



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

Derek's Drift

Christmas past, Easter yet to come.

Once Christmas is past and New Year has come and gone, it is easy to sit back, say, "Phew!" and relax. That's fair enough, certainly clergy generally try to have an easier time for January if they haven't taken it as a holiday opportunity. Now here we are, end of January nearly into February. I'm in Christchurch on an aviation course as I write this, children go back at school next week, was there ever any down-time in fact or were Christmas and New Year simply a blur in the rush of life?

I'm not one for making a special effort at resolutions, too often they are characterised by failing to be kept so what was the point? However, it is a time when we can look at things with a fresh perspective and do something about them. So it is for churches, St Andrew's included.

A little before Christmas we had the reading where Jesus warns about the burglar coming at night — we don't know when but if we did we'd stay awake to catch the villain. As usual, the story is told with humour and slight ridicule to make us laugh and so remember the message, to be prepared and actively ready. However, what will we do about it, what will you do about it? It's easy to think, "I can't do that, I'll leave it to someone more gifted/better able/properly qualified and they'll do it." Of course, we know that's not a good policy but still it's what we say, time and again.

Now, as St Andrew's is on the cusp of moving into the process of settling new ministry we have to start asking hard, sometimes painful, questions. How have we made ourselves fit for a new minister? What have we done to be sure we are worthy of God's trust? Indeed, do we want a new minister or should we look at alternative methods of ministry in a small, ageing parish.

Jesus equips his disciples to be able to carry on without him; why don't we accept his challenge? Why do we talk kindly but not always honestly around church matters? Sometimes we don't even manage to talk kindly but hide our unpleasant comments by dressing them up as something else. (Proverbs 28:18, 12:17; John 4:23-24).

We must start being more up front, being more honest (but no less kind) both with each other and with ourselves. How will we make ourselves actually attractive to new worshippers, not just polishing the surface? How will we encourage seekers while continuing to nurture the more mature faithful?

Not what will St Andrew's do – rather, what will I do, what will you do? Personally. Now. Easter will be too late!

Derek

Parish Register

Funerals: d. 19.11.16	Adriana Cornelia Hoek
d. 15.12.16	Kay Helen Pont
d. 26.01.17	Kathleen Dunlop

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>February</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>Time</i>
Thursday, 9 th	David	Springlands	11am
Friday, 10 th	Marion	Aberleigh	11am
Wednesday, 15 th	David	Maxwell Care	11am

March

Tuesday, 7 th	Ashwood	2pm
--------------------------	---------	-----



GARAGE SALE 25th MARCH 2017



Let's have a garage sale. Come and get rid of all your "no longer used" treasures to make some space for new junk. And mark 25 March in your diary NOW.

At this stage, we have someone to organise the second hand books, white elephant, jewellery and plant stalls. We have also had the suggestion of selling a cup of coffee and a cake. What else would it be good to have? Ideas and offers of assistance welcomed.

Start potting up cuttings. Second hand goods **apart from old computers, old TV's and videos** welcomed.

Nearer the time, items could be left at the church or, if this is difficult for you, contact Chris Grant, Ph 577-6981.

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
5 February Epiphany 5	Is 58: 1-9a (9b-12)	Ps 112: 1-9 (10)	1 Cor 2: 1-12 (13-16)	Mt 5: 13-20
12 February	Deut 30: 15-20	Ps 119: 1-8	1 Cor 3: 1-9	Mt 5: 21-37
19 February	Lev 19: 1-2, 9-18	Ps 119: 33-40	1 Cor 3: 10-11, 16-23	Mt 5: 38-48
26 February Transfiguration	Ex 24: 12-18	Ps 2	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Mt 17: 1-9
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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St. Andrew's is hosting this year's event on Friday March 3rd at 10am. Please put a note in your diary as it would be great to have the church full to overflowing with people from all the Blenheim Churches.

This service has been prepared by the women of the Phillippines.

EXTRACT FROM FRIENDS OF TURAKINA LETTER

This letter from the committee is to thank all the members of Friends, especially those of you who responded to the last letter regarding the winding up of TMGC and the dispersal of funds.

We have decided to divide the funds into three parts:

1. \$13,000 to be shared equally amongst the self-supporting students who would have been at TMGC this year had it been open, i.e., \$1,000 each.
2. \$50,000 to be gifted to Hukarere Girls' College "For scholarships and/or personal development programmes to enrich or enhance the lives of potential leaders, to be known as *Friends of Turakina Endowments*".
3. The remainder (about \$7,000) to be held in reserve while we investigate the possibility of a research project and plaque(s), as a memorial to TMGC.

I believe that in doing this we are following the Constitution of the Friends of Turakina Maori Girls' College Association.

There is one further matter, very important, that I must address before I declare the Friends of Turakina Maori Girls' College Association finally dissolved, and that is to thank all of you for the great support you, and many others who have now passed on, have made in time, effort, money, letters of support and prayer. You may often have felt that you are distant from what has been happening in the College, but we, on the Committee, have been acutely aware that you are the people that have so adequately supported us.

***Ka pari te tai moana, ka timu te tai tangata—
As the tide of the ocean flows, the tide of man recedes.***



In Nature With God



You, your friends and family are invited to Cruisey Church on the 18th February at the Children's Playground at Pollard Park. This month we are celebrating God's gift of nature and the outdoors.

Join us for games, singing, craft, worship and a meal. The games and craft are particularly suitable for preschool and primary aged children. A koha please.

We hope to explore nature up close, go on a treasure hunt, blow bubbles and lots more

5pm Saturday, 18th February, Pollard Park

If you would like to know more please feel free to ring Rachael 5788068 or the Church Office on 5787119

Please note the change of venue this month.

Everyone is Welcome!

In December we celebrated God's gift to us at Christmas -- his only son, Jesus. We started the evening by talking about giving and receiving gifts. We chatted about what was in the box I held, all wrapped in Christmas paper. It was our reflection, as we are ourselves gifts from God. Taking a star, we wrote our gifts to Jesus and hung them on the tree in the foyer --I hope you were able to read a few. They put smiles on our faces with what the children wrote.



During the craft time, we created baby Jesus out of walnut shells and beads, made Angel garlands and Rudolph glasses and decorated crowns. In church, we passed a gift around as we shared the Christmas story. The children were happy to see that the Advent wreath candles had been lit and it was in use. Homemade hamburgers and jelly, meringues and fresh fruit salad were served for dinner.

A big thank you to all for your support, guidance and help over the year. Be it helping on the evenings, donating goods and ideas, your prayers or monetary gifts, I thank you.

**We meet again in February on the 18th.
You all are most welcome.**

Blenheim Methodist Parish have extended an invitation to St Andrew's members to attend the induction Service of their new Presbyterian Rev. Alofa Asiata, on Wednesday 15 February 2017 commencing at 7.30pm in the Wesley Centre. Supper will follow the service.

Wesley Methodist Church invite you to join with them. Mark this date on your calendar for next year. 24 March 2017 at 7.30pm. The Orphans Band will join with us for a fun evening – You can sing along or even get up and dance!! There will be drinks and nibbles and coffee and dessert to finish the evening. \$10 each/family \$25.

Gardening is both an Art and a Science

What do you like about a garden? I enjoy considering the structure, the planning of what is pleasing to the eye, be it the curve of a garden or path, the shape of a tree or shrub, differing colours of green, textures of leaves or amazing colour combinations of flowers.

Gardens have an amazing history. Sargon of Mesopotamia, born 2334BC, became a gardener and was so good that he became King. We read of the Garden of Eden in Genesis. Chelsea Physic Garden in London illustrates the medicinal use of plants, Kew Garden with its seed bank includes the preservation of plant species.

For many of us it is the pleasure of messing about in soil, growing our own vegetables, providing a wonderful source for our floral art or just getting out of the house. Whatever our reasoning, the pleasure of gardens is a universal thread that holds us all together.



SHALL WE HAVE A GARDEN TOUR THIS YEAR?

Following last year's tour when we raised over \$5000, we were offered several new gardens but if we are to proceed we need more. Is your garden a possibility? Do you know of someone you could approach? Have you walked past an interesting garden where one of us could approach the owner?

Please give it some thought and let Kim in the office or me, Chris Grant 5776981 know as we need to start planning now. Thank you.



DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

St Andrews Singing Group resumes for the year on Saturday 11th March at 3.30 pm. in the foyer of the church, for a get-together, followed by a practice.

We sing for enjoyment and always welcome new members. If you would like to join us, please contact Katherine Bailey 578. 9883 for more information, or just come along.



COMBINED CHRISTMAS CHOIR



On behalf of the folk of St Andrews, a big thank you to Derek Harding for organising and coaching the choir, which led the service on the 18th December. A good number from both churches enjoyed the music and readings. It was a welcome change for St Andrew's to be the host church, and was a special morning.

WINTER LUNCH TIME SOUP AND A ROLL

A suggestion has been made that we offer a series of winter lunch time speakers as we enjoy soup and a bun. This would be a fund-raising opportunity. If this is something that you would like to support or if you have ideas for a speaker, please contact Gill Mutch 578 3140.



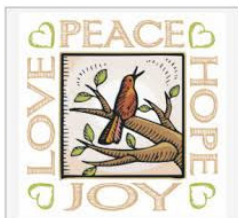
At December's Parish Council

- A new stove has been donated for the kitchen.
- John Buchanan has offered to take 8.30am communion on the first Sunday of the months when we don't have a scheduled communion. This to be trialled in February, April and May.
- World Day of Prayer will be held in St Andrew's on Friday 3 March and it is hoped members of the local Philippine community will participate.
- It was suggested that Parish Council look to appointing someone in charge for each event, to cover set up, advertising, equipment, food etc. This may also be delegated to a Committee.
- It was generally agreed that the Workshop day be held on a Saturday to start with.
- Kim will attend training for Xero and Accrual Accounting so that she can process the invoices she sends out for Hall Hire etc. Parish Council wishes to record its appreciation of the great service Kim provides to the people who hire our complex.
- Scout Jamboree: Parish Council is happy for our Hall to be used by Scouts. Chris Grant will coordinate.
- Jeanette and Ian Boddy's final Sunday at Wesley will be on 15 January. St Andrew's would like to recognise all the work they have done on Joint Ventures, as well as Cruisey Church and Joy Ministries.
- Raewyn will liaise with Ralph regarding a Church Complex spring clean, late in January, date to be advised.
- Derek asked if we would consider a joint Celebration Picnic with the ACJV (Awatere Churches Joint Venture) people. This was agreed. Date to be confirmed.
- The Organ needs repairs. Some will be covered by EQC and have been done already. There is wear and tear on other parts which should be done soon

Next Meeting Tuesday 21 February 7.30pm

HAPPY New Year

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all
sorrows and pain,
but by strengthening you to bear it,
as it comes;
but by making you sturdy
to travel any path;
not by taking hardships from you,
but by taking fear from your heart;
not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
but by keeping your face bright,
even in the shadows;
not by making your life always pleasant,
but by showing you when people and their
causes need you most, and by making you
anxious to be there to help.



**God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
for the year ahead.**

St Andrew's: Calendar & Contacts

Special this Month

Thursday, 2 nd	Joy Ministries, 5pm
Friday, 3 rd	World Day of Prayer Planning 10am R6
Sunday, 5 th	Communion Service 8.30am
Friday, 10 th	Friday Feast at St Andrew's 5pm
Tuesday, 14 th	Property Meeting 7.30pm
Wednesday, 15 th	Finance Meeting 7pm-9.30pm
Thursday, 16 th	Afternoon Tea Service 2.30pm
Saturday, 18 th	Cruisey Church, Pollard Park 5pm
Tuesday, 21 st	Parish Council 7.30pm R6

MARCH

Thursday, 2 nd	Joy Ministries 5pm
Friday 3 rd	World Day of Prayer (time to be advised)
Sunday, 12 th	Communion
Saturday 25 th	Garage Sale



Regular Services

Sundays Mornings 10am

Regular Events

Thursdays Craft and Chat Group, 9.30 am

Contacts

Interim Moderator	Rev Derek Harding	577-8816
Parish Clerk	Raewyn Buchanan	578-4576
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