



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



The start of a new chapter

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister:

Rev Tokerau Joseph Mobile
Telephone
E-mail:

Administrator:

Jo Wyman-Macer

Office Hours:

Wednesday :

Thursday - Friday:

Telephone:

Email:

Street Address:

Postal Address:

Website: www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz

via phone and email

9am - 1pm

478 6180.

office@bayspc.nz

**10 Penzance Rd,
Mairangi Bay.**

**PO Box 65299,
Mairangi Bay.**

Parish Clerk:

Stewart Milne

Telephone: 478 5786

Mobile: 027 293 8499

Treasurer,

Property & Finance:

George Wyman

Telephone: 478 6411



Photo credit: Ian Thomson

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
 Further information Pauline Gulliver Ph 021 0244 9616



AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE NEW EDITOR

Yes, I do realise that the first page of the newsletter is reserved for the Minister. And it is a bit cheeky of me getting a word in during Tokerau's first month in the parish. However, you will notice a few changes around the place, so I thought it is only right to highlight what they are...

1. In case you haven't noticed, we have a new Minister (Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph). Throughout this newsletter there are pictures from Tokerau's induction. All credit for these pictures go to Ian Thomson (Dunedin), Karel Lorier and Erica Brash.
2. Karel and Erica are taking some well-earned rest. We thank them both for holding the fort over the past 18 months (see Mary McMillan's photos of the Thank You Lunch, pg 9), and wish them all the best for their travels.
3. The newsletter has a new editor. Erica has relinquished the power of the pen in favour of a campervan and some miles on the road. Now you have to cope with me (complaints to pgul-liver73@gmail.com).

Any feedback on the newsletter are welcome. If you wish to have notices or reminders added to the newsletter, please send any information to me by the middle of the month prior to the newsletter being distributed.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF HELP IN YOUR HOUSE OR GARDEN?

We have a group of strong young men who are keen to attend Easter camp at Hunua and need to earn some money for the camp. If you need some help in exchange for a few dollars donated to their camp fund, please contact Pauline Gulliver (02102449616)

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the February meeting of Parish Council we :

- welcomed Tokerau to his first Parish Council meeting in this parish
- spent time on pastoral matters. Tokerau then led prayers for those who are currently facing difficult medical situations
- approved a one pager “Who we Are” which will be developed for the website and for a flyer
- agreed to Karel and Erica’s request for a 3 month break from Parish Council
- agreed to the installation of a door from the hall to the courtyard
- **expressed concern over the growing gap between the budgeted income from offerings and the reality (the gap is currently at \$8,867) and decided to hold a special offerings appeal in March. This will allow donors to claim the 33% rebate from IRD in the current tax year. The appeal letter and envelope is with the Newsletter.**
- received advice that 6 of our young people are keen to attend the Easter Camp at Hunua and decided to ask parishioners if they have jobs which the young can do to raise money to assist with meeting the fees.
- discussed Tokerau’s plan for a special children’s service on 4 March (International Children’s Day) and gave it full support. Invitations for all children to attend are being extended.
- noted that Tokerau has joined our school aiding programme at Mairangi Bay Primary and that another person from Probus is also joining
- received a report from the Fellowship Committee containing several proposed social activities including a lunch time picnic at Mairangi Bay on 11 march
- agreed to a donation of \$1,000 to the CWS Tonga Appeal
- recommended Rev Rose Luxford to the Northern Presbytery for the position of PCANZ Moderator Designate
- spent time working through a series of 9 snapshots of mission from the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership in which the dominating message is that God is in the community. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this document please see me
- welcomed the news that Margaret Callaghan will take responsibility for Mainly Music and that Margaret has ideas for another program

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Social Media: Friendship building, menace or idol?

The Hebrew prophets frequently attacked idolatry. They thought that by persuading people to destroy their wooden or clay idols they had done their deed. They often ignored the idea the idol represented- God's rivals who demanded self-mutilations, sacrifices (including child sacrifices), prostitution and murder in return for the reward - a good harvest or many male children. Such idolatry drew people away from the worship of God, the God of justice, mercy and loving kindness whose passion was the health of the community.

There are many current forms of idolatry. We might not easily recognise them at first glance. In situations where in the past people might be engaged in lively conversation, people now sit staring at mobile phones or devices. Some months ago I began to wonder if Social Media like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter may have become modern forms of idolatry which distort people's lives.

I was not surprised when Kowhai Intermediate school took the unusual step of banning Social Media such as Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram for its students and insisted that parents also ban these for students at home. Nor was I surprised that the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction included examining Social Media in its brief.

For those unfamiliar with Social Media, Facebook for example creates a network on the internet of "friends" with whom one can share thoughts, photographs, videos and articles which may attract you at the time. Your "friends" can respond "like," "love," or "a laughing face," or leave a comment. Instagram and Snapchat have some similarities to this. I have put "friend" in quotation marks because the way the word is used on Social Media stretches the meaning of the word. One can choose the "Friends" to which your Facebooks "posts" are visible, but Facebook keeps suggesting new people whom you have never met. It is not uncommon for people to have several hundred Facebook "friends". On other social media like Instagram people become followers and one attempts to attract as many followers as one can.

All this sounds harmless enough. What tends to happen is that people, particularly younger people who have started using social media at an early age, gather many “friends” or “followers,” often many they have never met face to face. This group of “friends” becomes a reference group for their behaviours, attitudes, interests and appearance. The posts placed on Facebook are comments or photographs. Many of the photographs are “selfies”, photographs taken of themselves - perhaps with someone else - often taken on a mobile phone. These photographs or comments are then “liked,” “loved” or perhaps ignored. In some cases, “friends” are punished for comments by being “defriended”, removed from the list of “friends” who are part of that group.

You can imagine what happens when a person is suddenly “defriended” or receives comments on their photograph - “your face is too angular,” or “you are too fat,” repeated numerous times by their “friends”. There are cases when people have purchased sophisticated cameras, lighting equipment and photo enhancing software to alter their photographs to create a better image of themselves and their children to keep up with the pressure from their “friends” who have created equally unrealistic presentations of themselves.

As Facebook can be set to warn you that one of your “friends” has posted, there is constant pressure to find out what your “friends” are posting and writing about your posts. In this way it can become your world, taking much of your time, isolating you from your family and friends and potential friends who you meet face to face. Your internet “friends” encourage behaviours such as self-mutilation, drug taking, tattoos, and particularly for men crazy risk-taking behaviour.

There is pressure to compete. These things can create mental health issues, anxiety and depression which can lead to suicide. The isolation and time consumed (some report up to 70% of their waking time) is not healthy. Time when they could be engaged with face to face contact with friends. Particularly at a youthful age young people need to engage with each other face to face to learn empathy and develop a good social network. Engagement with social media can inhibit this development.

People have needed professional help to release themselves from what eventually becomes an addiction to social media.

Now social media is not all bad. I find it useful tool keep in touch with family and some close friends, aware that whatever I share on Facebook, despite privacy settings, is not private.

However, we need to be aware that it can easily turn into an idol- the “friends” controlling our behaviour, attitudes and the way we think about ourselves, and the world. We need to be aware that this can happen and particularly warn our young people of the dangers of this potential idol.

Karel Lorier



Addressing Tokerau - one or two stories being told



THANK YOU KAREL AND ERICA



It was with mixed emotions that we gathered to celebrate the contribution of Karel and Erica to the life of the church. As we closed this chapter of our parish life, in preparation for starting a new chapter, Karel and Erica were gifted with a BBQ.



From Erica:

We are practising on the wonderful barbeque that the congregation gave us and finding it a great addition to our culinary options! Many thanks for the wonderful gift

THE LUNCHEON GROUP

The next meeting of the Lunch Group will be on Thursday 8th march 12 – 2pm. Bring your lunch & enjoy entertainment by Lynn Walters a Singer/Guitarist.

There will be raffles & the trade table will be operating.

IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME!

Bring along your family and friends with your favourite beach games to our church picnic at:

Mairangi Bay Beach Green

Sunday, March 11 at 12:00. (rain day March 18).

Bring your own lunch and a chair. Cold drinks will be provided. Don't forget your togs too!

Contact Karen Ruffell 478 3428.

CHORAL SERVICE – PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25

The Easter story will be told in songs, readings and mediations on Sunday, March 25 at 10:00.

Friends and family are most welcome.

If you would like to join the choir come along to our practices on Thursday evenings starting Feb. 22 at 7:00.

No experience necessary just a melody in your heart!

Contact Norma Baker 443 3108.



The Symbols



The Welcome

MONTH'S DUTIES

March Flowers: Patsy Watson

4 March

Welcome Team: Anne Pepper (Readings), Yoshiko Tregetheran (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Betty Dance, Anita Schloss

Sound System: Peter Stone

11 March

Welcome Team: Bronwyn Stone (Reading) , Jennie Pascoe (Offering) ,

Morning Tea: Ken and Rae Pascoe

Sound System: Peter Stone

18 March

Welcome Team: Mardi Donnell (Reading), Dorrille Shadbolt (Offering)

Morning Tea: Val Crawford, Jill Wyman

Sound System: John Shadbolt

25 March

Welcome Team: Patsy Watson (Reading), Ian Watson (Offering)

Morning Tea: Glennis French, Sylvana Whyborn

Sound System: John Shadbolt



Celebrations



CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2017

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth activities	4.00-6.00pm	Various venue	Saturdays tba	TBC
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay New Meeting Room 2.	Every Wednesday	Stewart Milne 478 5786
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
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Stewart Milne 478 5786
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Jenni & Allan Jones 478-5694
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108