

"We aim to be a reflection of God to the community"

Dare We Imagine the World to Be Different? Dare we not!

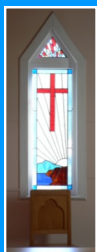
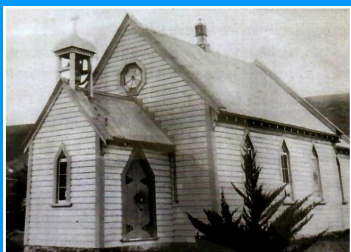


Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is a time when we journey with Christ toward the cross, remembering His suffering and sacrifice. But it is also a time when we are called to reimagine the world—to see it not as it is but as it could be, transformed by the power of God's kingdom. Dare we imagine a world different from the one we know? Dare we believe that Christ's victory over sin and death has implications not only for eternity but for the here and now?

Increasingly the future of our world seems uncertain. Power and politics, and greed and money have changed the shape of our world. Friends are now seen as enemies; enemies are now seen to be friends and allies. The history of trusted relationships and allegiance, past sacrifice for shared goals, all seems to be evaporating. The future appears to be in the hands of a few, very wealthy men. In 2017 the world's eight richest men owned the same wealth as the poorest half of the world's population. From 2020 their collective wealth doubled.

As Christians, we affirm that God is sovereign over all things. His kingdom is not merely a distant reality, awaiting fulfilment at the end of time; rather, it has already broken into history through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ Himself proclaimed, "The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). The question before us is not whether God's kingdom is coming—it is already here. The question is whether we have the faith to live as if this is true.

Tri-monthly Newsletter of The Alexandra, Clyde Lauder Union Parish ~ March/April/May 2025

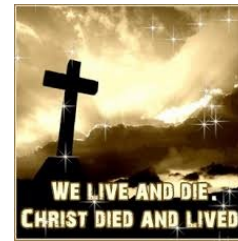


**St Mungo's
window
created
by Pamela
Drumm**

The St Mungo's Church original wooden exterior 1 03 1904

In this Issue

- Ministers Musings
- Closing of St Mungo's
- World Day of Prayer
- In Memoriam
- Past & Upcoming events
- Easter & Mother's Day
- Meetings & Contacts
- Treasurers Report
- Services and Contacts



Too often, we become resigned to the brokenness of the world. We see injustice, suffering, and sin, and we assume that little can be done until Christ returns. But Jesus did not call His disciples to passive waiting. He called them to be salt and light, to pray for God's will to be done "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10), and to proclaim the good news of redemption. If we truly believe in the power of the gospel, then we must dare to imagine-and work toward-a world shaped by God's righteousness, justice, and peace.

This does not mean that we place our hope in human efforts or political systems. The kingdom of God is not built through earthly power but through the transforming work of the Spirit. It is seen wherever love overcomes hatred, wherever mercy triumphs over judgment, wherever the weak are lifted, and the lost are found. When we forgive rather than seek revenge, when we serve rather than demand, when we embody the love of Christ in our relationships, we are participating in the reality of God's kingdom.



Lent is an opportunity to examine the ways in which we have settled for the status quo rather than living in the light of God's promises. Have we grown complacent in our faith? Have we accepted the divisions and injustices of our world as inevitable? Have we limited the power of God's redemption to our personal salvation while ignoring its implications for society? This season calls us to repent of our unbelief, to turn from apathy to action, and to embrace the hope that Christ has indeed made all things new (Revelation 21:5).

Dare we imagine the world to be different? Yes, because the resurrection of Jesus proves that the way things are is not the way they must remain. Dare we have the faith to believe in God's kingdom here on earth? Yes, because He has already begun this good work, and He invites us to join Him in it. May this Lenten season deepen our vision and embolden our faith as we live as citizens of God's kingdom—now and forever. **Amen.**



Rev Andrew Howley
Parish Minister Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder Union Parish



CLOSING SERVICE FOR ST MUNGO'S CLYDE 2nd February 2025 3pm



It was a sad day for our parishioners at St Mungo's church on 2nd February 2025.

Allen rang the St Mungo's bell for the last time. (His grandfather Bill Wilson also rang the St Mungo's bell in years past.)



After a hopeful and inspiring closing service led by Rev Andrew Harrex; Moderator of The Southern Presbytery - followed by A Communion of Our Faith - led by Rev Andrew Howley, inside the St Mungo's Church Building.

The Rev Andrew Harrex led the people, carrying symbols of the St Mungo's Church services. These were:- Rian Snodgrass carrying The Holy Bible; Louise Sinclair carrying the Teapot representing hospitality & the offering plate; Lily Sinclair carrying the Communion silver plate for the communion bread; John Grenfell carrying the Chalice cup and Pitcher for communion wine; the rest of those present followed them outside to continue the service under the large Elm tree. Seating was provided for those wishing to sit down.

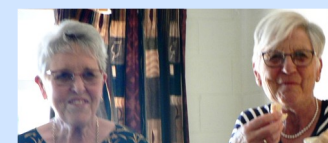
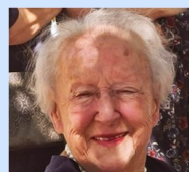
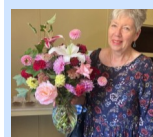
After all the formalities were finished the people then were invited to an afternoon tea in the Sunday School room. There was a lot of talk and everyone seemed to be recalling their time as part of the congregation at St Mungo's.

A BIG THANK YOU to those who helped behind the scenes with this very significant occasion.

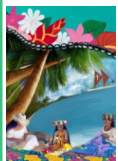
God is still with this group of followers in the Clyde Community and of course those Clyde members are very welcome to worship in the St Enoch's Church.

We are all one in the body of Christ.

Photographs taken on the day of the Closing of St Mungo's 2nd of February 2025



Photographs were
provided by
members of the
Parish



“Wonderfully Made” By Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa

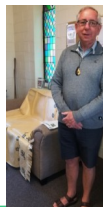
“I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” Psalm 139:14 Our Heavenly Father blessed our islands of the sea. From the northern islands across the ocean to the southern islands, the golden sun shines through the clear blue skies and birds freely fly. From the bright white sandy shores all the way to the highest mountain top, our islands are abundant with fresh produce and colourful flora and fauna. The lagoons and oceans are bountiful with sea life, fish and gems (like black pearls), which link us to the world.

On each island, the mighty coconut tree stands tall, a symbol of strength and goodness. The coconut tree provides for our health and well-being. We have discovered how to use every part, from the fronds to the very deep roots. For food, drink, medicine, shelter and much more. The coconut tree is essential to our survival, and is the tree of life for our people. We are grateful for the arrival of Christianity to our shores 200 years ago. Christianity brought hope, peace and light, with an understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In time, our cultures have interwoven with Christianity, and the blessings are evident today. As guardians and caretakers of God’s marvellous works, we always treasure these words, “I made you wonderful.”

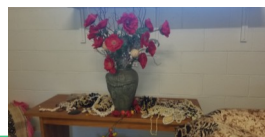
Our women play a vital role in keeping our heritage and traditions alive. They are the keepers of talents, teachers and mentors. From mothers to daughters, the cycle of life, faith and love continues here on our islands of paradise. We show our respect and love for God and for one another in harmonies of song and prayer. Our precious Tivaevae quilts represent patience, love and unity. We honour God’s love and mercy with hats we wear to church, woven by skilful loving hands from the strands of rito, the young coconut leaf. We adorn ourselves with sweet scented Tiare tropical flowers, made into crowns and garlands. From the heart, we teach and nurture our beloved children, the younger generation, our future.

At the closing of a gathering, our Tongareva elders always say these powerful words of encouragement—“Kia mau te serenga! Kia mau te napena! Kia mau!” This means “Hold on tight to who you are, in all aspects of your existence!” We are wonderfully made by God, and we should cherish all the aspects of who we are!

About the artists: Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa are a Mother-Daughter artist team from the Cook Islands. They feel honoured to have been able to share this piece of artwork in recognition of their love for their home, their faith and, and their heritage. Tarani Napa is a mother of six children and three grandchildren. She is a certified primary school teacher, entrepreneur and creative artist. Tevairangi Napa is the eldest daughter of Tarani, and she is a proud mum of two children. She follows in her mother’s footsteps as a creative artist.



St Enoch’s display for World Day of Prayer Pacifica articles supplied by Kerry Enright. Photos –Valerie



IN MEMORIAM

Our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of...

- * Malcolm Frederick Moore- funeral held on 10th December 2024 At St Enoch’s Church - Alexandra
- * Helen Ruth Tucker - funeral held on 10th February 2025 At St Enoch’s Church - Alexandra

Past & Upcoming Events



WHEN YOU’RE NINETY FIVE

So much life experience
living for the moment
reliving all the memories
bring happiness to the
heart.



Always being thankful
for neighbourly care
trusting in the Lord
is my happiness to share.

I wonder how I got here
to this mighty number
and where did the time go
while I was working slow?

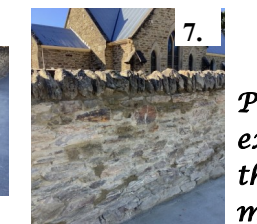
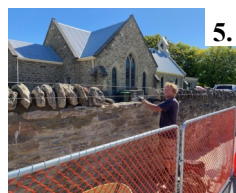
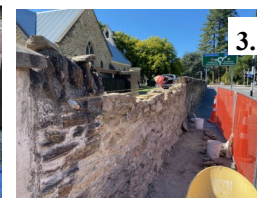
Lenten Study is being held each Tuesday morning from March 4th 10.30am in St Enoch’s Vestry **Alexandra**

Lenten Study is also being held each Tuesday **afternoon** from March 4th 1.30pm Helen Dunns home in Clyde

Study Books are available From
Rev Andrew Howley
Phone: 021 518 053



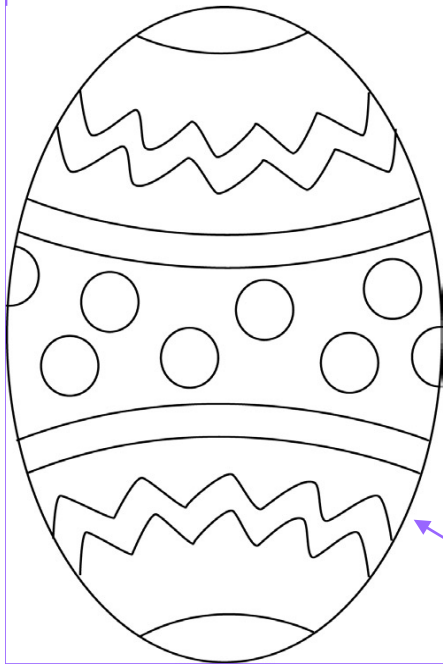
Photographic sequence of re-building the stone wall fence at St Enoch’s



Paul has made an exceptional job of this and he assured me that it will be standing long after he has left this earth. Editor

Don Melville took these photographs of the progress made during the re-building of the stonewall fence at St Enoch’s.

EASTER ACTIVITIES



EASTER EGGS: Eggs carry new life inside them, reminding us of the empty tomb of Easter morning.

You may like to boil an egg. First ask your parents for some help with this.

Once your egg has boiled let it cool. When it is cool you can then draw or paint a pattern on the outside shell. If you have an egg cup to put the egg into that will stop it from rolling around while you are trying to make your pattern. Once you have finished doing one side then turn it up the other way but make sure it is dry first. Turn it over and then draw or paint the rest of the pattern on the other half of the egg. You can also colour in the picture of the egg.

You could keep your decorated egg or give it away to someone else and wish them..... **A Blessed Easter Season.**



MOTHERS DAY

Mary's Accomplishments:

Mary was the mother of the Jesus the Saviour of the world. She was a willing servant. She trusted God and she obeyed his call.

Here are some things you could make for your mother. This Mothers Day Is on the 11th of May this year 2025

You will need:

1. Some cardboard (Maybe you could use a cereal box) and cut out an A4 size of cardboard.

2. Some coloured paper which will be 1½ cm smaller than the cardboard.

3. Some paper patty pans.

4. Glue, scissors & green paper for the leaves and stalks.

5. A photo of you or your mum to glue into the centre of the flower.

Glue the coloured paper to the cardboard and leave to dry.

Cut out a portrait of your mum or yourself. You could draw a portrait of your mum and yourself.

Paste the picture of your mum or you inside the patty pan and let it dry.

Cut out a stalk and some leaves from green paper and paste onto the coloured paper as in the picture

Once your picture of your mum is dried **paste** the patty pan at the top of the green stalk just as in the picture and add the leaves to the end of the stalk.



GIVING something to your mother that you made yourself will be better than something you can buy at the shop.



A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYAR

Dear Lord,
Please watch over and support all mothers on earth and in heaven....

and help them to know how much they are loved and appreciated on Mother's Day and every day. **AMEN**



Happy Mothers
Day Mum



I love you
From.....

REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Weekly

Study Group	Tuesdays resumes 30th April 10am – All Welcome	3A Mayfair Grove Alexandra
Lenten Study	Starts Tues March 6th -10.30am	St Enoch's Vestry Alexandra
Lenten Study	Starts Tues March 6th -1.30pm	Helen Dunn's Home @ Clyde

Monthly

Afternoon Fellowship	4th Thursday of the month 1.30pm Contact: Various	Various
St Mungo's Fellowship	3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm Contact: Sheryll Hanning	Various 021 173 0412
Parish Council	3rd Wednesday of the month 3pm Contact: Don Melville	St Enoch's 03 448 9233



Treasurer's Report: For the first 6 months of our financial year, our giving is on a par with last year. The very successful Fair, despite the weather, and the fantastic plant sales thanks to Sheryll, have certainly helped our bank balance.

We applied for and received insurance claims for a leaking toilet tap and the collapse of part of the stone wall at St Enoch's. We were very relieved that our claims were accepted and we will only have to pay the excess.

At the end of the month, Don will be preparing annual receipts for your giving and it is timely to remind you to consider claiming the IRD Tax Credit for donations. A third of your donations will be credited back to you. This, if donated to our parish, increases your giving without any money outlay. As always, your continuing and regular support of our parish is really appreciated. Special thanks to Don who keeps our financial records correct and in good order.

Linda Armstrong Treasurer

EDITORS NOTE: The next ACLaim will be June/July/August 2025 please have any articles to me by **Monday 19th May 2025**. sent to me via email : ggordon@actrix.co.nz *Gay Gordon. Thanks to Jackie Roy for proof reading the ACLaim.*

Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

Upcoming Worship Services 2025

March 19th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
March 23rd	Alexandra	10.00am	Lent 3
March 30th	St Enoch's 10.00am with Anglicans - Lent 4		
April 6th	Alexandra	10.00am	Communion-Lent 5
April 13th	Alexandra	10.00am	Palm Sunday
April 16th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
April 18th	Good Friday @ St Aidans 12.00 - 1pm		
	<i>church open 12-3pm starts with Good Friday tableau @ 12.00-1.00</i>		
April 20th	Dawn Service @ Alexandra Lookout 7:05am		
April 20th	Alexandra	10.00am	Easter Sunday
April 27th	Alexandra	10.00am	Easter 2
May 4th	Alexandra	10.00am	Communion-Easter 3
May 11th	Alexandra	10.00am	Easter 4
May 18th	Alexandra	10.00am	Easter 5
May 21st	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
May 25th	Alexandra	10.00am	Easter 6
June 1st	Alexandra	10.00am	Easter 7

Contact Us

Minister:

Rev. Andrew Howley

Phone: 03 448 8511
021 518 053

Email:
An-
drew.howley.nz@gmail.com

Parish Clerk:

Don Melville

Phone: 448 9233

Email:
don.m.melville@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.alexchurch.org.nz

Like us on FaceBook

Facebook.com/

Worship Times

Sunday:

Alexandra: 10.00am

If you require
transportation
to church please
ask!

Telephone:-

Jennifer Bowie
448 7369

Sue & Don Melville
448 9233

Chris Beilby
021 449 296