

Parish and Community Information

Monday **Upright & Active exercise for seniors** 9:30am weekly
Contact Wendy 027 721 5113 or Kathy 021 254 2769

Manawa Kai Heart Food Kitchen community meals
takeaway only, every Monday 2:30-5pm.
(Tuesdays on Bank Hols) Contact Maureen 027 2466 164

Tuesday **Upright & Active exercise for seniors** 9:30am weekly
Contact Wendy 027 721 5113 or Kathy 021 254 2769

Stitch 'n' Chat fortnightly 2-4pm in the Hamilton
Room. Includes afternoon tea. Contact Julie 021 169 1637

Enliven Presbyterian Aged Support 11-3 pm
Lunch provided. Contact Wendy 021 2296 324

Wednesday **Scrapbags quilting group** 10am-3pm weekly
BYO lunch. Contact Wilma 027 253 5589

Parkinsons Support 6-weekly. 11am-2pm
For dates Erwin 07 866 5665

Friday **Cancer Support Coffee Morning**
First Friday of each month. Contact Ruth 021 363 840

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church

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Parish Secretary: Dorothy Preece 022 132 2061

Newsletter Editor: Charlotte Christensen

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's Community Church Newsletter

February-March 2025

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: Dorothy Pooley (née Lee)

Dorothy now lives in Melbourne, but she regularly visits back to her old stamping ground, revisiting very strong family roots and the church that her family helped to build. The church that has played such an integral part of her family life.

Dorothy is cousin to Alex Hamilton, who also comes back to visit us every summer from Queensland. They are both welcomed with open arms whenever they appear in the district and at St Andrew's but their visits rarely coincide.

This year, Dorothy was invited to speak at the Historical Society meeting. The venue at the Lost Spring was crowded with people, half of them related to her! Dorothy's fascinating talk was about the trees that the early settler families grew around town. She was using her father's notes, handwritten in a historic note book. "I've never taken my father's things to Aussie, they belong here," Dorothy said.

The old map that she displayed, from 1880, showed just 14 houses in the township! That was just five years before our church was built.

Dorothy was born in Whitianga in 1940. Her parents were Alfred and Iris Lee (née Hamilton) and those early settler families were very close knit by intermarriage. Dorothy's family lived on a dairy farm at Moewai Road, Whitianga, which now has the airfield on one side and the golf club on the other. Her father, Alf Lee bought the first 100 acres on the golf club side from his uncle, with the help of a private loan from Mr Lyon, who bequeathed Lyon Park to the town.



The second 100 acres on the airfield side were purchased from Mr Wood. Milk from their cows went to the Mercury Bay dairy factory (now the Museum).

Dorothy was born during wartime, when many of her older Hamilton and Lee cousins were away at war. "We never tasted chocolate or a banana until the war ended." Dorothy says. "Clothes were home-made and much of our food was home-grown. Auntie Phyl made our clothes, and my father made my toys. Other toys were passed down from cousins. The families all shared what they had, meat, eggs or fresh veges. Two of my uncles grew a lot of veges at their place on the Tairua Hill. My Dad had a boat, the *Waihaka*, and often went fishing. There were always loads of fish in the Bay, and the fish was shared around. I loved going out on the boat." Dorothy had one brother, Graham who sadly died in a farming accident at age 39.

The children went to Sunday School every week at the 'Undenominational Church' (now St Andrew's). "Grandad William Lee was the Sunday School Superintendent, and he would have been very displeased if we didn't go." Their parents, Alf and Iris didn't often go to church.

"Auntie Ella Lee played the organ. She lived with Auntie Doris in the Lee family home in Campbell Street. One of our teachers was Mary Smith, who lived on the farm on South Highway. That farm is now part of the Whitianga Waterways."

There were many chances for the extended families to get together, but they were usually community events rather than family celebrations. "If they were raising money for something, like after the war when they were raising funds to build the Whenuakite Hall as a War Memorial, they would hold Paddy's Markets, and everyone in the district would turn out. We'd meet all the cousins at those times."

Dorothy went to school in Whitianga, and then on to Ardmore Teachers' Training College. While there she met a young engineering student at a nearby college, Don Pooley, whom she married at the Whitianga Undenominational Church in 1964. Auntie Phyl made her wedding dress, and a couple of years ago, at our first 'Made by Hand' craft exhibition, Dorothy sent her wedding dress over from Melbourne. It had pride of display space at the back of the church.

Worship at St Andrew's

Services every Sunday at 10.00 am. Communion on the first Sunday of each month. Bible activities are provided for children during the service.

Feb	2nd	Dorothy Preece (Communion)
	9th	Julie & team
	16th	Kevin Pringle
	23rd	Ross Millar
Mar	2nd	Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby (Communion)
	9th	John Ormsby
	16th	Dorothy Preece
	23rd	Deacon Margaret Birtles
	30th	Rev John Twemlow

As a 'Local Ministry team' we are indebted to all of our visiting preachers, who brave the vagaries of weather and 'adventure roads' to bring the Word to us. If you know of any preachers who you can recommend to Parish Council, we want to hear about them.

In Memoriam

January 9th Memorial Service
Kevin Robinson -
Gordon Barnaby officiating.
Please hold the family in your prayers.



Live Streaming

We have recently received a funding grant from the Methodist PAC Communications and Media fund. This will go towards the cost of new cameras in the church, to enable services to be live streamed when requested. Thanks to all those who 'subscribed' to U-Tube to help with this technology.

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**

Whitianga Continuing Care Unit

With no resident Minister, St Andrew's needs to find one or two people from our Fellowship who have the time and the goodwill to visit at Continuing Care. Not just to visit any St Andrew's people who might be there, but to take time to chat with other residents who might never have visitors, and to be seen and known as a Christian presence there. If you feel you (with a friend, perhaps?) could do this, please talk to Dorothy.

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Enliven @ St Andrew's

The Enliven programme is run by Presbyterian Support Services, for older persons who have mobility or disability issues. It seeks to provide a change of scene and a friendly atmosphere, with games and activities. Enliven meets every Tuesday, from 11 am to 3 pm, and includes a cooked lunch. If you would like to enquire about an assessment for someone to join Enliven, please contact Wendy 021 2296 324.

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The Church Opshop

Have you visited the shop lately? There is always a friendly face at the door, and we always have time for a chat. **Women's wear is all \$2** – even the top label brands - and we always have the best bargains in town.



Seven of St Andrew's Fellowship are on the Opshop team, led by Madeline.

We are currently overloaded with ladies' clothing, but good, clean menswear is always welcome. As well as supporting St Andrew's we regularly give to the other Whitianga churches. We also encourage applications for funding from local community groups.

The newly-weds lived for five years in Tokoroa, where Dorothy joined the local Presbyterian Church. Don was not a church-goer. "He sometimes made derogatory comments, but I didn't let it worry me." Baby Michael was born in Tokoroa.

In 1969 they moved to Melbourne, where Don was employed by Bechtel Pacific Corporation. Soon after their move to Australia Don helped to commission the new nickel refinery south of Perth.

The move was not an easy one for Dorothy, with such a big, supportive family left behind in Whitianga.

"I was on my own a lot of the time, because Don's work often took him away from home, but I joined the local church and I found there another faith family to belong to." Dorothy came home for the birth of their second son, Trevor. She took a teaching job in Australia but didn't teach for very long. Don died when he was 63, and she has now been alone for 22 years. "I have been blessed with many good friends through the church and in the community, and although I am no longer allowed to drive, I am very well looked after. I count my blessings every day."

Dorothy now has four grandchildren in Australia, one of whom wants to be an engineer, like his Granddad.

"My faith has always been a big part of my life, and it has always helped me through. It's always a joy to come back to Whitianga and I will continue to do so as long as I am able."

Thank you Dorothy, for sharing your story with us. God bless you as you travel back to Melbourne. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

Stitch n' Chat – it's all about friendship

Julie organises the Stitch n' Chat group in the church hall, every second Tuesday from 2-4pm. (Always on recycling day – it's also pension day!) Julie says, "New members are very welcome. Just come along to work on your own projects, or to start a new one. Many people work on baby clothes to send to maternity hospitals. We have expert knitters willing to help others. We have wool and needles to start you off. Or if you haven't got a project you are welcome to just come along for a friendly chat and share afternoon tea. **You can contact Julie on 021 169 1637**

St Andrew's Fellowship Link

This is a new name for a renewed approach to 'pastoral care'. It seems a friendlier name. At St Andrew's AGM in October, the question was raised about how effectively we look after one another within the local Fellowship. We decided that we are a very caring congregation but not really organised. So there was potential for people to slip through the cracks, for loneliness or health problems to go unnoticed.



We resolved to get organised. We had already set up local Fellowship phone lists during Covid, and after the AGM Christine Christie and Debbie Gordon began to update the lists to make sure these contacts were maintained.

The idea is for the *Fellowship Link* team to keep regular contact with their people, either by phone or email, to be a friendly voice and a listening ear, and to make sure no-one feels they are without a friend to talk to.

On January 23rd the *Fellowship Link* team got together to set parameters and find the best way forward. It was a good meeting.

We are aware that we are an aging congregation, and sometimes people need more than just a friendly chat. Debbie has approached several health and wellbeing agencies who provide support in the local area and could be helpful in a variety of needs, such as home help and mobility issues.

Your *Fellowship Link* contact person has this information. She will give you her phone number and email address and you are encouraged to make contact with her at any time. (The *Fellowship Link* team is all female at present): Barbara Blake, Christine Christie, Debbie Gordon, Annie Lynch, Elizabeth Nicholls, Muriel Pedersen, Dorothy Preece, Madeline Saunders and Julie St George.

If you would like to chat, please don't hesitate to call. Or if any other Fellowship member is experiencing any difficulty, please let the team know. We cannot offer support if we don't know.

It is firmly understood that everything is held in utmost confidentiality.

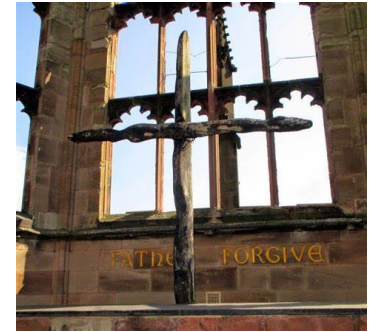
A Psalm for our time

My heart grieves, O Lord, over the leaders of this world, who play God with the lives of people. With their clever twisting of half-truths they gather followers and manipulate them. Men blind to personal conscience and responsibility.

Then there are the starry-eyed mystics who assume they are God's special gift to mankind and who, through devious means create their little cults of loyal disciples. You shall have the Last Word, O God, and those who take your place or stand in your way as you seek to draw your children to yourself, will one day be subject to your judgement.

You are my God, mighty and eternal. Forbid it Lord, that I should ever turn from you to follow the false shepherds of this world.

--Leslie F. Brandt - Psalms Now



Thank you!

Dorothy wishes to sincerely thank all the Fellowship friends who have been praying for her through her surgery and recovery. Dorothy says:

"People have been so kind and caring. I have received so many flowers, chocolates, hot meals, cookies, fruit, phone calls, visitors – and of course, prayers. I feel truly blessed. I have recovered really well, and I thank God for the skill of surgeons.

I can't speak too highly of the medical systems that saw me in hospital after only 3 months from the first diagnosis.

Special thanks to Debbie and Madeline who have kept the BnB going for me at the busiest time of the year. I am so blessed to have such good friends. Thank you all!