

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

June - July 2022

Our Mission in this Parish is to bring the saving love of Christ to all whom we meet, and lovingly encourage them to follow Him.

Our people and their stories: Elizabeth Cosgrave

Kia ora. My name is Elizabeth Cosgrave. I joined the congregation here at St Andrews when I moved to Whitianga with my husband Vance in March 2021.

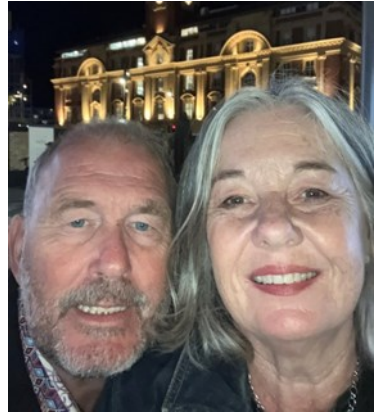
I was born in Kingsbridge, Devon, the eldest of five daughters. I had a happy childhood, living close to the coast and helping Mum and Dad in their busy baker's shop. Dad was brought up Anglican and there were uncles who were youth leaders, but it was principally my Mother who was my faith role model.

Mum belonged to the Brethren congregation, but she was always questioning, searching her beliefs. My maternal grandfather and others were Lay Preachers.

I enjoyed my school days and am still in touch with friends across the miles from that time. I enjoyed Sunday school. Some of the choruses I learnt are still sung at times. I loved collecting the attendance stamps; alas I am not sure what happened to all those little books.

I joined the Girls Brigade and enjoyed many great camps, nurturing a real appreciation for the beauty of the countryside, with the *Observer* books. always present in my Mother's pocket to help extend our learning.

I was confirmed at age 12 at St Mary Anglican Church, but my understanding of its significance was limited. In my Teenage years I joined the Red Cross as a cadet and helped on the beach with First Aid. I gained a Bronze Award in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme which also led me into learning about the Police Service. At this time I was planning to become a nurse.



The late sixties were a fun time in Britain, the Beatles were our heroes, disco's and dancing. Earning pocket money to spend on fashion and records was exciting and empowering. It was at this time I met my ex-husband. I never became a nurse. We married and had our two children, Shane and Sarah, working hard to provide a home, but alas our marriage did not stay happy and ended badly. My faith was my rock at this time and the Vicar at our local church and my wonderful employer Joe, with my lovely Dad, restored my faith.

Financially times were tough but as a friend once told me –be thankful you have just enough -it makes you far more creative. So true! I learnt to cook, garden, knit and sew. I remember my Dad telling me, “For goodness sake, you can turn a chicken into a turkey with a piece of holly,” when I tried to complain about the cost of Christmas. So I made a table decoration with candles and the chicken was delicious!! My mum was creative and made crackers.

As time passed friends took me out and I met Vance, also born in Devon, on holiday from New Zealand. We got on well straight away. In a whirlwind I was married and on my way to New Zealand with my/our two children, then aged 10 and 8. I was 31. Vance had moved to NZ as an adult. His Kiwi Dad had been in the NZ navy when he had met his Mum in the UK. Vance had been a choir boy in the church I attended, with his brothers, and had enjoyed his time in the scout movement. He also loved football which was already a passion of my son.

NZ in 1985 was very different from the place it is today. I was very homesick. We made our home in Hamilton as Vance had a job there, and I got involved in social work. We both missed living on the coast, but Tauranga seemed out of reach for us. We were then blessed with a daughter, Laura who completed our family unit.

As adulthood approached for the older kids we planned to downsize and bought a bach on Waiheke Island. It wasn't long before we were renting our Hamilton home and living in our bach. We look back on those days and wonder how we did it- Vance commuting to Mt Wellington where he worked for Pilkington Glass. We loved the island. An opportunity opened for me and I trained as an Early Childhood teacher. They were happy times. With our older children now married with families of their own, we began

to realise we were too far away from them. We moved to Tauranga, settling eventually in Omokoroa. We moved again temporarily to Auckland to be a support for our daughter who was at University. We also lived in the King Country for a while and Vance re trained as a Prison Officer. We then returned to our home in Omokoroa but never really settled back. It was no longer the small coastal community.

I had a lovely position as Manager of the Ark Christian Centre at Holy Trinity Church in Tauranga, but with commuting taking longer and our home now too big for two, we decided to retire to Gisborne. I trained to be a companion in the *Seasons* programme whilst there, supporting children and adults working through grief. Over the years I have been involved in several volunteer agencies, including *Youthline* and *Living Without Violence* which I did for several years. Vance and I were also foster parents for a while in Hamilton. These various trainings have deepened my faith, taught me to meet people where they are at, and deepened my understanding.

After a lovely Christmas with our son and his family in Whitianga, a bit of pressure from our daughter to move closer to Auckland, and the pandemic affecting our freedoms, we decided to move to Whitianga.

We found an apartment which is perfect for us. Vance now has a part-time mail delivery job, and I can now be found working in the Op Shop, or weeding the garden surrounding it. I also volunteer for the Mercury Bay Community Patrol.

I love that the Church here at St Andrews is so welcoming and is active within the community, putting our values and beliefs into action.

Through my studies in Treaty of Waitangi I learnt that the Marae is the place for Tangata Whenua to stand in the world. The church is a place for us all to stand. It's a timeless place, a peaceful place and a place where we can all feel accepted and loved. This is a lovely place to call home.

Welcome, Vance and Elizabeth, and thank you for sharing your story.

Let there be light!

If you are driving past the front of the church now, you will notice a difference in the way the building looks. Did you spot the difference? All the privet has been removed from the fence line, letting in much more afternoon light to the side deck, and eliminating all the debris that built up there. Also, you might notice that the big old cherry tree is gone from the road frontage. The work cost more than \$1,000, but the results will be worth it. All this work is in preparation for the establishing of a community garden. Watch this space!

Commercial Slot

On a recent Sunday morning we had visitors from Katikati. They were very interested in the history of the church - (We are 125 years old next year!)

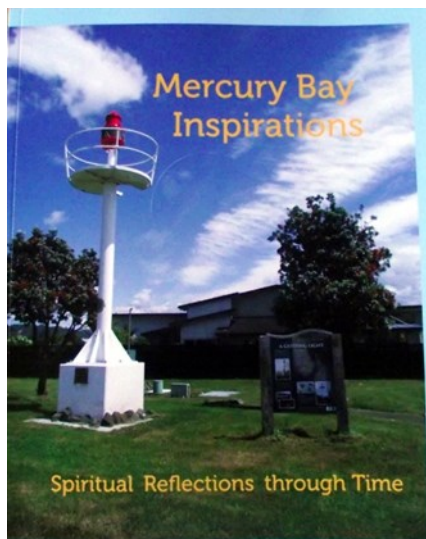
I remembered to show them the souvenir book which Julie and Dorothy wrote a couple of years back. Sales were brisk at first, but recently we have been forgetting to promote it. The book features full page photos of Whitianga's historic heritage, coupled with appropriate verses from old, well-known hymns. For instance, the old lighthouse on the road into town is coupled with 'Lead, kindly light...' The book sells for \$25.

We realise this appeals to a very niche market – not so many people actually remember those old hymns now – but our visitors loved it, because the woman was a church organist. So they bought a copy.

When it was first published, NZ hymnwrite Colin Gibson called it 'a little gem'. High praise indeed!

If you are not familiar with our book, take a look on the sales table.

You just might know someone who would appreciate it.



Hansel and Gretel

Leading the service on May 8th, Julie told us this story:

Revelation Chapter 7.

“As I read this passage, I vividly remembered an afternoon at school, when I was about 6 years old. Every day after lunch, the teacher set us to read, while she worked with the reading groups.

This particular day I had chosen the story of Hansel and Gretel. As I turned the pages, I became more and more anxious as the story unfolded. The children were lost in the wood. Then I got to the part where the witch appeared, and caught the children eating her house made of cookies and sweets. She was horrible! She caught hold of the children, and kept Hansel prisoner – to fatten him up! Then came the worst bit of all. ‘Tomorrow,’ she cackled, ‘I am going to eat Hansel!’

At that point I shut the book and burst into loud tears. The teacher came and sat beside me and was finally able to discover what had upset me so much. She persuaded me to open the book again, and she took me to the end of the story. ‘See,’ she said, ‘It has a really happy ending. The children were reunited with their father; the wicked witch and the cruel stepmother were dead.’ From then on, whenever I read it, I just had to trust the ending. I could be brave in the scary parts, knowing for certain that a satisfactory ending was coming.”

*There are so many sermons in this inspired story, we could preach a whole season on it. The children were reunited with their father; the evil one was dead. The scarier things get, the more we must look to the promised ending..... **Thank you Julie!***

In Memoriam

Edward (Ted) George Ramsbotham

Funeral service 26th May

Pastor Mike Walker officiating

John Addison Birkbeck

Memorial service 28th May

Dorothy Preece officiating.



The **Bible Study** ladies are now studying *The Epistle of John*
1 John 2: 16 warns us about lusts of the flesh, lust of the eyes (greed), and pride, all of which come between us and our relationship with God.

Bible commentator Ravi Zacharias says: "Love is a commitment that will force you to make some very difficult choices. Love for God demands that you deal with your lust, your greed, your pride, your temper, your desire to control, your patience and every area of temptation that the Bible clearly talks about. It demands a quality of commitment that Jesus demonstrates to us, in His relationship to us."

Last month's 'Word for Today' had this:

At Calvary, Jesus stood between God's anger and the punishment for our sins. Having lived the life we could never live, and taken the punishment we could never escape, He offers us redemption we could never afford.

Now the questions we must answer are:

If He so loved us, can we not love each other?

Having been forgiven, can we not forgive?

Bob Gass

'Word for Today' is free on the church table .

Community Trust Update

It's been a challenging half year, there's no doubt. The Mercury Bay Community Support Trust weren't able to hold the usual Christmas Lunch or Day Camp due to the Covid situation, but Monday Meals are running strong. Now that we're out of Covid Red the Trust members are working on taking a moment to reconnect with people rather than just a quick hello and goodbye. In addition, plans are in the works for a mid-winter something to let people get together. It won't quite be a mid-winter Christmas, but something for the community. When details are finalised all will be revealed, but for now mark the afternoon of July 31st in your calendar for something fun!

--Charlotte Christensen, Parish Council representative on the MBCST

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**

St Andrew's Worship Schedule

We are still wearing masks in our services, as is recommended for singing. However, we are now able to gather for morning tea.

June	5th	Dorothy Preece (Communion)
	12th	Bill Woodward
	19th	Bill Woodward
	26th	Ross Millar
July	3rd	Dorothy Preece
	10th	Rev David Rolinson (Communion)
	17th	Rev David Rolinson
	24th	Bible group
	31st	Dorothy Preece



Communion Services

*Kaimai Presbytery has recently given approval for Dorothy to lead Communion services, on the days when we don't have a visiting ordained minister. Our **July Communion will be on the 2nd Sunday**, when Rev David Rolinson is here. Thank you David, and Bill Woodward, for choosing to take Sunday services at both ends of your holidays.*

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Revised Sunday rosters

Door Welcoming:

- 1st Sunday – Martin Wigmore and Ian Brown
- 2nd Sunday - Barbara Blake, Janet Brown
- 3rd Sunday - Dorothy Preece, Madeleine Saunders
- 4th Sunday - Annie Lynch, Christine Christie
- 5th Sunday - Elizabeth Nicholls (**another needed please**)

Morning Tea:

- 1st Sunday - Barbara Blake, Annie Lynch, Madeleine Saunders
- 2nd Sunday - Gina Mahmud, Christine Christie
- 3rd Sunday - Linda Stephenson, Heather Anderson
- 4th Sunday - Dorothy Preece, Martin Wigmore

Please Note: If you cannot attend on the appointed day, please arrange for someone else to take your duty – thank you all!

Parish and Community Information

Many groups are in recess pending the easing of Covid restrictions. Please make contact with organisers to confirm details.

- 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 021 071 9539
- Friday **Cancer Support Coffee Morning** First Friday of each month.
 Contact Ruth 021 363 840
 AA Driver Licensing Second Friday of each month.
 (8 April, 13 May) No bookings allowed.

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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