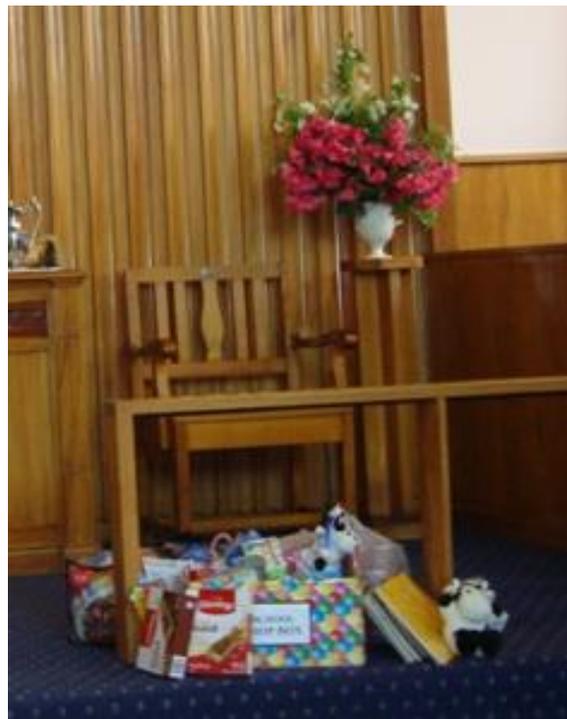


# St Davids Union Church

**O**n the eastern coast of the South Island, you will find a Union Church who have as their motto 'People who Care, God's love to Share'. St Davids' vision for children in their community fueled the first 'Let the Children Live' project in November 2013. They made an approach to a local Decile 2 school to explore just how they might support children from lower-income families and at the school's suggestion, they set up a 'drop box' in which members of the congregation contribute toys, stationery items, food bars, toiletries, clothing and other goodies. Twice a term the items are dropped off at the school to assist children in need and encourage positive affirmation of accomplishments. Late 2014 saw the Principal addressing the congregation at St Davids, highlighting the value of the church's relationship with the school.



**T**he church further envisioned trying to involve school children in their 'Arty Crafty' holiday programme. This would mean that the cost for those children would need to be subsidized and so a request for assistance from 'Let the Children Live' towards sponsorship costs was made.

**T**wenty five children attended the April programme and they thoroughly enjoyed a programme that encouraged environmental awareness and protection. Using the book *10 Things I can do to help my world*, ways in which the children could achieve this were discussed, followed by the children disbursing to make crafts including a spider and its web, a lion mask, a bird in a cage, planting a bulb and decorating the pot, making a flower and coloring a picture.

**W**hilst the programme did not achieve everything hoped for, the church will continue to explore ways in which children may be connected with the Arty Crafty School Holiday programme in the future whilst continuing to maintain a strong relationship with the local school.