

# ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

## OUR VISION

a bridge to the city  
- where love and  
friendship meet



## OUR MISSION

to worship and  
work with God  
in the world.

## The Bridge

### Our Plan To Celebrate The Birth Of Jesus

\*\*\*The Reason for the Season\*\*\*

19 December - Carols with Community @ The Link - 5.30pm

21 December - Service at 9.30pm (readings and carols)

24 December - Christmas Eve Service 8.30pm

25 December - Christmas Day Service 9.30am



## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025-26

## **Zechariah 9 : 9-10**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! ... See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, ... and he shall command peace to the nations...

## **Hakaraia 9 : 9-10**

Kia nui te whakamanamana, e te tamāhine a Hiona. Nanā, ko tou Kingi e haere nā ki a koe: he ti-ka ia, he whakaora, he ngākau māhaki, e noho ana i runga i te kāihe, ... mo te rongo mau hoki āna kupu ki ngā tauwi ...

## **스가라 9:9-10**

시온의 딸아 크게 기뻐할지어다 예루살렘의 딸아 즐거이 부를지어다 보라 네 왕이 네게 임하시나니 그는 공의로우시며 구원을 베푸시며 겸손하여서 나귀를 타시나니 나귀의 작은 것 곧 나귀 새끼니라 내가 에브라임의 병거와 예루살렘의 말을 끊겠고 전쟁하는 활도 끊으리니 그가 이방 사람에게 화평을 전할 것이요 그의 통치는 바다에서 바다까지 이르고 유브라데 강에서 땅 끝까지 이르리라

## **Sagaria 9: 9 -10**

*Verheug jou grootliks, o dogter van Sion! Kyk, jou Koning kom na jou; regverdig en 'n oorwinnaar is Hy; nederig en Hy ry op 'n esel Dan sal Hy aan die nasies vrede verkondig*

## **撒迦利亞書 9: 9-10**

錫安的民哪，應當大大喜樂！耶路撒冷的民哪，應當歡呼！看哪，你的王來到你這裡，他是公義的，並且施行拯救，謙謙和和地騎著驢，就是騎著驢的駒子。我必除滅以法蓮的戰車和耶路撒冷的戰馬，爭戰的弓也必除滅。他必向列國講和平，他的權柄必從這海管到那海，從大河管到地極。

## **Urdu**

وہ ہے۔ آتا پاس تیرے بادشاہ تیرا دیکھ کیونکہ للکار خوب یروشلیم دختر ہو۔ اے مان شاد نہایت تو صیون بنت اے<sup>9</sup> ہے۔ سوار پر گدھے ان جو بلکہ پر گدھے اور ہے حلیم وہ ہے میں ہاتھ کے اُس نجات اور ہے صادق قوموں وہ اور گی جائے ڈالی توڑ کمان جنگی اور گا ڈالوں کاٹ گھوڑے سے یروشلیم اور رتھ سے افرئیم میں اور<sup>10</sup> گی۔ ہو تک زمین انتہای سے فرات دریای اور تک سمندر سے سمندر سلطنت کی اُس اور گا دے مژدہ کا صلح کو گی۔ ہو

## **DIRECTORY**

### **Minister**

Rev Kelly Gilson 0224275123; [kgilsondancer@gmail.com](mailto:kgilsondancer@gmail.com)

### **Korean Minister**

Rev Ham Tae Ju 855 0020 (direct line); 021 044 5192; [kiorahill@hotmail.com](mailto:kiorahill@hotmail.com)

### **Multicultural Youth Minister**

Rev Oh Yo Han 020 444 4161; [oh870109@gmail.com](mailto:oh870109@gmail.com)

### **Acting Parish Clerk**

Alison Ringer: 853 9424; 027 346 3691

### **Treasurer**

Fraser Annals: 853 9760

### **Link Manager**

Ian Jamieson: 855 3190

### **Secretary**

Jacky Overdevest 854 9737 (Office phone)

Email: [office@standrewshamilton.org.nz](mailto:office@standrewshamilton.org.nz)

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<http://tiny.cc/FBStAndrewsHnNZ>

## Christian Compassion



One of the things that stands out most for me about St. Andrew's is the way in which we care for each other. We come from a wide variety of backgrounds and we hold diverse beliefs. We don't always see eye to eye, and yet our identity as Christians comes first. We take seriously our core statement: "We welcome everyone." I am continually impressed by the level of compassion which is displayed in this congregation. I love the fact that we can disagree while still sharing Christ's peace with each other and coming to Christ's table together.

Life has its ups and downs, and some of us are better at asking for help than others. Some of us are very private people, and like to keep our trials to ourselves - or to share things with a small number of trusted people. Others are more comfortable making difficulties known to the wider church community. There is nothing wrong with either approach; we are fearfully and wonderfully made! However, none of us need ever feel alone at St. Andrew's. Whether we choose to share our troubles with the church at large, or to ask a few people to pray for us, we can rely on the support of our church family, through good times and bad.

I thank God every day for leading me to such a community of warmth and welcome. I ask myself what gives St. Andrew's this special character. I have observed several factors: (1) I believe that "Christian" is more than a surface label for the majority of our members. I believe that our Christian identity is something about which we think deeply. It is part of who we are, and it supersedes other aspects of our identities.

(2) I believe that we pray earnestly.

(3) I believe that we reflect seriously on scripture, and we listen for God's guiding word.

(4) I believe that we genuinely love each other - warts and all!

Being a compassionate community takes work. The tasks of prayer, reflection and active love require discipline. Sometimes, they are the last thing we want to do. But we have rhythms here at St Andrew's which keep us grounded in our reason for being: God's love for us and our call to be the hands and feet of Christ in this place.

The Pastoral Care committee has recently established a "pastoral care fund," which exists in case a need arises in our midst. If a member is undergoing hardship and would benefit from assistance, the possibility exists of drawing on this fund. Donations to the fund are welcome; please speak to me (Kelly) or Fraser if you would like to donate.

Let us continue to be a community of faith where "we welcome everyone." Let us love each other in Christ even when we disagree. Let us treat each other with kindness even when we get on each other's nerves. Let us remember that a single word can build someone up or break them down. Let us celebrate the fact that - diverse as we are - we are a family, and not one of us is left to struggle alone.

Blessings on you all at Christmas and in 2026.

*Rev Kelly Gilson*

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Sioux Prayer used to end the 2025 Spring Study

*O Great Spirit, all over the world the faces of living ones are alike. With tenderness they came up out of the ground as one.*

*Look upon your children everywhere, that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the Day of Quiet.*

*O Great Spirit, fill us with your light. Give us the strength to understand, and the eyes to see.*

*Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live.*

## 빛과 쉼 사이에서

12월에서 2월로 이어지는 이 시기만큼 뉴질랜드가 특별하게 느껴질 때도 없는 것 같습니다. 성탄의 종소리가 울리고, 한 해의 숨 고르기가 시작되고, 이내 부드러운 여름 바람이 휴가철을 불러오지요. 바쁜 일상 사이에서 자연스럽게 멈춰 서게 하는 시간이 다가옵니다.

주님 오신 성탄의 계절은 언제나 우리 마음을 한 번 더 따뜻하게 만듭니다. 하나님께서 멀리 계시지 않고 우리 곁으로 오셨다는 사실 그리고 지금 나와 함께 계시다는 단순한 진리가 한 해의 끝을 밝히는 가장 큰 빛이 되기 때문입니다. 올 한 해 어떤 길을 걸어왔든, 그 빛 되신 예수 안에서는 다시 감사할 영원한 이유가 있음을 인하여 기뻐하며 감사하며 하나님께 감사와 영광 돌리는 성탄절이 되기를 바랍니다.

그리고 연말연시는 참 묘한 시간입니다. 아쉬움도 떠오르고, 감사도 떠오르고, 새해에 대한 작은 기대도 피어오릅니다. 미래에 대한 거창한 계획보다도 “내 걸음을 하나님이 이끌어 주신다”는 그 믿음으로 주 안에서 새로운 꿈을 꾸며 설레고 빛나는 눈과 마음으로 새해를 바라보는 은혜가 있기를 축복합니다.

이 시간은 또 ‘휴가’라는 선물이 주어지는 때입니다. 조용히 쉬고, 자연을 바라보고, 사랑하는 가족과 가까운 분들과 함께 웃으며 새 힘을 얻는 소중한 시간이 되기를 바랍니다. 아울러 한 적한 곳에 머물러 주님과도 깊이 만남으로 존재가 성장하는 기회로 만들면 더욱 가치 있는 휴가가 될 것입니다.

부디 이 아름다운 계절이 성탄의 기쁨을 새롭게 경험하고, 올해를 감사히 마무리하며, 새해의 비전을 잔잔히 품는 시간이 되길 바랍니다.

그리고 무엇보다, 쉼 속에서 하나님이 주시는 새 힘을 듬뿍 얻으시길 축복합니다.

“보라 처녀가 잉태하여 아들을 낳을 것이요 그의 이름은 임마누엘이라 하리라 하셨으니 이를 번역한즉 하나님이 우리와 함께 계시다 함이라” (마태복음 1:23) **함태주 목사**



## Between Light and Rest

There is hardly another time in the year when New Zealand feels as distinctively beautiful as the season stretching from December to February. Christmas carols fill the air, the pace of the year slows just a little, and the gentle summer breeze ushers in the holiday season. It is a time that invites us—almost effortlessly—to pause in the midst of a busy life.

The season of Christmas, celebrating the coming of our Lord, warms our hearts once again. The simple truth that God is not distant but has come near—and remains with us even now—becomes the brightest light at the close of the year. Whatever paths we have walked, Jesus, our true Light, gives us an eternal reason to rejoice and give thanks. My prayer is that this Christmas will be a time of deep gratitude and heartfelt praise to God.

The turn of the year is a curious moment. Regret and thankfulness mingle together, and small expectations for the new year begin to rise. Rather than pursuing grand resolutions, may we hold fast to the truth that “God guides my steps,” and from within that trust, look toward the coming year with renewed dreams, bright eyes, and a hopeful heart.

This season also brings the gift of a holiday.

May it be a precious time of rest—of quietly pausing, taking in the beauty around us, and sharing laughter with family and those dear to us. And if, in a peaceful place, you also linger with the Lord and meet Him more deeply, your holiday will become an even richer moment of spiritual growth.

May this beautiful season be, for each of you,  
a fresh experience of Christmas joy,  
a grateful close to the year,  
and a gentle space in which to hold a vision for the year ahead.

Above all, may you find abundant new strength in the rest God so graciously gives.

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." (Matthew 1:23)

God bless you all.

*Rev Ham Tae Ju*



### General Assembly 2025

The General Assembly 2025 took place from 20–23 October, carrying the inspiring theme “WE BELIEVE.” What a wonderful message of hope and faith for the future.

Throughout the Assembly, Rev. Makesi and Ramona Alatimu and their dedicated team at St Paul’s Trinity Pacific Presbyterian Church showed extraordinary generosity. They didn’t just host the Assembly — they brought it to life. Their gracious hospitality was evident in every detail. The Praise and Worship team lifted our spirits, and the cultural performances beautifully reflected the richness of New Zealand’s and the Pacific Islands’ heritage. We are deeply grateful to every volunteer whose hard work made this gathering truly unforgettable.

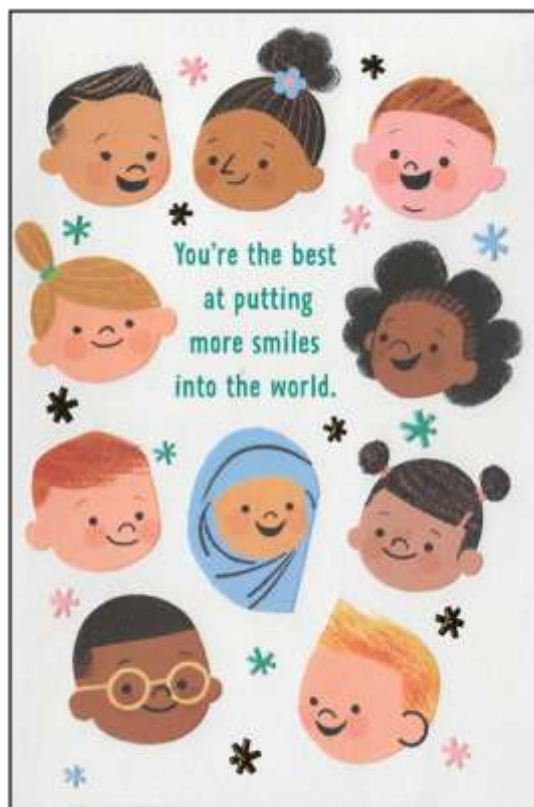
We also took time to farewell the Right Rev.

Rose Luxford, Rev Wayne Matheson, Rev Kerry Enright, and Heather Mackenzie, and to welcome the Right Rev Peter Dunn as our new National Moderator and Rev Erin Pendreigh as the new Assembly Executive Secretary.

One of the greatest gifts of this Assembly was the chance to connect — through Dialogue Groups, shared meals, and moments of conversation. These opportunities allowed us to form new friendships, share perspectives across presbyteries, generations, and cultures, and strengthen our shared faith journey.

During the business sessions, there were laughter, tears, and intense debates, heaps of decision-making, but this Assembly placed strong emphasis on Whanaungatanga — the building of relationships — and on the growing partnership with Te Aka Puahou.

We were mindful, too, of those affected by the fires and severe winds near Kaikōura, and we continue to hold the Grace Vineyard Church community and others impacted in our prayers. While the winds caused a few flight delays, nothing could dampen the spirit of hope for the future of our Church, nor the enthusiasm to continue God’s work for the benefit of His Kingdom. (Copied from the *Kaimai Press*)



## The Meaning of Christmas

A poem by Dr. Henry Wong

*'Tis Advent again, that time of year, the mad  
rush has begun*

*With tree to adorn, holidays to plan for endless  
parties and fun;*

*Preparation ostensibly to remember, an ancient  
divine birth*

*Of a child who is called the Prince of Peace, the  
reason for our mirth.*

*Let's take a moment from our frenetic lives to  
simply reflect and ask*

*Why the buzz about Christmas, as we race from  
task to task?*

*With greetings to send, gifts to wrap and turkey  
in the oven to baste,*

*Why at all are we celebrating Christmas, what's  
with the busyness and haste.*

*Why would this child, born two thousand years  
ago, have in our lives a place?*

*Bethlehem so long ago different from the rest of  
us?*

*If the answer is no, and he is no different, then  
why has the world for centuries fussed?*

*If the answer is yes, he's God in the flesh, the  
Messiah that prophecies portend*

*By prophets in the millennia before his birth,  
that God a saviour would send.*

*Why the giving of gifts at Christmas? Let us  
pause for a moment to think;*

*But not at the New year, Lent or Passover, what  
possibly is the link?*

*Is it just another marketing ploy for shops to  
clear their year-end stock,*

*To mobilise the throngs of Christmas shoppers  
who patiently to their open doors flock?*

*It's to celebrate the gift from God of Jesus, the  
greatest gift of all*

*To redeem and restore our relationship with  
God, tarnished by mankind's fall.*

*I came that you can have a life and a life more  
abundantly,*

*Jesus did emphatically say.*

*But in order for him to do just that, our debt he*

*willingly came to pay,*

*A debt of sin which has estranged us from God,  
bringing us suffering and grief.*

*On our part, there's nothing to do for the debt is  
paid, except to accept and believe.*

*My shalom I leave with you, he said, this peace  
is not the absence of war!*

*It's completeness, health and joy that believers  
would nothing lack, of abundance and much  
more.*

*He came to bring good tidings and all the sick  
who sought him by grace were healed.*

*Not by merit, human effort or work of our  
hands, the law of stone was repealed.*

*Jesus gave sight to the blind, cleansed the lep-  
ers; He even raised the dead,*

*He forgave our sins that to our loving Father we  
can boldly come, whom we need no longer  
dread.*

*The punishment we deserve he took from us, the  
unmerited blessings he abundantly gave*

*As He took our sins upon the cross and as proof  
of his finished work, rose from the grave.*

*This child was born, God's Son is given, and for  
us our saviour was sent*

*It's time to remember God's precious gift, the  
reason Christmas was meant.*

*Blessed Christmas to one and all.*

*Used with permission—thank you, Jerome.*



**With Ko Jung Mi's help, the Proud Prayers  
turned their hands to origami.**

## News from the Parish Clerk(s)

Graeme Kitto made a brief mention in his letter to Parishioners on 4 November that Alison Ring-er is now Acting Parish Clerk. We offer our very sincere and heartfelt thanks to Graeme for the sterling job he did as Parish Clerk. Now it's time for him to relinquish some of his tasks.

A few months ago the question arose as to who would take over. There are big shoes to fill. Parish Council was unable to discern whom God wants as Parish Clerk. After much prayerful consideration Alison agreed to temporarily step into the role with the assistance of a small team.

Hence, for the rest of November, December and January the job of Parish Clerk will be done by a group. Rianna Rothman and Rell Sumner will assist Alison as Acting Parish Clerk. Elaine Riddell, Graeme Kitto and Alistair McBride have kindly offered to be available for consultation and advice. This arrangement will be reassessed at the end of January 2026.

The Parish Clerk Group asks for your continuing prayers to ensure the smooth running of St Andrew's parish.

### Envisioning Day – Saturday 14 February

Planning is now underway for St Andrews Envisioning Day to be held at Scots Church, Vardon Road, on Saturday 14 February. This is to be a day of planning our priorities for the next five years. The day will involve the Parish Council and the various committees. We emphasise that the day is open to all parishioners. We would welcome your presence. This forum will be your chance to share your ideas and desires for St Andrews. You are also invited to share your thoughts with Alison ahead of this day if you so wish.

Yours in Christ

Alison, (Acting Parish Clerk); 027 346 3691  
[ringeralison1@gmail.com](mailto:ringeralison1@gmail.com)

Rianna and Rell (Acting Assistant Parish Clerks).

## Max David Dawson



...was born on 16 December 1935 in Matamata. He grew up on the family farm at Te Poi. He and Margaret married in 1960 and together they raised four children.

And always, Max was there for the family. Steady. Patient. Never raising his voice. Always with a good sense of humour. If something went wrong, he just quietly fixed it and carried on.

In 1990, Max and Margaret moved into Matamata where they owned the *Forget Me Not* florist shop; and in 1995 they moved to Whitianga and bought a garden centre.

Max loved Whitianga—the community, the theatre group, and of course, the fishing. He appeared in local productions - *The Full Monty* is one well remembered. He also wrote a monthly column for the local Whitianga paper – which provided advice on gardening.

Margaret died in 2003. Max moved to the welcoming community at Alandale Village in 2012. He threw himself into the activities offered there: bowls, mahjong, singing in the choir, and many social activities and opportunities to play the piano.

Music was a lifelong passion. He could listen to a tune on the radio, sit at the piano, hum a few bars, and then play it by ear. His music brought joy at home, in the community, and even at Waikato Hospital, where he volunteered to play for patients and visitors. In Hamilton he discovered a love for singing at country music clubs which he did every weekend around the Waikato. His faith was central to Max. He served as an elder at the Matamata Presbyterian Church, often taking services as a lay minister. Later in life, he quietly expressed his faith in a surprising way - by getting a bright blue cross tattooed on his arm. Attending services here at St Andrews was a fixture for his Sunday mornings. Max was also a Lion for more than 45 years in Matamata, Whitianga, and Hamilton. Max, rest in peace as we continue to miss having you in our midst.

**Social & Ecumenical Action Committee**  
**Christian World Service (CWS)**  
**Christmas Appeal—"Give Water, Give Life"**

*But let justice roll on like a river.* Amos 5:24.  
"Over 1.4 million people in developing countries, mainly children, die each year from diseases caused by lack of safe water for drinking, hygiene, and/or sanitation". [World Health Organisation, 2024]. Many millions more are caught in poverty and injustice around the globe. "With the help of our dedicated partners, we are working to change that by providing rainwater tanks built alongside the dwellings of some of the world's poorest. It costs NZ\$600 to build one ferro-cement tank in Uganda. That tank will provide healthy water for a family for decades to come. The difference that makes in lifting families out of extreme poverty is immense." [Rev Dr Tim Pratt, National Director, CWS]. (The picture shows Ashaba, who subsists in Isingiro, Uganda.)

**Christian World Service (CWS)** is the **official international-aid agency of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand**. This is its 80<sup>th</sup> year of operation, working with overseas partner-organisations - who are the experts on the ground. CWS is NZ's longest-serving home-grown aid and development agency.

Our Parish also supports CWS as its overseas priority and has been a member of the "CWS Partner for Life" scheme since 2021.

Please pray and, if you are able, consider donating:

By posting an Appeal Envelope (available in both the church and in The Link).

By **credit card by freephone** 0800 74 73 72 during office hours only

or **Online** <https://cws.org.nz/donate-christmas-appeal/>

or by **Direct Deposit:**

Account: name: Christian World Service  
Account number: 06 0817 0318646 00,  
Ref: Christmas25, and your name.

Email your postal details to [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz) if you would like a charitable tax receipt.

*Thank you!*



Parish Council has agreed that, as in previous years, 50% of the Kiwi and Korean loose cash offerings taken up during the Christmas Day services will be donated from St Andrew's – as a parish - to the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal.



**GIFTS of LOVE**—Go shopping for Christmas with Christian World Service. Buy a life-changing gift that will bring joy, justice and hope. There are 17 options, ranging in price from \$40 to \$600. Whether you choose one or ten – every gift will be wanted and needed.

Your gift is a donation to the local CWS partner running programmes in their community. When you order a gift, Christian World Service will send you a quality card (not showing any indication of price) to pass on or you can choose the e-card option. Take a look at the website [www.gift.org.nz](http://www.gift.org.nz) for more information. Catalogues are inserted in printed copies of The Bridge, and extra copies are available in The Link and in Church.

You even get a receipt to claim a rebate from IRD for your charitable donation!



## ELECTIONS—Mayor & East General Ward and Māori Wards Poll

On 21 September, our election meeting hosted by the SEA Committee in The Link was attended by 150-160 members of the public - plus the 26 candidates who had accepted our invitation (out of 34 potential people) It was sad but, again this year, time-and-attentiveness constraints did not permit inclusion of candidates for Regional Council, Kirikiriroa Maaori Ward, or West General Ward.

After Kelly's welcome, 10 mayoral candidates spoke first for 3 minutes each, in randomised order, then the 16 purely East General Ward candidates for 2 minutes each, also randomised. Graeme Kitto was our indefatigable chairperson and Margaret Gault was chief refreshment organiser. Despite strict time-keeping the Q&A session did not quite have the full ½ hour that we intended, but it worked well that questioners could seek a response from a maximum of 2 candidates, not 3 as in previous years.

We had been intending to ask each candidate a quick-fire KEEP or REMOVE in relation to the binding central government-mandated Māori Wards Poll – in Hamilton's case, whether to keep the Kirikiriroa Maaori Ward with 2 Councilors, as established in 2021 after community engagement. However, an audience member beat us to it by breaking the Q&A rules and asking: "All candidates, stand up if you support keeping the Maaori Ward?" It was encouraging that all but one candidate stood up. She wasn't expecting that.

There were positive comments from candidates and the public about our organisation and conduct of the meeting, which was gratifying. Since 1990, we've done it as a public service. Tim Macindoe said it was the biggest meeting he had attended so far.



Photo: Peter Gault

The final Polling Day was 11 October, and final results (including special votes and reflecting the re-allocation of votes under the Single Transferrable Vote system used by HCC )were released on 18 October. See <https://hamilton.govt.nz/elections2025/results>.

The SEA Committee is pleased that Hamilton can retain its Kirikiriroa Maaori Ward under the central government requirement that a binding poll be undertaken at this election. The count was KEEP 19,190 (54.04%) and REMOVE 16,320 (45.96%). Hamilton's Kirikiriroa Maaori Ward has two seats "at large", elected only by those residents who are on the Māori Electoral Roll. Such voters, through not being on the General Electoral Roll, cannot vote for any of the 12 General Ward seats. Hardly an unfair advantage for any Māori voters. The result cannot be relitigated until after 2031 HCC elections as the issue is settled "for the next two triennial elections" under the *Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024*.

Note: There is no progress to report on either the *Regulatory Standards Bill* or the *Gene Technology Bill*.

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### New art by Vicki Jones—Gilbert Gallery

Vicki Jones is a Waikato artist who discovered printmaking after attending a 2022 harakeke papermaking workshop with Whanganui printmaker Marty Vreede. Marty shared the diverse world of printmaking and Vicki has enjoyed exploring that diversity ever since, particularly through the excellent tutoring offered by the Waikato Society of Arts.



Her printmaking also draws on her previous work in watercolour, coloured pencil and botanical art. Vicki mostly works within the Intaglio family of printmaking techniques, especially

etching with its ability to show fine detail and line work. Nature forms the basis of much of her work, but she also appreciates the role of printmaking in addressing social issues. Vicki is a member of Waikato Society of Arts, the Botanical Art Society of New Zealand and Hamilton representative on the Print Council of Aotearoa New Zealand.

All prints are available for purchase. Please make enquiries directly to Vicki; all details are on the wall in the Gilbert Gallery. (Some unframed prints may also be available; enquiries welcome.)

### Bruce Alexander Potter

...was born in Morrinsville on 28 April 1933 to teachers Clara and Norman, one of whom was sometimes his teacher. Bruce was a boarder at Mt Albert Grammar School. He did his compulsory military service before deciding to train as a pharmacist. His apprenticeship was served at a Balmoral pharmacy before he moved to Hamilton to work in Andy Walker's pharmacy in Victoria Street. This is where Bruce met Colleen. He told her the medicine she was purchasing would cost either 2/6 or a date. Colleen paid cash! But Bruce's colleagues gave him Colleen's phone number—which turned out to be the Hamilton Police Station!

Bruce and Colleen married in 1958 and were the parents of four sons, grandparents of four boys and great-grand-parents of two more boys. Oh, there is one grand-daughter.

Bruce worked hard in his Bader Street pharmacy to serve the Melville community. For a time, he had a share in a race horse but would not go himself to the TAB to place any bets in case any of his customers or, worse still, St Stephen's parishioners saw him there.

Bruce's faith was very important to him, being an active member of St Stephen's, a manager, treasurer and an elder. As long as he was physically able, Bruce helped with gardening and maintenance there.



Bruce had a great sense of humour. So he was happy to dress as a bridesmaid in a skit performed for the minister who was about to be married. He was also an enthusiastic participant in whatever was happening.

Bruce and Colleen got the travel bug in the 1970s—no cure in this pharmacist's repertoire except to go. Their trips took them around the Pacific, to North America, to the UK and western Europe.

Bruce, rest in peace as we continue to remember you through Colleen's regular attendance at our services in the company of so many others of your former St Stephen's friends.



**P e t a n q u e**



Closest—yes; second—yes; BUT whose boule is third closest—that's the question!



... is on the move!

This ecumenical venture (founding parishes being St Andrew's, Scots Presbyterian, and Chartwell Co-operating Parish) will be formally launched on the weekend of **February 20-22, 2026**.

St Andrew's will be Faithworks' physical home base. Faithworks has both adult and youth wings that will offer interactive learning opportunities designed to take 'deep dives' that connect faith to our lived experience. These offerings will be flexible: periodic Saturday or weekend workshops, evening or morning short courses, perhaps an occasional retreat or summer day camp.

Our launch weekend will feature a **youth orientation** kick-off on **Friday evening (Feb. 20)**; a 9:00-3:00 **Saturday workshop (Feb. 21)**, featuring separate but thematically overlapping workshops for both adults ("Public Worship as Living Worship") and youth ("Expressing Faith through the Arts"); and the **formal launch and worship service** at 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday (Feb. 22)**, created and led by the adult and youth workshop participants.

Chartwell and St Andrew's youth have already had their first joint get-together on November 21. We've been asked if we can offer a children's programme on the Saturday of launch weekend so that parents can attend, and we'd love to have volunteers to help with that.

Fees for all learning events will be kept to a minimum, and donations would be deeply appreciated. We welcome your support, talents, and volunteer help.

St Andrew's representatives on the leadership team are Alison Ringer and Daniel Foo. **Join us!**



*Rev Dr Lydia Johnson*

## *Announcing A*

**Sunday 30 November  
at 7.00 pm  
– an hour of enjoyable  
organ and choral music**

Any koha will go towards the remaining refurbishment costs of the Croft pipe organ.

Donations towards this additional work on the pipe organ, or towards the Church Restoration Fund in general, can also be made online to St Andrew's Church bank account: **02-0316-0046144-000**. Please include either your **name** or your **envelope number** in the **Particulars** field and the **cause** (e.g., 'Organ' or 'Ch Restoration') in the **Reference** field. Any assistance is always appreciated, thank you.

*Fraser Annals* Treasurer



On 9 November 2025, three new members were inducted to Parish Council. During the service, Ruth Eliatamby and Rell Sumner were first ordained by Rev Kelly Gilson as elders. Then, with Marilyn Orchard, they were inducted to Parish Council in the presence of all the other current Councillors. The Very Rev Lawrie Hampton was delighted with Ruth's ordination having been her family's minister at St Andrew's, Whangarei when they arrived from Sri Lanka as Refugees.

## Thank you, Lance Kendrick



Nine years after joining St Andrew's in 1980, Lance was ordained and inducted as an elder and served continuously until November 2024 including most recently as Assistant Parish Clerk.

Lance's heart for social justice made him the ideal convenor of the Social and Ecumenical Action [SEA] Committee (1990-2025). His leadership ensured SEA's actions were rooted in the Gospel imperative of fairness and caring for others. Fulfilling the SEA's Terms of Reference under Lance's leadership ensured St Andrew's supported Presbyterian Support Northern, Christian World Service, hospital and tertiary education chaplaincies and Fair Trade— and is now part of the Eco Church family. Studies, activities and speakers focusing on the environment, social justice and the neighbourhood involved St Andrew's parishioners. On the political front, SEA hosted Meet the Candidates sessions for both Local Body and central government elections as well as making well-researched submissions on proposed legislation.

Lance attended seven General Assemblies between 1996-2006 as Commissioner for St Andrew's or other parishes. From 2002-2009 he convened the Social Concerns Committee of the Waikato Presbytery which he also represented on the PCANZ Nominating Committee for the 2002 General Assembly.

As a librarian, Lance established St Andrew's church library which he continues to help keep functioning. From 2007-2010 he was heavily involved in the redevelopment of the old church centre into The Link. His attention to detail earned the respect of the architect and builder. The initial work on the development of the café began in 2012—no prize for guessing who was deeply involved in the fundraising, design, construction and finding the first operator of The Kirk Café which opened in 2017.

As Associate Parish Clerk 2019-2024, Lance actively supported all the ministers and Parish

Clerks with wise counsel and by drawing on his encyclopaedic knowledge of the historical and recent past of St Andrew's. This knowledge and his passion for the heritage of the church building were put to good use in the negotiations with a variety of parties in the restoration and strengthening of the building.

Always looking ahead, Lance was instrumental in the formulation of the 2021-2026 Mission Plan for St Andrew's. This provided Parish Council and its committees with a focus for their annual action plans to ensure St Andrew's kept working towards its vision [a bridge to the city where love and friendship meet] and mission [to worship and work with God in the world].

Lance rarely missed worship services, occasionally helping to lead them, and faithfully provided pastoral care to those parishioners who were on his "visiting list".

For all parishioners, Parish Council thanks Lance for all he has contributed during his 45 years (and counting) as a member of St Andrew's, thanking God for the talents, energy and dedication to his mission with which Lance was imbued.

**Thank you, Lance Kendrick!**



Our **World Refugee Sunday** service on 24 August included powerful testimonies of their refugee and subsequent settlement experience by Paul Kambuka, Damas Buhendwa and Leeya Namuwaya. Our gift of grocery vouchers and cash was very gratefully received.

## St. Andrew's 2025 Spring Study

Lydia Johnson led this five-week study in August, attended by 12 St Andrew's and two Scots members. It was based on her book *"Drinking from the Same Well – Cross-Cultural Concerns in Pastoral Care and Counselling"*, published in 2022, and her study guide *"Cultural Sensitivity in Christian Life"* published this year. During her teaching tenure at Otago University, Lydia taught a course called "Pastoral Care Across Cultures". We were extremely fortunate to benefit from Lydia's warm, gentle interpersonal style, which fostered a safe group where conversation was balanced and constructive.

We explored cross-cultural perspectives from many different ethnicities as experienced in educational, seminary and parish settings. We looked at several case studies and discussed our own responses to these situations.

A theme woven through the sessions was the tension between commonality and difference which exists in every relationship between two people and is especially relevant in cross-cultural relationships. As Clyde Kluckhohn said: "Every human is like all other humans, some other humans, and no other human." Holding these three truths in mind simultaneously takes great finesse! As Christians we are instructed to love one another and love is often at the core of our endeavours to relate to people who are from a culture other than our own. However, good intentions need to be supported by education about *how* to relate sensitively to others.

I had been aware of the need for empathy when relating to people from other cultures, having worked in hospital and workplace chaplaincies over many years. This study, however, gave me a much greater appreciation of the very deep differences in how each ethnicity interacts, makes decisions and works with others. We are so accustomed to our own culture that we aren't usually even aware of it, just taking it for granted as the "norm". This can result in persons feeling alienated and even traumatised in some of our institutions.

Becoming culturally sensitive demands that we be non-judgmental, curious, and profoundly respectful of others. We need to be generous in our interpretations and willing to be awkward, stepping outside our own comfort zone. Sometimes we will get it wrong with each other, and this can be very painful. At other times, we manage to bridge the gap between cultures and create a beautiful, harmonious connection. As Psalm 133 says: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) dwell in unity!"

Lydia and Kelly have both spent many years living and working in countries with divergent ethnicities and have developed a great sensitivity to how easy it is for people of Western cultures to expect others to just adapt to our western world view, when their ways of thinking, learning and working are integral to how they organise their lives.

In the final study session, each person brought along a treasured item that expressed for them some aspect of culture - either one's own culture or a culture quite apart. This was an opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity that exists in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world. We learned from each other about meaningful interactions we have had with people from other cultures. The hope is that each of the attendees of this Spring Study Series will now be better equipped to relate with sensitivity to people from many different cultural backgrounds. Surely God is impartial and loves all and we must try to do the same. Cross-cultural relationships held with sensitivity have the potential to be a blessing to us, to others and to the world at large.

During the study, we also looked at the topic from a Christian and theological perspective. For any person teaching, lecturing, counselling, ministering to or caregiving others who are from cultures different from their own, the chance to participate in such a study would be well worthwhile.

**Lenva Calcott Rumney & Ruth Harlow**

**Shine**  
Making Homes Violence Free

We're here to help you, **24 hours a day, everyday.**  
It's free to call or chat online with our Help Team:

**Call 0508 744 633**  
**Or chat online at [www.2shine.org.nz](http://www.2shine.org.nz)**

***Making homes violence free***

**Shine's Help Team** (free on **0508 744 633** or online chat at **[www.2shine.org.nz](http://www.2shine.org.nz)**) can provide emotional support, information about the law and how different government agencies work, and referrals to other services and people who may be able to help with your particular needs.

This may include local specialist services that can help you with your safety and wellbeing needs (and the needs of your children).

**But I don't know what it is...**

Do you have 8 minutes? You've got to watch this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbz2boNSeL0>



**2 November All Souls' Day**



**White Ribbon Sunday 16 Nov**



**Trees representing Kiwi and Korean together for 30 years**





**14 September – Combined Spring Flower Festival  
and 30 years tree planting**

**26 October – White Sunday (Children's) Day**



## SUMMER CALENDAR -

Every Sunday, worship services (unless indicated differently) are at  
 9.30 am English language—with children's programme—except during holidays  
 11.30 am Korean language—with children's programme; and  
 11.30 am Multicultural Youth in Media Room in The Link—but not in January

Every Monday during term time—[Mini Movers](#) from 9.30-11.00 am—pre-schoolers, parents and grandparents meet for music, play and socialising.

Every Tuesday—[indoor bowls](#) at 10.00 am with a break over Christmas/New Year

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of month—[Craft Group](#) at 9.30 am—except January

Third Tuesday of month—[Women's Group](#)—time varies—except January

Every Thursday—[Prayer group](#) at 9.30 am—with a break over Christmas/New Year

First Friday of month—[Proud Pray-ers Programme](#) at 5.00 pm for children—except January

Fourth Friday of the month—[Youth Group](#) at 6.00 pm—except December-January

Third Saturday of the month—[Families' Gathering](#) at 3.00 pm—except December

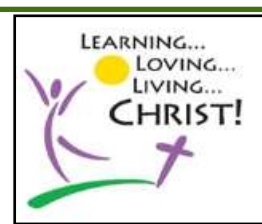
Men's Gatherings now vary by day, time and activity. For information: 027 275 6590 or

[rothmanz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rothmanz@xtra.co.nz)

November	30	<b>ADVENT / St Andrew's Day</b> Usual service times <b>Communion</b> at both <b>9.30 am</b> and <b>11.30 am</b> services <b>7.00 pm</b> Organ and Choral Recital
December	7	<b>COMBINED Christmas Pageant</b> at <b>10.30 am</b> and Lunch
	14	Usual service times
	19	<b>5.00 pm</b> Carol Singalong in The Link—congregation and community
	21	Usual service times—Readings & Carols at 9.30 am
	24	<b>8.30 pm Christmas Eve</b> Service
	25	<b>9.30 am (English)</b> and <b>11.30 am (Korean)</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Services
	28	Usual service times
	31	<b>11.30 pm</b> Zoom Korean Service to welcome 2026
January	1	New Year's Day
	4	Usual service times
	11	Usual service times
	18	Usual service times
	25	Usual service times
	26	Anniversary Day
February	1	<b>9.30 am Communion &amp; 11.30 am 31st Anniversary Service</b>
	6	Waitangi Day
	8	Usual service times
	15	Usual service times— <b>Contributions for The Bridge due</b>
	22	Usual service times; <b>3.00 pm</b> Faithworks service



Getting going on  
**20-22 February—**  
 details on page 11.



For **additional information** about any event, please

- ⇒ See notices in the weekly service bulletins
- ⇒ Call the office on 854 9737
- ⇒ Visit [www.standrewshamilton.org.nz](http://www.standrewshamilton.org.nz)
- ⇒ <http://tiny.cc/FBStAndrewsHnNZ>



The editors, Graeme Kitto & Lalita Hari, collate parishioners' contributions for The Bridge.

Neither they nor the Parish Council is responsible for the content.