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PARISH DIRECTORY 2012

Minister:	Rev R Gray, 181 Tay St
Assistant Minister:	Rev H Kennedy, 175 Tyne St
Parish Clerk:	Mr C Stoneman, 233 Spey St
Treasurer:	Mr N McRae, 175 Gala St
Envelope Secretary:	Miss H Robinson, 245 Spey St
Church Secretary:	Miss A Sekone-Fraser, 161 Ettrick St
Organists:	Miss M Edmondston, 89 St. Andrew St Miss S Shelton, 60 Liffey St, Bluff Mrs J Sinclair, 105 Layard St Mrs N Suresh, 76 Grand Hall of Residence Mrs M Twaddle, 127 Abbot St Mr W Watt, 80 Layard St

ELDERS AS AT 30.06.12

<u>Inducted as:</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Inducted as:</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Elder</u>
A.E Ross*	20-10-67		A. Bryce *		14-05-00
A.M.G. Roby *	16-08-70	07-09-69	A.W. Mollison*		14-05-00
E.E. Sutton		24-08-75	S.A. Burns	05-04-87	29-09-02
J. Grandiek		25-07-82	J. Kennedy		29-09-02
R.J. Brash	07-04-63	25-07-82	W.J. Watt		29-09-02
C.E. McMath		17-07-83	D. Cocker	22-11-98	31-07-05
K.E. Sutton		22-09-85	B. Kennard	17-09-89	31-07-05
E.D. Allan		22-09-85	N. Garthwaite		01-07-07
D.H. Joyce		22-09-85	H Thwaites		01-07-07
E. Thwaites *		05-04-87	B. G. Buxton		15-02-09
J. Christie		05-04-87	P. C. Millar		15-02-09
J. Kellock*		31-05-92	S. J. McMillan		15-02-09
A.M. Smith*		31-05-92	M. J. Twaddle		15-02-09
D.E.M. Strong*		31-05-92	P. Fraser		22-04-12
V.M. Kellock		04-06-95	E. Kelly		22-04-12
A.C. Stoneman	17-09-89	22-11-98	P. Kelly		22-04-12
P.M. Muller		22-11-98	I. Liddell		22-04-12

*Elder Emeritus

PARISH COUNCIL AS AT 30.06.12

Minister:

Rev Richard Gray

Assistant Minister: Rev Heather Kennedy

Parish Clerk: Craig Stoneman

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES-

Christian Education: Judy Christie
Bruce Buxton

Financial: Norman McRae

Outreach and Community: Elspeth Allan
Susan Burns

Pastoral: Jenny Grandiek
Moya Twaddle

Property & Works: David Cocker

Worship : Hugh Joyce
Pat Millar

MINISTER'S REFLECTION

This past year has been a challenging one, particularly in the financial area,

but with the letting of the PSS building our situation has been alleviated somewhat. We also have a team on the Finance Committee who keep a close eye on things, tracking progress as the year unfolds.

In the end our financial health will always be down to the generosity and commitment of our members who see the mission of the church as a priority in their own lives and see the life of the church as a beneficial contribution to the life of this city.

Mission is not about money however. It is about our own personal commitment to our faith in God as a community of God's people here in this place. Mission is about our sharing of the gospel with others outside our community and it is about our gathering together to worship the Living God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ. This is a collective responsibility and something that we can and should all engage in.

This leads me to reflect on our own perception of ourselves as a church. How do we see ourselves? One often hears the comment that we are an aging and declining congregation. We are a group of primarily older people, but we do have some vibrant and talented young people as well. Age should not be the determining factor in our collective life together. I think some of our younger people are very fortunate to have a group of older people who take a great interest in them, who have watched them grow and develop into fine young people. Part of that is the chance they have to mix in a community where age is not the issue, but where people are valued because we recognised God's love for all.

In terms of the numbers. I did an exercise of working out how many new people have become part of the First Church Community over the six years and there are in excess of thirty. Fewer than that have died or left, so that would indicate a stable if not slightly growing community. We should not portray ourselves as an aging congregation. Generation after generation have done that if you read the history of the church. It is not a new problem, but the church continues. But if that is what we tell the Invercargill community they will believe it and we will be seen in that light.

Another interesting thing that happened over the year is the couple of surveys that were done about our life, and one more particularly on our style of worship. Eighty five percent of the people surveyed (which was a large portion of our active congregation) indicated they enjoyed the style of worship and got something out of it. That was pretty high compared to a lot

of other churches. This does not mean that we remain static in our approach, but it does show that we meet a need that exists in our community. Our style is liturgical, and traditional, and we should not be embarrassed by that. It offers a balanced approach and has become increasingly participatory, with people leading in the reading of the scriptures, the prayers, the music, the choir, those who welcome people and those who take up the offerings and count them after the service, those who prepare and serve morning tea, and those who educate the young people, those who make sure that flowers are done and our facilities are clean and tidy. So many tasks and so many people are involved in the life of this church. Thank you to all of you for the part you play, no matter how small you may perceive that contribution to be.

We have been grateful to Lorraine Crawford for taking over from Pam in the office. Her bright and cherry personality was infectious. Lorraine decided to leave when her husband retired as they had quite a bit planned to do which would take her away from Invercargill. We welcomed John into the office and thank him for the time he has spent working with us in this role. His contribution has been valued and he has brought a different flavour to the office.

I want to thank Heather for her sharing in the ministry of First Church and for her valuable support, encouragement and willingness to work together in serving this Parish. Thank you also to Craig for his tireless work as Parish Clerk. His quiet faithfulness and wisdom often goes unnoticed.

May we continue to see a bright future as we look forward to the coming year with all the challenges and opportunities that will arise along the way knowing that God walks with us, that God equips us and that strengthens us for the things he calls us to do.

Richard Gray
Minister

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

A Sanctuary in the City - Mission Statement

The first thing that I noticed about the annual attendance at worship is that it's nearly identical to the previous year. The numbers within categories show little variance and even the roll is very similar. We have lost some valued members this year but it's encouraging to see new faces in the congregation.

We have had some changes in eldership this year. Elders Audrey Roby, Alan Smith, Annette Bryce, Allan Mollison and Dot Strong were thanked for their dedication and special contribution. Certificates declaring their status of Elder Emeritus were presented and we are eternally grateful for their wisdom and leadership over many decades.

First Church is one of the few churches that still has visiting Elders and we see this as an important way of keeping close pastoral contact with members. Elders' Districts and the Communicant Roll were updated and revised this year and after careful and prayerful consideration, Phillip Fraser, Elizabeth and Peter Kelly and Irene Liddell were inducted as Elders at a special Church Service.

We took part in various surveys and a "self-review" and the Finance Committee made us aware of the need to do a survey of our own giving and financial commitment in the face of an unacceptably large deficit. We were very fortunate that the building leased by Presbyterian Support Services became vacant and that we were able to find a tenant. This plus generous donations and increased giving have had a considerable effect on our financial situation but it highlights our vulnerability and our reliance on income from outside the Church.

We were sorry to see Lorraine Crawford 'retire' from the Church Office and knew that we would miss her but we were fortunate that John Suresh, with his financial experience and adaptability, accepted this position. John has now been succeeded by Ainoama Sekone-Fraser but retains an involvement in financial affairs

I can't overstate how fortunate we are to have Reverends Richard and Heather as our Ministers. Their talents and abilities give us guidance and inspiration.

I'm also encouraged to see how well First Church copes with the challenges

and obstacles that come before us. I'm also encouraged that we celebrate with gratitude and give thanks to God for our accomplishments. Collective talent and wisdom make us capable of unexpected things and our past experiences and our faith assure our future.

Craig Stoneman
Session Clerk

Members:	Female		Male		Total
	Member	Associate	Member	Associate	
0 – 25 years	0	5	1	5	11
26 - 45 years	3	3	4	3	13
46 – 65 years	32	2	19	8	61
65+ years	78	5	30	6	119
Totals	113	15	54	22	204
Average attendance at services in June:					
	Female		Male		Total
0 – 13 years	4		6		10
Adults	64		50		114
Total	68		56		124
Average Attendance	2011/2012: 124		2010/2011: 123		

Communion Services:		
	2011/2012	Previous Year
September 2011	98	104
World Communion (Oct) 2011	76	76
December 2011	102	102
March 2012	73	112
Easter 2012	108	118
June 2012	109	103

ASSISTANT MINISTER/MISSION AND EVANGELISM ENABLER

Once again I find that I have had a very busy and fulfilling year with a variety of challenges and achievements. Serving First Church half-time,

and half-time serving the Southland Regional Resource Ministry certainly ensures my diary is always full.

I have led worship at First when Rev. Richard Gray is away, as well as sharing worship with him on a regular basis as well as leading up to and around Easter and Christmas. We have also provided a variety of other services for special occasions. Maintaining contact with parishioners for at least two Sundays a month is not always possible and from time to time I have been at First for many Sundays in a row and then not there for many weeks.

A very able and talented team of helpers and leaders provide the Scripture Union SupaKidz programme at KidzFirst on Tuesday nights weekly and YouthFirst on Friday nights once a month. I help whenever able, with preparation of the programme, leading parts of the games, Bible stories, activities and supper and oversight of this mission outreach. Numbers have grown and two ages groups meet to undertake age-focused sessions each week. The use of the PSS Peacehaven van to collect children in South City and take them home each week is very helpful.

The Thursday morning Interest Group has suffered a considerable decline in numbers attending, though those that do really enjoy the morning tea we have together and the discussions we share. The group has decided to meet only once a month, on the first Thursday each month and would welcome anyone who wishes to join them. From time to time we have an activity and occasionally a specific topic or study.

Since returning from a month's Study Leave in the United Kingdom last year researching Multi-Parish Ministry, I have written a report and have been working on a plan for a new structure for the Southland parishes that do not have their own Ordained Minister. I am now on the path towards writing my Masters thesis on the topic 'Multi-Parish Ministry for Presbyterian Parishes in Southland'.

Rev Heather Kennedy
Assistant Minister

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education programmes continue to be led by a dedicated group of people.

Bible class is in its fourth year, led by Bruce Buxton. The small group has discussions, tests and personal development topics which are linked to the N.I.V. study bible during the half hour 10.30 am meetings on Sundays. We plan to network with other churches in the year ahead to provide more social and off site activities. A big thank you to the family members who encourage and transport these teenage Einstiens to First Church on Sundays. Have you thought about helping as a backup Bible study leader? Its great for your own development!

Kidzfirst meets on Tuesday evenings during term times, and is attended by around fifteen children. The programme is based (sometimes fairly loosely) on a Scripture Union programme, which is an extremely good resource. Most of the children who come along do not attend church, which makes this outreach all the more important. We try to do a couple of special things a term with the children. We are grateful to the PSS who allow us the use of a van to pick children up from all over Invercargill.

The second year of the Junior College Student Youthfirst monthly club is going well. These young people are in the "socially Ignored" age group. It has been a joy for Heather, Bruce, Valda, and Tuluva to see respect, caring, sharing and relationships developing as these young adults emerge. The loud and proud culture that the young people bring is challenging to our leaders but, so far, hasn't gone beyond manageable. Thumbs up to Youth First members Dylan and Tegan who volunteered and assist with the Tuesday Kidzfirst club. We need activity ideas, inspirational guest speakers and adult leaders for this once a month club, 7pm to 9pm Fridays. The suppers created by Valda are fantastic...ever been to the zoo at feeding time?

Please remember all of our youth leaders in your prayers as they continue to meet the challenges that youth work brings

Judy Christie
Convenor

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Numbers have averaged approximately 5 over the course of the year.

Highlights have included:

- Writing to Morris (our Tear Fund child in Kenya)

- Saving our Sunday School collection and putting it towards Morris's sponsorship
- Celebrating the Rugby World Cup with our window artwork "World In Union"
- Delivering our memory verses in church to celebrate Samoan White Sunday and dressing in white for the occasion
- Staging our Christmas pageant "Christmas in Kenya". This play was written in recognition of the First Church sponsors who have changed a little boy's life and brought hope to his family
- Making our own Kenyan costumes for the pageant
- Taking part and watching The Passion Play at Easter
- Hearing the stories behind the church's Patchwork Banner and designing our own banner
- Contributing to the service on Anzac Day with our wreaths
- Housing our model Ark of the Covenant in our pop-up tent and covering the tent with silk covers just like in the Bible
- Setting up our Easter Lego display

The Sunday School children are a lovely well behaved group and it is a privilege to teach them.

If you have a grandchild or grandchildren who would like to come along, they would be most welcome.

Barbara Cocker
Sunday School Teacher

<i>FINANCE</i>

On behalf of the Finance Committee it is my duty to report on the Financial Performance of the church during the 12 months ended 30th June 2012.

This year we have again recorded a deficit of \$6,934. This is a major improvement on our budgeted loss for the year, brought about primarily by the leasing of the PSS Building and the receipt of a number of anonymous, generous donations, for which we are most sincerely grateful. The committee has kept a very close watch on everyday expenditure, with any large improvements being funded by grants from outside organizations. Without these grants, we would not be in a position to make these improvements that become necessary to keep the church in a safe and comfortable condition. You are all aware of the insurance costs that we faced during the year and I expect that this cost will increase again this year. We rely on the regular giving of church members and others to keep our cash flow in a position where we can meet these commitments as they arise.

During the year Mrs Lorraine Crawford retired and for a couple of months we were grateful that our two ministers, between them, offered to work in the office and attend to any enquiries etc that came their way. We were fortunate to have Mr John Suresh come into the office as his experience soon saw him able to cope very well in this position.

We were saddened by the death of Mr Russell Morrison in early December. Russell was dedicated to his role on this committee and had a lot of knowledge in this field. An approach was made to Miss Marion Pinkney and she accepted the role of looking after the wages, which Russell had been doing so efficiently.

I would, finally, like to express my gratitude to all the committee members, as we have a very talented and loyal committee working diligently in the background to try and improve the financial position of our church.

Norman D McRae
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INVERCARGILL

I have audited the financial statements which provide information about the past financial performance and financial position of the Church as at 30 June 2012.

The Parish Council's Responsibilities:

The Parish Council was responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Church as at 30 June 2012, and of the results of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Auditor's Responsibilities:

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the financial report presented by the Parish Council, and report my opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion:

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts in the financial statements.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted audit standards in New Zealand. I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations, which I consider necessary. I obtained sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Qualified Opinion:

Control over income prior to it being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. Inwards Cash has therefore been accepted on the basis of the signed offering books, receipts issued and bankings made.

Subject to the foregoing, in my opinion, according to the best of my information and the explanations given to me, and as shown in the said books, the List of Cash Resources and Invested Funds, and the Receipts and Payments Account, are properly drawn up, so as to give respectively a true and fair view of the state of the Church's affairs as at 30 June 2012 and of the results of its activities for the year ended at that date.

The audit also included the financial statements of the Benevolent Fund and First Church Charitable Trust.

My audit was completed on 1 August 2012

INVERCARGILL

R J BRASH CA (Hon Retired)

First Presbyterian Church
Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30 June 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
	\$	\$
RECEIPTS:		
Regular Giving:		
Casual	11,775	14,618
Envelope System	87,772	89,360
Kidzfirst	585	329
Mission Boxes	<u>78</u>	<u>208</u>
	100,210	104,515
OTHER RECEIPTS:		
Donations	18,790	8,706
Interest	2,265	4,115
Manse Rental	4,334	4,253
Museum Heritage		94
Rent Received - Environment Southland	28,863	
Use of Buildings	<u>10,641</u>	<u>16,518</u>
	64,893	33,686
SUNDRY APPEALS:		
Christmas Appeal	602	818
Garage Sales	6,832	6,535
Restoration	<u>1,143</u>	<u>1,512</u>
	8,577	8,865
BEQUESTS:		
	5,525	6,300
GRANTS:		
Invercargill Licensing Trust Foundation	7,245	
PSDS	750	
First Church Charitable Trust	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,350</u>
	8,995	1,350
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u><u>188,200</u></u>	<u><u>154,716</u></u>

	<u>2,012</u>	<u>2011</u>
	\$	\$
TOTAL RECEIPTS BROUGHT FORWARD	188,200	154,716
PAYMENTS:		
Acc Levy	500	692
Advertising	2,430	3,114
Assembly Assessment	14,375	15,818
Auditor	0	0
Bank Charge	41	40
Car Allowance	3,591	2,704
Cleaning	782	593
Christian Education	157	10
Clubs	163	255
Computer Software	138	99
Insurance	14,394	9,024
Interest	5	
Legal/Valuation Expenses		
Light, Heat & Power	12,842	9,090
Mission Boxes	78	208
Photocopier Service Contract	1,725	1,737
Printing, Stationery, Postage	734	1,427
Community Outreach Sundry		
Ministry Sundry		88
Pastoral Sundry		
Worship Sundry		72
Rates	3,819	3,397
Repairs & Maintenance: Church	3,622	3,753
Manse	5,246	4,848
Expenses - PSS Building	11,859	1,183
Church Equipment	8,428	
Heritage Building Trust	1,143	1,512
Southland Presbytery Budget	1,556	1,451
Staff Training	595	322
Stipend/Wages	98,010	95,417
Superannuation/Allowances	5,342	5,382
Sundry Expenses	143	76
Telephone	2,476	2,504
	<u>194,194</u>	<u>164,816</u>
Christmas Appeal	400	751
Donations		900
	<u>400</u>	<u>1,651</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>194,594</u>	<u>166,467</u>
EXCESS PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS -(DEFICIT)	<u>(6,394)</u>	<u>(11,751)</u>

Operating Accounts as at 30 June 2012

Westpac Balance 01.07.11	2,528	
SBS Bank Balance 01.07.11	<u>2,842</u>	5,370
PLUS		
Receipts	188,200	
Term Deposits Uplifted	8,752	
GST Refund 2009 Received	28	
GST Refund to 30.06.11 Received	<u>642</u>	<u>197,622</u>
		<u>202,992</u>
LESS		
Payments	194,594	
GST to 30.06.12 Refund Due	<u>1,021</u>	<u>195,615</u>
Balance in Operating Accounts 30.06.12		<u><u>7,377</u></u>
Westpac Operating Account Balance 30.06.12		7,349
SBS Operating Account Balance 30.06.12		<u>28</u>
		<u><u>7,377</u></u>

First Church Benevolent Fund For the year ended 30 June 2012

Balance Westpac Account 01.07.11		637
ADD		
Investment Matured		8,136
Interest on Investment		<u>121</u>
		8,894
LESS		
Payments	200	
Donation: First Presbyterian Church	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,200</u>
Closing Balance Westpac Account 30.06.12		<u><u>3,694</u></u>

First Presbyterian Church

Cash Resources and Invested Funds as at 30 June 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Westpac - Operating Account	7,349	2,528
SBS - Operating Account	28	2,842
Westpac Investments	3,988	21,967
SBS Investments	52,008	37,781
Westpac - Deposit Benevolent Fund		8,136
Westpac - Benevolent Fund Cheque Account	3,695	637
GST Refund Due	1,021	642
	<u>68,089</u>	<u>74,533</u>

NOTE:

As at 30th June 2012 there is an amount of \$50,000 (incl GST) owing to Presbyterian Support Services to be repaid over the next three years depending on the continuation of the leasing of the PSS Building.

FIRST CHURCH BUDGET 2012/2013

Receipts:

Envelope	90,000	
Ordinary	13,000	
Donations	6,500	
Interest	3,000	
KidzFirst	600	
Manse Rent	3,758	
Rent Received-Environment Sthld	49,479	
Use of Buildings	13,000	
Garage Sales	7,000	
Restoration Fund	1,200	
Bequests	5,600	
Grant - Charitable Trust	1,000	
Total Income		194,137

Expenditure

Property & Works

Cleaning	800	
Insurance	16,500	
Light, Heat & Power	11,500	
Photocopier Service Contract	1,800	
Printing Stamps & Stationery	1,000	
Rates	3,500	
Repairs & Maintenance - Church	5,000	
Repairs & Maintenance - Manse	5,500	
Expenses - PSS Bldg	18,000	
Restoration	1,200	
Telephone, Tolls & Fax	2,600	67,400

Finance

Accident Compensation	550	
Assembly Assessment	13,520	
Bank Charges	40	
Car Allowance	3,800	
Southern Presbytery	1,606	
Stipend/Wages	101,000	
Staff Allowances/Superannuation	5,600	
Sundry	50	126,166

Minister

Advertising	2,600	
Staff Training	1,000	3,600

Christian Education

Christian Education	160	
Clubs	200	360

Total Expenditure

Income less Expenditure

197,526
-3,389

FIRST CHURCH CHARITABLE TRUST

It is with pleasure that I report on the activities of the Charitable Trust for the year ended 30 June 2012. During the year no further bequests or donations were received and with the drop in interest rates on investments we did not receive as much income as anticipated. However, we were able to make a donation to the Church of \$1,000.00 and add \$880.00 to our Capital Reserves. This will help to increase the capital we have invested and therefore assist in negating the effect of the reduction of interest rates being paid on term investments. In accordance with the policy of the trustees, bequests and donations over \$1,000.00 continue to be recorded annually in the annual report.

These include the following:

Estate R E Cowley	Estate M Checketts	Estate A J Ferguson
Estate S K Reed	Estate C P Pierce	Estate N J McIntyre
Estate W A Robinson	C & E Stoneman	

The trustees of this trust are Rev Richard Gray, Norman McRae, Elva Brash, Craig Stoneman, Moya Twaddle and Hugh Joyce. The purpose of this trust is to build up capital funds, through bequests or donations, from which income may be used to support the future of our Church. A donation given to the Charitable Trust can be included in your donation rebate claim and will ensure ongoing income for the Church in future years.

E J Brash
Secretary

First Church Charitable Trust
Financial Performance for the year ending 30 June 2012

	2012	2011
Income		
Interest Received	1,881.34	1,966.03
Total Income	<u>1,881.34</u>	<u>1,966.03</u>
Less Expenditure		
Donation: First Church	1,000.00	1,350.00
Total Expenses	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,350.00</u>
Net Income	<u>881.34</u>	<u>616.03</u>
Distribution of Net Income		
Capital Account	880.00	
Income Account	1.34	616.03
	<u>881.34</u>	<u>616.03</u>

Financial Position as at 30 June 2012

	2012	2011
Assets		
Current Assets		
SBS Cheque Account	19.05	37.71
Fixed Assets		
Investments SBS	52,050.00	51,150.00
Total Assets	<u>52,069.05</u>	<u>51,187.71</u>

This is represented by:

Capital Account

Balance Brought Forward	51,184.50	44,959.59
Bequests Received	0.00	1,526.49
Donations Received	0.00	4,698.42
Add Distribution of Income	880.00	
Balance at 30 June 2012	<u>52,064.50</u>	<u>51,184.50</u>

Income Account

Balance Brought Forward	3.21	-612.82
Add Distribution of Income	1.34	616.03
Balance at 30 June 2012	<u>4.55</u>	<u>3.21</u>

Total Capital and Income Accounts as at 30th June 2012	<u>52,069.05</u>	<u>51,187.71</u>
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TO ALL PEOPLE OF THE CONGREGATION

Weekly Offerings

Regular weekly giving by the Christian Stewardship envelopes provides the main source of revenue. The Parish Council urges everyone to contribute in this way, as the work of the Church goes on every week. Any who are absent, whether envelope contributors or not, are asked to set aside their offering each Sunday, and to place it in the Treasury on their next attendance at worship.

Some members find it more convenient to make their offerings monthly, quarterly or by Automatic Payment and some make a “family offering’ in one envelope.

Automatic Payment forms are available from the Envelope Secretary. The weekly offerings are intended to cover the expenses of our own Church and also our contributions to the wider work elsewhere.

The National Services Budget, about 4% of the ordinary revenue of every parish, pays for the essential services of the P.C.A.N.Z. and the Mission and Ministry Fund meets the costs of mission and outreach.

Legacies:

The Parish Council is constantly grateful for the legacies which have been left to the Church by members who have passed on. It is the policy of the Parish Council to transfer legacies to the First Church Charitable Trust, subject of course, to any directions by the donor.

Members who wish to help their Church in this way should do so through their own Solicitors. The following form is given as a guide.

**I GIVE DEVISE AND BEQUEATH TO THE FIRST CHURCH
CHARITABLE TRUST
OF INVERCRGILL**

For the general purposes.

Percentage / Fraction _____
of my estate

OR describe _____
(Description of property given)

OR the following amount _____ (\$ _____)
(In words)

and the receipt of the Treasurer or other authorised officer shall be a
sufficient discharge to my Executor.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY

All the groups and individuals who are under the umbrella of Community and Outreach are functioning well and most submit their own reports.

Elspeth Allan & Susan Burns
Convenors

Meals on Wheels:

The Meals On Wheels Association continues to remain a voluntary organisation. Fees from Southern District Health Board are paid to the Meals On Wheels Association on a regular basis and the Committee oversees the distribution of these funds to worthy causes once a year. Grants totalling \$6,000 were distributed to: Multiple Sclerosis, Age Concern Southland, Southpoint Counselling Service, Southland Life Education Community Trust and St John Anglican Church Soup Kitchen. Grants close at the end of June each year so if you know of a group in need of assistance, keep this in mind for next year. Application forms are available from the Meals On Wheels' Treasurer. See me if you need an application and I can get one from the Treasurer.

The collection point for the picking up of the meals is now from the front of the Community Services building via Gate 2 off Elles Road. There is a small tear drop shaped parking area directly in front of the building for the drivers to park.

Each week three organisations drive and instead of each organisation supplying their own emergency driver as in the past, only one out of the three organisations is to provide an emergency driver to cover for that week. This is rotated each term.

I would like to thank the First Church drivers for their willingness to drive during the year.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to fill the roster each term so please let me know if you would like to add your name to the list of First Church volunteer drivers.

Barbara Cocker

Convenor

Knit-Wits - Operation Cover-Up:

The Knit-Wits have produced some wonderful rugs and knitted clothing for Operation Cover-Up. The provincial contributions are always on display in Stobo Hall, early August.

We have been delighted to receive a compliment from Liz Clarke, the National Organizer. Over an 11 year period 80,000 blankets and around 350,000 other knitted items have gone to Moldova in the Ukraine, and Romania. We have viewed on DVD the process of goods departing from NZ and we receive literature about the people who receive the gifts.

We've enjoyed our fortnightly chit-chats and our numbers have grown. There are still some seats available for more knitters. Praise God for caring hands.

Jenny Grandiek

Convenor

Tay Music Trust Report:

In presenting this report I wish to thank all the members of the committee for their attendance at our meetings, in particular Mrs Irene Liddell for undertaking Secretarial and Treasurer responsibilities. We have been pleased to welcome two new members Mrs Shirley McMillan-Clark and Mrs Elizabeth Stoneman. The combined skills of the committee have been most helpful. Mrs V Kellock, Miss M Edmondston and Mrs J Sinclair have given their time in securing items.

Both Springtime and Christmas concerts were very well attended and gave the audiences much pleasure in sound and sight. The two recipients of the Tay Music Trust Scholarships demonstrated their musical abilities. It was very rewarding to hear these fine musicians. Our May concert did not eventuate due mainly to cost. Miles and Margaret Jackson from Christchurch may be interested in returning South at a later stage.

The financial matters of the Trust are secure due to the support for our Christmas treats sold at the Christmas concert in December.

May the 2012 year bring joyful music to you all.

Jenny Grandiek

President

Women's Evening Group:

In presenting the Annual Report of the First Church Women's Evening Group for the year ending 30 April 2012 I wish to thank you all for the support and encouragement given to me and the committee during the year. Your friendship and interest have been most appreciated.

Our group has over 40 financial members and we are joined from time to time by other ladies and men of the congregation. Throughout the year an average of 30 people have been present at our meetings which are held in Central Hall on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Our programmes include a devotional and business aspect as well as a guest speaker.

A number of our members have had accidents or suffered illness or bereavement during the year. To them we offer our sympathy and support.

Following the 2011 AGM in May Mrs Lexie O'Shea gave us an interesting power-point presentation on the history and organisation of Kew Hospital, the difficulties faced in covering such a large area, in coordinating the Southland and Otago Hospital Boards and maintaining qualified staff.

In June we welcomed June Molloy, a talented felt maker, who demonstrated her techniques and displayed beautiful articles she had crafted from wool and silk.

July saw our Mid-winter Luncheon well attended by 46 members, when Lois Collett talked about her trip with family to spend a cold Christmas in Scandinavia.

In August we invited the men of the congregation to join us and hear Peter Grandiek tell of his lifelong interest in cycling.

Beth McNeill gave us in September an interesting account of her service to the community as the wife of a Rotarian and a member of Inner Wheel. She talked of her experiences on the International Executive, including two years as its President.

Liz Cruickshank captured our imagination in October, telling us about her job arranging and guiding Field Trips for the Elder Person – travel both in

New Zealand and overseas with an educational focus.

At our November meeting Veda Kellock traced her life and achievements in the field of music over the years – her pleasure in performing, teaching and adjudicating her interest in church music and her contribution to the musical life of the city.

Our Christmas Party was held in early December in Stobo Hall. The committee members reflected on some of the symbolism of Christmas and this was interspersed with musical items and readings and a message from Rev. Heather Kennedy. We enjoyed special Christmas fare. An invitation was extended to all ladies of the congregation. We welcomed Mrs Maudie Wilson, Frances Tait's mother, an alert 108 year old.

At our first meeting for 2012, in late February, Morag and Rev. Richard Gray gave us an illustrated talk on their recent holiday in India. Travel in a land with such a different culture – its huge population, horrendous traffic, ancient churches and buildings, the poverty and pollution, but among colourfully clad and friendly people, made for a great experience. A number of men of the congregation joined us on this occasion.

Eastertide was the theme of our April meeting when Devotions centred on the Resurrection and God's love for mankind. Members told of the merging of pagan and Christian customs, the special significance of the coming of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the history of many of our Easter traditions. Spoken word and musical items were presented, quirky Easter flower arrangements decorated the room and Easter goodies were enjoyed.

During the year members of our group have:

Attended the AGM of the National Council of Women of which Donita Crombie is our representative

Attended a Meet the Candidates Meeting at which local candidates for the 2011 General Election spoke

Visited with small gifts or sent cards to elderly First Church parishioners mid-winter and at Christmas time

Participated in the World Day of Prayer Service at St Mary's Basilica

Joined in the Celebrity Breakfast on International Women's Day

Attended the funeral of Rev. Crawford Madill, a former minister of First Church

Donations Made During The Year:

\$100 to Douglas Sekone-Fraser

\$500 to Sumner/Redcliffs/Lyttelton Parish for assistance after the earthquake

\$300 to the Association of Presbyterian Women

\$100 to Kidzfirst

\$200 for First C

Church Flower Arranging Committee will be made available

My thanks go to the committee for your friendship and willing participation in the monthly programmes, and especially to Donita Crombie, our efficient secretary, Marion Pinkney, our treasurer, and Elva Brash for auditing the books. To our members, you have been a loyal group and we look forward to another year of good fellowship and Christian outreach at First.

Joyce Gilbertson

President

The meetings of the above committee, on alternative months, continue to be a valuable opportunity for all Elders to meet and share ideas and concerns in their districts.

The study of the “Westminster Confession of Faith” continues to occupy the Committee at most meetings and we have now progressed up to Chapter 19.

In April we held a Saturday morning retreat, to spend some time reflecting on the life of First Church. We continue to look at how we do things and consider ways of improving, or enhance our lives together.

Both Members of the Committee and congregation are encouraged to pass on information concerning the needs of Parishioners, so that action can be taken by the Minister or Elder of the District.

Jenny Grandiek
Convenor

PROPERTY & WORKS

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Property & Works Team.

I would like to thank the members of this committee for their loyalty and contribution to the Property & Works Team during the past year. Our committee consisted of: Russell Brash, Janice Brown, Bruce Buxton, David Cocker (Chairman & minute keeper), Donita Crombie, Ron Fair, Rev Richard Gray, Bruce Hoffman, Rev Heather Kennedy, Jim Kennedy, Heather Robinson, Audrey Roby and Sandy Ross.

It was pleasing to note that other than one instance in late June early July, there were no significant problems with water leaking through the roof of the Church. It is hoped that we have managed to repair the condition of the tiling back to what it was before the brickwork was restored. This in turn has allowed the walls of the choir room and church to dry out thoroughly.

Additions to the Church during the year included the purchase of a new pull-down white screen for use in the seminar room. This cost approximately \$500 and was funded by proceeds from the garage sale. The computer and monitor in the office were replaced mainly funded by the Presbyterian Savings & Development Fund with the balance being covered by Garage Sale proceeds.

New drapes were purchased for Stobo Hall last year and after some initial problems with the making of them they were finally fitted and look very smart with the colour and fabric well suited to the décor of the room. A second-hand fridge was donated to the Church after the former one was deemed not repairable after it had stopped working. A new cistern was purchased for the men's toilets at the front of the Church to replace the former cistern, which was corroded and leaking.

The heaters in Stobo Hall were replaced with the help of a generous grant from The Invercargill Licensing Trust. We eventually got a simple switch installed, which operates on a timer that shuts off automatically after 30 minutes. This will prevent the heaters being left on by accident causing unnecessary waste of power. Nind Electrical Services installed the heaters.

Major projects accomplished over the year (managed by the First Church Heritage Buildings Charitable Trust), included the replacement of the electrical switchboard, which was also installed by Nind Electrical. This has greatly improved the safety and simplified use of the switchboard. The switches have subsequently been colour coded to help make things easier to understand and operate.

The other work carried out was restoring the brick fence on Tay and Ythan Streets. This included restoring the pillars and caps, straightening, repairs to the rails and replacement of some of the bricks. Whilst the tradesmen were asked to preserve the aged appearance of the fence, the structural integrity was not to be compromised.

Fundraising projects during the year again included two garage sales held in May and October, which netted \$3,000 and \$3,600 respectively. Another Acoustic Church Tour was held at First Church in December where Bic Runga and Guests entertained a reasonably sized crowd. This event raised over \$1500 for the Church.

The Manse was hit by an electrical strike this year, which ruined several appliances, including the fax at the Church. Two Creda storage heaters were installed upstairs and these have greatly helped with heating the upstairs rooms.

Just before the New Year the previously unoccupied PSS Building was rented out to Environment Southland for an initial year with the right of renewal for another year. As previously it was let out to the PSS for a peppercorn rental, this will greatly improve the income from use of buildings and hopefully continue for the medium to long term.

David Cocker
Chairman, Property & Works' Team

FIRST CHURCH HERITAGE BUILDINGS CONSERVATION TRUST

Trust Members: W. J Watt (Chairman), Pamela Watt (Secretary), Norman McRae (Treasurer) David Cocker, Winston Forrest, Richard Gray, Merrin McCallum, Neil McCallum, Alan Mollison.

The main project for the year has been achieving an upgrade of the main switchboard. The old switchboard had been considered a fire risk, not only because of the venerable state of the wiring but also because of the ease and frequency of heating and lighting being left on. The project was 90% completed by the end of the financial year.

A secondary project was restoration of the brick fences, carried out by Henderson Construction Ltd. These fences make an important contribution to the external appearance of the building.

The events of Christchurch led the Trust to consider the issue of earthquake performance of the building. A. S Major, structural engineer, was invited to go over the building and advise us on how to proceed. His initial email to me as Chairman is summarised below:

“I have discussed the project with Lou Robinson, who is very experienced in this field. He agrees with my assessment of the approach required with respect to the hall at the south end, and feels that the layout of the main church building is such that it should not present too many problems under seismic loading. There will, however, have to be a definitive assessment carried out in order to satisfy the requirements of both the local authority and potential insurance providers. This will entail the production of an electronic 3-D drawing of the main church building, which will be used as input into an appropriate analysis program. At this stage it should be possible to define the extent of any necessary strengthening work “

This investigation is likely to be the next priority for the Trust.

Church sales table fundraising continues to support the work of the Trust, with a total of \$1,142.70 raised during the 2011 – 2012 financial year. This is most helpful in itself, and also enables us to ‘leverage’ support from community funders who need to see evidence of fundraising effort.

The Trust hosted a successful organ recital by Kemp English on 2 October 2011, featuring an all-Bach programme. The support of Creative Communities Invercargill in enabling us to run this event is appreciated.

The on-going support of the Community Trust of Southland is greatly appreciated.

We also gratefully acknowledge the support of WHK Cook Adam, our auditors.

William J Watt
Chairman

SALES TABLE RESTORATION FUND REPORT

During the year, due to illness, Mrs Lois Collett was forced to give up her role as co-ordinator of this initiative of the church. We wish to convey our appreciation and thanks to Lois for the years of commitment that she has shown in overseeing this fundraiser for the benefit of the First Church Heritage Building Charitable Trust. This year \$1,142.70 was raised and handed over. Many folk have contributed, and to them we offer our sincere thanks.

Russell Brash

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Our oral history project is still going, and is progressing.

Morag Gray
Convenor

WORSHIP

The Worship Committee is designed to be representative of all groups in the church, interested in the aspects of worship.

The Committee meets after morning service on the first Sunday of each month, in which Parish Council meets, so matters needing attention can be dealt with quickly.

Individuals who wish to raise matters concerning the conduct of services are also welcome to attend. The Worship Committee is led by Hugh Joyce and Pat Millar is recorder.

We thank Peter Muller for his time as Worship Committee recorder and Parish Council representative. We are fortunate to be so ably led in worship by Rev Richard Gray and Rev Heather Kennedy whose thoughtful sermons and prayers are an inspiration to us all.

Easter Worship celebrations included a Passover meal, a well received Passion Play with wide involvement of congregational members, and Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, as well as mid-week services, and an opportunity to 'walk with the cross' to the Basilica.

The Flower Committee arranged attractive displays for Harvest Thanksgiving and the Spring Flower Service. Those who attended Mother's Day Service received a white carnation in the form of a buttonhole. Posies were also arranged by the committee for delivery to elderly members unable to attend services. The continuing role of the Flower Committee is very much appreciated.

The Fleck family, celebrating a family reunion, joined the Harvest Thanksgiving service and participated with bible readings.

A special St John's Investiture Service was one highlight of the year in November, where the Governor General was invested as the Prior of St John, NZ.

With Samoan families now fully integrated into the congregation a special

White Sunday was respected and appreciated. It will be added to the yearly calendar. To have Samoan language has enriched some services. Sunday service on May 22nd was ably taken by Jenny Grandeik.

The Pot Luck lunch following a service held in July proved to be successful and hopefully will be repeated next winter.

A recent seminar of the Pastoral Committee confirmed the style of worship, with the involvement of the congregation in Bible readings and prayers. The regular musical contributions from the Choir add atmosphere and strength to the regular services.

The committee is not a closed shop and comments or suggestions from members of the congregation on the content and organisation of services are most welcome.

Pat Millar
Recorder

Worship Self-review Report for Southland Presbytery from First Church, Invercargill

Worship environment –

There is good access to the building, with two ramps provided. Printed bulletins clearly lead the congregation through the service. Congregational responses are indicated in bold type. The Door Duty team provide a warm greeting as people arrive, identify newcomers or visitors and introduce them to the Minister. The Minister also greets people at the main doors as they arrive. While regular attenders usually sit in their usual places they readily accommodate visitors and newcomers. The pews are wooden long-run on a curve, with cushions. The interior is heated with under-seat heating, which is controlled by a timer. The church is clean and tidy, maintained by The cleaner. There is sufficient lighting to ensure ease of reading. A carpeted area is provided for children, with books and toys available. The church has three aisles ensuring relatively easy access. The floor slopes towards the Sanctuary area, but a level area is provided for wheelchairs.

Outside the Worship Space -

There is ample parking in the car park and in Tay and Ythan Streets. There are two well signposted 'mobility' parks. There are four points of entry, two

with ramps. Toilets are well signposted in the building. The Door Duty Team is on hand to assist with any queries.

The Worship Service –

Music at First Church is well liked by a large majority of the congregation. The service usually contains four traditional hymns. These are chosen by the Minister to fit the theme of the Lectionary readings for the day. Congregational preferences are taken into consideration. The Organ accompanies congregational singing, the choir is accompanied by the organ or the piano for the anthem. The Organist also plays incidental music for the Prelude, Introit, Offertory and Postlude. Church Hymnary 4 is used for all hymns; books available include Large Print, Melody, Full Music and Words. This collection of hymns includes many New Zealand hymns and other contemporary hymns which are included in the Minister's choices from time to time.

Technical –

A slightly dated but functional sound system is used for worship, funerals, weddings, etc. including the facility to show PowerPoint presentations on a long throw projector to a drop-down remote controlled screen on the sanctuary wall. The sound system includes tape-recording and CD player, operates two lapel mics and one hand-held. The Sanctuary area is elevated by two sets of steps and worship is led from a table lectern on the Communion Table. Lessons are read from a forward lectern. Sermons are preached from an elevated pulpit. The main switchboard that controls lighting and heating has recently been replaced with modern wiring and a contemporary system housed in a built-in unit.

Leadership –

Worship services are led by the Minister/s. Scripture readings are read by members of the congregation who are on the Bible Readers roster. Prayers for Ourselves and Others (intercessions) are (usually) written and read by parishioners on a roster. Some write a prayer for the Minister to read. Some read the prayer written by the Minister. The choir is conducted by conductors on a roster. Services follow a printed order of service, prepared by the Minister, added to notices and rosters in the weekly bulletin published by the Office Staff. Congregational responses are printed in bold type. The service is based on and follows the Lectionary Readings for the day. Very occasionally a guest speaker is invited to give a message eg. Bible Society / Scripture Union reps. Those participating in leading worship are usually elders and others well-versed in the style of presentation.

Communication –

Usually the Call to Worship is based on the Psalm for the day, the Children's Talk is lectionary-based, the 1st Reading is usually the Hebrew Scripture, the 2nd Reading the Gospel Reading. Variations occur when the church calendar celebrates special events, such as Easter and Pentecost. Children come into the Sanctuary to sit on the steps for a talk, then depart for Sunday School or Bible Class during the second hymn. The sermon (printed in full) is photocopied and made available for parishioners to follow (hard of hearing especially); which was instigated when the Loop System was stolen. Some others take these copies to read again later or to pass on to absentees or those unable to physically come to church. Preaching is usually based on exegesis of the scripture, with a contemporary application/helpful advice or challenges, for our Christian living and witness in the community. Notices are printed in the Bulletin and highlighted at the beginning of worship if deemed to be of an important or urgent nature.

Response –

Morning tea and fellowship together is shared in Stobo Hall after the service. The content of the sermon is often the topic of conversation. Anyone wanting to discuss personal or theological matters with the Minister/s are encouraged to do so.

Personal –

Bible reading is encouraged. Lectionary readings for the week are published in the weekly bulletin. Prayer (and fasting, during Lent) are some of the subject matter of sermons.

Life practices-

Parishioners support each other in a variety of way, mentoring, pastoral care and fellowship. Elders visit members in their parish to deliver newsletters and Communion invitation cards. The Mission of the Church is frequently discussed. Most parishioners would attest to God's work in the live. Most are actively involved in the life of the Church as well as organisation in the wider community.

Other Aspects –

The Ministers and a small number of members regularly participate in ecumenical events and worship services. Civic services of worship are often held at First Church eg. St. John's and Masonic Church Parades.

Services of worship are conducted by the Minister/s assisted by a pianist, at Peacehaven and Rose Lodge rest homes on a monthly basis.

Overall –

Goals and activities in the parish are shared in the bi-monthly newsletter in reports from the Minister/s and committees. The Minister and Assistant Minister have specific roles in church life and activities. Parish Council meets bi-monthly to administer the parish. The Worship Committee is made up of representatives of the choir, organists, flower committee, Communion Arrangements Committee, Door Duty Team organiser, Ministers and Elders. Special services, especially during Holy Week, and at Advent, are well planned for by this committee. Parish Councillors regularly attend worship and may lead worship if both the Ministers are absent (eg. at Assembly).

Rev Heather Kennedy
on behalf of the Parish Council.

CHOIR

Ruth Adamson	Shirley McMillan	Richard Gray
Barbara Cocker	Ngairé Marshall	Jim Lamont
Donita Crombie	Pat Millar	Craig Stoneman
Joyce Gilbertson	Heather Robinson	Barry Sinclair
Jenny Grandiek	Sherry Shelton	John Suresh
Morag Gray	Elizabeth Stoneman	Ken Sutton
Catriona Jackson	Naomi Suresh	Tony Watson
Heather Kennedy	Moya Twaddle	William Watt

The First Church Choir sang to the glory of God and for the love of music at Sunday morning services all year except for a month's break over January and a brief recess in July. In addition the choir sang at the Tay Music Trust pre-Christmas lunchtime concert.

We were pleased to welcome Rebecca Ryan who joined us as guest conductor. A Cappella joined us for the St John Investiture service in November.

We were sad to farewell our friend and long-serving choir member George

Macindoe during the year. George had sung in the Choir for over 50 years and we miss his rich baritone voice and good humour.

The Rogers organ continues to serve the church well, with only occasional 'downtime' due to problems which so far have proved reasonably easily fixed. At 16 years, however, it should be regarded as a 'half life' instrument, it is the only organ to recital or music exam standard in Invercargill, and planning should start for its replacement.

We gratefully acknowledge those who accepted responsibilities on the duty roster for organists and choir leaders;

Organ: Margaret Edmondston, Jennifer Sinclair, Sherry Shelton, Naomi Suresh, Moya Twaddle, William Watt

Choir leadership: Jenny Grandiek, Morag Gray, Sherry Shelton, Ken Sutton, Moya Twaddle, William Watt.

We also acknowledge and thank the 'regular' choir members and also those who help to swell numbers for special occasions.

This will have been my last full year as Choir President. It is time to let somebody else have a go. I wish to thank especially Margaret Edmondston for her friendship and encouragement to me as an organist and also for her support during my time as Choir President. Thanks also to the conductors and other organists who bring fine music to Sunday worship.

William Watt
Choir President

FLOWER COMMITTEE

In November last year two members of the Flower Committee were involved in arranging flowers for the St John Investiture service, I am most grateful to Frances Tait for her help and her expertise in creating some beautiful arrangements for the service.

This year the Flower Committee has had to revise its custom of arranging fresh flowers for all church services from October through to April. Circumstances beyond our control contributed to this decision. However we have endeavoured to have fresh flowers for Harvest Thanksgiving, Easter, Spring Flower Service and Christmas, and when there are special services planned. We have placed artificial flower arrangements in Central Hall, Stobo Hall and the Committee Room as well as arrangements in the Sanctuary of the church. These arrangements are changed three or four times a year.

We received a generous donation from the Women's Evening Group for which we thank them. With it we have purchased more artificial flowers and plan to use the remainder for the expenses which arise from the Spring Flower Service.

We are always hoping that someone will offer to join our small committee so that we may continue to beautify our place of worship and fellowship.

“God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees, and flowers, and clouds, and stars.” – *Martin Luther*

Wilma F Muller
On behalf of the Flower Committee

HISTORICAL NOTES – FIRST CHURCH MINISTERS

Minister	Start	Finish	Notes
Rev. A.H. Stobo	29 Jun 1860	3 Dec 1879	Retired
Rev. John Ferguson	20 May 1880	July 1894	Translated to Sydney
Rev. J. Gibson Smith	4 Oct 1894	Aug 1903	Translated to W'ton
Rev. R Ferguson	23 Dec 1903	Sept 1908	Translated to St Peter's, Auckland
V. Rev. R.M. Ryburn	10 Feb 1909	6 Nov 1918	Translated to St Andrew's, Chch
V. Rev. J. Lawson Robinson	1 Sept 1919	20 Feb 1930	Translated to St Andrew's, Chch
Rev. A. G. Mackintosh Carter	10 Apr 1931	8 Feb 1937	Returned to Australia
Rt. Rev. Jas A. Thomson	2 June 1937		25 June 1951 (died)
Rev. A. McG Kirkwood	29 Nov 1945	10 Oct 1948	Associate Minister
Rev. C. Lex Ritchie	21 Apr 1949		Associate Minister
Rev. W.J. Pellow	13 Feb 1952	Dec 1958	
Rev. Dr Ian Cairns	Feb 1959	Feb 1960	Supply
Rev. S. W. Campbell	19 May 1960	25 Aug 1966	Inducted St Andrew's Hastings
Rev. C.W.R Madill	6 April 1967	1 July 1979	Retired
Rev. Dr Ian J. Cairns	5 Feb 1981	May 1984	
Rev. Dr Robert J. Eyles	16 Dec 1984	Sep 1989	Overseas study leave
Rev. Claire Strandberg	1 Oct 1989	26 Jun 1990	Interim Minister
Rev. Dr Robert J. Eyles	26 Jun 1990	24 Feb 1991	
Rev. Allan Morgan	24 Feb 1991	15 Sep 1991	Interim Minister
Rev. Brian P. Williscroft	15 Sep 1991	4 Apr 1997	Overseas study leave
Rev. Brian Sturtridge	13 Apr 1997	1 June 1997	Exchange from United Reform Church UK
Rev. Helen Wallis	15 Jun 1997	Sep 1997	Interim Minister
Rev. Brian P. Williscroft	Sep 1997	30 Sep 2000	Retired
Rev. Dr Simon H. Rae	26 Apr 2001	31 July 2005	Retired
Rev. Alan Matheson	7 Aug 2005	5 Feb 2006	Interim Minister
Rev. Richard Gray	12 Feb 2006		
Rev Heather Kennedy	25 Sep 2008		

HISTORICAL NOTES – FIRST CHURCH SESSION CLERKS

Session Clerk	Start	Finish
A Bethune	14 Nov 1860	26 July 1866
William Law	26 July 1866	30 Jan 1868
Thomas Watson	30 Jan 1868	5 July 1886
John Borrie	4 Oct 1886	12 July 1894 (Died)
John Neil	13 Sept 1894	23 Mar 1896
David Strang	23 Mar 1896	3 Aug 1896
William A McCaw	3 Aug 1896	8 Aug 1952
G C Batcheler	8 Aug 1952	Aug 1958
G A Boyce	Aug 1958	Dec 1959
L R Gifford	5 May 1960	6 July 1976 (Died)
Murray Middlemiss	28 July 1976	25 Feb 1987
Audrey M Roby (Miss)	25 Feb 1987	22 July 1998

Alan Smith	July 1998	Jan 2003
Chris Gee	Jan 2003	Nov 2003
Alan Smith	Nov 2003	July 2005

HISTORICAL NOTES – FIRST CHURCH PARISH CLERKS		
Parish Clerk	Start	Finish
Alan Smith	July 2005	March 2006
Craig Stoneman	May 2006	

HISTORICAL NOTES – SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Date	Event	
1856		Invercargill surveyed
	Nov 10	Presbyterian services inaugurated by Mr A Bethune
1859		First Communicants Roll compiled by Rev W Bannerman
		Presbytery (Dunedin) sent to United Kingdom for Minister
1860	January	Communion dispensed by Rev Dr Burns. (Members 105, Communicants, 83).
	Mar 5	First Day School opened. Teacher: Mr A Bethune.
	August	First Sabbath School opened. Superintendent: Mr Thos Watson
	Nov 14	First Meeting of Interim Session
1861	Mar 31	First Communion dispensed by Rev A H Stobo
	June 23	First Session and Deacons Court constituted and members ordained. Members of Session: Mr Alex Bethune, Messrs Thos Ferguson and James Bennett. Members of Deacons Court: Messrs Thos Watson, Kenneth Finlayson, Wm Calder, Andrew Elles, John Blacklock
1863	Mar 20	Preaching Station on North Road commenced
	Mar 15	First Church opened by Rev W Bannerman
1864	Feb 4	Mr A Bethune appointed First Church Missionary
1865	Mar 5	First meeting of Southland Presbytery
1867		Sylvan Bank Sunday School commenced
1868	Jan 30	Myross Bush and Roslyn Bush constituted a Minor Charge under Mr A Bethune
1872		Clifton Services inaugurated
1873	June	Hymns introduced into the service
1874	March	Instrumental music in the Sunday School sanctioned
	June 11	Rev A Arnott appointed Congregational Missionary
	July	Change made from sitting to standing while singing praise
	Dec 17	Rev A Arnott resigned as Congregational Missionary
1876	Feb 3	Manse in Ritchie Street, East Invercargill, sold
	February	Sylvan Bank Sunday School erected
	Mar 4	Foundation stone of St Paul's Church laid by Rev A H Stobo
	March	Communion cards substituted for lead tokens
	April	Manse built beside church in Tay Street
	May 21	Second Church commenced and Communion dispensed in Exchange Hall by Rev A H Stobo and Messrs Henderson and Fraser. Members 28; Communicants 36
	July	Appleby Sunday School opened
	Dec 18	Name changed from St Andrews to First
1877		Church enlarged

1880	May	Clifton and Bluff Services established
1881	May	Quarterly Communion Services established
		Church again enlarged
1883	January	Georgetown Sunday School opened
1885	October	Dr W Grigor gifted site for church at Appleby
1886	April	Mr Jamieson gifted site for church at Woodend
		First Woodend Church erected
	August	Free sittings in the evenings authorised
	December	Myross and Waikiwi constituted a Church Extension Charge
1889	Aug 11	South Invercargill Mission (St Andrews) started under Rev A H Stobo
1891	October	Instrumental music introduced into church services
1892		Bluff Church erected
1893	Jan 20	Mr A Bethune died, aged 81
1897	June 10	Georgetown Sunday School reverted to First Church
1898	Dec 24	Rev A H Stobo died, aged 66
1899	May 28	Individual Communion cups adopted
1902	December	Knox Church established
1903	March	Appleby Hall and Sunday School transferred to Knox Church
1909	Sep 12	Unfermented wine used at Communion Service
1910	Oct 23	Jubilee services conducted by Rev J Ferguson, St Stephens, Sydney
	Oct 26	Foundation stone of new Church laid by Rev J Ferguson and Rev R M Ryburn
1911	Dec 18	Contract let for erection of new Church and Hall
1912	Aug 18	Last service held in old Church (Anniversary and Communion)
	Nov 24	First service held in new Sabbath School Hall, named Stobo Hall out of respect for the congregation's first minister
1913	Dec 14	Evening Communion Service established
1915	Feb 10	New Church opened by Rev J Gibson Smith
	May 25	Stobo Hall subdivided and reopened as a Sunday School
1919	November	General Assembly held its first meeting in Invercargill
1921	Aug 22-29	Diamond Jubilee Services conducted by Rev J L Robinson,
		Rev B A R Fairmaid and Rev J Gibson Smith
	Dec 4	1914-18 War Memorial Window and Tablet unveiled
	October	Weekly freewill offering by Duplex envelope introduced
1922	Mar 5	Sister Janet Harper ordained Deaconess
1930	Mar 31	Second Manse in Tay Street sold
	September	Manse at 181 Tay Street built
	Aug 24	70 th Anniversary Services conducted by Rev J Gibson Smith, Rev R M Ryburn and Rev J Lawson Robinson
1935	Apr 30	Sister Janet Harper resigned
1940	Aug 11	80 th Anniversary Services conducted by Rev J Lawson Robinson BA
1945	Aug 26	First Service in Surrey Park School, East Invercargill (preliminary). 158 present. Preacher: Rev A McG Kirkwood.
	November	General Assembly held second meeting in Invercargill
	Dec 2	Second Service at Surrey Park, 106 present
	Mar 10	First communion at Surrey Park, 55 present
1947	May 4	Main Sunday School met in morning
1949	Oct 30	Surrey Park Sunday School established
1951	April	New Church Hall in East Invercargill named Richmond Grove
	Mar 15	Richmond Grove Church Hall opened
	May	Sylvan Bank Sunday School transferred to Richmond Grove
	June 10	Morning Communion Service instituted at Richmond Grove
1953	May 11	Presbytery declared Richmond Grove a Parish
		Church and Stobo Hall re-roofed with copper and tiles

1956	June 17	Memorial plaque to Rev J F H Wohlers unveiled during Southland Centennial Celebrations
1957	Aug-Mar	Church interior reconstructed and renovated
1957	Mar 31	Church re-opened and new Holy Table, Font, Pulpit, Lectern, Elders' and Choir Stalls dedicated
1958	Nov 9	Stewardship of Time, Talents and Possessions
1959	July	Stobo window, 'Saint Andrew', dedicated
	November	Anderson window, 'Sermon on the Mount', dedicated
1960	Jul 1-Jun 30	Parish Centennial Year
	November	General Assembly held its third meeting in Invercargill
1960	Aug 13-14	Sunday School Centenary
	Dec 3	Baldwin 10a Electronic Organ dedicated
1962	Feb 11	Miss E F C Robinson BA appointed Lady Assistant
1963	Oct 20	Asher windows 'Nativity' and 'The Miracles' dedicated
	Oct 20	Quinn windows 'The Parables' dedicated
1964		Association of Presbyterian Women formed
1965	February	Jubilee of opening of present church buildings. 20 th Garden Party & Buffet Tea, 21 st Jubilee Services taken by Rev W J Pellow.
1966	May 8	Boyd window 'The Good Shepherd' dedicated
	Aug 7	Memorial Shrine dedicated by Rev S W Campbell
1967	May 26	Presbyterian Social Service Centre dedicated by Very Rev S C Francis
1969	September	Stages 1,2 & 3 of Stobo Hall alterations completed
1970	December	Nativity window displayed on 3c Christmas stamp
	Dec 31	Miss E F C Robertson, Lady Assistant, resigned
1972	July	Stage 4 of Stobo Hall alterations completed
	September	Bachelor Memorial Lectern Bible (NEV) dedicated
1981	Apr 19	Rodgers 'Scarborough' organ dedicated
1982		South part of church re-roofed
1983	Oct 9	Electronic Carillon gifted by Mrs Kathleen Kirkby
1984	Nov 4	Upright Yamaha piano dedicated
1985	May 12	Repainting of Church, Dedication Service
	Aug 10	125 th Anniversary Dinner
	Aug 11	125 th Anniversary Service and week of celebrations.
	Aug 18	Bethune Window and Chapel dedicated
1986	Feb 2	Commissioning of Brian Schick as Youth Worker under the Order of St Stephen
	December	Mr Brian Schick's appointment terminated
1987	Feb 15	Commissioning Service for Andrew Donaldson, Lay Pastor
1988	Dec 18	Mr Andrew Donaldson, Lay Pastor, farewelled
1989	Feb 12	Mr Roger Driver-Burgess, Lay Pastor, appointed
1990	Aug 19	Mr Roger Driver-Burgess, Lay Pastor, resigned
1991	October	Rodgers 'Scarborough' organ refurbished and upgraded
	Oct 13	Service celebrating 100 years of instrumental music at First Church
	November	General Assembly held its fourth meeting in Invercargill
1994	Apr 16	Synod of Otago & Southland held Annual General Meeting
	Apr 16	Miss Audrey Roby inducted as Moderator of Synod
	Sep 16	Mrs Libby Smith appointed Parish Mission Assistant
1995	May 10	Stobo Health Trust established to provide free medical and dental care to the disadvantaged
1996	February	New Rodgers 940 organ purchased and installed
	Sep 24	Rev Brian P Williscroft admitted as Chaplain to the Order of St John of Jerusalem

	Nov 24	First Church scheduled to conduct Sunday Service at Peacehaven on third Sunday in each month
1997	July 27	Tay Music Trust Deed approved by Congregation
	Sep 27	First concert organised by Tay Music Trust
1998	Mar 20-22	Festival of Flowers and Crafts held in Church
	Nov	Governor General present
1999	Apr 23	Rev. Brian Williscroft inducted as Moderator, Synod of Otago and Southland, for 1999-2000.
2000	Sept	Farewell Service and luncheon for Brian and Noeleen Williscroft.
	Nov 26	Southland Presbytery held special Service of Licensing for Mrs Libby Smith
	Dec 4	Mrs Heather Kennedy B.Theol. appointed Mission and Evangelism Enabler / Parish Assistant, First Church.
2001	April 26	Rev.Dr Simon Rae inducted as Minister of First Church
	Dec 3	Rev. Dr Simon Rae's promotion from Officer to Chaplain in the Order of St John notified in the London Gazette.
2002	July 1	The Catholic Bishop of Dunedin appointed Dr Rae a Director of Calvary Hospital and Home.
	July - Oct	Rev. Dr Rae taught a theology course, in the University of Otago distance teaching programme, by teleconference.
	Aug	Graham Stewart, Window Conservator, begins Atrium and Porch Window restoration.
	Oct	Heritage Centre was officially dedicated by Rev Dr S Rae
2003		Restoration of all the exterior stained glass windows in the Church by Graham Stewart.
2003	April	Rev Dr S Rae inducted as Moderator of Synod
2004	April	Rev Dr S Rae inducted as Moderator of S'land Presbytery
2004	Oct	Congregation approves setting up of a Parish Council
2004	Dec	Christmas Flower Festival
2005	Feb – July	Restoration of the bell tower
	July	Session & Deacons' Court disbanded
	July-Sept	Interim Parish Council
	July 31	Farewell luncheon for Simon & Marion Rae
	Oct	First Parish Council Meeting
2006	Feb 12	Induction of Rev Richard Gray
2006	May 31	ICC Heritage Civic Plaque presented
2006	Nov 12	Invercargill City Sesqui-Centennial Service
2008	February	Restoration work on the brickwork of the church began
2008	September 26	Rev Heather Kennedy ordained as Locally Ordained Minister
2009	February	Rev Richard Gray inducted as Moderator of Southland Presbytery
2010	May	Rev Richard Gray was admitted to the Order of St John
2010	November	150 th Anniversary Celebrations
2011	April	Rev Richard Gray inducted as Moderator of Otago/Southland Synod
2011	November	St John's Investiture Service, Governor General was invested as the Prior of St John, NZ

DISTRICT ELDERS

No. 1

Elder	Judy Christie	216-5887
	Alan Smith	218-7504
Assistant	Joan Poole	218-4362

No.2

Elder	Jenny Grandiek	230-4413
Assistant	Margaret Price	216-8087
	Joyce Gilbertson	216-9776

No. 3

Elder	Susan Burns	217-2150
	Jim Kennedy	218-1952

No. 4

Elder	Nellie Garthwaite	216-5649
	Hugh Joyce	216-5281
Assistant	Janice Brown	216-6564

No.5

Elder	David Cocker	217-7789
	Eunice Sutton	218-9362
Assistant	Keith Sutton	218-9362

No. 6

Elder	Russell Brash	216-8458
Assistant	Heather Robinson	218-9250
	Bruce Hoffman	218-9645

No.7

Elder	Shirley McMillan	218-2450
	Peter Kelly	218-9981
Assistant	Elizabeth Kelly	218-9981

No. 8

Elder	Ken Sutton	021-292-8403
Assistant	Connie McMecking	217-5272

Assistant	Fay Wilcox	217-4964
No. 9		
Elder	Cheryl McMath	215-9911
	William Watt	217-0114
Assistant	Babara Clark	217-4021
No. 10		
Elder	Patricia Millar	217-2664
	Irene Liddell	217-5856
No. 11		
Elder	Helen Thwaites	216-9208
	Phillip Fraser	217-7840
No. 12		
Elder	Peter Muller	215-7800
	Bruce Buxton	217-0968
No. 13		
Elder	Moya Twaddle	217-2952