

12th December 2025

Kia ora Windsor Park whānau,

As we approach the end of 2025, I want to express my deep thankfulness for the wonderful community we call Windsor Park. After ticking over 17 years of being here, Jo and I remain so grateful to be part of a church that strives to live out the basics of doing life and faith together. From these simple foundations, God has grown a wide and deep community of faith that, every day, is bringing the kingdom of God from heaven to earth in powerful ways. We *love* being part of your lives.

Each December our Elders approve the financial budget for the following year, so I want to update you on how 2025 unfolded, outline what we've finalised for 2026, and share a few things that are on the agenda for next year. So, here we go ...

2025

Last December the Elders approved an **optimistic budget for 2025**, including a needed 12% increase in personal giving due to new staffing, rising insurance costs, and various maintenance needs. I'm pleased to report that we met this increase. I'm deeply grateful to those who began giving, resumed giving, or increased their financial support. After some additional costs during the year (for example, a commercial revaluation of our property for insurance and accounting purposes), **we're ending 2025 within our means** - just. But "just" is still good, and we give thanks for God's provision.

We've loved incorporating **Pastor Aidan Wivell** and **Pastor Holly Walton** into our pastoral leadership team this year, and I know many of you have loved them too! We also welcomed **Melissa Philpot** to our kids' ministry team, and most recently **Meagan Hillman** began as Windsor Park's administrator/receptionist at our front desk ... the first face people see when they walk through the doors Monday–Friday.

Our staff are here to lead from the rear, and for those of us blessed to call this church our workplace, we're constantly thankful for the hundreds of volunteers who carry out countless tasks that keep Windsor Park functioning. **Thank you, sincerely.**



2026

With the usual range of cost increases, but with no major capital projects on the horizon, the Elders have approved a **2026 budget** that aims for a **6% increase in personal giving**. As always, we simply ask that you listen for God's leading regarding where He directs your giving. If that's Windsor Park, wonderful. If He leads you elsewhere, that's wonderful too.

If you're a contributing member and would like to see a copy of the 2026 budget, you're very welcome to request it. Just flick me an email (address at the bottom). It's not a secret, so anyone can ask for a copy, and if you're not yet a member, I'd love to talk with you about how to take that step.

There are also some significant and exciting things on the agenda for next year:

- **Windsor Park's 75th Anniversary**

We'll celebrate 75 years since a small group gathered in Outram Hall in Murrays Bay to dream about what a Baptist church could look like in this area. **Constituted on 26th May 1951 as Calvary Baptist Church**, we'll gather to celebrate God's gracious leading on **Sunday 24th May 2026**.

- **Endowment Fund**

As part of our anniversary commemorations, we will formally launch the **Windsor Park Endowment Fund**. After a soft launch over the past year, this long-term fund aims to resource future generations as they discern and pursue the prophetic, missional ideas God places before them.

- **Constitution Review**

Not the most thrilling topic for some, but our Constitution shapes how we function, and Charities Services recommends reviewing it every three years. We haven't reviewed ours since 2007, so it's well overdue. A draft revision, worked on during the latter part of 2025, will be available in early 2026 for the congregation to consider before we bring it to our AGM on Sunday 19 April 2026.

- **Strategic Objectives**

Our current five-year strategic objectives "expire" at the end of 2026. We've already begun praying and listening for what God may be placing on our collective hearts for the next 5–10 years. Everyone is invited to be part of that discernment process, so keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open as we continue shaping Windsor Park into what God uniquely intends for us.



And, of course, all our ministry teams each have wonderful plans in place to stretch and focus us as we embody the hands and feet of Jesus in every space we tread.

A Story Worth Sharing

As I close, I want to highlight a project I've mentioned before — one that seems to have taken on a life of its own. Many of you will know about the "Windsor Park Bible," which we've printed for several years now. We're currently on our fourth print run of 1,000 Bibles, and with only half of that lot left, we've given away approximately 3,500 Bibles. As technology evolves and AI increasingly influences how people search for information, we've seen an uptick in requests from all over the country — I'm fairly sure AI now directs Bible-seekers our way! Ten are being posted today as I write.

I love this Bible story. It captures something core to Windsor Park ... we seek to be obedient to God's leading; our collective generosity enables the work; and we trust the Spirit to plant the seed of God's Word wherever it lands. Some of that fruit we see in our neighbourhoods. Much of it we may never know — but God does. We're simply a small cog in His larger plan. Long may that continue, because this church is not ours; it's His.

May you know the peace of God this Advent season.

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to any of these discussions, feel free to flick me an email at grant.harris@windsorpark.org.nz.

Yours in His service,

Grant Harris
Senior Pastor