



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**April 2018**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



**Dawn service—Easter 2017**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Minister:

Rev Tokerau Joseph

## Mobile:

E-mail: [tokerau.j@gmail.com](mailto:tokerau.j@gmail.com)

## Administrator:

Jo Wyman-Macer

## Office Hours:

Wednesday :

Thursday - Friday:

Telephone:

Email:

Street Address:

Postal Address:

Website: [www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz](http://www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz)

via phone and email

9am - 1pm

478 6180.

[office@bayspc.nz](mailto:office@bayspc.nz)

10 Penzance Rd,

Mairangi Bay.

PO Box 65299,

Mairangi Bay.

## Parish Clerk:

Stewart Milne

Telephone: 478 5786

Mobile: 027 293 8499

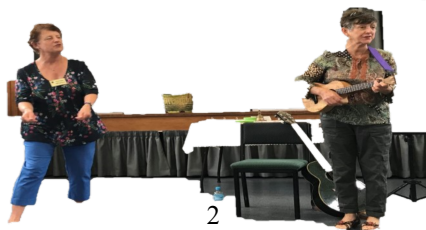
## Treasurer,

Property & Finance:

George Wyman

Telephone: 478 6411

## *Entertainment at the luncheon group*



# 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 Margaret Callaghan 0278854408



## AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Thank you to Mairangi & Castor Bays Parish for having me and my family. I can appreciate that it's been a huge step of faith for the Ministry Settlement Board, Parish Council, and the Parish as a whole. It's been the same for my family and I. The warm welcome and continuing support extended to us is greatly appreciated. We are gradually settling into life here in the parish and on the North Shore. On behalf of my wife Tangi, our son Paul, our daughter Angel and her husband Manu, and their children Ananiah, Kimi and Mastell, I want to offer a sincere heart-felt thanks to you all. I particularly want to acknowledge our Parish Clerk, Stewart Milne, for making our transition north and settlement into the manse as smooth as possible.

My induction service is one I will always remember. The well-wishes of representatives from my previous parish, First Church of Otago, and the collegial reception by Northern Presbytery was fantastic. The presence and affirmation from the Cook Islanders' community and my extended family was very special. They were all very impressed with the friendliness and vitality of the parish. This means a lot to me and I want to commend you all for that.

I'm excited to be part of what God is doing in and through our parish. The more familiar I am with people, the different groups, and the various activities in the parish, the more encouraged I am of our Christian witness here. There are wonderful missional opportunities being exercised and contribute to the sharing of good news in our community.

Our positive connections with individuals and groups in Mairangi and Castor Bays and farther is imperative for our life and future. They help us to grow in terms of extending our relational boundaries to include new friends or those who are different from us (in all kinds of ways). Yet, our diversity should not limit our connections with those both inside and outside of the church. The Apostle Paul urged the diverse Christian community in Rome to "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Rom. 15:7). The Greek word for "welcome" can also be translated as "accept" or "receive." It highlights that the basis of their acceptance of each other was Christ's acceptance of them. As we continue to put this into practice, Paul affirms "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15:13). This is our current and future hope at Mairangi & Castor Bays Parish.

I look forward to our journey together. *Kia manuia* (blessings).

Tokerau



# UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the March meeting of Parish Council we :

- Discussed the passage from Genesis 3 which Pauline had provided for the opening constitution. In this passage relationships are placed a distant second to a desire to be in control. The restoration of those relationships and the importance of interdependence in our society were stressed in our discussion.
- Spent time on pastoral matters
- Noted that Erica and Karel are on 3 months leave of absence from Parish Council and are due back in May. Dorille is also on leave from Parish Council and is due back at the end of June
- Considered a 'Who we are' flyer which has been produced for publicity purposes.
- Were advised of the steps being taken to try to find a replacement for Melinda Gama who was our Social Worker for the Elderly
- Welcomed Margaret Callaghan who is coordinating the Mainly Music session held on a Friday morning at 10am and agreed to her proposal to extend the time of the session to allow the parents who want to stay on to do so. Mainly Music is very popular. It is an important mission to the community and members of our congregation who would like to assist and/or who have play toys which could be donated should talk to Margaret.
- Received an update on the amount donated to date for the Special Offerings Appeal. This is currently \$3,460. This still leaves a gap between the offerings budget and what has been received of over \$6,000 and Parish Council decided to extend the period for the Special Appeal to the end of the Financial Year – 30 June. We ask those of us who can afford to give more to our church to do so. For those who can't afford to give more – please do not feel under any pressure to do so.
- Noted that the Presbyterian Support Family Works base for the North Shore is now established in our building and that the official opening will be advertised when all is in place.
- Discussed the strap line for our letterhead and publications and decided to continue with "Diverse in faith together in love"
- Provided very positive feedback to Tokerau on his ministry here after nearly 2 months.



# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## The State of the Nation Report

Over the last ten years the Salvation Army's Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit has produced an annual State of the Nation Report, entitled Kei a Tatou (it is us). It is about the nation we are. This year's report was published on February 14. The full report is 67 pages long, full of tables, graphs and statistics which are analysed carefully from a Christian social justice perspective which cares for all members of society.

The report is available in three forms online at <http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/sites/default/files/uploads/20180214tsastateofthenation2018.pdf> . Usefully the report is divided into five sections: Our Children; Crime and Punishment; Work and Incomes; Social Hazards and Housing. At the end of each section, after providing statistics in tables and graphs and discussing them, the report evaluates the trends marking them "NC" no change, "+" a change in a positive direction and "-" slipping back in a negative direction. It is worthwhile studying this information from a Christian perspective - away from adversarial politics and media hype.

**Our Children.** *On the negative side*, there has been no change in the number of children abused or at risk; violence against children has risen slightly over the last year; the drop in youth offending made over the last few years has been lost by a recent slight increase. *On the positive side* indications are that there is a slight improvement in addressing child poverty which needs to be confirmed by further study. Improvements have been made in early childhood education participation in low income communities. Modest progress in educational achievement has been made between young people from poor and rich communities.

**Crime and Punishment.** *There are no positives.* There has been a change in the way criminal offenses have been recorded but estimates are that there has been no change in overall crime. This is true also of violent crime although there has been more reporting of family violence. The prison population continues to set new records and prison capacity needs to expand if present policies are to continue. Current ways of rehabilitating and reintegrating prisoners are failing. Two years after release over 50% of prisoners (65% for Maori) are re-convicted and re-imprisoned. Present policies are obviously not working, and imagination is required to rethink a different system.

**Work and Income.** *On the negative side.* There has been no change in benefits and pensions which would make a difference in addressing the problem of poverty and housing. Of major concern, in a country where there is a shortage of workers and an aging population, is the unemployment of about 70,000 people between the ages of 15 – 24yrs not in education, employment or training. Despite strong economic growth this has not trickled down into wages and salaries for working people. Rents, food and other living costs mean that there has been an increasing demand for food parcels for those on low incomes from the Salvation Army and other agencies. *On the positive side* there has been a steady growth in the number of jobs.

**Social Hazards.** “Social hazards are a set of social activities that many people find enjoyable, but pose risks to those undertaking these activities, their families and others in their communities.” *There has been no change* in the harm caused by alcohol consumption and gambling. *The negative* is the increased use of methamphetamine and hard drugs. “This growth offers the real possibility that parts of New Zealand, and especially its poorer suburbs and towns, may become plagued by chronic use and addiction to hard drugs, in much the same way as has occurred in parts of Europe and the United States.”

**Housing.** As we would expect from extensive media coverage, *it is all negative.* There is a shortage of a housing nationwide mainly because the last three years has seen immigration levels at 200,000 people per year. There have not been enough houses built. Housing affordability has continued to be difficult, with increases in house prices and rent rises outstripping income rises (the major reason for the demand for food parcels). Ongoing need for emergency housing appears likely. Household debt levels have risen to two to three times the rate of incomes. Of concern is the debt to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier lenders which tend to be exploitative. This has grown 11% over the last 5 years, *7% of this in the last year.*

In ancient Israel and in the past because of the small size of the community and the way communities worked, it was simpler for prophets to see the resulting suffering of injustice in the community. Today we live in silos, separated from each other. The teaching of Jesus is about a just society in which everyone has food, shelter and is valued. Thanks to the Salvation Army for providing a statistical snapshot of us to guide our thinking and, hopefully, action.

# WHAT THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE GET UP TO WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING...

While they spend plenty of time organising functions for the congregation, it appears that the Fellowship Committee also sneak off and clean the kitchen while no-one else is looking. Under the guise of meeting for “Fish and Chips”, look what they were really doing!!!



We were also able to benefit further from their efforts with the church picnic. This time with sunnier surrounds



## BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!!!

Still aiming for committee of the year (and making a decent play for it at the moment), the Fellowship Committee have also organised a trip to

### TIRITIRI MATANGI



*Photo credit: <http://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz/when-you-get-there>*

The Fellowship Group invite you to set sail to Tiritiri Matangi on Saturday, April 28 to spend the day with some of our endangered species of flora and fauna.

We are able to get a group discount of 5% if 10 -14 people go or 10% with 15 – 29 people. The regular price is \$70 (\$37.50 for children) which includes a guided tour in the morning.

Please indicate your interest to **Norma Baker 443 3108** and payment must be made by April 15. We will car pool to Gulf Harbour at 8:45 and return about 4:30.

**You must bring your lunch in a closed bag for biosecurity reasons.**

**No mice sandwiches!**

## SPECIAL COMMUNION

Our next Special Communion service for all parishioners especially those unable to attend regularly will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at 11:30 am. 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 April 4th.

# THE LUNCHEON GROUP

The next meeting of the Lunch Group will be held on Thursday  
12th April from 12 – 2pm.

Bring your lunch and a friend or two to be entertained by the world  
renowned **LIONEL REEKIE**, singer & accordionist.  
Trade table & raffles operating.



Our awesome team of Pastoral Visitors—  
don't be scared to give them a friendly wave, or cup of tea next  
time they are in your neck of the woods  
(there is another 6 absent & their efforts are equally appreciated).

## FAMILY WORKS PSN IS SHIFTING IN!!

We are pleased to announce that Family Works (Presbyterian Support) are moving a staff base for the North Shore into our building on March 19. This is one of 5 bases in Auckland. The staff provide a wide range of services for children and families. This will be our third point of contact with PSN. The others being the Dees Group which we run as a joint service and the Food Bank which we contribute to and assist with.

# **MONTH'S DUTIES**

## **April Flowers: Norma Baker**

### **1 April**

Welcome Team: Roopali Dayal (Readings), Glen Stanton (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Kay Barbour, Jean Hollings

Sound System: Kaz Handa

### **8 April**

Welcome Team: Mardi Donnell (Reading) , Valerie Grosse (Offering) ,

Morning Tea: Anita Schloss, Sylvana Whyborn

Sound System: Kaz Handa

### **15 April**

Welcome Team: Norma Baker (Reading), Sue Bowden ( Offering)

Morning Tea: Carol Dickeson, Yoshiko Tregethan

Sound System: Kaz Handa

### **22 April**

Welcome Team: Anne Pepper (Reading), Bronwyn Stone (Offering)

Morning Tea: Jill Wyman

Sound System: Peter Stone

### **29 April**

Welcome Team: Norma Baker (Reading), Dorille Shadbolt (Offering)

Morning Tea: Mardi Donnell, Sylvana Whyborn

Sound System: John Shadbolt

# 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 <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	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</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	Jenni & Allan Jones <b>478-5694</b>
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>