

# Burning Bush

March 2023



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." – John 14:27





# Fireside Outing

Velmae Spence gave 14 Fireside members a demonstration of how she prepares and makes her tasty fruity chocolate bars and chocolate treats at Country Cottage Chocolates in Walton. The ladies enjoyed the chocolate tasters and



afternoon tea in her adjacent garage served by her friend Dee. Many of us took advantage of her little shop to stock up on treats for our pantries and gift cupboards (and for some spoilt husbands)



## MATAMATA INTERESTS.

There were several matters of interest to Matamata Presbyterians which came before a meeting of the Waikato Presbytery in Hamilton.

### Healthy Condition.

Revs. J. D. McFarlane and A. C. Randerson, M.A., B.D., reported concerning the visitation of the parishes of Matamata and St. Andrew's, Hamilton. In both cases very marked progress was indicated and the spiritual and financial affairs of the congregations were in a healthy condition.

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

A snippet from a 1928 Waikato Times issue

TAKEN FROM A FACEBOOK POST.

The back of the photo reads  
New Presbyterian Church  
Matamata 1957

L or C McKenzie, Morris  
Tildesley and Ray Tomassen.

There was an amusing  
discussion on the post over  
health and safety in times gone  
by.

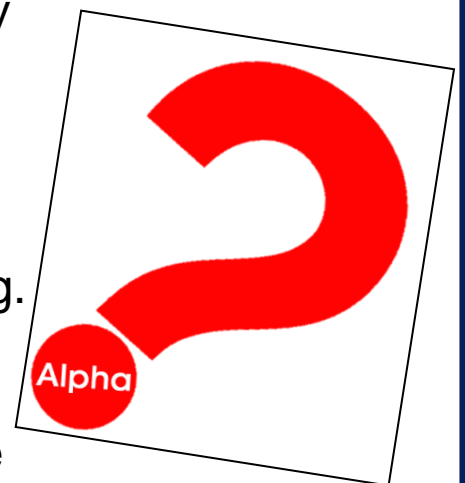


# *From The Minister*

After the covid years we were all looking forward to something like normal. Unfortunately for the people on the East Coast it's been a horrible start to 2023. When we see what the people there have experienced, it reminds us to be very grateful that we got off so lightly. It reminds us to treat life as a precious gift. Ask God to help us measure it carefully because we can never be sure when it will be time to hand it back. Let this be a time where we say to God, help us Lord to make our lives count for good.

Rochelle, our Young Families Worker has begun her work and will be bringing some fresh proposals to Session on 7th March. Please pray for guidance as we pick the way ahead.

I am very excited to confirm that our new Intermediate Kid's Club (years 7-9) began 19th February with 6 young people attending. Hopefully that will grow over the next few weeks. We are working through the Youth ALPHA Course and I'm confident, that those attending will experience real spiritual growth through it. We have leaders, but could do with more helpers for backup.



Our Sunday morning Kid's Church (for those up to 8 years old) has also got under way. It's great having the children with us in Church before they go out to their programme.

I am delighted to announce that Richard Brunton will be with us for the service 19th March. There will be a shared lunch that day with a blessing workshop in the afternoon. This will be I think his 4th visit to us. His book "The Awesome Power of Blessing" has now gone through 17 million copies around the world. Bring whoever you can. We will all be blessed. We have Peter and

Karen Brookes with us on 2nd April to update us on the mission work in Chennai.

There is more to come, including Easter at the beginning of April.

God Bless,  
Murray

Teach us to  
number our days  
aright, that we may  
gain a heart of  
wisdom  
Psalm 90:12



## FLOWER DEMONSTRATION

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 1.30pm

St Andrew's Hall

Come and have a go at your own arrangement after watching Robyn Smart give a demonstration.

**Bring some flowers and a container to arrange them in to . Greenery and a cuppa/bikkie provided**

## FIRESIDE

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 1pm

Getting to know Rochelle Arthur

## THE FOODBANK

14 parcels were given in January

**Needs for this month are**

Shampoo, Toothpaste, Laundry Powder, Potatoes and Milk Powder



# From the Session Clerk

We can argue until we're blue in the face about whether there is - or whether isn't - climate change.

Whatever side of the fence you claim, or whether you're simply sitting on it, the tragic devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle gives pause for thought.

I don't need to list Gabrielle's tally - we know what they are; we've viewed them on-screen daily from the safety and comfort of our home.

I believe that, as Christians, we need to take better care of our God-given world - we are its trustees, its stewards.

When we view the world as God's gift to us, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely, instead of poisoning or destroying it. We are accountable to Him as to how we use it.

Billy Graham reminded us almost 20 years ago that, after creating Adam: *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.* (Genesis 2:15).

"God didn't tell him to exploit the world or treat it recklessly, but to watch over it and use it wisely.

Like a good ruler, we should seek the welfare of everything God entrusts to us—including the creation," Graham said.

Yes, our Lord commissions us to rule over His creation in a way that sustains, protects, and enhances his works so that all creation may fulfil the purposes God intended for it. We must manage the environment not simply for our own benefit but for God's glory.

Together we  
can make a  
difference...  
you in your  
small corner  
and I in mine.

We may think that our individual efforts at managing the environment are far too insignificant to make a difference. Not so – together we *can* make a difference...you in your small corner and I in mine.

So – let's reduce our carbon footprint and emissions as far as possible; reduce the amount of trash we produce (we're running out of landfill!), re-use what we can, recycle as much as possible, compost if possible and conserve energy.

Oh, and plant trees! The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago – the next-best time is today!

Love and Blessings

Sandra

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. Psalm 24:1-2

## HOME COMMUNION

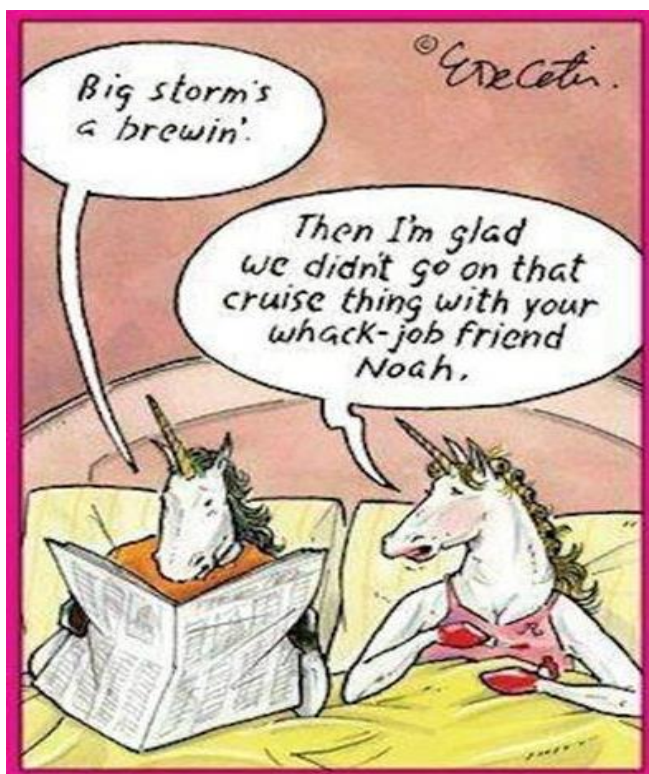
We can arrange to bring communion to those unable to attend our regular communion services.

Please just ask Rev Murray, an Elder, or leave a message at the church office (8887242).

### Communion is served monthly

St Andrew's on the second Sunday

Mid-Week Service (first Wednesday, 10am) in March and September;



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

March 2023

**5**  
**St Andrews**  
10am

**6**  
**Prayer Group**  
9am

**7**  
**Session** 7.30pm

**Anchors**  
1.15pm

Communion  
**12**  
**St Andrews**  
10am  
**St David's**  
2pm

**13**  
**Prayer Group**  
9am

**Anchors**  
1.15pm

**14**  
**Flower**  
**Demonstration**  
1.30pm  
**B.o.M.**  
7.30pm

**19**  
**St Andrews**  
10am

Richard Brunton Day

**20**  
**Prayer Group**  
9am

**Anchors**  
1.15pm

**21**  
**Friends of St**  
**Andrews**  
12pm

**26**  
**St Andrews**  
10am

**27**  
**Prayer Group**  
9am

**Anchors**  
1.15pm

**28**



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Midweek Service</b> 10am	<b>2</b> <b>Ambassadors</b> 10am	<b>3</b> <b>Sisters</b> 1pm	<b>4</b> <b>A.A.</b> 9am
<b>8</b> <b>Café Coffee</b> Rich Café 10.30am	<b>9</b> <b>Ambassadors</b> 10am	<b>10</b> <b>Sisters</b> 1pm	<b>11</b> <b>A.A.</b> 9am
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Ambassadors</b> 10am  <b>Fireside</b> 1pm	<b>17</b> <b>Sisters</b> 1pm	<b>18</b> <b>A.A.</b> 9am
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Ambassadors</b> 10am	<b>24</b> <b>Sisters</b> 1pm	<b>25</b> <b>A.A.</b> 9am
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Ambassadors</b> 10am	<b>31</b> <b>Sisters</b> 1pm	<b>A.A.</b> 9am

# Directory

Minister: Rev Murray Lambert  
[murray@standrewsmatamata.org.nz](mailto:murray@standrewsmatamata.org.nz)

**CHURCH OFFICE 888 7242**

[office@standrewsmatamata.org.nz](mailto:office@standrewsmatamata.org.nz)

Office Hours: Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm

20 Meura St Matamata

P.O. Box 64, Matamata 3440

Session Clerk - Sandra Hunter

888 6557 [session@standrewsmatamata.org.nz](mailto:session@standrewsmatamata.org.nz)

Board of Managers - Bronwyn Milne (Secretary)

888 8733 [managers@standrewsmatamata.org.nz](mailto:managers@standrewsmatamata.org.nz)

## HOME GROUPS

Ambassadors	John Stewart	880 9101
Anchors	Val Raynel	888 6240
Sisters	Lisa Stewart	021 718 370

Alpha:	Leslie Atkins	027 434 2253
Fireside:	Carol Metcalfe	888 4313
Friends of St Andrew's:	Danny Smart	021 077 7114
Midweek Service:	Jackie McBurney	888 2736

## FIND US @

**FACEBOOK:** St Andrews Matamata

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077410581239>

**YOU TUBE:** St Andrews Matamata

<https://www.youtube.com/@StAndrewsMatamata>

**OUR WEBSITE:** <https://www.standrewsmatamata.org.nz/>



St<sup>+</sup> Andrew's

# Midweek Service

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Church Lounge 10 am

**Murray Lambert speaking**

Join us for praise, worship and fellowship together

Communion

## The Awesome Power of Blessing

Richard Brunton



## Richard Brunton

19<sup>th</sup> March, 10am Service

**Followed by**

\*shared lunch

\*afternoon blessing  
workshop

**A day not to miss**

May the God  
of hope fill you  
with all joy and  
peace in  
believing, so  
that by the  
power of the  
Holy Spirit you  
may abound in  
hope

Romans 15:13



World Day  
of Prayer

**Friday 3 March  
10am**

At St Andrews

*I have heard about your faith*  
Ephesians 1:15

# From the Board Of Managers

We had our first meeting of the year on 14 February, and are in the process of organising an evening working bee at St Andrews in February.

We are very grateful to Sharman Orr who has been doing repairs around the property and will also be going to St David's to catch up on the much-needed tasks there.

It is with much regret we received Graham McKenzie's resignation from the Board. Graham has been a tireless worker for St Andrews and his sound knowledge is an invaluable asset. He has kindly said he will continue to help out as needed. Thank you Graham for your wisdom and contribution to the Board and St Andrews.



*"Do not cling to the old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am attentive to you; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting love. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence."*

*Jesus Calling*

Bronwyn

Secretary

St Andrews Bank Account Number

02 0360 0026810 00

To receive a giving number, call Leslie 027 434 2253



# From The Treasurer

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income			
Actual to 31/03/2022	\$193,814	\$164,140	\$29,674
Expenses			
Actual to 31/03/2022	\$152,608	\$157,707	\$5,099
Surplus/deficit	\$41,206	\$6,433	\$34,773

In a nutshell our income for the 10 months to 31 Jan 2023 is greater than we had budgeted and our expenses are less than we budgeted for. Of the \$41,206 increase in income \$5,300 is from pledges over and above the \$9,000 we budgeted. We also received a \$20,000 donation to be used for a specific purpose. It's good to see that our expenses are running behind budget as well and this is attributed to small savings over a number of areas. We give all thanks to our faithful God for His provision!

Leslie

**Do you, or someone you know, need prayer?**

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

If you would like to serve St Andrews Church in this way, we would like to hear from you.

Contact Louise 8887769 [mandll@orcon.net.nz](mailto:mandll@orcon.net.nz)



**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**  
St Andrews Lounge, Every Monday - 6pm



**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
9am every Saturday  
St Andrews Lounge

# Want the best house in Heaven?

**\*\*Please read the fine print**

We are **DESPERATELY** seeking

• ~~Susan~~

- **Projectionists** x2 - The people who run the laptop Sunday Mornings. This is a simple job. If you can read and have fingers, you're perfect for it.

You'd join a Music team and be on the roster with them(around 4x a term). You'll need to be at Church at 9am Sundays and if you can, Thursday night practices (although Kevin de Frere likes to do that one)

And we would love to have

- **Drummer** – You might have played in a Marching band 60 years ago. If you did, or have played any drums more recently, you may be just what we need.
- **More Techies** – It would be awesome to have more people learn the in's and out's of the camera or Youtube or Sound (cos certain unnamed Techies keep going on holiday)
- **Guitarist** – can you play a Bb or Ebm? Pianists seem to love the flat keys don't they? Well, we make our Pianists play in decent Keys (most of the time anyway). If you think you can strum along, let's have a chat

**Please talk to Robin, Rachel, Bron or Murray. Or call the office.**

**\*\*Fine Print:** It's unknown if we'll need houses in Heaven, and it's not up to us who get's them if there are.  
But it got your attention, right?





# PRAISING for NEW ZEALAND

*It's impossible not to be shocked and saddened by the devastation caused by recent storms.*

*As the lives of those directly affected are being rebuilt, let's pray for them all.*

- Comfort for those who have lost loved ones.
- Compassion for the neighbours of those who are grieving.
- Strength for those cleaning up.
- Hope for those wondering how they might re-build their lives.
- Generosity for those offering support.
- Wisdom and knowledge for officials who are planning for recovery.
- Humility in the nation as we consider our need of God.
- Boldness for Churches to show and share the love of God

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:4



“For My thoughts are not your  
thoughts,  
Nor are your ways My ways,”  
declares the Lord.

“For as the heavens  
are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher  
than your ways  
And My thoughts  
than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9