



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**April 2019**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



Games Night, March 2019

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Minister

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

Email: tokerau.j@gmail.com

Ph: 478 6180

## Administrator

Jo Wyman-Macer

Office hours:

Wednesday via phone and email

Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm

Ph: 478 6180

Email: office@bayspc.nz

## Street Address

10 Hastings Rd

Mairangi Bay

## Vehicle Access

Between 8 & 10 Penzance Rd

## Postal Address

PO Box 65299

Mairangi Bay

## Website

[www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz](http://www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz)

## Parish Clerk

Stewart Milne

Ph: 478 5786

Mobile: 027 293 8499

## Treasurer, property and finance

George Wyman

Ph 478 6411

## Support worker for the elderly

Margaret Pont

027 225 8893

***This month's newsletter has a range of photos of some of the community outreach undertaken by the church. Many thanks to Yoshiko Treggerthan and Karel Lorier for sharing.***

# REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORNINGS** - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month  
10am - 12pm, Boardgames, Rummikubs, Cards etc  
For further information Margaret Pont 4893176 or  
027 2258893



- **GIRLS' BRIGADE** - Tuesdays during School term.  
Church Hall 6.30-8pm.  
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603



- **LADIES HOME GROUP** - Wednesdays 10.15am.  
Contact Heather on 479-8822 for further details.



- **GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**  
Wednesdays Church Hall. 1.00-2.00pm  
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212



- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**  
1pm—2.30pm Wednesdays New Meeting Room 2.  
Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786

- **HOUSE GROUP**  
Wednesdays 7.30pm at the Shadbolts  
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.



- **LUNCHEON GROUP**  
2nd Thursday of month 12-2pm in Church hall  
Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.



- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**  
Thursdays 10am-2pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall  
For further information Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.



- **FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**  
Meeting 3rd Friday 6.30pm shared meal.  
Venue circulates. For further information contact  
Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.



- **MAINLY MUSIC**  
Fridays during the school term. Church Hall 10-11am



mainly  
music

## AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

It's been just over a year that I have been in ministry here at Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Parish. I thank God for a wonderful time of learning and service with a wonderful group of people. One of the things that encourages me about the parish is the vision and willingness to reflect the diversity of the wider community. We are increasingly seeing this in the English Conversations group, Mainly Music, Family Games Night, home groups and in our worship services. Learning and appreciating the presence and culture of others who are different from ourselves can be challenging, but also enriching. It helps us grow, in more ways than one, as a Christian community.

While reflecting on this, I came across a very brief article that I found helpful. While St Patrick's Day is a well-known celebration, I really didn't understand the significance of St. Patrick's life and work in relation to diversity. I'd like to share this article with you and hope you take the chance to explore how diversity might shape your thinking and practices. The article is entitled "Celebrating Diversity" by Melissa Slocum.



<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9530/celebrating-diversity>

This Sunday is St. Patrick's Day. If you are of Irish heritage, this is a great day to celebrate Irish culture. If you are not of Irish descent, this is a great day to learn about and celebrate Irish culture! St. Patrick's Day was established to commemorate the work of a Catholic priest, missionary and bishop on the day he died — March 17th. Whether you celebrate or not, there is much we can learn about cultural diversity from St. Patrick — who was not even Irish!

### **Patrick's teen years**

Born in the early fifth century and raised in Britain, Patrick was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave at age 16, where he was forced to work as a shepherd. Patrick's own letters relate that during this time he had an experience with God and converted to Christianity. Still, he learned the language,

learned about the various Celtic and Druid tribal customs and gods, and learned the Irish culture. When he was able to escape six years later, he boarded a ship headed back to Britain.



### **Patrick's mission, our mission**

Although he returned to and was secure in Britain, Patrick had a vision of being called back to Ireland to convert the people to Christianity. He studied Christianity in France and was ordained as a priest before returning to Ireland. No one would have blamed Patrick for never wanting to see Ireland again, nor for resenting everything about his captors. Instead, he chose to embrace the Irish people and their cultural values in order to teach them about Jesus in ways they could accept. He often met opposition, but he is credited with faithfulness to God, performing many miracles, building over three hundred churches and welcoming most of the island people into Christianity.

Like St. Patrick, we are called to embrace all people of all cultures. When we do, we may discover we have much in common despite our differences. Our lives and our faith are enriched by our diverse friendships and perspectives.

Question of the day: What do you admire about other cultures?

Focal scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9:20-23; John 1:43-46; Acts 10:34-36

## **LUNCHEON GROUP**

The next meeting of the Lunch Group will be held on Thursday April 11th from 12 pm -2p.m.

Bring your lunch & enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while having a chat from 12pm – 1p.m.

Then enjoy being entertained by Rick Cotter who will play a range of music from such favourites as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby till 2pm.

Trade table & raffles operating.  
Gold coins donation.



## SPECIAL COMMUNION

Our next Special Communion service for all parishioners especially those unable to attend regularly will be held on Tuesday, April 2 at 11:30 am. There will be a time of fellowship and lunch following the service . We will provide transportation to and from the church if required. If you would like to attend, could you please contact Norma Baker on 443- 3108 for catering purposes.



## JUSTICE MATTERS

Out of Gate (OOG) is a reintegration activity which Support Northern is contracted to provide for the women leaving the Auckland Regional Women's Prison. We have the opportunity to help this initiative by providing items for the personal kit with which the women leave prison. It has been decided that we will focus our collection for this on the first Sunday of the month. The items that are required are personal items – underwear (large sizes), toiletries and personal care items including sanitary towels. If you prefer to make a donation please put it in an envelope labelled OOG. The items should be placed in the



same basket as our foodbank items. The Parish Council has already made a donation to enable some women to access birth certificates which in turn allow them to open bank accounts and access appropriate benefits. Successful reintegration is a key factor in reducing recidivism and this is a small way we can help.

Saint Lukes have been running a justice series on the Thursday nights (7.30pm) through March. On 28<sup>th</sup> March John Sinclair is talking about the lessons he has learned from European Open Prisons and on 4 April the discussion will focus on a new way forward for our justice system. If you are interested contact St Lukes to enrol ([stlukes.org.nz/events](http://stlukes.org.nz/events) or phone 520 0740).

## **BLANKET BIN**

You may have been puzzled by a new structure in the foyer. This is a bin to collect bed linen (blankets, sleeping bags, sheets, etc) for Family Works to share with families who need these items as winter comes on.

This is a great opportunity for you to de-clutter your linen cupboard! Obviously clean items only please.



## **NEIGHBOURS DAY (22-31 MARCH)**

We have been reminded by the Moderator that this is a time when many parishes reach out and demonstrate faith in action, showing a generous and welcoming spirit by opening their doors and offering a cup of tea or taking to the streets offering baking and a hello. It was also suggested that an alternative form of action would be some activity which showed a care for our world.

The best security we can build in our country is to build up our communities and show the love that Jesus advocated.



# UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the March meeting of Parish Council we :

- Reflected on the terrorist attack and massacre at the Christchurch Mosques. The condolences and support card addressed to the Muslim Community on the North Shore which was signed by members of the congregation on Sunday 17th was delivered by our Minister to the Imam at the Islamic Centre in Wairau Valley. Tokerau reported on their conversation and warm appreciation.
- Appointed Peter Stone as the Safety Officer for the purposes of the PCANZs recently released Child Protection Policy. Those of us with contact with children at the church are required to obtain a new Police check and this process is now underway.
- Agreed to have a joint communion service with Yedarm on 9 June
- Received a positive view from Tokerau after 12 months of ministry here at Mairangi Bay. Tokerau advised that he and the family are feeling settled and he is enjoying his ministry here. Parish Council members responded with very positive feedback on his ministry and the involvement of the family in our church community
- Reviewed the structure of our parish management by way of committees and also the Job Descriptions for the Committee Convenors. The Job Descriptions are on the notice board in the foyer and we strongly encourage members to look at these to identify a committee they could like to join and speak to the committee convenor about that. Membership of a committee is a great way to contribute to the running of the parish



- Commenced a conversation on succession planning
- Discussed how we can best spread information both within our church and in the community about the activities that are taking place in terms of our mission. We will be showing some photos of activities on the screen before services.



- Spent time reviewing the result of our outreach to the Indian Community on the North Shore through the Hindi Speaking Services over the 12 months to November 2018 and considered whether they should be resumed now that Rev Raju George is back from Delhi. A support Group is being set up to work with Raju and we will be meeting with them.
- Were advised of the successful church picnic which the Fellowship Group organised.

Stewart Milne



## **FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS**

To be held on the first Friday of every month, 6:30-8pm

These evenings are informal events, as a chance for fellowship and outreach into the community. All ages welcome

**Dates:**

April 5

May 3

June 7

July 5



# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## Showing our Love



When he was asked what “is the most important commandment,” Jesus coupled loving God to loving our neighbour. He told the story of the Good Samaritan. The story we all know. The robbed unconscious Jew who lay on the side of the road would have considered the Samaritan an enemy, ritually unclean and would not liked to have been

touched by him. The Samaritan would have considered the Jew his enemy. The religious leaders, the Priest and the Levite, passed him by for ritual cleanliness reasons. It was the Samaritan who saw this man as a neighbour and was a true neighbour to him in the way that Jesus understood the concept of neighbour.

Elsewhere in the gospels Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. The net of neighbourly love is cast far and wide. It includes all people everywhere.

What do we do to show our love, as Jesus speaks about it, in respect of human generated climate change, which will affect mostly our children and grandchildren and their peers all over the world?

We are not well equipped to think about things that creep up on us slowly, unseen except with the use of specialist equipment, satellite images and painstaking research. I certainly had to struggle and spend time with photographs, graphs and maps to see what sort of world we are leaving our children and grandchildren. Furthermore, it is difficult for us as individuals to make the significant changes which will alleviate the more dramatic effects of climate change on future generations.

In addition, confusion is thrown into our thinking and decision making by those of the fossil fuel industry who keep telling us that climate change is a natural process and that it is not the burning of fossil fuels which is the major the cause of climate change. They have scientists who appear to put up a good case but are paid and beholden the fossil fuel industry. They also fund well produced videos which appear on social media. Their tactics are like those used by the tobacco industry.

Considering all this, do we put loving our children and grandchildren into the too hard basket and leave them with what the best predictions of science at this time offer - “a hell of a world.” Some of the Pacific Islands will be uninhabitable, large areas of the world will have insufficient water and temperatures which will not allow them to grow their traditional crops and maybe no suitable food crops at all. Coastal areas of New Zealand will experience frequent flooding. Severe weather events, storms and droughts, will be more frequent. Our young people are very concerned about their future. As one said, “Why educate us for the future when we have no liveable future?”

How do we show our love or justice to the next generation? Fortunately, there are some things we can do if we act quickly and a lot of us act together.

Firstly, we need to think carefully about the leaders we elect. Are they committed and capable of making hard decisions which will cut down greenhouse gasses and make the adjustments to living in a warmer world? Most of the action required is at international, governmental and local government level.

Secondly, we can make some changes ourselves. Drive less, plan our car journeys to cut down on the amount of fossil fuel we use. If you are changing your car, changing to one which is fuel efficient or buying an electric car. Using public transport when possible. If you haven't used it lately public transport in our area has become much more user friendly. Consider using a mains or rechargeable battery electric lawn mower. It is possible to offset the carbon dioxide you use driving your vehicle, and in other ways, by using a calculator and paying for the mileage. Some schemes are certified, others are not, and some are scams. Consumer New Zealand gives good advice.



Reducing our consumption of red meat, which besides having health benefits, cuts greenhouse gas emissions.

These are three ways you can show you love for the younger generation worldwide. This may not appear as direct and hands on as helping an unconscious person on the side of the road, but it will have long term consequences. That is why it takes a bit of thinking to get our head around this way of showing our love. But the Jesus I know, follow and love, faced with our circumstances would be in boots and all.

## CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour <b>478-7603</b>
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme <b>479 2212</b>
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay New Meeting Room 2.	Every Wednesday	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Ladies Home Group	10.15 am	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	Wednesdays	Heather Gibson <b>479 8822</b>
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson <b>410 4423</b>
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Dees Social Club	10am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Margaret Pont <b>021 670 019</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt <b>479-3953</b>
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier <b>414 6321</b>
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Tangi Joseph
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Activities Mornings, Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	1st & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019