



SIGNPOST FEBRUARY 2020

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

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Transitional Minister:

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends

In this my final month in Gisborne Presbyterian Parish, I want



to convey my deep thanks for your acceptance and welcome of me two and a half years ago, and for the way in which you have responded to what I have encouraged you to do since then. Thank you to the Parish Council and all the committees and groups I have connected with as well as all of you as individuals. You are all special people contributing to God's mission in this place. **May God continue to bless your life together as a parish.**

A Transitional Minister has extra responsibilities beyond normal ministry – these include reviewing and analysing what is happening in the parish; offering particular support and encouragement, through services, study groups, workshops and interaction with groups, committees and individuals; challenging some habits or accepted ways of doing things where appropriate; and attempting to deal with 'elephants that might have been in the room' for many years. The major task however is about preparing the parish for the future and helping the parish to identify what that future might be.

I hope that I have met your expectations, even if I have challenged you in some ways.

I am delighted that you have a new future to look forward to - beginning with a new ministry at the end of February.

Transitional Ministry is different from 'normal' settled ministry – in ways described above but also in that sometimes it is possible to provide a **seamless smooth transition to the next minister**. Traditionally in Presbyterian Churches there are gaps between ministries, contributed to by the circumstances of the previous minister's leaving, and the peculiarities of the 'call system' where the parish goes through a sometimes lengthy process leading to a call from them to a new minister. Other denominations use different processes, including having an appointment made by an individual beyond the parish, like a bishop. "A gap" is often a really difficult and stressful time for leadership in the parish and certainly that has been the case for GPP in the past. **I am pleased to be able to provide a seamless transition in this situation.** I am officially your minister until 28 February and the Rev Jin Sook Kim will be inducted on 29 February.

I have been encouraged, however, to use up the leave owed to me, so there will be some days during February when I am not in Gisborne – but I am here every Sunday. This leave is enabling me to support my family as my daughter Catherine deals with a major health challenge. I appreciate all the love and prayerful thoughts that many at GPP have shared for her. **Thank you.**

From the very first service I took in this parish, I have tried to **encourage you all to keep exploring what God means to you and to deepen your relationship with God.** I hope you will continue to do that. Maybe Jim Taylor's poem *A Shining*, printed below, will encourage you to keep reflecting on who God is for you? Thinking about **Shirley Murray's hymn words** also has the potential to expand our understanding of who God is. We will honour Shirley, who died last week, as we sing some of her songs each Sunday this month.

May God bless you all as you continue to explore who God is for you. Mary Petersen

A SHINING

Faces talk around a table
Knees warm around a campfire
Voices sing in a circle
Hands clasp in the darkness
And in between, among, around them
Hovers a shining

Eyes cannot see it
Ears cannot hear it
Fingers cannot touch it
But all feel it
Deep, deep within

The shining glows
And pulses
And sings high and clear
And tastes sweeter than honey
Whenever two or three
Or four or more –
Humans or trees
Herring or chickadees –
meet and merge in holy harmony

Though there is nothing there
everyone knows
something is there
that can't be explained
or explained away

I call it God
What do you call it?

Jim Taylor, September 2018

INDUCTION SERVICE

The Induction Service for
Rev Jin Sook Kim is on
Saturday 29 February at 2 p.m. at
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Gisborne.
Jin Sook will begin her ministry with
Gisborne Presbyterian Parish
on 1 March 2020.
Afternoon tea will be provided
There will be a combined service at
St Andrew's on March 1
(no service at Matawhero)

Rev. Jin Sook Kim

Rev Jin Sook is arriving in Gisborne on 22 February and will be settling into rented accommodation (she is taking over the place Mary has been living in for the past two years). Rev Jin Sook will be inducted into the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish at St Andrews on Saturday 29th February at 2pm.

A little background on Jin Sook

Jin Sook was a secondary school teacher in Korea until the family immigrated to New Zealand in 1998. While living in Hamilton, she taught English to Asian students for several years before moving to Dunedin to study theology full time.

Qualifications: BTheo, PGDTheo, BA, PGDip SLT (Postgraduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching), MA (Applied) Level 3 Tikanga Maori.

Ministry experience:

Chaplain at Otago Girls' High School.
Two years Ministry Internship 2014 at First Church of Otago, Dunedin 2015 at St Philip's Church, Grant's Braes, Dunedin.

At First Church Jin Sook was part of a team ministry, working cross-culturally between three ethnically different congregations (European, Cook Islands and Samoan), and organising regular support meetings for church seniors living alone, called Afternoon Tea

Meetings. Jin Sook also taught Asian immigrants – Korean, Chinese and Japanese English at ESOL class for ten weeks as part of community outreach at First Church.

St Philip's church was a sole charge ministry with a relatively homogenous congregation; her designated role was to lead the worship service and provide visitations. While here she created the Sharing Stories with God group, which was designed to provide a welcome environment and an introduction to church values for new members and interested people of the community. To help people contemplate the scripture in their daily devotion, she taught the congregation the template of SOAP (Scripture-Observation-Appeal-Pondering).

Minister of Waikouaiti Karitane Presbyterian Parish February 2016 was her first ministry appointment as parish minister and the focus of her ministry has been the provision of pastoral care and community outreach.

The parish is situated in a semi-rural area, where there is an ageing congregation with a large number of seniors living alone. Pastoral care together with nurturing the existing congregation through teaching and preaching the scripture were her priorities, plus preaching in a fresh and creative way, and providing a welcoming environment for non-regular churchgoers to explore their spirituality as meaningful to their space and time. Jin Sook created *Storychurch* as a strategy of community outreach to create an alternative congregation through a fresh expression of church, while upholding the history and tradition of Waikouaiti Karitane congregation.

Special Interests:

From her own life experience as a teacher, an immigrant, a mother and widow, and an Asian female, she is interested in human sufferings as a whole which may take place especially when people are in transition in their lives such as health, job, life conditions and relationships. Through scripture and engaging with people's life issues and community events she continues the mission of God, assisting people to find God's purpose in their lives.

Personal Interests/Hobbies/Sports:

Music gives her great comfort and joy and she plays the violin. Drawing biblical themes on cards for Christmas or other occasions.

Walking, watching movies, reading books, travelling, meeting with friends and sharing meals with others. Her other interest is working for the wellbeing of children especially for child poverty in New Zealand. Jin Sook believes child poverty is caused by multifaceted and complex factors that are from individual families as well as the society as a whole. Understanding this is important for the future of our children in our country as well as church and the world.

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

is our Parish weekly get together 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: 868 5513

MAINLY MUSIC



mainly music
est. 1990

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.

mainly music resumes in the lounge on:

Wednesday 12th February at 9.45am

MATAWHERO GARDENERS



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

REPORT OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2020:

Since July 2019, services at St Andrew's have begun at 10.30 rather than 10 a.m. More than 50 members were involved in the meeting to review the 6 months trial of a time change for the beginning of St Andrew's services. Many people present spoke very honestly and passionately about how they felt. Letters from two absentees were read.

After a lengthy discussion, which everyone listened to respectfully, the voting forms, counted by scrutineers, resulted in a 65% vote for 10.30 a.m. and 35% for 10 a.m. Everyone present agreed that was a **very clear decision for 10.30 a.m.**

Accordingly, services at St Andrew's will continue to begin at 10.30 a.m.



GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH HARVEST FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATIONS

Final Sunday Service with Mary.

Come and join us for lunch after the service to farewell Mary and express our thanks for all she has done over the last two and a half years.

Please bring a plate

10.30 am SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Your gifts of food brought for display will be distributed through Presbyterian Support to clients of their Family Works, Tairawhiti Men's group and Guardian Angel programmes.



MATAWHERO CHURCH
Ash Wednesday Service
February 26th 7.00 pm

Worship Leader Rev Mary Petersen

Scottish dessert Cranachan served at the
St Andrews night dinner 2019



Ingredients

Knob of butter
100gms Jumbo oats
100gms muscovado sugar (or brown sugar)
90gms mascarpone
300 ml double cream
450gms raspberries
75mls whiskey (optional)

Method

Put butter, sugar and oats in a saucepan and stir over high heat for 4-5 mins until toasted and crunchy. Set aside to cool. Whisk the mascarpone and cream together until forming soft peaks.

Add whiskey and 300gms of raspberries and 2/3 of cooled oats.
Mix together carefully to keep raspberries whole.
Spoon into bowl or individual bowls and top with the balance of the oats and berries.

**The Hymn Society
in the United
States and Canada
wrote:**

*We were
saddened to learn
of the death [on
Saturday
25th January] of
New Zealand
hymn writer
Shirley Erena*



Murray, FHS. She was one of the most prolific and influential hymn text writers in the English speaking world, creating texts finely attuned to the issues facing people of faith today. They have appeared in more than 100 collections worldwide and have been translated into several other languages.

She was brought up Methodist, but spent many years as a Presbyterian, serving with her husband, the Very Reverend John Stewart Murray, a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, as he pastored St. Andrew's on the Terrace, Wellington, where many of her hymns were first sung.

An article in The Hymn (Autumn 2009) announcing that she had been named a Fellow of the Hymn Society included this observation: "Despite her frustrations with the Church, this writer remains committed to working on its behalf, and her positive, ebullient nature dominates her work. Her hymns are ecumenical in their theology and inclusive in their expression. They embody themes of justice, peace, human rights, nurture, and the integrity of creation."

FAREWELL to Shirley Murray who died on 25 January 2020.

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish will honour and remember Shirley's profound influence on the New Zealand church in particular, through her poems and song lyrics, by singing some of her songs at every service during February 2020.

Tributes to Shirley have been posted from around the world.



Colin Gibson, who worked with Shirley on many hymns, wrote:

Our community has lost a brave bright soul, a distinctive prophetic voice and New Zealand's finest religious poet. Her work is known, admired, and sung throughout the Christian world. Her hymns and songs will be her legacy for many years to come; her latest volume (published by Hope) reached her a short time before her death.

In one of her poems, Shirley wrote:

Something beautiful for God,

in my seeing,

in my being,

something beautiful for God

let the Spirit make of me.

Something meaningful and true,

in my living

and believing,

something meaningful and true,

something beautiful and new.

I think we can all agree that her wish was fulfilled.

