

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

August-September 2020

Our Mission in the Parish is to actively show the Love of God to all - to demonstrate the life of Christ in our lives, and to lovingly encourage all to build their lives on Him.

Our people and their stories: Heleda Scampton



Heleda first came to Whitianga in the 1970's, after a relationship break-up. Her mother Pauline Cullen was already living here. Heleda's children, Selina and Mark went to school in Mercury Bay, and attended Sunday School at St Andrew's. They lived here for about 10 years, and Heleda was nurse-aiding at the old hospital on Buffalo Beach. Since then Heleda and the family have moved around a bit. She was back in the Bay for a time when Mary Petersen was our minister, and earlier this year Heleda was welcomed with open arms when she popped up to be part of our fellowship again.

This story however, is more about Heleda's interesting ancestry, beginning with the Jennings family who came from England several generations ago, some settling in New Zealand, some in Tonga. One of the earlier brothers made his home in Thames. He owned the first commercial fishing boat in Thames and became an M.P. The Jennings grave is in the old Shortland cemetery. One Jennings brother married Ma'u, a Tongan lady, and Heleda's Grandfather Frederick was born in Tonga. Frederick worked as an architect and distinguished himself as the designer of the Roman Catholic Cathedral. It is built of coral blocks, and Grandfather had to procure a portable sawmill to cut up the coral. This feat of engineering brought him great respect, and the Key of Tonga, awarded by the Royal Family. This respect for the family still carries through Tongan society today.

Grandfather Frederick married Winifred, of Fijian and Australian parentage, and their daughter Pauline, Heleda's Mum, was born in Suva, Fiji. Thereby lies a network of Pacific family culture and customs that have coloured Heleda's life – even though she has never yet visited the islands!

“They were all devoted Catholics,” Heleda says. “Frederick's sister Catherine went on to become the oldest Nun in Tonga. She died at age 101. Auntie Lorraine became a missionary. “My mother was the eldest of 20 children, and the extended family is very well connected in the Pacific.” Heleda's half-sister is a Tongan MP and a cousin to the Royal Family.

Pauline, Heleda's Mum met her Kiwi airman husband Albert when he was on active service in Fiji. He brought his war bride home to New Zealand. They lived in Glen Innes, where Heleda was born, before the family moved to Rotorua, where she went to school. There were five children in the family. Heleda's dad was a teacher in Rotorua.

“Mum and Dad bought a beach house at Papamoa, and I have very happy childhood memories of our beach holidays there.”

“Every year at Christmas, about 30 uncles, aunts and cousins, would gather together. Grandfather Frederick flew all around the Pacific with his work, and with so many relatives to visit in New Zealand, he would often arrive unannounced. He would often fly in at Christmas with all kinds of island foods, pineapples, coconuts, fish - and they would put down an umu feast. There were ukeleles and island dancing, the whole works. ‘Isa Lei’ was my mother's favourite song.”

Heleda's Dad, Albert was Anglican and despite the strong Catholic connection on the other side of the family, Heleda and her siblings attended St Luke's in Rotorua where Heleda was confirmed at age 11. She then went to the Baptist Church in Rotorua with her school friend and was baptised by total immersion at age 14. This diversity of cultures and faiths has melded together in Heleda to make the caring person we know today. Heleda has always been very keen on sports, with hockey and athletics at the top of her list. “It runs in the Jennings family genes. Lots of them have made names for themselves in sport. Arthur Jennings was the first Pacific Islander to become an All Black. He travelled with the team on the 1979 British tour. Micheal Jennings plays League in Australia.”

Whenever we are called on to cater for funerals at St Andrew's, Heleda

gravitates to the kitchen. Maybe all those umus at the beach also helped to hone her considerable skills as a caterer for large numbers!

“My Grandmother Winifred taught me to cook island-style, rotis and scones fried in the pan.

“After my parents split, I went to live with my Dad, and I was brought up in a Kiwi family. As happy as my memories are, sometimes the island customs can be very constricting. Respect for elders and family obligations are very strict. In the islands, guests eat first, then the men. The women eat next, and lastly the children.

“I prefer the New Zealand way. I am a New Zealander. There are so many family connections over in the islands, I think I would find it all rather a burden if I went to visit.”

At various stages on her life, Heleda has taken study courses related to health and welfare, one of which was a grief counselling course. She believes faith should be lived out in practical ways.

“Some people talk a lot about how much they do, how they are respected in their communities, but in my book it’s not about your big words and what you say, it’s about what you do, how you live your life.

“In my experience the quietest people, the ones who stay out of the limelight, are the most genuine, the most caring. They don’t make a song and dance about it, they just get on with it, respecting everyone as equals and helping where they see a need.”

Heleda says whenever she comes back to Whitianga and to the St Andrew’s Fellowship, “It feels like family.” What a great endorsement of our Fellowship here!

Sadly, Heleda is talking of moving away again.

“I think I have inherited my wander lust from the Jennings side. My kids, Selina and Mark are both very keen sportspeople and surfers. They rarely find time to travel over the hill, so when I’m here I don’t see much of them. I’ve decided to look for a home somewhere down the coast, or maybe a mobile home, so that we can visit more easily. This is just another step in the journey for me – I am at the time of my life where I want to travel, to Germany, to America, even perhaps to the Pacific Islands. Who knows what the future will bring.”

God Bless you Heleda, in all that you do.

*You are invited to –
An Afternoon of Musical Memories
On Friday August 21st at 2 pm.*



*Featuring home-grown talent and community sing-along
followed by Afternoon Tea.*

Gold coin entrance to cover catering.

Book the date and bring your friends!



St Andrew's Church Op-shop

Winter Opening Hours

Now open from 9 am to 1 pm

Tuesday – Saturday

With Mini Pop-Up Sales Daily.

Come and find your pre-loved treasure

Volunteers are always needed. Please call Madeleine 866 0169

An Important Discussion at St Andrew's

***At the September Election we are voting in a binding referendum on the
End of Life Choice Act.***

At our 6 pm Combined Churches Service on Sunday 30th August the guest speaker will be Heather Major, a rest-home nurse caring for terminally ill patients. She is encouraging everyone to examine the detail of the Bill, regardless of their leanings. After speaking to Coromandel Grey Power, one person said they were unsure whether Heather was 'for or against'. Heather says this is good. She doesn't tell people how to vote. She just wants them to understand what the Bill entails, before they vote either Yes or No.

Please publicise this talk, and encourage everyone to come.

Community Meals Update

(Pictured – Alistair “Masher” Rogers)

Monday Meals were discontinued during lockdown, with only frozen meals being distributed as need arose. No-one is currently employed to oversee the programme, so for the past few weekends, volunteer members of our Trust (Mercury Bay Community Support Trust) have been cooking up a storm in the church kitchen. We know the need doesn't go away, and the Trust is making sure the meals programme will continue into the future.



A registration form has been distributed in the local media, and anyone in any kind of need is encouraged to register for the meals. These forms are also available from the church or the church Op-shop.

Families are invited to pick up frozen meals from the kitchen between 3:30 and 5:30 on Mondays, and those who are not yet registered can do so, and take meals away on the day. Deliveries are being organised for those who cannot come to the kitchen, and frozen meals are available for any emergencies, on any day. These meals may be needed for a variety of reasons – low incomes of course, but there are many in our community who cannot cook for themselves at home, and for whom a home-cooked, nutritious meal is a real blessing.

Registrations can also be by email to mercurybayctrust@gmail.com

Food for thought - look it up!

In our service recently the Ladies' Bible Group pointed out the similarity between two texts: Isaiah 5: 1-7 and Matthew 21:33-46. The people listening to Jesus tell the story would have thought, "Yes. We know this story" because both start the same way. All Jewish men studied the Old Testament in detail and Jesus knew they would recognise it. But Jesus went on to tell a quite different story, about the 'tenants' of the vineyard who out of greed, killed the son of the 'owner'.

Jesus knew the Scriptures – but He gave them a very different meaning!

Our prayers for the Covid World

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working safely
from home,
or in socially distanced, clean spaces
Remember those who must choose between
risking the health of those they love
or making the money for their survival.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
even when the schools are closed,
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have had to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no place to go,
or no place to stay.
May we who are losing our profit margins
in the tumult of the economic climate,
Remember those who constantly live
on the margins of society.

(Adapted from the Chaplaincy Dept, Marquette University.)



Funerals at St Andrew's

Our heartfelt prayers go to those who are bereaved.

13th June Malcolm Altham Brown

Dorothy Preece officiating

17th June Kathleen Maud Bradford

Rev John Twemlow officiating



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

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



- Aug** 2nd - Communion - Rev John Twemlow - shared brunch follows
9th - Kevin Pringle
16th - Dorothy Preece
23rd - Ross Millar
30th - Peter and Dorothy Chaffin
- Combined Churches service, 5:30pm light meal, 6pm start
Guest speaker Heather Major - End of Life Referendum
- July** 6th - Communion - Rev John Twemlow - shared brunch follows
11th - Dorothy Preece
18th - Ladies' Bible Group
25th - Kevin Pringle

Can you help with the church duty rosters?



We need more people for the Door Welcoming Roster and for the Morning Tea Roster.

If you can help with either of these, please let Julie know.

For donations to the Church and Parish:

Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish

BNZ Whitianga

02 0496 0062562 00

For donations to the Monday Meals:

Mercury Bay Community Support Trust

Westpac Whitianga

03 1578 0108901 00

Thank you for your support!



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

St Andrew's service 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.

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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

Website: www.standrewsbythesea.org.nz

Email: standrewswhitianga@gmail.com

Facebook: St Andrews Community Church Mercury Bay NZ

Local Ministry Team: Rev John Twemlow 021 0222 1394

Parish secretary: Dorothy Preece 869 5452

Newsletter editor: Charlotte Christensen strettoc@gmail.com