



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

### **NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2021**



**Tokerau offers prayer with the children for the new school year.**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

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

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph</b> <b>Ph: 027 371 4733</b> <b>tokerau.j@gmail.com</b>
<b>Honorary Assistant Minister:</b>	<b>Rev. Karel Lorier</b> <b>021 903 762</b>
<b>Hindi Mission Minister</b>	<b>Raju George</b> <b>021 0684603</b>
<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Jo Wyman-Macer</b>  <b>Ph: 478 6180</b>  <b>office@bayspc.nz</b>
<b>Office hours:</b>	<b>Wednesday via phone and email</b>  <b>Thursday—Friday 9am to 1pm</b>
<b>Vehicle Access</b>	<b>10 Penzance Rd</b>
<b>Street Address</b>	<b>9 Hastings Rd</b>  <b>Mairangi Bay</b>
<b>Postal Address</b>	<b>PO Box 65299, Mairangi Bay</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz</b>
<b>Parish Clerk</b>	<b>Stewart Milne</b>  <b>Ph: 478 5786</b>  <b>Mobile: 027 293 8499</b>
<b>Treasurer, property and finance</b>	<b>George Wyman</b>  <b>Ph 478 6411</b>
<b>Family Activities Coordinator</b>	<b>Angel Matapo</b>  <b>angeljmatapo@gmail.com</b>  <b>022 486 5409</b>
<b>Support worker for the elderly</b>	<b>Margaret Pont</b>  <b>021 679 019</b>  <b>mpont@xtra.co.nz</b>

## REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **ACTIVITIES MORNING - 1st Tuesday of the month 9.30am - 12pm**  
Book Group 9am / Games & Gatherings 10am  
Discuss, swap, borrow books, play cards & board games & 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**



- **FAMILY STYLE FUN NIGHT**  
**1ST Friday every month Church Hall 6pm**  
Ph Angel Matapo **022 486 5409**

## UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

Mid-week devotional 24th February 2021

Proverbs 21: 3

“To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.” The Message translation puts it this way: “Clean living before God and justice with our neighbours mean far more to God than religious performance.”

These are words of instruction originally directed to a young king but can be applied to anyone. Although having authority over others, the king was also understood to be a servant of God and therefore accountable to God. The king’s response to God was not merely worship or “religious performance;” rather, it had to reflect certain qualities of God – righteousness and justice. The text makes clear that the kind of response God wants from people is one that reflects how well they relate with or treat others. This informs or shapes their worship of God.

Responding to God through worship is not just about praying or singing the right words about God. It must include how well we live with and treat others and ourselves. I believe it also involves how well we live and treat the environment since we live in God’s creation. It reflects the heart of our discipleship of loving God, neighbour, and ourselves.

So, here’s the challenge for us. How pleased do you think God is with your response of discipleship? Is it just a “religious performance” or does it reflect the qualities God is looking for in you; like living right and justly in the way you treat others and the environment?

Rev. Tokerau Joseph

### **Family style Fun Night 6.30pm Friday 1st Friday every month**

Come and join us for a Pot Luck dinner and fun and games evening. Be a part of our community family. Bring food to share and come and join in.

Come alone or come with others, it doesn't matter. All ages welcome.

Contact Angel Matapo Ph 022 4865409 [angeljmatapo@gmail.com](mailto:angeljmatapo@gmail.com)

## A WORD FROM KAREL

### *Dare to be free*

Dare to be free, bold, and innovative.

While preparing for a presentation on economics I came across the term “the Matthew effect.” It refers to the parable of the talents, (Matthew 25:14- 30) how the poor get poorer and the rich get richer.

In the gospels we get closest to what Jesus taught in the parables. They are open to a variety of interpretations and were so when Jesus first told them. As an itinerant teacher, he would use these parables on numerous occasions. The gospel writers incorporated them in contexts where they felt they were appropriate. The gospel writers gave them their own interpretations. We need to ignore those interpretations to see how the parable would be interpreted by those who first heard it. The parable of the talents is well known. The word talent, meaning skills and ability, came into the language through this parable in the 13th century. So, we have programs like “NZ got talent,” but in the parable a talent is a coin.

The parable that Jesus taught has a man going on a journey. He gives his servants money to look after according to their ability, one servant gets five talents, another two talent and the third gets one talent to look after. The amount of money involved is considerable. A talent was the largest coin in the Greek world and weighed between 26 and 33Kg of silver - not something that you'd want to put in your pocket! The first two, those with five and two talents, immediately start to trade with them. But the one with one talent buried it in the ground. When the master returned from his journey, he approached each servant in turn. The one who had five talents had doubled the money to ten talents. The servant who had been given two talents had also doubled the money. These two are commended by the master as good and faithful servants. When the servant given one talent came to give account to the master he said, “I know you are a hard man and you harvest where you did not sow, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you.”

The master responds, “You bad and lazy servant! You knew did you that I reap harvest where I did not sow, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who had ten talents.” There is a hint here that the master generously gives the money to the two enterprising servants.

This is followed by the saying which occurs several times in the gospels in different places and is given different meanings, “For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; But the person who has nothing even the little that he has will be taken away from him.” (Matt 25:29, Luke 19:26, Mark 4:25, Matthew 13:12. Luke 8:18, Thomas 41:1-2) The poor Galilean peasants listening to Jesus would have nodded in agreement. This is the way they experienced the world.

We see this happening in NZ today. A poor family buys a bomb of a car. Employment depends on the car. The car breaks down, requiring expensive repairs, or fails a warrant of fitness. To retain employment, they run into debt or accumulate fines for driving without a warrant of fitness. Things go from bad to worse. Without a car one of the family members becomes unemployed. Debts accumulate and they are now in a downward spiral where what most people consider essentials are foregone. When I was minister in Henderson and working in counselling I observed this as an all too familiar pattern.

That is one interpretation of the parable.

Scholars of the parables write that the scribes and the Pharisees would have understood this parable very differently. The servant who buried the talent did exactly what was right and what the religious law demanded. He followed the rules. Interest was not to be charged on money. He took great care of his master’s resources. Yet, in the parable those who ignored the religious law and did not play it safe were the ones who were commended and the one who took the greatest risk was the most rewarded. The parable with its two interpretations has something to say to our time. The two interpretations are also related.

We need to eliminate poverty and counter the spiral into increasing poverty. Secondly, the Kingdom of God (or life) Jesus proclaimed is a place of freedom, the old rules don't apply, innovation and taking risks are rewarded. For the church to simply repeat what we have said and done in the past finds little traction. Nationally and globally, facing increasing poverty, the economic problems of COVID-19, and the climate and environmental crises will demand innovative and bold solutions. Avoiding the changes required by burying our talent is to fail. We need to dare to be free from the past, to be bold and innovative



## UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Our 16 Feb meeting of Parish Council had to be held by way of Zoom due to the Covid Level 3 restrictions being imposed from 15th

We always constitute our meetings with input from a member. This month it was Erica's turn and she used a reading based on the African concept of Ubuntu a rough translation of which is 'I am because we are' – an individual gains their identity through a community.

The first item on our agenda is a pastoral update. Several of our members are experiencing difficult times and those we know of are being followed up. If you or someone you know is in this situation please let Norma know (443 3108) or me (4785786) or Tokerau (027 371 4733). Thank you.

Covid : Looking back over 2020 I see the disruptions that occurred to our lives through the periods of lockdown. We are certainly hoping that this will not be another year of disruptions however we know that our situation is so very much better than in many other places in the world.

As to the holding of church services in our buildings and the other gatherings that are so much a part of our church life it will be the case of letting you know as things change as I did via email on 18 Feb for the service on 21st. If in doubt please ring your pastoral visitor or me (Stewart on 4785786)

Matters coming before Parish Council at our February Meeting:

- An update on progress with the revision of our parish plan which has reached the stage where we are getting feedback from those on the planning group who have been talking to community organisations and others as to where we can best put our efforts as a church in the community
- An appreciation for the grants we have had this year. These have come from the Lister Trust, The Northern Presbytery and PressGo and have all gone to help us in meeting the costs of our community mission projects
- The intention of holding a working bee to address some of the tasks needing to be done in and around the church
- The many and varied activities that the Hindi Mission Congregation has held over the December January period

- The dates for the first two Special Communion Services and lunches for the elderly are programmed for 13 April and 10 August.
- The success of the evening family games and meal events which Angel arranges for the first Friday of each month. These result in a great mixture of cultures and food and lots of fun
- The pride in the generosity of our congregation which allowed us to fill 82 Christmas cheer boxes with treats at our annual December ‘packing’ service. We have had so much positive feedback from the recipients
- A decision to continue what was started this Christmas with gift boxes for the elderly
- A decision to take steps to learn more about the matter of ‘Conversion Therapy’ before we make any response following a letter from Family First advocating that we oppose a piece of legislation that the Government is looking to introduce this year
- Advice on the steps we have taken to respond to the requirement that we report to the Royal Commission on Abuse as to whether there have been allegations regarding those ‘in care’ at this parish going back to 1950
- Who to nominate to become Moderator Designate at the General Assembly which is due to be held in Christchurch at the end of September
- Approval to hold an International Women’s Day Event followed by a light meal in the hall on Saturday 6 March. The proposal came from a member of our Hindi Mission congregation.

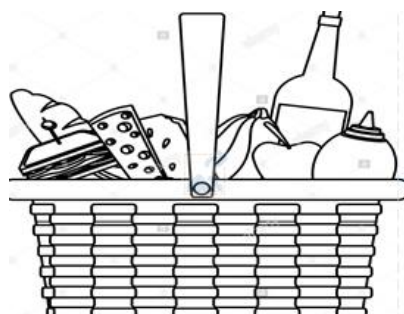
Stewart Milne

## World Children’s day picnic Sunday 7th March

to be held on the Mairangi beach after church.

Bring your own lunch and enjoy chatting with friends in the shade of the Pohutukawa trees and maybe joining in French cricket or swimming, or the younger ones jumping off Murray’s Bay wharf.

We will provide ice and cold water.





## **LUNCH GROUP**

### **THURSDAY MARCH 11th 12 – 2pm.**

Bring your lunch & a friend & enjoy a treat with JESS ROGERS, a lovely young lady who sang in the production of MAM-MA MIA at the Bruce Mason Theatre before finishing her training in London.

Endorsed by John Somerville & I, who had the pleasure of being entertained by her, at our December Friendship Club meeting.

Gold coin donation at the door.

Trade table & raffles operating.

## **WORKING BEE AT THE CHURCH**

### **SATURDAY 20 MARCH 9am**

#### **We need helpers**

Weather permitting we will be doing gardening (including weeding, cutting out dead stuff, clearing out kikuyu etc) as well as washing off parts of the buildings and the windows (inside and out as well as surrounds), cleaning the kitchen and whatever else needs doing.

Starting around 9am on 20th and all over by lunchtime. Bring some tools and yourself – All welcome. Morning tea and some socialising are guaranteed. Note: If it's wet we will postpone until **Saturday 27 March**

For information ring George 4786411; Stewart 4785786 or Peter 4796631





English  
Conversations Group

Dees Group Bowling



Choral Service - Choir





1st Friday of the month -  
Friday Night Games  
followed by a shared meal

After the Hindi  
Service



Mainly Music

## 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 <b>021 679019</b>
Born Again Bodies	1 - 2pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Wednesdays	Gary Syme <b>479 2212</b>
Church Choir	Sun 9am before Choral services	Mairangi Bay Church	Thursdays before special services	Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Dees Social Club	10am -2pm	Mairangi Church lounge	Thursdays	Tangi Joseph <b>022 657 3223</b>
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Wednesdays Meeting Rm 2 in school term	John 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>
Girls Brigade	6.30 - 8pm	Mairangi Bay Church Hall	Every Tuesday in school term	Kay Barbour <b>478-7603</b>
House Group		22A Hastings Rd Mairangi Bay	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	Fridays in school term	Angel Matapo <b>022 486 5409</b>
Parish Council	7.30pm	Mairangi Bay Church Lounge	3rd Tuesday of the month	Stewart Milne <b>478 5786</b>
Transportation Available	<i>Arranged as required and as requested</i>			Norma Baker <b>443 3108</b>
Youth & children	10am	Mairangi Bay Church	Sundays	Angel Matapo <b>022 486 5409</b>