



SIGNPOST December/January



Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

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Message from the Minister

Gifts from Santa Clause vs A gift from baby Jesus



A child wrote this letter to Santa Clause – “Hi, Santa, my name is Michael. I’m eight

years old, and my mother is here by my side.

We’re talking about you sir and that God always sends good people to make children smile. On Christmas Eve may you come and visit me. I want to be one of the children who smile too. I don’t know what to ask you for, but I ask you not to forget me on Christmas Eve. I like toy cars and Spider-Man. God be with you.’

What is the first thing that comes to your mind? A cute 8-year-old **boy** who is very **serious** about writing this **sincere request** to the **unknown but also a well-known** person, namely Santa Clause somewhere.

How do I know these things – you may wonder. Spider-man and toy cars may be boys’ preferences.

By the fact that he was with his mother, he may have been encouraged to write a request to Santa sincerely. He even knew that ‘God **always** sends **good** people to make **children** (like him) **smile** (happy).

The notion of reciprocal relationships (give and take) in which good people will get rewards only reveals a common practice in this world. Santa Clause is **unknown but also well-known** because children (and we too) know this person by advertisements and fairy tales. In this short letter, we can see a glimpse of a picture of the current cultural practice, which is far from the message of Christmas.

We are living in Advent – the Coming of the Lord as a baby form for four weeks before Christmas. The gift we are going to receive (& we have received already) is not only priceless, but also it cannot be purchased even on Black Friday massive sales. This God-initiative gift was given to us while we were still sinners. Day by day, we are being transformed by this gift to be children of God, to be other gifts of Jesus for others in need. This is the mystery of the gift from the baby Jesus.

Rev Jin Sook Kim

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS TO WHICH ALL ARE WELCOME

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 lounge.

OPEN DOOR



An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to come to our home at 109 Ormond Road

for morning tea – commencing at 10am on: Tuesday 5th January, 12th, 19th Jan.

Val Hall

OPEN DOOR RESUMES 26th JANUARY

10.00 AM in the lounge at St Andrew's community hall – all welcome.

PASTORAL CARE

If you have a pastoral need please phone Rev Jin Sook Kim: 021 02952589

KORERO ME KAI

(CONVERSATION WITH FOOD)

Last meeting on 16th Dec - resumes February
Wednesdays at 12.30 in the lounge



**ALL STUDIES WILL BE HELD IN
ST ANDREW'S LOUNGE
All sessions 4.30pm – 5.30 pm**

Advent Study 2 - **PEACE** Wednesday 9 Dec

Advent Study 3 – **LOVE** Wednesday 16 Dec

Advent Study 4 – **JOY** Wednesday 23 Dec

MAINLY MUSIC DURING TERM



Wednesday mornings are a time of organised chaos in the church lounge when pre-school children and their parents & grandparents enjoy a musical time together. There is still room for a few more families if you know someone who would like to come. The last session is on 16th Dec.

MATAWHERO GARDENERS



Members of GPP and friends are weeding, prayer/discussion 2nd Monday each month at 9.30am Matawhero Church.

WHAKARONGO (*Listen!*) and Fellowship

Thursday **10 December 4.00 pm in
St Andrew's Lounge
(Themes for Christmas)**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Summary Quarter
ended 30 September 2020

	Actual \$
Giving and Donations	23,141
Fundraising	6,501
Use of Facilities	5,187
	<hr/> 34,829
Less Expenses	37,696
Cash Deficit for period	<hr/> <u>-2,867</u>

This period covers the request
for increase in giving, donations
& the garage sale income.

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*



Interdenominational
Carol Service
at St Andrew's Church
Sunday 13th December
7.00 pm

Please bring a plate for supper.

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.

May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter. Anon

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 6 Advent 2 Is 40:1-11 Ps 85:1- 2, 8-13

2 Peter 3: 8-15a Mk 1:1-8

December 13 Advent 3 Is 61:1-4, 8-11 Ps 126

1 Thess 5: 16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20 Advent 4 2 Sam 7: 1-11, 16 Ps 89:1-4, 19-26

Rom 16: 25-27 Lk 1:26-38

CHRISTMAS Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

December 24

Christmas Eve Is 9:2-7 Ps 96 Titus 2: 11-14

Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 25

Christmas Dawn Is 62:6-12 Ps 97 Titus 3:4-7

Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20

December 25

Christmas Day Is 52:7-10 Ps 98 Heb 1:1-4, (5-12)

Jn 1:1-14

December 27

Christmas 1 Is 61: 10 62:3 Ps 148 Gal 4:47 Lk 2:22-40

January 3

Christmas 2 Jer 31: 7-14 Ps 147: 12-20 Eph 1:3-14

Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18

2021 EPIPHANY

January 6 Epiphany Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-7, 10-14

Eph 3:1-12 Mt 2:1-12

January 10 Epiphany 1

(Baptism of Jesus) Gen 1:1-5 Ps 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mk 1:4-11

January 17 Epiphany 2 1 Sam 3: 1-10, (11-20)

Ps 139: 1-6, 13-18 1 Cor 6: 12-20 Jn 1:43-51

January 24 Epiphany 3 Jonah 3: 15, 10 Ps 62:5-12

1 Cor 7: 29-31 Mk 1: 14-20

January 31 Epiphany 4 Deut 18: 15-20 Ps 111

1 Cor 8: 1-13 Mk 1:21-28

OFFICE CLOSURE

The church office will be closed over the Christmas Holiday period and re-opens 18 January. Rev Jin Sook will take Communion service on 17 January. Please phone Jan Ewart 862 7505, or Parish Clerk 868 4268 for any urgent matters: emails will be checked regularly.

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 😊



REMINDER FOR OPEN DOOR

Open Door Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 15th December

Please note that sadly this year, there will be **NO** Carols in the Vines



LIFELONG COLLECTION OF ARTISTIC WORK BY ANNETTE LAMONT

Annette has been actively creating a lot of knitting/sewing work which has filled



the whole cabinet and the rest of the lounge in Annette and Ernie's home. Annette learned these

skills from a lady whom she met in the hospital when she was 15.

At that time, the lady was knitting a tapestry and Annette couldn't help but admire the lady's wonderful work. Noticing Annette's great interest in her work, the lady kindly offered to teach Annette how to do it. It was the beginning of her doing creative artwork which includes knitting, sewing, crafting and many more. Annette has spent her time creatively even when she had to be in hospital. While making these beautiful objects, she felt the real presence of God and peace and joy in her heart.

With the full support of her loving husband Ernie, Annette keeps continuing to create things. She has even won the first prize in The Poverty Bay AMP show. Whoever visited Annette and Ernie at Christmastide, would get a small hand-made present as it is Annette and Ernie's expression of the love of God. Here we can see some of Annette's lovely work.

Enjoy!



ANOTHER BUDDING ARTIST



Raewyn Hannah's granddaughter Ruby enjoying herself at Nanna's!

WE MISS YOU BOTH!



Hello from **Jean Lloyd**, seen here tucking into an awful lot of lamingtons! Jean sends her Christmas wishes to everyone at St Andrew's and is missing you all. Jean is a Christmas 'baby' and will be celebrating a birthday this month.

Eva and Jean are both in residence at Leighton House.

Eva Richards celebrated 102 years in June. Congratulations Eva, - looking good!



What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies

(3 July 1871 – 26 September 1940
was a Welsh poet)

DID YOU KNOW?

1. In the 1400s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb.

Hence we have *'the rule of thumb.'*

2. Each king in a deck of playing cards

represents a great king from history:

Spades – King David,

Hearts – Charlemagne,

Clubs -Alexander the Great,

Diamonds – Julius Caesar

3. In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on.

Hence the phrase... *'goodnight, sleep tight.'*

4. It was the accepted practice in Babylon

4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink.

Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as

the honeymoon.

5. In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts...

So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.'

It's where we get the phrase -

'mind your P's and Q's'

6. Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim or handle of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service.

'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.



To Sabine Lapointe who will be next years Head Prefect at Gisborne Girls High School – well deserved.



Christmas is not a time or a season
but a state of mind.

To cherish peace and good will,
to be plenteous in mercy,
is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

~ Calvin Coolidge

The light in a child's eyes is all it takes to make Christmas a magical time of the year.

MY FAITH JOURNEY - PART THREE

After my O.E. 1965-68 I returned to New Zealand and my old job. In 1971 I began work in Flight Operations – Air New Zealand and I bought my first home, a two bedroom unit in Epsom. And became a member of Epsom Presbyterian Church, once again enjoying being part of a choir, being editor of the newsletter and eventually an Elder. I was almost put off from joining the Epsom choir, having read the flyers on several cars advertising the Auckland Choral Society.

During the World Council of Churches gathering Rev. Andrew Brown mentioned that he had sat next to Sarah Chandos from Madras (now Chennai). This was indeed interesting as I was planning my trip to India in 1992. And fortunate as Sarah was known to Pamela Mathias who lived in Epsom and kindly gave me a letter of introduction. This has resulted in a long friendship with Pamela.

Sarah belonged to Anglican St. Mary's the oldest building now existing in India which has belonged to and been used by the British. One afternoon I was invited to join a meeting: the Agenda stated: *'Building Relationship with persons in special situations; the sick, the aged, the homebound or handicapped, the terminally ill, the dying and the bereaved.'* At that time, they had no concept of Retirement Villages and Rest Homes.

The following Sunday morning Sarah and her driver collected me from my hotel and we attended the morning service at St. Mary's Church. Having agreed to Rev. Stanley's request to bring greetings from my Auckland Church, I spoke for three minutes to the congregation about our activities. Prince Charles and the Archbishop of Canterbury had attended a service here, so I was following exalted company.

While at Epsom with encouragement from the late Robert Matthews, I followed a 3-year course of study to attain a Lay Preacher Certificate. At the 'end of course study evening' I gave a sermon on 'Habakkuk'. Shortly after I received the Certificate which confirmed my status as an Accredited Lay Preacher. I officiated at many services at Epsom and one year represented the Parish at the General Assembly in Wellington.

For many years in Auckland Sir Lloyd Geering came from Wellington to give lectures on Jung and Religious history and I believe I attended every one by this man I consider my most admired New Zealander. The late Margaret Reid-Martin, I decided, was my most esteemed and cherished NZ woman.

Sir Lloyd was instrumental in starting the New Zealand Sea of Faith and I attended most conferences where I found a home amongst people with similar theological thinking, most of whom loved the church, and were able to share concerns about increasing fundamentalism here. In 2013 I was Chair Person for the Conference held in Hastings.

Over the years I was fortunate to attend a three-day Sea of Faith Conference in Sheffield, a one-day London Conference and a book launch of 'Time & Tide' Beyond the Millennium' in London. Autographed by Dean Don Cupitt and Bishop Richard Holloway.

1997 I left Air New Zealand and began a career as a funeral celebrant, including taking naming ceremonies and house blessings. I had attended workshops on grief, seminars in the U.K. and here given by prominent theologians. Next month – Part IV moving back to Gisborne.

Beverley Smith

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES



As Christmas is drawing closer, I find myself thinking about past Christmas's. While we celebrated the birth of a baby and relived the magical stories, there was also a connection to the secular traditions. Preparations were done in an orderly manner starting many weeks before. Presents of garments and handmade gadgets were made with love. These took time and skill.

One gift I remember was a doll which I had been asking for. This was the first "proper" doll I had. Thinking about it now I realise that it wasn't a flash doll; it had a china head with a stuffed body. What made it special was that my auntie had knitted a complete layette for it, so it became uniquely mine. I still have it somewhere here. It would not be of great value to anyone else but it has sentimental value to me. Thinking about this doll reminds me of the Christmas story with the baby in the manger and the love and joy which surrounded His birth. Each of us have our Christmas memories and I hope that yours are happy ones too.

Jill Wallis

CHRISTMAS COMES TO NEW ZEALAND

In 1642, Abel Tasman's crew celebrated the first Christmas dinner in New Zealand – freshly killed pork from the ship's menagerie washed down with 'extra rations of wine'. In 1769 James Cook's crew marked the occasion by feasting on 'Goose pye' (made with gannet).

The first sermon?



The Christmas Day service given by Church Missionary Society representative Samuel Marsden at Hohi (Oihā) Bay in the Bay of Islands in 1814 is often cited as the first in New Zealand, but did a French priest travelling with Jean François Marie de Surville in 1769 beat him to it?

New Zealand's Christmas tree



The beautiful pohutukawa is regarded as New Zealand's iconic Christmas tree. The pohutukawa also holds a prominent place in Maori culture: an 800-year-old tree clinging to the cliffs of Cape Reinga is reputed to guard the entrance to a sacred cave through which spirits pass on their way to the next world. .

Summer holidays



Come late December and thousands of Kiwis get ready for their annual holidays. They look forward to lazy days at the beach or the bach (or crib), games of backyard cricket, food on the barbie and the holiday uniform of shorts, jandals and T-shirts.

A day off for Christmas



It's hard for most of us today to imagine Christmas Day not being a holiday, but a day off on 25 December hasn't always been a legal entitlement. An 1841 newspaper for 25 December doesn't even mention Christmas, and the day only became a formal public holiday in 1910.

'Kiwi Christmas', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/culture/kiwi-christmas>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 20-Dec-2016

THE ORIGIN OF ST ANDREW'S DAY

30th November – St Andrew's Day is celebrated around the world as the feast day of the Patron Saint of Scotland, but who was he, why is he associated with Scotland and where and when did St Andrew's Day celebrations become popular? Hopefully this miniguide will answer some of those questions.

Who was St Andrew?

Born between 5 and 10CE in Bethsaida, the principal fishing port of Palestine, Andrew like his brother Simon Peter, was a fisherman. Having first met John the Baptist, Andrew was the first disciple and the first apostle, and was believed to have brought the boy with the loaves and fishes to Jesus before the feeding of the five thousand. It appears that Andrew travelled great distances in order to spread the word of God and while there can be no certainty about where he preached, the Black Sea, Asia Minor and Greece have all been mentioned, as well as Hungary, Russia and Poland. Crucified in Patras, Andrew chose a diagonal cross, feeling himself unworthy of crucifixion on an upright cross.

Why is Andrew associated with Scotland?

There is no confirmed theory as to how St Andrew came to be Scotland's patron saint – but there are quite a few hypotheses. One - his bones and relics were brought to Scotland in the 4th century; another from the 800s, that the

Pictish King, Angus MacFergus saw a saltire cross in the sky before a battle and took Andrew as his patron from then on; this is sometimes expanded to include King Angus believing he saw a vision of Saint Andrew in his dreams promising him victory and then he saw the saltire; or another that Saint Regulus was told by an angel to take Andrew's hidden bones from Patras, west by ship and wherever they were shipwrecked would become the foundations for a church. Saint Regulus' ship came ashore near Kilrymont, the old name for St Andrews.

Whatever the origin, devotion to St Andrew became nationwide during the reign of Malcolm Canmore and Queen Margaret with the national festival of Andrewmas being established. The white cross of St Andrew was worn on soldiers' tunics at the Battle of Bannockburn, William Wallace's battle cry was "St Andrew mot us speed" (*May St Andrew support us*) - and in the Declaration of Arbroath, in 1320, Saint Andrew is referred to as the official patron saint of Scotland.

Where and when did St Andrew's Day celebrations start?

It wasn't until the 18th century that St Andrew's celebrations became popular and they didn't even start in Scotland – in 1729 a group of Scottish immigrants in South Carolina created the "St Andrew's Society of Charleston". A second St Andrews Society was formed in

Philadelphia in 1747 and is claimed to be the oldest surviving charity in continuous existence in the USA. These were followed by another society in New York in 1756, the oldest charity registered in the city and founded by Scots who were looking to help the poor and distressed.

But more recently St Andrew's Day is seen to start off Scotland's Winter Festival – the first of three special dates followed by Hogmanay and Burns' Night. St Andrews University students have for years been given the day off, and in 2007 the Scottish Parliament made the 30th November an official bank holiday in Scotland.

But of course, St Andrew is not just the patron saint of Scotland and the 30th November is also a holiday in Barbados and in Poland. For the RSCDS the name is synonymous with Summer School, classes, dances and ceilidhs as well as the St Andrews Branch which was founded in 1937.

<mailto:info@rscds.org> Newsletter Issue #27 of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Newsletter

S A I N T A N D R E W S D A Y D I N N E R





SAINT ANDREWS DAY DINNER



SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS MEMORIES!

If you have memories stored on old media, I can convert them to digital formats (CD, DVD, SD card, Usb stick etc) from:

- Open Reel tape - \$10 for each 80min CD or \$10 for digital file
- Cassette and micro-cassette tapes - \$10 each
- Vinyl and shellac records, 45, 33 and 78 - \$10 each
- Photo prints, negatives and slides - \$2 each
- Photo restoration to a new print or a digital file –
- price varies on time to repair issues. \$5 if no issues other than colour correction
- 3.5" floppy disks and Zip disks - \$5 each



Note: 1/2 of any proceeds go to St Andrew's as a fund-raiser.

Contact Pete Cowley 022 6102 910

pete@cowleyconsulting.co.nz

or visit: cowleyconsulting.co.nz for all the options.

