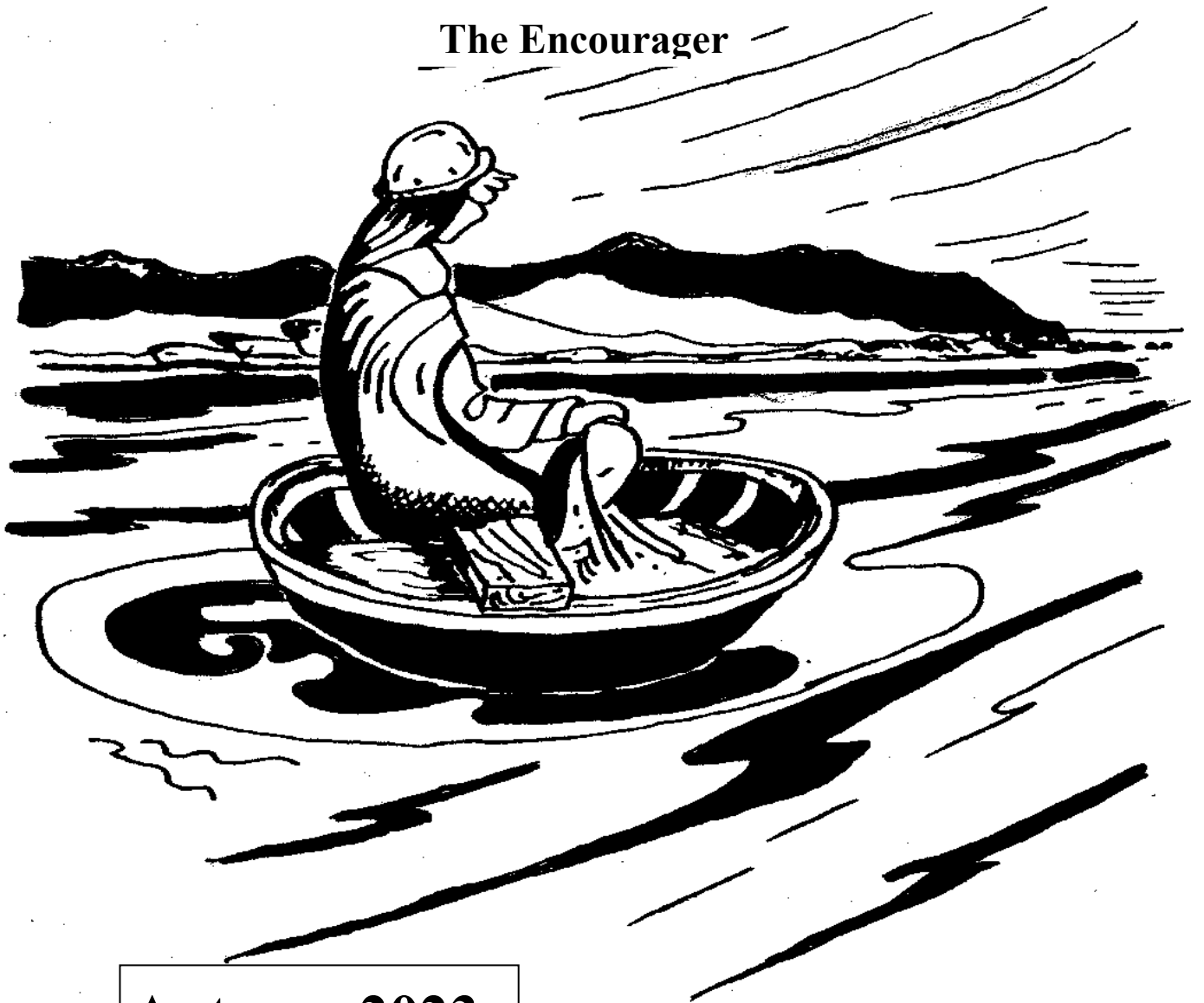


# St. Enoch's Church Community Manawa

**The Encourager**



**Autumn 2023**

**Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa N.Z.**

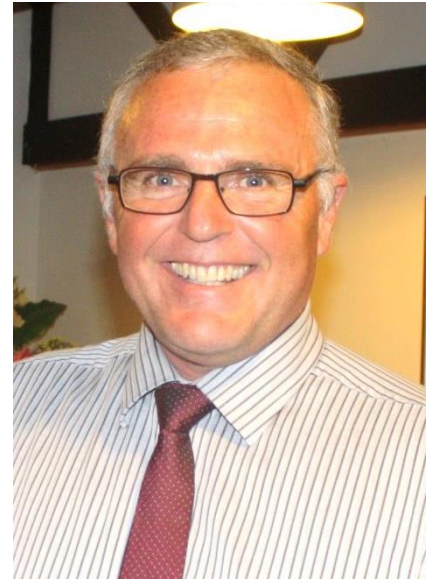
**Phone 578-3040**

**[www.stenochs.org.nz](http://www.stenochs.org.nz)**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

## Always ready to share our faith and hope

In Turkey and Syria it is feared that up to 50 000 people were killed in recent earthquakes; in New Zealand storms led to loss of life, millions of dollars damage to infrastructure, and around 280 homes red stickered; Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues and, sadly, is one of 27 current conflicts around the world; the USA shoots down a Chinese balloon; climate change impact is felt around the world; a six-year-old child took a gun to school and shot his teacher (who thankfully survived); living cost and interest rate rises are causing more families to struggle; 200 people live in their cars and on the streets in Tauranga;... and so the list of concerning, upsetting situations grows hourly.



Within this context two sociological principles are at play in New Zealand as in other secular societies: 1) it is more attractive to be part of the majority than the minority; 2) there are social, political, and economic advantages to being unaffiliated to religion now. Therefore, the church as we know it seems to be in decline.

I agree with Douglas Hall's assessment that "neither consumerism nor social activism nor entertainment nor sex nor any other substitute for religion" can fill the emptiness in large numbers of Westerners.<sup>1</sup> Hall also reckons: "The lesson of history is clear: the challenge to all serious Christians and Christian bodies today is not whether we can devise yet more novel and promotionally impressive means for the transmission of 'the Christian religion' (let alone this or that denomination); it is whether we are able to hear and to proclaim...gospel!"<sup>2</sup>

As God's people and as the St. Enoch's faith family, our task is to hear what the good news is our neighbours, our neighbourhoods and our city needs and to proclaim that in an effective way. To us it is obvious that the

good news is that God loved the world so much that Jesus Christ came to earth so that every person who believes in Him will be saved.

But, even Jesus expressed this good news differently to different people. Jesus healed some people of their physical illness. Others He restored by forgiving them. Then there was those Jesus uplifted by treating them with respect and dignity. He showed compassion to the suffering, addressed social injustices, challenged established religious views. He did not follow social norms of the day about who is a good or a bad person. Jesus seems to be drawn to people on the fringes of society. Throughout the Old Testament, Jesus' life on earth (Gospels), and the rest of the New Testament, God expresses his love, justice and desire for people to be in relationship with Him. "And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him." (2 Corinthians 5:18)

How do we go about this task? How do we express our faith, share our Gospel induced excitement and hope, with people so that they too experience God's love and are drawn to a relationship with God?

1 Peter 3:15-16 explains it this way: "..., you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ."

Let us live God honouring, Christ following, and Holy Spirit led lives with Gospel induced excitement and hope, all the while being ready to share when the opportunity arises.

*Jaco*



## SESSION REPORT

At a recent church service I attended, the focus of the first four Sundays of this year was 'NEW'. The minister, in his message was challenging the congregation to recognise that not only were we to celebrate a new year, but to recognise and realise that every day of every year was new! The emphasis is on the 'New' and that our God gives us new blessings every day. The song 'New, every morning it's new' expands on the title by the words...New, Every morning it's new, the love of God to me is wonderfully new. The mercy of the Lord is wonderfully new. The love of Calvary is wonderfully new. In other words, we should celebrate not just a new year, but celebrate each day the new blessings our God gives us.



This time last year we were adapting to the 'traffic light' system of people management while this year we are free to do what we want. Travel, visit friends, shop and generally return to what was normal. Well, that's what we think! While some of us have discarded the restrictions others have been more cautious as the pandemic is no longer front and centre of each day. And yet it hasn't gone away. Within our church family several of us have been incapacitated by the virus and so it behoves us to still be vigilant.

Your Session has had its first meeting of 2023 which was full of updates and plans for the year ahead. Later this year, July 3 –September 24, Jaco will take sabbatical leave from our parish. A full and comprehensive plan of management for this period has been presented and approved. We received written reports from each of the leadership groups, Pastoral care, Missions, Sunday School and Youth. They were all positive and everything is being well managed.

We welcomed Neels and Delia Vermaak as members but sadly said farewell to Pat Collins and also to Jean Sutton who has deteriorating health and was a member here for a long time.

Leiona Tupou has been welcomed as a part time intern for youth ministry. Her role will be to oversee all youth activities in St Enoch's including Sunday School, camps, fun evenings etc. This will be a vital addition to



our ministry as it will focus on a part of our family that needs specific attention. Leiona will work 15 hours a week and is employed from February 1 to December 31 2023.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact any of your Elders if there are any matters of concern. We are here to help.

Blessings

*Philip P Temple*

Session Clerk.

## Flashlight

When a flash light grows dim or quits what do you do? just throw it away? of course not - you change the batteries.

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! you help them change their batteries.

- Some need AA - attention and affection
- some need AAA - attention, affection and acceptance,
- some need C - compassion
- some need D - direction.



And if they still don't seem to shine.....simply sit with them quietly and share Your Light.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER NEEDED

Thank you to Robyn who has stepped in as our temporary Health and Safety officer until we can find someone who is able to take on this role. If you are interested, you will get lots of support and training.

If you would like to know more about this role or you are interested in doing this, please get in touch with Marie in the office.

Phone 578-3040



# Youth and Family Worker report

## New Beginnings

On the 1st of February, I started my first day at St. Enoch's employed as a Youth and Family Worker. In all honesty, if you asked me five years ago "where do you see yourself in five years time?" this would not have been a thought; However, I am pleased to be St. Enoch's Youth and Family Worker. It is a humbling position where I am to lead and be led as I learn to grow in a safe, supportive environment.



This role is 15 hours a week where I have intentional time to organise, facilitate and lead events, talks and programmes for our youth and their families. (Sometimes for our wider Presbytery youth groups and churches too!) You will see me on stage more this coming year often leading the Children's talk, as well as youth participation and also being a part of the music group. It is an exciting 15 hours a week where I am fuelled with passion for what I am doing as I can get stuck in without the interruption of everyday life.

In regard to youth, we are now running weekly in the Hall or sometimes offsite. We have a number of events coming up in the year, so keep an eye on this space as it aims for us as a church family to become more engaged and more involved.

Although this is only the beginning of the year, I am excited to see where we will be at the end of it. I cannot thank you enough for your endless support around my journey with St. Enoch's as it has already been three years since I first walked through the doors! How time flies when you are having fun!

Blessings  
to you all,

*Leiona  
Tupou  
Youth and  
Family  
Worker*





ST. ENOCH'S YOUTH GROUP INVITES YOU TO

COME AND  
REGISTER A  
TEAM!

# QUIZ NIGHT

## Fundraiser

COME AND  
REGISTER  
SOLO!

St. Enoch's Youth Group will be working hard for the fruits of their labour. This fundraiser will go towards a trip to 'CAVE' - the Virtual Reality Studio in Pāpāmoa.

**\$10**  
CASH PER PERSON

**WIN  
THE  
PRIZE**

**6**  
CATEGORIES

**TEA  
COFFEE  
NIBBLES**

## ABOUT

Date: Saturday 4th March 2023.

Time: 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Location: St. Enoch's Hall

Address: 134 Sixteenth Avenue, Tauranga South, Tauranga 3112

Tea, coffee and nibbles will be served by the youth for the duration of the Quiz Night Fundraiser. Not only is this a fundraiser for the youth, we would also love to get to know our neighbouring congregations!

The venue is wheelchair accessible and has a number of car parks available.

There are limited number of seats. Please register your interest below to RSVP or contact Leiona Tupou to register yourself or your team.

## REGISTRATION

FULL NAME.....

EMAIL .....

NAME OF GROUP.....

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN GROUP.....

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS.....

Contact: Leiona Tupou | Youth Worker

Mobile: 027 505 1117

Email: miss.tupou@hotmail.com

# THAT'S MY DADDY

*By Steven J Lawson*

A little girl was once standing on the edge of a crowd while her daddy was giving a testimony about what JESUS CHRIST had done in his life. He was testifying how the LORD had saved him and delivered him from his old lifestyle as a drunkard.



There was a cynic standing on the edge of the crowd that day who could not bear to hear any more of this religious nonsense. So he yelled "Why don't you shut up and sit down old man. YOU'RE JUST DREAMING.

Soon the sceptic felt a tug on his coat sleeve. He looked down and it was this little girl. She looked him square in the eye and said, "Sir that's my daddy you are talking about"". You say my daddy is a DREAMER? Let me tell you about my daddy. My daddy used to be a drunkard and would come home at night and beat my mother. She would cry all through the night. And mister, we didn't have good clothes to wear because my daddy spent all his money on WHISKEY. Sometimes I didn't have shoes to wear to school. But look at these shoes and look at my dress! My daddy has a good job now. Then pointing a cross the way she said. "Do you see that woman smiling over there. That's my mother. She doesn't cry through the night anymore. Now she sings". Then the knockout punch she said. JESUS has changed our home. Mister, if my daddy is dreaming, please don't wake him up.





# \$\$\$ Treasurers Notes \$\$\$

Attached is a summary of St Enoch's Profit and Loss Accounts for the month of January and the Year to Date

The actual figures are compared with the budget. As with previous reports there is a marked shift in giving income to Automatic Payments. This is a good development. It gives the Church a more assured and evenly spread income.

We are over half through the year and the Giving and Other income is well ahead of budget, A total of \$13,863.

With the inflationary trend in the economy expenses are starting to creep up and we will have to keep a close eye on all items of expenditure.

Even so it should be another excellent year for St Enoch's



## Profit & Loss St Enoch's Presbyterian Church For the month ended 31 January 2023 and YTD

	Actual	Budget	Var	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Giving</b>						
Automatic Payment Receipts	8,562	7,136		58,843	49,748	
Cash Receipts	685	756		4,399	5,063	
Envelope Receipts	2440	1,345		10,030	9,123	
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>11,687</b>	<b>9,237</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>73,273</b>	<b>63,934</b>	<b>9,339</b>
<b>Sundry Income</b>						
Grants & Acorn Foundation Receipts	0	0		14,291	14,000	
Activities (Fairs, Film Outings etc)	0	40		30	280	
Church Complex Letting	1,577	1,385		12,158	11,243	

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Var</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Var</b>
Grounds Income	348	348		2,609	2,610	
Hall Rental Income	630	1,558		15,120	11,495	
Have A Go Receipts	0	106		312	409	
Interest Income	0	13		54	91	
Manse Rental Income	2,260	2,200		16,712	16,571	
Other Revenue	470	470		3,287	3,290	
Youth Group & Sunday School Income	0	8		0	60	
<b>Total Sundry Income</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>6,022</b>	<b>-738</b>	<b>64,573</b>	<b>60,049</b>	<b>4,524</b>
<b>Total of Giving &amp; Sundry Income</b>	<b>16,970</b>	<b>15,259</b>	<b>1,771</b>	<b>137,846</b>	<b>123,983</b>	<b>13,863</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>						
<b>Administration Expenses</b>	<b>5,364</b>	<b>3,397</b>		<b>30,871</b>	<b>24,811</b>	
<b>Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>11,497</b>	<b>9,219</b>		<b>70,364</b>	<b>68,132</b>	
<b>Mission Expense</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>558</b>		<b>8,009</b>	<b>6,056</b>	
<b>Property Expenses</b>	<b>4,594</b>	<b>3,516</b>		<b>26,907</b>	<b>26,756</b>	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>21,317</b>	<b>16,690</b>	<b>5,127</b>	<b>136,152</b>	<b>125,755</b>	<b>10,397</b>
<b>Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>-4,847</b>	<b>-1,431</b>		<b>1,694</b>	<b>-1,772</b>	<b>3,466</b>

We are in the process of developing a new program to cater for the Year End Tax Receipts. It is part of the Infoodle software program, and it is hoped to have this up and running for the next Tax year 2024.

Just another reminder, if you are contributing to the church in cash or using the envelope system, please consider paying your offering each month via an Automatic Payment. This helps the church in the administration of handling cash and banking.

As with the envelope system please ensure you add a number to your initialled surname. If you do not have a number please ring the office to receive this.

It will aid in collating a total giving for your end of year tax receipt, and ensures your contributions are confidential.

The church bank details are:

**St Enoch's Presbyterian Church**

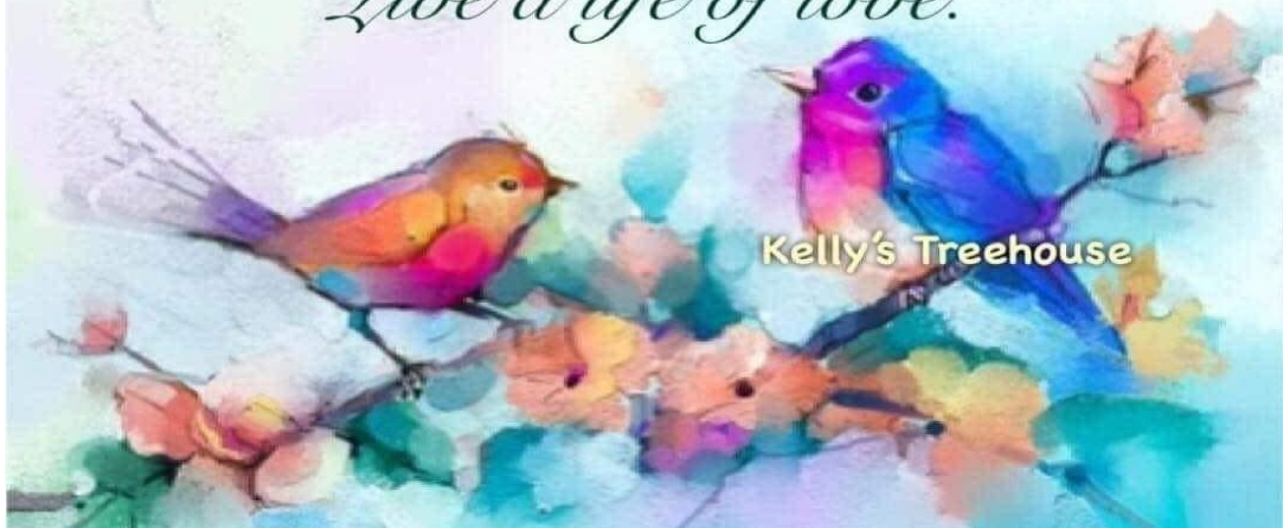
**BNZ**

**02-0466-0167590-00**

*Ken Hartley*

**At the end of life  
what really matters is not what  
we bought, but what we built;  
not what we got, but what we  
shared; not our competence,  
but our character; and not our  
success, but our significance.  
Live a life that matters.**

*Live a life of love.*



Kelly's Treehouse



Happy New Year to all.

Only two meetings this quarter, but the board has still been busy.

In January, while the Hall didn't have renters, it had an external chemical wash. The carpets were cleaned in the Lounge and spot cleaned in the Church. Ongoing repairs and maintenance on the Manse.

The Board were pleased to approve \$700 to go to the Moderators appeal for repairs to the Te Maungaronga Marae in Ohope which is the PCANZ Marae. It is used by different groups in the Presbyterian Church and is also an important place in the community.



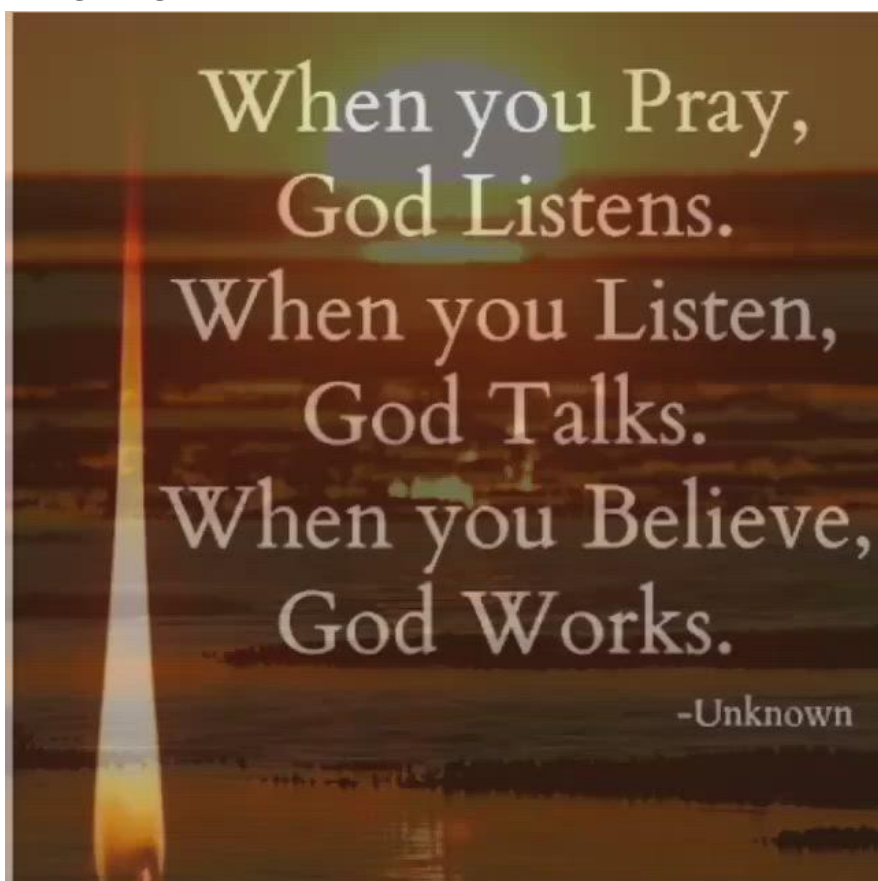
We were pleased to approve Leiona Tupou as our Youth Worker for this year.

Watch this space for new signage at the front of our Church building. Tim is working on a design that we are very excited about!

That's all for now.

*Blessings*

*Robyn M*



# Growing Together

“If you are not growing, you are dying”, is true of plants, us as people and our faith. We need to nurture and grow our faith until it reaches maturity and bears fruit. “This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13)



That is why it is important that we regularly ask ourselves how our faith growth is going.

Regular and healthy prayer habits are like water to our faith. Scripture reading and study is like the substrate. Being part of a faith family (congregation) and various groups (Bible study group; spiritual growth group; fellowship group; ministry group; volunteer group) are like fertiliser to our faith. Worshipping with others is like regular pruning which helps us get rid of the dead wood of our faith and grow the branches likely to bear fruit. Throughout the whole process the warmth and light from God enables us to turn all the other elements into energy, growth and fruit – to the glory of God.

What do you do to grow your faith? If there are gaps in your faith growing regime, do something about it. At St. Enoch’s we want to support each other in growing our relationship with God and effectively taking part in the mission of God. Join opportunities already available or start a new ministry. Let us grow well together.

*Jaco*







## PASTORAL CARE

We are thinking with great sadness of the two firemen who died due to the landslide in Muriwai and of three more people who also lost their lives during Cyclone Gabrielle. We think of their families, and of the many New Zealanders who had lost their homes and livelihoods and pray that God will help them through this. For our own congregation members who might be affected, or who have family affected by the cyclone: our prayers are with you as well. We are still fighting Covid and here and there we hear of people who have it, or who are recovering from it. We also have a significant number of people with health challenges, including cancer, and those whose children or family are experiencing health challenges at the moment. There are also those who are undergoing significant life changes whether it is a move to a different area or town, selling a house, or having to re-adjust future plans.

Let our faith be visible in our actions and support those around us. Please let us (the pastoral support team) know if you, or someone you know needs a kind word or support in any way. Our phone numbers are on the back of the Manawa.

Maha nga manaakitanga

Tele faamanuiaga

Many blessings

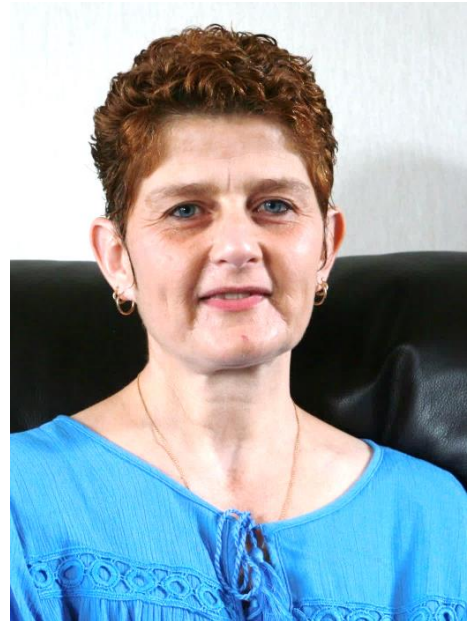
*The St Enoch's Pastoral Support Team*



*Joan Bryant*



*Sue Davys*



*Minette Soekoe*





## Photos from 4<sup>th</sup> December when we said goodbye to Josh and his family

Congrats to Josh who received a call  
to St. George's Presbyterian Church  
Takapuna





## ***This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward to.***

This is something that happened at an assisted living center. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.



An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

I'm sending this to my children so that they don't sell the house before they know all the facts.

# St Enoch's Music Group

The Music Group meets monthly on the Thursday prior to the third Sunday of the Month at 11am at the church. Our group at present comprises a pianist and two guitar players and we play, sing, and practice the hymns for the coming Sunday. We would welcome any other musicians and singers to come along and enjoy the session.

*Lawson*



A woman, cranky because her husband was late coming home again, decided to leave a note, saying, "I've had enough and have left you...don't bother coming after me."

Then she hid under the bed to see his reaction.

After a short while the husband comes home, and she could hear him in the kitchen before he comes into the bedroom. She could see him walk towards the dresser and pick up the note... After a few minutes he wrote something on it before picking up the phone and calling someone...

"She's finally gone...yeah I know, about time, I'm coming to see you, put on that sexy French nightie. I love you...can't wait to see you...." He hung up, grabbed his keys and left. She heard the car drive off as she came out from under the bed.

Seething with rage and with tears in her eyes she grabbed the note to see what he wrote..."I can see your feet. We're outta bread: be back in five minutes."











**Photos taken at the  
Combined Service  
with Ekalesia  
Faapotopotoga  
Kerisian Tauranga on  
12<sup>th</sup> February**

**This was such a  
beautiful, colourful and  
musical service**





# WHAT'S ON AT ST ENOCH'S

(There may be more - please watch your Sunday Bulletins)

<b>Communion Service</b>	First Sunday of each month	9.00am
<b>Sunday Prayer Gr</b>	each Sunday in Jaco's office	9.00am
<b>Sunday Worship</b>	each Sunday	9.30am
<b>Men's Morning Tea</b>	each Tuesday (at Mitre 10 Café)	10.00am
<b>Ladies Morning Tea</b>	each Tuesday (at Columbus Café)	10.00am
<b>Have A Go</b>	each Wednesday in lounge	9.30am
<b>Spiritual Growth Group</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in lounge	1.00pm
<b>Readers Group</b>	last Wednesday of the month (@ different members homes)	1.30pm
<b>Musical Home Group</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in Church	11.00am
<b>STEWV Bible study Gr</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of month (Venue to be advertised in bulletin)	7.00pm
<b>Youth Group</b>	Saturday in hall (Leiona to advise dates)	4.00pm
<b>Under the Stars</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month @ 45 Cliff Rd. For more info ring Louise - 027 2323481	

## QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March - 3.00pm – 5.00pm**  
**at St Enoch's hall**

**\$10 per person (bring cash – no eft pos)**

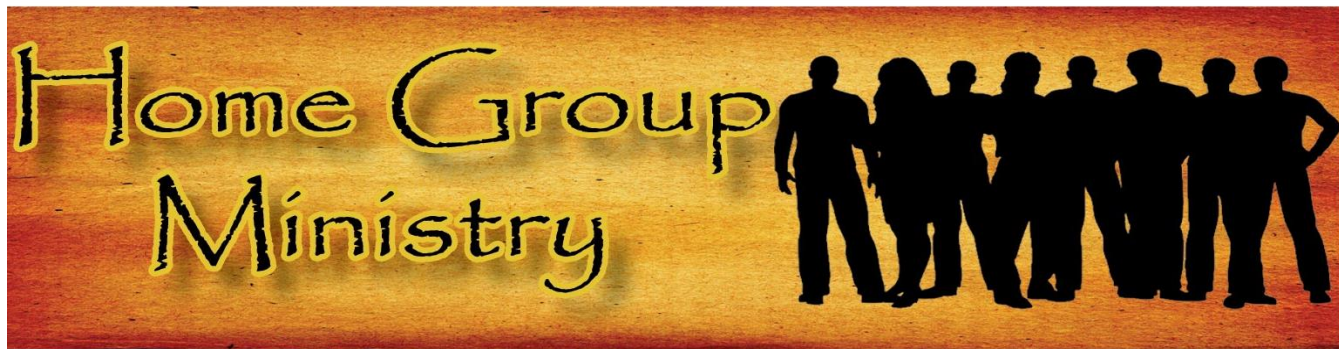
St Enoch's youth group are raising funds to go on a trip to  
'CAVE' – the Virtual Reality studio in Papamoa

Come along and support our youth group  
You can make your own team or join another team

Phone Leiona to register or fill out the registration form  
on the foyer table

**Leiona Tupou    027 5051117**  
**miss.tupou@hotmail.com**





**Readers' Group** This group shares what they have read or are reading, and discussion arises from there. We are introduced to a variety of books, genres and authors which broadens our further choices. Then there is a cuppa and general chat. We meet at different members' homes from 1.30 to 3pm on the last Wednesday of the month. Ring Joan Bryant for more information – (Phone 027 7733811).

**Spiritual Growth Group** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in church lounge @ 1.00pm. Please contact Jaco for more information. (Phone 027 3259003)

**The musical group** is continuing to meet in the church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 12 pm. This is a time of fellowship and worship together through a relaxed jam session. The group then assist Ruth playing the piano on the third Sunday of the month during the Sunday service. Lawson, Ruth and Dean would love others to join them so if you can strum a guitar or sing please come along and join them. If you want more info on this please contact Lawson on 548-1204.

**STEW (St Enoch's Working Women) Bible study Gr:** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at members' homes (venue to be advertised in weekly bulletin @ 7.00pm). Phone Anel for more information 021 2683064

**Youth:** The youth group, under Leiona's enthusiastic leadership continue to meet regularly and do fun activities. Let us know if you know of someone who might benefit from engaging with our youth group. Please contact Leiona (027 505 1117) for more information.

**Mens Coffee:** All men invited to join this group on Tuesday at 10am in the Mitre 10 Mega Columbus Café. Phone Rex for more info (027 2842317)

**Ladies Coffee:** Ladies are invited to join this lovely group who meet every Tuesday at 10am at Columbus Café at Gate Pa. Meet at Broomtree Café on last Tuesday of each month. Phone Cynthia for more info (027 3241027)

# St Enoch's Working Women's Group (STEWV)

STEWV welcomed all existing and new members (and their families) during the 2023 kicked off afternoon tea. The cake (pictured) made by Helena (Vanique Baking) tasted as good as it looked!



God is here, He is among us.  
1 Kings 19:12 – 13 (NIV)

“After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.”

Sometimes we look for Him in extra-ordinary and powerful actions – yes, He can be there. But sometimes He is speaking to us in a gentle whisper.

Our group will gather monthly around the Word, discussing being with God in different situations.

*Anel*



# A MIRACLE MOVE

The move from Welcome Bay Road to Greenwood Park was a miracle. Thank you for your many prayers. They were well answered. Also, many thanks to those who helped with the shift.

The Holy Spirit was deeply involved in the selling of our twenty-three-year-old, two-storey house and the purchase of a two-bedroom villa, with no steps.

The massive decluttering and the sale-and-exchange was both stressful and exciting. All went smoothly because God intervened.

Much to our shock, and temporary grief, we discovered our house was made of the dreaded Harditex cladding, the cause of the leaky house syndrome. We were told it was a 'systemic failure' and the house would take a long time to sell, at a price several hundred thousand dollars less than the rateable value.

The house wasn't leaking but it cost us thousands of dollars for three building inspection checks, which included cutting out ten pieces of cladding. Advanced decay was found in a number of areas. It would have to be completely reclad and renovated in a year. As pensioners we just couldn't afford that. What were we to do? In the interim we were told we might be able to fix the 'wet' spots, if the Council allowed, but the disruption and finances would be an unbearable burden.

The sales guys suggested we put it on the market for only a month 'as is' and see if anyone was interested.

There were two tenders – one of them quite ridiculous - and the other was 36% below the valuation! Crisis! Our dream of a place in GWP was shattered. Besides, there was only one place available that suited us. It was too expensive and other people were interested. Our nerves were drained.

We did have some savings but the bank wouldn't let us break our deposit which, if used, would have left us with practically nothing.

We were stuck, and becoming desperate. To make matters worse the demand for housing had dropped.

Two months later we landed in our new home. God is so good. He does answer prayers. It was a miracle.

1. We sold in only six weeks!
2. House prices have dropped over 20% since we sold!
3. The property we wanted popped on to the market at the right time. The other interested party pulled out
4. Personal negotiations managed to narrow the gap between sale and purchase price.
5. Further stressful negotiation persuaded the bank to let us break our deposit.

We never thought it would happen so well. So many hurdles. A miracle indeed. We love our Greenwood villa and the very warm welcome we have received. The almost impossible was achieved. Praise God!

*George and Joan*



## Lois Rout

*This article was written in 2008*

A shortage of teaching positions in Tauranga more than 30 years ago was the reason that Lois Rout became a teacher's aide – a move which led to her becoming a passionate advocate for children's literature. Over six years her job description changed to library assistant and with the help of the



School Library Service she had the enviable task of setting up a new library, becoming irretrievably hooked on children's books in the process. Lois spent five years as Mobile Librarian for Tauranga Public Library, with off-road time in the children's library, and, as a member of Bookrapt, was involved with the setting up of the Joyce West Collection. This was followed by six years as library assistant at Mt Maunganui Intermediate School. Lois was a foundation member of the Bay of Plenty Children's Literature Association (CLA), now known as Bookrapt, and held office for most of the time since 1983, as either secretary or treasurer and sometimes both at once. Although family reasons caused her to give up work and take a low-key role in the CLA for 10 years, she then took on the task of managing the registrations for the annual seminars and children's workshops. In recognition of this role Lois was made a life member of Bookrapt in 2004 and every member of their current committee contributed to her nomination for the Storylines Betty Gilderdale Award. As one of them said, 'Lois is a wonderful ambassador for New Zealand children's literature.'



*Photo (right)*

*Lois receiving her well-deserved award for "Friends of the Library" in November 2022.*

# Go Light your world

In a room there were four candles burning. The ambiance was so soft you could hear them talking. The first one said, "I am **PEACE**, however nobody can keep me lit. I believe I will go out." Its flame rapidly diminishes and goes out completely.



The second one says, "I am **FAITH**. Most of all I am no longer indispensable, so it does not make any sense that I stay lit any longer." When it finished talking a breeze softly blew on it putting it out.

Sadly, the third candle spoke in its turn. "I am **LOVE**. I have not gotten the strength to stay lit. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them." And waiting no longer it goes out.

Suddenly a child entered the room and saw three candles not burning. "Why are you not burning you are supposed to stay lit till the end."

Saying this the child began to cry. Then the fourth candle said, "Don't be afraid, while I am still burning we can re-light the other candles, I am **HOPE**." With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The flame of Hope should never go out from our life and that each of us can maintain **HOPE**, **FAITH**, **PEACE** and **LOVE**.



# OXFAM TRAILWALKER

“Anybody can do it – it is just walking!” This comment (from a hairdresser) set things in motion....and resulted in Tauranga Tannies & Co being one of many teams enrolled to do 50km within 18 hours on Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 March 2023. The map (see picture 5) shows the trail set in the picturesque New Plymouth. The unfortunate bit is that the first 36m will be rather flat walking, with the hills daunting in the last 14km of the track.

Early November Anel and Louise launched an investigative party: is it do-able for us to complete such a walk? With multiple coffee & smoothie stops (even included a stop at Farmers for some Christmas gifts) we completed 30km on the said day. That set things in motion to try and gear up the team. Due to multiple work related hurdles, it was not possible to confirm participation and availability of all team members until the last week of January 2023. However, throughout the





time fractions of the team did many miles on foot...with less coffee stops recently! Our team (see photos 4): Anel Reyneke (GP), Louise Hediger (teacher), Marcel Hediger (psychiatrist) and Maria Henning (psychiatrist) – with Alwyn Henning (geologist) our valuable support person.



Weekends (depending on afterhours duties for the hospital based specialists) we hit the road – doing between 16 – 32km. During the week each member is responsible to do some training : Anel & Louise love doing the



Mount – we now climb the Mount twice in one session to build stamina for the Taranaki hills!

Contrary to the hairdresser's view, it is really not a feat for the faint hearted. Blisters, sore knees/hips/back and stiff ankles are the visible issues, but the emotional turmoil of doubt and determination are weaved into the landscape of training. Our team are super supportive of each other throughout the process.

Donations: we are expected to contribute towards the OXFAM Aotearoa's work, which we are very happy to do! Especially with Papa New Guinea being one of the areas where funds are channeled to (for improved clean water and sanitation availability to the people) it felt so apt as St Enochs has a link through MAF. Renee Brewer starts flying for MAF in February – so some of the things that Oxfam may donate may be flown to the outer regions by Renee!

Thank you, St Enoch's members, for all your love, support and donations.

Anel (on behalf of the team)



# THE STORY OF THE CHRISTENING GOWN

*Iris Stockwell*

Long ago a young couple waited the arrival of their first child. This took a few years to happen but happen it did. A little girl. The young mother, using her dressmaking skills cut up her lace wedding dress and set to work making a Christening gown.

The little girl was Christened in this at the Salvation Army church where they worshipped, and where the father played in the brass band. As the gown was small, babies needed to be christened early. All their 6 children were also Christened in the gown.

Some of these 6 children, when they grew up and married chose to have their children Christened in the gown. Sadly one, saw the importance of the gown but not the faith and dressed her son and took his photo much to the horror of her older sister. It was not for dressing up. Nor was it a “good luck charm”. The gown was made with love for a purpose, to bring your child to be blessed by the church. Jesus told the people “Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not.” Serious vows are taken during Christenings. A promise is made to bring that child up in the faith in which he or she is Christened”.



*Children baptized in the gown over  
the years - Jasmine Varcoe,  
Jackie Wade and Bruce Cossill*

The first little girl Christened grew up, married and had her four children Christened in the gown at the Presbyterian Church.

Over the years children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have used the gown in many different faiths. The Presbyterian Church, the Catholic Church, and the Anglican Church. So, the gown has travelled many denominations.

At one point the gown went missing. Who had used it last? Thankfully it was found and hastily posted to England in time for another Christening. This wee girl's mother, grandmother and great grandmother had all used the same gown.

The first little girl embraced the faith. Some have yet to. The gown is in safe keeping in England where it was last used. Will it survive to Christen any further children?

The year is now 2022. and the gown is 90 years old and very delicate.

*These two photos are Diane nursing Shelley (right) & Shelley's daughter Martha, the 4<sup>th</sup> generation is Christened.*





## Letter from Grandma

She writes... The other day I went to a local Christian bookshop, saw a sticker that said: 'Honk if you love Jesus' so I bought one and put it on my bumper.

Boy I'm glad I did! What an uplifting experience followed!

I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection; just lost in thought and didn't notice the light had changed. It's a good thing someone else loves Jesus, because he started honking. It was then I found out that LOTS of people love Jesus. The guy behind me screamed:

"For the love of God! Go Go!" What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus! Everyone started honking so I leaned out my window waving and smiling at all these loving people. I even honked my own horn a few times to share the love!

There must have been a man there from Florida, as I heard him yell something about a "sunny beach". I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger up in the air.

When I asked my grandson in the back seat what that meant, he said it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well, I've never been to Hawaii; so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing... even he was enjoying this religious experience!

A couple of people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started to walk towards me. It was then I noticed the lights had changed, so I waved to all my brothers and sisters, grinning, and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed I was the only car that got through before the light changed and I felt kind of sad for all the love we had shared; so I slowed down leaned out the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful people".

Signed Grandma



# Ladies Coffee Group

The ladies Coffee mornings at Columbus Cafe Gate Pa has been most successful again this year with at least 6 people plus sometimes attending.

It's a most interesting togetherness with new people getting to know each other while enjoying a coffee and food.

Ladies if you have a free Tuesday morning from 10.00 a.m. -11.00 a.m. come and join us for fellowship and friendship.

*Cynthia Herring*

*Phone 07 5443053 or 0273241027*



**Just as the graveside  
service finished,  
there was a distant lightning  
bolt accompanied by a  
tremendous burst of  
rumbling thunder.**

**The old man looked at the pastor  
and calmly said “Well she’s there  
and it’s His problem now**



# Sunday School Report

We began our year with a meeting: Jaco, Louise, Leiona, Robyn D, Wendy. We will continue to use the Bible Activity Book for a basis for our lessons.



*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February - Commissioning Service for our Youth and Family worker & Sunday School teachers*

Wendy began Term One by looking at The Ten Commandments and made a Treaty – this will be presented to the church when it is completed. During the remainder of Term One we will be looking at stories from the Old Testament from Abram's Journey in Exodus through to the Great Escape and Passover. This leads us into Easter and Palm Sunday where God's people gave thanks for his faithfulness.

The children will be making Palm Branches to bring in on Palm Sunday. Leiona has responsibility for presenting an Easter play on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Palm Sunday)

There is a fun family outing during Term One – watch this space.

Sunday School lessons will operate during term time with 2 Sundays off during the holidays. During these 2 Sundays there will be clipboards available. If you would like to take a one-off lesson the school holidays, please see Wendy.

*Nga mihi nui,  
Wendy Roberson*



*The Sunday school team – Wendy, Robyn and Louise*

# MISSION OUTREACH

St Enoch's congregation supports the following mission organisations:

- Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)
- Wycliff Bible Translators NZ (WBT)
- Homes of Hope
- Hospital Chaplaincy



## Mission Aviation Fellowship

### Introducing Renee

St Enoch has been supporting Mission Aviation Fellowship for many years. But all of a sudden we have a very real and personal connection to MAF. It came under our attention that a young lady Renee Brewer, is working towards working for MAF and serving in Papua New Guinea and the idea came about to support her directly on her journey.

### This is Renee's story:

"God placed the desire to volunteer for MAF in my heart over 10 years ago. Looking back over the twists and turns, it's amazing to see how God has prepared me for this opportunity. "

Renee was born and raised in the beautiful Taranaki region in New Plymouth. She describes her upbringing as a typical Kiwi childhood, spending lots of time outdoors camping, fishing and going on bushwalks. In her teenage years, her father was working for the Taranaki daily news.



The New Plymouth Aero Club placed some advertising and her dad had to visit them as they were a client. It was there at the age of 15, that her father bought her a trial flight at the New Plymouth Aero Club. Little did he know, this would be the start of her biggest adventure yet.



Renee then set her sights on learning to fly. She started night theory classes and took flying lessons to work towards her Private Pilot's License. She funded this by working at a local bakery. But flying is expensive! It was \$250 for an hour lesson in a Cessna 152, so she could just afford to do one flight every 2 weeks! But after high school, at the end of 2013 she obtained her pilot license.

It was also during her last year at school that she heard about MAF and she was inspired. Renee has a passion for helping people and wanted to work for a humanitarian organisation.

"The idea of using my flying skills to serve people in a practical way was exciting".

But MAF required experienced pilots and Renee had to gain more flying experience before she could apply. To gain aviation experience, she applied for the defence force to be a pilot. After a very strenuous selection process, she was successful and selected for the NZDF as a pilot with a start date of January 2016. But life threw another curveball. While running to maintain her fitness for officer's training, she had an injury which resulted in a fractured skull. The Airforce advised they had a mandatory 3-year stand down for aircrew with head injuries and her career in the Airforce was over before it started.

Determined not to give up, Renee then moved to Palmerston North and completed her Commercial Pilot's License and instructor rating. She reached out to MAF at this time and was initially discouraged as she was



told she needs even more experience and had to study at Bible school. But now at last, 4 years later she is ready to go! In the four years since contacting MAF, she worked as a flight instructor in Whanganui, Hamilton and Palmerston North. She have spent over 1300 hours in the air, studied at Laidlaw Bible School and was accepted into MAF in May 2022.

Renee will be leaving for Uganda on Wednesday the 15th of February 2023, for training before going to Papua New Guinea. In Uganda she will be learning how to fly the aircraft she will be flying once in PNG (a Cessna Caravan) and learning MAF associated procedures and techniques.

We will stay in contact with Renee through her regular newsletters and she has the following website: <https://reneebrewer2.wixsite.com/mafnz> We pray God's protection over Renee during her time in Papua New Guinea. While Renee has been called to serve God abroad, we serve God locally. We pray that we will be His missionaries here with the same determination and courage that Renee shows us.

*Louise Hediger*  
*Mission Co-ordinator*





# DUTY ROSTER – MARCH

## March 5<sup>th</sup> - COMMUNION

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Sue Nelson Davys  
**Servers:** Sue Nelson Davys, Gail Walker, Robyn Dowdle, Lawson Stewart  
**Kitchen Duties:** Anua Abbot, Beverley Cochrane  
**Door / Offering:** Brian & Gail Walker  
**Prayer Partner:** Lesley Ayers

## March 12<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Sue Nelson Davys  
**Kitchen Duties:** Bev Hayman, Doreen Dunn  
**Door / Offering:** Cynthia Herring  
**Prayer Partner:** Gail Walker

## March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Sue Nelson Davys  
**Kitchen Duties:** Geoff & Bernice Tyrrell  
**Door / Offering:** Doug & Kitty Naude'  
**Prayer Partner:** Gaye Wilson

## March 26<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Sue Nelson Davys  
**Kitchen Duties:** Gerald & Yvonne Krohn  
**Door / Offering:** Mama Tu  
**Prayer Partner:** Joan Bryant



Now the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace in believing,  
that ye may abound in hope,  
through the power of  
the Holy Ghost.  
**Romans 15:13**

# DUTY ROSTER - APRIL

## April 2<sup>nd</sup> - COMMUNION

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Lester Gray  
**Servers:** Lester Gray, Eli Yoo, Leiona Tupou,  
Joseph Toara  
**Kitchen Duties:** Gert & Marylyn Smith  
**Door / Offering:** John & Ngaire Foote  
**Prayer Partner:** Sue Davys

## April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Lester Gray  
**Kitchen Duties:** Jeanette Stewart, Jean Whiteman  
**Door / Offering:** Mama Tu  
**Prayer Partner:** Lesley Ayers

## April 16<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Lester Gray  
**Kitchen Duties:** Lyn & Ken Hartley  
**Door / Offering:** Philip & Helen Temple  
**Prayer Partner:** Gail Walker

## April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Lester Gray  
**Kitchen Duties:** Norah Miller, Robyn Dowdle  
**Door / Offering:** Louise Hediger  
**Prayer Partner:** Gaye Wilson

## April 30<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Lester Gray  
**Kitchen Duties:** Richard Wilson, Robyn Magowan  
**Door / Offering:** Mama Tu  
**Prayer Partner:** Joan Bryant

Each Sunday the reading and sermon is recorded and down loaded onto our website.

[www.stenochs.org.nz/reading-message](http://www.stenochs.org.nz/reading-message)



# DUTY ROSTER - MAY

## May 7<sup>th</sup> – COMMUNION

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Nols Bertram  
**Servers:** Nols Bertram, Wendy & Leon Roberson,  
Joy Fisher  
**Kitchen Duties:** Ruth West & Anel Reyneke  
**Door / Offering:** Rob Brown  
**Prayer Partner:** Sue Davys

## May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Nols Bertram  
**Kitchen Duties:** Cynthia Herring & Shona Giles  
**Door / Offering:** Gloria Mouatt  
**Prayer Partner:** Lesley Ayers

## May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Nols Bertram  
**Kitchen Duties:** Tricia Brown & Sue Davys  
**Door / Offering:** Joseph Toara  
**Prayer Partner:** Gail Walker

## May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Service Leader:** Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke  
**Vestry:** Nols Bertram  
**Kitchen Duties:** Geoff & Bernice Tyrrell  
**Door / Offering:** Mama Tu  
**Prayer Partner:** Gaye Wilson

## IF YOU NEED GIVING ENVELOPES

A big thank you to Lois Rout who had been our envelope secretary for over 20 years.

Lois has now handed this job over to the office, so if you need more giving envelopes please just ring or email the church office and we will arrange for these to be left on the foyer table for you to pick up.

Phone office 578-3040

Email [office@stenochs.org.nz](mailto:office@stenochs.org.nz)



## **Contact People**

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Dr Jaco Reyneke	544 0644 (home) 027 3259003
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Philip Temple	570 2275
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Hartley	579 3477
<b>Administrator</b>	Marie Nilson	578 6902 (home)
<b>Sunday School</b>	Wendy Roberson	027 4388635
<b>Youth &amp; Family worker</b>	Leiona Tupou	027 5051117
<b>Envelope Secretary</b>	Church office	578 3040
<b>Mission Motivator</b>	Minette Soekoe	021 995875
<b>Homes of Hope</b>	Robyn Dowdle	544 0031
<b>Lounge Kitchen</b>	Cynthia Herring	544 3053
<b>Co-ordinator</b>		
<b>Hospital Visiting</b>	Gail Walker	544 2179
<b>Musicians</b>	Helen Temple	570 2275
	George Bryant	544 1669
	Ruth West	281 0661
	Denice Priest	027 2553945
<b>Prayer Chain</b>	Gail Walker	544 2179
<b>Sound System</b>	Richard Wilson	578 3894
	John Foote	926 9065
	Robert Brown	578 7492
<b>Library</b>	Betty Cronin	544 0551
<b>Health &amp; Safety Officer</b>	Robyn Magowan	572 2152



## CONTACTS

Minister:	Rev. Dr Jaco Reyneke	544 0644 (home) 027 3259003
Hon. Asst Minister:	Rev. George Bryant	027 3146690
Session Clerk	Philip Temple	570 2275 (home)
Youth & Family worker	Leiona Tupou	027 5051117
Treasurer:	Ken Hartley	579 3477 (home)
Administrator:	Marie Nilson	029 7716902

## SESSION

Lester Gray	021 757599	Robyn Dowdle	544 2231
Joan Bryant	027 7733811	Philip Temple	570 2275
Peka Tautali	572 2329	Gail Walker	544 2179
Joseph Toara	027 4404625	Louise Hediger	027 2323481
Sue Davys	027 4833113	Minette Soekoe	021 995875
Nol Betram	027 2381450		

### Pastoral Care Leaders

Sue Davys (team leader)	027 4833113	Gail Walker	544 2179
Joan Bryant (team leader)	027 7733811	Marion Bennett	578 8382
Minette Soekoe(team leader)	021 995875	Mersius Van de Spuy	07 348 4300
Helen Temple	570 2275	Lawson Stewart	548 1204
Ngaire Foote	926 9065	Lesley Ayers	544 2135
Cynthia Herring	544 3053	Mary Woods	578 5561
Ken Hartley	579 3477	Shona Giles	578 0192
Norah Miller	543 4918	Bernice Tyrrell	578 2224
Ralph Morris	543 4868	Brian Walker	544 2179
Joseph Toara	0274404625	Robyn Magowan	572 2152
Robyn Dowdle	544 2231	Iris Stockwell	578 5148

### Education & Youth

Leiona Tupou	027 5051117	Wendy Roberson	027 4388635
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## BOARD OF MANAGERS

Richard Wilson	578 3894	Robyn Magowan	572 2152
Ken Hartley	579 3477	Geoff Tyrrell	578 2224
Tim Reed	021 1372262		

### Maintenance & Development

Richard Wilson	578 3894
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