

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

**February 2022– April 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.....

As we see what is happening around the world with the very contagious Omicron variant of covid, this feels like a strange time as we await it's spread in New Zealand. While for many the virus is milder than other strains, and it will be experienced as being like a very bad cold, the rates of hospitalisation and deaths overseas mean that we need to do all that we can to care for each other and for ourselves in the months ahead.

Do make sure you are prepared with everything you need at home and if you haven't already, please let us know if you need any kind of help – like grocery deliveries if you are having to self isolate. Do take the time to connect with our church family in the strange times – all it takes is a phone call or even a text to brighten someone's day and know that you are thinking about them. We want to ensure that you are all supported and cared for during this time.

**At the first parish council meeting of the year, the decision was made that we would cease having in person worship from Sunday February 13<sup>th</sup> and instead worship together via zoom. This is something that you can access via your home phone if you don't have internet. Alternatively it could be a great opportunity to go to a family member or neighbour with internet and have you (and them!) join us in worship! See later in newsletter for details of how to connect in.**

### Prayer

At the first service I led in January (9<sup>th</sup>) I asked *what are you praying for our church this year?* alongside the reality that what ever you are praying for that we as a church need to prepare for that prayer being answered. We all have a responsibility to do what we can in helping to bring about whatever it is that we are praying for. It would be wonderful to know what you are praying for St Andrews, do let me know!

Speaking of prayer, Junior Macarthur is setting up a church prayer group please contact him 0211444168 or [my1000talents@gmail.com](mailto:my1000talents@gmail.com) if you are keen to be involved.

### Tivaevae

In other news last year we got running to run a Tivaevae group where everyone can learn to beautiful Cook island handcraft of Tivaevae. For details of when this will be please contact Berry Rangi [tbirangi@gmail.com](mailto:tbirangi@gmail.com) or 068444735.

### Study Leave

As you know I am doing a University of Otago Maori Theology paper. I had three weeks of study leave for this last year (although two coincided with lockdown so were somewhat disrupted) and I have a further four to take before the research essay is due in May. While the timing isn't great, (due to omicron) I really need to take the month of March off to get this completed. However, you will see me at worship via Zoom during March, so that will be a great way to connect with you.

Ministers within the PCANZ are expected to take study leave every seven years to get refreshed in their learning. I look forward to sharing my study with you once it is completed.

### The Bay Buzz

It was so incredibly humbling to be named as one of Hawkes Bay's top twenty influential women in the latest Bay Buzz Magazine, along with Caren Rangi. What I especially appreciated about it

was the fact that here was a secular magazine recognising something that the church was doing. See Below.

### **Apologies**

This newsletter is a bit lacking in material, June the editor did as much as she could before she went on holiday and I am finishing it off and endeavouring to get it down quickly so we can hand it out while we still have in person worship this Sunday.

### **Words of Comfort and Strength**

It is times like this that we are especially thankful for our faith in Christ and our church family. It is times like this that the Psalms are always helpful, and I always find it hard to go past Psalm 23. This one from the Contemporary English Translation of the bible is especially beautiful reminding us that God is with us during the tough times. May God Bless You and Keep You.

### **Psalm 23**

***You, Lord, are my shepherd. I will never be in need.***

***You let me rest in fields of green grass.***

***You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life.***

***You are true to your name, and you lead me along the right paths.***

***I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid.***

***You are with me, and your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe.***

***You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch.***

***You honour me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows.***

***Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life,  
and I will live forever in your house, Lord.***

Jill

## **Notes from the Parish Council Clerk**

Hi everyone. I write this after another day in the Hawkes Bay sunshine. It has been a rare period where to date there has been enough rain for our farmers and orchardists but also great spells of sunny weather for all the holiday makers. At St Andrews we have had to navigate our way through the restrictions brought on by Covid-19. I commend everyone for their patience and good humour while we run this marathon. It has meant some disruption but we have managed to continue with worship and all the other activities that take place in the St Andrew's community.

At Parish Council's November meeting our strategic focus was on the Mission Plan Workshop and the St Mark's Village Concept. The consensus of council was that the Workshop was well attended and ably chaired by the Rev Stuart Simpson. We felt very positive as to how we were tracking with the Mission Plan. St Mark's is now under St Andrew's management. Over the next nine months St Andrews will develop a social housing concept. For the project to proceed it will require the approval of both Presbytery Central and the Church property trustees.

Parish Council held a second meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> to consider the implications of the new "Traffic Light System" for St Andrew's. For all churches this has been challenging as we recognise that all people are included in worship services and mission but at the same time we have a responsibility to protect people from the Covid-19 virus. We resolved we could only act out of self-giving love rather than what we want and that we would therefore offer 2 streams of Worship-vaccinated only and open depending

on demand. We also resolved to operate in a manner that met all government laws, regulations, orders, and guidelines

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February we held our first meeting for 2022. Covid-19 was once again our strategic focus as we considered how we would operate with the omicron variant expected to circulate widely. We decided to move to zoom worship so as to play our part in minimising the spread of the virus. We will resume in person worship once there are clear indications that it is safe to do so. Even though we will not meet in person I'm sure that our phones and messaging will be busy checking on everyone's welfare. A reminder that meditation on Sunday and Thursday evenings is held online so this will not be affected.

In these challenging times I am sure our faith will both help us and our neighbour to get through. Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus"

Arohanui, Jim



The Bay Buzz team reached out through their networks for suggestions of inspiring Hawke's Bay women who offer insight and perspective on the many diverse ways of being successful, fulfilled and connected as women in our region. We received a mass of 'nominees' , of course, the choices here are more arbitrary than selective, curated through the opportunities that led to 20 remarkable conversations.

**Words by -**

**Tess Redgrave and Bridget Freeman – Rock**

**Photos by – Florence Charvin**



## Jill McDonald

Every Sunday morning Reverend Jill McDonald puts on the same black dress ready to lead the Sunday service at Hastings' St Andrews Presbyterian Church.

"The one thing I have noticed as a woman in this role is that people comment on how I look. I wear the same dress every Sunday because I don't want people thinking about what I am wearing, but rather entering into worship."

When Jill was inducted as the minister of St Andrews in 2017, she was the first female minister in the church's 132-year history. Already she is making her mark with a keen aspiration for social justice.

In 2018 Jill and husband Chris Lambourne seeded an ambitious project to build a solar farm to bring low-cost electricity to around 1,500 people in Flaxmere. That has now evolved

into Manaaki Energy which aims to end energy poverty in Aotearoa.

As a board member Jill says that Manaaki Energy is becoming a social retailer/generator using solar, wind and geothermal energy generation.

"We are all given an equal amount of sun, but people who struggle financially are the last to benefit from the technology to harness it," she says. "That's where we aim to make a difference."

Jill is also facilitating The Common Good, a monthly talk at Common Room in Hastings hosting a guest speaker on a social justice issue such as homelessness or domestic violence.

"Church can be a real barrier for many, so we want to engage with people where they hang out.

"This is public theology in action."

The fact women are leading key organisations in Hawke's Bay such as the Police, HBDHB, HB Prison, along with the majority of mayors and MPs being women, is something Jill celebrates.

"There is such a strong relationality and 'can do' attitude."





## Caren Rangi

Caren Rangi, ONZM, is on a mission.

She wants to see more diversity and inclusion on New Zealand boards, and she is better placed than most to make this happen.

Caren is the first Pacific woman, and only the third woman, to chair the Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative NZ). She is also on five other New Zealand boards: Te Papa, RNZ, Pacific Island Homecare Services and Pacific Co-operation Broadcasting.

"There are a lot of myths and legends about governance, she says. "It is

not something we learn at school and yet people on boards are required to be highly skilled at decision-making."

Caren, who is of Cook Islands Māori descent, is working with a colleague to offer training on "good governance with a Pacific lens". Her aspiration is to get more Pacific people to put their hands up for board work.

"If you think about governance being collective decision-making, then Pacific people have more experience than most communities in the world.

"We've been doing governance for years. We just don't call it that."

Caren mentors and supports younger people, and often women, who aspire to get on boards. "There is a low expectation of how younger people can contribute to board work," she says, "Yet they can often deal with a lot more

complexity. They bring their own approach and we need to make space for that."

She travels to Wellington for her board work and goes to Rarotonga, where she is on the Board of the Cook Islands Investment Corporation. But home is Tamatea in Napier, where she grew up. (She has just finished a stint as chairperson of the Tamatea High School Board). And the local chapter of the national Pacific Women's organisation, Tiare Ahuriri PACIFICA, is the group she returns to for sustenance and inspiration.

"We are about 20 women, mainly of different Pacific ethnicities, ranging from 14-92 years old and including my mother and daughter.

"We support each other personally, professionally and culturally."

## Other News from St Andrews

### **No In Person Worship Because of Omicron**

Due to the spread of omicron and its' contagious nature and in order to best protect you all, parish council has made the decision to cease in person worship until further notice.

From Feb 13th, we will worship via zoom and encourage you to join us via the internet or by phone. It is so important that we worship God together at this challenging time. It is also vital that we continue to connect with one another, call each other, and pray for each other.

**To join zoom by the internet:** check your email from Jill to open this link from Jill

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81752373165?pwd=bWNrUGMxYlAvZFM5NFg5MlVjV0RTdz09>

**To join zoom by your home phone:**

Sometime between 9.50am and 10am on Sunday, you simply dial this number

**Phone: 04 886 0026** (this is a toll free number)

You will be asked to enter a meeting ID Number which is:

**Meeting ID: 817 5237 3165**

You will then be asked for a pin number which is:

**Pin Number 301381**

### **Pastoral Care**

Vicki Vaughan is going to become our church Pastoral Care Coordinator and she along with Barbara Stokes will be looking after pastoral care alongside Jill. If you are needing some support in any way please contact Vicki [v.v@xtra.co.nz](mailto:v.v@xtra.co.nz) or 0274374420 or Barbara Stokes [abstokes@nowmail.co.nz](mailto:abstokes@nowmail.co.nz) 0210360444.

### **Flowers**

When we do resume in person worship we need some more people to help out with the flower roster. If you love flowers and are keen to have a go please contact Lynne Rosenberg [lynnrosenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnrosenberg@hotmail.com) or 0210736140

### **Help with Worship in May**

If you would like to lead prayer or do a bible reading or choose the video clips of music for March when Jill is away please let her know asap.

## A Waitangi Message from the PCANZ Moderator the Right Rev Hamish Galloway

Writing this message has caused me to reflect deeply on where I stand in terms of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I acknowledge that I am not the tuakana (elder brother) here but rather the taina (younger brother) needing to listen and learn.

My earliest engagement with tikanga Māori in the Church was at Knox College in the early 1980s as a fellow student of the Very Rev Tame Takao QSM - who left the Hall to become Moderator of the General Assembly! A kind and gentle mentor of things Māori.

Time spent with Te Ake Puaho at Te Maungarongo, Ohope Marae over the years has been inspirational. Currently, I am meeting early Monday mornings with a friend who is a wise kuia, to chat, to talk tikanga, practice Te Reo and work our way through one of Scotty Morrison's *Māori Made Easy* workbooks. From these teachers I have learnt to love the language, to dig into my whakapapa and tūrangawaewae. The river and mountain that I identify with are visible on my daily bike ride to work - embracing my mihi has beautifully deepened my sense of place.

New Zealand's younger generations are helping too. Struggling with my pronunciation at a Te Reo course recently, I was amazed at the fluency of the younger members of the class. Watching the way Te Reo is naturally incorporated into the education of my grandchildren gives me a deeper understanding as to why this is so. While some of my generation grumble about all manner of things to do with Māori in our society, the younger generation don't just accept it, they embrace it and celebrate it the way it should be. It is so good to see the younger generation leading the way here.

You can see it in the Church as well. On my journeys as Moderator, I see and hear what is going on. I have been impressed to hear what younger ministers like Mo Morgan at St James at Whanganui, Sebastian Murrihy at Knox Waitara, Jono Barb at Linwood Union and Brendon McRae at Flagstaff Community Church are all doing to honour the Treaty in their context.

Maybe this is the taina leading the tuakana!? And doing so in a way that brings bubbling joy and hope to this nation's bicultural journey, and our Church's part in it.

*Hamish*





# **RULES for KILLING A CHURCH.....**

**This is an Excerpt from the St Andrew's Church Young Men's Bible Class Magazine  
(a handwritten magazine which has so much relevancy more than a century later!)**

**(Revised and Adapted 1908)**

- (1) Don't come**
- (2) If you do come, come late**
- (3) If too wet or too dry, too hot or too cold, don't think of coming**
- (4) Don't imagine the front seats were intended for you, people might think conceited**
- (5) Come bound to find fault**
- (6) Don't ever think of praying for your Pastor or the Church**
- (7) Don't join in the singing**
- (8) Don't attend the prayer meeting, and if you do don't take part**
- (9) Don't encourage the pastor, but tell his faults to others. If his sermon helps you don't let him know it, it might make him vain**
- (10) If you see a stranger in the audience, don't offer to shake hands or ask him to come again, people might think you bold**
- (11) Never try to bring anyone to Church with you**
- (12) Don't believe in missions**
- (13) Don't give much to charities**
- (14) Let the Minister do all the work**
- (15) If he doesn't visit as often as you think he should treat him very coldly. He has nothing particularly to do and could come oftener**
- (16) Don't take the Denominational paper**
- (17) Try to run the Church**
- (18) If you notice anyone willing to hold and help carry on any branch of the Church work, be sure to find fault and accuse them of being cold and forward**
- (19) Don't speak to others about Christ, that is the pastor's business - let him do it**
- (20) Don't attend the Sunday School it looks so childish**
- (21) Insist on your views being adopted on questions brought up before the Church, and don't give in to the majority**
- (22) Don't join any of the Church Societies**
- (23) When you are sick don't send your pastor word, he is supposed to find these things out for himself**
- (24) If you think everything is working harmoniously, try to stir up something that will engender strife. It shows an interest in the cause.**



## PEACE POLES

Currently, Civic Square is the home to a unique collection of Peace Poles/ Pou as part of the Hastings District Council vibrancy project. These poles were brought to Hastings by World Beyond War Aotearoa New Zealand in conjunction with Stortford Lodge Rotary.



There are 43 poles in total. Each pole features the words: "May Peace Prevail on Earth" written in four languages - including English and Te Reo Maori, representing over 80 languages in total. Peace poles can be found all over the world but this is the first for Hastings.

The poles will remain in place at Civic Square until April after which they will be re-located to other places in the region, including churches, schools, parks and community organisations. St Andrew's Church has put its hand up to get one of the poles.

## Brenda Armstrong

At the end of last year the Heretaunga Women's Centre recognised Brenda Armstrong for the work that she does in the community. This is what Amanda, the Manager of the Heretaunga Women's Centre said about Brenda...



*"Brenda is an incredible woman who quietly does so much for others in the community. There are a number of marginalised families in our community for whom Brenda has become the grandmother/ mother getting alongside them to support them in practical ways as well as providing so much emotional support."*

*Brenda has become a surrogate grandmother to families in our community from Cambodia and Afghanistan whom she has taken under her wing, advocating for them, and helping them to navigate systems, housing, schooling and language. At times she has experienced the same racism they do, because of her association with them. Brenda is definitely an unsung hero. She makes such a difference in the lives of others."*

When Brenda was presented with a beautiful bunch of flowers and a framed certificate she made a short speech where she proclaimed her Christian faith as key in motivating her to do what she does in showing kindness.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

During December Glenys Riddell organised the selling of tickets for a Christmas Hamper with the proceeds going to the Church. \$170.00 has been banked

There were 3 draws in the Christmas Hamper Raffle. The following are the results:-

First: Jane Herries  
Second: Oki George  
Third: Gordon & Maureen Macmillan



## ST ANDREW'S MORNING TEA ROSTER

Thank you to those people who put their hands up to serve morning tea after the Church Service on a Sunday morning. Your offer of assistance in this area is much appreciated.

We have changed the system slightly. A Roster has been drawn up. This lets you know well in advance when you will be expected to do your morning tea duty. This is instead of phoning you.

For this system to operate efficiently it is essential that all those who have indicated they are willing to do morning tea on a Sunday have a roster.

With the Christmas holiday period, some of the Morning Tea Rosters have yet to be picked up. If you gave your name to go on the Morning Tea Roster, and have not picked up your roster, please pick up your copy from the Church Foyer as soon as possible.

It will be a good idea to add the date to your calendar or diary as well so you don't forget when you are on!

Many thanks.



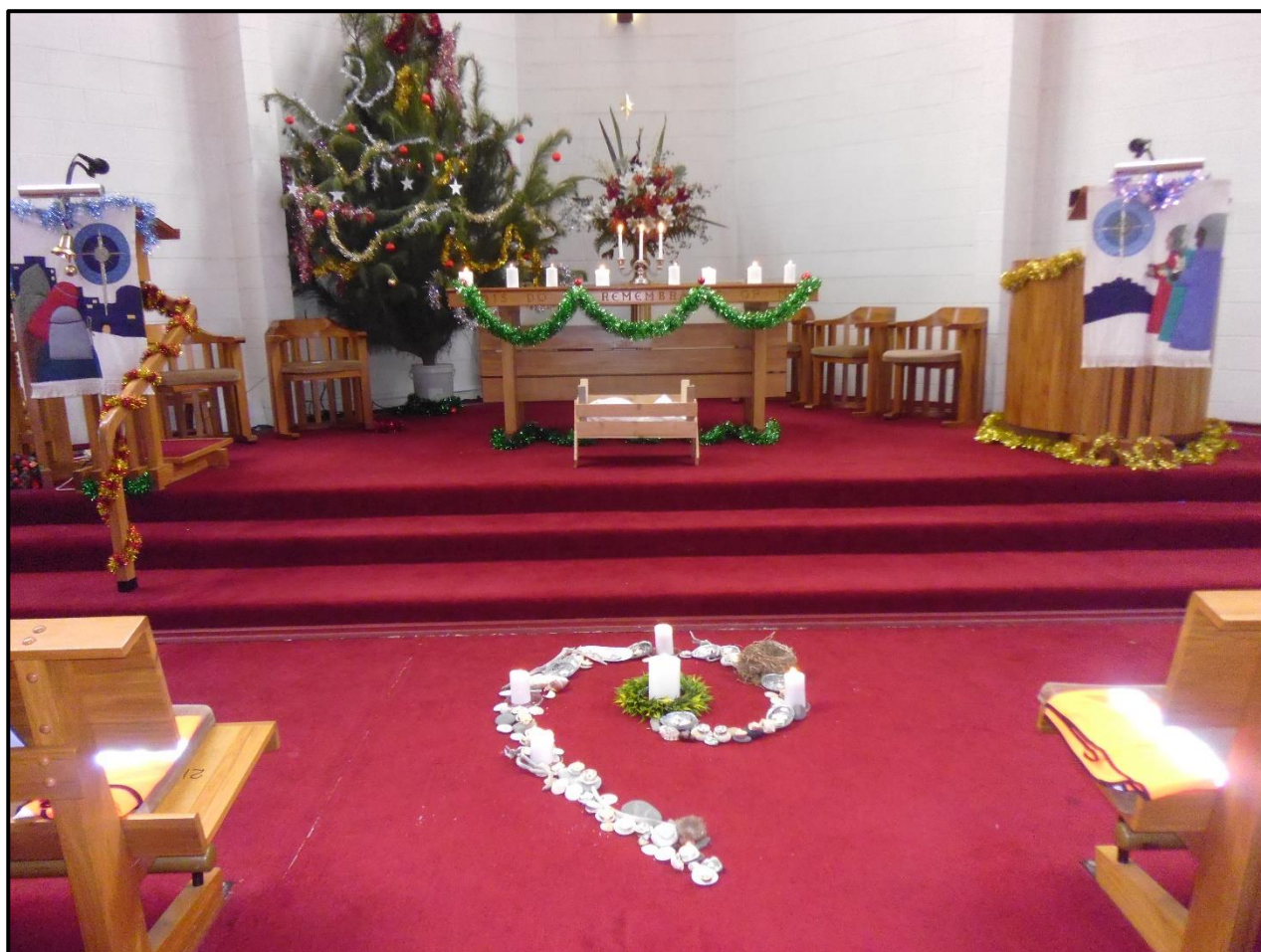




**Jill and The PCANZ Moderator –  
Rt Rev Hamish Galloway on  
Sunday 7 November when he  
preached at St Andrew’s Church**



**The front of St Andrew’s Church for the Advent Season**



**The front of St Andrew’s Church on Christmas Eve 2021**





We thank Catherine Park for taking these photos.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**NB From Feb 13<sup>th</sup> there will be no in person worship at St Andrews worship, please join via zoom until further notice. 10am each Sunday**

Normally in this part of the newsletter we include all the upcoming dates of activities but these times of covid as we hunker down in order to keep everyone safe. Please keep in touch and let us know if you need help or would like to support others in these tough times by delivering groceries etc to people in isolation.

### 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 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

## CHURCH INFORMATION

Minister: Rev Jill McDonald      Phone: 0274070489      Email: [jill@standrewshastings.org.nz](mailto:jill@standrewshastings.org.nz)  
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Cook Island Secretary      Berry Rangi Phone (06) 8444735      Email: [tbrangi@gmail.com](mailto:tbrangi@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Jane Herries      Phone 027236028      Email: [jane@tasc.co.nz](mailto:jane@tasc.co.nz)  
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**Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9.00am – 1.00pm**





"TO PRAY...  
TO LISTEN  
TO THE VOICE  
OF THE ONE WHO  
CALLS US THE  
"BELOVED",  
IS TO LEARN THAT  
THAT VOICE  
EXCLUDES  
NO ONE."

~ HENRI NOUWEN