



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**September 2018**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**



**Sha Love speaks on prison parenting programmes  
“Thinking outside the Cell” series**

# 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**

# 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



mainly  
music

# AN UP-DATE FROM TOKERAU

Kia orana and greetings.

A lot has happened in the last month. It began with Tangi and I participating in the celebration of Cook Islands language week at Massey University. Having led an opening devotional and blessing, we mixed and mingled with staff, students and the Cook islanders' community. I hope this is the beginning of building a good relationship with both



the university and wider community.



Community engagement in August also involved the "Thinking outside the cell" series. Hosting these community forums provides the space and opportunity to understand our justice system and consider positive alternatives. I want to thank

the church and community committee and all those who helped to make it a great success. My hope is that this will help us to explore how we might be involved with some of the positive alternatives.



In terms of our worship services, we've been blessed with a variety of styles lately. On the 5<sup>th</sup> August, we were very privileged having Dr. Kim Workman preach for us following his presentation at the community forum the day before. It was a very powerful message about the need for positive transformation in people's lives regarding justice. On the



12<sup>th</sup> August, we were treated to a favourite hymns service coordinated by Bronwyn Stone accompanied with our brilliant new pianist, Prue Bell, many affirming comments by those attending was testimony to a wonderful worship experience. On the 19<sup>th</sup> August our Whanau service appreciated a tremendous turn-out of nearly 80 people. Focusing on the theme of "God's love," it was

such a joy to witness people using their talents to bless God and others. I want to encourage us to graciously offer invitations to family members to be together in worship.

I am continually amazed at the positive impact our weekly activities make with people in our community. When I've been able to attend, even if for a brief time, I can't help but be im-



pressed with and give thanks to God for everyone involved. From Mainly Music through to Dees Group, the work is outstanding. Please keep all our activities in prayer, and, if you're willing and available to help out, that would be fantastic. We'd love to work with you.



## **QUIZ NIGHT**

**COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FUN FOR OUR PACIFIC ISLANDS THEMED QUIZ NIGHT (YES, BIKINIS ARE ACCEPTABLE WHEN IT IS 12 DEGREES OUTSIDE)**

**PRIZES FOR THE BEST DRESSED TEAM**

**RAFFLES**

**PLENTY OF LAUGHS**

**A SPECIAL PRIZE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY PAULINE'S MISTAKE  
(WE ALL KNOW IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN)**

**THE QUIZ WILL RUN FROM 5:30 TO 7:30 ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

**\$15 PER TEAM, BYO SNACKS AND DRINKS**

**TEAMS TO BE SEATED BY 5:15PM PLEASE**

**REGISTRATIONS TO: PGULLIVER73@GMAIL.COM**

# **UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL**

At the August meeting of Parish Council we:

- Spent time on pastoral matters
- Heard from Tokerau on the requests he has received for undertaking other responsibilities within the wider church and the way he is handling them alongside his top priorities which are in the parish
- Gave positive feedback to Tokerau on the Whanau Service held on 19 August . The Joseph family (including the 'Rusty' singers) took the leading roles. Tokerau shared the wish that other families participate in these Whanau Services to be held on the first Sunday of the month. Volunteers please contact Tokerau.
- Discussed the possibility of a pre Christmas carol Service and how this can be brought together
- Discussed the games and pot luck meal event for primary and intermediate children to be held from 4pm to 6pm on Saturday 22 September
- Agreed to hold a planning session with a focus on the young in 2019. Those with ideas please contact Ian Watson or Tokerau.
- Received positive feedback on the "Thinking Outside the Cell" sessions. Very good speakers, important contacts have been made, a whole raft of information about prisons, the justice system , what is happening and views on what should be happening have emerged, as well as opportunities for volunteer involvement.
- Were advised that the cup of coffee for 2 cans of food for the PSN Foodbank supported by the Montrose restaurant has been a success - over 100 cans collected.
- Complimented Norma and her team of helpers who organised the lunch for those attending the Special Communion Service held on Tuesday 7 August.
- Received the request for prayerful support from the Hibiscus Coast Church. Workers are heading up to Port Vila (Vanuatu) on 7 September to build the ablutions block for the Presbyterian school building. Our church has contributed \$6,000 towards this project. Please keep this project in your prayers.
- Decided to send email advice out to members of the congregation on forthcoming events. If you are not getting these messages and have an email address please let me know
- Approved the draft agenda, Committee/Parish Council Recommendations and data projector slides on the subject of offerings to be presented to the AGM
- Received advice from Pauline that the Quiz Night is proceeding on the evening of Sunday 9 September. We are seeking items for raffles and prizes. Registration of tables is now underway. Please contact Pauline on 021 024 49616

# **LUNCHEON GROUP**

The next meeting of the Lunch Group is on  
**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September from 12-2pm.**

Come and listen to the budding musicians of the  
**Murrays Bay Intermediate School.**

Bring your lunch, have a cuppa and a chat and then be entertained.

Trade table & raffles operating

Gold coins entry.



## **TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND (THE SECOND INSTALLMENT)**

The Fellowship Group invite you to set sail to Tiritiri Matangi on

**Saturday, October 6**

to spend the day with some of our endangered species of flora and fauna. We are able to get a group discount varying on the number of adults and children that would like to go. We will have a guided tour in the morning and then have free time to explore on our own.

**Please indicate your interest to Norma Baker 443 3108**

**before Sunday, Sept 30.**

We will car pool to Gulf Harbour at 8:45 and return about 4:30. You must bring your lunch in a closed bag for biosecurity reasons. No mice sandwiches!

# **KAREL LORIER'S REFLECTIONS**

## **The Resurrection (1)**

Over the last twelve months I have been asked by several people if I would write an article about the resurrection. I have been reluctant because it would require a longer article than a monthly article. Therefore, I decided to write several articles which may be interrupted if something more immediate comes to my attention.

Easter, when we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, is the most important event on the Christian calendar. But what does this mean for us as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians? We are informed by Bible readings, hymns and songs which are part of a long tradition. These come from an understanding of the world very different from our own. The ancient Hebrew understanding of the world, the three storied universe, was that there was a place for the dead below, humans lived on the middle storey and the top storey was heaven, where God dwelt, separated from the world by the solid arch of the sky a thousand metres or so above.

In order to understand what the Bible says about the resurrection of Jesus and what this means for us today requires starting with the historical context. We need to start at the beginning rather than starting at the end and looking through the lens of later developed traditions.

The first mention that we have of the resurrection of Jesus occurs in Paul's first letter to the followers of the "anointed" in 1 Thessalonians. The letter is written within about twenty years of the crucifixion of Jesus. It is the oldest writing in the New Testament.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, a group of Gentile converts, who were followers of "Jesus the anointed One" (Christ). At the time they were a Jewish sect. There was no Christianity separate from Judaism. These Christ followers were expecting Jesus to come again and rescue them and were wondering what would happen to those who had already died. Possibly they had been experiencing persecution. Times were difficult. There was an overwhelming sense that they were living at the last times. They believed that Jesus would rescue them at the end. You can read what Paul believes in I Thess 1:10 and 4:11-18. This contains the first references we have to the resurrection of Jesus. "God's son who he raised from death." And "We believe that Jesus died and rose again."



Paul here uses ordinary everyday Greek words “anastasis” (translated ‘resurrection’) means to stand up and “egeiro”(translated ‘raise’) means to get up, like getting up out of bed. This is well before these words had developed a special meaning for Christ followers. Paul was a Jew and remained a Jew. He did not become a Christian. He came to believe that Jesus was God’s anointed. He had set out to harass those who believed that Jesus was the anointed, the Messiah or the Christ. But Jesus appeared to him. This changed Paul’s life. Jesus appearing to him showed that although the power of the empire had killed Jesus in the crucifixion, Jesus was still alive, God had vindicated him. The most powerful force on earth, could not destroy him.

The ancient Israelites did not believe in a life after death. Once a person died they were dead, buried and were in sheol, “the pit” a shadowy place of the dead. In this belief the Hebrews were different from the neighbouring nations because they rejected an afterlife. The surrounding nations all had elaborate belief systems, art and rituals about an afterlife. The Jews believed that human immortality would threaten their strict monotheism because only God could be immortal.

This changed during a period of persecution in the second century BCE when Israel was caught up in the conflict between rival factions in the breakup of Alexander the Great’s empire. There was a particularly nasty Seleucid King, Antiochus Epiphanes (God manifest) who persecuted the Jews. There were many Jewish martyrs. The Jews asked the question, “*If God is true, living and life giving, how could these pious ones be murdered for following God’s teaching (Torah) without redress? Could God not keep his promises?*” Daniel proposed a solution that came to him in a vision during this crisis of faith. God would raise up those dead martyrs and vindicate them. “*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life...*” (Daniel 12:1-4) In this he draws on Isaiah 26:19 “*Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise. O dwellers in the dust awake and sing for joy!*” This is about a new Israel that would arise. In Daniel it is the individual. This is a new thing. “*Some, the wise, will awake to everlasting life.*” This is the only time this phrase is used in the Hebrew Bible.

From this beginning some Jews began to believe in rising from the dead, especially the Pharisees. Paul was a Pharisee. The language he uses in his letter to the Thessalonians is the same language used in Daniel.

Next month we will see how Paul records Jesus appearing to others.

## THINKING OUTSIDE THE CELL SERIES

The publication of the Chief Science Advisor's look at the prison system "Using evidence to build a better justice system: The challenge of rising prison costs" prompted the Church and Community Committee to choose this topic for the winter conversations. Despite the falling crime rate, prison numbers and costs are increasing. NZ's rate of imprisonment is one of the highest in the Western world.

We were very fortunate in being able to get some excellent speakers to explore this with. Dr Kim Workman pointed out that NZ does not have a bi-lateral approach to this issue, with the result it became an auction each election to win the Which-party-can-be-tougher-on-crime stakes. Imprisonment has been shown not to work as a deterrent or a rehabilitative method. In fact for young people it can be a great training ground for anti-social behaviour. In the Sunday service he shared his own spiritual journey and was presented with a pin to celebrate his Senior New Zealander of the Year award.



Chris Inglis from Victim Support explained what they do to help victims through the trauma, of the crime but also the subsequent court case. Colin Rose introduced the new Restorative Justice Coordinator, Karen Molesworth, and explained how Restorative Justice could be healing for both victim and perpetrator, where it is appropriate and both parties agree.

It is not only the direct victims and perpetrator of crime who are affected but also the families and particularly the children of prisoners who often go on to offend themselves. We viewed a Youtube video of the trauma experienced by a family when their husband/father was arrested (see the Ted talk by Verna McFelin, founder of Pillars on their website [www.Pillars.org.nz](http://www.Pillars.org.nz)) Anne Overton, from Support Northern told us of her mentoring of a girl whose mother was in prison, through the Pillars organisation. Research from the Social Policy Evaluation and Research Unit under the heading "Improving Outcomes for children with a parent in Prison," shows that con-

sistent mentoring of the children of prisoners can have a positive impact on reducing the intergenerational aspect of imprisonment.

Even more useful according to that research are parenting programmes to parents in prison and Alistair Houston and Sharessa Love from Family Works talked about the parenting courses they give – Alistair to the men at Auckland Prison (Paremoremo) and Sha at the Womens’ Prison in South Auckland where they also have a baby and mother unit.



Our final session was presented by Mike Williams from the NZ Howard League for Penal Reform who told us of their work in providing volunteers who mentored prisoners in reading and also in getting their driver’s licence. Many young people are in prison for driving offences and this assistance not only gives them driving legality but also a means of identification – a prerequisite for getting a bank account and often a job when they leave prison.

Ruth Brash (General Manager Merchandise Placemakers) finished the very positive session about what can be achieved by talking about the Frame and Truss workshop they had set up in the private prison (South Auckland Corrections facility) where low security inmates learnt this building/manufacturing skills which they were able to use when they were released, either at a Placemakers or other Frame and Truss plant.

We started a conversation which needs to go on to make New Zealand a safe and humane place. Several of our congregation who attended felt we needed to

pursue ways in which we could do this and we will follow that up in October. Many thanks to everyone, from the setters up, audio visual operators, the soup makers and clearers up. You made this important series possible.



*Erica Brash*

# 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