

# The day the mountains shook & the church stood!!

Thurs, 20th Dec 2007

The earth shifted and the city of Gisborne moved. A 6.8 quake hit, twisting, cracking & tumbling masonry

Fortunately, no one was killed or severely injured . . . unfortunately, St Andrew's Church sustained significant damage.

Built in 1913 of bricks bonded by a mixture of lime and water, the building had withstood a number of earthquakes over the years. However, this quake badly damaged the tower. Other minor structural damage was sustained. Plaster cracked and fell.

The building has been closed to the public since the earthquake. Not only is this a loss to the congregation, it is also a loss to the city. The city has been saddened at the loss of this community facility.

St Andrew's Church is a cultural treasure of the city and a Category 2 Historic Building. It is an iconic landmark in the Downtown area of the City. Because of its concave ceiling, the building's acoustics are among the best in the city. The church has an outstanding organ, and the use of both a grand piano and a harpsichord. Special recitals, choral works, and concerts were frequently held in the building.



The church has witnessed and celebrated the life transitions of many of Gisborne's citizens. Now we are restoring the building for continued public use. The insurance will cover the strengthening and restoration of the bell-tower.

BUT . . . the whole building must be reinforced to comply with Earthquake Building Standard. The church cannot be used until the work is done. Restoration and modernising work will cost \$300,000. We move forward in faith, fundraising to meet the cost of the work.