



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



Beach Clean-up

February 2020

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

Ph: 478 6180

Email: 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

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.
- **YOUNG MUMS GROUP**
2nd Thursday of the month 7.15pm
Contact Heather on 479-8822 for further details
- **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



AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

The effects of Coronavirus are global. It affects not only the physical health of people, but also sporting events, the share market and much more. Some commentators fear it might trigger a recession. The constant media attention on the Coronavirus is a reminder of how important our health is to the rest of our life. At a local level, it has affected the start to our English conversations group.

Last Saturday, a group from our parish attended the Northern Presbytery's "God is able" conference held at St. Columba in Botany. There were various workshops of which one was about "Resilience and mental wellbeing." It was led by Daniel who works for Lifeline and who reminded us of the value of our health and wellbeing.

Our health is not just physical; it can involve mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing or the lack thereof. When one area is affected, it can have ramifications for the others as well. So, it is helpful to have a wholistic approach to health and wellbeing. As Christians, we are not exempt from any deterioration of our wellbeing. Although we may claim a triumphal belief that we have victory in Christ, the reality is that we can all suffer in one way or another from mental, emotional, spiritual and physical conditions or circumstances. However, our faith assures us that God's loving and helping presence is with us through whatever we may face.

Daniel's focus was on mental health. So, I'd like to share with you some of the take-aways from his workshop.

- We all suffer mental illness in one way or another
- Christians or church people are not exempt from mental illness
- Stress is a big factor
- How we manage our stress, anxiety or moods is important
- Don't have to suffer quietly – share with someone, seek help
- Self-care should be intentional – make it happen, not by chance
- Church should be a caring environment, not judgmental
- Who are the health professionals, first-aiders or appropriate ones to turn to in your congregation?
- Are there phone numbers easily accessible and seen for people who may need help?
- Be mindful of the care for leaders or those overworked in the church
- Try to recognise signs of fatigue, stress, depression
- Are we approachable and open enough to others in the congregation who maybe seeking help?

As church, the body of Christ, we are all connected. Like the Coronavirus affecting the globe, so too can the suffering of one member have an impact on the rest of the body (1 Cor. 12: 26). It is important, then, that we find ways to recognise those who need help and assist where and when we can. Their well-being contributes to our wellbeing as a whole. So, look out for one another to be resilient in our faith and living.

Manaakitanga
From Porirua Anglican Churches
[https:// www.poriruaanglican.nz/](https://www.poriruaanglican.nz/)



(Noun) hospitality, kindness, generosity, support - the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others.

BOOKS AND GAMES

1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH - Tues 3rd March

There will be a get together on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss / swap / borrow books from 9am to 10am and to have a cup of tea and a chat followed by a game of cards or board game if that is wanted.

Finish up when it suits you – certainly by 12 noon.

All welcome for the book session, the morning tea and the board games or any one or more of these– bring your friends.

Contact Raewyn Henderson 4104423 or Margaret Pont 479 5984

NEIGHBOURS WEEK

Neighbours Week is being observed from March 27 – April 5.

It is a good excuse to get to know someone in your neighbourhood. There are various suggestions of activities at www.neighboursday.org.nz and the Church and Community Committee will run off some invitations for you to use if you wish. Obviously you don't have to do it in this week – it's just a reminder about Christian hospitality.

www.neighboursday.org.nz

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AN UP-DATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At our first meeting of Parish Council for 2020 we :

- Spent time on pastoral matters
- Were brought up to date on progress with the issue of vehicle access from Penzance. Yes I did say “progress”!!!. After years of frustrating changes and inaction we now have a situation where the Valuer that we and the neighbours have engaged has reached a consensus with the Council Valuer over the value of the right of way and the extension through to Hastings Road. We should now be able to deal direct with the Council and once we have agreement on what to pay we can decide whether or not to go ahead. A meeting of the congregation would be needed for a decision on this.
- Received appreciation from Paul Fransham who is heading up the Vanuatu School’s toilets project. You may recall Paul spoke to us in December about this project and we have contributed \$10k towards it.
- Were advised of the Fellowship program for the period through to the AGM in August starting with the **church picnic on Sunday 1 March**. Further events will be publicized
- Learnt of a situation where exposure to perfume creates an allergic reaction for some and decided to remind our congregation of this
- Were advised of the Northern Presbytery Coastal Region’s planned meetings for 2020. The first will be held here at Mairangi Bay at **7:30pm on Tues 3 March** and will include a talk by Jono McLeod (a NZ Doctor/Missionary) who with his wife Destnee (also a doctor) are working in the South Sudan. This talk is open to all.
- Accepted the offer of Heather Gibson to become involved with the Welcoming Team in welcoming newcomers and following up with them.
- Decided that we would benefit from having a person responsible for co-ordinating family related activities in the parish including activities such as Mainly Music, Whanau/family services, Sunday School, Friday night get togethers, Outreach to the Indian community, English conversations and to work on introducing a youth music group. This will be a part time paid position. Information including an invitation for expressions of interest is contained elsewhere in this issue – or from me.
- Had a report on the meeting with the Hindi Services Steering Group where Tokerau and I had the opportunity to express to them the delight we have in the way that this outreach to the Indian community on the North Shore is developing and where their main objectives for the year ahead were welcomed including an Indian Cultural event on 25 April and two joint services with the rest of the parish.

Stewart Milne

LIGHT IT ORANGE

“Shine” is an organisation (part of PSN) which works in the field of Family Violence. This year rather than use the white ribbon symbols (and the “It’s not O.K.” mantra) as we reflect on the issue of violence in New Zealand, we will use the opportunity to support Shine and their project, ‘Light It Orange’

Many of the domestic violence victims Shine works with are in imminent danger of being seriously injured or killed. Shine workers help to get them and their children safe.

Shine works with:

- victims and their children to get them safe and keep them safe
- people who use abuse, to support them in changing their behaviour
- frontline professionals, such as police and nursing staff, to help them identify and support victims
- businesses who want to offer effective support to staff experiencing domestic abuse
- secondary school children who want to understand the difference between healthy relationships and domestic abuse

Here’s our plan for March 15:

Wear something Orange to church

Join our Orange Morning Tea

Offer something orange for morning tea -orange iced cupcakes, carrots and dip, orange wedges ,etc.

Please let Raewyn Henderson know what you can bring.

Bring “**orange**” **\$5.00 notes** (or whatever koha you can offer) as a donation at the morning tea for Shine

Every \$250 we raise can cover the cost of an advocate’s urgent callout to a family after an arrest. Funds raised in the regions will ensure more people learn about Shine’s vital free and confidential helpline so that they can get the help they need. Invite your family and friends to this service and morning tea.



If you are on social media, use the resources on lightitorange2020 to spread some of the shameful facts about New Zealand’s record of violence

A MEDITATION FROM THE OPENING OF PARISH COUNCIL

From “If the Church were Christian” by Philip Gulley
‘If the church were Christian, Jesus would be a model for living, rather than an object of worship. Affirming our potential would be more important than condemning our brokenness. Reconciliation would be valued over judgement. Gracious behaviour would be more important than right belief. Inviting questions would be valued more than supplying answers. Encouraging personal exploration would be more important than communal uniformity. Meeting needs would be more important than maintaining institutions. Peace would be more important than power. We would care more about love and less about sex. This life would be more important than the afterlife’

KAREL LORIER’S REFLECTIONS

The Thirteenth Apostle

It is interesting reading the letters the Bishops (overseers), presbyters (elders) and deacons (servant or ministers) wrote to one another in the church of the second and third century. Churches were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. They were small egalitarian communities known for following the way of Jesus in action, sharing food, welcoming the rich and the poor, the disabled, orphans and war wounded. They refused to join the Roman army and make sacrifices to the Roman gods. They were known for their love and good works which included rescuing unwanted babies who were put on the rubbish tips or hillsides to die.

Things were far from idyllic. They had their share of free loaders. 2 Thessalonians 3:10, “He who will not work shall not eat,” written as a pseudo Pauline letter early in second century, this among other letters show that the Christ community had that problem. Being a follower of the way of Jesus showed in what you did rather than what you believed. The Bishops argued about theology and philosophy, about the nature of God and Jesus. If Jesus is God how can this be? Some claimed he was a phantom rather than a human being. Yet others claimed that Jesus had two natures, divine and human - joined like two planks. To add to the difficulty in these discussions it was conducted in two languages, Greek and Latin, and often what was thought to be an equivalent word or phrase proved not to be so.

Despite all this the church grew, during a time when the church was often subject to persecution - depending on the Roman Emperor in power or his mood. The church was faced with the dilemma of what to do with leaders who had recanted their faith under torture or were made to use their hands to make sacrifices to Roman gods while unconscious. Could these people again serve as leaders in the church? It divided the church. The Roman empire itself was under pressure from attack by the German tribes to the North and was frequently separated into two or three areas under the control of separate emperors.

Therefore it was a great relief for Christians when Constantine became sole emperor. He had seen a vision of the cross before a crucial battle. In 313 CE he enacted the “edict of Milan,” which essentially legalised Christianity. Churches were able to be rebuilt and built, money started pouring in: Christians were welcomed in the army and government service. The church, presbyters and bishops became wealthy. The state paid them and they were accorded tax free status. In addition, the state cut funding for pagan temples, accelerating their decline. But it was at a cost. The seduction of the church by the state had begun. Some Christians at the time hailed Constantine as the 13th apostle. Hans Leitzmann, the author of what was considered an authoritative four volume history of the early church written in the 1940’s, heads his chapter on these events as, “Final Victory of the Christian Church.”

The unity of the Empire was now dependent on the unity of the church. In 325 CE Constantine called all the Bishops of the church together at Nicaea. His invitation, emphasising the climate, reads like an invitation to a holiday. The pagan emperor, Constantine, making sure the bishops lived in luxury and lacked nothing, took an active part in the debate about the nature of Jesus Christ and the formulation of the Nicene Creed. Three Bishops disagreed; one, Arius, was exiled; the other two were executed. Constantine was as influential on the Christian church, as Jesus and Paul. The church had been manipulated by an astute politician.

What happened here changed the church forever. From followers of the way of Jesus, proclaiming love of God and neighbour, seeking peace, on a spiritual quest, it changed to a belief system couched in the philosophy prevailing in the fourth century. Before Constantine, people joined the church because they were drawn to a loving welcoming community which broke down barriers. Their faith in Jesus nurtured over shared meals. After Constantine the church espoused a missionary focus converting people to a system of belief at sword point. To be fair the church

leadership was moving to an emphasis on belief rather than practice before Constantine, but Constantine set it in concrete and was able to enforce it by law.

The church had gone from orthopraxis, doing the right things in following Jesus' teaching, to orthodoxy, having the right beliefs about Jesus.

Every five hundred years or so the church reforms, discarding those things which are not needed and get in the way of following Jesus. The 16th century reformation went back to the Bible but looked at it through the lens of the fourth century creeds.

I think the present reformation is on its way. This reformation skips over the last reformation and the creeds. It looks back to how Jesus lived and what he taught. Christians will not be valued for how they fervently believe but for how they love, welcome the stranger, resist those forces which dehumanize and devalue. This reformation welcomes people of all opinions shaped by their culture and personality as long as those opinions do not devalue or judge others.

We are called to create a Christ community following the way of Jesus. To nurture and be part of such a community is the most valuable activity we can do in an age of loneliness, alienation, and anxiety. Through following the example of Jesus' unconditional love, we find our true humanity.

Great Fun for Seniors

LUNCHEON GROUP - Thursday 12th March.

Come to the LUNCH GROUP from 12- 2p.m.

Bring your lunch & enjoy fellowship over tea and coffee at 12 noon

From 1-2pm we will be entertained by **Graham Gill**
who plays the guitar and sings.

Trade table of surplus goods operating.

Raffles operating.

Gold coin donation at the door.

FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS - March 6

First Friday of every month (March 6), 6:30-8pm

All ages welcome



Palm Sunday Choir Practices

After a quick summer break, the choir will be preparing a few anthems to sing at the Palm Sunday service on April 5th.

The practices will be Sundays 2nd Feb, 9th Feb, 1st March, 8th March all at 9 am & possibly Thursday, April 2nd.

If you would like to join us, contact Bronwyn Stone 479 6631.

Come and lead the Play - Be our Coordinator for Family Activities

Parish Council has decided that there will be an advantage in having someone from within the parish providing coordination between our many activities which involve families.

This will be a paid position of about 10 hours a week.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the position – including obtaining a copy of the Job Description – should contact the Parish Clerk on stewart.milne@xtra.co.nz or give ring on 027 293 8499.

Applications will close on 12 March

Donations wanted!!

The **Presbyterian Support Foodbank** continues to need items of food eg : Canned food; Rice; Pasta; Biscuits; Baby Food; Soups; Cereals;

Please bring your contributions along & place in the basket on Sunday. Every bit helps. We are also supporting the Lifeboat Mission which is based in Browns Bay.

On the first Sunday of the month we collect products that will be useful for **Women Prisoners** some of whom have their babies or young children with them. These products also go in the basket and are sorted out and delivered.

School Aiding - Mairangi Bay School

Mairangi Bay School has had a connection for many years with our parish and initially, at the request of the Principal, 5 of our members went to the school for a couple of hours a week to assist in any way that was required.

Currently Tokerau is the sole visitor but he feels the connection is very valuable as a link to the community. Is anyone else interested in this outreach? It is a flexible commitment. Talk to Tokerau about what is involved.

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS 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
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
Young Mums Home Group	7.15pm	10A Newhaven Tce Mairangi Bay	2nd Thursday of the month	Heather Gibson 0274 999 808