



# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**MAY 2021**



**ANZAC Day 2021**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>Minister:</b>	<b>Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph</b> <b>Ph: 027 371 4733</b> <b>tokerau.j@gmail.com</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 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>

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

## 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

Tangi & I try to walk together as often as we can. They're opportunities to get fit while enjoying the beautiful walkways along our bays. Last Monday we walked together as a family at Kennedy Park. It was my first time there and I didn't realise we would be walking up and down the stairs for 40 minutes. It was tough and I'm still feeling sore. Yet, it was a great time together as a family in encouraging one another to keep going. Since then, I came across an article that I found very encouraging and would like to share it with you. It's by Jake Owensby entitled:

“A long, uneven walk”

We're not just solo walkers who happen to be striding along the same road, oblivious to and unconcerned with who might happen to be in the lane next to us. On the contrary, as we travel a shared path, we braid our lives into a common fabric. You become part of me. I become part of you.

Joy and I have been together for nearly forty years. Sometimes I look at her, and my chest tightens with the realization of how intertwined our lives have become through the adventures we've shared, the people we've loved, the sorrows we've endured, the burdens we've carried, and the joys we've celebrated.

This is what it means to love. Love can be far more than a strong attraction or a deep affection. To love is to give ourselves so thoroughly to each other as we wander this planet together that, over time, we are woven together. We are still ourselves, and yet we are intimately, undeniably connected.

I feel that tightness in my chest when I acknowledge that we are finite. We have each been allotted a limited time to walk this road. In all likelihood, Joy or I will continue walking after the other's journey has come to an end.

So, finite beings that we are, because we have given ourselves over to love, we will probably know grief.





No wonder some people resist love's self-surrender. It leaves such a painful mark. But that is ultimately a fool's game. It is our very essence as human beings to give and to receive love. We cannot help but yearn to love and to be loved.

When we resist this yearning for very long, we will succeed only in distorting love into a desire to consume or control. Our hearts will harden with loneliness, bitterness, and cynicism. We will not protect ourselves from love's sorrows so much as replace those sorrows with self-inflicted spiritual and emotional wounds.

As for me, this finite love is made worthwhile because I believe that it participates in something more. Through the finite love we give and receive in our brief span on this earth, we participate in the infinite, eternal love that brings all things into existence. We participate in the very life of God.

Jesus once said, "I am the Way." (John 14:6) His way of being—a way of self-giving love—connects us not only to one another but to the very source of all things. When we love, our lives become intertwined with God's own life. In other words, we get a foretaste of eternal life in the Jesus-shaped love we share right here and right now.

In Luke's Gospel, the crucified and risen Jesus appears to his friends. They don't know what to make of it. Is he a ghost? Are they seeing things?

He tells them, "Look at my hands and my feet." (Luke 24:39) In other words, he's saying something like this:

Remember the love I modeled all the way to the cross. It can be costly and painful. But that love connects you to God and is the pattern of a new kind of life. A life over which death no longer has any power.

Perhaps it's because I've grown older, but I'm especially aware these days that Joy and I are walking each other home. And I'm convinced that we are all of us—no exceptions—just walking each other home.

Love is a long, uneven walk. The thought of it sort of breaks my heart. And it gives me a glimpse of life eternal.





Aurelia Edwards lead the congregation in prayer at the Girls' Brigade Service.

## ROYAL AWARDS

With the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh there has been publicity over the Duke of Edinburgh's Award . What is not so well known is that Her Majesty the Queen also has an award known as The Girls Brigade Queens Award. This is open to girls 15 years of age and over who are members of a Girls Brigade and who achieve the requirements of the award. Details are available from Kay Barbour 478 7603. Kay is the leader of the Girls Brigade which meets at the Mairangi Bay Presbyterian Church on a Tuesday evening. Several of the girls from this group have achieved the requirements and been awarded with the Queens Award which is presented at a special function at Parliament. .

## LUNCH GROUP

THURSDAY 13th MAY 12 – 2pm.

Bring your lunch & a friend or two & enjoy fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee.

Then from 1 – 2pm. be amazed at the quality of music from the MURRAY'S BAY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA.

Gold Coin Donation at the door.  
Trade table and raffles operating.



Kay Barbour, Girls' Brigade Leader. addresses the congregation.

# A WORD FROM KAREL

## Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ must be the most well-known name worldwide. His name is frequently used in churches. He is known as a prophet in Islam. By those who know little about him and the meaning of his name it is used as a swear word when things go wrong. Some people who do not know the significance of his name think he is the son of Mr and Mrs Christ.

In order to understand Jesus Christ's significance, we need to go back a long way to around 586 BCE with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar. King Hezekiah, King of Judah, was captured, his sons were killed in front of him before he was blinded and taken in chains to Babylon where he was imprisoned and died. This was the end of the House of David. David and Solomon had ruled when Israel and Judah were at the height of their power.

Many people were taken into exile in Babylon. The temple at Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews had to reinvent their religion, remembered in the Psalm, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land." There was a deep longing for God to send them a Messiah, an anointed one like David. Under Cyrus the Persian conqueror of Babylon they were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple after 538 BCE.

During this time before the birth of Jesus there were a number of important developments. About 300-200 years before Jesus some Jews accepted Greek ideas along with their traditional Judaism. They became known as the Sadducees after the high priest Zadok in King Solomon's time. They were an elite group. The other group which accepted only the strict laws of Moses were known as the Pharisees (separate ones). They took their religion very seriously and undoubtedly there were many good people among them. They get a bad press because the gospels of Matthew, Luke and John were written at the time when the Pharisees were dominant in the synagogues and the followers of Jesus, known as followers of "the way" were being excommunicated from the Synagogue.

The Jewish people remained a conquered people under cruel and oppressive overlords. This only intensified their longing for a Messiah, an anointed leader from God, who would throw off their oppressors. There were a number of men who claimed to be the Messiah.

Jesus was born at a time when various political events heightened the expectations that God would send a military leader, the Messiah, (Christ in Greek) to conquer the Roman occupiers.

The first record we have of Jesus as the Christ is in the letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, written about 20 years after Jesus' crucifixion, where Paul addresses the Thessalonian people of the church "who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Not until Paul wrote Galatians some years later do we find out that he was a Pharisee who persecuted the followers of Jesus and then "God called me to serve him. (And) When he decided to reveal his son to me, so that I might preach the Good News about him to the Gentiles."

This was written more than 20 years before the first gospel, Mark, was written. In Mark's gospel at Jesus' baptism by John a voice from heaven came saying, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you." This led to thinking that Jesus was adopted by God for his mission at his baptism.



Matthew and Luke both have prologues to their gospels in the form of birth myths. Such myths were reserved for important people and for some it included that they were born from a virgin.

Jesus was born in Nazareth. He was known throughout his life as Jesus of Nazareth, but common belief was that the Messiah (Christ) would be born in Bethlehem. Matthew and Luke use different stories to place Jesus' birth there.

Matthew's birth story has Mary and Joseph living in Bethlehem. The angel Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph who is portrayed as seeing visions - like the Joseph story in the Genesis (37-47) who is sold by his brothers, and eventually becomes 2nd in charge of Egypt and rescues his family from famine. Joseph, the father of Jesus, likewise takes his family to Egypt to escape the massacre of boys ordered by King Herod. The massacre of boys immediately reminds the Jewish audience, to which the gospel is addressed, of the story of Moses. Strong echoes from Isaiah come with the wise men from the East travelling by following a star to bring gifts to Jesus.

In Luke's gospel, it is Mary who receives the news of Jesus birth and Joseph plays a secondary role. They travel to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth and he is born in the stable. It is shepherds who come to pay homage. There is no mention of Egypt. The family travels to the temple fulfil the ritual requirement of the Jewish law. Both those prologues use myth.



They are important stories, we should not discard them, but they are not meant to be taken literally.

John's gospel has no birth story but an interesting prologue about which I will write in a future article.



Leading the singing at the Hindi Service

Jesus did not fit people's expectations about the Messiah. He was not a powerful military leader. On the contrary he was a humble man of peace, who served others and welcomed women and children. Yet, in a short time after he was crucified and seen by some people as a criminal, he is addressed as Christ, Son of God. He dramatically changed the way people understand God and what God requires.

Our task in the 21st century is to interpret Jesus Christ in ways that changes lives and communities today



The Bible and Girls' Brigade flag are processed out of the church after the Girls' Brigade Service

## UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

At our April meeting of Parish Council we:

Prayed for Raju George our Hindi Mission Minister who is currently stuck in Delhi and unable to return to NZ due to the lockdown on travel

Approved study leave for Tokerau from 9 August to 30 October. Tokerau came to us with a lot of accrued study leave and reached the maximum permissible last year. This is an opportune time to take leave. He is currently considering researching one aspect of the critical shortage of ministers in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ.

Had a report from Ian Watson, the convenor of our Worship Committee, on the plans for leading our worship services and for handling pastoral matters while Tokerau is away. A schedule will be available before Tokerau starts his leave.

Welcomed and agreed to Tokerau's proposal that we hold 4 Cook Island services of worship this year as well as the celebration of Cook Is language week which will be held in early August. These services will be held in our church at 4 pm on 16 May, 18 July, 19 Sept and 21 November.



Had a report from Roopali who is leading and organising the twice a month Hindi Mission Services during Raju's absence.

Decided to donate some shrubs and garden products to the SHINE Womens Refuge on the North Shore. Erica is handling this and she would welcome any contributions

Approved the 2021 draft Church Plan for recommending to the congregation. The Plan will be available by email on request and hard copies will be run off and available at the service on 9 May. A meeting of the Congregation to consider, discuss, question, amend and approve the plan will be held after church on 23 May

Agreed to hold a workshop for Elders at the church on Saturday 29 May between the hours of 9am to noon. All Elders (not just those who are currently on Parish Council) will be welcome to attend. The workshop will provide an opportunity to refresh our understanding of eldership.



Received a report on congregational giving in the 12 months to 31 March which was the end of the tax year. We have a system which is designed to provide confidentiality as to who is contributing financially to the running of our church and as to how much their contributions are. However the numbers make it clear that the the number of people on our roll is not matched by the number of people contributing. We are levied by the PCANZ and Presbytery on the basis of numbers on our roll and so a degree of cross subsidisation is taking place. Copies of this report are available on request.

Decided that a Special Appeal for funds should take place given that : We are facing a deficit for the end of June year of around \$15k; we have missed out on revenue (including from those who use our buildings) during the covid interruptions; we have received a clear message from the organisations which have made grants to us in the past to help with the costs of running our community facing activities that we cannot rely on these continuing. It is nearly 5 years since we last held a Special Appeal and we will be stressing that it only applies to those who are fortunate enough to be in a position to give some more.

Received a second report from the Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT) working group which was set up by the General Assembly of PCANZ to consider the training of ministers and the growing critical shortage of ministers . Parish Council set up a group to consider it and respond. A copy of the TELT Report is available from me.

Stewart Milne



## 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	Every Wednesday	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	Every Thursday	Tangi Joseph <b>022 657 3223</b>
English Conversations	1 - 2.30pm	Mairangi Bay	Every Wednesday Meeting Room 2.	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	Every Friday 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>