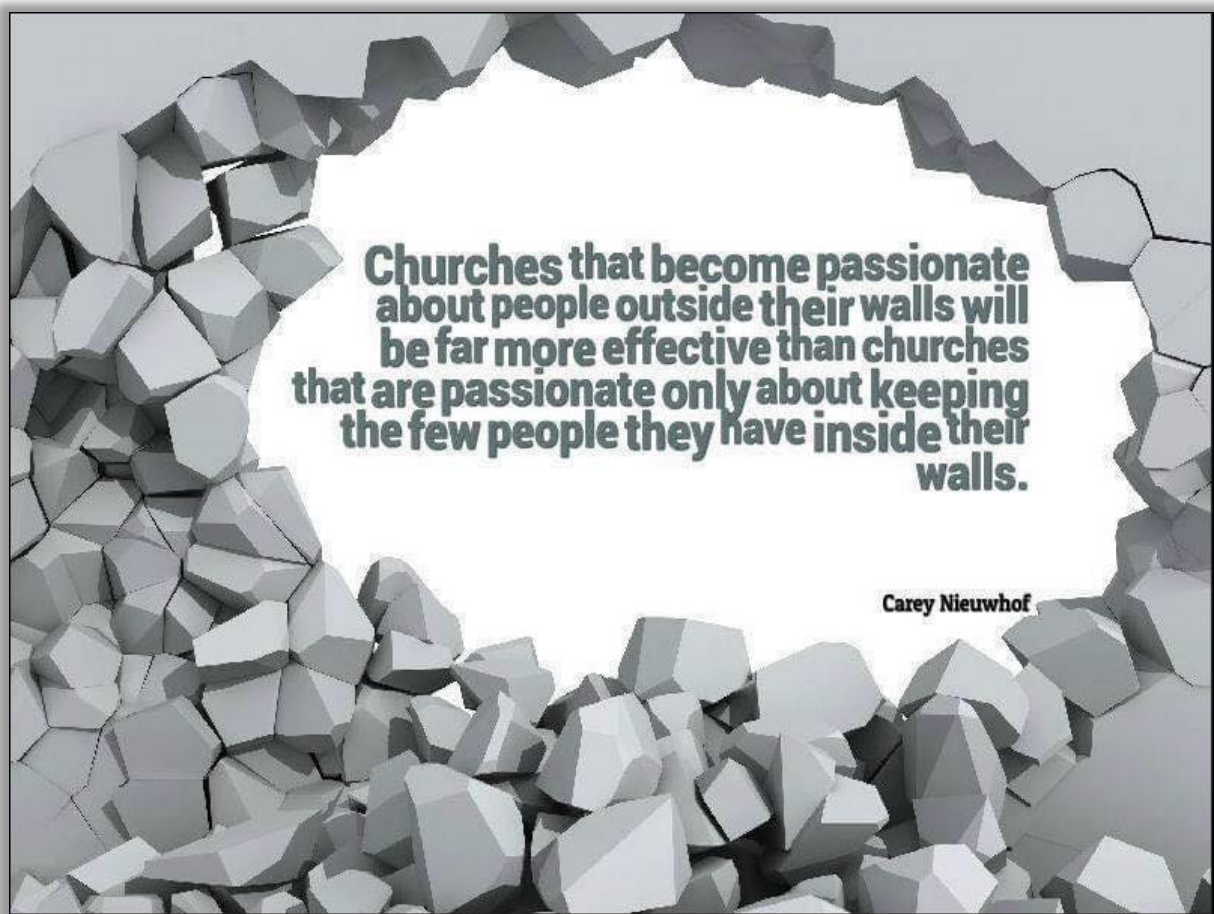


# **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Newsletter**

**November 2022– January 2023**



## **Our Vision**

- ❖ **Accepting all people**
- ❖ **Striving for Compassion**
- ❖ **Seeking to live out Christ's selfless love until we see God's justice realised**



## Jill's Musings.....

As I begin, I want to apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. There has been so much going on, it is only now that I am sitting down to write my piece. These are challenging times we find ourselves in as the church and over the last two months there have been many meetings with our sister Presbyterian Churches to consider how we can work together more in a time where we will soon have three of our parishes in vacancy (Napier North - Ahuriri, St Pauls Napier and St Johns Hastings- as at Dec 13<sup>th</sup>).

It has been a great opportunity to connect with other Presbyterians here in Hawkes Bay and we look forward to finding ways to work together to support one another. Already our St Andrews Parish Council is talking with St Johns about this, but at a regional level we are planning to have some combined worship service next year beginning at St Andrews in March, so that is something to look forward too. We are also planning some workshops lead by the Knox Centre of Ministry and Leadership to help resource lay leaders in our church. It is my hope and prayer that necessity is the mother of invention here and that working together more will further strengthen us as disciples of Jesus here in Hawkes Bay.

I spent some time in Auckland as part of the Inclusivity Dialogue to explore how we can make the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand more welcoming and inclusive of people who identify as LGBTIQ+. The conversation was respectful and honest. There was a humbling level of personal sharing and engagement from those present. We spent significant time brainstorming possible ways forward for the church on an issue that has deeply divided us for decades. Careful notes have been kept on the options explored and the pros and cons of each option. A smaller group will now work to refine the outcomes of our meeting in preparation for a report to the GA next year.

Lately I have read so much about the dreadful church experiences that LGBTIQ+ have had, with some even being told that they aren't welcome here when they walk in the door. It has left me wondering how we can let the community know that St Andrews is a church where we will welcome rainbow folk.

The Tivaevae group that we have been running has been going from strength to strength. We anticipated that it would be an 8 session course when it began in March but it is still going! It is about to culminate in an exhibition where the women will showcase what they have been creating and have it blessed. The women are loving the experience of simply stitching and talking together as they create such beautiful Cook Islands handcrafts!

I have conducted a number of funerals over the last few months, Win Rapley who at 96 had been part of St Andrews for so long, Gary Smart from Havelock North, and Eddie Thomas, Bev's husband who often joined Bev at St Andrews. We pray for each of their families as they navigate this time.

I also travelled down to Gore to conduct my Mum's brother's funeral which was a special family time. While I am used to leading funerals, it was special to do this for my own family and to be reminded what an important time funerals are in our lives as we grieve together and strengthen the ties that we have as we laugh and cry together. They are a sacred space that emanates the Holy Spirit.

It was delightful too to conduct Nathan and Nadine Yeatts wedding on October 15<sup>th</sup>. It was special to have some of the church ladies there to serve a cup of tea to the guests - something the newly weds gave us a donation for.



We have had a couple of incredible Common Good events, with Jon Fletcher, the Cultural Advisor of Hawkes Bay Regional Prison on the Road to Oranga (wellness) and Dr Andrew Shepherd Otago University Public Theologian on Sustaining Hope in Tough Times. Both were filled with hope. To hear about the wonderful work Jon Fletcher does that helps in the healing and restoration of lives was fantastic, while Andrew Shepherd reminded us of the importance of dwelling deeply in the narrative that shapes our lives - the Christian story.

This Sunday I am going to be preaching from Haggai 2, where God tells the people to take courage and reminds them '*My spirit abides among you; do not fear*'. They are important words for us to hear today!

*Jill*

**Post Script:** The Tivaevae exhibition was incredible and how good it was to remember that each and everyone of us is stitched with love by God our Creator - some thing so evident in the words of Psalm 139.

Jim, Christine and I attended the PCANZ One Conference and it was incredible. So inspiring and encouraging, and so diverse. There were lots of young people there and such diversity of ethnicity. The conference will now happen every two years. I encourage you to come along in 2024!

# Notes from Parish Council Clerk...Jim Spall

Hi everyone.

Yea- spring is here! I'm sure you, like me, are enjoying the sunshine and warmth of recent days. Hawkes Bay has experienced record levels of rainfall. This has fully recharged our soils and dams but it also meant months of wet weather gear, mud, and a tough period for our livestock. However, the cycle of life continues and the sight of bouncing lambs and calves, and the spectacular blossoms are quickly putting this period in the past.

At St Andrews we too have been birthing new projects despite adversity or perhaps because of it. In August Parish Council's strategic focus was on the St Marks transitional housing and chaplaincy proposal. Some of the issues we considered included:-

- + the dramatic changes faced by the wider church with many parishes in vacancy and facing difficult financial circumstances
- + the cost of the project and associated risks
- + the "not in my backyard issue"
- + finding partners who would provide the operational expertise for the project
- + the role of the Chaplain

We decided we should proceed to the next stage provided it was endorsed by the congregation. Subsequently at a congregational meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> August unanimous support was given to this which included affirming our missional goal of establishing the St Mark's Village, forwarding the feasibility plan to Central Presbytery and developing a business plan.

At our September meeting council reviewed how we were doing both as a council and as a church. We looked at our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It was good to identify these as while we certainly have some weaknesses and face threats we also have many strengths and opportunities. I think the AGM on the 25<sup>th</sup> September reinforced the positive state that our parish is in with significant developments in many areas including the creation of our host position, the success of the Common Good, and the significant improvement in our forecast financial position.

We held our October meeting in late September and discussed the outcomes of a Hawkes Bay Presbyterian churches meeting held at St Columba's, Taradale on the 17<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting was in response to St Andrew's Parish Council drawing Presbytery Council's attention to upcoming vacancies in the near future for a number of congregations in the Napier/Hastings area and that the usual method of setting up separate Settlement Boards may not be the most helpful way forward.



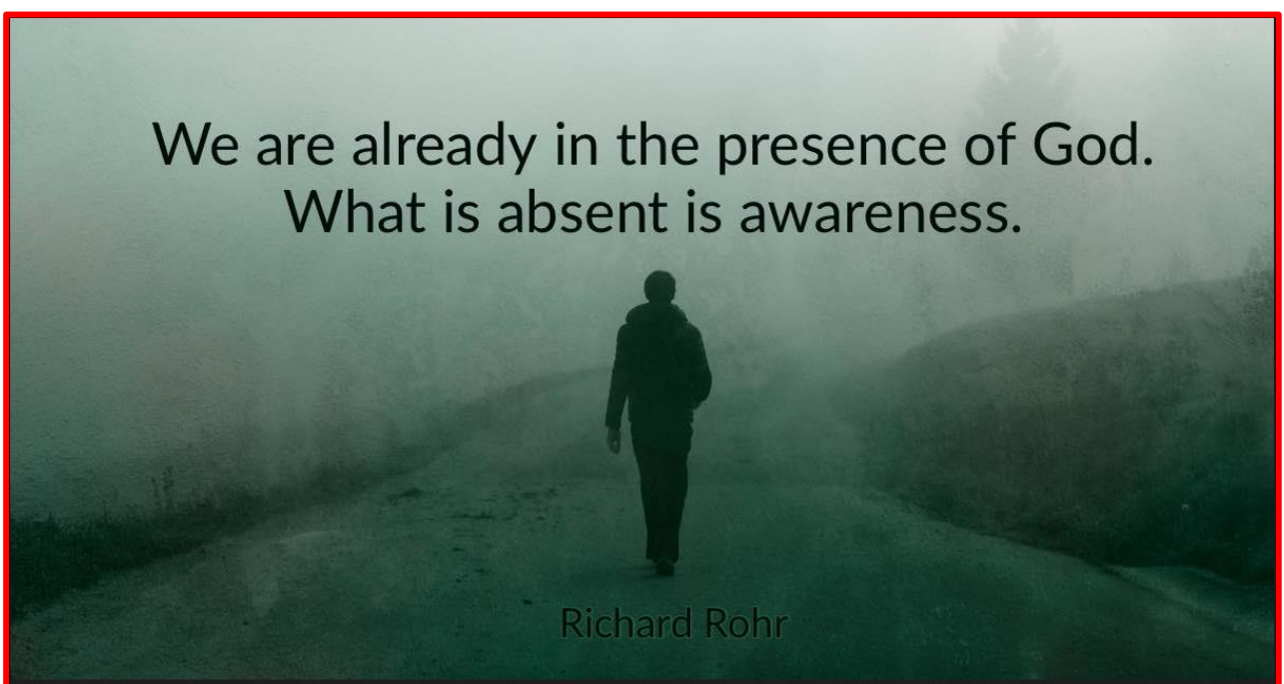
Outcomes from the meeting included committing to developing a covenant to work together. We will be exploring how we can combine people, administration, finances and property. Of immediate relevance to St Andrews is that Paul and Michelle Loveday are due to retire in mid-December from St John's and we will be meeting to see how we can assist each other in ministry. These are big changes from the past and we have no doubt that there will be many challenges. However, it is our conviction that the Spirit of God is calling the churches to work together.

There have been some great events in the last few months including our combined worship with the Hastings Church with the singing lead by Lala Simpson, as well as the Common Good with memorable sessions with Jon Fletcher, cultural advisor at Hawke's Bay Prison, and most recently Andrew Shepherd, a lecturer in theology. We are looking forward to the display of Tivaevae on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> with a lunch after worship in the lounge.

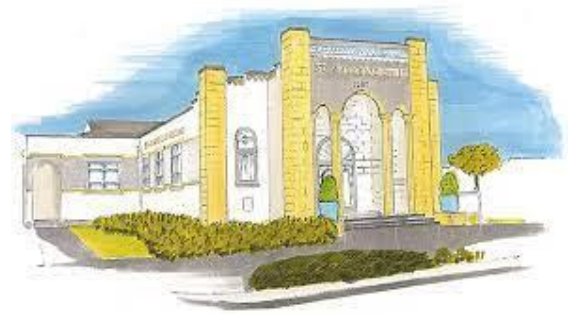
The Presbyterian Church is holding a national conference at St John's in Wellington from Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> until Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November and four representatives will be attending from St Andrews. Over 240 people have registered and Jill and Chris will be presenting on some of our projects- very exciting!

*Matthew 13:45-46 "Again the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding a pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it"*

Arohanui, Jim



**From Parish Council:  
A Significant Decision for  
St Andrews Hall and the  
Community Connect Trust**



*The Community Connect Trust (CCT) (formally known as the Hastings Church Drop In Centre) want to buy the St Andrews hall. This is a big decision for St Andrews and we encourage you to talk with Parish Council Elders. We are providing opportunities to do that and encourage you all to come and talk with us. Below are the details of what they do and what has happened so far.*

The Community Connect Trust is the social service arm of the Hastings Church that is happening in the St Andrews Church Hall, led by Pastor Warren Heke. We have been calling it the Drop In Centre but it is now so much more than that, hence the new name. In collaborative partnership with Anglican Care and Hastings District Council, CCT have created an integrated hub that provides a connection point for service providers and service users to engage in a nurturing environment that supports positive person centric outcomes for some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

CCT offers breakfast six times a week and a hot meal five nights a week for people who are homeless. They have recently set up a medical clinic in what was the commercial office space of the hall, where Sarah Heke, a registered nurse attends to people. Alongside this they work closely with organisations like WINZ, Community Corrections, Te Whata Ora (former DHB) to assist in providing wrap-around care to support vulnerable clients, enabling better support and long-term, client-led, positive outcomes.

There are other innovative activities happening, like an artist in residence supporting people to create art. Some have recently sold the pieces of art they have created. In the picture here, former HDC councillor and his colleagues are providing free haircuts.

They are doing some amazing work there, it really is a Kingdom of God place. This photo almost captures the light of Christ shining through.



## What Has Happened So far?

St Andrews was approached by Hastings Church in March to see if we had any space available where they could run their Drop In Centre in the short term because they had to leave their building in Heretaunga East St. They have since sold this building.

After engagement with Warren Heke, Lucy Leitinen (CEO of Anglican Care) Parish Council determined that we would make the space available for the Drop In Centre to move in. In the first instance the plan was to have CCT rent it short term while we went through the process of long term lease which requires approval from both the congregation and the Church Property Trustees ( the owners of all PCANZ). This decision meant that we had to say goodbye to a number of long term tenants, which was not an easy process and some were of course very disappointed about this.

However we were so conscious of the aims of those planning the hall refurbishment back in September 2010, which were listed as:-

- *Upgrading the Hall for increased church and community use*
- *Developing a drop-in facility to meet the needs of the community*
- *Developing partnerships engendered by users of the Hall*
- *Promoting the holding of public meetings and exhibitions*



God often works in ways that are unexpected and once the refurbished hall was opened in June 2013, local police suggested that a Drop In Centre would be too challenging for volunteers to manage. Somewhere though the seed had been sown awaiting the right conditions and we now have something much greater than a Drop In Centre happening in the St Andrews hall. It has felt like the Holy Spirit has been ahead of us leading all of this to happen.

Then at a congregational meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> the following motion was confirmed: *'That the St Andrews Congregation agrees to hire the St Andrews Hall complex to the Hastings Church for a term of ten years. The carpark at 208 Market St South does not form part of this property being leased to Hastings Church.'*

The next step was for the long-term lease to be drawn up by lawyers and given to CCT to sign. However, this lease has not been signed.

In September, the Mayor, Sandra Hazlehurst, asked to meet with Parish Council, along with HDC CEO Nigel Bickle, Warren Heke and Lucy Leitinen. As partners of CCT they

expressed their desire to buy the hall. They are concerned about the cost of leasing the hall long term, as they want CCT to be financially sustainable going forward and leasing it is effectively throwing money down the drain. As well as the long-term sustainability of their work they are also wanting to make some changes to the building, for example installing showers. This is much easier if they own the building.

CCT has been offered another building that they could potentially work out of, but they prefer the St Andrews Hall for the sense of faith and peace that are experienced there as well as its proximity within the CBD. **We have undertaken to get back to them by April 2023 with our decision.**

Parish Council has been grappling with this knowing that St Andrews Hall is significant for many parishioners. At the meeting with the Mayor, we raised the option of entering into some kind of equity partnership with CCT, something they were very open too.

However, we have been in touch with Russell Garrett, the Executive Officer of Church Property Trustee's about this possibility. In his response to St Andrews he wrote: *"We prefer simple arrangements. In our experience, complicated arrangements don't often stand the test of time. This is particularly the case for congregations, which evolve and change over time. An arrangement that makes sense to one Church Council/congregation might not make as much sense to the next Church Council/congregation."*

*We also believe the Church needs to rationalise its property portfolio. We're not in favour of acting as a landlord, noting that many congregations do not have a good track record of maintaining buildings (ultimately leading to a loss in value). If a property is not being used for mission, we suggest parishes consider selling".*

We are now left in the predicament of what to do with our hall. There are many issues to weigh up:-

**Pros:**

- If what is happening in the hall is living out God's purposes, does it matter who owns it?
- It is a place where all that was longed for by St Andrews in 2012 is happening.
- How much have we used the hall in the past five years?
- How would we use the hall if we didn't have it leased to CCT?
- Do we have the capacity to use the hall for God's mission?
- While we earned around \$20,000 from hall hire, when costs were taken into consideration we broke even.
- If CCT were to leave and go elsewhere it would be very challenging to get new tenants.



- It is ten years since the hall refurbishment was completed and in the not-too-distant future there will be some big maintenance costs eg replacing the roof.
- There are other costs in the short term that we have put off because of this looming decision for example installing a better-quality water heating system of around \$4000.

#### Cons:

- It is leasing the hall that has enabled St Andrews to have a surplus budget for the first time in many years. Selling the hall would mean that we would likely go back into a deficit budget but that our cash assets would be much higher.
- If we did sell, we could explore investing that money in a way that brings in more interest than the current 2% that is received through the Presbyterian Investment Fund. With 7% inflation, this means this fund is actually losing 5% per year.
- In 1933 the St Andrews Court of Managers (as it was known then) decided that they would build the hall because of *"the great need of a new Sunday School Building and Bible Class Rooms"*  
We find ourselves in a very different time now, and the reality is we have a big church complex where many of these types of activities or their contemporary equivalent could be based.

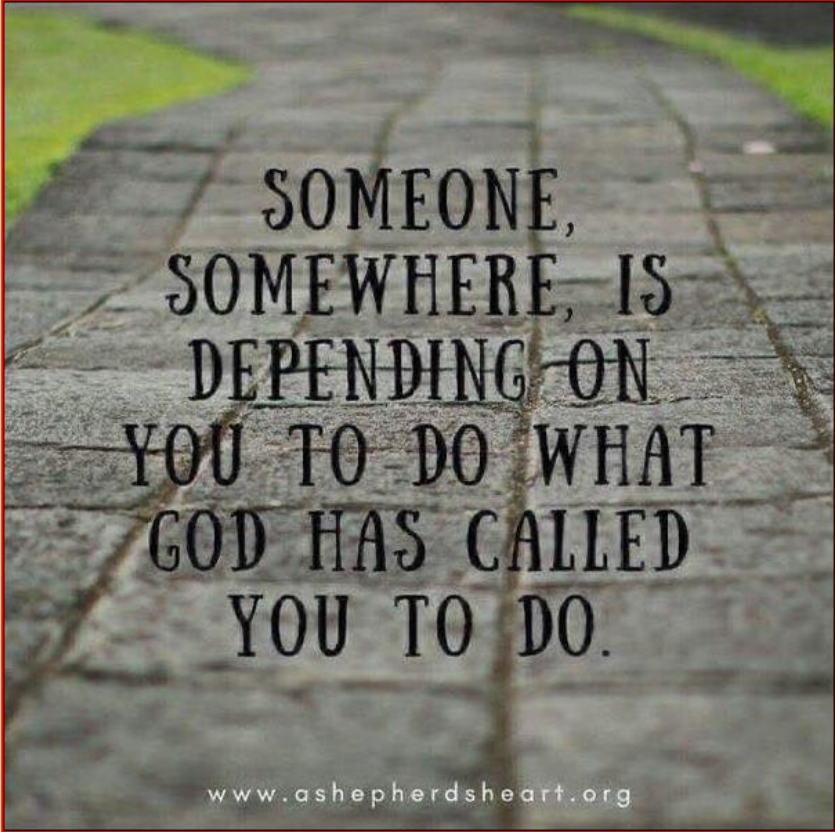
Parish Council understands that this is a big decision and that we need to have much consultation and conversation about it. To that end, once this newsletter is published we want to begin having conversations about this at a table set aside at morning tea after church on Sunday. This is a place where you can bring you questions and your concerns as we grapple and prayerfully discern together the way forward with this.

We will then have an information meeting to discuss this at **11.20am on 27 January 2023** No decisions will be made. After this Parish Council will set a date either for further discussion or a congregational meeting where we would make the decision.

Parish Council recognises that this is an emotive topic and it will raise many feelings and memories about a much loved hall. Do come and talk with us about this too.

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<sup>1</sup> Extract from the Annual Report 1933-1934, p8 Cited in A Brief History of the Present Church Hall  
Compiled by Don Clark 2013.<sup>1</sup>



SOMEONE,  
SOMEWHERE, IS  
DEPENDING ON  
YOU TO DO WHAT  
GOD HAS CALLED  
YOU TO DO.

[www.ashepherdsheart.org](http://www.ashepherdsheart.org)

DEAR CHURCH

JESUS IS VERY SPECIFIC:

FEED THE HUNGRY.

GIVE WATER TO THE THIRSTY.

WELCOME THE STRANGER.

CLOTHE THE POOR.

CARE FOR THE SICK.

VISIT THE PRISONER.

SEE YOU THERE.

CARLOS A. RODRIGUEZ

TOBYNAC #SPEAKLIFE





# CUP OF TIVAEVAE EXHIBITION









# IMPORTANT DATES

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2022 at 10.00am

November 27 - Membership Sunday – led by Jill  
*We welcome 6 new members*

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2022 at 10.00am

December 4 - Led by Jill  
*We are being donated a Peace Pou for our garden*

December 11 - Led by Jill

December 18 - Led by Jill  
*As part of this service we remember those who we have lost this year. We invite their families to join us.*

December 19 - 7.00pm - Kereru Carol Service

December 20 - 7.00pm - Maraekakaho Carol Service

December 24 - 7.00pm - Christmas Eve Service

December 25 - 10.00am - Christmas Day Service

## SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2023

January 1 - **No Service at St Andrew's Church**  
We join St Matthews at their Service at 10.00am

January 8 - Led by Jill  
St Matthews join us for our 10.00am service

