

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church



“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

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a growing church, spiritually alive to God, actively caring for the community.



Our Church Structure

Recent Past.

Until 2010 the church was governed by The Session and managed by The Deacons Court. In 2010 The Deacons Court was disbanded and a Team Ministry was set up, responsible to Session. This structure allowed for much greater participation by members of the

congregation. Session appointed a Standing Committee to carry out the day to day running of the Church's business. The Teams involved included Worship, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Communications, Education, Finance, Works and APW. By 2014, the Standing Committee had disbanded as there were not enough people for the effective running of each Team. Session, therefore, took over the responsibilities of both governance and management.

At Present.

The Session is the main governing body of the church. In 2018 a Finance and Works Group was set up as the management body of the church, directly responsible to the Session.

St Andrew's Parish Community

- St Andrew's is a predominantly senior congregation with an average attendance in 2018 of 82. This is reflected in our Sunday 10 a.m. morning worship, where the pipe organ is used for about half the singing. The remainder of the music is led by the Music Team (piano and singers) using more contemporary songs. The majority of the congregation enjoy having the pipe organ as an integral part of Sunday worship.

At present our preaching follows the lectionary. As a congregation we enjoy hearing a variety of theological interpretations. When talking with members of the congregation about 'preaching' these comments were given priority;

- Makes Jesus Christ central
- Engages with the congregation and with the Bible
- Reassuring
- Inspiring and relates to current issues
- Challenging
- Enlightening

We meet in the church all year round, and an afternoon Sunday service is held in the church lounge on the last Sunday of the month for those who have difficulty attending on a Sunday morning.



Ecumenical Ties.

St Andrew's prides itself on its ecumenical ties within the Gore area, particularly with the congregations of the Blessed Sacrament (Roman Catholic) and Holy Trinity (Anglican). These three combine in an evening service to celebrate Ash Wednesday, Pentecost and the first Sunday of Advent. Many of the congregations also have combined morning services for the last Sunday in December and the first two Sundays in January. The Minister is also a member of the Gore Ministers Association which meets monthly to provide prayerful support for the ministers and to organise the Walk of the Cross on Good Friday and Carols in the Park at Christmas.



Women's Coffee Group.

This group, of 20 – 25 women, meets on the first Wednesday of each month for about an hour. There are devotions, a speaker, and information from the Bible Society about that month's Bible of the Month appeal.

Civic Role.

St Andrew's has enjoyed a civic role within the Gore District as the oldest surviving Presbyterian Church in the area. This is most noticeable for funerals and occasionally weddings. We also celebrate the Gold Guitars at Queen's Birthday weekend by including country music during the Sunday service.



The Rhododendron Festival is held on a Sunday in the Gore gardens, across the road from the church, and our hall is hired for the flower display. A brass band leads worship that Sunday before performing at the Festival.



Funerals.

We have about 15 funerals at the church each year. The majority are for those who have been members of the congregation but there are others, who for various reasons, ask to have the funeral service at St Andrew's because of its history and place in the community. Session warmly encourages their Minister to be flexible about allowing others (Minister's from other churches or celebrants) at the family's request.

Weddings.

There have been a number of weddings in recent years where the couple have had affiliations to other churches in the area. The ceremony has been performed by their own minister or by a celebrant. Many choose our church as it is considered a 'real' church rather than an auditorium.



Baptism.

Session encourages the minister to work pastorally with families, including grandparents, who seek baptism for their children. We understand that some families may not be committed Christians nor have a true understanding of the Gospel. Nevertheless, in a country district there remains vestiges of an acknowledged spiritual need to receive God's blessing for their little ones, and we wish to make the most of this as we help them understand the Christian faith and also the various options that are available to them. Session expects to be fully informed of such requests and involved in decision-making concerning them.

Rest Home Services.

The Gore Ministers Association compile rosters for short afternoon Sunday services. St Andrew's leads them six times during the year.

Senior Concerts.

Two well attended concerts are held during the year and the Rest Homes from as far away as Wyndham are invited. A variety of people entertain with music, short dramas, poems etc. The local primary school, Gore Main School, usually entertain at the November concert.



PASTORAL CARE AND VISITING

While we do not expect our Minister to do all the Pastoral Visiting, we appreciate receiving visits during a time of special need. We are hopeful that the Minister who joins us will have a caring and compassionate nature.

Visits by elders and others

Over the years we have evolved from a very large number to a much smaller number of elders' districts. At present we make use of our quarterly magazine 'The Clarion' as an opportunity for a pastoral visit by elders and a few others. We are working to ensure those we visit know that this is a visit from 'the church' and not simply a social visit, although we know the social visit is important.

- We wear badges to identify ourselves as a 'St Andrew's Church Visitor.'
- We are doing our best to actually visit rather than just leave 'The Clarion' in the letterbox.
- We are also working at offering a brief bible reading and/or prayer, the ideas for which have been provided by our transitional minister. Although a challenge, we have begun to see this as positive.
- There are also various elders who make an extra effort to keep in touch between quarterly visits.

Visits by a pastorally gifted and motivated elder

At the time of writing, the congregation benefits from an Elder making a good number of 'extra' visits to those with particular needs and also to those in Rest Homes who can no longer attend church. He keeps in regular touch with the minister and may be available to continue doing this if a new minister wished.

Morning Tea each Sunday in the foyer

Around two thirds of the congregation stay and chat over morning tea. We have recently introduced tables and chairs to make it more comfortable.



Informal Friendship Groups

While St Andrew's does not have home groups or the like there are some strong informal support networks:

- Each morning approximately ten St Andrew's men join others to work at the Pakeke Lions recycling centre (The 'Cardboard Factory').
- The catering team meet each week for coffee on a Monday morning.
- A dozen or so who live alone meet each week for Sunday lunch at a local restaurant.
- A smaller group meet each Saturday morning for coffee at another restaurant. Still others gather for Friday lunch at the RSA. Many parishioners are members of the Gore RSA.
- Those who have shifted into town from outlying districts stay in touch with those from their particular district.
- A women's Bible Study group meets on alternate Monday mornings at a member's home.

Our challenge: how to integrate newcomers

Because of all the informal networks we can overlook the need to integrate newcomers into 'our' group.

2pm Monthly Worship Services

These were started in 2018 as much as a pastoral support group as an opportunity to gather for worship. Between 6 – 16 have attended on the last Sunday of each month. This will be reviewed in 2019.

- Some transport arranged for those who need it;
- Half hour of worship, sitting down throughout;
- Quarterly Communion;
- Large print service sheets; no 'technology';
- Half hour chat over afternoon tea.



Personal Celebrations are noted each Sunday morning

Following the notices, we allow time for people to tell briefly of anything they are celebrating this week and offer them a chocolate. We rejoice with those having birthdays, anniversaries, new grand children or great grandchildren, and those who have won an award for some achievement.

Church Luncheons

These are organised by 'The Outreach Committee', about 3 times a year, and usually just over half of the congregation stay to enjoy the meal, a quiz or some other activity around the tables.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Our challenges are similar to many other churches at this stage of our nation's history. We were once large, and although we still average 80 plus each Sunday we 'feel' small now in comparison.

Children and Young People

There is a well-resourced children's corner and table at the back of the church. Two of our elders look after this and welcome children with activities when they attend.

We have no regular attendance by children or young people. Our 'last' families were lost to us about six years ago when we had a difficult ministry experience.

However, half a dozen grand-parents bring their pre-school and primary school aged children to church from time to time. Over recent years we have held a special children's service during Advent which has been well attended.

Gore Main Primary School is just around the corner which means there is potential for a children's and/or families' ministries if the minister were able to spear-head these.

There is a small group of people who may be able to actively support a minister who has the necessary giftings to develop a children's and families' ministry.

Community Involvement

- Most individuals are well involved in community clubs and activities. Although in their senior years, most of the congregation keep themselves very busy with family, helping on the farm, and attending various service and recreational clubs.
- There are several activities run by 'The Outreach Committee' aimed at encouraging community members into the church buildings to enjoy fellowship:
 - Friday Card Evening during winter months
 - Senior Concerts twice a year
- Rest Home Services are very well supported by approximately 12 – 15 congregational members. A pianist is always available.
- Our minister is encouraged, if able, to attend the monthly prayer breakfast with our Mayor and other members of the Gore Ministers Association. There may be potential for developing a greater sense of community involvement

Overseas Mission

- For many years we have supported the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal and this was affirmed as a congregational commitment in 2018.
- Many of the congregation support, by prayer and giving, overseas mission and various charities on an individual basis.
- Our congregational involvement with overseas mission is minimal at this stage, but we are looking to re-awaken interest in this in the first half of 2019. This began with a visit from Rev. Phil King from Global Mission, PCANZ, in February.

Finances:

- We are in the process of selling the vacant land at 6 Devon Street Gore which will create funds for Capital Expenditure.
- At the beginning of 2018 Session and other members of the congregation met as a Finance Think Tank. A member of the Synod Property and Finance Committee also attended and we welcomed his input and advice.
- We always pay our Assembly Assessment, Presbytery Levy and Gore Ministers' Association Levy.
- Most years we give donations to Bible in Schools, Hospital Chaplaincy and sometimes to the Southland Hospice.
- We run two successful fund-raisers; the church sale in April and the plant sale in October. An Annual Appeal is made in February/March each year.
- For each of the past four or five years we have used approximately \$20,000 of our cash reserves to balance our books.
- There has recently been a generous increase in our weekly offerings.
- We continue to encourage people to make use of the government tax credit scheme for donations, but there has been only a very small uptake of this.
- During 2019 we will continue to develop some financial policies.

So, to help us going forward, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Gore is seeking a full-time Minister to lead us as a community embracing church which seeks to be:

- *Christ centred and illuminated by the scriptures*
- *Theologically open and respectful of diversity*
- *Socially concerned*
- *Spiritually growing*

We are seeking a Nationally Ordained Minister who is theologically open and respectful of diversity:

- *Has a heart for God and people of all ages*
- *A worship leader with a passion for sharing the gospel*
- *leadership skills suitable for overseeing the growth of the Church*

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

The Manse

The St Andrew's 1956 red brick manse is situated directly behind the church which is convenient without being intrusive. Although church groups like to occasionally meet in the manse, the congregation respects their minister's privacy and usually visit on invitation only.

- Four bedrooms, each with built in wardrobes. All recently redecorated in neutral colours.
- One bathroom (bath, shower, toilet, large vanity unit) and one laundry which can be renovated to make a second bathroom. This is on our 'to do' list. However, if this is *not* done before a new minister arrives, we will want to do it within the first 18 months.
- Second toilet off laundry.
- New kitchen with dishwasher.
- Large wood-burner in the family area – open plan kitchen – dining - living
- Separate lounge if minister wishes to hold church meetings at home – this opens out onto the front veranda through sliding glass double doors.
- Double glazed windows.
- Garage with internal access.

The Minister's Study and/or Office

There is a well shelved study just inside the front door of the manse which is large enough to receive callers as well as work in. The minister may work from here or, if desired, we have the capacity to set up an office in the church. This has been done previously and simply requires some work to make it happen again.

The Manse Garden

- Medium-sized garden which can be made child proof if necessary.
- No vegetable garden at present but plenty of potential.
- The street frontage has trees and shrubs on a small bank with some ground cover to help maintain it.
- On one side of the drive there are shrubs, a tree, and some roses – easy care.
- Two other small rose gardens.
- One recently landscaped small garden directly outside the study and front door.
- Lawns have recently been mowed on the church lawn-mowing roster, but we would be glad if the minister were able to mow the lawns themselves.

Note: Because of the circumstances of the previous ministers (one from overseas and one with a home elsewhere) we have furnished the manse with all the basics (beds, furniture, linen, kitchen ware). These could be left or removed as required.

CHURCH, HALL AND MEETING ROOMS

- **Church.**

The church is spacious, providing regular seating for about 200 people. This capacity can be increased further for large civic occasions or funerals as the fully integrated sound system allows additional seating in the atrium and church hall. There is a sound system, DVD player, data projector and large screen. The Sunday Services are run through the EasiWorship programme.



- **Hall and Meeting Rooms.**

The hall and some meeting rooms were renovated and a fully fitted commercial kitchen and new toilet suite were installed during the 2002 refurbishment. The rooms are regularly rented by a number of community groups such as toastmasters, the camera club, tramping club, embroiders etc. and also by the Hokonui Community Market on a monthly basis. A number of groups also hire it during the year - such as the Rhododendron Festival, Highland dancing and Karate

- **Office.**

There is a centrally located office, for the church secretary, inside the main doors as well as an adjacent room which can be used as an office if required.



- **Central Heating.**

There is a coal-fired central heating system that heats the church and hall for about five months of the year. A small group of men keep the heating running. A task force has recently looked into other options for heating the complex such as diesel and electricity. This included advice from a heating engineer from Dunedin. The decision was that the existing system was still the most cost effective. Additional underfloor heating was purchased in 2018 for part of the church to boost the temperature.

- **Earthquake.**

The engineer's reports, by Batchelor McDougall Consulting, dated 1 April 2014 have rated the Church at 35-40%, the Hall at 20-25% and the Manse at 45-45% of the new build standard. We are waiting for further information from Synod before the next steps are looked at as Gore is considered a low earthquake risk area (zone 1).

- **Insurance.**

In 2018 the insurance cover on our buildings were reduced to \$2,522,800 for the church, \$1,333,500 for the hall and the church organ to \$75,000. This allows us to build a 400 square metre church and a 300 square metre hall which we believe will be large enough to meet our present needs. The church and hall are still not covered in the event of an earthquake as this is too expensive.



The town of Gore is nestled in the Mataura Valley in the lee of the Hokonui Hills. Visitors are often impressed with the modern facilities available in this rural setting. The town, famous for its country music, illicit whiskey making and brown trout fishing, is also a growing hub of history, heritage and artwork.



Gore is a gateway to Southland's rural heartland and the magnificent Fiordland National Park, and is an ideal base to explore all the region has to offer and is within easy driving distance of Queenstown, Wanaka, Te Anau, Manapouri and a number of ski fields.

The Southern Scenic Route, from Balclutha to Invercargill includes spectacular scenery, rainforest, waterfalls, Cathedral Caves, easy access to a fossilised forest, as well as being home to dolphins, sea lions and penguins. Oreti Beach near Invercargill, the sea side town of Riverton and Stewart Island are also great places to visit.

Airports are located at Invercargill, Queenstown and Dunedin, and the Inter Island bus routes give access to all the places mentioned above. There is a good business and shopping precinct (including two supermarkets), museums, cinema, as well as day care facilities and after school care.

Education. The town has two kindergartens, a play centre, three primary schools as well as an intermediate and secondary school. There is also an Integrated Catholic primary school and secondary school. The Manse is in the Gore Main School zone and is within easy walking distance. SIT (Southern Institute of Technology) is based in Invercargill and has an off-site campus in Gore.

Sporting amenities include an indoor complex comprising a 25 metre, 8 lane heated swimming pool, ice rink and a multisport complex that is used for netball and other sports. There is also an all-weather equestrian arena, and all-weather hockey turf, numerous other sporting grounds and privately-run gyms.

Food. The MLT (Mataura Licensing Trust) has three restaurants and there are also a number of other restaurants, cafes and eateries including SubWay, Pizza Hut, McDonalds, KFC and ethnic food such as Thai, Indian, Chinese and Turkish.

Hospital - Gore Health Ltd is a hospital offering a range of public and private integrated services, including 16 inpatient beds, a 24/7 Emergency Department, maternity services, specialist outpatient clinics, Allied and Community Health services, MoleMap, lab, radiology, and Mobile Surgical Services.

Medical and Dental – There are a number of medical and dental practices as well access to visiting specialists - orthodontist, optometrist etc. The St John's ambulance service has recently built a new facility with considerable local funding.

The Eastern Southland Gallery is home of the internationally significant John Money Collection, Ralph Hotere Gallery and a diverse programme of exhibitions.

