



SIGNPOST SEPTEMBER 2021

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Minister

Rev Jin Sook Kim

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MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Bad luck? Good luck? or solidarity in the love of God?

It happened in the days of Lao Tzu in China. Once upon a time, there lived a farmer who used an old horse to till his fields. One day, the horse escaped into the hills. When the farmer's neighbours sympathised with the old man over his bad luck, the farmer replied, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

A week later, the horse returned with a herd of horses from the hills, and this time, the neighbours congratulated the farmer on his good luck. His reply was, "Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?"

Then, when the farmer's son was attempting to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone thought this was very bad luck. Not the farmer, whose only reaction was, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

Some weeks later, the army marched into the village and conscripted every able-bodied youth they found there. When they saw the farmer's son with his broken leg, they let him off. Now was that good luck or bad luck? Who knows?

Presently we are living in level 4 lockdown. There may be plenty of reasons to see this lockdown as bad luck. For now, our freedom seems to be at a halt without any warning.

People are suffering from a lack of resources and many other reasons. Some of them may already have been in difficult situations even before the lockdown. The story reminds us of what Paul said in Philippians 4:12-14, which read;

"I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances, I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress."

Paul's last words – "In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress" assure us as he wrote this letter in prison. For Paul, despite all the difficult things he had to undergo, fellow believers' prayers and support had helped him overcome the prison life and sustain his faith in Christ. Indeed, God's love has no limits to reach out to those who are in need. We, too, share people's distress so that they may know that they are not alone. Indeed, it is beyond simple bad luck or good luck, but it is about solidarity in the love of God all the time.

Jin Sook

***There is an online service every Sunday at 10.30 am until further notice.**

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 10 am 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

a musical time together. **Cost is \$4 per family.**

Wednesday mornings are a time of organised chaos in the church lounge when pre-school children and their parents and grandparents enjoy

MATAWHERO GARDENERS

Members of GPP and friends are weeding, prayer/discussion **3rd Monday** of each month at 9.30am Matawhero Church together.



ZOOM KORERO is still taking place during Lockdown ON FRIDAYS at 10.30am

Join in the fun every Friday for **ZOOM korero** from your computer. A link and passcode number will be sent out with the Order of Service each week.

CELEBRATION



'CELEBRATION POT LUCK' SERVICE

is held in the community hall on the 4th

Sunday of the month at 10.30 am.

Please invite friends and family also bring a plate to share or donation/koha if preferred.

ALL EVENTS HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD WHILE WE ARE IN LEVEL 4. We will endeavour to keep everyone up to date as and when we are informed.

CARD MAKING GROUP ** (this may not be able to take place in September depending on Covid Alert levels) meets Mondays 9.30am – 12 noon on September 27th, November 1st & November 29th Lynnor's 062143945

HAVE A GO'



at Matawhero Church lounge every 4th Wednesday at 3 pm. Next meeting 22 September (tba)

LET'S START A CONVERSATION – QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Introduction

There has been a group meeting to look at our future (Future Group) and we have been contemplating what is ahead of us as a Parish. At our last Celebration Sunday Service we introduced the following questions to those who were able to be present by Zoom.

As we approach this spring season it is an opportunity to consider our future life together as a parish, taking into account such factors as our declining membership and income, increasing costs and energy required to maintain buildings and parish activities. For the year ended 30 June 2021 we had a deficit of more than \$50,000 and cannot afford a similar deficit for the current year.

Questions to consider:

1. If we set a break-even budget in order to live within our means, what steps or actions do we need to consider in order to achieve this?
2. Given our current situation, how do you see our future as a parish going forward and how do you wish to be involved?

If you would like to discuss with someone, please don't hesitate to contact one of the Parish Council members on the Future Group Jan Ewart, Pat Flockhart, Jenny Lawton, Ruth McLennan, Wendy Morris. Contact details available in the Directory



In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER



Delys Hollamby, Benita Kape, Carolyn Reeves, Treve Baker, Alan Groves, Barbara Pole, Muriel Hall, Alf Cuckow and Bev Kirkpatrick

Hope you have a lovely celebration! Best wishes from your Church family.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Sunday 26 September after the morning service at St Andrews.

All who are responsible for reports for committees or groups please note that your reports should be completed and in the church office by 6TH SEPTEMBER

Thank you.

DATE OF MEETING TO BE CONFIRMED



THE GARAGE SALE

This event has been POSTPONED and will **NOT** take place Sat 4th September. Please keep sorting out your donations and we will advise you of a new date as soon as we are able.

Furniture welcome too, let the office or Jenny Lawton know if it needs transportation. Ph: 868 5513

THE HISTORY OF 'APRONS' Grandma's Apron

Remember making an apron in Home Economics?

If you don't remember Home Economics – read on anyway!

I don't think our grandchildren know what an apron is.

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few and because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons required less material.

But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning dirty ears.



From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When visitors came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy children.

And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over a hot stove.

Logs and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the autumn, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the drive, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER.....

Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool.

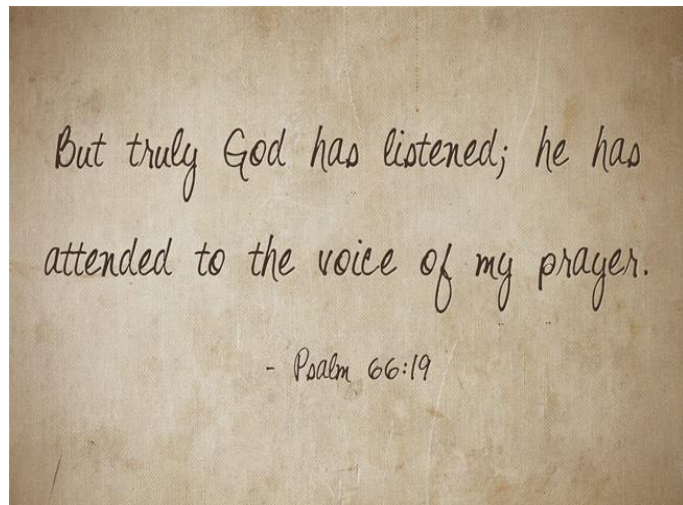
Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

The Government would go crazy now trying to estimate the number of germs that were on that apron, but I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron - **but love...**



Author & source unknown

OUR ROOF APPEAL HAS REACHED ITS TARGET!



A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Roof Appeal, we are delighted to say that we have not only reached our target, but have surpassed it. We now have \$28,150.00 in the Roof Appeal Account!

We respect peoples' wishes to remain anonymous, but please know that we are deeply grateful to each and every one of you and especially for the extraordinary donation received last week which more than covered our shortfall of \$12,000.

Blessings

Jenny Lawton
(Parish Clerk)

MY FAITH JOURNEY



My full name is Josephine Grace Johnstone, born in 11 April, 1935.

(Anderson was my maiden name)

I had three brothers – one older brother and two younger brothers, so I was the middle child. My mother was a devoted Christian, who used to be an Anglican. My father was presbyterian although he didn't attend the church every Sunday. I was christened as an Anglican in 1935 at Bog Roy Station, Otago. I was the only girl in the family. I was a happy outgoing girl, so my early childhood was just full of joy and fun. But afterwards when my parents were separated, I became more reserved. But basically, I loved people and still do.

I started correspondence schooling at home, because it was during a war time, and petrol was rationed. Even though my family had a car, I couldn't go to a school in Omarama. But I was a naughty little girl, I would go up to the hill so that I couldn't hear the school bell. My mother began to be concerned about my education. So, she contacted my great aunt in Christchurch. My Aunt Lilla offered to help me during school

terms. That's how I went to a Methodist Sunday school in Christchurch during this period in 1941-1943.

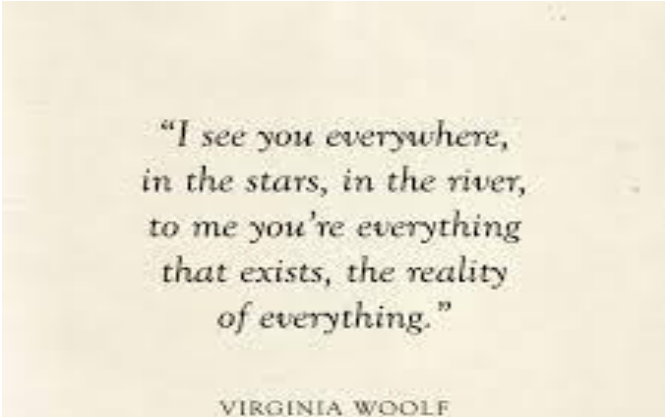
In Christchurch, I went to Shirley Primary School. I was the top girl in standard one at seven years old. It was good for my education. In 1944-45, I began to attend Tasman Downs school near Lake Tekapo. I loved it. We used to do ice skating, and skiing in winter time, swimming and summer games with other sports in summer time. In 1946, my mother and three children came to Oamaru to live. My mother became a member of Christian Science, so we attended Christian Science Sunday school till 1953. What a journey in terms of Sunday schools!! When we were living in Oamaru, my mother was kind enough to have boys from Waitaki Boys High school as their parents were her friends. She would offer mid-day dinner to them as they had to go back to the boarding school. Brian Johnstone who became my future husband was one of the boys. I became a confirmed Presbyterian in 1953 because of Brian.

While I studied at Teacher's college in Dunedin, I went to Knox Church. As I graduated from Teacher's college, I was placed at Oamaru South School for my probationary year. In the following year, I was teaching in Masterton and attended a Presbyterian Church. But I returned to Oamaru to marry Brian at St Paul's Presbyterian Church on 2 November, 1957. Dr Hector West officiated our wedding there. When we were living in Hamilton between 1957 – 1964, we had four children, and they were baptised at St Luke's Church in Hamilton.

When we moved to Gisborne, St Luke's Presbyterian Church became our home church during 1965 – 1981. From 1994 till present,

St Andrew's church is my home church. Here I became a Sunday school teacher for many years, teaching seniors. At some stage, Brian was diagnosed with cancer in the kidney. So, doctors removed one of the kidneys. But there were still remaining cancerous cells, so he was sent to Palmerston for radio therapy. Unfortunately, the radio therapy went wrong and it had weakened the abdominal aorta. After we came home, the aorta was ruptured. I drove him to Gisborne hospital. Someone asked why I didn't wait for an ambulance. I said it may be quicker than waiting for them to come. Brian walked to A & E with me. He fatally bled a lot. Family was in shock to see him die before their eyes. It was on 21 March 2004. He walked in, but he never walked out again. It was the most devastating moment in my life. My youngest daughter Barbara and her friend Sue who was a nurse, came instantly to support me, and the rest of the family later. As a trained nurse, Sue stayed there with us until everything finished. For me, faith is extremely precious especially when I lost Brian. It has given me strength to cope with life and the purpose to continue. May God help me and others to continue this lovely faith journey till we meet face to face in His grace.

by Grace Johnstone



*"I see you everywhere,
in the stars, in the river,
to me you're everything
that exists, the reality
of everything."*

VIRGINIA WOOLF

A TRUST THAT HELPS SOUTH WESTLAND PEOPLE suffering hardship was formed at the perfect time, just months before the Covid-19 pandemic affected both migrant workers and locals.

The South Westland Emergency Relief Trust for Families (**SERF**) was set up as a charitable trust in September 2019, to provide support for families between Ross and Jackson Bay.

The area is isolated and people depend on each other, says a team member, Marj Vermaat.

"Our communities in South Westland are really supportive and do really help others."

By 2019 locals had realised they needed a structure to facilitate this and to raise money so it would be available when required. Little did they know how prescient this was.

In the latter half of March 2020, the international Covid-19 pandemic closed New Zealand's borders and sent the country into a seven-week lockdown, trapping migrant workers.

Marj says Civil Defence was "fantastic" and SERF worked alongside it to direct migrant workers to help and information. Many lost their jobs because of the crisis and Civil Defence funded food parcels that SERF helped distribute.

While many of these workers have now returned to their home countries, local residents are struggling more than in the past. The effects of the crisis continue.

"It feels like it's kind of taking over at the moment, but that's not all we do," Marj says.

Providing practical support

Since its formation, the trust has helped more than 100 South Westland individuals and families with financial support, medical equipment and practical items, such as firewood, coal and food.

It's hard sometimes asking for help when you don't necessarily have anything to give," Marj says.

The trust saves people from stumbling on in such situations.

Assistance includes for those with medical needs and no health insurance. For example,



one mum broke her foot and SERF provided firewood, and vouchers to give to the person who looked after her children.

The trust supports existing services and charities and works with businesses such as Foodstuffs and the Four Square in Franz Josef to alleviate hardship.

SERF is run by volunteers and money comes from fund-raising, donations from West Coast individuals and businesses, and grants, including from the nationwide Tindall Foundation.

SERF's Facebook says, "We thank all those that offer funding and donate to charities, such as ourselves, the aroha you show is immeasurable".

Creating sustainability

Other organisations are also part of sustaining life in South Westland.

New Zealand and international border closures have resulted in the loss of many tourism jobs, yet both the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) are offering people new jobs.

Locally, DOC's Jobs for Nature programme has mainly focused on contracting businesses

which didn't have enough work because of the tourism downturn.

The contracts avoid the employees being made redundant.

According to DOC's website, Jobs for Nature helps revitalise communities through nature-based employment and stimulate the economy post Covid-19.

Meanwhile ZIP information says the entity will utilise "boots on the ground" labour and technologies it has developed to permanently remove possums, stoats and rats from 100,000 hectares of South Westland.

Despite difficult times, through innovation, generosity and people helping people, South Westland is surviving.

Daily Encourager, Sharon Fowler

