

# SIGNPOST December/January



## Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

[www.standrewsgis.org.nz](http://www.standrewsgis.org.nz)

### Transitional Minister:

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### Administrator: Liz Lyell

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## Message from the Minister



Dear Friends

As we approach the end of the year, with all that means in busyness for many people, I hope that you will find

time to be silent and still, reflect on the past year, and take 'spiritual' stock of where you are with God.

**Advent** is about waiting, patience and calmness – taking the opportunity to prepare spiritually for what Christmas means to you, and what God means in your life. The special services mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter may help with that 'preparation' – through reflection, actions, fellowship and music. Come along and be involved.

The profound meaning of the Nativity stories is that **God is with us** - everyone at all times and in all places. That includes in the host of end of year events, the preparations for Christmas with family and friends, and your summer holidays.

**May you have a deep and lasting experience of God with you** in your Advent, Christmas and January.  
**May you have time to 'be' rather than just 'do'.**  
May you be filled with peace and joy.

**God loves you. God is with you. God bless you**

*Mary*

## WALKING GROUP



meets at the community hall 9 am every Monday to enjoy a leisurely walk around town. Everyone, any age is invited to join the group and to enjoy a cuppa together afterwards in the church lounge.

**OPEN DOOR** – is our Parish weekly get together especially for seniors on Tuesday mornings from 10am in St Andrew's Lounge for a cuppa, friendship and chat please come and join us!



## PASTORAL CARE

If you need transport to the Church Service at

St Andrews or if you would like someone to visit you, or your family or friends, or have another pastoral need, please phone the office.



## **GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH NEWS**

### **From the MSB Co-convenor**

#### **Exciting prospects for GPP in the New Year**

Several GPP members helped to make the commissioning service for Richard Rangihuna on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November a very splendid event. The service was composed and coordinated by Mary, our transition minister. Paula Levy, called to Mangapapa just six months ago, preached a fine sermon focused on the burning bush of Exodus 3. The Presbytery was represented by the Regional Moderator, Brett Walker, and by Fiona Prestidge from Wellington, who chairs the Leadership Work Group. Other Presbytery members from Napier came to support the occasion, including myself, representing the Ministry Settlement Board (MSB).

That Board, extended this year to consider the future of both parishes (GPP and St David's), is now reformed and refocused to be the MSB for GPP alone. And we welcome back Cathy Porter and Barbara Larsen in its composition.

On Saturday morning, 17<sup>th</sup> November, we had a positive and efficient meeting that first of all revised the 2016 church profile in the light of where we now are. Ministry expectations have been refined somewhat, and that clearer focus will help us in applying for funds from the Bushnell Fund.

We are recommending to Presbytery that we call a full-time minister to the parish, in the first instance for three years. This is sensible caution, given financial constraints. If members continue to turn around the financial prospects of the parish, this could be a longer-term appointment. As well as the possibility of advertising we are following up with a person who has already shown interest in the position, and we are excited about this answer to prayer.

We have been helped to this point by the consummate professionalism and careful pastoral listening that Mary Petersen continues to carry out among you. I believe the parish is beginning to own a new way forward for a future ministry that will continue Mary's sensitivity to and inclusiveness of the diversity that is Gisborne Presbyterian Parish. We will need in this next ministry to look intentionally beyond the current parish

membership and build on many links that you the members have with the wider community.

*Adrian Skelton*  
MSB Co-convenor



### **REV MARY PETERSEN**

is running 2 advent bible studies  
starting on

**Wednesday 5 December**

at 5.30 pm in the lounge.

The second study will be on

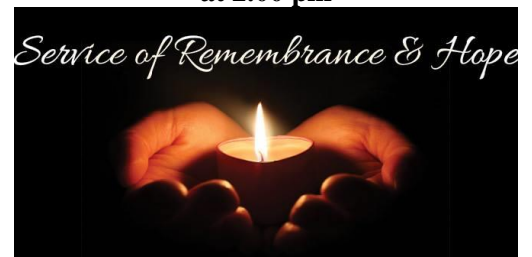
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm**

*All welcome*

### ***REMEMBERED AT CHRISTMAS***

**A special service**

**at Matawhero Church Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
at 2.00 pm**



Christmas can be a sad time when you have lost  
significant people in your life.

***Remembered at Christmas***, includes a time  
when, if you want to, there will be the  
opportunity to light a candle to honour and  
remember your special someone.

*All welcome – there will be afternoon tea  
following the service*

## General Assembly Report from Jan Ewart GA Christchurch 3-7 October 2018

I attended General assembly this year as the commissioner for GPP. This was my third GA so am starting to get the hang of it. The changes that have been made over time are good especially that there are no business sessions in the evenings. Evening sessions are now given over for groups to share and showcase what they are doing. There were some good presentations with the common theme being discovering our church.

The Moderator Rev. Fakaofu Kaio took over as the chair of General Assembly and managed this role with dignity, authority, humility and humour.

The Moderator elect is from Hope Church in Christchurch, Rev Hamish Galloway

Some dialogue indicated that we still have division in our church on some matters but generally this is accepted as a given but is undoubtedly disappointing from whatever side you come from when contentious issues are raised.

Some of the Recommendations that were supported The Church making a commitment to reducing our impact on the environment and endorsing the achievable actions that can be taken. It was heartening to see the number of young people talking to this recommendation.

That Assembly strongly urge Government not to support the end of Life Choice Bill.

The opening and closing services of Assembly were held at St Andrews College in their large Hall/Chapel overlooking the River Avon. The numbers present, the voices soaring and the many but especially the Pacifica languages, all made one aware of the richness of our Church.

The last session of Assembly was very memorable as the Moderator got each Presbytery to stand sing and dance and I tell you it was done with enthusiasm and passion.

A tiring but generally a positive experience and some very poignant moments like Archbishop Philip Richardson (C of E) asking for forgiveness for his church not being as ecumenical as it might have been over the last decade. This was reciprocated by our moderator so one can hope dialogue will improve nationally in the future

**Jan Ewart** *Commissioner for GPP*

## PEOPLE NEWS

### **Congratulations Ruth McLennan on winning cups & awards too numerous to mention!**

'I have been addicted to roses all my life and it seems there is no cure.

I have grown roses in all the homes I have owned -2.

Starting in Palmerston North before moving to Gisborne 40 years ago.

My mother had a few roses and my grandmother had 2 pink ones by her back door, First Love and Pink Parfait.

I don't know how many I have at present - some of them battle to be seen over the weeds which plague me in our sandy soil.

My favourite rose is Just Joey as she flowers at least 6 times a season with bright coppery orange flowers. Everyone seems to like roses but not many grow them. I have met Rosarians from all over NZ and some from overseas and they are all terrific people.'

**Ruth**



## BEREAVEMENT

Sadly we have lost two of our parishioners this month. Garth Hibbert, who was a long-standing member of the St Andrew's choir, was farewelled on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Ann Johnston passed away this week, her cheerful smile and Scottish lilt will be missed by everyone.



### PICNIC AT THE BEACH

**WHERE:** Wainui Beach, Opposite Okitu Store  
**WHEN:** Thursday 13 December  
**TIME:** 11.30 am onwards to 2.00 pm (ish)  
**BRING:** Your lunch, a drink, a chair  
&  
a skit, limerick, poem or funny story to share

If you need transport - please contact:  
**Lorraine Corbett Ph: 867 5463**  
or **Jill Wallis Ph: 867 7748**

7pm Sunday December 16th



**Interdenominational  
Carol Service at St Andrew's Church.**  
*Please bring a plate for supper.*

### Honouring Volunteers Sunday 18.11.18



... God is in you.

A funny story Jesus told about the Kingdom of God being like bubbles inside us.

Ernie Lamont helps us to understand : Matthew 13:33

### Report from Special Property Task Group

**The Special Property Task Group was appointed by the AGM**, with responsibility to explore potential options for future use of the Cobden Street buildings and make a full report to the parish, including detailed costs for possible options, in May 2019.

*Members appointed by the Parish AGM are:*

Convenor Marie Burgess, Raewyn Hannah, Ken Lyell, Don McConnachie, Joan McKay, Secretary Jan Ewart, Minister ex officio Rev Mary Petersen. Power to co-opt was given by the AGM.

The task group feels it is important to provide interim reports on progress and directions.

The Task Group met on 6 November.

- Ken Lyell reported on questions he had asked of the Council about boundaries, rates clarification and possible subdivision costs. The entire Cobden Street site is on one title - church, hall and carpark area. There are some discrepancies about what the council is charging the parish for -including two charges for refuse collection.

- Discussion about income and expenses for the Memorial Hall.
- Clarified spaces the church needs for its activities: for meetings / a space for refreshments after services (a little larger than the current lounge); office spaces; storage space; kitchen facilities; toilets.
- Brainstorming discussion about possibilities for hall and church buildings – dreams shared.
- The meeting moved into the church building and considered what reconfiguration of space might be possible to create refreshment and meeting spaces, office and storage space, without affecting the acoustics or the worship space. It was acknowledged that the advantages of such a reconfiguration would include that ‘fellowship’ would happen in the same building as worship, the church could be open whenever the office was open, and there would not be the cost of additions, just interior rearrangement. A trial could be conducted of using the foyer and back of the church for refreshments / fellowship after services. That would not need any structural alteration – just movement of some pews. *[The Parish Council has agreed to such a trial for a few months.]*

*Thank you.*

*Mary Petersen on behalf of the Special Task Group*

## **CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE**



*Please support the CWS 2018 Christmas Appeal on Sunday 9 December.*

*Envelopes and information are available from the office*

## **Highlights from Parish Council Meeting on 15 November 2018**

- Presbytery – Paul Loveday from St Johns, Hastings will be taking over as Gis/HB Moderator from December.
- New cards are in place and people on pastoral care are giving these out when making pastoral visits.
- St Andrews Day dinner to be held in hall on Friday 30 November. Cost \$20.00
- Fundraising: Two more car boot sales before Christmas
- MSB – Meeting to be held Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 9:30 – 11:30 in Lounge at St Andrews. MSB is back to 6 GPP members (Jenny Lawton, Pat Flockhart, Jan Ewart, Alvin Hall, Cathy Porter, Barbara Larsen) 3 Presbytery members (Rev. Adrian Skelton, Rev. Sally Carter, Glenys Single) and Rev. Mary Petersen.
- The Transitional Task Group reported to Parish Council strongly urging we should be calling for a full-time minister and after discussion at it was recommended that we support the proposal and recommend to MSB and Presbytery that we wish to appoint a fulltime Minister for a 3 year term and that we have sufficient funds for this.
- The Parish Profile will be needing revision by the MSB.
- Mary now takes only one service per month at St David’s. Richard Rangihuna becomes their Pastor as from Friday 16 November after his commissioning.
- Feedback from services, was positive with special mention of the Matawhero 150 year Memorial service held on Saturday 10 November and a big thanks to all those who helped to make the day so special.
- The Thanksgiving service on 14 October was also appreciated
- We have received positive feedback on the new layout and content of Signpost.
- Mary plans to be away from Gisborne Monday 20 November until the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Some of this will be leave and some working from afar.

- It has been suggested that a brief report from all committees is put in Signpost on a rotational basis each month.

## **Outreach and church Ministries** **28 Dec to 6 Jan**

The OAC team is intending to run a beach mission in Gisborne 28 Dec to 6 Jan. This includes a beach outreach day and sand sculpture competition, 6-day kids' programme and youth evenings. Please contact Maria Henderson if you would like to talk further about this. [maria@oac.org.nz](mailto:maria@oac.org.nz) or 022 0966 300.

## **Family Works Request**

There are still families in our community who urgently need help. Our gifts will help distressed families and children by supporting Family work's professional services. Please contact the Parish office for a donation form if you would like to assist.

**If you would like to donate a Christmas present to go under our Christmas tree, the gifts will be given to 'Family Works' (Presbyterian Support) for their families in need.**



**Please wrap and label your gift – gender (adult), child (boy or girl) and age.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity each Christmas 😊



**Carols in the Vines**



**Community Christmas Carol Singalong**

**Bushmere Estate - The Vines**

**166 Main Road, Makaraka**

**Wednesday 19th December 2018**

Gates open at 5:30pm Carols begin at 6:30pm

Admission (at gate) \$5.00 per person  
Children free

Life is not made up of great sacrifices and duties but of little things: in which smiles and kindness given habitually are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort.

*Sir Humphry Davy (1778-1820)  
English Poet*