

SIGNPOST JULY 2019

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Transitional Minister:

Rev Mary Petersen 027 2448396
email: mjpetersen@xtra.co.nz

Administrator: Liz Lyell

Office Hours 9 – 1 pm weekdays
ph: 868 5513

Message from the Minister

Dear Friends

We are in the church
season of Pentecost
which offers

encouragement to think
about the action of **the Holy Spirit in our
lives, personally and as a group of God's
people in this place.** On Pentecost Sunday
this year, June 9, we thought about how the
followers of the way of Jesus were inspired by
their encounter with the Spirit of God, and
how they were prepared to take risks and
make changes in their lives.



After that service we moved into a
Congregational Meeting that invited
everyone present to continue listening to God's
Spirit together – and maybe under that
inspiration to take some risks and make some
changes. The changes being considered
represented some **significant decisions** and
triggered **deep emotional responses** for
some.

In 2001 those who worship at Matawhero
agreed to change the time of their service from
9.30 a.m. to 9a.m. to accommodate **being part
of Gisborne Presbyterian Parish** and having

a minister who was also responsible for St
Andrew's. On several occasions since then,
with different ministers, there was discussion in
Parish Council and Worship Committee about
moving the St Andrew's starting time to allow
the Matawhero service to be longer than 40
minutes and still enable the minister to get to
the St Andrew's service. Parish Council
supported the change of time and as part of my
transitional ministry with you, I saw it as
important, to encourage the whole parish to
discuss this. This proposal was advertised for
more than two months before June 9, when the
parish was able to talk about it together. Strong
feelings were expressed and some people
obviously did not support the recommendation
however the vote was overwhelmingly in
favour of the change. **A six month trial of
10.30 a.m. start for all St Andrew's Sunday
services begins on 7 July.**

The **Special Property Task Group** had been
established by the AGM and was asked to
investigate various options for future use,
development and maintenance of the buildings
at 176 Cobden Street, church and hall. It was
to **report in May with recommendations** and
the **parish was to make decisions about
those in June.**

The Task Group did what was asked of it.

The members spent a great deal of time investigating the options, talking with experts – including Gisborne District Council, engineer, Real Estate agent, architect, NZ Heritage personnel, - as well as drafting possible plans for renovation of the space at the back of the church, beyond the communion table and organ pipes, to make it much more suitable for church use, as well as community groups; and collating all the information into a comprehensive report with recommendations as requested.

That report and recommendations were approved and supported by the Parish Council and available for two weeks before the meeting. The emphasis was on an in principle decision so that further explorations could be done and plans made to ensure that in ten years time the buildings would be suitable for use. The plan for the meeting was to provide a brief overview of the report and go through the six options possible so that everyone was aware of how and why the Task Group had come to the conclusions it had – and then deal with the recommendations.

Unfortunately, there were many interruptions regarding the *process* and this meant people did not get the opportunity to fully discuss why the sixth option had been recommended by the Task Group. Parish Council had agreed that we would need a 70% majority for any of the recommendations to be accepted when put to the vote. This was not achieved which meant none of the recommendations were agreed to. That included a **'no' to doing any planned maintenance on the church or the hall** – which leaves the parish with a difficult way forward and the potential of both buildings

deteriorating to the point of eventually costing much more to remedy current problems.

At the AGM on 22 September, there will be a **proposal about planned maintenance** on all three parish buildings, including Matawhero, from the Works and Property Committee and Parish Council. The Parish voted to keep the hall so it must be maintained. That will require an increased financial commitment.

In the meantime, the parish is engaged in the process of calling a minister full time for three years. That also requires an increased financial commitment.

I believe this parish has an exciting future and has great potential. **The Spirit of God is among you and within you to inspire, encourage and challenge.** Keep listening and looking for what God is doing in you and others.

God loves you.

God bless you.

Mary Petersen

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.



MAINLY MUSIC

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.

MATAWHERO GARDENERS

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

For taking a turn at leading **Open Door** on Tuesday mornings, for helping with **Car Boot Sales** (roster boards in the outer office to sign up if you are willing to help with either of these opportunities), for helping as part of the **mainly music** team on Wednesday mornings, different roles available: join in to sing and dance with the children, or operate the data projector or prepare morning tea. Come and see what fun we have!

Do you enjoy singing and having fun? You can do both by joining the **St Andrew's Choir**. Come to choir practise on Fridays at 1 p.m. in the church.

Volunteers to assist the **Care and Craft** group in the hall on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. or the activities of the **Gisborne Stroke Group** like their **Exercise Group** in the hall on Thursday mornings and **Communications Group** on Friday mornings.

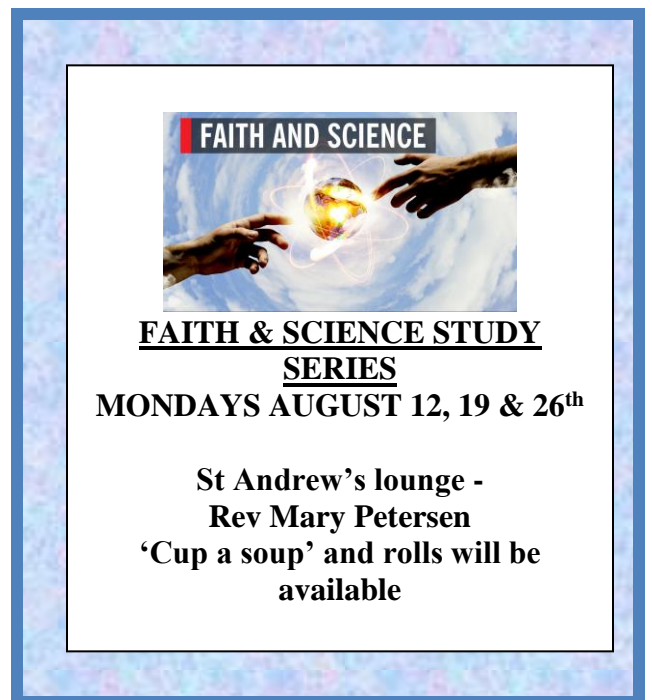
Otherwise contact Liz in the office if you would like to know more about any of these "opportunities to serve others".

SNIPPETS FROM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON THURSDAY 6 JUNE

- Looking at how we might connect more effectively with the community we already have within our building, plan to invite those using the hall to morning tea sometime in July.
- The report and recommendations from the Task Group, the letter and paper and the responses made were discussed. It was agreed that the vote on recommendations was to approve the recommendations in principle and that this needed to be emphasised at the congregational meeting. We are aware that if the recommendations are agreed to it would be a long gentle slow process that needs to be handled sensitively.
- Parish Council agreed a 70% majority would be required to agree to recommendations from the Report from the Special Property Task Group about Property Issues.
- Draft Terms of Reference for Property Project Task Group, these were agreed to should they be required.
- Mary will continue her transitional ministry until 31 August as originally planned.
- A Presbytery regional meeting on Saturday 29 June, 10 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. at St Andrew's Hastings. We would like to encourage as many as possible to attend.
- It was agreed a Study group series in July or August would be appreciated.

- Bushnell Fund, Mary had been in touch with the Presbytery Central Treasurer and found that it would be possible for GPP to apply for funds from the Bushnell Bequest for a mission /ministry project. Presbytery Central is currently using the interest to support Presbytery administration and travel claims from our MSB. The fund is worth \$53,000.
- Policy needed about statements from PC members – to clarify processes it was agreed we need a written policy which we can all follow. A draft will be prepared for the next Parish Council meeting.

Jan Ewart



FAITH AND SCIENCE

FAITH & SCIENCE STUDY
SERIES

MONDAYS AUGUST 12, 19 & 26th

**St Andrew's lounge -
Rev Mary Petersen
'Cup a soup' and rolls will be
available**



Blue Moon: Singing is good for you

There are reasons singing is good for you.
I sing because it makes me feel good.

This is a strange story. I was in hospital.
An ultra-sound had been ordered.
(That's all you need to know about that.)

I went into the ultra-sound singing Blue
Moon.
Don't ask me why.

Halfway thru the ultra-sound
I thought why am I doing this
so I ceased singing at such
a strange time.

And then a voice; from where
I couldn't say; not above, so
it wasn't God. (And I wasn't
that far gone though I sure
could have been – long story.)

The voice said “Don't stop;
we were enjoying that.” (Truth
being; so was I, both the effort and sound.)

So I went back to the ward singing.

Now I read that singing
is good for the heart.

Good, I'll keep singing,
not the cure but a tool.

Benita H. Kape (c) 12.6.2019

PARISH ANNUAL MONSTER GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER
8.00 am

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.



**Please hold onto large items of furniture
until 5th or 6th September as we do not have
any storage.**

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

**Convenor: Jenny Lawton 868 4268
or phone the office: 868 5513**

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water, at the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments.

But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house." The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?" "That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

Sometimes, it's the "cracks," or what we perceive as imperfections, in this reality that create something unexpected and beautiful. These



"cracks" allow something to change and ultimately make the whole much richer and more interesting. Everything and every being has its own unique purpose and destiny to fulfill.

Article provided by Hans Kwak

ADVANCE NOTICE

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish Annual General Meeting

is on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22**
after the 10.30am service at
St Andrew's.

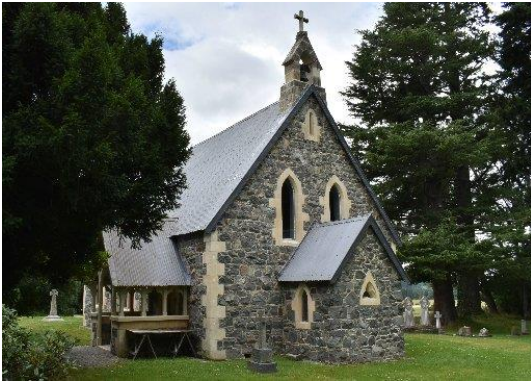
SERVICE RECORDINGS

If you would like a cd copy of the Sunday service, please contact:

Peter Cowley 022 6102910



The Church I dream of



I dream of a church that walks closely with humanity, while leading it to God.

I dream of a church with arms open to the world, not hidden in the sacristy and defensive.

I dream of a church that has love as its ultimate rule, goal and motivation.

I dream of a church that is not afraid to work for justice and be prophetic when it has to.

I dream of a church that preaches heaven, without disconnecting from the earth.

I dream of a church where all human beings are welcomed as God's children – no exceptions.

I dream of a church that is more concerned with compassion than adherence to human laws.

I dream of a church that listens more and makes fewer official declarations.

I dream of a church that is not motivated by fear, but led by trust in God.

I dream of a church less concerned with its own image and more concerned with Truth.

I dream of a church that understands that human beings do not all fit into the same box and that there is a very important reason why variety is part of God's own creation.

I dream of a church that was already dreamed of two thousand years ago, when Jesus first brought it together as a community of love.

Quoted from Father Albert Cutie's book – Dilemma

Provided by Jill Wallis

