



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz

<https://www.facebook.com/bayspresbyterian>



***Christmas Treats for needy families
Packing Service December 2022***

THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY

We begin our newsletters for 2023 with a number of photographs taken during December 2022 as various activities we are associated with closed for the year. Starting with our Packaging Service, which reflects our wish to remember others less fortunate as they face the Christmas Season, the montage reflects our community outreach through such activities as our Mainly Music Programme, our support for those caring for dementia sufferers , and our provision of help for those learning English.

All are very important activities of our parish, reflecting a long-held wish, over many years to provide a service for a groups in our community who have specific needs we believe we can meet.

Here at Mairangi Bay, we offer such support through the Church and Community Committee of Parish Council. As well as embracing the above activities, the Committee has set up a number of Fellowship groups, and from time to time organised workshops on such social issues as prison reform. A number of people have also offered themselves as learner support people in some schools. Our outreach has not gone unnoticed, with our local Community Board, cognisant of the number of people in our community who feel lonely, seeking to work with us to remedy this situation.

We are, of course not the only church seeking to offer support to our community. Some Presbyterian Churches, here and in other parts of New Zealand have rebranded themselves as Community Churches to reflect their wish to serve their community in way we do. But, particularly in Auckland communities per se are not static. In contrast to Dunedin, for instance, population growth is normal, and with that comes a whole host of issues that include the provision of amenities, activities, even governance. It is important as good citizens that we play our part in these wider issues.

Ian Watson

Combined Service with Browns Bay, Forrest Hill & Glenfield 1st January



Packing Service Dec 2022



Christmas Eve 2022



UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

Happy New Year! I hope you've had a good start to 2023 and looking ahead to what the future holds.

I want to share how encouraged I've been since our last newsletter of November 2022. This is with respect to our worship services leading up to and since Christmas. Beginning with the Packing service in the hall, it was such a joy to witness the generous response of people contributing to the goodies provided for packing. Moreover, was gifting them to organisations who would share them with needy families. It was a wonderful experience for new folk joining us that day which served as a great testimony to the love of Christ demonstrated through all involved. Similarly, the Mainly Music service conducted in the church was memorable. Seeing young families participating with excited children and smiling parents in a worship context was priceless.

Continuing to build strong connections with them is imperative. I want to congratulate our Mainly Music team for an awesome service and the tremendous effort for Friday programmes during the year. There were also parallels with the Christmas Eve carol service. Focused again on families, the service enabled people of all ages to get involved when retelling the Christmas story. It was a very colourful event filled with much laughter and joyful singing of favourite carols. Although requiring a lot of work in preparation and delivery, such a service is always worthwhile doing. Positive feedback from many attendees affirmed this. The Christmas Day service was amazing in more ways than one. Not only was it a joyous occasion, but the joy also included a full church. Past Christmas Day services have usually seen low attendance numbers, so it was fantastic to see so many people celebrate Christmas together in worship. The same could be said of post-Christmas services.

Hosting the first of four combined services with our sister congregations from Browns Bay, Forrest Hill, and Glenfield again saw our premises at full capacity. In all honesty, I did not expect this as I assumed people would prefer to do other things since it was also New Year's Day. Yet, to see such a great turnout was extremely uplifting and, even more so, when people continued to connect and chat over tea and coffee afterwards. It was also a pleasure to reconnect with our past minister Rev Don Hall and Janet Hall who joined us that day. The subsequent combined services at the other churches have been enriching in style and fellowship as well.

I've been working through the Christmas and New Year period. One thing keeping me busy has been weddings. I conducted one on the 6th January for Caren Rangi and McKenzie Kaitao at Omatua Lodge near Napier. It was a very scenic location at which 260 people gathered for the marriage celebration. Fortunately, the rain held off until all things were done. As I write this article, I am preparing for a second wedding for Jade Roxburgh and Antonio Adams on 19 January in Waiuku. A significant number is also anticipated at

this celebration, and I trust it will also be a wonderful occasion to not only join the couple together in marriage, but also to point both them and guests to the love of God in which we are all held.

On 1st February, I will commence my new role as Minister Enabler with Northern Presbytery. As secondment in a halftime capacity, I want to assure you, again, that I am still your minister and will be around our premises doing, ministry, albeit at halftime. It will be a different journey for this year and the next two more years. Yet, I believe it will provide opportunities to develop my ministry experience while also contributing to the development of ministry within Northern Presbytery. If my work can encourage people to explore any sense of call to the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament and see that translate into increasing applications for such a vocation, then you will be part of that success. The bigger hope is that such achievements can extend to other presbyteries as well. Please keep me in your prayers.

Lastly, I want to return thanks to God for bringing me to five years of ministry here at Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church. I can't believe five years have passed by so quickly since starting in February 2018. It's been an incredible journey so far and I want to express my gratitude for all the support you have given to me and my family. I won't mention names for fear of missing out someone, but suffice it to say that I couldn't have wished for a better group of people to serve alongside. Thank you and God bless.

Tokerau



Rev. Don & Janet Hall

Change to our Minister's work arrangements - 1st Feb

As was agreed at the meeting of the Congregation on 27 November our Minister Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph will be seconded to the Northern Presbytery for 50% of his time over the next 3 years. This new arrangement will commence on 1 February.

At his time with Northern Presbytery, Tokerau will be working in a position titled 'Minister Enabler'. This half time position was created by Northern Presbytery to tackle the urgent and growing problem of inadequate numbers of suitable applicants entering the current training system for Ordained Ministry in the Presbyterian Church here in Aotearoa NZ.

This critical problem is a matter that Tokerau has already undertaken some research on and Northern Presbytery has decided that he is in the best position to tackle it. It is important to note that Tokerau will continue to be our Minister but is being seconded to Northern Presbytery for 50% of his time. He will continue to use his church office when he is not at Presbytery or visiting other churches or organisations.

The arrangement that we have come to with Tokerau for the time he will spend on our 50% of his time will see him continuing to lead our worship on the first 3 Sundays of each month. On the 4th and 5th Sundays the 10am Service will be led by one of our congregation and this may include an invited speaker. Ian Watson as Convenor of the Worship Committee has already worked up a roster to cover Sundays in 2023. He will welcome offers. We will be trialing Tokerau's midweek devotions being on a fortnightly basis. The situation with regard to funerals and weddings will continue as in the past as will Tokerau's availability for important matters.

When considering this matter before making its recommendation to the Congregation, Parish Council acknowledged and accepted that there will be the need for some of us to pick up responsibilities which Tokerau will no longer be in a position to continue with during the next 3 years. His involvement with activities such as: the Hindi Services; Church and Community as well as Christian Education Committee Meetings; English Conversations will of necessity be limited. Pastoral Visitors will be asked to pick up more responsibility although where needed Tokerau will make time for involvement.

During my time here at Mairangi Bay Church we have experienced and managed many changes and with this change many of us will not notice much difference to what we have experienced over the last 5 years of Tokerau's Ministry.

The main concern of Parish Council is that Tokerau will find himself overloaded as he commits to undertaking both jobs and we must do what we can to ease the load on him as he continues as our Minister whilst undertaking this important work for the future of the wider Presbyterian Church.

Communication will be increasingly important as we settle down to the new arrangement. Please do not hesitate to raise queries or points for clarification with me or any members of Parish Council. Stewart Milne (Parish Clerk) 4785786 or 027 293 8499 stewart.milne@xtra.co.nz

A Word from Karel

Waitangi Day – a personal journey. On 6th of February, we will be remembering Waitangi day. This is an important occasion as it celebrates the birth of our nation. I think that each one of us living in NZ has a personal journey with this treaty. My journey started when I came to NZ as a 9-year-old in 1952. Our family settled in Ashburton. I knew little about NZ before I got here. I had seen pictures in magazines mainly scenery, and a man catching a large salmon with a bent rod and some young women in traditional Māori costume.

I knew nothing of NZ history, Māori or the Treaty. At school the teacher put me between two girls. One was a polio victim who had callipers and used crutches to walk. The other was a Māori girl. As far as I can recollect the only Māori in the school. She was my first encounter with a Māori person. The teacher called us his “odds and sods.” He clearly had difficulties dealing with people who were different. However, I was fortunate, the headmaster, Jock Fraser, took me aside into his office for an hour or two every morning to teach me English. He had a more positive attitude to Māori.

There was little mention of the Treaty at school. We learnt about Māori and a little about Māori customs. My next encounter with Māori occurred when both my parents became ill. The house which my father was altering was not habitable. My younger brother and I were sent to a Boys’ Home at Temuka for a year. There were lots of Māori boys there – both friends and bullies.

Returning to attend secondary school at Ashburton there was little teaching about NZ history and the Treaty. I remember one teacher telling stories about Governor Grey outwitting Māori to get roads built over their land. I also first saw a black and white documentary film which showed happy Māori and repeated the statement that NZ has the “best race relations” in the world. I saw this documentary film many times at Teachers’ College, when as student I was posted to the Otago Museum during teacher training and showed it to school children.

My first inklings that this rosy picture of the relationship between Māori and Pakeha as agreed to in the Treaty of Waitangi was not all that it was believed to be and said to be, came during my theological studies when visiting Māori speakers who drew attention to injustices. But I was led to believe, or chose to believe, that this was the result of isolated incidents - some settlers eager to obtain land and Wakefield’s NZ company. Māori objected and started the Māori wars.

When I was Minister at Coromandel local Māori had blocked the road at Mania, objecting to their land being taken. It appeared as a local issue with the establishment of coastal reserves Māori coastal land was taken but not from Pakeha farmers.

When I moved to Henderson, Auckland in the 1980's members of Auckland Presbytery were invited to a hui on the land issue at Te Maungarongo Ohope Marae, the PCANZ marae. About half a dozen members responded. We were treated to speeches and discussion by Matiu Rata, Eva Ricard and Joe Hawke. Maybe I misunderstood, or was not ready to hear, but I understood the injustices to Māori to be local issues. Raglan golf course and Bastion point rather than a much wider issue.

It was not until I travelled, photographing the return of Bishop Pompallier's remains from Paris to Motuti, that I became aware of the full extent of the injustice done to Māori. When we travelled to Rangioawhia I heard the story of what happened there. I started to read further. In short, I discovered that Māori had been dealt with unjustly, not only by some renegade settlers eager for land, as I had been led to believe, but by the Crown – the government. The Māori wars were land wars instigated by the crown. Even Māori friendly to the Crown were deprived of their lands and livelihood by having their land confiscated by the Crown to be sold to settlers eager for land. Prosperous Māori settlements which were trading with Auckland, Australia and California were reduced to poverty. This theft of the land was contrary to what was agreed to in the Treaty.

The Treaty of Waitangi arose in part because church evangelicals in England wanted to avoid the conflicts which had occurred in other nations during colonisation. As Christians we have a stake in making sure the injustices created by breaking the treaty are righted. The bible justice and reconciliation. As Christians we need to address the addresses injustices done to Māori. Injustices done have had enduring consequence for us as a nation. Māori feature prominently in all our nation's negative statistics, homelessness, poverty, health, imprisonment, and road deaths.

Setting things right has been in process for some years in the treaty settlements. But much more still needs to be done. It will be a costly process because majority wealthy, powerful Pakeha groups will need to

give up some of their power and privileges. There are no suitable models of satisfactory settlements of past injustices in other countries. In Aotearoa New Zealand we will need to experiment and try different things. Some will fail. But forgiveness, reconciliation, and righting wrongs is what we must do. Jesus is recorded as saying, "If you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God." Matthew 5:23-24

Our just relationship with others is important in the sight of God.



CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The cash offerings collected at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services were topped up from money left over from our Christmas Treats donations and totalled \$1,000. This has been sent to CWS (Christian World Services) for their "Let Hope Flow this Christmas" Appeal. As was explained in the Appeal Brochure, this appeal is all about the provision of clean water where it is desperately needed. There is a particular focus on Uganda.



Combined Service with Browns Bay, Forrest Hill & Glenfield 1st January

Dees Group 2022





Happy Birthday
Kay Barbour

English Conversations 2022



REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **Seniors Social Club**
1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month 10am - 12pm
Contact Raewyn 410 4423 or Tangi 022 6573223
- **LADIES GROUP -**
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 10am Church (Courtyard if fine)
Contact Raewyn 410 4423
- **GIRLS' BRIGADE - Tuesdays during School term.**
6.30-8pm Church Hall
Kay Barbour Ph 478 7603
- **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 Stewart Milne 478 5786 Grace Liu 021 0487978
- **HOUSE GROUP**
7.30pm Wednesdays at the Shadbolts
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- **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 Karen Ruffell 021 02263846
- **FAMILY STYLE FUN NIGHT**
1ST Friday of the month Church Hall 6pm
Ph Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223
- **Parish Council**
7.30pm every 3rd Tuesday Church Lounge
Ph Stewart Milne 478 5786
- **Transportation - arranged as required and as requested**
Ph Norma Baker 443 3108



Please send photos of Parish activities through to office@bayspc.nz

Quick Contacts

- Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph Ph: 027 371 4733 tokerau.j@gmail.com
 - Office Ph: 478 6180 office@bayspc.nz