



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER** **February 2018**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



*Our new Minister, Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph  
Induction is on Thursday 1 February 2018 7pm*

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Minister:** Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

**Mobile** 027-371-4733

**Telephone** t.b.a.

**E-mail:** tokerau.j@gmail.com

**Administrator:** Jo Wyman-Macer

**Office Hours:**      **Wednesday :**      via phone and email  
                              **Thursday - Friday:** 9am - 1pm  
                              **Telephone:**              478 6180.  
                              **Email:**                      office@bayspc.nz  
                              **Street Address:**        10 Penzance Rd,  
    Mairangi Bay.  
                              **Postal Address:**        PO Box 65299,  
    Mairangi Bay.  
                              **Website:** www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz

**Parish Clerk:**              **Stewart Milne**  
    **Telephone:** 478 5786  
    **Mobile:** 027 293 8499

**Treasurer, Property & Finance:**  
                                  **George Wyman**  
                                  **Telephone:** 478 6411

**SUNDAY SERVICES: 10am**

**HINDI SERVICES: Sundays February 4th and 25th at 6 pm**

# 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 CONVERSATION**  
1pm—2.30pm Wednesdays 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 Raewyn Henderson Ph 410 4423.
- **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 The Administrator Ph 478 6180



## FROM THE RETIRING MINISTER

January 2018

Dear Friends

As the Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph will be inducted as Minister of the Parish on 1 February, this is the last Minister's letter I am writing as Minister on stated supply and Interim-Moderator.

The Christmas period has been a busy one starting with a wonderful Choral Service which ended with a memorable rendition of "O Come all you Faithful," accompanied by the organ with all stops out. It will be memorable because it will be the last one which Patricia Campbell conducts because of her failing health. She has conducted the choir for many years and has been a church organist for 70 years in various churches. As an organist, choir trainer and conductor she has maintained very high standards which have added much to our worship services. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with her and Fraser as they face the challenges in their life's journeys.

On December 20 we had the funeral for Joyce Sweetman, who for many years lived next door to the church, and for the last few lived at Northbridge.

With the induction of a new Minister to the Parish I will repeat similar things to what I wrote when we last inducted a Minister.

It is easy for a congregation to put huge expectations on a newly appointed Minister. It will take Tokerau some months to get to know the Parish and discover our unique ways of doing things. Furthermore, Tokerau will want to do things differently and there will be adjustments to make on our part.

With the appointment of a minister some Parishes heave a huge sigh of relief, saying overtly or under their breath, "that is the Minister's problem now." Mairangi and Castor Bay is not like that. I am sure we will maintain our commitment and not overload the Minister. There are so many good things happening, and we are welcoming new members.

In our tradition the Minister is an elder with the special functions of Word and Sacrament. Sometimes the Minister is called the "teaching elder" and they interpret that role in their own way. Each Minister has his or her own style, strengths and weakness. It helps if the Parish can use their strengths rather than criticise their weaknesses. They are people very committed to the way of Jesus Christ.



Ministers as everyone knows have extrasensory perception! They sit down in their study each morning, raise a hand in the air and know who is in hospital, who needs an urgent pastoral visit or is facing a personal crisis! Yeah, right! No, the Minister relies on elders and members of the congregation for information. Please tell the Minister if you have a need, or if you know of someone who is sick or has some other need. It is much more helpful to know at the time rather than after the fact. Do not assume that another person has told the Minister. It's better to be informed several times rather than not at all. If you are telling the Minister about another person's situation, it is courteous and helpful to ask that person's permission to do so.

We need to remind ourselves that Ministers have obligations outside the Parish, to the Presbytery and wider church, as well as to their family and require time for their own physical, spiritual well-being and interests. Ministers need quiet time and space for their own spiritual development.

Each one of us sees only a fraction of their involvement. As a supervisor of clergy from various denominations over the years, I know that Ministers tend to overwork, which prevents them working efficiently. This can place an enormous strain on their family.

When I was contemplating my call to Ministry, an older minister took me aside and told me that he felt that Ministry is like being a juggler performing with a couple of dozen balls in the air, with an audience of three hundred to whom only one ball is visible.

We are in for a stimulating and interesting time with Tokerau and Tangi and their family.

I have enjoyed my time as Minister on Stated Supply. I have grown spiritually and deepened friendships. We are a remarkable, resilient and gifted church community. I am sure that with Tokerau's ministry, what has developed over the years will grow and Jesus Christ will be made known in this community. Please remember Tokerau and Tangi and their family in your prayers.

May God richly bless us as we care for one another and the community in which we serve.

Shalom  
Karel Lorier



*Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph  
And his wife Tangi at  
the airport in Raratonga  
after a visit to the Cook  
Islands in July 2014  
after Tokerau graduated  
with a PH D in May  
2014*

After a 13-year ministry at First Church, Dunedin, as senior minister, The Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph is returning with his family to Auckland, where he was raised, to be our Minister. He is looking forward to be closer to his extended family in Auckland.

Dr Joseph was born in Rarotonga. His parents were Otiikore Joseph from Manihiki and Joyce Joseph from Rakahanga (Nee Henderson—related to Malcolm and Raewyn of our parish). He came with his family to New Zealand in 1969, living in Grey Lynn, then South Auckland, before moving to Dunedin to train and then serve as a Minister.

His PhD research was an exploration of ethnic relations in congregations of the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand. His research found that, although churches often profess to represent a range of ethnicities and cultures, that is rarely the case. He suspects this is because it simply requires less effort to be with a familiar cultural group. We will be extending our horizons!

Tokerau and Tangi, his wife, will be living in the Manse with their son, Paul, who is in Year 10 at Westlake Boys and their married daughter, Angel Matapo and her husband, Manu, and their children, Ananiah (7), Kimi (5) and Mastell (2)

We look forward to welcoming them.

## UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At our first Parish Council meeting for 2018 (Note: we don't usually have a Parish Council meeting in January but this year is starting off being particularly busy !!) we:

- spent time on pastoral matters. Those who have attended church recently will know from Karel's reports on our members who are experiencing major health problems the nature of those problems and the appropriate level of support needed. Our thoughts and prayers are with them
- were advised of the resignation of Melinda Gama who has been our Social Worker for the Elderly for about 5 years. Melinda has shifted up to Mangawhai. Melinda has been very helpful as an advocate and organiser for some of our members and other elderly people in the community whom we have identified as needing assistance. Parish Council is keen to find an appropriate person to replace her.
- gave heartfelt thanks to Karel who with great support from Erica has done a wonderful job in providing leadership over the last 19 months. An opportunity for us all to say a collective thank you will occur on 21 January after the service when we have a thank you lunch.
- discussed the situation and options with respect to changes in responsibility for : music, choral services, mainly music, the newsletter, the Church and Community Committee and the Fellowship Committee. While some of these matters are being sorted others will continue to be worked through as our new minister (Rev Tokerau Joseph) moves into his position. Meanwhile if any members have ideas in these areas and/or feel able to contribute please talk to me or any Parish Council member.
- spent time planning for the Induction Service for Tokerau which is to be held at 7pm on Thursday 1 February. We are expecting a full (to overflowing) church with many representatives from other churches and the Pacific Island community. This will be a great occasion. For those attending (and we are looking for a strong representation from our parish) if you can walk up from Penzance or Hastings please park on the road and leave the on site parks for the elderly.

**Note:** The Joseph family – Rev Tokerau Joseph, wife Tangi Joseph, their son Paul (who will be attending Westlake), daughter Angel Matapo and her husband Manu Matapo with their children Ananiah (7), Kimi (5) and Mastell (2) have moved into the Manse. We can expect to see them at the service on 28 January and of course at the Induction Service on 1 Feb.

*We look forward to 2018*

*Stewart Milne*

# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## Neuroscience and Christianity

I have been interested in neuroscience (study of the brain) since my university days. Over the last few months I have read recent books on the subject and re-read one which I read a couple of years ago. The brain is very complex, in fact much more complex than was thought a few decades ago, when it was pictured as like a computer. Our brain is the most complex structure that we know of in the universe.

Much about the brain is still a mystery. Nevertheless, there are three things we are as sure of as we can be, which are of interest to Christians:-

**The first**, is that our brain is wired for empathy, trust and love. To be a healthy individual we need to receive and give empathy, love and to trust. Although the brain structure is there for empathy, trust and love, it needs the right conditions to develop. This happens first in the close bond of parent and child, and subsequently needs to be sustained by a community where love and empathy prevails. If a person fails to receive love and empathy as a baby or small child, it can develop at a later stage - if they are loved empathetically in a caring community. They need face-to-face time with individuals who can model empathy, love and trust.

The church ought to be such a community. Jesus' well-known parables and sayings are about such love, and the formation of a loving, caring community. Governments are recognising the importance of such development by granting parental leave so that parents can have time away from work outside the home to be with their baby. It is recognised that this stage of life is when empathy, trust and love develop. Without these characteristics a person cannot develop into a good member of society. However, governments are not consistent. We lock criminals away in places where they are most unlikely to find a community of empathy, love and trust.

Through work pressures, television and screen time people, especially young people, are spending less time face-to-face with other people. This has been shown convincingly to inhibit their key emotional development. There is a challenge for the church to reach out to people to provide a healing, empathetic, loving and trusting community.

**Secondly**, there is a structure in the brain known as the mirror neurons. These are there for imitating others. We learn by imitation. Our success as humankind depends on this ability. These neurons are closely related to the development of empathy, trust and love, as well as to other aspects of learning necessary to creatively live within a culture. One neuroscientist wrote that "you become like the person you study." We study the gospel and the teaching of Jesus. Jesus, after the parable of the good Samaritan, said, *"Go and do likewise,"* an invitation to imitate. Paul exhorts his readers in 1 Corinthians 11.11, *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."* There are many writings on spiritual direction which encourage us to

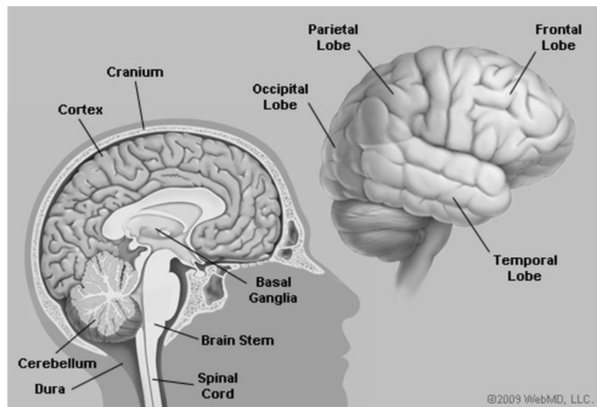
imitate Christ, the most well-known being by Thomas a Kempis, "The Imitation of Christ." For us seeking to be followers of Jesus, being his imitators and translating his life into our 21<sup>st</sup> setting, is a good way to go. Our brains are wired for it, ready for the task. As mature Christians we provide examples to others who are seeking to find ways to follow Jesus. That is an awesome responsibility.

**Thirdly**, the divided brain. Our brain is divided into two unequal hemispheres. As a simplification, the hemispheres have different modes of thinking. Again, as a simplification, the left hemisphere is the rational part of our brain: the right hemisphere is the artistic, visioning, imaginative, creative, global, metaphorical, musical appreciation and poetic part of our brain. The reality is much more complex as the hemispheres work together in some way on most tasks and modes of thinking.

Since the Greek philosophers, Socrates and Plato, the rational thinking of the left hemisphere has been given pre-eminence over the right brain. Right hemisphere modes of intuitive metaphorical thinking were actively disparaged by these philosophers. Left hemisphere thinking prevailed when the church was developing its creeds in the fourth century. The church leaders of the day dismissed intuition, mystery and paradox. The left hemisphere rational way of thinking has predominated in Western culture ever since those Greek philosophers. Only in the last few decades have the pre-eminence of this mode of thinking been seriously challenged.

Much of the Bible is metaphorical, parable, poetry, story and myth - requiring right hemisphere thinking to be understood. Our spiritual experiences are predominately of a right hemisphere intuitive nature. The Bible and our experiences of the sacred need to be understood on a large holistic canvas that allows for mystery and paradox. The left hemisphere does not allow for such thinking as it categorises and compartmentalises our world. Left hemisphere thinking has us taking the poetry of hymns and the Bible as if they were left brain factual creations. Such thinking has opened us up to the enemies of faith - dismissing faith and religion as naive and childish. Fortunately, current neuroscience counters such ill-informed dismissal of faith.

*Karel Lorier*



## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

**FOODBANK :** Our 40 boxes of Christmas treats were delivered to PSN office for distribution and were gratefully received and distributed to families in need of some Christmas cheer. We have continued to deliver our food donations to the foodbank over the period. Stocks are low.

**ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS:** These sessions are in recess over the school holidays – recommence 31 January

**DEES GROUP :** Dees recommenced on 11 January with 6 members attending. Consideration is being given to extending the size of the group by widening it beyond those experiencing memory loss.

**SCHOOL AIDING:** Both Tokerau and Tangi have expressed their interest in joining the school aiding programme. This will be followed up on.

**FAMILY WORKS (PSN) AND LEASE OF ACCOMM :** The North Shore FW Base at Albany is proving to be too small and isolated. The possibility of a move into our accommodation is being explored. FW is attracted to us because we are stated to be “PSN Friendly”

**MAINLY MUSIC:** recommences on 9 February. Pauline has just accepted another job which means she will probably be unavailable to take Mainly Music after the middle of February.

**GIRLS' BRIGADE:** is starting on 13 February and looking forward to a year of celebrating some significant milestones – 125 years since the organisation started world wide and 90 years since it started in NZ. They begin the year with a Disney theme – not sure what that involves! In December the three leaders and three senior members went out to dinner together to chat about plans.

**BORN AGAIN BODIES:** start s at Mairangi Bay on 24 January and at the other venues in that week.

**LUNCHEON GROUP:** The final luncheon group of 2017 was a Christmas themed gathering. The first meeting of the Lunch Group this year will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 12 -2pm. Bring your lunch & be entertained by Anthony Charles who is offering a musical extravaganza of country & jazz.

**FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP:** This group starts again on 16<sup>th</sup> February with the usual shared meal at 6.30pm followed by discussion and if anyone wants to be part of the group, the contact is Allan Jones ph 4785694 to get onto the list for the readings.

**NEWSLETTER:** Sue Bowden has agreed to take photos of parish activities and email them to the editor but we are still looking for an editor in place of Erica.

**COMMITTEE:** also looking for a convenor replacement for Erica.

# HEATHER GIBSON'S FAITH JOURNEY

Heather took some time with me to share her life story and her faith journey. Heather was brought up in a traditional Methodist family spending her early church life at Epsom Methodist involved in the usual church activities of the day. A stint at Business College prepared her for work at the University and then gave her the skills to follow her call to join the Order of St Stephen – a Methodist lay organisation which gives people a chance to serve the church in some way. In Heather's case it took her to a very hot but extremely fulfilling role as an administrative helper in Mission stations in the Solomons and New Guinea for a year.



She married Tony on her return to New Zealand and a year later they went to England for 3 years where the first of their 4 children (Jo) was born. They returned to New Zealand where the other children (Karen, Deborah and Andrew-Andy) were born. By this time they were living in Forresthill and involved in church life – Campbells Bay Methodist (20 years) then Baptist and briefly Pentecostal.

As I spoke to Heather, several themes in her faith journey stood out. She has very clear and vivid experiences of God speaking to her at times in her life. She felt called to join the Order of St Stephen, she felt a call to be ordained in the diaconate and fulfilled this by doing a two year course in Training for Lay Ministry and being appointed as a Lay Pastor. She felt called to leave the Whangaparoa parish and joined Mairangi Bay Presbyterian after Tony died in 2014. Her experience in a "Life in the Spirit" a spirituality course, introduced her to the idea of the Holy Spirit and personal gifts and this has been a major influence on her faith and life.

As she spoke about her activities through her life it became clear that one of her gifts is the ability to gather people in small groups into a loving community. She credits experience in Guides and Rangers, organising a neighbourhood Watch group, an M.E. Support group, many home groups, joint leadership with Tony of Air Scout group, training at Windsor Park Baptist as some of the experiences which confirm this gift of hers. Heather says " I see home groups as a place where people can share their struggles. They need a spiritual basis, Bible study, so they are not just chat groups." She sees herself as a facilitator rather than a top down leader.

She sees the Bible as being a basis for life. She sees Jesus as a friend, the Holy Spirit as an enabler and gift giver and because our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, God lives within us, not in the sky above. She does not think of herself as a theologian and feels she is "heart led" not "mind led or emotion led" faith.

Mairangi Bay is now the recipients of Heather's gift. Thank you, Heather for sharing some of your faith journey.

*Erica Brash*

## ***K@MP activities***



The December Family activities time was full of fun and laughter and was the end of activities in the meantime. Tash's contract has come to an end and planning for the New Year has not yet been done.

Kay, Pauline and Stewart (when required) provide activities on a Sunday morning.

## ***THE LUNCHEON GROUP***

The final luncheon group of 2017 was a Christmas themed gathering. The first meeting of the Lunch Group this year will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 12 -2pm. Bring your lunch & be entertained by Anthony Charles who is offering a musical extravaganza of country & jazz.

## ***PACKING CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES***

We were joined by many visitors at this service to help prepare food boxes, people from the Hindu service, Girls Brigade, the local community and even some ex parishioners came for a visit At this service Kay & Amy were presented with Girls Brigade Long Service Certificates.







## ***Choral Service***



## ***Communion Service - The Gulliver Family serving***



## ***Community Carols Service Entertainers***



## ***Christmas Service***



## JANUARY DATES

- **11 January, Thursday.** Dee's group started
- **24 January, Wednesday.** Born Again Bodies starts at Mairangi Bay. (1-2pm) All other venues start that week also
- **31 January , Wednesday** English Conversation group starts (1-2.30pm)

## FEBRUARY DATES

- **1 February, Thursday. Rev Tokerau's induction, 7pm**
- ***Please bring a plate for supper.***
- **4 February, Sunday.** Hindi service 6pm with shared meal
- **7 February, Wednesday.** Shadbolt's Home group starts with a bring and share meal and they will be looking at a Lenten study (7.30pm)
- **8 February, Thursday.** Luncheon Group. Anthony Charles will entertain with a country and jazz extravaganza. Trading table will operate. Bring your lunch (12-2pm)
- **9 February, Friday.** Mainly Music starts (10-11am)
- **13 February, Tuesday.** Girls' Brigade starts (6.30-8 pm)
- **14 February ,Wednesday.** Heather's Ladies Home Group start.s (10.15)
- **16 February, Friday.** Friday night discussion group starts with a shared meal at 6.30
- **25 February, Sunday** Hindi service 6pm with shared meal
- ***For detail and contact people for the groups, see P.3***

# 2018

## MONTH'S DUTIES

**February Flowers:** Jean Allan

**Note:** Because the schedule was put up very recently due to the Christmas Break, you need to check whether people have swopped or made other changes since the newsletter was printed.



### 4 February

Welcome Team: Ian & Patsy Watson (Readings, Offerings)

Morning Tea: Val Crawford, Anne Pepper

Sound System: John Shadbolt

### 11 February

Welcome Team: Sue Bowden (Offering), Valerie Grosses, (Reading)

Morning Tea: Kay Barbour, Anita Schloss

Sound System: Kaz Handa

### 18 February

Welcome Team: Jennie Pascoe (Reading), Norma Baker (Offering)

Morning Tea: Val Crawford, Carole Dickeson

Sound System: Kaz Handa

### 25 February

Welcome Team: Dorille Shadbolt (Offering ), Glen Stanton (Readings)

Morning Tea: Norma Baker, Yoshika Tregerthan

Sound System: Peter Stone

**March Flowers:** Norma Baker

### 4 March

Welcome Team: Anne Pepper (Offering ), Yoshiko Tregerthan (Readings)

Morning Tea: Betty Dance, Anita Schloss

Sound System: TBC

## CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2018

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Youth activities	4.00-6.00pm	Various venue	tba	
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver <b>478 4051</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	In recess	
Dees Social Club	10am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	7.30pm	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	Office Administrator
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>