

APRIL 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 will soon be **beyond Easter** but let me assure you that you are never beyond the love of God. We are never alone, even in the midst of challenging times and situations.*

Special services during Lent and Easter have reminded of us of the immense love of God, but in the 'beyond Easter' time there is opportunity to reflect on how we respond to God and what that love really means in our lives now.

*The fifth Sunday in April is time to take another step on our **transitional journey** as a parish.*

The 10 a.m. service at St Andrews on 29 April will include the opportunity to look into the future, along with the people of St David's, to discern what God might be saying to us.

God bless you.

Mary Petersen

Opportunities for Learning, Study and Discussion

About 30 people in total came to at least one of the Easter studies, and most came for all three sessions.

The next three week series of studies about **Exploring the Bible** will be offered in June or July.

Watch for dates in the May edition of Signpost.

A different kind of learning opportunity will be offered for all who are already involved in, or interested in becoming involved in, **leading worship** – this can be readers, musicians, lay preachers, or anyone who is interested to know more about **why we do things a certain way** in worship services in the Presbyterian Church, and perhaps contribute in some way as part of a team.

Tentative dates for these learning opportunities are **Friday 25 May, Friday 29 June, Friday 27 July**, beginning at **6.30 p.m.** with a cuppa (and maybe dessert) and **concluding by 9 p.m.**

SOCIAL EVENT

We do not yet have a Social Committee but Lorraine Corbett and Michael Willis have met and planned an outing for anyone who wants to join them.

YOU ARE INVITED TO MEET LORRAINE AND MICHAEL
FOR COFFEE AT **11 A.M. ON THURSDAY 12 APRIL**
AT THE **TAIRAWHITI MUSEUM**
STOUT STREET
AND TO VISIT THE DA VINCI EXHIBITION TOGETHER.

During the coffee at the museum, you might like to share in a discussion about future outings.

The vision Lorraine and Michael have is that “a group of not more than six people might jointly or severally organize entertainments”. Please go anyway for coffee and the exhibition, even if you do not want to be part of an organizing group.

These ‘entertainment events’ could be as simple as a meal together, the co-ordinated group watching of a movie, or an outing somewhere. If you have some ideas for doing things with others, rather than on your own, and are willing to help make them happen, please go along on 12 April and volunteer to be part of this committee – or let Liz know in the office.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Grace Johnstone, Shirley Robertson, Eileen Hart
John McKenzie, Catherine Chrisp, Joe Webber,
Michael Chrisp, Hans Kwak, Jean Arbuckle,



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 for cuppa and chat

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

Easter Break

The Easter Break in New Zealand is somewhat unique in the Western world. We get both Good Friday and Easter Monday and have done for a long time. Australia doesn't make Easter Monday a break, and South Africa calls it 'Family Day', so they effectively get it as well.

In this we follow Britain, which calls both Easter Friday and Easter Monday a holiday, but neither Canada nor the United States take both days off. In Canada, the entire country – except Quebec – take Easter Friday. Only Quebec takes Easter Monday – go figure? In the United States neither day is a holiday. Frankly, I think we've got it right.

Easter is early this year coming on 1 April. In Western Christianity, using the Gregorian calendar, Easter always falls on a Sunday between 22 March and 25 April inclusive, within about seven days after the astronomical full moon – according to Wikipedia. Usually we're about half way through the school term and families need a break, to say nothing of teachers and everyone else!

My memories of Easter holidays spent at my grandparents' small crib in Alexandra are still bright with joy and adventure. Swimming was still possible and as long as the weekend wasn't too drab, much of our time was spent outdoors with cousins and others. It was a great weekend. Yes, we experienced the odd really bad weekend, but even cooped up in a small but different space where books could be read and cards or board games played, it was a special time.

Of course, it is the true high point of the Christian calendar and much is made of it in churches, but typically, here in Aotearoa many of us are away on Easter Sunday. Whereas in the States it becomes a time of immense activity in church as congregations gear up for an influx of annual Easter visitors. In New Zealand, we simply don't get that response and are used to many of our volunteers being away.

Again, I think this is healthy largely because this western culture we're in simply doesn't stop and, frankly, it's killing us. I would much rather have a large group within my congregation return from a good Easter rest ready to serve well for the rest of the semester/term. This is much better than having a group of stressed and over-worked volunteers drag themselves back to church after a busy Easter with very little in their gas tanks to take us any further.

God bless you all this Easter.

Richard Dawson.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1/07/2017--28/02/2018

\$

Month	28/02/2018	
Income		
	Giving & Donations	5701
	Fund Raising	660
	Other Income	<u>1431</u>
		7792
Less Expenses		9696
		<u><u>-1904</u></u>
Cash Deficit for month		

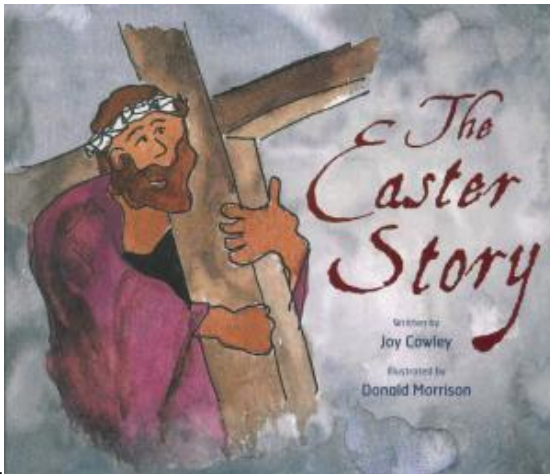
Year to date

July 2017 to 28 February 2018

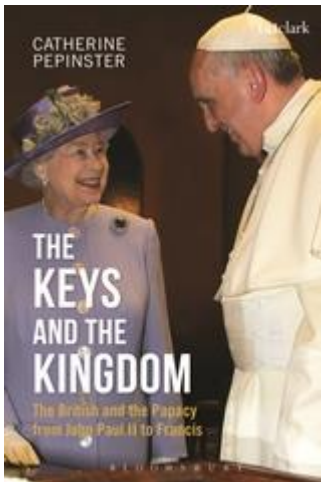
Income		
	Giving & Donations	41351
	Fund Raising	11545
	Other Income	<u>23529</u>
		76425
Less Expenses		<u>91927</u>
Cash Deficit Year to date		<u><u>-15502</u></u>

The following prayer from Rev. Petra in a recent service:

Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day. Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbours: others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.



Beautiful colour illustrations by Donald Morrison complement Joy Cowley's text on the story of Easter and what it means to us. The emphasis is on love and healing, on growing in prayer through talking to Jesus Christ, leading the reader to gratitude for the wonderful Easter story.



Nearly 500 years have passed since England's brutal schism with Rome, triggered by Henry VIII's spat with Pope Clement VII's refusal to allow the annulment of the king's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. This break with Roman Catholicism still reverberates today in what author, Catherine Pepinster, describes as 'one of the deepest wounds the papacy ever suffered in Europe'. However, the focus of this book is the modern era where the author

meticulously chronicles the changing relationship between the British and the papacy during the 30-year period of the John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis pontificates. Published by T&T Clark.

NEW WORLD

NEW GOD

Rethinking Christianity for a secular age

IAN HARRIS

You are invited to support the publication of *New World New God* by Ian Harris, by purchasing a copy for \$25 (RRP \$30), before it's released in June. Books will be mailed from 1 May.

- Go to www.makaropress.co.nz
- Click 'buy on line' in the toolbar
- Fill in your details.
- If you don't wish to buy online, please email makropress@gmail.com for details on making a bank deposit or sending a cheque.



A reminder to all Readers. Please speak into the microphone at a distance of no more than three inches. Just as Catherine illustrates for us.



Walking Group 26 March

SHARING OUR BASKETS



Na to rourou, na taku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi
With your food basket and my food basket, the people will be well.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FOOD

1. GIVE THANKS FOR THE FOOD WE EAT.
2. EAT FOOD GROWN AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO WHERE WE LIVE.
3. STRIVE FOR ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT AND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, NUTRITIOUS FOOD.
4. EAT MINDFULLY AND IN MODERATION.
5. DO NOT WASTE FOOD.
6. BE GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO GROW AND PREPARE FOOD FOR OUR TABLES.

7. **SUPPORT FAIR WAGES FOR FARMWORKERS, FARMERS AND FOOD WORKERS.**
8. **REDUCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE OF LAND, WATER AND AIR FROM FOOD PRODUCTION AND THE FOOD SYSTEM.**
9. **PROTECT THE BIODIVERSITY OF SEEDS, SOILS, ECOSYSTEMS AND THE CULTURES OF FOOD PRODUCERS.**
10. **REJOICE AND SHARE THE SACRED GIFT OF FOOD WITH ALL.**

-The World Council of Churches



Harvest Festival 2018

Proverbs/Sayings

A cheerful/merry heart is a good medicine,
But a downcast spirit dries up the bones. (Proverbs 17:22)
Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's learning
how to dance in the rain.

FAITH AND REASON

Life is not the way it's supposed to be. It's the way it is.
The way we cope with it is what makes the difference.
What soap is to the body laughter is to the soul. (Jewish Proverb}

We have a technical name for people who do not change:
dead.

Let there be spaces in your togetherness, and let the
winds of the heavens dance between you.

Only when a juggler missed catching his balls does he
appeal to me. (Kahil Gibran)

FAITH AND REASON

When an Orthodox Jewish rabbi embraces Jesus as his brother, you know something new is happening in the evolution of religion. When other rabbis pounce on him for heresy, you know it's business as usual: for some folk, nothing in their religious heritage must be allowed to change. In the modern world all religions are exposed to the same tensions between openness and rigidity, exploring the boundaries and hunkering down.

The rabbi in question is Shmuley Boteach, of New Jersey. In a book published this month, *Kosher Jesus*, he reclaims Jesus as a Jew through and through, a rabbi who opposed the roman oppression of his people and was executed for it.

'*Kosher*' means fitting, appropriate, acceptable and, says Boteach, Jesus' teaching brims with the best of his Jewish tradition. His Sermon on the Mount, for example, takes up and refreshes the message of the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible). In light of this, Jesus should be seen 'as a bridge and not a wedge between Christians and Jews'.

Boteach makes clear that he writes of Jesus as a man of his times, not the

Jesus transfigured into a deity by the devout imaginings of the church over many centuries.

"We Jews will forever reject the divinity of any man, the single most emphatic prohibition of our Bible," he says, "And we can never accept the messiahship of any personality who died without ushering in the age of physical redemption."

But in recent decades hostility has softened. The Catholic Church has removed anti-Jewish references from its liturgies. Evangelical Christians are ardent in their support of the state of Israel – a mixed blessing, surely, since they see its establishment as a sign that the end of the world is nigh. This new reality, says Boteach, offers the opportunity for Christians to “rediscover the deep Jewishness and religious commitment of Jesus, while Jews re-examine a lost son who was murdered by a brutal Roman state”. Obviously, though 2000 years of anti-Semitism promoted by the church in Jesus’ name have left deep scars. Many Jewish families refuse to allow the name Jesus to be spoken. A Chicago rabbi condemned Boteach’s book on the title alone – “*Kosher J*, he called it – without bothering to read it. In Toronto a leading rabbi forbade anyone to buy, read or discuss it. To which Boteach retorted: “America is not Iran and rabbis in the American Jewish community are not the Revolutionary Guard.”

Other rabbis, while challenging dubious aspects of his scholarship, see merit in the book. Others again fear that groups such as “Jews for Jesus” may use it to try to win converts to Christianity.

Any initiative to clear ancient roadblocks of prejudice, hate and misunderstanding is to be welcomed – and there have been many in the past half-century, internationally, nationally and locally.

A number of distinguished Jewish scholars have studied the Christian scriptures and thrown light on them from the vantage point of their own religion.

On the Christian side, American Episcopal (Anglican) Bishop John Spong is among those who argue that to understand Jesus properly, it is necessary to place him within his Jewish frame of reference. His book *This Hebrew Lord* describes how the gospels draw heavily on that framework, and often make little sense apart from it.

In 1974, while vicar of a church in Richmond, Virginia, Spong engaged with the local rabbi in six dialogue sessions arising from that book: three in the synagogue on successive Fridays, followed by a matching three at Spong’s Sunday services. The sessions drew crowds, appreciation – and some abuse.

Come Christmas Eve that year, and Spong was surprised to see a leader of the synagogue and his wife present at the midnight service in his church, then go forward to receive the bread and wine of communion, symbols of Jesus’ body and blood.

Some days later, the Jewish leader explained his reasoning.

“Was not the communion service of the Christian Church said to have originated in the Last Supper, which was supposed to be a Jewish Passover meal? Spong agreed that was so.

“Were not all those fellows who attended the Last Supper Jews?” Again Spong agreed.

“Were any of those disciples at that meal baptised or confirmed?” Not to Spong’s knowledge.

“Well, we figured that if unbaptised Jews could receive communion from Jesus at the start of the Christian faith, then we could receive it from you in thanksgiving for the dialogue that has brought us close together again.”

To that spirit belongs the future.

Ian Harris

Otago Daily Times February 24, 2012.



WORKING BEE

Working Bee at St. Andrew's
on Monday 9 April, starting
8:30am. Morning tea provided.

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.

We have received an income of \$8,315.60 over the past year which is quite significant and something Parish Council and others would like to see continue. Although started as a revenue generating event it has become something more. The church grounds are being used; parishioners can interact with members of our community and it provides a venue which foster relationships amongst buyers and sellers.

People like Val who not only coordinates the Saturday sales also puts a lot of work and energy, with a small number of others, into ensuring there are goods for the Church people to sell. The plant sales team led by Marilyn Mathews always generates a good income and lots of interest amongst the “green fingered” people in our community

Parish Council are asking more people to assist and spread the load a bit. We know there are many of us with different skills and these skills can be used to support this event in different ways hence we are making a plea for people to do some of the following things:

- Advanced preparation for the day
- Coordinating some of the Sale Days
- Selling goods at the Church stall
- Baking, (loaves and biscuits go down well)
- Providing flour, sugar, butter so the bakers can make the goodies
- Produce/jams/chutneys/sauces etc.
- Providing other saleable goods
- Preparing am tea

Participating in this event is fun you meet lots of different people and establish a relationship with many of the regulars so do give some thought to helping out in any way you can.

Talk with Val Hall, Pat Flockhart, and Jan Ewart or let Liz know what you might be interested in and someone will be in contact with you

ENJOYED AT OPEN DOOR FUDGE CAKE

Pkt Malt or Wine biscuit crumbs
4 oz Butter
1 teacup Sugar
1 Dessertspoon Cocoa
1 Egg
Few drops Vanilla Essence

Mix butter, sugar, cocoa and vanilla over warm heat
Beat egg and add slowly. Stir until mixture thickens.
Add biscuits off stove and optional fruit, nuts, rice bubbles
Stir well and press into sponge roll tin
Ice with chocolate icing and cut into squares.

Recipe provided by Val Hall

Directory

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

Parish Clerk: Jenny Lawton 868 4268
Administrator: Liz Lyell 868 5513

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Editor Newsletter: Beverley Smith
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Published last Sunday of the month or as close to (except December)

Prayer Link Contacts: Gwenda Crawshaw 868 5407
Catherine Chrisp 867 3109

Voice of St. Andrew's: - Contact the Office

Pastoral Contacts

Val Hall	868 8226
Grace Johnstone	868 4036
Seton Clare	868 5665
Barbara Larsen	863 9009
Gwenda Gray	867 4799
Jenny Lawton	868 4268
Margaret Graham	867 5908

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:.....

DIARY FOR APRIL - MAY 6TH

SUNDAY	April 1	10.00 am.	Easter Day Service No Service at Matawhero
Monday	2	9.00 am	Walking Group
Tuesday	3	10.00 am	Open Door
Wednesday	4	9.45am	mainly music
Friday	6	1.00pm	choir practice
Saturday	7	10.15 am	Over 90's morning tea
SUNDAY	8	No Service at Matawhero	
		10.00am	Easter 2 Celebration Sunday Service
		2.00 pm	Highland Pipe Band St Andrew's Concert
Monday	9	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	10	10.00am	Open Door
		1.30pm	Ryman Service
Wednesday	11	3.00pm	Te Wiremu Service
Friday	13	1.00pm	Choir practice
		6.00pm	mainly music picnic for pre-schoolers
Saturday	14	9.00am	Car Boot Sale
SUNDAY	15	9.00am	Worship Service at
Matawhero		10.00am	Easter 2 Worship Service
		3.00pm	Sea of Faith (in the lounge)
<u>END OF TERM 1</u>			
Monday	16	9.00am	Walking Group
Tuesday	17	10.00am	Open Door
Thursday	19	3.30pm	Dunblane Service
Friday	20	1.00pm	Choir practice
SUNDAY	22	No Service at Matawhero	
		10.00am	Worship Service (Rev Dr Clive Yates)

Monday	23	9.00am	Walking group
Tuesday	24	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	25		ANZAC DAY
Thursday	26	2.00pm	Leighton House Service
Friday	27	1.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday	28	9.00am	Car Boot Sale
SUNDAY	29	No Service at Matawhero	
		10.00am	Combined Service with St David's – Transitional Ministry Journey (2)

TERM 2 BEGINS

Monday	30	9.00am	Walking Group
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MAY

Tuesday	1 st	10.00am	Open Door
Wednesday	2 nd	9.45am	mainly music
Friday	4 th	1.00pm	choir practice
		5.30pm	Elders shared dinner

SUNDAY	6TH	9.00 am	Communion at Matawhero
		10.00am	Communion at St Andrews (Rev Adrian Skelton)

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

- A little boy told by his mother that he might go on a picnic she had previously forbidden – sighed, “It’s too late Mummy, I’ve already prayed for rain.”
- DEAR GOD: This is my prayer. Could you please give my brother some brains. So far he doesn’t seem to have any. *Angela.*
- DEAR LORD: Thank you for the nice day today. You even fooled the weather man.
- A mother asked her son what the lesson was about in Sunday School that morning. “Cherry Coke,” he answered confidently. “Cherry Coke?” his mother asked about it. “Joshua fought the battle of Cherry Coke, Cherry Coke, Cherry Coke.”
- The Sunday School teacher asked: “Now, Johnny, tell me, do you say prayers before eating?” No, sir, Johnny replies, “I don’t have to. My Mum is a good cook.