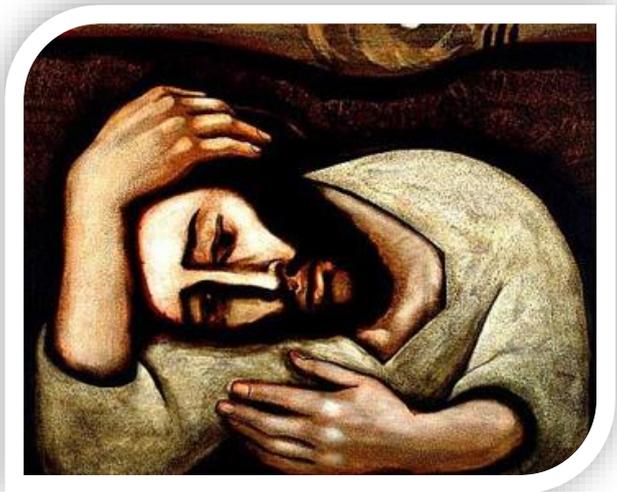




**The Mission of this church is to be Christ centred,
Community embracing congregation
Of
Birkenhead, Birkdale, Beach Haven**

**Haere Mai, Aere mai, hwan-yeong, Fakaalofa lahi atu,
Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai, Talofa, Welcome**



“There is a saying in Tibetan, ‘Tragedy should be utilized as a source of strength.’ No matter what sort of difficulties, how painful experience is, if we lose our hope, that's our real disaster.”

— Dalai Lama XIV

How have you used tragedy as a source of strength?

From the Editor:

Welcome to our new look Newsletter which will be different to that of the Sunday Morning Bulletin. The Newsletter will be Monthly; first Sunday of the month and have all the monthly events as known at the time. The monthly rosters will be in the newsletter and will also be printed and placed in the Church Foyer along with News, Views and things to do. It will rely on everyone contributing particularly those from committee's and organising subgroups. If there are events happening in the many other groups, you all belong to and you think could be advertised a little farther, feel free to cut and past the item and send it, too. The Kaipatiki Local Board often has good things to pass on as not everybody, I guess, gets their newsletter. If you have correspondence of mutual or historical interest, which are sometimes hysterical photographs, send them through to the Church email below. Obviously, all contributions will be at the editor's discretion.

Chewing the fat with Colin – Arriving in Hinemoa St the other day, and as I was extracting myself from the vehicle two women met and greeted each other, one carrying a baby and the other pushing a pram, I took little notice of much else but I couldn't help but hear part of the conversation, "*I had to get to Henderson and needed two children so I could take the T3*", I then tuned out as you do when you inadvertently hear conversations that are not yours. But I had heard enough to be able to laugh at such a city dilemma and the innovation to get places using the system. I left with that pearler and no other details.

Reading and listening to scripture is much the same, and has often been described as, 'listening to one end of a telephone conversation', not hearing the other voice, not being able to consider the context, not knowing the relationship. Scholars postulate and speculate on all these unknowns wanting to form a bigger picture a broader understanding particularly of the issues being talked about. We want to know some of these things as well to know how the whole of the story speaks to us in our day in our context of self, family and community. When we read scripture in church there are a number of phrases with which we finish, with one being, 'Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.'

What is the Spirit saying to the church? Through 2019 we will be looking closely at the Gospel according to Luke and last week's reading is a great place to start. *Luke 4:14-21* *Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.**" And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

To take a leaf out of a recent comment the Right Honourable Jacinda Adern made, 'that 2018 was about formation, 2019 will be about action' with a focus on the 'well-being' of all people Aotearoa. This is something akin to this Intentional Ministry appointment, 2019 is about action, discovering what action we should be taking and taking it. In that reading Jesus essentially reiterates what living in God requires. It is not a new thing to be done; it has always been a God-given requirement. Reading between the lines Jesus suggests that the Hebrews with their faith expression are, seemingly, self-serving and neglecting the bigger picture, that they have misplaced the mandate of God's call upon their lives ... they did not take kindly to his criticism. I wonder if we can borrow a couple of children and utilise the T3 and get places in 2019? **CRG**

Our Prayers for places and people:

Any names placed under this heading will only be with the permission of the people mentioned. However, **Our Prayers ...** is a reminder for us to take time and pray for others.

First though with this first Newsletter edition it might be a time to question our tradition of prayer and praying for others which has been a common practice of the church for millennia. I ask the following question, 'Why and with what integrity do we pray for anything?' One biblical example of prayer is where Jesus tells a parable, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'" Luke 18:2-3. Jesus tells the disciples this parable which in turn addresses two concerns. First, he intends that disciples should "pray always" (18:1). Earlier in the Gospel of Luke he had already given his disciples instruction in prayer. That instruction included what we call the Lord's Prayer, which pivots on asking (Luke 11:1-13). Prayer is putting one's self in an acknowledged state of dependence that relies on the gifts of God for life in the world. Jesus assures that 'the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask' (11:13). Theologian Karl Barth said that prayer is indeed "simply asking." The parable is instruction in asking. Jesus tells his disciples the story in Luke 18 so that they do not "lose heart" (v. 1), that is, so that they do not become discouraged and quit hoping. The parable exhibits the relentlessness of refusing silence, the unwavering resolve to continue to speak and to ask. The inference is that the very act of prayer is a way

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to remain courageous, a way to resist resignation that would result in losing heart. The antidote to such defeat is the act of prayer, so prayer has an instrumental purpose. In this introduction Jesus does not assure the disciples that prayers are answered but only that the act of prayer is itself an act of resistance against discouragement and defeat.¹ So be encouraged to pray. CRG

News of Musicians: St Andrews has been well served with organists and pianists through the years. The last couple of years playing the organ or piano has fallen squarely on the loving shoulders of Anne Green and conversations through the last couple of years has been to help give some relief for Anne on a regular basis. What so often happens when calamity strikes the need is accentuated and need becomes acute. I know and we appreciate that Anne loves and finds solace in her playing and gathers us to worship in song. However, at this time Anne is taking a sabbatical for as long as she needs. We look forward to her return to her favoured place in the church. We are grateful to Gwen Kesang taking up playing on a regular basis and we hope to continue to have Melissa whom Anne recently met and comes along to play when asked. Parish Council has also approved of two other organists, Inae Hong and Matthew Kirman-Martin who will be rostered on in February 10th & 24th respectively and then 4th and 3rd Sunday of each month thereafter. We are looking forward to their playing and our singing. CRG

Three Way Conversation considering the future in conversation with Zion Hill Methodist, St Aidans and St Andrews. Laurie Wesley, Lisi Foulagi and Robyn Bogue with Rosemary Bold as a stand-in is St Andrews representatives on this Working Group. All conversations in the Working Group go back through Parish Councils. PCs then communicate to their congregations and the reverse happens when it comes to feed-back to the WG. Take advantage of discussing the issues you may have and see with these folk; the more conversations they have, the better they are able to help discern and articulate suggestions for consideration.

Wider Church and Community Notices:

- **The Parish Council of Birkenhead Methodist Parish, Birkenhead has great pleasure in announcing that the Rev. Robyn Allen-Goudge will be inducted at Zion Hill Church, 237 Onewa Rd, Birkenhead on Tuesday, 5 February, 2019, at 7pm** You are warmly invited to send representatives to attend the service followed by supper Please RSVP to zionhill@xtra.co.nz or ph. 09 4190272
- **St Aidans** also welcomes Rev. Matthew Chapman to their ministry team.
- **Waitangi Day 6th February**
- **February Tuesday 12th Mainly Music resumes at 9:30am for 2019.** Come and enjoy the raw enthusiasm of young and old as the wiggle and jiggle have fun with everyone. Thanks to the enthusiastic team that gets another year and term underway. If you have any questions, want to support in some way contact Pauline Fish, Pauline will give you the low-down.
- **Valentines Day 14th February** – Go on, you do not have to spend any money to be romantic, and not just for a day!
- **Sunday, 17 February, Picnic Day.** Meet at Little Shoal Bay at about 4pm with food, family, friends.
- **23th February Saturday – Summer Northern Presbytery**

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- **Sunday 24th February – Fresh Fruits Sunday -**
- **25th April ANZAC Day**
- **Easter Music Cantata** is being put together and Musicians and people who love to sing are invited from our Three Churches, St Aidans, Zion Hill Methodist & St Andrews are being invited to come together to learn and practice for this Easter Event. This is an initiative coming out of the Three Way Working Group bringing us closer together. There are plans to take a performance to the Highways and Byways of Highbury or at least to the steps of The Junction. So you are invited to BLOCK your diary out for Thursday evenings for rehearsals, start date 7th Feb. 7pm. St Aidans.
- **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**
This year's programme has been prepared by the Women of Slovenia. The service will be held on Friday. 1st March 2019 at St Mary's Catholic Church, 117 Onewa Road at 10.30 am, followed by a shared lunch.

February Committee Meetings, Times and Places:

- **1st Tuesday of every 2nd month/March 2019 - Presbytery Costal Cluster**
- **2nd Tuesday - Worship and Education Committee**
- **3rd Tuesday – Resource Committee**
- **3rd Thursday - Pastoral Committee**
- **4th Tuesday Parish Council 7:30pm / 7:15pm for a cuppa and chin-wag.**

Notes from Church Council January Meeting 2019

We are very sorry to report the resignation on 31 March 2019 of Renton Hunger from the jobs of keeping the church database up-to-date and managing the church offerings. He set up the database many years ago and has continued to do a wonderful job looking after it. His shoes will be very hard to fill. Thank you so much, Renton.

Our main discussion was about what St Andrews Council wanted to offer to the Working Group between the three churches; St Andrews, St Aidans and Zion Hill. We just want to take small steps in co-operation in community, at the moment. We need clarification about the difference between being 'one congregation' and being' one parish'. We suggested a better term might be 'one faith community'.

We discussed whether each church might have a different style of worship eg. One might have a traditional service and another might have more youth services. There could be one administration hub to service two or three churches.

The ministers of the three churches should have a commitment to work together, with terms of reference agreed. Already the decision had been made by the Working Group to worship together every fifth Sunday of the month this year. Already a choir is being assembled by St Aidans, practices starting Thursday, 7 February, to prepare an Easter service. All and any are invited to join.

Any comments from the congregation are welcome.

Rosemary Bold

Thanks to this week's volunteers				
	3rd Feb	10 th Feb	17 th Feb	24 th Feb
Welcoming /Duty Elder	Barbara & Kylie Wadams	Pauline Fish & Keti Faa'ee	Barabara Laurie & Kay Wesley	Jocelyn Collinge & Margaret Larsen
Church Prep.	Duty Elder	Duty Elder	Duty Elder	Duty Elder
Musicians	Gwen Kesang	Inae Hong	Gwen Kesang	Matthew Kirman-Martin
Prayers	Barbara Wadams	Pauline Fish	Laurie Wesley	Margaret Larsen
Readings	Kylie Wadams	Keti Faa'ee	Gary Pash	Laurie Wesley
Morning Tea	Jocelyn Collinge	Barbara Wadams & Lisi Foulagi	Greg & Glenys Skudder	Barbara Wesley & Keti Faa'ee
PA				
Preaching	CRG	CRG	CRG	CRG
Kidz Church	Lisi & Rosemary	Lisi & Rosemary	Lisi & Rosemary	Lisi & Rosemary
Bible Readings	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

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Ministry at St Andrew's – The Team		
Minister	Rev. Colin Gordon EMAIL: colinrgordon@gmail.com	021 854 066
Council Secretary	Rosemary Bold	483 7240
Church Treasurer	Yvonne Williams	
Church & Hall Bookings	Barbara Wesley	480 9123
Mainly Music enquiries	Pauline Fish	418 1312
Prayer Co-ordinator	Maureen Kearney	449 1216
Bulletin editor	Anne Green	443 4456 / 027 3242 088
Offering Envelopes	Glenys Skudder & Kay Wesley	418 1615
Pastoral Committee	Barbara Wesley	480 9123
Worship Committee	Robyn Bogue	418 0973
Resource Committee	Ian Bogue	027 430 0418
Webmaster	Ian Bogue	027 430 0418

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Brueggemann, Walter. Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out. Hodder & Stoughton

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