



SIGNPOST May 2019

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Transitional Minister:

Rev Mary Petersen 027 2448396

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Administrator: Liz Lyell

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Message from the Minister

Dear Friends

We are still in the church season of Easter, even though all

the special services are now in the past.

We are also just past Anzac Day. **Both Easter and Anzac Day give us the opportunity to reflect on life and what it really means to us.**

Last month I wrote about the effects of the horrific tragic events in Christchurch on 15 March. What happened that day also invites us to take the opportunity to reflect on what really matters in life and on the things that connect us rather than those that divide. **Love is the strongest force in the universe.**

God is love. Perfect love casts out fear.

As we move on from Easter, **new life and new opportunities** are ahead. I have a sense of excitement about Gisborne Presbyterian Parish and what God might be doing with you and through you. Jesus breathed on frightened disciples, giving them peace and hope, courage and inspiration, assuring them that God's spirit would be with them.

God's spirit is always with you too.

God is as close to you as breathing.

God bless you.

Mary Petersen



MINISTRY SETTLEMENT BOARD (MSB)

The MSB is one of the current committees of Gisborne Presbyterian Parish (GPP), with the responsibility of doing what is needed, on behalf of the parish, to identify the next minister and achieve the next 'Ministry Settlement'.

Members of the MSB:

Three members appointed by Presbytery Central: *Rev Adrian Skelton* and *Rev Sally Carter* both from Napier, co-convenors, and *Glenys Single* from Wairoa.

Six members appointed by Gisborne Presbyterian Parish: *Jan Ewart*, *Pat Flockhart*, *Alvin Hall*, *Barbara Larsen*, *Jenny Lawton*, *Cathy Porter*.

Rev Mary Petersen resources and advises MSB meetings, but has no vote.

It was the Ministry Settlement Board that suggested that the Parish needed a Transitional Minister and arranged for Rev Mary Petersen to come on a two year contract, which began in September 2017. Mary concludes that term on 31 August 2019.

Transitional tasks included helping the parish identify your heritage and who you are now, and exploring what the future might be and what kind of ministry leadership might be needed in that future, while maintaining, encouraging and supporting current activities, committees and work groups. In the process, any longstanding challenges were to be examined and dealt with, and encouragement given to making significant decisions that would lead to establishing a smoother transition into the future. The Transitional Minister has reported to every meeting of the Ministry Settlement Board, and offered guidance and insights to the MSB about the parish and its needs for future ministry.

After much discussion and reflection, the MSB revised the Parish Profile and Mission Plan, in November 2018. Both of these were approved by the Parish Council in December and by a meeting of the Parish on 24 February. That meeting also agreed that the parish wants to call someone to a full-time position, for an initial three year term. Presbytery Central has since approved the documents, including the parish financial accounts, and agreed that GPP may continue with the process of making a call to a Minister, full time, for an initial three year term.

The MSB was exploring with one particular minister who was interested in coming to Gisborne, but that is not now going to be possible. Instead, on 1 May a wider process

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

incorporates two worship centres, central city and rural

Gisborne/Tairāwhiti is a special part of
Aotearoa New Zealand
with a strongly bicultural population and culture,
and a rich history.

WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL TO MINISTRY IN TAIRAWHITI?

We need someone who will be excited to -

- Inspire and stimulate a mainly mature congregation
- Encourage new ways of worship yet honour diverse traditions here, including a progressive edge
- Support existing activities with all ages, and help this parish continue to reach out and develop relationships in our community in God's mission
- Extend the ministry of our pastoral care team
- Embrace the unique culture that is Tairāwhiti

The position is full time, initially for a three-year term,
and is open to Presbyterian and Methodist ministers.

Haere Mai! Titiro Mai!

Our Parish Profile and Mission Plan
provide much more detail about the parish.

Request copies by contacting the MSB Convenor,
Rev Sally Carter: revsally.carter@gmail.com
with your expression of interest, before 31 May 2019

of advertising for 'expressions of interest' was begun. All Presbyterian and Methodist ministers and churches in New Zealand will receive the advertisement above. It is expected this will result in some expressions of interest. The MSB may also make contact with some suitable people to encourage them to express interest. The MSB will then decide who to interview and who to invite to come and take a service, with a view to a call being offered.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Mrs Jan Gordon, Elder, from Palmerston North.

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.



PEOPLE NEWS

Dear Gisborne Presbyterian Parish
Thank you for your kind letter acknowledging the 50 year Anniversary of my Ordination and then Induction into the Presbyterian Parish of Stockton - Nelson Bay - Raymond Terrace in the Hunter Presbytery of New South Wales. Lynette and I have had much joy in serving in various Parishes of the

Presbyterian and then The Uniting Churches during those years. Of course, we have been in many more Churches in "retirement" and that has been a great privilege in itself.

When my grandparents, Charlie and Agnes Hewitt had a son born in Gisborne on the 25th January, 1905, they named him Leslie Gisborne Hewitt. His two older brothers and younger sister were born in Sydney, Australia. I am sure that they would have been surprised to know that their grandson - Leslie Charles Hewitt (i.e. me) - would one day share in an exchange ministry to the City of Gisborne.

Lynette and I enjoyed our time of ministry with you in 2002; then bringing 28 of our then Gerringong congregation to meet and share with the Gisborne folk in 2003; and their return visit to us in 2004. We still talk about the concerts we shared; the "tulips" that were trampled; the birthday cake for Ken Miller (which he is still ribbed about) and the general fellowship that we all shared. We also enjoyed our return for the Centenary of your Parish and that we could "stay on" for the following four Sundays. Those two times of ministry involved us being there on Easter Sundays 2002 and 2013 - so the Floral Cross has become part of our lives and I made one and have used it whenever I am conducting an Easter Sunday service. So that is three times in Gerringong; twice in Beverly Hills, Sydney; and then in six other congregations - including Ulladulla last Sunday.

Lynette and I thank you for thinking of us and pray that God will continue to bless the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish congregations.

Love and regards, *Les and Lynette Hewitt*

FRASER'S FUNERAL(REV PATERSON)

This was a service that Fraser would have enjoyed, many jokes were told - there were laughs, tears, songs and tributes. It was an honour to be able to do a reading at the service and represent the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish. I was also able to pass on GPP's blessings and love to Cathy and Fraser's Family. The Rev Roger Wiig who took the service and the piper lead the hearse out of the Khandallah Church holding up traffic along the busy road, which also has an entry and exit to a Supermarket across the road from the church. Fraser would have approved I'm sure.

Fraser's 2yr old grandson wore Fraser's kilt (he wore it as a 5yr old) which we had all seen at some stage during his time in Gisborne.

*Jan Ewart
Elder*

CENTRAL GATHERING Palmerston North on Saturday 23 March. Jan Ewart attended as the Presbytery Elder from GPP. The opening talk from the Moderator the Right Rev. Fakaofa Kaio "Relationship with God and others in Jesus Christ" he spoke about discrimination and racism and the underbelly that is part of us all. We need to focus on the gifts every one brings rather than the differences. His personal challenge was that we build a relationship with a Muslim.

The workshops, there were 5 to choose from, I attended Ethics and the End of Life care in the morning and Climate Change in the afternoon. Attendance was good and the day worthwhile. The next gathering is in Hastings on 21 September 2109 so hopefully we can get some Gisborne people to attend and I promise you will enjoy the atmosphere and the stimulation from the presentations and discussions.

STRIDE FOR STROKE - An event organised on Sunday 28th by Gisborne Stroke Group, who have an office in our community hall.

The Stride for Stroke five-kilometre fun walk or run along the waterfront attracted about 350 people but unfortunately coincided with St Andrew's Worship Service.



The GPP walking group held a sponsored walk on Monday morning to raise funds which were given to Gisborne Stroke Support Group.



**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 Luchtime Concert Series
Piano Extravaganza 1X
Monday 3 June 12.30 pm
lots of pianos & lots of hands
*Admission free; optional Koha or Donation
Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee provided*

REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Some of the items discussed at the April meeting:

- Ministry Settlement Board Meeting was on 28 April.
- Drainage holes have been made in rain heads, in the hopes it will prevent further overflow and flooding in rooms in the hall
- \$348.05 donation has been sent to Family Works Tairawhiti (profit from Carols in the Vines)
- James Blackburn, Architect, attended the last Property Task Group meeting which helped the group focus on the options available for utilising the space we have and where possible extensions could occur at less cost.
- Service Times – After consideration, the Parish Council recommends that the St Andrews’ services start time be changed to 10.30 a.m. Believe it is important people think about this now before a new minister comes.
- A congregational meeting is to be held on 9 June where the following matters will be discussed
 - presentation of report from Special Property Task Group with options for discussion
 - change in Service times at St Andrew’s from 10:00 to 10:30am
- Rev Mary will be away on leave for the following dates 23-24 April; 7-19 May; and on 22-24 May to attend a Women in Ministry Retreat in Wellington.
- Liz was away 23 -24 April and it was agreed the office be closed over these dates.

The Office Photocopier has been replaced as has the computer hard drive.

- Change of date for next Parish Council meeting.

Thursday June 6 @ 7: 00 pm



SOUL FOOD *A short story without a moral -By Jim Taylor. Too many stories tack on moral messages. If this story needs one, please write your own.*

Sandy Wightman took a container of wheelchairs, donated by Rotary, to a mission in Mexico run by the sisters of Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity. One of their patients was a woman so slight, so frail, that the sisters had to carry her everywhere.

Sandy picked her up in his arms and carried her to the wheelchair he had brought for her. “She kept staring at my face,” he recalls now. “She was staring deeply into my eyes.”

As he settled her gently into the chair that would allow her to get around, the woman said something. Sandy doesn’t speak Spanish. “What did she say?” he asked the sister with him.

Sandy’s voice chokes momentarily. The sister translated the patient’s words: “Now I know what the eyes of God look like.”

Becoming as little children

Author Unknown

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Eric in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking. Suddenly, Eric squealed with glee and said, "Hi there." He pounded his fat baby hands on the high chair tray. His eyes were crinkled in laughter and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin, as he wriggled and giggled with merriment.

I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man whose pants were baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled.

His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. "Hi there, baby; Hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster," the man said to Eric. My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?" Eric continued to laugh and answer, "Hi, hi there." Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old man was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby.

Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, "Do ya patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo." Nobody thought the old man was cute. He was obviously drunk. My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence; all except for Eric, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring tramp, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments. We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the bill and told

me to meet him in the car park. The old man sat poised between me and the door.

"Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Eric," I prayed. As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Eric leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's "pick-me-up" position. Before I could stop him, Eric had propelled himself from my arms to the man's. Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their relationship. Eric in an act of total trust, love, and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder.

The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labour, cradled my baby and stroked his back. No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Eric in his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby." Somehow I managed, "I will," from a throat that contained a stone.



He pried Eric from his chest unwillingly, longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, "God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift. You see, m'am, I never saw my child grow up. My wife and son were taken from me in a car accident when they were both too young. I was never able to get over it."

I said nothing more than a muttered thanks and "I'm sorry to hear that." With Eric in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Eric so tightly,

and why I was saying, “My God, my God, forgive me.” I had just witnessed Christ’s love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes. I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking, “Are you willing to share your son for a moment?” when He shared His for all eternity. The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me...

“I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:3 (NIV)



The Hand of God

Little Philip was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in infant school. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful. His grandmother commented, 'Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery?'

Did you know God painted this just for you?'

'Yes,' replied Philip, 'God did it and he did it left handed.' This confused his grandmother so she asked him, 'What makes you say God did this with his left hand?' 'Well,' said Philip, 'we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand.'



BIG BAKE REQUEST FOR CAR BOOT SALE on Saturday 11 May

We are planning to have a cake stall alongside our regular sale table on the 11th and would love all the bakers amongst us to donate cakes/biscuits/loaf to sell. Baking can be dropped off at the office by Friday 10th May or **phone if you would like it to be collected: ph office: 868 5513.**

Or bring along on the day. Please label your donation with what it is & your phone number and price (if you are unsure of price you can leave it to the experts!) Let's see if we can boost our funds and do this on a regular basis. Baking **always** sells very well.



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MATAWHERO GARDENERS



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

THE SPECIAL PROPERTY TASK GROUP

established at the AGM in September 2018, has been meeting frequently to explore various options about the buildings on the Cobden Street site – the hall / community building and St Andrew’s Church. A **full report** will be published for **May 26** when the June *Signpost* will be available. Two weeks later, on Sunday 9 June there will be a Congregational Meeting after the morning service at St Andrew’s to discuss the report and recommendations.

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.*

RECIPE FOR MAY

Easy five cup loaf



Ingredients

- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup dessicated coconut
- 1 cup sultanas
- 1 cup milk

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Line a loaf tin with baking paper and set aside.

Mix all ingredients in a bowl.

Pour into lined tin.

Bake for 40-45 mins until cake springs back when lightly touched in the centre.

*Those who live in the Lord never
see each other for the last time*

