



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**February 2019**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



Distributing Christmas boxes  
December 2018

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## **Minister**

**Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

**Email: [tokerau.j@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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**

# REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **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

Kia orana and greetings.

I trust you have had a wonderful Christmas and New Year break. I also hope 2019 has so far been very constructive for new year resolutions and is make a positive difference for you and family.

Recapping December 2018 brings much joy.

Firstly, our Christmas packing service for Social workers in high school in South Auckland was a huge success. A packed hall of parishioners and visitors made the packing a truly community effort. The spirit of worship encompassed through acts of kindness and generosity was a



blessing to be part of.

Following this we had the Carol service led by the choir under Prue Bell's guidance. They were magnificent and, again, a full church to sing in front of was especially pleasing. Some choir members continued their service of song by representing the parish at the Mairangi Bay Carols in the Park. Despite the wet conditions, the affirming response



from the public lifted spirits.

Our Communion service was also very well attended with some new families expressing interest in continuing their connection with us. This was also evident at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Since they were focused towards children and young people, it was a joy to share the fun and laughter with them and their parents/family members.



The hope is that this will be something to build on for the coming years.

December was also a time for end-of-year celebrations for our church groups. Some, like the English Conversations Group, Dees, Girls Brigade, and Mainly Music, marked a successful closure for 2018. Thanks again to all involved for making such events possible.





Continuing the theme of family, the manse has been a hive of activity. We had our son Tokerau Jr, his partner Helena, and their son Aumetua-Enoka during Christmas and New Year. We also had Manu's three sisters Faith (who will be with us for some time), Alys, and Ashley (for the school holidays). Included, over various weeks, has been my two nephews Anthony and Carlos who, with Paul, preferred to spend most of their time 'bombing' at Murray's Bay wharf. We hosted Christmas Day with about 50 of our family from South Auckland. With all the celebrating, I want to thank our neighbours for not calling noise control.



I also want to thank Stewart Milne and his family for allowing some of us to spend a few days at their holiday home in Taupo. It gave a chance for us to appreciate the sights and sounds of Taupo as well as making memorable moments swimming in the lake and humorous card games late into the night. Again, I'm grateful for the non-presence of noise control officers.

By the time you read this, I would have just returned from a conference in Tahiti. I was invited by the AES of our denomination to represent the PCANZ at the Council for World Mission's (CWM) Street Bible study looking at slavery, racism, and the church in the South Pacific.

As I write this, I'm preparing to leave without any confirmation of where I will be staying or who will pick me up from the airport. It might turn out that I'll be conferencing on a white sandy beach somewhere with a refreshing liquid at hand. That would be more preferable than toiling over such a heavy topic. You can be assured, however, that I will be working hard (in Tahiti?).



Looking forward to another great year working with you all for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ia manuia i te here o to tatou Fatu  
(Be blessed in the grace of our Lord).

## **LUNCHEON GROUP**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting for 2019 will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.  
Bring your own lunch and enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee.  
We will be entertained by a singer Helen Brown.  
Trade table and raffles will be operating.  
Small charge for entry to cover costs



## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

The fellowship committee will be gathering for a planning meeting on the 12th of February so if anybody has a suggestion for any activity they would like us to organise we are open for suggestions.

## **RACIAL JUSTICE IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

Our minister Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph was approached by the Presbyterian Church Assembly Secretary with a request that he represent the Presbyterian Church of NZ at a study event being held by the Council for World Mission (CWM) in Tahiti from 26-29 January. CWM has been working on a project exploring the legacies of slavery particularly between Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. They want to extend the work to consider related issues in other regions, especially the practice of Blackbirding in the Pacific. This practice blighted the lives and communities of many islands and is becoming an important matter in the issues of racial justice in NZ and Australia. This subject is of particular interest to Tokerau and after consulting with us he indicated his agreement to participate. We have wished him well in taking up this important matter.

## SHOEBOX PACKING

Our annual “Shoe Boxes of Treats” packing and gifting service which we held on 2 December was again a great occasion.

We broke the record for the number of boxes due to the generosity of those who donated to the collection which was held during November. We not only filled all of the 51 previously Christmas wrapped boxes (some of them were surely ex size 14 boot boxes!!) but also had canned fruit salad and other treats left over which we delivered to the Presbyterian Support Food Bank.

Each box was accompanied by a Christmas greeting card which had been produced by Kay Barbour and the Girls Brigade.



For the packing event we were joined by a group of social workers from Family Works (Presbyterian Support)

who work with secondary school pupils needing of support. They spoke about the work they do and gratefully accepted the boxes of Christmas cheer for distribution to the families of those they work with. The singing and joy of giving filled the hall.

The photos show a busy hall filled with industrious packers. This has become an important event in our lead up to Christmas.



# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## What would Jesus do?

Over many years there was a woman in West Auckland who worked tirelessly to support the poor and those who suffered injustice. She was prominent in many organisations concerned with social justice.

A loving person who cared deeply to the extent of buying food for the hungry out of her own pocket and at least on one occasion that I know of, paying someone's legal bills because she saw an injustice. She claimed she was not a Christian having had problems with the church in her younger days.



I knew her well because I was on some of the various West Auckland committees concerned with welfare, social justice and counselling. She from time to time referred people to me when I was a counsellor or sometimes as a minister. A heavy smoker she developed lung cancer and after a long illness, died about 30years ago. I was asked to take the funeral.

The funeral was in the Anglican church in Henderson because a large crowd was expected. This proved to be correct. The church was filled to overflowing. The huge crowd consisted of people who admired her work, those who had worked with her in various organisations in West Auckland, family and many whom she had helped over the years. I chose I Corinthians 13, Paul's poem on love and a section of Romans 8, about nothing in life or death separating us from the love of God.

In my prayers I offered thanks for the life she had lived, for her love and compassion, generosity, care for the outcast and stranger, battles on behalf of others for justice and for her example of self-giving service.

A few days later the Minister's fraternal met. Five of the eight members had some objection to my taking the funeral, taking it in a church, using the readings chosen and speaking of her as loving, caring and a battler for justice. In their way of thinking those readings and that way of speaking about her should be reserved for Christians. A couple of the members said that only Christians could love, but when challenged by the other two members could not say what the difference was if a non-Christian showed all the attributes of Christian love. Three of them maintained strongly that only believing Christians deserved the love of God. Therefore, I was wrong taking the service in the manner and in the place I did.

I was struck dumb and very upset. Fortunately, the other two members of the fraternal offered a strong defence. Nevertheless, the experience left me somewhat shattered.

It raised an important question. Is a Christian a person who believes certain things, or is it someone who does what Jesus teaches, even perhaps without realising that they are doing so?

Jesus told a parable that helps us think about this. A man had two sons. He asked the oldest to go and work in the vineyard. The son did not want to and refused, but later changed his mind and worked in the vineyard. The other

son when asked to work in the vineyards said, "Yes I'll go," but did not go, Jesus asked, "Which one did what the father wanted?"

"The oldest one," his audience replied. So, Jesus said to them, "I tell you the tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you."

For Jesus doing the right thing is much more important than being a particular kind of person or saying and believing the "right" words.

Towards the end of the 19th century in many places being Christian meant having the right opinions and attending the right church.



In 1896 the Rev Charles Sheldon living in Topeka, Kansas challenged this idea in a novel called, "In His steps: What would Jesus do?" In his novel he has the Rev Maxwell, who is a Minister at a right church, challenging his congregation by telling a story in his sermons which finishes with a cliff hanger each week. The series start with a tramp, about Jesus age, entering the church, challenging the congregation and then collapsing. If you want to hear the end of the story come next week.

Sheldon's book sold 30 million copies. He coined the question, "What would Jesus do?" It became a bumper sticker and much misused by people who were very sure they knew what Jesus would do.



Sheldon was much more aware that it was a difficult question deciding what Jesus would do in his day and age, and of course we in our particular time. One simple example, those who were rich in Jesus' time were collaborators with the enemy. They took food and the means of producing food from the poor. Today many of the rich provide employment and (mostly!) pay taxes which support the welfare systems and infrastructure of the modern state.

What would Jesus do and expect us to do in our time? I think, to love others, forgive, share, stand alongside those who are exploited and work for justice and peace which would permit every person to truly humanly live a rich and satisfying life.

I think Jesus would be raising hackles about greed, injustice and exploitation- some perpetuated by churches.

## **NEW YEAR'S HONOURS**

Kim Workman, our key note speaker at the series of Community Conversations on justice held last year, received a knighthood in the New Years Honours. He is now Sir Robert Workman. His memoir, "Journey Towards Justice" has now appeared and talks about the persistence and humour with which he has walked that journey. A well- deserved honour for Sir Robert and Lady Workman.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING

Throughout this month's newsletter we have been fortunate to have photos of the delivery of the Christmas Boxes that we packed last year.

These photos make our giving real and show us the gratitude with which the boxes are received. Many thanks to Stewart and Georgia Drake from the Youth Social Workers in Secondary School scheme for providing these photos.



# CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
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>
Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019