

# MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

## St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

### August-September 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.*

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

#### ***Colin and Jean Carr - young people at heart***



Colin and Jean joined the St Andrew's fellowship last year, from Auckland. Both were raised in Christian families, and they have raised 'four very strong Christians'. Colin has spoken to us on several occasions about his concern to see young people appreciated, and encouraged. "I have been given some great opportunities in my lifetime, and young people all need that," Colin says.

The Carrs lived at Point Chevalier. His step-mother Lilian was a midwife and a strong Anglican and Colin was confirmed into the Anglican Church. At Gladstone Road school he remembers one teacher, Warnick Watson, "a Baptist chap who had the great ability to encourage youngsters." Colin left Mt Albert Grammar at age 15, and became a Post Office telegraphist, learning Morse code. While working in Warkworth Post Office, Colin was asked to accompany Bishop Simpkin on Confirmation Day round various churches. "What a day that was! So many cups of tea!" he says.

In 1943 Colin joined up as an Air Force Cadet, beginning a life-long love of flying. He went to Blenheim camp to begin training, then to Harewood for flight training in Tiger Moths. With his Morse knowledge, Colin could have gone to do wireless training in Canada, but instead he opted for pilot training. At 19 Colin got his wings flying Airspeed Oxford bombers. "In 1944 we were all set to go to London, but that was called off. Then we were due to go to the Pacific but that too was canned after VJ Day."

Colin went back to the Post Office, on relief work which offered better pay. He worked in many different post offices, including a stint as Postmaster at South Auckland, then Silverdale and then to Oneroa on Waiheke Island.

Jean Croll lived on a farm at Matiatia. Jean's brother invited Colin to sail in his X10 sailing dinghy. Colin already had a keen interest in sailing. He had crewed on 18-footers racing on Auckland Harbour. "I went next to Pukekohe Post Office." Jean often stayed with her aunt at Karaka, and they picked up the mail from Pukekohe Post Office, where Jean and Colin renewed their acquaintance. "That was the start of it," Colin says. After a year they got engaged and one year later they married at Oneroa Community Church. "What a great day that was. The reception was in a big marquee on the farm at Matiatia, with a special ferry laid on for 140 guests."

Colin and Jean built their first house in Pukekohe and joined the Presbyterian Church there. Colin left the Post Office and worked for BNZ for four years, before they went into the IGA grocery business in Remuera, running the shop together for four years. As a young girl, Jean had worked at Rolfe's Hardware and Timber store in Oneroa. "Then I opened my own little haberdashery shop, selling everything from pins to ladies underwear. I have always enjoyed selling, and serving the customers," Jean says. With two girls and a third child on the way, they moved to a new IGA store in Manurewa. "We bought a section and built a house across the road from the store."

They attended St Andrew's in Manurewa where Rev Arthur Gunn asked Colin to come onto the Board of Managers and act as church treasurer. "I already had enough to do, but I said yes." Colin suffered a bout of Hepatitis and for a while Jean had to manage the store and the young family. "She did a really good job," he says. "Yes, I think I did," says Jean.

After building up that business, they took on another IGA on Main Street, Dargaville, where they stayed for 7 years. They bought 5 acres, subdivided it and built another house there. Colin served on the Board of Managers at Dargaville Presbyterian. The Carrs also built a bach at Matakana and enjoyed family holidays with a sailing dinghy. In 1970 Colin and Jean took on the Super Value Supermarket in Dargaville, where Jean ran the deli department. After that, with four grown children, the family moved back to

Auckland. In Papatoetoe they built yet another house.

Jean worked for Barker & Pollock in the Otahuhu and Manukau stores. "I so enjoyed working there. It was a lovely job." At Papatoetoe Presbyterian Colin was once again called to the Board of Managers, where he helped Rev Graham Archibald with the Boys' Brigade, a task close to Colin's heart. He helped to organise Christmas Camps for the young people, which he got into with gusto. "We took them to the bach at Matakana, and got them on the water in the sailing dinghy. Some of them had never been in a boat. These experiences can be life-changing for young people."

Jean taught Bible In Schools for 20 years, first in Papatoetoe then after they moved to Beachlands. "I taught Sunday School from a very young age," she says. "The community hall at Blackpool (Waiheke) was our day school and our Sunday School. There were 25 children in the school."

Colin and Jean moved to Beachlands when the family had flown the nest. Colin worked with APA Life Insurance. Sir Keith Park was a director of the company and often visited the office. Colin soon found the great man shared his passion for young people.

Colin was a member of the Brevet Club ('brevet' French for 'wings'). They helped to build a home for the South Auckland branch of the Air Training Corps, (14-18 yr olds) based at Ardmore. They began fundraising for the group of youngsters to go to London for 10 days, for the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain and the unveiling of Sir Keith's statue in London. When the money was raised and the trip organised, Colin suggested to them all that they should take photographs and keep diaries every day, so they could report back. "The trip was a great opportunity for them, and the photos and writing they produced turned into a great album of memories for them to keep," Colin says.

Sailing has been a life-long passion for Colin. For 15 years he served as a volunteer for the Maritime Museum in Auckland. For 10 years he took out visitors on the historic scow *Ted Ashby*, also on the super yacht *Arcturus* and he crewed on the Spirit of Adventure, taking groups of young people on the adventure of a lifetime. He believes young people need to experience outdoor adventures and be encouraged to push the boundaries of their achievement.

“There are so many opportunities for young people, male and female, in the Defence Forces these days. Many of them don’t even know such opportunities exist. Girls can become Lieutenant Commanders! Young people who don’t do so well at school can get free education and learn anything they want. I thoroughly recommend it!

*Thank you for telling your story, Colin and Jean. It is a privilege to have you worshipping with us.*

## A step of faith

Last week the following advertisement was placed in *The Informer*, which is circulated around Mercury Bay, Coromandel, Tairua and Thames. The position will be advertised locally for a while, before we look wider.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June a Congregational Meeting confirmed the proposed budget to employ a Lay Parish Worker, principally in the area of pastoral care, including liaison with Monday Meals and outreach to other community groups which use the church lounge every day. This proposal has now been approved by Kaimai Presbytery, and supported by the Waikato-Waiariki Methodist Synod. As this is a new position, it represents a step of faith. We have no idea where the Lord might lead us, or who He might lead us to, but we believe He is preparing the way forward. Please hold this new initiative in your prayers.



### **PART TIME PASTORAL WORKER**

**St Andrew’s by the Sea Community Church, Whitianga**

Applications are now open for the above role.

Christian Maturity and life-skills essential.

Knowledge of the Mercury Bay communities an advantage.

**Requests for Information Pack to:**

Parish Secretary P.O. Box 368, Whitianga 3542

Or email: [standrewswhitianga@gmail.com](mailto:standrewswhitianga@gmail.com)

# Parish Property News

## Exterior painting

If the weather is co-operative the painters should begin work on the exterior of the church towards the end of August. The combined cost for painting and scaffolding could amount to \$50,000 – depending on how long the job takes. This work is essential. We hope to be able to cover the cost, perhaps needing to break Term Deposits.

## Storage woes – and a bit of history

Our Op-shop is housed in a little old cottage next door to the church. When we first acquired it, the cottage was used for Sunday School overflow. Those were the days! Then in 1984, when the parish boundaries were changed from Coromandel to the eastern side, we needed to provide a manse to house Rev Stuart and Mamie Mackenzie in Whitianga. The house in Catherine Crescent was purchased and the new parish had a mortgage to pay off. So thanks to the Presbyterian Women's Fellowship the Op-shop began, first in a small shed behind the church, then moving into the cottage. The mortgage was paid off in three years! That little business has been the lifeblood of the Mercury Bay Parish, which consists of only one congregation to support the work! But for the Op-shop, the parish (and church) would have been extinct years ago. For many years it was the only Op-shop in Whitianga. Now with lots of competition, still it grows. The little cottage is far too small for our needs, but there is nowhere else to go. Our position next door to the church is ideal, and we can't afford to rebuild. Donations of clothing are constantly pouring in, and storage is a big problem. Various solutions have been considered – extra sheds – even a shipping container – but our car park is already too small. Then our friend Barbara Blake came up with a simple: *'Could the Monday Meals freezer and equipment be moved to the Hamilton Room store cupboard and Op-shop storage go into the Monday Meals store??*

A perfect solution! Thank you Barbara! So we're working on it. The Meals freezer and food store will be housed in the church where it belongs, and the shed attached to the Op-shop will have shelves – and perhaps even a doorway through to the Op-shop! There's lots of work to do, but the Lord is leading us! Watch this space!

**Church and Parish Donations:** Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish  
BNZ Whitianga: **02 0496 0062562 00**

**Monday Meals Donations:** Mercury Bay Community Support Trust  
Westpac Whitianga: **03 1578 0108901 00**

## In Memorium: John Saunders

With deep sadness we record the passing of John Saunders, husband of our Op-shop manager, Madeleine. John died at home on June 8<sup>th</sup>. He was rarely seen in church with Madeleine on Sunday mornings, but John was a very familiar figure about the place. John and Madeleine were a team in everything they did.



Madeleine takes on responsibility for a multitude of tasks around the daily life of the church and lounge, and John was always right there with her, active and enthusiastic, not just with the Op-shop, but building stuff, setting up furniture and generally being Madeleine's rock. This congregation and the community at large owe a great debt of gratitude for his constant and generous work in supporting so much that is worthwhile. John worked tirelessly for the community and served on many committees. He was a prime mover in organising the Community Health Bus, and Christmas Dinner each year. John will be sadly missed in the church and community. Madeleine wishes to acknowledge the tremendous help of the local Cancer Support ladies who made it possible for John to stay at home, and she wishes to thank you all for your loving support and prayers. Our hearts and prayers go out to Madeleine.

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### Found on the web - Caring for Caregivers:

**#13** – Be aware of miracles in the mundane. Routine activities and chores may sometimes seem unexciting and of little value, but an energising sense of order and accomplishment can come from taking care of basics.



**#14** – Be spontaneous. Smile. Laugh. Sing songs. Tell jokes. Celebrate birthdays. Fill the room with signs of joy and life. Everyone gives and receives much more, in an atmosphere of lightness.

# 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:**

Aug	1st	Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby - Communion & shared brunch
	8th	Bill Woodward (Mission Aviation Fellowship)
	15th	John Ormsby (Katikati)
	22nd	Dorothy Preece
	29th	Bible Group ladies
		<i>Also: Combined service, 5:30pm, St Patricks Catholic Church</i>
Sept	5th	Rev Peter Chaffin - Communion & shared brunch
	12th	Kevin Pringle
	19th	Dorothy Preece
	26th	Joy Hanna



## **A message from the Methodist Lay Preacher Network**

In many NZ churches Sunday 8th August is recognised as Lay Preacher Sunday. We encourage you all to formally acknowledge and appreciate the work your Lay Preachers do in serving your Parishes.

We greatly appreciate Lay Preachers for their dedication of time and study, and delivering Sunday Worship services rich in God's Word to us all.

Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel."

Here in Whitianga we are truly blessed with dedicated, inspired people, some who live locally and others, lay people and ordained ministers, who are prepared to travel long distances to bring the Word of God to us. We only have to look at the Preaching Schedule above, to see what a great debt we owe to these dear friends who so generously serve us.

Last week our Bible Study ladies posed the question, "What is the REAL Good News?" Come to church to find the answer!!

*If anyone feels called to study for Lay Preaching Accreditation, please contact Dorothy Preece. I highly recommend it!*

## 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 **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.  
(13 August, 10 September). No bookings allowed.

***THE CHURCH OP SHOP is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-1pm***

***Manager: Madeleine Saunders 866 0169***

***The Op Shop supports local churches and many non-profit groups***

***We invite such groups to apply in writing, for donations towards their projects***

***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

[www.standrewsbythesea.org.nz](http://www.standrewsbythesea.org.nz) | [standrewswhitianga@gmail.com](mailto:standrewswhitianga@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** St Andrews Community Church Mercury Bay NZ

**Parish Council Chairman:** Kevin Pringle

**Parish Secretary:** Dorothy Preece 869 5452 [dorothy.preece@worldnz.net.nz](mailto:dorothy.preece@worldnz.net.nz)

**Newsletter Editor:** Charlotte Christensen [strettoc@gmail.com](mailto:strettoc@gmail.com)