

Levin Uniting Parish Communiqué

Building Bridges. Uniting People.

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NOVEMBER 2019

www.levinuniting.church



Like us on Facebook, to keep up to date with parish events and happenings.

Levin Uniting Church

Building Bridges. Uniting People.

Thank you for your faith in me, your faith in the Parish Council and your belief that God has spoken through our Future Focus process. At the recent parish AGM you affirmed what we believe to be the call of God for our parish:

to build bridges

and unite people in, and with, and through the love of God.

The first step to putting God's plan into action is to build bridges of unity within, and committing to being a community that honours the role that each and every one of us has in working God's purpose out at this time and in this place. We need you on board! As Paul reminds us in his letter to the church in Corinth:

"The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part... If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance... Only as you accept your part in that body does your "part" mean anything." *1 Cor 12:25-27 (The MSG)*

Community is God's desire for us, and a sign of a mature faith. Because at the end of the day, when we grow in our relationships with others, we're growing in our relationship with Him!

I am excited about the bridges we are going to build and cross together in the years to come, and pray you are too!

Arohanui

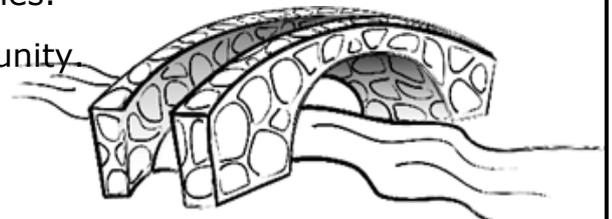
Reverend Sandy



BUILDING BRIDGES and UNITING PEOPLE

in the love of God by

1. Developing the Bridge Building Capacity.
2. Building bridges for young people and their families.
3. Building bridges with those in need in our community
4. Ensuring our plant helps us build bridges.

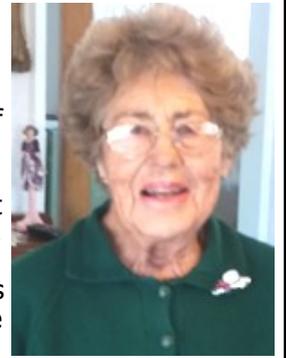


INTERVIEW WITH GWEN SEGAL-O'REGAN

Written By: Jillian McKenzie

I met Gwen at her home on 23 October 2019. Straight off she offered me a cup of tea; it was so nice that I had two. (I'll say here that Gwen's very meticulous person with precise details, dates & places – I've condense it for this article.)

Gwen was born at Amara Hospital (the original maternity hospital) in Queen St Levin, in the mid 1930s and at the time her family had a farm up Gladstone Road, Levin. By the time she was 6 years old Gwen had made up her mind to be a teacher when she grew up and nothing was going to change her mind on that – this was much to the amazement of her parents as the family had always worked on the land.



During World War II her parents moved to a farm at Ohariu Valley behind Johnsonville (Wellington) and Gwen went to the local country school. Ohariu School was called a "model school" and often had student-teachers there from Wellington Teachers' College in Kelburn (now part of the Victoria

University). One time there that sticks out for Gwen was when the resident teacher's children got mumps and they had to stay home from school. However, as the School House was right next door to the school with only a wire fence between them. "All the other school children would talk to them through the fence. So, all the school children got mumps together!" Gwen said with a smile. While Gwen was living in Ohariu Valley, after a 'Bible in School' lesson (church was opposite the school) insight came to Gwen that Christianity was real.

Gwen would go to her Grandparents place back in Gladstone Road for the school holidays, and her Grandmother would teach her the countries of the world and their capital cities; she was also taught punctuation and parts of speech like verbs and nouns from an early age. "Everything had a focus on education. So, that was my holidays" stated Gwen in a happy matter-of-fact voice, "that's just the way things were."

Gwen went to Wellington Girls College. She worked in a law office – this was not because she had changed her career path, no, but only because she was too young to attend Teachers' College when she finished Secondary School. She said she always had to wait for her age to catch up; youngest in the class, etc. Then she became an uncertificated teacher at Ashley Clinton School then going into Wellington Teachers' College in Kelburn. She started her one year, PA Teacher's year was at Havelock North School teaching in a left-over WWII Prefab – "a temporary school building, which of course lasted over 40 years post war!" Gwen added with a smirk. She finished that PA Teacher's year back in Wellington at Miramar Central School being married and 7months pregnant. Then teaching in the Horowhenua, at Levin School, Fairfield School, Shannon School, back to Fairfield School and then finally Ohau School. Gwen said that she has always worked, even when her children were babies, but she had great support system for her children too while she worked.

Gwen met her first husband, Raphael Segal, in Wellington; "an intelligent gregarious man who liked dancing", she described him as. They had two girls – nowadays two adult grandchildren too. Later she married her 2nd husband, Phillip O'Regan, and was married to him for 37 years. When Gwen married her 2nd husband she paid to change her name to incorporate both husbands' surnames. Gwen cared for mother and both her husbands in their failing health and visited them regularly in Rest Homes until death, but continued working and being involved in the community, including dancing, BPW (Business & Professional Women), President of NCW (National Council of Women), Secretary of the Church of Christ.

Gwen grew up in a Christian household; she remembers being Christened; she was given her first Bible in Standard 6 (aged 11½) and she proudly showed me it. She married Raphael Segal in Hastings St Andrews Presbyterian Church in 1956. When Raphael got baptised (full immersion) in the Levin Church of Christ, this started her journey to be baptised too – 27.1.63; received into fellowship/membership of Church of Christ 3.2.63 and handed a Bible with the Bible verse co-ordinates of

Proverbs 3:6. She went on to become the Secretary for Levin Church of Christ and also had the duty of winding up the church due to natural attrition. Then she attended St Johns Methodist Church where the Presbyterian Minister Rev Bob Eyles was preaching, before St Johns became part of Levin Uniting Parish. Gwen's Christian life intertwined her teaching career with her peers also being Christian and the 'Bible in School Programme'.

Gwen's final comment was, "Life keeps you a Christian. Life goes on whether you are ready or not. Once you're a Christian you're a Christian." She added with a smile, "We need each other whether we like it or not. I make it a point to speak to at least two people everyday – to acknowledge and interact with them." I asked Gwen what her favourite Bible verse is and she quoted word for word NIV Bible Isaiah 41:10.



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. *Psalm 107: 1*

Continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. *Colossians 2: 6-7*

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to the Christ Jesus. *1 Thes 5: 16-17*

I don't mind taking a risk, as long as I know everything will turn out okay.

PARISH COUNCIL OCTOBER 2019

Parish council had an exciting first meeting and had some great discussions for our future vision moving forward. We had come prepared by starting a study from "Who stole My Church" by Gordon MacDonald. Parish councillors studied the first chapter before the meeting and some interesting analogies with our Parish family were a talking point. Our future is exciting.

We are ready to get on board with our changes and need to encourage others to be part of this



Stuart Grant at his last Parish council, presented back to the Parish the trowel which was used to turn the first clump of dirt when our church was dedicated in 1962.

Working group portfolios were shared and Parish councillors chose which group to be responsible for certain parts of our congregation.

John Brown was elected by consensus, as part of the Parish's leadership team along with Ruth Rushton.

Manuila Tausi accepted the role of Finance Team convenor and will take responsibility for a lot of the financial areas.

A revamp of the Parish website is proposed and if you know of anyone who can help with this please let Elizabeth know at the office.

There will be a PC retreat coming up, and the commissioning of parish councillors and working groups will take place on Sunday 3rd November.

There will be a new database programme installed to assist the parish better with the running of an efficient Parish.

We have applied to some trusts for a new microphone to be used in the hall so we don't need to move the one from the church and an extra microphone for the church.

Viv Hudson

Sunday 6 October— PARISH AGM

From the AGM

Parish council Members:

BOLITHO, Eileen *
BROWN, John
CAMERON, Peter *
GIBSON, Jack
HAINES, Heather
HARRIS, Gwyneth *
HUDSON, Viv
KIRKBY, Paul *
McKENZIE, Jillian *
PYEFINCH, Polly *
RUSHTON, Ruth
TAUSI, Manuila *
WILLIAMS, Sandra

* (newly elected)

We wish to thank everyone who put their name forward to serve on Parish Council.

Motions

All the motions included in the Annual Performance Report were passed.



Sunday 3rd November COMMISSIONING OF PARISH COUNCIL

The new Parish Council officers will be commissioned and those mid-term affirmed during our service of Holy Communion.

thankyou

FRESH MARKET

(formally our Church Fair)

Held on Saturday 12th October

We would like to thank all the people who help make this day a success.

Those who help set up.

Those who supplied the stock—baking, jams, fruit &]
veges, plants etc

Those who helped on the day

& Those who helped clear up.

There were also people behind the scenes who did the organising.

Special thanks to:

Stephen Prouse who supplied the fresh local honey.

The Methodist Tongan Congregation who via Woodhaven, supplied the fresh veges.



If you know of someone who is not well, PLEASE let the office know! I will get someone to get in contact

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
NOTICES FOR NOVEMBER**

T.C.F Morning group: Thursday 7th @ 10am in the Gilmour Lounge .
Afternoon group: Tuesday 12th, 1.30pm in the Wesley Lounge
Evening Group: Tuesday 26th—lunch at The Masonic café.

**SUNDAY EVENING
COMMUNITY MEAL**



Some people have asked how they can help, other than coming down on Sunday evenings?

Some ideas: do you have extra produce from your garden? We only use fresh veges, so yours would be very welcome.

Money to buy food: all money received goes to buy food. If you make a donation via the church, you can get a tax donation receipt to claim 1/3rd back on your next tax return. This can be by cash or a regular internet banking amount.

OR: we have set up a 'give a little' page where you can make credit card or internet donations—again you will receive a tax donation receipt.

Every bit helps.

Our give a little page is:
www.givealittle.co.nz/org/communitymeallevin



Or if you have a smartphone with a QR Code reader, you can use this

November DOOR DUTY:

This is a great way of meeting people and giving them a wonderful welcome to our church.



Training provided, talk to Sandra, Ruth R or John B if interested.

Cuppa Time after Worship for November:

Nov 3rd Communion Helen Hutchings + helper
 Nov 10th Heather Haines/ Gwyneth Harris
 Nov 17th Lois & Bob
 Nov 24th St Andrew's Day—Shared Lunch
 Helen Hutchings + Helpers

**St Andrew's Day
Sunday 24th November**

All things Scottish, Parish shared lunch



**Christmas Lunch
Sunday 8th December**



Prayer Chain:

If you would like someone to be added to the Prayer chain, please let Elizabeth in the office know. Would you like to be part of the Prayer Chain? Contact the office for more info.



Date	Time	What	Where
Saturday 2nd	8am-11.30am	Monthly Market	Hall complex
Sunday 3rd	10am	Whole Parish service with Communion	Church
Thursday 7th	10am	Women's Fellowship	Gilmour Lounge
Tuesday 12th	1.30pm	Women's Fellowship	Gilmour Lounge
Tuesday 19th	By 2pm	Communique Material DUE	Into the office
Wed 20th	7.30pm	Parish Council	Gilmour Lounge
Sunday 24th	10am	St Andrews Day & shared lunch	Church/hall
Thursday 21st	9.30am	Craft & Chatter	Gilmour Lounge
Tuesday 26th	12.30pm	Women's Fellowship	The Masonic Café
Friday 29th Nov	9am	Newsletter Team	Staff Room
Sunday 1st	10am	Communion/Advent I	Church

**Levin Uniting Parish
What's coming up**

November 2019

Every Sunday	10am Worship	Levin & Waitare Hall
	6pm Community Meal	Hall
	7pm Service	Hall
Every Tuesday	12pm Prayer with Jack	Wesley Lounge
Every Thursday	7.30pm Choir Practice	Gilmour Lounge