

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

*Matawhero Church – Church Lane
St Andrew's Church and Community Centre:
176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

26 April 2026

Easter 4

Welcome to this ANZAC service



N.Z. Artist Iris Reesby – Levin

*We welcome all visitors to our service this morning.
Please sign the Visitors' Book and make yourself known to the Hosts who stand at the back of
the church. A toilet is located in the foyer.
In our worship we use inclusive language as much as possible. Sometimes, especially in the
hymns, this is not possible. Feel free to insert the language with which you are most
comfortable. **BOLDED WORDS** are for congregational response.
Where there is an asterisk * please stand.*

Place photos on table before service

Welcome & notices

Opening prayer

***National Anthem** - God of Nations - Maori and English WOV 677

**E Ihoa Atua,
o nga Iwi Matoura,
Ata whakarongona;
me aroha noa.
Kia hua ko te pai;
Kia tau to atawhai;
Manaakitia mai
Aotearoa.**

**God of Nations, at thy feet,
In the bonds of love we meet;
Hear our voices we entreat,
God defend our free land!
Guard Pacific's triple star
From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar;
God defend New Zealand!**

Reading Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 Colleen

There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under the heavens:

² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,

- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

***Hymn** - Eternal Father strong to save CH4 260

**Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Christ, Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Trinity of love and power,
Shield all of them in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go:
Thus evermore shall rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea**

original words by William Whiting (penned in 1860)

Reading - John 15: 9-17 NIV

June

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Message - “Civilian life in time of war” Bob

***Hymn** Honour the dead - Shirley Murray HS61

**Honour the dead, our country's fighting brave
honour our children left in foreign grave,
where poppies grow and sorrow seeds her flowers,
honour the crosses marked forever ours.**

**2. Weep for the places ravaged with our blood,
weep for the young bones buried in our mud,
weep for the power of violence and greed,
weep for the deals done in the name of need.**

**3. Honour the brave whose conscience was their call,
answered no bugle, went against the wall,
suffered in prisons of contempt and shame
branded as cowards, in our country's name.**

**4. Weep for the waste of all that might have been,
weep for the cost that war has made obscene,
weep for the homes that ache with human pain,
weep that we ever sanction war again.**

**5. Honour the dream for which our nation bled,
held now in trust to justify the dead,
honour their vision on this ANZAC day:
peace known in freedom, peace the only way.**

Words: Shirley Murray Music: Colin Gibson

Roll Call Bob

**Offering & dedication Gracious God, you are the giver and
provider of all things. We give thanks for who you are and what
you have given us. We ask that our offerings will honour your
name. Amen**

Intercessory prayer

Bidding: Christ our sovereign

Response: Hear our prayer

Final hymn – O God our help CH4 161 *St Anne

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!**

**Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.**

***Benediction** All say -

Help us to remember not to take freedom and peace for granted.

We must work at it, nurture it, protect it and pray for it.

Father, be with us now to strengthen us

Be about us, to keep us.

Be above us, to protect us.

And below us to uphold us.

3-fold Amen

Ministers: *All the people in Christ*

Service written and led by: *Ruth McLennan and Bob Bos*

Readers: *Colleen Skuse; June Stichbury*

Please join us for friendship and fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee in the lounge after the service

Note: The offering is now received at the door as we enter. If you miss noticing this, you may place a retiring offering in the offering boxes at the door as you leave.

Please remember donations for the Love basket when shopping. All offerings gratefully received.

Mindful Prayer topics: April 19th & 26th 2026 World Peace. Those affected by the impact of Cyclone Vaianu and the aftermath. Family tensions. The homeless and those feeling helpless. “The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life”.

(Mother Teresa)

Mindful Prayer contact Margaret Graham ph. 021 026 03990 or email m.n.e.gra@xtra.co.nz

Christian Blind Mission accepts used stamps. Send directly to them or Val Hall.

Matawhero Gardening happens from time to time. If you would like to help, please contact Paulina Melief 867 0605

The Pastoral Care Committee realises that they are not hearing about some pastoral care issues, for example parishioners in hospital or otherwise ill. They ask the congregation to be proactive in telling the committee or getting families to alert them so they can provide visitors or other care for our members. For all Pastoral care needs please contact one of the committee members: Jenny Lawton 868 4268; Ruth McLennan 021 02704867; Jan Gordon 0211836008; Lynnor Cooke 06 214 3945; Barbara Larsen 863-9009

DIARY for this week in April

April 26

Easter 4 Ruth McLennan & Bob Bos

10am St. Andrew's—ANZAC observed

Matawhero – No service

Tuesday 28

10am Open Door All welcome

Wednesday 29

9.45 am mainly music

Friday 1

1pm Choir rehearsal tbc

May 3

Easter 5 Rev Brett Walker

10am Matawhero – **Communion**

St. Andrew's No service

Coming up:

Sunday 10th May is Mothers' Day

Help us celebrate and remember all mothers, past and present. Bring a photo to display. Record mother's name and year of birth, to be included in a Thanksgiving Prayer. Please! If you are unable to join us, you are invited to phone and record name/s. Lynnor Cooke 06 214 3945. (Answer Phone)

King's birthday weekend Friday 29 May-Monday 1 June.

Registration forms have been emailed. Please return these sooner rather than later to expedite our planning. Early bird date (1 May) scores a discount! Hard copy forms available if required. It's shaping up to be a grand event. Do come if you can.

Sunday	Reader	Door & Team	Morning Tea	Sound Visual
Sunday 26th April St Andrew's ANZAC observed Ruth McLennan; Bob Bos	M: No service St A's Colleen Skuse; June Stichbury	<u>Pat Flockhart</u> Dianne Burrows	Val Hall	S&V: Alan C: Don
Sunday May 3rd Matawhero communion Brett Walker	M: St A's: No service	<u>Matawhero Team</u>	<u>Matawhero Team</u>	S&V: N/A C: N/A

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

St Andrew's Church and Matawhero Historic Church:

Office: 06 868 5513
176 Cobden Street 4010
standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz

Hours 10-12 Tuesday – Thursday
Bank A/c number 03-0638-0462917-000
www.standrewsgis.org.nz