

Burning Bush

September 2025



Getting to know our
new YFW

Rose Sharp

Cover Did you notice the changes? Anna Bloomfield steps up to share her talents as a Music Leader. Rika moved from Rachel's group to playing with Brons old group. Brons now tickling the ivories with Rachel. Joanè is adding to the fullness of the band sound by swapping to Anna's group too.



*"Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvellous works among all the
peoples!" (Psalm 96:3)*

PRAYER CHAIN

Do you, or someone
you know, need
prayer?

If so, contact the St
Andrews Prayer
Chain and our Prayer
Warriors will pray for
you daily.

If you would like to
serve St Andrew's in
this way, we would
like to hear from you.



Murial Martin

Murial was a member of the St Andrews family for several years. A lovely friendly face, she was part of the Music Team. After becoming ill, she stayed at Country lodge for a time before moving to a home more suited to her needs, in Auckland. She passed away peacefully and Danny led her Graveside committal at the Matamata cemetery on the 4th August.

Our new Rose



Our new Young Families Worker (YFW) started her job in August. I asked her to tell us a bit more about herself. If you see her around, please have a chat to her. She's very friendly and good to talk to. If you feel you have a gifting that may benefit the ministry she's leading, please let her know.

Just a little about me. I'm a mother of five and a grandmother of nine. Currently single. My heritage is a mix of English, Austrian Jew, Maori, Scottish and Portuguese.

I have a long standing relationship with Matamata as my father and his family migrated after the 2nd World War to NZ.

I have an array of interests from sewing, cooking and outdoor pursuits, such as rowing of which I have one gold and two bronze medals.

I am a city girl who fell in love with the country and spent 20+ years dairy farming. I have a vast array of academic achievements in an assortment of areas.

My journey has brought me back to Matamata, supporting my daughter and son in law and five grandchildren. With a calling to pastorally care for others. I am thankful for God's hand upon my life in leading me on a journey over the last seven years in preparing me for such a time as this. I'm looking forward to seeing the hand of God as I trust in him in this next season in serving St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and the wider community.

Rose

St Andrews

annual general meeting

AGM

Sunday, 5th October

1130 *(after the service)*

From the MINISTER

God calls us to live out our faith in Him through the highs and lows of life. The lows can be times of testing and grounding. The highs are for lifting our vision, and reminding us what He has called us to. I'd like at the next 1P3.15 (14 September) to take a look at another historical revival. I want us to see what is possible in God looking up, and to be challenged with how far we live below what He has made available.

The so-called Toronto Blessing has been often dismissed as fake. Yes it was hugely controversial, but that is what we should expect when God is doing a powerful work. Have you thought about how controversial Jesus was in His day? Did not the religious authorities arranged for Him to be killed?! Controversy is not a sign to dismiss something. It is a sign to investigate. I'd like to take those who attend the next 1P3.15 past the hype and speculation to see what actually happened, and see the fruit that came of it. Perhaps we'll come to a more balanced perspective.

We have some exciting things happening just now in St Andrews. We are running our first ALPAH Marriage Course. It does appear to be going very well. We have just appointed Rose Sharp to the Young Families Worker position. Her main task will be to set up and lead a Sunday morning Intermediate-Aged Youth Group, and through that, to establish connections with the families of the children. The position is for 10 hours/week.

Our Sunday preaching theme for September will continue with the Book of Acts. These are awesome chapters. I do pray you find it inspiring stuff.

God Bless,

Murray

NOTICE OUTSIDE CHURCH

Please do not leave your purse, watch, handbag, mobile phone, husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend unattended.

Others may think it's an answer to their prayers.

Thank you

A lady walks into a cosmetics store and tells the clerk she needs a good foundation.

The clerk asked her...have you tried the Bible?

FEASTING ON OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

We have a special proposal coming to the AGM this year around our outreach and mission. Final preparations are being made for it to be included in the Annual Reports which are to be distributed shortly. Watch out for it and be prepared for a discussion around it at the Annual meeting. It has to do with using our gifts, talents, and resources in a planned, pro-active way to advance God's Kingdom. It is being proposed as a way to strengthen our FEAST purpose of Service. God calls us to use what He has given us for Him - individually but also as a fellowship. What we do together can be so much greater than what we do as individuals and I think there is scope to hugely improve the effectiveness our corporate witness. I'm looking forward to seeing what comes of the proposal.

SERVICE: To encourage every member to find their God-given gifts and opportunities to exercise them - both within and beyond our Church.

A new set of projects/goals are to be presented at the AGM.

God Bless,
Murray

St Andrews Prayer Groups

mondays
9am
in the office

sundays
9am
in the prayer room
Out the back of the Church
Entrance door past the creche

Home Communion

We can arrange to bring communion to those unable to attend our regular communion service

Please ask Rev Murray, an Elder, or leave a message at the Church Office 888 7242.

Communion is served monthly at St Andrew's on the second Sunday.

The Midweek Communion Services are held in March and September

September 2025	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		1 Prayer Group 9am Anchors – 1pm N.A. – 6pm	2 Marriage Course – 7pm SESSION – 7.30PM
	7 Prayer – 9am Worship 10am 1P3.15 2pm	8 Prayer Group 9am Anchors – 1pm N.A. – 6pm	9 Marriage Course – 7pm BoM – 7.30pm
	14 Prayer – 9am Worship 10am Communion BB Deadline	15 Prayer Group 9am Anchors – 1pm N.A. – 6pm	16 Marriage Course – 7pm Friends of St Andrews – 12pm
	21 Prayer – 9am Worship 10am	22 N.A. – 6pm	23
	28 Prayer – 9am Worship 10am	29 N.A. – 6pm	30

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 MIDWEEK SERVICE 10am YABS – 7pm	4 Ambassadors 10am Youth Bible Study - 7pm	5 Sisters 1pm	6 A.A. 9am
10 CAFÉ COFFEE 10.30am YABS – 7pm	11 Ambassadors 10am Youth Bible Study - 7pm	12 Sisters 1pm	13 A.A. 9am
17 YABS – 7pm	18 Ambassadors 10am FIRESIDE 1.30pm Youth Bible Study - 7pm	19 Sisters 1pm School Hols	20 A.A. 9am
24 CHAPS CHAT 10am	25	26 Sisters 1pm	27 A.A. 9am

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS,
SCHOOL TERM
7 - 9PM

FOR YEAR 9'S AND UP

CALL MITCH
FOR MORE INFO
027 844 0864

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

~~Y~~abs

WEDNESDAYS 7PM

IN THE HALL,

YEAR 13 AND UP

Emily 021 070 2627 or

Olive 021 110 4527

for more info

From the **BOARD OF MANAGERS**

The Hall spouting is currently being replaced. This is a job that has been planned for quite a while so it's great to see it happening.

The timber decking patio by the Hall has recently been treated for moss and mould.

We currently have an upright commercial freezer on loan to us in the kitchen. If you're in the kitchen, you can't miss it. It's very impressive! Our little under bench freezer wasn't quite big enough to store the Alpha Marriage Course frozen desserts as well as other frozen food we often keep there. A big thank you goes to Wendy from Subway for lending us the freezer.

Blessings to you all

Sian

From the **Treasurer**

July's offerings were \$11,331 which is \$3,125 down (22%) on July 2024. There has been a noticeable 'drop off' in giving since March. Before March, weekly giving was averaging approximately \$3,370. The weekly average giving has not exceeded \$2,750 per week since February.

Fortunately expenses this July were 9% lower than July last year, but still resulting in a \$250 deficit for the month. Needless to say, I'm on an economy drive as much as possible.

The annual financial accounts have been audited and finalised for the AGM on 5th October. When you receive your Annual Reports booklet, if you have any questions regarding finance, please email me at managers@standrewsmatamata.org.nz no later than 5pm Sunday the 28th September, so that I can be prepared to answer those questions at the AGM.

Blessings in abundance to you in Jesus' name,

Don

**WE SEEK TO BE A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
THAT LIVES AND SHARES THE LIFE
PROMISED BY JESUS WITHIN AND BEYOND
OUR CHURCH.**

THE WORD FOR TODAY

If you are regularly taking a word for today from St Andrews, that's awesome. We recommend you keep doing that till you can set up your own delivery of the Word for Today.

They give it out free, but for those wishing to donate towards the cost of their Word for today booklet they recommend a minimum of \$2 per booklet. That's pretty cheap per quarter. You could even up the donation to \$5 a quarter, get 2 delivered and give one to a friend.

The number to call to set this up is 0508 000 717. The nice ladies there will help with sorting out deliveries and your donation.

CAFÉ COFFEE

Wednesday **10th September**
MOMENTO ESPRESSO at 10:30 am



FIRESIDE

Thursday 18th September 1pm in the Church Lounge

Guest Speaker is

Matthew Ratcliffe a local Physiotherapist.

Come & listen to his experiences practising physiotherapy in the South African bush
Promises to be extremely interesting!



Wednesday 24th September
10am

O-Del_Emz



Until All Have Heard



FEBC
executive
director
Matt
Perry.

Matt Perry, executive director of Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) NZ, proved an informative and compelling speaker at the August St Andrew's Fireside meeting.

The meeting drew a number of ladies from other Matamata churches in what has become a popular quarterly Christian fellowship gathering. Matt, raised Anglican and now Baptist, commended the various denominations in meeting together, noting that there is only one Church. He noted that, when Jesus talked to crowds, his technique was to put himself in a place – eg in a boat out in the shallows or on an incline – where His voice would be amplified.

And, so it is with FEBC which – using the catchphrase Until All Have Heard – spreads the Gospel in 152 languages to 50 countries around the world via short-wave radio.

"We do this because all peoples must have the opportunity to know that there is a good and beautiful life for them in God," Matt said.

FEBC is committed to one thing and that is sharing Christ with a world where one in three people have little or no access to Jesus Christ.

Matt said that FEBC knows listeners are tuning in because of the many text messages, emails, phone calls, letters and visits.

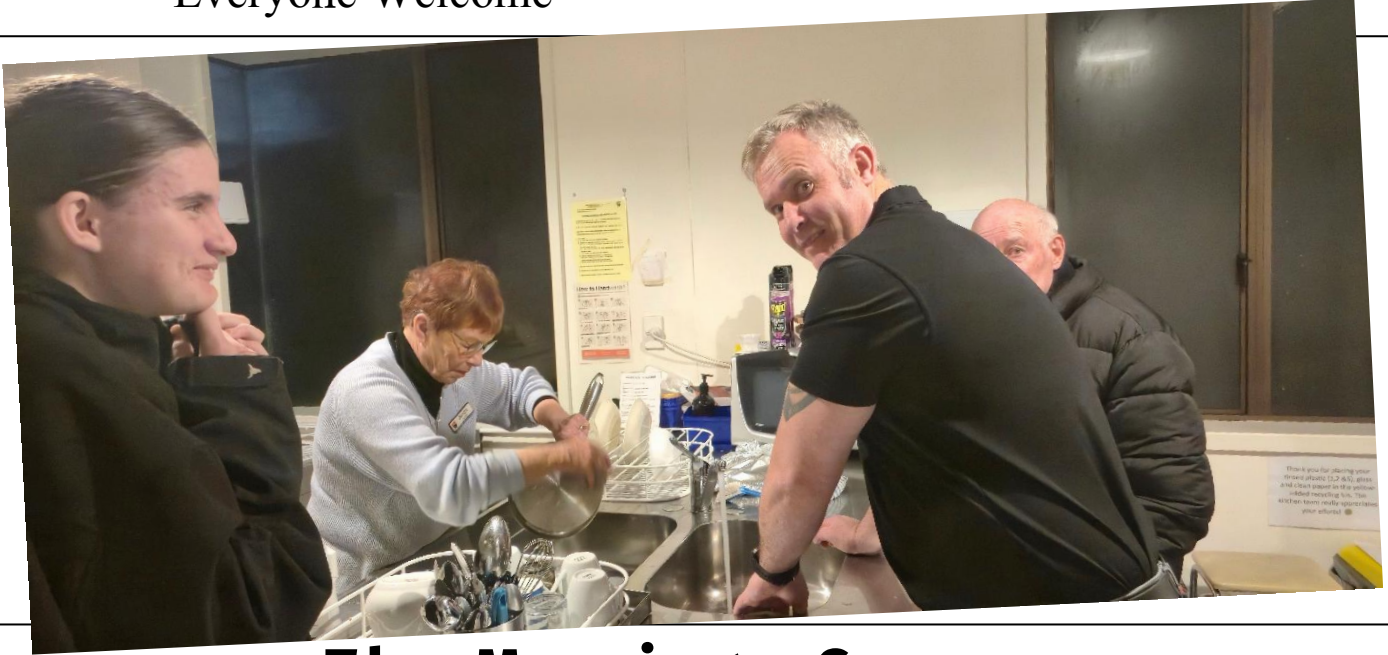
The meeting heard that around half of China's Christian Churches have their roots in FEBC and how, in countries where Bibles are forbidden, people memorise the Gospel.

After Matt's address – which drew a number of questions – the gathering enjoyed afternoon tea and more browsing/shopping at the sales table, proceeds from which, as well as the koha, will be donated to FEBC.

FOSTA

Friends of St Andrews

Tuesday 16th September
12pm (lunch time) in the Lounge
Bring something to share for lunch
Everyone Welcome



The Marriage Course

Some of our hard workers. Preparing for, and waiting on, the participants of The Marriage Course. So many of our Church family have put their hand up to help, which makes for a fun time even when you're working.

MIDWEEK

Service

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Church Lounge 10 am

Rev Murray Lambert speaking

Join us for praise, worship, Communion, and
fellowship together 😊