

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

Newsletter October / November 2017

Our mission in this parish is to share

the love of God with all people

Our people and their stories: A letter from Lynnor

In August we said "Farewell" to our friend Lynnor Cooke, who now lives near to her daughter in Gisborne. The following is an extract from Lynnor's letter:

Dear friends,

Thank you for your cards and birthday greetings. I received 16 lovely cards and also flowers from a former neighbour in Matarangi. I was concerned about Ziggy-cat on the journey down here – we both found the 7-and-a-half hour journey very trying. Ziggy travelled most of the way on my lap. The sedative made his second eyelids move halfway across his eyes and he was quite unbalanced. Won't do that to him again!



Mary Petersen was commissioned at St Andrew's in Gisborne on Friday September 8, for two years. She is also the Minister for Matawhero Church. Being an evening service I did not attend the Commissioning. I don't know my way around that well yet. However, I went to the Communion service last Sunday and I'm going to a choir practice tomorrow. I will probably join the 10-12 strong choir. Last Friday I attended a 4 pm *Classic Night at the Proms* at St Andrew's, and to my delight found I could sing again! Gisborne Concert Band and Bay Cities Symphonic Band put on a wonderful show with about 350 attending! Acoustics in the church are excellent and lunch-time concerts are frequent. I will probably involve myself in the Rest Home devotional services before long. I think there are 6 or 7 here in Gisborne.

There is a lot of work to be done to bring my garden to life. Such a lot of concrete – and not even a patch of dirt for a cat to dig in! All the borders are stones, with aloes and horrible prickly things, and the roots of partly removed shrubs and trees. Once Colin (Gina's partner) and my grandson Calin get busy with chainsaws and shovels, the place will feel more like home.

Gisborne is beautiful, with spring blossoms, lots of kowhai and magnificent magnolia everywhere. Gina and I enjoyed watching **ten** tuis in a kowhai next door while having a coffee outside recently. One tui thought the tree was his alone, and spent the whole morning driving off the others. Hence he didn't have time to feed himself! Now the blossoms are fading he seems to be the sole owner again. His singing is lovely. Lots of other birds around also. I have heard bellbirds, bush warblers and morepork. Jenny Chisholm would identify many more, I'm sure.

I am still learning to use my mobile phone, but I guess it will soon become familiar. Gina and Calin are travelling with me to Blenheim, 14-17 October, to take Terry's ashes to his family. Not being a good traveller (especially flying) I am not looking forward to the trip. However, the Blenheim family will be very welcoming and I'm sure it will NOT be a sad time.

I've managed five letters this morning, and decided that's enough for today. Lunch outside in the sun is calling me. I am missing you all, but starting to feel this is where I belong. God bless you all, and all you do for others. With my love.

Lynnor



Lynnor is sorely missed here at St Andrew's, too. We now need someone skilled in floral art, to arrange our church vases of artificial flowers. We have a huge selection to choose from. Please step up if you can help.

Likewise, we also need someone to take on Lynnor's special ministry - leading the devotions at Continuing Care once a month. It is not an onerous task – only half an hour of songs, prayers and a brief, uplifting story or message. If this is something you would like to do, please call Dorothy 8695452 for more information.



Parish Annual Meeting

Rev Jan Fogg led our Annual Meeting after service on Sunday 1st October, with 21 people in attendance. Reports were received from Parish Council and groups associated with the life of the Church. These reports are available in the hall, for anyone who is interested to take them home.

Our Treasurer, Angela Taylor presented the Financial Report to June 30, which shows the church finances in good heart now that we are not paying a Minister's stipend. The manse has been let to a private family, so that is also bringing in income.

Care Groups

In her meetings with us, Rev Jan has stressed the need for effective pastoral care. Jan has previously introduced the idea of small groups meeting regularly in members' homes, for the purpose of forming 'Care Groups' where people can get to know each other socially, building a better understanding of one another, and therefore learning how we might better look after one another.

Last month Gordon and Diana opened their home to show a film, which attracted 20 people. A group of about 8 people is now meeting at Dorothy's home, just for afternoon tea, and others are encouraged to offer their homes in other parts of town, so that more Care Groups can be formed. Could **YOU** open your home for something like this? Please pray about it.

Editor's note: I'm interested in running an early evening group for those who can't make it to day time groups—I imagine this will mainly be those who are working during the day or with young children but anyone at all would be welcome! If you're interested, please either ring me 07 867 1234 or email strettoc@gmail.com —Charlotte Christensen

Community meals update

Our Meals Co-ordinator, Tania Iti, is doing a great job. With Parish approval, Tania recently sent out a letter to families who she felt were able to come in to the hall for their meals rather than having them delivered. This has resulted in a drop-off of numbers and a few extra people coming to the hall, but we still provide between 80-100 meals every Monday. Julie St George helps to make the lists and keep the statistics. Julie reported to the AGM that all of those now receiving the meals are families in need, or live-alones. St Andrew's Community Meals Mission continues to receive very generous financial help as well as gifts of food and vegetables from individuals in the church, and the community at large. The surprising generosity of people who are not regular members of the church, never ceases to amaze us. This continued support leads us to believe that this is the Lord's work, and that we should carry it on. However we still need to apply for bulk funding, and **we have reached a funding crisis**. Last year the Mercury Bay Community Support Trust ('the Church Trust') funded the wage for Tania, through COGS. We have now been advised that this can no longer happen, as the Trust does not directly run the meals. As a church, we are registered with the Charities Commission as a 'charitable entity' and as such we are limited to the amount we can apply for from COGS. Many other funders' rules also exclude funding for church groups. The church could register as an Incorporated Society, or raise the \$20,000 for wages some other way. At the Annual Meeting it was decided that a Special Meeting would be called, to discuss the possibilities. The date of that meeting is yet to be decided, and will be notified as soon as possible. When that Special Meeting is advertised, we will be encouraging all fellowship members to attend. We currently have enough money in hand to take the meals programme through to the New Year. ***Please add this dilemma to your prayer list!***

Prayers also, please....

Please remember our friend **Jenny Chisholm** in your prayers. On October 5 Jenny entered hospital in Wellington for major spinal surgery.

Elizabeth Nicholls is undergoing chemo therapy on the cyst on her lung. Elizabeth has recovered well from her surgery, and the cyst is benign, but it is causing concern because it involves the lung. We are sad to hear that **Sylvia Ewing's mother** has died. Iris has been a resident in Continuing Care for some time. Our thoughts are with Sylvia and the family.



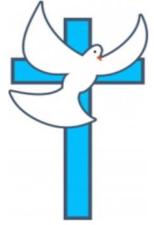
Parish Register

Funerals

Byrl Mary Brown - 8 August at St Andrew's. Rev Gillian Reid officiating

With sadness we also record the sudden death of Arthur Hinds.

A private funeral was held at his home on September 28.



Little Flower Orphanage - Update

At the Annual Meeting Robin reported that the extensions to Little Flower Orphanage at Palendong (Nepal, India) have been held up by the government's decision to withdraw old banknotes from the banks.

While this is being sorted, work is on hold. Robin asked us to pray for a speedy resolution to the problem.

The new toilets are already installed, but the work on the floor and other improvements is still in abeyance.

The Give-a-little page netted around \$4,000 for the orphanage. Robin assured us that her friends are in Nepal, and the money is accounted for. Service performance figures are available on the website. For more information ring Robin Twemlow 869 5054.



ICONZ - Update

Kuaotunu ICONZ is now taking Year 1-6 boys at the Kuaotunu Hall on Wednesdays, 6pm-7:30pm. Years 4-6 will start at the beginning of Term 4.

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://www.iconz.org.nz/> for more information.

Reasons for Rejoicing!

In the last newsletter John and Robin shared their holiday thoughts with us in a letter. They were away for 8 weeks, and before that Robin was away packing persimmons for 8 weeks. So we really are rejoicing to have them both back, full of ideas and enthusiasm.

We are also rejoicing to welcome back Peter and Dorothy Chaffin, after a holiday in Scotland. Despite on-going health problems, they are both looking really well.

Some of our 'summer swallows' have also begun to appear. People who are members of the St Andrew's fellowship, but who we only see in the summer months. Recently we have welcomed back Colin and Olinda Woodroffe, and Barbara Hope-Cross. The holiday homes are being opened up, and when these friends arrive, we know summer is on the way.

Have you checked out the church garden lately? Lorraine Hunter, our enthusiastic gardener, has planted a lovely display of spring flowers. It's making everyone rejoice – especially as it is so visible to those visiting the Doctors across the road. Thank you Lorraine!

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

St Andrew's Op-Shop

We are very happy to advise that our Op-shop is now open on five days! Tuesday – Saturday, 8:30 – 12:30. The Op-shop remains our main source of income for the church.

It is also the ONLY Op-shop in town that donates to a raft of community groups, not just to one cause. More than 15 community groups in all!



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.

- Oct 8th - Communion service led by John Twemlow (see note below)***
15th - John Twemlow
22th - Dorothy Preece
29th - Commissioning service led by Lud Sparks
+ 5pm Combined Churches service, St Patrick's, Campbell St
- Nov 5th - Communion - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby***
12th - Janice Purdy (Paeroa)
19th - Robin Twemlow
26th - Dorothy Preece

Note: The Commissioning Service to recognise our recently-appointed Local Ministry Team, had to be postponed from the original date of October 8. Kaimai Presbytery Moderator Lud Sparks will now conduct that service on October 29. Please make an effort to attend, in support of our hard-working local team.

Operation Christmas Child

Many of you will know about the appeal for shoe-box gifts that go to the Pacific Islands every year. This year, Robyn Balfour is co-ordinating the Whitianga boxes, which can be delivered to the school (MBAS) before the end of October. For more information please contact Robyn 020 409 39674, or there is an information pamphlet in the church hall.



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.

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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

Church website: www.standrewsbythesea.org.nz

Parish secretary & hall bookings: Dorothy Preece 869 5452

dorothy.preece@worldnz.net.nz

Church office : 867 1102 or standrewswhitianga@gmail.com

Newsletter editor: Charlotte Christensen 867 1234 or strettoc@gmail.com