

A stylized illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is on the left, kneeling and looking down at the infant Jesus who is lying in a manger. Joseph is on the right, standing and holding a long wooden staff. A bright star with rays of light is positioned above the manger, with a beam of light shining down on the infant. The background is a soft, hazy blue.

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

**November 2018 December 2018
and January 2019**

**Isaiah 11:1 – A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
From his roots a branch will bear fruit**

Jill's Musings

Kia orana,

As I write this on a beautiful 25 degree Labour weekend, it is good to feel the heat returning isn't it. I hope and pray that it is a blessed summer for you all.

In late September I asked these question in my reflection: How do we be the church? How do we be Christ's body? It is a question that we as Christians much constantly grapple with.

In the New Testament, Jesus and his Apostles envision the church as a community where forgiveness, and unconditional love, and mercy are the rule, not the exception.

We are called to follow Jesus, to endeavour to live our lives in the way that Jesus lived his. And how did he live his? He was the incarnation of compassion. In everything he did he demonstrated concretely the nature of God's compassion by accepting and befriending and loving and caring for sinners and tax collectors outcasts and outsiders. He forgave people when they stuffed up, he restored lives freely, joyfully and without any kind of conditions - whoever, whatever, whenever, wherever. What Jesus demonstrated with his life was an open-ended generosity that seems to be so rare these days.

It is a way of life that flows from the experience of the love and grace and mercy of God. It is a matter of actually *caring* about other people, what happens to them, their quality of life, their hopes and their fears, their wellbeing.

That's the kind of life we're called to live as the church. We are called to live in a community that forgives, that restores, that heals where people experience and know the fullness of life in Christ.

We are called to live in a fellowship that shares with others, that blesses others, that cares for others—whoever, whatever, wherever, whenever. When we do this new life is breathed by the Holy Spirit into those around us, and into our own lives too.

May we pray for one another and hold one another in love prayer. As we enter into the season of advent and Christmas may we pause to notice God breaking through in and around us.

GA18

Here seems like a good place to share thoughts and reflections on our churches recent General Assembly in Christchurch. It was a great experience, certainly the best General Assembly I have been to where there was a much greater sense of unity than there has been in the past. It was a hope filled and encouraging time with many grace-filled moments. The induction of the new moderator the Right Reverend Fakaofa Kaio was very poignant and moving. He is only the second Pacific Islander to be Moderator and it was interesting to note how much more cross cultural GA felt under his moderation. We are indeed a cross cultural

church something that we at St Andrews are fortunate to experience in our everyday church life.

Another grace filled moment was the apology from Anglican Archbishop the most Reverend Philip made to GA that his church had not been sufficiently active in reaching out to its fellow Christian Churches in recent times. He asked the Presbyterian Church's forgiveness for their failures as partners in faith. The archbishop's words were greeted warmly by Assembly and on behalf of the Church, Right Rev Kaio humbly sought the forgiveness of the Anglican Church for "the lack of closeness" up to today between the two churches, before praying for both churches and the future relationship together.

Without a doubt these are challenging times for the church, something made clear by presentations from each Presbytery.

Some of the significant decisions were:

- GA declared it does not support provision for euthanasia and assisted suicide as proposed in the End of Life Choice Bill. It also urged presbyteries and church councils to renew ministry to the aged and vulnerable and to explore ways to contribute financially to palliative, hospice, mental health, disability and elderly care.
- A commitment was made to reduce the impact on the environment, acknowledging the important role Christians play in being stewards of God's creation. To achieve this GA encouraged all churches to engage in recycling; use ecofriendly cleaning products; and reduce single use plastics. This is something our parish council has already agreed to work on.
- The Pacific Islands Synod was renamed as the Pacific Presbytery and it has opened up the way it works to encourage churches, and individuals to associate themselves with the Pacific Presbytery for resourcing and the building of relationships.
- The establishment of a role of Te Reo Commissioner to promote and extend the use of Te Reo Maori within the church and especially by facilitating the provision of liturgical material

If you want to know more about GA18 decisions, Jill has some hard copy summaries and you can find them online at <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/about-us/general-assembly/general-assembly-2018/ga18-take-home-information>

Ka kite ano

Jill

Notes from the Parish Council Clerk

Greetings everyone. I write this at the beginning of a beautiful HB Anniversary weekend with Hawkes Bay looking at its brilliant best. I imagine many of you will be like us, wondering where the year has gone and thinking of the many tasks we would like to accomplish before Christmas is upon us! At St Andrews a number of projects are well underway.

It is hoped that provided sufficient funding is in place the outside seating project will commence early in the New Year. Parish Council agreed to the establishment of a Governance team for the Power to the People Project with authority to make applications for funds for the feasibility study. Chris Lambourne is leading the project and is well underway in developing a business case. The goal is to provide low cost electricity to 400 low-income households in Flaxmere through the establishment of a solar farm. Already this project has attracted quite a lot of publicity with, for example, a forthcoming article in SPANZ.

Our children and youth family worker, Teorepi Ioane, has been busy setting up the room as her base and with the school term underway the weekly activities have recommenced.

At September's Parish Council meeting we learnt of a remit on Stewardship formulated by two younger people in Presbytery Central asking Presbytery Central churches to commit to:

Eliminating the use of single –use plastic items

Making recycling bins readily available

Adopting the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products

We agreed with the remit so St Andrews will try to play its part in reducing our impact on the environment.

Finally please mark on your calendar the AGM on the 28th October and then at our combined service on the 4th November we will have the joy of inducting six new members into membership. At these combined services we are encouraging pot luck lunches afterwards- no rosters, just bring a contribution and enjoy fellowship after the service.

To end a quote from Laurence Freeman particularly appropriate at this time of new life: "The beauty of the world is Christ's tender smile for us coming through matter."

Arohanui,

Jim

CHURCH INFORMATION

Minister	Rev Jill McDonald	P O Box 494 Hasting 516	Phone 027 4070489
Session Clerk	Jim Spall	RD1, Hastings	Phone 876 0924
Cook Island Secretary	Taarani Ioane	11 Margate Ave, Flaxmere	Phone 879 5674
Office Administrator	Wendy Mangan	P O Box 494, Hastings 3156	Phone 878 8247

Email: info@standrewshastings.org.nz

Website: www.standrewshastings.org.nz

The Church Office is open Tuesday to Friday 9.00am to 2.30pm

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

Di Romans (convenor)	Phone 87333067
Nancy Bixley	Phone 878 8743
Barbara Stokes	Phone 878 3451
Roro Takei	Phone 844 2191



ST ANDREW'S TEXTING CARE CIRCLE

If there is someone with a need, contact the Pastoral Care Group, the Minister or 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

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2018

	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Budget Sep 18	Difference	%
<u>INCOME</u>						
Plate	832	823	830	700	130	18.57
Envelopes	3917	3370	4020	4250	-230	-5.41
TOTAL OFFERINGS	4749	4193	4850	4950	-100	-2.02
Other Income	6318	6427	5449	4291	1158	26.99
TOTAL INCOME	11067	10620	10299	9241	1058	11.45
TOTAL EXPENSES	17320	14109	36624	16645	19979	120.03
PROFIT /LOSS	-6253	-3489	-26325	-7404	-18921	

FLOWERS IN PRAISE 2018

Hastings Church became involved with 'Flowers in Praise' as part of the annual Hastings Blossom Festival held in September each year. The first "Flowers in Praise' festival was at the Elm Church where it began 15 years ago as a competitive event. The following year the designers from the various Churches participating did not want to be competitive so from that time on the volunteered Church in Hastings or environs was held. Each year the theme of the designs was taken from a passage of the Bible usually pertaining to flowers or gardens. In the earlier years there would be up to ten Churches as well as independent floral designers decorating the chosen Church every September.



As the years have rolled on, age has caught up with most of the ladies who have willingly given their time even though the Churches' participation has dropped in recent years. A number of 'flower ladies' at St Andrew's have given their time to take part in the festivals with their input and contribution of floral material that has been greatly appreciated.

This year the annual 'Flowers in Praise' was held at the Sacred Heart Church in Hastings. It was organised for the weekend before the Blossom Festival began. Unfortunately, the gathering of the plant material for this year's event was hindered by the heavy rain that fell during the week. Gathering the right foliage in awkward to reach places and squelching through the mud to collect very soppy flowers and branches from our gardens was no mean feat in those conditions! It was wonderful for me to have Colleen Clements on board who did a lovely design and her husband Randal who did a tremendous job as our 'right hand man' fetching and carrying equipment and buckets of flowers to the Church for us in the "big wet'. Thank you both for doing a wonderful job – couldn't have done it without you! The planning and collecting of a design is time consuming but when all the designs come together in a Church, it is rewarding along with the friendships that have been forged over the years by the ladies from other local Churches when we meet up again. The future of 'Flowers in Praise' is uncertain for this annual event as there does not appear to be any younger interested women coming forward to fill our role. A big thank you to the ladies of the various Churches who have always provided morning tea and lunches to sustain the busy floral workers which has been much appreciated also. The proceeds from a 'gold coin' donation for the public to view the designs has always gone to a chosen charity every year.



Laurel Collins

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Kia orana

We have been making progress on the developing a business plan for Power to the People (PttP.) A couple of weeks ago we held our first meeting of the project's governance team. Harry Trigg, Meari Ririani, Jane Herries and Jim Spall make up the Governance Team. And we have been examining what PttP needs to be to be successful.

My focusing has been on getting lots of detailed information about:

1. how much electricity groups of Flaxmere houses are using for every hour of the year. (So that's a lot of data.)
2. how much energy is in the sunlight that hits the ground here in Hawkes Bay, and where the sun is for every hour of the day. (So that's even more data.)
3. the basic design of a solar farm and worked out how much it will cost and modelled how much electricity would be generated (by using the NIWA data)
4. and then turning it all into a financial model to get a set of financial accounts for the business.

If you drive past late at night and see, that will be me working on my computer.

Chris Lambourne

Newsletter Editor

We need a newsletter editor, if you are computer savvy and good with words and keen share these skills please let us know.

Also a proof-reader to check the details before send out the newsletter, would be awesome.

To Give Away

We have some carpet that has been sitting under the stage at the hall to give away. It is 30 years old but in new condition. Various sized pieces in orange and in red. We do have someone who would like it for their garden but if anyone could use it in your house or shed you would have priority. See Barry Nash 0210752442.

Save the Date

We are going to have a Summer Soiree Fundraiser on Sunday January 27th. Details to follow but it will be a great opportunity to wear your flashest summer gear!

FOODBANK VOLUNTEER

We are looking for a volunteer to take the offering food to the foodbank once a month.

Please see Jill or Wendy

INTRODUCING

Wendy Frances Mangan

I was born 29 January 1962 in Upper Hutt Maternity Hospital to the proud parents of John Garfield Mangan and Peggy Joan Mangan, baby sister to Jenny and John, weighing in at 10lb 11oz (my poor mother) I was baptised at St David's Presbyterian Church and lived in Upper Hutt for most of school years but was dragged kicking and screaming to Christchurch half way through my sixth form year. (a stropky 16 year old). It all turned out for the best and grew to love Christchurch, making friends and lots of fond memories.

I have had a varied array of jobs. Starting out as a gardener, then changing to Hotel Reception and Reservations, Office Manager, Accounts Manager etc.

I enjoy most types of music. At school I played the triangle or the finger cymbals and if I was really lucky (or they were really desperate) maybe the castanets. So not musically talented.

Have travelled to Australia, Bali, sailed around Tahiti, a wedding in Rarotonga, volunteer work in Swaziland with a church from America. I've been to London, Paris, Rome, Tuscany, Millan and one day in Osaka.

I played a lot of sport in my younger days, gymnastics, swimming, hockey, softball, volley ball, touch rugby, ten pin bowling, golf. I've bungy jumped, walked the Abel Tasman and part of the Heaphy track, camped off the grid in central South Island, with my camping buddies. I love to read, fantasy or science fiction, blame that on my father who read to us Oscar Wilde, AA Milne, Rudyard Kipling, Peter Pan and Alice in Wonderland to name just a few. We would lose ourselves in the world of fantasy.



I love animals, have had rabbits, fish, cats, parrots and dogs. I'm on to my third dog now, a new puppy Izzy. While in Auckland I volunteered for Bird Rescue and would hand raise baby blackbirds and thrushes and set them free once they could fly.

After 3 major operations in the last 10 years, I'm not so active and my brother finally persuaded me to leave my beloved Christchurch and move to Auckland and I never really settled. So, I asked for what I wanted, was grateful for what I had and God gave me what I needed. I ended up in the Hawkes Bay on a small orchard in Havelock North and joined up with the lovely people of St Andrew Church. Now begins a new chapter in my life, enjoying a slower pace.

Wendy

INTRODUCING
Teorepi Ioane,
St Andrews Children/Youth Worker

I AM

A Friend
A Partner
A Mentor
A Coach
A Connector
A Visual Artist

I AM a child of God.

I AM

A Daughter
A Sister
A Niece
An Aunty
A Grand Aunt
A Mother

E Tama **AU** na Te Atua.

Teorepi



November 2018

Sunday	4	11.00am	Combine Holy Communion and New Members Service Followed by casual lunch in lounge. Please bring a plate
Tuesday	6	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
Thursday	8	10.00am	Study Group
Saturday	10		WOF Training for Children/Youth Leaders
Sunday	11	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Mama’s Service
		2.00pm	Commissioning Service for Michelle Loveday – St John’s
Tuesday	13	5.30pm	Pecha Kucha with Rev Jill presenting at MTG Napier
Thursday	15	10.00am	Study Group
Friday	16	7.00pm	Commission for Richard, Gisborne
Sunday	18	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Rev Jill
Tuesday	20	1.30pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday	21	3.00pm	Worship Task Group
Thursday	22	10.00am	Study Group
Sunday	25	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Rev Jill
Monday	26	7.30pm	Study Group

December 2018

Sunday	2	11.00am	Combine Holy Communion followed by casual lunch in the lounge. Please bring a plate
Tues day	4	7.00pm	Parish Council
Thursday	6	10.00am	Study Group
Sunday	9	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Rev Jill
Wednesday	12	2.00pm	Eversley Christmas Communion Service
Thursday	13	10.00am	Study Group
Sunday	16	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Rev Jill
Tuesday	18	7.00pm	Kereru - Christmas Carol Service
Thursday	20	7.00pm	Maraekakaho – Christmas Carol Service
Sunday	23	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Rev Jill
Monday	24	7.00pm	Christmas Eve Service followed by Christmas Cake wine/juice
Tuesday	25	9.00am	Christmas Day Service

December 2018

Sunday	30	10.00	Combined Service at St Andrew's – Joined by St Matthew's – Rev Jill
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January 2019

	6	10.00am	Combined Service at St Matthew's – Rev Alister Hendery. No Services at St Andrew's
Sunday	13	10.00am	Worship – Worship Team
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Cook Island Elders
Sunday	20	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Rev Jill
Sunday	27	10.00am	Worship – Rev Jill
		12.00pm	Cook Island Worship – Rev Jill
		2-4pm	Summer Soiree Fundraiser at Jill & Chris's

February 2019

Sunday	3	11.00am	Combined Communion Service at Maraekakaho followed by picnic
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Landscaped Garden Project

We still need another \$10,000 in order to create our garden space in partnership with the Hastings District Council and currently have funding applications in. This garden will have Cook Island themes to honour the contribution of our Cook Islands people to St Andrews. It will also be a gift to our local inner city community where people can sit and be on a beautiful Hastings day. We hope to be able to use this garden space to help build community in our street by hosting the occasional morning tea. Wouldn't it be wonderful to sometimes worship out there on a Sunday morning! Or at the very least spend some time in conversation with each before or after the service. We have been given money from the Hancock family for a seat in memory of Dick and Valda. If you would like to do something similar or make a contribution to this special project, please let Jill know.



