

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

Newsletter June/July 2018

*Our mission in this parish is to share
the love of God with all people*

Our faith stories... Community Meals 'Thank You' Evening

On Monday May 28, responsibility for our Community Meals mission was officially handed over from the Parish, to the Mercury Bay Community Support Trust.

To recognise the changeover, the Trust members invited all those who contribute to the meals in any way, to attend and share the

Monday Meal at St Andrew's. As well as those who regularly come in for the meal, the invitation list included those who generously donate food and /or money, those who grow vegetables for the table, and of course, those who help with the food preparation and cooking. The response was tremendous, with more than 50 people enjoying the meal. The guest list also included Mayor Sandra Goudie, who in a short speech congratulated St Andrew's on having the courage to begin the Meals programme, and thanked 'the whole, caring community of Mercury Bay for its consistent generosity'.

The Meals Mission started five years ago, when Rev Mary Petersen led a Parish Vision Day. One person who had nowhere to live, described his circumstances and outlined the 'invisible' needs of a significant number of people in our outwardly prosperous community. Rental accommodation is impossibly expensive. People on the minimum wage are often faced with a choice – pay the rent, or feed the family. The decision was made at that Vision Day, to provide a hot meal once a week to all who asked, and 'to begin immediately'. The new kitchen and hall was opened in 2002, to meet the needs of a lively



Church, and we felt we should be using it for the community. No-one knew where the food or the money would come from. It was a huge step of faith, confirmed and rewarded by the continuing support we have received from so many quarters. Handing over the project to the Trust, now gives more surety for funding in the future. Tania Iiti, our excellent meals co-ordinator, is now employed by the Trust.



Originally initiated by St Andrew's, the Trust is now made up of community-minded Christians from several churches, with John Twemlow as chairman. Their main focus to date, has been on organising the annual Day Camp – a huge undertaking that just continues to grow. With the Trust now taking on the Meals mission, and with Parish and Trust working more closely together, we are finding a new energy. The Trustees are keen to expand their work, to identify needs and explore other avenues through which to bring the universal Love of God to the community at large.

One idea, first mooted in our newsletter last year, is to combine forces with the whole community on Christmas Day, to provide Christmas Dinner for all who want to come, regardless of need or circumstance. No-one wants to be alone on Christmas Day.

This happens very successfully in other towns, where the whole community joins in the effort. We believe the Spirit is calling us to do this. But if it is to happen, it cannot be left to just a few. We need generous, like-minded people to begin early planning, and we need the support of local businesses. Some people have already stepped forward to help, so we are asking you to ***please pray for guidance on how this might be achieved.***

In the meantime, Parish Council just wants to say to the Trust – ***"Thank you and God bless you."***

Day Camp 2018

Once again, The Mercury Bay Day Camp brought three days of fun and adventure to more than 300 children at Easter. Again, those children heard the Gospel of God's Love, in their morning and afternoon 'tent times' before going off in every direction on the Morcom's farm, to pursue their chosen activities. Each day every child attends three different activities, ranging from quiet handcrafts to outrageously muddy slides and rides. Competition is fierce for places at Day Camp, and the applications roll in as soon as they open each year. The paper-work is daunting and all-consuming in the weeks before camp, to try to allocate all the children's activity choices over the three days. Charlotte and Damon Christensen have taken this task for several years, and we thank God for them! Also for the Organising Committee, whose work goes on all year round, just for this one event. This year, tent times were again ably led by Amanda Roche. The sessions were based on the Lord's Prayer, which the children learned in song and activities. Amanda said, ***"To see 300 children raising their hands in praise, and singing the Lord's Prayer with such joy, was a truly spiritual experience for me."***

Every year, Day Camp involves more than 50 willing volunteers from all sectors of the community. In addition, a team of 'Teen Leaders' are trained to encourage the younger ones, and help keep them safe. These teens are Day



Camp kids who grew up, and just want to keep coming. On the last day of camp, parents attend a BBQ at the farm with its spectacular setting. In a new initiative this year, each family received leaflets with information about all of the local Church activities.

It is our fervent prayer that the Spirit will reinforce the Tent Time message in every home.

Coming Up at St Andrew's

Sunday June 17th – Volunteers Sunday – 10 am start.

This is our open invitation to all our community volunteers, to tell stories about their work and to say “Thank You” to each other. This out-of-the-ordinary Sunday service is always well attended. There are many local groups who do all kinds of work, and we ask you all to advertise this event around your friends – we want to say thank you to them all. This year the theme is “Caring for our Seniors’ and several volunteers will speak on that theme. Morning tea is always special and a good time to meet and mingle. Our friends at St Peter’s Anglican fellowship will be joining us on this day, and not holding a service at their church.

The following week, June 24th – we will join with St Peter’s at their Dundas Street Church, commencing 9:30 am. - There will be no service at St Andrew’s this day.

This is St Peter’s Patronal Festival (St Peter’s Day) and this year it will be a thanksgiving, for their move back into their newly-renovated church. We at St Andrew’s are invited to join them, as a thank-you to us all, for giving them a home when their building was unusable. We encourage everyone to attend this service, to experience a slightly different approach to worship, and to lend our support to our Anglican friends, whom we have got to know better over the past year.

Saturday, July 7th – Parish Vision Day – 9:30 to 3:30 pm

This year our Vision Day will be led by our Resource Minister, Rev Jan Fogg. Vision Day is the time when the whole congregation gets together to brainstorm our direction for the future, to discuss off-the-wall ideas and seek the Spirit’s guidance in planning our outreach. Vision Day can be a very powerful experience, and is an important day in the life of the Church. We invite everyone to be a part of it. We start at 9:30. After the morning session we have lunch together, followed by an afternoon session. Home at 3:30 pm. Please make an effort to come and share your views.

Canticle

In a recent 'Service of Praise and Worship' led by our ladies' Bible study group, Julie shared the following canticle, based on the ancient hymn written by St Francis in the twelfth century, and rewritten for New Zealand:

Benedicite Aotearoa

O give thanks to our God who is good:

whose love endures forever.

You sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree, glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

You kauri and pine, rata and kowhai, mosses and ferns:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Dolphins and kahawai, sea-lion and crab, coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs

kiwi and sparrow and tui and hawk:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

People of town and country, men, women and children of all races who inhabit the long white cloud:

give to our God your thanks and praise. Amen.

When reminded of the beauty that surrounds us down here at the bottom of the world we cannot help but feel truly blessed, and so we lift our hearts, minds and spirits to praise the God whose Eternal Plan so bountifully provides for us.



Parish Council News

Recently Parish Council has been working on a **Health & Safety Plan**, tailored for our life at St Andrew's. Once a quarter we pay qualified people to test fire alarms and keep up our Safety Compliance Certificates but we have never actually formulated a H&S Plan as required by the parent churches. On the whole, we are doing things right. We have now identified hazards in and around the property, written our Plan and appointed a committee: Elizabeth Nicholls, Heather Anderson, Tania Iti, Raewyn Ceruti and Dorothy Preece. Raewyn has nursing experience, and Tania has recently achieved her First Aid Certificate, as well as being in charge of the kitchen, where accidents might happen.



The following Plan is on the notice board in the church lounge:

"This Parish Council undertakes to actively pursue Health & Safety practices as identified and set out in the Health & Safety Manual and Workbook, the Building Compliance Manual and the Safety & Protection Policy for Children and Youth. (Documents kept in the church office.)"

We further undertake to pursue improvements to the scheme as and where necessary, and to review the H&S Plan every quarter.

To this end:

We expect all users of the hall and church property to take all practical steps to ensure hazards are minimised, and to keep everyone safe.

Newly identified hazards must be recorded in the manual, and reported to a responsible officer. All possible steps must be taken to mitigate the new hazard.

All accidents or near misses must be recorded.

All hall and church property users must be informed of fire and emergency procedures.

Our Building Compliance and Fire Safety IQP is **Hamilton Safety & Compliance Ltd.**

Fire & smoke alarms and building security are monitored by **Whitianga Security Ltd.**

Come and worship!

Sunday Worship 9:30am at St Andrew's

Families with children are warmly welcomed. Our family space offers quiet toys, books and Bible-based activities.



June 3rd - Communion - Rev Jan Fogg

10th - Dorothy Preece

*17th - 10am start **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS DAY***

St Peters Fellowship join with us today

*24th - **NO SERVICE AT ST ANDREW'S TODAY***

9:30am service at St Peter's Anglican Church, Dundas Street

July 1st - Communion - Rev Jan Fogg

*7th (Saturday) - **CHURCH VISION DAY** Leader Jan Fogg*

Commence 9:30 with morning tea, brainstorming sessions to follow. Shared lunch, more brainstorming, finish at 3:30.

***Everyone is welcome.** If your heart is with St Andrews, please come*

8th - Communion -John Twemlow

15th - Dorothy Preece

22th - Ross Millar

29th - Robin Twemlow

And Combined Churches service, 5pm at C3

Parish Register - Funerals

Our prayers are with all those who grieve



May 12th - John Stuart McLeod, at St Andrew's.

Gordon Barnaby officiating.

With sadness we record the passing of Beryl Wood. A long-time member of this church, Beryl has been housebound for a long time. She died on May 25th after a short stay at Continuing Care. Her funeral was held in Auckland. Beryl was 96.

Parish and Community Activities

Newcomers are cordially invited to join any of these friendly groups

Service 9:30 every Sunday

AA DRIVER LICENSING - all day 2nd Friday of each month. See notice board for dates

CHURCH OP-SHOP opens Tuesday-Saturday 8:30-12:30, now with EFTPOS!
Volunteers welcome! Enquiries, ring Madeleine 866 0169

COMMUNITY MEALS served in the Church hall from 5-6pm every Monday.
Meals phone (attended Mondays only): 021 0294 2234

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP All welcome. 2nd Wednesday of every month @1:30pm. For venue: Ann Harsant 866 4740

ENLIVEN (Presbyterian Social Services for seniors) every Thursday, by arrangement only. For more information, ring Jenny 866 0556

LADIES BIBLE STUDY Wednesday 10am. Ring Julie for further details: 984 9140

SCRAP BAGS (Quilting) every Wednesday from 11am in the Hall.

STITCH N' CHAT every second Tuesday in the Hall. To join this friendly group, ring Julie 984 9140

UPRIGHT & ACTIVE Friendly exercise sessions for seniors, held in the Church hall

Mondays, 9:30am - exercise for more active seniors.

Tuesdays, 10am - exercise for the less active.

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St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

Corner Albert and Owen Streets, Whitianga / PO Box 368, WHITIANGA

Office phone (unattended): 867 1102

www.standrewsbythesea.org.nz | standrewswhitianga@gmail.com

Resource Minister: Rev Jan Fogg (Thames)

Local Ministry Team: Rev John Twemlow 021 0222 1394

Parish secretary: Dorothy Preece 869 5452

Newsletter editor: Charlotte Christensen strettoc@gmail.com