



## **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **February 2017**

**Minister: Rev Karel Lorier**



***"It's hard not to be kind, Eh!"***

*Jeff Reardon  
Kaikoura resident*

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

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**SUNDAY SERVICE: 10am**
**WEDNESDAY COMMUNION: 2.30pm**

## PARISH ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY

- GIRLS' BRIGADE**  
 Tuesdays during School term. Church Hall 6.30-8pm.  
 First session for 2017 is 14 February  
 Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603
- GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**  
 Wednesdays Church Hall. 1.00-2.00pm  
 Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212
- LUNCHEON GROUP**  
 2nd Thursday of month 12-2pm in Church hall  
 First session February 9.  
 Entertainment by singer Susan Maxwell  
 Further information Raewyn Henderson Ph 410 4423.
- HOUSE GROUP**  
 Starts 8 February 7.30pm with a bring and share meal  
 at the Shadbolts.  
 Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**  
 Meeting 3rd Friday 6.30pm shared meal. Venue circulates.  
 For further information Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.
- DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**  
 Thursdays 10am Mairangi Bay Church Hall  
 For further information Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.
- MAINLY MUSIC**  
 Fridays during the school term. Church Hall 10-11am  
 Starts 10th February  
 Further information Pauline Gulliver Ph 478 4051
- WEDNESDAY COMMUNION**  
 Wednesdays 2.30pm in the church



## FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends

Christmas for us was a busy time of celebration. People who do not usually attend our services joined us in carol singing on Christmas Eve and on Christmas day for a celebration of Jesus' Birthday. The Christ candle was lit as well as the candle on the Birthday cake. We sang "Happy Birthday" and the congregation was given a piece of Christmas cake as they left the service.

In the media, there were the usual reports of Christmas acts of kindness. Such an outbreak happens each year, unfortunately evaporating shortly after. These came after what appeared to me to be a particularly brutal year, led by the abrasive, spiteful and aggressive US elections, the ghastly war in the Syria and ISIS. Closer to home there were many stories of bullying of vulnerable people on social media. These things grab the headlines and hog the news.

In contrast, there were many positive and good things that happened. One delightful story came from Kaikoura after the earthquake. Jeff Reardon, originally from Christchurch had stored crayfish to celebrate his wife's birthday. He thawed and cooked them and handed them out to stranded tourists. Asked why in a TV interview he said simply, "It's not hard to be kind, eh!" What he said went viral on media round the world and was printed on T-shirts in Kaikoura.

This is the message for the year, "It's not hard to be kind, eh!" Imagine how transforming it would be if we all looked out for occasions to be kind and treated every person we met as a loveable worthwhile human being deserving of kindness. I imagine it would be world changing if everyone caught the "kindness bug."

One of the exciting things happening in the Parish is the appointment of Natasha Easy as Youth Co-ordinator. She will organise a fortnightly programme for young people late on Saturday afternoon during term time.

Meeting another need, we will gather people who cannot attend church on Sundays and transport them to the church three times a year for a weekday time of fellowship and communion service.

On March 5 Steve Taylor, Principal of Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership, will be preaching and speaking to the young people. Steve is an excellent communicator and speaker.

One of the questions most asked during the grandparents and grandchildren service was about "happiness." This will be the theme of our service on Sunday the 2 April. Make sure the young people you are in contact with can be there.

*Karel Lorier.*



**Betende Handa**  
(Praying Hands)

By Albrecht Durer

Five Finger Prayer from America

This is beautiful - and it is surely worth making the 5 finger prayer a part of our lives.

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers..

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president no matter how you voted, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4 The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.

If you decide to send this to a friend, you might brighten someone's day! Pass this on to someone special.... I did

*Thanks to Marie Brunton for passing this on.*

## UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the November Meeting of parish Council we :

- Spent time on pastoral matters. Karel has been very busy with visiting those in hospital and those in need of visits.. Please continue to let Karel know when you become aware of someone in this category – including yourself.
- Decided to draft a proposal to send to other Presbyterian parishes on the North Shore to explore the viability and practicality of a shared way forward, whether it be with a limited or a significant number of parishes.
- Approved Karel's absence over the weekend of 10-12 February
- Approved the appointment of Natasha Easey as the part time Youth Coordinator. Natasha will be working an average of 6 hrs a fortnight arranging social activities for the young including those from other parishes who wish to join in.
- Considered the proposal from the Presbytery Council for the reorganisation of the Presbytery and agreed on its deficiencies and on what we see as an improved approach.
- Received advice on the 'can for a cup' initiative which Pauline Gulliver arranged in conjunction with Harcourts and the Montrose Café. This resulted in 260 cans of food being donated to the Family Works (PSN) foodbank prior to Christmas.
- Acknowledged the success of the Christmas parcels for needy families initiative which we repeated again in the lead up to Christmas. Members will now know the extent of the treats that go into these parcels thanks to the organisation of Karel and Pauline who designed the service in the hall to involve us all in the makeup of the boxes. These Christmas boxes were delivered to needy families who were identified by the Family Workers at Presbyterian Support.
- Discussed, amended and approved the Mission Plan for 2017. This is being recommended to a special meeting of the congregation held on 22 January. With an approved plan we are now in a position to take the first step towards calling a new minister.
- Decided that the time is right to approach the Presbytery to set up a Ministry Settlement Board to work through the process.

It is already shaping up to be a busy year with opportunities aplenty. It will be up to us all as to whether we can take these.

*Stewart Milne*



**Natasha Easey** is our newly appointed part-time youth coordinator (6 hours a fortnight).

She started work on .20 January and will spend the first couple of weeks planning her work with Karel and Pauline and others.

It is envisaged that Natasha will work with a wider group than our current youth group and will develop a regular programme for Saturday afternoons.

Natasha is a local resident who went to Rangitoto College and has a Bachelor of Music from Auckland University.

As well she has Certificates in Recreation and Sport, First aid, English as a second language, and Animal Care and these together with her interest in hiking and outdoor activities are evidence of her wide ranging skills.

We will welcome her formally in February when she has developed a proposed plan of social events for the young people.

Natasha joins our Elder care worker, Melinda Gama and Margaret Pont, who works with Dee's group, as another of our fantastic team with specialist skills, as well as all those many people in the congregation who contribute from their experience and talents.

If you talk with other congregations, you realise how very fortunate we are in this regard. We are greatly blessed in both members and church buildings and we need to recognise that and be good stewards with our gifts.

# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## The Problem of Evil

Evil is a problem, especially for those who believe in a good, all-powerful, loving God. The problem is so significant it has its own name - "theodicy" - coined by the philosopher Leibniz (1646 -1716) who had his own suggested answer to the problem. In discussing evil, it is usual to divide evil into three categories, supernatural evil, natural evil, and moral evil.

**Supernatural evil** has been abandoned by most people as a solution in the 21st century. It attributed evil to the action of the devil. Humankind and the world was seen to be a battlefield between God and the Devil. Microbiology, meteorology, plate tectonics, neuroscience and other sciences have provided the explanation for what were previously thought to be the work of the devil. Such supernatural belief also undermine belief in one good God, because God had a rival. Mythology developed to explain that the devil was once a good angel who had rebelled against God. The writer of Ephesians certainly believed in this when he wrote, "for we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age."

This view is still found in some traditional hymns and held by some conservative Christians. By taking antibiotics, and going to a medical Doctor when they are ill, rather than seeing an exorcist, people reveal that they no longer believe in the supernatural origins of these things. However, when we struggle with a tangled garden hose we might think that there is some devilish evil force acting against us!

**Natural evil** such as earthquakes and violent storms are perceived to be evil and, as we have seen in the last few months, counted as divine punishment by some people. Science has revealed these are natural processes. If they did not affect human life and occurred in isolated places they would attract scientific curiosity and disturb us, but no more than that. Human perception classifies them as evil when human beings are affected. They are naturally occurring events as part of the evolving universe,. However, with global warming increasingly linked to human activity and other human modifications to the environment, human activity is starting to play a part.

**Moral evil** is the evil done by human beings. We all experience an inward pull between good and evil. The traditional Christian doctrines originated with St Paul (although there are different interpretations of some of the Pauline readings) and Augustine of Hippo. Augustine (354-403) was influenced by Manichaeism dualistic philosophy which saw us all caught up in that great battle between good and evil spiritual forces.



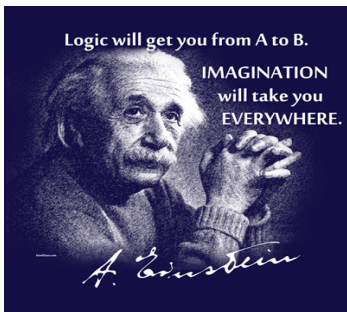
He interpreted the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden tempted by a snake to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as the fall of humankind. (Some contemporary theologians see the story as the rise of humankind as they evolved into moral awareness.) According to Augustinian thought, through Adam's sin all humankind are polluted by evil through sexual reproduction and therefore subject to "original sin" and are total depraved. Human beings are incapable of doing any good without the action of God in Jesus Christ mediated by the sacraments of the church. (This was good for church attendance!) When Augustine first proposed this, Pelagius an Irish monk and scholar, travelled to Rome and argued against Augustine's point of view. The argument raged to and fro with one side or the other receiving the backing of the church authorities. Eventually the followers of Pelagius were excommunicated as were the semi-Pelagians who took a more moderate position. During the debates of the issue both sides had become more extreme. The Augustinian view prevailed and influenced the churches of the Reformation.

The problem with the Augustinian explanation is that it does not accord with the teaching of Jesus, who expected people to make decisions about how they lived their lives. Jesus appears to be much like the Jewish rabbis, who said that humankind has within them "good inclinations" which pull them towards the good and "evil inclinations" which pull them towards evil. We are pulled by these inclinations throughout our lives. Some more to one than the other. This makes good worth striving for as it is only achieved after a struggle.

The problem of evil and a good God is diminished if we understand the universe being **in** God, but God being **more** than the universe. What we then see is that evil is product of the evolving universe. This does not make moral evil any less real, but explains why there is a loving God yet evil happens in the world. Evil in the world is part of the human condition. As far as we know we are the only beings capable of making moral decisions.

Albert Einstein writes, "the real problem here is in the hearts and minds of men. It is not a problem of physics but of ethics. It is easier to denature plutonium than to denature the evil spirit of man." Jesus in discussion with his disciples about what makes people ritually unclean says, "For from the heart come the ideas which lead him to kill, commit adultery and do other immoral things; to rob, lie and slander others." Matthew 15:16ff

*Karel Lorier*



# December was a busy month which reflected the celebration and meaning of Christmas

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## CELS OF CHRISTMAS TREATS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

Family services at the Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church which are held on the first Sunday of the month tend to be different and the December one was no exception. Members of the congregation had donated treats in the weeks before and the service was a 'packathon' with tables competing to answer quiz questions and packing Christmas boxes with a wide variety of Christmas treats.

The end result was 39 boxes bulging with Christmas cheer.

The boxes will be distributed through Family Works sites in the Presbyterian Support's Northern Region. The Family Workers and Social Workers in Schools who are based at those sites are well aware of the families where these Christmas boxes will bring some cheer.



The packathon in progress  
The wrapped parcels in the station wagon ready for delivery to the Foodbank.



*Article and photos which also went to the local papers . Stewart Milne*

## December 16 Coffee for a Can

The Foodbank (and the City Mission) were the recipients of the generosity of Montrose Cafe Bistro Bar in Mairangi Bay who gave away a coffee for a can of food for an hour. 260 cans were collected. Thanks to Pauline and Harveys for the idea and organising it.



## December 18

### The pre-Christmas carol service.

The choir was conducted by Trish Campbell and her sister, Jennifer Gash, played the organ

The service was followed by a special morning tea and thanks to all involved in making it such a special occasion.



## December 24

Christmas Eve carol singing was pre-ceded by a snack and chat in the hall.

Jonathon Vanderhoorn played the piano and Vaughan Robertson accompanied on the guitar.

*Photos Kaz Handa*

## Christmas Day Family Service

We had many visitors and a large congregation for this service.

A couple of visiting Quakers introduced themselves and said they came for the singing at Christmas because Quaker 'meetings' do not have music. Those attending "Jesus Birthday party" left after collecting a piece of birthday cake.

## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

**DEES GROUP:** We had a special Christmas lunch at Dees on Thursday 22 December and then resumed again on 5 January. When we first started the Dees Group we were advised that over the holiday period is particularly difficult for both the person living at home with dementia and the caregiver. Consequently we try not to have weeks when there is no group meeting. It has been great to welcome Albert Ryter back as a volunteer. He has had time away from Dees whilst involved in producing a family record. Who can guess how many grandchildren and great grandchildren Albert has?

**FOOD BANK:** Our 39 Christmas boxes were very much appreciated and were distributed to needy families who were identified by the Presbyterian Support Northern (PSN) Family Workers prior to Christmas. The idea of involving the congregation in the packing of the boxes was great.

Thanks Pauline and Karel for organizing it so well.

The 'canforacup' initiative (organized by Harcourts, Pauline and Montrose) resulted in 260 cans of food being taken to the PSN Food Bank. This also took place just before Christmas. January and February are lean months for food donations and so once again our contributions are very much appreciated.

Pat continues to collect knitted garments for PSN FamilyWorks and brings these to the church for delivery to the foodbank. She has picked up one of the many tasks that Olwyn was fulfilling.

**SCHOOL AIDING:** Those of us assisting with a weekly session of volunteer aiding were thanked by the school at a special morning tea at the end of the term. Primary schools are recommencing early in February and if you are at all interested in joining the school aiding team please give Colin Nicholas a ring on 478 7801.

Believe me it is good fun getting to meet young children and helping them with reading or other activities. The commitment is flexible with a single session of an hour and a half a week when able.

A note is not required if absent !!!

*Stewart Milne*

Girls Brigade, the Luncheon group, Mainly Music. The Friday Night Discussion Group, the House Group, and Born Again Bodies all had a break over the Christmas period.

**GIRLS' BRIGADE** recommences on 14<sup>th</sup> February at the usual time with a floral theme.

**BORN AGAIN BODIES** starts on 18<sup>th</sup> January at Mairangi Bay (and in the same week at other venues) with the programme of simple exercises to strengthen bone density and improve balance, particularly important for the elderly.

**MAINLY MUSIC** starts again the Friday after Waitangi Day (10 February) and there are spaces for newcomers for this popular activity of dance and music for pre-schoolers, so let your friends and relatives know. This activity is being advertised in the February edition of "Village News".

**THE LUNCHEON GROUP** starts on 9 February at 12 noon. Bring your own lunch. The entertainer will be Susan Maxwell, a very popular singer.

**THE FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP** met in November for discussion and then in December for a social evening and starts again on 17 March. This group meets in various people's homes for discussion on the 3rd Friday of the month after a shared meal at 6.30pm. The discussion is prompted by a collection of articles sent out by Allan and Jenni and concludes about 9pm. For more information phone Allan or Jenni Jones 478 5694

## FACEBOOK USERS

For those of you who are Facebook users, I have created a page for our church. It is an easier way to communicate activities that are coming up and we can arguably reach a wider audience. I will also add a link to our website. It would be really good if those of you who do use Facebook could like the page. I want to work out how to manage posts etc so if you could start posting and sharing, that would also help me to learn. The page is: <https://www.facebook.com/bayspresbyterian/>



*Pauline Gulliver*

## **Housegroup**

The House Group will start on Wednesday, 8 February 2017 at 7.30 pm at the Shadbolts with a bring and share meal. All are invited to join us. Telephone Dorille or John on 479 3953 if you want any additional information.

## **Hospital Service - 19th February**

It is our turn to assist with helping to bring those patients who wish to come to the hospital service in the chapel. It requires about half a dozen helpers to roll the beds from various wards to the chapel.

For further details talk to Sylvana Whyborn Ph 410 5882



## **Calling All Singers**

Rehearsals for this year's **Palm Sunday Choral Service (April 9)**

Start on **Thursday, February 16 at 7.15pm** in the Church Hall.

New members are welcome. Contact *Patricia Campbell* Ph 476 0377



## **A Fusion of the Clans!**

The Fellowship Group invite you for some summer fun and music on Tiritiri Matangi on **Saturday, March 4**. Bring a picnic and enjoy an evening concert in a stunning environment. Come on the 9am ferry and stay for the whole day or arrive on the special concert ferry which will leave Auckland at 1pm and come via Gulf Harbour at 1:50pm arriving on Tiritiri at 2:20pm.

The concert runs from 4:30 to 6:30pm so there's plenty of time for a walk with the birds and a swim beforehand. The ferry departs after the concert.

Contact Norma Baker for more information on 443 3108.

## **Advance Notice - Ballentyne Fashion Show**

We will be holding a Winter Fashion Show at Ballentyne's in Albany on Monday, 3 April 2017 at 6.30 pm. This will be a combined function with the Afrikaans Christian church. Drinks and nibbles will be served and a 10% discount will be available for any purchases in the week following the fashion show. Cost of tickets will be \$15.

Please let all your friends and relatives know so that they can support this function. You can contact Dorille on 479 3953 if you want to pre-book tickets.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

## MONTH'S DUTIES

**February** Flowers : Rae Pascoe

### 5 February

Welcome Team	Kay Barbour (readings), Valerie Grosse (offerings)
Morning Tea	Betty Dance, Anita Schloss
Sound system	Kaz Handa

### 12 February

Welcome Team	Marie Brunton, Ken Brunton (readings, offerings)
Morning Tea	Val Crawford, Anne Pepper
Sound system	Kaz Handa

### 19 February

Welcome Team	Bronwyn Stone (readings, offerings) Raewyn Henderson
Morning Tea	Sue Bowden, Raewyn Henderson
Sound system	Peter Stone

### 26 February

Welcome Team	Bronwyn Stone (reading, offerings), Raewyn Henderson
Morning Tea	Sue Bowden, Raewyn Henderson
Sound system	Peter Stone

**March** Flowers : Norma Baker

### 5 March

Welcome Team	Norma Baker, Erica Brash (readings, offerings)
Morning Tea	Jill Wyman, Anne Pepper
Sound system	John Shadbolt

## CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2017

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Youth and children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver <b>478 4051</b>
	T.B.A.		Saturday pm	Natasha Easey <b>021 02320751</b>
Born Again Bodies	1.00—2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme <b>479 2212</b>
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays from 16/2 to Palm Sunday	Patricia Campbell <b>476 0377</b>
Dees Social Club	10.00am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Fellowship Group	To be advised	To be advised	To be advised	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>
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour <b>478-7603</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt <b>479-3953</b>
Luncheon Group	12.00 noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Raewyn Henderson <b>410 4423</b>
Mainly Music	10.00am-11 am	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver <b>478 4051</b>
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>