

Parish and Community Information

- 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 and now
also fourth Friday of every second month.
(9 June, 23 June, 14 July)
No bookings allowed.

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**

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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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

June-July 2023

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

Our people and their stories - Bill and Robyn Woodward

For several years Bill has regularly led our worship when he and Robyn are here with their motor-home from Auckland. We have taken them to our hearts and they are part of the Family.



Here are their combined stories:

Robyn is the eldest of four children. Her parents were farmers and most of her early years were spent in Tauranga. She was a foundation pupil at Tauranga Girls College. At age 17 she went to Waikato Hospital to do her nursing training, a profession that in various forms has been central to her working life. The family were Brethren, and while Robyn was baptised in her early teens, it wasn't until later years that her faith grew.

Bill was born in Hamilton where his father ran the family transport business, E Woodward Ltd, which was started by Bill's grandfather in 1910 with a horse and dray. Bill's grandmother was the first woman in Hamilton to own a car! The family attended the Central Baptist Church where his father served as a Deacon then an Elder and was for many years the choirmaster. Bill's mother was a trained opera singer and a nationally recognised gospel singer. Bill grew up with music. His initial foray into vocal groups in the early 1960s saw him forming a folk group called *The Ambassadors*. Bill went to Hamilton Boys High and enjoyed sports, particularly softball and football. He trained to be a teacher, and in 1963 at age 19 his first placement was in the primary department of Mercury Bay District High School, so Bill's history in the Bay goes back a long way. He has very happy memories of that time and he still has contacts in the area. It was during this time that Bill preached his first ever sermon at the Whitianga Undenominational Church.

Bill joined the family business for several years and then began his career in sales and marketing in the pharmaceutical industry, a career he pursued until retirement. Bill and Robyn met at a prayer meeting at Hamilton Baptist Church.

Before they were married they each had plans for the Big O.E. Robyn planned to go to the UK, and Bill was going to do the Auckland to Suva Yacht Race, in a 36 ft trimaran he had built with some friends. Both of these adventures were shelved by their decision to get married.

The couple settled in Hamilton where their son Darren and their daughter Rachel were born. Bill became very involved with Youth for Christ and, with a different vocal group, toured widely around the North Island singing at various YFC (Youth For Christ) meetings.

In 1972 they moved to Auckland where they lived in Titirangi and spent many years involved in sailing, athletics and in folk and Christian music.

In their early 30's, both Bill and Robyn went back to studying. Bill commenced marketing studies and much later, in his retirement completed a Bachelor of Theology. As a young mum, Robyn studied at both Massey University and the University of Auckland while teaching nurses and later working as a health management consultant.

Bill was invited onto the New Zealand board of Mission Aviation Fellowship, appointed not only for his Christian conviction, but also for his marketing and management experience. He has spent over twenty years on that Board, and served as Chairman of the Board for over ten years. It was this work that first brought Bill to our Fellowship. He came to conduct a service and to tell us about MAF and the work it undertakes in the Pacific region and around the world. Bill's passion for the Lord, and for the work of MAF, were obvious to all and we were very quick to invite him back to conduct services for us. Bill's love of music plays out with his guitar and his wide knowledge of hymns old and new. These days the Woodward's live in St Heliers and regularly visit us in their motor home, with their Border Terrier Jess. Even the cyclone-damaged roads have not deterred them!

At home in Auckland they attend Glendowie Presbyterian Church, but they also spend a good deal of time on the road with their motor home, part of a

Worship @ St Andrew's, 9:30 every Sunday

Children are welcome in our Fellowship. There are quiet toys in church for the young ones, and Bible-based activities for the older ones.

June	4th	Bill Woodward (Communion)
	11th	Bill Woodward
	18th	Deacon Margaret Birtles, Waikato Waiariki Synod
	25th	Dorothy Preece
July	2nd	Rev David Rollinson (Communion)
	9th	Rev David Rollinson
	16th	Bill Woodward
	23rd	Dorothy Preece
	28th	John Ormsby

(Also Combined Churches service 5pm at St Peters)

As always, we are grateful to all of our very able preachers, and we thank God for them.

The Bible in 50 words

The Bible in 50 words

Rev Shirley set us thinking when she introduced 'The Bible in 50 Words':

God made, Adam bit. Noah arked, Abram split. Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled. Bush talked, Moses balked, Pharaoh plagued, people walked.

Sea divided, tablets guided. Promise landed.

Saul freaked, David peeked, Prophets warned, Jesus borned.

God walked, love talked. Anger crucified, hope cried.

Love rose, Spirit flamed, Word spread. God remained.

Shirley asked us to think how we might change it, what we might add.

We came back with our answers the following week, which included a lot more women of the Bible (!) and *Jesus Saved!*

Dorothy wrote the version below, and was asked to print it:

God created, Universe waited. People sinning – evil winning?

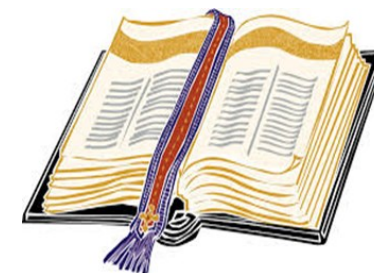
Prophets learning, people yearning. Angel saying, Mary praying.

Jesus born, brand new dawn. Jesus loving, people shoving.

Donkey riding, leaders chiding. Jesus praying, Father obeying.

Work is done, battle won. Love endured, promise secured.

Spirit alive! People can thrive! Thanks be to God!



Since her time with us, Mary has ministered in Christchurch, Gisborne and Te Aroha. Rev Mary was ill for a long time, but in February this year she found the strength to return to St Andrew's to lead the Sunday morning service in celebration of our 125-Year Anniversary, and Val came too. It was a very special home-coming for Mary and for us. That celebration weekend brought home to us just how many people in the community have been touched by Mary - so many memories of her ministry with us and with the community.

Mary died peacefully at her daughter Cathy's home in Raglan. Cathy, Val and son Andrew were with her. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them all. Mary's funeral was live-streamed to St Andrew's on Monday 22nd, and we heard the many ways in which Mary showed God's love to every person. Rev Shirley and Amanda Roche spoke at the funeral. Amanda said, "Mary was 'unconditional Love' in a nutshell."

We give thanks to God for Mary's life of witness.



NZTrio comes to St Andrew's

On Saturday 13th May Mercury Bay was blessed with a visit from the *NZTrio*, a branch of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. The highly accomplished musicians were pianist Soni Kim, cellist Ashley Brown, and violinist Amalia Hall. The local organisers were Diana and Sharyn Morcom, made possible with some funding through 'Creative Communities'. This was a first for our church, so we were delighted to be asked whether the hall could be opened up for more chairs, as 100 tickets were sold!

The performance was electrifying, the audience captivated. The concert was a success by anyone's standard, and best of all, the performers loved the venue. Apparently our kauri walls make an ideal sounding board. To add to the compliments, pianist Somi Kim loved the piano and said she would like to come back one day for a solo performance!

Heather's bequest of her beloved grand piano is a gift that just keeps on giving.



Christian group called the Good News Vanners. Their faith message includes spreading the news about MAF and its world-wide work.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is a Christian organisation, operating world-wide. Its pilots fly light planes into areas where isolated communities are otherwise inaccessible. They transport missionaries and church workers and their supplies, as well as responding to many calls for emergencies, medi-vac flights and natural disasters where there is no other help. With its long-standing reputation MAF has links to support 2000 world-wide organisations and charities, as well as undertaking commercial work for the United Nations to help struggling economies, such as transporting coffee to market from the highland of Papua New Guinea.

Bill Woodward says, "People all round the world can truthfully say, 'I owe my life to Mission Aviation Fellowship.' Staff have to raise a portion of their own salaries, and many are supported by their home churches."

Recently the dream of developing a new centre for NZ has become a reality. Based at Tauranga airport, the new Kendon-Strong MAF New Zealand Centre cost \$1.3 million. It will be a crucial hub for all their Pacific work and ministry in the years to come.



One of the difficult airstrips in Papua New Guinea. Read all about it - maf.org.nz

Friendship Coffee Dates – Mondays 10:30: June 5th and July 3rd

at Espy Café. Our Friendship Coffees will be on Mondays in future, to allow all Opshop teams to come. It will be on the ***first Monday*** of each month. Please take this opportunity to bring your friends and to meet some new ones. Madeleine will always be there to meet you.

Church organ for sale/ removal

Parish Council has decided to remove the electronic organ. No-one plays it now, and it's taking up space. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let us know. Price is entirely negotiable!

St Andrew's Church Opshop AGM

Wednesday June 7th 1:30 in the Church Hall

Our Opshop raises money to support five local churches as well as wider community initiatives. Last month we donated:

\$1,000 to MBAS students travelling to Inter-Schools Sports Camp, for which the students have to raise their own money.

\$1,000 to Whitianga Skate School, to provide safety equipment.

Sean Reilly has transformed the skate park from 'seedy and unsafe' to 'family friendly'. A cause well worth supporting!

The Opshop needs GOOD used clothing, particularly men's and children's wear. Please bring donations in during opening hours:

Weds-Sat mornings, 9:30 – 1 pm. Thank you.

St Andrew's 'Made By Hand' Crafts Exhibition

Saturday – Monday June 24th - 26th

This will be a celebration of creativity in Mercury Bay.

We want to celebrate as many local craftspersons as possible, men, women and children, working commercially or just for enjoyment. **We need everyone's help** with contact information so that we can

invite as many as possible to display their crafts and information.

No on-site sales, but people are encouraged to advertise their enterprise.

Free of charge – koha appreciated.

Please advertise this as widely as possible.

Contact organisers:

Annie - 07 866 3711 or 027 322 3332

Dorothy – dorothyprece8@gmail.com 022 1322 061

Remembering Rev Mary Petersen

Rev Mary Petersen died on Saturday 6th May after a long battle with Leukaemia. She served as Minister at St Andrew's for 11 years, from 2004-2015, and won the hearts of the fellowship and of many in the community. Mary's selfless caring touched lives. Mary gave unstinting help and support, often at the expense of her own energy and resources.



A trained primary school teacher, Mary loved working with children. In 1990 she was appointed National Co-ordinator for Bible-in-Schools in New Zealand, travelling extensively with that work for ten years. It was in that role that we first met Mary. In 2001 the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand appointed Mary as the National Coordinator for Children and Families, a role which she kept for three years. She also undertook work on behalf of various Presbyteries around New Zealand.

Mary had moved to her parent's home in Tairua when Stan and Pauline Stewart left the Parish, and she came to us for interview to fill the vacancy. Although she had studied theology and worked extensively in church affairs, Mary had never been ordained as a parish minister, so Presbytery agreed that she be ordained as a LOM – a Locally Ordained Minister for our congregation. During her ministry with St Andrew's Mary continued the Mainly Music programme for pre-schoolers, started by Stan and Pauline Stewart in 2002. Scores of children came to those sessions and Mary baptised many babies, as well as conducting weddings and funerals.

Mary instigated the Monday Meals, free of charge for anyone in need of a hot meal, which still continues today. She also served as Chaplain for the RSA in Mercury Bay, as school chaplain at MBAS, and of course, she taught Bible-in-Schools at Mercury Bay and Coroglen. While she was with us we often had the added blessing of Mary's sister Val, helping with Monday Meals and with Mainly Music.