

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

PARISH PROFILE



“Open doors, open arms, open hearts”

Mission Statement.

St. Andrew's is called to make the best use of every resource entrusted to us by God, in order to bring as many people as possible into a lasting life-changing relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Introduction

The Presbyterian Church has a long and proud history of Christian witness to the Gore town and district. It has been a church presence which has valued the preaching of the Gospel and service within the community – a faith imperative which remains strong to the present day.

OUR VISION

The Church of St. Andrew's stated vision is to be *“a growing church, spiritually alive to God and actively caring for the community”*, and at this time of transition the parish is seeking the leadership of a Minister with the vision and capability to continue to expand and enhance this vital witness.

In recent years the church has seen significant changes in both the style of ministry and the connections it has made with the wider community of Gore. There are a range of outreach activities employing the ministry of many willing volunteers.

In 2010 a new organisational framework of Ministry Teams was implemented, and there is much potential for the new Minister to have a significant input into the structure and scope of these teams. The teams work on a voluntary basis apart from Fay Graves, our office Secretary, and the Rev. Murray Marshall, a retired minister who is employed part-time to assist with the pastoral needs of the parish.

This parish profile describes the parish and the type of ministry it believes is needed for the next stage of the journey. It also explores the role of the Minister in this parish and key attributes this faith family is seeking in their Minister.

The Gore Township

Gore has much to offer both residents and visitors. The town is the gateway to Southland's rural heartland and the magnificent Fiordland National Park, a World Heritage Reserve. It is an ideal base from which to explore all the region has to offer, within easy driving distances of the Lakes District, Queenstown, Wanaka, Te Anau and Manapouri as well as a number of ski-fields.

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There are good all-weather airports located in Invercargill- less than an hour by road, and Dunedin just under two hours away. The nearest university is in Dunedin.

The township of Gore is nestled in the Mataura Valley in the lee of the Hokonui Hills which offer many bush walks and amenity areas and create a scenic backdrop to the town. There is a good business and shopping precinct, museums, cinema, hospital and medical/ dental care, a premiere multisports and swimming complex. There are several primary schools, secondary schools and an off site campus for the S.I.T. (Southern Institute of Technology) based in Invercargill. With a district population of around 12,250 and a much greater rural servicing area, Gore has many amenities a larger town would be proud to offer.

The climate is mild in summer (usually a balmy 14 degrees c. upwards to the mid to late 20's) and winter temperatures a little more bracing, usually upwards of 6 degrees c. to the mid teens during the day and dropping a little lower at night. An average annual rainfall of 1,000 mm. ensures lush green pastures and productive gardens during the warmer months.

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, hall and Manse is conveniently situated within the central township with good shopping, community services and schools (both public and Church based) nearby.

(The Gore District website <http://www.goredc.govt.nz> , <http://www.southlandnz.com/> and <http://gorenz.com/live/community/> contains a great deal more information on the activities and history of the town.)

The Parish's role in the Community

We believe it is important for St. Andrew's to seek the pulse of the wider community, celebrating the good times and sharing the bad times in our town.



It is a reflection of our membership demographic we have a special affinity with the ministries of resthome visiting and elder care, but this is not exclusively the case- the toddlers weekly Mainly Music sessions are very well attended. It is hard to put the life of a church down in black and white, as the most sedate

sounding ministries are often the most vibrant, enjoyable and life-affirming occasions!

Some of the community facing projects supported by St. Andrew's are: The Salvation Army Foodbank, Bible in Schools, Mainly Music, Card evenings in winter, Gentle Exercise group, remedial reading support at the local school, Senior's concerts, the Christmas concert and Men's and Women's teas.

Other important areas of outreach are the hospital and rest home visiting and services, bereavement ministry, prayer and communion ministry and home visiting.

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As a Parish we enjoy the things we do within the community. As we are blessed with some wonderful musicians and a church choir, concerts and musical contributions are a natural opportunity to share with others. This year we continued the tradition of hosting a Country Music service timed to coincide with the Gold Guitars. We also participate in the town Christmas parade and ecumenical events with other churches in Gore and the surrounding region.

Our role in the wider church Community

Presbytery

Recently several smaller Presbyteries in this area were dissolved and replaced with one larger entity, The Southern Presbytery, which embraces all of Southland and Otago. Although this is a large geographical area the new system appears to be working well with regular meetings held at different venues within the area.

Other Churches

St. Andrew's is one of two Presbyterian Churches in Gore, the other being Calvin Church in Roberston Street in West Gore. In addition there are a network of Presbyterian churches and church clusters. St. Andrew's has always had a strong and active voice in the Gore Minister's Association (G.M.A.) which meets regularly and co-ordinate regular events. The Association holds a weekly Minister's Prayer meeting and organises a Mayor's prayer breakfast on the last Tuesday of each month.

Camp Columba in Pukerau provides a valuable Christian camp facility to our area and is well supported by St. Andrew's – financially, prayerfully and with gifts in kind like groceries and sponsorship for camps.

There is not a great deal of regional co-operation between the different Presbyterian churches but there is an interdenominational Minister's Association which provides an informal opportunity to pray, plan combined services and work on shared projects together. In later years there has been a particularly fruitful relationship emerge between St. Andrew's Church and the Anglican and Catholic Churches in Gore, resulting in us coming together for combined worship events at Christmas, Pentecost and Easter.

The St. Andrew's Parish Community

St. Andrew's is an urban parish in the heart of Eastern Southland with strong rural associations. Many farming families retire to Gore and find a spiritual home with the St. Andrew's faith family. While St. Andrew's is strengthened because of this it does mean there are a large number of older people in our congregation.

There is also a much-valued group of young families who are part of our congregation and we have a small Sunday School taken on a roster system.

The keystone of our worshipping community is the Sunday morning worship but there are many other opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship offered within the community. We have regular evening services which offer alternative worship experiences to the morning worship, an APW group, pre-service prayer group, choir, and several study opportunities a year on different topics.

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The fellowship of general interest groups; Choir, Mainly Music, Gentle Exercise sessions, Friday Night Cards, is also a significant way of sharing our faith and lives with others. There are several rest homes in the area and the visiting and support offered by St. Andrew's is an important area of ministry.

St. Andrew's has approx. 419 households under pastoral care and of these about 120 regularly receive communion.

More information on St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Gore may be found on our website, www.standrews.church.net.nz

Worship Services

St. Andrew's has a Sunday morning service at 10 a.m. each week, plus regular evening services. Special services are held at Christmas, Easter and to celebrate occasional events. Communion is held quarterly, and on these days a second communion service is held on Sunday afternoon.

The St. Andrew's Ministry also participates in rostered rest home services and ecumenical events in the town and country areas as needed.

Parish Activities and Groups

Session and Standing Committee

At St. Andrew's, **the Session** assumes the functions of Session and Deacon's Court. This court (currently 22 Elders, Session Clerk and 2 Ministers) meets quarterly to oversee the governance of the church, while the day to day management tasks have been delegated to a smaller "**Standing Committee**", plus the Session Clerk and Ministers which meets monthly and is responsible to Session.

Most of the Standing Committee members are also Team Convenors, which facilitates the flow of communication between the various groups.

Our Ministry Teams

St. Andrew's Church has a network of team ministries charged with enacting our Mission and Ministry Plan. The Ministry Teams framework and their Convenors provide a base from which all the resources of St. Andrew's Church- financial, human, physical and spiritual, can spring to fulfill our mission.

Pastoral Care

This team undertakes the visiting and care ministry to the sick, housebound, bereaved, and the general congregation. Members also help with Home Communion ministry and targeted ministry projects, and keep the minister informed of any special visiting needs within the parish they may become aware of.

Worship

The mission of the worship team is to create new worship opportunities, improve regular worship experiences and to identify significant and special events to celebrate within our community. Under this grouping fall floral art, the band and music team, choir, morning tea and after service hospitality, greeters and wardens, and the Audio-visual team.



Education

The task of the Education team is to meet people where they are and offer opportunities to draw them into a closer relationship with God. This team runs Sunday School and children's programs (with the exception of Mainly Music) Bible Studies, Bible in Schools co-ordination, workshops and training days, and assists with worship when needed.

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Communications

The Communication team facilitates the internal and external communication tasks within the church. The areas of service are wide, The team assists with the publishing and distribution of the Clarion (Church Newsletter), co-ordinating the print and media advertising, pastoral visiting cards and welcome packs and website updates. They work closely with other groups.

Mission and Outreach

Mission and Outreach team are responsible for groups and events with a significant element of outreach- Mainly Music, Gentle exercise Group, card evenings, reading help at the local school, Social Team events, Seniors Christmas concert etc.

Finance Team

This team administers the finances of the parish and financially enables the mission of the church. They are responsible for the banking and the establishment of financial policies and procedures and financial planning and reporting.

Works team

Works team care for the facilities and property of the St. Andrew's church complex, hall, manse and grounds, attend to the heating system and plan and implement maintenance and refurbishment as needed.

Women's Fellowship Team

(APW) The women's fellowship team offers an important ministry of friendship and fellowship. Daytime monthly meetings, devotional times, Bible and mission support. They also offer valuable catering and fundraising support to church and mission.

Church Site and Plant



The Presbyterian Church has had a long history in Gore. The first church (now decommissioned as a centre of worship) was established in 1881 on the East side of the town.



The first building to be raised on the present site on the corner of Ardwick and Devon Sts. was the brick hall building which still plays a central role as the parish hall. This building was used from 1928 until the late 1950's as church, hall and Sunday school when the present Church with its signature square brick tower was built. The modern glass-fronted atrium which now connects the two buildings was part of a church wide refurbishment undertaken in 2002- 2003 creating the well used and integrated layout we enjoy today.

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The church is spacious, providing regular seating for several hundred people. This capacity can be increased further for large civic occasions or funerals as the fully integrated sound system allows additional seating to be offered in the atrium and church hall.

We are fortunate to have a well maintained, fully operational pipe organ which is still played for the morning service each Sunday, augmented by a worship band and mixed choir most Sundays. Even though St. Andrew's is a large worship space, a modern sound and audio-visual system ensure our parishioners can see and hear what is going on with ease during the service.

A coal-fired central heating system keeps the complex at a comfortable temperature throughout the colder months.



The Church hall and meeting rooms were renovated and a fully fitted commercial kitchen and new toilet suite was installed during the 2002 refurbishment. In the connecting atrium a tea and coffee making area allows the congregation to share fellowship and a cup of tea after worship. A centrally located office inside the main doors is the administration hub of the complex and first port of call for visitors and enquiries.



The Manse is located next door to the church complex, at no. 4 Devon Street. It is a modern building of brick and roughcast, with an iron roof. It is in good order with carpets and drapes renewed in recent years.

The house is heated by a free-standing Yunca and a diesel- fired central heating system.

The Church also owns the land on which the Gore Play Centre is built. The Play Centre has a lease agreement terminating in early 2016.

Finances

The Parish is confident that it can support a full time Minister and meet its financial commitments as it has done in the past.

A copy of the latest financial statements can be found in the most recent St. Andrew's Church Annual Report which can be made available on request.

Ministry Profile

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- grow in our Christian faith
- serve, love and worship God
- proclaim the message of Salvation to the wider Christian environment
- and to care for God's creation and work towards peace and justice for all people.

Our Minister

With the encouragement, support and assistance of the St. Andrew's congregation, our Minister will:

- serve all ages within the parish community.
- support people's faith journeys and encourage them to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.
- be aware of, and minister to, the pastoral needs of the parish, including pastoral visiting and supporting the pastoral care endeavors of this community.
- conduct and co-ordinate services of worship, Communion, and special services (weddings, baptisms, confirmations and funerals).
- afford leadership and support the efficient, practical stewardship of the Church.
- explore opportunities for outreach into the wider community, with a vision to grow the church of God in this place.
- recognise and willingly share their own and other's gifts and abilities, and take the initiative to release people's gifts and talents, supporting their efforts to serve God and one another.

We see the person who is called to lead this parish in their ministry will be:

- a person of genuine integrity, personal faith and spirituality. They would have an interest in people, relate well to them and have the ability to journey with them, delighting in the joys of life and walking supportively and respectfully with them during times of difficulty, sadness or loss.
- someone with a theology which is not polarised at either extremity of the theological spectrum, but who embraces the practical outworking of a theology which has, at its heart, the love of God for all human beings. While the Minister's beliefs on controversial issues within the church would be respected, they would also need to respect the diversity of opinion in the parish over such issues.
- comfortable with a fairly traditional worship style. Our worship has developed and changed over the years, with elements of congregational participation, a band-led worship time and a certain informality becoming valued elements of our services.

The key elements of our worship remain quite traditional; lectionary – based scriptural preaching, prayers and readings from the lectern, traditional, reflective hymns and worship songs, organ or restrained instrumental music and choral anthems. Music plays an important part in our worship, and provides a valuable opportunity for those who wish to participate in the life of our community.

Terms of Call

The terms of call for this appointment are in accordance with the Standard Terms of Call as listed in chapter 6 of the Book of Order, and subsidiary conditions to be found in Sections 2.5 and 2.6 of the Conditions of Service Manual, and agreed between the Parish, Presbytery, Moderator and the Minister being called.

