

St Andrew's Church

Newsletter

August – October 2021

Celebrating
Rev
Jill McDonald's
50th Birthday



More pictures inside



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,

I do hope you are keeping warm on these cold winter days.

I want to begin by thanking you all for the incredible Cook Islands 50th feast that you put on for my birthday. Our hall was so filled with aro'a (love) and it is a night that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Meitaki Maata (thank you so much). I know that from talking to so many of you that it was an evening that you delighted in as well. It was a great event for our St Andrews, and I loved that my family friends from other places got to experience it too.

The exquisite Tivavae that the Kuki Airani Mama's made for me is stunning. The stitching is so neat, it is hard to believe that it has all been done so lovingly by hand – but it was! The huge amount of compliments the Tivavae recieved, got me thinking about what an important artform this is and that it is mostly our older Mama's who have the skills. I have been thinking, wouldn't it be great to have our Mama's teach this to others. At the last Vaine Tini meeting the Mama's agreed that they will apply for some creative funding from Hastings District Council as well as Press Go (PCANZ) for this. We are going to call it 'Cup of Tivavae' emphasising the manakitaanga (the hospitality and welcome that Kuki Airani excel in). I have been telling people about this idea over the past few weeks and so many people both Kuki Airani (Cook Islands) and Papa'a (Pakeha) have said they are keen to learn or at least be part of it. Watch this space! NB: they will be working on cushion covers so it won't be too daunting!



As I write this, I have just returned from Te Maungarongo Marae in Ohope where I spent a week as part of the University of Otago Maori Theology and Religion paper. I am completing this paper as part of my study leave. Presbyterian Ministers accrue 12 study days a year and once you have been at a church for more than two years you are able to take this. Often ministers will take it all in one go spending say 8-10 weeks on leave studying something of interest. I will be taking my study leave of around 7 weeks over the next eight months. I have a research essay due in May 2022 and will be taking a fortnight off here and there to complete it. I will be down in Dunedin for the last two weeks of August doing some research at the Presbyterian Research Centre. I look forward to sharing this with you as I journey with it over the next year.

Currently at St Andrews we are working our way through the book of Acts. Why? We read in Acts How God's community began taking form in the world and there is a lot that we as the church in 2021 find ourselves on the margins of society. It shows us what a growing group of people can do when they are empowered by the Vaerua Tapu (Holy Spirit). Focussing on the book of Acts helps us to explore our core tasks as the church, going at times beyond the traditions that have developed through the generations of being the church. What are our core tasks?: ...' *to love one another and to offer our lives for the sake of the world. The creation of living breathing, loving communities of faith at the local church level*¹

Acts has new relevance, new meaning for us as we endeavour to be the Body of Christ here and now.

May Christ bless you and keep you
Jill.

Notes from the Parish

Hi everyone. Winter has arrived!

I am not sure about you, but winter is not my favorite season. As farmers we spend much time feeding out and planning ahead, to try and ensure we have enough pasture for lambing. It can be an anxious time for us all, as we long for the warmth of a sunny spring day and in current times a turning of the tide in our war against Covid19. However, all seasons have their compensations and today was one of them, with snow on the ranges and a beautiful clear day. Rev Bill Bennett reminds us in a winter prayer that God can be: "like the glow of a blazing fire, giving spiritual heat and light beyond all our needs."

At Parish Council's May meeting, we discussed some motions that Elders wished to be brought forward for discussion at General Assembly this October. These were:

- A proposal for investment by the Presbyterian Church in Social Housing
- A proposal that the Presbyterian Church commits to inclusive of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender, age, disability, or ethnicity.
- A subsequent proposal that if church land is to be sold, that local iwi be given first right of refusal before it goes on the open market.

These were sent to Presbytery Central, and I am delighted to report that all three have been accepted for presentation at General Assembly. If you would like a copy of any of the proposals, please feel free to ask one of the Elders or contact me directly.

At our **June Parish Council** meeting, we discussed baptism. This followed a request by a Christchurch family to have their two children baptized at St Andrews because of a Hawkes Bay faith connection and because

¹ Robinson, Anthony B. and Wall, Robert W. *Called to Be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans 2006) 4.

they were not affiliated to any specific church in Christchurch. After discussion on the nature of baptism, that it was a sacrament, council was convinced of the parents' sincerity and felt that we could not stand in the way of God's grace and agreed to the baptism. At this meeting Parish Council also passed a motion expressing our interest to Presbytery Central and the Church Property Trust, in using St Marks Worship Centre for missional purposes. In a sense this was made on behalf of other Hawkes Bay Parishes so that the property cannot be sold in the meantime.

Our **"July" Parish Council** meeting was held in late June and focused on matters financial in preparation for the Congregational Meeting held on Sunday 4th July. Thank you to all who attended this meeting. The budget for 2021/22 shows a substantial reduction in the deficit and thanks are due to all the hard and often difficult work put in by Finance and Property members to achieve this result. We need to say thank you for all the work put in by Wendy Mangan and Jenny Lean whose positions were disestablished in the restructuring process. With the accounting now largely outsourced a new position is being created that focusses on looking after all the users of our facilities.

We continue to have a great array of interesting speakers at The Common Good with excellent attendance. Most recently we had Keith Newman talking about the Bible and the Treaty and the strong heritage of peacemaking and reconciliation in our country.

My notes would be incomplete without mentioning Jill's 50th celebration in the Hall. What a wonderful occasion, complete with great food and entertainment. It really brought home the great gift of St Andrew's people for hospitality. A reminder that winter does not stop the many possible activities to participate in at St Andrews, including meditation and monthly study group (contact Ken Hutcheson), Thursday Study Group (contact Jill), Coffee get together (contact Barbara Stokes).

Finally, some words of encouragement from a recent text sent out by Ken Hutcheson:" Who would ever know the greater graces of comfort and perseverance, mercy and forgiveness, patience and courage, if no shadows fell over a life."-Ann Vos Kamp

Arohanui, Jim



Mission Page

Manaaki Energy

Two years ago, St Andrews nested the idea of building a solar farm to give low-cost electricity to some of families who have less resources. It began as 'Power to the People' and Jill and Chris presented this idea at several different places including Pecha Kucha (an event where you have 20 sides and 20 seconds per slide to tell your story).

This was renamed Te Ra Power and along the way many new connections have been made and relationships birthed. A partnership grew with the Maori Climate Commissioner and out of that Manaaki Energy has evolved, a non-profit organisation whose focus is ending energy poverty. It's Kaupapa (purpose) is firmly embedded in the Te Ao Maori principal of of Manaakitanga. Manaakitanga means hospitality, kindness, generosity, support - the process of showing respect, generosity, and care for others.

Manaaki Energy applied for money from the shovel ready fund, and while that hasn't been rejected, they did instead receive \$400,000 from the Ministry of Business and Innovation. This is being used to install solar onto the homes of 46 whanau, split between Hawkes Bay and Rotorua for research purposes to learn about the impact solar power has on whanau.

These installs are currently happening and keeping to its manaakitanga Kaupapa, each install begins with karakia, waiata, and kai, where several of us gather to give thanks to God and to pray for the solar installers – Greener Solutions – as they begin.



Morning karakia at a home in Whakatu



Tim Kershaw from Greener Solutions checking out the roof upon which the solar panels will be installed

The outpouring of aroha in this project is immense, so much so that it feels we are not only being transformed by the sunlight - we are also all being transformed by love.

One of the five faces of mission of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand is 'seeking to transform society'. This project is something that is endeavouring to do exactly that. It is a step on the way towards building solar farms that will lift more people out of energy poverty so that they too can have lives that flourish.

One of the recipients of this project are the Ioane family and Elizabeth Hira is here to tell their story.

Kia orana,

Wednesday 21 August in Hastings was a special morning for one of our Cook Islands families, the loane family.

Māmā Mary loane and her family were to welcome us into their home for the blessing of a solar panel installation for their home.

Manaaki Energy birthed from out of St. Andrews by Chris Lambourne and his team were given government funding to install solar panels on homes of low-income earners in Hawkes Bay and Rotorua for research purposes.

Chris is the wonderful husband of Jill McDonald; the minister of St. Andrews Church and it is in collaboration with the installation company Greener Solutions that this team has been able to offer this assistance and blessing to families in these regions.

Raising three generations of her family from the family home that Māmā Mary and her late husband Tekii loane built, has paved the way for her family to still be able to live in their own home and now with the added benefits of having solar power to help reduce energy costs and power bills.

Māmā Mary and her family have been members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church since arriving from the Cook Islands many years ago. Their involvement with the church community is still testament to this day as this initiative was birthed out of St. Andrews Church of which they are still very much a part of.

The morning began in the home of the loane family with everyone gathered in prayer, song, and thanksgiving. Words were shared from the heart and seeing the importance of helping people at the fore by all involved was indeed a beautiful occasion to witness.



During the speeches it was announced by the founder of Greener Solutions, Hamish Lee that the team involved in this project would be taking on board and hiring Adam loane.

Hamish acknowledged how his thoughts and that of his company were to help build and create sustainable futures and that by being involved in not only the installation process but of hiring Adam that this would align with that vision as well. Adam is the grandson of Māmā Mary and is also a former Head Boy of



Flaxmere College. Adam is one of our young leaders in Hawkes Bay and has shown in the past and present his ability to always be driven as a strong leader and an effective team player. This will hold him in great stead for his journey ahead as he begins his electrical apprenticeship with the company and further builds his future and that of his family. It is with much excitement and joy that we all were very happy to hear the news of his next steps and wish him the best.

With so many blessings being shared this morning there were also a few tears shed as we all felt the love and joy of

seeing a family being helped and of whom were greatly appreciative and being able to be a part of that.

As with tradition we all continued to connect and enjoy breakfast together as the morning became warmer so that the workers could begin their new installation on the home of the loane family.

It is with much gratitude that we have these kinds of hearts and minds in our communities, and it is to God that I give thanks too for having this all come to be.

With love by Elizabeth Hira.

Church Happenings

On the 18th of June, St Andrews Congregation got together with their minister, Rev Jill McDonald to celebrate her 50th Birthday. Everybody enjoyed themselves, the meal put on by the Cook islanders, was superb, and everybody contributed towards the finger food sliced dessert. Here are some pictures showing what a good time we had.



**Jill being cloaked in her
Tivaivae bedspread**



**Taromi Sings
Happy Birthday
To jill**



**Enjoyable
Meal and lots
of
entertainment**



Show and tell

Over the months the ladies at St Matthews craft group get together for a time of socializing and to indulge in their passion of being creative. Here are some of the things that they have made. Come and join us at 10am Tuesday morning, term time.



Connie McKenzie with her patchwork



Patchwork plaque



Dale Branigan with her baby blanket



Shopping bag

Church Notices

We Need A New Editor

After three years of being the church's newsletter editor, I am resigning. This will be my last newsletter. In the last two years I have found this job both challenging and rewarding, but now I would like to take a long break and give someone else a chance.

If there is anyone who would like to take on this job, could you please see Jill.

Kind regards,

Denise.

Social Group

Presents

Housie Night Fundraiser

Friday 13th August

Held in the Church Lounge

7.30pm

\$10.00 for door entry

Prizes- available

Supper available for Koha

Sept 29th - Oct 3rd PCANZ General Assembly is taking place in Christchurch. Christine Spall is the St Andrews Commissioner

The Common Good, at the Common Room 7pm start

Aug 18 Featuring Mike Joy:

The future of food and energy in the light of biophysical limits to growth

Sept 22 Featuring Andrew

Shepherd - Digital Surveillance

Oct 28th Featuring Charles

Waldegrave - The Living Wage

St Andrews

Social Group Fundraiser

Presents

**The Hawkes Bay Caledonia pipe Band
in concert on the 25th Of September
2pm**

at St Andrews Church

\$15.00 Ticket includes afternoon tea

Lucky door entry and raffles

Tickets available at the office

From the 1st of September

Over the last couple of months there have been a couple of opportunist burglaries with a wallet with some cash in it as well as our overhead projector being stolen. Please don't leave any valuables unattended and be security conscious when using the church buildings.

Finance and Property Committee

Jill on study leave **Aug 23rd – 6th Sept**

Administrative Details

St Andrews has a Facebook page!! This is a great way to quickly share news and information. So, if you are on Facebook already it is a great way to connect! Our Facebook page is **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hastings**

If there is someone with a need,
contact the Pastoral Care Group, the Minister a member of the Parish Council,
or self-refer by phoning or texting Ken Hutchison on **021 078 4923**

Ken will text members of the Texting Care Circle to keep the person or need in their thoughts and prayers.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Minister: Rev Jill McDonald Ph 0274070489 email: jill@standrewshastings.org.nz

Parish Clerk: Jim Spall Ph 8760924 email: jimspall15@outlook.com

Cook Islands' Secretary: Berry Rangi Ph 844 4735 email: tbjrangi@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jane Herries Ph 027236028 jane@tasc.co.nz

Church Office: PO Ph 8788247 info@standrewshastings.org.nz

Finance and Property Chair: Chris Lambourne Ph 02758822134

Postal Address Box 494, Hastings 4156

Website: www.standrewshastings.org.nz

The Church Office is open Tuesday to Friday 9:30am – 12 noon

August @ St Andrews

NB. Sacred Space at 12.10 each Tuesday, you can either join Jill in her office or **(via Zoom)**

St Matthews Craft Group meet at St Andrews every Tuesday Morning at 9.30am. Term time. For more details contact Marilyn White ph. 8710011. All are welcome.

St Andrews Social Coffee Group meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month at John's Bakery between 10 – 11am. All are welcome.

Thursday Morning Study Group 10am in St Andrews Lounge – **come and join us**

Meditation Group each **Thursday eve @ 7.30pm** in the **Blue** room

Monday Evening Study Group (**The Fourth Monday in the month**) @ Gerda Pronk's home-see Ken Hutchison for details: 8710213 or c: 021 078 4923

Sunday	1st	11am	Combined Holy Communion Service led by Jill <i>Morning tea at 10am</i>
Sunday	1st	5-7pm	Cook Island Language Week
Tuesday	3rd	7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	8th	10am 12pm	Worship Service led by Jill Kuki Airani Worship
Sunday	15th	10am 12pm	Worship Service led by Jill Kuki Airani Worship
Wednesday	18th	7pm	The Common Good, at the Common Room. Featuring- Mike Joy: <i>the future of food and energy in the light of biophysical limits to growth</i>
Friday	20th		Official opening of PSEC new premises, starting at St Andrews
Saturday	21st	8am	Men's Breakfast @ Summerset in the Orchard
Sunday	22nd	10am 12pm	Worship Service led by Jill Kuki Airani Worship
Monday	23rd		Jill on study leave: returns Sept 6 th
Sunday	29th	10am 12pm	Worship Service led by Elders Kuki Airani Service

September @ St Andrews

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Monday Evening Study Group (**The Fourth Monday in the month**) @ Gerda Pronk's home-see Ken Hutchison for details: 8710213 or c: 021 078 4923

Sunday	6th		Jill returns from study leave
Sunday	5th	11am	Combined Holy Communion Service Led by Jill <i>Morning tea at 10am</i>
Monday	6th		Jill returns from study leave
Tuesday	7th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	12th	10am 12pm	Worship Service led by Jill Kuki Airani Worship
Saturday	18th	8am	Men's Breakfast @ Summerset in the Orchard
Sunday	19th	10am 12pm	Worship Service led by Jill Kuki Airani Worship
Wednesday	22nd	7pm	The Common Good at the Common Room Featuring- Andrew Shepherd - <i>Digital Surveillance</i>
Sunday	26th	10am 12pm	Worship Service led by Jill Kuki Airani Worship
Wednesday	29th — Oct 3rd		PCANZ General Assembly is taking place in Christchurch. Christine Spall is the St Andrews Commissioner

October @ St Andrews

NB. Sacred Space at 12.10 each Tuesday, you can either join Jill in her office or **(via Zoom)**

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Thursday Morning Study Group 10am in St Andrews Lounge – **come and join us**

Meditation Group each **Thursday eve @ 7.30pm** in the **Blue** room

Monday Evening Study Group (**The Fourth Monday in the month**) @ Gerda Pronk's home-see Ken Hutchison for details: 8710213 or c: 021 078 4923

Sunday	3rd	10am	St Andrew's Annual Congregational meeting
Sunday	3rd	11am	Combined Holy Communion Service Led by Jill <i>Morning tea at 10am</i>
Sunday	3rd		PCANZ General Assembly is taking place in Christchurch - last day. Christine Spall is the St Andrews Commissioner
Tuesday	5th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	10th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Saturday	16th	8am	Men's Breakfast @ Summerset in the Orchard
Sunday	17th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Sunday	24th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Thursday	28th	7pm	The Common Good, at the Common Room. Featuring - Charles Waldegrave - The <i>Living Wage</i>
Sunday	31st	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship

Kindness is like
snow—it beautifies
everything it covers.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

