

SIGNPOST SEPTEMBER 2019

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Transitional Minister:

Rev Mary Petersen 027 2448396

email: mjpetersen@xtra.co.nz

Administrator: Liz Lyell

Office Hours 9 – 1 pm weekdays

ph: 868 5513

Message from the Minister

Dear Friends

September already – and this marks a new phase in my life with you.

I was originally contracted to work with Gisborne Presbyterian Parish and St David's Presbyterian Parish as Transitional Minister for two years - to finish on 31 August 2019. I will now be staying for another six months at 75% time, finishing on 8 March 2020, unless another minister is called and wants to start before that. My last service with St David's, however, is on 1st September 2019, so the next stage for me is with you alone. I am pleased to be able to continue for a while because I really appreciate the privilege of being with you. **This is a special parish, with wonderful people, and a great commitment to and enthusiasm for God and each other.** Thank you for asking me to continue to lead and guide you.

The last month has included much that is typical in the life of any parish minister – weekly service preparation, two funerals, three study groups, parish council and other committee meetings, visits to and connections with many people, preparation of the Annual Report, but also a Vision and Strategy meeting at which all present wrestled with what goals does the parish need to have for the future? **It is exciting when people want to think about how simple things can be done more effectively,** decide on small changes that will improve things for

everyone, and take the steps needed to put those into action. You will find a report of that event in this edition of Signpost.

On September 22 there is a congregational meeting, the AGM, to review the last year and thank all who have been in leadership positions or served in some way, as well as look to the future. **We can certainly thank God for all who are serving others by using their particular gifts and skills.** There will also be an opportunity on 6 October, World Communion Sunday, to thank God for all the blessings we receive. After that service, you might like to take part in a **Discover Your Gifts** exercise which should be illuminating, affirming and fun - and share lunch together.

The readings for recent services have allowed us to continue to explore the ministry of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Luke; the letters to the Galatians, Colossians and Hebrews; and some delving into the prophets, Amos, Hosea and Isaiah – they all have a **powerful message about trusting God** and knowing that God is with us always, even in the darkest of times.

May you continue to value each other, to take steps to improve the lives of all with whom you connect, maybe with your smile - and to trust God in everything.

God bless you

Mary Petersen

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 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: 868 5513



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 Matawhero Church from 9.30am.

PARISH ANNUAL MONSTER GARAGE SALE SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

8.00 am



Please remember to put your phone number on any baking that you are providing.
All the usual stalls will be there

**Convenor: Jenny Lawton 868 4268
or phone the office: 868 5513**



Dragged down but never out
the mystical light
manages to shine throughout
the patches of dark
to never give up
but to reach towards life.
The moment of reconnection
just takes a second.

Rhonda Swenson

**Special Service at St Paul's Motu on
Sunday 1 September 2.30pm.
Followed by a meal & fellowship at
the Motu Community House.
*All welcome***

WORKS & PROPERTY

The Parish Council has decided to thank and discharge the current Works and Property Committee at the AGM on 22 September.

Instead of a Committee, the AGM will appoint a **Property Co-ordinator** for each site: Matawhero and 176 Cobden Street.

The Property Co-ordinator's responsibilities will include:

- a. **co-ordinating and organising day to day maintenance in liaison with the Office Administrator, volunteers and professionals**
- b. **organising working bees as required**
- c. **obtaining quotes for planned property & maintenance work**
- d. **overseeing such projects once quotes are approved by the Parish Council**
- e. **report regularly to Parish Council**

Alongside this development, there will be an expansion of Parish Council governance and responsibility in parish property matters:

- a. **annual property inspections**
- b. **three year and annual property works and maintenance plans**
- c. **annual insurance cover**

ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

29 SEPTEMBER 10.30am please bring your animal with you – rain or shine.



**Combined Service at
Matawhero Historic
Church with St David's &
St Andrew's**
followed by morning tea

SPRING FLOWERS



A request for donations from those under 80 towards spring flowers for our Services on September 15th

Please bring to the office or pay online:

GPP: 03-0638-0462917- 00

If you are under 80 & would like to help assemble the flowers, please meet in the hall on Saturday 14th at 11.00am

Thank you!

Advance Notice



Wednesday 16 October 2 pm
All welcome to Afternoon Tea at
Jenny & Peter Lawton's home
318 Clifford Street to see
the cherry tree blooming

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Appeal for Car Boot sale helpers (2nd and 4th Saturdays per month)

It would be fantastic to have a few more helpers for the car boot sale which raises nearly \$10,000 a year and is a very worthwhile way of fund-raising.

There are **four** different tasks that can be done:

- Opening up: putting out the flags, setting 3 tables up, directing parking, collecting stall fees 6:30 - 8:30am
- Selling items on the St Andrew's stall (7:30am to Midday)
- making morning tea/coffee for stall holders at 10am and clean up (9:30 to 11am)
- helping put everything away after midday close (Midday - 1pm)

Sign-up sheet can be found in the office or ask: *Val Hall, Jenny Lawton or Pat Flockhart*

ST ANDREW'S DAY DINNER



Keep this date free.

**SATURDAY
30 NOVEMBER 2019**

All are welcome.

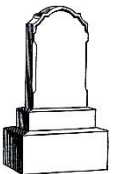
If you would like to help with the organisation and

preparation of the dinner, please let the office know.

Thank you.

**Gisborne Presbyterian Parish
Annual General Meeting**
is on **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22**
after the 10.30am service at
St Andrew's.

**BLESSING AND
RE-DEDICATION OF REV
JOHN McARA HEADSTONE**
will be at Makaraka Cemetery at
2 p.m. on Wednesday 25 September



Rev John McAra was Minister of Gisborne Presbyterian Church, including Matawhero, from **1878 – 1890**. He is buried in **Makaraka Cemetery**. His headstone, along with many others at that cemetery, was lost under grass and earth for a long time. The headstones have recently been restored and the Parish Council has decided that it would be good to have a **Rededication and Blessing of this headstone**.

*Worry is like a rocking chair:
Gives you something to do but gets
you nowhere.*

Moses said to all the people of Israel, "This is what the LORD has commanded: Make an offering to the LORD. Everyone who wishes to do so is to bring an offering of gold, silver, or bronze;"

Exodus 35: 4-5

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The Parish Council has decided to make an opportunity available for those who would like to make a special offering in thanks to God, to do so on **Sunday 6 October**.

That date is **World Communion Sunday** & there will be a Parish Service at St Andrew's at 10.30 a.m. with no service at Matawhero.

This special offering is to help fund **future ministry in Gisborne Presbyterian Parish**.

This parish agreed to seek a full-time minister for a three-year term. And this has been approved by Presbytery.

The Ministry Settlement Board is actively looking for the right person to lead the parish into the future. We need to ensure that the funds are available to support whoever is called here to provide leadership in ministry and mission.

If you are not able to make a special donation at this time, you might like to take the opportunity to review your regular giving.

For online payments:

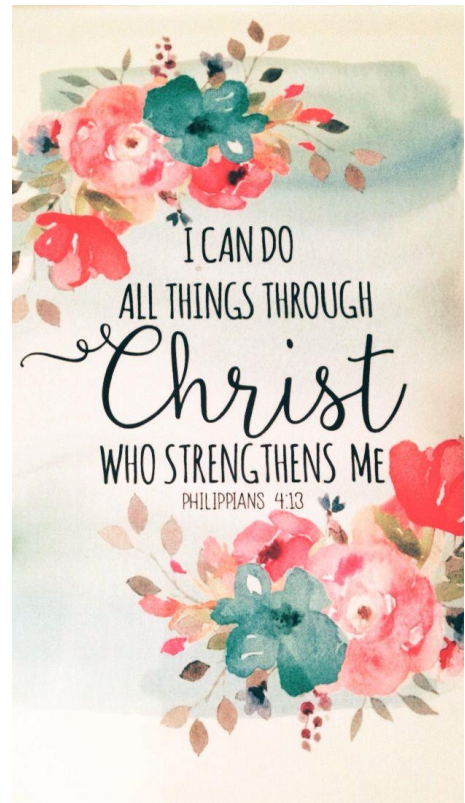
GPP: 03-0638-0462917- 00

ST ANDREW'S SERVICE – ***Living prayerfully***



On 28 July at St Andrew's service, Mary used a Story Box about the Lord's Prayer to explore the meaning. Esmerelda and Alfie helped to place the symbols.

The children sprinkled feathers, hearts and stars to represent the glory of God.



THANK YOU from Val



I have been extremely grateful for all the kindness, prayer and practical assistance I have received in the past 18 months. Many, many thanks. It has been a very challenging journey and very humbling but I have felt very supported and am confident for a positive outcome.

I would like to share some Scripture verses which I have found to be very helpful:

- Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith (Matthew: 21:22)
- Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses (Mark 11: 24-26)
- Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it (John 14: 13 & 14)
- Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God...(Philippians 4: 6)
- Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened (Matthew 7: 7 & 8)
- Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know (Jeremiah 33:3)

Val Hall

PRESBYTERY CENTRAL GATHERING

Saturday 21 September at St Andrew's
Presbyterian Church Hastings
300 Market Street South, Hastings.

COME TO HAWKES BAY FOR THE WEEKEND!

**Friday 20th a day for all ministers and
leaders**

2pm-5pm: Church Funding
& Finance seminar
5.30-7.30pm: Dinner & Reflections

Saturday 21st

(Kidstream available for ages 5-11)

9.45am Registration
10.30am Welcome & Worship
11am Keynote Speaker

Workshops on:

- Outsmarting Porn
- Weaving Stopping Violence
Work into Proactive Faith
- Equipping the next generation
to pass it on
- Doing life with Jesus in the council flats
- How to be welcoming in a
Multi-cultural society

5.30-7.30pm Dinner at St John's Church.,
*If you would like to go and need, or can
provide, transport, please let the church
office know.*

Do you have precious memories or some favourite music stored on media that is now fading from view such as: Records, Cassettes/Micro cassettes, Open Reel tapes, and VHS video tapes.

I can convert these to CD/DVD, put them on a USB stick or digitally send them to you.

.....

If you are involved in an organisation that needs a low-cost website, I can design and build one for no upfront cost, just an inexpensive quarterly hosting fee.

For details, see Pete Cowley
or ph: 022 6102 910
or visit cowleyconsulting.co.nz



ADVANCE NOTICE FOR OCTOBER

**Presbyterian Support East Coast Annual
General Meeting
WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2019
at 5.30pm
a warm invitation is extended
to all parishioners**

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 Concert Series

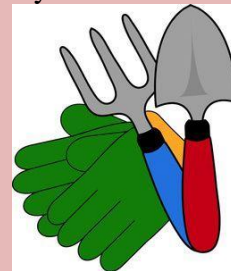
Barleycorn

**Irish influenced band
Wednesday 11 September
12.30pm**

St Andrews Presbyterian Church
Admission free; optional Koha/tea &
coffee

A BIG THANK YOU TO

Pat and Marty Neshausen,
for quietly and lovingly tending to the
gardens at St Andrew's.
They look wonderful!



THE VISION, STRATEGY AND GOALS WORKSHOP ON 22 AUGUST 2019

involved 20 enthusiastic people. They explored what vision means, and some Biblical examples, thought about the Parish Mission Statement “*We are a diverse community called together by Jesus Christ to welcome, love, serve and care*”, considered individual visions and accepted that a group vision needed to be a Vibrant, Intriguing, Significant, Involving, Owned, Now statement, thought about the strengths the parish has and using those to develop future strategy, and discussed creating some SMART Goals for the next six months, and the steps that need to be taken to achieve them.

In the course of discussion, it was agreed that **in the next 6 months, with the Transitional Minister to guide us, the parish needs to:**

- develop a vision for the future which the parish adopts as a guide to go forward.
It was acknowledged, however, that the current Parish Profile, Mission Plan, Ministry Expectations, as well as the Mission Statement, do describe our vision and provide an excellent basis for specific goals.
- acknowledge and strengthen what we value as being part of the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish
- prepare for a new minister for a 3 year term or a vacancy
- further strengthen and support leadership development including worship, study groups, praying with others and reaching out to our community,
- ensure sound financial management through budget planning to ensure our finances are sufficient to meet our plans including ministry and maintenance of buildings

Practical actions we believe we can take following this workshop are

- Getting Sunday’s reflections and readings extracted from the service material and made available on the website and in hard copy for people to contemplate following the service.

- Establish a Study group to meet and discuss the content of the service reflections on a weekly basis, beginning in mid to late September
- Nametags to be reinstituted, as part of being a welcoming Church, and will be handed out in the foyer prior to the service. Parishioners will be encouraged to wear their name tags.
- People on door duty to be encouraged to welcome visitors, including those who come in late, give them name tags and sit with them or arrange for someone to do so, if they are alone

Recommendation from participants of this workshop to Parish Council

That Parish Council give the parish the opportunity to revisit the Report of the Special Property Task Group by November 2019

ACTIONS ALREADY IN PROGRESS AS A RESULT OF THE VISION WORKSHOP:

1. The text of Reflections is available, from 25 August, and will be for all Sundays Mary is responsible for the service.
2. A three week trial of an opportunity for *Reflection on the Reflection* will happen on Mondays 16, 23 and 30 September at 5.30pm
3. Everyone is encouraged to wear their name tags in church and to morning tea. By 15 September we will ensure that there is a name tag available for all regular attenders, with temporary ones available for visitors or newcomers until permanent ones are made.
4. There will be a fun opportunity to Discover Your Gifts after the Parish World Communion Day service on 6 October – a workshop with shared lunch for all who want to participate.
5. Further learning and growing opportunities will be provided for all interested in November and February to extend leadership development.