



SIGNPOST November 2018

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Transitional Minister:

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Message from the Minister

Dear Friends

Communication is how we connect with each other - often through words, whether spoken or written, but also through actions, including hugs.



God connects with us too in a variety of ways – if we are open to that. As we say on Sunday mornings: *For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us, thanks be to God.*

A small part of my transition task with you has been to encourage parish council and committees to think about their **communication with the parish**. For example, we have created a new website this year, the Pastoral Visiting Team now has a thought-provoking leaflet to leave with those they visit, and committees will take turns in reporting in *Signpost* each time from next month, about their activities.

As you can see, this month we are experimenting with a **new look Signpost**. If you receive this by email, it will be in colour. Otherwise from December on, we invite you to collect yours on the last Sunday each month from the church foyer. We would like to know

what you think about this format for Signpost – please contact the office by phone or email to let us know!

May your God connections inspire and enthuse you.

God bless you

Mary Petersen

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER

AT 10.00 AM

MATAWHERO CHURCH

**A SERVICE OF
REMEMBRANCE & RECONCILIATION
LAMENT & HEALING**

150 years on from the Matawhero Tragedy

Honouring all who died, Maori and Pakeha;
learning and healing from the past;
and living with hope into a peaceful future.

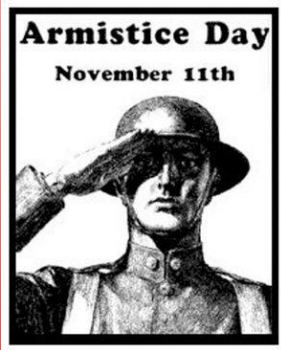
After the service refreshments will be available, and then those who would like to, are welcome to drive around the district, with local guides, to visit particular significant sites, including Makaraka and Waerenga a Hika

SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 10 am

at St Andrew's Church

Armistice Day

100 years Memorial Service,
including Celebrations and Communion



INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

We welcome this week, **Peter Cowley** from St Andrew's on the Terrace, Wellington. We look forward to getting to know you. Peter will be the guest speaker at the Sea of Faith Meeting on 18 November at 3 pm in St Andrew's lounge.

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!



SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER 10 am

at St Andrew's - Honouring Volunteers Service



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.



SERVICE FOR COMMISSIONING of

Richard Rangihuna as Pastor for St David's Church Kaiti, Gisborne, on Friday 16 November at 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend this special service for Richard.

ST ANDREW'S EVENING 30 NOV

Scottish themed night celebrating

St Andrew's Day - including a meal. Venue & time to be confirmed later. Please watch for notices in church bulletins.



MINISTRY FUND

At our Thanksgiving Service on 14th October **\$6,395.00** was raised. Thank you for supporting this mission to ensure that a new minister can be called from September 2019, and continue. If you were not able to make a donation at this time but would like to, donations are welcome at any time. If you would like to go onto the envelope offering system, please see Jean Hillyard or contact the office. Another simple way of giving is to set up a direct credit with your bank.

GPP a/c: 03 0638 0462917 00

PEOPLE NEWS



HONOUR BESTOWED

The Very Reverend Pamela Tankersley, formerly of Gisborne, was honoured with her Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit award from Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy recently. Rev Tankersley was parish minister in three parishes in the country between 1987 and 2003, including **three years at St Andrew's in Gisborne**. She has been involved in the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ (PCANZ), including

moderator of the general assembly and moderator of the Council for World Mission. Rev Tankersley now lives in Palmerston North, where she has been a driving force behind the establishment of budget cooking classes, children's playroom and organising children's activities.

TRAVELS IN INDIA

Jan & Marie visiting the Taj Mahal



Arrived in Delhi which is as expected, full of people, assorted variety of vehicles, dogs and cows. We went for a half day tour by tuktuk which was an amazing experience not least of which was seeing all the drivers negotiating the roundabouts. Most cars are dented or scratched but their horns work very well! We have stayed in a variety of accommodation but the 2 nights we had in a 300 hundred year old castle, now a hotel similar to the **Exotic Marigold**, was quite an experience. The sights have been wonderful, from the magnificence of the Taj, the hugeness of many forts and castles, the mosques and temples. Conversely, we have seen the poverty, housing issues, poor water supply, subsistence farming etc., all of which makes one continue to appreciate how fortunate we are.

Marie Burgess & Jan Ewart

TOPICS OF INSPIRATION

The Gift of Pets

Every trip to the grocery store, every interaction with friends, each moment of every day overflows with an abundance of promise, of adventure, of risk. An event, a life is routine only when we fail to appreciate its potential. Succumbing to the habit of experiencing everyday activities as drudgery or routine is simply too expensive a price to pay, for it sentences the whole of life to complacency. Embracing the excitement in the mundane, however, transforms each task into an adventure. Routine living occurs by default. Living life fully in the moment, fully alive, requires a conscious choice.

Muffin was no prettier after the surgery than before. Because of the turn of events, we did not get her teeth cleaned that day. Her tongue still hung out, her eyes were still shaded with age, and her face was still marred by warts. Because she felt so much better after the surgery and her devoted owners were that much less inclined to deny her anything, she became even a bit pudgier. She was, if anything, even less attractive to my eyes. But it was not my eyes that gazed at her with ever more unbridled affection. And it was the glint of that undaunted devotion so clearly evident in the wizened expressions on the faces of Mr and Mrs Arden as they looked at their old friend that was responsible for teaching me anew the lesson of immediacy. When Muffin passed a year or two later, I thought that was the last I would see of the Ardens. But several weeks after her loss, they bumped into the office one afternoon without an appointment, a tiny teacup Yorkie riding proudly in the crook of Mr Arden's arm.

"What have you got there?" I asked, taking the tiny pup from him. The two of them beamed proudly at me as I fawned over the dog, which tipped the scales at barely two pounds.

"This is Muffin." Mr Arden said, smiling broadly.

"No Jim!" his wife corrected loudly. "Muffin died weeks ago, remember. This is Ginger!"

"Well, she is precious," I said, enchanted with the pup as she wiggled and licked at my earlobes. "Where did you find her?"

"She's about ten weeks old now, right, lovey?" Mr Arden's smiling face revealed no hint that he had answered some other question.

"No, not ten, darling," Mrs Arden responded sweetly. "I think there were only four in the litter."

Ginger grew into a carbon copy of Muffin, even developing many of the same personality traits. Her feet saw the ground no more often than had her predecessor's, though she remained petite at four pounds. And the Ardens demonstrated the same unswerving devotion to her in her first years of life.

Then one day, she was brought in by a middle-aged couple I did not recognise. Jim Arden Jr. and his wife were taking her to their home in another town and had stopped by the office to pick up copies of her medical records. They told me that both of his parents had passed away within a week of each other. The memorial service for both of them had been held the day before in town. It was the last time I saw Ginger.

Bruce R Coston D.V.M

Article provided by Jenny Lawton

RECIPE FOR NOVEMBER

Scotch Oat Crisps

2 cups rolled oats
½ cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
pinch salt
1 egg
¾ cup sugar
100g butter
1 drop vanilla or almond essence



Method

Melt butter, add sugar, egg, essence. Mix together add rolled oats, then dry ingredients. Spoon out onto oven tray, flatten with a damp fork. Bake at 180 degrees 10 mins.

Recipe provided by Jean Lloyd Open Door



CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE

The theme of this year's appeal "Be the Lifeline." When Advent begins, the church year slows down. Scene by scene, we retell the stories leading to the birth of Jesus. In the lectionary readings, we encounter threats of violence and end times. The gospel of Luke paints a picture of great fear and catastrophe – but the promise of redemption is very close.

In places like Syria and South Sudan, people have seen that level of violence. They have lost friends and family members as well as homes and livelihoods. Many like the Rohingya in Bangladesh have taken risky journeys in the hope of reaching safety. For others it is their home or workplace that is the violent space.

With your help, we have been able to provide some of these people with food, water, education and comfort. Your donations are life-giving – they show compassion and care for families who are struggling to keep going. They are a sign of global solidarity and a recognition of how much our lives are connected with others.

Our partners have been working in many of these places for a long time. In Haiti, they have spent time with their communities, working out what is most needed and how to make it happen. In Haiti, small community owned businesses meet some of the running costs of isolated rural schools. On the West Bank of Palestine, an investment has been made in tunnel houses, a drying shed and a herbal tea business to compensate for the arable land they can no longer farm. In Tonga, members of Ama Takiloa have learned what to do after more extreme cyclones and grow disaster resistant food.

CWS has already made all of these communities stronger and more resilient. We are working to create a new and better future. Their stories are an inspiration to us as we share the hope of Christmas. If we want the world to be fairer, we need to take action against poverty and violence.

Please support the CWS 2018 Christmas Appeal in December when envelopes will be available.

DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Fri 2 1.00 pm choir practise

SUNDAY 4 9.00 am Matawhero Communion
Rev Mary Petersen

10.00 am St Andrews Service
Frank Darcy

Mon 5 9.00 am Walking Group
Tues 6 10.00 am Open Door
4.15 pm Task Group meeting
Wed 7 9.45 am mainly music
Fri 9 1.00 pm choir practice
Sat 10 8.00am CAR BOOT SALE

SATURDAY 10 10.00 am Matawhero service
150th anniversary of tragedy
Rev Mary Petersen

SUNDAY 11 No service at Matawhero

10.00 am Armistice Day Service
St Andrew's Church
Rev Mary Petersen

Mon 12 9.00 am Walking Group
7.00 pm Think Tank Meeting
Tues 13 10.00 am Open Door
1.30pm Rymans Service
Wed 14 9.45 am mainly music
Thurs 15 3.30 pm Dunblane Service
7.00 pm Parish Council Meeting
Fri 16 1.00 pm choir practice
5.00 pm Commissioning service
for Richard Rangihuna
7.00 pm Interfaith group – lounge
Sat 17 9.30 am MSB Meeting

SUNDAY 18 No service at Matawhero

10.00 am Honouring Volunteers
service at St Andrew's
Rev Mary Petersen

3.00 pm Sea of Faith Meeting
Guest Speaker Peter Cowley

(dates continued)

Mon 19 9.00 am Walking Group
Tues 20 10.00 am Open Door
Wed 21 9.45 am mainly music
Thurs 22 2.00 pm Leighton House Service
Fri 23 1.00 pm choir practice
Sat 24 8.00 am CAR BOOT SALE

SUNDAY 25 No service at Matawhero

10.00 am Worship Service
at St Andrew's
Rev Petra Barber

Mon 26 9.00 am Walking Group
Tues 27 10.00 am Open Door
Wed 28 9.45 am mainly music
Fri 30 tba St Andrew's Dinner

SPECIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Wed 5 5.30pm Advent Study
Sun 9 2.00 pm **Matawhero Church**
'Remembered at Christmas'

Wed 12 5.30pm Advent Study
Sun 16 7.00 pm Combined Churches
Christmas Service at **St Andrew's**

Wed 19 6.30pm Carols in the Vines
Mon 24 7.00pm **Matawhero**
Christmas Eve Service
11.30pm **St Andrew's**
Christmas Eve Service

Tues 25 9.00 am **St Andrew's**
Christmas Day Service

*The heart benevolent and kind
The most resembles God.*

*Robert Burns (1759-1796)
Scottish Poet*