

# MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

## St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter Newsletter June-July 2020

*Our Mission in this Parish is to demonstrate the Love of God to all people, and prayerfully encourage all to follow Jesus*

### ***Church Reopens!***

A decision has been made! We are able to hold Church Services once again.

With the “blessing” of our government, the Parish Council has made the decision to hold our first service back at St Andrew's on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, beginning at 9.30 a.m.

This is our “normal” Communion Service Day, and so we encourage **YOU ALL** to join us for what I believe will be an occasion well worth *celebrating*.

We will be following all government recommendations, so no need to fear any Covid-19 contamination. We'll be practising our social distancing, which mean singing hymns will be a “humming” experience!! (We'll explain on the day.) As far as Communion is concerned, we will follow our normal practice of separate bread pieces and separate cups. We are privileged to have the Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby lead us for our first Service back. And so we encourage you to make this time a priority and join us for our first service back after 15 weeks.

While “The Church” is not a building, but literally “Christ Followers”, we look forward once again to join together at St Andrew's by the Sea Community Church, to worship our Lord!!

### ***A Reflection***

*I have seen the sun break through to illuminate a small field for a while and gone on my way and forgotten it. But that was the pearl of great price, the one field that had treasure in it. I realise now, that I must give all that I have to possess it. Life is not hurrying on to a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past. It is the turning aside, like Moses to the miracle of the lit bush. To a brightness that seemed transitory, but that is the eternity that awaits you.*

*By R.S.Thomas*

## What I did in the Lockdown: Charlotte Christensen

For most people, lockdown seems to have been a time of reflection, of getting round to things, of learning new things, or of outright boredom. My experience was a little different.

For one thing, I work fulltime from home in a standard 40 hour work week with office hours. So... nothing changed. I continued to work my 40 hours per week and the only real difference was that the rest of my Wellington-based team were now doing the same: working from home.

For another I have young kids, and they couldn't go *anywhere*. The parks were closed, their friends were out of bounds, and the only shops that were open (supermarkets and pharmacies) didn't want to see them. At one point, during Level 4, my husband resorted to driving them less than 1km to where they could park seeing the sea and had a picnic in the car. They never got out, didn't interact with anyone, but at least they were out of the house. And don't get me wrong: I'm well aware of how blessed we were to have a backyard for them to run around in, and a pleasant area for walking/biking/scootering around the neighbourhood, but it was still challenging.

Adding to the challenge, my husband was sick for pretty much the whole time. He'd had a lingering cold for a couple of months, and being stuck keeping two kids busy all day just tipped him over the edge. So the cold turned to a cough and the cough went to his chest, and before we knew it he had to self-isolate and get Covid tested (it wasn't) and I had to stop juggling work-and-home and just be "at home" with the kids.

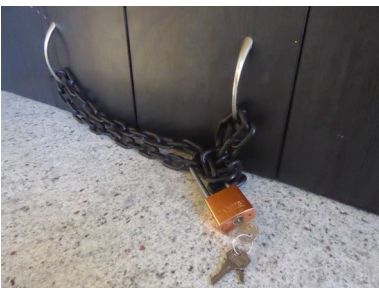
Now you may think this is silly given that he was already sick, but I *did* have a plan for self-isolation all ready to go, it just didn't involve my husband being the one who needed it! He was staying home with the

kids while I was the one who went out and did the shopping, so surely I would be the one who caught anything? Nope, not the way it happened. So suddenly I had to grab what I needed and throw it into the office (which fortunately had a spare bed).

Speaking of the office, it isn't anything particularly flash, just a bedroom. It does, however, have a lock on the door so that I can keep the kids out. It has had a lock on the door for about 4 years now without a problem, but a couple of weeks in to lockdown we somehow managed to lock *both* keys inside the office. The only way into the room was to break down the door.... No, we didn't go quite that far, but we had to break the lock which completely destroyed the handle, and so for the rest of lockdown I had kids interrupting my work Zoom meetings, until we could finally order and receive a new lock set.

Meantime (out of boredom, I assume) my 3 year old discovered he can open my washing machine door and climb up on the laundry bench to gain access to all manner of fun things which he then tests out... under his bed. In the minutes when he hasn't been observed (and we've become very quick at searching for him when he disappears!) we've had black paint, wasp spray, toothpaste, suncream, moisturiser and various miscellaneous tubes emptied out on the poor carpet. We've (mostly) stopped him getting under the bed by putting a cabinet under there. Most of the bathroom necessities have been moved to our ensuite and a door lock put on our bedroom door to prevent any more thefts.

And the laundry? Well post-lockdown, it's in lockdown!



## What I did in the Lockdown: Dorothy Preece

The Lockdown has been a trial for me, because I'm used to having something I **must** do, somewhere I **must** be, every day. Shirley Erena Murray's hymn 'Take my gifts' was often on my mind: 'Things made beautiful for others, in the place where I **must** be...', but knitting, crochet, even creative writing did not fill my days and I fell back on reading, crosswords and TV, leading me to feel I was wasting my time.

Daughter Lesley found me a jigsaw puzzle. I am not a jigsaw person and I resented the need to fill my day with such unproductive activity. But I accepted the challenge... and it was a challenge!

Lesley chose it for two reasons. It was Bible-based, and it was about building a boat; two subjects close to my heart. The title is "Noah's Ark blueprint". It has imaginary 'architect's notes' written all over it and I confess these made me smile. Notes like:

*Don't waste the wood—it's precious but save some for the termites to eat.*

*The cats have scattered everywhere—the Lord knows where they are!*

*The sheep will follow each other everywhere.*

*Gnats, fleas and mosquitoes live down in the bilges. No-one loves them except God.*

*Propulsion is by two Right whales. No sails needed.*

This humorous take on the old story lifted my spirits considerably. It led me to give thanks for the puzzle makers and all creative people who make things beautiful for others. And yes I know, patience is a virtue.

Let me know if you would like to borrow the puzzle.



## Community Meals Update

The Mercury Bay Community Meals programme, suspended during lockdown, is now under review. Tania Iti, our former co-ordinator has taken redundancy. The Trust which facilitates the meals is currently re-adjusting the focus and assessing the best way to address the need for food and pastoral support in the local community. The Trust is working on formulating a completely new management modal, and will be looking to appoint a new person to oversee the kitchen team. This re-set is currently a work in progress and we will keep you posted. In the meantime please hold in prayer, the Trust in its planning and the community in its diverse needs.

## On the Cultivation of Love

*Cultivating Love is a constant, active process of vulnerability, integrity and humility. Who among us does not want more Love in our lives? Who among us does not experience joy when they share in a loving moment, be it an intimate one between partners, a convivial gathering of friends, or even one of those brief, positive interactions with a stranger? All of these forms of Love are possible and available to us at all times – but it begins with a conscious choice to cultivate Love, in and through oneself and then to offer it to others, and perhaps most importantly, to engage with it even while we, or others, are suffering.*



Stephanie Harrison

### **St Andrew's Op-Shop is now OPEN**

and the racks are full of winter clothing bargains.

To celebrate, we are selling **ALL CLOTHING @ \$1.00 !** That's all Ladies', Men's and Children's clothing.

(All clothing was donated pre-Covid and the shop is safe, but for the time being we request please, NO trying-on.)

**New knitted slippers are also available, \$5 pair.**

## **Level 2 Church - St Andrew's style**

Excited as we all are to be returning to holding weekly services, these are times to be cautious and so the Parish Council, with guidance from the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, have developed the following safety plan which was agreed on Wednesday May 27th.

As things change, the plan will need to be adjusted but for now please make sure you've read and understood this before attending a service.

### **St Andrew's Level 2 Plan, May 2020**

#### **Sunday Worship**

- The Church will open for Sunday Worship on June 7th.
- Everyone must use the hand sanitiser at the door, and sign in; please bring your own pen for signing in, but if you forget someone will sign in for you.
- You will be asked to pick up your own name tag and service sheet. At the end of the service please return your tag yourself, and either take your service sheet home or drop it in the waste bin provided.
- The folding doors into the Church sanctuary will be opened wide, to give extra space for social distancing when entering/leaving.
- Seating in the Church will be supervised. We will ask people to sit at both extreme ends of a pew, and leave one vacant pew between seating, to allow for at least 1 metre distancing.
- There will be NO singing in service as singing increases the distance droplets can travel. Instead we will listen to recordings and watch videos as contemplation.
- There will be NO morning tea/fellowship time after services until we get to Level 1.
- All persons with any cold, cough or similar symptoms are kindly requested not to attend services until the symptoms have passed.

## **Worship @ St Andrew's - Sunday 9:30am**

**Families with young children are very welcome. Quiet toys and Bible-based activities are provided in Church**



*June 7th - Communion - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby*

*14th - Rev John Twemlow*

*21st - Dorothy Preece*

*28th - Ross Millar*

*July 5th - Communion - Bill Woodward (M.A.F.)*

*12th - Bill Woodward*

*19th - Rev David Rolinson (Auckland)*

*26th - Ladies' Bible Group*

## **Level 2 plan continues...**

### **Communion**

- Bread and wine will be served to the seated congregation, as per our usual practice, with Elders using the vacant pews to keep distance.
- Wine will be offered in disposable communion cups. Congregation are asked to dispose of their own cups in the bin provided at the end of the service.
- Bread portions will be laid out individually on large trays rather than heaped on a plate.

### **Hall use**

- QR codes are being requested, one for the Church and one for the Op-Shop; the Parish Council encourages all hall/Church users to download the official app, though it is recognised that not every phone is compatible.
- Groups using the Hall must sign in using provided sheets, and all hard surfaces to be wiped down at the end of a session.
- There will be NO use of the kitchen until level 1

## Parish and Community Information

*Information correct at time of printing, but please check with organisers*

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

**CANCER GROUP COFFEE & CHAT** - first Friday of every month. For those diagnosed with cancer, and their carers. Contact Penny 027 684 0004

**CHURCH OP-SHOP** opens Tuesday-Saturday 8:30-12:30, now with EFTPOS! 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

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

**HALL BOOKINGS** contact Dorothy Preece 869 5452

**LADIES BIBLE STUDY** Wednesday at 10am. Ring Julie for further details on 021 169 1637

**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 021 169 1637

**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

**WHENUAKITE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** For venue and times ring Beryl 866 3739 or Annie 866 3711

**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 service 9:30 every Sunday starting 7 June*

### **MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH**

#### **St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church**

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

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