



SIGNPOST March 2019

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Transitional Minister:

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Message from the Minister

Dear Friends

Last Sunday the **Gisborne Presbyterian Parish** took an important step on its journey into the future.



60 people present at the meeting, after the morning service at St Andrew's, shared their **enthusiasm about wanting to have a full-time minister to lead the parish**. It was agreed that the financial resources were available to guarantee being able to call the next minister full time for 3 years. To do this does rely on funds being used that at present generate interest – part of the parish income. If the parish wants to extend a call beyond 3 years, other income needs to increase. That is a challenge but one that seems to be embraced – and there were several suggestions offered at the meeting. The decision now goes to Presbytery Central for confirmation and permission to call someone. Watch this space!

We are also on a **Journey Towards Easter**. In this edition of *Signpost* there is a list of all the Easter events - you will see that there are several special services offered, and two deeper study opportunities in April. The first event is on the first day of Lent, the six weeks that lead up to Easter – an **Ash Wednesday service** at Matawhero at 7 p.m., an opportunity for reverent reflection. All are welcome to this and all Easter events. **May this Easter be a significant part of your individual journey with God.**

The Parish Committees, workgroups and task groups are also on a **continuing journey of serving you and managing the activities and mission of the parish**. This month the **Worship Committee** reports about its membership, responsibilities and action. Thank you, Catherine and team, for the work you do.

May everyone who reads *Signpost* this month feel inspired, loved and welcomed on your journey with God. You belong in God's family and the faith family of Gisborne Presbyterian Parish.

God bless you

Mary Petersen

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 on Tuesday mornings from 10am in St Andrew's Lounge for a cuppa, friendship and chat please come and join us! Although the current attenders are mostly 'seniors', all ages are very welcome.



SOUL FOOD

Pastor Jeremiah Stepek

transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service....only 3 people out of the 7-10,000 people said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food....NO ONE in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation....."We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Stepek"....The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation....The homeless man sitting in the back stood up....and started walking down the aisle....the clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him....he walked up to the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment....then he recited

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed

clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning...many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame.... he then said....Today I see a gathering of people.....not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples...when will YOU decide to become disciples? He then dismissed service until next week.....Being a Christian is more than something you claim. It's something you live by and share with others.

The moral of the story is this: put God first in your life. Act like a Christian at all times, not just once a week during church. Open your hearts, your minds and love one another. Team Godvine

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.





St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
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 Concert Series

David James

Gisborne-born International

Concert pianist

**playing Chopin & Schubert plus some
Spanish music**

Sunday 3 March 2.00 pm

*Admission free; optional Koha or Donation
Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee provided*



Did you know that the grand piano in the church was **David James'** personal piano? He gave it to St Andrew's many years ago - what a wonderful and generous gift. Let's support David at this concert, when he has the opportunity to play his piano again.

*Always pray to have eyes
that see the best in people,
a heart that forgives the worst,
a mind that forgets the bad,
and a soul that never loses faith in God.*
(unknown)

The beginning of Lent will be
marked by a special service at
Matawhero Church on
Wednesday 6 March 7 p.m.

All are welcome



A S H
W E D N E S D A Y

DUNBLANE REST HOME ANNIVERSARY

Old memories were evoked on Friday, 22nd February, when Dunblane celebrated its 65th Anniversary. There was a gathering of residents and families and invited guests to mark the occasion and share a scrumptious meal together. I had the honour of cutting the birthday cake.

Many St Andrews members will remember the support given when Presbyterian Support East Coast managed the Complex. Some may even remember the bottling in the olden days, volunteering on the weekly shop trolley or even when they 'adopted' a resident in the Iranui Wing and helped them prepare, pack and shift to the Gisborne Hotel for 10 months while the new Iranui was built?! It has been a long journey but a worthwhile one.

Val Hall

LENT - a time to pause and reflect

Lent is recognised as the 40 days before Easter, to mirror Jesus' 40 days of wilderness experience enduring temptations and preparing for his public ministry. Actually, Lent includes 46 days because the six Sundays leading up to Easter are excluded from the count. Lent has traditionally been marked by at least the Catholic and Anglican churches as a time for prayer and self-denial.

In the early church this was the time to prepare new converts for baptism – which took place on Easter Sunday. The new converts were expected to fast – give up food – at least during the day, and spend time with God throughout Lent.

However, Lent, for the early church in the northern hemisphere, was also the time when stored food was running out anyway before the new spring crops began to produce. The word Lent comes from Anglo-Saxon 'lencten' meaning Spring Season and from the Germanic root for long – because in Spring the days visibly lengthen. People finished up most of their supplies of last year's food with a party before Lent began and then ate frugally till Easter. In Britain the custom developed of using up the cooking fat, milk, flour and eggs by making pancakes on the day before Lent began. This day is known as Shrove Tuesday - from another Anglo-Saxon word 'shriven'. People were expected to confess their sins for the previous year on Shrove Tuesday and be 'shriven' or forgiven and thus begin Lent in a 'pure' state. However, Pancake Tuesday has become a world-wide secular tradition in its own right.

We are in a different hemisphere and a different season. Food is always plentiful here. Hot Cross Buns, originally eaten just on Good Friday, and Easter Eggs, originally just for Easter Sunday, are already available in many shops – and have been since just after Christmas! Although some churches still encourage people to give up something for Lent, I would encourage you to see this as an opportunity to deepen your spiritual life in other ways – maybe come to the Ash Wednesday service, or the study groups, or set aside more time on your own each day to connect with God.

You might like to nourish your soul by a particular kind of self-constraint, and feasting! for example:

***Fast from criticism and feast on praise,
Fast from self-pity and feast on joy,
Fast from ill-temper and feast on peace,
Fast from resentment and feast on contentment,
Fast from jealousy and feast on humility,
Fast from pride and feast on love,
Fast from selfishness and feast on service,
Fast from fear and feast on faith.***

Or you might choose to deny yourself things that prevent God's love from influencing and motivating your life - which is very different from giving up things that you enjoy. Recognise what inhibits you and let the Spirit of God set you free.

God bless you on your Lenten journey.
Mary Petersen

Easter Study in St Andrew's lounge



Wednesday 3 April 5.30 -6.30pm

Wednesday 10 April 5.30 -6.30pm

Lent can be a journey to healing and wholeness:

You might like to use these reflections for your day during Lent:

At various times during the day, give thanks for all the times of healing and wholeness along the way.

- + *When you awake, give thanks for being alive!*
- + *When you are eating, give thanks for nourishment*
- + *When you are doing something necessary or required of you, give thanks for the way your talents and gifts are being used*
- + *When you are doing something you love, give thanks for the renewing joy and pleasure of it*
- + *When you are together with those you love, give thanks for connections that sustain you*
- + *When you are worried or concerned, give thanks for guidance and support*
- + *When you are going to bed, give thanks that you have come safely through another day*

Faith is like Wi-fi, it's invisible but it has the power to connect you to what you need.

MATAWHERO GARDENERS

Members of GPP and friends are resuming the weeding, lunching,



prayer/discussion circle on the
2nd Monday each month
at Matawhero Church
9.30 -1.00pm
next date **Monday 11 March.**





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assisted by

*Marjorie Redstone Trust,
J.N. Williams Memorial Trust,
H.B. Williams Turanga Trust*

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

Chris Green

It's Only Life

*Performing the songs of American
Songwriter*

John Bucchino

Wednesday 13 March

12.30 pm

St Andrews Presbyterian Church
*Admission free; optional Koha or Donation
Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee provided*

Combined Harvest Festival Service on March 31st at St Andrew's 10.00 am

Please think about what you might like to bring to the Harvest Festival service – this does not need to be something you have grown, it can be jam, relish, tinned and packet goods or a symbol of something that you are thankful for.

*Our gifts will be given to Family Works
Presbyterian Support*



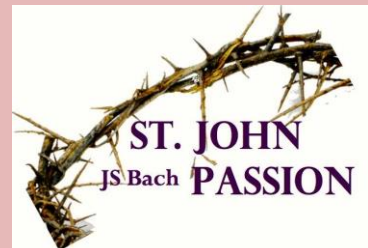
OVER 90'sMORNING TEA

March 16th in St Andrew's lounge 10.15am.
Can we have volunteers to bake shortbread for this special morning tea. Please give to Val or bring to the office by Wednesday 13th March.

Thank you



**GISBORNE CHORAL SOCIETY
PERFORMS
SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2 PM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH**



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee meets every two or three months to discuss future plans for services at St. Andrew's and Matawhero and provide feedback on the services already held.

It will discuss matters regarding special services, e.g. community, Easter, Christmas, Mothers' Day, Flower Service.

It has oversight over study groups although from 2015 the planning was taken over by the Growing in Faith Committee, and then by Mary after she arrived in 2017.

During a vacancy the committee has traditionally taken on the responsibility of pulpit supply although officially the job of the interim moderator. Usually the interim moderator is very happy to let the committee, with its strong local knowledge, create a worship schedule.

We may very well find ourselves in this position again, after Mary's contract runs out in August. She has worked hard to prepare us for this eventuality, particularly with the series on worship which she led last year. It takes courage as well as time to take responsibility for a service, but most people who do so find the effort well repaid. It is a growing experience, with the provider learning far more than they can ever include in the service.

When we are enjoying the services of an incumbent minister we are always assured that the positive support provided by this committee is important, both for feedback and as a place to float new ideas and concepts around worship.

In 2019 the members of the committee are
Rev Mary Petersen, Transitional Minister,
Gwenda Crawshaw, Lynnor Cooke,

Pat Flockhart, Alvin Hall, Raewyn Hannah, Berys McDonald, Eunice McIntyre, and Catherine Macdonald, Convenor

This membership represents many of the several strands which have come together to make up the apparently disparate congregation of the GPP. Each point of view is important and each committee member is able to articulate their own, giving us a broad spectrum of opinion.

This year the Easter services and events include:

Wednesday 6 March

7.00pm Matawhero Church
Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday 3 April

5.30-6.30pm Easter Study St Andrews lounge

Sunday 7 April

9.00am Matawhero Communion
10.00am St Andrew's Easter Music Service

Wednesday 10 April

5.30-6.30pm Easter Study St Andrews lounge

Sunday 14 April

10.00am St Andrew's Palm Sunday
7.00pm Combined churches service at
St Mary's Star of the Sea

Thursday 18th April

7.00pm Maundy Thursday/Communion
Matawhero Church

Good Friday

19th April

10.00am St Andrew's Good Friday Service

Sunday 21st April

10.00am St Andrew's Easter Service and
Communion

Sunday 28th April

10.00am St Andrew's Anzac
Commemoration Service