

# MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

## St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter Newsletter February - March 2019

*Our mission in this fellowship is to bring the Love of God to all people, and encourage all to follow Jesus*

### *Our people and their stories: Beth Hopping*

Every Saturday morning, rain or shine, Beth Hopping is on duty at the Church Op-shop, sorting clothes. Beth is 93. She comes because she enjoys the company, and because she believes life is about giving, sharing what you have and helping others where you can. "My father was of the same mind. A staunch Anglican, Dad was a natural gardener. He grew veges and gave them away by the bucketful. He was a Trustee at Waihou Udenominational Church and Dad kept the church grounds in pristine condition. He saw it as his contribution. We never wanted for food, even in the war years. Mother was Baptist I think, but all denominations shared the Waihou Church."



Beth was the youngest of six children born to John and Bertha Hubert. The family was widely spaced and her mother was 51 when Beth was born. "Two of my brothers had already left home. Dad was retired by the time I was born. We rented the saleyards house in Waihou. On sale days Mother ran a tearooms in our front room, to cater for the crowd. I remember my Dad selling cigarettes at the gate." Beth went to Waihou School and her passion was sport. By age 13 she was travelling to Hamilton to compete in the National Champs. "They were evening matches. Not many parents would allow that with a 13-yr-old these days, but people trusted their neighbours then. We were the NZ 'D' Grade champions in 1938."

Beth went to Te Aroha High School and then worked at Farmers Trading Company in Waitoa. "Me and my trusty bike on a metal road. It's a highway now."

Beth met the love of her life, farmer Fred Hopping at the Waihou hall dances. "He was very popular. He had a car." Fred was Anglican and Beth had joined the Te Aroha Anglican congregation, but they were married in the little Waihou Church in 1947. The wedding breakfast was catered in the saleyards house. The newly-weds took over the Hopping farm at Hikutaia. "We went into debt to buy the cows, but there was an old green Beatty washing machine. What a treasure!"

Son Alan was born in 1948, then Raewyn, Gaylene, John and Judith. The farm, the milking and the children kept Beth busy. "It was a real farm, with horses, chooks and pigs." In 1959 they put sharemilkers on the farm at Hikutaia and the family moved with six cows to a property at Ardmore. "It was 23 overgrown, unfenced acres and a dilapidated house. The day we arrived, we had to chop down plum trees to get in. The water tank collapsed the same day, so no water. We caught rainwater from the rusted spouting. We were pioneers on that land. Fred worked so hard, fencing the paddocks, building the cowshed and renovating the house room by room."

Five years later, with the Ardmore property in order, they moved to a farm at Karaka. "It was town supply, a lovely place, and so much easier." Throughout the years Beth continued to enjoy badminton and tennis. In 1972 Alan took over the property at Karaka. Fred and Beth built a house in Papakura, and it was there that Beth became involved with her first Op-shop and thoroughly enjoyed it. "I don't know how many years I did that. At least 10." For years the family had a holiday home in Whitianga, and in 1993 Fred and Beth moved here permanently. Around that time, Alan bought the Buffalo Beach Camp, which eventually led to his search for 'The Lost Spring' – now a major tourist drawcard to New Zealand. Beth lives next door. "I am lucky to have my youngest daughter (Judith) and my oldest son living close by.

"Fred died suddenly of a heart attack in 2005. He was discovered sitting on a public bench looking out to sea, his favourite spot. They say gratitude conquers grief. I am grateful for the way Fred went. My son John also died doing what he loved – driving a tractor."

I've never been really involved with a church, but a strong faith runs through the family. My granddaughter Sarah and her husband began the mission to young street girls in Calcutta. That has been a huge task and the outreach has grown. Lots of New Zealanders have helped to carry on the work."

Every morning Beth is up and about early. She 'potters about' tidying up for Alan, and she loves her garden. "I think a lot about my Dad. There was no-one quite like him. He died when I was 19, and there is so much I would like to ask him. I believe his father came to New Zealand with the Fencibles in 1884. Dad loved nature, knew the name of every tree and bird. Alan is a lot like him, he loves his trees. The plantings at The Lost Spring are a credit to him."

"Rex Bolton first took me to the Church Op-shop. Audrey Fitzgerald was the manager then. I've seen several leaders come and go, but it's a happy team and we're doing something worthwhile. I think having older parents made me old fashioned in my thinking. We have always paid our bills and saved up for what we needed. There's so much pressure on families these days, I think the Op-shop is a sorely needed resource for many families."

## **Flood Report**

We hoped to have the water-stained carpet renewed by the time the hall users came back in the new year, but perhaps that was too hopeful.

Our Insurers have accepted our claim for new carpet. The commercial grade carpet that we need is out of stock and will be here in April.

When that happens, we will need a team of young, strong men to move furniture.

The hymn book stand and the office cabinets are very heavy and awkward to move, so when the call goes out we will need all the help we can get.

*Watch this space!*



## Presbytery News

Kaimai Presbytery has announced the discontinuation of the Resource Ministers' role from April this year. For the past while, Rev Jan Fogg has served us from Thames in this capacity, and we thank her most sincerely for her work and leadership.

At this stage it is not clear as to what support Presbytery can offer us in the future, but we know we have to be self-sufficient on this side of the hill. Kaimai Presbytery is now based in Tauranga, and representatives have met with us here on very rare occasions. Likewise it is difficult for anyone from our team to attend Presbytery meetings. The question of how to support outlying congregations is ongoing.

### Kaimai Presbytery Meeting

On **Saturday March 16th** we are invited to attend a gathering in **Katikati**, to discuss Presbytery involvement in the future of our Parish. The meeting goes from **9 am - 12 noon** – so it's an early start. Charlotte has kindly offered to take her car.



The invitation is **open to all**, so if anyone would like to go, or to take another car, please let us know. It is a rare opportunity for us to let our voice be heard at Presbytery level.

## Parish News

St Andrew's Fellowship incorporates people from many Christian backgrounds. Some have been 'steeped in the faith' from childhood, others are new believers and some are 'seekers of the truth'. The make-up of our Parish Council too, reflects this diversity of faith and we recognise it as a true blessing to all. On Sundays we enjoy inspiring worship ably delivered by leaders from different faith backgrounds.

At New Year our friend Rev. Viv Coleman kindly led two services whilst 'on holiday' at Matarangi. We very much appreciate Viv's support year on year. Then on January 20 we had a great time of worship with Bill Woodward, of *Mission Aviation Fellowship*. MAF supports missionaries in all parts of the world, flying people and supplies to the most remote areas on the planet, responding with Medevac flights and other emergencies where needed. Bill's heart is full of love for the Lord, and we are delighted that he has agreed to take an occasional service for us in the future. It was good to see 50 people in church after an advertising email went out.

It makes us aware that we need to be more consistent in advertising what's going on at St Andrew's Whitianga.

On January 27 we welcomed Jenny Chisholm back to the pulpit after a serious spinal operation and a trying year of recuperation. Jenny drove herself all the way from her Wellington home, to the beach house in Matarangi. We rejoice in her recovery.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> Julie has invited a former colleague to preach. Shane Kennedy is the retired principal of Manuakau Christian School. He fellowships at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Manurewa. We look forward to meeting Shane.

Our friends Rev Shirley and Ross Millar have generously agreed to help us out again this year, and we look forward to seeing them both fairly regularly. Parish Council wishes to thank all of our worship leaders most sincerely for their work and support. We continue to be on the lookout for visiting worship leaders to supplement our own faithful team of five 'regulars' and bring their different perspectives to our worship.

If anyone has suggestions for who we might invite to preach, please let the parish team know.

## ***Thought for the Day...***

When I was growing up I often felt awkward, not fitting in, especially when I was accepted to the local Grammar School and none of my friends were.

I worried about what they would think of me, would they still be my friends? And would I fit in at the new school?

Recently I heard this advice, from a mother to her teenagers:

*Those who MIND what you do don't matter.*

*Those who MATTER to you don't mind.*

Isn't that so true? The people who matter to us will always make allowances for our shortcomings, and we theirs. We all matter to God. He made us. He knows us better than we know ourselves. God understands – God forgives. We can trust Him with our secrets and He will never make us feel useless. “What a friend we have in Jesus!” Friendship with Jesus brings out the best in us, and gets us through. – *Dorothy Preece*

## ***Welcome to the Fellowship!***

On Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rev Jan Fogg conducted a service of Thanksgiving and Commitment. It was an opportunity for all who serve the Parish in any way to re-commit their time and talents.

In addition John Twemlow welcomed the following recent comers to the fellowship and gave thanks for them:

**Faye Flegg, Lynne Hickey, Annette Jennings, Annie and Brian Lynch, Gwen McLeod, Carol and Kevin Pringle.**

It's great to see the fellowship growing. We invite you to hold all of our people in prayer, God for bringing us together in His Love.



*Terri Stewart found the following poem very meaningful:*

### ***The Broken Vase***

Although the vase was broken, lay shattered, all in parts,

He picked the broken pieces up, remodelled, made from start.

He picked the broken pieces up, and though the shape was not the same,

He made a vase more beautiful, more worthy of His Name.

The roses too were shattered, their petals crushed and torn,

But He placed them back inside the vase – their fragrance had not gone.

The petals, they were fading as they lay upon the floor,

But the perfume is more fragrant, now they've been crushed some more.

My life is like that rose, Lord, I feel so smashed and worn,

But you make something beautiful, something to call your own.

If the vase had not been broken, how could you mend and make

A vessel much more useful, more compassionate for your sake?

So thank you for the broken lives we know that you make new.

The vases made more beautiful, the roses fragrant, too.

***(Author unknown).***

## ***Worship @ St Andrew's - Sunday 9:30am***

***Everyone is welcome here!***

***Our family space has quiet toys and Bible-based activities for young children.***

*Feb 3rd - Communion - Rev Jann Fogg - welcome/dedication service*

*10th - Peter and Dorothy Chaffin*

*17th - Shane Kennedy and Bible Group*

*24th - Dorothy Preece*

*Mar 3rd - Communion - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby*

*10th - Alistair Rogers*

*17th - Ross Millar*

*24th - Dorothy Preece*

*31st - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby*

# Parish and Community Activities

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

## **Service 9:30 every Sunday**

**AA DRIVER LICENSING** - all day 2nd Friday of each month. See notice board for dates

**CANCER GROUP COFFEE & CHAT** - first Friday of every month. For those diagnosed with cancer, and their carers. Contact Penny 027 684 0004

**CHURCH OP-SHOP** opens Tuesday-Saturday 8:30-12:30, now with EFTPOS! Enquiries, ring Madeleine 866 0169

**COMMUNITY MEALS** served in the Church hall from 5-6pm every Monday. Meals phone (attended Mondays only): 021 0294 2234

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

**ENLIVEN (Presbyterian Social Services for seniors)** every Thursday, by arrangement only. For more information, ring Jenny 866 0556

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY** Wednesday at 10am. Ring Julie for further details on 021 169 1637

**POWER HOOPING** - Tuesday & Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30pm. Contact Kaylin [kaylin.debruyne@gmail.com](mailto:kaylin.debruyne@gmail.com)

**SCRAP BAGS (Quilting)** every Wednesday from 11am in the Hall.

**STITCH N' CHAT** every second Tuesday in the Hall. To join this friendly group, ring Julie 021 169 1637

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

Mondays, 9:30am - exercise for more active seniors.

Tuesdays, 10am - exercise for the less active.

## **MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH**

### **St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church**

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