

Recent History: 2010 – 2011

A group of elders along with Karima, spent a lot of time, thought and prayer as together they worked out what they believed St Andrews was called to be and do. The following statements came from this time. Over the next months we will re-visit these statements and see whether they are worth re-working, and perhaps reclaiming.

Is this what you understand St Andrews to be on about?

Our Mission

We are 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 Christ Jesus.

Our Vision

We want to be a growing church,
spiritually alive to God,
actively caring for
the community.

Rev Helen Martin
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Gore 9710

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ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GORE

THE CLARION

WINTER 2017



**OPEN DOORS !
OPEN ARMS !
OPEN HEARTS !**

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

CONTACT NAMES FOR ST ANDREWS CHURCH

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PARISH REGISTER

Those we love can never be more than a thought away..... For as long as there's a memory they live in our hearts to stay

We extend our deepest sympathy
to the family and friends of:

May McKenzie

Gordon McKinlay

Ivy Young

Helen Miller

Norman Dickie

Wynne Winwood

*We congratulate Elizabeth Heslip
and
Nairn Stuart
on the occasion of their marriage at
St Andrews*

27 May 2017



Minister's Greeting

It is good to be here at St Andrews. Thank you for your kindness and generosity as I settled in: Little repair jobs, wood supplied and chopped, flowers, baking, groceries, wearing of name tags, encouragement on Sundays, lessons in 500, good constructive meetings, a special lunch, entertainment to follow, outings and meals . . . What more could a minister desire?!

It is also good to begin to get to know key volunteers – the ones that make everything happen. We are blessed with many who give unstintingly of their time and energy to make St Andrews a good place to be: Jim & Co. on maintenance and repairs, caterers, musicians, singers, the technology people up the back, the boiler men, Fay as our secretary and Nicki as our cleaner, With several funerals in those first few weeks I saw everyone in action and at their best.

On the next pages there are reports from our Session Clerk and Treasurer. You'll recognise they do a good deal more than their reports indicate and for that I am very grateful. It's so helpful to have people in key roles that are as personable, available, and hard-working as these two.

As I listen and learn I am struck by the importance of kind and encouraging speech. We can lift a person up or we can slap them down with a word. Let's be a people who build one another up with encouragement. As you are being so very kind to me, please be just as kind to those you have known much longer! Every blessing,

Helen Martin

News from the Session Clerk

Thanks to you all for making Rev. Helen Martin welcome. We have had our first session meeting with Helen as moderator and we are getting to know her better and understand her role with us for the next two years.



Helen and I have had a number of discussion meetings and we value each other's points of view. It is good to have a leader with experience in church governance and excellent communication skills who can see our good points and wants to involve us in decisions. My work load has been reduced and I can seek advice at any time. We can move forward as a worshipping community in Gore and together we can proclaim the Good News. Regular reports after session meetings will appear in the Sunday News Sheet. Please respond to requests on issues.

As Helen and I work on meeting agendas we are able to work on our work loads and update session members on the work of the national church, presbytery and the combined outreach of churches in the Gore area. Session needs to look at the best ways forward and consider the needs of our people. How can we reach out to you all? How can we keep open the lines of communication? How can we use the talents of our St Andrew's congregation? Remember God is always with us.

TWO LITTLE BOYS

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a Minister in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the Minister.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The Minister agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the Minister repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the Minister raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the wardrobe. His older brother followed him into the wardrobe and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'



FILM REVIEW—John Falconer

The title of the film “The Shack” gives no indication of what the film represents.

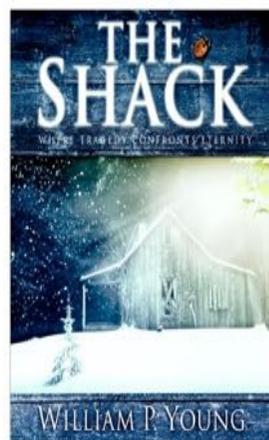
The film is based around a family that tragically loses their youngest daughter, who was kidnapped and murdered while on a family holiday at a lake.

So intense is the Father’s loss he questions his Christian faith and why God would allow this to happen to his daughter.

The Father receives an anonymous letter urging him to visit an abandoned shack deep in the wilderness of Oregon USA. It is while he is at ‘The Shack’ (hence the title of the film) he encounters God.

This mystical journey of self and fath exploration is as challenging to the viewer as it is to the girl’s father, as he comes to terms with the tragedy and the loss of his daughter.

A film that challenges your faith, your understanding that you are never alone, your conception of God and how it relates to your belief.



Helen has this book if
anyone would like to read it.
Helen would be happy to lend it.

News from the Session Clerk - continued

At present there is much discussion around the roles of Presbytery and Synod to make both organisations more effective to foster the work of the church in Otago/Southland.

We now have a Presbytery that covers from the Waitaki River south. Before we were part of a much smaller Maitara Presbytery and all churches had their representatives. Today Presbytery is made up of a nominated *council* which conducts the business *monthly*, and has full meetings of Presbytery elders once or twice a year.

Presbytery has a number of *resource groups* spread over the area and some seem more active and better supported than others.

A number of these resource groups are duplicated in Synod and the same people are involved in both. There is a strong argument to combine these groups and therefore release people to make certain that local churches are involved in decision making. Synod makes grants for many church activities and educational establishments. This funding is governed by an Act of Parliament and is tied down for use in our region. This is a nest egg set up by our Scottish forefathers. We have been asked to pray for wisdom for those attending discussion on this issue. Helen and I will attend the Presbytery meeting in July when this topic will be on the agenda.

May His love surround you each day.
Douglas Dixey

Finance Report

You will be delighted to hear that the Synod of Otago and Southland granted \$51,300 for the upgrade to the Manse. This was 50% of the total amount spent of \$102,600. The special appeal for the Manse brought in \$35,890 and the difference of \$15,410 was paid from general church funds. No further major spending is expected to be made in the next twelve months. Helen Martin says she is now 'snug as a bug in a rug' so many thanks to those who contributed to the appeal and to the manse committee for all their hard work.

Our Annual Appeal raised \$9,390 this year compared with \$6,500 last year. Thank you, so much, for responding so generously to this appeal.

The Fair raised over \$5,170, partly due to the sale of cheese rolls and the auction. This is \$1,000 more than last year. Many thanks to Joy Carter and her teams of helpers, and to Jan Prattley for making the cheese rolls.

The Deep Cove Camp held in April produced a surplus of \$1,045.70. Their committee has asked that the funds be kept aside for youth work.

The new switchboard for the boiler has been paid for and we are looking forward to having it installed.

Thank you, everyone, for continuing to financially support the work of our parish.

Joy Creighton (Treasurer)



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 9.00AM PRAYER IN THE VESTRY
10.00AM CHURCH SERVICES

THE FIRST **SUNDAY** OF EACH MONTH
FOODBANK DONATIONS

THE FIRST **TUESDAY** OF EACH MONTH
SESSION MEETING

THE FIRST **WEDNESDAY** OF EACH MONTH
WOMENS COFFEE GROUP

EVERY **FRIDAY** NIGHT DURING THE WINTER
500 CARDS

YOUTH SERVICE
REPORTS FROM DEEP COVE TRIP & CAMP COLUMBA
SUNDAY 6 AUGUST

COMMUNION SERVICES
9 JULY, 1 OCTOBER AND 10 DECEMBER

SPRING FLOWER SERVICE
17 SEPTEMBER

DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS
SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

PLANT SALE
SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER

The title: “The Clarion”

Our parish magazine has been called ‘*The Clarion*’ for a good long time. Back in 2015 there were one or two editions of the magazine called ‘*Witness*’ because they were experimental. That was to be a ‘new start’ for the magazine but possibly got lost along the wayside because other events overtook it?

Historical meaning as a noun:

Way back in medieval times a *clarion* was a horn with a clear sound. These days it is a four foot reed stop of trumpet quality on an organ.



‘Clarion’ used as an adjective:

As an adjective it means ‘clear and ringing’ as in ‘a *clarion* call to action.’ If you hear the clarion call of the stage, it means you want to be an actor. *Clarion* means loud and clear, and a *clarion* call is a call to something that is hard to ignore. It can also mean ‘*inspiring*.’ One of the dictionaries noted that a clarion call is hard to ignore, but also pure and clear in tone – not shrill. As an adjective it has been in use since 1838 or thereabouts.

The Clarion as a magazine title:

I think we have taken the meaning of the adjective ‘clarion’ as in ‘clarion call’ and turned it into a proper noun for our own purposes – not a bad idea!

Do we want to keep the title and/or does it matter?

Is ‘The Clarion’ a good title for our church magazine? If it is, we will keep it. If it could be improved we could change it? If we changed it, what would we change it to? What do other churches call their magazine?

Please chat, discuss and let Session know what you think.

Helen will find a way for you to let your thoughts be known – perhaps a box in the foyer once all our favourites hymns are in?



500 FRIDAYS @ 7.30PM

Once again the Friday night sessions of "500" are well under way. An average of 20 players attend--competition is hot & lots of fun is had by all. At \$3 a night you are in with a chance for a prize (either the top or booby) New people are always welcome--one new player is ready to join us.

Wisha Thwaites

CHOIR

The Choir has decided to have a break over the winter months and will reurn in the Spring with (hopefully) renewed energy, enthusiasm and possibly even additional members !!!!

Jen Grieve

JIM AND FRIENDS

THANK YOU FOR THE NEW DOOR HANDLES IN ST ANDREWS. THEY MAKE OPENING THE DOORS MUCH EASIER FOR OLD AND COLD HANDS.

WAIT THERE'S MORE- GLASS IN THE FRONT DOOR!



Our Favourite Hymns

Helen has asked us for a list of some of our favourite hymns and songs and plans to include as many as possible in our services between now and Christmas. If you have not yet put your list in the box in the foyer (or emailed them direct to Helen) please remember to do so very soon.

Margaret Pullar wrote:

My overall favourite is “**Almighty Father of all things that be.**” Hundreds of us sang it endlessly and with great gusto at the National Youth Conference in Palmerston North in 1954.

We even brought in the New Year with it! There I met my husband Gordon, John Falconer and so many others from the Matura Bible Class District Committee.

I was teaching at Te Awamutu College at the time, teaching Bible Class, and our minister at the time, Harold Scott, had encouraged me to attend the conference. My girl friend from Auckland and I travelled down on the night train, decided to try the conference out and determined to leave the next day if we didn't like it. Needless to say, we stayed! .

Having learned to love that particular hymn Gordon and I had it at our wedding, our children's baptism and again at Gordon's funeral.

Thanks, Margaret, for that personal insight and the choice of a wonderful hymn. If anyone else would like to tell us the story behind one of their favourite hymns there will be another Clarion before our communion in October.

Write it down and send it to Fay in the office.

Almighty Father of all things that be
Our life, our work, we consecrate to thee,
whose heavens declare thy glory from above,
whose earth below is witness to thy love.

For well we know this weary, soiled earth
is yet thine own by right of its new birth,
since that great Cross upreared on Calvary
Redeemed it from its fault and shame to thee.

Thine still the changeful beauty of the hills,
the purple valleys flecked with silver rills,
the ocean glistening 'neath the golden rays;
they all are thine, and voiceless speak thy praise.

Then grant us, Lord, in all things Thee to own,
to dwell within the shadow of thy throne,
to speak and work, to think, and live, and move,
reflecting thine own nature, which is love.

That so, by Christ redeemed from sin and shame,
and hallowed by thy Spirit's cleansing flame,
Ourselves, our work, and all our powers that be
a sacrifice acceptable to thee.

