

Parish and Community Information

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 **Stitch n' Chat** fortnightly 1:30-4pm in the Hamilton Room
Contact Julie 021 169 1637
Enliven (Presbyterian Support for the Elderly) weekly
Contact Jenny 021 071 9539
- 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.
(14 October, 11 November) No bookings allowed.

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 | standrewswhitianga@gmail.com

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Parish Secretary: Dorothy Preece 022 132 2061

Newsletter Editor: Charlotte Christensen

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

October-November 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: Joy McGregor



Joy joined the fellowship just a year ago, after she and Ellis moved from Auckland. We are delighted to get to know more about her... Thank you Joy!

Joy Francis was born in Lower Hutt. Her mother Dulcie and her grandmother were both "women of deep faith". When Joy was six the family moved to Levin where her father was Sunday School Superintendent and Mum was a SS teacher. One childhood memory is very strong. In 1953 the family was booked on the train to go visit the grandparents in Auckland, but Joy's Dad, a grocer, had to work at the last minute and the trip was cancelled. That night the train plunged into the river at Tangiwai. Joy is still thanking God for that deliverance.

Joy's mother suffered badly from chilblains, so at the doctor's advice they moved to Auckland to a warmer climate. Joy was very excited. Her cousin was in the Friendly Road Children's Choir ('Uncle Tom's'), singing Christian songs over the air on 1ZB every Sunday morning. At 9 years old Joy was desperate to join the choir too. She auditioned, and got a place. Joy speaks very fondly of those days of Tuesday rehearsals at the 1ZB studios, live radio on Sundays and big public performances in the Auckland Town Hall when the children from three choirs sang during the school holidays.

Joy went to Mangere Bridge Primary and Onehunga High School, where her music teacher, Marie Robinson was able to help her to overcome a bad lisp. "That teacher changed my life, and she gave me a lasting love of light opera." Joy says.

Joy has happy memories of time spent with her grandparents. Her grandmother was a member of the Choral Society and Grandfather was a great gardener, a love which Joy has inherited, both from her grandfather

and her father. On leaving school Joy went to Auckland Business College and learned shorthand-typing. Her first job was with Woodroffe Marine in the city, then on to Coates Bros, printing ink manufacturers. Joy attended Mangere Bridge Presbyterian Church, where Rev Bob Blaikie was their Minister.

In her late teens Joy learned ballroom dancing and always enjoyed going with friends to Saturday night dances. At the Crystal Palace ballroom she met Ellis McGregor. He was an aeronautical engineer with the Air Force.

In 1968 Joy and Ellis were married by Rev Blaikie at Onehunga Presbyterian Church. Choosing not to live on the Air Force compound, they lived in Green Bay for four years.

On their first Christmas as a married couple, Ellis was away with an Air Force engineering team at the Lockheed factory in Atlanta, carrying out the acceptance checks on two new Hercules C130's which were then brought to NZ. In 1971 their first son, Paul was born.

After 12 years in the Air Force, Ellis joined his father and brother-in-law in a new BP service station in East Tamaki (McGregor Motors), where Ellis was in charge of the workshop. The family of three moved to Howick, where they lived for 32 years. Two more children, Andrew and Natalie came along and life was busy with the business, school sports and sailing with the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club at weekends.

Joy regularly attended a midweek home group for Bible study and prayer, but she had not found a church where she felt really at home. In the early 1990's she started attending St Columba Presbyterian in Pakuranga, where she was confirmed in 1992. After the sale of the Pakuranga church to Westfield, a new church, St Columba's Botany, was built at Botany. It was there that Joy felt part of the fellowship. She worked in the opshop, church community garden, and joined in many other activities.

When the BP service station was sold in 1987, Ellis and Joy looked for a place to spend the family holidays. They toured around the Coromandel, camped at Flaxmill Bay and friends recommended them to look at Matarangi. It was the place for them. A holiday home was built, and they often spent their weekends there.

As their family grew up Matarangi Beach became a place for their young friends to bring their tents at Christmas. "We often had part of the rugby team to stay at Christmas and we always cooked a roast dinner for

St Andrew's Worship Schedule

Oct	2nd	Dorothy Preece (Communion)
	9th	Elizabeth Nicholls - Hymns and testimonies
	16th	Ross Millar
	23rd	Bill Woodward
	30th	Dorothy Preece
Nov	6th	Rev Shirley Barker Kirby (Communion)
	13th	Julie St George & Bible group
	20th	John Ormsby
	27th	Margaret Birtles - Waikato-Wairiki Methodist Synod

Sunday duty rosters

Door Welcoming:

1 st Sunday –	Martin Wigmore, Ian Brown
2 nd Sunday -	Barbara Blake, Janet Brown
3 rd Sunday -	Dorothy Preece, Madeleine Saunders
4 th Sunday -	Annie Lynch, Madeleine Saunders
5 th Sunday -	Elizabeth Nicholls, Ian & Janet Brown

Morning Tea:

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



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

Operation Christmas Child

We still have two weeks to get our boxes packed. **Last day is Sunday October 23rd**. This year all our boxes will go to children in Fiji. Below are links to videos about the Christmas Child mission.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laifrUYRc00>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mB3pT37qU4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsJ8CXMqkzs>



Our Preachers

On September 18th Pastor John Rentz (Thames) spoke to us about his work with **Wycliffe Bible Translators**. This month John is leaving again for the Reef Islands, in the Solomon Islands group where he has worked for many years. When he began in 1990 the local people had no written language, and no English. Learning to speak their language was difficult enough - then the Wycliffe team had to devise a complete written language and teach it to a few local people. Only then could the work of Bible translation begin. God supplied just one or two local people to help with the work and keep it going and prospering, to change lives and bring them to Jesus. This gigantic task is repeated in many remote areas around the world. Our congregation gave \$400 towards the work. www.wycliffe.org

Last Sunday, Julie and the Bible Study ladies presented a dramatization of the very confrontational story that Jesus told – Dives and Lazarus.

Luke 16: 19-31. Dives tolerated the poor man, Lazarus, but he did nothing to improve his lot. From his place in purgatory, Dives pleads with father Abraham to ‘send Lazarus (from Paradise) to bring me water’ but there is a great gulf set between them. ‘Then send Lazarus to warn my brothers so they will change their ways.’ Abraham’s answer: *“Even if one came back from the dead they still would not listen.”* Jesus is speaking a prophetic Word to us: By His death and resurrection *Jesus has bridged that ‘great gulf’* that comes between God and His people – but people today still will not listen... Thank you ladies, for so effectively bringing the Word to us!

On November 27th Margaret Birtles, Co-Superintendent of the Waikato-Waiariki Synod will lead our worship. We look forward to welcoming her. It will be the first time Margaret has visited us and it will be good to get a glimpse of the work of the wider church ‘over the hill’.

In Memoriam

Our friend Colin Carr died at Whitianga Continuing Care on September 30th. Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with the family.



them all on New Year’s Day,” Joy recalls.

When the family had moved away, Ellis and Joy built a home at Wattle Downs, where they lived for 16 years. Up until retirement, Joy worked as Administrator at CCS Disability Action (formerly the Crippled Children’s Society) for 17 years, then on contract to them for another 6 years. They sold the Wattle Downs home in June 2021 and bought a home in Whitianga at Marlin Waters. It took four months for the unit Title to come through. In the meantime they lived at the Matarangi house, and that is when we first met Joy, travelling in from Matarangi to come to church. Several of St Andrew’s Fellowship live at Matarangi and regularly make that journey. Ellis and Joy had known Ross and Dale Hawkins for years. Ross had done the drainage work on their Matarangi house when it was first built. Eventually they were able to move into their home at Marlin Waters, where they also found several people of our Fellowship who are now their neighbours.

Ellis and Joy’s children still live in Auckland, and there are now eight grandchildren. They all take turns at the Matarangi Beach house so they still see the family, and the move has worked out fine. Joy’s only regret at moving to the Bay, has been leaving her church family at St Columba’s where she was so involved. Now, she and Ellis are meeting new friends in the town and the Fellowship, and both finding new things to do. *A belated welcome to you, Joy and Ellis and God bless you.*

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Friendship Coffee We meet at Espy Café, at 10 am on the first Thursday of every month. Come and bring a friend on **Thursday October 6th and Thursday, November 3rd.**

You will be among friends and will most likely meet some new ones! We hope to see you there!



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**

Annual Congregational Meeting 2022– Report

The meeting held on September 18th was attended by just a small number of the faithful. The reports went out early this year and there were no contentious issues, so perhaps people decided they didn't need to be there? Here are the main points:

Ian and Janet Brown were newly appointed to Parish Council.

Thank you Ian and Janet, for being willing to serve. We look forward to working with you.

The job description for a Pastoral Worker will be revised, to reflect that any candidate will be solely attached to our Fellowship. The meeting gave approval for this revision to happen. It is unlikely to change the budget for the Employment Contract, the spending of which was approved last year by the Congregation and by Presbytery. After revision, the position will be advertised through the wider Church networks.

John Pedersen reminded us that we need to 'sell the benefits' of living in the Bay! Please continue to pray that we will be led to the person whom God has chosen for this important work.

Potatoes have already been planted in the newly-formed church garden, and more raised beds will be built. There is a lot of public interest in the project, intended to supply fresh veges for the Monday Meals mission. Donations of timber, compost and plants have been promised and some already received.

Covid 19 protection. We are no longer required to wear masks in church or anywhere on the church premises. Community groups can now meet in the hall without masks and must make their own decisions to keep people safe, but we are asking that people who have any cold or flu symptoms - please do not come.

Our Opshop still needs to find more outlets for adults and children's excess clothing. If anyone has suggestions, please let Madeleine know.

125 Years Celebration – Keep the date!

On Sunday February 19th 2023 we will hold a celebration service to commemorate the opening of our church on **Sunday February 20th 1898.**

A sub-committee will plan this and other events to be held in the preceding week. *We need former contacts, photos and stories please!*

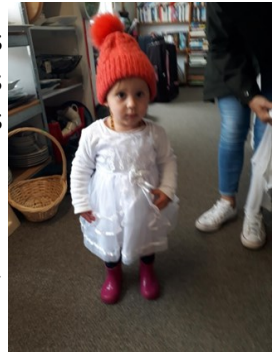
Op Shop News

St Andrew's Opshop is now open four mornings a week, from Wednesday to Saturday. The summer stock is selling very well, with \$700 taken on busy days. This young customer found a woolly hat, a pair of gumboots and a frilly frock, all of which she insisted on wearing. Total purchase price for the complete outfit - \$5.00! This is Opshop Whitianga Style!

We welcome applications for funding from local non-profit groups.

Light Party

The Opshop Committee decided to donate \$200 towards the Light Party, this year to be held at the Monkey House. The Light Party provides a Christian alternative to Hallowe'en trick-or-treating. This event is approved and endorsed by the Whitianga Combined Churches Committee, and Damon Christensen and Tony Courtenay make it work each year. They would love some help with the children's activities. **If you can help for a couple of hours on 31st October, please let Damon know.** Also, please advertise the party around the young families. There will be a sausage sizzle, and each child gets a party gift to take home. Light and bright clothing only – Dress up by all means – but NO witches, ghouls or skeletons please!



Parish Council News

Fence at the church manse - work will begin soon, on the rear fence in Catherine Crescent, which was demolished by a falling tree in a storm. The cost is \$2,600. The property backs onto Hilton Park, and Thames Coromandel District Council has agreed to pay a half share in this cost.

The two side fences also need replacing, and will follow in due course.

All church properties have been revalued, and our Insurance bill has risen from \$3,447 to \$5,213. Thank you to all who give so generously to the Parish!