



SIGNPOST February 2019

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Transitional Minister:

Rev Mary Petersen 027 2448396
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Administrator: Liz Lyell

Office Hours 9 – 1 pm weekdays
ph: 868 5513

Message from the Minister

Dear Friends

Happy New Year!

There may be new opportunities, perhaps new challenges too for you, as individuals and for the parish.

Yet **whatever you face in 2019,**

God is with you – and offers love, light, wisdom, inspiration and strength.

Some of you may not be aware of how many people it takes to keep all the activities of this parish functioning smoothly and effectively.

There are many committees, rosters, task groups and work groups using their expertise, time and talents to serve God and people.

You may see a glimpse of that each month in some of the notices and information published in *Signpost* – but some things are rarely highlighted there. Yet the people involved get on and do their tasks efficiently and well.

Thank you to all who help in any way with any of the practical responsibilities and mission activities.

In an attempt to let you know about some of the key committees, for a few months a different committee each time will report on



their personnel and how they function. This month the **Finance Committee Convenor has provided a report.** Thanks, Pat.

You might like to pray that the Finance Committee will have the wisdom they need to carry out their responsibility on your behalf.

God bless you

Mary Petersen

INTERFAITH MEETING

The first meeting will be on
Friday 15 February 7:00 pm
in the lounge at St Andrew's.

This will be an opportunity to gauge interest in interfaith and to discuss a number of issues, subscriptions, meeting dates and times at the venue and do we want to elect group officers? If you are interested in interfaith for this year but will not be able to attend the meeting please let me know.

I hope to see you there.

John Giffin

867-5079 0272 118 857 johnsgiffin@gmail.com

MINISTRY SETTLEMENT BOARD REPORT

The Ministry Settlement Board (MSB) is making progress in preparing for future ministry in this parish. A significant step in the process is that **Gisborne Presbyterian Parish needs to decide whether to ask Presbytery Central for permission to call a nationally ordained Presbyterian Minister full time.**

The discussion at the Parish AGM 2018 indicated a strong desire for full time ministry in the future.

The Finance Committee can prove to Presbytery, as is required, that parish finances will support this – but only for a three-year term at present, if current income continues, and funds in hand are used. Ideally the MSB would like to recommend calling someone for longer than three years but support for that is dependent on increasing income.

Congregational Meeting in St Andrew's Hall,

**after the 10 a.m. service at St Andrew's,
at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday 24 February 2019.**

Agenda for this meeting: to consider, discuss and vote on the motion

That Gisborne Presbyterian Parish asks Presbytery Central for permission to call a Nationally Ordained Presbyterian Minister to a full-time appointment for three years.

Please come to this meeting and be involved in this important decision

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.

CAR BOOT SALE

This venture continues to bring in a steady income which not only helps us financially but widens our contact with the community.

We want to continue offering our venue for the purpose enabling ourselves and others to bring goods along for sale but to do so we really want more support in the way of:

1. **Helpers**, to set up, sell wares, provide a cuppa and clear up afterwards
2. **Goods** to sell which can be just about anything but also specifics like baking, jams, chutneys etc.

3. **Donations** of flour, sugar, eggs, butter to supply the bakers amongst us

It is actually a lot of fun participating in the Car boot sale and one does get to know those who come along so it is a recommended activity should you wish to join in. Please make contact with Val Hall, Pat Flockhart, Jenny Lawton Jan Ewart or Liz Lyell and we can talk with you about what you might like to do and get you on the roster in one of the many roles available. The more people we have the merrier it is and it does help to spread the load.

Message from a stall holder:

Hello. I had a stand near the road at the car boot sale about 5 months ago with china etc and I gave a few left-over (goldy green) saucers to an elderly lady having a look around towards the end of the day. I thought she may be one of your parish members. Could she please contact me as I have a funny story and a nice surprise for her. Thanks. Seanne Williams phone: 867 2498

FRASER'S CORNER



Rev Fraser Paterson's daughter Robyn has kindly sent us a collection of her Dad's favourite stories & jokes. His book can be borrowed from the lounge library.

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When little Johnny received his, he started eating straight away.


"Johnny" said his mother. "Please wait until we say our prayer."

"I don't need to." he replied.

"Of course you do" his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house" Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook!"

ASSISTANCE WANTED

 **Barnardos** are looking for old fashioned suitcases (small) that can be used for playgroup.

If you can help, please contact Cathy Porter at Barnardos: mob 027 6674588 or on 068691340

WORKSHOP

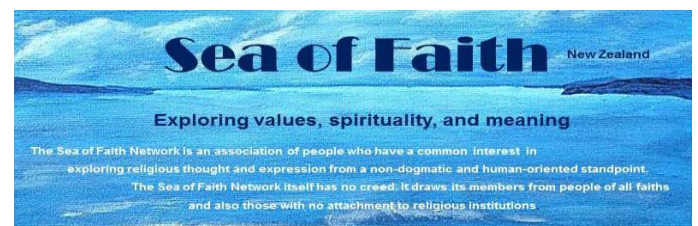
Hawkes Bay Presbyterian Leaders Workshop for all Hawkes Bay Presbyterian Elders/Leaders and interested people.

Healthy Leadership for Healthy Churches

Date: Saturday March 2nd
Time: 9.30am – 12.00 pm
Venue: St Johns Presbyterian Church Hall 608 Frederick St, Hastings
Cost: \$10 cash on the day
RSVP: jill@standrewshastings.org.nz or call 06 8788247

Please let Jan Ewart know if you are interested and we can pool transport 8627505/0273481434

The workshop will be facilitated by Rev Dr Kevin Ward who is Senior Lecturer of the Knox Centre of Ministry and Leadership in Dunedin



Sea of Faith meeting is on Sunday 17th February at 3.00pm in the lounge. There will be a video of Lloyd Geering's Keynote address at last year's conference entitled *"Christianity in the secular, globalizing world of the 21st century"*

PEOPLE NEWS

Travels with Ruth



Ruth at Eilean Donan Castle, Scotland

‘Our seven week holiday started in Edinburgh - a highlight was The Military Tattoo. Then a wonderful trip to the Scottish Highlands where I explored my ancestry. Two busy weeks in London, Kent, Devon & Cornwall before flying to Czech Republic & embarking on a spectacular river cruise through beautiful Bavarian Germany that ended in gorgeous Paris. On to lovely Florence, train to amazing Rome (did the Colosseum & Vatican etc.,) before returning home via Bangkok.

It was a trip of a lifetime we had talked about it for ages & finally did it!’

Ruth McLennan

“To travel is to live”

Hans Christian Andersen

“Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world.”

Gustav Flaubert

SOUL FOOD – A great family reunion

Colton Burpo was only four years old when he survived an emergency operation. Over the next few months, he talked of his visit to Heaven.

He described exactly what his parents were doing during the surgery, and told stories of people he had met in Heaven – people he had never met on earth or been told about. He told his mother, ‘You had a baby die in your tummy, didn’t you?’ His parents had never mentioned the miscarriage; he was too young to process it. His mother asked how he knew.

He replied, ‘She did, Mummy. She said she died in your tummy.’ Then he added ‘It’s okay, Mummy. She’s okay. God adopted her.’ His mother said, ‘Don’t you mean Jesus adopted her?’ He replied ‘No, Mummy, his Dad did!’

His mother’s eyes lit up and she asked, ‘What was the little girl’s name?’ Colton said, ‘She doesn’t have a name because you didn’t name her.’ And he had one more memory that he shared before going out to play: ‘She said she can’t wait for you and Daddy to get to Heaven.’

And right now, someone in Heaven is saying the same thing about ***you***, looking forward to the day when God’s family is back together. And shouldn’t we be doing the same?

The Bible says ‘From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever.’ 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Extract from a true account from a 4 year old boy. His story was made into a very moving film which has been shown on ‘Shine’ TV & is also on ‘You Tube.’

Article provided by Alvin Hall

(Word for Today)

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR



Waitangi Day 6 February 2019

On this day in the life of our country, we each have a perspective, views and thoughts about the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). Historically, it is well documented. The creation of the Treaty, between the Tāngata whenua (Māori/people of the land) and the British Crown, was an event that defined the journey of this land and her people. The Treaty governs the relationship between Tāngata whenua and everyone who has migrated to New Zealand.

The Treaty was signed on 6 February 1840 by 40 rangatira (Māori chiefs) and Captain William Hobson, on behalf of the British Crown. By September of the same year, 500 more chiefs from around the country had signed. It is said that all but 39 chiefs signed a Māori language copy of the Treaty.

Why was a treaty necessary? New Zealand in the early 1800s was changing. Many Europeans ventured here, acquiring land, dealing, settling in a new frontier. Sadly, lawlessness, chaos, corruption was rife. Migrants arrived in droves. The British Government stepped in, or, was asked to intervene. Talks for negotiating New Zealand to be regarded as a colony of Britain commenced, with the sovereignty of New

Zealand hopefully secured under Britain. France was also showing interest in New Zealand.

The ongoing problem at the heart of the Treaty Waitangi, then and now, is that of sovereignty. The British Crown believed the Treaty of Waitangi would give it sovereignty. The chiefs believed the Treaty of Waitangi would protect the sovereignty of Tāngata whenua - rangatiratanga (chiefly authority). This issue, at the core of the Treaty of Waitangi persists today. The blunt reality...“When the Treaty of Waitangi was signed Māori owned more than 66 million acres. By 1975, when the Waitangi Tribunal began, almost 97 per cent had been sold or taken”.

The Treaty of Waitangi is noted as the founding document of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Many regard the date of the Treaty as our national day, to be observed, respected and remembered. And, like such national days in many countries, there are speculations, doubts of authenticity and relevancy. Some say it is the past...so what...what does it mean now? Still, each person in New Zealand today has a view and perspective on the Treaty of Waitangi document.

I humbly and respectfully share my view and understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi. My journey in this land began in 1968. I am a migrant from Tokelau and Samoa in the Pacific. The status of people like me is manuhiri (visitor/guest). It is 50 years since arriving here. This land has embraced me, nurtured me and moulded me into the person I am today.

Pacific Islanders view New Zealand as the land of opportunity, land of milk and honey. New Zealand is the destination, the epitome, the

land of promises - Australia/USA rank after New Zealand.

My ministry parents sent all their children to New Zealand. As a 10-year-old, it was a cultural shock. But the blessing of the land and of the people, Tāngata whenua and manuhiri, have been tremendous.

The Treaty of Waitangi is an incredible document in my eyes. It speaks of the history of New Zealand, the land, the people, the journey. There is a sense of awe, honour, respect, appreciation. There is also grief and pain, injustice and loss for the Tāngata whenua. There is hope, deliberation, intentional genuineness about building a home and moving forward as one nation.

The Waitangi Tribunal is an avenue to acknowledge and accept responsibility, for moving forward. We will always be people of the Treaty of Waitangi, on a bicultural covenant with a multicultural perspective. We must honour this founding document for all New Zealanders.

I understand myself as a manuhiri with a lifelong visa. This land is not the land of my birth, but it is the land where I will be buried. This is home for me now. I will give my best, my all for this land and for all her people. I respect and honour the intention of the Treaty of Waitangi. All my lifetime, all my days I stand in support of Tāngata whenua and the Crown. I will live with you both for better or for worse.

We will build a future for the next generation. Let us be united, be at peace with one another. May the Spirit lead us in building relationships on Jesus Christ as Lord.

Moderator PCANZ Rt Rev Fakaofa Kaio

PARISH DIRECTORY

If you have moved house, or changed/added a phone number or have a new email address – please let Liz in the office know so that the Directory can be updated and published on Mon 25th February

PUZZLE

Can you find the names of 16 books from the Bible in the paragraph below without the aid of your bible? (One Minister found 15 of the books in 20 minutes, but it took him weeks to find the last one).

I once made the remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts...and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph!

Thank you to Pauline Ross for providing this puzzle

MATAWHERO NEWS



MATAWHERO WORKING BEE

Preliminary notice

Saturday March 30

starting around 9 am -

delicious morning tea provided to all workers
just turn up on the day.

Matawhero Gardeners

Members of GPP and friends are resuming the weeding, lunching, prayer/discussion circle on the 3rd Monday each month at Matawhero Church starting on Monday 18 February.

We encourage people to come and spend some time in the peaceful grounds of Matawhero Church pulling weeds, planting, praying, chatting and enjoying lunch together.

The suggested time is between 9:30 – 1pm.

So do come along whenever you can between these hours, bring your own garden equipment and lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

If you would like to bring anything to discuss and share over lunch that would be really good.

Contact people *Barbara Larsen: 8639009,*

Jan Ewart: 8627505/0273481434



Teach me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see,
That mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me.

Alexander Pope (1788-1744) English Poet

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee members are:

Pat Flockhart Convenor

Mike Willis Treasurer

**Marie Burgess Convenor Works and
Property Committee**

Joan McKay

Rev Mary Petersen

The Committee meets on a monthly basis as close to the 20th of the month that is convenient.

The roll of this committee is as follows:

1. To check through the prior month's financial reports and to monitor both income and expenditure against the budget that was set at the beginning of the financial year (July). Setting the budget for the coming year is not easy and takes time to complete.

To be taken into consideration is the expected income from all sources and expected expenses, particularly those relating to property maintenance. The reports show any variation to the budget and the committee examine the reasons for these.

2. A report of payments for the prior month is checked to ensure that all payments have been correctly authorised. A system has been set up which requires that all accounts due for payment must be confirmed as correct before the committee will authorise payment.

3. The accounts due for payment for the month (20ths) are prepared by the office Administrator. These will have been confirmed correct by the person who was responsible for the purchase of the goods or contracted work. All have to be authorised by the Finance Committee before payment can be made. It is important that the committee can keep control of the cash balances and are aware of any major amounts that can affect the cash flow. Marie Burgess, the convenor of the Works and Property Committee is able to advise in advance of any maintenance issues that may arise.

The Parish now uses business internet banking to pay accounts which is time efficient and assists the office administrator. Payments can be made at any time and authorised by the those with signing authority from their home computer.

There has been much discussion on calling for a new minister as Mary's time with us comes to an end. It is hoped to be able to call for a fulltime minister but this relies on the Parish finances. The Parish does have reserves but will also need an increase in the members contributions to be able to sustain a new three year ministry. This is an important decision and we all need to think carefully on this issue.

Pat Flockhart Convenor



GIVING



A Financial Health Check

As the Church reviews the budget annually, we ask that parishioners review their giving.

One thing that is really appreciated is having a reasonable idea of our annual income and to help with that it is always appreciated that whatever you are able to give is given regularly whether it be weekly, monthly or annually and the amount is reviewed annually. Making the commitment to give a stated amount each year assists the church in its planning and budgeting.

We are also very aware that people are often on limited incomes or have many other commitments so there may be occasions when the amount may need to be reduced rather than increased. The important thing is your giving is reviewed and it is given regularly if possible.

If you would like to go onto the envelope offering system, please see Jean Hillyard or contact the office. A tax receipt is given at the end of the financial year. Another simple way of giving is to set up a direct debit from your bank account to:

GPP: 03 0638 0462917 00

This is easily arranged just talk with Liz Lyell, Administrator and she can advise you how to go about either of these methods of giving.

Thank you

Parish Council