



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



Online worship

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

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Postal Address

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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

021 679 019 or 09 4734173

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

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **BOOK CLUB 1st Tuesday of the month 9am to 10am Lounge**
Discuss / swap / borrow books, a cup of tea Cards & board games.
For further information Raewyn 4104423 or Margaret 479 5984
- **ACTIVITIES MORNINGS - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month**
10am - 12pm, Lounge Boardgames, Rummikubs, Cards etc
For further information Margaret Pont 4893176 or 027 2258893
- **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 for further details.
- **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 Stewart Milne 478 5786
- **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 Tangi Joseph 0226573223



UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

Tena koutou and greetings to you all in Jesus' name. I do hope you are keeping well under level 2 Covid-19 restrictions. It's pleasing to know that we are slowly experiencing more freedom as the Government incrementally eases restrictions for how we engage with others. This obviously has implications for churches including us.

Like other congregations, we've had to explore alternative ways to keep connected. We've had to think outside the box for how to maintain self-isolation, but not isolating ourselves; how to keep within our bubbles, but recognise and acknowledge other bubbles; abide by social distancing, but not avoiding the company around us. These things are not easy to do, but possible none-the-less. Going out for exercise under level 4, Tangi and I walked through our neighbourhood and witnessed folk sitting at the edge of their respective lawns and having a conversation with others across the road. Families were playing games in their front or back yards and waving out and saying hello to passers-by who also reciprocated. People were more willing to make space or give way to others on the footpath while exchanging compliments. These examples remind us of how important our connections with others are as well as the ways we can adapt to affirm them.

The challenging times have pushed us to think and do things differently from what we've been used to. We've had to utilise technology a lot more and a lot better to help us keep connected. I've previously mentioned my steep learning curve with using a program for recording our worship services and uploading them to "YouTube". Then there's been the ongoing use of "Zoom" for meetings and worship. I've also heard of others attempting to organise their finances via internet banking. In many ways, the pressures of the Covid-19 restrictions have forced us to consider and implement new ways of operating. They have become the "new normal" for us during these times and have been mostly positive.

So, what might ministry look like post Covid-19? When we arrive to level 1 or to a level with no restrictions at all, do we want to return to what was normal for us before? Do we want to revert to what we've been used to? These are challenging questions and deserve careful consideration. I'm grateful for my new experiences of ministry under the lockdown levels and I'd like to think I can build on them moving forward. We've been provided an opportunity to imagine what is possible as well as the courage to try it out. What is being sought is for something that works rather than for something that is simply new or different. It is important that we explore and

implement what works best for our worship, pastoral care, children & youth ministry, home groups and other ministries. There will be teething problems along the way, but that's part of the journey of improvement.

As our society is increasingly changing or shaping under economic, cultural, and political influences, we are challenged to consider how our ministry can best adapt. This is a challenge not only for us, but also for our Northern Presbytery and other congregations within its bounds. We are all in the same boat of figuring out how best to connect with others with the good news of Jesus Christ despite the pressures we currently face. As we have experienced under Covid-19 restrictions, such a move will require vision/imagination and courage to employ alternative ways of relating and bearing Christian witness in our context. It might seem strange or uncomfortable at first, but it could flourish as a faithful response to be a new normal. I guess we won't know until we try.

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

FOODBANK

Our parish has had a weekly collection of food for the Presbyterian Support Family Works Foodbank for many years. Some of us (and I am thinking of Jack, Sean and Max Gulliver) have also assisted in stacking shelves and making up parcels.

This Foodbank doesn't get much publicity but it is very effective focussing on families who have been identified by social workers, Womens Refuge, hospitals, Family Works or other aid agencies as being very needy.



In normal times as well as some parishes the Presbyterian Colleges donate food items (vans full) as do some businesses (eg Hubbards) and there are some grants allowing for purchases.

Over the last few weeks with lockdown most of the food donations have dried up and the demand has increased. PSN is having to purchase in bulk and have way exceeded their budget.

As a church we are contributing financially. As individuals if you wish to make a contribution it can be done by internet banking to the PSN Account 06 0101 0075933 18 Specify Foodbank and state your name. For a receipt email Suzanne.ward@psn.org.nz advising the amount donated and your name. OR post to PSN Foodbank PO Box 99890 Newmarket with your name & address. Thanks, Stewart Milne

A WORD FROM KAREL

The Future and COVID-19

Recently, we returned from travelling to Whakatane. We stopped overnight in Katikati and explored the Main Street. There were notices on all the shops about Covid-19. A proportion of the shops and businesses were closed, some had notices to say they had closed because of Covid-19. We did the same at Whakatane- which had fared worse after the Whaakari (White Island) disaster making it with Covid-19 a double whammy.

As the past owner of a business it was not difficult for me to imagine the struggles of owners, frantic efforts over budgets, questioning whether they could continue with their staffing, overheads, and rent. Finally, and painfully concluding, that despite government help, they had to close, leaving their staff unemployed. These are not easy decisions. Many dreams about the future have been shattered. Seeing the closure notices reinforced what I had read and heard repeatedly on the media. Businesses are shutting down; jobs are lost, and unemployment is rising.

Although, so far, we as a nation have weathered the health crisis of Covid-19 very well, things cannot return to where they were before. We and the world have undergone a dramatic change. We are moving forward to an unknown future. There will be huge changes.



Change brings about grief - the loss of dreams and thwarted plans. Think of the couple who were just on the verge of buying their first home; the young unemployed person whose identity and social life revolved round the work they were doing; the business owner left with a heap of debt and the family grieving the loss of a loved one. These people have an enormous loss or are in grief.

Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, in 1890's, after working with four patients who had problems with grief, made some tentative suggestions about "grief work" and how people cope with change, loss or grief. His followers ignored that these were tentative suggestions and elaborated them as a normal grief process. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, who assisted people who were dying, used Freud's ideas for her five-step process of grief, even though she worked with dying patients rather than people who were in grief because of a loss. Other writers about grief followed and the five-step grief/change model developed with stages of denial, anger, bargaining,

depression, acceptance. These steps were understood as the normal grief process. Everyone going through grief or change needed to go through these five steps.

While training as a minister in pastoral care and again as a counsellor I had these five step-grief processes drummed into me as the norm. If someone did not experience this process after a loss or change, they were in denial. It became the popular understanding of loss and grief. Some people after the death of a spouse or close relative were deemed to be cold hearted when they did not show these steps in the “grief process.” In fact, these five steps were far from the normal process.

When research started to be done on grief and loss at various universities in the 1990's it was discovered that the five steps were wrong. This is a relief to us in New Zealand and all over the world as we recover from the Covid-19 epidemic. We are not going to see hundreds of thousands and even millions of people in denial, anger, bargaining and in months of depression needing counselling help.

The research conducted by interviewing thousands of people going through grief, loss and change revealed that most people are resilient. They faced the future with occasional bouts of sadness which quickly diminished in frequency as they got on with life. Inviting them to talk about their loss using the model of denial, anger, bargaining, and depression harmed them by dragging them back into the past, rather than letting them engage with their new future. Only a small number of people need counselling help through the process of grief, loss, and dramatic change.

How can Christians and the churches help in this new future this resilient community post-covid-19? The Hebrew Bible and the teaching of Jesus are about justice -distributive justice making sure everyone gets a just share of resources. Economic history shows that, with a few exceptions, epidemics, wars, droughts & financial crises have left the rich richer and the poor poorer. Trust was placed in the theory that as the wealthy got richer their wealth would trickle down into the rest of the economy. In practice it flowed up and stayed there.

We pray for a just society every Sunday when we pray the Lord's prayer, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,”



and “your kingdom come.” It is a very down to earth prayer. In the original Greek, in Matthew’s version (verse 6:12), it literally reads, in the line about forgiving sins, “and forgive us the debts of us, as indeed we forgave the debtors of us.” Appropriate for our time?

We as followers of Jesus in churches need make it widely known that we work for justice and that the pains and gains arising out of the Covid-19 crisis need to be equitably shared. Within the limitations of resources and the climate emergency there is enough for everyone to live a rich full life. With “faith, hope and love” we can look to the post Covid-19 future with resilience for a future different than the past.

When I left my Sunday School in Rotterdam when our family left for New Zealand I was given a plaque with the words of a well known hymn. It hangs on my study wall.

Translated it reads, “Whatever the future may bring, I am in the Lord’s hands, with courage I lift my eyes to the unknown land.”

OFFERINGS

We are fortunate as a parish in having built up some operating reserves over the years and so are not in a critical financial situation. However since we have not met as a Congregation for more than a month and are not likely to meet for at least another month the reduction in income from reduced offerings coupled with no revenue from the use of our facilities and the continuation of our costs will result in reserves being significantly reduced.



Some of our members who normally donate to the church through the envelope system are now donating by internet banking to the Church Bank Account 12 3042 0002489 00 with identification through their name or envelope number. Those using internet banking on a regular basis may like to try this. Others have been on, and continue on, the Direct Debit system and probably when we can get to the Church PO Box 65 299 at Mairangi Bay we will find some cheques have arrived. If none of these methods suits you please do not be concerned. There will be a chance for catch up later in the year. Thank you

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the May meeting of Parish Council (again via ZOOM) we :

- Spent time on pastoral matters which are even more important at this time of physical separation. The Presbyterian Church has issued guidelines which take a cautious approach with respect to the resumption of visiting. Norma Baker (our pastoral care co-ordinator) has sent these out to Pastoral Visitors
- Received a message of appreciation from the Presbyterian Support Foodbank for the donation of \$1,000 a month which our parish has provided over this difficult time . The Foodbank is experiencing high demand from needy families who are being referred to PSN by social workers who are in contact with them and know of their needs.
- Discussed the relative merits and disadvantages of the ZOOM and the You Tube presentation of church services. Our Minister who had been using the You Tube approach experimented with a Zoom service on 17 May which many found to work well however a number of our congregation had problems joining in and Tokerau decided to go back to the You Tube format for the service on 24 May
- Received an update on our financial situation from George Wyman (Treasurer). Without income from those who use our facilities coupled with reduced giving through offerings, the shortfall against budget for April was 39%
- Decided that while the Communion Service scheduled for 14 June may not be held depending on whether there is a further relaxing of the ‘gatherings rules’, we should be planning for our favourite hymn Service in August.
- Were advised of the means being used to keep in contact with those who participate in the various church run activities such as : Girls Brigade, Dees, English Conversations, Mainly Music as well as with our own members
- Learned from Karen the plan for an armchair travel session with Karel Lorier on 30 June (likely to be a Zoom) and from Dorille Shadbolt on our annual roast midday meal at Montrose in July (hopeful).
- Received a report from the Covid 19 Work Group, which is chaired by Tokerau, and decided that until Level 2 restrictions are eased or changed we will continue to operate mainly as we have been under Level 3 with respect to church based activities . However Tokerau is back in his church office during the week (not Mondays) and food for the foodbank can be left in the foyer



- Spent time considering a report from Ian Watson who convened a Council working group which we set up to respond to Presbytery on their Case for Change paper which we covered in last month's newsletter. A summary of our response is contained elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Received a report from Dorille Shadbolt on the deliberations of the Work Group that is looking to establish the talents and interests in our parish as we prepare for the next phase of our life together and how these can be utilised.

Note: Although our Zoom meetings of Parish Council are effective and we get through the agenda at a good pace I think we will all be pleased to get back to meeting around the table - in June ?? Maybe !!

Stewart Milne

MISSION BOXES

The Mission Boxes are ready to be collected. Please contact Jean Allen (ph 09 410 7186). If you need a new box, or would like to sign-up to this initiative, please phone Jean and she will take you through all that you need to know.



CASE FOR CHANGE AND PRESBYTERY STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Parish Council has now considered and responded to Presbytery on the Case for Change paper and the on the draft Strategic Plan both of which were covered in last month's newsletter.

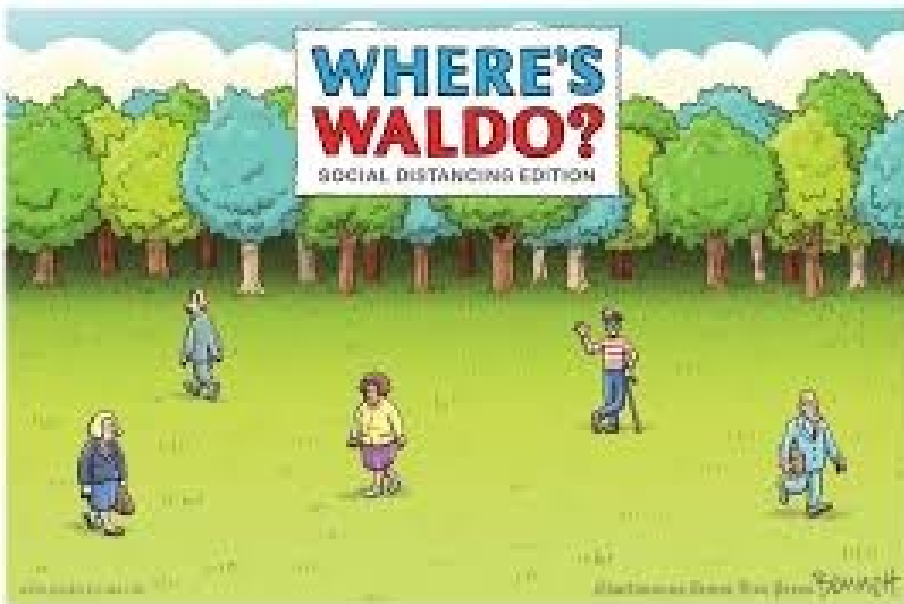
We have pointed out that while we agree that the Case for Change is strong we have difficulties with some of the wording in the Vision and in the first goal of the strategic plan.

We see a danger for the church in getting locked in to a view of God which was created in another era. We have asked that the phrase "salvation of the lost" be removed and that the reference to "the gospel of Christ" have the words "as it applies to the 21st century" be added.

The first goal in the draft strategic plan refers to 'the need to renew spiritual vitality' and since the definition of renewal involves resuming something after an interruption we do not see this as achieving the change that is needed. We have suggested that the first goal in the Presbytery's strategic plan be changed to "A commitment within the Presbytery and its churches and ministries to understand the teachings of Christ as they apply today and to practise them."

Stewart Milne

AND BECAUSE WE ALL NEED A LAUGH...



Billy was having trouble in school. His teacher constantly yelled at him, "You're driving me crazy, Billy! Can't you learn anything?"

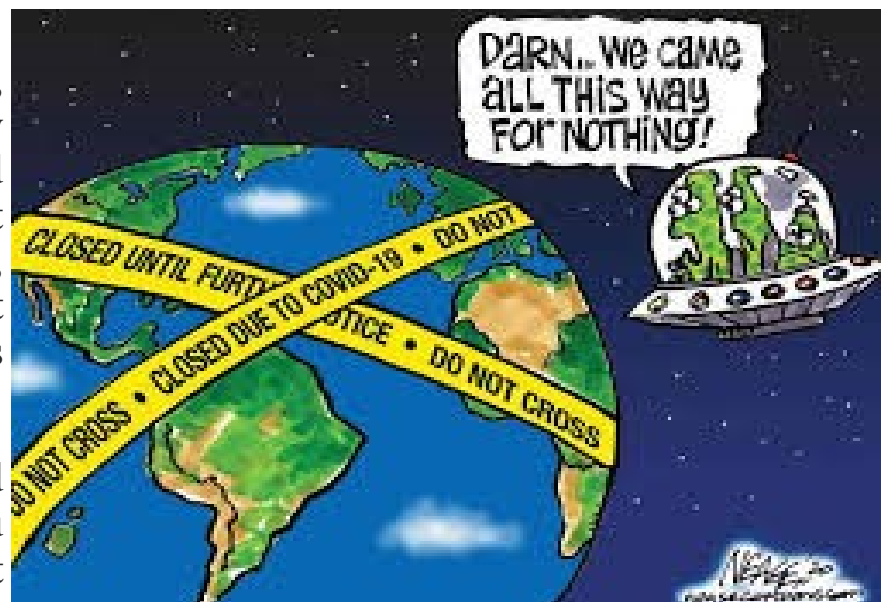
Billy's mother met with his teacher at fall conferences. The teacher told her Billy was a disaster, getting the lowest marks of any of her students. She had never had such an unmotivated and ignorant boy in her teaching career. Billy's mom, shocked at the feedback, withdrew her son, moving from Detroit to Cleveland.

25 years later, the teacher was diagnosed with severe cardiac disease and she needed a special heart surgeon. *Her doctors advised open heart surgery that only one surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic could perform.*

The teacher decided to have this remarkable surgery performed. In the recovery room, she saw the young doctor who headed her surgical team, smiling down at her. She wanted to thank him. Instead, her face turned blue as she tried to speak and she quickly died.

The doctor was shocked, wondering what went suddenly wrong. When the doctor turned to leave the room, he saw that Billy, the janitor at the Clinic, had unplugged the life-support equipment to plug in his vacuum cleaner.

If you thought that Billy had become a heart-surgeon, you really shouldn't vote in the next election.



CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2020 - Currently all CLOSED

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
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 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	Tangi Joseph 0226573223
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	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616