



Annual Report



2024

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Minister

It was a notable year for Feilding, recognising 150 years of European settlement on the first weekend of March. We were part of a combined churches service in the Civic Centre, a big and successful gathering. Our own celebration was on King's Birthday weekend when we acknowledged 120 years in Feilding. Our Sunday service was held in the hall, starting with morning tea, then worship and communion, followed by lunch together. There were about 90 people, young and old, with appropriate displays of memorabilia.



Planning for the upgrade of our toilets surely should not be the prevailing image of the year! But raising a significant amount was a highlight, as we reached the 'trigger point' number of \$140,000 in the middle of the year. We are very grateful for the generosity of people to God that has enabled this much needed revamp to continue gaining momentum. Tenders were subsequently called and confirmed in a church meeting before

Christmas. 2025 will be the year of demolition and reconstruction—only 13 years late.

It was sad to farewell Val Wilton (January) and Brian Philps (October). Brian had been associated with Feilding Baptist for most of his 96 years. It was also very sad and difficult to farewell Tim Wingate, one of our ICONZ boys. We also acknowledge the passing of those linked to families in our congregation, such as Rose Berrington, Fiona Warring, and Grant White.

The transition of people in and out was regular throughout the year, with Willem and Dita returning to the Bay of Plenty, Keith Moore and his boys moving back to the U.S., and the Taylor family, after a huge contribution to worship and leadership, moving on in the middle of the year. The church directory was updated with 24 household changes, twelve added, twelve deleted.

While the worship team looked very thin for a couple of weeks, with a



very heavy load on Elisabeth Hince and Sharon Douglas, suddenly new people emerged, a flautist, a drummer, new singers, and leaders! We are sincerely grateful to God and look forward to how this will develop in 2025.

Andrew and Hazel Robertson's move to Foxton meant they were less able to attend to security breaches in the middle of the night. Hazel concluded her role in the kitchen, as did Andrew with his hospitality role. Reon and Elisabeth Hince's move to Bainesse has considerably increased their travel time, limiting what they like to contribute to.

Creative prayer has again been a highlight, with the year getting off to a very positive start. Inspiration from the 24/7 prayer book *Red Moon Rising*, led to the creation of a 27 hour prayer event from Wednesday 24th to Thursday 25th January. Thirty people took part in the four 'stations': a prayer and pin, where each person in the church directory was prayed for; a kneeling space with the Lord's Prayer from the KJV, NIV, and The Message; a communion space; and a listening

space to record what people were hearing from God. One reflection was written at 3 a.m. about an earthquake, and suddenly, there was one, a decent shake occurred at 3:18a.m!

Our weekly prayer time, which has had various hosts over the last nine years, moved back to the church on Mondays at 5:15pm. We continued to host a combined churches



prayer gathering on the first Sunday of each month, where Graham Conlon contributed with worship each night. We also hosted musician Jules Riding in November, with an audience of 40.

Preaching this year has been fun, starting with four of the Minor Prophets in January; Nahum, Hosea, Obadiah, and Zephaniah. This was far richer and enjoyable than I had expected, and a surprisingly positive way to begin the year. We continued with Acts and, later in the year, 1 John, a book with which I was not familiar. Heather Relf's morning tea scones were memorable and always appreciated.

We engaged with ten 'guest' preachers who provided excellent



variety and difference. We should mention that Pam Barnett, who has been a much valued backup preacher over the last few years, developed terminal cancer this year. We miss her involvement.

Kruif and Rochie Torres brought Alina to be dedicated and turned up again the following week! Alina was delightful, and people were very welcoming to them afterwards. Diane Botha's calligraphy made for a very professional certificate.

We have continued our involvement at Coombrae Rest Home, preparing and leading a service on the third Thursday of each month. This has been well supported by our musicians Gillian Drayton and Esmé Haigh, along with singers, for which I am grateful. We can have over 20 residents, which shows the value to them of what we're doing. It's great to bring a Baptist flavour for Dennis Wickham and Elaine Telford.

Our ICONZ and Girls' Brigade groups have functioned very well and even included a rare Girls' Brigade church parade and service. Tanya Carter has been an excellent leader of our preschool

group, Cuppa Chat and Play, on Mondays before concluding in October.

To round out the year, we switched missions from Christian Blind Mission (CBM) to Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) for our Christmas appeal. CBM has held an Advent appeal over the last few years, but this didn't happen in 2024. MAF responded enthusiastically to our suggestion of sponsoring some of the Bibles they sell in Papua New Guinea. Our givers responded generously with \$850, including the Christmas Day offering.

Finally, I am very grateful for all the people who serve, and who use their gifts in a great range of ways. So much is given to God through our church. It's not just at working bees that people contribute their time and energy, it's also through skills, leadership, and many other ways. Thank you.

I am also very thankful to those on our prayer team who have continued to lift people and situations to God. You are a blessing to us all. Thank you to Elisabeth Hince who has coordinated this.



Statistics

Sunday Attendance

	Adults	Teens	Children
2024	83	13	9
2023	79	15	14
2022	73	8	11

2024 Guest Preachers

Christa McKirland (mp4)

Sam Schuurman x2

Pam Barnett

Ruth McGee x2

Paul Ballard

Sonja Dixon

Michael Rhodes (mp4)

Jasmine Zhou

Jock Brunskill

Kelly Brunton

Baptisms

Charlotte Taplin 1st September



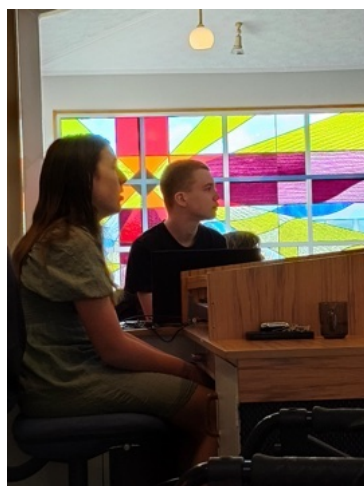


Worship Team

We finished the year with up to seven people on stage, including new singers, leaders, flautists, and a drummer. As was pointed out, none of these people were part of the church eight years ago. We're a very dynamic congregation! The small team in July had looked grim, so we must be grateful to God for this unexpected blessing.

Michael and Autumn Taylor departed, taking with them leadership and musical prowess. Elisabeth Hince has requested a lighter load after 14+ years of leading, so we are thankful to have Sharon Douglas and Sal Nielsen to lead us into 2025.

One of the most pleasing upgrades was to have a teenager, Charlotte Taplin, on the team, successfully lowering the average age. One of our ongoing challenges is to integrate our young people into the team and train up some new people for the sound desk.





Little Lights

2024 has been another delightful year for Little Lights.

We regularly have between 2 and 6 children. For the newer children, the time is not just about learning about Jesus; it is also about building relationships for the short time we are together, out of the service and often away from their parents. The time rushes by each week.

We start the session sitting together and saying a very simple "Good morning, Jesus" prayer. The children always seem to enjoy the weekly Bible story from a Beginner's Bible. Some colouring or craft activity based on that Bible story is done at the table.

Next is morning tea, with the apple machine (for peeling, coring, and slicing the apple) being a firm Little Lights favourite activity.

After a little morning tea, we get to play with the toys. Heather

Relf's knitted farm, and animals are very well loved and played with most weeks. We also enjoy extra stories, as well as looking after the baby dolls and making cups of tea for the toys with the little tea set. The Duplo blocks for building towers and castles are also well used.

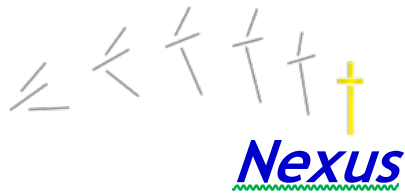
I would like to sincerely thank Michelle Ward for filling in at Little Lights when needed.

I would also like to acknowledge Tom Priest for his faithfulness in setting up and packing up in Little Lights. If I need anything, Tom is always on hand to help out the leaders in the room. Thank you so much, Tom.

It is always a privilege to spend time with the youngest members of our church community.

Anne Sanson

J Team



With four to six energetic and happy-to-be-there children of primary school age, we continued to follow the Scripture Union X stream curriculum for 8 to 11-year-olds. This led us predominantly through the Old Testament—Genesis, Exodus, 1 Samuel—breaking to follow the material sent by Arotahi before ending the year in Matthew and Luke as we looked towards Christmas.

A usual morning would include a short, internet-sourced story video mirrored to the TV of the Bible passage or theme being looked at, followed by an activity/game, prayer, and of course, morning tea. The 'Bible videos' with humour in them seem to be the most appreciated!

As usual, the highlight would be observing the faith development at varying levels, reflected by the children in how they pray and converse within the group.

Prayer for keeping J Team relevant, transformational, and fun is valued.

Diane Baldwin

I have enjoyed working with the young people this year. They have great ideas, good insights, and practical advice and solutions to a variety of life's challenges. We have spent the year discussing various Bible stories and events and how we can apply these lessons to make the most of this life God has blessed us with. We have been discussing how faith in God and relying on His strength and wisdom can lead to a fuller, more satisfying life. We do plenty of Bible reading, share our views and thoughts, and try to leave with some sort of application that will benefit us going forward.

Tasty food makes a difference. We play games. At the end of our session, it is nice to head to the hall for a run around and play some dodgeball or handball—which I probably enjoy more than the youth!

Geoffrey Ward



Cuppa Chat n Play

We were fortunate to run CC&P this year, especially when it was initially uncertain who would be available. The leaders—Heather R., Heather M., Jean, Brenda, and Tanya— knew there were wonderful mums and carers in the community who really wanted the group to continue, as well as amazing kids we love! We wanted to shine God’s light into their lives. That might sound simplistic, but we jumped at every opportunity to show love, provide practical support, offer prayer, give advice, and listen.

This year, our group included several home-based early childhood caregivers who brought along 2–4 children each—many of them very young!



Unfortunately, in Term 4, I couldn’t keep Mondays free anymore, but I discovered that at two of the primary schools where I work, there were two lovely kids who had left our group to start Year 1. I was pleased to be a familiar, friendly face for them in their new environment.

Jean, Heather, and Heather did an amazing job running the group in Term 4, and they appreciated the kind assistance of Eleanor and Michelle very much. The carers and mums were determined to be involved and to help out too, which was heart-warming. It was a busy year full of music, learning about God, and creative play.

Tanya Carter



Girls' Brigade

2024: A Year of Adventure, Growth, and Friendship for Girls' Brigade. We began the year with a highlight at Fonomarae, our four-yearly national camp at El Rancho, with four leaders and four girls joining over 200 participants from five countries. The camp's theme, "Facing Giants,"



inspired a week of challenges and triumphs. Activities included white-water rafting, cliff jumping into the Otaki River, conquering the high ropes course at Adrenalin Forest, crafts, a trip to Wellington, and a visit to Kapiti Island. The memories and friendships made at Fonomarae will last a lifetime.

At home, we started with family events at Lynne Prior's farm, where we cooked devilled sausages, enjoyed ATV rides, made s'mores, and decorating cupcakes—bonding moments to kickstart the year.



In Term 1, we explored Mt Lees with a scavenger hunt where girls gathered materials to create biblical-themed objects. Our Sparkle Disco was a fun success, and we wrapped up the term with Easter crafts that showcased the girls' creativity.

Term 2 focused on learning about Girls' Brigade's history, badges, and motto. The seniors deepened their understanding of GB, while juniors experimented with science, making lava lamps, colourful milk reactions, and "elephant toothpaste," while also exploring the phases of the moon.

In Term 3, we united juniors and seniors for a cultural exploration of Asia, enjoying foods and crafts from various traditions. We also held our 1st Feilding Olympics with events like diving, curling, target throwing, and ping

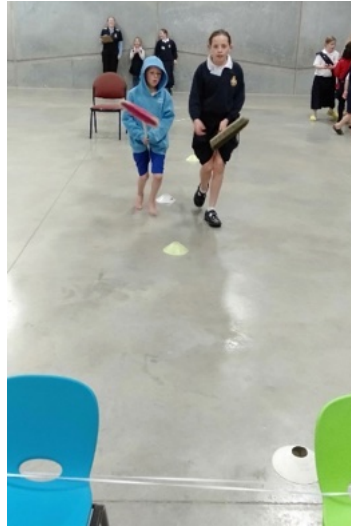


pong basketball, with the highlight being a broomstick (Dusty and Bubble-gum) horse - jumping competition. Medals were awarded, and smiles filled the day.

We took time to honour our parents, creating heartfelt gifts for Mother's and Father's Day. Our care extended to the church community, where we made extra gifts for church members. To wrap up the term, we participated in Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week, cleaning up around Feilding.

In Term 4, the festive season brought Christmas crafts and preparations for our end-of-year celebration. A proud moment came when Hannah Feldon received her Brigader Brooch, the highest national award in

Girls' Brigade, recognising her dedication. We ended the year with a mini golf outing.



September was a milestone month with our church parade, where we celebrated the commissioning of new leaders Catherine Clement and Pearl Cotter. We also recognised the incredible service of

leaders Lynne Prior (20 years), Laretta Hannah (30 years), and Anita Sigglekow (10 years).

We are grateful to Feilding Baptist for their support of Girls' Brigade, enabling us to positively impact the lives of young girls, nurturing their confidence, faith, and community. Here's to another year of adventure and lasting memories!

Leaders 1st Feilding Girls' Brigade





ICONZ

Feilding ICONZ runs during school term time on Wednesdays, 6–7:30 p.m. This year, with the addition of new leaders, we added a third group, so we now take young men starting from age five (previously eight) through to 18 years of age. Many of the boys have gone on to become exceptional leaders.

Think of ICONZ as a mix between Scouts and a Christian youth group. The guys work to earn badges while at the



same time developing a practical appreciation of what God has done for us. The badges cover spiritual, action, community, and interest themes. Summed up, ICONZ is faith, blood, mud, fire, water, speed, smash, and build. ICONZ, started in 2003, is the NZ rebranded version of Boys' Brigade. Our aim is to inspire the lads to develop discipline,

integrity, respect, and tenacity and become real Kiwi icons (ICONZ).

Some of the activities we did this year included: bush survival skills, bushcraft, marching in the ANZAC dawn parade, lots of sports, memorising the Lord's Prayer, boys delivering devotions, looking at global missionary work, gaining essential first aid skills, science experiments, hiking, a target shooting competition, Minecraft, knot tying and rope skills, and cooking.

We had a couple of epic camps this year. In March, we spent a very cool weekend in tents on the Baxter's farm doing target shooting, shelter building, hunting, orienteering, sled riding, and enjoying delicious food. Later in June, we camped out at the iconic Sixtus Lodge. We did night walks, hiking, sports, fire-lighting skills, marshmallows,



glowworm caves, and swimming in the freezing river on a frosty morning.

With ICONZ up in the air at the end of 2023, it was encouraging that people stepped in, and this year we had a very strong leadership team. This has allowed me to hand over the reins and take a break after 13 years of involvement.

There are many people who have helped make ICONZ a success this year. In no particular order: Michelle Flynn, Matt Hook, Ruben Leung-Wai, Matt, Jimmy, Jack, Johnny & Joseph Redshaw, Jess Yeo, Dale, John & Aymie Monk, Eric & Heather Relf, all the parents, and the young men. Thank you to all of you for your time, commitment, and energy.



Geoffrey Ward





Knit & Natter

- K** – Kindness – We are a kind of group of ladies who enjoy fellowship & sharing!
- N** – Nattering – We always have fun nattering together!
- I** – Ideas – We get inspired by others’ ideas for crafts, patterns & recipes etc.
- T** – Thankfulness – We’re always thankful about family news & particularly new additions- grandchildren & great grandchildren.

AND

- N** – Nurturing – We nourish each other with encouragement & afternoon tea of course!
- A** – Appreciation – We appreciate each other regardless of our different personalities!
- T** – Thoughtfulness – We genuinely care about each other & others in our community!
- T** – Tenderness – We feel free to share out trials & know they will be treated with tenderness & prayer!
- E** – Enthusiasm – We get enthused by the experts amongst us who share their skills. We have made peggy squares for blankets & little garments for prem. babies! We also have an expert knitter of little animals amongst us!
- R** – Readings – We share God’s Word & can take home prayer requests as needed!

Our highlight to end 2024 was our Christmas Party at Marilyn Avery’s home where we enjoyed a wonderful luncheon together & shared small gifts (no more than \$5 each) from local Op shops – such a fun day!!!

Love & daily blessings to all our “girls” & may you thrive in 2025!!!!

Gail Healy



Mission

It has been helpful to reflect on our contribution to mission initiatives over the year. Each week, we collect items for the Salvation Army foodbank. At the end of the year, with our Christmas Giving Tree, we collect for the Manchester House foodbank.

We have made donations throughout the year to Hospital Chaplaincy, Eden Christian Kindy, Grapevine Magazine, Word for Today (Radio Rhema), and contributed to the cost of 1,200 pieces of shortbread given by the Feilding churches to spectators at the Christmas parade.

Our 2023 surplus was tithed to support Bridget Ingham, who serves with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Papua New Guinea. We have been part of the support team for Jess, Benji, and Elliott Hunt, who serve in the same place. With their return in 2025, we would like to propose that this support switch to

Bridget. Her regular newsletters have been much appreciated.

Our Christmas offering raised \$850 to subsidise PNG language Bibles sold by MAF staff.

Prayer and Self Denial is now called Renew Together, and this provided a window into what our Baptist Arotahi team is doing. A large offering was sent following this appeal. We also receive news electronically each week from Arotahi in the form of a Prayer Calendar. Eight of these are printed for those without electronic access, ensuring prayer happens from Feilding. The two couples we support are serving in India.

Please see Eleanor if you would like to receive more news or newsletters.



Admin & Maintenance Team

As has been mentioned above, the toilet upgrade (or LUpgrade) has been at the forefront of our minds all year. Tenders closed for this on Tuesday, 10th December. This resulted in a church meeting on Monday, 16th December, to confirm Design Builders of Feilding as the successful tenderer. They anticipated starting on the 27th of January, assuming the awarding of Building Consent.

Lyndon Ingram has led this work, with Colin Funnell and Michael Taylor as part of the team.

When it comes to maintaining our facilities, 2024 has been a notable year. Firstly, some unexplained damage occurred to one of the oven doors. This was irreparable. So, rather than have mismatched ovens, we took the opportunity, after much

consultation, to purchase two new Westinghouse ovens. Those who use them provided a useful list of requirements, and the positive feedback since they arrived has been pleasing. A purpose built rangehood is being prepared and will be installed as part of the toilet upgrade.

Also in the kitchen, a surprising breakdown in the continuous Rheem hot water unit resulted in its replacement in November. The opportunity was taken to upsize this after we briefly ran out of hot water at Brian Philps' funeral.

Another breakdown was one of the auditorium speakers. After consultation with the experts, we were given three options, ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000. Unfortunately, the dearer option meant a much better sound coverage for the shape of the





room, so that has been ordered. \$2,000 towards this was still in the kitty from the worship upgrade a few years ago, so very helpful.

At the December church meeting, it was raised that the rear wall tilt panels were leaking. It was agreed to seek expert advice regarding this. We are expecting a solution to be provided in 2025.

Over the last couple of years, we have greatly appreciated the use of six large round tables from The Salvation Army. These have improved fellowship at our church lunches and have also been a bonus for those who use our buildings. We offered to purchase these, and a deal was reached. They are now ours.

Outside our building, a significant two-year upgrade of the neighbouring library was completed, including landscaping. For our benefit, the garden nearest our entrance was replaced as well. At the back of

our building, two huge eucalyptus trees were taken down for the creation of 49 car parks. This has had a surprising effect, much less weekly sweeping of our front path is needed now. Martin Dodge and Andrew Philps also cleaned bucketfuls of gum leaves out of the spouting, for what should be the last time! We are grateful for the increased and handy parking options to come.



We have again become compliant with upgraded Fire and Emergency procedures, with FENZ approving our scheme. A lot of work, but totally essential to prepare for an emergency. For the second year in a row, we had money in the budget for the replacement of the exit lights. But, thankfully, they again passed the winter check, so that pain is still to come.

Finally, thank you to Brenda and James Woodfield for cleaning the buildings each week, and to Eric Relf, who sorts, fixes, and keeps the building looking tidy.



Relive the Moments: Feilding Baptist 2024 in Photos.

27 hours of prayer





Feilding Baptist 120th Celebrations



Celebrations





Working Bee



Christmas time





Tree Removal
Behind the church



Story time



Feilding Baptist
Olympics



Science Road
Show



Firewood for
Toilet Upgrade



Iconz Leaders



After Church BBQ in
January

2024 LEADERS

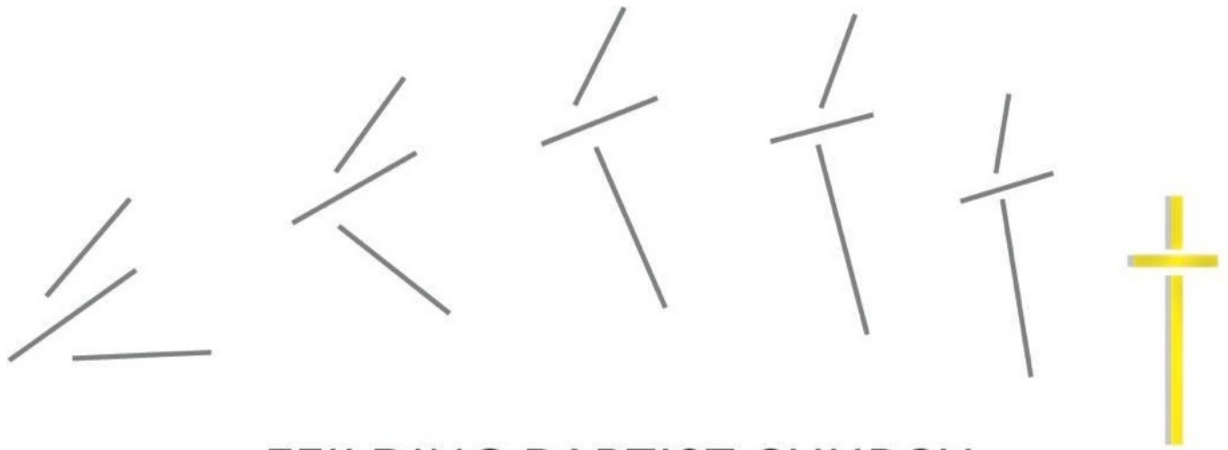
Minister	Martin Baldwin
Elders	Ruth McGee, Geoffrey Ward
Children	Anne Sanson, Diane Baldwin, Geoffrey Ward
Cuppa Chat n Play	Tanya Carter
Girls Brigade	Lynne Prior
ICONZ	Geoffrey Ward
Missions	Eleanor Keyte-Bailey
Administrator	Ruth McGee
Treasurer	Reon Hince

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