

# SIGNPOST SEPTEMBER 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

#### *'Already but not yet!'*

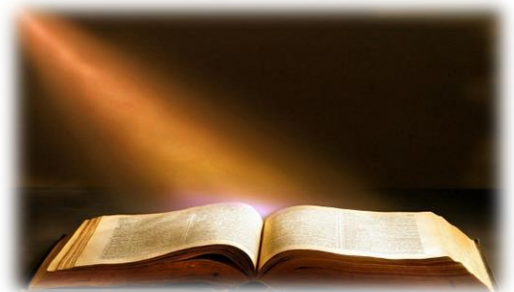
Dear Friends in Christ



*Already, but not yet* – is a phrase that I have been contemplating these days as we see level three lockdown was imposed in Auckland. By the time you receive Signpost September copy, it may be all well, or something new may come out. We are living in such a strange time, indeed. For now, I'd like to focus on Today in which we are living in level two. In terms of different levels of restriction, *already, but not yet* can be interpreted in two different ways. One is that things may be getting worse. But there is also a possibility of finding breakthrough remedies/vaccines for COVID 19 that is waiting to be found. It may all depend on what we will focus on – the virus and its grim outcomes or life that needs to continue. In our faith journey, the phrase '*already, but not yet*' is used when it comes to the kingdom of God. That is, the reign of God is already operating here and now, but it hasn't been consummated yet. Similar to the life that continues despite COVID 19 restrictions, in the kingdom of God, the life in Christ continues while dealing

with issues and things that may happen on a daily basis. The beauty of the *already, but not yet* of life in the kingdom of God is that we can cherish and share such kingdom moments of love, joy and peace in our midst that will continue. It is because even before we articulate such a thing, our hearts may instantly know the way to the truth and the life that is grounded in Christ Jesus.

*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



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.



### MATAWHERO GARDENERS

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

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER - CREATION

**September 6 Pentecost 14** Ex 12: 1-14  
Ps 149 Rom 13: 8-14 Mt 18: 15-20

**September 13 Pentecost 15** Ex 14: 19-31  
Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21  
Rom 14:1-12 Mt 18: 21-35

**September 20 Pentecost 16** Ex 16: 2-15  
Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45 Phil 1: 21-30  
Mt 20: 1-16

**September 27 Pentecost 17** Ex 17: 1-7  
Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16 Phil 2: 1-13 Mt 21: 23-32



## 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



## SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

A Celebration Service will be held for the **40<sup>TH</sup> LICENSING ANNIVERSARY OF**



**REV DR CLIVE YATES**

The national church Moderator Right Reverend Fakaofu Kaio will preach a sermon during the service.

## ANNUAL PARISH GARAGE SALE SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

**Monster Garage Sale**  
**St Andrew's Community Centre**

**Saturday 5th September**  
**From 8.00 am**

Linen  
Cakes  
Books  
Plants  
Bric a Brac  
White Elephant    Arts & Crafts

Produce & Much More  
Jenny Lawton - Convenor

## **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19th**

mainly music picnic in the hall  
11.30 am – 1.00 pm



## WHAKARONGO (*Listen!*) and Fellowship

  
Dates – term time



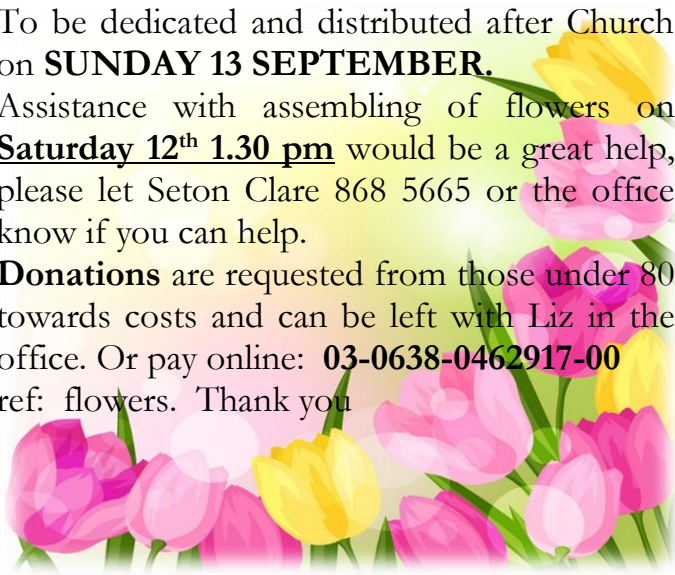
Thurs 03 Sept    5.30pm Matawhero lounge  
Thurs 10 Sept    5.30pm St Andrew's lounge  
Thurs 24 Sept    5.30pm St Andrew's lounge

## **OVER 80's SPRING FLOWERS**

To be dedicated and distributed after Church on **SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER.**

Assistance with assembling of flowers on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 1.30 pm** would be a great help, please let Seton Clare 868 5665 or the office know if you can help.

**Donations** are requested from those under 80 towards costs and can be left with Liz in the office. Or pay online: **03-0638-0462917-00** ref: flowers. Thank you



## **EXCERPTS FROM 'PRAYERS OF A NATION WERE ANSWERED' BY MARY PARKER**

Printed in The Gisborne Herald May 21 2020

Let me tell you about a wonderful miracle that happened in my life. In 1939, when I was about to enjoy my teenage life, Hitler declared war on my country, Great Britain.

I lived in a beautiful part of Essex called Constable Country on my parents' market garden with my six sisters and one brother. We were 45 miles from London and the older children helped my father every morning to have the produce outside the gate by 6 am. It was very hard for the four older children as we would then, always after a hearty breakfast, walk three miles to school.

I left school having dreams of training to be a fashion designer, but that was a no-no. I had two choices – work for my father, or in a

factory making army uniforms. I chose the market garden, which was not really to my liking. It was very hard, with air raids every night. When the siren went off we all ran to our Anderson shelter sunken in the ground. We were not far from the coastline, so we got the brunt of it. There were Bren guns all over our land, to try to intercept the Germans and stop them getting to London.

This went on night after night for four years. We were terrified. We all had gas masks because Hitler threatened to gas us. I was the only who prayed day after day. Just as Hitler was getting the better of us, Winston Churchill told us they were planning the D-Day invasion, and that it would come. Nothing seemed to happen.

When we were out working in the fields, we had an old wireless radio wired out in the trees. One morning this melodious voice came over: "Everybody get on your knees and pray, it is D-Day – Our Last Hope." Some didn't know God existed, but people around us all dropped on their knees. It was awesome. The sky was covered with gliders full of our young men on their way to Normandy, and God answered our prayers. As they were landing, a strong mist came down and the Germans didn't see them. It was a real answer to our prayers and we never looked back.

We won the war. God created us, we are precious to him. Pray that he will encamp a host of angels around you and your family, as God loves you all.

## A PRAYER FOR THE ELDERLY

Lord, thou know better than I know myself, that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from getting talkative and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all – but though know Lord, that I want a few friends at the end! Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my many aches and pains – they are increasing and my love of rehearsing is become sweeter as the years go by. I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of other aches and pains – help me endure them with patience. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a Saint; some are hard to live with, but a sour old man or woman is one of the crowing works of the 'devil'. Help me extract all possible fun out of life- there are so many funny things around us and I don't want to miss any of them! In Jesus' name, Amen.

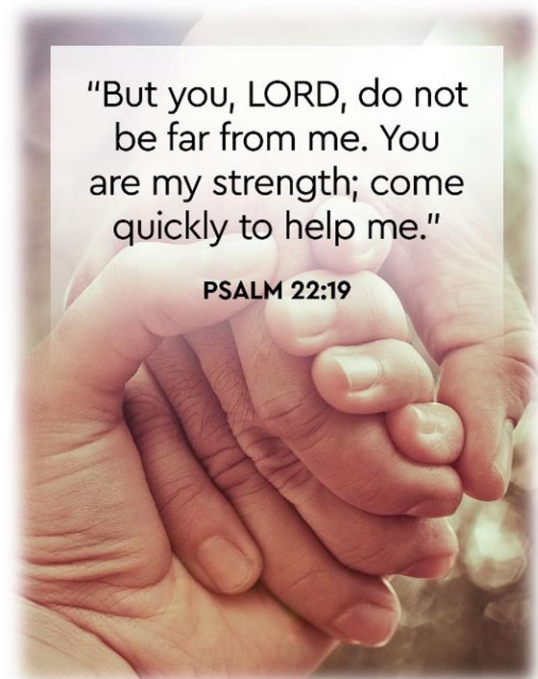


*Snowball Tree*

*Spring was never so abundant  
The sky so clear  
The leaves so green  
The size of tennis balls  
these blooms  
Floating under the eaves*

*Give me a branch so slender  
And so capable  
Tutus on a short string  
Snowballs snowballs snowballs*

*Benita H. Kape (c) 20.8.2020*



**"But you, LORD, do not  
be far from me. You  
are my strength; come  
quickly to help me."**

**PSALM 22:19**

## **BUDGET REVIEW GROUP**

Another committee? Yes indeed – this one set up under urgency by the Parish Council. Why? Because the Finance Committee could not recommend adoption of the Forecast Budget it had prepared for the year commencing 1 July 2020. Yes, it's about our finances again! This brief report is to alert you to the review taking place with our aim being to bring to the Annual General Meeting a plan to accompany the deficit budget projected. The congregation is responsible for approving (or not) the budget for the year.

The Group is looking at all parts of parish income and expenditure seeking ways we can live within our means. As an example – we wonder if parishioners' offerings should cover the cost of our ministry. That is the stipend, accommodation, travel and supervision expenses. Our congregation committed to calling a full-time minister. What we haven't overtly committed to is fully funding that part of our parish life. This year those costs will in fact be a little less than last year given we had an overlap with our new minister and the transitional minister and moving costs for both. But offerings are declining and our best guess based on last year is that there will be a shortfall of around \$17,000. With so many of our parishioners on fixed incomes it may not be possible for many people to make an increase. However, when we got out our calculator, we worked out that if we all increased our offering by \$4.00 a week (that is \$4.00 over and above what we usually contribute) we would fully cover the cost of our ministry just like that! About the price of a cup of coffee? Is that too hard? Let's think about it.

It would be great to have your thoughts and ideas. We may have some difficult decisions to make at our Annual General Meeting when we examine last year's financial results and ponder the coming year. Meantime you might like to think about principles regarding use of funds. e.g. should income from use of our facilities go to cost of property expenses and maintenance? Should fund raising efforts cover mission, staff salaries, national and presbytery commitments? Should large property work come from invested income? Lots to think about.

And the good news? We have a full time, energetic new minister full of ideas and faith in the Lord. Let's go forward on our faith journey with the Rev Jin Sook Kim and see where the Lord leads us.

### **Budget Review Group**

*Pat Flockhart (Convenor) Mike Willis (Treasurer)  
Jenny Lawton (Parish Clerk)  
Peter Cowley, Jan Ewart, (Parish Councillors) Marie Burgess, Val Hall, Jill Wallis.*

P S Don't miss the AGM on 20 Sept. and your chance to express your views.

## FAITH JOURNEYS WITH GPP CONTINUED...

I have been prompted to write down my faith journey. This will clarify when and how I have become the person I am.

Like most people my age I had a very extensive exposure from 3 years old to the bible and fellowship. You could say this was when my seed of faith was planted. With Sunday School, Christian Endeavour and Young Worshipers League every Sunday, the Church became my extended family where I felt loved and nurtured. There were lots of activities like going to the annual Sunday School picnic on a steam train up to a National Park and dressing in white on two Sundays for our annual Sunday School Anniversaries. The people at Unley Methodist Church, both old and young were those with whom I felt comfortable and shared many lessons and activities. I would describe this time as when my faith was planted in a caring environment with soil full of goodness that was well tendered and watered.

As time went on, I started to step back from the regimented routine I grew up with and was wanting to find my own way, however, I still had that seed within me. When I moved away from my home state and lived in Canberra, I went to a little Methodist church that had a minister who had gone to the theological college which was just down the road from my original home. This meant I was still being immersed in the theology I had been brought up with. After my marriage and moving around New Zealand, it wasn't until we settled in Gisborne that I returned to my religious base at Wesley Church. The Church with its openness and non-judgmental attitude, gave me the space to explore other aspects of the Christian faith, whilst still being accepted as part of their fellowship. My exploration included retreats,

books, courses and groups such as the enneagram courses that the Chrisps and Cynthia Kearney ran. One group which stands out was one that came about after a retreat weekend with the Very Reverend Pamela Tankersley where women of different denominations met regularly and discussed their various beliefs in an open manner. Thus, I believe that God's plan for my spiritual growth had continued.

When it was necessary to move to St Andrews I found that what had nurtured me was uprooted and I was now in a different environment. It was as though I had been transplanted and was left with hardly any substance to draw from. At times I felt like I was by the rivers of Babylon because of the unfamiliar place I was in. However, it was then I knew I was being led to develop a faith that was a more personal one. I have had great joy in finding words and seeds of wisdom in all sorts of places and can only put this down to the divine who is looking after me, giving me the support I need to become a more enriched person. In becoming this person I have been able to opt out of requests and obligations which I know will stress me. Also by having the chance to attend regular services at Matawhero has allowed me the opportunity to worship and reflect in a calm and quiet place. I enjoy the fellowship of both churches and appreciate the many kindnesses shown to me over the years. My faith is a questioning one which I will continue to do.

I am still on my spiritual journey and look forward to what God has in store for me. As John Wesley said, "the best is yet to come" and this cannot be anything less than perfect.

Peace and blessings to you all. *Jill Wallis*