

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



 **World Day
of Prayer**
Friday 6 March 2026
"I Will Give You Rest: Come"
Service prepared by the
women of Nigeria
9.30 am Morning tea
10.00 am Worship
St Andrew's Church

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2026

Romans 4 : 25

God gave Jesus to die for our sins, and he raised him to life, so that we would be made acceptable to God.

Roma 4 : 25

I tukua nei mō ō tātou hē, i whakaarahia mō tātou kia whakatikaia.

로마서 4:2

예수는 우리가 범죄한 것 때문에 내죽이 되고 또한 우리를 의롭다 하시기 위하여 살아나셨느니라

罗马书4章25节

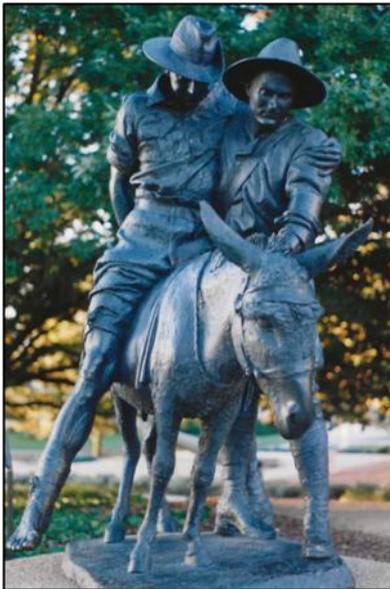
耶稣被交给别人，是为我们的过犯；复活，是为叫我们称义。

Romeine 4:25

Hy is vanweë ons oortredings oorgelewer en Hy is opgewek sodat ons vrygespreek kan word.

4:25 روميون

وہ ہمارے گناہوں کے لئے حوالہ کر دیا گیا اور ہم کو راستباز ٹھہرانے کے لئے جلايا گیا۔



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Life-long Learning



The Presbyterian Church is known worldwide for its focus on Christian education. Central to our identity as Presbyterians is a belief that a healthy spiritual life involves stimulating our minds as well as feeding our hearts. Presbyterians throughout the world have produced insightful and challenging Bible studies, Sunday school curricula (for all ages), books, and programmes designed to expand our intellects while deepening our spiritual lives. Here at St Andrew's, we value lifelong learning, and our Christian education committee is continually seeking to nurture the faith of each church member through innovative, formational learning experiences.

Many people think only of "Sunday School" when they hear the words "Christian education." The faith formation of our youngest members is indeed of high importance. Our Sunday School teachers use interactive materials to deepen the biblical knowledge and personal faith of our young people. Through hands on activities, they begin to develop the habits of faith, while remaining free to be children: to ask questions, to play, and to laugh.

Our youth have begun to meet regularly for games and Bible study. Later this year, I (Kelly) hope to offer a confirmation training programme for our teens. This will enable them to dive more deeply into their spiritual lives, exploring their faith in a safe environment. The programme will culminate in a Celebration Sunday, on which they will be confirmed as full members of our church.

Christian education does not stop once one reaches adulthood. As a priesthood of all believers, we are each called to deepen our knowledge of the Bible and of Christian theology, exploring themes which interest us and exposing ourselves to subjects which may

push us out of our comfort zones. This is all part of our faith journeys. At St Andrew's, some of us have met for studies twice a year: during Spring and during Lent. We have reflected on scripture and church tradition in light of such diverse topics as climate change, incarnational ministry, cross cultural communication, and wellness. This Lent, an opportunity will be offered to adult members to engage in another such study. We will reflect on how ordinary objects can enhance our understanding of Christ's passion, and ground us on our journeys with Christ toward the cross.

Other opportunities for ongoing learning include: participation in Faithworks seminars at a later stage in the year; training for elders (planned to be offered in 2027); and attendance at services and other events where we host guest speakers, with expertise on various topics.

"Education" does not stop when we finish school - especially for Presbyterians! It also doesn't have to be tedious. I believe that God delights in our intellectual curiosity. God loves our questions and our desire to learn more. We are not all interested in the same things, and that is ok. When something *does* pique your interest, I encourage you to run with it! Read, watch, or listen to all that you can find on your topic of interest. And bring your passion and your questions to church! Talk to me about the possibility of a study or special presentation on your area of interest. Remember that God created our minds, as well as our hearts - and rejoice that we belong to a tradition which celebrates this.

Rev Kelly Gilson



Learning Knows No Bounds

결실의 계절, 하나님의 승리

결실의 계절 가을이 다가옵니다. 올해 여름은 비와 바람이 잦아 아쉬움이 남지만, 어떤 날씨도 결국 계절의 흐름을 막지는 못합니다. 하나님이 정하신 때가 되면 열매는 맺히기 마련입니다.

약 3,500년 전 애굽에서도 비슷한 일이 있었습니다. 바로 왕은 강박한 마음으로 이스라엘의 출애굽을 여러 차례 막았고, 하나님의 재앙 앞에서도 번복을 반복했습니다. 그러나 마지막 재앙 후 그는 결국 무너졌고, 하나님의 백성은 약속의 길을 향해 나아갔습니다. 인간 권세는 하나님의 뜻을 이길 수 없었습니다.

2천 년 전 예수님은 십자가를 향해 나아가셨습니다. 세상은 그 죽음으로 하나님의 구원을 막았다고 생각했지만, 하나님은 그 죽음을 부활이라는 열매로 바꾸셨습니다. 십자가는 패배가 아니라 가장 놀라운 승리였습니다. 그 부활의 열매 속에 오늘 우리의 삶과 교회도 포함되어 있습니다.

아무리 세상과 사탄의 방해가 있어도 하나님의 구원과 예수 그리스도의 승리는 막을 수 없습니다. 가을의 결실처럼 하나님은 반드시 당신의 뜻을 이루시고 우리 삶에도 은혜의 열매를 맺게 하십니다. 그러니 이 가을에 승리의 근원이신 하나님을 신뢰하고 하나님과 겸손히 동행하십시오. 하나님께서 이기게 하시는 열매를 은혜로 주실 것입니다.

“우리 주 예수 그리스도로 말미암아 우리에게 승리를 주시는 하나님께 감사하노니.”(고린도전서 15:57)

함태주 목사

The Season of Harvest and God's Victory

The season of harvest, autumn, is drawing near. This past summer brought frequent rain and strong winds, leaving a sense of disappointment. Yet no weather can ultimately stop the turning of the seasons. When God's appointed time comes, fruit will surely appear.



About 3,500 years ago in Egypt, something similar took place. Pharaoh repeatedly resisted Israel's exodus with a hardened heart, even in the face of God's plagues. But after the final plague, he finally collapsed, and God's people began their journey toward the promised land. Human power could not overcome the will of God.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus moved steadily toward the cross. The world thought His death would put an end to God's saving plan. Yet God turned that death into the fruit of resurrection. The cross was not defeat but the greatest victory. And in the fruit of that resurrection are included our lives today and our church.

No opposition from the world or from Satan can stop God's salvation or the victory of Jesus Christ. Like the harvest of autumn, God will surely accomplish His purposes and bring forth the fruit of grace in our lives. Therefore, this autumn, trust the God who is the source of victory and walk humbly with Him. God will graciously grant the fruit of victory to those who rely on Him.

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”(1 Corinthians 15:57)

Rev Tae Ju Ham

YOUR GARDEN FOR DAILY LIVING

Plant 3 rows of **Peas**

- ◆ Peace of mind
- ◆ Peace of heart
- ◆ Peace of soul

Plant 4 rows of **Squash**

- ◆ Squash gossip
- ◆ Squash indifference
- ◆ Squash grumbling
- ◆ Squash selfishness

Plant 4 rows of **Lettuce**

- ◆ Lettuce be faithful
- ◆ Lettuce be kind
- ◆ Lettuce be patient
- ◆ Lettuce really love one another

No garden without **Turnips**

- ◆ Turnip for meetings
- ◆ Turnip for service
- ◆ Turnip to help one another

To conclude, your garden must have **Thyme**

- ◆ Thyme for each other
- ◆ Thyme for family
- ◆ Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is so much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.



Looking for something to read?

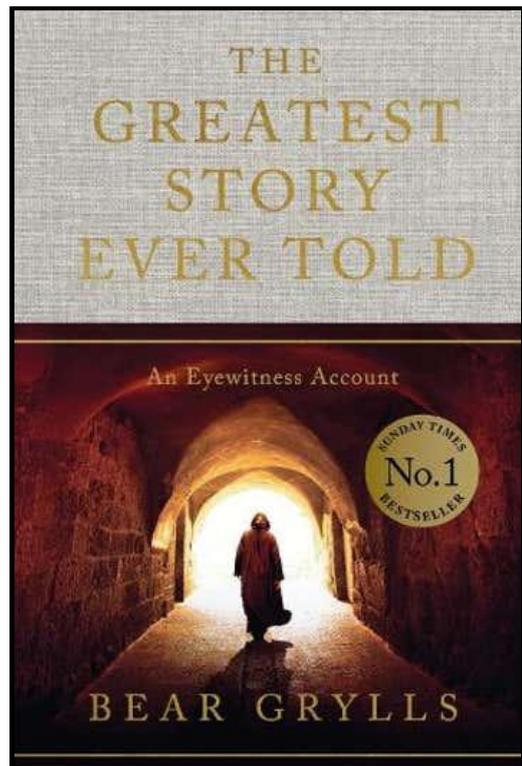
How is this for the first page of a book?!

This is the true story about a man from Galilee who lived some two thousand years ago. It is told through the eyes of the people who knew him best: a mother, a sceptic, a fisherman, a friend and a woman from Magdala.

Most died for their conviction that these events occurred in all their fullness.

Many consider what you're about to read:

The Greatest Story Ever Told ...



May the light and love of the Almighty fill your life with truth, peace and strength. Nothing can ever steal Christ's presence from you.



Indoor bowlers on 10 February 2026 and at least four regulars weren't there!!

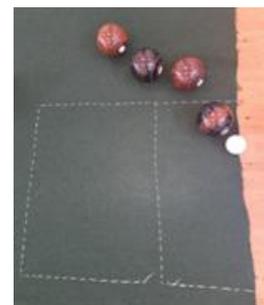


Photo by Ham Tae Ju

Announcing Advent : 30 November 2025



Christmas Pageant : 7 December 2025



**Waitangi Day Picnic
Photos Bruce Thompson**



Financial Update for 6 Months to 31 December 2025

As we are now just over halfway through the financial year, it is timely to provide an update on how things are tracking financially at St Andrew's Church.

Revenue

132,802	Untagged Donations, etc
13,770	Donations Tagged for Operating Expenses
4,677	Donations Tagged for Capital Expenditure
6,085	Grants Tagged for Expenses incurred by 31/12/25
50,425	Grants Tagged for Future Periods
87,972	The Link – Bookings and Grants
14,155	Other Revenue (e.g. café lease, interest received)
309,886	Total Gross Income

Less Expenditure

195,965	Stipends, Salaries and Manse Rents
14,201	PCANZ and Presbytery Levies
2,631	Outreach
40,803	Regular Monthly Operating Expenses
63,867	Other Operating Expenses
4,361	Capital Expenditure
321,828	Total Expenditure

(11,942) Net Combined Deficit

Add Back Adjustment for Non-Operating & Prepaid Items

(4,677)	Donations Tagged for Capital Expenditure
(50,425)	Grants Tagged for Future Periods
4,361	Capital Expenditure
14,799	Net Transfers from Dedicated Cash Funds
(47,884)	Net Operating Deficit



These figures show there was a net **operating** deficit of \$47,884 for the first six months of the financial year once adjustments had been made to recognise that some of the income earned must be carried forward to be offset against expenses incurred after 31 December 2025. Although some of this deficit was forecast in the 2025/2026 financial budget, gross revenue earned from The Link (from bookings, share of café lease and grants) was about \$14,000 less than was forecast. While operating expenses have been constrained, and were about \$3,000 less than forecast, it does seem unlikely that The Link will be able to recoup the income foregone over the remaining six months.

Therefore, unless revenue picks up significantly over the remaining six months of the financial year, it does seem likely that a special appeal will be required again this autumn.

Fraser Annals Treasurer



Social & Ecumenical Action Committee



White Ribbon Sunday—16 November



Photos: David Roberts

A Dunedin Pilgrimage.

Since 2008 I have tried to do a biennial pilgrimage to Dunedin each second Waitangi weekend. It is not just because I have lived there twice, or once had a girlfriend there for a wee time, but because it is the home of the New Zealand Masters Games (shared with Whanganui in the alternate years). My sport is that of Fencing. There are three weapons, foil, épée and sabre. Some specialise in just one, others like myself try our hand at all three.

The Masters is an umbrella organisation in which each sport organises their own event, and they provide overall coordination, along with medical services, medals, evening entertainment and merchandise. It runs over 10 days, though fencing is only on for the last two. More than 3,500 people registered for over 60 sports categories. There were about 20 fencers there this year.

I keep going back because there is something special about the Southern Games. As a younger friend who has been going since 1992 said, he “reckons that Dunedin’s warm reception and unique southern vibe keep him coming back every time. In fact, if the southern vibe could be bottled, he’d buy a case!” (For the record I came 12th in foil, 1st in sabre, and 8th overall in epee, but got a silver in the over 70s category.)

Alistair McBride

(Photos supplied)



The real Jesus

Listener December 28 2024

ILLUSTRIOUS WHAKAPAPA

IN A CHAPTER OF *THE NEXT QUEST for the Historical Jesus* entitled *Whakapapa and Genealogy*, Wayne Te Kaawa, lecturer in theology at the University of Otago, focuses on the two genealogies of Jesus given in the gospels of Matthew and Luke and shows how the concept of whakapapa helps us understand the historical Jesus.

“First of all, whakapapa locates you in a specific place, specific time, specific geography, specific ancestors,” says Te Kaawa (Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Awa, Tūhoe). “The genealogy of Jesus is doing exactly the same thing.” Moreover, whakapapa and the genealogies both have larger narratives embedded in the names they contain.

In most genealogies, only men are named but in the genealogy given in Matthew, among Jesus’s ancestors there are Canaanite women. “So they’re trying to highlight something here. Jesus was challenged left, right and centre, but his genealogy was never, ever challenged.”

Te Kaawa expands on this. “First, the inclusion of the encounter between a [Canaanite] woman and Jesus cannot be ignored (Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30). Second, at some stage Jesus must address his own identity as a descendant of Canaanite people [traditional enemies of the Jews]. Third, Jesus must realign his ... mission to include the Canaanite people. Fourth and most critically, as an advocate of justice and reconciliation, Jesus must address the suffering and oppression of Canaanite people.”

This has led him to see the story of the Canaanite woman Jesus meets as about the “suggestion that Jesus was racist and was unaware of his history and she brought him back to that history. He had his mission to the people of Israel, but she won her place at the table, and at the end of the day, challenged Jesus to extend his mission to include others.”



Faithworks is hosting an informational lunch for Hamilton-area clergy and parish leaders on Wednesday, **March 18**, from noon - 1:30. Parishes should receive a formal invitation shortly. This will give us an opportunity to 'spread the word' about Faithworks and generate ecumenical awareness and support. Our first learning event is now set for Saturday, **May 9** - a workshop on "Being an Eco-Church," facilitated by Millie Vette, Regional Eco Church Coordinator, A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand. A second workshop on "Living Worship: The 3 'Movements' of Worship," will be held on Saturday, **July 4**, facilitated by Ngaire Southon, leader of many lay worship initiatives for the Methodist Church in New Zealand. We hope to see a number of interested St Andrews members at the lunch on March 18.

Envisioning Day – Saturday 14 February

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton

Mission Plan 2021-2026

Fifth edition, 24 September 2024



St Andrew's current 5-year Mission Plan ends on 30 June 2026. Parish Council has begun the process of preparing a subsequent 5-year Plan for parishioners to consider, refine as necessary, and adopt.

Guided by the Rev Eric Oosterbroek of Nawton Community Presbyterian Church, 23 persons accepted the invitation to meet at Scots Presbyterian Church to be involved in the early stages of this process.



Eric used the **Appreciative Inquiry** model to start us on a practical pathway through what is never a totally straightforward process.

There are 5 stages in this model:

DEFINITION was about finding St Andrew's strengths and assets, and weaving these in with particular relationships that support community-led action.

DISCOVERY was about having lots of conversations to tap into community wisdom about past successes and to begin discussions about dreams.

DREAM was about imagining new possibilities and aspirations for the future. Participants were asked to imagine they had just awoken from a 5-year sleep—what did they observe?



All of the input to these three stages was shared and recorded to assist Parish Council in the **DESIGN** stage—the draft Mission Plan that reflects this (and further) thinking, key themes from that feedback about St Andrew's past strengths, current energy, challenges and future hopes and dreams. The background to this is an acknowledgement that we must remain open to God's leading through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, the **DELIVERY** stage—the plan adopted with the support of parishioners with a shared understanding of the overall picture of the vision, the future pathways and actions to be taken together under the leadership of those best suited to this role in particular situations.

What could this exchange have been about?



Please share your suggestions.

(Photos by Rell Sumner)

ENVISIONING

E te Atua, kia tata mai koe ki a mātou.

O God, come close to us.

E te Wairua Tapu, kia piri mai koe ki a mātou.

Holy Spirit, stay close to us.

Homai ki a mātou tō māramatanga.

Give us your enlightenment/insight.

Taiapatia ō mātou ngākau ki ngā mea e whai hōnore ai tō ingoa.

Keep within our hearts those things which honour your name.

Jonathan Swift said:

Vision is the art of seeing the invisible.

Catherine Booth said:

If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present.

Lewis Carroll said:

Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that.

Someone said:

Don't kill ideas just because "we've tried that before and it didn't work".

[Of course, because now is different from then.]

And:

May we grow back not to what was, but instead toward what we can become.

And:

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be, nor is there any future in it.

LP Hartley wrote:

"The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there."

Henry Ford said:

Vision without execution is just hallucination.

On Einstein's wall?

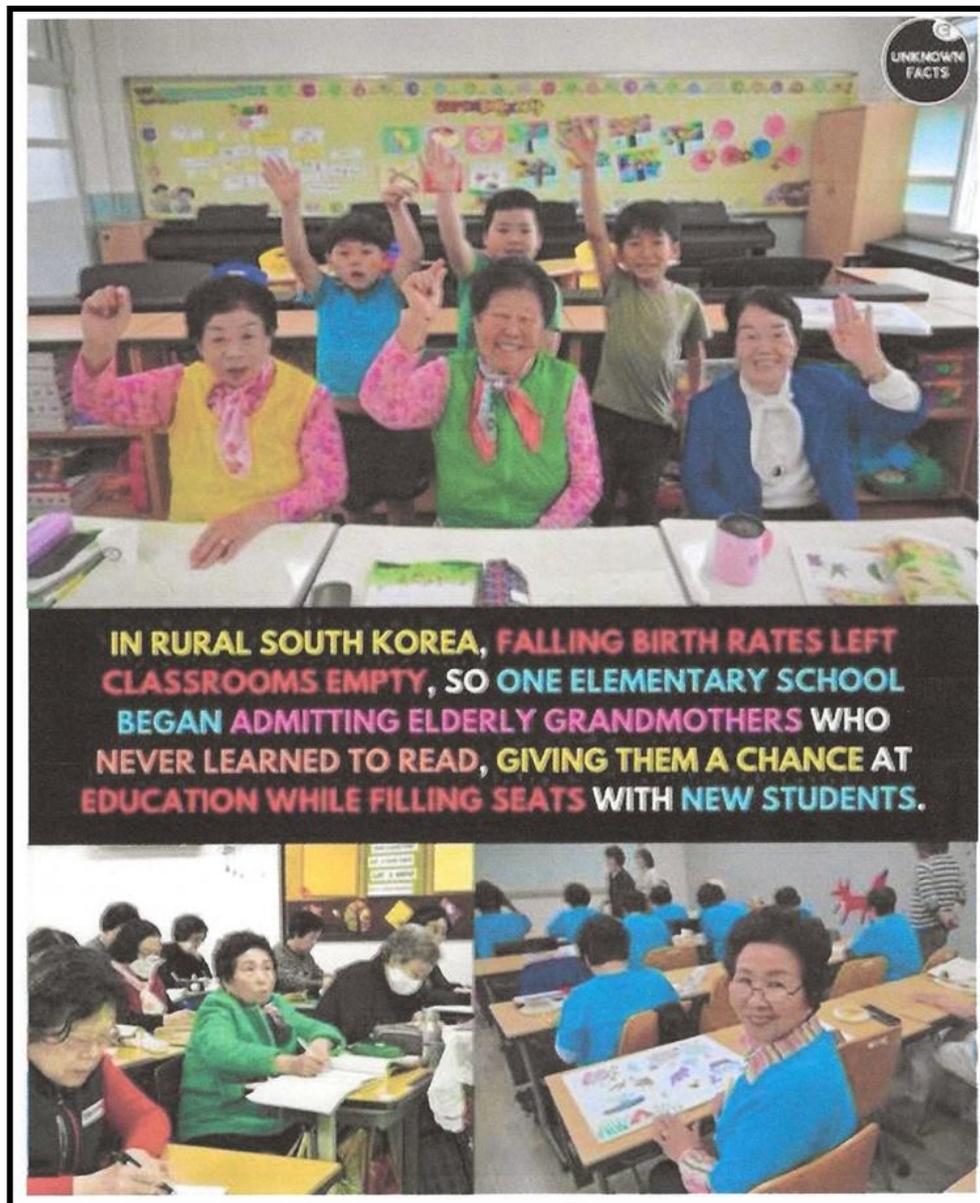
Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts.



Princess Te Puela Heerangi

One of St Andrew's members wrote:

We need to truly value the safeness we have in the Presbyterian cloak. What we have is working well and we need to look at doing what will allow it work well in the future. I do not believe there is anything that needs to change, but at the same time nothing needs to be treated like it cannot change. Any change, however, must be to ensure that it will be there and relevant for as long as possible. The physical location of the buildings should be valued but never worshipped. I see the building as sacred but not holy. We need to cherish who we are and avoid trying to be whom we are not in order to attract newcomers.



So sensible!

The population of Korea has been declining for five years and is expected to continue to do so.

So...a rural school, facing a steep drop in student enrolments found a creative solution by welcoming elderly grand-mothers who had always dreamed of learning to read but never had the chance. This special initiative has not only revived the school's atmosphere but also changed the lives of these women in meaningful ways.

One remarkable example is 70-year old Hwang Wol-geum who now takes the school bus daily -not to drop off grandkids, but as a proud first grade student herself. In her youth, Ms Hwang had to skip school to help with household chores and always wished to read and write. Today, she joins seven other women aged 56 to 80 in learning the Korean alphabet (Hangul), practising writing and enjoying activities like group dancing during school breaks.

Daegu Elementary School, which once had just 22 students, embraced this programme to keep classrooms active and support the educational dreams of senior citizens. This touching project not only ensures the school remains open but also empowers elderly women by teaching them literacy, building their confidence, and offering a renewed sense of identity and purpose in their senior years.

Jerusalem

OBITUARIES

33 AD



Calvary

Jesus Christ, 33, of Nazareth, died Friday on Mount Calvary, also known as Golgotha, the place of the skull. Betrayed by the apostle Judas, Jesus was crucified by the Romans, by order of the Ruler Pontius Pilate. The causes of death were crucifixion, extreme exhaustion, severe torture, and loss of blood.



Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, was a member of the house of David. He was the Son of the late Joseph, a carpenter of Nazareth, and Mary, His devoted Mother. Jesus was born in a stable in the city of Bethlehem, Judea. He is survived by His mother Mary, His faithful Apostles, numerous disciples, and many other followers.

Continued

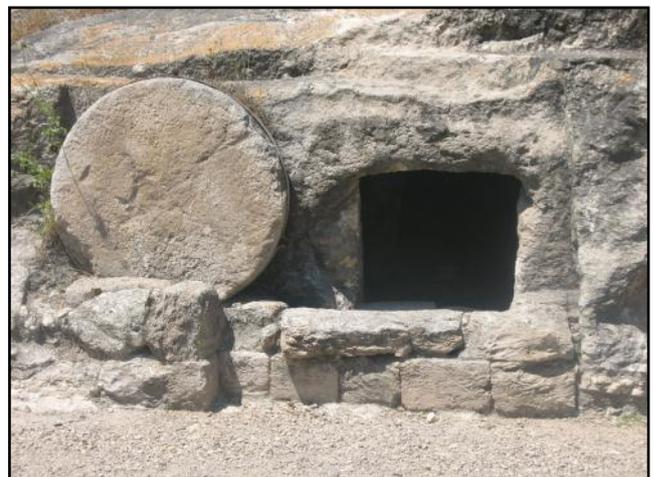


Jesus was self educated and spent most of his adult life working as a Teacher. Jesus also occasionally worked as a Medical Doctor and it is reported that he healed many patients. Up until the time of His death, Jesus was teaching and sharing the Good News, healing the sick, touching the lonely, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor.

Jesus was most noted for telling parables about His Father's Kingdom and performing miracles, such as feeding over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, and healing a man who was born blind. On the day before His death, He held a Last Supper celebrating the Passover Feast, at which He foretold His death.

The body was quickly buried in a stone grave, which was donated by Joseph of Arimathea, a loyal friend of the family. By order of Pontius Pilate, a boulder was rolled in front of the tomb. Roman soldiers were put on guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that everyone try to live as Jesus did. Donations may be sent to anyone in need.





Presentation to Children : 14 December 2025



Autumn 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

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

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

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

Every Thursday—[Prayer group](#) at 11.30 am

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

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

Third Saturday of the month—[Families' Gathering](#) at 4.00 pm

Men's Gatherings now vary by day, time and activity. For information phone the office

March

- 1 Usual service times—**9.30 Communion**—Children's Day
- 6 World Day of Prayer—9.30 am for 10.00 am service
- 8 Usual service times
- 15 Usual service times— 9.30 Disability Service
- 22 Usual service times
- 29 **Combined Palm Sunday service at 10.30 am followed by a pot-luck lunch**

April

- 2 **Maundy Thursday** service at 7.00 pm
- 3 **Good Friday** Service —9.30 am
- 5 **EASTER DAY—7.30 am Communion** by University lake
Usual service times—**9.30 am communion**
- 6 Easter Monday holiday
- 12 Usual service times
- 19 Usual service times
- 25 ANZAC DAY
- 26 Usual service times + 2.00 pm Service of healing & support
- 27 ANZAC Day holiday

May

- 3 Usual service times—**9.30 am Communion**
- 10 Usual service times—Mother's Day
- 17 Usual service times—Ascension **Contributions for The Bridge due**
- 24 Usual service times—Pentecost
- 31 Usual service times-Trinity

7.00 pm Lenten Services
each Wednesday in
March
Church open for personal
meditation 30/3—1/4

11.00 am Lenten studies
each Monday in March

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://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.