

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

**September – November 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.....



Kia orana Whanau,

What a full and enlivening time it has been at St Andrews. Our weekly Thursday morning study group has been going from strength to strength as we dwell in scripture together and reflect together on our journey as followers of Jesus together. We have had as many as 14 at study group.

The monthly Monday night study group is also going well. It is so incredibly enriching to gather as a group to focus on God.

Sacred Space on a Tuesday lunchtime is also gently growing as we gather together with some here in person and others on zoom to reflect, share and pray in silence together.

On Thursday evenings we have a St Andrews meditation group which operates through zoom, coming before Christ in silent prayer.

The Tuesday morning craft group too is a wonderful space of connection and warmth.

What a rich experience is it to be part of the Tivaevae group which meets from 1-3pm on the first and third Sunday of the month. As well as creating incredibly beautiful tivaevae and other crafts, it is such a rich time of being together, laughing and connecting.

Doing life together is such a key part of being a faith community and this is something that happens seven days a week at St Andrews. It is so heartening to experience the richness of love, connection and belonging that St Andrews offers as we follow Jesus together. Do let us know if there is something that you would like to engage with to enhance your connectedness here.

I hope you agree that it was indeed a blessing having Rev. Yvonne Smith with us for the month of July and to have her so engaged with our church life. It is wonderful to hear other voices. Yvonne thoroughly enjoyed her time with St Andrews.

## **Bridging Hawkes Bay**

We have just had the first training event for our Bridging Hawkes Bay (BHB) volunteers, and it went incredibly well. Within our first group of volunteers we have an incredibly skilled and experienced group of retired people including counsellors, social workers, a midwife and a minister. We are looking forward to watching this unfold as volunteers go out two by two to connect and care for those who have been cyclone affected.

We are delighted to have employed Fran Wulf for ten hours a week as the BHB Coordinator and Kirsty Morton as the Administrator. Fran will be supporting the volunteers, while Kirsty will deal with all the tangibles like the baking the volunteers will be distributing to break the ice and build connections.

Fran and her sisters come to the Tivaevae group and it was through that connection that Fran's employment came about. She has been out connecting with and caring for people since the cyclone happened.

Kirsty also went out post cyclone delivering groceries from Nourished for Nil. Kirsty grew up in Rissington so has those rural community connections too.

It was very special to pray for Fran and Kirsty as we commissioned them into their role.

If you would like to do some baking for BHB, do contact us to collect some containers you can put it in. We have a freezer to store baking until it is distributed. It would be much appreciated.

### **Rev. Linda Pollock**

It is incredible how the Holy Spirit has been leading BHB. In July, Rev Linda Pollock called from Scotland to me to ask if I knew of churches in NZ that she could do Sunday services in return for her accommodation. She had received funding to do a sabbatical and was interested in doing a little work to make her money go further. Because it takes a great deal of energy and time to get BHB established, this felt like a literal God send. Instead of taking the forecast 44 days, Linda's work permit came through in 2 weeks!

As well as helping out with Sunday worship at St Andrews with me, Linda will take one service a month at St Johns and will help them out with their Whanau Friday community dinner. She is also going to have some office space there.

Linda is a gifted minister who was on the Iona Community Resident Group the same time as me. She grew up in Northern Ireland but has been in Scotland for a number of years. Check out Linda's bio in this newsletter.

### **genLend**

St Andrews has now gifted genLend to the Stortford Lodge Rotary Club who we partnered with to do this innovative project. The gifting included the website, the database, the intellectual property, and five brand new generators that were donated by an Auckland movie company who wanted their generators to stay in Hawke's Bay and be used for future events. Stuart Knauf, the Rotary member who ran logistics for genLend is keen to make it a national rotary response for emergencies.

At a recent meeting to officially gift genLend to Stortford Lodge Rotary the feedback from the club was heartening, saying how good it was to see the church out there in the community serving people.

## Common Good

It was fascinating to interview Dr Emily Colgan about rape culture and religion at the Common Good. Emily is the very new Principal of St Johns College, (where Anglican clergy train). Emily is a biblical scholar who recently helped put together a fascinating podcast which takes a deep dive into the many stories of crime and violence that appear in the Bible. You can check it out at <https://www.bloodybiblepodcast.com>. On one of the episodes she shared a series of questions she asks her students towards the end of their biblical studies education. By this time they have already together explored things like the cultural and historical context in which the text was written and for who.

Here are the questions she asks:-

- *Whose agenda is being served in my reading of this biblical text.*
- *Is my reading life affirming.*
- *Does my reading encourage people to live into and celebrate the fullness of their humanity, or is my reading serving a particular agenda.*

Emily suggests that if you are reading the bible to affirm your prejudices and to deny life and wholeness to others then you are using the bible as a weapon of abuse and that is not ok. *I encourage you to have a listen!*

Rev. Adrian Skelton (the minister at St Andrews before me) is a keen supporter of the Common Good and suggested last year that it would be great to interview me sometime. Adrian is going to interview me about my life and faith on **September 20** at 7.00pm at the Common Room Bar, 227 Heretaunga East St.

## Co Governance Panel Discussion

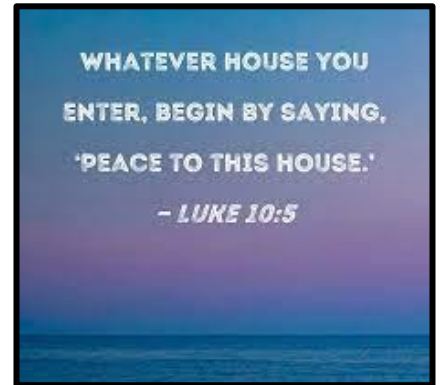
I am working with Rev'd David van Oeveren, Neill Gordon and former HDC Councillor Geraldine Travers to organise an evening to learn about what co governance looks like. This will be at St Matthews at 7pm on **September 18**. It will be a panel discussion to help inform and educate people on what co-governance is and why it is not something to be afraid of. It is important to note that it was the gospel that helped to bring the Treaty of Waitangi into being, where Christians in Britain including William Wilberforce were concerned about the way indigenous people in Australia, the US and Canada had been treated and wanted to ensure the same thing didn't happen in New Zealand. Co-governance is about living out the values of the treaty upon which this nation was established. PCANZ is a committed treaty partner and established the first bicultural marae, our national church marae Te Maungarongo in Ohope.

I am conscious that the word 'co-governance' has become somewhat of a lightening rod of late and there is a great deal of misinformation around about what it means. If you want to better understand what it actually means, coming along to this event is a great start. If you want to learn more about the significance of the gospel for the founding of the treaty, I have a great book that you are welcome to borrow called '*Huia Come Home*' by Jay Ruka who is the co-Dean the Taranaki Cathedral of St Mary's.



## Hawkes Bay Pressies

For the last year, ministers and elders from all of the PCANZ churches in Hawkes Bay have been meeting together to determine how we can better cooperate to further God's mission in Hawkes Bay. We currently have six churches in Hastings, Napier and Havelock North and only three with a minister. It is a good experience to be spending time together to build and strengthen relationships. On **October 15** there will be a combined service at 4.00pm in the afternoon at St Columba's Church Taradale. There is also some training as well as a one day retreat coming up. On **November 11** St Columba's Church Havelock North is running a Climate Action Forum - so do save those dates.



Here in Hastings St Andrews and St Johns are keen to find ways to work together, and that is one of the reasons why Linda Pollock will be based there. Occasionally they will join us for worship and sometimes we will join them at St Johns.

At the end of September both Jim Spall and I will be attending General Assembly. Jim is going on behalf of St Pauls Church Napier and I am the commissioner for St Andrews. Because General Assembly ends on Sunday **October 1** I will still be up there. This is a perfect opportunity for St Andrews to join St Johns for worship including communion there at 10.00am. There won't be a service at St Andrews that day.

Finding ways to cooperate together is a priority of Presbytery Central, the National Church as well as for the Church Property Trust. **Do take time to pray for General Assembly 2023.**

## A Mural on the Outside of Our Church

A few months ago, St Andrews was successful in receiving funding from the Hastings District Council Vibrancy Fund to create mural for the outside of our church to illustrate God's promise to the world. We were planning to have a rainbow on the side of the church, which would also tell our community that we are a church that welcomes all people. There has been some pushback about having a rainbow only as the mural. We would like to enhance the mural so that it speaks of God's abundance and grace. I encourage you to go and have a look at some of the beautiful murals that are around the Hastings CBD and think about what you would want to include in the mural, that also says something about who St Andrews is as a faith community.

## Peace to this House

A couple of weeks ago on Sunday as part of our Tamariki time, we counted up the number of buildings that we had each been in on average in the past week, including our own home, the church, the supermarket or any other place we had been into. We figured there were about 61 people at worship who on average had been into 12 different buildings during the week which meant that if we had prayed the words

'peace to this house' (Luke 10:5) on every house we entered we would have prayed for 732 buildings in our city.

What a way for the kingdom of God to come near. What a way to bless our city, and actually everywhere we go. This is such a simple thing for all of us to do as we enter someone's house, or a shop, or business. Jesus has given us a simple but an important message here, let us go and do likewise.

Blessings

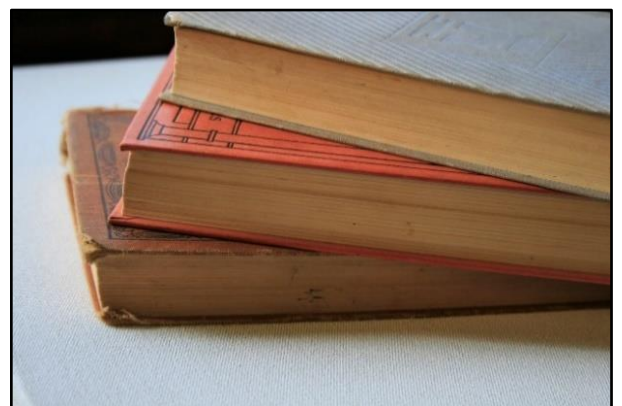
Jill



Prayers at St's Andrew's for Bridging Hawke's Bay Administrator – Kirsty Morton and Co-Ordinator Fran Wulf as they were commissioned into the work of Bridging Hawke's Bay.

### BOOKS ON LOAN

Jill frequently lends out her books for people to read. If you still have any of Jill's books and are finished with them it would be much appreciated if you would please return them to her so that others can read them.



## Bio for Rev. Linda Pollock



Hello Friends,

I'm Linda Pollock, I was born and reared in Northern Ireland, and I currently live in the north-east of Scotland.

I've been in Scotland this time around for about 20 years, and during that time I have served with the Iona Community on Iona, (where I met your Jill) held a national post with the Church of Scotland specialising in ministry to and with children, served in an urban priority area parish with many asylum-seeking families and currently, I serve 3 rural villages in the Highlands. For several years now, I have also shared in the online Church of Scotland ministry, "Sanctuary First."

I was ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in 2001 by the Presbyterian Church USA and I served a congregation just north of Manhattan for 4 years.

I have been working on a Children's App. for a few years now and am currently working on the contents of that. The App. will include stories from the Bible, prayers and daily questions. It is intended to be used by children alone and caregivers with children. I have been fortunate to receive a small sum of money that allows me to take a sabbatical for about 1 year as I will be dedicating most of that time to creating the content needed for the App. My hope is to work with Jill and your community for 6 months and then return to the UK and complete my time of sabbatical.

On a personal note, I enjoy detective stories, my guilty pleasure is watching renovation tv shows, I play guitar and write songs, I love to swim (badly) and am a passionate Manchester United fan. I love a good chin-wag and am good with people - especially 'unchurched' or 'de-churched' folks. I make pilgrimages to Palestine/Israel regularly and I need silent retreats a few times per year. I love a good laugh and delight walking with people as we journey together in faith.

People ask me how I knew I was called to the ministry of word and sacrament and my response is that I feel most fully alive when I am creating space for folks to grow in love and grace and understanding of Faith, God, Love. Being a minister is one of the ways the Church allows me to do that... however, I am passionate about ministering to and with kids, and about welcoming people in the margins into the kingdom and that means that I can work in many diverse places and communities.

There's a lot more to me than the above - I am, after all, 61 years old - but with a young spirit!! I'd value the opportunity to walk with your people, to be with my chum, Jill, and return to where I believe is my spiritual home, NZ.

With love and grace,  
Linda

# Notes from Parish Council Clerk...Jim Spall

Kia orana everyone.

I am writing this with a Blue moon shining through our window at the end of a glorious sunny Hawke's Bay day. Spring is with us with bouncing lambs and calves, daffodils in bloom and many buds about to burst. It is a favourite time of year and isn't it welcome after the cyclone and at times rain that didn't seem to want to cease; you might say from doom to bloom!

I have borrowed the following from a new article from the Rev Dr Jordon Redding reminding us that we are in the season of creation.

Dr Redding notes how in the face of extreme weather events like Gabrielle, global warming, and ecosystem collapse it is very easy to think its all too hard and to sink into a feeling of hopelessness. But he also reminds us that as followers of the risen Christ that is not our story! Let me quote *"as a resurrection people being renewed in the Spirit, we are hardwired for hope, learning to see the world as a place that God is healing, transforming and renewing."* As I look at our own farm and the scarred landscape around us I know this to be true and I give thanks for the new life and joy that spring brings. Through scripture and prayer and as the body of Christ we can sing a new story to our neighbours and the world.

At Parish Council's June meeting our focus was on the budget, a necessary preamble before presenting it to the congregation. Some key scenarios behind it included:

- ✚ Continuing hire income from the church and carpark
- ✚ Sale of the hall by October 2023
- ✚ Cessation of Stewardship of St Marks
- ✚ Transferring the former St Mark's manse to St Andrews and having it renovated and rented from January 2024

Our July meeting was held by zoom and opened with the Very Rev Hamish Galloway, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in attendance. The Moderator urged Parish Council to withdraw the motion to General Assembly *"that positions of leadership in the Presbyterian Church will be open to all people on the basis of merit"*. A report from the dialogue on sexuality, biblical morality and leadership will be presented at the forthcoming General Assembly and the Moderator felt that the dialogue process needed space to continue throughout the church. After discussion Parish Council agreed to withdraw the motion.

Council also reflected on an enjoyable and fruitful Parish Council retreat with Matt Chamberlain, the National Youth Director of the Presbyterian Church and Kyle Hastelow, the Presbytery Central Associate Youth Enabler.



In August Parish Council discussed the need for St Andrews to develop an environmental strategy. The Eco-church movement is growing and our national church has signed up - *watch this space!*

We also discussed Bridging Hawke's Bay and the need for pulpit supply. This has arisen as there were no applicants for the Community Minister Role. As an interim Jill will take up the role so that the vital work of being present for the many affected by the cyclone can commence. You will have read in Jill's report of how we have been incredibly blessed to have the Rev Linda Pollock available for pulpit supply for around 6 months. Parish Council is fully supportive of this proposal which will also assist ministry in Hawkes Bay, particularly at St John's.

Jill's report covers the many activities and events taking place at St Andrews. Our hope is that everyone finds a welcome at the St Andrews table. God's world is a place of abundance with free gifts and grace that animates everything. It is a very different world from the one that confronts us all of protection, hoarding and division.

Ken's quote for today sums this up:

*"Earth's crammed with heaven...But only he who sees, takes off his shoes."*

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Arohanui,  
Jim

## TIVAEVAE FOR THE COMMUNION TABLE

This beautiful tivaevae was created for the communion table by the Sunday Tivaevae group. It symbolises an Ei Katu, the flowers that Cook Islands women wear around their heads. Although this wasn't intentional, it is profound to consider Jesus exchanging the crown of thorns for a beautiful ei katu!





### **Fran Wulf - Bridging Hawke's Bay Co-Ordinator**



I returned to New Zealand in October 2022 after living overseas for over 40 years.

After Cyclone Gabrielle hit Hawke's Bay I was a support worker for people experiencing trauma.

I am looking forward to joining the Bridging Hawke's Bay team as a Co-Ordinator.

### **Kirsty Morton - Bridging Hawke's Bay Administrator**

I am a born and bred Hawkes Bay girl. I have been married to my wonderful husband Andrew for 20 years and we have a teenage son Christopher.

I love baking and camping with my family.

I am enjoying my new role at Bridging Hawke's Bay and look forward to serving Hawke's Bay in a small way.



**Do you enjoy Baking?**

**Would you like to do  
some baking for  
those affected by  
Cyclone Gabrielle?**

## **How You Can Help?**

The Bridging Hawkes Bay Volunteers will be taking out baking to those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle as a koha to break the ice. Would you like to do some baking that our Bridging Hawke's Bay volunteers can take out?

Containers are available at the Church. Once you have filled a container drop it off at Sunday worship or at the office Monday – Thursday 9.00-1.00pm. These containers of biscuits will be put in the freezer until they are taken out.

## KNITTING for VICTORY PROJECT



**Amanda Blewett** the previous Creative Communities Scheme recipient, brought members of the Hawke's Bay knitting community together in the "Knitting for Victory Project".

In 1915 all over New Zealand, people gathered in groups or worked on their own to knit comforts for their husbands, sons and brothers who were fighting in World War I.

In remembrance of the often invisible work that went on and in recognition of current troubled times around the world, the group gathered to support each other, using the technique, patterns and advice left by those before them and sharing their own experiences too.

*"The Creative Communities Grant was amazing! It provided materials for our knitters, compensated our wonderful tutor for all her hard work preparing the samples and patterns"* Amanda says.





## TUKITUKI YOUTH CAMP



Last month there was an open invitation to the Hawke's Bay Presbyterian Churches to visit the Tukituki camp. We thought it would be a good idea to tell you a little of the Camp's story, which for some of you will be a trip down memory lane.

The Camp, first called the HB Presbyterian Bible-class Camp, was purchased in the early 1950s, and is located at the end of Moore Road on the banks of the Tukituki River (10 minutes from Haumoana). The first buildings were built by volunteers and hold many memories for those who spent time at the camp some having met their partners at Easter camps.

The old building (hall, kitchen, and dormitory) had to be demolished and a new building was opened in 2016. The replacement building has a large hall, kitchen, two meeting rooms and 3 dormitories, and is light, bright and warm and is wrapped around with a wide verandah. It is a fantastic site with heaps of space, mown paddocks, specimen trees, and 6 caravan power points.



The camp, which is looked after by a committee of volunteers from the Hawke's Bay Presbyterian churches, is funded solely by income from camp fees and the lease of part of the site by an orchardist/market gardener.

The camp is booked most weekends and is used by church groups, schools, family groups, Scouts and Guides, and clubs and community groups etc.

### ***The Tuki Tuki Youth Campsite Committee:***

*Brett Walker, Ron Laing, and Jo Magill (St Columba's Taradale), Jim Spall (St Andrew's), Murray and Lynne Arnold and Brenda Silson (St Paul's Napier) and David Werrey.*

*We thank Murray Arnold of St Pauls Church Napier for this article*



# IMPORTANT DATES

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

10am	Worship every Sunday
Tuesday 12noon	Sacred Space either in person or via zoom
Each Thursday	Weekly Study Group 10.00am
Monday Evening	Monthly Study Group (check with Ken for the dates)
Tuesday 9.30-11.30am	Craft Group
First and Third Sunday	Tivaevae (1.00-3.00pm)

## SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday 10 September	Worship – 10.00am
Sunday 17 September	Worship – 10.00am
Monday 19 September	Cake, a Cuppa and Co-governance at St Matthews – 7.00pm
Wednesday 20 September	Common Good: Jill McDonald “Life and Faith” – 7.00pm
Sunday 24 September	Worship – 10.00am
Wednesday 27 September	General Assembly begins in Auckland

## THE COMMON GOOD

PUBLIC THEOLOGY: CONVERSATIONS  
ABOUT ISSUES THAT MATTER

COMMON ROOM 227 HERETAUNGA  
STREET EAST 7.00PM

Talking With Jill  
About Life and Faith

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH



Normally the interviewer, this time Rev. Jill McDonald will be in the hot seat, as she reflects on what it means to live a life of faith.

## **OCTOBER 2023**

Sunday 1 October	General Assembly finishes in Auckland Worship with Communion at St Johns There is no worship at St Andrews
Tuesday 3 October	Parish Council – 7.00pm
Sunday 8 October	Worship – 10.00am Annual Congregational Meeting 11.20am
Wednesday 11 October	The Common Good 7.00pm (To be Confirmed)
Sunday 15 October	Worship – 10.00am Combined HB Pressies Worship - St Columba's Taradale – 4.00pm
Sunday 22 October	Worship. St Johns joins us – 10.00am
Sunday 29 October	Worship – 10.00am

## **November 2023**

Sunday 5 November	Worship with communion – 10.00am
Tuesday 7 November	Parish Council – 7.00pm
Saturday 11 November	Climate Action Forum St Columba's Havelock North
Sunday 12 November	Worship – 10.00am
Saturday 18 November	Hawkes Bay Pressies Spiritual Retreat
Sunday 19 November	Worship -10.00am
Wednesday 22 November	Common Good: Caren Rangi – 7.00pm
Sunday 26 November	Worship – 10.00am

## **CHURCH KEYS**

Do you have Church keys that you are no longer using?

Please return them to Carley Slade in the Office. With more people using our buildings we are needing to get sets of unused keys back.

If you have a set of keys and are using them please let Carley know so she can update her Register of Key holders.



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM

## Support and Care Register

In order to best care for and support you as part of our St Andrews Church family, we are conscious that if you become unwell, we don't always know about it. We want to address this in two ways:

1. We would really appreciate having the contact details for someone in your family, eg your next of kin.  
Why? For example, say that you are in hospital, and we haven't been able to get hold of you. This is someone that we can call to find out if you are OK and how we can support you. This is especially pertinent for people who live alone, but actually it is useful for everyone. A few years ago, a parishioner moved to another city to be closer to family, but we didn't know this.
2. The Church Family may not know when individual members need support. Members of your own family may not be aware that the Church Family is available and keen to support you, or know how to get in touch. We invite you to tell your family members, friends, so they know about your wishes and know how to contact us. We are creating a fridge magnet for you to put on your fridge with St Andrews contact details. We will distribute them to you.

***Can you please complete the form below and return it to Carley Slade in the office.***

.....

**Your Name:**

**Contact Person who would be involved in your care / support:**

*(This is someone other than St Andrew's folk)*

**Name of your Contact Person:**

**Their Contact details:**

**Landline:**

**Mobile:**

**Email:**

What is your relationship to this person?  
*(eg friend, neighbour, sister, son/daughter etc):*

***Note: it is important that this person/s is aware that you have given their contact details to the St Andrew's Pastoral Care Team, and understands that we would like to be told if any special need or emergency arises.***