy-filled year of learning, laughter, and community.

We are blessed with amazing leaders and are grateful for the support of the church.

Leaders: Lynne Prior Captain, Anita Sigglekow, Pearl Cotter, Laurreta Hannah, Catherine Clement, Hazel Cotter and Graziella Chapple.



Leaders 1st Feilding Girls' Brigade

included camps such as tenting at the Baxters' Farm, Lake Karapiro BBNZ Camp (Cambridge), Sixtus Lodge (Apiti), Hunting and Fishing Camp (Northland), as well as our National



Leader Development Course (NLDC) 1&2.

Our numbers were steady all year with 10 in our 5-8 group, 15 in our 9-12 group and 11 in our 13+ group, a total of 36 boys. Thank you to all leaders and helpers, particularly to Reuben Leung Wai, who does our food shopping and the bulk of the cooking at camps.

At the NLDC, three young men attended level 1 and one attended level 2. Three of these men are currently leaders at our unit. We presented numerous badges over the varying sections, which the boys earned at the guidelines set by BBNZ/ICONZ standards. Our highest award were the two Kings Badge Awards presented to Peter & Andrew George by the Governor General in Wellington Dec 4th 2025.

Other highlights were BB Feilding being represented at the ANZAC Parade with a wreath, also Delta boys keeping Feilding beautiful with Makino Stream and Kowhai Park litter collection. A few of the boys



helped with the dog trials at Timona Park in Dec.

Some of the Adventure Section boys obtained the Hardman Badge at 20hrs worth of working bees. Some Delta Seniors earned Bronze, Silver or Gold Service Awards depending on their current level, while the two Kings Badge Award boys completed three years' worth of close to 700hrs volunteer service each. The boys also helped towards costs as they worked hard splitting/stacking trailers of firewood to sell.

2025 will be remembered for the Brigaders ball held at the Feilding Baptist Church. This dance was in association with the Citizens Badge requirement that the Delta Section were working through. A big success where the boys learned a lot. The Girls' Brigade stated it would be their turn to organize next year (2026).



We are thankful for the support given by Hire Shop Feilding, with the donation of a toilet block at the farm camp. To Three Oaks Milk and Gilmours, for food



donations over the year. The boys extremely appreciate the generosity of the Feilding Baptist Church for the venue and day to day running costs. Thank you also to Eric and Heather Relf, who continue to help us as needed.

In 2026 we are looking to run four sections which puts us in line with BBNZ. We are expecting with the smaller section sizes and decreased leader/student ratios to enhance the discipleship ability through fun, fellowship, activity and devotional content. These groups will not necessarily be age directed but will be friend and maturity based grouped. All leaders are either trained or parents willing to lead Biblically based programs usually guided by Boys Brigade NZ/ICONZ.



In 2026 we will be continuing to focus on uniform presentation and 'fall in' skills. We may appear relaxed but would like unit pride and discipline to be shown by all. New uniform jackets have been ordered, ready in time for ANZAC Parade and will be on loan to the boys who show pride in their

current uniform presentation. This includes black shoes and socks, navy or black shorts/pants and a (family purchased) BB shirt. We continue to aim at keeping costs as low as possible. Currently, BB shirts are \$40-45 each and term fees have remained \$35 per boy, even though costs have increased. We are grateful for the \$2000 grant from the Lions Club Feilding, the \$1236 from the Feilding Oroua Rotary Club and the \$400 donation from Feilding Rotary for the Santa Cave working bee the boys assisted with, which has helped towards obtaining badges and jackets.

We are a blessed Unit and can see God's provision in resources and manpower which reflect in the boys/men's growth and maturity.

We continue to ask for prayer and wisdom in all that we do here at Feilding Boys Brigade.

Nga Mihi
Mathew Redshaw



"Sure and Steadfast" Hebrews 6:19



Mission

This year has seen our church family continue to support a wide range of mission partners, both long-standing and newly added. A special highlight has been the introduction of “Eggs for Mission”, which now plays a part in supporting the Orchard family as they serve with MAF in Papua New Guinea. Their ministry is deeply valued, and we are grateful to contribute in a small but meaningful way to the work God is doing through them.

Arotahi Partnerships

It has been encouraging to receive good news from Brian and Gay Cochrane, who have now settled well into their senior leadership role in Bangladesh. Their experience and steady presence are clearly making a difference.

We also celebrate the arrival of a young couple, Sam and Jasmine, who have recently joined the Cochranes. They are currently immersed in language learning and cultural orientation as they prepare for long-term ministry. It is heartening to see new workers stepping forward to serve.

Joyya Support – Christchurch Cycling Team

Another inspiring story comes from a dedicated group in Christchurch who raise funds for Joyya, the organisation providing dignified employment for women. Their sponsored bike rides help fund “fun activities” for Joyya staff – simple but meaningful events such as picnics that build community and joy. We help share their updates so our congregation can celebrate alongside them.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) – PNG

There continues to be strong interest in the work of Bridget Ingham, MAF pilot in Papua New Guinea. Her twice-monthly newsletters are eagerly read, and we look forward to welcoming her in person on 17 March. We also acknowledge the historic connection some former Knox Church members had with Andy and Sharon Campbell, serving at Mt Hermon, PNG – Andy as a Maintenance Controller (Aircraft Engineer) and Sharon as a doctor. Their faithful service remains part of our wider mission story.



Staying Connected

Mission newsletters are available online, and printed copies can be provided for those who prefer something to keep with their daily Bible readings. Eleanor continues to faithfully distribute these.

Financial Support

We recognise that many individuals in our congregation support missionaries directly. As a church, our budgeted giving currently supports:

- Bridget Ingham – MAF
- MAF - Karl and Helene, Ayla, Thea Orchard, through egg sales
- Arotahi mission partners

We are grateful for every prayer, every dollar, and every act of encouragement that helps sustain these ministries.

Admin/Building/Maintenance Team

What a great year this has been! So many new things: auditorium speakers, toilets, curtains, foyer refurbishment, kitchen ventilation, and the car park behind our building kindly provided by the Council.

We continue to be thankful for Lyndon Ingram's initiative that got the ball rolling with the \$200,000 toilet revamp. The construction of these took most of the first half of the year, coming into use a few hours before the start of the Lower North Island Baptist Hui that we hosted. The fine tuning and completion continued for some time after this.

A generous donation enabled us to repaint the entire foyer and meeting room. Much fun was had choosing

wallpaper to replace the red papered feature wall that Judy McNab had hung twelve or so years ago. In the end no consensus could be reached, so we went with paint, with considerable further discussion! Finally, a colour was chosen, including the circular artwork of the wood pigeon and tui, which has added something quite different and feels more Feilding-like (see the front cover).



The mismatched curtains in the meeting room and two offices, and the temporary (20-year-old) red



auditorium curtains, were also replaced after \$5,500 of donations. These have significantly tidied up the presentation of the building and have the required fire rating. A rimu foyer table replaced the chipboard thing on legs that had been purposefully hidden with a red tablecloth...

In the auditorium the long-awaited speakers arrived, with a huge amount of time spent by a large team getting these in the right places and working soundly. And a donation of a large TV enabled the much smaller one at the back of the auditorium to be replaced, making a significant difference to those who perform on the stage.

Hosting the Regional Hui meant a stocktake of plates and cutlery so that we could serve the 110 delegates. Thirty-five years ago it seems there

were enough of each for 100 people, but one lot of plates was down to 65. Thankfully, with the same product available, we were able to top up the plates and buy new cups and cutlery to now serve 150 people.

As a result of the toilet work, the kitchen also had a ventilation upgrade, providing some future-proofing and compliance.

Out of sight on the roof is the cladding above the auditorium that was in very poor condition. This has now been treated, undercoated, and had two top coats of paint applied. This should be sufficient for another ten years before the cladding is replaced.





We continued the investigation regarding the cracks in the back wall tilt panels, with a range of experts having input. The cost of repairs has been quoted at around \$20,000, well beyond our reach with the toilets taking priority this year.

It is with much gratefulness to God that we have not ended the year in debt. This is nothing short of a miracle. It is fair staggering what we have been able to achieve. This achievement was enabled by wise financial management, not only this year, but in years gone by, squirreling money away for a 'rainy day'. This year it poured! Those nest eggs, carefully stowed, allowed us to complete the year without any form of

loan. It is remarkable. Something we should be very grateful to God for.

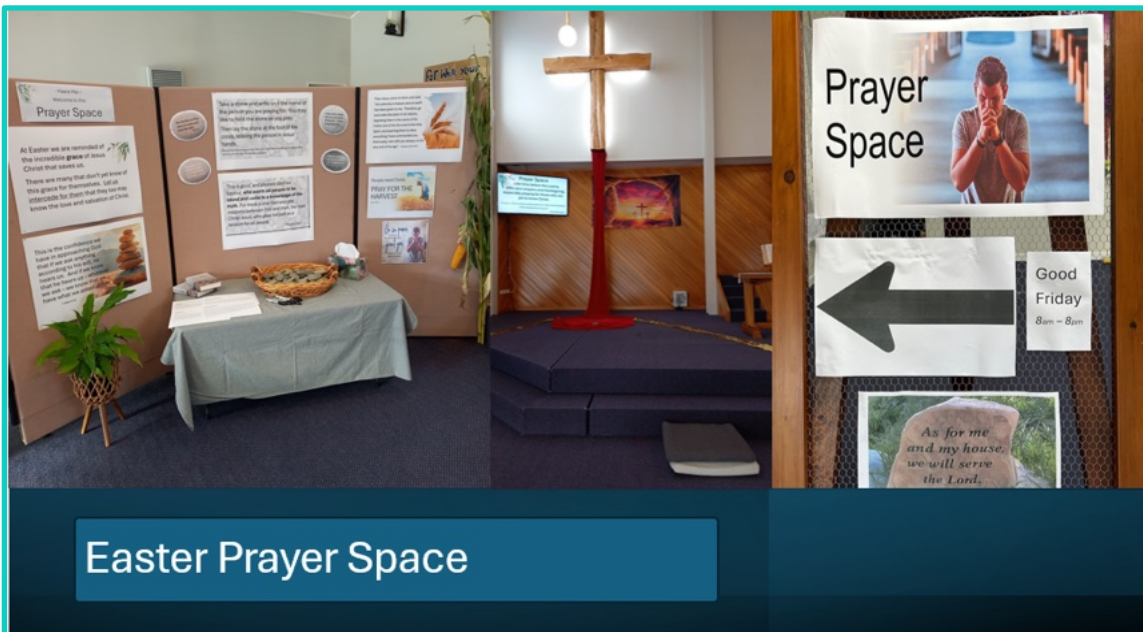
A further project to come is a colour upgrade for the brown weatherboards at the front of the building. Hopefully this is something we can complete ourselves once we agree on a new colour!

Finally, I am very grateful to James Woodfield for cleaning the buildings each week. And a huge thank you to Eric Relf, Colin Funnell, and Graham Douglas, who do a huge amount of work behind the scenes making sure everything is working and tidy, not only for us but for the many people who hire our rooms.



Relive the Moments: Feilding Baptist 2025 in Photos.

Easter Prayer Space



Celebrations



Happy 100th
Birthday Audrey

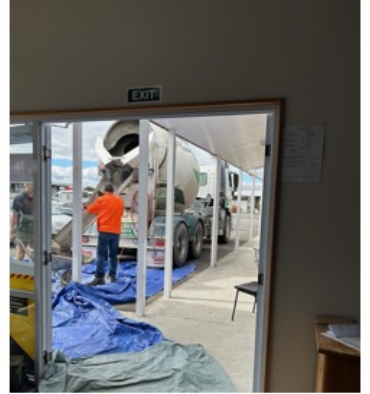


Toilet Upgrade



**Toilet
Reno**







Toilet Upgrade Opening



Foyer Update



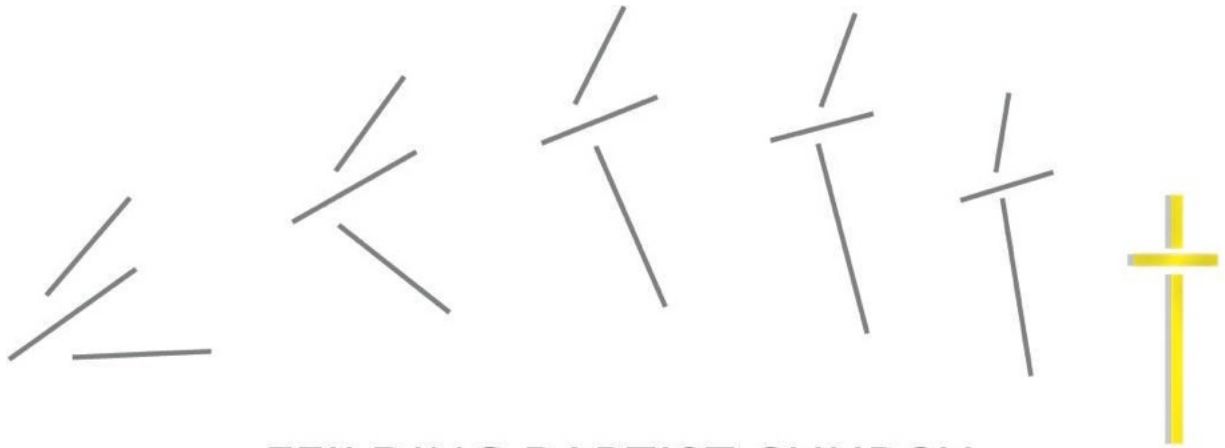
2025 LEADERS

Minister:	Martin Baldwin
Elders:	Ruth McGee, Geoffery Ward Pete Howe, Jo Berrington-Hince Sharon Douglas.
Children:	Michelle Ward, Diane Baldwin, Geoffrey Ward
Girls Brigade:	Lynne Prior
ICONZ:	Mat Redshaw
Missions:	Eleanor Keyte-Bailey
Administrator	Ruth McGee
Treasurer:	Helen Churton

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



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