

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

October-November 2024

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 - Barbara McCook

Barbara is a member of the Baptist Fellowship and is known to many of us as the mother of Ross McCook, who sometimes leads our worship. Until very recently, Barbara has faithfully served in the men's room at the Church Opshop, a post she was very sad to relinquish due to the remodelling.

Barbara's ancestors were early settlers in NZ, three Bayly brothers (spelled correctly) and their wives arriving on the *Amelia Thompson* in 1840. The Baylys were farmers in Taranaki.

Barbara was born in Tauranga but at age 3 moved to Orakei, Auckland where her father worked with BNZ in Queen Street. Her Mum was Anglican and took Barbara and her sister Vivienne (six years younger) to St James' Church in Orakei. Vivienne was 6 and Barbara 12 when their Mum died. Barbara has memories of her Mum teaching her to use the sewing machine. After Mum died Barbara made clothes for herself and her sister. A series of housekeepers lived in to look after the family. Barbara was confirmed at St James Anglican, but at her all-important first Communion she fainted and had to be taken out. She went to Auckland Girls' Grammar but left at 15 to become a seamstress, a job she really loved. She was very talented and worked on Norman Hartnell designs. She went to night school to learn pattern making and was put in charge of the cutting section at Milne and Choice in Parnell.

By the age of 18 Barbara was flatting with friends and attending church at St Aiden's in Remuera. "I think it was just somewhere to go, where I could dress up and wear a nice hat," Barbara says.



They went to dances together and one Christmas, on holiday with friends at Kawau Island, a handsome young man got off a boat at the jetty. "We were all at the dance at the Mansion House, and this young man asked me to dance. He was very nice." So began her lifetime romance with Scott McCook. He was widowed, with a young son, Neville. It took a while for them to tie the knot – 3 years later, in 1958 at St Aiden's in Remuera. Barbara's wedding dress was made by the famous designer, Bruce Papadopoulos (known as Papas). A beautiful gown of white tulle over pink satin. The new family lived at Northcote. Scott worked on Harbour Board vessels and Barbara continued with her dressmaking at home. They had two more sons, Alan and Ross.

Barbara was experiencing headaches and told her neighbour, Jewel, about them. Jewel invited Barbara to a church coffee group, where women shared their testimonies and prayed for healing. Some were speaking in tongues, and Barbara was intrigued. Jewel lent her a book about it. With Jewel, she went to the Auckland Revival Centre, in the RSA Hall in Takapuna. "I had never seen such a happy group of people," Barbara says. "They were absolutely bursting with Joy. I really didn't understand it.

"One day, sitting at my sewing machine I noticed the tiny new leaves on the willow tree, and I was struck by its beauty. Suddenly I found myself murmuring a few words that I didn't understand. They just came out. I felt I had been touched by the Holy Spirit." Barbara understood she had been given a Spiritual gift, but she was still full of questions. "There is a verse in the Bible that says 'tongues are a sign to the unbeliever'. In the Bible I found answers to all my questions."

Barbara didn't know how her husband would react to all this. "I didn't know how to tell Scott, but the Lord had other ideas. Scott began to tell everyone, that I had 'gone religious'. He didn't mind the new me. He saw that I was happy, and even the boys noticed that I was a lot happier in the mornings. I decided that I wanted to be baptised by total immersion. Scott argued that I was already baptised as a child. But he didn't object after I said this was not my parents' decision, it was mine."

Before the new church was built there was no baptismal pool, so Barbara was baptised in the bath at the home of a fellowship member. "It was amazing. Pastor Fred Needham was working with Hell's Angels. One of their leaders, Wayne Thomas was at my baptism with others, all in their leathers and boots. I tried to look elegant as I went under the water!"

I tried to explain to the boys the things that God was doing in my life. One day Alan came home from school and said, "Were you praying for me today?" I said yes. "I thought so," he said, "I actually enjoyed maths today." The new Auckland Revival Centre was built in Glenfield Road, Takapuna. Slowly and surely the Lord worked through Barbara's witnessing to the family. "Neville's wife Patricia was the first to be baptised, then Neville." Barbara's husband Scott had always regretted that he was never Christened as a child. Scott too, was later baptised at the new church. "I was amazed how almost all the people in my family came to the Lord. I am amazed every day, at how the Lord works in people's lives." Fifty years ago, Scott and Barbara built two units in Whitianga, when Cook Drive was just being developed. "For years we came with the three boys. Ross had a little motor bike when he was twelve, and he made tracks through the waste ground next door." Ross came to the Lord at age 16, when the family went to the church's annual Easter camp at Ruakaka. Scott retired early from his job on the Auckland Harbour Pilot launch and eventually he and Barbara retired to Whitianga. Barbara was reluctant to leave church friends and family in Auckland, but they soon got into the community. Both joined the MB Golf Club and Scott was also an ace tennis player. Barbara joined Whitianga Baptist Church, and she became a Lioness. Scott died 18 years ago. Barbara's faith has never wavered since the Lord surprised her with the beauty of the willow and the Gift of Tongues. She delights in the Lord every day, and takes pride in what the Lord is doing through her son Ross and his *Heart for Youth Trust*, taking the Gospel to young people in every way possible. Ross is now married to Susan (Barbara made her wedding dress) and together they are a powerful Christian witness. It runs in the family! Barbara now has 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandies. "I look back and see how the Lord has worked in my life and in those around me, and I feel very blessed with my children and grandchildren."

Thank you Barbara, for all your work, and sharing your faith story with us.

St Andrew's Annual Meeting Report

There were 22 people at the meeting, held after church on Sunday September 8th. Debbie Gordon was formally welcomed as our new Parish Administrator.

All current officers expressed their willingness to serve a further term.

Your Parish Councillors are: Kevin Pringle (Chair) Dorothy Preece (Parish Secretary) Debbie Gordon (Parish Admin.) Barbara Blake, Janet Brown, Charlotte Christensen, Annie Lynch, Elizabeth Nicholls, Julie St George.

New Parish Councillors - Peter and Janet Finlayson were nominated and appointed as Parish Councillors, and warmly welcomed to the team.

Thank you, Peter and Janet, for your support and willingness to travel in from Opito Bay!

Angela Taylor was confirmed to continue as our Parish Treasurer.

Sunday Service Times - Important Decision: Elizabeth proposed that the **service time be changed to 10:00** to give more time for people travelling in from a distance, and also for elderly folk. After discussion the motion was carried. This will begin on **Labour weekend Sunday October 27th** with the exception of Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, which will remain at 9:30.

Pastoral Care - Christine Christie has stepped up to re-organise the Pastoral Care lists. Thank you Christine! She will be in contact with those who have previously helped with phone lists. Please let Christine know of any pastoral concerns – ***if we don't know, we can't offer to help!***

Tech Support needed - Julie would love to have some enthusiastic tech-savvy person to support her with the church website and other duties. If you can think of someone who might help please let Julie know.

Defibrillator -The bright yellow defibrillator is now attached near the main front entrance. St John will arrange seminars to demonstrate how to use it, and they would like all who use the premises to attend. Times to be advised. Also, at the request of the St John team, **please do not leave vehicles parked by the main doors.** After unloading goods, or assisting elderly folk, please move vehicles away from the main entrance to maintain clear ambulance access at all times.

This request will go out to all the hall user groups.

Pink Ribbon Dinner - Saturday 19th October, 5pm

Gina is arranging another Pink Ribbon Dinner in support of breast cancer.

Last year's event was a great occasion and enjoyed by all. Gina and a team of friends will undertake the catering, and all we have to do is come.

Men and women are encouraged to wear something PINK.

Tickets \$30 each – available from the Church Opshop.

Numbers are limited due to space constraints, so please book early.



New-look Opshop

Madeline wishes to thank all who helped to transform our Opshop!

Special thanks to **Damon Christensen** for his foresight in developing the plan and making it happen! It was a lot of work, but certainly worth the effort. The customers love the new layout, saying it's more light and airy – and we are still by far the cheapest Opshop in town.

Our latest community donation was to the Mercury Bay Swim Club - \$1,000 for uniforms.

Five local churches continue to receive regular donations of \$200 per month, and St Andrew's receives an Opshop donation of \$2,000 per month.

It is a cause well worth supporting.

Now that the men's room is incorporated in the main shop we must also acknowledge the faithful work of Barbara McCook and Gillian Reid, both of whom kept the separate men's room open for many years.

Thank you, Barbara and Gillian!



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**

More from England...

Rev Shirley has given us this – it is the welcome sign that we read outside Coventry Cathedral:

'We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, questioning, well-heeled or down-at-heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

'You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up, or just out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

'We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte sippers, vegans, and junk-foodies.

'We welcome those who are in recovery, or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like organised religion. (We're not that keen on it either.)

'We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, who work too hard or don't work. We welcome you if you can't spell, or you're here because granny is visiting and wanted to look around. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither.

'We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids, or got lost on the ring road and ended up here by mistake.

*'We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers and doubters – **and especially you.***
PLEASE COME IN!'

The words "Father, forgive" are written behind the cross, constructed burnt timbers from the wartime destruction of the old Cathedral.



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Worship at St Andrew's

Oct	6th	Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby (Communion)
	13th	Dorothy Preece
	20th	Ross Millar
	27th	Viv Whimster (see below)* [first 10am start]
Nov	3rd	Dorothy Preece (Communion)
	10th	Bill & Robyn Woodward
	17th	Bill & Robyn Woodward
	24th	John Ormsby

*On October 27th we welcome Viv Whimster to lead our worship. Viv is the Convenor of the New Zealand Methodist Lay Preachers Association. This will be her first visit to us and we look forward to meeting her.

From the pulpit:

Last week John Twemlow told the story of a boy who asked his father for a car, as a coming of age present. When the day came, instead of the expected car, the boy was presented with a Bible. Full of disappointment, he left home – the Bible unopened, and never spoke to his father again. He was called back home when his father died, and found the Bible, still in its box. When he opened the Bible, there was a car key, with the tag “Paid in full.” We will never know the full extent of God’s goodness to us, until we study His Word and recognise His life-giving gift of boundless Love!

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Parish Register

Funeral:

September 30th - William Donald (Don) McNeill
at St Andrews, followed by burial at Kaimarama Cemetery.
Dorothy Preece officiating.



We pray for all those who grieve - May they know the love of the Lord holding them close.

Parish and Community Information

- Monday** **Upright & Active** 9am weekly exercise for active seniors
Contact Kathy 021 254 2769 or Wendy 027 721 5113
Manawa Kai Heart Food Kitchen community meals
takeaway only, every Monday 3:30-5pm.
Contact Maureen 027 246 6164
- Tuesday** **Upright & Active** 9am weekly exercise for active seniors
Contact Kathy 021 254 2769 or Wendy 027 721 5113
Stitch n' Chat fortnightly 1:30-4pm in the Hamilton
Room. Contact Julie 021 169 1637
Enliven - Presbyterian support for the elderly and house-
bound, providing midday meal and social interaction, free of
Charge. Currently operating Tuesdays only.
For assessment of eligibility, contact Wendy 021 2296 324.
- 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
- Friday** **Bible Study Group** 1:30pm in the Hamilton Room.
Men and women, couples and singles, all welcome.
Contact Julie 021 169 1637
Cancer Support Coffee Morning
First Friday of each month. Contact Ruth 021 363 840

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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

Facebook: St Andrews Community Church Mercury Bay NZ

Parish Council Chairman: Kevin Pringle

Parish Secretary: Dorothy Preece 022 132 2061

Newsletter Editor: Charlotte Christensen