

AUGUST 2018

ST ANDREWS

MATAWHERO



FOR OUR
JOURNEY TOGETHER

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a diverse community called together by
Jesus Christ to welcome, love, serve and care

HAERE MAI – AFIO MAI EVERYONE IS WELCOME

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH
St Andrew's Church, 176 Cobden Street Gisborne
Matawhero Church, Church Road, Matawhero

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends

In the past couple of months, an interested group came together for three Monday evenings, to *Explore the Bible* and others came to workshops on *Exploring and Understanding why we do what we do in Worship*. Those attending seem to have enjoyed discovering things they did not know before or having the opportunity to discuss what they might have known already, but to see that from different perspectives.

Life is all about learning and growing. We all have the opportunity to keep learning from every experience, and growing – maturing as individuals and together, reflecting on all that happens to us and around us, and becoming better friends, family members, colleagues and neighbours in the process.

One of the thought-provoking New Zealand hymns written by Colin Gibson, assures us that everything that happens to us is *counted and told in God's story*. In other words God is concerned about every part of our life and we can accept everything as an experience from which we can learn and grow. *Nothing is lost to the heart of God, nothing is lost forever; God's heart is love and that love will remain, holding the world forever.* Whatever difficulties you may experience, whatever hardships and challenges you face, **you matter to God and God is in everything with you. God offers strength, peace and comfort in our most difficult times.**

We can live only one day at a time and each day can be seen as a gift – an opportunity we can all use for continuing to learn and grow.

May I encourage you to make the most of each day and be grateful for it. We may all make plans for the future and dream about what we might do but even when your dreams are shattered, and your plans for the future seem overturned, there is still hope – and a new day each day to enjoy.

May God be for you the rock who holds you firm and the light to guide your path.

God bless you. *Mary Petersen*

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Margaret Friar, Sue Mair
Heather McDermott, Keith Lindsey,



WALKING GROUP Departs St. Andrew's 9:00am each Monday morning – whatever the weather. Do join us for an hour's exercise followed by a 'cuppa'.

OPEN DOOR Tuesdays at 10:00am

PASTORAL CARE

If you need transport to the Church Service at St Andrews please phone the office 868 5513 early in the week. (If you are able to offer a ride)

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish GARAGE SALE Saturday 1 September 2018 (see flyer)

maybe you could think about planting vegetable seedlings ahead of time so they are ready to sell on that day? Or sorting out things you no longer need that might become someone else's treasure? **Or if you would like to help on the day, or in preparation beforehand, and you have not been asked, please contact Jenny Lawton ph: 8684268, email pjlawton8@gmail.com** Thank you.

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish WEBSITE has been completely redeveloped and is now our internet connection sharing information and photos with the world! If you have not yet had a look, please go to standrewsgis.org.nz

**If you would like to come to reflect, meditate and pray in the church, the doors are now open Mondays and Fridays
12.30 – 2 p.m.**

*(Be aware that the choir practises during this time on Fridays
so it will not be a silent place that day!)*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH
SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2018
AFTER SERVICE

All who are responsible for committee reports or groups please note that these should be completed and in the church office by TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST

Thank you

FROM THE PCANZ GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

It should go without saying that we must pray for our upcoming General Assembly. The meeting has been a focal point for destructive and heated conflict over many years as various sides have sought to garner institution support for their opinions. We've been terribly distracted from our key purpose as a Church by the way conflict has been expressed at this meeting, and by the politics around it.

The solution isn't to ban politics (even if that were possible). Nor can we simply magic away the various options we have – though it would be healthy to admit we could all be wrong about almost everything. The solution is to focus intently on two things: firstly, prayer and secondly kindness. Pray for help in making this the best Assembly yet in terms of our Christian witness through community and secondly, work as hard as possible at all levels to speak kindly to and about one another.

It is by our words, says Jesus, that we will be judged. Where we use those words to denigrate one another in public and behind closed doors, we become an anathema to the gospel, it is by prayer that we will both obtain the power to be witnesses to the kingdom of God, and to resist the temptation to blame each other for the state of the Church.

Please, then, commit yourselves and your parishes to regular prayer for this year's Assembly and for the incoming Moderator Fakaofu Kaio and let's go from strength to strength in our work together.

*God Bless you all,
Richard Dawson*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1/07/2017--30/06/2018

\$

Month	
30/06/2018	
Income	
Giving & Donations	5279
Fund Raising	1068
Other Income	1744
	<hr/>
	8091
Less Expenses	9128
Cash Deficit for month	<hr/>
	-1037
	<hr/> <hr/>
Year to date	
July 2017 to 30 June 2018	
Income	
Giving & Donations	64424
Fund Raising	15622
Other Income	35203
	<hr/>
	115249
Less Expenses	133636
Cash Deficit Financial Year.	<hr/>
	-18387
	<hr/> <hr/>

FUNDRAISING FOR SABINE LAPOINTE'S PLANNED
TRIP TO UGANDA WITH THE MANGAPAPA YOUTH
GROUP

THEATRE SPORTS NIGHT

Tuesday the 31st July

at Ilminster Intermediate (Hall)

Bring a friend. Doors open at 6:30 pm
and the show starts at 7:00pm.

\$5 entry per person.

It is one of their biggest fundraisers so it would be great to get as many people there as possible. A plate of baking for supper would be most welcome if people would like to contribute

Sabine Lapointe often comes to services at St Andrew's, and occasionally at Matawhero, with her mother, Daniella, and her two sisters. Sabine also belongs to the Youth Group at Mangapapa Union Church. Sabine will be going to Uganda in September with six other members of the group and two adults, who happen to be her uncle and aunt, Patrick and Kate Ney – some years ago they were missionaries in Uganda and Tanzania.

This African adventure will involve the group initially staying at an orphanage in Entebbe and helping young people there, then working with children on the Ssesse Islands northwest of Lake Victoria to show the African children how they can effect change where they are. **Sabine and other members of the group are very committed to making positive change in the world themselves.**

They have all been fundraising for this trip and next Tuesday at 7 p.m., what is perhaps their biggest fundraising venture, will happen at Ilminster Intermediate School Hall. Please be part of the audience for this **Theatre Sports Night**, if you possibly can (see the advertisement above). We are delighted to know that Sabine is going on this inspiring trip and look forward to hearing about her adventures when she returns.

God bless you, Sabine.



An invitation from St. Paul's Motu to Presbyterians and Anglicans to a service at Motu on Sunday 2nd September, 2018 at 2.30pm and a shared early tea for those who wish to stay a little longer.

Also advice of a **GARDEN RAMBLE** at Motu
on 4th & 5th November.

Paul and Carolyn Sparks

OVER 80's SPRING FLOWERS



To be dedicated and distributed after Church on Sunday 16 September. Donations are requested from those under 80 towards costs and can be left with Liz in the office.

Directory

Transitional Minister: Rev Mary Petersen 027 244 8396
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Published last Sunday of the month or as close to (except December)

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Grace Johnstone	868 4036
Barbara Larsen	863 9009
Gwenda Gray	867 4799
Jenny Lawton	868 4268
Margaret Graham	867 5908

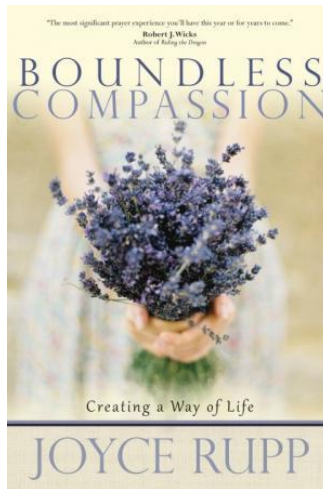
We are aware that many of our Church family are unable to attend our Sunday Services on a regular basis, and so we are attaching below, a tear off slip to enable you to continue your financial support to our Church.

Or if you would prefer to make a donation electronically our a/c details are:
GPP 030638 0462917 00 for internet banking

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Please send to: The Office, Gisborne Presbyterian Parish, PO Box 1117 Gisborne 4040

Name:

Address:.....



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Available from Pleroma on line www.christiansupplies.co.nz or email orderatpleromaorg.nz.

Travelling to Wellington? From Hastings the Pleroma Store at Otane is worth a visit. There is an excellent café nearby too. The range of books for children is extensive.

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Mary, our minister, has now been working with us in Gisborne for 11 months. Ministers are supposed to have four weeks annual leave a year, plus the statutory days, or days in lieu of those when they have to work – e.g. Christmas Day and Good Friday. Although Mary has been away a few times to reconnect with her family, she has still been working for us during those times, including planning and preparing services. The joint Ministry Settlement Board and the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish Council have insisted that Mary take August as annual leave, so she will be away for that month.

Singing is an expression of Christian devotion may be traced to the psalms. As the first Christians were of Jewish background, it was natural that they should use the songs of temple and synagogue to voice their response to God in a liturgically familiar way.

One of the earliest Greek texts of Christian song has been attributed to St. Basil. St. Ambrose is credited with having introduced Latin songs, and with encouraging congregational singing.

In reforming the worship of the church, Pope Gregory the Great in the sixth century introduced a style of singing known as Cantus Romanus or plainsong. This could be rendered worthily only by trained singers. As a result, ordinary worshippers were reduced to silent listeners/observers of the devotions of choir and clergy.

One of Martin Luther's achievements a thousand years later was to return hymn singing to the congregation. He believed Christian teaching would be implanted in young minds if it was reinforced with hymns and he did not attempt to disguise the polemical character of his hymns.

That which is of infinitely more moment than the spirit of Poetry, is the spirit of Piety. And I trust, all persons of real judgement will find this breathing through the whole Collection. It is in this view chiefly that I would recommend it to every pious reader, as a means of raising or quickening the spirit of devotion, of confirming their faith; of enlivening their hope; and of kindling and increasing their love to God and humanity.

From John Wesley's Preface to the 1780 "A Collection of Hymns: for use of the people called Methodists"

IDEAS CHANGE AND GROW.....

It is part of growing up that a person's ideas should change. This is especially true of ideas about God – yet some people never allow this part of their understanding to grow and carry into adulthood the ideas they picked up as youngsters. Then they feel the only thing they can do with such childish ideas is reject them – and so they should. Peter Pan notions belong to childhood, not maturity.

That does not stop those who still think in those terms from pronouncing freely on religious matters, however. In religion, as in politics, everyone feels their opinion is as good as anyone else's, whether they know anything about the subject or not.

Dyed-in-the-wool fundamentalists, both Christian and atheist, find it particularly difficult to open their minds to what the best contemporary scholars are saying. Certainty of both faith and anti-faith depends on cherished ideas being fixed and unchangeable. This leads to dogmatic assertion, distortion and caricature at both ends of the spectrum.

Sir Lloyd Geering's autobiography, *Wrestling with God*, stands in marked contrast to all that. He has continually been rethinking his understanding of God. As he says, 'My personal experiences of life, together with my attempts to understand the changing culture around me, have shaped the way I think about God, while what I think about God has in turn helped to shape my life and supply it with meaning.'

It is a journey many will recognise (though not everyone will come to the same conclusions). And that is not surprising, because one of the most profound changes in Western culture over the past century has been the concept of God.

Geering says his earliest notion of God was similar to the traditional one – 'a supernatural, spiritual being who thinks, plans, creates, and exercises ultimate cosmic control'.

By the end of his training as a Presbyterian minister, this had blurred somewhat. 'Given the limited capacity of the human mind', he says. 'Argues to myself that God was the one reality that a person should be content to know little about. For me, 'God was simply the name of the ultimate mystery of life.'

In the late 1960's, Geering read French Jesuit theologian Teilhard de Chardin's book *The Phenomenon of Man*, and it spurred him to a radically new understanding. God became 'not so much the maker of the world, the

first cause or even the planner of the evolutionary process; rather, the mysterious process of an evolving universe is God’.

And again, ‘Not only was I affirming the human origin of all thinking about God, but God was ceasing to be for me a knowable objective entity and becoming more a symbolic word for the mystery of life and the spiritual values associated with that sense of mystery.’

By the 1990’s this had evolved further. Geering says: ‘Whereas Christian tradition taught that God had not only created the world and humankind but had revealed to us his purpose in doing so, it was now becoming clear to me that the new knowledge we have gained in the modern world has reversed that order’ we humans live in a cultural world of meaning (of which God is the central symbol) that we as a species have slowly constructed for ourselves.

God was now ‘a verbal symbol inherited from our mythological past, a human concept we have created and used to find and express meaning in our collective and individual experience’. Christianity must therefore learn to do without an external, supernatural authority that controls history. ‘In a world come of age, we humans must now learn to accept full responsibility for our destiny.’

As for the individual, ‘Each of us establishes a personal identity by finding meaning in human existence and a goal to live for – in other words, by finding and serving our God.’ And further, ‘Just as each of us is a unique, individual person, so we each have our own unique way of interpreting life; we each conceive of God (if we choose to use that term) in a unique way. And clearly, people have been doing this ever since the term “God” came into common use, even though they were not aware of it.’

Geering would never claim to have uttered the last word on his vast subject. But the stimulus he gives, even to those who disagree, is always towards a more mature way of thinking about God. That will be the lasting value of his book.

And one last pregnant comment. ‘The most awe-inspiring mystery in this vast universe is life itself.’

Ian Harris – Otago Daily Times 17 October, 2006

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DATES FOR AUGUST 2018

SUNDAY	5	9.00am	Matawhero Communion <i>Rev Petra Barber</i>
		10.00 am	Worship Service <i>Beverley Smith</i>
		2.00 pm	Gisborne & Hastings Choral Society – Beethoven Mass. Tickets \$25
Monday	6	9.00 am	Walking Group
Tuesday	7	10.00 am	Open Door
Wednesday	8	9.45am	mainly music
		3.00pm	Te Wiremu Service
Friday	10	1.00pm	choir practice
Saturday	11	8.00am	Car Boot Sale
		1.30pm	MSB Meeting in lounge
SUNDAY	12	No Service at Matawhero during winter	
		10.00am	Communion & Celebration <i>Rev Sally Carter</i>
Monday	13	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	14	10.00am	Open Door
		1.30pm	Ryman Service
Wednesday	15	9.45am	mainly music
		1.30pm	Sunshine Bus AGM
Thursday	16	3.30pm	Dunblane Service
		7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Friday	17	1.00pm	Choir practice
SUNDAY	19	No Service at Matawhero during winter	
		10.00am	Worship Service <i>Lay Preachers</i>
		3.00pm	Sea of Faith meeting
Monday	20	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	21	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	22	9.45am	mainly music
Wednesday	22	4.15pm	Finance Mtg

Thursday	23	2.00pm	Leighton House Service
Friday	24	1.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday	25	8.00am	Car Boot Sale
SUNDAY	26	No Service at Matawhero during winter	10.00am
			Worship Service
			<i>Wellspring</i>
Monday	27	9.00am	Walking group
Tuesday	28	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	29	9.45am	mainly music
Friday	31	1.00pm	Choir practice
SATURDAY	1 SEPT	8.00am	MONSTER GARAGE SALE
			COMMUNITY HALL

SEA OF FAITH

**meets on Sunday 19th August at 3pm
in the Lounge.**

**Rev Peter Jin from Holy Trinity will talk to us about the Church
in China.**

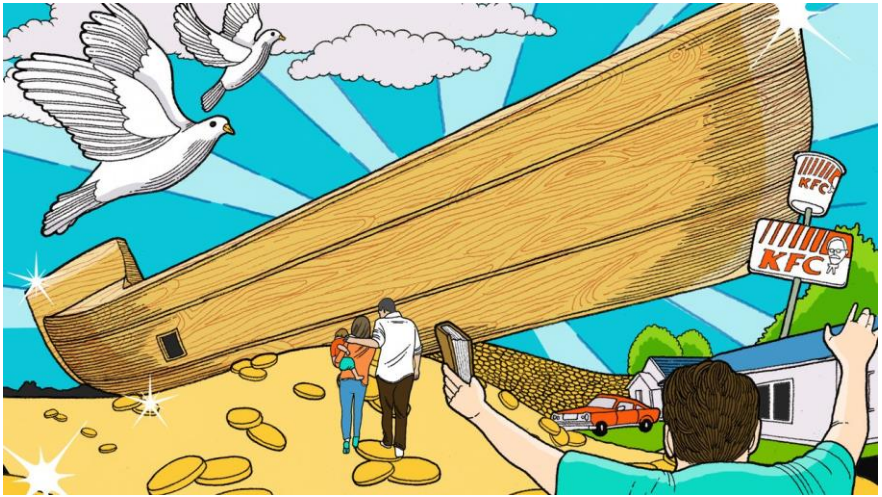
**The generosity of strangers and the love of friends are signposts
on the road to God. – Marcia Willet.**

**There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot
appear to them except in the form of bread.**

-attributed to Mahatma Gandhi.

**When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask
why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.**

-Dom Helder Camara



At a Mass in Malmo in 2016 concluding his ecumenical trip to Sweden, Pope Francis highlighted the lives of Swedish saints Elizabeth Hesselblad and Bridget of Vadstena. The best description of the saints, the Pope said, is found in the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which begins, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,' New situations require new energy and a new commitment, he said, and then offered a list of Beatitudes for modern Christians:

- *Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.*
- *Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalised and show them their closeness.*
- *Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover God.*
- *Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.*
- *Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.*
- *Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.*

PARISH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER AT 8.00am

****NO OLD TV's/videos/tapes****

Please start sorting your bits 'n pieces for the usual stalls.....

Best sellers: plants, loved linen, white elephant and furniture.

Other stalls: baking, sweets, preserves, jams, produce, records, dvds, cds, plants, arts and crafts, jewellery etc.



We are **NOT** taking clothing or shoes again this year, but welcome bags, belts, buckles etc.

If you have any queries, please phone Convenor Jenny 868 4268 or Liz in the office: 868 5513

With this edition of Signpost you will receive a **Prayer Diary**. This tells you who are the key people involved in various activities in the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish and invites you to pray for them each week. While some people are very involved in all kinds of leadership, others are not able to do physical things, but all can still pray. **Prayer Support for the active people is really important.** We regret one omission from this edition of the Prayer Diary - the **great team of people who now manage the Car Boot Sales on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month.** This is an important part of our Gisborne Presbyterian Parish mission – with a feeling of belonging created amongst the sellers and some interesting ‘spiritual conversations’ happening. **You might like to pray for the team on 2nd and 4th Saturdays.**