

St Andrew's: Calendar & Contacts

Special this Month

Thursday, 6 th April	Coffee & Chat Group R6 9.30am Joy Ministries 5pm
Tuesday, 11 th	Property Committee 7.30pm
Thursday, 13 th	Coffee & Chat Group R6 9.30am Pastoral Care, Mission & Fellowship Committee 1.30pm
Friday 14 April	Combined Churches Good Friday Service, ASB Theatre, 10.30am
Saturday, 15 th	Cruisey Church 5pm
Sunday 16th	Easter Day Service 10am
Tuesday, 18 th	Parish Council R6 7.30pm
Thursday, 20 th	Coffee & Chat Group R6 9.30am Afternoon Tea Service 2.30pm
Thursday, 27 th	Coffee & Chat Group R6 9.30am
Saturday, 29 th	Christmas & Craft Sewing Bee 9am-3pm

Regular Services

Sundays Mornings 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

HAPPY EASTER

April 2017



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

Derek's Drift

Have you been on a journey and the children start asking, "When will we be there?" or, "Are we there yet?"

Obviously we're not there yet, we're still travelling and the children know that – so they're asking a different question from the words they're using. "When will we be there?" seems to want to know a time, ten minutes, half and hour, whatever, but are the words of the question accurate in requesting the knowledge they require? What do they really want to know?

Another occasion for such a question is, "When will I reach my target weight?" Like so many questions which start, "When?" the answer is, "I don't know." Sometimes we can answer, "It depends..." When the disciples asked, "When will you come again?" Jesus answered, "It's not for you to know [the will of God]." (Acts 1:7)

In our case I have been mis-hearing the question, "When will we get a new minister?" I've been hearing, "How long ..?" and answered, "We don't know." Perhaps I should have heard, "What are the landmarks we have to pass before ..?" because the answer then would be, "It depends." The children in the car are really saying, "We're ready to arrive," so they want to know what's holding up their expectation. Yet they can't arrive until they get there and that's the frustration.



We have to pass the landmarks and it depends on our progress on that journey, not on a chronological timescale. Last Wednesday we spent a morning with Darryl Tempero and it was wonderful to see so many faces there to join in the process because we can't get there till we've done the journey. He showed how we have to have trodden a path of decision making, examination and growth which will lead us to being properly prepared to call a new minister. How long that will be depends on us; when it will be is when we have travelled the path.

So we had 22 people last Wednesday who can tell you what that path is and who are excited by the journey. They worked to define the areas we need to cross by looking at how we understand "church." What is church and what does church do? Over the coming month we will work at that and look forward to consolidating our progress when we meet with Darryl again in May.

We are moving into a new paradigm – a change of mind-set. We have to think outside the box rather than simply repainting it. In other words, outside the box doesn't mean doing the same things differently but a whole change of how we see things. The new minister won't be the person who has all the vision or does all the visiting or "takes over" all the doing. The new minister will expect the parish to have a vision, the parish to be pastoral and the parish which is driving itself so whoever it is can come alongside and support and resource. If nothing changes, nothing happens, only change allows growth, only change moves into the future. What is our vision of that future? If it's what we always did then it's doomed. Our future is based on a vision of what our church is.

In Psalms, Habakkuk and Revelation (to name just three) they groaned, "How long, O Lord?" when really they should have asked, "What do we have to be first?"

Derek



ROMANS 8: 18-21

Not some distant dream, Lord,
a mirage, dancing insubstantial in shimmering air,
But reality.
Your resurrection leaving the grave empty and impotent.
Doubts discarded,
down in a corner with the grave clothes.
Convincing by its new life.



Urgent in energy.
Not edging gently round the heavy stone
but pushing through. Vibrant.
Its roots growing, thickening,
taking hold of the small particles of my life,
compacting the shifting sand into firm ground,
strong enough to stand on.
Strong enough to face the pounding waves.
Growing new leaves of hope and joy,
their shade refreshing, invigorating.

And in this miracle of life is born another.
This plant of life itself becomes the soil
in which I grow.



My own roots grow strong
in the rich soil of your life.
I leaf, blossom, fruit in you.
Find reassurance
in the defeat of death.
Still to be faced, when time comes,
but faced with the joy
of knowing the stone is rolled away.
Already.

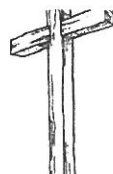
Hallelujah.

*No Strange Land, Meditations and Prayers
By Eddie Askew*

Combined Churches Good Friday Service



- Good Friday (14 April)
- @ ASB Theatre
- @ 10.30am



Title: "IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME!"

Christmas and Craft Fair news

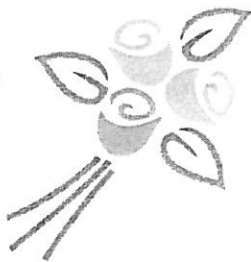


Our first Sewing Bee for the year will be on Saturday 29th April in Room 6, at 9.30am-ish. As always lunch will be provided. You do not need to be an expert sewer, as we need people to cut out, hand sew, iron etc. If you have any bright ideas we can sew or craft, let us know or come and share at our sewing bee. 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.

Please take a note and we hope to see you there.

From the worship committee.

A bouquet to all those who contribute to the bulletin and Chronicle. These are our major forms of written communication between parishioners and even past and present visitors and families. There are those who do the contributing, the writing up and folding and then those who ensure we get them. Without these busy bees this web of connection would not exist. Please remember them in your prayers,



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>April</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Time</i>
Wed 12 th	David	Maxwell Care	11am
Tues 18 th		Ashwood	2pm
Wed 26 th		Waterlea	10.30am
Friday 28 th	Marion	Aberleigh	11am

May

Wed 10 th	David	Maxwell Care	11am
Friday, 12 th	Marion	Aberleigh	11am

GARAGE SALE

I believe that the value of the occasion was met in that we raised \$1352.10 and rising.

An equal or even greater value, I think, is the opportunity for our informal comradeship where we enjoy and appreciate each other's company and support for whatever is happening in our lives.

Thanks to all who were involved from the publicity, the nurturing of plants for sale, the creative baking, providing books and a variety of household and beautiful items for the stalls.

Thanks also to those involved in the setting up, serving and cleaning up afterwards plus the ongoing disposing of leftovers.

A good day.

Chris Grant



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
2 April Lent 5	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
11 April Tuesday	Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Jn 12: 20-36
12 April Wednesday	Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12: 1-3	Jn 13: 21-32
13 April Maundy Thurs	Ex 12: 1-4 (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11: 23-26	Jn 13: 1-17 31b-35
14 April Good Friday	Is 52: 13-53: 12	Ps 22	Heb 10: 16-25	Jn 18: 1-19: 42
15 April Holy Saturday	Job 14: 1-14	Ps 31: 1-4 15-16	1 Peter 4: 1-8	Mt 27: 57-66
EASTER 16 April Easter Dawn	Ex 14: 10-31; 15: 20-21	Ps 114	Rom 6: 3-11	Mt 28: 1-10
16 April Easter Day	Acts 10: 34-43	Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24	Col 3: 1-4	Jn 20: 1-18
23 April Easter 2	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Peter 1: 3-9	Jn 20: 19-31
30 April	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Ps 116: 1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1: 17-23	Lk 24: 13-35
7 May Easter 4	Acts 2: 42-47	Ps 23	1 Peter 2: 19-25	Jn 10: 1-10

Part 17: The Minister's Duties.

John Seaman is responsible for four Parishes; Southea with Murrow, Guyhirn with Rings End, and Thorny Toll and Parson Drove, where he lives in a spacious vicarage built in 1873. The house is not only his home but also a meeting place for several groups in the community, including the village children who use the top floor rooms for their "Attic Club".

A typical week in his ministry – apart from services on Sundays he has a busy weekday programme with what he calls "certain landmarks" such as taking the morning assembly at Parson Drove School on Monday, at Murrow School on Tuesday, Guyhirn School on Wednesday and Leverington School on Friday. He is also Governor of Murrow County Primary School and Guyhirn Church of England Primary School, seeing his work with the children as a key part of his ministry. Other sectors of the community who also need his services, both pastoral and practical, are the Mums and Tots, the Mothers Union, the Murrow Sunshine Club, the Parsons Drove Friendship Club, the Women's' Institutes and Bible-study groups, as well as all the season activities that go on throughout the year. His afternoons are spent visiting the people in his parishes, especially the elderly and the sick, whether they attend his church or not.

From "The Winter Fens" by Edward Storey.



*"I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did, but people will never forget
how you made them feel."*

— Maya Angelou

LYNDA REVEALS A LITTLE HISTORY

Part 16: Parish Ales.

Carts, wagons and wains would be lavishly decorated with flowers in the week before Mid Summer's Day and then harnessed up to take families to their nearest favourite place for a day out. ...

These specific events were fitted in to a round of communal



celebrations dating from Saxon times which were known as "Parish Ales" because of the beers which were specially brewed for each one, and consumed in tremendous quantities. An "Ale" could be called at virtually any time and some were organized specifically to raise funds for wounded veterans of England's many wars, or families in distress. Others such as the "Church Ale" were annual events to raise money for church repairs in the way that bazaars and fetes were later to do; but gradually most villages settled down to organizing one big thrash a year – usually at Whitsuntide.

Organized by the Church Wardens, village ales consisted of an enormous meal for those who bought fund-raising tickets, to go with constantly replenished jugs of the special brew.

From "The English Village" by Martin Wainwright.

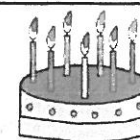


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Seventy people gathered together at St Andrews from many denominations (and seven nationalities) to join many other services around the world to pray and worship together. This year the service was prepared by women from the Philippines. We were extremely blessed by having eight Filipino women take a large part in the service with readings and music. It was very moving to have the Filipino version of the Lord's prayer sung alongside the English version.



We were able to pass on \$370.00 to our New Zealand National Office for them to pass on to this year's special projects. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to ensure a very special service here in Blenheim.



At the beginning of March Joy Ministries celebrated their tenth birthday in party style. Twenty-two people attended and it is great to see that the numbers have kept up over the ten years. Johanna, with David Clode and a few others, were instrumental in setting up the monthly service and it blossomed.

Each month it is held at St Andrew's but the meal is provided by several other churches in turn. This is very much appreciated by the team and well and truly enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who are involved.

We look forward to many more years of friendship and worship together and would welcome you if you would like to come along and join in.

At Last Month's Parish Council

- A fundraising workshop was attended by Marion Rowe, Jane Heywood and Kim Bishell. Jane and Kim will meet each month to look at Grant Applications.
- South Island Organ Company will be here to fix the organ, probably in May.
- Parish Council agreed to a retiring offering on 2nd April for the Organ Repairs.
- The Committees have agreed to each take a Service beginning with Property Committee on 2nd April. Worship Committee will take theirs on June 9th. Pastoral Care/ Fellowship and Mission Committee will lead a service in July and the Finance Committee in August or later.
- Derek read his first Interim Moderator's report.
- Darryl Tempero from Alpine Presbytery will visit us on 29th March. Everyone is invited.
- Friday Feast: Raewyn will see Alofa, the new Methodist Minister, soon to talk about this and also the joint services.
- A hole in the drive needs attending to. Property Committee will investigate.
- Kim will be on annual leave 3rd to 7th April.

Next meeting Tuesday 18 April 7.30pm



A record 25 small people checked in for Cruisey Church in March.

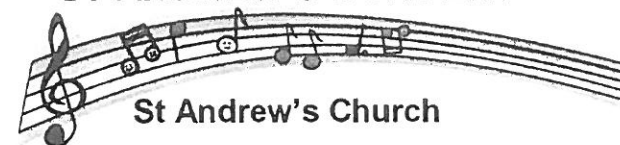


On what was the last long evening of daylight saving for the group, they had a great time playing games and running around on the lawn before going inside to work on Easter-themed craft.

Marion led a time of worship in the church which was followed by an enjoyable meal. Thank you to the volunteers in the kitchen who always manage—even though they are never sure how many to cater for.

Next Cruisey Church is on Saturday, 15 April. We would love to see you there.

ST ANDREW'S CONCERT



St Andrew's Church

SUNDAY, 28TH MAY 2017

2PM - 4PM

ADULTS - \$10.00

CHILDREN - FREE

Sales at door

