

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

**May 2022– June 2022**



## **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.....

How wonderful it was to experience the celebration of Easter Sunday, being pretty much back to normal with singing, receiving Holy Communion, welcoming those who chose not to get vaccinated back to in person worship and being able to meet for morning tea. Wonderful experiences for us on the most significant day in our church calendar as we celebrate the miracle of Christ's new life emerging out of death.

Necessity is the mother of invention and having met for zoom worship for seven weeks, it is great to continue this at 11.30 for those in our church family who, because of compromised health aren't able to attend in person worship at all. Each have talked about how grateful they are to do this. Do let us know if you would like to join in this way, just contact Jill and as long as you have internet access on a Sunday, this is something you will be able to do.



I had the month of March off on study leave in order to complete a University of Otago Research Paper on Maori Theology. Once it has been marked, I am happy to share it with anyone who is interested in reading it and I will be using some of it as the basis of my preaching over the winter. I have entitled my research paper *Te Raukura o Rongo* which means the feather of peace. It

emerges from a special moment at the PCANZ marae Te Maungarongo at Ohope when a tiny feather flew into my cupped hands. This happened the moment I finished writing a list of the seeds that had been planted in me during the week and what I was committing too in being a better Tiriti (Treaty) partner. I understood that tiny feather to be the Holy Spirit saying "Yes, you go girl!"

Te Maungarongo Marae is incredibly significant for the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Built in 1947, it was the first church marae, the first bicultural marae and the first bilingual marae. It was through the weaving of relationship between Māori and Pākehā that the possibility of Te Maungārongo began, and it was together with Pākehā and Māori alongside one another, that the marae was built. The name Te Maungārongo means 'to make or establish peace.' One side of the meeting house is adorned with carvings, tukutuku panels and *kōwhaiwhai* paintings which convey the story of Māori while the other depicts the Christian

tradition. Here the two sides enjoy an ongoing conversation with one another as together they seek the way of peace, founded in Jesus Christ. This is an ongoing conversation that all who are blessed to sit or sleep in this wharenui get to participate in.

Peace is an important part of our faith. We are called to be people of peace, as Jesus says in John 20:21 *'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'* Soon St Andrews is going to be gifted a peace pou (or peace pole) from the organisation World Beyond War. The Peace Pou are part of an international world peace prayer movement founded by Masahisa Goi, a Japanese man who was deeply distressed by the devastation caused when an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing around 400,000 people. In 1955 he began a mission to spread his simple message *'May Peace Prevail on Earth'*.

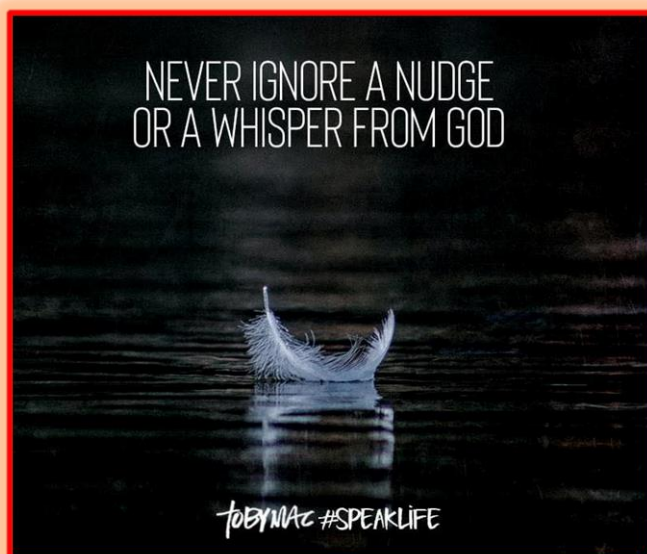


More than 250,000 peace pou have been planted around the world and in December last year 40 were placed for some months in the Civic Square in Hastings. The peace pou that we are being gifted has the words *'May Peace Prevail on Earth'* in English, Cook Islands Maori, and te reo. It will be place in our Vaka garden and will be a wonderful reminder of

the role we each have in being people of peace and sharing Christ's Peace wherever we are.

Arohanui (Big Love)

Jill



# Notes from Parish Clerk...Jim Spall

Kia orana everyone.

It seems hard to believe that we are almost one quarter of the way through 2022. It has been an unsettling start with our decision to hold services online once the omicron variant arrived in Hawke's Bay so as to play our part in keeping everyone safe. For those with access to zoom these services were a joy with much participation in preparing, delivering, and interacting during worship. For those unable to attend we tried hard to deliver written copies of the service. Of course we are now back to our "normal" services and hasn't it been great to be together again. We continue to hold online services for those still unable to attend worship in person.

Parish Council has already met three times this year. At our first meeting our focus was on how to worship and support our church family through the spread of omicron.

Our second meeting, also in February, concentrated on having everything in place while Jill was on study leave. Thank you to everyone who participated so willingly in preparing prayers and reflections, Denise who put everything together and David Wahl and others who got written copies out. At our third meeting held in April we focused on the lessons learnt during online worship as well as the fact that we are not just a worshipping but a missional community. Our prayer of the day reflected this sentiment *"In our despair at the state of the world, may action be the spark that leads us closer to your vision of justice"*.

In this context our missional projects are making steady progress. The feasibility study for the **St Marks housing project** has commenced. The cost of this will be largely covered by rental of the manse and other income from St Marks. For the project to get the green light there will be many steps including a congregational meeting and approval from the various committees and groups of both Central Presbytery and the national church. Steady progress is also being made with **Manaaki Energy** with Chris Lambourne securing considerable funding already for the establishment of solar farms to supply low-cost power to those in need. Most recently there have been some exciting developments in the potential use of our **hall as a drop-in centre** for vulnerable people in our city. Watch this space!

The second part of General Assembly takes place this week with two proposals originating from St Andrews - *Inclusivity* and *that local Iwi will be given first right of refusal if land is divested by the church*.

A reminder of all the other activities taking place at St Andrews:

- ✚ Common Good at the Common Room
- ✚ Meditation- Sunday and Thursday evenings at 7.30 (Online) Contact Ken Hutchison
- ✚ Pray group- 7am Wednesday mornings (Online) Contact Junior MacArthur
- ✚ Study group- 10am Thursdays Contact Jill

I write this on Anzac Day. Gallipoli is near the entrance to the Dardanelles leading to the Black Sea. The poignancy that 107 years later another conflict rages on its northern shore- the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has not been lost. We live in very troubled times but in this and all times our faith speaks Joshua 9:1 *"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"*.

Arohanui,

Jim

### **Prayer Zoom Group....**

**Every Wednesday morning at 7am a few of us meet on zoom to pray together. This is both a time of praise as we give thanks to God and a time of praying for our church, our community and our world.**

**If you want to join us OR want to share with us anything you want us to pray for please email Junior Macarthur [my1000talents@gmail.com](mailto:my1000talents@gmail.com) or call Jill at Church**

### **St Marks Village....**

**The St Marks Housing Workgroup are continuing their work on social housing on the St Marks site. **On Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup> we are meeting at St Marks to pray about this at 5pm.****

**DO come join us if you would like to be part of this praying.**

**We are talking with other community-based chaplains around the country as we polish up the chaplaincy role attached to St Marks.**



## **Manaaki Energy.....**



**There is another round of funding that is nearly due and Manaaki Energy is applying for funding for nine different projects in Hawke's Bay and beyond that are a mixture of solar on houses, solar farms and geothermal all aimed at reducing energy hardship.**

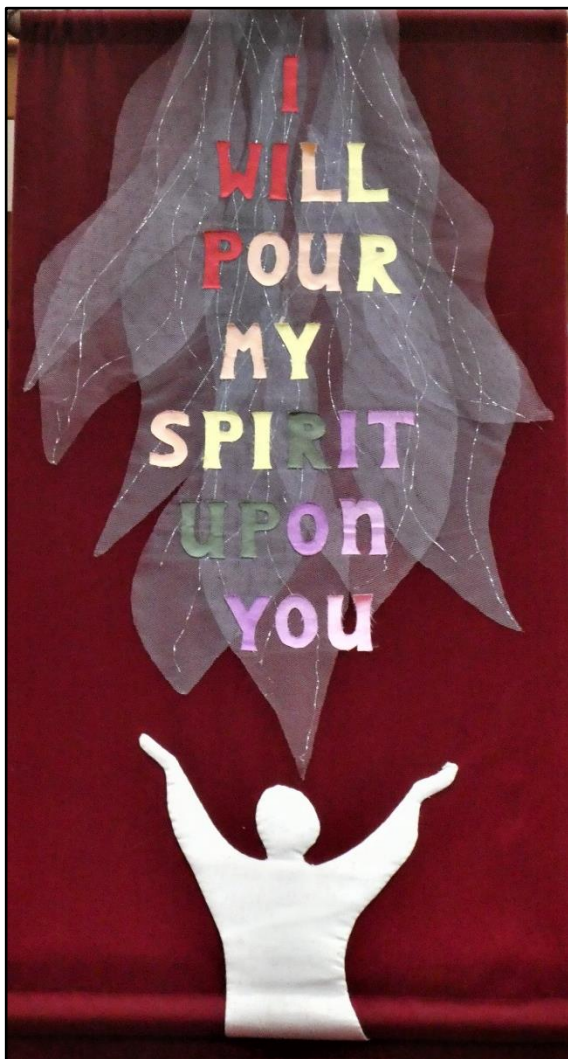
**A video has been produced about Manaaki Energy's work. While this might not be the final edited product (it is still being worked on) this gives you a great overview:**

**<https://vimeo.com/698832762>**





**Photo: Taken after Church on Sunday 17 April 2022**



**One of the applique banners in the Church.  
Designed by Helen Hallgarth in the late 1980's**



**What do you know about this microwave/oven?**



Sometime last year this microwave/oven was dropped off in the church kitchen. While it looks like a microwave it has stainless steel dishes inside.



Now they we have a working stove in the kitchen it isn't needed, but it would be good to have some more information about it as we determine what to do with it.

If you know anything about it please talk to Carley or Jill.

**A BETTER YOU.....**

***"Your task .....***

***To build a better world", God said.***

***I answered, "How?..."***

***The world is such a large, vast place,***

***So complicated now.***

***And I so small***

***And useless am,***

***There's nothing I can do"***

***But God***

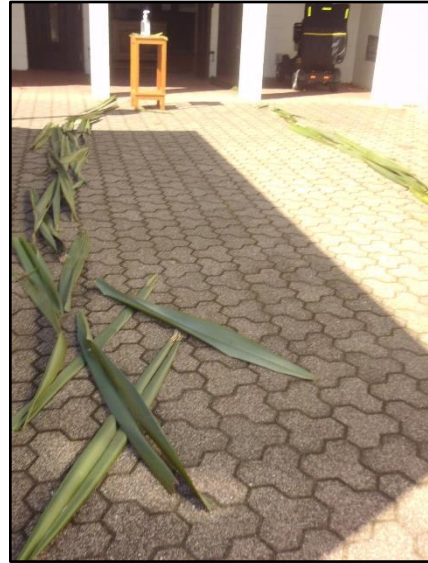
***In all His wisdom said.***

***"Just build a better you"***

***From "Burnaby Spoke", 1976***



## The Path to Easter



Photos taken by Catherine Parks

## IMPORTANT DATES

### SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MAY 2022

May 1

May 8

May 15

May 22

May 29

### SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JUNE 2022

June 5

June 12

June 19

June 26

### Parish Council Tuesday 7pm

May 3

June 7

10am: Sunday worship at St Andrews  
EACH Sunday

11.30am: Zoom worship EACH Sunday

Contact Jill if you don't already receive  
e-mails from us and want the Zoom  
link

### Common Good 7pm - at the Common Room, 227 Heretaunga St East

May 25 Charles Waldegrave – “The Living Wage”

June 22 Matariki (to be confirmed)

June 29 Emily Colgan - “The Shiloh Project”

<https://www.shilohproject.blog>