



SIGNPOST MARCH 2021

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Minister

Rev Jin Sook Kim

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MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

The Vow

The Vow is a 2012 American film inspired by the true story of Kim and Krickitt Carpenter. In the movie, Paige and Leo are happily married newlyweds, but their happy life together suddenly shatters when a car accident leaves her in a coma. When Paige awakes, she has severe memory loss and doesn't know Leo. She also has a confusing relationship with her parents and still harbours feelings for a former fiancé. Despite these difficult obstacles, Leo is determined to renew their bond and rebuild their marriage.

In an interview with *Huffpost* (08/14/2014), Kim said that Krickitt awoke with severe amnesia twenty-one days later after the accident. She not only lost about a two – year period from her memory, but also she was in diapers, and they hand-fed her, and they had to teach her how to walk and talk again. Through it all, Kim stuck by her side. "I made that promise before the Lord," he said. "You make

that promise; you keep the promise. If you're going to say something, act on your word. Be a man or woman of your word."

The Book of Hosea in the Old Testament quite resembles the movie/story *The Vow* – how to win back one's first love despite physical or spiritual amnesia. In the story, Hosea was directed by God to marry a promiscuous woman of ill-repute, and he did so. Marriage here is a symbolic covenantal relationship between God and Israel. However, Israel has been unfaithful to God by following other gods (e.g. Mammon) and breaking the terms of the covenant. But in the end, Hosea won Gomer – his wife back with his unfailing love despite all the difficulties and obstacles. We are living in the season of Lent. All these stories, including Kim and Krickitt, Hosea and finally Jesus, tell us that God who loves us is so determined to win us back through the work of Jesus Christ as a faithful bridegroom will do to love his bride until the end.

Rev Jin Sook Kim

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 have a pastoral need please phone Rev Jin Sook Kim:
021 02952589



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.



MATAWHERO GARDENERS

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



ZOOM KORERO ON FRIDAYS

Join in the fun every Friday at 10.30 am for **ZOOM korero** from your computer. A link and passcode number will be sent out with the Order of Service each week.

KORERO ME KAI (CONVERSATION WITH FOOD)

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm in the community hall at St Andrew's



Fellowship Meal



**OPEN DOOR
TUESDAY 2nd
MARCH 10am**


Dr Alison McFarlane, whom many of you will remember - will be the Guest Speaker at **Open Door** in the lounge. Alison has worked in Thailand and also worked with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). **EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME!**



PLEASE COME AND JOIN OUR CHOIR (and make new friends)

We need **YOU** and your voice... there are empty seats to fill. The Choir meets once a week on Friday at 1.00 pm in St Andrew's Church.

Just turn up on Friday and you will be welcomed with open arms by our friendly St Andrew's choir.



ALL SESSIONS HELD IN LOUNGE

Week 2 Tuesday 2 March 4.30 – 5.30pm
(theme: Image of God)

Week 3 Tuesday 9 March 4.30 – 5.30pm
(theme: Sin)

Week 4 Tuesday 16 March 4.30 – 5.30pm
(theme: Covenant)

Week 5 Tuesday 23 March 4.30 – 5.30pm
(theme: Crucifixion & Resurrection)

PRAY FOR VANUATU
World Day of Prayer service 2021
FRIDAY 5TH MARCH 4.00 pm
at
ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA
contact: Phyllis McGann 021 02389365



PAUL AND CAROLYN SPARKS AT MOTU, FEBRUARY 2021



As we write this, we are sitting on our deck with the setting sun glowing on the tops of the hills of Waitangirua, the wekas are fighting on the lawn, the cows, geese, alpaca and milking goats settling for the night. Sheep in the distance bleating, the Siamese cat on my knee and crickets singing. What peace and tranquillity. So, all is well with the world?

Of course, our faith stories at the beginning are different but the thing they have in common is a faithful relative. Carolyn's mum was a very faithful witness to the goodness of God, Mum clung to what she knew to be right no matter what the cost. It wasn't easy with a non-believing husband. There was a day when we lived in Palmerston North and she wanted to attend church in Wellington, to do that she had to leave before light to catch the train. When she arrived, she discovered she had 2 different shoes on!

Paul had faithful Grandparents who taught him to pray and encouraged him in his faith journey. "I remember saying my prayers as fast as I could before jumping into bed".

The beginning of our journeys in caring for creation started differently too, but merged in our jobs. Carolyn's family were keen Forest and Birders who went on Forest and Bird camps in January and walks during the year.

I remember learning about some fungi that one could eat when we were on one trip.

Dad came from a rural background and loved to have a place with lots of room to have gardens. I remember saying to myself I wanted to marry a farmer (*got a gardener like myself instead*).

Paul was brought up on lifestyle block land with parents that grew flowers for the market and his mother was and still is a keen horse breeder and cattle farmer.

When we grew up, we both took up an apprenticeship in Horticulture and Gardening. But we met in church, ending up working together for Tauranga City Council Parks and Reserves, where we honed our skills in growing natives and replanting native bush and sand dunes. We are often saddened by the lack of care for our country, how money and people's desires are more important than caring for the beautiful land we have been blessed with.

Like goats we destroy the very place that is a blessing to us.

How can a Christian who loves the land and wishes to be part of the conservation of it, handle the constant whittling away and desecration of our wild places, remain up-beat? The only answer is that God has the final say and he asks us to participate in modelling and caring for His good creation.

Before coming to Motu, we had 2 years at Bible College enabling us to better understand and preach the Word. Now we feel a call to share our understanding of God's call to the church to join him in the restoration of all things. Proclamation of the gospel isn't necessarily about just addressing issues of the day, but seeing those issues in light of the gospel, everything we do is underpinned by our theology.

We started out in Tauranga with a lovely piece of bush with a stream, waterfalls and land to

raise the food for our family. After developing the gardens for 16 years we felt a call to Gisborne, although we never meant to land up so far from town, but God knows what he is doing.

We moved here with 5 ute loads of plants and cuttings as we didn't want to lose the plants we had collected. We arrived at Motu to what we called a green desert as there were no gardens, no colour. But now on crossing the Motu bridge and then turning right, to find tucked on the corner to our place is 18 acres of paradise. Production of fruit, vegetables, meat and milk along with a park-like garden, large ponds, a large island planted in native forest, a tiny wetland and waterways flanked with native plants.

We loved the country church St Paul's at Motu, (it took us a few months to find who ran it and when). It wasn't long before we ended up looking after the grounds and the church. St Paul's is a railway church, (as the railway line was extended, churches were constructed to serve the communities of residents and construction workers).

The church was designed by architect Frederick de Jersey Clere, a scaled down version of St Mary's at Matawai. Built by the local Fisher brothers who were the first recorded people to raft the Motu river in a wooden boat, (rather than us).

The chattels were donated by locals. Built in 1922 and consecrated January 1923. The centenary will be celebrated January 2023. Restoration is being worked on, paid for by donations and fundraising.

What about our interest in this historical building? As a local icon it is much loved by the community and we decided to use it as a means of reaching people for Christ, re-establishing

the Carol service and Palm Sunday, as well as inviting the community to partner with us in the restoration of the building. Later on we wanted to build relationships with the Anglicans and Presbyterians in town. We also wanted to share our passion for God's creation, and implement a way that the church could participate in a greater understanding of this, the 5th face of mission. So, we have an annual invitation for an afternoon out at Motu with a short conservation themed service and afternoon tea together. Some people have lunch at our café too.

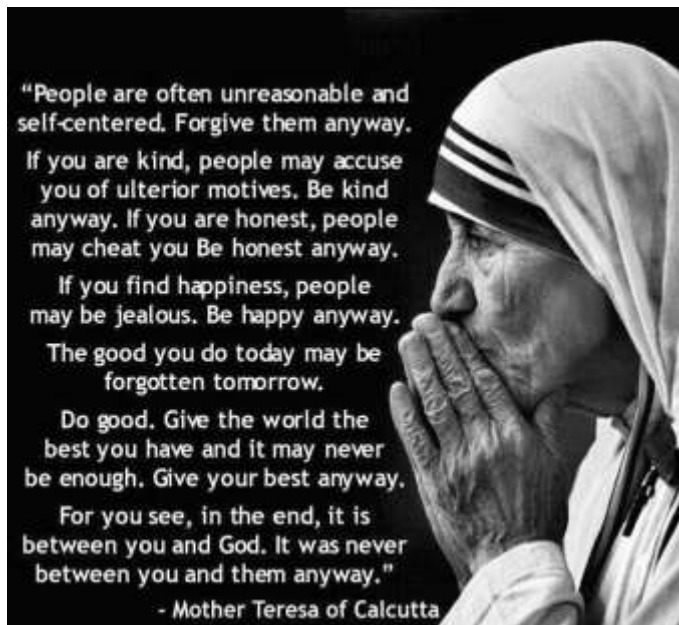
This is the largest garden in the "*Amazing Rhododendrons and more*" bi-annual garden ramble in early November, which has been created to raise funds for the restoration of St Paul's and to share what God has given us. It features rhododendrons as the main theme, as they grow particularly well in the damper high country. This event, we hope, will be happening this November 2021, (subject to Covid).

Today, many young ones, even those within the church, are deeply concerned about their future because of rampant degrading of our planet, God's very good creation that we are stewards of. There is a sense of hopelessness and despair. Can the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ bring hope and a new understanding into the situation? We see a crisis that threatens to significantly disrupt our way of life at best, at worst.....who knows? The Church as a whole is behind the 'eight ball', either in denial or operating the same as the world. It is God's creation not ours. Throughout the bible God speaks of his creation and knows that we are messing it up, but promises a new day when all the wrongs done to creation here on earth will be made right. Are we willing to work with Him

on our journey to care for the things that God cares for?

We are working with Presbytery Central to investigate the possibility of using St Paul's and our own garden/park as a base for a Conservation Retreat Centre at Motu. We are planning to start with retreats and weekend workshops as part of the "Fifth Face of Mission", exploring the biblical mandate to care for each other and our planet, (and actually each other). Along with field trips, time to just drink in the creation, hands on activities, good food, a great place to stay, great company. For the young and young at heart.

Paul & Carolyn Sparks



FAREWELL



Our very best wishes to Nola Jacobson who will be moving to Wellington at the end of March and farewell to Robbie Woods who is moving to Australia to be with family.

HUGGING



Hugging is healthy. It helps the body's immune system, it keeps you healthier, it cures depression, it reduces stress, it induces sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects, and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

Hugging is all natural. It is organic, naturally sweet, no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and 100 percent wholesome.

Hugging is practically perfect. There are no movable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic check-ups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, inflation proof, non-fattening, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, theft-proof, non-taxable, non-polluting and of course, fully returnable.

Author unknown

Source: Chicken Soup for the Soul

asap
always stop and pray

OVER 90'S MORNING TEA



The Pastoral Care Committee is organising a Morning Tea for those Parish Church Members who are over 90. Saturday 27th March is the selected date.

The 2020 function scheduled for last year had to be cancelled because of the Covid Lockdown.

The Committee would be grateful if a few church members could supply additional food or offer transport for those unable to drive.

The function is normally concluded by 11.30 am and is really appreciated by our Senior Citizens.

**Offers of help can be directed to:
the Church office, Seton Clare, Jan Gordon
or Barbara Larsen.**

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

1 PETER 1:8-9

'CELEBRATION POT LUCK' SERVICE

will be held in the community hall on



**Sunday March
28th 10.30 am.**

Please invite friends and family also bring a plate to share.

We are getting together, sharing stories and a meal.

These Celebration Services we hope will become a permanent fixture and your feedback after the service will be very welcome and useful in planning future ones.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 6 MONTHS

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

**Financial Summary 6 months
ended 31 December 2020**

	Actual
	\$
Giving and Donations	42,056
Fundraising	9,293
Interest	2,103
Use of Facilities	10,317
Income	63,769
Less Expenses	94,186
Cash Deficit for period	-30,417

EMAIL FROM BOB HUGHES

Hi Jin Sook and St Andrews

Firstly, thank you and all of St Andrew's family for your visits and concerns.



Although progressively harder each time, I've been handling the 5 months of aggressive chemo-therapy treatments much better than anyone expected.

My final session is here in Gisborne Thursday 4th. However, there is a likely-hood of later trips to Waikato for radiation to mop up any remnant cells.

As a full-time Carer I've been able to manage Annette pretty well despite my ups and downs.

We have only used Te Wiremu three times for respite even then mostly because of a lengthened absence.

Finally, because tests showed I was healthy enough to withstand the most aggressive treatment my recovery prospects are very positive.

However, because Lymphoma is what I have and treatment hits the immune system pretty hard. I'm told to avoid infection and social distancing is a **must**.

So three weeks between sessions and radiation follow up, it might still be a while before you see us at church again.

Thanks Jin Sook and all for being there for us. We hope to see you all soon.

Again, thanks all for being there for us.

Blessings Bob and Annette Hughes.

MOZART: REQUIEM

St Andrew's Church 176 Cobden St, Gisborne



Sunday 28 March 2021 at 1:00pm

The hauntingly beautiful Mozart Requiem will be performed by the Hastings Choral Society, along with the Gisborne Choral Society directed by Gavin Maclean. Tom Chatterton will accompany the choir of over seventy on the organ. There are entrancing melodies, brilliant harmonic sequences, and exquisite quartets for solo singers in Mozart's rendition of Requiem.

*Learn to commit
every situation to
God, and trust Him
for the outcome.
God's love for you
never changes,
no matter what
problems you face or
how unsettled life
becomes.*

BILLY GRAHAM