

Parish and Community Information

Community Groups:

- Monday **Upright & Active** 9am weekly exercise for active seniors
Contact Carol 867 1097
Community meals takeaway only, every Monday 3:30-5pm
Contact Maureen 027 246 6164 (*Tuesday after Easter Monday*)
- Tuesday **Sit and be Fit** 10am weekly for the less active
Contact Viv 869 5295
Stitch n' Chat fortnightly 1:30-4pm in the Hamilton Room
Contact Julie 021 169 1637
- Wednesday **Ladies' Bible Study** 10am weekly
Contact Julie 021 169 1637
Inter-Church Women's Fellowship Monthly.
Contact Annie 866 3711
Scrapbags quilting group 10am weekly.
Contact Robin 866 5029
Parkinsons Support 6-weekly.
For dates and times contact Keith 027 459 8683
- Thursday **Enliven** (Presbyterian Support for the Elderly) weekly
Contact Jenny 866 0556
- Friday **Cancer Support Coffee Morning** First Friday of each month.
Contact Ruth 021 363 840
AA Driver Licensing Second Friday of each month.
(9 April, 14 May). No bookings allowed.

THE CHURCH OP SHOP is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-1pm
Supporting local churches and many non-profit community groups

St Andrew's service 9:30 every Sunday

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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

Website: www.standrewsbythesea.org.nz

Email: standrewswhitianga@gmail.com

Facebook: St Andrews Community Church Mercury Bay NZ

Local Ministry Team: Rev John Twemlow 021 0222 1394

Parish Secretary: Dorothy Preece 869 5452 dorothy.preece@worldnz.net.nz

Newsletter Editor: Charlotte Christensen strettoc@gmail.com

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

April - May 2021

Our Mission in this Parish is to demonstrate the Love of God to all people, and by our actions and words to encourage them towards a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Easter 2021

**Extract from an Easter message -
from the Moderator PCANZ**

Covid-19 changed all our best-laid plans last year. Missing Easter (in Church) was a major let down for me personally. Easter reminds us, in life there is suffering, death, rejection, denial, disaster. Through Covid many in our world have experienced all of these.

I do not forget the suffering, or how fortunate our country has been, when I suggest that as we journey through the Easter season we recall the unexpected positive outcomes from Covid-19. The opportunities and love experiences that we encountered and continue to encounter.

We connected for the first time with neighbours, helped strangers, the disadvantaged and the needy.

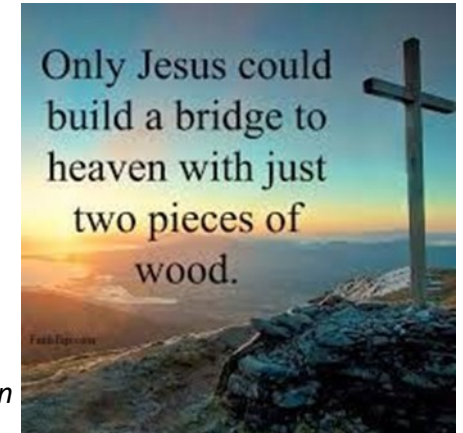
Life goes on. Let's not forget the lessons learned, how to be resilient, how to adjust to any situation in life, now and in the future.

Life, hope, light, peace, love and faith will always triumph.

It is the nature of God.

Easter is for you, for your loved ones. God is saying, "I love you unconditionally, sacrificially, in Jesus, my beloved Son."

Rt. Rev. Fakaofu Kaio



Farewell John and Robin – and Thank You!



On Sunday March 7th we gathered to bid “Farewell – and thank you” to John and Robin Twemlow, who are moving to Waihi. Rev. John led our communion service on that day, and we shared a Farewell lunch. We presented them with an oil painting depicting their beloved Kuaotunu coastline. We have also given them our cash Love Gift of \$1010.00.

John has been a leader in our congregation for the past seven years. He has served in the roles of Worship Team Leader, and Chairman of the Parish Council. John also served as Chairman of the Mercury Bay Community Support Trust (known to us as ‘the church trust’). John leaves big shoes to fill. As we hold John and Robin in prayer as they continue their life’s journey, we are also holding our fellowship up to the Lord, to lead us towards choosing our future leaders.

Here is John’s Farewell message to us:

‘As I look back on the last 7 or so years here at St Andrew’s, it’s been a very encouraging time for me, and in some respects quite challenging.

As most of you know, my beginnings in my walk with the Lord were Baptist. I could not have had a better start. Steeped in Bible Studies and Prayer, it gave me the foundations all followers of Jesus really need if you want to grow in your Faith.

Not many years into this life, I discovered what is known as the Pentecostal experience. Even though I was a Baptist Minister at the time, it gave me a joy and peace that has stayed with me ever since. I’m not suggesting you can’t know joy and peace outside that circle, but for me this was the path God took me down to discover “life in all its fullness.”

Now St Andrew’s was not my initial choice here in Whitianga, but not long after joining this family, I discovered He is present everywhere. It reminds me immediately of this unusual scripture; “If I make my bed in hell, you are there.” Psalm 139:8. Just to be clear I DO NOT see St Andrew’s as hell.

Far from it. You have been an amazing family, and it has been my privilege to be a brother to you all.

Sunday Worship @ St Andrew’s

9:30 every Sunday

Families with children are warmly welcomed. Quiet toys are provided in Church for the little ones, and Bible-based activities for older children

Worship Schedule:

April	2nd	Good Friday - Kevin Pringle
	4th	Easter Sunday - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby - Communion
	11th	Dorothy Preece
	18th	'Sharing service' (see below)
	25th	ANZAC Day - Peter Chaffin
May	2nd	Rev Russell Grainger - Communion
	9th	Ladies' Bible Study Group
	16th	Bill Woodward
	23rd	Dorothy Preece
	30th	Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby

also, 5pm Combined Churches Service at St Andrew's



Sharing Service

On January 31st our first experiment with this style of worship proved to be a moving and worshipful experience and we resolved to repeat it.

If you would like to share your favourite hymn, Bible reading, prayer, or any uplifting word - and speak about why it is special to you - please see Dorothy, or ring her on 869 5452.



Mercury Bay Day Camp

Day Camp 2021 will run - Covid-permitting! - Tuesday 20 to Thursday 22 April. We have a full roll of excited campers waiting anxiously for camp to start, many of whom have commented already that last year's cancellation was a disappointment. I'm always delighted that a Christian camp can cause this kind of excitement in our community, year after year.

Next newsletter we'll have photos; for now if there are any more adults in the community who feel they can spare a day or two to help out at camp, please go to www.daycamp.co.nz and fill in a helper form. And you can still help even if you can't get to camp: all prayers for a fun, safe and undisrupted camp are very much valued. Here's to Day Camp 2021!

Charlotte Christensen, newsletter editor and Day Camp administrator

An Easter Meditation

(from 'Eggs and Ashes' by Ruth Burgess)

What the priest of the synagogue said -

'This young man from Galilee has no idea of the tricky situation with Rome. There is so much at stake. I dare say he's a fine chap – but what can he know?

You see – on the one hand there is worship. We've done a lot of negotiations with Romans. They wanted a graven image of Caesar in the Holy of Holies! That is unthinkable. But we're always on a knife-edge. The important thing is to keep the worship going, to do the sacrifices properly – and dispense God's forgiveness responsibly.

That lunatic from Galilee was undermining this. He was not aware of our careful dealings with Rome. Yes, it's sad, but we had to get rid of him before he brought the whole thing down around our heads. Thank God for Judas Iscariot. He was a Godsend. Thanks to him we got it over quickly. No fuss.

I always said that we could trust God to get us out of this mess.

Lots of thoughts have gone through my mind in respect to leaving you an encouraging word, and I feel to leave this 'word' with you:

'Be real to yourself. God has created each of us uniquely. Be thankful for who you are, foibles and all. If you can 'rest' in your own skin, then that is all God asks of you.'

May each of you know God's eyes are on you, and his loving arms around you. Love you all.

And a later message:

Dear Friends,

Robin and I express our deep heartfelt thanks for the Church Family's VERY generous financial gift we received. It will buy a lot of golf balls, although perhaps a more permanent item would be more appropriate. Regardless of our final decision, you can be assured we thank you from deep within our hearts. Also the painting of Kuaotunu Beach we received at our final service, will find "pride of place" in our new home.

Again thanks a million, and love from us both.

John & Robin.

The Rogers' are leaving us too....

Sad to relate, Alistair and Pat Rogers are also leaving us. We said 'Goodbye' to them at a farewell lunch last Sunday and presented them with a copy of the local history book *Saltspray and Sawdust*. Alistair and Pat came to Whenuakite 33 years ago when Alistair was made Principal of the Whenuakite School. Pat was the school secretary. The Whenuakite/ Coroglen community farewelled them in the Coroglen hall last week. For many years Alistair has served this Parish as Elder, active worship leader and Parish secretary. Pat served as Parish treasurer. Both were appointed to the church Trust when it began 20 years ago. They were the first to face the complexities of placing 300 children in 3 days of adventure activities! They will go to Hamilton, where our friends Joanne and Ross Millar (daughter and son-in-law) are based. We will miss them, and they too, will leave gaps to fill in our Fellowship. They go with all our love. We know the Lord is leading them to a new life, and will continue to richly bless them.

Thank you, Pat and Alistair!



Parish Council News

Kevin Pringle has graciously accepted nomination as Chairperson of our Parish Council. Thank you Kevin!

Some of you will know that in January the congregation resolved to explore the possibility of appointing a Lay Parish Support Worker, primarily in the area of pastoral and community ministry. This is progressing, but the process is proving rather slow. We have been working on the job description and employment contract and we are now working on the budget. Before we can advertise the position, this budget has to be approved, first by the local congregation and then by Presbytery. We hope to do this soon.

Watch this space – and keep praying!

Monday Meals Update

(from Meals supervisor, Maureen Kerr.)

“Mercury Bay Community Meals continue to be prepared in St Andrew’s kitchen, and since Covid hit, they are served as frozen takeaway meals on Monday afternoons, from 3:30 to 5 pm. We reheat the meals for those who have no access to cooking facilities, such as those who have no home. At this stage the Trust members are sharing the cooking duties.

“People stop and chat, and we get to know the families in their various situations, some of which are quite dire. There is a very high incidence of ‘P’ (methamphetamine) in Whitianga which leads to dysfunctional families. Some elderly people who for whatever reason cannot cook for themselves, also collect meals, and a few are delivered to their homes. We make applications for bulk funding and we try to buy locally. We get generous gifts of food from time to time, smoked fish, vegetables etc. Any excess veges are distributed to the families.

“I really feel we are feeding people spiritually as well as physically. This is the Lord’s work.”

**Please note – No Meals distribution on Easter Monday
Meals will be available instead on Tuesday April 6th.**

St Andrew's Op Shop

The church op shop is now open again, after being closed for one week for re-carpeting and interior painting. It was a mammoth effort on the part of the Op-shop ladies and their supporting men, to clear everything out of the shop and remove all the fixtures. Thank you team!

We crammed everything into the Hamilton Room, and after carpeting, moved it all out again. The winter boxes were opened up, and the shop re-stocked with winter bargains. All left-over summer stock has been gifted to other charities, as we do every year. We do not carry over stock from year to year – everything is fresh on the racks, thanks to the generosity of this caring community.

Damon Christensen is now testing and certifying small electric appliances, so they can now legally be sold.

So it’s time to come and check out the shop (behind the church) which supports not only St Andrew’s Fellowship, but also other churches in Whitianga, as well as many local community groups. The latest community donation (last month) was \$500 to Whitianga Playcentre. Our helpers represent several churches, and some are not church folk – but the work brings us together and gives us great satisfaction. To coin Noel Hewlett’s famous phrase, *“It’s the best little shop in town.”*



Banking / Donations Details

Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish - BNZ Whitianga

To support the Church: 02- 0496- 0062562- 00

Mercury Bay Community Support Trust – Westpac Whitianga

To support Community Meals: 03-1578- 0108901-00

To support Day Camp: 03-1578- 0066529-02