



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**November 2019**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



**Parish Lunch at Sunrise Restaurant  
October 2019**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Minister

**Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

**Email: [tokerau.j@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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**

***This month's newsletter has a range of photos of some of the community outreach undertaken by the church.***

***Many thanks to Yoshiko Tregathan and Karel Lorier for sharing.***

# REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORNINGS** - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month  
10am - 12pm, Boardgames, Rummikubs, Cards etc  
For further information Margaret Pont 4893176 or 027 2258893
- **GIRLS' BRIGADE** - Tuesdays during School term. Church Hall  
6.30-8pm.  
Kay 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 478 5786
- **HOUSE GROUP**  
Wednesdays 7.30pm at the Shadbolts  
Contact Dorille Ph 479 3953.
- **LUNCHEON GROUP** - 2nd Thursday of month  
12-2pm in Church hall  
Further information Jill 021 066 1059.
- **YOUNG MUMS HOME GROUP** - 7.15pm  
2nd Thursday of the month  
10A Newhaven Tce, Mairangi Bay. Heather 0274 999 808
- **DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP** - Thursdays 10am-2pm  
Mairangi Bay Church Hall  
For further information Tangi 022 657 3223.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION GROUP**  
Meeting 3rd Friday 6.30pm shared meal.  
Venue circulates. For further information contact  
Jenni & Allan Ph 478 5694.
- **MAINLY MUSIC**  
Fridays during the school term. Church Hall 10-11am  
Ph Tangi 0226573223





## AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

### South Africa trip

A few weeks ago I attended a meeting organised by the Council for World Mission (CWM) regarding its Legacies of Slavery Process. The meeting was in Cape Town, South Africa for five days. There were eleven participants representing folk from the CWM office, board, and some of its regions. I represented PCANZ as well as the Pacific region.



By way of background, the meeting was to consider how some of the proposals from the Legacies of Slavery Report would be implemented. The Report came from a review of the CWM in 2017 that identified complicity with the Transatlantic Slave Trade in its London Missionary Society (LMS) roots. The funding of its early missions came from the benefits of slavery as well as utilising former slave ships for its mission purposes. Such work for the gospel was also deeply influenced by an Empire/colonial mindset that upheld the superiority of Europeans as opposed to the inferiority of non-Europeans.

In essence the report sort to address four areas:

- Assess its own story and complicity with the systems of enslavement and empire
- Understand better the urgency of achieving racial justice and the issues which intersect with it
- Find ways to advocate reparation with its member churches
- Discover anti-Imperial models of Christian mission in today's world.

Our group discussed how some of the proposals of the report could be incorporated into the General Assembly of the CWM in 2020. We were asked to develop and



launch a process for Advent 2019 and strategize a production of worship and discussion materials. The aim of these resources is to:

- Inform member churches of the work of the Legacies project and the outcomes it seeks
- Conscientize member churches to the issues of racial justice and the legacies of slavery and colonization
- Prepare member churches to come to General Assembly 2020 to embrace the transforming repentance at the heart of CWM and the Legacies process
- Make connections with the racial justice struggles of their context and be alerted to manifestations of racism against African and African descendent peoples and communities there.

We had robust discussions about the report proposals. They included issues such as Systemic Racism, the de-constructing of “White Privilege” and promotion of Black cultures and power, and the difficult realities of reparation. I felt quite out of my depth regarding the whole topic of slavery and racism compared to others in our group. Mine were mainly questions seeking clarification and challenging certain points of the report. At times heated, the debates were respectful.

Together we worked on a draft of how the apology by CWM could be done during the GA and then spent much time writing up our material. I offered to work on some resources for Advent reflecting some of the points of discussion we had. I also started reflecting on the parable of the Prodigal Son as a way of exploring how it might speak to the legacies report; particularly to help move CWM from confession to reconciliation. Others provided study and discussion materials for pre-Assembly meetings of the various regional groups of CWM.

To help grasp the idea of struggle for justice in terms of race relations, we visited Robben Island where Nelson Mandela had been imprisoned. Our guide was a former political prisoner who gave us great insight into prison life there as well as of the struggles against apartheid. The stories by the prison guide and the bus guide who showed us other significant places on the island all helped to shape our tasks for CWM with respect to various kinds of oppression.

Apart from meetings, discussions and writing, the trip did provide some time to see the sights of Cape Town. The trip also enabled some wonderful opportunities for friendships to form and hopefully continue to flourish.





## **YOUNG MUM'S GROUP -**

**14 November, 7:15pm**

A time for mums of young people of all ages to get together and share fellowship.

Hosted by Heather Gibson on the second Thursday of the month.

Phone Heather, 027 499 9808; email: [gibsonfamily@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gibsonfamily@xtra.co.nz)

## **Special Communion—November 19 11:30am**

Our next Special Communion service for all parishioners especially those unable to attend regularly will be held on Tuesday, November 19 11:30am. There will be a time of fellowship & lunch following the service .

We will provide transportation to and from the church if required. If you would like to attend, could you please contact Norma Baker on 443- 3108 for catering purposes.

## **Group Educational Opportunity**

Laidlaw College is offering the opportunity for groups (small or large ) within a parish or across several parishes to meet in their own premises and join in a series of lectures via video conferencing. This will take place in the first semester of 2020 each Tuesday evening between 6:30 and 9:30pm.

The first series will be “Introduction to the New Testament” with Dr Mark Keown. For anyone interested in finding out more about this opportunity there is information on the noticeboard in the foyer or you can ask Tokerau or Stewart Milne

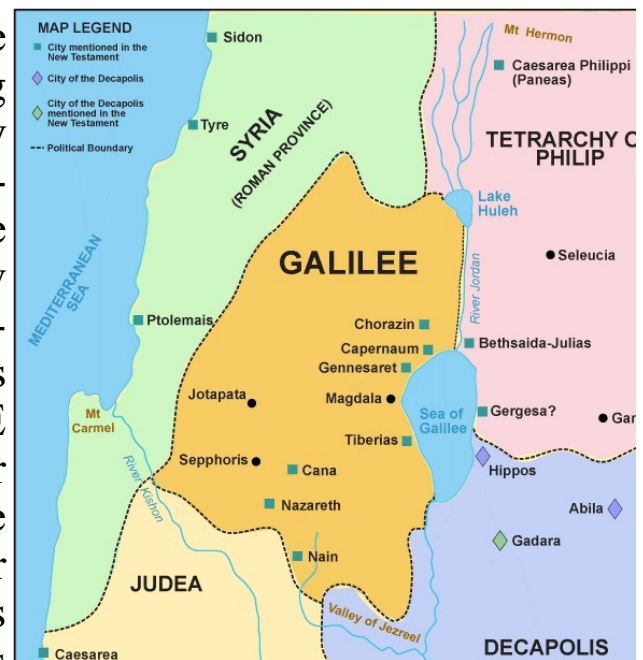


# KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS

## The Context of Jesus' Teachings

In order to understand Jesus's teaching, we must put it in context. Most of his teaching took place in Galilee where he travelled from village to village. Mark, Matthew and Luke give the impression that his mission lasted only one year. But this may be because these gospels were used to supplement the readings from the Jewish books of the law and prophets which were read in a one-year cycle. John's gospel makes Jesus mission three years and is more likely to be accurate.

In Israel, the region of Galilee was the most affected by Greek culture during the Greek occupation and many wealthy Jews had adopted Greek customs. When the Romans conquered the Jews in 63 CE, after they had a few brief years of freedom from the occupying forces, the Greco-Roman customs continued among the wealthy. In 4 BCE there was a revolt in Palestine after Herod the Great died, with many people who had earlier been deprived of their land through debt, finding themselves unemployed when work on Herod's building projects dried up. Sepphoris, a cosmopolitan city 6km from Nazareth was a centre for these revolts led by Judas the Galilean.



In 6 CE, when Jesus would be about 10-12 years old, Quirinius the governor of Syria (which included Galilee) had a census designed for more efficient taxation. Judas the Galilean and his followers, who had grown to a large group, rebelled. Judas was captured and killed. Sepphoris was burned to the ground by the Romans, the men were killed, and the women and children sold as slaves. To make a powerful impression on the population not to rebel, more than 2,000 of the rebels and sympathisers were crucified and left on the roadsides to break down and be eaten by the birds.

It is most unlikely that Jesus and his family were unaffected by these events.

Jesus was poor. A day labourer, (tekton-in Greek), maybe a worker in

wood, a peasant, just above slaves and beggars in the social order. Nazareth was a small poor village with about 150 to 200 inhabitants. It unlikely that Jesus and his four

brothers (four are named in the Bible) would have found work there. Possibly, they worked at rebuilding Sepphoris when Herod's son, Antipas, rebuilt the city. Ancient sources have it that Jesus' mother, Mary, was born there.

Probably, Jesus was a disciple of John the Baptist who thought that by repenting Israel would be once again be restored to God's favour and relieved of Roman oppression and the corruption of the religious authorities. Jesus, after a time of reflection in the wilderness, emerged with his own vision for the Kingdom of God. Dangerous, because in Roman eyes there was only one kingdom, the kingdom of Rome.

Religion and politics were not separate. The Roman pantheon of gods included the Emperor, who claimed divinity, and was seen to be the divine saviour of the world and bringer of world peace by violent conquest. The empire oppressed its subject people by taxes, taking lands and employing them on grand building projects. The Romans incorporated the gods of the conquered people into their pantheon. But this did not work with the Jews and set off riots when Romans attempted to introduce Roman gods into the temple.

Galilee at the time of Jesus was a politically and religiously charged environment. Zealots were engaged in guerrilla attacks on the Romans, other religious groups like the Essenes opted out and maintained religious purity. Other religious leaders sided with the Roman oppressors and were enriched by it. As well corrupt Jewish tax gatherers, road toll collectors, acted for Roman authorities. Forget rosy Sunday school pictures of a white euphoric Jesus in an idyllic setting teaching an equally euphoric crowd. Jesus was tough, the crowd questioning, angry and divided.

In this context Jesus taught his transforming vision of the Kingdom of God where all people were valued, loved and wanted. He taught in parables and short pithy challenging statements turning accepted ideas on their head. His mission was good news to the poor and oppressed, by non-violent resistance to their Roman and religious oppressors. He talked to women and took them seriously. He welcomed and blessed children. We could summarise that he taught people to be truly human, to celebrate, live and hope a future different from the present and past.



A Biblical scholar has described Jesus as “God intoxicated,” he was love saturated, with love for all people, even his enemies.

Years of Christian teaching which has focussed on the person of Jesus, praising him and worshipping him, has obscured his radical teaching. Christianity has frequently been domesticated to serve the oppressor rather than the oppressed, to support violence rather than peace. At the same time there are wonderful examples of where following the teaching of Jesus has brought about peace, reconciliation, freedom from oppression, shelter, food and medical help.

In NZ we should not rest until homelessness, hunger, lack of opportunity, discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, exploitation, racial injustice, gender inequality, and other forms of injustice have been eliminated. To follow the way of Jesus is to non-violently resist all forces and systems that dehumanize.

## **LUNCHEON GROUP**

THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 12- 2-PM

WHO IS OUR ENTERTAINER?

**LIONEL REEKIE – SOLO SINGER WITH ACCORDIAN MAGIC  
WHO HAS PERFORMED EXTENSIVELY AROUND THE WORLD.**

Bring your lunch & enjoy fellowship over tea or coffee.

Trade table & Raffles operating.

Gold coin donation



## **UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL**

At the October meeting of Parish Council we :

- Spent time on pastoral matters and were led in prayer for those of our congregation whom we know of as being in difficulty
- Received an update on the long drawn out matter of the vehicle accessway from Penzance Road including that the valuer whom we have engaged is due to start work next week
- Considered Tokerau's report on his participation in the Council for World Mission (CWM) 'Legacies of Slavery' Process Meeting which he participated in at Capetown representing New Zealand. (see Tokerau's update)
  - Anyone wanting a copy of the CWM Report should contact Tokerau or me
- Agreed to participating with Forrest Hill and Glenfield parishes in combined services on the Sundays of 29 Dec , 5 Jan and 12 Jan. More information (including times and venues) will be provided closer to the time
- Were advised by George Wyman that the the hall now meets 79% of NBS which is well above the 67% requirement. Jim Wylie managed the physical side of this project and his involvement has been very much appreciated
- Discussed and agreed to the concept of some Sunday services being based around and incorporating those who participate in our many activities such as Mainly Music, Dees and English Conversations.
- Were reminded of the importance of the Friday night social time (games and shared meal) and the wish from some of the ladies from the English Conversations Group to meet more of the congregation
- Received and considered a request to publicise a current petition which seeks to greatly increase government funding for Pharmac. From time to time we get requests to either support petitions or to bring them to the notice of our congregation. Our policy is that all such requests will be considered by Parish Council. For this particular petition we decided to make its existence known to our congregation while repeating the recommendation that when considering whether to sign it we brief ourselves on the pros and cons. The links to this 'More Money for Pharmac' Petition will be emailed out. Parish Council also stressed the need to make it clear that when we do decide to make the existence of a petition known it does not mean that we are endorsing or recommending it. In a situation where we do endorse a petition we will make that clear.
- Spent time discussing a proposed response to a PCANZ paper on the Theology of Property and Money. The PCANZ paper points out that the Presbyterian Church holds a collective wealth in land, buildings and bank deposits of about \$1.5bn which is controlled largely by congregations and Presbyteries and asks a series of questions including whether God is calling us to re-examine our priorities. Anyone wanting a copy of the PCANZ papers should contact me. A further draft of our response on this matter will be considered at the November meeting
- Decided that this year our boxes of Christmas treats (packing service will be on 1 Dec) will go to needy families on the North Shore and Waitakere – to be distributed through FamilyWorks

*Stewart Milne*

## **FAMILY GAMES EVENINGS**

**First Friday of every month (November 8),**

**6:30-8pm**

All ages welcome



## **CHRISTMAS BOXES**

Over the last eight years our parish has carried out an annual collection and packing of Christmas Treats for needy families. These are distributed by FamilyWorks who are working with these families. The packing service will be held on 1 December and so we have just over a month collecting. The special box is in the foyer. We need items such as:

- Chocolates
- Sweets
- Fancy biscuits
- Small Christmas puddings
- Christmas cakes
- Mince pies
- Nut bars
- Tins of fruit salad

Whatever your imagination extends to, but remember it will need to fit along with other things into a shoebox. For the last few years we have got close to cracking the 50 boxes mark so that is our challenge.

### **November Morning tea - 10th November**

Our Woman's Fellowship team are putting on a special morning tea to help raise funds and awareness for men's health. We would appreciate a donation however big or small





## CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2019

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Activities Mornings, Board & Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	1st & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Margaret Pont <b>021 679019</b>
Book Club	9.30am	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Margaret Pont <b>021679019</b>
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme <b>479 2212</b>
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays before special services	Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Dees Social Club	10am -2pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Tangi Joseph <b>022 657 3223</b>
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier <b>414 6321</b>
Girls Brigade	6.30 - 8pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday	Kay Barbour in school term <b>478-7603</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt <b>479-3953</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>
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Tangi Joseph <b>0226573223</b>
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Transportation Available	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Youth & children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Young Mums Home Group	7.15pm	10A Newhaven Tce Church Hall	2nd Thursday of the month	Heather Gibson <b>0274 999 808</b>