



SIGNPOST JUNE 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



50 days, or seven weeks, after Easter the church celebrates the **Day of Pentecost**. The word Pentecost simply means 50 – but the day has much deeper meaning for the followers of Jesus.

We remember the day when the Holy Spirit dramatically filled the lives of the believers in Jerusalem and enabled them to speak in many different languages so that thousands of Jews gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish Festival of Harvest, heard them speak about God in their own language – and Peter preached about Jesus. Acts 2: 41 records that about three thousand people were added to the group of believers that day.

Those three thousand returned home to their different countries and continued to talk about Jesus – and the group of followers of the way of Jesus kept growing. So **Pentecost is like the birthday of the church**, the beginning of the spread of Christianity beyond 'Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1: 8). God's Spirit continued to work in the lives of millions and still does today. The Spirit of God is always with you – within you and around you.

This year Pentecost Sunday is on 9 June - on our monthly Celebrations Sunday, which is very fitting. As we celebrate being the church in this place, and share with the church family those things we are celebrating as individuals, we also have the

opportunity to share communion - and discuss and decide about some practical matters relating to the future of this parish.

A **Special Congregational Meeting** will be held in the church hall after the service on 9 June, as previously advised. One purpose of this meeting is to discuss the report and recommendations of the Special Property Task Group, which is being distributed with this edition of *Signpost*. **Please read the full report carefully and come prepared to share your thoughts, reflections and concerns – and to make a decision.**

There will be **another decision** to be made at this meeting too – about the time of services at St Andrew's. If you read the Parish Council report in the May *Signpost* you will have seen that the **Parish Council is recommending that St Andrew's service start time be changed from 10 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.** This is a parish with two worship centres but the people who regularly worship at Matawhero have a very short service beginning at 9 a.m. in order that the minister can move on to take the St Andrew's service at 10 a.m. Ministers are never able to stay and chat over morning tea and be part of the fellowship time with those at Matawhero. For many years this matter has been broached by different groups with many ministers but not aired at congregational level. Parish Council and Worship Committee minutes record often that the decision was to be left 'until the new minister came'. The result of this procrastination is that no congregational decision has been made – except the default 'let's leave it as it is'.

Part of my task as your Transitional Minister has been to identify and help you deal with those issues that may have never really surfaced but are always floating beneath and around church life - and affect it. The two matters for discussion and decisions at this congregational meeting – suitability, management and maintenance of buildings; and service times - are in this category. **May I encourage you all to see this as an opportunity to be involved in making decisions about crucial matters for the future of Gisborne Presbyterian Parish.** These may appear to be practical matters but they are intricately connected with the **core of the life of the parish – worship and mission.** The Spirit of God is within you. May the Spirit of God guide your discernment as a parish. **Please read, think, pray and have your say on 9 June.**

God bless you
Mary Petersen

WHAT IS GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH? - A faith-based group, a club, a religious organisation, a fellowship group, spiritual explorers, a mission organisation, a mission field, a people who care for and look after each other? Well yes all that and much more. There are some who say that churches are a business or are like a company – and in some senses that is true: churches have to conform to the regulations and requirements of IRD, Charities Services, OSH – Occupational Health and Safety, building regulations, and other local council requirements.

Yet what brings us together in the first place is usually related to personal faith and a desire to worship together with others, to be part of a community of faith, and to have a feeling of belonging and connection – and hopefully to keep exploring what God means to us. We may have different understandings of who God is and what worship means but there is a sense of connectedness and belonging that is significant.



WHO DOES WHAT? HOW is this multi-faceted entity that IS GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH ORGANISED, GOVERNED AND MANAGED?

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish has two Worship Centres, St Andrew's and Matawhero but one **Parish Council responsible for the governance of the whole parish.** The Parish Council sets policy and is expected to take responsibility for everything that happens in and through the parish.

Several **committees manage activities of the parish** and each reports to the Parish Council. In recent months those committees have provided reports to the parish through *Signpost* - **Finance, Worship, and Pastoral Care**, and this month the **Works and Property Committee.** Each of these has **ongoing responsibility** for an important aspect of church life and carries out practical tasks on behalf of the Parish Council. Members of committees are appointed at the Parish AGM.

Task Groups or Work Groups are different from Committees in that they may not be ongoing but come into existence to focus on a particular task and cease when that task is completed. There was, for example, a **fund raising work group after the 2007 earthquake** damaged St Andrew's church building and major repairs were needed. At the Parish AGM in September 2018, a **Special Property Task Group** was established to focus on investigating options for the buildings on the Cobden Street site and report to the parish by the end of May 2019. Their report is now ready so they have virtually completed their task. The **Ministry Settlement Board** is also like a task group with a particular focus.

Major decisions are always a parish responsibility and are brought to a congregational meeting – so everyone is involved.

This parish also has **groups and individuals who take responsibility for organising particular activities, on an ongoing basis** – the *mainly music* team, the Open Door team, the Car Boot Sales team,

Riverbank who manage mission sponsorship - currently for Joel in Uganda, the Music Director and the choir who practise every Friday, the musicians, the gardening team for Matawhero and others who look after St Andrew's gardens, the welcoming team on the door every Sunday, the sound and visual team, those who prepare communion, the flower arranger and other creative people, those who provide morning tea, readers, prayer writers, and those who create the rosters for all these activities, for Matawhero and St Andrew's. The Transitional Think Tank is also a short term task group.

THANK YOU ALL for all you do to keep this organisation, this faith community, functioning well, and contributing to God's mission. **God bless you.**

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.



PEOPLE NEWS

Margaret Graham and Val Hall have had successful surgery and are both now home - but Margaret will not be able to speak for 6 weeks so that her throat can heal properly. We wish them a speedy recovery.

REPORT FROM W&P COMMITTEE

As its title implies, the Works & Property Committee is responsible for the maintenance and oversight of our buildings - Matawhero church, St Andrew's church and the Memorial hall/Community Centre. This responsibility includes the care of grounds and property at both sites.

Members of the committee regularly take on practical maintenance tasks themselves either individually or with the help of other parish volunteers. When professional trades people are required this is often organised through the Parish Administrator who also keeps an eye on the Maintenance Book held in the office, and refers matters to the appropriate person for action. This also includes work around insurance claims (of which there have been several this year) and follow up repair work.

One of the other important responsibilities of the W & P committee is to review and arrange

insurance cover for our buildings and other property.

In recent years we have been trying to budget for larger items of maintenance in a planned programme of work. However, such work has been on hold during the current financial year with only essential maintenance and repairs carried out. This was a decision taken at the 2018 Parish AGM and will be reviewed after the Special Property Task Group makes its report to the congregation in June.

The committee meets on an as-and-when needed basis at key points in the year. Urgent decisions are made by email if necessary.

Committee members are: Marie Burgess (Convenor) Alan Groves, Alvin Hall, Jenny Lawton & Val McGreevy (Sec) with Rev Mary Petersen (Ex officio).



Disciple Quiz

1. Who was also known as Cephas?
2. Who were known as 'The Sons of Thunder'?
3. Who was Bartholomew also known as?
4. Who was Didymous?
5. Who was Levi?
6. Who was Thaddeus?
7. Who was known as 'The Zealot'?
8. Who were the elder and the younger (or the less)?
9. Who were the Boanerges?
10. Who was Peter's brother?

Answers on last page

SOUL FOOD

Birthdays are a gift from God

By Helen Steiner Rice

**Where does time go in its endless flight
Spring turns to fall and day to night,
And birthdays come and birthdays go
And where they go we do not know....
But God who planned our life on earth
and gave our mind and body birth
and then enclosed a living soul
with heaven as the spirit's goal
has given man the gift of choice
to follow that small inner voice
that speaks to us from year to year
reminding us we've naught to fear**

**For birthdays are a stepping stone
to endless joys as yet unknown
so fill each day with happy things
and may your burdens all take wings
and fly away and leave behind
great joy of heart and peace of mind ...
For birthdays are the gateway to
an endless life of joy for you
if you but pray from day to day
that God will show you the Truth and the
Way**

Thank you Jenny Lawton

MATAWHERO GARDENERS



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

All are welcome!



BAKING REQUEST FOR CAR BOOT SALE on Saturday 8 June

At the last car boot sale our cake stall raised \$255.00 please contribute to the next sale

Baking can be dropped off at the office by Friday 7 June or **phone if you would like it to be collected: ph office: 868 5513.**

(Ingredients for baking are welcome too)

Or bring baking along on the day.

Please label your donation. **Thank you!**



So, what are you doing for others? How good are you at letting someone else take credit for what gets accomplished?

Paul writes, ‘Honour one another above yourselves’(Romans 12:10). Next time somebody shares their accomplishments, pay attention to your need to jump in and tell them something as good or better about yourself. When you do that, you minimise their joy, create distance between you, and everybody loses. Instead, bite your tongue, look at them and say, ‘That’s wonderful; tell me more.’ And mean it! When you treat people this way two things happen:

1. The other person enjoys your company because they sense you’re really ‘there’ for them, instead of sitting on the edge of your seat waiting for your turn to speak.
2. They feel that instead of competing with them, you care about their success. Consequently, your relationships grow stronger because you no longer need to grab all the attention and glory.

It’s called ‘living for others.’

Taken from Word for Today



LIVING FOR OTHERS

‘Honour one another above yourselves’.

Romans 12: 10 New International Version

As you approach the latter years of your life, you realise that it’s not just what you **do** that matters, but what you do for *others*. The most miserable people on earth are those who hate, hinder and hurt others, while the happiest are those who spend their lives helping others.

The degree to which you’re helpful is the degree to which you’re happy – it’s that simple. Poet John Albert Holmes said,

‘it’s well to remember that the entire population of the universe, with one trifling exception, is composed of others.’



4 Generations of the Reeves family at mainly music



Gisborne Presbyterian Parish
assisted by

*Marjorie Redstone Trust, J.N. Williams
Memorial Trust,*

H.B. Williams Turanga Trust

proudly presents as part of the
St Andrew's Lunchtime Concert Series

Piano Extravaganza IX

*Bronwen & Samantha Holdsworth, Coralie Hunter,
Andrew Lund, Catherine Macdonald, Beverley Peach,
Chris Reynolds, Trish Tattle*

*with guests Peter Holdsworth and Gavin Maclean,
and student artists including Sabine Lapointe*

Queen's Birthday Monday 3 June 12.30

St Andrews Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY 9 JUNE

**PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION
including Communion**

10 a.m. at St Andrew's

**Service followed by morning tea in the hall
and a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
with soup and rolls lunch.**

*Please plan to be there to contribute to
the discussion and decision making.*

SERVICE RECORDINGS

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

**Peter Cowley
022 6102910.**

Peter improves
the sound quality
of each service
before it is copied
for the website.

Photo of Pete
with beautiful
pohutakawa tree.



SPONSORED CHILD – we say goodbye to Bwambale Joel



Dear Don,

Thank you for sponsoring Joel. We're so excited that he has graduated from the sponsorship programme in Uganda.

We want to say thank you!

Because of your generous support, Joel's life has become one full of opportunity and potential.

Thank you for investing into the life of a child.

Child ID: UG023700129
Child Name: Bwambale Joel

We are told that Joel is living with his family, and will graduate from high school at the end of the year after his National Exams; he hopes to study at university and earn a degree, before going on to serve in his local church and advocate for children in need.

If you would like to send one final note to Joel you can feel free to do that by visiting our website:

www.tearfund.org.nz/write-to-child

Thank you so much for the love and generosity you have given to Joel. We know that your contribution has made a tremendous difference in his life.

Letter from tearfund Coordinator

Dear Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

Your sponsor child Joel in Uganda has just completed the programme!

Congratulations to you all! This is an incredible achievement that means he's fulfilled the requirements to graduate and will be moving on to bigger and brighter things in the future.

Joel has now spent many years in the programme receiving the schooling needed to succeed, the medical care he needs to thrive. Thanks to your sponsorship donations he's now ready to launch into his future with an incredible base of skills and support that will stand the test of time. We are so grateful that you stood with him on this journey through sponsorship.

Warm regards

Melody Crozier - tearfund

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."

Dalai Lama

Answers to Disciple quiz

1. Peter
2. James and John
3. Nathanael
4. Thomas
5. Matthew
6. Jude
7. Simon
8. John (the elder) and James (the younger, the less)
9. James and John
10. Andrew