

# MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

## St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church Newsletter October / November 2016

*Our mission in this parish is to share  
the love of God with all people*

### Telling our stories: St Andrew's by the Sea and St Peter the Fisherman

This month we welcome the people of St Peter's fellowship to the joint use of the Community Church.



Many of you will know the traumatic event that has led up to this space-sharing arrangement. In late August the 49-year-old Anglican Church in Dundas Street was inspected and pronounced dangerous for occupation until the roof defects could be remedied, or some other decision made. St Peter's congregation was thrown into turmoil – they had to look for another place to worship, very quickly.

St Andrew's Parish Council invited them to share our space. They weighed up other options, but we are very pleased to say that the choice was made to use the Community Church in the interim.

This is, of course, a huge upheaval for the people of St Peter's. They are going through a grief that we can only guess at. Those of us who have, at

some stage, left our beloved home churches and had to settle into others, will understand the emotional ties that bind us to our church buildings. 'It's only a building' – certainly, but the hours and years of loving care, the life-changing events that are celebrated within its walls, the life-times of memories – these bind our hearts and minds and it is hard to contemplate leaving them behind and moving on. It is a testing time, a time to pray for guidance, and strength to face the future in faith, trusting in God's eternal, loving plan for his people.

For the time being, St Peter's congregation will join us for morning tea after the St Andrew's service (we have been promised filter coffee and chocolate cake!) They will then move into their worship time. Our after-church Parish Council meetings will continue, and we will confine them to the Hamilton Room. The schedule of mid-week groups will include some new ones, transferred from Dundas Street, and these will be well advertised.

There will be a settling-in period for both congregations as we work out the logistics of service times, hall use and storage space, but both Parish Councils view this unexpected situation as a time to get to know each other better, to learn more about each other's faith communities, and to enrich all of our lives.

Please pray for the leaders and people of St Peter's and St Andrew's, that the Spirit will lead us all in the direction God has planned for the future of our individual congregations.

When the Community Church was built in 1898, it was used by Anglicans, Presbyterians and Methodists. Some of you may be thinking that the current sharing arrangement is a reversal to 'as it was in the beginning'. Not so. Our churches and our people are very different from those of 1898. 'Church' is no longer the dominant influence on family life and community life. In those days, families read the Bible

every day at home, and attendance at Sunday School was as important as at any other school.

Times have changed. Today the church building is no longer seen as a beacon of faith and security by the majority of people. The challenges we face as Christians today, are all about community interface, making a largely unknown God known to people again and presenting, not the church building, but Jesus, and the love of God as a beacon of hope. This task involves all of us, in our various community activities and in our congregations, using our knowledge, our skills, our prayers for others, as the means by which we present Jesus to the world.

Andrew and Peter were brothers. “Andrew brought Simon his brother to Jesus” and Jesus renamed Simon, “Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church.” The roots of our two congregations go back way, way further than 1898! We are one in Christ Jesus with all other Christians.

The way in which all of our Whitianga Churches are working together in committee, in joint worship, in prayers for the community, in the Church Op-shop and in major community events, shows us that differences in the way we worship are of no account. Those individual preferences only serve to reflect the diversity of the human spirit – a spirit that longs to know God the Creator, and yearns to grow closer to the heart of Jesus the Saviour. Let’s all help to make it happen in Mercury Bay!



# Parish Register

## *Funerals at St. Andrew's*



8th September - Verna Day Hynds, aged 93.  
Rev Mary Petersen officiating.  
The people of St Andrew's hold  
very special memories of Verna.  
We extend our sincere sympathies to the family.

*Our sympathies are with the families*

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## Monday Meals Update

The funding applications are continuing to bring in funds to keep the St Andrew's Community Meals programme running, and this month we have to thank the Methodist Church of New Zealand for funding from the 'Let the Children Live' programme.

An application has also been lodged to the Presbyterian Foundation fund, and we are awaiting the result.

Also this month we would like to recognise LOCAL BUSINESSES who consistently support the meals with donations of food:

- ◆ Love-It Bakery, Whitianga
- ◆ Z Whitianga
- ◆ Shellz Ice-Cream Parlour
- ◆ Matarangi Store



St Peter's community gardeners regularly arrive with freshly harvested veges, and there are a number of unrecognized individuals, too, who regularly support the meals by automatic bank payments. Val and the team are constantly overwhelmed by the kindness of others – THANK YOU ALL.

## Missions/Outreach

### Little Flower Children's Home Upgrade

Cause page created in the [Community](#) category by [Mercury Bay Cooperating Parish](#) 📍 Waikato

**OVERVIEW**    **UPDATES**    **DONATIONS 34**    **FUNDRAISERS**    **GALLERY**

Q&A 🐦 f

The Little Flower Children's Home in Pedong, India is in need of new flooring, bedding and bathrooms.



**\$3,643.00** donated  
**15** generous donors

\$3,643 donated    \$20,000

**❤️ DONATE NOW**

It's great news that the "Give a little" page has already received generous donations totally over \$3500, but so much more is needed so the timeframe has now been extended to the end of February.

Meanwhile, the plan is for some money to be sent to Pastor Magdalene Rai in Siliguri next month so the children from the leprosy colony can have a Christmas party with their families. These children are sponsored by AIM Women to go to school.

Robyn reports that one of the sponsored young men who has recently completed a bible course is now on a course to learn about repairing mobile phones and televisions. Essourddin comes from a troubled background, with much persecution from his family, but with sponsorship and the purchase of a bicycle so he can commute to his course he has a future. Being raised in a leprosy community carries a lot of stigma even when you don't have the disease yourself, so this is a major improvement to his circumstances.

Please do think about whether you can spare any funds—even a little, like the name of the site says—and go to <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/littleflowerchildrenshome> to do your bit to help people like Essourddin.

## Something to ponder

Alistair Rogers brought the following thoughts to our worship on September 18:

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said “No. It is not for me to take away your habit, but for you to give it up.”

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said “No. Patience is `a by-product of tribulations. It isn’t granted, it is learned.”

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said “No. I give you blessings – happiness is up to you.”

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said “No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly ambitions, and brings you closer to me.”

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said “No. You must grow your own! And I will prune you, and make you fruitful.”

I asked God for all the good things of life, that I might enjoy it.

God said “No. I will give you Life, that you may enjoy all things.”

I asked God to help me love others, as much as He loves me.

God said “Ahh. Finally, you have the idea.”

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

St Andrew’s will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting  
after Service on SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.

The meeting will be chaired by our  
Superintending Minister, Jacqui Cavit  
Jacqui will also lead our worship on that day.

**Please note the date and plan to be there.**

# Worship Opportunities

## Services at St Andrew's: starting at 9:30

*Your Parish Council takes every opportunity to invite visiting preachers who are known to us, and therefore to provide a wide range of Gospel-based worship and teaching. We thank all of our worship leaders most sincerely for their willing work.*

Oct	2	Faith Bible College students will lead our worship
	9	Robyn Twemlow
	16	Jacqui Cavit (Tauranga) - Also <b>CHURCH AGM</b>
	23	Jenny Chisholm (Tauranga)
	30	John Twemlow
Also: <b>Combined Service</b> , hosted by St Peter's at St Andrew's; light meal at 5:30, service starts at 6.		
Nov	6	Communion—Jacqui Cavit (Wellington)
	13	Alistair Rogers
	20	Janice Purdie (Paeroa)
	27	Ross Millar (Hamilton)

**Combined Churches prayers for the community:** everyone is welcome to come and pray. Hosted by the Churches, first Wednesday each month at 10am, beginning with morning tea.

**Wed 5 October** at Baptist Church

**Wed 2 November** at Crossroads Church

## **Worship at Continuing Care**

A short service of songs and prayer is held at 11am every Wednesday at CCU, led by the Churches in turn. St Andrew's leads on the first Wednesday of the month. **Supporters and helpers are warmly invited.**

**IF YOU NEED PRAYER, FOR YOURSELF OR OTHERS** there are people ready to pray with you at the front of the Church every Sunday after the morning service. We also have a **prayer chain** - a group of people who are willing to pray for anyone, without necessarily knowing the name, but being aware of the situation to be prayed for. Contact the church office, 867 1102 or [standrewswhitianga@gmail.com](mailto:standrewswhitianga@gmail.com), if you want to share a need for prayer



# Parish and Community Activities

*Newcomers are cordially invited to join any of these friendly groups*

**CHURCH OP-SHOP** (behind the Church building, on Owen Street)

Phone 867 1104 **Open 9–12:30 Wednesday to Saturday.**

**COMMUNITY MEALS** in the Church hall from 5-6pm every Monday. Providing free, hot, nutritious meals and friendship. Volunteers & donations welcome.

Enquiries to Val 027 252 4453 or phone the Church on Mondays 867 1102

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP All welcome.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month 1:30pm. For programme/venue details: Beryl Wharton 866 3739 or Ann Harsant 866 4740

**FAMILY COUNSELLING** Anyone who needs advice or family counselling is encouraged to contact Nicole 866 5119

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY** Wednesday 10am Please ring Julie for details: 984 9140

**MESSY CHURCH An exciting Sunday experience** for all the family, including food!

For info & session dates, please contact Robin Twemlow (869 5054) or Val Ransome (027 252 4453)

**P.R.O.P. People Relying on People.** Supporting families battling mental health and substance abuse issues. For confidential support, freephone 0800 127 359.

**UPRIGHT & ACTIVE Friendly exercise sessions for seniors, held in the Church hall**

Mondays at 9:30am Leader Carol Melrose 867 1097

Tuesdays at 10:00am Leader Greta Fox 866 4382

**WORSHIP AT CONTINUING CARE** A Combined Churches event providing devotions every Wednesday at 11am in the residents' lounge. Supporters are welcome on any Wednesday. St Andrew's leads on the first and fifth Wednesday of the month.

**St Andrew's services begin at 9:30 ; St Peter's services follow**

**MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH -St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church**

Corner Albert and Owen Streets, Whitianga / PO Box 368, WHITIANGA

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