



*Growing in Christian faith, love and action we responsibly
and joyfully care for God's earth and all people.*

Johanna's Jottings

I have been home for two weeks since my holiday which included a week of retreat. Many of you have expressed curiosity about the week of silence.

I have periodically gone on retreat for many years. Each one is different; I am at a different phase of my life, and God and I with the help of a Director who meets with me once a day work on something different each retreat.

My definition of silence varies for my different retreats.

My first retreat I was silent, except for some journalling or prayer writing and for talking to God and to my director because I was working on deep and painful feelings and talking to people would distract me from that work. I met with my director once a day to talk through where I was at, and otherwise I walked and sat and enjoyed the physical care of the convent we were in, with good meals at regular intervals.

At Vaughan Park this time I was a lot less silent; I felt quite able to talk briefly with passers-by I met on my walks.

I have often in the past felt that during my retreat I did not need or want to fill my mind with words on pages, so I did not read. This time I did read. I worked through a book exploring the relationships between us human beings, the created universe and God.

The silence, no matter how strict, or deep, allows for a time of rest and concentration. What each of us on the retreat was concentrating on I have no idea, but each morning and evening we gathered to be led in prayer, song and reflection and each of us will have taken something from those sessions to incorporate into the



movements within our own hearts. And I find the gathering together, even though we do not talk to each other helpful.

If you wonder about undertaking a retreat something like this talk to me because we could organise something locally if you would like.

Many of you are already putting into your lives times of rest and space for reflection. It may not seem to you a silent retreat but there are similar aspects. Some of you regularly go for a long walk or cycle ride, possibly without your ears filled with recorded sound. Some of you regularly spend quiet hours in the garden. Some of you sit and listen to music, or make music as a time of peace for your soul. Perhaps you enjoy painting, or sculpture or embroidery. Many of these creative activities are done in silence, and as you work and play your heart is peaceful and your mind can rest. You are experiencing some of the joys I experience on a silent retreat, and that I struggle to build into my day and week when I am at home.

I look forward to going on retreat again, or incorporating that same rest and reflection time into my next holiday,

Your sister in Christ,

Johanna

Parish Register

Funerals: 25.3.14	May Priscilla Gullery
2.6.14	Nellie Price
11.7.14	Donald Robert Gardiner
24.7.14	Thomas Geoffrey Neal

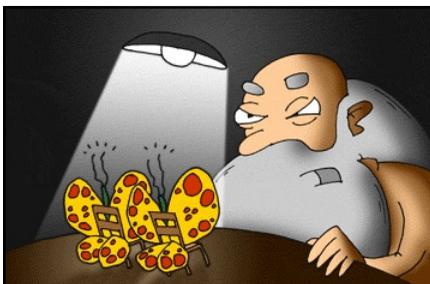
Rest Home Services

You are invited to any of these services. It's good to have people to help with hymn books, share the singing and so on. And the residents really enjoy having others come. Takes about 30 minutes. Mark these dates now.

<i>August</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Time</i>
Friday, 1 st	Marion	Aberleigh	11 am
Wednesday, 13 th	Johanna	Waterlea	10.30am
Tuesday, 26 th	Johanna	Lakewood	11 am
 <i>September</i>			
Tuesday, 2 nd	Johanna	Ashwood	2pm
Friday, 12 th	Marion	Aberleigh	11 am

SONGS FOR THE ROAD

Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership has produced a CD of songs sung by members of Presbyterian Parishes around the country. They have sent us two copies which are available for people to borrow from the Church Office. This C.D. will not be for sale but is lovely to listen to.



*“Nobody is leaving this ark until you two tell me
what you did with those caterpillars”*

Lectionary The following readings are set down for the next few weeks in a lectionary used by the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in New Zealand. In St Andrew's we normally follow the lectionary except when other readings are required for special circumstances. You may wish to follow the readings even if you are unable to attend services.

Date	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
3 August Pentecost 8	Gen 32: 22-31	Ps 17: 1-7, 15	Rm 9: 1-5	Mt 14: 13-21
10 August	Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rm 10: 5-15	Mt 14: 22-33
17 August	Gen 45: 1-15	Ps 133	Rm 11: 1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20) 21-28
24 August	Ex 1: 8-2: 10	Ps 124	Rm 12: 1-8	Mt 16: 13-20
CREATION				
31 August	Ex 3: 1-15	Ps 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c	Rm 12: 9-21	Mt 16: 21-28
7 September Pentecost 13	Ex 12: 1-14	Ps 149	Rm 13: 8-14	Mt 18: 15-20

KNOX CHURCH ORGANIST

Knox Church, Christchurch

seeks applications from well qualified people
to fill the vacancy of Knox Church Organist.

For a job description and advice as to the application process, contact the "Music Search Committee", Knox Church, 28 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch 8013, or email office@knoxchurch.co.nz.

Applications will require supporting material, and close at 5:00pm on Monday 18 August 2014.

The appointment shall commence in early November 2014.

kidz@andrews

During July, on a couple of Sundays, Rylie was the only kidz@andrews person present and she and the adult helpers have created an acrostic poem about caring for our world. We are responding to the challenge from PresCare to enter a “Love Reaches Out” Art and Writing competition.

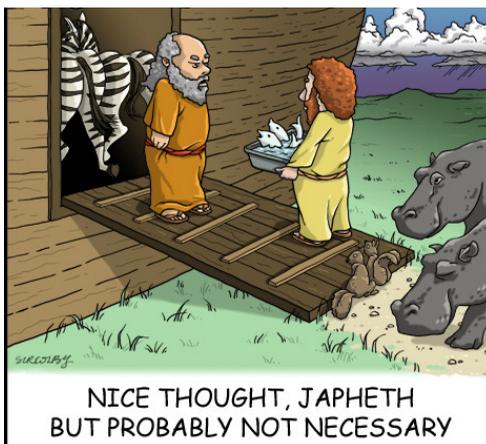
The next Sunday Rylie and more adult helpers made bird feeders of peanut butter and bird seed nestled in an onion bag to hang in a tree. Then we helped out Cruisey Church by putting their Noah’s Ark and glittery rainbow for God’s Promise into the foyer window. Joshua has lit our artwork up at night with lights on a time-switch.

The last Sunday of July we planted swan plants for the butterflies.

We are grateful for all your help. You gave us the onion bags and many people take time to admire our handiwork.

JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

All women have been invited to hear Rose Jeffrey speak at Nativity, at 5.30pm on 19th August. Further details are on the notice board.



At Last Month's Parish Council

- Marion Gardiner has assumed the role of Presbytery elder.
- Alpine Presbytery is establishing its office at St James Church Spreydon.
- From the June finance report, donations totalling \$30,882 had been received towards the earthquake strengthening whilst payments made totalled \$39,311.
- The Film Evening raised \$410 for Church funds.
- Builders have discovered that there is more steel in the hall walls (in the area by the toilet block) than shown on the plans.
- Additional lighting has been installed at front of the church for the Music Society at no cost to us.
- Cruisey Church has made application for funding from The Tindall Foundation to take on someone for 2 days a month to enable Cruisey to be taken to the next level.
- There is a need to have more people trained as Church Officers for funerals and weddings.
- More folk are needed on Parish Council. With the congregational AGM coming up this is the time to start looking around. Also another Joint Parish Clerk is required.
- Following PCANZ's circulating material pre-assembly and publicizing its stance on same sex marriages/homosexuality, Parish Council states it is not in agreement with the stand taken. We seek to be an inclusive parish and do not accept discrimination in any form. For those parishioners who are interested, the following PCANZ sourced website provides further information,

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d1ed3em9m5jynw8/TjdpsHovo9>

***August meeting will be held at the Manse on
Tuesday, 19th at 7.30pm.***

Last Saturday Cruisey Church was a warm and inviting place to be on such a chilly night.

The children explored the theme of Noah and his Ark of animals by making beautiful doves which held olive branches in their beaks. We also created animal finger puppets and paper plate arks as well as painting a giant ark, which only just fitted into Johanna's car!



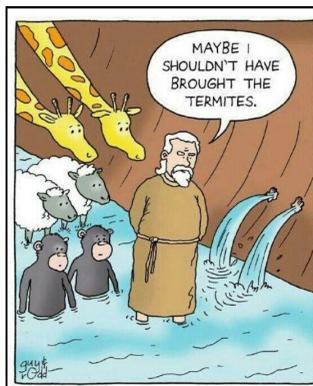
Johanna shared the story of Noah and God's wish for him to build the ark.

Dinner was again a highlight - it's always fun to share a meal together and chat about our week.

As a part of St Andrew's family, it was a lovely evening, celebrating God's message. We would love to see you and your children/grandchildren next month.

BAKELESS CAKE SALE

In June we sent you an envelope and asked if you were able to give the amount you felt was comparable to baking a cake, for the church fair. If you have been meaning to do that and haven't yet then this is a small reminder. If you can't find the original, any envelope appropriately labelled will be fine. Put in the offertory, drop off to the church office, or ring Kim 578-7119 to arrange for someone to pick it up. Thank you for your contribution.



ST ANDREW'S, SEDDON

Many of you will be aware that there are a number of ex-Awatere people who now attend St Andrew's, Blenheim.

On Sunday 27th July 2014 at 2.30 pm. a group of these joined with other ex-parishioners and those from the present to celebrate the life of the Parish as the church was decommissioned. Too badly damaged to repair following the earthquakes, the building is to come down, so a sad day but also a hopeful one as the life of the Awatere Christian Joint Venture goes on into the future.

A bitter wind blew on the large crowd gathered in front of the building while the sun tried hard to shine through the scattered clouds.

The minister of the Joint Venture, the Rev. Dawn Daunauda led the worship. A keyboard, and singers using a microphone, gave strength to the hymns sung.

The chairman, Dr Rob Cameron, along with other local members led a responsive prayer. The Rev. David Coster, a former minister of the Parish and now Moderator of Alpine Presbytery, offered the Reflection.

Our own Johanna, who is Deputy Moderator of Alpine Presbytery, led a prayer of intercession.

Following an affirmation of our faith the actual decommissioning was done.

The sad moment was lightened as we were told the wreath that was to have been laid at the door had been forgotten so, in true rural fashion, flowers had been picked from the church garden and laid at the door by Dr Cameron (who had been present the day the church was opened) and Maree McLaughlan (the last person who ministered in the church.)

The Blessing was sung to one another and everyone adjourned next door to the Cosy Corner Café for afternoon tea, catch up talks and to encourage one another for the future.

Noeline Rasmussen

Sexuality and Leadership has been an important topic in all of the General Assemblies of the past two decades. It is raised again this year, particularly the issue of marriage between two men or two women. The Moderator Designate, Rev Andrew Norton is considering how the Assembly might handle these matters. He has written to every parish expressing his desire to hear the views of the wider church. Please ask for a copy of the full text of his letter if you would like it. In short he says:

We are being defined by our divisions, not by our mission.

There are a growing number of people in the Church who are feeling violated and disillusioned by a forced-choice debate on this issue.

The debate is being driven by two poles in the Church, which is leaving those in the middle without a voice. For many years there have been attempts to dialogue however, to date we have not identified a way forward.

While the Church has every right to affirm its beliefs and standards aside from the prevailing values of society, we also need to recognise that there is a growing intolerance against intolerance both within and outside the Church. No matter how the voting goes there will be large sections of our Church that will feel aggrieved and disenfranchised. Unfortunately, voting can only measure "yes" and "no" but not tears, pain and the radical love we are to be known by.

In an attempt to listen to the heartbeat of the Church on these issues and to provide an avenue for expression of



views outside the "win/lose" debating chamber, I am conducting a Moderator-designate's poll to explore some possible ways forward.

I am not attempting to debate the issues nor to influence the debate on the proposals at upcoming General Assembly, rather I'm looking to gauge the level of support for different options.

Let's ask ourselves "What kind of Church do we want to be and become?" and then work towards that end. I would like to understand more about whether debating these issues is how you want to spend our time together at General Assembly. I plan to use your feedback to help with my prayerful deliberation and conversations about the business at this year's General Assembly.

More Information

The current position of our Church is summarised in this General Assembly decision:

"In accordance with the supreme and subordinate standards of the Church, sessions, parish councils, presbyteries and united district councils shall not accept for training, license, ordain or induct anyone involved in a sexual relationship outside of a faithful marriage between a man and a woman. In relation to homosexuality, and the interests of natural justice, this ruling shall not prejudice anyone who, as at 29 September 2006, had been accepted for training, licensed, ordained or inducted."
BoO section 9.



Also, if you would like to understand more about these issues before completing the poll, I invite you to consider the **Christian Perspectives on Marriage: A Discussion Document** that has recently been published by the Doctrine Core Group, which discusses some of the relevant issues. Find the document at: (http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/PCANZ-marriage_2014.pdf)

The Options

Outlined below are five possible options that largely represent what people are telling me about how they would like to proceed. There are, of course, other possible ways forward, and while it is difficult to capture every possibility, I have attempted to present here the options that are most frequently discussed.

● Set clear standards

Those who hold this view believe the Church should be clear and unambiguous on doctrinal and behavioural standards within the Church. Holiness and righteousness along with biblical interpretation of the scriptures determine what the standards should be for all Presbyterian congregations and members. This relates to the issue of ministers conducting same-sex marriages and the degree to which ministers can have liberty of opinion.

● Do not debate further

Those who take this position believe that this debate is a distraction from mission and a division in the Church.

This position can be supported by the radical →

approach of the early Church in its mission to the Gentiles with all its moral and doctrinal issues with Judaism.

● Rescind our Church's current position

Those who take this position believe the Church is practising a form of injustice and judgment against those who are in same-sex relationships. This position places high value on the ministry of Jesus as he loved and served those on the edge of society's norm.

● Allow for local policy

Maintain our current standard while at the same time seeking a way of being Church that allows for local autonomy of congregations to express their beliefs and practices as an expression of their discernment of the mission of God.

This position is about our understanding of the nature of the Church. Are we a "national" Church on these issues or does the local church have the right to determine its mission as it sees fit? This position appeals to the historical foundations of the Presbyterian Church - "No king, no bishop". This view places a high value on the role of local elders to discern the mission of God in a local context.

● Seek a national way forward

Maintain our current standard while at the same time seeking to find a national way forward that holds both our desire for biblical standards AND social justice and relevance.



Those who hold this view are prepared to live with the ambiguity of truth AND grace, and biblical standards AND social relevance. This position would require establishing a special committee to bring back to future Assemblies a way forward.

Taking the Poll

You may respond to the poll via an online form, where you will be asked to rank the options from 1 to 5 (where 1 = most preferred and 5 = least preferred).

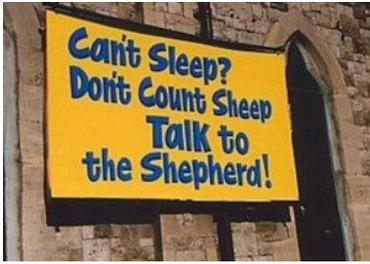
Please read the details for each option, seek extra information if you wish, and then use this link to register your preferences <http://tinyurl.com/l6573tb>

The poll will close 31 August, so please take the time to have a say and let me know what you think.

Andrew Norton.

Parish Council believe it is important for us to accept that there is a wide range of views on these issues within the church and our own parish. We emphasise that we will not make judgements on what anyone must believe in order to be a part of the St Andrew's, but that we are inclusive in every sense of the word. We are a community of people wanting to grow in Christian love faith and action, and all people are welcome in our midst.

If you wish to respond to the poll and do not have a computer or are not confident using one, leave a message at the church office or speak to Johanna or a Parish Councillor and someone will help you.



As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools.

Trail of Ants

by *Faith Thomas*

While visiting with friends, I noticed a trail of ants marching through the maze of wicker and bamboo furniture. I wondered how each ant knew where the previous ant had been. I guessed that they, like Hansel and Gretel, left a trail to be followed. If so, their trail was not visible to human eyes.

I decided to test my theory. I rubbed my finger across their path at one point and then waited to see what would happen. Sure enough, when the next ant came to that point, it was at a loss for which way to go! It spent some time wandering around until it discovered the other side of the trail.

As another ant approached, it, too, was confused as to where to go, but it somehow managed to follow most of the wanderings of the previous ant and found the original trail again.

I also walk on a path, one forged by Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:5-16 points me in the right direction. To follow Christ I must have the same attitudes that He had. I need to put others first by thinking of myself as their servant.

Philippians 2:14-15 shows me how I stray from following Christ. When I grumble and complain my attitudes do not reflect those found in Christ. At that point, I have stopped imitating Him and stepped off the trail. That sin has the same result as my finger did when I rubbed it across the path of the ants.

Paul encourages me in verse 16 to “prove to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.” To follow the correct path I need to mirror the attitudes of Christ and guide others along the trail by encouraging them to fix their eyes on Him.

Faith Finley Thomas lived as a missionary in Ghana, West Africa for six years. Her book "Staying in the Breeze" is a thoughtful reflection of some of her experiences.

St Andrew's: Calendar & Contacts

Special this Month

Sunday, 3 rd	Morning tea after service to farewell Dick & Avis Lambert
Thursday, 7 th	Joy Ministries 5.15pm
Tuesday, 12 th	Property Committee 7.30pm Vestry Finance Committee 7.30pm Office
Saturday, 16 th	Cruisey Church 5pm Foundry
Sunday, 17 th	Afternoon Tea for PAMS volunteers 2.30pm
Tuesday, 19 th	Parish Council 7.30pm at the Manse
Thursday, 21 st	Afternoon Tea Service St Andrew's 2.30pm
Sunday, 31 st	Morning worship combined at St Andrew's

September

Thursday, 4 th	Joy Ministries 5.15pm
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Regular Services

Sundays 7pm	Mornings 10am, Evenings
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Regular Events

Tuesdays	Sewing Group, 9.30 am
Thursdays	Craft Group, 10.00 am



All welcome

Contacts

Minister	Rev Johanna Warren 48 Dillon Street jowarren@actrix.co.nz	579-1164
Parish Clerk	Raewyn Buchanan	578-0747
Envelope Secretary	John Buchanan	578-0747
Parish Office	5 Henry Street Monday to Friday, Email: st.andrews.church@xtra.co.nz Website: www.standrewsblenheim.org.nz	578-7119 9 am -- noon