

MERCURY BAY CO-OPERATING PARISH

St Andrew's By the Sea Community Church Newsletter October/November 2018

*Our mission in this parish is to share
the love of God with all people*

Our people and their stories... Annie Lynch

Annie has recently returned to the Whenuakite area where she grew up, and we warmly welcome her to the St Andrew's Fellowship. Bob and Betty Lynch were living at 'the top farm' on the main road at Whenuakite when Annie (Patricia Anne) was born, the second of four children. "There were no power lines to the property. Everything was run by the generator. We all learned to milk, but I enjoyed the sheep more than the cows," Annie says.



Annie's parents didn't attend church, but with lots of local family connections, many of her aunts and uncles did. Annie remembers being interested in the Bible lessons at Whenuakite School. "Mr Taylor and Mr Bay used to come from Tauranga to teach us. They stayed with Edith Hamilton. They had a portable organ, and I still remember the songs. I did Postal Sunday School lessons from Auckland, and when I was ten, I went with some other girls to a Bible camp at Willow Park in Auckland. I gave my heart to the Lord then." Annie boarded at Epsom Girls' College for three years and went to church every Sunday. "Mother registered me as Presbyterian. I remember the services were rather dry."

Annie returned home to do sixth form by correspondence. "I sat the UE exam all on my own in Whitianga, with Marjorie Sharples supervising." Annie's first job was at a medical lab in Grafton Road. After 18 months she and a couple of girl friends had a hankering for travel, so they went to Sydney, Australia. Annie got work at the Spastic Centre of NSW, where they made copper coils for telephones. "Able-bodied people worked alongside the disabled, and it was a great experience for me."

Two years later, back home, Annie got a job at the Whitianga Dairy Factory, helping Robin Lee in the general goods store. “We sold everything from farm clothes to hardware, animal feed, and groceries.” She worked there for another 18 months, then at age 23, Annie was off travelling again. She and some friends travelled overland from Singapore, through India to Khabul, Afghanistan, a journey that took 3 months through some very challenging territory.

“India was an eye opener for me,” Annie says. “There were so many people, different religions, different spiritualities. Life and death were very close together, all part of the same journey. Varanasi, where the funeral pyres burn on the banks of the sacred River Ganges, left an indelible impression on me.”

From Khabul they took ‘the freak bus’ to London. A 3-week journey, stopping in random places overnight for the first two weeks, then travelling non-stop, night and day, for the last week. “I got a tummy bug in India, which kept recurring. I was extremely thin by the time we arrived in England.”

Annie got a job at a Pub in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, through a connection with her Whenuakite neighbours, the Burnands. “I did house work for them. I was far too shy to work behind the bar.” Her sister, Yvonne joined her and together they worked on a farm at Emshott Green, in Hampshire. “They grew leeks and potatoes, among other things. We spent weeks weeding the baby leeks, then planting them out. We dug spuds too, tons of them. We picked apples and mucked out the stables. Yvonne drove the tractor.”

Annie was the first to return home, and back to her old job with Robin Lee at the Dairy Factory, before she signed on for a business course in Auckland. “I learned shorthand and typing, and I got a job learning the shipping business for Consolidated Plastics in Auckland. I was there for eight years, then I worked in the office at the Tip Top factory for the next five years. When they made me redundant, I thought it was a disaster – but of course, it wasn’t. I was in a rut, and the Lord was preparing the way for me. I hadn’t attended church for years. I got into a wrong relationship, and now I was in my early 30’s and He was calling me back.”

Annie went to live in another flat where a flatmate hosted a Bible Study group. Annie was invited to join. “Jenny and Neil Keating were the leaders. They led me to make a second commitment to the Lord. I joined the fellowship at CMA Church, West Harbour. It was quite a distance from my home, but it was where I needed to be. I met Tony Blythe, an accountant for *Grapevine*, a Christian magazine, and through him got a job with the magazine.

I taught Sunday School, and took on the job of church secretary for CMA Church. A group of us went to Manila, in the Philippines, to repaint a house used as a base by the CMA missionaries over there. That was a happy experience.

“I did some theology study, which I really enjoyed. But life became very busy, with my work life and my church responsibilities. At that time I was supporting a flatmate through mental health issues as well. When the church leadership changed, disagreements developed in the Auckland fellowship, and it was no longer a happy place. I eventually left the church, and to tell the truth, I was pleased to be relieved of some of my responsibilities.”

Annie’s next job was with Webster Group in Northcote, where she ran the sole-charge office for the next 20 years. Annie took part in summer beach missions with the Open Air Campaigners, a mission programme for children. One year it brought the Missioners to Whitianga, to be hosted by the Whartons, at a camp on their farm at Hot Water Beach. Annie returned home at every opportunity for family celebrations, so the contacts were kept current.

Annie’s mother, Betty died in 2009 and Bob died in 2014. When she took early retirement in 2015, Annie came home to Whenuakite, to live in her house at Purangi Road, just two minutes away from her brother Max.

“Although I lived in Auckland most of my life, it’s no place for retirement. “I now have seven hectares of land and 14 chickens – and best of all, Max, Brian and Yvonne are all close by.

“Shortly after I came back, Beryl Wharton invited me to the Whenuakite Christian Women’s Fellowship. I really enjoy the friendly theological discussions, and there I met others from St Andrew’s.

“I hadn’t been part of a church fellowship for some years, but when I look around the walls at St Andrew’s I see so many familiar names. It truly feels like coming home.

“I sense no dissention in the church here. Everyone is accepted and welcomed, and I give thanks for that.”

‘The Breathing Prayer’

brought to us by Rev Jan Fogg

Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on the disciples and told them to go out into the world. In that breath, in the Holy Spirit, Jesus offered peace and forgiveness to the world.

With each line of the prayer, breathe in...and then breathe out.....

Friends,

Christ breathed on the disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Breathe in - the Spirit of God.

Breathe out - what separates you from that spirit.....

Breathe in - the peace of Christ.

Breathe out - all that causes you to not be at peace.

Breathe in - the forgiveness of Christ.....

Breathe out - every unforgiving, self-serving impulse.....

Breathe in - the love of Christ.....

Breathe out - your anger, sin, and pain.....

Breath-giving God, you call us together as a community, to love, support, serve and give to one another;

to hold nothing back. Yet we cling to what we have.

Help us release what we do not need to hold.

We breathe in your love....

We breathe out our worry.....

We breathe in your peace.

We breathe out our fears.

Hear our prayers today, as we offer them as the community of believers.

Amen



Ladies' Bible Study - Filling Many Needs

from Julie St George

About a year ago Jan Fogg became our new Resource Minister. Early on, she urged us to form small groups, not just within our church, but within our immediate neighbourhood, as an outreach, offering friendship. I see the Ladies' Bible Study group, as part of this network. As the title suggests, we do meet to study the Bible, but of equal importance, is the trust and friendship that continues to grow between us as we read, discuss, and attempt to apply the teachings of God's Word in our everyday lives.

Bible Study group is something that I look forward to each week. I love poring over the questions that contribute to our study. We are so fortunate to have access to the sermons and writings of so many Bible scholars on the World Wide Web. Once upon a time we would have had to rely on our local minister, books and the library. We do need to be selective – there's an awful lot of information out there – not always Biblically based. Material needs to be tested against the scriptures. A good study Bible is helpful; checking cross references helps us to develop and clarify our understanding. We also enjoy comparing different translations.

We begin our time together with a cuppa and catch up. We then note answers to prayer that have occurred during the week and make requests for ongoing prayer. This is confidential – people do not need to be identified – prayer requests are not discussed outside the group.

After a time of prayer, we read and discuss a passage of scripture (usually a chapter). We then work through questions (from a study guide) that we have mulled over during the previous week. Some questions relate to the here and now and our own experiences; others serve to guide and extend our understanding. We all have busy lives so the time spent on preparation varies from person to person. It doesn't matter, we all learn from each other, and enjoy sharing our insights and discoveries.

Some studies have been very challenging – one study last year, in the Book of Daniel, encouraged us to embark on the book of Revelation in the new year. The first chapters (the letters to the seven churches) were very interesting. We carried on up to chapter 6 until finally, becoming battle weary, we decided to take a break. We will return to it sometime.

We enjoyed studies on 'Women of the Old Testament' as a complete change for a few weeks.

This term, we began a study of Paul's letter to the Romans. This is proving to be another toughie! What a courageous man of faith, and wonderful teacher, Paul was. You can't help but admire his courage and perseverance. Why would he keep on pushing his message in the synagogue when it often resulted in his being beaten up? He was so tuned into and obedient to the Holy Spirit. (He was also argumentative, bossy and confrontational at times!)

I am intrigued that his teaching method very closely parallels the way we were taught to introduce children to new concepts, when I was at training college, back in the day. First of all, Paul reminded the Jews of the scriptures that they loved and lived by (the known). He then proceeded to lead them into the new territory of Jesus (the unknown). He wanted them to see that God had done what he always said he would do; that in Christ he was beginning to 'put things right'. That promise is also for us, today. While our study in Romans is challenging, I think that we would all agree that we are learning heaps about the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith.

I would encourage anyone who would like to, join us, or begin their own study group. There are many excellent study guides available to anyone who is willing to lead such a group.

Funerals at St Andrew's

Rev John Twemlow officiating

Please remember both of these families in your prayers:

Sept 1st - William Stuart Crozier

Sept 4th - Loma Joyce (Joy) McErlane

With sorrow we record the passing of our friend Joy, a faithful member of this congregation for the past 13 years.



Worship @ St Andrew's - Sunday 9:30am



Everyone is welcome here!

Our family space has quiet toys and Bible-based activities for young children.

- Oct 7th - Communion - Rev Shirley Barker-Kirby
14th - Rev Jan Fogg followed by Parish annual meeting
21st - Dorothy Preece
28th - Robyn Twemlow***
- Nov 4th - Communion - John Twemlow
11th - Ladies' Bible Group
18th - Ross Millar
25th - Dorothy Preece***

New Duty Rosters

A big thank-you to all who have agreed to help.

Door Welcoming

- First Sunday - Raewyn Ceruti
Second - Heather Stephenson/Barbara Blake
Third - Dorothy Preece/Kevin & Carol Pringle
Fourth - Alistair & Pat Rogers/John & Robin Twemlow
Fifth - Elizabeth Nicholls

Morning Tea

- First Sunday - Barbara Blake/Carol Pringle
Second - Lorraine Hunter/John & Robin Twemlow
Third - Linda Stephenson/Barbara Blake
Fourth - Dorothy Preece
Fifth - Heather Anderson/Lynn Hickey

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday 14th October – after service.

ALL who love St Andrew's and have an interest in the future of the Parish are invited – and encouraged – to attend. The meeting will be led by Rev Jan Fogg. You are invited to stay for lunch after the meeting, and a contribution of finger-food will be welcome, if you are able.

Parish and Community Activities

Newcomers are cordially invited to join any of these friendly groups

Service 9:30 every Sunday

AA DRIVER LICENSING - all day 2nd Friday of each month. See notice board for dates

CHURCH OP-SHOP opens Tuesday-Saturday 8:30-12:30, now with EFTPOS! Enquiries, ring Madeleine 866 0169

COMMUNITY MEALS served in the Church hall from 5-6pm every Monday. Meals phone (attended Mondays only): 021 0294 2234

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP All welcome. 2nd Wednesday of every month @1:30pm. For venue: Ann Harsant 866 4740

ENLIVEN (Presbyterian Social Services for seniors) every Thursday, by arrangement only. For more information, ring Jenny 866 0556

LADIES BIBLE STUDY Wednesday at 10am. Ring Julie for further details on 022 035 7631

SCRAP BAGS (Quilting) every Wednesday from 11am in the Hall.

STITCH N' CHAT every second Tuesday in the Hall. To join this friendly group, ring Julie 022 035 7631

UPRIGHT & ACTIVE Friendly exercise sessions for seniors, held in the Church hall

Mondays, 9:30am - exercise for more active seniors.

Tuesdays, 10am - exercise for the less active.

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Corner Albert and Owen Streets, Whitianga / PO Box 368, WHITIANGA

Office phone (unattended): 867 1102

www.standrewsbythesea.org.nz | standrewswhitianga@gmail.com

Resource Minister: Rev Jan Fogg (Thames)

Local Ministry Team: Rev John Twemlow 021 0222 1394

Parish secretary: Dorothy Preece 869 5452

Newsletter editor: Charlotte Christensen strettoc@gmail.com