

John Knox Rangiora Mission Brief

1.03



Vision: A Church for all Ages, we are a community of Faith who seeks to be **TRUE** to ourselves. **T**rusting in God, **R**eaching out in service and mission, **U**nited in love and **E**ncouraging one another.

The Dream: John Knox Rangiora is positioned as a Church for all ages (Generations and times) and we are working to live this out. We desire to be a church for all Generations in that we have many senior members who call JKR home and we also work to connect with the younger demographic in our community. We desire to be a church that connects with a church through the ages, drawing on a rich history of Christian Tradition while also speaking into an ever changing world that has different languages and needs.

Who we are:

Our strengths as a Church: We have good leadership and many committed, enthusiastic members. We enjoy being together and share a laugh often. There are many opportunities for the church to engage in ministry and service, using their gifts to serve God in worship and mission.

Our Demographics in Rangiora: We are mostly European with a significant elderly community. There are many families moving to Rangiora without church or wider community connections. Rangiora is growing and this is bringing change and opportunities.

What ministries are we partnering with in the community: We partner both individually and corporately with the Muslim and Jewish communities, with some from Gloriavale, with the Waimakariri district Council, with local schools and businesses. With Presbyterian Support. We share services with the Holy Trinity Methodist Parish and have connections with the wider Rangiora Churches.

Our challenges are: Connection with a younger community including families. We are fast running out of energy needed to respond to issues like COVID and youth mental health issues prevalent in Rangiora.

We are seeing signs of hope and growth: in our ability to embrace growth and change. This has taken some energy, but there are good signs that this is becoming part of our prayer and thoughts. We are becoming more engaging in the community, more open and accessible to the wider Rangiora community. There is a strong commitment from the Church community and we are catching glimpses of new life happening in our fellowship.

Our greatest opportunities are: sharing our faith-journey with those God brings into our lives. To be visible in our faith and deeds for the community to witness. There is a significant youth, family and business community surrounding the church and we have the opportunity to listen to their stories and speak words of hope and life into them.

We describe Mission as: our purpose. It is why God has planted us in this community. It is working together to help others and express our faith in God by helping and encouraging others as an extension of God's work in our lives.

We describe Church as: God's people coming together, like a body, like a family. A place for all ages, a place of worship and mission. Church is safe yet challenging and has a key role to play in Rangiora.

Our threats are: that we age out and do not maintain a healthy balanced community. We can be threatened by closed mindedness who have a narrow view of God's prophetic word for the church today. John Knox Rangiora is placed in a more senior age bracket while not feeling old.

The Gospel is: a book of wisdom, instruction and hope. In its pages we find the message of life in the stories of Jesus. There is good news in the Bible if it is read in light of the Holy Spirit speaking today.

We see God as: Our saviour and best friend. God is our hope, our life and our creator. Sometimes God seems quiet and distant yet other times he is active and compelling. God sacrificed his life and dignity for the sake of his creation and the sin of the world. God is our head, leader and king and we are humbled by the grace He has given us in that he chose us to participate in his mission to redeem creation.

Location: John Knox Rangiora is physically planted in the middle of the town of Rangiora. We book-end High Street, the main road through Rangiora and we are surrounded by schools, commercial facilities, the Town Hall and Retirement Villages. We are on the corner of one of the main gateways into and out of Rangiora.

Transition: We are constantly transitioning ourselves as a church. Particularly in a post-Christendom world, we are reimagining what it means to be a community church in an ever growing secular world. We are balancing the need to pastorally care for our ageing congregation while also learning new languages with which to connect with the community God has planted us in.

What we do:

Ministries:

The Apostle Paul talks about a Body in his first letter to the Corinthians. This is made up of different parts and each part has a different purpose and each purpose carries just as much weight. Our Body is made up of a framework of ministries that reflect who God is calling us to be. These Ministries are presently:

Administration: Maintaining good records and information for the service of mission. Being good stewards of the resources God has given us and having effective processes in place to support John Knox Rangiora.

Children: Creating relevant and engaging opportunities for our children to participate in our church life and to grow healthy and faithful young disciples.

Community: Growing together as a church family, making space for authentic community to happen.

Discipleship: Thinking intentionally about how we are growing as disciples of Jesus.

Leadership: Understanding the leadership needs of the church and refreshing our leadership practices to best serve God and his Church. Also identifying new leaders in the community and resourcing them for this calling.

Mission: Supporting our mission partners and seeking opportunities to engage with our community as ambassadors for Christ.

Pastoral Care: Being available to care and support our Church and wider community. Celebrating the highs and walking alongside the broken and grief-stricken.

Prayer: Keeping prayer in front of the Church through prayer meetings, resources and intercessory prayer.

Promotion: Effective communication both internally and externally through online media, newsletters and visual aids.

Property: Managing the current facilities while planning and discerning the needs for the future.

Seniors: Supporting targeted ministries for our senior community and providing opportunities to value the ministry and legacy of our seniors.

Working for Good: Fundraising for our Church activities, outreach and mission partners.

Worship: providing sacred and worshipful spaces to respond to God for the blessings He has poured out on us. Curating corporate services that are engaging, honouring and challenging.

Youth: Making a safe space for our young people to connect, learn and wrestle with life's complexities.

Young Adults: Being present to help young adults transition from youth into adulthood. To learn and develop key faith/life skills through enquiry and experience.

Strategic Plan

Focussing on 3 key areas going into 2022 and beyond are covered under the following three frameworks. These are described using the 4-Speed Gearbox¹ framework and will become our focus during the year. The three key areas we are focusing on do not take away from the diverse expressions of Ministry that is a part of our life at JKR, but they sharpen our prayers, discussion and teaching.

Each area of focus has an immediate focus but may require a greater timeframe than one year. We use the goals to guide us and keep our focus. Each area will evolve interdependently yet with plenty of crossover opportunities between them. They impact each other.

At two vision/discernment evenings in November 2021 we spent time listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another. Listening to reflect on who we are and what we feel God is leading us into. As a result, the majority of this Mission Document was drafted. The three

¹ See Appendix 1 for a description of the 4-Speed Gearbox.

areas of Church Rebuild, Growth and Outreach are presented as significant areas of focus and as such we have spent time with each one, exploring our current status, our long-term goals and the pathway to achieve this. We have also identified what actions and behaviours might be counter-productive in making these happen.

Ministry: Church Rebuild

1st Gear:

- **Draft Plans:** We currently have draft concept plans which give a clear image of our intent. These have come from several years discussing our values and hopes and reflecting both John Knox Rangiora's hopes and dreams while also working hard to fit into the wider Rangiora Community where God has placed us. These have been translated into draft concept drawings which have been used as a visual representation for the project as it develops.
- **Feasibility Study for Hard Knox Café:** In 2021 we believed that there was an opportunity to use our building project to better support an important need in our community. There is a significant need to support youth of Rangiora/North canterbury and we wanted to conduct a feasibility study to assess the need and opportunities around us and to explore what part we could play in this. This was completed in February 2022
- **Funding:** We currently have approximately \$1.95m available with \$750k pledged by Alpine Mission Fund. The whole project has an approximately \$3.9m price-tag. We will confirm available funds by the end of April 2022 and readjust our project to meet this budget.
- **Church Support:** The Parish have responded to surveys and provided feedback in early 2021 and decided at a church meeting on 18th April 2021 the following:
 1. We believe there is a need to build. This will be based on the current Draft Scope.
 2. Confirm Funding By the end of April 2022:
 - a. Fundraising
 - b. Presbytery involvement
 - c. Partnerships
 3. Scope the Project according to the Resources available after April 2022.
 4. We will move forward with the project with the final approval of the JKR Community.

2nd Gear:

- **Getting Facilities used more often:** We want to see life happening on site and we want the community to use the current facilities. This both establishes the facilities as a community facility and generates income for operational costs.
- **Re-engage the Building Process:** Contact key people involved in the current process and invite some fresh voices to the Project Management Team.
- **Apply for Application for approval to undertake major repairs or alterations or to erect a new building:** This will be done through Alpine Presbytery Property and Finance and National Presbyterian Trustees.

- **Promote Hard Knox Café project:** Promote the vision of the Hard Knox Café to the wider North Canterbury community including (but not limited to) Waimakariri District Council, Tuahiwi Marae, Alpine Presbytery, Presbyterian Support, Local Schools, Youth Groups, Churches and Businesses. This should end in the establishment of a Working Group who will work collaboratively to explore the shape and focus of the project. This will effectively be a “Business Plan” for the project including vision/purpose, programmes, facilities, staffing, funding, accountability and ownership.

3rd Gear:

- **Hard Knox Café Business Plan:** Approve the Business Plan for the Hard Knox Café in a collaborative Working Group involving the wider Rangiora/Waimakariri community. It is intended that this Working Group will bring the project to the point of opening in relation with the Building Project.
- **Community Engagement:** Build a wider community buy-in by promoting the Building Project to the Rangiora Community. This will also involve feedback and responding to questions which might help sharpen our project.
- **Confirm Church Rebuild Plans:** Bring the project to the point of building by applying for all necessary consents, permits and approvals. This will be from Parish Council, Church Membership, Alpine Presbytery, National Property Trustees, Waimakariri district Council etc.
- **Facilities Manager:** Employing a Facilities Manager who will both manage the operation of the facilities but also promote the use among the wider community. Their role will also be a welcoming role for those who enter/use the facilities.

4th Gear:

- **Completed Facilities:** With the Church Rebuild Completed, there will be a regular use of the facilities by Church Ministries and community groups. Worship services will be much more open and flexible and JKR will finally have a presence again in Rangiora. The use of the facilities will also generate funding for both facility operational expenses and for Church mission/operational expenses.
- **Hard Knox Café:** Hard Knox Café will be operating programmes, groups and services using the whole of the facilities available with after school programmes, holiday programmes, drop-in facilities and groups which will give space for the wider youth in Rangiora to connect. There will be sufficient staffing/leadership to support the project and it will be resourced through user and community support.

Reverse:

- Careful we don't do anything to get community/neighbours offside (Local Businesses)
- Waiting for something to happen rather than making it happen.

Ministry: Growth

1st Gear:

- Small Groups are a place to grow and learn and explore areas of faith in a safe and relative environment. Our current Small Groups are:
 - CARE Group (Woman's Bible Study)
 - Association of Presbyterian Women: Monthly Mission discussion and fellowship.
 - Mosaic: Fortnightly Discussion and Bible Study.
 - Connect: Weekly group connection for fellowship and support.
 - Loburn-Whiterock Group: Fortnightly Meal with a couple of households.
 - Charles Upham Retirement Village: Bi-monthly catchups.
- Parish Council Youth Development: Currently we invite a member of the Youth Community to join us on the Parish Council to experience the environment and discussion that happens at a Parish Council Level. This is an opportunity to develop and grow their Leadership gift in a safe and constructive environment.

2nd Gear:

- Ministry Leader for Discipleship: Looking to appoint a ministry leader with a heart for Discipleship to explore, champion and manage growth opportunities for John Knox Rangiora.
- Working with Presbyterian Support: Continue to grow the relationship with Presbyterian Support with more crossover events and promotion of services. Encourage the church to participate in the life and ministry of Presbyterian Support.
- Families Ministry: Develop the ministry to Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families.

3rd Gear:

- Families Ministry: Have a successful and consistent involvement around each of the different age-groups.
- "Alpha-ish" Course: Be discerning towards gatherings which focus on those that are searching for meaning and community
- Intern options with Laidlaw: Support Students involved in studying at Laidlaw college with supervision and Mission opportunities.
- Everyone in a Small Group: Set the Goal of every person at John Knox Rangiora to have a Small Group community that they are connected to outside our gathered worship services.
- Sermons and Testimonials online: Using wider media to tell our stories online and share services, podcasts and webinars online.

4th Gear:

- Families Ministry: Ministry Leaders for the Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families Ministries.

- Every Ministry has a leader: Develop the Leadership Capacity of John Knox Rangiora to include Ministry Leaders for each ministry that will in turn encourage the wider Church to involve themselves in the Ministry and Mission of John Knox Rangiora.

Reverse:

- Don't look Back
- No buy-in from the Parish
- No momentum by the end of 2022

Ministry: Outreach

1st Gear:

- Word of Mouth: We share with one another the mission and Ministry of John Knox Rangiora
- Pastoral care Team: Our Pastoral Care Team is a reflection of the command of Jesus to Love One-another. John 13:34
- Mini-Golf: We have a physical connection with the Rangiora Community through the St Andrews Minigolf Course.
- Meal Ministry: We have a regular cooking group preparing meals for the use of those in the community that need them.
- Worship Services: Open services on Sunday Morning.
- Prison ministry: Ministry into the Rolleston Prison once a month
- Minibus Service to Church: Bringing seniors and those with transport difficulties to Worship Services on Sunday Mornings
- Sing Along With Friends: Visiting the Totara Club at Presbyterian support weekly to entertain and connect with the club members.
- Fun With Music: Running a weekly Playgroup for preschool families.
- Retirement Home Services: Serving our local Retirement Homes by leading Worship/Communion services.
- Food Bank: Providing food for the Salvation Army foodbank in Rangiora.
- Personal Stories: Each member of John Knox Rangiora has experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We are learning to recognise these stories.

2nd Gear:

- Digital Ministry: Stream our services online.
- Personal Witness: Everyone at John Knox Rangiora needs to own the story of Jesus in their own lives and be prepared to share this story. Believing that Jesus has made a real difference in their life. Learning the story of Jesus and what He looks like at John Knox Rangiora.
- Languages: Learning the language of our immediate community and being prepared to engage those in our community in their language and their place.
- Mission Giving: Re-visit our Mission Budget to include internal mission as well as external.

- Hard Knox Café Project: Be a part of a Waimakariri Working Group to explore the establishment of a Youth Facility in Rangiora, possibly in relationship with the current Building Project.

3rd Gear:

- Hard Knox Café: Establishing a Business plan to formally establish the Hard Knox Café Project. The Business Plan will include questions on:
 - Location/Facilities
 - Programmes
 - Key Relationships
 - Church/Community ownership
 - Staffing
 - Funding
 - Accountability/Governance
 - Community/Faith questions.
 - Timeframe.
- Connecting Stories: is the work of actually connecting the story of Jesus with those of our community so that all of our communities hear the good news of Jesus in their own language. Like Pentecost, we need to be telling the wonders of Jesus in a manner that is familiar to our listeners and then to make space alongside ourselves for those listening to join a worshipping community. A particular focus will be with families and youth.
- Digital Presence: Reaching out to people via digital communication both with a Sunday Morning presence but in a way that allows engagement and interaction across different media platforms.

4th Gear:

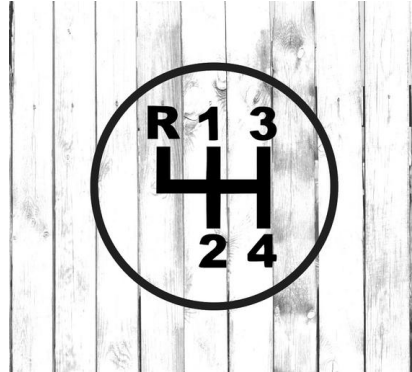
- Large Influx of Youth: Lead the Hard Knox Café project in Waimakariri and plant a Dedicated Youth facility in central Rangiora.
- Welcoming Community: Have a strong intergenerational and intercultural welcoming team which uses the physical space to have a welcoming presence in central Rangiora, but also makes space for a wider array of Worshipping languages to be expressed.
- Community Connections: Have a strong connection with the Rangiora Community that allows the many voices of JKR to fly the Church flag.
- Church Unity: All of John Knox Rangiora committed to the ideal of openness and hospitality conducive to the light of Jesus being expressed and accepted.

Reverse:

- Shrinking our Mission to the size of our own community.
- Not having the energy and capacity to dream beyond what is currently present.

Appendix 1

The dominant image for 2022 is the 4-speed gearbox which many of us grew up learning to drive with:



Each gear represents part of our journey and helps us understand where we are and where we believe God is leading us. Our goal as a church is to be travelling in the right direction in 4th Gear while each subsequent gear helps us build momentum in a timely fashion to achieve this. We recognise that much of our vision is not time dependent. Just like listening to the engine or reading the tachometer, changing from gear to gear is a listening exercise where wise discernment is required as we grow and develop. The following is a framework to discern our journey through the gears:

1st Gear: This is where we are at present. It represents the current work that is happening and recognises that in most ministries we are currently active and busy with God's good work.

2nd Gear: As with a car, generally when you have momentum in first gear, it's reasonably easy to change into second. In the same way for JKR we are recognising that there are some areas of ministry that may be easily accessible early on. Sometimes it is some minor tweaking or just a refocus required and we can build some momentum and see some shape coming into our Ministry.

3rd Gear: This is where the transition becomes challenging. This is where we either begin to discover that we are heading down the wrong path or perhaps even God is calling us to persevere. Calling us to be strong and courageous due to the idea that no prize worth having ever comes without a cost. Our 3rd Gear vision will seem significantly out of reach from where we are. But that's why we have 2nd Gear.

4th Gear: This is our extreme dream! 4th Gear is where we are living as God is calling us to here in Rangiora and where we dream our relationship with Jesus is flourishing and fruitful. 4th Gear represents our big dreams and goals. They require the most faith, the most dedication and tenacity and they come with the greatest cost. Without God, they are impossible. But if we have listened correctly, 4th Gear is where we will experience God in powerful ways and see God shake and transform not only our lives, but make us witnesses

in Rangiora, Christchurch, New Zealand and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8) 4th Gear may change from time to time and that's ok. But Each time we gather to discern the mind of Christ, we are refreshing our vision for what this might look like.

Reverse: However, like any journey, there may be times when we go backwards. I'm not meaning in terms of getting us out of a tight spot, I'm meaning in terms of going in the wrong direction and undoing the good work that has been accomplished. Reverse are the warning signs that we need to avoid lest they undo all that God is doing and is calling us to at JKR.

Version:

1.01 7th December 2021

1.02 29th March 2022

1.03 27th April 2022 Parish Council Adopted