

Wednesday 22 September 2021

We are getting closer to meeting face to face once again, but for now it's still our weekly "lockdown letter" that seeks to connect and inform us. If you know anyone who doesn't use email please take time to phone them and share the news of the week or let Isabella know and she will post them the letter. Thank you to all of you who are looking after each and staying in contact. If you'd like a lockdown call or know someone who would benefit from one, let Patsy (ph: 5218219, 021 024 00417) or Isabella (ph: 575 5323, 021 776 263) know.

Please continue to pray for our church family, community, our country's leaders and all those working on the frontline or in essential businesses.

Your opinions are important: Thank you to those who have responded to our survey that asks two important questions: **What are we doing well?** and **What could we do better?** For those who haven't responded please devote some of your lockdown time to offer your feedback in relation to the last 6 months.

Celebrating Life Dinner: All are invited to this social gathering and dinner at The Terraces Restaurant on Saturday 6 November from 6.30 pm. \$50 per person for a buffet (vegetarian and gluten free catered for). Please let Isabella (575 5323) or Jeanette (575 3136) know if you'd like to attend

Lockdown Worship: Our written reflection for this week is by Ian Kilgour who invites us to seriously consider the threat of global warming and our response to it.

We thank Rev David Williams and the virtual community of St Andrew's Symonds Street for including us in their online worship service again.

Both these worship resources will be emailed to members on Saturday afternoon. Thank you for your encouraging feedback on these resources.

Food for hunger: This is an initiative of Bill Duncan who this week attaches a letter to all of us outlining the current food crisis and appealing for our support to help feed those who are struggling.

Seeking a Health and Safety Officer: Our Church Council is committed to ensuring that safety is a priority for our Church, Community Centres, staff, parishioners and the public. Graeme Smith, our Acting General Manager is doing a great job on revising all our health and safety policies and has identified a need for a Health and Safety Officer to oversee this important area in the future. A role description and responsibilities (not too onerous) is available for interested candidates. Please let Graeme or any Church Council member know if you would be willing to serve our church in this area.

Council News: It's "business as usual" for our Interim Church Council. The postponement of our congregational meeting to elect a new council and the consequent delay of electing people to a Ministry Settlement Board (to discern our way forward) is disappointing, but the ICC continues to meet via zoom. Our next meeting is this Thursday. Following the meeting we will share

a brief “communique” of decisions made on your behalf. We thank our ICC and interim moderator for their work and commitment during this challenging time.

Lockdown Inspiration: Read a good book, watched a good film or TV series, listened to a good Youtube talk or podcast?

Helen Millard enjoyed Bob Goff’s latest book “**Everybody, Always.** *Becoming love in a world full of setbacks and difficult people. What happens when we give away love like we are made of it?*” Bob is an amusing storyteller and each chapter is a different story of learning from his life. Helen listened to the audio version available from Auckland Libraries.

What’s inspiring you this lockdown?

Stay safe and well. God bless. **Jill Kayser, Transition Facilitator**