



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020



Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister:	Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph Ph: 027 371 4733 tokerau.j@gmail.com
Administrator	Jo Wyman-Macer Ph: 478 6180 office@bayspc.nz
Office hours:	Wednesday via phone and email Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm
Vehicle Access	10 Penzance Rd
Street Address	9 Hastings Rd Mairangi Bay
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
Family Coordinator	Angel Matapo angeljmatapo@gmail.com 022 486 5409
Support worker for the elderly	Margaret Pont 021 679 019 mpont@xtra.co.nz

***This month's newsletter contains photos of parish activities.
Many thanks to Karel for collated photos.***

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- ACTIVITIES MORING - 1st Tuesday of the month 9.30am - 12pm**
 Book Group 9am / Games & Gatherings 10am
 Discuss / swap / borrow books, play cards & board games with a cup of tea
 Contact Raewyn **410 4423** or Margaret **021 679 019**
- GIRLS' BRIGADE - Tuesdays during School term.**
6.30-8pm Church Hall .
 Kay Barbour Ph **478 7603**
- LADIES HOME GROUP -**
10.15am Wednesdays
 Contact Heather on **479-8822**
- GARY SYME'S BORN AGAIN BODIES**
1.00-2.00pm Wednesdays Church Hall.
 Further information Gary Syme Ph 479 2212
- ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**
1pm - 2.30pm Wednesdays Meeting Room 2.
 Further Information John Shadbolt 479 3953 Grace Liu 021 0487978
- HOUSE GROUP**
7.30pm Wednesdays at the Shadbolts
 Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- LUNCHEON GROUP**
12-2pm 2nd Thursday of month in Church hall
 Further information Jill Wyman 021 066 1059.
- DEE'S SOCIAL GROUP**
Thursdays 10am-2pm Mairangi Bay Church Hall
 For further information Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223.
- 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
 Ph Angel Matapo **022 486 5409**



UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

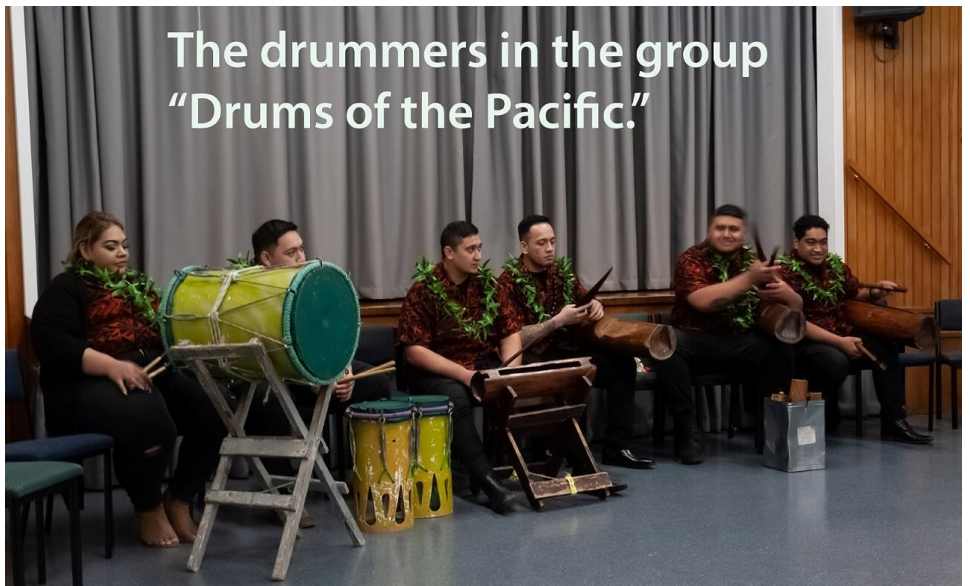
Tena koutou, kia orana and greetings to you all. I do hope you are keeping well during this second round of Covid-19 lockdown level 3. I have to admit that it is very frustrating for ministry. Just when we began to widen our connections with each other and the community at large, the lockdown has again constrained this. It brings added anxiety, especially when failing health and bereavements (non-Covid related) limits the usual presence and support of close family and friends. The media also tells us that many involved in small businesses are nearly at breaking point financially, emotionally, and psychologically. The joy of gathering for major sporting events has now become a very disappointing anti-climax for finals. There is no doubt that the lockdowns are having a massive impact on our lives.

But it's not all doom and gloom. We've seen from the last lockdown that people have also experienced positive aspects to life under lockdown. Families have spent more time doing things together, many found that they were just as productive working from home as when at the workplace, and that the natural environment seemed to have had a chance to regenerate itself. This time around, we can draw confidence in the fact that because we had the ability to cope well before, we can also do it again. We are more resilient than we think.

Our Christian faith reminds us that we are a hopeful people. In times when circum-

stances seemingly overwhelm us and leave us discouraged, our worldview is that these are only part, and not the totality, of life with God.

2 Corinthians 4: 7 – 9 affirms: “Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed.” These words by the Apostle Paul to the early Christians in Corinth, based on his own experiences, prompts them to reconsider the importance or the value of their faith (“spiritual treasure”) during circumstances that negatively impact their



lives (“common clay pot”). Faith in the resurrected Christ assures us that despair and death are not the final words or authority in God’s work of salvation. We can, therefore, face life’s challenges with hope.

As an optimist, I’m confident that we will eventually return to level 1 or no alert level at all. I’m sure that scientists, medical professionals, and Government officials (and others) are doing their very best to provide accurate data to inform best policies and practices. This should provide some hope for us, although we have seen how best intentions and efforts can be compromised by “complacency.” That is why I believe upholding our Christian faith alongside our best efforts is important. Perhaps to the points Paul made that “we are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair”, we could add we are frequently complacent, but hopeful of more opportunities to do better. So, I continue to trust that God is not only with us in this pandemic, God is also the source of hopeful days ahead us.



Tokerau leads a game of “Simon Says” with the audience including the Girls Brigade at the Cook Island Drumming.

THE FOODBANK

We have organised for the stock of food and knitting to be collected and distributed through PSN . Since we won’t be able to collect food while we’re restricted from meeting, those of you who are handy with a sewing machine and have close weave cotton material left over (e.g. quilters supplies) might like to follow one of the many mask patterns online and make up a few washable masks to go with the next lot of food we send to the Food bank.

A WORD FROM KAREL

HOW SHOULD A CHRISTIAN VOTE?

Jesus did not live in a democracy. He did not have the privilege of voting. He lived in a country occupied by a foreign power under what technically is known as a domination system. Wealth was passed along a chain that started with the poor and reached right up to the Roman Emperor. Every person along that chain took a cut, except for the poor who had no one to take a cut from. Furthermore, it was a limited goods society. Unlike today, when there is often a surplus of bread and other necessities in the supermarket, having a loaf of bread in Jesus' day meant that someone else had to go without. The poor were desperately poor. The wealthy showed off their wealth by spending on magnificent clothes and buildings to define their status. Much of what Jesus said and did was to address this injustice in non-violent ways. In this way Jesus followed the tradition of the First Testament prophets.

Jesus cannot give us direct guidance on how we should vote. Yet, as a follower of Jesus we face an awesome responsibility in the polling booth. Collectively all voters hold power to choose the country's leaders and the policies they espouse. Under MMP this is complicated in that no politician can guarantee that they will deliver what they promise. They will most likely need to compromise with other parties.

When Jesus was asked what "is the greatest commandment," he responded, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." This charges us with an awesome responsibility for God's world and our neighbour. This means we must address important issue like voting responsibly with our energy, talents, strengths, and abilities. I suggest we can do this by doing the following.

Firstly, take time to study the policies of each party. This can be done on the web or studying Newspaper summaries. Party advertisements in brief messages can be misleading. Then ask questions. How do these policies fit in with the teaching of Jesus, of love and compassion? What policies are there to care for the vulnerable, the poor, migrants, prisoners, and disabled? How do the policies address growing inequality? Do the policies create real jobs that provide a living wage? Or just jobs that exploit? How are the particular issues of our day addressed : the Treaty of Waitangi; the challenges of Climate change and Covid-19? How do the party policies affect the rest of the

world? Do they work for peace? Post Covid-19 we cannot return to where we were before. What policies does this party have for this new beginning? See information about this at <https://informedfutures.org/contextualising-our-decision-making/> You will have your own questions based on your wisdom of the ways of the world.

Secondly, use what I call prayerful intuition, and ask these questions. Are the candidates and leaders people of integrity? Is this leader or candidate someone I would like beside me in difficult circumstances? Are they motivated by public service, or does ambition for high office and power feature? Currently, we see on the world stage leaders who are there because they have personal ambitions for power. They are disastrous.

No package of policies, candidate or leader will fit your criteria perfectly. They will all have some features which you don't agree with. A near fit and general direction leaning towards what we consider our Christian ideal is probably the best we can do.

Personally, I see three interrelated matters important in this election.

Firstly, climate change and environment. Climate scientists are noticing things like the more frequent wildfires, ice melts and high energy storms are arriving much sooner than their modelling predicted. It is important that we continue on as quickly as we can to pursue a carbon neutral economy. This has implications for employment. If we don't act our children and grandchildren will live in exceedingly difficult and challenging conditions. There are still a small group of climate change deniers. They are well-funded by the industries that will lose financially if measures are taken to slow climate change. How we treat God's world is important and we need to make up for past abuses.

Secondly, a more equitable sharing of the nation's wealth. We cannot continue as a wealthy nation to have people reliant on food banks, without a home and without enough to live, bring up and educate children. At some time, we will need to tackle how we share wealth more equitably. This will require some tax reform that will not be popular. With climate change, the frequency of new pandemics will likely increase. It is in the interest of all that there are healthy homes, adequate incomes, and a healthy population without reservoirs of disease amongst those who lack resources to look after their health. All people are God's people.

Thirdly, we need to tackle Covid-19 and be prepared for future pandemics exacerbated by climate change. The health system has been run down

through underfunding by successive governments over many decades. Many issues in the health system have become highlighted through Covid-19. Reform of our health system is needed. Jesus healed people. Healing was important to him. We too need to embrace healing of individuals and communities.

We also need to plan for a future different from the past. We cannot go back to how things were.

There is much to consider prayerfully and considerately if we are to vote as a Christian follower of Jesus at this election.

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

The 18th August meeting of Parish Council was held via ZOOM (owing to the Covid 19 lockdown) with eleven councillors attending.

Items of interest were:

- The passing of Trish Campbell, Barbara Milne, and Colin Pidgeon (a former parishioner) were recorded with sadness. Karl led us in prayer which included others who had been unwell.
- Two highly successful events – the Cook Islands Language Week service and other events, and Our Favourite Hymns service were held.
- Property and Finance reported that because of services and hire of our premises being affected by lockdown, our income for the coming year could be significantly affected. It is unknown what further disruption Covid 19 might cause in future.
- Lighting in the Church and the hall have been updated and improved.
- Unfortunately, meetings and discussions with election candidates and referendum have been cancelled.
- Fellowship committee noted the successful luncheon at Montrose with 45 attendees.
- Our response to the Theological Education and Leadership Training report was forwarded to Northern Presbytery for consolidation and submitting to PCANZ.
- The AGM has had to be deferred to Sunday 6th September, or a further date if Covid 19 lockdown occurs.

John Shadbolt

THE GENERAL ELECTION

As you will have heard by email if you are on-line, we had to cancel all our election preparation plans. Since the election has been put off until 17 October (early voting from 3 October) the time for candidates to register has increased to 19 September so more candidates may appear. Here are those (registered at the time of writing) in the electorates covered by most of our congregation. As you can see there are some candidates and parties which may be unfamiliar, so you have time to do some research into the candidates and the parties if you wish.

North Shore Candidates and their parties are:

New Conservative	Mike Brewer
Outdoors	Sue Dick
Opportunities	Shai Navot
Green	Elizabeth Rawlings
ONE	Edward Shanly
Labour	Romy Udanga
National	Simon Watts

East Coast Bays

Labour	Monina Hernandez
Green	Daniel Jones
Outdoors	Marius Keokemoer
National	Erica Stanford

Upper Harbour

National	Jake Bezzant
ACT	Karen Chhour
Outdoors	Catherine Giorza
Green	Ryan Nicholls
New Conservative	Bernadette Soares
Labour	Vanushi Walters

As you know we will also be asked to vote on 2 referendums:

1. Cannabis legislation and control referendum. If 50% or more vote “Yes” on this it will support the incoming government to introduce a Bill on the subject. It would then go through the usual Committee stages before it could be enacted.
2. The End of Life Choice. In this case an Act has already been passed into law but its implementation is dependent on a “Yes” vote of more than 50%

To get some neutral information on both these referendums go to www.referendums.govt.nz

I was also sent these two links with factual information which may be of interest (The video isn't great unfortunately.)

www.selwynfoundation.org.nz/promotions/information-for-the-general-election

<https://cannabisreferendum.co.nz/>

Finding out what the policies of the different parties are

The web sites or face book entries give party policies. Another source is the Spinoff's collection of policies.

The Spinoff (a news organisation) is putting together the parties' policies on various topics which is a helpful tool for comparing them. It is available at policy.nz

They point out that "Only parties with a seat in the current parliament, or polling over one per cent as at 1 August in the Radio New Zealand "Poll of Polls" aggregation, have been included."

I hope this is a helpful alternative to our Candidates Evening .

Erica Brash - Church and Community Convenor





Dr Sally Akevai Nicholas speaker at the special service to mark Cook Island Language Week.



Ridge Ponini solo singer at our Sunday Service on the 2nd of August. Ridge is a professional singer.

CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS FOR 2020

EVENT	TIME	PLACE	FREQUENCY	CONTACT
Activities Mornings, Board & Card Games	10am-12noon	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	1st Tues of the month	Margaret Pont 021 679019
Book Club	9.30am	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Margaret Pont 021679019
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Wednesday	Gary Syme 479 2212
Church Choir	7.15pm	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays before special services	Norma Baker 443 3108
Dees Social Club	10am -2pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Every Thursday	Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	John Shadbolt 479 3953
Friday Night Discussion Group	6.30pm	To be Advised	3rd Friday of the month	Karel Lorier 414 6321
Girls Brigade	6.30 - 8pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour 478-7603
House Group		22A Hastings Rd Mairangi Bay	TBA	Dorille Shadbolt 479-3953
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
Mainly Music	10.00-11a m	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	Every Friday in school term	Angel Matapo 022 486 5409
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne 478 5786
Transportation Available	<i>Arranged as required and as requested</i>			Norma Baker 443 3108
Youth & children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Angel Matapo 022 486 5409