

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

August-September 2023

Our Mission in this Parish is to bring the saving love of Christ to all whom we meet, and by our example to encourage them to follow Him.

Our people and their stories - Janet & Peter Finlayson



Peter and Janet have lived in Opito Bay since 2016. Despite the distance, they are very supportive members of our Fellowship. In Janet's words, "There are a lot of God things in our story".

Peter grew up in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) the youngest of three brothers. His mother was of the Dutch Reformed (Afrikaans) Church but church-going did not feature highly in their lives. As his father was a bank manager and worked in a lot of African countries, so his parents thought it best to send their sons away for schooling. Peter was just nine when he went to Boarding School. He eagerly looked forward to holidays when he could go home and also spend time with his cousins on his Uncle's tobacco farm, or stay with his friend whose father was a Ranger at the Wankie Game Reserve. When he went to High School his parents were transferred to another town and Peter had to spend two nights on the train journeying to school.

After Boarding School Peter also joined the bank. It wasn't long before he realised a career in the Bank was not for him and so he resigned and joined Brian Colquhoun & Partners, a Civil Engineering firm working on the suitability of routes for proposed new roads and then testing the different materials for road construction. It took Peter surveying deep into the African bush for months at a time, and he has lots of stories to tell of those times – wild animals and all.

At age 23 Peter's big OE took him off to the UK and Europe. Back home in Johannesburg Peter went with his brother to the YWCA hostel one afternoon, to pick up his brother's girlfriend. Whilst there he saw a

young Kiwi girl called Janet. Peter visited again to see Janet and invite her home for Christmas. Six weeks later they were engaged - a "God-thing" says Janet!

Janet was born in Auckland but the family moved to Otumoetai, Tauranga, when Janet was four. There were five children under six, so Mum Aileen was very busy! Her mother was a woman of strong faith, which Janet learned from an early age. They attended the Anglican Church. Janet's father, Max, first grew peas on her parents five acre plot in Avondale, Auckland. Max had been in charge of Refrigeration at Fanning Island on his first posting during the war and had read there of early American experiments with frozen foods. He was a clever entrepreneur, and on his return back home he bought a refrigeration plant from Fisher and Paykel and started up a company called 'Frosted Foods' in Penrose, producing the first frozen foods (peas) for the NZ market. He then devised a method of freezing crayfish tails for export. This led to preparing pre-cooked and pre-packed frozen meals for TEAL airlines. In 1950 this was all ground-breaking technology. When the company was eventually bought out by Watties, Janet's parents bought land in Te Puke and started up a poultry farm supplying eggs and dressed poultry to the local community and growing Tauranga market. Janet attended Te Puke High School where she had "fabulous Bible Class teachers" at St John's Anglican Church, who were also her teachers at school.

Janet would have liked to stay on at school, but her father arranged an interview for her as a secretary at Wright Stephensons (now Wrightson's Farm Supplies) in Te Puke. She did very well, and after a couple of years transferred to the company's larger office in Hamilton. Janet was reluctant to leave home. "I was a little mother, helping out wherever I could and really missed my family when I had to go boarding some distance away." At age 20 Janet's big OE took her to Australia, where she worked as a secretary at Matson Lines in Sydney, a luxury American cruise liner company. "It was a great job. One of my jobs entailed going down to the ships when they arrived to collect the mail. Sometimes the staff were invited to attend a show on board". During this time she stayed at the Anglican Youth Hostels and joined the Anglican Church there. When it was her turn on flower duty she would rise early in the morning to catch the markets as soon as they opened to buy flowers. After two years away, Janet

felt it was time to return home and went flatting with her sister in Auckland. There she got a job as secretary to the Demonstrators at Wella. An exciting opportunity presented itself to Janet one weekend when on a visit home to her parents. A family friend from the farm up the road invited her to join their family as an au pair in the Belgium Congo, where her husband was opening up an irrigation scheme. Anne had three little girls and wanted company. When it all fell through at the last minute Janet decided to carry on with her plans and got a job with a branch of the same Wella hair company in Johannesburg. (Can you see where this is going?) She was staying at the YWCA...

Peter and Janet were married in 1973 at Janet's home church, St John The Baptist in Te Puke. They lived in Australia for 18 months. Peter got a very good job with Alfa-Romeo and Janet with a French company, Total Oil. However with Peter's mother ailing in Johannesburg, they returned to South Africa, and Peter went back into the motor industry while Janet started work as a Secretary at Nedbank International.

They badly wanted to start a family and for nearly ten years they waited. Finally they decided to adopt. They approached Child Welfare but they had closed their books. After much prayer they contacted the Catholic Women's League - a "God thing" says Janet. After two years and many home visits and meetings they received a phone call to say there was a baby for them - a little eight to ten weeks premature boy. They named him Matthew Michael (the name his mother had given him). Janet was scared to pick him up as he was so tiny. Nearly one month later her worst fears were realised when Matthew stopped breathing. Janet couldn't get him to start again. She rushed to the neighbour, who gave the baby mouth-to-mouth and got him breathing. "Thank goodness she knew what to do". Another God-thing.

Just 16 months later Janet gave birth to their baby girl, Catherine. And then, five years later at age 40, a surprise! Another son, Royce was born. Peter had by this time completed a Management Advancement Programme at University of Witwatersrand and was now the Export Manager for Nissan. However with everything in South Africa changing and Janet not having been back home in ten years, Peter and Janet decided to leave and head to New Zealand to live permanently. They lived first in Christchurch, where Peter joined his brother-in-law in building construction, but after

South Africa he found the Christchurch climate too cold! They moved up to Tauranga, Janet's home region and the family attended Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Peter took a formal course at BOP Polytech and got his Trade Certificate in carpentry. Not long afterwards he was offered a job with a Japanese Car Parts company – a trade that suited Peter well, and for which he was well qualified after his long experience with Nissan. After this he and Janet's brother, Allen, started their own business putting in new structures for kiwifruit orchards in and around Tauranga and Te Puke. Peter did this for several years before eventually joining Farmlands. Janet worked as a secretary at Bethlehem College (private Christian school). After ten years there she felt led to study and completed a Bachelor of Education degree at BTI (Bethlehem Tertiary) followed by a post-graduate at Waikato University. With Matthew having experienced reading difficulties because of dyslexia, and knowing how difficult schooling had been for him, and was for so many others, Janet felt called to do something to help. After teaching for a time at Greerton Village school she took up a volunteer role, home tutoring children with learning difficulties. Janet loved the work.

When Matthew turned 18 Peter and Janet encouraged Matthew to make contact with his birth mother to let her know he was ok. After a couple of months contemplating the idea Matthew happily went back to South Africa with Peter to reunite with his biological mother. He found that he also had a half-brother there. The reunion was a very happy and special occasion, the timing of which turned out to be another "God-thing".

In 2016, whilst holidaying with their daughter's in-laws in Opito Bay, Peter and Janet met the owners of a lovely home. "They invited us in to look around. We loved it! ... They named the price, we agreed on the spot – of course, it was a God-thing... and we are further blessed with two grandchildren, Eli and Mia.

*...and we are blessed with your presence in the Bay, Janet and Peter.
Thank you for telling us your story.*

Parish Register

Memorial Service

Joyce ('Marsie') Bruce
at St Andrew's on July 8th.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to her family.

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Death, beautifully envisaged.....

A terminally ill man, as he rose to leave the surgery, said to his doctor, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly the Doctor said, "I don't know..."

"But you are a Christian man Doctor. Surely you know what's on the other side?"

The Doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side they could hear scratching and whining. As he opened the door, a dog came bounding in, and leapt on the Doctor with joyful exuberance.

Turning to the patient, the Doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never allowed in this room. He didn't know what's here. He didn't know what to expect. He knew nothing, except that his master was here. When the door opened, he sprang in without any fear.

"I know little of what lies on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there, and that's enough to know."

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Friendship Coffee at Espy

Mondays – August 7th and September 5th.

Bring a friend and make some new ones.

See you there!



New Church Rosters

Janet has kindly agreed to organise the rosters. Thank you Janet.

Door Greeters:

(Please check the list of duties for this team- on the hymn book stand)

- First Sunday** – Martin Wigmore, Ian Brown
Second - Barbara Blake, Janet Brown
Third - Dorothy Preece, Madeline Saunders
Fourth - Annie Lynch, Madeline Saunders
Fifth - Ian and Janet Brown

Morning Tea:

- First Sunday** - Barbara and Madeline.
Second - Gina Mahmud
Third - Christine Christie, Heather Anderson
Fourth - Joy McGregor, Enid Hogg
Fifth - Gina Mahmud

Thank you all – we're a great team!

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Christmas Boxes are now available from church and Opshop.

Please pack a box/boxes if you can, to help children in the Pacific who have very few personal possessions. The boxes are distributed to every child in the village, and they come with a Christian message.

The cost of shipping has risen. St Andrew's will help with these costs.



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Our Church Organ is free to a good home.

Baldwin in good working condition.

Come, take it away!

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Pumpkins Galore! The pumpkins in the church garden have done very well. There were too many for the Monday Meals to use, so Joy has been cutting them up and selling them from the Opshop. Thank you Joy!

Worship @ St Andrew's, 9:30 every Sunday

August 20th – John Twemlow We look forward to welcoming John back to our pulpit on August 20th. Since they left us, Robin and John have built a new home in Waihi.

August 27th - Rev Andrew Doubleday We are delighted that Andrew has accepted our invitation to visit. Andrew is based in Christchurch, and is Ministry Facilitator for UCANZ – United Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand. As a Presby- Methodist Co-operating Parish, we are part of UCANZ. Andrew has suggested a forum after the service (or after lunch) where we can ask questions about the work of UCANZ and our part in it.



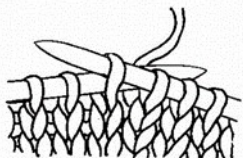
Aug	6th	Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby (Communion)
	13th	Julie and Bible Group
	20th	Rev John Twemlow
	27th	Rev Andrew Doubleday - UCANZ Ministry Facilitator
Sept	3rd	Dorothy Preece (Communion)
	10th	Elizabeth Nicholls - Praise and Worship
	17th	Ross Millar
	24th	Kevin Pringle

From the Pulpit:

Bill Woodward gave us this quote from St Francis of Assisi:
“Preach the Gospel always... And if necessary, use words.”



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Operation Coverup (Mission Without Borders)
We need more knitters for refugees in Poland and Ukraine. If you can help, please call
Brenda Duncan 027 475 7265

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**

Parish and Community Information

- Monday **Upright & Active** 9am weekly exercise for active seniors
Contact Carol 867 1097
Manawa Kai Heart Food Kitchen community meals
takeaway only, every Monday 3:30-5pm.
Contact Maureen 027 246 6164
- Tuesday **Stitch n' Chat** fortnightly 1:30-4pm in the Hamilton
Room. Contact Julie 021 169 1637
Enliven (Presbyterian Support for the Elderly) weekly
Contact Jenny 021 071 9539
- Wednesday **Ladies' Bible Study** 10am weekly
Contact Julie 021 169 1637
Inter-Church Women's Fellowship Monthly.
Contact Annie 866 3711
Scrapbags quilting group 10am weekly.
Contact Robin 866 5029
Parkinsons Support 6-weekly.
For dates and times contact Keith 027 459 8683
- Thursday **Enliven** (Presbyterian Support for the Elderly) weekly
Contact Jenny 021 071 9539
- Friday **Cancer Support Coffee Morning**
First Friday of each month. Contact Ruth 021 363 840

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St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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

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

Facebook: St Andrews Community Church Mercury Bay NZ

Parish Council Chairman: Kevin Pringle

Parish Secretary: Dorothy Preece 022 132 2061

Newsletter Editor: Charlotte Christensen