



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

July 2018

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph



<http://www.photos-public-domain.com/2011/01/20/sunny-winter-day/>

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

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 Ph 478 6411.



- **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



mainly
music

AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Kia orana and greetings.

In the last week, certain events have impressed upon me the themes of community and hospitality. A wonderful dinner with Rev Karel Lorrier and Erica Brash, the launch of Family Works, the church lunch at Montrose Restaurant, and the various pastoral visits provided opportunities of connecting with people. Building community through hospitality is a fundamental part of our life as a church. It is something we do, not only with those inside the church, but also with those outside. I came across an article by David Barnhart entitled “The risks of hospitality” (<https://www.ministrymatters.com/reach/entry/6446/welcoming-the-outsider>) that I found helpful in exploring this area. I’ve cut out some parts (due to its length) but hope you may find it encouraging.

Jesus shapes the dialogue about who is an outsider or an insider when a lawyer asks him, “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29). Jesus responds by telling a story about several people who ignore a man in need and a Samaritan, the ultimate outsider, who responds to the person. Jesus challenges all of us by asking, “Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man?” Part of the message of the gospel is that grace often comes to us by people we don’t consider to be our neighbors or fellow insiders (Luke 10:30-37).

In Saint Augustine’s Confessions, he shares the argument of two friends. One claims he can be a Christian without being in a church. The other replies, “I will not believe it, nor will I rank you among Christians, unless I see you in the Church of Christ.” The first retorts, “Do walls then make Christians?”

Augustine observes that becoming part of a community of believers isn’t optional — it’s part and parcel of following Jesus. In this sense, walls do make Christians. There’s a distinction between those “inside” and “outside” — those inside affirm that they’re part of a group of Jesus-following believers.

We can easily envision a future in which church “outsiders” are the majority — if that future is not already here now. People feel alienated from church for a variety of reasons, and for many churches their biggest task is simply to reach outsiders at all. It takes courage for an outsider to set foot in a sanctuary, and it takes courage for a church to show welcome.

Welcoming outsiders involves risk, work and sacrifice — giving up the best seat at the table, sacrificing the fatted calf, putting out the good china and silverware (which might get cracked or stolen) or even changing our customs. Good hospitality means not embarrassing your guests if they use the wrong fork at the table or fail to stand at the proper place in the liturgy.

Reminding outsiders that they are outsiders is one of the best ways to make them feel unwelcome.

Churches rooted in the gospel naturally have an outward focus, a desire to welcome outsiders not simply for the purpose of making them insiders but also to experience the grace to be given and received in such an encounter. Jesus' own life embodies the risk and blessing of living out this welcome. We experience him both as host of a banquet and a guest at our table, and in his death and resurrection we see a life open to danger and to transformation by simply welcoming the outsider.



The opening of Presbyterian
Support Northern Family
Works offices at Mairangi
Castor Bay Church

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the June meeting of Parish Council we:

- spent time on pastoral matters. Tokerau then led in prayer for those within our church family who are needing support
- congratulated Kay Barbour who after 55 years of service to the Girls Brigade has been presented with an Honorary Life Membership Certificate.
- were advised of a successful opening of the North Shore base for Family Works which is now situated in our premises. Family Works is the branch of Presbyterian Support Northern assisting with family issues. This event provided us with the opportunity to share with those attending a snapshot of the many community activities which take place in our church premises. Tokerau made good use of this opportunity and it was much appreciated
- confirmed the new procedure for publicising events. Erica Brash has accepted responsibility for liaison and organising so that those who are responsible for an activity and wish wider publicity through the many channels available can achieve this through Erica.
- received a message of appreciation from the Vanuatu building team at Hibiscus Coast Church for our donation towards the ablutions block project
- received advice of a grant from PressGo towards the cost of our Hindi Mission project
- gratefully acknowledged the contribution made by George Wyman son in laws (Steve and Andrew) – Steve for the fixing of the bell and Andrew for his frequently needed work on the computer system
- considered the draft 2018/19 parish budget which will now be further considered by the Property and Finance Committee before reporting back to the July meeting of Parish Council and then on to the AGM in August
- agreed that Prue Bell will become our musician for the first 2 Sundays each month commencing on 5 August
- were updated by Erica on the plans for the winter conversations series which will be held with a soup and bun lunch over 4 Saturdays in August. The overall topic to be “Thinking outside the cell” with speakers on a variety of subjects associated with prisons and prisoner rehabilitation



- followed up on the invitation from the Mairangi Business Association for participation in a picnic and carol singing event to be held on 12 December
- decided to vote for Rev Rose Luxford as Moderator Designate for PCANZ
- accepted the offer of Karel Lorier to be our parish link to the Friday night discussion group which involves people from within and outside of our parish.

Stewart Milne

LUNCHEON GROUP A Mid-Winter Christmas

On the 12th July, from 12pm. – 2pm. the Luncheon group will be having a
MID WINTER XMAS LUNCH.

It will be a shared lunch so please BRING A PLATE.

We will be entertained by Jan Judson.

There will be a trade table and raffles.

Gold coins donation.



Hidden musical talents—Grace on the ukulele during June luncheon group

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

“We are at the Well”

Dr Deborah Bower Theologian, Spiritual life coach;

Dr Arda Jebejian Linguist, Author

Thursday 9 August 2018 11.30 am - 2.30 pm

Forrest Hill Presbyterian Church 151 Forrest Hill Rd

Forrest Hill, Auckland ALL WELCOME

KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

Labels

It is a common human trait to label ourselves and others, and for other people to label us with a label which defines our identity, for example Dutch, French or Maori, immigrant, Roman Catholic or Protestant and so forth. Those labels say very little about the sort of person we are. They can be used as a basis for prejudice when we are judged only on the label rather than who we are.

Early in Christian history, Christians started to label each other based on belief. The Apostle Paul, who was adamant that in Christ all such labels disappeared, nevertheless labelled those who differed from him as Judaizers. Later in Christian history, as the church was attempting to sort out what people ought to believe, lots of labels were used among them - Monophysites, Marcionites, Arians, Pelagians, Ebionites, Apollinarians and many more. Even more labels were produced at the time of the Reformation based on what people believed.

These labels in the bigger picture were not useful but generated a lot of heat at the time they were used. Nowadays we have a similar issue. Christians use labels for themselves and for others, such as Roman Catholic, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Bible Believing, Born Again, Progressive, Mainline Christian, Fundamentalist, Charismatic, and Liberal. Such labels can be divisive.

Some months ago, I read the book, "Lost in the Middle: claiming inclusive faith for those Christians who are both liberal and evangelical," by Wesley J. Wildman and Stephen Chapin Wesley. The book is about the USA and only some of it is relevant to New Zealand. However, I was fascinated by two tables of research quoted in the book, because they illustrate what my experience has been here.

The first is "The religious identity table from the Baylor Religion Survey". People were given a list of religious labels and asked to identify with these labels. They were then asked if the label was the best description of their religious identity. For example, "Bible Believing" was chosen by 47.3% of the sample, but only 20.5% said this was the best description of their religious identity.

%identifying with label	%saying label best description
Fundamentalist (7.7% of the sample)	1.0%
Conservative 17.6%	5.3%
Liberal 13.8%	9.1%
Charismatic 7.3%	0.3%
Evangelical 14.9%	2.2%

This is a sample of a much larger table, but it shows that, contrary to media interpretation and popular understanding, in the USA there are not large uniform blocks of opposing opinions among Christians. The labels are not an adequate description of Christian identity.

The second table from the Barna Group of researchers is more complicated. The researchers asked 14 questions about Christian belief and practice. This table reveals that there were variations of belief and Christian practice among the 8% who labelled themselves “**Conservative evangelical born again Christian.**” Agreements on belief varied from 58% to 100%. The 100% agreement were on the statements “Satan is a living being rather than being symbol of evil” and strong disagreement that “On earth Jesus Christ was human and committed sins” There was moderate disagreement on most other things we would associate with this label. The exception was that there was 95% agreement that “homosexuality is morally unacceptable.”

In the group 33% of the population labelling themselves “**Other - Born again Christian,**” the only agreements above the 50% level were, “Homosexuality is morally unacceptable” (59%), “Read from the Bible in the last 7 days,” (53%) and “Attended a church service in the past seven days,” (58%). There was wide disagreement over the remaining questions posed.

In the group 44% of the population who labelled themselves “**Not Born again Christian,**” only two questions are above 50% agreement, “Movies with explicit sex are acceptable,” (54%), and “Cohabitation is morally acceptable,” (65%). On other matters accepted in the USA to be touchstone issues for Christians there is wide variation of opinion.

What these two tables show is that Christians in the USA hold a wide range of views and Christian practice, despite the labels they have been given or give themselves.

Christian belief is often characterised by the extremes of minority beliefs and not by what most Christians think. Many find a dissonance between what they believe and hymns they sing, although they like the music!

Over many years talking to Christians on a one to one basis I have found the same to hold in New Zealand. Labels are useless in defining religious identity. People think for themselves and are shaped by their experiences. Labels may have come from their family of origin or the nearest church to where they live.

We need to look beyond labels and what people believe. We are followers of Jesus Christ who found love and faith in people bearing many different labels. The real test of our faith is not the label we bear, or the beliefs we hold, but how we serve with love and compassion those least brothers and sisters of Jesus. Interestingly that is the concern of the 70% of Christians in the USA who see themselves as lost in the middle between the extremes of "Conservative evangelical born again Christians" 8% and the "Not Christian religion, Agnostics, Atheist or non-religious," 15%.

A BIG THANK YOU

George Watt would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who supported him after the recent passing of Jean.

A special thank you to those who: -

attended her funeral

Knocked on my door

Spoke to me on the telephone

Sent me bereavement cards

Brought me baking and meals

Christianity is alive and well in our parish

George Watt



SPECIAL COMMUNION

Just some advanced notice for our next Special Communion service for all parishioners especially those unable to attend regularly will be held on Tuesday, August 7th 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 August 1st.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE CELL

A series of Community Conversations to look at prisons within the criminal justice system through fresh eyes, on the Saturdays through August 12.30-2pm

Programme

August 4 Do Prisons Work? Dr Kim Workman

August 11 What about the Victims of Crime? Colin Rose

August 18 Crime and Families Alistair Houston, Service Manager Family Works Northern

August 25 Rehabilitation and Reintegration Mike Williams, Chief Executive Howard League

Where – Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church hall (vehicle entry beside 10 Penzance Road, Mairangi Bay)

Donation -\$10 per session suggested

Please RSVP for catering purposes. Soup, rolls and a cuppa provided.

email:office@bayspc.nz (preferred)

or Phone 478 6180

Family time at the Hindi service

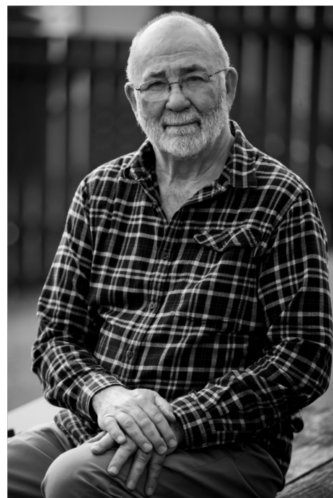


Thinking Outside the Square

How did you get on with the Quiz (answers are on the last page)? Were there any surprises for you?

We have been very lucky to have got Dr Kim Workman to open our series because he is particularly busy with a writing deadline pushing him. He agreed to come “because you are a church”. Since he is coming a long way, Tokerau invited him to speak on the Sunday also.

We are trialling a Saturday lunchtime slot for the series so come along and join in what will be a very thought provoking series on the Saturdays in August.



Kim Workman (of Ngati Kahungunu and Rangitaane descent) is a retired public servant, whose career spans roles in the Police the Office of the Ombudsman, State Services Commission, Department of Maori Affairs, and Ministry of Health. He was Head of the Prison Service from 1989 – 1993. He is a graduate of Massey University, and has completed post-graduate study at the University of Southern California, and Stanford University.

Kim was appointed to the position of National Director, Prison Fellowship in 2000, and retired from that position in 2008. In 2005, Kim was the joint recipient (with Jackie Katounas) of the International Prize for Restorative Justice. In 2006 Kim joined with Major Campbell Roberts of the Salvation Army, to launch the “Rethinking Crime and Punishment” Strategy.

Kim was made a Companion of the Queens Service Order in 2007. In the same year he was appointed as a Senior Associate to the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University, and an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Institute of Criminology, in 2012.

In 2012, Kim was a finalist in the New Zealander of the Year Award

He was the 2015 JD Stout Fellow at the Stout Research Centre for New

Zealand Studies, to write a book on “The Criminal Justice System, the State and Maori, from 1985 to the Present.”

He is currently a member of the Police Expert Advisory Panel, to oversee the Iwi Justice Panel process.

Kim was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by the Victoria University Council in 2016, and the same degree by the Massey University Council in 2017.

In 2018, Kim was awarded Senior New Zealander of the Year

Kim has six children, 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. His current interests include listening and playing jazz, and (unsuccessfully) learning to play classical piano.



MONTH'S DUTIES

1 July

Welcome Team: Ian & Patsy Watson (Readings and offerings)

Morning Tea: Val Crawford, Jean Hollings

Sound System: Kaz Handa

8 July

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

Morning Tea: Yoshiko Tregarthan, Jill Wyman

Sound System: John Shadbolt

15 July

Welcome Team: Anne Pepper (Reading), Dorille Shadbolt (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Norma Baker, Sue Bowden

Sound System: John Shadbolt

22 July

Welcome Team: Erica and Karel (Reading), Erica and Karel (Offerings)

Morning Tea: Jean Hollings, Sylvana Whyborn

Sound System: Kaz Handa

29 July

Welcome Team: Ian & Patsy Watson (Reading and Offerings)

Morning Tea: Val Crawford, Kay Barbour

Sound System: Peter Stone

CRIME QUIZ ANSWERS

1. **False.** They have been steadily decreasing. They are the lowest seen since the 1970s.
2. **True.** We are in a group with many Eastern block countries for example. The OECD average imprisonment rate is 147 per 100,000 for example. Ours is around 220 per 100,000.
3. **True.** 1/5 prisoners have a direct parenting role and their children are deprived of that parent and often as a result also deprived financially etc. and more likely to become offenders themselves in later life.
4. **True.** It not only helps the individual but affects inter-generational socialisation. Early intervention is more cost-effective than imprisonment.
5. **False.** With increased security cameras, better lighting, advanced vehicle locking systems, etc prevention is proving effective.
6. **False.** Regular 'fear of crime' surveys over 20 years show New Zealanders feel more fearful than their Finnish counterparts. Media tend to over emphasise crime reporting so that it feels worse than it is.
7. **True.** The average time on remand has increased from 45 days(2004) to 62 days(2015). About 28% prisoners are on remand currently. Pre-trial detention has the negative effects of potential loss of job, homes, relationships etc as well as acquiring more negative effects – getting gang connections, learning new anti-social skills, etc
8. **True.** 62% diagnosed in past 12 months (91% over time in general) but only 47% had had mental health treatment in that time.
9. **False** There have been very large reductions in the number of children aged 10 to 13 and young people aged 14 to 16 who offended (down from 5,139 to 2,109 children and down from 14,183 to 5,188 young people). More serious crimes have not reduced at the same rate as less serious ones and the reduction rates for Maori and Pacifica is not as good as for other ethnicities (including European).
10. **True.** All along the prison pipeline, from arrest to imprisonment, rates are disproportionately higher for Maori. They are also significantly more likely to be victims of crime than non-Maori.

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2018

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 021 0244 9616
Girls Brigade	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2.00pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay New Meeting Room 2.	Every Wednesday	Stewart Milne 478 5786
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
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays leading up to special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am	Mairangi Church lounge	10.00am-2.00pm Every Thursday	Margaret Pont 021 670 019
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver 021 0244 9616
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker 443 3108
Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	3 rd Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019