

St Andrew's Church

Newsletter

May - July 2021



Enjoying ANZAC biscuits after the Cook Island Worship on ANZAC Day

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

What an incredibly rich time we have been having at St Andrews as we journeyed through Lent and welcomed Easter.

The Crazyiness of the Cross

We reflected on the crazyiness of the cross and how? What was a tool of cruel murder, through Jesus has been transformed to the sign of our Christian faith conveying that out of death new life emerges? The craft ladies who meet here on Tuesday morning have been busy knitting crosses that will be displayed on our foyer wall. David Wahl brought in these tiny wooden crosses that he had made for young people in the past. Threaded onto a wire the crosses looked at first glance like a crown of thorns. Transformed by resurrection these tiny individual crosses were given out on Easter Sunday along with palm crosses made by Vicki Vaughan. If you weren't there that day and would like one, let me know!

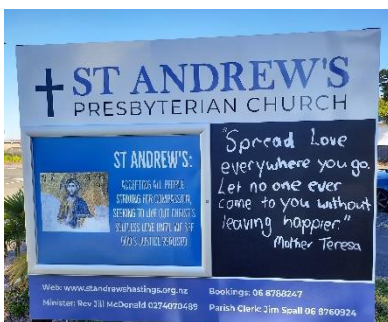


Joy and Grief

It has been a time of great joy as we celebrated the marriage of Tina Plastow and Mark Nelson (Di's son) on Palm Sunday and a time of great sadness as we said goodbye to Randal Clements who died in Cranford Hospice on March 21st. Randal was a loved member of our congregation who did so much pastoral care popping around to visit many of our number. He will be missed, and our prayers and love are with Colleen and all the family.

It's A Sign!

Have you noticed our new church sign which has a blackboard upon which we can write



new words each week along with a space on either side to put posters of upcoming events? It is great to have a sign that is ever changing to catch the attention of people walking by and hopefully touch their hearts!



The Common Good

The Common Good is such an exciting initiative for our church and it is so wonderful to have the support of the Common Room Bar to make this happen and help in the advertising. I am not sure how many churches collaborate with their local pubs, but the number won't be high. It was wonderful to hear from **Rev. Charles Waldegrave** about addressing the housing crisis and we are about to hear how **Pastor Warren Heke** and the church he leads (Hastings

Church) are working with the homeless of Hastings. This is a new **'Signs of Hope'** aspect to the Common Good where we hear about things that are happening in our community that lead to the common good.

On May 26th we will feature Sandie Speeden and Sue Haldane who run 'Growing through Grief' in our St Andrews buildings as part of **'Signs of Hope'**.

Pastoral Care

In our April parish council meeting we focussed on pastoral care and ensuring that people within our St Andrews church community are feeling connected with each other and cared for. We each have a role in caring for one another and it is wonderful to hear of all the visiting and phone calls that go on. If you would like me to visit you though, please get in touch! If you would like some people to phone or visit, we can match you up.

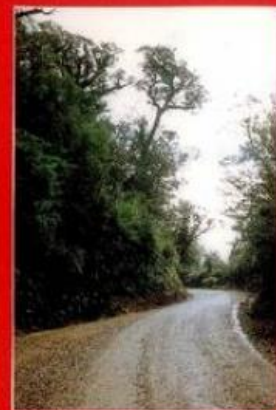
We are wanting to strengthen our pastoral care and I will be running a session on how we can better care for each other sometime in the next few months.

Following Jesus is hard, it calls upon so much of us, thankfully we can help each other on this road as we endeavour to follow Jesus together. These words from Joy Cowley, in her book 'Psalms for the Road' is very helpful. It is reassuring somehow to know that Joy, a woman steeped in faith finds it hard.

Pilgrimage

*Lord, I'd like to be a pilgrim. By that I mean
that I want to be serious about the spiritual life,
regular worship, daily prayer, some effort to become
a nicer person to my family and neighbours,
the kind of thing You've talked about
for more than two thousand years.
But Lord, I'm not sure I can do it. I've read
about pilgrimage and it seems to me
that You ask a lot of followers, a hard road
and steep mountains that have to be climbed.
That's ok for holy disciples, but me,
Lord, I'm just your average tag-along.
I've never been one for steep mountains.
I know now that I would never make it.
I'm wondering, is there a compromise,
Some kind of easy slope for beginners?
What's that, Lord ? Oh, I see.
The problem is not the mountain.
It's the pebble in my shoes.*

Psalms for the Road



Text by Joy Cowley
Photos by Terry Coles

Notes from the Parish Council

Hi Everyone,

I write this on another glorious Autumn Day with the reds and yellows reminding us of the cooler weather to come. In this Easter Season the colours of Autumn could also be seen as “banners of colour and hope. “The Jesus who walked this earth is alive forever.” **(From The Shepherds Call, Rev Bill Bennett.)**

Parish Council

At Parish Council we have enjoyed meeting together and reflecting on the life of the church. Our February meeting the focus was on our **Mission Plan** and how in these turbulent times as Elders we can both lead change and provide stability. We determined that communication, pastoral care, relationship building and prayer, to uplift the church were vital.

On the 7th of February you will recall our very well attended congregational meeting where we resolved to enter a long-term lease of the hall to Presbyterian Support East Coast. This is a significant development for St Andrews, with not only a substantial projected lift in our revenue, but also a change in roles for our staff. This formed the basis of our strategic focus at the March Parish Council meeting where we received Finance and Property's Report on how we manage our assets and put them to the best service of our **Mission Plan**.

Pastoral Care

Our April meeting focused on pastoral care. This has many dimensions including worship, prayer, hospitality, caring for others, counselling, and faith formation. As members of a faith community in one way or another we are all responsible for looking out for the other.

Presbytery Central Gathering

Six members of council attended and enjoyed the **Presbytery Central Gathering** on March 20th at St Albans in Palmerston North. We broke into regional groups to discuss our opportunities for mission and consequently, St Andrews and St John's representatives will be meeting to discuss ways of working together. In October **General Assembly** will take place in Christchurch and **Parish Council** has nominated both the **Rev Dianne Gilliam-Weeks** and **Rev Paul Loveday** for **Moderator Elect**.

The Common Good

The Common Good initiative continues to be well attended and received with our last speaker **Rev Charles Waldegrave** giving us an in-depth view of the housing crisis.

A reminder that there are many possible activities to participate in at St Andrews including: Meditation- Sunday and Thursday nights (contact Ken Hutchison)

Thursday Study Group at St Andrews (contact Jill)

Monthly Study Group (contact Ken Hutchison)

Coffee get together (contact Barbara Stokes)

Finally, some words of encouragement from our Moderator's Easter Message (**Rt Rev Fakaofu Kaio**) "Life, hope, light, peace, love and faith will always triumph. It is the nature of God.

Easter is for you, for your loved ones. God is saying, "I love you, unconditionally, sacrificially, in Jesus, my beloved Son"

Arohanui, Jim



Introducing Vicki Vaughan



For this issue of the newsletter, I now have the privilege of introducing you to Vicki Vaughan and this is her story.

Hi, my name is Vicki Vaughan, and I was born in Hastings. I am an only child and began my education first at: Mahora, Frimley School, then Hastings Intermediate, and finally at Hastings Girls' High.

My tertiary qualifications are: BA (English and French), B Music (voice), Diploma of Teaching, Master's in counselling, and Diploma in Special Education.

After graduating from college, I spent the first 20 years, Teaching in Primary, Intermediate and Secondary schools in Wellington and Auckland. Then 3 years later I was Tutoring Advanced Studies for Practicing Teachers, specialising in Special Needs education in Primary and Secondary Schools, and setting up a Special Needs Unit at Long Bay College.

The next 20 years I have been working as a Special Education Adviser in Ministry of Education in Northland and Hawke's Bay, working with teachers and parents of children with severe and challenging behaviours, and children with disabilities. I am still working 3 days per week for Ministry of Education.

I was married to Stewart Lockhart (a lawyer, also from Hastings,) for 14 years. We lived 10 years in Wellington and then moved to Auckland in 1986. We have 2 daughters, who both live in Auckland, and have 5 grandchildren.

After my divorce from Stewart, I met and married Lew Ritchie, a Marine Biologist and we moved to Matapouri (1 hour out of Whangarei). I continued Working for Ministry of Education while also setting up a boat-charter eco-tour business in Northland, on our historic kauri-hulled boat. Sleeping about 12 – 17 people on stay-aways.

Lew died in 2008, and I moved to Hastings in 2009 to care for my ailing father.

I attended worship service on a Sunday morning at St Andrews Church and now I am currently involved with St Andrews through the Meditation Group, Bible Study Group, Coffee-and-chat group, occasional door duties and helping to coordinate rides to church.

I was asked what is the one bible verse that I especially love, but most weeks, this has been the passage that I have read and studied most recently with the Bible Study Group.

My hopes and dreams for St Andrews faith community? - As a newcomer, I'm still learning about this, but I very much enjoy the friendliness and openness of the people, and I admire

the commitment to reducing the pain and isolation of the homeless and needy in the community.

For my hobbies and relaxation: I like to sing with Napier Civic Choir, and Festival Opera Chorus, also I'm involved in supporting young trainee opera singers, in PPV. (That is the Project Prima Volta program).

I like to spend lots of time in the garden. I grow ornamentals and fruit trees, but I let other people grow most of my vegies. I enjoy going for daily walks or bike-rides along local rivers and beaches with my big golden mutt, Lola, reading (mainly women authors, novels, poetry) and occasional handwork (lots of incomplete projects).



My taste in music ranges from: Mainly listening to classical (orchestral, choral, opera, chamber, piano....) music, to enjoy listening to contemporary, experimental, and indigenous music.

And, as most of St Andrew's congregation knows already, I enjoy a good yell on a Sunday 😊



There have been so many people I admire and have influenced me in my life. I seem to have been blessed with a huge procession of kind, loving, and talented people throughout my life. I reckon I can learn something valuable from pretty much anyone I know!!!

During Lockdown I was very lucky to be paired with Fay Mair and I read Jill's worship service to Fay over the phone each Sunday. Fay had an enormous knowledge of scripture and worship and we became close friends, even though we had never actually seen each other. She taught me a huge amount in the short time I knew her.

One more thing that I would like to share with you and that is a **retirement project**: That is, that my one ambition, I have had for a long time, is to have a small group that visits local Rest Homes and holds Sing-alongs with the residents. Maybe not so far away!



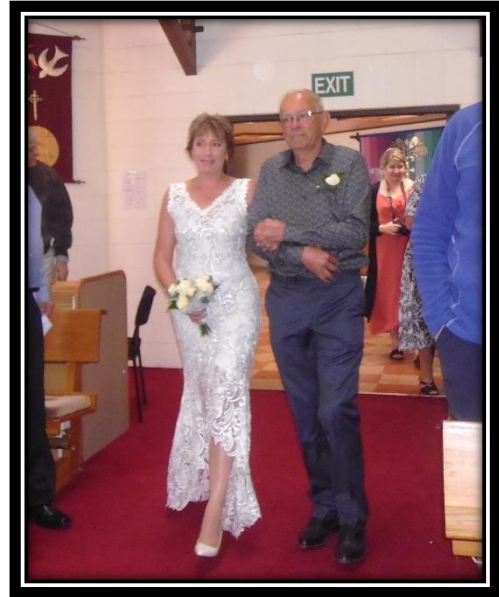
Church Happenings

The Wedding of Tina Plastow and Mark Nelson

The Wedding took place as part of Sunday Worship on March 28th. It was wonderful



From left: The Mother of the Groom,
Diane Nelson and her Sister Glenys Riddell



The Bride Enters



Wedding Ceremony conducted by
Rev. Jill McDonald



Posing for
photos with
family dog
Maddy

The Wedding Guests



Coming Events



Mother's Day Lament

A ritual space for those for whom
Mother's Day is a tough day...

4.30pm Sunday May 9th
Email jill@standrewshastings.org.nz
for more information

The Common Good



On the 26th of May, **Sandie Speeden** and **Sue Haldane** from Growing through Grief, will be giving a talk: 'Saying Yes to Grief' Common Room at **7pm**

You are invited to **Jill's 50th Birthday Party** in the **Church Hall** on **Friday the 18th June** at **6.30pm**. Please RSVP to Jill



YOU ARE INVITED TO
JILL'S 50th FEAST,
COOK ISLANDS STYLE!

18 JUNE 6.30PM
ST ANDREWS CHURCH
HALL
208 MARKET ST
SOUTH

RSUP by June 12th to
jill@standrewshastings.org.nz

No presents please.
Any Koha received will be
used to aid the church in
helping people in need in
Hastings

HASTINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEETINGS

There is a meeting with Hastings
Presbyterian Churches on the **22nd May**
between **10am-12.30pm** at **St John's Church**.
All are welcomed.



A reminder that in the next month or so, banks will no longer accept cheques, if you pay by cheque you might like to consider switching to internet banking. The church account number is: **03-0642-0034245-000**

Taize Worship 7pm May 23rd at St Paul's. We are resuming these services of candlelight, song and silence. They offer a lovely time of quiet and a restful end to the week.



Administrative Details

Can you please give your reports/notices (or preferably email them) to me by 5th July 2021? I would appreciate any feedback you have about this newsletter. Negative or positive it does not matter.

To contact me my email address is:

- Email: denise@standrewshastings.org.nz
- Phone: 8769632

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**

- Private message on facebook
- Email: ngaioanetauranga@gmail.com
- Ring and leave a voice message on 8706901 or 0275112619
- Text on 0275112619

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: tbrangi@gmail.com

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

Church Office: Wendy Mangan 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 – 2:30pm

May @ 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	2nd	11am	Combined Holy Communion Service led by Jill <i>Morning tea at 10am</i>
Tuesday	3rd	7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	9th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
		4.30pm	Mother's Day Lament Service
Saturday	15th	8am	Men's Breakfast @ Summerset in the Orchard
Sunday	16th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Saturday	22nd	10am	Hastings Presbyterian Churches Meeting @ St John's <i>all are welcomed</i>
Sunday	23rd	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Sunday	23rd	7pm	Taize Worship at St Paul's
Wednesday	26th	7pm	The Common Good " <i>Saying Yes to Grief</i> " at the Common Room
Sunday	30th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Service

June @ 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

Tuesday	1st	7pm	Parish Council Meeting
Sunday	6th	11am	Combined Holy Communion Service Led by Jill <i>Morning tea at 10am</i>
Sunday	13th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Friday	18th	6.30pm	Jill's 50 th Birthday begins in the Church Hall
Saturday	19th	8am	Men's Breakfast @ Summerset in the Orchard
Sunday	20th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Sunday	27th	10am	Worship Service led by Jill
		12pm	Kuki Airani Worship
Tuesday	29th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting



July @ 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 **4th** **11am** Combined Holy Communion Service Led by Jill
Morning tea at 10am

Monday **5th - 9th** Jill away attending a course

Sunday **11th** **10am** Worship Service led by Jill
 12pm Kuki Airani Worship

Saturday **17th** **8am** Men's Breakfast @ Summerset in the Orchard

Sunday **18th** **10am** Worship Service led by Jill
 12pm Kuki Airani Worship

Sunday **25th** **10am** Worship Service led by Jill
 12pm Kuki Airani Worship

August @ St Andrews

Sunday **1st** **11am** Combined Holy Communion Service led by Jill
Morning tea at 10am