

MAY 2018

ST ANDREWS

MATAWHERO



FOR OUR
JOURNEY TOGETHER

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a diverse community called together by
Jesus Christ to welcome, love, serve and care

HAERE MAI – AFIO MAI EVERYONE IS WELCOME

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH
St Andrew's Church, 176 Cobden Street Gisborne
Matawhero Church, Church Road, Matawhero

Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends

We are on a **Transitional Journey together** that has some goals and plans and significant points along the way. Sunday 29 April is another one of the significant points as it is a fifth Sunday **Combined Service** when not only Matawhero and St Andrew's congregations worship together but also St David's. We do not know exactly where this journey is leading us but we need to keep listening to God and each other.

Yet all of us are on an **individual journey through life** as well. On your journey, you too may have goals and plans and significant points along the way. Maybe when you were young you had it all mapped out, with strategies for steady or rapid progression towards certain ambitions or a clear idea of where you thought you were going. If that all worked out for you that's great but for many of us, life does not always go to plan. And, in the 21st century, the rate of change of everything around us is so fast that planning one's whole life, especially if it revolved around one particular job, is no longer an option.

When unexpected things happen to you, what happens within you? Do you feel like you have a strong foundation and an anchor that holds you? Or does something unexpected or traumatic throw you off balance and upset everything? Faith in God can offer us a strong foundation and a deep sense of inner peace, despite apparent turmoil on the surface.

You might find that this **paraphrase of Psalm 23**, written by Jim Taylor, resonates with you or could help you to see life and faith in a new light.

*God has walked with me; I could ask nothing more.
God has given me green meadows to laugh in, clear streams to think
beside, untrodden paths to explore.*

When I thought the world rested on my shoulders, God put things in perspective.

When I lashed out at an unfair world, God calmed me down.

When I drifted into harmful ways, God straightened me out.

God was with me all the way.

I do not know what lies ahead, but I am not afraid.

I know God will be with me.

Even in death, I will not despair.

You will comfort me and support me.

Though my eye dims and my mind dulls,

you will continue to care about me.

Your touch will soothe the tension in my temples;

My fears will fade away.

I am content.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with me.

All through life I have found goodness in people.

When life ends, I expect to be gathered into the ultimate goodness of God.

God bless you.

Mary Petersen

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Jane Jackman, Marilyn Matthews, Marion Goodwin, Jean Cottle, Gwenda Crawshaw, Thea Lucas, Maureen Thompson, Ellen van der Velde



WALKING GROUP Departs St. Andrew's 9:00am each Monday morning – whatever the weather. Do join us for an hour's exercise followed by a 'cuppa'.

OPEN DOOR Tuesdays at 10:00am

PASTORAL CARE

If you need transport to the Church Service at St Andrews please give Val Hall a call 868-8226 early in the week. (If you are able to offer a ride)

FROM THE MODERATOR

Anzac 2018

The commemoration of New Zealand's involvement in both the first and second world wars has taken on a new life in the last 20 years or so. Crowds have grown at Anzac Day services, particularly among the young. Children and young people seem to make up at least a half of the congregation gathered for this special day and they usually have to sacrifice considerable comfort as they turn up to dawn services very early on those chilly Autumn days.

There is speculation about what is driving this unusual display of identification with generations past, but that it exists is beyond question.

The connection today's young people are experiencing with this violent part of our history is occurring against a background of growing pacifist sentiment here in Aotearoa, and in the West generally. Indeed, since the Vietnam War in the 60s, youth have generally been identified with an anti-military stance and a latent pacifism that dislikes military solutions. This is, to my mind at least, as it should be.

There should always be a policy of military involvement only being considered after all else has failed. The results of military action are almost always relative and incomplete creating – at best – an opportunity to resume building a peaceful and free state.

The question remains, however, whether military force is able to be a part of a Christian solution to the political and social realities of human life. Can force ever be said to be a Christian option? Do we have to settle for violence?

Whatever else may be said on this matter – and it is, admittedly, something that has occupied debate and discussion for centuries – several realities remain uncontested.

Firstly, fallen humankind, sinful humankind will use power to enforce its will on others and that includes military power. In these circumstances, history often demonstrates that nothing short of a display of balancing power will stop the violence. Military action against Isis or Daesh (as they are otherwise referred to) is a good example. The terrorists who drove the violent Isis crusade represent no one but themselves and have been disowned by most of the Muslim world.

A letter to David Cameron signed by the Islamic Society of Britain and the Association of Muslim Lawyers made this very clear when it stated (regarding Isis): "It is neither Islamic, nor is it a State. The group has no standing with faithful Muslims, nor among the international community of nations."

So this group who has no standing with the majority of peace-loving Muslims uses unconscionable force and violence to achieve its aims, and the only thing that will cause those involved in it to give heed to the voices of the innocents caught up in this violence is in fact, violence itself.

And this is, in the end, what has happened: a coalition of western military has supported Iraqi military, and Russia has supported the Syrian military to defeat Isis. It hasn't been easy and the violence has still not abated, but the alternative was to allow a violent faction take root in the world. And this brings me to my second point.

In this life and in certain situations where the State or, indeed, the world is faced with power that chooses violence – violence seems to be required to bring about a just solution.

In such situations, however, it must also be admitted that the outcomes are extremely limited and often, in themselves, full of injustice. Innocent people are killed, violent people are exalted and the states which are left are often not much better off than before. Despite this, one must ask whether the alternative would have been preferred.

Last century New Zealand lost thousands of men and women fighting a regime which chose violence to enforce its will on its own people and on the nations around it. It was determined to rule Western Europe and, in doing so, to rule the world. Today we no longer live with that threat because of their sacrifice. God forbid it should ever happen again, but if it does, I wonder if we'd make that same sacrifice so that our children and grandchildren might live in relative freedom again.

Rt. Rev. Richard Dawson

CAR BOOT SALE

The Boot Sale was an idea suggested to the Strategic Planning Group in 2015. Ernie Lamont and Val Hall grasped the idea and ran with it. Val Hall has continued the twice monthly event which has continued to grow into a busy little venture with up to 30 plus(over 40 on two occasions this year) attending most Saturdays it is held.

The facts show that in the past year 341 cars paying \$5.00 each along with 57 non-paying church cars have taken part.

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We are aware that many of our Church family are unable to attend our Sunday Services on a regular basis, and so we are attaching below, a tear off slip to enable you to continue your financial support to our Church.

Or if you would prefer to make a donation electronically our a/c details are:
GPP 030638 0462917 00 for internet banking

.....
Please send to: The Office, Gisborne Presbyterian Parish, PO Box 1117
Gisborne 4040

Name:

Address:.....

ON CYBER SPACE

The Westar Institute (California based) is the recipient of the Wilbur Award. The video can be viewed on line and explains the mission, history and future of Westar. Westar is a member supported non-profit research and educational institute dedicated to advancing religious literacy. www.weststarinstitute.org. It is worth a look and listen.

Religion Dispatches <http://religiondispatches.org>. Religious Dispatches is an independent, non-profit, award-winning source for the best writing on critical and timely issues at the intersection of religion, politics, and culture.

FEIJOA CHUTNEY

1.5 kg feijoas, peeled and chopped
500g apples, peeled and chopped
500g onions, finely sliced
1 litre malt vinegar
750g brown sugar
1 tbsp salt
1 tbsp ground ginger
2 tbsp allspice
1 tbsp crushed garlic
finely grated zest of 1 lemon
½ tsp mace
½ tsp cayenne
½ tsp ground cloves

Place all ingredients in large pan and boil slowly for approximately 1-1½ hours, stirring occasionally, until mixture is thick and brown. Bottle while warm. Keeps for months. Refrigerate once open.

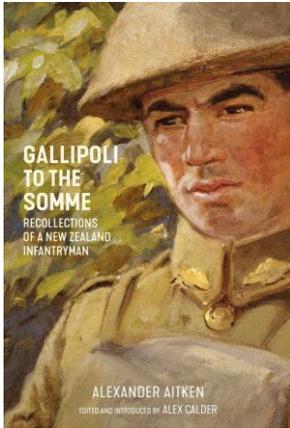
IN MEMORIAM

Chaplain-Major – William Grant – His Letters From The Front

Copies of this book available in the Church Office - \$15.00 reduced from \$25.



Descendants of William Grant attended a service and launch of the book at St. Andrew's on 30th August, 2015.



GALLIPOLI TO THE SOMME

Alexander Aitken

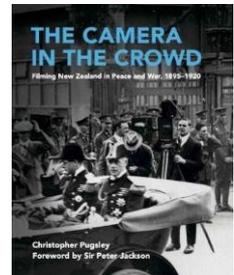
Alexander Aitken was an ordinary soldier with an extraordinary mind. The student who enlisted in 1915 was a mathematical genius who could multiply nine digit numbers in his head. He took a violin with him to Gallipoli (where field telephone wire substituted for an E-string) and practiced on the Western front. Aitken also loved poetry and knew the *Aenid* and *Paradise Lost* by heart. His powers of memory were dazzling. When a vital roll-book was lost with the dead, he was able to dictate the full name, regimental number, next of kin for every member of his

former platoon – a total of 56 men.

THE CAMERA IN THE CROWD GALLIPOLI

Christopher Pugsley

The story of the cameramen and the film they took here and in the first world war. Many young New Zealand men took their kodak cameras to Gallipoli. Possessing a camera on the battlefields of Europe was a court marshalling offence. Gunners who had a lot of equipment, managed to hide one.



“Music takes us out of the actual and whispers to us dim secrets that startle our wonder as to who we are, and for what, whence, and whereto.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM (A poem for Anzac)

Her hair was up in a pony tail, her favourite dress tied with a bow.
Today was Daddy's Day at school, and she couldn't wait to go.
But her mummy tried to tell her, that she probably should stay home.
Why the kids might not understand, if she went to school alone.

But she was not afraid; she knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates of why he wasn't there today.
But still her mother worried for her to face this day alone.
And that was why once again, she tried to keep her daughter home.

But the little girl went to school - eager to tell them all.
About a dad she never sees - a dad who never calls.
There were daddies along the wall in back, for everyone to meet.
Children squirming impatiently, anxious in their seats

One by one the teacher called a student from the class.
To introduce their daddy, as seconds slowly passed.
At last the teacher called her name, every child turned to stare.
Each of them was searching, a man who wasn't there.

'Where's her daddy at? She heard a boy call out.
She probably doesn't have one,' another student dared to shout.
And from somewhere near the back, she heard a daddy say,
'Looks like another deadbeat dad, too busy to waste his day.'

The words did not offend her as she smiled up at her Mom.
And looked back at her teacher, who told her to go on.
And with hands behind her back, slowly she began to speak.
And out from the mouth of a child, came words incredibly unique.

'My Daddy couldn't be here, because he lives so far away.
But I know he wishes he could be, since this is such a special day.
And though you cannot meet him, I wanted you to know.
All about my daddy, and how much he loves me so.

He loved to tell me stories he taught me to ride my bike.
He surprised me with pink roses, and taught me to fly a kite.
We used to share fudge sundaes, and ice cream in a cone.
And though you cannot see him I'm not standing here alone.
'Cause my daddy's always with me,
even though we are apart
I know because he told me,
he'll forever be in my heart'

With that, her little hand reached up, and lay across her chest.
Feeling her own heartbeat, beneath her favourite dress.
And from somewhere here in the crowd of dads, her mother stood in tears
proudly watching her daughter, who was wise beyond her years.

For she stood up for the love of a man not in her life.
Doing what was best for her, doing what was right.
And when she dropped her hand back down, staring straight into the crowd.
She finished with a voice so soft but its message clear and loud.

'I love my daddy very much, he's my shining star
And if he could, he'd be here but heaven's just too far.
You see he is a Kiwi soldier and died just this past year
When a roadside bomb hit his convoy and taught New Zealanders to fear.

But sometimes when I close my eyes, it's like he never went away.'
And then she closed her eyes, and saw him there that day
And to her mother's amazement she witnessed with surprise.
A room full of daddies and children, all starting to close their eyes.

Who knows what they saw before them, who knows what they felt inside.
Perhaps for merely a second, they saw him at her side..
'I know you're with me Daddy, to the silence she called out.
And what happened next made believers, of those once filled with doubt.

Not one in that room could explain it, for each of their eyes had been closed.
But there on the desk beside her, was a fragrant long-stemmed rose.
And a child was blessed, if only for a moment, by the love of her shining star.
And given the gift of believing, that heaven is never too far.

Thank you Hans for sharing this verse.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY 2018

Tuesday	1	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	2	9.45am	mainly music
Friday	4	1.00pm	Choir practise
		5.30pm	Elders Shared dinner at St Andrew's
Sunday	6	9.00 am	Matawhero communion – <i>Rev Mary Petersen</i>
		10.00am	St Andrew's Communion <i>Rev A Skelton</i>
		2.00pm	Timeless Treasures – Choral Society at St Andrew's
Monday	7	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	8	10.00am	Open Door
		1.30pm	Ryman Service
		2.30pm	Beetham Service
Wednesday	9	9.45am	mainly music
Friday	11	1.00pm	Choir practise
Saturday	12	9.00am	Car Boot sale
Sunday	13	10.00	Mother's Day Service <i>led by Wellspring</i> No Service at Matawhero
Monday	14	9.00am	Walking group
Tuesday	15	10.00am	Open Door
		4.30pm	Works & Property meeting
Wednesday	16	9.45am	mainly music
Thursday	17	3.30pm	Dunblane Service
		7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Friday	18	1.00pm	Choir practise
Sunday	20	10.00am	Combined Service at St Andrew's – Rev Mary No Service at Matawhero
Monday	21	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	22	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	23	9.45am	mainly music
Thursday	24	2.00pm	Leighton House Service
Friday	25	1.00pm	choir practise
Saturday	26	9.00am	Car Boot sale

SUNDAY	27	10.00am	Trinity Service – <i>Rev Petra Barber</i>
			No Service at Matawhero
Monday	28	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	29	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	30	9.45am	mainly music
<u>1ST Service in June</u>			
SUNDAY	3	9.00am	Matawhero communion service – <i>Rev Mary</i>
		10.00am	St Andrew’s service – <i>Rev Dr C Yates</i>
Monday	4	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert – piano extravaganza (koha)



A NIGHT AT THE DOME

The fledgling social committee recently organised a film evening at the Dome which was attended by 18 people. It was a thoroughly enjoyable night, the film kept everyone amused and the pizzas pronounced 'delicious'.

Keep a look out for the next fun event..... and check the latest updates on our website.



SMILE TIME

Out of the mouths of babes.....

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, ‘What was Jesus’ mother’s name?’ One child answered, ‘Mary.’

The teacher then asked, ‘Who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was?’ A little child said, ‘Verge.’

Confused, the teacher asked, ‘Where did you get that?’

The child replied, ‘Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge, n’ Mary’.

.....

3-year-old Reese: ‘Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.’

.....

A small boy was overheard praying:

‘Lord, if you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it. I’m having a real good time like I am.’

.....

After the christening of his baby brother in church. Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.

His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied. ‘that minister said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.’

.....

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlan, the Lord’s Prayer for several evenings at bedtime.

She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo.

I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer:

‘Lead us not into temptation,’ she prayed, ‘but deliver us from E-mail.’

.....

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church, ‘And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?’ One bright little girl replied, ‘Because people are sleeping.’



Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

“You’re not supposed to talk out loud in church.”

“Why? Who’s going to stop me?” Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, “see those two men standing by the door? They’re hushers.”

.....

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting, here He would say, “Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.”

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”

.....

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

“Daddy, what happened to him? The son asked.

He died and went to heaven,” Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said, “Did God throw him back down?”

.....

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year old daughter and said, “Would you like to say the blessing?

“I wouldn’t know what to say,” the girl replied.

“Just say what you hear Mummy say,” the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, “Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?”

.....

Social Committee and Events

Lorraine Corbett and Michael Willis planned a coffee and discussion event + visit to the Da Vinci Exhibition on 12 April that was attended by 10 people who enthusiastically discussed possible future social outings and events.

Well done, Lorraine and Mike. 😊

The following week 18 people had an interesting evening at the Dome Theatre together (see more photos on website) What a great beginning to a new series of social events!

Watch for information about coming events.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, STUDY AND DISCUSSION – DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**Exploring the Bible, a three week Monday evening series,
5.30 – 6.30 p.m.
on 11, 18 and 25 June**

**Exploring Worship - a Saturday morning Workshop Experience
on 7 July**

in St Andrew's lounge
for all who want to think about what Worship is
and why we do things a certain way
10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. including food and fun!

If you are interested in, or already involved in, **leading some aspect of worship** – including as a reader, musician, writer of prayers, service leader or preacher, please come to St Andrews lounge on **Fridays 13 and 27 July 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.** beginning with a cuppa (and maybe dessert)

Gisborne Choral Society
presents

Timeless Treasures

A frolic of folk-songs

*Passion, Protest, Ecstasy and
Nonsense in settings both simple
and ingenious*

St Andrew's Church
Sunday 6 May, 2 pm

Door Sales \$10; children a gold coin



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 VIII

*6 pianists playing two, three, four
or more at a time...*

Queen's Birthday Monday 4 June 12.30 pm

St Andrews Presbyterian Church
Cnr Childers Road & Cobden Street (Next to Pak 'n Save)
Admission free; optional Koha or Donation
Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee provided