



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

### **MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

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

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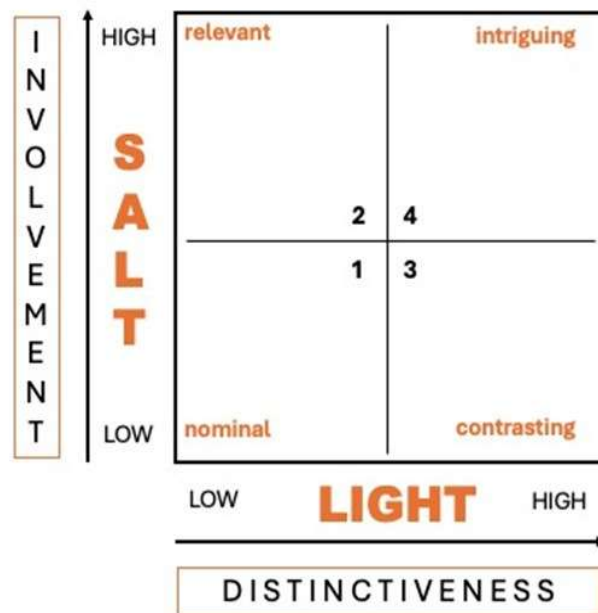
**Senior Friends – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
& Lunch outing 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month**

## UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

Greetings in Jesus' name. I recently attended the Northern Presbytery Leaders Conference held at St. Columba Presbyterian Church in Botany. The theme of the conference was "Salt & Light" based on Matthew 5:13 – 16 where Jesus taught his listeners, "You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world." The keynote speaker was Dr Paul Windsor who spoke on the theme relating salt and light to the involvement and distinctiveness of the church respectively. I found it very inspiring and used a very brief part of it at our last Parish Council meeting. I'd like to also share it with you.

Salt can be used to flavour food, but also to preserve it. Those in Jesus' time didn't have fridges or freezers to keep their food, so salt was used instead. It required getting salt into all areas of the food (rubbing it in) to permeate it. This can be compared to the level of involvement or engagement churches have with society in their context. Light provides the contrast to darkness. It exposes what can be seen or identified. This aspect of light conveys the Christian identity of the church in contrast to other cultures or beliefs in society.

Dr Windsor's work with churches in New Zealand and overseas identified differences of how they emphasise these aspects of involvement and distinctiveness in their ministries.



Dr Windsor noted that church ministries/mission with both a very low level of community involvement and distinctive Christian identity/message, tend to be insignificant (nominal) in society. If they have a high missional engagement in the community but without conveying the Christian message, they can become very relevant to society albeit indistinctive from other community activities and

or groups. The flip side is that a church can be high in its Christian distinctiveness (focus on faith, bible studies, discipleship, etc.), but somewhat disconnected with an audience (community) to share its message. The challenge is how churches might increase both community involvement and Christian identity.

I think this is something we ought to give serious consideration as part of our Revitalisation journey. How do we see our mission/ministry in terms of what Dr Windsor presents?

I'd like to end with a quote to highlight being "salty" and "light". See if you can recognise involvement and distinctiveness.

**The Epistle to Diognetus ("a pagan"), in about 125CE—describing Christians:**

“Christians are not distinguished from the rest of humanity by either country, language, or custom. For nowhere do they live in cities of their own, nor do they speak some unusual dialect, nor do they practice an eccentric lifestyle ... But while they live in both Greek and barbarian cities and follow the local customs in dress, food and other aspects of life, at the same time they demonstrate the remarkable and admittedly unusual character of their own citizenship. They live in their own countries, but only as aliens; they participate in everything as citizens and endure everything as foreigners. Every foreign country is their fatherland, and every fatherland is foreign. They marry like everyone else and have children; but they do not expose their offspring. They share their food but not their wives. They are “in the flesh”, but do not live “according to the flesh”. They live on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven. They obey the established laws; indeed, in their private lives they transcend the laws. They love everyone, but by everyone they are persecuted ... When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when they are punished, they rejoice as though brought to life. By the Jews they are assaulted as foreigners, and by the Greeks they are persecuted; yet those who hate them are unable to give a reason for their hostility. In a word, what the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world. The soul is dispersed through all the members of the body, and Christians throughout the cities of the world. The soul dwells in the body, but is not of the body; likewise Christians dwell in the world, but are not of the world ... ”

***Tokerau***

## **WORDS FROM KAREL**

### **The Salvation Army's State of the Nation's Report**

For some years the Salvation Army has produced a State of the Nation Report that uses statistics and research to show how we are dealing with our most vulnerable citizens. This year's report paints a sobering picture. It indicates an increased rate of food insecurity, increased unemployment increased amount of homelessness and increased imprisonment rates all of which disproportionately impacted on Maori and Pacific Islanders.

### **Food insecurity: A Growing Crisis.**

As the cost of living skyrockets, more families struggle to afford basic necessities. The Salvation Army, Auckland City mission and other charities report they are seeing more working families seeking food parcels-many for the first time. Low -income families are forced to make choices between rent, electricity and food. Government funding to food banks has decreased.

### **Rising Unemployment: A Disproportionate Burden**

Job security has become increasingly fragile. The decline in industries in manufacturing and construction that traditionally employ Maori and Pacific Island workers further exacerbate the difficulties for these people. Without targeted policies aimed at upskilling and providing equitable employment opportunities, these communities will remain at a disadvantage in an increasingly competitive job market.

### **Homelessness: More Kiwis Living on the Street**

Recent economic pressures have exacerbated the homelessness crisis. Rising rental costs, a severe shortage of affordable housing and stagnant wages are thought to be the reasons for this .Again Maori and Pacific communities are overly affected. Without substantial investment in social housing and policies that address the root causes of poverty, homelessness will continue to rise.

### **Imprisonment Rates : A Grim Reality.**

The report highlights the high imprisonment rate amongst Maori and Pacific Islanders. The reasons are complex but include historical and systematic inequalities, socioeconomic disadvantages and discriminating policing practices. Once in the system, individuals struggle to reintegrate into society.

Meaningful change requires a shift in both policy and societal attitudes towards crime and punishment and addressing the root causes namely poverty, education gaps and lack of employment opportunities.

## **The need for Immediate Action**

Aotearoa New Zealand cannot afford to ignore these growing social inequalities that threaten to divide the country even further. Investment in education, job training and affordable housing are essential to reversing those trends as is fostering economic opportunities within Maori and Pacific communities through entrepreneurship and tailored employment programmes. As global pressures impact on us, it is crucial we address these disparities before they become even more deeply entrenched. The time for action is now-before the social fabric is stretched beyond repair.

For followers of Jesus this is a call to action. In Luke 4, Jesus said he “brought good news to the poor and oppressed”. Much of his teaching was what we call economics and he saw God on the side of the poor and oppressed. The Hebrew prophets too directed their utterances to those who oppressed the poor.

### **What can we do?**

- Be well- informed. Read the Salvation Army Report itself. It is on-line.
- Give what you can to foodbanks in money and in food. The need is dire. Presently there is no easy way out of food insecurity for many people in a land of plenty.
- Sign petitions, make submissions to Parliament and converse about these matters with your friends and family. The problems are systematic, they need the will and actions of government to bring about change. Current thinking is that if the economy grows and businesses and the rich get richer, wealth will trickle down to those who live in poverty. This system has failed. The opposite happens. Money gushes to the top and those who are poor are left even further behind

***Karel Lorier***

## **PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE**

Tokerau constituted our February meeting with reference to the 'Salt and Light' Conference which the Northern Presbytery had just held. At the conference Paul Windsor, the key note speaker, saw New Zealand Churches acting more as salt and saw the Churches on the Sub-continent as being likened to light. This is where salt is associated with being community focused whereas light is more spiritual. He then emphasized the need for balance.

At the meeting we:

- shared information on those in our church who are currently needing support and what we can do to assist. Tokerau then led us in prayer for those people and for the Church Rejuvenating activity which we are now embarked on;
- received the Minister's Report and noted his many activities. Approval was given for Tokerau to join the Pacific Homecare Board;
- received the Property and Finance Report and in particular noted the forthcoming Working Bee (22nd March), the work coming up on the hedge and fence behind the hall and the various jobs being undertaken at the Manse and Church. So far as our finances are concerned it was good to see that our offerings are on budget and the expenditure is under control;
- were advised on who will be taking the services of worship over the year and that the 10am service on 4th May will be combined with our Indian Congregation and will be followed by lunch;
- welcomed information from our Indian Congregation on their initiative to hold a fund raising Bingo Event on 8th March. Donations for prizes and the Lucky Dip are being sought. Contact is Roopali or Vineeta;
- received the Review Committee's Report over the working of the arrangement we have with Northern Presbytery over our Minister working 50% of his time for Northern Presbytery. This continues to work well, however a change will be needed at the end of the year when the 3 year contract runs out;
- decided to trial listing our activities for the month in our newsletter and on our Facebook page.

*Stewart*

## **Church Revitalisation Workshop**

On Friday 21st Feb and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, twenty one of our Members who had responded to the open invitation to participate in the Workshop planning session with the City to City Consultant (Tim Loftis), attended and went through a process led by Tim, to establish a draft Vision for the future and to establish some initial goals to get moving along that path.

This was a follow up to the Consultation Report which has been made available to the Congregation (copies of which are in the church foyer).

Our first action at the Workshop was to develop a vision for what we want for our church from 5 to 20 years out. We then moved back to what needs to happen over the next 3 years and then 1 year. The 1 year period was then divided up into four 90 day periods with goals established for within that time.

The goals will involve things to be done in the areas of: Worship Services; Communications with the Community; Our facilities and the Services we provide for the Community.

The main diagram showing what we came up with is shown here:

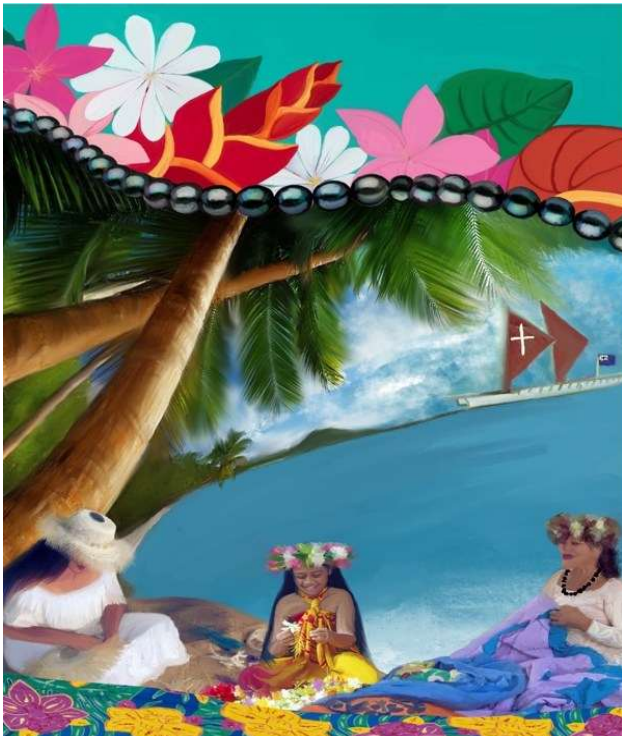
<b>Our vision for the next five to ten years is to be a vibrant growing church, representative of the demographic of Mairangi Bay and the surrounding communities, known for being gospel-centered in all we do.</b>			
To effectively communicate our presence and the gospel to the community and deliver services that are relevant and gospel-centered.	To develop our facilities to be more visible, welcoming, modern and age appropriate.	To develop our worship services to better engage to the wider demographic of our community	To develop programs for the purpose of spiritual growth and discipleship.
<b>To grow our worship attendance by developing a relevant, inspiring, and family friendly gospel-centred worship experience.</b>			
To spend dedicated time in prayer and to inform and inspire the congregation about the vision. The relevant Committees to explore, plan and get agreement for their recommendations.	To implement at least 50% of the agreed recommended changes (this could include possible facility/ aesthetic changes, music and worship planning, training people for new tasks).	To implement the remaining recommendations. Set a public launch date for the new service and plan the new communications systems. This includes signage, website and promotional material.	Have an event to celebrate the wins! Review and update the vision plan, with a new <u>1 year</u> vision and 4 new <u>90 day</u> goals.

We will be organizing an initial meeting of the Congregation to explain the elements of this diagram within the next few weeks and there will be further opportunities for your involvement as we set and progress our goals.



## **Working Bee: Saturday 22 March**

Our grounds are looking scruffy again. Plants need cutting back and a general tidy up is required. If you can spare some time on the morning of Saturday 22nd March please come along to help. We will be starting about 9am. Bring some cutting back equipment if you can. If weather calls for a postponement an email will be sent out.  
Thanks you, *(Property committee)*.



## **World Day of Prayer**

### **Ecumenical Service**

**When: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Time: 7pm**

**Where: Mairangi & Castor Bays  
Presbyterian Church**

**“I Made You  
Wonderfully”**

A service prepared by the WDP Committee of the Cook Islands. Adapted for use in New Zealand by World Day of Prayer Aotearoa New Zealand.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

*Contact Tangi on 022 657 3223*



## **Bingo Church Fundraising Event**

Saturday 8th of March at 4.30pm in the Church hall run by our Indian Congregation.

\$10 lucky dips - all who buy a ticket will get a prize.

In addition, there will be a food stall.

Can you donate items for the lucky dips please?

A bottle of wine, ornament or a gift for a good cause?

Also, if you are able to donate a significant item or a donation of money to be used to provide one of the main prizes that would be very helpful.

**Please contact Roopali on 021 233 3874 for any queries.**



## **SPECIFIC EVENTS IN MARCH:**

As well as our standard regular activities which are listed on the back page, the following events will be held in March.

- **Young People get together 5pm Tuesday 4th March.**  
Contact Dorille Shadbolt - 4793953
- **Friday 7th March at 7pm - World Day of Prayer**  
Contact Tangi 022 657 3223
- **Saturday 8th March 4:30pm - Bingo Fund-raising event organized by our Indian Congregation.**  
Contact Roopali Dayal 021 233 3874
- **Saturday 22nd March Working Bee to tidy up grounds. starting 9am.**  
Contact Stephen Martin 021 775 140

## **THE POWER OF LOVE**

Over the past four Sundays, those preaching the sermon have mentioned some aspect of various messages in the Bible on the love of God. In one instance we learnt that through the scriptures there was an historically accurate account of the teachings and actions of Jesus regarding the love of God toward us and the commandment to love one another. We also learnt there about the challenges the first missionaries like Paul and Timothy faced as they sought to spread the good news. In another sermon based on 1 Corinthians 13, a favourite passage for many to be read at their weddings, we learnt that in stressing the importance of love, Paul was rebuking those who did not practice in their lives what they preached. And last week, when considering how we might address the potentially scary topic of climate change we were encouraged to do so remembering the words of Paul.

. “For I am convinced that neither life nor death neither angels or demons, neither the present or the future nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord

Recently, in her words of welcome at the beginning of the service, Bronwyn Stone read us a poem she and Peter have as a framed picture in their home. That poem which is about love is on the next page. Though slightly broader in scope than the other topics referred to, its message resonates with them.

Bronwyn mentioned how inspirational its words had been over the years and, for that matter still are. Like the other bon mots Bronwyn introduces us to, it certainly struck a chord with those present at the service. We thank her and Peter very much for sharing it with us.

*Ian Watson*



# Love

There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer; no disease that enough love will not heal; no door that enough love will not open; no gulf that enough love will not bridge; no wall that enough love will not throw down; no sin that enough love will not redeem.

It makes no difference how deeply seated may be the trouble; how hopeless the outlook; how muddled the tangle; how great the mistake; a sufficient realisation of love will dissolve it all.

If only you could love enough, you would be the happiest and most powerful being in the world.

*Emmet Fox*

## REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **CHURCH SERVICES** - Every Sunday 10am
- **HINDI SERVICE followed by Meal** - 1st and last Sunday of the month, 6.30pm  
Contact Roopali Dayal - 021 233 3874
- **PRAYER TIME** - Every Tuesday 9.30am. Either in the church or at home.  
Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph
- **SENIOR FRIENDS**  
**1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month 10am - 12pm, Rm 2**  
Contact Carole Dickeson 021 0235 7398 or Raewyn
- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**  
**1pm - 2.30pm Mondays & Wednesdays Meeting Rm 2.**  
Further Information Stewart Milne 478 5786, John Shadbolt 0211087700  
Grace Liu 021 048 7978
- **HOUSE GROUP**  
**3pm Wednesdays at the Shadbolt's**  
Contact Dorille Shadbolt Ph 479 3953.
- **DEE'S (Dementia - "mild to moderate") 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 GAMES NIGHT & SHARED MEAL**  
**2nd Friday of the month Church Hall 6.15pm**  
Ph Tangi Joseph 022 657 3223
- **MEN'S GROUP LUNCH**  
**Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 12pm, The Bays Club**  
Contact Ian Rankin 027 332 7235
- **LEADER FOR THE YOUNG**  
Angelika Singh 027 310 3284
- **BORN AGAIN BODIES EXERCISE and FITNESS**  
**Every Wednesday 1pm in Church Hall**  
Leader: Brad McCullough Ph 021 230 3421
- **PARISH COUNCIL**  
**7.30pm every 3rd Tuesday of the month Meeting room 2**  
Ph Stewart Milne 478 5786



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

### Quick Contacts

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