

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Newsletter

May – July 2020



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 interesting time this has been for us all, with a mix of experiences as we have been confined to our bubbles, trying to figure out other ways to connect and serve and worship. There is a lot of conversation about what we want society to look like from here on in. I found this quote by Sonya Renee Taylor very heartening.

"We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalised greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate and lack. We should not long to return my friends. We are given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature"

Sonya Renee Taylor

Last night, one of the Mum's from my church in Oamaru shared a video of her 7 year old daughter singing a song for her friends who she was missing. As I listened to the words, it felt like the voice of God speaking to us from a wonderful 7 year old Tongan, Tokalau, Palagi red head! It is a song she sings at the Catholic Primary School she attends.

The lyrics are an important message to us as the church in these changing times as we endeavour to help bring about God's Kingdom.

Light The Way, Be The Change by Andrew Chinn.....

*Light the way, lift your hearts
In all you do, in who you are
Be the Good News, my living word
Be the change, be the start
Of a peace and joy-filled path
Be light for the way, hope for the
world*

**1. Out of the darkness, out of the
night
Live in my truth, live in my light
And take my light into this day
And as you go... light the way!**

*2. And in this way, let your light
shine
A light for all, a hopeful sign
And all will see and give God praise
And as you shine... you light the
way!*

*3. I have called and chosen you
To now go forth and bear my fruit
Be light for the world in every day
And as you lead... light the way!*

Jill

Hospital Chaplaincy

For the past two years Jill has been the chair of the hospital chaplaincy local support committee at Hawke's Bay Hospital. For a variety of reasons the chaplaincy has been very stretched in these times of Covid 19.

While patients weren't able to receive visitors under level 4 and only one registered visitor under level 3, it has meant that it has been especially tough for patients and their families during this time. It has of course been very difficult for staff too.

With the support of Parish Council, Jill is doing some locum Chaplaincy work to help them out. It is currently half a day a week on a Wednesday afternoon (usually) so she can learn the ropes.

Although there will be a couple of weeks in late May early June where she will do 2 days per week. It is a three month contract.

If you know someone in hospital who might be in need of some chaplaincy support, feel free to let Jill know – so that she can either visit the person when she is there or ask someone else to. It is important to let you know though, because of patient confidentiality, Jill won't be able to tell you if she visited them or how they are.

As well as being able to provide some back up to hospital chaplaincy, this will also provide another source of income for St Andrews in a time when things are very tough for us.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There will now be some stricter regulations required for all of us entering the church buildings. This is to allow tracing under Covid 19 but also for the safety of us all.

There will be table in the Foyer of the Church with a Register where we need you to record when you enter and when you leave the church buildings. It would be appreciated if you could be vigilant about filling this in.

At Level 2 Jill and Wendy will be working from their offices. PCANZ has advised us that at Level 2 public worship is suspended and we are encouraged to defer any (in person) study groups until Level 1.

Please see the PCANZ latest guidelines at the end of this newsletter – especially in relation to pastoral care – visiting your church family.

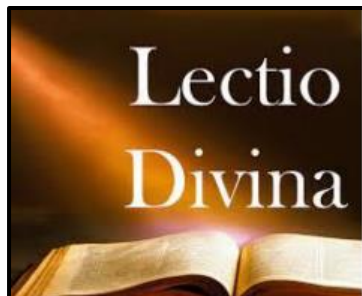
Worship

*It has been great to worship together via **Zoom** on a Sunday morning – that is something that you can connect to either by phone or by the internet. It is wonderful to worship together in real time and to see and hear each others' voices. As well as St Andrews folk we have been joined there by people in Dunedin, Oamaru, Feilding, Hamilton, Wellington Auckland and the Netherlands. It is wonderful to be extending our church community in this way.....*

***If you haven't yet joined us via Zoom, do give it a go.** One of our 89 year old women joined us via zoom so age is no barrier!*

*Our **Sacred Space Whakamoemiti** works really well via Zoom, so much so that this will be how we will continue as we come together before God for 20 minutes on a Tuesday lunchtime. Again we are getting people from across New Zealand joining us for this. Steve Taylor the Principal of the Knox Centre (KCML) has joined a few times and interviewed Jill in a video clip about ministers using digital technology innovatively during these times, so that was encouraging.*

***Lectio Divina**, or dwelling in scripture every Thursday morning has also been a rich time, do join us if you can!*



*Our **ANZAC Day sharing** 'Uncle Phil and ANZAC Biscuits' about how war had impacted on our families was a rich and poignant time too. These unusual times have initiated some wonderful new ways of doing things!*

*Our **White Sunday worship** was wonderful, it was great having our tamariki lead prayer and singing either live on zoom or with video clips. Thank you to all who participated.*

*As always, liturgy is the work of the people and it has been fabulous to have prayers prepared by people in our church family. We will continue this as we worship together, **please flick Jill an email or txt if you would like to prepare and lead prayers, find worship music clips or preach** and she will create a worship roster. If you could let her know in the next week that would be awesome.*

Now that we are at Level 2 we are able to deliver a copy of the service of worship to people without internet, although some are continuing to engage through our worship buddy system which is wonderful!

Thank you worship buddies!!

Notes from: the Parish Council Clerk

Hi everyone. The last few weeks will forever remain in our memories and our nation's records. For all of us it has been a period of confinement unless we were classed as essential workers. For some it has been a chance to build valuable family time, others a catchup on home projects, and others a time to reflect.

*As a farmer in the midst of **one of the most severe droughts in Hawkes Bay's history** it has been very challenging. Our normal get togethers to socialise and support each other could not be held. And yet out of this hardship has come new hope and support. An 18 year old, Poppy Renton, put up a drought facebook site for people to share photos and helpful information. It received 1200 "likes" in 48 hours! I helped organise an online meeting for our Kereru Community and over half the farmers participated, sharing information and finding out where to access help.*

*And so it is with **St Andrews**. Over this time you have been ringing and staying in touch so that in some ways we have been more connected than normal. Jill has held a Sunday Zoom service every Sunday. For those unable to attend we have tried to provide written versions of the service. Those able to view on line or listen over the phone have really appreciated both the service and the opportunity to connect. On White Sunday 36 participated from both New Zealand and Australia with our young people providing some wonderful prayers and songs.*

Monthly study group, Sunday and Thursday meditation, Sacred Space, the Focus Group, and Parish Council meetings are all continuing using internet technology such

as Zoom. Doesn't this highlight that church is about people and not confined to a set of buildings!

***Parish Council** has met twice in this period. In **April** our focus was primarily on pastoral care both over the lockdown and afterwards. We recognise that there will be widespread distress as a result of the economic and social disruption caused by Covid19. General Assembly 2020 has been postponed until October 2021 and will take place in Wellington, not Hawkes Bay.*

*In **May** Council's strategic focus was on the 2020/2021 Budget. The Finance and Property Committee are working on ways to reduce our annual deficit. While St Andrews was able to claim a wage subsidy of \$19000 for 12 weeks over the lockdown this is only a short term assistance for our finances. Areas discussed included fund raising, a golden offering, and longer term, the use of the Hall. Council agreed with Finance and Property that there should be a charge for church and lounge hire for all funerals. This year Council also moved that the Congregational Meeting will be held before the end of June to ensure that Finance and Property is working with a ratified budget. This will also be helpful for the appointment of new Elders.*

*Of course money and finances are only useful servants. Our master is Christ and we need to consider how our life reflects his call. Ken Hutchison recently posted an apt quote from **Martin Luther King Jr**:*

"We are prone to judge success by the index of our salaries or the size of our automobiles rather than the quality of our service and relationship to mankind".

Arohanui, Jim

Great Stuff Denise!



Just as Lockdown began, someone shared on Social Media that NZ business NZ Christian Savings had 500 tablets (like an i-pad) to give away to New Zealanders living on their own in a project called 'Isolated Together'. They needed to be pretty savvy on how to work with technology and Jill immediately thought of Denise Rutherford so sent her details in. It arrived at Denise's last week!!!

Such great news Denise, we are thrilled for you and know you will have it mastered in no time!



Church finances

Like most organisations and businesses, this is a tough time for St Andrews, financially. We are only receiving offerings from those who pay by internet banking. Our church and hall rental income has also dried up.

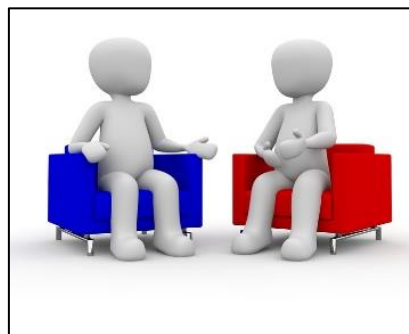
We have received the wage subsidy from the government which helps a lot.

The Offering Envelopes are ready and will be dropped off to you.

If you can make your offering via internet banking, phone banking or by posting a cheque that would be really helpful. (St Andrews PO Box 494, Hastings, 4156.) The church account is 03-0642-0034245-000.

We are conscious of our Family Works Guardian Angel commitment, so keep that in mind too.

We will be having a Golden Offering later in the year, probably in Spring.



2020/21 Budget

The Budget for the new financial year has traditionally been presented along with the audited accounts at the AGM. This is not good practice and it is something that PCANZ is seeking to change.

The Finance and Property Committee is only able to approve spending according to the Budget. Previously this has meant that for the first 4 months of the financial year (when the Budget hasn't yet been ratified by the congregation) they don't have the approval to spend the money.

To fix that problem we are having a Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 21 at 11am via Zoom – see note under congregational meeting.

The Finance and Property Committee is concerned that they are presenting a deficit budget and they are hopeful that this might be the last deficit budget.



They are appreciative of the work that the Options Group is doing to find ways in which we can better use our assets to generate income and for mission.

There are a couple of things to note...
Historically, when someone outside of our St Andrews church community has a funeral at our church they are charged a fee for the hire of the church and the lounge as well as a fee for the minister, the vergers and the organist.

When a Cook Islands member has a funeral at St Andrews the family makes a donation to the church, the Ekalesia and the minister. When someone who is part of the 10.00am congregation has a funeral here, the fees are usually waived (the vergers and organist make their own decision about this).

Parish Council has decided that we will no longer waive the church and lounge hire fees for church members unless there are extenuating circumstances. Our church income isn't high and for this reason, as well as the inequality of how it has been working, means that families will now be charged the \$450 for church and lounge hire. This is added to the funeral directors bill and compared with the other funeral costs, it is very low.

In the past we have made provision to make donations to other organisations eg hospital chaplaincy. We can no longer afford to do that.

Aside from Easter and Christmas we cannot afford to advertise our services of worship in the paper.

Please see the Budget on the next page

Budget - St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hastings		
1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021		
Inwards		
Car Park Rental	22,620.00	
Church - Weddings & Funerals	2,500.00	
CWS Christmas Appeal	300.00	
Donations - Church	500.00	
Fundraising Church	5,000.00	
Hire - Church	12,000.00	
Hire - Hall	24,000.00	
Offering - Golden	5,000.00	
Offering - Internet	16,560.00	
Offerings - Envelope	29,000.00	
Offerings - Plate	6,000.00	
Interest Received (Savings Acct)	13,750.00	
Total Surplus	137,230.00	137,230.00
Less Operating Expenses		
ACC Levies	250.00	
Advertising	400.00	
Assembly Assessment	10,600.00	
Bank Charges	60.00	
Building WOF Levy	1,800.00	
Cleaning Supplies	600.00	
Computer Expenses	700.00	
CWS Christmas Appeal	300.00	
Donations	-	
Educational Expenses	200.00	
General Expenses	1,200.00	
Insurance	25,660.00	
Light Power & Heating	7,500.00	
Ministers Beneficiary Fund	4,750.00	
Ministers Stipend (Including Rental Obligations)	81,000.00	
Minister's Supervision Fee	840.00	
Minister - Relieving	700.00	
Music Copyright Licence	250.00	
Postage	300.00	
Presbytery Levy	1,600.00	
Printing & Stationery	2,400.00	
PSS Offering	360.00	
Rates	10,000.00	
Telephones, Tolls & Fax	2,200.00	
Travel Expenses	750.00	
Wages - Cleaners	8,350.00	
Wages - Clerical Staff	26,500.00	
Total Operating Expenses	189,270.00	189,270.00
Surplus/Deficit		-\$52,040.00

Election of New Elders

As part of the Congregational Meeting on 21 June we will be electing new elders.

In PCANZ, the call to eldership includes leadership in worship, leadership in mission, pastoral care and oversight of the congregation, and spiritual nurture.

*Parish Council is pleased to put these names before the congregation: **Junior Macarthur, Patty Macarthur, Chris Lambourne and Brenda Armstrong.***

If you have any questions you are welcome to talk to any of these people or to Parish Council.

Following the election there will be a time of training and then an ordination as part of worship.

Below is a photo and profile for each of them

Chris Lambourne

Kia Orana whanau,



While I have been a supporter of the church and of Jill's ministry, it is during the past few years I have been finding myself wanting to be more involved in the life of the church.

In Oamaru, Jill and I worked together leading a mission trip to Tonga. Since moving to Hawke's Bay and becoming part of St Andrews I have been on the Finance and Property Committee and am now the convenor of that group.

At a regional level I am the convenor of Mission Resource Workgroup for Presbytery Central - we allocate funds for mission. I have delivered workshops at a national level for the Presbyterian Youth Conference – Connect.

I don't just sit and talk about things; I like to get work initiated. We at St Andrew's have been able to refresh the lounge and kitchen, where I could be found at the end of paintbrush or scrubbing the walls of the male toilets.

My passion is delivering mission with a particular focus on responding to human need in loving service and seeking to transform society to get closer to the Kingdom of God.

In this light I work on the Te Ra Solar Power project inside the church, as well as community housing and social housing projects.

I am engaged in consultancy work, working with groups and organisations around Hawke's Bay and beyond in the area of business strategy.

Junior & Patricia MacArthur

Kia orana & Talofa,

We are Junior and Patricia MacArthur.

We've been happily married for eight years.



We have two teenage children, Esetera who is 16 years old and Timo 15 years old.

My parents are Moenga and Oki George. Junior's parents are the late James MacArthur and Sarah MacArthur who resides in Canberra, Australia.

We both come from big extended Polynesian families and enjoy hosting and connecting over food. We come from a strong Christian background extending back to our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who honoured God and his church.

Growing up in God's house we both share a love for God's church. Psalm 92:13-14.

We both have a heart for the lost and we both work for Ara Poutama Aotearoa - Department of Corrections.

Both our faith journeys have been littered with Gods miracles and moving away from our church family in Auckland was one of the harder things we have done. But, we believe God has brought us to the Hawke's Bay for such a time as this. Scripture says....

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered the heart of man. The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

We never planned to be here and we don't know what's ahead but our faith and trust is in God's promise and His character.

Meitaki ma'ata & Manuia

Brenda Armstrong

Since early childhood my passion has been to know more about the Creator of the amazing and beautiful natural world, the vast skies, the earth and all flora and fauna and the mysteries about the meaning of life and death.



I have been blessed by having had Christian communities for most of my life who have travelled with me on this journey and given me support, friendship and encouragement. I also have had the privilege of being with my husband Rob all my adult years. I do believe that it is in fellowship with others and in serving others that we find our greatest joy and fulfilment.

In my years as a teacher of people of many ages, abilities and cultures I have met many amazing people and feel that as a teacher I have learnt from others as well as having attempted to educate them. I have learnt that from the mouths of children we may hear the truth, from the prisoner we may gain understanding and from the migrant we may appreciate how privileged we are.

I believe that we as Christians are called to show the inclusive love of Christ and that we must try to see one another through the eyes of Christ. I have been in a war situation and know that we are all capable of terrible things and with God's help we are able to forgive. I believe that as Christians we are called to hunger and thirst for economic and social equality for all people. I am grateful the mission statement of St Andrew's incorporates these goals.

MISSION IN THE TIME OF COVID 19

St Andrews Church Hastings Trust has applied to the government's "Shovel Ready" investment fund to help develop some big projects.



The Trust was formed last year and is initially aimed at getting the Te Rā Power solar farm operating. Jim Spall, the Chair of the Trust, said "we should put forward a few projects with the hope that one of them may be accepted".

The Saint Andrews Church Hastings Trust was formed in 2019 after the St Andrews Church had a congregational meeting where it was decided to take this action.

The Trust means that it is financially separate from the Church.

The Trust board is appointed by St Andrews Church Council but is separate from the Council.

The members of the Trust's board are

- Junior McCarthy
- June Clark
- Jill McDonald
- Jane Herries
- Jim Spall (Chair)

*We have honed-in on **5 projects that aim to stimulate employment in the region and improve the environment and improve peoples' lives.** As the government opened*

the door for only a couple of weeks we had to react very quickly to document what projects were being considered by us and our partners.

While we have been the group making the application, we will not be doing this by ourselves. The Trust was able to act more quickly than the other organisations, so in a sense we are just standing in the queue on their behalf. When the time is right, we would back out of the queue and let them take over.

*Two of the projects are around **building solar energy farms.** These projects will improve New Zealand's environment and will also provide cheap power to low income homes throughout the Hawke's Bay. Te Rā Power is partnering with Mangaroa Marae out in Bridge Pa over these solar farms, and where Te Rā Power had been developing a 1MW plant, the Marae is looking for a solar farm that is 10 to 30 times larger. We would*



only be a small part in the project.

*The other 3 projects are in the **areas of social housing, community housing and supported living.***

St Andrews church has a piece of land in the centre of Hastings and we have been looking at how to best use this for a while. And by "best use" we mean how can we develop a facility that best serves the community.

We think this will be a great site for developing a supported living facility, like Presbyterian Support's Rowan House in Taradale.

The Options Group has been looking at how to generate the money the Church needs to run and to undertake mission work.

The Saint Andrews Church Council looked at the finances of the church and decided that we needed to come up with some new ways of addressing our financial issues. We want to get away from the position where St Andrew's needs to draw down from reserves to fund itself.

The Options Group has been meeting since mid-2019 and investigating a whole lot of possible activities we could be involved in. The ideas include:

- Book store
- Café
- Social Housing
- Childcare centre
- Elderly

If you have any ideas about what we should be looking into, then please contact Harry Trigg.

Other members of the Group are:

- June Clark
- Chris Lambourne
- Junior McCarthy
- Jim Spall (Chair)
- Harry Trigg

Barry Rosenberg retired from the Group at the end of 2019 so he could pursue his Ph.D.

One of the more promising options was to develop social housing on the Market Street Carpark. The group has made some preliminary calculations about building a 2 or 3 storey structure there: this could cost

\$8 – 12m dollars. The lease returns from this would be enough to cover the mortgage payments, operate the building and give us an annual revenue.



Another of the housing projects is out at Bridge Pa. The Mangaroa Marae has purchased 20ha of land for flood protection, wet land restoration and housing. They want to build 20 houses and sell them to people who would be involved in the construction. The input of the intended homeowners reduces the cost of the houses and build community and commitment.



The St Andrews Trust is partnering with others in all these projects to ensure that they are developed in the best possible manner.

Do you want to know more about what's happening?

If so then call Harry or Jim, or any of the people on the Trust Board, or the Options group.

Reflections on Covid 19

"I was saying the other day if we can't get through this wee hic-cup after what our mother went through (only 1 generation away). She was born in 1908, then World War 1, the 1918 flu (she lost a future brother-in-law) our fathers brother) the 1931 earthquake, 1933 depression, World War 2 (she lost a brother) then the polio epidemic. No hand outs in those days so they just got on with coping.

The polio epidemic was 1947, school was closed in Nov. Then we went back to school in Feb. for 2 weeks and then back April so Mum tried to home school us (what fun)"

Glenys Riddell & Diane Nelson

Congregational Meeting – Sunday 21 June at 11.00am

This meeting will be via Zoom. following worship.

This is a meeting to ratify the Budget before the new financial year and to have an election for new elders.

Using Zoom

If you haven't used Zoom yet I encourage you to join us for worship either by phone or Internet to try it out, so you know it works and because it is good to worship together.

Under Level 2, a good solution would be to buddy up with a St Andrew's friend who has the Internet and join us for worship each Sunday and then attend the congregational meeting that way on 21 June.

If you have any concerns about this please contact Jill, Jim or Berry, but we encourage you to give Zoom a try before this so you can see how it works

PCANZ COVID 19 GUIDELINES SUMMARY

Here are the key points for you to know at this stage, feel free to read the full update (as at 13 May 2020) please see link:

https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/13.5.2020_COA%20-%20COVID-19%20Update%20-%20Level%20Two%20v.4.pdf

Overarching safe practices at COVID-19 Level 2 :

The following safe practices apply to all activities under COVID-19 Level 2 and should be adhered to by all people:

- *Any person who is sick or feeling unwell should remain at home and seek medical advice from their GP or Healthline (phone number 0800 3585453).*
- *Practice physical distancing of between 1 and 2 metres in all situations outside of your home.*
- *People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible and take additional precautions when leaving home.*
- *Practice safe personal hygiene with frequent handwashing with soap and water.*
- *Practice safe hygiene of all facilities by regular cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces.*
- *Ensure signage is in place in each facility to notify safe practices and room capacity.*
- *Ensure collection of adequate individual information is undertaken to support potential contact tracing.*
- *Ensure all physical meeting spaces are assessed for maximum capacity within physical distancing requirements and numbers advertised.*

We stress that it is our expectation that we will all adhere to the Government released Level 2 measures to ensure we are kept safe.

As a Church we want to be hospitable to all people and we need to work together to see that the spaces we provide for worship, community gatherings, office workers, parish administrators, home groups & all places of ministry prioritise the safety and well-being of all.

We have shown that we can do this together. As we prepare to move to COVID-19 Level 2 we all need to remember the responsibility we hold towards one another for our actions, as we prioritise the care of our neighbour in the way that we conduct our ministry activities. May we each be given creativity, compassion and resilience so that our actions may be an action of love to our neighbour as God has given us love and grace.

Public Worship (in person) remains suspended

Pastoral Care As you visit each other please adhere to these guidelines below:

- *Each person must be responsible for considering their own health and the health of those in their home before agreeing to make a pastoral visit to another home.*
- *People must be contacted prior to visiting at home to establish expectations regarding physical distancing and assess their vulnerability to health issues.*
- *If the person you visit is not alone when you visit, if they have other visitors, you will need to gather contact tracing details from each person that you come into contact with.*
- *If there is any risk then take a cautious approach and consider phone contact being sufficient.*

PASTORAL CARE TASK GROUP

If you have any pastoral concerns please contact the Pastoral Care Convenor –
Barbara Stokes
Home phone: 878 3541 Mobile phone: 021 036 0444
e-mail: abstokes@nowmail.co.nz

St Andrew's TEXTING CARE CIRCLE

If there is someone with a prayer need, contact the Pastoral Care Group, the Minister, a member of the Parish Council or self-refer by contacting 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
Phone: 027 407 0489 E mail: jill@standrewshastings.org.nz

Parish Clerk: Jim Spall
Phone: (06) 8760924 Email: jimspall15@outlook.com

Cook Islands Secretary: Beryl Rangi
Phone: (06) 8444735 E mail: tbjrangi@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jane Herries
Phone: 027236028 E -mail: jane@tasc.co.nz

Church Office: Wendy Mangin
Phone: (06) 8788247 E -mail: info@standrewshastings.org.nz

Finance and Property Chairman: Chris Lambourne
Phone: 027 588 22134

