

Church Directory



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Burning Bush

Monthly magazine of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Matamata

December 2018



Our Mission Statement

We seek to be a Christian Fellowship that lives and shares the life promised by Jesus within and beyond our Church.



From the minister

About 60 people came to hear the presentation by Rod Walsh on Sunday night 4 November about Noah's flood. They came from a cross section of the Churches with a spread of ages. Of the many things he shared, I was most interested in the point that we do not see the signs of erosion between strata in the rocks that we would have expected if they had taken millions of years to form. He showed us an example from the Grand Canyon where the layers go flat for many miles. It seems the strata were laid quickly as if in a huge flood (!). It was an enjoyable evening with lots of food for thought.

The schedule of Christmas and Summer services is laid out on page 19 of this issue. I learned just recently that some other Churches in town are not holding services at all this summer. I guess we could have a few more visitors than usual.

Over the last few weeks the Board and Session have had to deal with a concerning issue regarding asbestos identified in the Hall/Lounge ceiling - hence the calling of our congregational meeting on 25 November. The situation was complex and fluid. We felt it important to explain where things stood to as many as possible, at the same time, to maximise the chance of getting it resolved ASAP. I am so grateful to God for the members of our Board and Session who serve our fellowship so well, often at great cost of time and expense. None more so on this issue than Lynley Jobe. To our Church family, I would like to say these people deserve our confidence and encouragement. The document presented at the meeting is included for all to read.

Thankyou to all those who have contributed to the life and witness of St Andrews this year, with your time, talents, giving, and service. May your Christmas be filled with Jesus, and the new year be a happy one.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10).

God Bless, Murray

Coming up...

Mid-Week Service

Wednesday 5 December 10am in the Church Lounge.

Speaker: Joe Beattie

Join us for praise, worship, & fellowship
as we celebrate the Christmas season together

Fireside Mornch

Wednesday 12 December

Meet at Church at 10:30am for carpooling to Blueberry Farm and
Kowhai Creamery, then lunch at Church.

Numbers to Carol by 2 December.

\$25 per head in an envelope with name on please.

CHRISTMAS / SUMMER SERVICES

Monday 24 December 9pm at St Andrews

Tuesday 25 December 9:30am at St Andrews

Sunday 30 December 10am at Union Parish

Sunday 6 January 10am at Union Parish

Sunday 13 January 10am at Union Parish

Sunday 20 January 10am at St Andrews

Sunday 27 January 10am at St Andrews

Café Coffee

Wednesday 9th January

10.30 am

Momento Espresso

Summary of decision to be made today:

(a) To ratify the recommendation of the Session and Board of Managers: to accept the 3rd quote of \$28,773 for the removal of the asbestos and restoration of the ceiling with plaster and paint, AND to understand that there will be a closure of hall and lounge during January to complete the work.

(b) To refuse the recommendation of the Session and Board of Managers, and understand that, for congregational and public safety, the hall and lounge is to be closed, THEN to then work as a congregation towards an acceptable plan for remediation or development in 2019.

Lynley Jobe

For Board of Managers, St Andrews Presbyterian, Matamata

At the Meeting

48 attended the meeting on 25 November. After the presentation and discussion, the voting procedure was explained. Recommendation "A" would be moved first. If recommendation "A" passed, "B" would be dropped. If "A" failed, "B" would be moved.

At the vote, "A" was moved, seconded and agreed.



A sample showing from where the *Whisper Coat* has fallen

From the Session Clerk

I found last month's Armistice Sunday particularly poignant. Perhaps it was because the event marked 100 years since the end of what then US President Woodrow Wilson termed, the "war to end all wars". If we use that term today, it is probably in a sardonic sense as conflicts and wars have simply followed one after another.

I wore a poppy that day and, in the evening, watched the news. I found the sight of over 18,000 white crosses on the lawns below the Auckland Cenotaph a graphic and powerful reminder of the human cost of that war. As I looked at the crosses, I found myself wondering if it was all worth it. Then it simply took the sight of a little boy, skipping gaily among the rows without a care in the world to realise that each one of the fallen died so that he had the freedom to do just that. And I was reminded of our responsibility to be peacemakers.

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers" and commentator Rev Mark Wood describes peacemakers as those who are active and committed in the cause of peace. He says:

And if we weep for the fallen without working as hard as we can for the living, we haven't really understood the poppy at all. It isn't just a memorial to the fallen: it's a call to arms for a different war entirely."

What a challenge! So let's take up arms and do everything we can to promote peace in our communities - beginning in our homes and spreading it as widely as we can. And, when you wear your poppy on Anzac Day, remember the challenge inherent in it - work with all your heart for peace.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12: 18).

Love and Blessings
Sandra



Community volunteers Joan Henderson and Dorreen White put their rag-cutting skills to good use in support of St David's recent fundraising week in the Op Shop.

House of Prayer

Meet and join for prayer at Crystal Springs Okauia Rd on Tuesdays and Fridays anytime from 5am to 5pm. Worship nights are usually held fortnightly 7:30pm - 9:15pm.
Contact Juerg 022 125 2199 for more details.



our available financial reserves. As Managers, we take on the responsibility to manage the resources of this church to enable God's Kingdom to advance in and through us. However, in this instance, in order for the church to continue functioning fully we have to spend this money, or close the hall and lounge.

As at September 30th our savings in the Presbyterian Investment Fund (PIF) that can be accessed for this work are limited to:

Stock Fund	\$33 031.63
2018 Thank Offering	<u>\$25 878.04</u>
	\$58 909.67

The Thank Offering was a financial gift given freely, for many it was sacrificial and it is difficult to make this choice, but it is monies available. We will use this balance in full to pay for the work.

The Stock Fund has an expressed purpose, as the interest from this fund is transferred into a PIF held maintenance fund which is drawn from as required. The balance of \$2895 will come from here. We do invite donations from the congregation to make up this withdrawal from the stock fund.

As a congregation, we need to be aware that this may not be a one off expense. As areas of the church require upgrade or development, we are now bound by April's regulation to ensure that removal of asbestos-containing materials are safely removed, encapsulated and disposed of by an approved removal company. Every removal requires inspection and clearance from a Licensed Assessor. Assessor fees for this one job have been quoted at \$6,900 + GST down to \$1,500 + GST.

As Managers, in good faith, we struggle to continually spend money in ongoing maintenance that is not positively affecting ministry or developing our property resources in such a way that we are stewarding well for our church's future congregation. Following on from the positive start of the Spring Forward Forum, we will be requesting that Session consider opening up discussion regarding the management and planning of our whole site, with consideration to the future of St Andrews, here in Matamata.

9. November 11, 2018: Statement announcing congregational meeting, based on known information.

10. November 13, 2018: Managers General Business Meeting.

Guidelines regarding hall use and any whisper coat cleaning were planned:

- Any groups using the hall must not put anything up close to the coating to prevent it being dislodged. Managers will keep an eye on the diary and ensure groups are aware.

- Should any clumps of whisper coat fall from the ceiling while people are using the hall: The hall must be vacated and not re-entered. A member of Managers, or the Minister, are to be contacted. The whisper coat must be given time to settle in full (24-48 hours).

- In line with WorkSafe recommendations, cleaning guidelines were established where any whisper coat falls down. They are posted in the cleaning cupboard. After being given 24-48 hours to settle, gloves and a face mask are to be used, and the vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter is to be used to clean it up.

11. November 21, 2018: Final Quote.

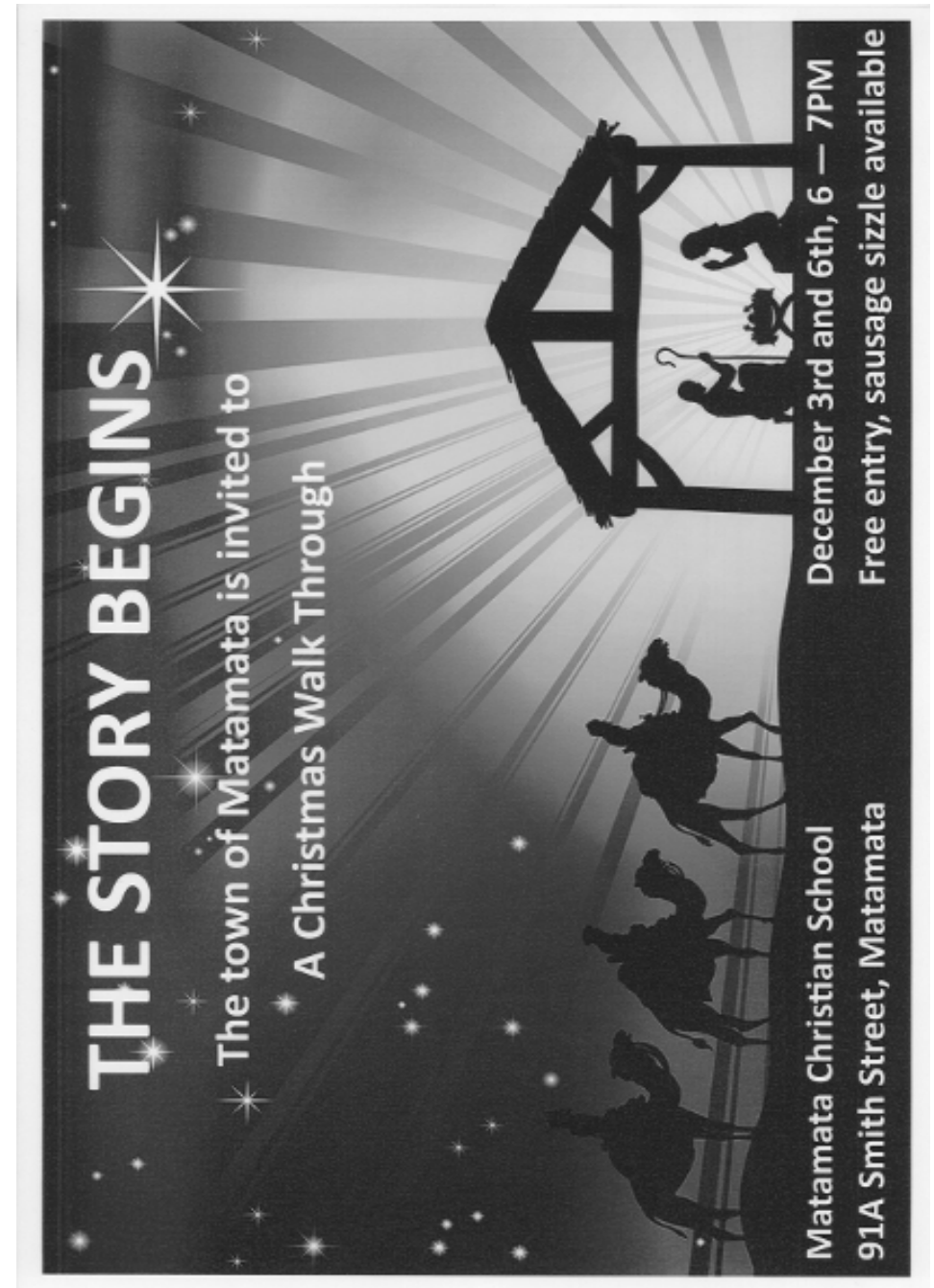
- As previously noted, finding qualified businesses who want the work to come and give us a quote has been difficult. With persistence, the Board was able to find a company from Tauranga, and received a 3rd quote for removal, plaster and painting for full restoration of \$28,773.

- This repositions us financially quite significantly, and the Board is pleased to present this quote at the congregational meeting.

Further information about asbestos and the new regulations can be found at: <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/asbestos/>

Financial Impact:

The financial impact of either of the first two quotes was going to be significant. With having the 3rd quote presented, we are relieved not to be in the position we were expecting - which was to be spending all



Monthly Income verses Budget

	April	May	June	July	August	September
Budgeted expenses	\$12,500	\$13,000	\$12,000	\$14,250	\$13,000	\$12,500
Actual income	\$10,477	\$12,801	\$11,513	\$17,109	\$11,263	\$11,163
Surplus/ Deficit	-\$2023	-\$199	-\$487	\$2,859	-\$1,737	\$1,337
	October	November	December	January	February	March
Budgeted expenses	\$13,100	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$10,140	\$12,200	\$13,000
Actual Income						
Surplus/ Deficit						
Current Running Surplus/Deficit						
-\$2,924.00						

• It was not appropriate to share the report at the Forum as members of the Board of Managers needed time to thoroughly read the 17 page Report, to understand the implications of the recommendations, and to plan a way forward before being in a position to share the information with the wider Church family.

7. October 9, 2018: Managers General Business Meeting.

• Confirmed that the independent lab result of the whisper coat did test positive for asbestos.

• Quotes received were discussed. Quote 1: \$42500 for removal only. Quote 2: \$50347 including plaster and painting to fully restore the ceilings. Both quotes include GST. A third quote had been difficult to attain, but would continue to be pursued.

• Managers requested a meeting with Session, and a congregational meeting, so that we could discuss the report, and share the quotes as Managers agree that the legal and moral responsibility to act is significant.

• Many of us have cleaned up fallen coating from the ceiling. Managers agree that it is an unstable surface and that, as the Asbestos Management Plan recommends, it needs removal within 3 months, or as soon as practicable.

8. November 6, 2018: Session Meeting, attended by Managers.

• Agreement to call a congregational meeting, and to release a statement regarding the matter to be discussed.

• Agreement that action needs to be taken to resolve the safety of the ceiling surface as there is legal responsibility on Session as officers of the charity, our Minister, as our Health and Safety Officer, but our moral responsibility for the health and wellbeing of both our members and hall users, is just as, or even more important.

• We know that the contaminated surface is falling off the ceiling; at the combined meeting Session/Board of Managers we agreed that there were only 2 courses of action open to us.

A. To have the surface removed.

B. To close the hall social complex until an alternative solution is available.

- The Trustees strongly encourage Parishes and Presbyteries to familiarise themselves with the Asbestos Regulations and to take all necessary steps to ensure their properties are in a compliant condition and safe for all users.

2. June 12, 2018: Managers General Business Meeting.

- Contact was made with local HSEA planner for guidance in regards to an Asbestos Management Plan.

3. July 10, 2018: Managers General Business Meeting.

- Managers follow up recommendations from the HSEA planner and seek quotes for an Asbestos Management Plan to be written.

4. August 14, 2018: Managers General Business Meeting.

- Managers agreed a quote which involved rigorous sampling and testing of our whole complex by certified practitioners at the considerable cost of \$3277.50 (the lesser of 2 quotes).

5. September 11, 2018: Managers General Business Meeting.

- Managers discussed Asbestos Management Plan received from assessors, written September 4th. Asbestos is confirmed across our complex (the church, hall and lounge, youth block and manse) with varying associated risk. The report stated that most of these areas were assessed at low risk until such a time as the material is disturbed. The area of highest risk is the hall and lounge whisper coated ceilings, requiring removal within 3 months because it is a friable (easily crumbled and chalky) coating. The coating has been and continues to fall from the ceiling.

- Having previously researched the whisper coat as a part of the project team's work in 2011, we were told by professional decorators it did not contain asbestos, however we did not have it laboratory tested to confirm this. At the time, the Project Team took them at their word.

- Quotes for removal of the whisper coat surface were to be gathered, and to confirm the validity of the testing (having been told previously that the whisper coat did not contain asbestos).

6. September 23, 2018: Session hosted the Spring Forward Forum.

- The Spring Forum was only 12 days after the Asbestos report was discussed at the Managers' meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Dear Church family,

Once again our income was slightly lower than our Budgeted Expense required which means we are showing a Running Deficit of -\$2,924.00. Our expenses this month are up owing to the fact that our annual insurance for St Andrews has now been renewed. We pay this in monthly instalments over six months but unfortunately our first payment included both August and September so that's why the Expenditure is looking a little high this month.

Thank you all for your generous giving - it is much appreciated.

Income for September:	11,163
Expenditure for September:	14,840
Net Surplus/Loss:	-3,677

Blessings everyone,

Robyn Wylie,
Treasurer.



Foodbank

7 food parcels were given out in October. They provided food for 9 adults and 12 children. 5 parcels were for a week, one for two weeks and one for a part week.

Needs: honey, eggs, potatoes, toilet rolls.

Thank you for your donations to the foodbank. It is very much appreciated, especially over the Christmas season when we give out lots of Christmas parcels to families in need.

Gwen & Brigitte.

We are still needing someone to replace Brigitte on the Foodbank committee which meets on the first Thursday of the month. Please let us know if you can help with this valuable community work.

Burning Bush

You may receive the Burning Bush delivered to your letterbox as a printed magazine, emailed to your home computer as a PDF file, or read it online at our website. It is free. Please let us know at the Church Office if you'd like to be added to our distribution list or if you no longer wish to receive it. The next issue of the Burning Bush will come out for February. The deadline for contributions is Sunday 20 January.

Home Communion

We can arrange to bring communion to those who are unable to attend our regular communion services. Please just ask an elder, or leave a message at the Church Office. Communion is served monthly on the 2nd Sunday at St Andrews (9am & 10:30am). Communion is normally served at the Mid-week service in September, and at St Davids and Country Lodge, October.

The following article was presented at the congregational meeting held in the Church Hall on 25 November.

Impact of the Asbestos Management Plan at St Andrews Matamata November 22, 2018

In the last 5 years, the Board of Managers has consistently been working in response to regulatory changes imposed by our Government, which have affected the management of our organisation, finance and property. The continual change has been very expensive, over time financially, and with time spent dealing with these changes.

About Asbestos: (source: <https://www.arplus.nz/asbestos/>)

- Asbestos is in 3 forms, white (chrysotile), brown (amosite) and blue (crocidolite).
- It became illegal to import blue and brown asbestos into the country in its raw form from 1984. Asbestos-containing products (also known as ACMs) in New Zealand at the time were used until supplies ran out.
- On 1 October 2016, it became illegal to import asbestos-containing products into New Zealand.
- Buildings built, altered or refurbished from 1940 until the mid-1980s are likely to contain ACMs. Buildings built after 1 January 2000 are less likely to contain ACMs, but some buildings built after this time may contain ACMs.

Our Timeline:

1. May Property Trustees Newsletter. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/y7cv28vw> for the newsletter.
 - Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 which came into effect from 4th April 2018, it is timely to remind parishes of their obligations.
 - “The regulations are far-reaching. They place a responsibility on all property owners and persons in charge of a work place to identify asbestos in any form within their properties and places of work, and to have a written asbestos management plan in place, which sets out where any identified asbestos or asbestos-containing material is located and how it will be managed.”



Above St Davids roof is just under \$2500 closer following the recent Op shop. Above from left, Allan Mayo Joan Bell, Eva Guy, Gloria Searle and Annette Davidson were part of the hard-working and willing team who staffed the shop. A sterling effort and thank you to all who supported the fundraiser in any way.

Below Gay Finch, pictured with husband Gavin, had a stream of visitors - a number from St Andrews - when she celebrated her 80th birthday at Pohlen Hospital on Thursday 22 November. Gay and Gavin faithful members of St Andrews for many decades.



Children's Church News

The Children's Christmas Service is on December 16 at 10.30. This year our special children's play is called "The Gift of Jesus: an Invitation to Believe". The children are preparing and practising their roles. You are invited to bring your families and grandchildren. Come along and learn more about this generous life-giving gift, the gift of Jesus.

The service is followed by a shared luncheon. Everyone welcome.



<u>Sunday 30</u> 10am Summer Service at Union Parish	<u>Monday 31</u>	<h1>What's happening in December 2018</h1>				<u>Saturday 1</u>
<u>Sunday 2</u> 9am Classic Communion 10am Morning Tea 10:30am Cafe Communion	<u>Monday 3</u> 9am Prayer at Church Office 1.15pm Anchor Group	<u>Tuesday 4</u> 5am House of Prayer at Crystal Springs 7.30pm Session	<u>Wednesday 5</u> 10am Mid-Week Service 1pm Braeburn Bible Study 7:30pm Bible Study at Jobes 888-4283	<u>Thursday 6</u> 10am Ambassador Group ph 880-9101	<u>Friday 7</u> 5am House of Prayer at Crystal Springs 1pm Sisters Group ph Lisa 880-9104	<u>Saturday 8</u>
<u>Sunday 9</u> 9am Carol Service 10am Morning Tea 10:30am Cafe Service 2pm St Davids	<u>Monday 10</u> 9am Prayer at Church Office 1.15pm Anchor Group	<u>Tuesday 11</u> 5am House of Prayer at Crystal Springs 7.30pm Managers	<u>Wednesday 12</u> 10:30am Cafe Coffee 1pm Braeburn Bible Study 7:30pm Bible Study at Jobes 888-4283	<u>Thursday 13</u> 10am Ambassador Group ph 880-9101 1:30pm Fireside	<u>Friday 14</u> 5am House of Prayer at Crystal Springs 1pm Sisters Group ph Lisa 880-9104	<u>Saturday 15</u>
<u>Sunday 16</u> 10:30am Children's Christmas Service 3.30pm Country Lodge	<u>Monday 17</u> 9am Prayer at Church Office 1.15pm Anchor Group	<u>Tuesday 18</u> 5am House of Prayer at Crystal Springs 12noon Friends of St Andrews	<u>Wednesday 19</u> 1pm Braeburn Bible Study 7:30pm Bible Study at Jobes 888-4283	<u>Thursday 20</u> 10am Ambassador Group ph 880-9101	<u>Friday 21</u> 5am House of Prayer at Crystal Springs	<u>Saturday 22</u>
<u>Sunday 23</u> 9am Classic Service 10am Morning Tea 10:30am Cafe Service	<u>Monday 24</u> 9pm Christmas Eve service	<u>Tuesday 25</u> 9:30am Christmas morning Service	<u>Wednesday 26</u>	<u>Thursday 27</u>	<u>Friday 28</u>	<u>Saturday 29</u>