



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



In an Isolationship



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 ODD NEWSLETTER FOR ODD TIMES

This month's newsletter is brief. Much like the rest of the globe, all activities that we have done as a church community have been cancelled to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As a result, the contents of the newsletter are limited to contributions from Tokerau, Stewart and Karel.

To bring some smiles, there are also a couple of funnies and some photos from our prolific and talented Karel.

In addition, I have included some public health notices. It feels odd to be including public health notices in a church newsletter, but these are odd times and important messages.



**Clocks go back 5th April 2020
So we can stay home one less hour**



COVID 19: DECISION TO CEASE GATHERINGS

At the meeting of the Congregation held on Sunday 22 March a number of recommendations from Parish Council, to cease gatherings for services of worship and other church related activities, were considered and agreed.

We believe that the risk to the health and wellbeing of our members and those under pastoral care would be unnecessarily increased by continuing with our current church services and activities.

We will be putting in place communication by email, newsletter and telephone> we will be exploring other ways of keeping in touch and handling our spiritual needs. We are sending this as a letter by post to those who we do not have an email address for.

During this difficult time please remember that our church family is still intact.

- Our Minister Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph Phone 027 371 4733
Email tokerau.j@gmail.com
 - Our Administrator Joanne Wyman-Macer Phone 478 6180
Email office@bayspc.nz
 - Our Parish Clerk Stewart Milne Phone 027 293 8499
Email Stewart.milne@xtra.co.nz
 - Members of Parish Council, our Pastoral Visitors, our Support Worker for the Elderly and those who have particular responsibilities for our various activities, are all open to be contacted or to make contact with you. It is most important that we keep in contact.
 - Copies of the phone register are available via email on request
-

The church buildings are now not open and Joanne our Administrator will be working from home, Our Minister Tokerau cannot now be at the Church in the mornings and dropping food off at the church for the Foodbank is not going to work. Those are the ‘can’t happens’ but there are happenings: Tokerau is working on a service for Sunday which you will soon be advised on the way to access, and Pastoral Visitors are already making contact with those on their list.

I have been in touch with the **Foodbank** which is an essential service and which is experiencing heavy demand. If you wish to make a donation to the Foodbank the best way is to send some money either direct to the PSN Bank Account 06-0101-0075933-18 Use the Reference “Foodbank” or post to PSN PO Box 99890 Newmarket – again please specify “Foodbank”. Anyone making a donation and wanting a receipt send me an email and I will advise how to get it. Best wishes Stewart Milne



The following activities will not be taking place until further notice :
The 10am Sunday Church Services; The 6pm Sunday Hindi Services; the Choir, Parish Council and Committee Meetings; Girls Brigade; Dees Social Group; Mainly Music; Seniors Luncheon; English Conversations; Born Again Bodies; House Groups; Friday night family events.



We send our very best wishes to you at this time and assure you of our strong interest in your wellbeing. You are in our prayers.

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

Stewart Milne
26 March 2020



Members of the Indian Congregation lead in song.



The Wyman family were honoured at our service for the work they do for the Parish

UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

The following was taken from “How to Lead Your Ministry Team During Social Isolation” by Bart Garrett. It provides some useful advice for making it through a period of isolation...

I am a church planter and pastor, and I shared these words with my staff on Day 1 of living under shelter-in-place restrictions in the San Francisco Bay Area—restrictions that could last anywhere from three to twelve weeks.

None of us are prepared for the psychological and theological toll this season is going to take on us.

Ground yourself in God, scripture, and prayer.

My hope is that this list of suggestions might be helpful to you in the coming days and weeks.

- Practice not just good, but great self-care. If you typically take one walk in a day, take two. If you tend to stretch in the mornings, do so in the evenings, as well. If you read a book every couple of weeks, make it two.
- Don't be a COVID-19 news junkie. An update or two each day is sufficient.
- Staying spiritually grounded is crucial. Pray often.
- Practice “habit-stacking.” If you have a habit of brushing your teeth every morning, then attach a habit of praying the Lord's Prayer or reading a Scripture. If you have a habit of eating lunch each day, then attach the habit of praying through three things you are grateful for.
- Rhythms and routines become very important: Get up. Take a shower. Get dressed for work. Set the “boulders” in your schedule first (what is most important), then the rocks, pebbles, and sand of other tasks will fit in around them.
- Those three or four projects (the ones that you have been wanting to get done for months) — DO them! We all have that list of those things that we wish we could get to if everyday work didn't keep getting in the way.
- Connect with people more frequently than you normally do. You'd be amazed at how vital a “How you holding up?” check-in will be for them!

Every day, take stock of the “How am I doing?” question.

Don't suffer in silence. If you feel that you are beginning to struggle, be preemptive and reach out sooner!

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust Him (Romans 15:13).



A WORD FROM KAREL

Thoughts stimulated by Psalm 91

With the Covid-19 lock down my thoughts went back to difficult times. My family went through a difficult time during World War II. My parents, before I was born, shared a house attached to my grandfather's tailoring business which was bombed and destroyed in 1940. When I was born, they lived in another house which was badly damaged by an incendiary bomb. My grandfather and my father had been taken prisoner for forced labour in Germany. One of my Aunts was in a concentration camp. My Uncle was in prison because, as part of the resistance, he was caught cutting down Nazi propaganda. My grandfather was ill and managed to escape and find his way back home where he had to remain hidden.

My grandmother often read Psalm 91 over and over claiming it as her favourite Psalm. Usually my grandfather read the Bible out loud to us, but my grandmother was very deaf. (I chose the wrong grandmother!) She had to read the Psalm for herself in order to “hear” it.

Psalm 91:1-6

Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him, You are my defender and protector. You are my God, in you I trust.” He will keep you safe from all hidden danger and from all deadly diseases. He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you. You will not fear any dangers at night or sudden attack during the day or plagues that will strike in the dark or the evils that kill in daylight.

My mother used to say that my Grandmother read it with such vigour and conviction that she was surprised God did not drag the soldiers from the streets, make food appear in our empty cupboard to satisfy our hunger and light the fuel-less fire to warm the ice cold house.

That Psalm is one strand of Hebrew bible theology. God above the earth pulling the strings and setting things right for those whom God thought deserving.

Jesus had a very different understanding of God. He taught us that we ought to be like God in our love for others. God is with us and in us through Jesus Christ and we are his agents - his disciples and follow his example. God is not the divine rescuer. God nudges us in the right direction of justice and love if we but listen, open our eyes and minds.

But loving like Jesus is not to mimic him. We need to apply his teaching to our own time. At this time of Covid-19 we need to do the opposite of what he did.

Arthur Kleinman in his book, “Patients and Healers in the Context of Culture”, writes about there being, “two aspects of sickness: disease refers to a malfunctioning of biological and /or psychological processes, while the term illness refers to the psychosocial experience and the meaning perceived in disease.”

The story of Jesus healing a man with leprosy (the dreaded skin disease)

but not Hansen's disease (modern leprosy) is an example of this. You can read the story in Mark 1:40-45

The man comes to Jesus and kneels before him and says, "If you want to you can make me clean." The disease was believed to make a person ritually unclean, they could not take part in the worship of God, were banned from the village to live in the wilderness. Anyone who touched them also became ritually unclean.

Jesus was filled with pity. Possibly angry, as in some manuscripts record, at the way people with the dreaded skin disease were treated.

He stretched out his hand and touched him saying, "I do want to. Be clean." The man was healed of his social isolation, his spiritual rejection overcome. He had been touched, loved and accepted.

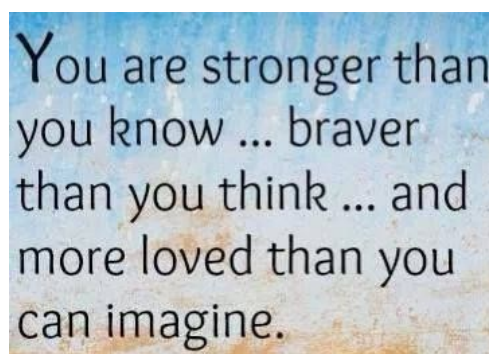
Jesus told him to go straight to the priest to be examined to prove to all that he had been healed and make the sacrifices Moses had ordered.

Love had healed this man. He was no longer rejected by all. Someone had touched him and considered him worthwhile.

In this strange time of Covid-19, follow Jesus in your loving, but don't mimic him in touching other than the people in your "Bubble," which are the people you live with. Love by keeping two meters away from anyone who does not live with you. That for some weeks will be the way we express our love for everyone in our community.

We are fortunate that we have modern communication methods and can reach out to those we love but must not touch or hug. That's much better than the young people in Jesus' time whose parents were banned from the village community. They had to converse with their parents who were confined to the wilderness by keeping 200 meters apart and sometime shouting across a valley.

At this testing time in world history that impacts us all, may we be creative in those things which show our Christian love and compassion. May we keep koinonia the Greek New Testament word for the church fellowship and communion alive despite this pesky virus.



You are stronger than
you know ... braver
than you think ... and
more loved than you
can imagine.



Self-isolation schedule

7am Stay home

8:15am Save lives

10:30 Stay home

1pm Save lives

2:37pm Stay home

4:30pm Save lives

7:30pm Stay home

9:15pm Save lives



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