

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November 2021 – February 2022



Our Vision:

- ❖ **Accepting all people**
- ❖ **Striving for Compassion**
- ❖ **Seeking to live out Christ's selfless love until we see justice realised**



Jill's Musings.....

Today is Labour Day, the last day of the glorious four day weekend that Hawke's Bay folk get to enjoy. This year, though, it feels very different with our whanau and friends who live in Auckland and the Waikato in Level 3 Lockdown. With daily covid numbers reaching over 100 we are wondering which way things might go before we reach the 90% vaccination target when we will move to the new traffic light system with more freedoms for those who are vaccinated. The conversation that everyone is having is about vaccination and it feels like most people I have talked to have family or close friends who are vaccine hesitant. It is challenging.

PCANZ has shared a helpful paper from the Inter Church Bioethics Council on 'A Christian Response to the Delta Variant'. I include an extract below.

We are so grateful to be able to worship God together in this season of Level 2, even when it means there are some things we aren't able to do, like singing and having a cuppa afterwards. Coming together reminds us that we are Christ's body and that we need each other.

If you are feeling anxious and want to talk do give me a call. There is a lot to be navigating right now.

Blessings

Jill

A Christian Response to the Delta Variant from the Inter Church Bioethics Council

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

As we journey through this new Covid world it is often hard to navigate all the information that is out there and decide what is correct and what is not, alongside with how we respond as Christians to all the different issues and points of view.

Among the information in the public square, there are comments that rightfully identify that we are, to quote the Psalms, "Fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14), and our immune system is a marvellous example of that. But we also realise that we are mortal, and our



bodies fail us and are subject to disease. There are places in the world where there is no access to modern medicine and so the only option is to pray. But we are not in that position - yes, we need to pray for God's healing - and accept that one of the ways that God provides an answer to this prayer is to utilise the God given ability for science and medicine to help when our bodies fail or disease strikes This is not a lack of trust but is being thankful for what God has provided.

The history of healthcare owes an enormous amount to the role of the church in caring for the needy and relieving the pain and suffering of people with illness and disease in body, mind and spirit. Throughout history and into today, such caring is done by Christians at much personal risk to themselves as they care for others. Today many Christian scientists, doctors, nurses, health professionals, psychologists, counsellors, and social workers feel called by God to minister through the expertise of their profession.

We also need to be careful not to confuse any feelings about Covid vaccination with the practice of vaccination in general or our feelings about other vaccines. As stated in a resource on the NZ Christian Medical Fellowship website: "Most Christians accept that, historically, vaccination has transformed whole societies for the better. A world in which diseases like smallpox, polio, measles, rubella, and rabies have either been eradicated or controlled is preferable to a world in which diseases like these are rampant. Christians rejoice as they recognize God working through the creativity of scientists and the expertise of the medical profession"

(Understanding Covid Vaccination see <https://www.cmf.nz/covid19>)

Love your neighbour as yourself

We are fortunate, in our Western world that we have huge technological resources that make our lives better. But just as Abraham was blessed to be a blessing to the world (Gen 12:1-3), so we would suggest, it is our task to share the blessing of medical research we have with those who do not have these resources. This is what is meant by distributive justice - we are called to share our resources, so that we act as God's agents for good in a broken world.

In the New Testament, there is the emphasis on love. In the words of Jesus, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28; John 15:12, 17). Christianity has never been about an individual ethic, but about community and loving others as God loves us. This can be clearly seen in Luke's Gospel which emphasises the inclusion of the poor, the oppressed, women, and foreigners. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) also talks about using our resources for the benefit of the others and bearing that cost. We could also add "when you do this to the least of these you do it to me" (Matthew 25). The biblical position is clear, we are called to share our resources and that can be extended to medicine and vaccines so that those in need can avoid suffering.

In promoting vaccine for personal and communal protection, we are acting in line with the commands of Jesus to love our neighbour. As we have recently seen in NZ, only

around 3% of current cases have been in those who are vaccinated, 97% of cases are unvaccinated. This is especially significant with the increase in covid cases among children, so that adults can protect children by getting vaccinated.

We are incredibly fortunate to live in a country where Covid-19 has not taken hold. May we encourage you to take the opportunities to share that blessing by protecting yourself and others through vaccination and enabling those in greater need to receive that blessing as well. We also recognise there are a range of views on this topic, and we all have freedom of choice to be vaccinated or not and the right to not be judged for that choice. How we live as God's people while holding our difference is also important, so that the church is a place where we can model love for one another, even if we disagree. Our common aim is the safety and protection of all.

To read the full article either ask Jill for a copy or see online at:

[https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/for_parishes/ICBC%20Covid%20Response%20Update%20Oct%202021%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/for_parishes/ICBC%20Covid%20Response%20Update%20Oct%202021%20(1).pdf)

ST ANDREW'S PASTORAL CARE - TRANSPORT

Do you need a ride to Church?

If you need a ride to church?

Please call Vicki Vaughan

Phone Number: 878 3988 or 027 437 4420

Could you help by giving someone a ride to Church, on the odd occasion?

Can you provide transport?

We want to build up a list of people who can be on call to provide transport. This would not be every Sunday on a permanent basis! If you can help in this area of pastoral care please call Vicki.

Notes from Parish Clerk...Jim Spall

Hi everyone. I last wrote in mid winter looking forward to spring. My anticipation has been well rewarded with a wonderful spring- good weather for lambing and then rain so that Hawkes Bay looks at its brilliant best. For New Zealand and us at St Andrews it has been an anxious time as we watch the steady spread of the delta variant of Covid-19 and have once again had to restrict our activities. In spite of all this we have managed to continue with Sunday worship, study group, meditation, and our community work with some great things happening.

Parish Council meetings

August Meeting our strategic focus was on the refurbishment of the worship space and the missional purpose of the hall. Our council had a good discussion and this will be ongoing as we seek God's guidance to assist our decision making.

September Meeting with lockdown restrictions in place Parish Council was held online. Our primary focus was on everyone's wellbeing as well as ensuring planned events were in place.

October Meeting we could once again meet in person and our focus was on where we thought God was leading us as a church community. Common themes included:-

- The importance of seeking and listening to God
- A shared vision of moving out into the community using our different skills
- That the Holy Spirit would continue to bring us together
- Where there was action unity would follow

Maanaki Energy

Over this whole period Maanaki Energy lead by Chris Lambourne has been very active in installing solar panels on houses both in Hawkes Bay and Rotorua. Each installation is preceded by a Karakia and I was lucky enough to attend one at Mary Ioane's. The reduction in electricity costs for every household is very significant and means a great deal. I also enjoyed Mary's wonderful fresh scones with jam and cream!

General Assembly

General Assembly was held online on the 29th and 30th of September with the installation of the new Moderator, Rt Rev Hamish Galloway. The theme was "Empowering Generations" -releasing the church and its resources to the next generation and letting them lead. Other key messages were for us all to be hopeful, visionary, nimble, and responsive. Christine Spall was St Andrews representative and she reported that a follow up meeting would be held in 2022 to discuss the remits.

A Mission Plan Review Workshop

A Mission Plan Review Workshop lead by Central Presbytery's Mission Enabler, Stuart Simpson was held in the lounge on October 16th. This was well attended and was very positive as we realised that many elements of the Mission Plan were being put into practice. The plan will always be a work in progress and subject to review from time to time.

St Andrew's Church AGM

Our AGM was held the following day and to use Jill's words was an "Annual Celebration Meeting". Again this was a very positive meeting and was followed by an outline of the St Mark's Village Concept by Chris Lambourne. A motion was passed endorsing the development of a proposal by Finance and Property for community housing and a chaplain on the former St Mark's site.

Sunday 7th November

It is with great excitement that we will be hosting the new Moderator Rt Rev Hamish Galloway on November 7th who will be leading worship.

Common Good

It will be a thanksgiving service with Manaaki Energy Recipients also present. Common Good will also resume on November 17th with an interview with Manaaki Energy on the solar project.

Finally a reading from a recent Parish Council Meeting Joshua 1:9 "***I hearby command you; Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go***"

Arohanui, Jim

A Cup of Tivaivai

Tivaivai making is the art of making patchwork quilts communally that Cook Islands women practice. The tivaivai is a gift of love for special occasion.



A Cup of Tivaivai project will support a significant and unique artistic tradition of our Cook Islands community, by transmitting the knowledge and experience of tivaivai makers to new learners through the workshops.



The participants will be Cook Islands women young and old, St. Andrews congregation young and old and surrounding community who want to learn this art. There will be sewing, singing, chatting, telling stories, eating, and getting to know the others in the group.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this project is on hold until the new year.



Thank you to the Presbyterian Give-it -a- Go Grants and Hastings District Council for the funds to make this project possible.

St Andrew's Church - New HOST

After a serious look at the Financial situation of St Andrew's Church, the Finance and Property Committee felt they needed to make some very hard decisions that included restructuring.

As part of these discussions we felt there was a real need for a Host as our church buildings are used during the week by a number of outside groups who hire the buildings.

The Finance and Property Committee were delighted to appoint **Carley Slade** to this new position.



Carley with husband Wayne

If you come to the Church buildings during the week you are likely to find Carley vacuuming or scrubbing, talking with our many hirers, sorting out Contracts, answering e-mails, phone calls or making cups of tea or coffee or she may just be in the Office.

Carley is employed 16 hours a week in the mornings 9.00am - 1.00pm Tuesday to Friday.

Carley is married to Wayne and has three children - Ashar (14), Levi (12) and daughter Lakoda (9)

The family are members of the Equippers Church where Carley has done a significant amount of voluntary work while bringing up her young family. After 14 years out of

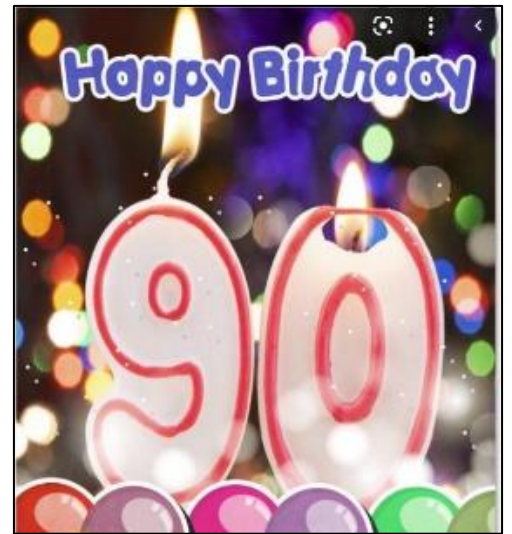
the work force she is very keen to get back into employment. You will find Carley has a warm, positive, friendly personality and enjoys working with people.

Carley has enjoyed her first two weeks as Host and has found everyone to be so warm and welcoming. We wish Carley all the best in her new role.

JEAN CAINS – CELEBRATES HER 90th BIRTHDAY



On Sunday 9 October as part of our Sunday Service we felt very blessed to be able share in celebrating Jean Cains' 90th Birthday.



Unfortunately because of Covid restrictions we could not have the coffee and cake but it was great that we could be together to wish Jean a happy 90th Birthday.

ST ANDREW'S PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is so important in our church family.

As a faith community we need to be sure everyone is cared for and not forgotten

- + We need to keep in touch.
 - + We need to know who needs help
- AND
- + We need people to give that help

Is this something you would like to do?

What is required?

- + ***Calling someone on the phone once a month – to offer prayer or ask how they are doing***
- + ***Deliver a meal to someone***
- + ***Invite someone to a meal occasionally***

Please let Jill know what you would like to do.

Many thanks!

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE FUND RAISERS

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

- ✚ \$2.00 a ticket OR
- ✚ 3 tickets for \$5.00
- ✚ 3 Prizes
- ✚ Tickets available from the Church Office
OR on Sunday



KNITTED COTTON CLOTHES



- ❖ Knitted cotton clothes suitable for dishes, bathrooms, laundry
- ❖ Variety of colours
- ❖ \$5.00 each
- ❖ Available from the Church Office OR on Sunday
- ❖ These clothes were made as part of a Lockdown challenge

RECYCLING

Did you know there are lots of household things that can be recycled which aren't collected at your gate? The Environment Centre takes all sorts of things like:

Batteries	Toothpaste Tubes	Toothbrushes
Aluminium Bottle Tops	Metal Bottle Tops	Jar Lids
No 2 Bottle Tops	ALL No 5 Plastics	Candle Wax
Soft Plastics	Clean Cling Film	Aluminium Foil
Printer Ink Cartridges	Bread Tags	Coffee Pods (well drained)

These can be recycled for free.

Barbara Stokes can collect these from you OR you can bring them to Church and give to her (06) 878 3541 or 021 036 0444

You can recycle larger items but there is a fee. For a fee they can be collected from your home...

Electric heaters

Microwaves

Computers etc

The Environmental Centre:

Tremains Community Hub,

1004 Karamu Rd, Hastings (near Gull Petrol)

Phone: (06) 870 4942

Open Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 5.00pm

IMPORTANT DATES

NB while we are at Covid Level 2 we will
be having combined worship at 10am each Sunday

NOVEMBER

Tuesday	2	7pm	Parish Council meeting
Sunday	7	10am	Worship Preacher: PCANZ Moderator – Right Rev Hamish Galloway
Sunday	14	10am	Worship
Wednesday	17		Common Good – “ <i>Ending Energy Poverty</i> ” Spaceship 118 Karamu Road, North
Sunday	21	10am	Worship
Sunday	28	10am	Worship – Advent 1

DECEMBER

Sunday	5	10am	Worship – Advent 2
Sunday	12	10am	Worship - Advent 3
Sunday	19	10am	Worship - Advent 4 <i>We remember those who won't be with us at Christmas</i>
Friday	24	7.00pm	Christmas Eve
Saturday	25	10.00am	Christmas Service
Sunday	26		Please note -No service at St Andrew's today

**The Church Office is closed from
Friday 24 December – Monday 17 January 2022**

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	2	10am	Service at St Matthews (No Service at St Andrew's)
Sunday	9	10am	Worship
Sunday	16	10am	Worship
Sunday	23	10am	Worship
Sunday	30	10am	Worship

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	6	10am	Worship
Tuesday	8	7.00pm	Parish Council

OTHER MEETINGS

- ✚ **Sacred Space** – at 12.10 each Tuesday – either join Jill in her Office OR by Zoom
(Contact Jill to get the Link)
- ✚ **St Matthews Craft Group** - 9.30am every Tuesday morning at St Andrew's
Term time – Contact Marilyn White ph 8710011 All are welcome
- ✚ **St Andrew's Social Coffee Group** – 10.00am – 11.00am every second Tuesday at
John's Bakery. All are welcome
- ✚ **Thursday Morning Study Group** – 10.00am by Zoom during Covid or in Jill's Office
if you don't have Internet
- ✚ **Meditation Group** @7.30pm each Thursday evening by Zoom
contact Ken Hutchison Ph 8710213 or 021 078 4923
- ✚ **Monday Evening Study Group** (4th Monday of the month) @ Gerda Pronk's home
See Ken Hutchison for details. (Currently on hold at Alert Level 2)

Change to the Envelope System

A number of years ago when the Envelope System was introduced the majority of giving was as cash or cheques. In the last few years, there has been a change in the way people are making their giving with most now using Electronic Banking methods.

The Finance and Property Committee have discussed this trend and realise it is not viable to continue the envelope system as it is with printed envelopes. In the meantime we will still continue the Envelope System for those who prefer it over Electronic Banking.

Instead of being issued a bundle of printed envelopes we ask you to pick up some envelopes from the Church Foyer or Office and in large print to put your Envelope Number on each envelope you use. If you do not remember your Envelope System Number pop into the Office and it will be sorted

CHURCH INFORMATION

Minister:	Rev Jill McDonald	Phone: 0274070489 Email: jill@standrewshastings.org.nz
Parish Clerk:	Jim Spall	Phone: (06) 8760924 Email: jimspall15@outlook.com
Cook Island Secretary	Berry Rangī	Phone (06) 8444735 Email: tbrangi@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Jane Herries	Phone 027236028 Email: jane@tasc.co.nz
Finance & Property: Chairperson	Chris Lambourne	Phone 027 588 22134
Church Office:	Ph: (06) 8788247 Post Address: PO Box 494 Hastings, 4156 Web site: www.standrewshastings.org.nz	Email: info@standrewshastings.org.nz
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm		