



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**May 2018**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



**Children's Day Service—March 2018**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Minister:** Rev Tokerau Joseph    **Mobile:**  
**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 Hastings Rd, Mairangi Bay.  
**Vehicle access:** Between 8 and 10 Penzance Rd.  
**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  
**Support Worker for the Elderly:** Margaret Pont  
**Telephone:** 027 225 8893

*Some of the images in our newsletter this month have been taken from our Children's Day service in March this year. Many thanks to Yoshiko Treggerthan for providing these wonderful pictures.*

# REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES



**GIRLS' BRIGADE -** Tuesdays 6.30-8pm  
During School term only. Church Hall.  
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603



**LADIES HOME GROUP -** Wednesdays 10.15am.  
Contact Heather Ph 479-8822 for further details.



**BORN AGAIN BODIES -** Wednesdays 1-2pm  
Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212



**ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS -** Wednesdays 1-2.30pm  
New Meeting Room 2.  
Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786



**HOUSE GROUP -** Wednesdays 7.30pm a  
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.



**LUNCHEON GROUP -** 2nd Thursday of month 12-2pm  
Church hall  
Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.



**DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP -** Thursdays 10am-2pm  
Church Hall & Lounge  
For further information Stewart Milne Ph 478 5786.

**FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**  
3rd Friday 6.30pm A meeting & shared meal.  
Venue circulates. For further information contact  
Jenni & Allan Jones Ph 478 5694.



**MAINLY MUSIC -** Fridays 10-11.30am  
During the school term only. Church Hall  
Further information Margaret Callaghan Ph 027 885 4408

# AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Kia orana and greetings.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. Another Easter has come and gone, and what a wonderful experience our services were. The theme for the Good Friday service was “Darkness covered the whole country” (Luke 23:44). The windows were covered by black cloth and the lit candles were gradually extinguished after selected readings, followed by a moment of silence, and a sung verse to “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” The effect was very powerful enabling people to imagine themselves with Jesus on his journey to the cross.

The spirit of joy was very evident in the Easter Sunday service that was extremely well attended. The larger-than-usual number of children made for a great children’s time that made our time of learning together with adults a highlight. Christ’s resurrection power is something we can’t scientifically explain easily, but one, nonetheless, we can experience in the transformation of our lives by faith in Christ.



It was also extremely pleasing to have led the special Holy Communion service for those who were not able to attend at Easter. Despite the heavy rain and challenging driving conditions, over 20 people attended. I give thanks to God for the strength and faithfulness of those who braved the elements to share together at the Lord’s Table. Thank you to the many who organized pickups, seating arrangements, lunch, and cleanup.



Another highlight was being able to host a visiting group from Tahiti. They came as an education experience for children (Primary & Intermediate), teachers, and parents at various schools in Auckland. Forty-two of them along with many of my wider family who hosted them in South Auckland attended a meal in our hall. After visiting Snow Planet in Silverdale, they enjoyed a hot meal while being entertained with singing and dancing. Thank you to our Parish folk who were available to join in a most memorable evening. The group also gave some gifts for the parish for which we are truly humble and grateful. Please enjoy the photos taken by Petra Henderson.



# UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At the April Meeting of Parish Council we :

- welcomed Raewyn back
- spent time on pastoral matters, Tokerau led us in prayer for those needing support
- received positive feedback on the Easter Camp. We are looking to show the video in a service
- finalised the wording on the “Who We Are” brochure and decided to use it for general distribution and in a letterbox drop together with an invitation prior to a special service or event later in the year.
- decided to bring extra emphasis on Christian Education and Worship through two separate committees which Ian Watson will convene. Membership will be enhanced.
- received advice from John Shadbolt on the decisions taken by the Northern Presbytery Council including the intention to re-introduce parish reviews
- discussed the Code of Ethics for Ministers, Employees and Volunteers which the PCANZ has produced and adopted it to replace our previous codes.
- authorised the signing of an agreement with Rev Raju George which highlights our mission of reaching out to the Indian Community. Services in the Hindi language will be held on the last and first Sunday evenings of each month (29 April and 6 May)
- agreed to the appointment of Margaret Pont as our Support Worker for the Elderly. Margaret has been the Co-Ordinator for the Dees Group for 7 years and fits our requirements for the position. Those wanting Margaret’s involvement for giving advice to or advocating for themselves or someone they know of in the community should see Tokerau, Norma or me
- decided that our communications to members and to the community need a shake up so that what is going on in our parish is more widely known
- **were advised that our special appeal to address our deficit in offerings had reached \$7k which without further contributions will still leave a deficit for the year ending 30 June.** In this regard Parish Council considered the 2017 membership and offerings per member statistics for North Shore parishes which PCANZ has released. This shows our parish to be 3<sup>rd</sup> from the lowest in offerings per member. Parish Council asked for a strategy to be developed to address this issue.

Stewart Milne



# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## The Boston Declaration

From this distance we look at the United States of America and wonder how Christianity can be reconciled with current policies. These policies included Gun ownership, racism, anti-immigration, anti-Islamic sentiment, unjust treatment of Mexicans who came into the country as young children years ago, hawkish foreign policy and deliberate actions on the part of the government to create inequality between rich and poor, by taking health care resources from the poor and giving money saved to those who are already super wealthy.

We wonder as Christians in secular New Zealand, where the state's attitude to religion is neutral, that this can happen in a country where church and state are much more closely tied. For example, to be a political candidate for the Republican party, church membership is important and there appears to be a preference for those who attend white evangelical churches. Even presidential candidates must declare their church membership.

It appears that we are not the only ones concerned and puzzled by these apparent contradictions between the declared faith and the resulting actions. At the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, a diverse group of Christian theologians launched the Boston Declaration at the Old South Church at 12:30 pm on Monday November 20, 2017.

The inspiration for this declaration came from the Barmen Declaration drawn up in 1934 by pastors of the confessing church, Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Niemöller, to call out the German Church's complicity with Adolf Hitler's Nazi Regime. The Boston Declaration announces that following Jesus today means fighting poverty, economic exploitation, racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression from the deepest wells of our faith.

A quote from statement gives an indication of its flavour, "As followers of Jesus, the Jewish prophet for justice whose life reminds us to, "Love your neighbour as yourself" we hear the cries of women and men speaking out about sexual abuse at the hands of leaders in power and we are outraged. We are outraged by the current trends in Evangelicalism and other expressions of Christianity driven by white supremacy, often enacted through white privilege and the normalizing of oppression. Confessing racism as the United States' original and ongoing sin, we commit ourselves to following Jesus on the road of costly discipleship to seek shalom justice for the least, the lost, and the left out."

One of the spokespersons for the Declaration, which has been signed by some hundreds of theological teachers, including one from New Zealand, makes clear the change in direction they are calling for:

“Many Evangelical Christians have embraced the politics of exclusion and hatred, such that the Good News of Jesus has become cover for a social and economic order that can only be understood as bad news for many. Responding to Jesus’ courageous call to love ‘the least of these,’ we pray for the conversion of the converted,” said the Rev. Dr. Peter Goodwin Heltzel, New York Theological Seminary.

As you can imagine this has attracted much criticism.

Is there anything Christian churches in New Zealand can learn from this? We are not intertwined with the government as in the USA, but I think there are times when we do need to do our homework, speak out clearly and publicly when we discover things going badly wrong, especially when it affects people who lack a voice or perceive themselves as powerless.

One of these situations is our penal policy which is particularly damaging to Maori families, who feature largely, both as the victims and those most likely to be imprisoned. We have become a very punitive society. Pressure groups have generated fear and pushed for longer sentences. They maintain that we have a growing crime problem, but we do not. Political parties have responded to this by being “tough on crime” and elections have been an auction as to which party can be the toughest.

The media has played its part in this because crime stories are easy attention-grabbing stories. The idea has developed that long sentences give “closure” to the victims of crime. In fact, we know that forgiveness is what gives closure. The result has been that, despite crime levels staying about the same, or in fact decreasing, our prison population has grown enormously to 10,695 prisoners (February 2018) at a huge financial cost. This comes at an enormous cost to families and especially children, who deprived of a parent, are likely to be the next victims or perpetrators of crime.

Spending on the justice system has increased at twice the rate of spending of other government departments and three times the rate of GDP since 1972. Many years of research here and overseas has shown that punitive prison sentences neither deter nor rehabilitate offenders. As churches, following the way of Jesus, we need to work to change public opinion to consider compassionate approaches to criminal offenders.

The Prime Minister’s science advisor, Sir Peter Gluckman, has written an informative report “Using evidence to build a better justice system: The challenge of rising prison costs,” which you can find at [www.pmcsa.org.nz](http://www.pmcsa.org.nz). It is an important read.

Karel Lorier



# HINDI SERVICES

Rev Raju George is holding Christian services in the Hindi language at Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church on the first and last Sunday of each month. These services are alive in colour and celebration and are followed by a shared supper. The services start at 6pm.

## **Hindi Services dates April—July 2018:**

29/04/2018

06/05/2018

27/05/2018

05/06/2018

24/06/2018

01/07/2018





# **LUNCHEON GROUP**

The next meeting of the Luncheon Group will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
from 12pm-2pm.

Bring your lunch and you might like to WEAR YOUR KILT and join in with THE  
SCOTTISH DANCERS!!

Trade table and raffles operating.



## **WELCOME TEAM VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

If you have a knack for making people feel welcome, come and join the wonderful people who greet regulars, visitors and new members at the door.

This is a vitally important role in the life of the church—a smiley face, the ability to welcome people from all walks of life, and a true desire to connect with new friends are key skills employed by our fabulous team of volunteers.

If this sounds like you (and you know it does), let Stewart know that you are keen on taking up the challenge.

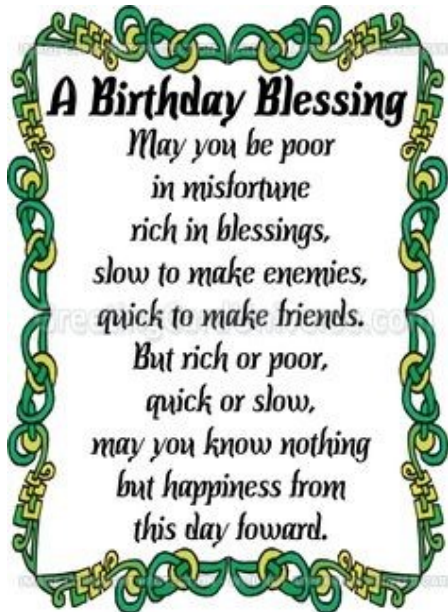
# THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Fellowship group about making up a group to go to the Pumphouse in May to see Roger Hall's play The Book Club. A romantic comedy which should be a good laugh. It will be running from the 9th until 20th May, but date and time to be confirmed.

Watch out for notices about this entertaining trip.

## THE FINAL WORD

To encourage you all to submit items for the newsletter, I am going to start to add a final word where we are short on content. Enjoy



Happy birthday to everyone having a birthday this year

# MONTH'S DUTIES

**Flowers: Karen Ruffell**

## **6 May**

Welcome Team: Roopali Dayal (Readings & Offerings), Yoshiko Treggerthan

Morning Tea: Val Crawford, Valerie Grosse

Sound System: John Shadbolt

## **13 May**

Welcome Team: Ian Watson (Reading & Offering) , Patsy Watson

Morning Tea: Rae Pascoe, Ken Pascoe

Sound System: Kaz Handa

## **20 May**

Welcome Team: Jennie Pascoe (Reading), Anne Pepper ( Offering)

Morning Tea: Glennis French

Sound System: Kaz Handa



# 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 School term only	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 School terms only	Margaret Callaghan Ph 027 885 4408
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>