



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**March 2019**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



**TE RĀ O NGĀ  
TAMARIKI**  

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**CHILDREN'S DAY**

Children's Day: March 3

# 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



## AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Report on Council for World Mission (CWM) Addressing Mission, Racism and Colonisation in the Pacific Bible Study, Tahiti, 26th-30th January 2019

I'm thankful for the opportunity to have represented PCANZ, with Rev Jordan Redding, at the recent CWM Street Bible Study event at the Foyer Paofai, Pape'ete, Tahiti. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about CWM and to experience the life and hospitality of the Protestant Church in French Polynesia, the Etaretia Porotetani Maohi (EPM). Representatives from other Pacific churches as well as from EPM enabled a collegial time of learning. The friendships developed among the twelve or more participants, including the many more who worked hard behind the scenes, will be treasured.

The purpose was to engage in a series of bible studies that explores the context of racism at the heart of the missionary enterprise. Having done this in the context of Africa, the Caribbean and the US, the CWM wanted to extend it to consider the issues and history of mission in the Pacific. The aim was to invite the challenge and hope of the biblical text, or indeed challenge the complicity or silence of the biblical text, by reading it in places of colonial or racist violence. Further, we were to articulate readings of the bible which name the legacies of racism and colonisation and mission complicity. Part of that included generating insight and vision for further understanding mission in the context of empire.



The facilitator of the bible study was Rev Dr Peter Cruchley, Mission Secretary: Mission Development at Council for World Mission based in Singapore.

His opening session briefly outlined the beginnings of the London Missionary Society (LMS) in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and its transition into becoming the CWM in 1977.

Through his historical review of CWM, he identified that, while its missions were well-known for establishing churches around the world (including the South Pacific), it is not common knowledge that much of those missions were initially supported from the funds of its founders who owned slaves and benefitted from the slave trade. Moreover, we looked at the mentality or cultural conditioning of the early missionaries

that shaped their view of non-whites and their missional practices. It was a powerfully emotional moment for Dr Cruchley in painting the “darker” side to the LMS and pointing to how the CWM can help to put things right with its member churches in moving forward.

Following this, we began our first street bible study next to a building that had an impressionist art piece based on a work called “Woman with fruit” by French artist Paul Gauguin. We explored this work considering a reading about Jesus sending out the seventy-two in their mission. The exercise highlighted how our world-view shapes how we see and treat others; particularly those who are different from us. Gauguin objectified and sexualised the indigenous peoples of Maohi Nui. The impressionist piece painted the Maohi women with no mouth, hollow eyes, bleeding from below, and whose land is deforested indicating how Maohi people today are voiceless, unseen, weakening, and homeless.

The second bible study was led by Rev Francois Pihaatae at the harbour-side. We looked at the French naval presence in the harbour while Rev Pihaatae spoke of Nuclear testing at Moruroa atoll and the effects felt by the people of Maohi Nui. We then read the lament of psalm 97 and could appreciate the Polynesian people’s cry for justice. Colonialism meant a different kind of slavery whereby the powerful master (French government) did not have to consult or seek approval from its subjects for its industry. The master did as he pleased at the expense of his subjects.



Some in our group from EMP testified to the ongoing harmful effects of nuclear radiation in the spike of cancer patients and deformed births in Tahiti. It was encouraging to hear how, in 2017, the EPM have risen to the challenge by taking the French government to court and gaining support from the United Nations.

We were privileged to witness the signing of a land purchase by the EPM at the village of Mahina. The President of the EPM, the local mayor, and government representative did so in the context of worship. For that alone was amazing. Following that, we continued to Matavai Bay in Mahina where the LMS ship

the Duff arrived with its first British missionaries. The study was led by Rev Dr Marama Teuira who covered the arrival and early missionary work in Tahiti. We explored the memorial there of all the places and dates in which the LMS established churches. We considered the strategies of the missionaries and how their efforts were shaped by the indigenous political scene at the time, the growing contact with Europeans, and the indigenous prophecies foretelling the arrival of a new faith. Despite the challenges and changes of colonial conditioning by the LMS, these discussions gave us a greater appreciation of EPM today and the hope it determines for its future.

Another study we had was on a *va'a* (double-hull canoe) named *Faafaite* meaning "reconcile". A navigator who had sailed the canoe gave us the background and tour of the vessel. Taking people on *va'a* was a way of reclaiming and relearning their lost heritage as skilled voyagers. It also hoped to educate people on the importance of appreciating and looking after the environment, being mindful of the effects of climate change, and helping people gain a positive mindset and confidence in life. For the EPM, the *va'a* symbolises the reconciliatory work of Christ in reconciling people to God and each other. Part of that includes reevaluating and reclaiming its cultural practices as a way of contextualising Christian expression rather than a colonial one.

### **Some insights from this experience:**

It was clear to me that through Dr Cruchley, there is a need for CWM to be accountable for past injustices, and to seek reconciliation and reparation for them. The hope is that the self-critique report will not only be adopted by CWM but will also lead to better missional practices for the future. Perhaps the same can be applied to the PCANZ in our context in Aotearoa.

Our world-view needs to be kept in check. This might mean re-evaluating our ecclesiology as a diverse church and ensuring that our practices reflect what we believe of ourselves. We cannot allow prejudice, racism or injustices to shape us as the body of Christ. Instead, we need to be better informed by positive cross-cultural experiences that enables us to appreciate our unity in diversity in Christ.

I think the PCANZ might consider working closer and strengthening its relationship with EPM. There is a growing number of people from Maohi Nui who are coming to New Zealand for various reasons including health, education, and work. My own experiences of providing pastoral care for many in hospitals leads me to the view that a Tahitian minister would be most beneficial in our New Zealand (Auckland) context. Strengthening ties with other Pacific churches is something that can be looked at more constructively. Although relations can be strained at time, I believe we need to work harder at working with them rather

than against them. This will be an ongoing task.

As a Cook Islander, I am also mindful of slavery in the Pacific through the practice of *Blackbirding*. This involved ships from Peru that enticed and took away some of my people as slaves in the sugarcane plantations there. Many did not survive the journey, while the rest never returned. Perhaps slavery takes on a new form today with unfair and desperate working conditions for migrants. The studies in Tahiti challenge us to be mindful of modern-day employment abuses.

We received many gifts from EPM, but as representatives of PCANZ, I felt that we should have had something to give to show our appreciation and affirm our CWM connection. Jordan and I spoke briefly about this and perhaps it is something that can be looked at and budgeted for future events.

I am thankful to my parish (Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church) for its support and prayers.

## **LUNCHEON GROUP**

The next meeting of the Luncheon group is Thursday 14th March from 12 – 2pm.

Bring your lunch and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while enjoying fellowship.

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

The trade table and raffles will be operating.

Gold coins donation at the door.



## **CHURCH PICNIC**

After church, Sunday, March 3

Celebrating Te rā o ngā tamariki (Children's Day

BYO Picnic Lunch and fun.

Cold drinks will be provided

Mairangi Bay Beach Reserve. All Welcome



# UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the February meeting of Parish Council we :

Spent time on pastoral matters. We are in the process of reviewing the parish roll and will be holding a meeting of the Pastoral Visitors. Our Minister has stressed the importance of pastoral visiting and keeping in touch with those on our church roll. In this he is leading by example however we can all play a part in strengthening this important part of our church through our own actions or by communicating with the Pastoral convenor (Norma Baker), the Minister or myself if we become aware of any situation where contact and support could be needed.

**Received positive feedback** on the pre Christmas activities including our participation in the carols in the play ground organised by the Business Association. The packing of treats for families in need of cheering up service has become an important mission. We excelled ourselves with more than 50 boxes on this occasion.

**The family games and shared meal** event which was popular in November was repeated on 8 Feb and again the numbers were most encouraging. We are looking to repeat this activity with 8 March being the next date to be followed by the first Friday of the month each month. Jack Gulliver has taken the responsibility for organising and running these monthly get togethers. Starting time 6:30 and wind up at 8.

**The status of the vehicle access** from Penzance Road to the church is still unresolved. The Local Board decided back in October that it should be offered to the church and those living in 8 and 10 Penzance for purchase but we have heard no more. In the meantime we are seeking expert advice on what would be a reasonable price to pay given that we would be assuming the liability for maintenance and for protecting the right of the public to move between Hastings and Penzance.

**Our Property Convenor** George Wyman reported on steps being taken to have the hall structure strengthened to meet the higher building standards that are now being advocated.

**Wearing his Treasurer's hat** George reported on our finances which are generally healthy except for offerings which have fallen \$2,657 below budget for the period 1 July to the end of January. Attention needs to be given to this situation by those who can afford an increase in giving.



**Our regular activities** are now all well underway for the year:

- the number attending our **Dees** sessions on a Thursday has increased to 12 which is about all we can handle. Fortunately both Tokerau and Tangi have joined the volunteers who assist in this important community mission. More volunteers to join our roster would be most welcome.
- the number attending our **English Conversations Group** on a Wednesday has also increased to between 12 and 15.
- the **Seniors lunch** held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday with entertainment provided was also better attended and Margaret Pont advises that the Tuesday Morning (3<sup>rd</sup> Tues) **board games session** has also increased in popularity – 11 attended
- **Mainly Music** numbers which had declined last year are up under the leadership of Angel and Tangi
- **Born Again Bodies** is continuing to be popular

All of these and other activities are covered in a pamphlet available in the church foyer and on the church website. Please assist where you can by bringing these activities to the attention of people in your neighbourhood / community who would benefit from them including the elderly, the lonely, those for whom English is a second language, those with pre school children or those with school children . If they are shy bring them along.

We look forward to the year ahead as we build on our mission to be a valuable part of community.

## FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS

FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS will be held the  
first Friday of every month, 6:30-8pm

These evenings are informal events, as a chance for fellowship and outreach into the community. All ages welcome

**Dates:**

<b>March 8</b>	<b>April 5</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>June 7</b>
<b>July 5</b>	

# **KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS**

## **Charity Fatigue**

Every month the mail brings me envelopes, emails and some text messages containing requests for donations. These can be overwhelming. How am I as a Christian follower of Jesus to respond to these requests?

The essential teaching of Jesus is to love God and our neighbour. The two are closely intertwined. Jesus showed in the parables and in his sayings. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the neighbour is not just the person next door or across the road. It includes people all over the world, including people we would not normally associate with and our enemies. That's a big ask.

Mostly when the New Testament uses the word "love" it is a translation of the word Greek word "agape" which means unconditional love. In the King James 1611 authorised version of the Bible "agape" was translated "charity." From this we get the name charities. They were originally organisations through which we could show our Christian love.

We are called by love to care for the hungry, cloth the naked, visit those in prison, give water to the thirsty and welcome the stranger. In these people, we meet Jesus. Paul writes in Galatians for us "to bear one another's burdens and in this way, you will obey the law of Christ."

In our post-modern world we are often separated from those in need, by physical and social distance. The state (in the past heavily influenced by Christianity) has provided a safety net to those in need. However, there are large holes in this safety net and charities fill these holes or provide them on the state's behalf. We know that because of living costs – particularly housing - adults and children are going hungry or suffering from malnutrition. Research reveals poverty is a breeding ground for other problems, self-medication with alcohol and drugs, poor health choices, anxiety, depression, suicide, violent crime and relationship breakdown. We can help people affected by giving to charities and give Christian love in money, goods and time.

To which ought I to give? In NZ there is no simple guide. The US has web sites which give details showing the ratio of the amount spent on fundraising and administration to that which reaches the coal face. I was amazed to discover the Director of a well-known International Christian charity receives a salary of US\$550,500 with the next two people down the hierarchy receiving more than US\$330,000 each.

I did some research and developed my own categories for charities to assist me so I could donate wisely.

My categories:

- Those who have several different services reaching into the community, including helping with food, supplying a budgeting service, offering counselling. They assist people to become independent. They also provide education on social issues and lobby government for change.
- Narrowly focussed charities, for example, those which provide meals at schools, ambulance services, or funds for research into a disease.
- Feel Good charities, which provide a one-off experience to a disadvantaged group. They provide a feel-good experience for recipients and donors and perhaps good memories, but little or no long-term change.
- Charities which aid a particular emergency, for example victims of a natural disaster or war.
- Overseas aid charities that work to make disadvantaged groups independent by micro loans, village water schemes, toilets, agriculture and horticulture training and development, small solar power schemes and so forth.



This is my personal list. It is not exhaustive and there are some overlaps of categories, but it helps me select the charities I give to. My personal choice has been to give to one charity from categories 1 and 2, and two from 5, and from category 4 when the occasion arises.

Jesus taught us to love unconditionally, but as well to be as “cunning as serpents and as innocent as doves.” We need to consider donation requests responsibly, prayerfully and make our decision before we discard envelopes and unsubscribe from emails. Money is not the only way we can give. Food and goods are also useful ways of showing love, as is giving time. I choose to give some of my time to people who are deaf and needing or adjusting to a cochlear implant and by lobbying government to provide more funding to those who need an implant. Thinking carefully saves us from “charity fatigue” which may result in throwing all requests into the bin. How do you decide?

# 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 in school term	Every Friday	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
Support Worker for the Elderly		Margaret Pont		027 225 8893