

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Newsletter

March 2024 – April 2024



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.....

Mōrena whanau,



Leaning into God

Here we are two months into 2024. The last four years are unlike anything we have seen before with the pandemic and the cyclone. The ramifications of these as well as the cost of living crisis, the genocide in Gaza and our rapidly warming planet mean that life is challenging on so many fronts. It is when times are tough that we seem to experience our need for God more intensely. There is real opportunity in this and my prayer for our St Andrews faith community this year is that we lean into God in these troubling times.

Our first practice of the year which will carry us through until Easter, is the practice of gratitude, praising God for all that you are thankful for. We read of the call for giving thanks to God throughout the Bible:

Psalm 111: Praise the LORD!

*I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

Mark 6:41

⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

My invitation is that we do this as individuals in our own daily time with God and that we do this together wherever we can. When you meet up with someone from St Andrew's I encourage you to share with each other what you are praising God for right now. In worship I invite you to share what you are thankful for in the sharing our faith slot in Sunday worship.

I have created this practice sheet to help you with this, this is something for you to have sitting in a prominent place as a reminder. To lean into God, you are invited to pray through this list each day. As well as providing the opportunity to thank God each day, this practice of gratitude also encourages you to be on the lookout for things to be thankful for.

What am I thankful for.....

- *Something I have learnt about God this week?*
- *Someone in our Church community. Why?*
- *Someone among my family and friends. Why?*
- *Something I saw in God's creation today that I delighted in? What was it?*
- *Something that is happening in our wider community?*
- *Something in my home?*
- *Something in my own being?*

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

I write this on February 7th, the day after Waitangi Day which felt like an especially pertinent day with so much politicking around the Treaty of Waitangi. I encourage you to read the Waitangi Message from our PCANZ Moderator the Right Reverend Rose Luxford.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to watch the documentary about the Treaty on Shine TV called 'Colonization, Christianity and the Treaty' which can be found at this link: <https://www.shinetv.co.nz/colonisation-christianity-and-the-treaty> If you don't have internet access but would like to view this, contact Jill and we will make it happen.

The Treaty is especially important for followers of Jesus in New Zealand, because it came about because of the Gospel, and a group of Christians in England who wanted to ensure that Maori were treated fairly.

Rev. Linda Pollock

What a gift it is to have Linda with us. It was after her being here for some months it became apparent that she had the gifts and skills necessary to lead Bridging Hawkes Bay. She has been appointed into the role of Community Minister and we are in the process of applying for a new visa for her. We are thrilled to have someone so experienced and with such a heart for connecting with people on board. Linda will often be at other churches around Hawkes Bay in order to recruit more volunteers for this ministry, but when she isn't she will be worshipping with us.

We are still waiting for Linda's visa to come through and we encourage your prayer around this.

Hawkes Bay Pressies are also in the process of trying to secure funding in order that Linda can also work in the role (halftime) of equipping churches in ministry with children and youth.

Pastoral Care

We as a faith community are called to care for each other. There are a number of ways that we do pastoral care at St Andrews. Carley Slade keeps in touch with the people she knows via phone and the pastoral care team are in touch with others. Jill also does some pastoral visiting, particularly when people are struggling.

If you need to reach out do make contact with either Jill, Barbara Stokes or Carley and we will be in touch. Don't be shy!

Study Group

Being a church family isn't just about coming to worship on Sunday, if you aren't already part of one of our study groups, we really encourage you to come along and experience one. We all need to nurture our faith together in community and being part of a study group is a great way to do that.

Either weekly on a Thursday morning from 10.10am or monthly on a Monday night (contact Ken Hutchison for details (ken.hutchi@gmail.com))

St Marks update

The St Marks Church buildings and grounds have been sold and I was hoping to be able to tell you more about that, but the buyer is working on a press release with information about this, which will be shared with you in due course.

Blessings Jill

**“The more you
practice the art of
thankfulness,
the more
you have to
be thankful for.”**

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

Notes from Parish Council Clerk...Jim Spall

Kia orana,

I write this on a glorious Hawkes Bay evening a year after Cyclone Gabrielle. Against all expectation of a drought, we have had a wonderful season to date with enough rain and sun for everything to thrive. It has been such a relief for the farming community as we recover from an incredibly challenging period. The land is still scarred in places, our journey to town takes another 15 minutes until our road is repaired sometime later this year, but we are starting to heal.

We feel privileged to live in a community where hard times have brought us together, where everyone is valued, and where no one is excluded. Both young and old in the rural communities of Hawkes Bay are busy organising sports and social events, volunteering to help with halls and schools and many rural fire brigades.

This week saw an Airforce helicopter deliver gifts from the Havelock Primary School to Kereru. Such an act of generosity left many of the adults present with tears in their eyes over such an unexpected act of kindness.

As a person of faith, it is impossible to not see the work of the Holy Spirit in all of this. Of course, St Andrews is also involved as we offer a message of infinite hope and as the volunteers from Bridging Hawkes Bay reach out with love and empathy.

At December's Parish Council meeting there was no strategic focus but nevertheless some important issues covered. Vicki Vaughan has agreed to be an Elder and we will ordain Vicki soon. Council was also very supportive of the suggestion that the Rev Linda Pollock would be very suitable for the role of Community Minister for the Bridging Hawkes Bay Mission and moved to support an application for a two-year visa. The "Lets Plant Peace" event was a great occasion with more than 80 people viewing it online and Jill was also interviewed by Radio New Zealand.

Our first meeting for 2024 was held on 31 January. Our strategic focus was on "*Where is God Leading Presbytery Central? - Ministry and Ministry Discernment for the next 30 years.*" This was in response to a request from the Presbytery Council to find out from each parish what is happening and how best Presbytery can be equipped and ready for the future. We had a great discussion on the following topics such as:

- What did we believe St Andrew's trajectory will be for the next 30 years?
- What if anything will impact that trajectory?
- What form of consolidation or partnership may be needed to ensure sustainable and fruitful ministry is still happening in 30 years?
- What is needed to be done now?

In Hawkes Bay our Presbyterian churches are having regular meetings to see how we can support each other and work together as it has become clear that as church attendance falls, we need to find new ways of doing mission.

Other news of note is that St Andrews now has a copy of Te Paipera Tapu- a bilingual edition with both English and Te Reo alongside each other. At General Assembly a motion was passed recommending this as the standard bible for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Council has also agreed to proceed with a mural on the outside of the church.

We are now in the season of Lent. Our Moderator, Right Rev Rose Luxford notes that it is "an opportunity to slow down, take stock, and reflect upon the direction of our own lives". We can do no better than to lean into God and experience the fruits of this play out in our lives and the communities in which we live.

Arohanui,

Jim

*We don't care if you're black, white,
short, tall, fat, skinny, rich or poor
We will embrace you as one of our own.*

Glenys Riddell recently saw this quote on a hotel wall in Vietnam



Moderator's Waitangi Day message 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

As we approach Waitangi Day on 6 February, talk of the Treaty and what it means for our country and people is to the fore.

There is some rhetoric that is inflammatory and harmful. Some policies from within the coalition government have prompted uncertainty, anger and fear. There are many voices speaking into this space – some helpful and some not.

Within our PCANZ Book of Order we have set out the following:-

1.5 A cross-cultural and multi-cultural Church with a bi-cultural commitment

(1) The Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)

- (a) was signed in 1840 by the Crown and Tangata Whenua
- (b) made extensive settlement of New Zealand by Europeans possible,
- (c) retained certain specified rights for Tangata Whenua, and
- (d) has been characterised as a “partnership”

(2) It is within the context of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) that the Church recognises a bicultural partnership between Te Aka Puaho and its other church courts. These bicultural partners work together within the mission of God
And

(4) The Church affirms that it is cross cultural in that it recognises that the richness of the Christian Gospel and its proclamation can be found in the sharing of experiences, wisdom and learning from many different cultures. The Church stands in opposition to any view that favours one culture over another as holding a monopoly on the interpretation of transmission of the Christian Gospel. In affirming the Church to be cross-cultural, the Church is also affirming that the Christian Gospel creates community across cultures. [PCANZ Book of Order].

This is who we say we are as a Church. We honour the Treaty, see relationship at the heart of how we operate: relationship between Tangata Whenua (the indigenous people of the land) and Tangata Tiriti (all others who have come here). We uphold respect for and the worth of people of other cultures.

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It has been encouraging to see more people engaging with workshops and gatherings at Te Maungarongo marae in Ohope – exploring Tikanga Maori, The Treaty of Waitangi, Te Ao Maori and more. Relationships are being built, conversations are taking place, knowledge extended, understanding is growing. There is also an increasing use of Te Reo within churches and work going on to help resource the Church in this space. This is all very helpful as we journey together.

As followers of Christ, we seek to follow his example of seeking justice, healing the broken, having compassion for others, bringing good news to the poor, treating all people well. In order for our society to flourish we need all people to do well in their context so this something we would wish support and foster.

On Waitangi Day I will be involved in the services of Waitangi alongside the Moderator of Te Aka Puaho, the Rev Tamiana Thrupp. It is an honour to work alongside him at this important event for our Church, and at other events in the life of our national Church.

As we face the current divisiveness in our country, we continue to pray for, and seek in action in our own contexts, justice, equity, respectful dialogue, attentive listening to others, finding ways forward that honour all people, and living out our faith as followers of Christ – the one who came to give fullness of life to all people.

Te manaakitanga – The blessing

(Philippians 4:7)

Ma te mārie a te Atua
e kore nei ē taea te whakaaro
e tiako ō koutou ngākau ō koutou hinengaro
i roto i a Kaaraiti Ihu;
ā kia mau kia u hoki ki a koutou
te manaaki a te Atua Kaha Rawa,
a te Matua a te Tama, a te Wairua Tapu
aianei a ake tonu atu

Amine.

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

Right Rev Rose Luxford (Moderator)
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ



Comments from Bridging Hawke's Bay Volunteers

"I had been very anxious about a couple I knew, from years of buying tomatoes and beans at the gate.

In December 2022, B had insisted on giving me huge pieces of her Gypsophila bush for the Christmas flowers at St Andrews. When we pulled up I could see the house, packing shed, sewing room, gardens and Gypsophila had completely disappeared. Amazingly, though, two glass-houses were still standing. Inside one, incredibly, C was planting tomatoes and beans.

He and B were safe. Floodwater had blocked their way then suddenly their Ute was floating in rushing water. They walked, holding hands, in chest-high water. B said "I can't keep going". C said: "you've got to keep going or we're not going to make it". Two policemen, up on the bank ahead, threw clothing. Eventually C was able to grab the sleeve of a jacket, and they were pulled to the bank.

We hugged, we cried, we laughed. Again and again C said: "We've been so blessed".

Not everyone is doing as well as these two. But I have heard such astounding stories of bravery, courage, survival, it has been truly a blessing to be in my shoes.

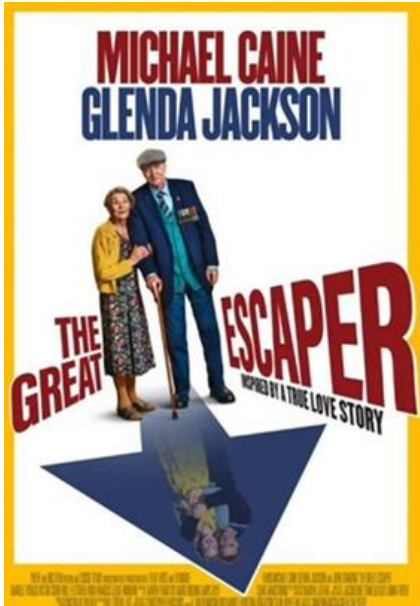
Thank you Bridging Hawkes Bay, and those who support us, for this privilege".

"In my role as a Bridging Hawke's Bay Volunteer, I have visited Pakowhai, Te Awa, and Springfield Road Puketapu. The devastation was beyond anything I have come across before.

It was quite humbling to spend time with people as they relive their ordeal and their fight for survival. The elderly gentleman in his 70's, together with his equally elderly wife who were rescued from their rooftop, really stuck in my mind. I want to check up on them.

I am looking forward to picking up where we left off last year. With God's guidance and grace, we will achieve a lot more this year".

MOVIES IN MARCH



Monday 11 March 2024 -

"The Great Escaper"

Monday 25 March 2024 -

"Wicked Little Letters"

The Event Cinema, Havelock North

Time: Morning Tea 10.00am

Film starts at 10.30am

Please contact Carley if you wish to go.

MONTHLY MEN'S LUNCH

The Fourth WEDNESDAY of each month
at 11.45am

At St MATTHEWS' CHURCH HALL

Cost: \$10.00

Contact Richard and Paddy 8767616 if
you wish to attend

EASTER RAFFLE

There will be an EASTER RAFFLE this
year

Tickets will be selling at the Church
from **Sunday 10 March.**

IMPORTANT DATES



SACRED SPACE

Weekly Study Group - 10.10am Each Thursday morning

Monthly Study Group - Last Monday night of the month

Contact Ken Hutchison for more details ken.hutchi@gmail.com)

MARCH

Sunday 3 March - 10.00am Holy Communion

Wednesday 6 March - 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting

Saturday 9 March - 10.00am Presbytery Gathering (All welcome)
St Albans, Palmerston North

Sunday 10 March - 10.00am Worship

Sunday 17 March - 10.00am Worship

Sunday 24 March - 10.00am Palm Sunday

Thursday 28 March - 7.00pm Maundy Thursday Service

Friday 29 March - 10.00am Good Friday.
Walk beginning at St Matthews

Sunday 31 March - 10.00am Easter Sunday

APRIL

Wednesday 3 April - 7.00pm Parish Council

Sunday 7 April - 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 14 April - 10.00am Worship

Sunday 21 April - 10.00am Worship

Sunday 28 April - 10.00am Worship

MAY

Sunday 5 May - 10.00am Holy Communion