

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church Newsletter August / September 2017

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

Letter from our Resource Minister, Rev Jan Fogg

Dear St Andrew's Church family,

It is a joy to write to you all as I begin a relationship with you all, in the role of Resource Minister through Kaimai Presbytery. This is a new role for Presbytery and everyone is finding their feet. Rather than have a Minister appointed part-time to a particular parish, the resource minister is spread part-time across several parishes, to encourage and help resource as needed a lay team of people who oversee the ministry in the parish life.



Ministry is the role of every member of the church family. All the members of the congregation, led by a Local Ministry Team, share the responsibilities that were traditionally carried by 'a Minister'.

It's not the role of the resource minister to do the ministry for your church. Think of the early church as we read about it in the letters of Paul the apostle in the New Testament. He wrote to encourage local people in their church life, but didn't get to see them very often and didn't do much of the on-the-ground tasks of ministry for them. But he wrote to the communities to help build up relationship.

And actually, ministry is all about relationship – our relationship with God, with others, and with self; yes we know about the first two but sometimes we forget the third one: our self. And perhaps one of the crucial aspects of 'relationship with self' is the issue of confidence. If self-confidence is not present, then relationship with God and others can also be a struggle.

There's a fascinating story about Puccini and his production of Madam Butterfly. The opening night had a terrible reception – the audience hissed and booed at the actors so that the first night was also the last night. Can

we imagine how the actors felt? Can we imagine how Puccini felt – having used his abilities and imagination to write a music score – what would it do to your confidence to be hissed and booed? But Puccini wrote an encouraging letter to the distressed leading lady to lift her spirit and wish her well. Then he sat down for several months to rewrite the opera! When it was next presented it was a huge success and Puccini had ten stage calls!

That's confidence – being able to listen to critics so that you can improve on what you've already done; not just blindly saying, 'to heck with them all' nor saying, 'they must be right, how useless I must be' and in either case putting to the side what you have done. But staying with believing in what you've written/ said/ or produced; listening, making a judgment, persisting, following through.

In the case of your loving work in your church-life, have confidence in yourself, and in the God who has called you to grow into all kinds of good things as a faith community.

I look forward to coming to know you more and working alongside you all.

Rev Jan

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Community Meals Update

The Parish Council, along with Tania and the meals team, continue to work hard to keep the meals going out to needy families. We are constantly heartened by surprising acts of generosity, and we thank you all. We have to be persistent with our funding applications to national funders, to make sure the Community Meals account can meet the costs. This also means we have to be 'accountable'. Tania is doing all she can to encourage all who are able, to come into St Andrew's Hall and sit down to the meal, rather than taking the meal away. Those who stay to eat are rewarded with a sweet course! Volunteer drivers will still make deliveries to those who really cannot come in.

Please Note - Community Meals now has a separate account for internet banking: same number with suffix 01

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Local Ministry Team - what's changed?

Here at St Andrew's we have recently set up a Local Ministry Team (LMT). A Congregational Meeting approved the move, and we now have Rev Jan Fogg (Thames) as our Resource Minister, to help us with the new configuration.

So what does it mean? The decision to set up LMT has come about because we cannot afford to pay a minister. Since Rev Mary Petersen moved on, we have relied upon our own very able worship leaders and volunteers to continue our community-facing work as a Church. The Local Ministry Team model of organization is designed for just this situation, and is now being adopted by many parishes. It gives proper authority and recognition to those who bear the various responsibilities, and it provides support and oversight from the wider church. As we are a Presbyterian/ Methodist Co-operating Parish, Rev Jan, a retired Methodist Minister has been appointed by Kaimai Presbytery. The Parish pays for Jan's work as and when we need her, and thanks to our Op-shop team, we can manage this.

Four Ministry Team Leaders were approved by the Congregation:

John Twemlow - Worship and Ministry of the Word

Julie St George - Christian Education and Media

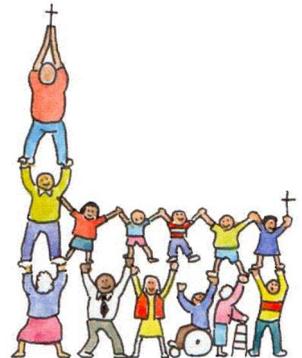
Robin Twemlow – Mission and Outreach

Dorothy Preece – Administration and Finance (with Angela).

Since that meeting, Raewyn Ceruti has agreed to lead the Pastoral Care team.

These 'appointments' are no surprise to any of us. They recognise the roles that each of the five have naturally slipped into, in the absence of a minister. So on the face of it, nothing has changed. But we are working for change.

In her letter, Jan Fogg reminds us that we are all ministers to one another, and all have a part to play. We no longer have 'The Minister' to pick up all the minutiae of operating an effective Church. Neither should we expect the Team Leaders to do the job alone. They are the go-to people in their areas of responsibility. Ideally, each Team Leader



will build a team of helpers who they can call on for back-up. This will involve all of us. For example, Raewyn has agreed she will be the person to ring if you are concerned that someone needs a pastoral visit.

Raewyn might visit or call that person herself, or she might ask someone else to follow up on that contact. And so it is with each of the areas of responsibility. As administrator, Dorothy relies heavily on Madeleine to open the hall for the weekly groups, and Julie is training others to use the sound and data system.

Jan speaks of self-confidence and the need to pray, and seek God's guidance on what can do as individuals to support the congregation.

We are all agreed that we need to strengthen our Sunday morning fellowship. This can only happen through personal friendships, invitations to social events where 'church' means more than just a building in town. We are starting the ball rolling with the invitation to a film afternoon at the Barnabys' beautiful home at Simpson's Beach. Let's make a point of inviting people who are 'familiar' with St Andrew's, but rarely come. It's about personal encouragement.

And if YOU have some ideas about what we should or could be doing, please – speak up!

We are in this together! Let's pray and work together, to make a vibrant, inspiring and welcoming Church family.

Dorothy Preece

Kuaotunu ICONZ is now running for 5-7 year old boys at the Kuaotunu Hall on Wednesdays, 6pm-7:30pm.

Once the group is more established and more leaders are found, the age range will increase up to 18 years old

ICONZ is a Christian organization, part of Boys Brigade, which has been involved in the New Zealand community for over 100 years. See <http://site.iconz.org.nz/> for more information.

Parish Register

Christening

Nathan Allen Christensen, 17 June, led by Rev Mary Petersen

Funerals at St. Andrew's

Dorothy Rae Collier, 24th June; Ian Diprose officiating

Estelle Mary Cooke, 28th July; Gordon Barnaby officiating

News

Last month we bid goodbye to Daryl and Beryl Gilliland who have moved away to be closer to family, and this month Lynnor Cooke is also leaving us. All three have been strong and faithful members of the St Andrew's family, and very active in the wider community for many years. We wish them well in their new homes.

John and Robin Twemlow are currently away enjoying a well-earned rest. John has sent us his 'Holiday Musings...'

I'm sitting in the lounge of a very nice house in Warkworth, our third home in three weeks. I've just downloaded the local golf course map. It helps me calculate the distance to each hole – vital for my game. Monday morning was the coldest on record, but it won't stop a keen golfer.

We've had some interesting times since we left home a couple of weeks ago. We were supposed to be house-and-dog sitting at our first stop, but the dog died before we arrived. We did, however, stay in the house. One of the interesting aspects of staying in different houses, is the 'discoveries' to find cups, pots and such elusive objects as the potato masher. Some frustration, along with some laughs. We don't have Sky TV at home, so my sporting addiction is being fed, along with Robyn's love of the older English programmes on UKTV.

The day we arrived in Auckland we bought a Gold ATHop card, \$15 to get us around Auckland free, on buses, trains and ferries. We've already planned our trip to Waiheke Island before we come home.

We have enjoyed meeting up with old friends and family members.

We've also had opportunities to be fed spiritually. It's great to get some different input, to worship in different fellowships, and we are thoroughly enjoying it. The Presbyterian Church here in Warkworth is vital and visionary. Plans to build a multi-million dollar complex are well underway. Just the normal Council rules to be overcome.

All in all we are loving it, but by the middle of September I would say home will be welcome.

Blessings to you all. John and Robin.

Reasons for Rejoicing!

This is a new column that we hope will bring in comments from far and wide, and connect us with our out-of-town fellowship members. So please, if you live too far away to come regularly, tell us your 'Reasons for Rejoicing' so that we can all give thanks together.

This month, we rejoice with three of our fellowship for whom we have been praying: Elizabeth Nicholls has come through a difficult operation. She has made a remarkable recovery and is healing well.

Barbara Blake's mother was failing fast and not eating. Barbara expected to be attending a funeral, but instead, Mother rallied and asked for food. She is now in a rest home.

Lynnor Cooke has sold her house and has moved to Gisborne to be near her daughter.

For these and all our blessings, we thank you, loving God.

St Andrew's Op-Shop – Extended Hours

Please spread the word – our Op-Shop team has decided to open longer hours:
8:30 to 1pm* Wednesday to Saturday.
(*Sometimes until 1:30 on Saturdays)



In supporting our Op-Shop, you are supporting this Parish, as well as the other Churches in Whitianga and various community groups.
If you can volunteer to help, please ring Madeleine 866 0169.

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

The Parish Annual Meeting will be held after the morning service on October 1st. Please note this date and make every effort to attend



Come and Worship!

Services at St Andrew's: 9:30 every Sunday

Families are warmly invited. We have a child-friendly space where the family can sit together, with quiet toys for the little ones, and Bible activities for children of reading age.

August 6th - Communion service led by Peter Chaffin

13th - Rev Jan Fogg, Resource Minister

20th - Dorothy Preece

27th - Ross Millar

Sept 3rd - Communion - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby

10th - Ladies' Bible Group

17th - Dorothy Preece

24th - Ross Millar

October 1st - Communion - Rev Jan Fogg

Followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Invitation

On Wednesday, 20th September at 2 pm, we are all invited to the home of Diana and Gordon Barnaby, to a screening on their big cinema screen:

"Twelve Days" : the story of Captain Cook's historic visit to Mercury Bay. Rev Stan Stewart made this film for the Museum when he was Minister in this parish.

Also showing – the 1971 short (19 minutes) film

"This is New Zealand" : the most watched NZ documentary ever produced.

Please come, and invite your friends.

'On the Beach BnB' 66 Main Road, Simpson's Beach.

Park in Winiata Place, next to the reserve. No charge, just friendship. Bring a plate for afternoon tea if you are able.



Parish and Community Activities

Newcomers are cordially invited to join any of these friendly groups

St Andrew's by the Sea—Service 9:30 every Sunday

St Peter the Fisherman (Anglican) - Service 11:00 every Sunday

CHURCH OP-SHOP (behind the Church building) **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** if you can help JUST SOMETIMES please phone 866 0169 or 867 1104 (shop)

Open 8:30–1:00 Wednesday to Saturday.

COMMUNITY MEALS in the Church hall from 5-6pm every Monday. Free, hot, nutritious meals and friendship. Volunteers & donations welcome. Enquiries to Tania on Mondays 021 0294 2234 or 867 1102

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP All welcome. 2nd 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

PARKINSONS' SUPPORT GROUP For all those affected by Parkinsons, with their carers and families. Held approx once a month, with various activities. For details/dates contact Raewyn Thorburn 866 2609.

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 Brenda Duncan 866 5814

WORSHIP AT CONTINUING CARE A Combined Churches event. 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.

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St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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

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