



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



**The colours and sounds of a Mainly Music Service
November 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

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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

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 Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223.
- **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

I cam across an article for Advent that I hope encourages you as it has me.

Anticipating the Advent By Lance Moore

Anticipation should be a joyful feeling, not the feeling of anxiety and dread. But the feelings are similar in that whatever we expect, whether good or bad, is often surprising.

One of my favourite jokes illustrates the connection between anticipation and surprise. Back in the wild West, a stranger stands at a saloon bar. Suddenly a cowboy runs in screaming, “Hey, everybody, Big Bad John is coming to town.” Several others exclaim: “Big Bad John is the meanest, toughest, biggest outlaw in the West. Let’s run for it.” Everyone heads for the door except the stranger and the bartender. The bartender says, “Are you deaf, mister? Big Bad John is coming!” The stranger replies, “I don’t know who he is, but he can’t be all that big and bad. I’m not afraid.” So, the stranger and the bartender wait. Soon the saloon doors fly off their hinges, and a mountain of a man stomps through the door. Covered with scars and sporting a scowl, he demands a drink. The bartender meekly complies. The stranger nervously thinks to himself, “Now I wish I had run away; this guy is the biggest, meanest-looking outlaw I’ve ever seen.” The outlaw downs the drink in one gulp, slams it down on the bar, then turns and looks the stranger coldly in the eye to announce, “I don’t know about you, stranger, but I’m gettin’ outta here. I don’t wanna be here when Big Bad John comes in!”

Anticipation is usually followed with surprise! Most jokes have that same structure: anticipation, then surprise. We know something is coming but then it was not what we expected. There is something delightful about the formula. Children know it. That’s why they love opening Christmas presents. They must look at those wrapped gifts for weeks of suspense, and only on Christmas morning do they receive the surprise.

If only we adults could reclaim some of the anticipation and surprise, the excitement and wonder, of a child’s Christmas . . . or of the very first Christmas. Admittedly, we know what is coming. We feel no anticipation about the coming of Christ; Christmas for some people is just another holiday, that same old time of year where we fight our way through stores, unpack our ornaments, and eat too much.

We must work at it if we wish to reclaim the excitement of Advent. Paradoxically, one must prepare to be surprised. Pause for a moment and consider the hope, anticipation, and surprise of that first Christmas. So I’m asking you in this Advent season to shift your perspective.

Don't view Christmas as a mundane or repetitious holiday. Don't expect the "same old, same old." Don't rule out the miraculous and the startling; prepare your mind for the serendipitous joy of new insights, liberation, and the fulfilment of hope. Prepare to be surprised.

On behalf of Tangi, Paul, Manu & Angel, Ananiah, Kimi, Mastell, and Faith, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Special Communion, November

Luncheon Group

THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER 12 – 2pm

Christmas **EXTRAVAGANZA** by **THE GLENFIELD SINGERS**

Bring a plate of food to share & enjoy fellowship
for our last get-together of the year.

TRADE TABLE - Any item you have that is surplus to requirements
gratefully received for this, especially with Christmas around the corner.

RAFFLES

Gold coin donation at the door.

Albert Ryter
Happy 90th!!



Church Giving

There are a number of ways people contribute financially to support the running of the church and our ministries to the wider community:

- Cash or cheque donations into the Sunday plate
- Regular giving through the Envelope system. We will soon be preparing numbered offering envelopes for January – June 2020.

If you would like to be added to the system for income tax donation purposes contact Norma Baker on 443 3108 before December 8.

If you have spare envelopes you can use them and just change the date.

Please let Norma know if you have plenty so we don't print more for you.

- The Automatic Payment system. This is particularly good for busy people and can be used for intermittent or regular donations. The account number of the church is 03 0180 0052341 02. Contact Norma to set this up.
- Receipts are issued annually for regular giving and can be used for tax deductions.

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Jesus' birth stories

My computer tells me this is the hundredth article for the Newsletter. In the first article I wrote: "If you call yourself a Christian or a religious person today, people automatically assume that you are a fundamentalist of some sort.

This is largely because fundamentalist forms of religion are hogging the headlines. All this has had an impact on how we feel about ourselves as Christian people. The questions raised by this changing world challenge our Christian faith. For some the questions have been such that they have found themselves saying "no" to Christianity. For me the opposite has occurred.

After some years of study examining Christianity from several perspectives, I am more convinced than ever of the importance of Jesus to our world... I am excited by what I have discovered. I hope that you may find some of the things I write helpful.”

This is the time of year when the birth stories of Jesus are told.

They are not historic factual accounts, although they have been used to create theological castles in the air.

If you read the two birth stories, the first one in Matthew and second in Luke you will see they are two mutually exclusive stories.

They are rich in symbolic meanings which would have leapt out to their original intended audiences but, unless we study them very carefully in their context, we miss.

Matthew's story of Jesus birth starts with a genealogy in which four women are named, Tamar, who posed as a prostitute and has a child by her father-in-law Judah, Rahab the Canaanite prostitute who welcomed the Hebrew spies in Jericho, Ruth who was a Moabite gentile who seduced Boaz, and Bathsheba, who is not actually named but is called Uriah's wife and by whom King David has a son, Solomon. What is Matthew trying to tell us?

Jesus is born in Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph live. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph to whom she is betrothed, marries her. Jesus is born and is then visited by the wisemen (astronomers, the scientists of their time) who are led by a special star. On their way they advised King Herod who is not pleased. Joseph is warned in a dream to leave and he takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Jealous Herod kills all the two-year old and younger boys. After staying in Egypt until Herod dies, Joseph and family return to settle in Nazareth. (Read Matthew 1:1-2:23)

Matthew tackles several things, especially the questions about Jesus' birth. He was known as son of Mary (rather than Son of Joseph) - an insult at the time - used to undermine the authority of his teaching. It was believed the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Jesus is taken to Egypt and the young boys two and under are killed, as in the story of Pharaoh and Moses. Matthew wants to portray Jesus as a new Moses for his Jewish readers.

Luke's story is preceded by the birth of his cousin John the Baptist. John is shown as secondary to Jesus. Jesus having been John's disciple was an embarrassment to the early church.

Luke dates the birth of Jesus from when Augustus was emperor and makes the Quirinius Census the occasion for Mary and Joseph to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary is promised in marriage to Joseph. She is pregnant. Jesus is born and is laid in a manger. There is no room at the inn. The Quirinius census did not take place in fact until Jesus was between 10 and 12 years old.

There are shepherds in fields nearby. An angel of the Lord appears to them telling them the good news that a saviour is born - Christ the Lord. A great army of angels sing “Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to those with



whom he is pleased.” The shepherds visit Jesus and tell what happened. A week later Jesus is circumcised. Then Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem for the ritual of purification and the presentation of Jesus to the Lord (required by religious law for every first born). Jesus is greeted by two God fearing people Simeon and a prophet, Anna. As a twelve-year-old Jesus debates with the Jewish teachers.
(Read Luke 1-2:52)

Luke wants to show Jesus identifying with the poor - the shepherds - and the devout. The religious law is followed. He is born in Bethlehem of David’s line. As he was known as Jesus of Nazareth, this is where he was most likely born. Luke by including the story of Jesus at twelve in the temple debating with the Jewish teachers follows the usual Greek-Roman form of writing about a famous person - showing that in their youth they already showed the promise of what flowered in adulthood.

Both these stories are the ancient form of introducing a most important person such as an emperor. They are not meant to be factual history in the way we understand it.

Should we abandon these stories, because they are not factually true? No, they are a rich part of our heritage. But we should speak of them for what they are. Not factual history, but myth. Told in an age when they indicated as vehemently as possible that Jesus and what he taught was and is of paramount importance. Listen to him.

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting of Parish Council time was spent considering the paper “A Case for Change” which has been produced by a Northern Presbytery Task Group led by Dr Rod Watts who is the Executive Officer of the Presbytery. Ian Watson from our parish was a member of the Task Group. The paper identifies the decline in the Presbyterian Church and spells out the options of : Manage the decline; or Change. The next task of the Group is to develop a Strategic Plan.

Against this background the conference being organised here in the Northern Presbytery “Our God is Able” for 22 February is seen as being particularly important. Our parish will look to send a representative group to the conference and we would welcome any members of the congregation who are interested in attending. We will be arranging a pre conference meeting earlier in February of those who are interested in participating to discuss our focus.

Please make contact with Ian Watson or myself if you are interested.
Stewart Milne

Thanks to Montrose!!

For running a cans for cup collection at the end of September
As a result of their collections, 3 banana boxes of food were gifted to the
Presbyterian Support Northern Foodbank



Christmas Services

Sunday, December 1: Packing Christmas boxes

Sunday, December 8: Choir Choral Service

Sunday, December 22: Joint Service with Yedarm

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Family Service (7pm)

Services over the Summer Holidays

Sunday, December 29: Joint Service with Mairangi Bay, Forrest Hill and Glenfield **at Forrest Hill Church, 151 Forrest Hill Road**

Sunday, January 5: Joint Service with Mairangi Bay, Forrest Hill and Glenfield **at Mairangi Bay**

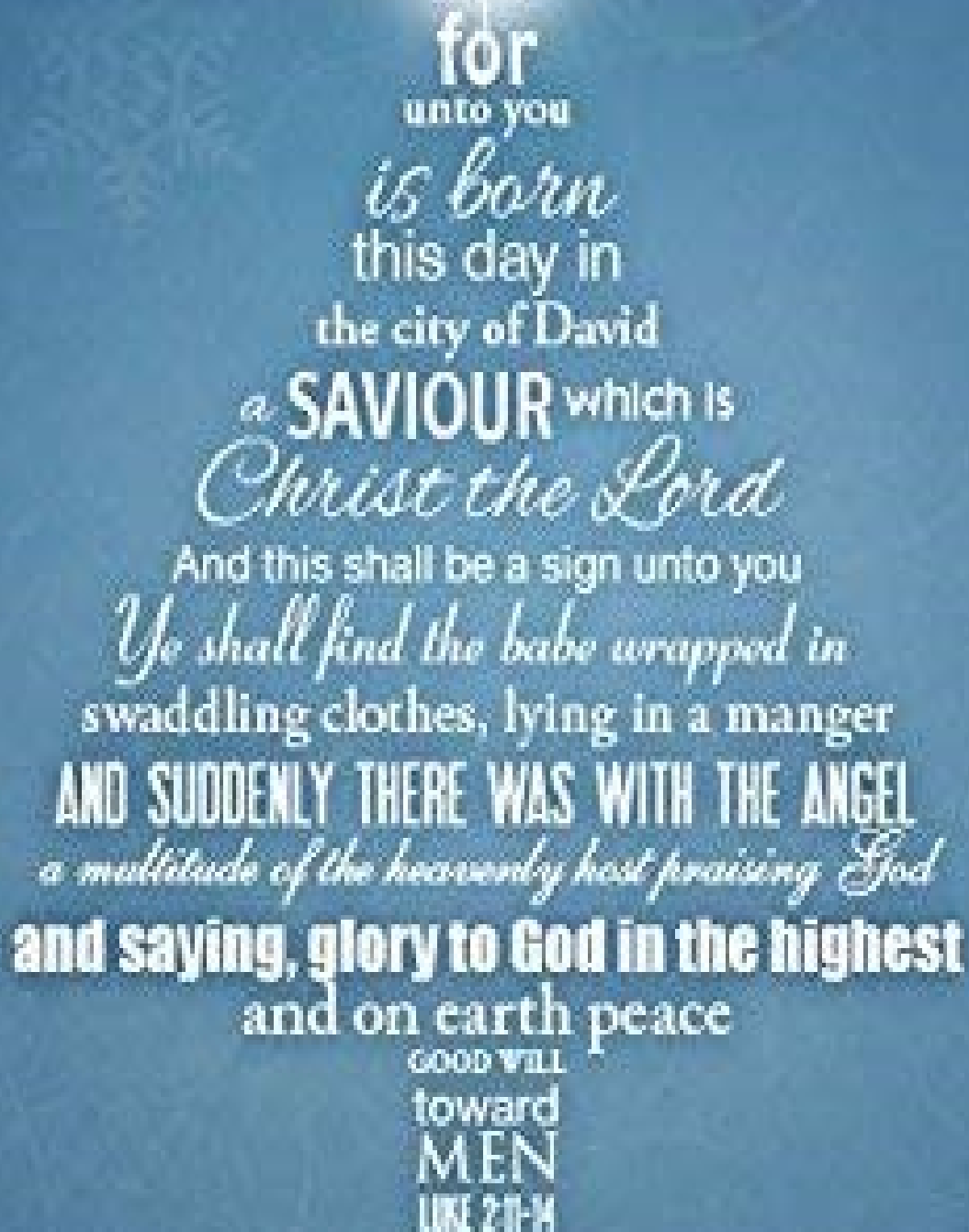
Sunday, January 12: Joint Service with Mairangi Bay, Forrest Hill and Glenfield **at Glenfield Church, 82 Chartwell Avenue**



Please see the enclosed CWS appeal envelope, this is the charity we support.
Your donations will be greatly appreciated by them.

donate now christmasappeal.org.nz

Merry Christmas



for
unto you
is born
this day in
the city of David
a **SAVIOUR** which is
Christ the Lord
And this shall be a sign unto you
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger
AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL
a multitude of the heavenly host praising God
and saying, glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace
GOOD WILL
toward
MEN
LUKE 2:11-14

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Activities Mornings, Board & Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	1st & 3 rd Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019
Book Club	9.30am	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Margaret Pont 021679019
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays before special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am -2pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Girls Brigade	6.30 - 8pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday	Kay Barbour in school term 478-7603
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
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
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Tangi Joseph 0226573223
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Transportation Available	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108
Youth & children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Young Mums Home Group	7.15pm	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	2nd Thursday of the month	Heather Gibson 0274 999 808