



# SIGNPOST OCTOBER 2020

## Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

[www.standrewsgis.org.nz](http://www.standrewsgis.org.nz)

### Minister

Rev Jin Sook Kim

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### Administrator

Liz Lyell

Office Hours 9 – 1 pm weekdays

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### MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER



#### “Die to live”

We’ve had the AGM and discussed many things. Among many things, one thing will remain no matter what things or the environment change. It is about Christian life in which we love fellow believers and neighbours as ourselves. Our forefathers and foremothers have also shared such wisdom for a long time. Among them, there are namely the Desert Fathers (along with Desert Mothers). They were early Christian hermits, ascetics and monks who lived mainly in the desert of Egypt beginning around the third century AD. The Desert Fathers/Mothers had a major influence on the development of Christianity.

*The Sayings of the Desert Fathers* is a collection of the wisdom of some of the early desert monks and nuns, which is still in print. Here is one of the examples.

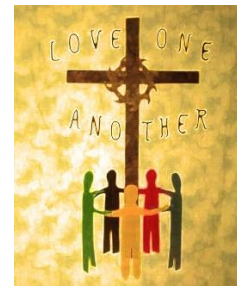
#### *Macarius the Great*

A brother came to see Abba Macarius the Egyptian, and said to him, “Abba, give me a word, that I may be saved.” So the old man said, “Go to the cemetery and abuse the dead.” The brother went there, abused them and threw

stones at them; then he returned and told the old man about it. The latter said to him, “Didn’t they say anything to you?” He replied, “No.” The old man said, “Go back tomorrow and praise them.” So the brother went away and praised them, calling them, “Apostles, saints and righteous men.” He returned to the old man and said to him, “I have complimented them.” And the old man said to him, “Did they not answer you?” The brother said no. The old man said to him, “You know how you insulted them and they did not reply, and how you praised them and they did not speak; so you too if you wish to be saved must do the same and become a dead man. Like the dead, take no account of either the scorn of men or their praises, and you can be saved.”

It is one of ways that we love one another in Christ. ☺

*Jin Sook*



## 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



mainly music  
est. 1990

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. There is still room for a few more families if you know someone who would like to come.

The pessimist complains about the wind;  
the optimist expects it to change;  
the realist adjusts the sails.

*William Arthur Ward*

## MATAWHERO GARDENERS



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

## HOLY COMMUNION

**Jin Sook Kim** would like to offer the elements of Communion after a Sunday Communion Service in your home, for those who are unable to attend church that day.



## ZOOM KORERO ON FRIDAYS



Join in the fun every Friday at 10.30 am for **ZOOM korero** from your computer.

## KORERO ME KAI (CONVERSATION WITH FOOD) Wednesdays at 12.30 in the lounge



**WHAKARONGO** (*Listen!*) and Fellowship



- Thursday** 22 October  
7.30pm ZOOM - Theme  
(*Who is Jesus*)
- Thursday** 05 November  
5.30pm Matawhero lounge  
(*Who is Jesus*)
- Thursday** 12 November  
4.00pm St Andrew's lounge  
(*Where am I in these texts?*)
- Thursday** 26 November  
7.30pm ZOOM- Theme  
(*Where am I in these texts?*)
- Thursday** 3 December  
5.30pm Matawhero lounge  
(*Themes for Christmas*)
- Thursday** 10 December  
4.00pm St Andrew's lounge  
(*Themes for Christmas*)

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR OCTOBER**

- October 4** \* Pentecost 18 Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Ps 19 Phil 3: 4b-14 Mt 21: 33-46
- October 11** \* Pentecost 19 Ex 32: 1-14  
Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23 Phil 4: 1-9 Mt 22: 1-14
- October 18** \* Pentecost 20 Ex 33: 12-23 Ps 99  
1 Thes 1: 1-10 Mt 22: 15-22
- October 25** \* Pentecost 21 Deut 34: 1-12  
Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17 1 Thes 2: 1-8 Mt 22: 34-46



There will be a short service  
of Prayers for World Peace  
in the Chapel  
at St Andrew's Church,  
on Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 pm.



The Christian does  
not think God will love us  
because we are good,  
but that God will make us  
good because He loves us.”

C.S. LEWIS



## **SEARCH FOR THE MEANING IN LOCKDOWN**

**(Gisborne Herald August 2020)**

With the sudden return to lockdown in Auckland and Alert Level 2 restrictions nationwide, it makes sense that many New Zealanders are experiencing anxiety and despair. Hoarding or panic-buying food, conspiracy theories proliferating online, and the public vilification of people walking without masks – all point to an insight by Viktor Frankl: “An abnormal reaction to an abnormal situation is normal behaviour.”

Frankl, an Austrian psychoanalyst and Holocaust survivor, described such sentiments in his classic book *Man’s Search for Meaning*. Although first published in 1946, Frankl’s mix of autobiography and existentialist psychology reads like a book for our times. The abnormality of our life under lockdown is the uncertainty of the future. Because it’s hard to focus on where we are heading, with no definite end in sight, we lose the inner structure of our lives and, instead, lead a “provisional existence.”

In response, Frankl proposes the “art of living”. Our lives are defined not by material comfort and pleasure, or control over the direction of our life; rather, it is the search for logos – Greek for “reason”- that defines us. We can live with reduced freedoms and luxuries, but without a sense of purpose and meaning then we become paralysed, anxious, and unable to meet challenges present and future.

Bringing together his psychiatry and experience in the concentration camps, Frankl developed a unique form of psychoanalysis called “logotherapy”- meaning-making – as a key response to suffering.

To Frankl, “the new normal” of the pandemic provides the crucial arena to make meaning out of our lives. It is a moment when, having been stripped of many freedoms and day-to-day comforts, not least the security of the future, all we have left is our response to these circumstances, to choose meaning. People “can preserve a vestige of spiritual freedom, of independence of mind, even in the most terrible conditions”. When a Holocaust survivor writes these words, it’s worth listening. To this end, Frankl offered strategies for a life – and politics – under lockdown. One is cultivating an appreciation for beauty; another is seeing the humour in our situation. Above all, he pointed to “the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of man is through love and in love”.

Our response must be to endure small sufferings for the sake of others: our loved ones, and our fellow New Zealanders. A person “who has a ‘why’ to live for can bear almost any ‘how’.”

The search for meaning during the lockdown is not an argument for defeatism. Nor is it a matter of nostalgia or “positive thinking.” At the heart of the book, Frankl writes that “Life ultimately means taking the responsibility to find the right answer to its problems and so fulfil the tasks which it constantly sets up for each individual.”

We are all going to have to make decisions about how we as individuals respond to extraordinary circumstances. But if we start with our logos, we will go forward not crippled with fear and anxiety but in hope and love.

**by Rowan Light**

## SPRING FLOWER PROJECT

On a glorious Sunday following a Spring Flower Service, 65 red roses were given to our senior Parishioners, many of whom are unable to attend our normal services.



These were very well received by all concerned.

Special thanks must go to Barbara Larsen and her lady helpers who assembled and labelled the roses on the Saturday afternoon prior to the service. Recipients were pleased that the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish still remember them. There is no doubt that the project is really worthwhile.

**Seton Clare**  
*Convenor*

## MY FAITH JOURNEY

The Smith family lived in the midst of Te Urewera National Park. They had no near neighbours and their house was some distance from the road.

There was a Bible in our home kept in a cupboard that belonged to Frank our Father. He had grown up with three sisters who 'got religion' Methodist style and decided when he left home, that he'd 'had enough'.

Our mother Carmine was brought up Catholic in Ngatapa and attended the Patutahi Catholic Church. Her father John Harrison had a visual impairment and he was a continual 'grouch'. Coming home from Mass in the same frame of mind led Carmine to think that wasn't good religion!

When I was given the 'Isabel Reid Bible Story Book' with its Children's Prayers, Hymns and Bible Games, I found it the perfect guide for me to learn about the Christian story.

Ten miles away there were two schools, Kokako near the Marae for Maori children and the other in Tuai Village for Europeans. Pupils were given religious instruction by the indomitable Sister Janet Kearney, a Presbyterian Deaconess whose primary duties were with the Maori Mission. Once a week in Tuai, the one Catholic pupil Margaret and Hindu boy Abdul sat outside while the remainder of us sang a hymn or two and heard Bible stories with a strong literal message.

Every Wednesday Sister Kearney led the Girls Life Brigade where we met in the Tuai Village Hall. One afternoon as this good lady was reading to us from 'Uncle Tom's Cabin, she became stuck on 'ku ku cucumber'. We giggled and Sister closed the book and left in a huff.

At Girls Life Brigade we learned to tie the various knots. Our father, who had been a Boy Scout helped me with these and I attained a certificate.

Whenever I spent a weekend in Tuai with a friend and attended Sunday School, I loved the colourful stickers we were given and sang 'Hear the Pennies Dropping'. I was permitted to join the study group run by The Sunday School Union and after a test was thrilled to receive a book prize.

After leaving Gisborne High School, I attended St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church led by Rev.Kingsley Fairburn, joined the choir and taught Sunday School: in the 1950's there was always a full attendance of children.

Also at the Fairburn manse Mrs Fairburn held a monthly Women's group.

“Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ Beverley” asked the Rev Fairburn during the drive to the Hospital for a Presbyterian service, instead of enquiring “How are you getting on at the Bank?”

I loved being a soprano in the choir with my friend Isabell Neilson and her parents Rab and Jean. Mr Waugh was the choir master. And, Lucy played the organ. In those days the choir faced the congregation and the male voice was well represented; Among them, Gisborne Boys High school teacher John Murray who taught my brothers Russell and Keith and commented that he wished they were as well behaved as their sister! He was known for throwing chalk at students and teaching in an unusual non-verbally communicative way.

An interesting time for young female parishioners was the arrival of several newly ordained ministers staying a week for a special convention, religious rally, can't remember. Decades later, I viewed a photograph of one of them - Rev. Sam McKay – he had white hair!

I recall a Sunday School Picnic at Waihirere Domain. I even have a photograph taken with my Box Brownie Camera of Isabell Neilson and her adorable nephew Philip Smith.

In those days, the 1950's, we Presbyterians paid house-calls on the unwary and sometimes a visit resulted in new members.

Part Two to follow:

**Beverley M. Smith**

## **GARAGE SALE REPORT**

A very successful Garage Sale was held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, thanks to all the willing helpers. It all came together smoothly and efficiently with many people offering to help. A great feeling of camaraderie was evident which made it into a fun day.

A big thank you for all the goods, produce, baking, plants etc., that were donated. Small and large donations of articles sold and also time given by volunteers, make up the grand total of **\$4,350**, a large increase on last years' total.

Advertising was promoted through Facebook, posters, media and advertising in the Gisborne Herald which meant we had a good turn-out, despite being in Covid Level 2.

**Jenny Lawton**



As there are so many books left over, we are planning to have a **BOOK FAIR**, on **Saturday NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>** (with Roy and Karen Neumegen). So, if you have some good novels, biographies, paper books etc., we will be very pleased to add them to our collection to sell. They **MUST be in good condition.** Offers of help to sort and sell the books would be appreciated. Contact Jenny, Roy or Karen.

## MY PANDEMIC EXPERIENCE

Prior to lockdown there was a knock on the door and two new neighbours Andrew and Kim wanted to leave me their 'phone number, should I need any help during the lockdown. The same day Andrea next door left a note with her 'phone number. Then Linda across the road and down a bit 'phoned to offer any help I needed with shopping.

Another tap at the door and it was Tamai Williams whom I'd met in February at an Adams road gathering to farewell Helen and Paul who were moving to Whangarei. The new owners Tamai and her partner Trei Crawford were so excited and looking forward to settling into their first home after moving from Invercargill. Tamai and Trei took me on as their special project, offering to do any shopping.

My forays into 'on line' shopping at Countdown, always encountered a delay with delivery, but somehow I didn't starve. Trei rang once a week and I mentioned that Countdown had run out of onions. Next morning – two onions were left on the front porch.

I noticed that the courier vans were particularly active in Adams Road and learned that residents were signing on for deliveries of food from some of the companies offering that service. Tamai has kindly given me a free \$50 voucher from *Hello Fresh* should I want this service.

CNN's Christiane Amanpour interviewed English theologian Karen Armstrong who spoke about the kindness of neighbours and the awareness emerging of people thinking about caring for fellow humankind.

Many of us became aware of our unnecessary consumerism. We noticed the cleaner air and how our planet, our earthly home was benefitting from reduced aircraft and vehicle movement. People spoke of a new way of living – a change that seems impossible in our capitalist environment of the effects of a 'living wage for all'.

Many churches introduced Zoom meetings and clergy and office administrators working from home sent regular emails with thoughtful and amusing attachments.

Some clergy and adherents from many faiths, including those we can only call crackpots have stated their opinions for what has caused the corona virus pandemic.

I'll conclude by quoting St. Theresa of Avila who said: 'Christ has no body now on earth but yours; *'no hands but yours; no feet but yours.'*

**Beverley M. Smith**      Friday 10 July, 2020



**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 X***  
***8 pianists playing two, three, four.....***

***Labour Day Monday 26 October 12.30 pm***  
***St Andrews Church***  
***Admission free; Koha or Donation***