

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter Newsletter June-July 2019

Our mission in this fellowship is to share the Love of God with everyone, and encourage all people to follow Jesus

Ladies Ministry in West Bengal, India

On the fifth of April three local ladies, Robin, Annie and Ros; and Althea from Waihi (Nurse, Midwife and Councillor) travelled to West Bengal. Based in Siliguri, we travelled to the Dooars area ministering at two Women's Retreats among the tea gardens. The topics we were asked to speak on regarding women's health were: Breast Cancer, HIV and AIDS, STDs, Grief, Raising children in



a Christian home, Transparency between husband and wife, Alcohol addiction and Health and Nutrition. We took Silverbeet and Pak Choi seeds with us and gave small packets away to those who attended as we were told their diets were lacking in green vegetables.

It was a wonderful time ministering to 300 women. Everything was so colourful and the women were dressed in their beautiful clothes. Many of the women were empowered to recognise health issues in their own bodies and how to look after themselves. Many women were prayed for and The Lord ministered to them. There were many tears and lots of hugs. Life is very hard for some of these women. Babies and children were blessed and prayed for. We met the most amazing Christian workers; their example of faith was a challenge to our own. Karmu and Humesh organised these two meetings in the tea garden churches. They also look after people with HIV/AIDs. We visited a women pastor near the Bhutan boarder, she was a widow with two children, who was carrying on her husband's work. An elephant had damaged their kitchen two years before. (A novel way to get a new kitchen!)

One of the most amazing women we met on this journey was Pastor Magdalene, who for a number of years has ministered to the lepers in a leprosy colony. We

were not permitted to visit the colony. Her work there has been supported by some women from AIM Ministry for some years now. We all spoke at her church which meets in her home, and the hospitality shown to us was amazing. We took the children from the colony and other local children to a picnic in the Forest near Siliguri. We played games with them, we sang songs and had lots of fun. The children were all given gifts of pen, pencils, hair ties and balloons. There was a bus load of children plus some adults from Magdalene's church. The church ladies had cooked an amazing lunch. Our driver, Lazarus, certainly thought the meal was okay: he went back for four helpings! We later had a lolly scramble with the children - great fun. The children returned on the bus in high spirits, singing and squeaking their balloons.

We had another women's retreat in Siliguri at Loyala Pastoral House organised by Pastor Magdalene. We brought Biblical teaching that all of us shared in and one young girl gave her heart to the Lord. Many of these women were leaders in their churches and it was a very joyful time with much dancing and singing. Althea spoke on Breast Cancer and HIV. We noticed that the men leaders disappeared from the back of the meeting at this point. A friend from Wellington, gave money for musical instruments to be used at Magdalene's church and they purchased a guitar, ukulele and a box drum. Magdalene is now renting a room at the Leprosy colony and using the instruments to teach the children how to drum and play the guitar and ukulele. This room is also used to teach English to any one who is interested to learn.

Magdalene is very entrepreneurial and has a little plant business that helps to support a young Pastor helping her and another young man. She was very thankful for the baby clothes donated by Madeleine from St Andrew's Op Shop.

Magdalene took us to Lamahatta Farms, a four hour drive into the hills beyond Darjeeling. It was in a beautiful forested area where we visited locals to do door to door evangelism. Annie wondered how we were going to go door to door with only one native speaker with us, but GOD undertook. It was an amazing experience and the presence of God was so strong. What started off as a looking at the gardens and plants became an opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus. At the last house we met a young Christian women who was going through a difficult time and was about to abandon her faith; she had her

prayers answered that day when we turned up. We saw the Lord minister to her in a most beautiful way. We stumbled our way back to the lodge in the dark full of several cups of home grown tea from the people we had visited.

On our return to Siliguri, Althea met up with a trained nurse, who in her spare time spoke to young people's group on the dangers of pornography and HIV. Althea left all her notes and resources with this young women to encourage her to get a team together who can work together educating young people and women in rural and city areas through church groups.

We also left bags of women's personal products to be distributed by the women leaders we met along the way. Thank you to all the local women who helped with this. We shared a time with other Christian workers in Siliguri and brought devotions to the group.

Many thanks to the leaders in West Bengal who organised our journey, some of whose names we cannot mention. A big thank you to all who donated towards the meetings and picnic and to everyone who prayed for us. You were such a big part of what happened there in India. Lives have been changed because of your generosity. No one in our team was sick and we survived the crazy Indian drivers and obstacles like dogs, bulls, cows and goats. RIP to one chicken and apologies to a goat.

THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

And most of all, thank you to our Lord who sent us.

Signed, Robin and Annie



Day Camp 2019 and 2020

Mercury Bay Day Camp 2019 was again a major success with the largest number of children ever at a total of 340 registered! The increase in numbers led to some last minute scrambling as Council required us to extend the tent to cater to the crowd, but in spite of what at first seemed an insurmountable challenge at short notice, all was in place in time for camp to go ahead. The power of prayer at work, at least for those of us praying fervently for a solution.

Speaking of new challenges, this was the first year we've done the registration process entirely online and it was very popular with most parents, providing immediate confirmation of places rather than the six week anxious wait for the post of past years.

We had two new electives this year: Circus Arts, led by a professional circus performer based in Dunedin, and Raft Building, which was a totally amateur but completely fun challenge to kids to build something that wouldn't sink when it was placed on the pond. Some of the classics were still popular, to the point where Campfire Cooking actually ran short of sausages and the Committee Treasurer had to be sent on an emergency run to the butcher!

Camp costs continue to rise, especially the transport costs, but with massive community support, donations, volunteers and some fervent prayers we came through with enough to cover the bills. God be praised!

Camp 2020

Next year's camp will be the 20th anniversary of Mercury Bay Day Camp, and the Organising Committee want to mark this very special milestone in our history.

At this point, we're seeking anyone with memories, stories or even photos of past camps. Do you know someone who attended the first camp? Or perhaps helped out as a volunteer or activity leader?

Maureen Kerr has already begun collecting stories from those around her and is eager for more. You can email her on maureenkerr62@gmail.com. Or alternatively you can speak to me when I'm at church, ring me at home on 867 1234 or email me at strettoc@gmail.com.

Also, if you have any great ideas on what could make our 20th anniversary extra special, please do get in touch. A subcommittee will be meeting on July 10th to begin the planning process and we're open to new ideas and helpers!

Op-Shop AGM

The Church Op-shop held its AGM on May 6th. We are a not-for-profit organisation, so we don't make a profit! Instead, we are meeting all our commitments to the local churches and community groups who regularly receive donations from us. In addition, we have donated \$4,300 to local groups for one-off projects, including storage cupboards for two kindergartens, work benches for the Bird Rescue group, and screen printing equipment for Artists in the Making, which helps handicapped or challenged people to be creative. The Op-shop also gave \$3,000 to Day Camp.



As a Parish we are ever grateful for the many loyal souls who run St Andrew's Op-shop every Tuesday to Saturday, 8:30 – 12:30. It is pleasing to note that we are gaining volunteers, Baptists, Anglicans and Catholics among them.

Clothing for Charity

We pride ourselves on the quality of goods we sell in the shop. Anything that is still good, but not considered 'saleable' by our standards, is given away. The Management team is always looking for new outlets, for bona-fide groups who can take used clothing for specific needs. If you have any ideas where our clothing might be used, please ring Madeleine on 866 0169.

Financial Matters

For donations to the Church and Parish:

Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish

BNZ Whitianga

020 496 0062562 00



For donations to the Monday Meals:

Mercury Bay Community Support Trust

Westpac Whitianga

03 1578 0108901 00



Our Musicians



Our ever-faithful organist, Heather Stephenson, says she is slowing down and would like to ease herself out of the regular Sunday task. In future, Heather will continue to play for our monthly Communion services.

We must acknowledge the tremendous blessing that Heather and her daughter Linda have brought to us over so many years. Linda's sweet solo voice has lifted our souls almost every Sunday, and we hope 'the Stephenson team' will continue to do so, on Communion Sundays in future.

This will be a big change in our service planning – Heather has always been there, confident and unruffled, to play whatever the various worship leaders threw at her! We are pleased to announce that Elizabeth has kindly volunteered to play twice a month, and our friend Jim Hargreaves has agreed to play on the remaining Sunday. We thank God for these willing souls, and we know that God is at work here. The Spirit is leading us into the future. *Praise God, and Watch This Space!*

God in Everything

ref. 1 Kings 19:11-12

I HEAR God in the thunder,
I hear Him in the hail,
I hear Him in the pelting rain,
And in the stormy gale.

I SEE God in the heavens,
I see him in the sky
I see Him in the universe
I see His power on high.

I LISTEN to the roaring wind
I listen to the noise
I listen to the gentle breeze-
And hear His still, small voice.

I FEEL God's presence near me,
I felt it from the start,
I feel His boundless joy and peace
DEEP within my heart.

- GDR.

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

***Families with young children are warmly welcomed.
A family space is provided, with quiet toys and
Bible-based activities***



*June 2nd - Communion - Rev David Rolinson
9th - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby
16th - Kevin Pringle
23rd - Robin Twemlow
30th - Shane Kennedy - Grace Presbyterian, Auckland*

*July 7th - Communion - Rev John Twemlow
14th - Dorothy Preece
21st - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby
28th - The Ladies' Bible Team*



Funerals

14 May - Heather Isabel Meikle, at St Andrew's.
Gordon Barnaby officiating
18 May - Edward Arthur Smith, at St Andrew's.
John Twemlow officiating

Our sympathy and prayers are with the families



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

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

HALL BOOKINGS Usually Dorothy Preece, 869 5452, however Dorothy will be away from **16 May to 25 June**. For this period, please instead contact **Madeleine, 866 0169**

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

POWER HOOPING - Tuesday & Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30pm. Contact Kaylin kaylin.debruyne@gmail.com

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.

St Andrew's service 9:30 every Sunday

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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