

OCTOBER 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

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

Transitional Minister: Rev Mary Petersen 027 244 8396
email: mjpetersen@xtra.co.nz

Administrator: Liz Lyell 868 5513
Office hours 9am – 1pm weekdays

Email standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz
176 Cobden Street
P.O. Box 1117 Gisborne 4040

Message from the Minister



Dear Friends

On Sunday 16 September the **Spring Flower services** reminded us that there is amazing wonder and beauty all around us. The roses distributed were small examples of our beautiful world – and of the love and care we can provide for each other. At present we can see spring bursting out all around us – in spring flowers and blossom, new leaves on the trees and bright green grass. In stories we thought about that day, Jesus talked about how seeds sprout and grow without us knowing how that happens and how a small seed can grow into a huge and wonderful tree.

The Kingdom of God grows in us, just like a seed grows in the ground. A small seed of God's love in our lives can grow, blossom and develop in amazing ways – becoming life giving and energising for ourselves and others. Seeds are sown in our lives that can produce harvests of goodness and

compassion, love and forgiveness, patience and joy, humility and self-control. Fruit from those seeds can change the world. But we cannot engineer those harvests or make them happen - we have to leave that to the Spirit of God. We can experience powerful and empowering *Harvests of the Spirit*. Are you ready for that? We may not be able to see growth in our lives – but we can see the results:
a **spiritual harvest**.

There are wonders all around us that we may not understand, there are mysteries in life that may confuse us, but through it all God's Spirit is growing good seeds in our lives, even in the sad and difficult times – and the love of God is shown through ordinary people like you and me. Jesus taught us the way of compassion. In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.

In this season of Spring, with new life emerging all around us, sunny days as well as spring showers, I wonder what Spring means for you in your spiritual life? In Joy Cowley's words, 'may you always see yourself in God's plan for a blossoming earth'.

Sunday services are often described as the core of parish life. While there are many other times when people gather in activities of the church, worship together is a special time of connection.

There are some *Special Worship Opportunities* in the coming month that I hope you will want to be involved in.

World Communion Sunday 7 October – all over the world on this day, churches celebrate Communion and think about being part of the world-wide fellowship of Christians.

This parish will have one Communion service on this day, Matawhero and St Andrew's congregations together, at St Andrew's at 10 a.m.

Thanksgiving Service Sunday 14 October

A special service of thanksgiving will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday 14 October at St Andrew's. This is an opportunity to think about all the things in your life for which you can be thankful.

This will also be *Celebrations Sunday* – the opportunity to share good news with the church family - and include a time to think about the Samoan Celebration of *White Sunday*.

The AGM agreed that this a good time as well to encourage everyone to think about their financial support of the future ministry of this parish. The intention is to call a new minister to lead the parish into the future, beginning after my contract with you finishes at the end of August 2019.

To ensure that a new ministry can continue, the parish needs to increase its income.

If you want to make a special one-off donation to the Ministry Fund, this is an opportunity to do that on Sunday 14 October – please place your special offering in an envelope marked Ministry Fund and place it in the offering that day, or you could direct credit it to: **03 0638 0462917 00** using **Ministry Fund and your name as code and reference**. Receipts will be provided for all special donations. If you would prefer to consider reviewing what you give on a regular basis, you are encouraged to do that too.

May God bless you, my friends. The kingdom of God is within you. Let it grow.

Rev Mary Petersen

PEOPLE NEWS

BEREAVEMENT

Our sincere condolences to Jean Arbuckle's family.

Memorial Service for Jean Arbuckle

The funeral service for Jean was held in Wanganui. However, her family and friends, including Jean's St Andrew's church family, will celebrate her life in a **Memorial Service at St Andrew's on Thursday 4 October at 1 p.m.**, followed by afternoon tea in the hall. If you can, please bring a plate of food to share.

WALKING GROUP



meets at the community hall 9 am every Monday to enjoy a leisurely walk around Gisborne. 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 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 please phone St Andrew's office 868 5513.



If you would like someone to visit you, or your family or friends, or have another pastoral need, please contact the office.

THANK YOU

My family and I wish to sincerely thank you for all your prayers, love and support during Dawson's illness.

We are also extremely grateful for the expressions of sympathy received at the time of his death.

May God bless you all.

Jean Hillyard

FROM VAL HALL in Ward 8

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to everyone who has held me in their prayers, and for the love, kindness and good wishes given to me by our church family - it has been a great comfort.

Blessings

Val



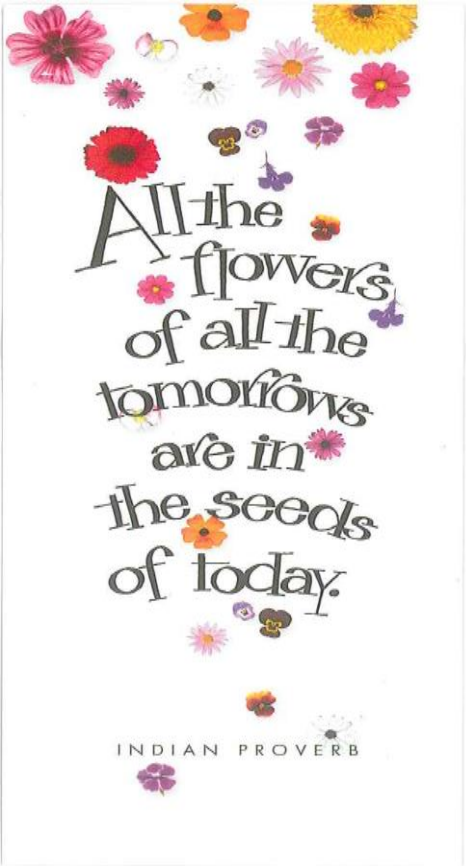
Beverley Smith has been the Editor of *Signpost* for many years, but has now retired from this role. We are very grateful to Beverley for her faithful service for many years. Thank you. *Signpost* will be produced by Liz and Mary for the rest of this year but if there is someone interested in becoming the next editor for 2019, please talk to Mary.



Beverley was also honoured in the service on 23 September with a **Certificate from the Lay Preacher's Association** for her twenty three years of lay preaching. Congratulations and thank you, Beverley.

GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH WEBSITE is updated each week with relevant information about what is happening in the parish. New features may be added occasionally – keep looking! If you have not yet investigated the website, please go to standrewsgis.org.nz.

DATE CHANGE: The first carboot sale in October will be on the first Saturday 6th the other date remains the same – 27th October.



Thank you, Shirley Robertson for sharing this message with Open Door

COMMON GROUND 2018 CONFERENCE 7-9 SEPTEMBER

St Andrews on the Terrace Wellington The Conference Theme was Creation: Ecology, Theology and Revolution

Wellington turned on a very cold weekend but a very warm and welcoming conference at St Andrews which Marie Burgess and I attended.

Following a Powhiri and welcome we got underway on Friday late afternoon with presentation from the Hon. Grant Robertson. Grant laid out a Living Standards Framework that the Government is going to be presenting its progress by. Instead of just a financial report at budget time there will be an introduction of what the Government has achieved, what it plans to achieve and by what steps it will be measured.

Grant was followed by Mat Matamua who spoke of the Wellbeing for Tangatawhenua in Aotearoa. Mat has many years of involvement with health and is involved in several advisory groups. Mat used the ‘te whare tapa whā’ – the four cornerstones (of Māori health”) model introduced by Dr Mason Durie to illustrate the importance of the balance of all aspects important to health, family, spiritual and physical and mental and the association and of the earth and how we have the guardianship kaitiakitanga of it.

The key note speakers on Saturday were Dr Emily Colgan, Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Trinity Methodist Theological College whose paper was titled “A Place to Call Home” Reading the Bible from the Perspective of Earth. Emily talked about viewing the bible with a specific lens and realising that some passages see humans as superior to all things where as others put all parts of the planet including

humans and earth as equal. If we see earth and humans as equal we need to respect our land and care for it. Emily used the creation stories of Genesis 1 and 2 as examples of different slants.

Professor Martin Manning presented his paper “One Earth One Future, One People” Martin illustrated his talk with several excellent photos and graphs showing the rapidity of some of the effects of climate change and pollution illustrating that our time is running short if we want to achieve the reduction of global warming to below 2°.

Martin posed questions such as when should we open up NZ to Pacifica people whose homes are going underwater? Martin feels we need a deeper form of human evolution with more collective responses across society. His oversimplified version of this is: we need to start loving our neighbours, more than ourselves.

We had a session of workshops in the afternoon followed by a panel on How we “do” Progressive Christianity.

We had some great singing and words throughout the conference led by Ray Coates and Liturgy led by Rev. Dr Jim Cunningham.

The Sunday Service was a fitting end to the Conference with the theme of the sermon being the relationship between the church and the environment. It once again highlighted the importance of the lens one looks through when reading the bible or singing hymns as to whether we are equal with earth or superior to it.

The Hymns we sang in the service, the words of which were written by Rev. Dr Susan Jones, Minister of St Andrews on the Terrace. Some had original music others were set to music of well-known hymns including one sung to the music of ‘Did Those Feet in Ancient Times’.

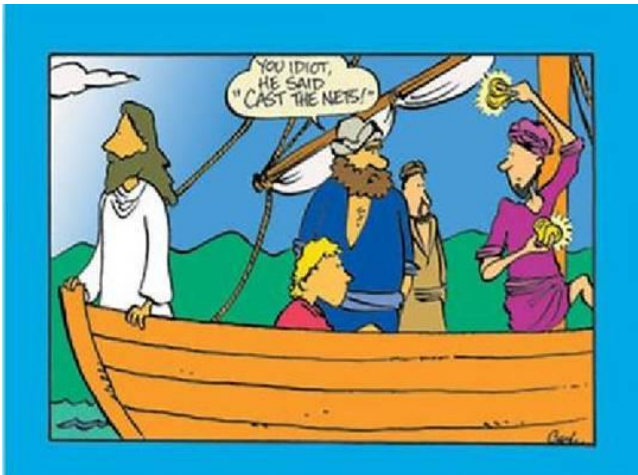
Verse 1

*and did those feet in former times
walk upon scree and tussock brown
and did the man Jesus the Christ
cross mountains high and rolling downs?
and did he know the morning mist?
and did he know the harbours sheen?
and did he love the cityscape?
and terraced streets, the urban scene?*

In all an uplifting time and good to meet and talk with
different folk and meet up with others who you have known
from the past.

Jan Ewart

For more information on Progressive Christianity Aotearoa
go to www.progressivechristianityaotearoa.com



TOPICS OF INSPIRATION

The Brick

Some of us need a strong message to get our attention.

A young and successful executive was travelling down a neighbourhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared.

Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed his Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown.

The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," he pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts.

A quick look told him everything was going to be okay. "Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

Article provided by June Stichbury

POEM FOR SPRING

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature,
of life and death and rebirth.
Forgive us for taking without giving,
reaping without sowing.



Open our eyes to see,
our lips to praise
our hands to share,
and may our feet tread lightly
on the road that, together, we travel.

John Birch, Faith & Worship

HELP REQUIRED FOR MATAWHERO GARDENS



Matawhero Gardeners

Members of GPP and friends are being invited to join a weeding, lunching, prayer/discussion circle once a month at Matawhero Church.

Betty Hair has kept our gardens looking loved over many years but it is now time for others of us to become involved so how about spending some time in the peaceful grounds of Matawhero Church pulling weeds, planting, praying, chatting and enjoying lunch together.

The suggested days and times are Mondays or Wednesdays the 2nd, 3rd or 4th in the month between 9:30 – 1pm. Bring your own lunch, tea and coffee provided.

If you would like to bring anything to discuss and share over lunch that would be really good.

If you are interested and have a preferred day and time of the month let one of the following people know.

Liz Lyell: 868 5513, Barbara Larsen: 863 9009

Jan Ewart: 862 7505

Once we decide on the most popular day we can get this venture going.



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT 20 SEPTEMBER

- Discussion re having the courage to ask ‘the elephant in the room’ questions. A paper for discussion put forward by Works & Property asking questions such as how much is the hall building used by the church and then raising four possible options of what we might think about and consider. A revised paper with some costings to go to the AGM.
- AGM – reports will be presented as read and only additions or questions will be discussed if raised.
- Thanksgiving Service – it will be explained that the purpose for holding this is to raise money for ministry not buildings.
- Computer for Minister – Mary’s computer has been linked to the printer and feels it is okay at present so will not pursue upgrade further at this stage.
- Carols in the Vines – a possible date of 19th December, to follow up with Melissa Murphy from the Vines who had suggested, after last year, that we hold it earlier in December.
- SPANZ – someone to speak about an article this month at St Andrew’s, it has already been done at Matawhero, Pat volunteered.
- Discussion about supply fees
- Policy re giving money/vouchers to someone in need, we need to remind elders/parish council members what is in place and ensure resources are available.
- Garage Sale made \$3,300 – surplus goods have been put into car boot supply. 45 people helped with the day.

- MSB to be reconstituted for Gisborne Presbyterian Parish again. Barbara Larsen and Cathy Porter have agreed to come back on the committee.
- Membership of Parish Council – Lorraine Corbett has resigned. Margaret Graham has agreed to come on. Further nominations will be welcome from the floor on Sunday.
- Signpost – what is its future? How often does it need to be printed? What format would we like? Mary and Liz will do the October edition. Anyone wishing to edit, be involved with Signpost would be welcome.
- Responsible Stewardship – (Recycling Proposal) we have been asked to support a proposal going to GA 18. Three achievable and measurable steps:
 1. Eliminating the use of single use plastic items
 2. Making recycling bins readily available
 3. Adopting the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Combined service at Holy Trinity 3pm 7th October.
Animal Blessing

AGM REPORT 2018

- Reports received and convenors/committees were thanked for the work done
- Signpost is to be reviewed, frequency, distribution and format to be looked at by Parish Council
- Proposed budget for the next financial year was accepted
- Parish Council membership; resignation of Ernie Lamont earlier in the year and Lorraine Corbett from the AGM.

They were thanked for their faithful service. It was moved and agreed that Margaret Graham and Wendy Morris will join Parish Council.

- Confirmation of all committees and convenors, including new appointments: Seton Clare to convene the Pastoral Care team; Ken Lyell to join Works and Property Committee; Lynnor Cooke and Raewyn Hannah to join the Worship Committee.
- Confirmation of Catherine Macdonald as Music Director
- Flowers and cards of thanks given to key people in the congregation in recognition of their ongoing work or for the work they have done over the years
- Remembrance of those in or associated with the Parish who have died over the past year

A Paper for Discussion was presented by the Convenor of Works & Property. Small discussion groups were formed to look at the questions raised and to stimulate further discussion. The topics discussed were:

- what do we value about belonging to this parish;
- what are our priorities for the parish;
- do we support the proposal for fund raising specifically to support a call to a minister;
- are we willing to consider supporting further exploration of the use of St Andrew's buildings?

Following the feedback from the discussion groups the recommendations were that:

- A Task Group be formed to explore potential options for future use of the Cobden St buildings and report back to the congregation by end of May 2019.

- That no significant maintenance is arranged for these buildings until the Task Group reports back.

Note: Essential work only will be carried out during this period.

A Task Group was nominated at the meeting with the power to co-opt other members as required:

Convenor - Marie Burgess, Ken Lyell, Joan McKay, Raewyn Hannah, Jan Ewart, Don McConnochie.

RECIPE FOR OCTOBER

Easy cheesy pea & pasta

Ingredients

Serves: 1

1 cup uncooked wholemeal pasta shells

1/3 cup frozen peas

2 eggs, beaten

2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese, grated

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

1 teaspoon Parmesan cheese, grated



Preparation method

Prep: 10 minutes | Cook: 15 minutes

Fill a saucepan with lightly salted water and bring to a rolling boil over high heat. Stir in the pasta cook for 10 minutes - add the frozen peas then cook for 1 more minute; drain well. Return the pasta and peas to the saucepan.

Mix in the eggs, 2 tablespoons of Parmesan cheese and black pepper; cook over low heat, stirring constantly until the eggs are cooked through, 2 -3 minutes. Serve sprinkled with Parmesan cheese.

CURRENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

Beautiful Spring Flower Services were held at both Matawhero and St Andrew's on Sunday 16th September. The front of St Andrew's was a sea of red roses and spring blossom. The roses were distributed to those over 80 years of age and those receiving pastoral care. Thank you to the Saturday helpers who made this possible.



Photos by Raewyn Hannah

FUTURE PLANNING

It is hard to talk about the ending of our lives, but it can also be very helpful. Sometimes it is helpful to have funeral plans in case of something happening unexpectedly. Each of us have favourite hymns, readings, scriptures that we would like to have shared at our funeral. If you would like to consider what to put in the service for your own funeral, our Minister Mary, would be delighted to get together with you. Just leave a message at the office (868 5513) and you will be contacted.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Sometimes, out of the blue, a health crisis can arise. If this were to happen to you, would people know who the first person would be whom you would like contacted and how to get hold of them?

We would like to keep a record of peoples' next of kin, to contact in the event of an emergency. If you would like us to have a contact number, please advise or call at the office and give the details to Liz, the Office Administrator.

SIGNPOST (POSTAL)

Due to the increasing cost of postage, we would like to reduce the number of posted monthly newsletters. If you would like to receive an electronic copy, then we are happy to include you on our email distribution list, please supply us with your email address and send to:

standrewsgisb@xtra.co.nz. The bonus is the electronic version will come to you in colour!

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please let the office know if you have changed your email address – we would like to have everyone’s email address on file if you are on a computer, it is the fastest way to communicate with you.



Operation Christmas Child.

Please see the website for more information:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box> . Boxes

available in the foyer at the community hall or ask in the office. **COLLECTION WILL BE ON WED 10TH OCTOBER.**

ADVANCE NOTICES

SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

The Gisborne Presbyterian Parish will have communion together on this occasion at St Andrew’s at 10 am.

The service will be led by Rev Mary Petersen.

The St David’s Parish will have their Communion Service at 10.30 am led by Richard Rangihuna

Week of Interfaith Prayer for World Peace
14 – 21 October 2018

All are welcome to all of these events

Sunday 14th *Prayers at Sunset by the Beach*

Meet at the Board Walk at the end of Roberts Road at 7:00 pm

Tuesday 16th St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church
12:00 noon

Thursday 18th St Andrew's Presbyterian Church 5:30 p.m.

Friday 19th Holy Trinity Anglican Church 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER 10 am

at St Andrew's Worship

**Service & Communion and Remembering 100 years
since Armistice Day.**

**A SPECIAL SERVICE OF
COMMEMORATION, LAMENT AND
REMEMBERING THE
MATAWHERO TRAGEDY
150 YEARS AGO**

SATURDAY 10 NOVEMBER AT 10.00 AM

MATAWHERO CHURCH

**followed by refreshments and a District Tour
for those interested**

SUNDAY 14 **No Service at Matawhero**
10.00am **White Sunday**
 Celebration &
 Thanksgiving Service
 Rev Mary Petersen

TERM 4 BEGINS

Monday	15	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	16	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	17	9.45am	mainly music
Thursday	18	3.30pm	Dunblane service
		7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Friday	19	1.00pm	Choir practise
Saturday	20	8.00am	Car Boot Sale

**** (Matawhero service has been cancelled) ** Labour weekend**

SUNDAY	21	9.00 am	Matawhero Service
		10.00am	Worship Service
			<i>Rev Mary Petersen</i>

LABOUR DAY

Monday	22	9.00am	Walking group
Tuesday	23	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	24	9.45am	mainly music
Thursday	25	2.00pm	Leighton House
Friday	26	1.00pm	Choir practise

SUNDAY 28 **No Service at Matawhero**
10.00am **Worship Service**
 Sr Cynthia Kearney

28 3.00pm Sea of Faith at St Mary's*
view Rev Robin Meyer's talk on reuniting
science and religion

Monday	29	9.00am	Walking group
Tuesday	30	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	31	9.45am	mainly music