

St Andrew's: Calendar & Contacts

March 2017

Special this Month

Thursday 2 nd	Coffee and Chat Group	Room 6	10am
	Joy Ministries		5pm
Friday 3 rd	World Day of Prayer Service.	M.Tea	10am,
		Service	10.30am
Sunday 5 th	Worship with Derek		10am
Thursday 9 th	Coffee and Chat Group,	Room 6	10am
Saturday 11 th	Singing Group Gathering and Practice		3.30pm
Sunday 12 th	Communion Sunday		10am
Tuesday 14 th	Property Committee		7.30pm
Thursday 16 th	Coffee and Chat Group,	Room 6	10am
Saturday 18 th	Cruisey Church		5pm
Sunday 19 th	Harvest Festival Service		10am
Tuesday 21 st	Parish Council	Room 6	7.30pm
Thursday 23 rd	Coffee and Chat Group,	Room 6	10am
Saturday 25 th	GARAGE SALE PLUS — from 8.30am		
Sunday 26 th	Worship		10am
Thursday 30 th	Coffee and Chat Group,	Room 6	10am



Contacts

Interim Moderator	Rev Derek Harding	577-8816
Parish Clerk	Raewyn Buchanan	578-4576
Deputy Parish Clerk	Jane Heywood	5781327
Envelope Secretary	Gail Dodson	570-5542
Parish Office	5 Henry Street	578-7119
	Monday to Friday,	9 am -- noon
Email:	st.andrews.church@xtra.co.nz	
Website:	www.standrewsblenheim.org.nz	



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

Derek's Drift



A simple answer.

One of the questions one hears going the rounds is, "When will we be getting our new minister?" Let's see.

In Acts, particularly in chapter 6, it was a question the very early Christians had to ask, though with a slightly different slant. Their first hurdle was to decide just what ministry they wanted to be accomplished, although it was presented to them in a rather different form from the hurdle St Andrew's faces today. Very early on they were becoming polarised – this group (Greek-speakers) versus that group (Hebrew-speakers); this group was being favoured over the other and so on. So the disciples (not just the apostles) were called together and challenged to call forward seven of their number for a very specific ministry – a ministry of pastoral care.

Gradually as we read through the early chapters of Acts we find them facing similar challenges – a fiscal ministry, a preaching ministry, an evangelising ministry, and so on. In every case, there was a clear direction to be followed and so suitable ministers for that particular direction were chosen but notice that it was never a case of one minister for all directions. The Apostles felt they had a core presence as preachers and evangelists and some of them chose to "go on the road" to spread the teachings of Jesus.



In every case there was a plan in place or a specific need to be fulfilled – they knew what kind of minister was needed for a particular kind of ministry. They also knew that full-time ministry required funding from external giving and very soon after Paul joined them it was realised that ministers needed support because one minister couldn't do everything.

That identifies two things – one minister doesn't and can't do everything; secondly that there has to be a plan.

During the 19th and 20th Centuries, times changed but church didn't. Transport and communication grew, technology grew, demands grew but most churches bumbled along as they always had. Consequently, as we moved toward the 21st Century churches wondered why their ministers weren't managing everything with which they were tasked. Enlightened hierarchies (of which I would classify Alpine Presbytery as one) recognised that "ministers" weren't all called to be ordained people. Ordained ministers kept a prime focus of being able to guide and lead in the Word but pastoral care, management, resourcing etc. were a role for other, perhaps non-ordained, ministers.

Therefore St. Andrew's Parish needs to have a plan; to discover and recognise what God is calling on this parish to do over the next few years. Until that plan is in place how can an appropriate "minister" be discerned? In the past prospective ministers were asked, "What's your vision for this parish?" Now the question is asked by the minister, "What is it the Parish vision to which God is calling me to facilitate?"

Until we can answer that question, we can't approach a board of settlement to help us find the next minister. That question which is going round has an easy answer — doesn't it?

Derek



When you start to feel
like things should have
been better this year,
remember the mountains and valleys
that got you here.
they are not accidents
and those moments weren't in vain.
You are not the same
you have grown and you are growing
you are breathing, you are living.
you are wrapped in
endless
boundless
grace.
and things will get better.
there is more to you than yesterday
-morgan harper nichols

CHRISTMAS AND CRAFT FAIR NEWS

An early alert that we will be having our first Sewing Bee on Saturday, 29th April in Room 6. Please pencil in this date in diaries and/or calendars. As always, lunch will be provided.

You do not need to be an expert as we need people to cut out, hand sew, iron, etc.

In the meantime please look out wire coat hangers and good quality elastic—not the \$2 shop variety. These are for Christmas wreaths and kitchen containers for plastic bags, respectively. We also need some tulle for the wreaths, Christmas colours and a metre each of two colours for each one. Pieces left over from another project would be fine as they are cut into short lengths.

If you have any bright ideas we can sew or craft, please let us know or come and share at our sewing bee.



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>March</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Time</i>
Tuesday, 7 th		Ashwood	2pm
Wednesday, 22 nd	John	Redwood	10.30am
Thursday, 23 rd	David	Springlands	11am
Friday, 24 th	Marion	Aberleigh	11am

March

Wednesday, 12 th	David	Maxwell Care	11am
-----------------------------	-------	--------------	------

LYNDA REVEALS A LITTLE HISTORY

Part 15: Harvest Festival.

The intention was to invite God's blessing on the seedtime and in due course the harvest, and as a result the period in February when the Beating of the Bounds is carried out became known in the church calendar as rogation, from the Latin word meaning 'to ask'.



A similar village tradition Rush-bearing, played a part in the establishing of Harvest Festival as one of the most popular of church festivals, to the extent that the child outgrew its parent and is now much better known. Only a smattering of modern villages continue the practice of renewing the rushes, which were strewn on the earth floor of Anglo-Saxon and early Norman churches – a humdrum duty which, like many such, was made more appealing by the addition of ceremony and fun.

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
LENT 1 March Ash Wednesday	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17	Ps 51: 1-17	2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10	Mt 6: 1-6, 16-21
5 March Lent 1	Gen 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5: 12-19	Mt 4: 1-11
12 March	Gen 12: 1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17	Jn 3: 1-17
19 March	Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5: 1-11	Jn 4: 5-42
26 March	1 Sam 16: 1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5: 8-14	Jn 9: 1-41
2 April	Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8: 6-11	Jn 11: 1-45
9 April Palm Sunday	Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29	Phil 2: 5-11	Mt 21: 1-11
HOLY WEEK 10 April	Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11

DEPRESSION SUPPORT GROUP

A Group is now being held by Bread of Life every Wednesday,
10am-11.30am, for encouragement and support.

The venue is the Bread of Life Centre at 14B Stephenson Street.

All welcome, men and women.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

The following is an abridged excerpt from the "*The Circular*", a publication of the National Council of Women. As we no longer have an active APW Group we do not see so much of what is going on, but the NCW is still very active as the 16 page Circular shows. There are plenty of topics for discussion here

Time to Pay the Sisters a the same as the Misters

The NZ Council of Trade Unions and hundreds of volunteers are together working on a campaign to push for equal pay, aimed to culminate on March 8th, International Women's Day.

The campaign features a brilliant video, "Treat Her Right", highlighting how long women have been waiting for equal pay, since equal pay legislation was passed in 1972.

The current pay gap is on average 13.6 % with women earning \$7 an hour less than men for comparable work. In 2016, women's average earnings (\$432/wk) were 61.1% of men's earnings (\$707/wk). **At this rate it will take 45 years for women to catch up and close the gap.** Not good enough, says this campaign.

What can you do?

- Check out the information at www.treatherright.co.nz
- Sign the equal pay pledge: www.together.org.nz/treat-her-right and encourage others to do so.
- Watch the video: www.facebook.com/fairness.at.work/ and share on social media
- Talk with friends and family about the issue
- Share these resources far and wide!



SATURDAY 25 MARCH

From 8.30am

**Everything you would expect
at a Garage Sale**

And much, much more!

First of all this is an opportunity not to be missed,
Clear out those cupboards and overstuffed corners.
Get rid of the extra clutter from your shelves
And tidy the garden shed and garage

CLEAN SWEEP GARAGE SALE



**CHURCH
GARAGE SALE**

Then you will have some lovely clear space
For new kitchen gadgets . . . Cute coffee cups
Plants for indoors and out . . . A new necklace or two

And you may be lucky enough to pick up a UFO that is started
Which you may be able to finish over the winter.
And, oh yes, there will be food!



Your contributions are needed
Please bring them on Friday 24th

And if you can offer to help please ring Chris Grant on 577 6981

JOB VACANCY FOR A MINISTER

Specifications : Must be a magician, super hero or soothsayer

Tasks : - Converse well with elderly
Converse well with young
Fill the church pews
Attract committee orientated personnel
Attract wealthy people who are looking for a cause to donate to
Enjoy visiting people in homes, hospitals, funeral parlours etc. at any time of day or night.
Run twice weekly (minimum) discussion groups

Optional : Good understanding of the gospel

Yet to be decided :- Particular parts of the gospel to base the above services on.

Yes, I am being provocative; however the above tasks reflect what I am hearing.

Gone are the days where a minister is called and the parish hands all decisions to them. We have now grown up and have ideas on how we wish the minister to deliver what we stand for. The parishioners have a say and an input.

Task one — a parish review . . . *done*

Task two — engage in a mission discernment process
. . . *first step done*

Task three — call a minister when above is done.

What will we tell this future minister about St Andrews? Where do we believe God is leading us or asking of us, and then what part can this minister play in this?

For example, what if we decide we are a Christian community that reaches out to show the gospel in action and the minister we call feels their strength lies in building existing teams WITHIN the church? We have a mismatch.

PLEASE be involved in the Mission discernment process. Next meeting 29 March although we can have informal chats earlier.

Marion Rowe 578 2272

At Last Month's Parish Council

- **World Day of Prayer** is at St Andrew's on Friday 3rd March with morning tea at 10am and the service at 10.30am. The service has been prepared by Philippine women and some local Philippine women will be taking part.
- Suggestions for nominations for **Volunteer of the Month** would be welcome.
- Several people are intending to attend the **Funding work-shop** put on by Volunteer Marlborough.
- Four people attended the first **8.30am Communion Service**.
- **Spring Clean** was held on Sat 18th Feb and 11 people attended, many thanks.
- **Awatere Christian Joint Venture Picnic** is being planned. Date to be advised.
- Necessary **organ repairs** are to be carried out by the South Island Organ Company.
- Parish Council has applied to Presbytery to have Marion Rowe **licensed to take Communion**.
- A number of **loans** have been offered to St Andrew's but advice has been received that, as the parish is not a legal entity, we cannot enter into a loan agreement. Donations can be accompanied by a Letter of Intent although this is not a legally binding document.
- A group is being formed to look into **upgrading our online presence** (Website and Facebook) Volunteers with skills in this area would be welcome.
- **Harvest Festival** will be on 19 March.



Next meeting Tuesday 21 March

God in Nature - Cruisey Church started the New Year with a planned picnic to Pollard park. We were to make and fly our kites, dance with bubbles and explore Gods gift of nature. Due to poor weather, we relocated to the Church and Hall. Our evening crafts included planting seeds, making cool kites from plastic shopping bags and created our own binoculars to see what God has made! A big thank you to John and Joyce for the super kite instructions and constructing support when the children were making their kites. Together in church, we talked about what nature can teach us and shared our favourite places and thought about *I see..., I feel..., I hear... and I wonder...* It was pointed out to us that at times we all need to stop, pause and take in what is around us. . . the wonderful gifts created by God. Due to the weather, we held our picnic in Room 6 on rugs and ate sausages and bread. The weather cleared enough to take our ice-creams outside. It was a lovely evening together.

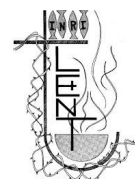


We would love to see you at the next Cruisey Church which is on the 18th March as we lead up to Easter.



LENTEN RETREAT

Kevin Gwynne is leading a Lenten Retreat "My Cup Overfloweth" on Friday, 24th March 10am-3pm at the Hospital Chapel.



Please bring: Bible, notebook, pen.

BYO lunch.

Cost \$10—registrations not necessary.