



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister:

Rev. Tokerau Joseph 027 371 4733
tokerau.j@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Minister:

Rev. Karel Lorier 021 903 762

Hindi Mission Minister

Raju George 021 0684603

Support Worker for Elderly:

Margaret Pont 479 5984
mpont@xtra.co.nz 021 679019

Parish Clerk:

Stewart Milne 478 5786
stewart.milne@xtra.co.nz 027 293 8499

Treasurer & Property:

George Wyman 478 6411
georgeandjill.wyman@gmail

Music team:

Prue Bell 482 0921
Gerry Natanael 027 572 8797
Helga Greenwell 479 1668
Maureen Webley 444 8767

Church Office:

Joanne Wyman-Macer 478 6180
office@bayspc.nz

Office Hours: Wednesday via phone message and email
Thursday - Friday 9am - 1pm

Kids at Mairangi Presbyterian (K@MP) Coordinator

Angel Joseph-Matapo 022 486 5409
angeljmatapo@gmail.com

*This month's newsletter contains photos of parish activities.
Many thanks to Karel for collated photos.*



REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORNING - 1st Tuesday of the month 9.30am - 12pm**
Book Group 9am / Games & Gatherings 10am
Discuss, swap, borrow books, play cards & board games & a cup of tea
Contact Raewyn **410 4423** or Margaret **021 679 019**



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



- **LADIES HOME GROUP -**
10.15am Wednesdays
Contact Heather on **479-8822**



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



- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**
1pm - 2.30pm Wednesdays Meeting Room 2.
Further Information John Shadbolt 479 3953 Grace Liu 021 0487978



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



- **LUNCHEON GROUP**
12-2pm 2nd Thursday of month 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 Angel Matapo 022 486 5409



- **FAMILY STYLE FUN NIGHT**
1ST Friday every month Church Hall 6pm
Ph Angel Matapo 022 486 5409

UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

It's been a year like no other. The impact of Covid-19 has challenged and shaped us in different ways. I want to thank you all for your understanding and support in working through the disruptions to you, your family, as well as that of our parish life. I know the lockdowns hadn't been easy for some, especially feeling disconnected or isolated from others. Yet, through kindness and thoughtfulness, we've managed to keep an eye on each other and lend a helping hand through safe practices. We got through it together – praise the Lord!

We also learned to do things differently. The fact that we could not congregate together for worship as we had been used to on Sundays did not stop us from engaging online. This was a completely new experience for many of us and one that we gradually grew to enjoy. The mid-week devotionals is testimony to this and most choosing online direct giving. Like so many other congregations, we have shown resilience by the way we have adjusted and adapted to change. Sure, we know that not everything went smoothly. Pointing out faults or mistakes could have been the easiest thing to do, yet you showed much grace, patience, and a willingness to try things. I thank you all for that.

I'm encouraged by the talent I see in our parish. When things have been so hard for most of this year, people have stood up and made a difference in our ministry. Developments in our work with Mainly Music, the Hindi Mission, and English Conversations have been most uplifting. The recent Quiz Night organised by Glen Stanton and his team was absolutely outstanding. Not only did everyone who attended enjoy themselves but building connections with local businesses was immensely invaluable. Well done to all who play such pivotable roles in all areas of our mission and ministry.

As we enter the season of Advent, I'm reminded of some of the great themes for each Sunday leading us to Christmas. They are hope, peace, joy, and love. These are the qualities we identify in the story of God coming to the world as a child. They are also the qualities I see in you who have served so faithfully in making Christ known through our parish. We may be small, but I believe God is doing big things through us. I'm looking forward to the joint Communion service with our Korean brothers and sisters on Sunday 20th December at 11am (followed by a shared lunch) and then combined services with sister churches post-Christmas. I'm so privileged to be part of a wonderful faith community and proud to work alongside amazing people such as yourselves. On behalf of Tangi and all the manse family, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Combined Service dates:

Sunday 27th December hosted by Browns Bay 10am (No Service Here)

Sunday 3rd January hosted by Mairangi & Castor Bays 10am

Sunday 10th January hosted by Forest Hill 9.30am (No Service Here)

Sunday 17th January hosted by Glenfield 10am (No Service Here)

Sunday 24th January back to normal at Mairangi Bay



QUIZ NIGHT

The Tear Fund Charity approached churches throughout the country with a proposal whereby they would supply all the materials needed to host a community quiz night provided the church provided venue, and organisation.

This was to be held across the country on 12 September but the Covid Lockdown prevented that happening.

The Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church decided to go ahead with the quiz since it is a great cause (the Tear Fund is working to get farmers in Sri Lanka out of extreme poverty) and we are all for community events. So we went ahead and held the quiz on Sunday 8 November.

Our organiser (Glen Stanton) received wonderful support in terms of prizes from the following local businesses to whom we say a big thank you:

The Hair Dresser; Montrose Restaurant; Mairangi Vegeland; Farro Fresh; First Class Wines Takapuna; Mairangi Japanese Restaurant; Furry Friends Pet Shop; Countdown; Take Note; Captivate Interiors; Jan Bells; Rhythm Café; Star \$2 Shop; Mairangi Dairy and Lotto; Windsor Park Superette. It was a fun night enjoyed by all and \$600 was raised for the Tear Fund.



The Winning Quiz Team

A WORD FROM KAREL - Post-Truth

In the last few years, the words post-truth, fake news, alternative facts, lies and pseudo-science have had to be used frequently. The occurrence of this is nothing new. Groups with particular interests, rulers and politicians have been using false news, lies, and pseudo-science right throughout the ages. Neither has the church been exempt.

The writers of John's gospel, writing around 100-120CE wrote about truth. John's gospel is different from the other gospels. It is parable on the life of Jesus. The writers have Jesus say, "if you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free," John 8:31b When Jesus is before the Roman Governor, Pilate, John has Jesus say, "I was born and came into the world for this purpose, to speak about the truth. Whoever belongs to the truth listens to me."

"And what is truth?" Pilate asked.

Pilate, like all the other power Kings and ruler throughout the ages, knew that they really used their power to define the truth. We notice that in our time some powerful leaders and politicians still carry on that tradition.

However, fact are facts and when we wander away from facts, we leave reality and are delusional. For about 500 years, facts have been defined by science and reason. Scientists in many disciplines has examined the world, carried out experiments, tested out theories and made observations and noted their results. These results are then peer reviewed by other scientists. Their results must be verifiable and able to be repeated. Until many scientists have tested and probed what is considered to be a fact, and prove it to be correct, the fact remains a probability. Only when a fact is thoroughly tested from many angles and by a number of scientists is it considered settled science. This body of scientific knowledge keeps increasing as scientists explore the natural world and human behaviour. Historians have their own discipline for verifying facts.

It can be dangerous to ignore such science, even when its findings are uncomfortable. Yet some, for their own advantage, want to do that. They want to contradict what is empirically verifiable. They create false news, alternative facts, pseudo-science and lies to suit their own purposes. This has become easy to disseminate, through social media, shock jock journalists who have little regard for the facts. Yet we ignore scientific facts at our peril.

Presently fake news, lies, conspiracy theories and alternative facts are flourishing.

In 1953 there was a meeting of the heads of tobacco industry. That smoking causes cancer had all but become settled science through much research. They grappled with what to do. They set up the Tobacco Industry Research Committee to cast doubt that smoking cigarettes causes cancer and to create false science. They were to "convince the media that there were two sides to the story about the risks of tobacco and that each side should be considered equal with

equal weight. Finally, it sought to steer politicians away from damaging the economic interest of the tobacco companies.” (Oreskes and Conway, “Merchants of Doubt.”) This tactic succeeded and produced confusion and doubt among smokers about what was settled science. Many of the smokers paid with their lives.

This tactic is being used by the fossil fuel industry to tackle the settled science of climate change. Some of the same scientists who were involved with the tobacco industry were used by the fossil fuel industry to create a pseudo-science seeking “balance” in the media to create confusion. Balance is not balance when it is settled science on one side versus pseudo-science and lies on the other. The result has been to create confusion about the settled science of climate change. This has made it difficult for leaders to make the necessary and sometimes painful changes to arrest climate change and take steps to mitigate its effect.

The bogus (The Lancet, February 2010,) research by Andrew Wakefield in 1998, alleging a link between vaccines and autism created a conspiracy theory which has resulted in the death and impairment of thousands of children. This conspiracy will dissuade many from being vaccinated against Covid-19 when the vaccine arrives, threatening lives in our community. In NZ we have done well, despite some slip ups, in tackling Covid-19 because we have followed the science, rather than political or economic expediency, and changed our response as the science developed.

Christianity is not immune to pseudo-science. Some have attacked the settled science of evolution by countering it with the pseudo-science of “Young Earth Creationists,” “Creation Science” and “Intelligent Design.” They have produced these pseudo-sciences in an attempt to protect their view of the Bible as a factual scientific document like a modern textbook, secondly they want to show a creator God who is just like a human being writ large. The Bible is just not this sort of the book nor is the God of the universe just a human being writ large. The Bible a collection of a wide variety of writings, including history, poetry, myth, legend, lament, proverbs, letters, visions, and a format unique to the Bible, gospels. Reading the Bible from cover to cover leaves one in no doubt that it records the journey of many people to discover how God wants us to live. We discover the God of justice - distributive and merciful justice. Furthermore, in Jesus we discover God is merciful, compassionate, forgiving and loving to all people. We are called to be the same.

Revelation, a vision, after horrific battles and conflicts, reflecting the awful persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire, ends with a new earth, a new Jerusalem where God rules. There will be no one there “making a lie.” Rev21:27 In the world of post-truth let us seek the truth to set us free.

LUNCH GROUP

Christmas time is upon us!!!!
Keep THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER from 12 -2pm FREE.
Bring a plate of food to share & enjoy entertainment by the
GLENFIELD ENTERTAINERS
Christmas raffles & trade table operating
Gold coin donation at the door.

CWS Christmas Appeal

Included with this newsletter is an envelope for the CWS Christmas Appeal. Donations can either be sent direct to CWS or your envelope with donation dropped into the plate at church. Please note if you use Direct Deposit through internet banking and want a receipt you need to email your details to cws@cws.org.nz

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 2021.

If you would like to be added to the system for income tax donation purposes contact Norma Baker on 443 3108 before December 6th .

If you have spare envelopes you can use them. Just change the dates. Please let Norma know if you have plenty or need more printed.

- 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
- Receipts are issued annually for regular giving and can be used for tax deductions.

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Raewyn Henderson constituted our November meeting with Bible readings and comment based around the importance of resilience

We opened with a sharing of understanding and prayers for those of our members who are experiencing medical problems and difficult issues in their lives. Pastoral care is so important. The plea to all our members is to assist in identifying those who are experiencing difficulties and letting our Minister, our Pastoral Care Coordinator (Norma Baker), myself or another member of our Parish Council know so we can provide support.

We received reports from our Minister, the convenors of our main committees and the individuals with responsibilities. These included : Property and Finance; Worship; Christian Education; the Coordinator of Family Activities; Church and Community ;Minister Hindi Mission; Pastoral Care; Fellowship and Presbytery. These reflected the busyness of the last month.

Some of the highlights have been :

- the joint service involving our 10am Congregation and our 6pm Hindi Mission Congregation which was held on the evening of 1 November and which was followed by a meal and social interaction. Indian mains and Kiwi desserts. \$300 was donated for The Christian World Service Refugees Project
- the Quiz night which was organised by Glen Stanton and his team of helpers which raised \$600 for the Tear Fund
- the Friday night family games, meal and socialising event which Angel Joseph-Matapo our Coordinator Family Activities organised and which was well attended with 20 adults (10 from our English Conversations Group) and 10 children

Our current Parish Plan was agreed by the congregation back in 2017. It has served us well but it is time for a revision and Parish Council has set up a Core Planning Group under the convenorship of Ian Watson. The Group is to consult with community organisations and individuals as well as our own activity groups to establish where we should be focussing our efforts over the next few years.

Membership of the Core Planning Group at this stage is : Ian Watson, Tokerau Joseph, Erica Brash, Raewyn Henderson, Zara Foote, Ian Rankin, Alistair Emerson, Stewart Milne. They will be gathering information over the next few months and then reporting back through Parish Council to the Congregation with a view to having a revised plan for approval at the AGM in 2021. There is still room on this Core Planning Group for more members – if you would like to be involved please contact Ian Watson on 478 4817. Meantime if you have ideas/suggestions for our Parish please raise them with any member of the group.

Stewart Milne

INDIAN MAIN COURSE AND KIWI DESSERT

At Mairangi Bay we have a Hindi language service twice a month in the evenings. This was started 2 years ago by one of our members (Raju George) who was ordained into the Anglican Church in Delhi.

Some of us non Hindi speakers attend and try to join in the hymns which are energetic, fast moving and sung with gusto. We also appreciate the bursts of English which come through and we are randomly invited to speak on the basis that 'every invitation shall come as a surprise'.



Bringing our 10am congregation together with our Hindi Mission Congregation is one of our objectives and this happened on the evening of 1 November when we had a combined service which was followed by a meal with Indian main course and Kiwi dessert. Donations of \$300 went to the CWS Refugees Project. All in all it was a very digestible evening

Christmas Treats - Packing service DECEMBER 6

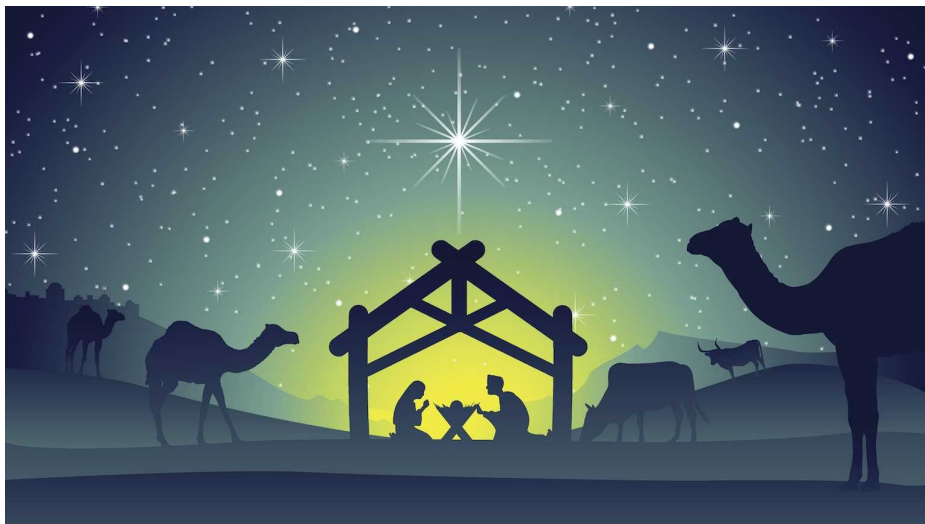
We are looking forward to the Packing service. The treats are building up and they will be going to 3 Presbyterian Support Groups:

- Family Start North Shore and Waitakere
 - Shine North Shore
 - Youth Workers in Secondary Schools.
- Thanks so much to all the generous donors.



CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER AND JANUARY

- 10 AM Sunday Dec 6 Packaging of Christmas Treats for needy families. Family service in the hall
- 10 am Sunday Dec 13 Choral Service
- 6 pm Saturday Dec 19 Nativity Play Hindi Congregation. All welcome
- 10am Sunday Dec 20 Communion Combined Service with Yedarm our Korean Congregation
- 7 pm Thursday 24 December Christmas Eve Family Service
- 9 am Friday 25 December Christmas Day Family Service
- 10am Sunday 27 December Combined Service at Browns Bay. No Service at Mairangi Bay
- 10am Sunday 3 January Combined Service at Mairangi Bay. (Combined with Browns Bay, Forrest Hill and Glenfield Parishes). Expect a full church.
- 9:30am Sunday 10 January Combined Service at Forrest Hill. No service at Mairangi Bay
- 10 am Sunday 17 January Combined Service at Glenfield . No service at Mairangi Bay
- 10 am Sunday 24 January Back to normal routine of services



From: <https://www.guideposts.org/better-living/positive-living/a-gift-for-jesus-this-christmas>

CALENDAR OF PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR 2020

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Activities Mornings, Board & Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	1st Tues of the month	Margaret Pont 021 679019
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
Church Choir	Sun 9am before Choral services	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.	John Shadbolt 479 3953
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 in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
House Group		22A Hastings Rd Mairangi Bay	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	Angel Matapo 022 486 5409
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Transportation Available	<i>Arranged as required and as requested</i>			Norma Baker 443 3108
Youth & children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Angel Matapo 022 486 5409