



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

July 2020

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

Email: tokerau.j@gmail.com

Ph: 478 6180

Administrator

Jo Wyman-Macer

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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

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

Greetings, tena koutou and kia orana. Below is a segment I contributed to a report to the Northern Presbytery Council by a Covid-19 committee. The committee was charged with using the assessment of a survey of congregations within the Presbytery about their ministry experiences during the lockdown period to provide encouragement moving forward. I was asked to write something on a compelling vision to enable such a move.

A Compelling Vision post Covid-19



The Covid-19 lockdown made it very clear that life would be different for many moving forward. Families, businesses, and churches had to consider how they could re-organise themselves as best they can. The question is why did we do this? In part, it was complying with Government policies and guidelines to prevent the transmission of the virus and eventually eliminate it in our country. At the very heart of it, I believe, was seeking the health and welfare of people. The collective effort to make huge adjustments to a different way of living was because we had a common vision or purpose.

The assessment of congregation responses to a recent survey in the Northern Presbytery revealed that the vast majority had made significant changes to its ministry under the lockdown period. Again, the question is why? Why develop a different way of doing ministry? Why not wait until lockdown is over and then continue what has been done before? The short answer is that although we might comply with Government guidelines, congregations are compelled to continue ministry because of a bigger vision of God's mission in the world. It is a mission of love with the wellbeing and welfare of people and creation at its heart. The survey assessment clearly identified that what people valued most was their connection with others as being integral to their faith and wellbeing. This is, in essence, the vision we are compelled to work towards, the reason we exist, and the motivation to improve the way we operate.



Upholding this vision is a reminder that not only do congregations have a responsibility toward God's mission, they need to be intentional about it as well. During the lockdown, most congregations had a Covid-19 response plan discussed and endorsed by Session, Parish Council, or a congregation meeting. This demonstrated the seriousness with which they took their responsibility, the intentionality rather than aimlessness of their goals, and the enabling power they gave to different ways of exercising ministry. The positive results from the survey assessment is testimony to such a proactive approach by congregations. It is something that can be and should be built upon post Covid-19 under less restrictive circumstances.

Congregations have shown that they can be resilient and adaptable under pressure. When we clearly understand our purpose, we will find ways to make things happen for us. "When your why is big enough, you will find your how."

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

FRIDAY NIGHT GAMES

Friday Night Games are back!
Friday 3rd July 2020 6:30pm to 8pm.
Bring a friend and a plate to share for dinner.
All ages welcome!



SPECIAL COMMUNION SERVICE

Our next Special Communion service for all parishioners especially those unable to attend regularly will be held on Tuesday, July 21 at 11:30am. There will be a time of fellowship and lunch following the service. We will provide transportation to and from the church if required. If you would like to attend, could you please let your Pastoral Visitor know or Norma Baker on 443- 3108 for catering purposes by July 18.

A WORD FROM KAREL

The Madness of the Kingdom of God

I have been reading two books by John D. Caputo 1940-, “The weakness of God: a Theology of the Event,” and “What would Jesus deconstruct: the Church and Post-Modern Culture.” Caputo is influenced by post-modern French philosopher Jacques Derrida. The books are a challenging read both intellectually and spiritually. Looking up John D. Caputo quotes on Google if you interested will show some of his more readable material.

Caputo has sharpened up my thinking about Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom of God which is central to his message. Caputo describes this teaching as madder than “The Mad Hatter’s Tea party” in Alice in “Alice in Wonderland.” You could very roughly summarise deconstructionism as getting back to the basics and exploring those basics. Although it is much more complicated than that.

Jesus announces the Kingdom of God. He is a peasant, poor, powerless and has no army. He announces the Kingdom of God when Israel is dominated by Rome, the most powerful Empire of the time, impoverishing a large part of Jesus’ native Galilee. It was a dangerous announcement. Rome wanted to control every aspect of Galilean life including their culture and religion. Rome would not have taken kindly to someone announcing a kingdom. Jesus says to his followers the Kingdom of God is present and among them.

In his parables and sayings about the Kingdom, Jesus creates a world that is vastly different and challenging to the people of his time and continues to challenge us.

Jesus taught, if you have dinner don’t invite your friends who can invite you back but invite strangers and the poor - those who cannot invite you back.

In the parable of the feast the invited guests put in all sort of excuses not to attend. The master tells his servants to gather in all those from the street, when there is still more room the servants are told to command those on the street to come in.

In the parable of the lost sheep the shepherd leaves 99 sheep to find the one that is lost.

The woman who searches her house for a coin of not much value throws a party when she finds it which would have cost much more than the coin she found. This just does not make economic sense.

Love your enemies and pray for those who curse you. But, if any person comes to me and hates not his father and mother wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life as well, he cannot be my disciple.

Let the dead bury the dead.

In the parable of the prodigal son, which should really be named the waiting father. The father rushes to meet his son who has wished him dead by claiming his inheritance. The father welcomes him home, giving him all honours and throws a party but shows that he loves the older brother as well.

In the parable to the Good Samaritan the robbed man is ignored by the good religious people and rescued by the Samaritan, an enemy, whom the robbed man would normally not allow to touch him. Jesus eats with sinners and prostitutes. They may not have been repentant sinners. He says that sinners and tax gatherers will enter the Kingdom of God before those religious who considered themselves righteous.

In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax gatherer in the temple at prayer, it is the tax gatherer who goes home justified.

Jesus allowed a woman known as a sinner to wash his feet with her tears, wipe them dry with her hair and anoint his feet with ointment.

He said the Kingdom of God was like a little yeast in a large quantity of flour infecting and raising the whole lot. Yeast was regarded with suspicion as being demonic and unclean.

Jesus healed people and drove out demons.

On the cross while suffering he is portrayed as forgiving the soldiers to whom a crucifixion was probably routine and business as usual. He taught that his followers were to forgive those who wronged them 490 times. A big number that means always.

If someone took something from you don't get it back. If someone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other cheek.

The first, according to Jesus, will be last and last first.

We could meet him in the least of his brothers and sisters, the powerless, poor, hungry, naked and those in prison.

Luke has Jesus reading at the synagogue at Nazareth and among other things, saying he came "to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." A reference to the Jubilee year written about in Leviticus, when debts are forgiven, land is returned, and slaves are set free.

This kingdom of God is a huge contrast to the Kingdom of Rome and the religious authorities of Jesus' day who had enormous muscle and knew exactly where people stood and what they ought to do.

If we use our imagination, we discover how extraordinary these parables and sayings are.

Jesus Kingdom of God is founded not on power, but in weakness, radical love, generosity, hospitality, justice, and forgiveness. It is important to emphasise the radical nature of these qualities. They are more than what we would accept as common sense or socially acceptable or the current often-repeated theme song “good for the economy.”

The Kingdom of God overturns the expected cultural behaviour and values associated with wealth, class, sinfulness, and religious status. God’s generosity, God’s gift has no strings attached. Our gift, Jesus teaches, should be the same.

This is an extraordinary message for the extraordinary time of an economy wrecking Covid-19 crisis and when inequalities are coming to light in the “black lives matter” movement.

ANGEL’S VISION FOR THE CHILD AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

As for my Family activities Coordinator role,

My hope is to see our young families grow and flourish in our parish.

The next generation is so important for our church. They are our future. With the fast pace life that we all live in today, my prayer is that through this new role, our families will feel more connected through our various activities and gain a sense of belonging within our church community. That Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church can be a place where their faith may be nurtured and grow.

Proverbs 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."



UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the June meeting of Parish Council we all met in the same room – first time since March - and we

- Spent time on pastoral matters. In our constitution at the start of the meeting we reflected on loneliness and resolved to make extra efforts to contact those who may be lonely and help them to overcome that situation. The special message from Tokerau is that it is a responsibility of us all
- Discussed the success of the online services of worship during lockdown which were watched by many more people than the numbers that come along to church on the average Sunday. Our Worship Committee will be discussing this and considering where from here. Your views would be welcomed. These can be sent to Ian Watson who convenes the Worship Committee or to Tokerau – our Minister.
- Received a report from George Wyman on the state of our finances. The lower level of offerings as well as the loss of revenue from buildings' usage during the lockdown period are of particular concern
- Learnt of the church related activities that have resumed including : Girls Brigade; Mainly Music; Dees; English Conversations; Born Again Bodies as well as collection of food and other items for Family Works. Those activities that will soon be resuming are : the first Friday of the month social get together (young and old) for games, meal (bring food to share) on 3 July; Luncheon Group (Thursday 7 July) ; Tuesday morning books and board games
- Discussed a suggestion that we should shorten the name of our parish by dropping the reference to Castor Bay but decided that the historical links (the Castor Bay Church was the original church) were such that we should retain the full name
- Confirmed the importance of the Church website and the need to keep the information contained on it up to date and relevant. Suggested changes should be sent to Erica Brash in her role as convenor of the Church and Community Committee . Eri a will pass those changes that are agreed on to Pauline Gulliver who manages the website.
- Were advised that several members have adopted the Automatic Payments approach to making offerings to the church however we will continue to pass the bag around during the service. If you are donating via Direct Debit or Automatic Payment don't feel embarrassed about passing the bag on.
- Supported the proposal to locate an objective, neutral presenter or presenters to run one or more sessions on Cannabis Reform and Euthanasia in the lead up to the elections. The sessions are to be advertised and open to the public.



Stewart Milne

LUNCH GROUP

WE ARE BACK ON THURSDAY 9th JULY -
Bring a PLATE OF FOOD to SHARE as it is
our MID- WINTER XMAS CELEBRATION.
Bring a friend & enjoy your lunch over a cup
of tea or coffee & then enjoy entertainment
by THE GLENFIELD ENTERTAINERS who
will delight us with something new & some-
thing old.

Trade table & raffles operating.
Gold coin donation at the door.



FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE

Sunday 9th August

Our annual favourite hymns service will be on Sunday 9th August. Please give some thought to a special hymn that you would like included, and contact Bronwyn Stone before 23rd July. Please include the following details in your request:

Your name and contact phone no.

Favourite Hymn - Title/First line/ Number in which Hymn book (or where I might find the music if it's obscure)

Which TWO verses you would like included and

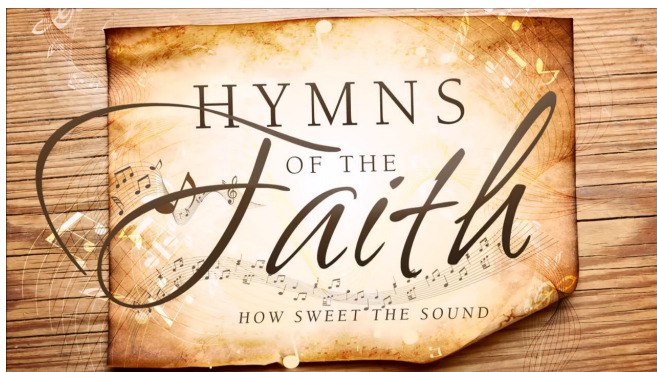
Why this hymn/these verses were chosen i.e. their significance to you.

There will be a box in the foyer at church from the beginning of July,

or you can ring Bronwyn

Ph: 4796631 or

email pebros@gmail.com.



Fun



Games



Food

**All Ages Games Evening
1st Friday of the Month**

6.30 to 8 pm

Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church

9 Hastings Road. Vehicle access between 8 & 10 Penzance Road

All Welcome

Please bring food to share.

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