



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz

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Church Fete being opened by Stewart Milne Sunday 25th June

UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

It's great to be back with you after a couple of weeks away on leave. I'd like to share a few stories and photos of our trip which was absolutely memorable.



Our family friends (19 altogether) left for Tahiti and stayed with various friends in the village of Tautira. It's about 1.5-hour drive from the airport in Fa'aa and the last village at the far end of Tahiti. As well as for a break, the main reason for going was for the baptism of our grandson Mastell who was named after some very close friends there. The grandson (Malcolm Terorotua) of our friends was also baptised with Tangi and I being his Godparents. A retired minister conducted the baptism and Holy Communion while I was invited to preach at that service.

Following the service, family and friends (around 60) went to a place only accessible by boat. We went to a cave called Vaitomoana where a cultural blessing was done for Mastell and Malcolm. This is a cave in which water drips through the rock. As the boat entered the cave, a prayer of blessing was spoken over the boys as they (and we)



experienced the light showers of water upon us. Thoughts of Psalm 133 came to mind: "How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony! It is like the precious anointing oil running down from Aaron's head and beard, down to the collar of his robes. It is like the dew on Mount Hermon, falling on the hills of Zion. That is where the Lord has promised his blessing." The symbolism was very powerful and emotional for all.



We enjoyed the scenery, fellowship, hospitality, and much more that our hosting families offered. This included a day trip to the island of Moorea where we sampled the various juices at the Manutea Rotui Juice factory and a guided tour of the Lycée Agriculture School. We experienced cultural performances, various dinners put on by friends, picnics, and opportunities to see new

places and make new friends. Our children swam nearly every day in the sea, river, or swimming pool. I enjoyed fresh baguettes and coffee every morning as well as some of the French, Chinese, and Tahitian cuisine.



It was a great time away, but since all good things come to an end, we left behind the warmth of 27 degrees to return home to a chilly 10 degrees. We still keep in touch with our family in Tahiti and hopefully we'll get a chance to host them here in the future.

Tokerau

***Thank you Browns Bay Over 60's Club & Pat Pratt
& Mairangi & Castor Bay Presbyterian Parishioners!***

You are all so generous! Above is a wonderful array of the hand knitted items that Stewart took to support the Foodbank at the start of winter along with 3 bins of food, blankets and bed linen.



A Word from Karel

Love overcomes Evil.

One of my daughters drew attention to a good book she had read, “The Winners,” by Fredrik Backman. The novel is translated from Swedish. The novel is about two towns set in the forests of Northern Sweden. There is intense competition between the two towns best expressed as hatred which at time explodes into violence. This is revealed particularly in the ice hockey competitions which are an obsession. Parents push their children to become expert ice hockey players with the hope that they will be selected for professional teams far away from these small towns. Backman creates many characters, exploring their childhoods and motivations. There are murderers, greedy corrupt local politicians, journalists who want to expose the corrupt local politicians, but can themselves be manipulated and some individuals despised by the whole community. There are children who have never known love and security: children who are exploited. Together these people create towns which could explode into violence at any time. Among them are a sprinkling of good, salt of the earth people. The author from time to time writes reflective sections about what he sees happening with his characters. The novel is true to life. As a counsellor I have seen people confronting similar difficulties revealed in this novel.

When a neglected fourteen-year-old boy seeks revenge for his older sister who appears to be the only person who had loved him, by attempting murder with disastrous results, Backman writes:

“We can’t fight against evil. That’s the most unbearable thing about the world we have built. Evil can’t be eradicated, can’t be locked up, the more violence we use against it, the stronger it becomes when it seeps out under doors and through keyholes. It can never disappear because it grows inside us, sometimes even in the best of us, sometimes even in fourteen-year-olds. We have no weapons against it. We have only been given love as a gift in order to cope with it.

Evil cannot be overcome by evil. Attempting to do so creates a continuing cycle of retribution.

There is much which is evil in the world. We think immediately of the war in Ukraine and several conflicts in Africa. When we stop and think longer and deeper, we become aware of other great evils. For example, the tobacco industry hid its research which showed that smoking was harmful to health. Tobacco is an ideal product from which to make money, people become addicted and need to continue to buy the product, even when they struggle to give up smoking. It costs health systems millions and clogs up hospital beds. Globally about 7 million people die annually from smoking. In Aotearoa NZ about 13 per day die from smoking related illness. By suggesting that vapes with nicotine could help smokers to give up, they hid what would probably happen, young people becoming nicotine addicts. The vapes have been made to be attractive to children. This model has been followed by others marketing products dangerous to health or the environment.

There are other systemic evils, such as keeping people poor, and homeless, or struggling to obtain the necessities of life by working long hard hours - some in

conditions of slavery. At the same time advertising exposes them to products and lifestyles they know they can never afford. The stress, anxiety, and hunger of such a life creates families where children have never experienced a parent loving them unconditionally, as parents can spend little time with them. What time they do spend with their children is fraught with anxiety. They are fighting for survival. We know that this is damaging to their children. Such children are likely to engage in anti-social or criminal behaviour mistaking the recognition they get from their peers for their bravado as acceptance or love.

Love, compassion, forgiveness, trust, and hope for the future are closely connected. We learn to love and trust very early in life. Those who have missed out on that learning need a lot of help to learn this later in life.

Once evil “seeps under doors and through key holes” when war breaks out, or systemic violence, racism, tribalism, and greed become establishes, it becomes very difficult for love to overcome it. The evil appears to take on a mind of its own. It becomes normalised and expected – baked in. Although there may be love and compassion by groups and individuals for the victims of evil, the system which creates the evil carries on. The better way is to prepare ourselves to love and be compassionate before evil sneaks in. Jesus taught and lived such love, including love for enemies, and empowers us to love by following him. Some Christians express this as “Christ power.”

Over the Christian centuries Christian attitudes have leaked from the church into the community. There are many secular organisations which display Christian attitudes. We need to support such organisations. We have much in common. Our task as Christians is to keep the teaching of Jesus, the Christ flame, burning.

It is no secret that we live in difficult times of change, with global warming, degradation of the environment, poverty, and tense geopolitics, requiring solutions which will require love, compassion, and forgiveness. We need to preempt “evil seeping under the door and through key holes,” with love and compassion. Furthermore, we must face up to existing systemic evils with sacrificial love, compassion, skill, patience, distributive justice and forgiveness, joining with groups that share our Christian values. In this we reach out to create attitudes Jesus called the “Kingdom of God.”

Girls Brigade Mairangi Bay needs a new leader.

Girls Brigade has been an activity held in our Church for 61 years.

Kay Barbour is retiring in October.

If there is anyone willing to discuss the requirements to become involved with leading this group please contact Alastair Emerson Ph 0276880076

UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

The July meeting of Parish Council was constituted by Sue Bowden with the focus on the importance of peace and finding peace through God.

At the meeting we :

- Received a report on the success of the fete which was organized and run by our Indian Congregation with help from others. More than \$3,000 was raised for church funds. Thanks to the contribution from the fete and the good response to the end of year appeal as well as the 50/50 sharing with Northern Presbytery of our Minister cost since February we had a positive financial result for the year.
- Considered the 2023/24 Draft Budget which will be recommended for approval at our AGM on 13 August. This includes the Northern Presbytery contribution and Parish Council acknowledged that thanks to this arrangement we have an opportunity to plan for the future which will continue to be an item on our agenda.
- Learned of actions being taken to run a Tear Fund Quiz on Saturday 9 Sept. We have run these before and they were good social/community occasions which benefit a well established and valuable charity.
- Were advised by Alastair Emerson of plans to continue with our long standing practice of holding a pre-election public meeting whereby representatives from each political party are invited to share their key policies. This is planned for the evening of Friday 15 September
- Learned of the steps being taken by our Fellowship Committee to work with our Indian Congregation for organizing the meal following the joint service at 10am on Sunday 30 July
- Ranked our preference for the Nominees for Moderator Designate (General Assembly is in October) and received a request from PCANZ to bring to the attention of our congregation the opportunity to be nominated for one of the 10 organisations that exist within the wider Presbyterian Church. As Clerk I hold the information about these organisations and would be pleased to share this with anyone interested in considering participation. It is a great way of participating and learning.
- Discussed a request from Rod Watts (the Northern Presbytery EO) to inquire whether anyone in our Parish is prepared to act as the Clerk at the Belmont Church for 6 months as that parish goes through a difficult time.

Stewart Milne



The Church Fete raised \$3,071.40 . Thanks to the initiative and work of the Indian Congregation and all those who supported them.



Polynesian Navigation

Since the heavenly bodies are the only predictable thing to be seen when out of sight of land, mariners have used the stars as an aid to navigation from the earliest of times.

In the Northern Hemisphere, Polaris (the Pole Star) shows exactly where geographic North is, while in the Southern Hemisphere the Polynesians have used the stars for finding their way across the Pacific Ocean for thousands of years

Under optimal conditions, approximately 6,000 stars are visible to the naked eye of an observer on Earth.^[1] Of these, 58 stars are known in the field of navigational astronomy as "selected stars" and information for another 115 stars, known as "tabulated stars", is also available to the navigator.^[1]

Traditional navigation depends on assuming the stars are in a perfect sphere above the earth, so that by using spheroid trigonometry a triangle formed between the relevant pole, the point directly below the star on the earth's surface and the vessels position can be solved, giving an accurate position fix. While this might sound simple, it requires knowledge of where the geographic position is, the latitude (declination) of the geographic position, , and the hour angle (Longitude) of the star or heavenly body. The hour angle is also critical for using the sun, as we need to know to the second the angle between where we are and Greenwich in London.

To achieve success, Navigators needed Compasses, Sextants for measuring the angle of the star above the horizon, Charts (Ocean Maps), and telescopes or binoculars. In addition they have Sailing Instructions – a written guide to the oceans and what to expect, Pilot Book – a detailed guide to a particular coast or country, and a Nautical Almanac – contains calendar information such as tides, dawn and dusk etc. To “do the maths” they use Sight Reduction Tables – work like log tables and short cut the calculations between the sight and the position, Norrie's Tables – compendium of useful tables including Haversine Tables which enable the sight to be reduced using spheroid trigonometry, though today GPS systems have vastly simplified the processes.

The ancient Polynesians had none of these things, and no written language, yet starting possibly as early as 500BC, they left modern day Taiwan, and commenced to move into the surrounding areas in search of a place to settle.

We can only assume that through a system of trial and error they adapted their knowledge of the stars to use them as guides to their voyages, which were initially reasonable short, and allowed scope to correct errors and learn more.

The important thing is that an oral society (no writing) they passed their knowledge through memorised instructions from one generation to the next, with young people being trained and learning from an early age.

In 500BC in most of the world, especially Europe, being able to paddle a Coracle across a river or lake, or slightly out to sea to catch fish was about all that had been achieved.

The Polynesians did not use any instruments, but by observing, analysing and using nature and natural phenomena they were able to navigate very effectively across the Pacific to Hawaii, then to South America, Tahiti and Rarotonga, before eventually reaching New Zealand.

They used Stars, the Sun and the Moon as guides, using a Lunar (Moon phase based) calendar, and formulated the equivalent of a compass rose using stars and constellations in place of North South East and West - a Star Compass

By observing patterns in the ocean, including currents and wave patterns, they were able to determine their direction of travel, and remarkably, by feeling the impacts of waves on the hull of their waka, and observing the shape of waves, detect the direction of land, up to over 400 hundred miles away.

The types of clouds which only form over land were another aid as well as knowledge of prevailing winds with swells which move in the same direction.

Famously, Polynesians knew to follow migratory birds, as well as observing ocean birds – albatross in the deep ocean, then smaller deep sea species, then those who range close to and, then those who go ashore to roost or feed young. This knowledge allowed for accurate landfall. Other wildlife and fish species were also indicators.

As a result of the research and testing by Sir Hector Busby and others, we now understand that Whakatere (Polynesian navigation) is a well developed, accurate science, arrived at over centuries of trial and error. In fact, It would seem that Polynesian navigators were demonstrably more competent than their European counterparts up to the 18th century.



S Lunch



Our Annual general meeting is on the 13th August. After the meeting we are having a shared lunch. It will be a “S” themed lunch. Please bring a plate to share with food starting with the letter “S” Creativity is encouraged. Examples of “S” food – Shortcake, strudel, Sponge cake, Scones, Sausage rolls, Sausages, Salami, Sandwiches, Samosa, Sushi, Spring rolls



At the service on July 2nd, Susan Crozier the Spiritual Carer from Harbour Hospice read the poem below. It struck a chord with many present;

When Giving is All We Have
By Alberto Rios

One river gives Its journey to the next.

We give because someone gave to us.
We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.
We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it, We have been wounded by it –

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is first and every time, hand to hand,
Mine to yours, your to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.
Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give – together, we made
Something greater from the difference.

Sue Bowden with Susan Crozier,
Hospice Chaplain July 2nd service





Favourite Hymns service, Sunday 6th August.

Come and enjoy the singing of some of our favourite songs.



Come and join the Next Family Games Night Friday 4th August 6 – 8pm

A variety of games, ping pong, badminton, bowling and board games then join a potluck shared meal. It is a time of socializing and connecting with people.

Please spread the word to your families and school contacts as

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN for a NIGHT of FUN and LAUGHTER.

CHURCH LIFE SURVEY NEW ZEALAND

Parish Council has agreed that our Parish will participate in the Nationwide Church Life Survey. These surveys cover all denominations. They are carried out every 5 years and we have participated in the past. The Surveys are administered by the Christian Research Association. Questions will focus on demographics, church life, community, faith and leadership and will provide valuable feedback to assist with planning and what is seen as being important by members.

The Survey is quite extensive with a range of questions. We will be advertising it in church on 30 July and 6 August with information on how to complete the Survey on-line and also providing the option of completing the Survey on a paper survey form. Full information on how to complete and the hand out of paper (hard copy) forms will be available on 13 and 20 August with the completed paper forms due back here by the end of August so we can post back for you.

We are asking that as many people as possible complete the Survey.

Stewart Milne

General Election Job vacancies

Once again our hall will be used as a voting venue on the General election day October 14. If you are interested in working at any venue in any of the varied roles whether one day or many please go online to www.work.elections.nz and register your interest. Leave a note of the voting place name you want to be associated with so our team can start filling slots. Please pass onto your colleagues, whanau, friends, senior students and parishioners that we have a multitude of parttime, casual, temporary, ongoing, or just election day (October 14) roles to fill.

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **SENIORS SOCIAL CLUB**

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month 10am - 12pm

Contact Tangi 022 657 3223 or Raewyn **410 4423**



- **GIRLS' BRIGADE - Tuesdays during School Term only.**

6.30-8pm Church Hall

Kay Barbour Ph **478 7603**



- **BORN AGAIN BODIES**

1.00-2.00pm Wednesdays Church Hall.

Further information Ian Rankin Ph 479 2320



- **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 Shadbolt's

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.

- **MAINLY MUSIC**

Fridays during School Term only. Church Hall 10-11am

Ph Karen Ruffell 021 02263846



- **FAMILY FUN NIGHT & SHARED MEAL**

1st Friday of the month Church Hall 6pm

Ph Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223

- **PARISH COUNCIL**

7.30pm every 3rd Tuesday of the month Church Lounge

Ph Stewart Milne **478 5786**



***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