



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

August 2019

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



Joseph Family Holidays

July 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

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Mairangi Bay

Vehicle Access

Between 8 & 10 Penzance Rd

Postal Address

PO Box 65299

Mairangi Bay

Website

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 Tregathan 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
Ph Tangi Joseph 0226573223



AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Iaorana and bonjour everyone! The Joseph and Matapo families have been away for a couple of weeks in Tahiti. Originally it was only Tangi, Paul and myself going, but gradually the number grew. We were joined by some of Manu's family from Ashburton as well as some of mine from South Auckland. In total there were 20 of us that went.

After a 5-hour flight, we arrived at Faa'a airport at 11pm to a very warm 22 degrees. We were greeted with flower leis by many of our host families who then accompanied us on an hour and half drive to the village of Tautira. Without knowing, our host families had planned an itinerary for us that was full-on for the two weeks. Rather than trying to tell you all about it, I think pictures will allow your imagination to follow our journey. So enjoy some of the photographs of what we got up to in Tautira, Moorea, and Fenua Aihere.



YOUNG MUM'S GROUP - 8 August, 7:15pm

A time for mums of young people of all ages to get together and share fellowship. Hosted by Heather Gibson on the second Thursday of the month.
Phone Heather, 027 499 9808; email: gibsonfamily@xtra.co.nz

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Christian Civic Responsibilities

For most of Christian history ordinary Christians did not have a great deal of say in the affairs of the nation and community. Kings ruled through a hierarchical system. They took their cue from Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God, therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement.

This section of Romans was interpreted and expanded to produce a doctrine called the Divine right of Kings and used by rulers to legitimise their powers and exploitation of their subjects.

However, this is to take Paul's words out of context. Paul did not create the chapter divisions and if we read the passage in its context

from verse 9 in chapter 12, we will notice that Paul is paraphrasing Jesus' sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5 about non-violence and loving one's enemies. Furthermore, two different Greek words are translated "resist." Both words come from military resistance and suggest violent resistance. Paul was concerned that Christians should not kill in resisting Roman persecution.



There were other reasons which dissuaded Christians from having a say in the affairs of the community and nations, most significantly from about the 16th century one's Christian faith became mainly a private affair. One was concerned with one's own salvation and found little reason to apply one's faith to the affairs of state and the local community. There were outstanding exceptions to this, notably the Kirk Sessions (church ruling

elders) of the Church of Scotland, but most Christians left it to others to control the affairs of the nation and community.

There is therefore no ready model from the past which we can use as an example for Christians to participate in a modern 21st century democracy. But participate we must. The Hebrew 2 prophets gave us a good example in their challenge to systems which exploited the poor. Jesus engaged in nonviolent resistance to Roman rule and the religious authorities who supported them to exploit others, particularly the poor and outcasts. We in a democracy can vote, make submissions and create petitions and lobby politicians and protest.

Christians need to seize our civic responsibilities to influence the affairs of the nation and community, and seek to transform society so that love, compassion forgiveness and acceptance will become the norms. We will have different points of view on how to achieve this. But it is important that we have a thought-out point of view and be informed about important matters that face the community, nation and world. Our point of view will go beyond party political interests.

Currently, there are some important matters we face and about which it is our civic Christian responsibility to be informed. Most important and overshadowing all others, is climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The greenhouse gasses already in the atmosphere will have an enormous impact on the future. If we don't reduce the greenhouse gas emission the world will be a very uncomfortable place for our children and grandchildren. Such a reduction of greenhouse gasses will require a response on a global scale.

The upcoming Local Body Elections will be important as the design and infrastructure of the city will have an impact both on reducing greenhouse gasses and mitigating those effects of climate change which are already happening (especially sea level rise) and which we cannot now reverse.

The second major issue we face is housing. Poor housing or no housing, has implications for poor health, limited education and work opportunities, crime and imprisonment, addictions and mental health.



The third matter we need to be informed about is the legalisation or decriminalisation of cannabis and other matters concerning the way illegal drugs are dealt with, which will come to a referendum. So far, worldwide efforts to stop the illegal drug trade have not been very effective, despite huge efforts. A different approach which is being looked at is seeing drugs as a health problem. Drugs, including alcohol, are implicated in mental illness, addiction, violence, domestic violence and suicide. In certain age brackets we have one of the highest suicide rates in the OECD.



The fourth matter under consideration is the End of Life Choice Bill. This has huge implications. Do we need this? Or would the provision of excellent palliative care be a greater priority? Holland was the first country to legalise euthanasia under certain conditions. Now some Dutch Christian thinkers are beginning to think that palliative care ought to have been improved prior to legalising euthanasia. You will be aware of other matters for consideration.

On all these matters there is information available through the PCANZ website www.pcanz.org.nz with links to the research by church committees or links to inter-church sources. Our Christian Civic Duty is to be informed and to think prayerfully and carefully about these matters, vote, write submissions, create or sign petitions and lobby members of parliament and local politicians.

LUNCHEON GROUP - THURSDAY 8th AUGUST 12-2pm

COME and join our LUNCH GROUP.
Bring your lunch & enjoy entertainment
BY OUR VERY OWN
REV. TOKERAU & TANGI JOSEPH,
who will take you on a
SPECIAL TRIP TO RAROTONGA.
Raffles & Trade table operating.
Gold coin entry.

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

What do you expect of your council and Local Boards?

Our church (Mairangi and Castor Bays Presbyterian) has typically run a meeting for candidates in the national elections in our Community Conversations series. This year we are turning our attention to the local body elections. Rather than trying to interview the many relevant candidates for the Council, Wards and Local Boards we thought we would use a more general format to help the community understand the Local Body scene, its responsibilities and current concerns.

We are dividing the topic into two evenings:

- **Monday 5 August at 7.30pm** a presentation about the structure of Council, how it works and the associated bodies – CCOs, Harbour forum, the role of staff, the District plan, the committees and how councillors get put or select to be on them, the role of the Mayor etc, etc. We have asked Penny Hulse if she would give a presentation followed by a question and answer session.
- **Monday 12 August a panel of current Ward and Board members** will be interviewed about how the tasks are divided between Local Boards and Council, the roles, what they see as important decisions in the past term and what they foresee as current and future issues, etc. We have invited the North Shore and the two Albany Ward councillors as well as the Chair of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board to be part of the panel. Written questions are welcome.

Come and find out how the Local Body scene works.
Bring your friends. Free admission



UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the July meeting of Parish Council we:

- spent time on pastoral matters
- received a report on the continuing work going on to try to satisfy the Council and resolve the problem of no legal vehicle access to the church property
- considered a draft budget for the 2019/20 financial year which has been recommended by the Property and Finance Committee and decided to support it being recommended to the AGM which is to be held on 25 August
- Expressed our appreciation for the Favourite Hymns Service which was held on 14 July and which Bronwyn Stone put a lot of research into and then joined in leading the singing with those present. Prue Bell's playing also came in for special mention.
- Sought volunteers to take just one or two Sunday School sessions a term. Pauline Gulliver is making up a roster and the material has been prepared. Please if you have any degree of interest in being involved with our young children contact Pauline
- Were updated on the work Erica Brash has been doing in organising two public meetings in the lead up to the Local Body Elections. These will be held in our hall on 5 and 12 August. At the first one (on 5 Aug) Councillor Penny Hulse will explain the roles of the various bodies under the Auckland Council umbrella and their responsibilities as well as the responsibilities of the Mayor.
- At the second meeting (on 12 Aug) Erica has arranged for a panel of representatives from various Council bodies to advise us on their roles and the issues as they see them.
- Received feedback from Norma Baker on the Special Communion Service followed by a luncheon for those of our older members who find it difficult to get along to the Sunday morning services. This again was a very worthwhile and appreciated get together
- Considered Committee and Parish Council membership with the AGM approaching. Our recommendations will go to the AGM – meanwhile if there is anyone interested in learning more about what happens in the various Committees in our parish (Worship; Christian Education; Property and Finance; Church and Community; Pastoral Care and Fellowship) please let me know. We already have some new members but would appreciate more. It is a great way to contribute and to get to know people and the way that



the parish functions.

- Gave consideration to the situation at our Dees Group where Margaret Pont who has been the Co-ordinator for 8 years, has resigned to do more traveling and undertake other tasks. Parish Council has decided to accept an offer from Presbyterian Support (Enliven) who employed Margaret, to provide one of their staff to undertake the Co-ordinator role. Margaret has done a wonderful job at Dees and will be very much missed. We will farewell her on Thursday 1 August at 1:45
- Discussed an invitation for our parish to participate in the Carols at Mairangi Bay Park on 11 December and decided to accept. Roll on Christmas !!

Stewart Milne



FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS

The first Friday of every month (August 2), 6:30-8pm

All ages welcome

A FUNNY, Courtesy of Gerry Ruffell

Three police officers were standing in line at the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter asked the first officer, “What did you do with your life?”

“I was a police officer,” he responded.

“What kind of police officer?” Saint Peter asked.

“I was a vice officer. I kept drugs off the streets and out of the hands of kids.”

“Welcome to heaven. You may end the gates.”

He asked the second man what he did as a police officer.

“I was a traffic officer,” said the man. “I kept the roads and highways safe.”

“Welcome to heaven. You may enter the gates.”

He asked the third man what he did as a police officer.

“I was a military policeman, sir,” replied the man.

“Wonderful! I’ve been waiting for you all day!” replied Saint Peter.

“I need to take a break! Watch the gate, will you?”

“S” lunch - 25th August - There is a “S” lunch after the AGM this year - 25th August, come and join us for what will be a Spectacular Shared lunch. Bring a “S” plate with you. Sandwiches, sausage rolls, savouries, scones....

SPECIAL COMMUNION & SERVICE AND LUNCHEON GROUP

PHOTOS - Many thanks to Norma and Yoshiko



CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth and children	10am Church	Mairangi Bay	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm Church Hall	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Ladies Home Group	10.15 am	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	Wednesdays	Heather Gibson 479 8822
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson 410 4423
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am -2.00pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Margaret Pont 021 670 019
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Tangi Joseph 0226573223
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108
Activities Mornings, Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	1st & 3 rd Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019