

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter Newsletter February-March 2020

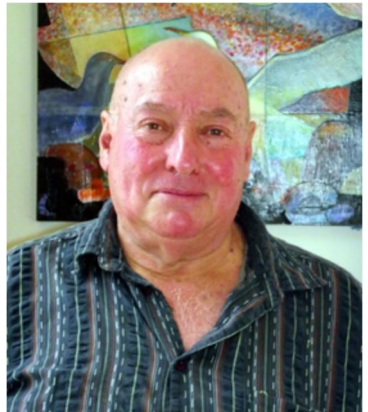
Our Mission in this Parish is to demonstrate the Love of God to all people, and prayerfully encourage all to follow Jesus

Our people and their stories:

Martin Wigmore

Martin has recently joined the St Andrew's Fellowship, and although his family history in the area goes way back, we will get to know him better after reading his story. Thank you Martin!

Born at the 'old hospital' on Buffalo Beach in 1952, Martin was the first child of Edwin and Yvonne Wigmore. Martin's half-brother, Edwin's son Kevin was 18 months older. As time went on, six more siblings were born to the family. But let's start at the beginning.



The New Zealand Wigmore story starts with Martin's great-grandfather, Robert Wigmore, who settled in Hahei around 1866. He purchased 'the Valley of Hahei' in the 1870's – yes, all of it! Robert was the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1876 to 1887. He built the kauri homestead by the beach (with the iconic fig tree) which now belongs to the Harsant family. The burial place of Robert and his wife Fanny is marked by a cairn in the Wigmore Historic Reserve near the house. Martin still has Robert's family Bible.

Moving forward a generation, Martin's grandfather Henry married Kate -Eliza Harsant, and from there on the settler families became related to 'just about everybody in the Bay.' When Martin was born, the family lived on a dairy farm on Purangi Road. Martin's Mum, Yvonne had a very hard, abusive childhood which affected her life. She was Catholic and the children went to Church with her, either to the Marist Brothers' services at Cooks Beach, or in Whitianga. Martin particularly remembers Father McCabe, 'a gentle, saintly man' who was a role

model for Martin. The Wigmore children went to Whenuakite School, and then Mercury Bay District High. Martin says chronic asthma and dyslexia problems slowed his learning, but still he loves to read, and absorbs information like a sponge.

In 1958, when Martin was 6, a traumatic event changed the fortunes of the Wigmore family. A fire swept through the farmhouse at night. The parents and their three children, Kevin, Martin and baby Marceine all escaped, but for years Martin bore the scars where his arms were burned. "Mother's arms were scarred until she died." They moved into grandma's house on the farm and eventually Edwin built a family home for the family across the road. "My Dad was no builder, and for years the house was a work in progress." Edwin worked the dairy farm until the Harsant family took it over and Edwin earned a living by farm labouring. Times were tough. After Marceine, the babies kept coming; Fiona, Dean, Clement, Michelle and Edwin-John completed the family. A brand new Model A Ford truck was the pride of his father's life, and for many years the kids went everywhere on the tray at the back.

A strong spirituality runs through the Wigmore family, and at age 16 Martin's brother Kevin (only 18 months senior) was instrumental in bringing him to a decision for Christ. "I knew I was saved, that I belonged to the Lord, but it took time for me to realise that brings responsibilities, like studying the Bible and being part of a fellowship". Fred and Erna Parr started a Christian fellowship in their own home. The whole family used to attend, and 'Cook's Beach Bethel' became Martin's spiritual home. At age 21, Martin was baptised at the beach by Pastor Fred.

Martin's brother Dean went to Bible College. "Our Dean could really preach," Martin says. It was a huge blow when Dean died accidentally in Perth, Australia at age 30. "I knew my brother was with the Lord, and that made it easier. I believe the Lord told Dean he would die soon, and he rang my sisters to say goodbye."

Martin left the Bay for a while, and went to Auckland where his maternal grandad 'Pop' got him into a building apprenticeship, but it wasn't what Martin wanted. "I was more interested in electronics, but

I couldn't get work so I came home." For a while Martin worked for Coromandel Council, repairing roads, slashing weeds, spraying etc, then at age 23, he joined the team at NuLook Windows in Coghill Street, making aluminium joinery.

The business was owned by Derek and Dorothy Preece. Martin made window sashes faster and better than anyone, and he stayed with the firm until he was 31. Then it was time for a change. He went back to Auckland and got his 4711 ticket in structural welding. He worked as a welder installing lifts, and for a fire services company, until the gases and fumes got the better of his asthmatic chest. Martin lived in various boarding houses, and life was tough.

"I ended up spending 32 years in Auckland and only came back to the Bay occasionally. By the time I left Auckland I was manager and custodian of a boarding house. You meet some really nasty types in those places. I'm glad to be out of it.

"I didn't really connect with any church while I was in Auckland, but I have always followed my own Bible study routine, recommended to me at an early age. I have a set pattern of reading from a different part of the Bible on each day of the week. It's an essential part of my day.

Back in Whitianga, Martin worked with milk merchandising at New World Supermarket, until his retirement. His Mum Yvonne died in 1995 and Dad, Edwin in 1998. Martin and his sister Marceine now live in the house at Purangi Road. The other Wigmore siblings are spread far and wide.

"I have attended various churches in Whitianga, but I think I have found my niche now," Martin says. "Several of St Andrew's people come over on the ferry every Sunday, and I've found another cousin, Jan in the fellowship here.

"After all these years, Dot Preece and I had a lot to catch up on, and it's been good to talk."

Welcome to the fellowship, Martin!

Parish Register

Child Dedication:

Sunday 5th January, Charlotte Hazlett Mowbray was dedicated after service at St Andrew's, Rev John Twemlow officiating. Charlotte is the daughter of John and Joy-Anne Mowbray, whose family roots are in Hahei, now residing in London.



Funerals at St Andrew's:

Saturday 11th January: Kathryn Joyce McLeod.

Heather Bruce officiating.

Tuesday 28th January: Ronda Diana Campbell-Barnaby.

Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby officiating.

A Musical Miracle

When planning the service for Christmas Day, Dorothy rang around our musicians to find out who might be available.

No-one was. OK- fallback position - use recorded music with words on screen. Not possible – our sound/ screen technician Julie would also be away. No music on Christmas Day! **PRAY PRAY PRAY!**

Then a phone call from one of Julie's 'tech trainees', Sylvia:

"My sister-in-law Debra plays piano. Maybe she will play?"

Praise the Lord! Debra said yes. A lovely Christian soul who loves to play, particularly Christmas Carols. On the day, Sylvia put up the words on screen and Debra's playing was applauded in church! Prayers were answered. Thank-you, Sylvia and Debra for so beautifully saving the day.

Christian World Service Appeal

The Christmas Day offering for CWS amounted to \$387.

If you still have CWS envelopes, it's not too late to post your donations.

We bid farewell to Diana

With sadness we record the passing of our friend Diana Campbell-Barnaby. Diana died at her home on 24th January after a long illness.

Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby conducted the service for Diana at St Andrew's on Tuesday last, 28th January. Our hearts go out to Gordon and the family. Just two years ago Diana discovered that she and Rev Shirley were second cousins. It was a bond that blossomed for them both, and they spent many happy times comparing notes.

Diana will be fondly remembered for her many special talents, which she used generously for the Lord's work. A long-serving member of our Parish Council, Diana was always ready for any events with her signature foods – merinques, chocolate slice and savoury eggs. The Church sales table was also stocked with Diana's handcrafts.

At Christmas the Barnaby household was transformed into 'The Christmas House' a spectacular display at which Santa and Mrs Christmas were the hub. Their joint guest appearances at all town events were legendary. This year, despite Diana's failing health, the Christmas House netted a total of \$1,487.30 from the wishing well. As usual, the whole of the proceeds goes to Day Camp. Gordon says with so many people no longer carrying cash, he'll have Eftpos next year! We are deeply indebted to both of these dear people for the contributions they have given to the community.

In 2006 Dorothy interviewed Diana for the church Newsletter. Diana said, "I live by the words of the song –

*'If I can help somebody as I pass along,
Then my living shall not be in vain.'*

We have lost a Sister-in-Christ who will be sadly missed.



Monday Meals update

Visit St Andrew's Church hall on any Monday, and you will see this tremendous outreach happening.

It all began with an act of faith in 2013, and responsibility for the mission has now been passed from St Andrew's Church fellowship to 'the Church Trust' – Mercury Bay Community Support Trust. Cooking starts early with the food prep team under the direction of Tania Iti. (Meanwhile the Monday Upright and Active group gets active, surrounded by delicious aromas.) Home deliveries begin around 4 pm, with an average of 20 meals delivered each Monday. In addition, up to 60 take-away meals are provided to those who call in to take packaged meals to neighbours and families. Tables are set up café style in the hall. Placemats have Bible activities devised by Julie each week. Meals are served from 5 pm and those who come in to eat also get pudding! Hall attendance has been growing, now up to 30 people eating together, largely thanks to the dedicated work of Maureen Kerr and the Community Trust team.

Last week, Life Church (Auckland) held a weekend at the Morcom's farm, Cook's Beach. All of their left-over food came to St Andrew's for the Monday meals, including packs of frozen sausages and unopened bags of coleslaw. Those who came to eat in the hall were surprised to find a smorgasbord laid out for them.

Maureen Kerr says such acts of kindness and generosity just keep on happening. "We are often given excess food from large catered events. The Bike Park gardens and St Peter's Anglican garden bring fresh veges every week.

This is God, confirming our work, and we are constantly giving thanks for these blessings." **Non-judgmental Christian support and friendship** are at the core of the mission. You are invited to come in on any Monday afternoon. Share a meal, served with God's love - and your friendship.

See back cover for bank account details if you wish to contribute to Monday Meals

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

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

Feb 2nd - Communion - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby - Fellowship Brunch

9th - Dorothy Preece

16th - Ross Millar

23rd - Kevin Pringle

Mar 1st - Communion - Rev Jacqui Cavit - Fellowship Brunch

8th - Rev John Twemlow

15th - Ladies' Bible Study Group

22nd - Dorothy Preece

29th - Peter and Dorothy Chaffin

*29th - Combined Churches Service at St Andrew's,
5:30pm start with a light meal*

Rev. Jacqui Cavit was the first Resource Minister appointed to this Parish when we became a 'Worship Team' under Presbyterian oversight. Jacqui is now one of the Moderators of the Kaimai Presbytery. We are pleased to welcome Jacqui back to the pulpit on March 1st.

On the first Sunday of each month, 'Communion days', we try to extend our morning tea into brunch and spend more time together. Try to stay longer on those days if you can. Contributions of finger food are always welcome.

Food for Thought:

At our service on January 26th, Rev Viv Coleman prayed the following: "Forgive us Lord, that we despoil your world, treating it as ours by right, rather than an entrusted gift..."

Originally from Nick Fawcett's 'Selected prayers for public worship'. Rev Viv reminded us of Genesis chapter 1: And God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply; replenish the earth and have governance over it. I have given you every green thing and every beast of the field, and it shall be for food... and God saw that it was good."

Let's pray for guidance and wisdom, as we go forward in faith and trust, to face the challenges of a despoiled world.

Parish and Community Activities

Newcomers are cordially invited to join any of these friendly groups

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

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

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