



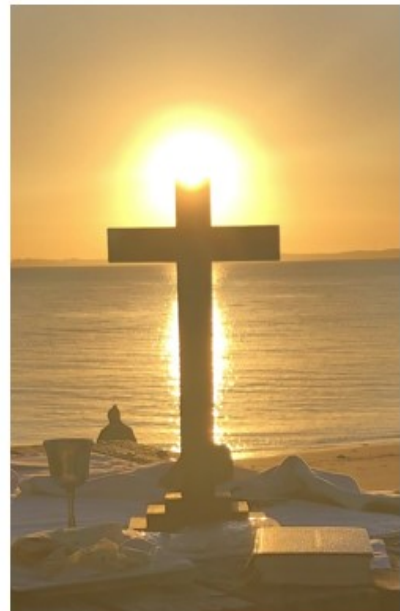
# **Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church**

## **APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

[www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz](http://www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz)

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## **Easter Sunrise Service at Campbells Bay Beach**

## UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

Another year has come and so has another Easter. I wonder if we lose something of the significance or impact of Easter because of its annual regularity. So, what effect does Easter have on you this year?

Have we become sensitised to Jesus' betrayal, suffering and death? We're shocked and even angered when we see oppression and injustice enacted upon the vulnerable and innocent of society. We're dismayed at human suffering or loss of life from natural disasters and in conflict zones. Such events, whether in our own country or overseas, challenge, move, and thrust us into action. We may join a protest, write to the newspaper, make a complaint to our local politicians, or contribute to aid efforts. But such tragedies happen regularly and saturate the media and social media. Yet somehow, their significance is not lost on us. They still impact us.

So how impactful is the Easter story upon us as followers of Jesus? According to the Gospel of Mark, the experience of the early followers of Jesus that first Easter morning was powerful. For the three women, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, "they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (Mk. 16:8). Mark's Easter account originally ended on an alarming note. The impact of Easter involves terror, amazement, and fear. The Greek word for terror is *tromos* from which we get the word trauma and amazement is from *ecstasis* for ecstasy. Described this way, Easter definitely had an overwhelming effect upon people.

We note that fear is motivational. The women did not leave the tomb walking. They fled. Their encounter with a messenger in the tomb freaked them out. Yet, their Easter experience was also instructional "go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you" (v.7). Just as certain events today move us into action, what did these early followers of Jesus do besides fleeing from the tomb? The original ending of Mark doesn't tell us. It ends in fear and silence. But the fact that we have this account today suggests that they must have done or said something. They went, they told, and they looked ahead to the encounter the presence of the risen Jesus.

My prayer is that as we recall the events of Easter, we may somehow engage in such a way that we too be seized or affected by something that drives us to go, to tell, and to encounter the resurrected presence of Christ.



# **WORDS FROM KAREL - CHANGE**

## **Photography**

Photography has played an important part in my life. My father was interested in it, but when I was eleven a family friend Bill Griffiths who had a darkroom showed me how to print images really got me hooked. Shortly after that I set up my own makeshift darkroom, the first of many, and printed my own photographs. I was never satisfied with the results. Not until I was at Teacher's College and University, joined the University photographic club and could book their excellent darkroom to use, did I produce images that satisfied me. I also won some awards – a great encouragement. The images I produced were mostly of scenery and particularly trees. But I was also interested in colour photography. I was impatient with Kodachrome (which had to go overseas for processing) because I would get the results back weeks and sometimes months later. When I read an article in an American magazine about a method of processing Ferania and Ektachrome colour slide film that did not require a professional laboratory, I was determined to give it a try. I had to experiment to adapt the method to New Zealand conditions. It worked!

The science lecturer at Teacher's College was astounded when I turned up the next day with slides of a light experiment we had done. Word got to an archaeologist who was arranging a dig over the summer holidays using volunteers. They had to get images of each layer as they dug. The standard was Kodachrome. The long time before they had the images was frustrating and an occasional film was lost. I was phoned and asked if I would act as photographer, photographing using black and white, Ektachrome and Kodachrome. I responded that I was already negotiating for a holiday job back in Ashburton. He came to see me later that evening saying I would be paid. He gave me a camera, lenses and film, to acquaint myself with the gear they used. This was equipment that, as a student, I could not afford. He persuaded me to accept. I had four delightful, fun filled weeks during which I was able to indulge my passion for photography.

When in 1993 the audiologist showed me the extent of my hearing loss and told me it was progressing apace, I realised that I could not continue as a Parish Minister and Counsellor. It was already a struggle. Cochlear implants were not yet available. My supervisor arranged for me to see a careers advisor who suggested I might like to pursue my interest in photography. With some courses and by submitting a portfolio of portraits I qualified as a member of the New Zealand Institute of Professional Photographers (NZIPP.) Fortunately, we had room at home to set a up a studio and darkroom and I was able to print black and white images myself, sending the colour work to a professional laboratory. Portrait photography got me into places where I shared in loving, intimate moments - weddings, pregnancies, mothers with newborns, proud families with a graduate and much more. I spent four months in the Roman Catholic Māori world revisiting the life of Bishop Pompallier, which resulted in an exhibition

at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Photography has altered me. It has been a spiritual journey. It alters the way I see the world.

I have photographed thousands of portraits and found beauty in every person, sometimes being able to reveal to a person the beauty they had not seen in themselves. I have been conscious when I photograph someone, that I am photographing a person made in the image of God. In current understanding, the result of millions of years of God's creativity in evolution. I experience the same when photographing in what theologian Sally McFague calls "primal nature." When in the Kauri Forest I am overawed and challenged to convey what I experience in images. The same happens in what Sally McFague calls "second nature," the human created environment - art, architecture, and human interaction and so forth, for example above the verandas in Queen St or a Tongan crafted fan. That human creativity is also part of God's evolutionary creativity.

Attempting to photograph beyond a snapshot means focussing my experiences. It's an intense process of really seeing, interpreting, and selecting a viewpoint. How do I bring out the awe that I experience in this moment in the image I produce? Often it is personal, and I am the only one who experiences it when I look at the finished image, but occasionally others experience it too.

From time to time, I notice that I am seeing and experiencing well. I have set up my tripod for a carefully planned photograph and someone comes along and asks me what I am photographing. They look, whip out their cell phone and take the photograph over my shoulder. A real compliment.

Years ago, I was taking photographs in Ponsonby for the UK film library through which I sell images. A suited man carrying a satchel under his arm rushed past me. I guessed a lawyer or businessman in a hurry, maybe late for a meeting. Suddenly he stopped some yards in front of me noticing a blind elderly man who was attempting to cross the road from the other side. He crossed the busy road, took the man by his arm, and led him across the road safely and continued jogging to where he was going. I had snapped an act of unconditional love and compassion.

I have frequently thought about spirituality and photography. I was encouraged to write this article because I noticed in the little magazine, "Refresh, Journal of Contemplative Spirituality," there is an article entitled, "The Hasty Contemplative: the spirituality of street photography," The article and the quotes by the author Stephen Garner showed me that I am not the only one who has noticed that photography stimulates the same awe which inspired the ancient Psalmist in praise of God. Another inspired person was the late ex-moderator, The very Rev Andrew Norton, who saw photography as a spiritual exercise.

By careful disciplined seeing, we may be fortunate to see those great moments of God's evolution when we witness an occasion of unconditional love and compassion - those Jesus taught us about. Our prayer could be, "Lord open my eyes that I may see."

# UPDATE FROM PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH

- Alastair constituted the meeting with a reading from Peter on expectations. He then handed out a Strategic Analysis Questionnaire with a request that it be filled in and returned over the next few weeks. The questionnaire is designed to assess our strengths and weaknesses and to obtain our Congregation's ideas on what we should be doing. We welcomed this initiative and Alastair's intention to seek participation from members of the Congregation.
- Time was spent on pastoral matters and Tokerau led us in prayer for those who are needing support
- Our Minister's report brought us up to date with his many activities
- The Financial Report for February was discussed. It shows a small surplus for the year to date however it was noted that a lot of work (Interior and Exterior) is required at the manse which will be costly
- Roopali advised that the Hindi Mission Congregation is planning a Bingo Fundraising event for the late afternoon of Saturday 27 April.
- We welcomed the proposal to hold the Men's Fellowship lunch on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to avoid the clash with the Seniors meeting.
- We then spent time being advised by Stephen (Convenor Property Committee) of the work required at the Manse which is both inside and on the driveway and retaining wall. After discussion it was agreed to recommend to the Congregation that:
  - (a) We seek approval (from Presbytery and Church Property Trustees) to have the interior work required at the manse (textured ceilings and walls replaced, gib stopping and painting, electrical and plumbing) undertaken at a quoted cost of \$57k + GST with financing of this work to come from our bank accounts and investments.
  - (b) We seek approval to have the Manse Driveway and Retaining Walls repaired at a quoted cost of \$69k + GST and that we apply to the Church Property Trustees for this to be funded from our Church PIF Account.
- It was confirmed that the meeting of the Congregation will be held on 24 March and that the work to be done should be itemized so that the meeting will understand the extent. The source of funding is also to be shown and explained.
- The General Assembly held in 2023 again emphasized to churches the importance of the Child Protection Policy and Code of Ethics and we will be seeing that these are known and complied with.

***Stewart Milne (Parish Clerk)***

## **WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN AT MANSE**

- Following an inspection of the Manse and grounds by the Property and Finance Committee there was a recommendation to Parish Council and then on to a meeting of the Congregation (held on 24 March) that the following work needs to be undertaken at the Manse (11 Maxwellton Drive).
- In the interior the needs are: textured ceilings need to be replaced and the texture removed from some walls, gib stopping and painting, replacing lights and electrical works, expel air in the bathrooms and some plumbing. The quoted cost for this work is \$65,600 (incl of GST)
- The exterior work includes replacing the retaining wall along the side of the driveway and replacement of the driveway which is slumping and cracked. The quoted cost for this work is \$79,400 (incl of GST)
- We are very fortunate that George Wyman, our previous Treasurer, was able to make provision for this work to be done by making sound investments.
- The cost of the interior work can be covered from our bank account and from one of our investments with Christian Savings. After meeting the cost of the interior work, we will still have \$150,000 in our investments.
- We are applying for the cost of the exterior work to be covered from our Presbyterian Investment Fund (PIF) which can only be used for capital works. We are seeking the approval of the Church Property Trustees for this to happen. Following that there will still be \$212,000 in that fund although \$130,000 of that will be needed for the purchase of the accessway to the church from Penzance Drive.
- The meeting of the Congregation on 24 March accepted the need for this work to be carried out and an application for approval has now been sent to the Northern Presbytery and then on to the Church Property Trustees.
- When we obtain approvals, and the work starts there will be a disrupted time for the Manse family, and we have already had a generous offer to minimise that.

I will keep you informed as the situation develops.

*Stewart Milne (Parish Clerk)*

## **THE MOODS AND EMOTIONS OF HOLY WEEK**

Starting on the evening of Maundy Thursday when we held a small in numbers but large in significance service where we marvelled at how Jesus with the knowledge that he would be subjected to a painful death on the next day, spent time to wash the feet of the Disciples who were gathered for the Last Supper. No thought of seeking support from the Disciples for secreting him away. No hint of seeking sympathy. A servant leader to the last. We had a symbolic shared washing of hands led by Tokerau.

Then at the Good Friday morning Service when we again heard the crucifixion story and grieved for the physical and emotional pain that Jesus was subjected to before his death. This was when we were challenged by Tokerau to examine the question – What does Jesus Christ mean to us today?

A small group gathered at sunrise on Easter Sunday at Campbells Bay Beach. Then at our well attended 10am Communion Service the familiar story of the empty tomb and the re-emerging hope of the living Jesus with the repeated joyful message through song and prayer that ‘He is Risen.’

And then at 6:30pm on Easter Sunday our Indian Congregation met with special consideration of Easter and what it means including a focus on the messages of service that Jesus has given us through his life and his teaching.

*Stewart Milne*

### **SPECIAL COMMUNION SERVICE TUESDAY 7th MAY 2024, 11.30am**



Our next Special Communion Service is **“Open to All”** especially for those who cannot attend church regularly.

This will be held on Tuesday, May 7th at 11:30am.

There will be a time of fellowship and lunch following the service.

We will provide transportation to and from the church if required.

**If you and a friend would like to attend, could you please let your Pastoral Visitor know or call *Norma Baker on 443- 3108 before May 3rd.***



## **WORKING BEE**

A Working Bee was held at the Church on Saturday 2nd March. There was a moderate turn out and the main items the Property Committee sought to have done were completed, including:

General tidy-up of the gardens and removal of the dead Oak tree from the front lawn area.

Removal of rubbish from behind the Hall and general tidy up of that area

Clear-out of the small room behind the cross at the southern end of the Church worship area. We managed to fill a 9 cubic metre skip bin with garden and other general waste, and thanks to all volunteers who turned up to help.

*Stephen Martin - (Convenor Property Committee)*

## **MID BAYS (Murrays, Mairangi and Campbells) RESILIENT COMMUNITIES (MBRC)**

A meeting of the MBRC Steering Group was held in our premises on Monday 25 March. Our Plan has been finalized and we are now designing flyers for distribution and exploring ways of making contact with the community for matters such as :

- Having enough water if we are at home and water is off
- Having lighting if the power is off
- Having our own plan on what to take if we need to leave home in a hurry
- Actually having a 'grab bag'
- Auckland Emergency Management (Civil Defence) has advised that in a serious event like the January 26 floods last year local communities will likely be on their own to cope for several days.
- Our church is one of 3 Community Emergency Hubs (CEH) for the area and so we need to be ready to open up if people are having to leave their homes. The other CEHs are : the Community Church in Maxwelton Drive and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Sunset Road. The Mairangi Arts Centre is a back up and Windsor Park is a Resource Hub.
- The purpose of a Community Emergency Hub is to provide a point of connection, consolidated information and a place where people can go to feel supported and secure
- We have acquired some supplies which are on the stage in a couple of bins and we have a list of names and contacts for members of the Congregation who have volunteered to be approached to come to the church and help if they are able. If you missed out on volunteering and would like to be added to the list please let me know. Thanks.

*Stewart Milne - Parish Clerk*



## COPING WITH ADVERSITY

With Princess Kate's revelation of a cancer diagnosis and King Charles Battling cancer, the Royal family are not immune to coping with adversity. The following article, adapted from one that appeared in Grapevine in 2002 was used by Bronwyn Stone at the service on March 24th as a timely reminder to put things in perspective when we are challenged by life's events

We all see bad things happening to good people. This causes us to wonder sometimes just exactly where God is. A former parishioner of this parish had cause to reflect on this when he was diagnosed with cancer. His reflection, which formed the substance of the Grapevine article, was to suggest that God was in fact doing something not by making such things vanish as by loaning us loved ones who can ease our pain and rescue us from despair.

- Maybe he's doing something when we watch those who suffer and are inspired by their love, their hope and their faith
- When people with unrelieved illnesses show more than their share of strength and good humour...
- When the bewildered and bedridden give thanks for the tiniest acts of kindness...
- When exhausted, wrung out caregivers manage to wake up each morning and face their task with fresh courage...
- When people who don't have to do it anyway, and lose themselves in unselfish, demanding service for others...

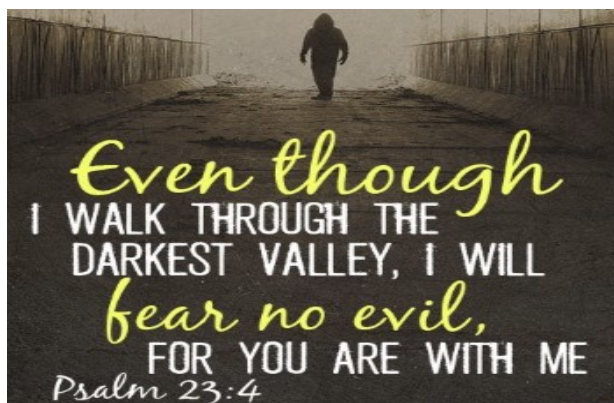
...maybe these are signs that God is doing something-that he isn't just sitting by while his human children bleed.

After all, isn't that what Easter is all about? The Bible says He came here Himself, lived by His own rules and took His own medicine. The God who entered this world as a baby in a cowshed grew up to get dumped-on in life. He left this world with a lot on his shoulders including a cross.

Does God know what it feels like to hurt? YES

Where is God when we hurt? He's right along side us where he has been always.

*Bronwyn Stone*



## MAINLY MUSIC



Mainly music is going well and the children enjoyed searching for bunnies around the hall and foyer. Margaret brought a real bunny which was a real thrill. The families went home with eggs and flax crosses.

The Torbay Players are doing a Gilbert and Sullivan afternoon on April 21st at 2pm. If you would like to join by attending a fun session on favourite songs, please let me know so I can reserve tickets.

*Thank you, Karen - 02102263846.*

## SUNDAY MORNING SINGERS

Psalm 149: 1 “Sing a new song to the Lord; praise Him in the assembly of his faithful people!”



If you are interested in joining the singing group during Sunday morning Services, please fill out the roster in the foyer. All are Welcome!

*Norma Baker*

## MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

As a result of regular clashes with other church events, we've decided to change the Men's Group Lunch to every 2nd Tuesday of the month 12pm, at the Bays Club.

Ian Rankin 027 332 7235

## **BINGO FUNDRAISER EVENING**

A colorful poster for a bingo fundraiser. The background features a grey and white zigzag pattern with vibrant splashes of orange, yellow, and purple. On the right side, there are five large, glossy, circular bingo balls in green, blue, brown, purple, and red, each containing a letter: 'B', 'I', 'N', 'G', and 'O' respectively. The text is arranged on the left side of the poster.

**BINGO NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY**  
**27TH APRIL**

4:30-6PM

AT MAIRANGI & CASTOR BAYS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL

VEHICLE ACCESS: 8-10 PENZANCE ROAD,  
MAIRANGI BAY

**ENTRY FREE,**  
**GAME TICKETS \$15**  
**AMAZING PRIZES**

### **HINDI SERVICE**

**First and Last Sunday of the month at 6.30pm followed by  
a social time and Indian meal.**

**ALL are WELCOME!**

# REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **SENIORS SOCIAL CLUB**

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

Contact Tangi 022 657 3223 or Raewyn

410 4423



- **BORN AGAIN BODIES**

1.00-2.00pm Wednesdays Church Hall.

Further information Ian Rankin Ph 479 2320 or 027 332 7235



- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**

1pm - 2.30pm Wednesdays Meeting Room 2.

Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786 Grace Liu 021 048 7978

- **HOUSE GROUP**

3pm 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

- **MEN'S GROUP LUNCH**

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 12pm, at the Bays Club

Contact Ian Rankin

027 332 7235



- **LEADER FOR THE YOUNG**

Angelika Singh

027 310 3284

- **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  
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