



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

### **NEWSLETTER**

**November 2018**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



A joyous baptism

## **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

### **Minister**

**Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

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**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**

## 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 021 066 1059.
- **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



## **AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU**

**Kia orana and greetings.**

I'd like to share with you of my experience at General Assembly 2018 (GA18).

It was held at St Andrews College in Christchurch from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>. Part of it included the Minster's Resource Day held at the Village Church, Papanui (10am – 3pm) and led by staff from Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML). It gave an overview of what KCML are currently doing with respect to ministry training as well as expanding online resources (Living Library) to continue supporting ministers and lay leaders. It was encouraging to hear how research done by Dr Rosemary Dewerse (Thornton Blair Research Fellow) among ministers identified key themes for helpful resources. This has developed into the "BeWise" programme helping grow local leaders in context with short interactive sessions, guided workshops, and options for going further.

We then moved to St Andrews College to prepare for the beginning of GA18. After registrations, unpacking into rooms, and dinner, we proceeded to the opening service in the new Chapel. It was a full house with many from the Onehunga Co-Operating Parish attending to support the instalment of their minister and new Moderator of General Assembly, Rt. Rev. Fakaofu Kaio. It was a very moving service highlighting his moderatorial theme of "Relationship: with God and with each other." I want to thank our parish for putting forward Rev Fakaofu Kaio's name for this role in which his pastoral and humble manner impacted GA.



This set the tone for the rest of GA18. The Moderator encouraged all to get to know each other better. During breakfast, tea, lunch, and dinner we were to sit, eat and talk with someone we did not know. This was a great way of making new friends and to re-connect with those whom we were not too familiar. Business went reasonably well with debates and dialogue group discussions conducted with much respect and fairness.

Some matters (Code of ethics review and End of life bill choice) revealed some opposing and strong opinions, but in the main, commissioners were very calm and polite. Most recommendations in the meeting were approved except for one encouraging parishes and presbyteries to study the book “Changing our mind” by Prof. David Gushee on the LGBTQ issue. I am reading this book and am happy to lend it to anyone interested in reading it too.

I found GA18 very spiritually uplifting. This may sound odd, but it’s true. Conversations in good and varying company was enriching for me. We were encouraged to do our best to remember people’s names and appreciate the cultural diversity in the church. The Moderator led by example through praying in different languages at different times (including sign language). I can’t remember a Moderator praying for people so much in meetings. My walks around the beautiful fields while chatting with others or praying when walking alone added to my positive experience of GA18. To top it off, the table tennis challenges in our hostel was most enjoyable. Even when bats didn’t have rubber covering or a handle, the games were competitive and fun (well they’re fun when you’re winning). Representing our parish, and without trying sound like I’m showing off, I do want to say that we were triumphant.

Thank you for enabling me to attend GA18. If you would like to see a summary of GA18 decisions, please contact me or Stewart Milne.



## **UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL**

At the October meeting of Parish Council we :

Considered the special focus of some of the services of worship over the coming couple of months including :

- 4 November Whanau/Family
- 11 November Armistice Centennial remembrance
- 18 November Report back on the Vanuatu project from Paul Fransham
- 2 December Whanau/Family Service based around the making up of Christmas Boxes for needy families.
- 9 December Choral Service – the choir has started practising
- 16 December Communion
- 24 December Christmas Eve Carols (7pm) with Offerings to Christian World Service Christmas Appeal
- 25 December Christmas Day Morning Family Service

Agreed to a “suggestions and planning” session for the 2019 Youth Programme. Anyone interested in being involved please contact Tokerau or Ian Watson.

Agreed to donate \$1,000 to the Howard League to be used for assisting prisoners to obtain their drivers licence and agreed to donate \$330 to assist women coming out of prison to get their birth certificate and the documents needed to have a chance of getting employment. Note: Both of these initiatives arose out of the “Thinking outside the Cell” series which we held in our church in August.

Agreed on a date to receive feedback from the survey which many of our members completed. When this is received it will be shared with the congregation.

Were advised of the latest decision of the Auckland Council to regularise the status of the illegal vehicle access way from Penzance Road. The decision is that it be offered to the church and neighbours to purchase !!

Stewart Milne

## **LUNCHEON GROUP**

On Thursday 8th November the Lunch Group is on from 12pm – 2pm  
at the Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church Hall.

Bring a friend and your lunch and enjoy a sing-a-long with Derek Bean  
our Entertainer.  
Trade table and raffles operating as usual.  
Gold coins to enter.

## **SPECIAL COMMUNION**

Our next Special Communion service for all parishioners especially those unable to attend regularly will be held on Tuesday, November 20 at 11:30am. There will be a time of fellowship with lunch to follow the service. Friends and family are welcome to come along. We will provide transportation to and from the church if required. If you would like to attend, please let your Pastoral Visitor know or Norma Baker on 443- 3108 for catering purposes by November 16th.



## **SPECIAL SUNDAY LUNCH**

Sunday lunch at  
Grace's restaurant on November 4th after Church at 12 midday to have a time of fellowship before the Christmas rush.

Sue Bowden is the person to go to for any queries and she will collect names. We need to know at least the week before (**this Sunday!!!**), but Grace may let us have a little later like 1st November.

The restaurant is the Sunrise Kitchen 14 Corinthian Drive Albany. Heather's home group went and had a very successful lunch.

## **KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS**

### **The Resurrection (2)**

This is the third article in the series on the Resurrection. The first two are in the online version of the Newsletter if you want to read them.

The story of the empty tomb appears in Mark's Gospel written in the 70's C.E. about forty years after the crucifixion. Paul writing in about 45 to 58 A.D. makes no mention of the empty tomb despite writing about the resurrection.

In the four Gospels there is a developing tradition about the empty tomb and Jesus' bodily appearances to his followers. In Mark's gospel the women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James and Salome, go to the tomb (Mark 16:1-8) and find it empty with a white robed young man saying "Don't be alarmed, I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here: he has been raised!" He instructs them to go to his disciples, *including Peter* and tell them that he is going to Galilee ahead of them and there they will see him. The women ran away from the tomb terrified. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

This could be an assumption into heaven story, Enoch and Elijah and others in Jewish tradition were taken into heaven.

You will notice there is a second ending beyond verse 8 which was added sometime late in the second century.

Matthew wrote a decade or two after Mark. The author used Mark as a source. In Matthew's story of the resurrection only two women go to the tomb, Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary." An angel rolls away the stone. The guards tremble and become like dead men. The women are filled with great joy when they see the empty tomb. Jesus appears to them. The whole account is too long to write here but you can read in Matthew 28:1-20. The ascension of Jesus occurs on the mountain in Galilee.

John's gospel was written in the 90's and may not have been completed until about 110 A.D. This gospel is a parable of what Jesus had become for a group of early Christians. John is impossible to reconcile with the other gospels. There is probably nothing in John that Jesus said, as the sayings attributed to him are very different from the other three gospels. You can read the resurrection stories in John 20 and 21. The story of the empty tomb and the resurrected Jesus has expanded. There are several appearances. They have become extraordinary. Jesus walks into a locked room.

Chapter 21 appears to be added at a later date. Possibly because the disciple "whom Jesus loved" was first at the tomb before Peter. The final chapter



seems to re-assert Peter's leadership (as in Mark) after his denial of Jesus and being portrayed as second at the empty tomb.

Luke written as a two-volume work Luke-Acts, was written in the early second century. You can read the resurrection stories in chapter 24. Again, it is the women who discover the empty tomb when they go with spices to anoint Jesus' body. Firstly, it says women, then later Mary Magdalene, Joanne, Mary mother of James, "they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles." The story of the Road to Emmaus where Jesus is identified in the breaking of bread is probably what happened repeatedly. The ascension takes place in Bethany, close to Jerusalem not on the mountain in Galilee as in Matthew.

What do we as 21<sup>st</sup> century people make of these conflicting accounts? Are they factual in the way that a video camera could have recorded the event of Jesus' appearances? I don't think so. I think they are poetic mythical accounts and like all myths *carry important truth*. Jewish people did not go in for abstract thinking. They told picture stories. These stories affirm that the cross did not destroy Jesus' mission. Rome and the religious authorities lost: Jesus won.

When the followers of Jesus healed, forgave, shared food so no one was hungry, were taken from despair to hope, acted in non-violent ways and resisted the destructive power of the Roman empire; when they welcomed outcasts, foreigners and those who were difficult to love, into the kingdom of God; when they experienced such acts of love which in their cultural context were impossible, as possible happening amongst them, they knew Jesus was present. His mission continued.

I think we Christians do Christianity a disservice in our 21<sup>st</sup> century when we insist on a factual empty tomb and a resuscitated body and attempt to persuade non-Christians as if these are facts they must believe. It has been said that Christianity stands or falls by faith in the resurrection, I agree, but I don't think this depends on the stories of an empty tomb. These stories are symbols of a much deeper and far reaching change.

When I witness acts of forgiveness and reconciliation, see hungry people fed, people healed, read about families transformed by the intervention of Family Works, the lonely loved out of loneliness, see prisoners and their families set free from that which destroyed them, and many other countless acts of love, compassion and justice; when I see people acting selflessly for the community to overcome injustice, then Christ is alive. Christ is risen.



## **ADDITIONAL NOVEMBER NOTICES**

### ***Sundays through November - Christmas Box donations and shoe boxes*** (or similar size)

We will be receiving donations for packing at the beginning of December.

Treats include :

confectionary, fancy biscuits, cans of fruit, mince pies, Christmas puddings.

Food goes into the food basket and boxes to the foyer outside the office.

If you have time to cover the boxes with Christmas paper, great, otherwise just boxes.

### ***9-12.30pm Thurs & Fri in November***

### **Christmas Toy Collection.**

Our church is being used as a venue to collect these in a box beside the office. Please direct any lost contributors.

### ***29 November: White Ribbon Sunday***

## **A MAGICAL DAY AT TIRITIRI MAATANGI**

On Saturday 6 October Norma Baker led a group of 18 family and friends from the church to Tiritiri Matangi. The day was a beautiful spring day with a slight chill in the breeze as the group went across on the ferry with a sense of anticipation.

On arrival, we were divided up between 3 guides. The rise up to the crest of the island was made to feel short by Norma's tales of the brown teals being eaten by eels, hearing the beautiful call of the kokako, warbling of the tui and the bellbird/korimako; the flitting of the stitchbird/hihi at the feeding stations. We heard tales of the thousands of trees planted by volunteers in a bid to return the farmed land to verdant native bush for the native bird regeneration programme.

Up to the lighthouse area for lunch, a group photo then wandering down in the afternoon, some to swim and most to see the blue penguin nesting boxes in the edge of the bush by the hightide line. What a day of sights and sounds, hardly seen and heard on the mainland these days. We cannot wait for next year! (A surprise awaited at the Gulf Harbour Marina, a no-fishing zone, as we saw plump snapper, kahawai and large rays patrolling the waterway parallel to the marina walkway where the fishing charters docked and threw down their excess bait. Hand-fed eagle rays, second only (for me) to the avian orchestra on Tiri.

*By Richard Pidgeon's family*

Abigail really loved seeing the little blue penguins and the two little chicks and Alana who had never been before loved learning about the various bird calls and then sighting them. Also we identified some trees and discussed their flowers which we could smell but they were such tiny flowers. It was a great day for us all thank you.

*By Karen Ruffell's family*

Many thanks for organising this so very enjoyable trip. Thank you for sharing your incredible knowledge and enthusiasm about flora and fauna of the island with us.

*By Helga Greenwell*

## **FOLLOW UP TO COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON JUSTICE**

We received a thank you card for the items sent for the women in the Out of Gate (OOG) service run by the South Auckland PSN group ( Te Hononga) and have been asked if we could follow that up. Parish Council agreed to send \$330—10 birth certificates for women leaving prison. Without the birth certificates they are unable to open bank accounts or access various benefits. We will also support them next year by collecting up some women's personal toiletries and underwear.

The Parish Council was also impressed by the Howard League's driving programme and agreed to contribute \$1000 to that. Both these initiatives will assist ex-prisoners to reintegrate into New Zealand society.

Dr Kim Workman has just published his autobiography and it can be ordered through the publisher at <https://www.bwb.co.nz>.

Pauline and Karel were invited by PSN to meet Anne Jacobs, the executive director of the Women's Prison Association in New York. New Zealand appears more punitive and more heavily into security than the prisons she was familiar with - which was a bit surprising.

Discussions were had about interventions put in place within the prison to help with reintegration. It was surprising to hear of the good work SERCO does in this given all of the negative press they have received. Also surprising was the level of intervention provided within prisons given that some families struggle to receive similar help outside the prison system (for example help with education and training). Perhaps more adequately funded early intervention would reduce the flow to the prison system.

She was interviewed on Sunday morning on RNZ and there was an interview about the drug courts initiative also that morning (21 October) for those interested in making prisons more effective.

## **NOT SOMETHING I WOULD USUALLY DO, BUT ANYWAY...**

The following was published on Stuff on Labour Day Monday, sharing because there are a large number of these young people in our communities and a desperate need for support (and because there was some space in the newsletter).

### ***Faith in Taranaki: We are not better than 'them'***

Martein Kelderman, Pastor of New Plymouth Central Baptist Church Oct 22 2018

Young David worked for me in a company where I was the general manager.

David was not very socially competent, he had obsessions regarding cleanliness and would often scrub his hands to rawness to get the last of those germs.

David would obsess about some subjects and couldn't resolve some questions in his head, he would ask the same question of me every day and we would process the same territory and reach the same conclusions and the next day we would start all over. There were other aspects of his personality which were difficult and made it difficult for him to fit in and indeed for others to fit him in.

David struggled under Asperger's Syndrome. He had the job because the company owner knew the family and David's alternate was sitting at home all day watching television, eating unhelpful foods and putting on weight.

The 20 other employees in this building supplies company embraced David and slowly taught him to do some assembly work some of which he took a year to learn. He became the cleaner and he got paid.

We probably all know someone who has or is struggling with mental illness. Increasingly we seem to hear or know of people who are depressed or even suicidal, the words autistic and Asperger's are becoming a familiar part of the vocabulary. And we know of, and sometimes see, other expressions of mental ill health.

I'm no expert on this, I just see what I see and listen to a growing discussion about what is being understood as a growing problem – or is it a growing awareness?

I reflect on my three year experience with David and other experiences I have had. I think on two good persons I know who took their own lives. I respond to the faith and values by which I seek to shape my life.

I find here four understandings that help me.

*1. That every person has dignity.*

The heart of the gospel (good news) of Christ includes three affirmations. Firstly; that God made every single person in his image and for his purposes and there are no lesser persons. Secondly; that Christ's saving purpose (the Easter story) was offered to all without exception, and thirdly that Christian community and unity is inclusive of differences. Mental illness doesn't change those truths one bit.

This same gospel asserts that we don't have dignity because a government says we do or because of our economic or ethnic status. That our dignity doesn't come from our appearance or from psychology. It is given to us as human beings by God. So, I embrace that spirit and make it my own and trust that should life's circumstances ever change for me that I would be dignified by that same standard.

*2. That there is a brokenness in all of us.*

We all have our own weaknesses and wounds. We have our own fears, obsessive thoughts, and compulsions. When it comes to mental illness we are not better than "them". We are them.

That means we need each other. It is the reality of present disability or the memory of past disability or the potential of the future which may include disability that invites me to foster a culture that understands, cares and walks alongside.

*3. That even if broken, we are deeply loved and valued.*

The ancient Greeks had a word for love (Agapeo) that spoke of an unconditional love. It did not require a specific response although it welcomed relationship. It had no pre-conditions to qualify you.

They had other words for love as well. The love of family; (Storge), love between friends (Phileo) and they spoke of the love between a man and a woman which included romantic and sexual expression (Eros). Each of these other three stipulated the nature of the recipient of that love and therefore excluded all others.

Agapeo love is described as the way that God loves, no exclusion, no prescription, and no requirement to repay or reciprocate. As a Christian believer I choose to seek to love in the way God loves and that includes love for all.

Greek and Roman culture also had a strong sense of self-advancement. Love was often expressed with self in mind. I then love you to receive something in return, Agapeo defied that principle and in the biblical ethos it was defined by putting the other first and even denying self.

When we walk with the mentally ill there may be many times when it is all and only about them, with little capacity for reciprocation, love then is at its purest.

*4 That we are more likely to get a lot better within relationships.*

No one person has all of the solutions to mental illness. But we have each other. We're better together. Mental illness tends to create isolation. It's one of the most tragic ways mental illness impacts people's lives. Nothing is worse for someone who is struggling with mental illness than to be isolated from others.

Our communities and churches can become places where people can be honest about their mental illnesses. We need to become places of hope and refuge for broken people. Let us become the context where people with mental illness can discover they will never be alone again.

It worked for David. . . .

## 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 <b>021 0244 9616</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	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	Margaret Pont <b>021 670 019</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	Karel Lorier <b>414 6321</b>
Mainly Music	10.00am-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Friday in school term	Pauline Gulliver <b>021 0244 9616</b>
Transportation	Arranged as required and as requested			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Board and Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues	Margaret Pont 021 679019