



Mairangi & Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

May 2025 NEWSLETTER

Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph

www.bayspresbyterian.org.nz

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**Easter Egg Hunt at our Friday night
Family Games, Meal and Social time**

UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

The events of Holy Week stir different emotions in different people. In the main, the mood is very somber. Anticipating the betrayal, denial, corrupt justice, suffering, and death of Jesus can do this. For me, the lead up to Good Friday and Saturday evening encouraged me to reflect deeply on my faith in Christ and service to him in the church. I felt sadness for my many failings as a Christian, a husband, a father and as a minister. Yet it's mixed with gratitude for God's grace to do better in his continuing presence with me. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday morning renewed my joy and trust in the unfailing goodness and transformational power of God. The day was also wonderful in reconnecting with folk like Sean & Max Gulliver as well as meeting new friends who joined us in worship.

These experiences, in a way, parallel how I see our revitalization journey as a congregation. There is a somber mood when thinking about our current challenges as well as anticipating the unknowns we will encounter in doing things differently. Included will perhaps be some sacrifices to be made. But in the mix is the assurance that God is with us in our learnings, even when lessons learned are hard. Yet, they can be transformational for us today just the resurrection was transformational for the early followers of Jesus. This gives me ongoing confidence and joy that with God, all things are possible.

One of the goals in our first 90 days is committing to pray for our revitalization journey. My humble request is that we all do this beginning on May 1st. The revitalization process is a spiritual journey as much as a practical one. While we are called to be part of God's mission and ministry through the church, we need God's directing and enabling. Therefore,...

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition,

with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4: 6 – 7

WORDS FROM KAREL

Hayek and his followers versus Jesus

Friedrich Hayek (1899-1992) was born in Austria, an academic who worked in England, USA and Germany. His emphasis was on property rights and the rights of individuals. He believed that if markets were left alone without government interference, they would create a prosperous and just economy. He and his followers criticised government interference in markets and the provision of services such as health, transport and housing. The market and price were better than any government in planning for these things. The ideal was limited government, the rule of law but no or very limited regulations.

His followers believed that wealth created by these individuals free from regulations to create wealth by exploiting natural resources would trickle down to “lift all boats.” Thus, it was believed that all people would benefit from the wealth created. This economics and philosophical thinking are variously known as Austrian economics, Chicago school economics and neoliberalism. You won’t hear these mentioned now because the various think tanks, supporting this understanding of the world, want us to assume that this is normality and the way the world works. It has made some people very rich and given them great influence in governments around the world.

Deregulation has allowed those with capital to exploit the environment for mining and then rely on the public purse to clean up after them. Prominent followers of Hayek’s teachings are Ludwig von Mises, Milton Friedman, Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. Margaret Thatcher said “there is not such thing as society, there is no such thing! There are individual men and women and there are families...”

Neoliberals are very critical of governments intervening in healthcare and so forth, saying that it is doomed to fail and sometimes making sure it fails. But the social democracies, where there is a lot of government planning, in Scandinavia, work just fine and have some of the most contented and happy people in the world.

You may ask why this discussion happens in a church Newsletter. To those of you who are familiar with the Christian gospel will notice that this economic theory and its underlying philosophy is directly contrary to the teaching of Jesus, and to much in the Hebrew Bible.

The question in Genesis “Am I my brother’s keeper,” has echoed through the ages. The Hebrew prophets proclaimed justice, and their harshest words were for those who exploit the poor. God’s gifts are to be shared. Those who suffered misfortune, widows and orphans are to be supported. They are to be part of the community.

Hayek’s theory demands individualism and competition creating winners and losers. In fact, few winners and many losers. And because the theory has been accepted as “the way things are,” people themselves start labeling themselves as losers. People are poor and unemployed because of systemic problems brought about by an economic theory which needs a labour market to have people unemployed so that the market can work properly. This leads people to think they are the problem as individuals and think of themselves as a loser, no helper and failure. This leads to mental health problems, the breakdown of families, addiction, suicide, and crime. We have seen how this all works in the USA with Musk, the richest man in the world, cutting aid to the world’s poorest citizens.

Karel Lorier

Visit to Radio Rhema

If anyone interested in a tour of Radio Rhema please contact Karen Ruffell phone 021 0226 3846 by Friday May 16th

Tear Fund Quiz Advanced Notice

The Tear Fund Quiz will be held on Saturday June 14th . Please start to think about making up a team. Further details next month
Karen Ruffell

OUR DEPENDENCE ON OFFERINGS

During the process of issuing the IRD receipts for members, thus allowing them to claim a 33% rebate for the Tax Year ending 31 March, I was able to see how we are progressing for our financial year which ends on 30 June. While I am pleased to say that currently we are on budget for our offerings, however it appears that some members may not be contributing.

It is of interest to note that 81% of our offerings are coming by way of automatic payments from 48 Member’s bank accounts (APs) and 9% comes from 16 Members by way of numbered envelopes in the plate. This means that 64 Members are contributing 90% of our offerings. The remaining 10% of our offerings come from anonymous donations in the

plate. Our total Membership (Members and Associate Members) is 106 which means that 42 of our Members could be contributing to this 10% or not. If they are, then there is still a significant number who are contributing substantially less. Our Membership also has implications for the levies we pay to the National Church (PCANZ) and to the Northern Presbytery to assist in meeting their costs. The formula that they use includes the number of members that a church has. For our church the levy is currently \$160 per member a year. Consequently if any of us are not contributing financially this cost is having to be borne by others.

Looking ahead to the new Financial Year, starting 1 July, we can see that our costs are increasing and we are already feeling the loss in revenue with Kids Choice no longer with us and with a reduction in interest earned due to our reserves having been used for the needed work on the manse and church in the last 18 months.

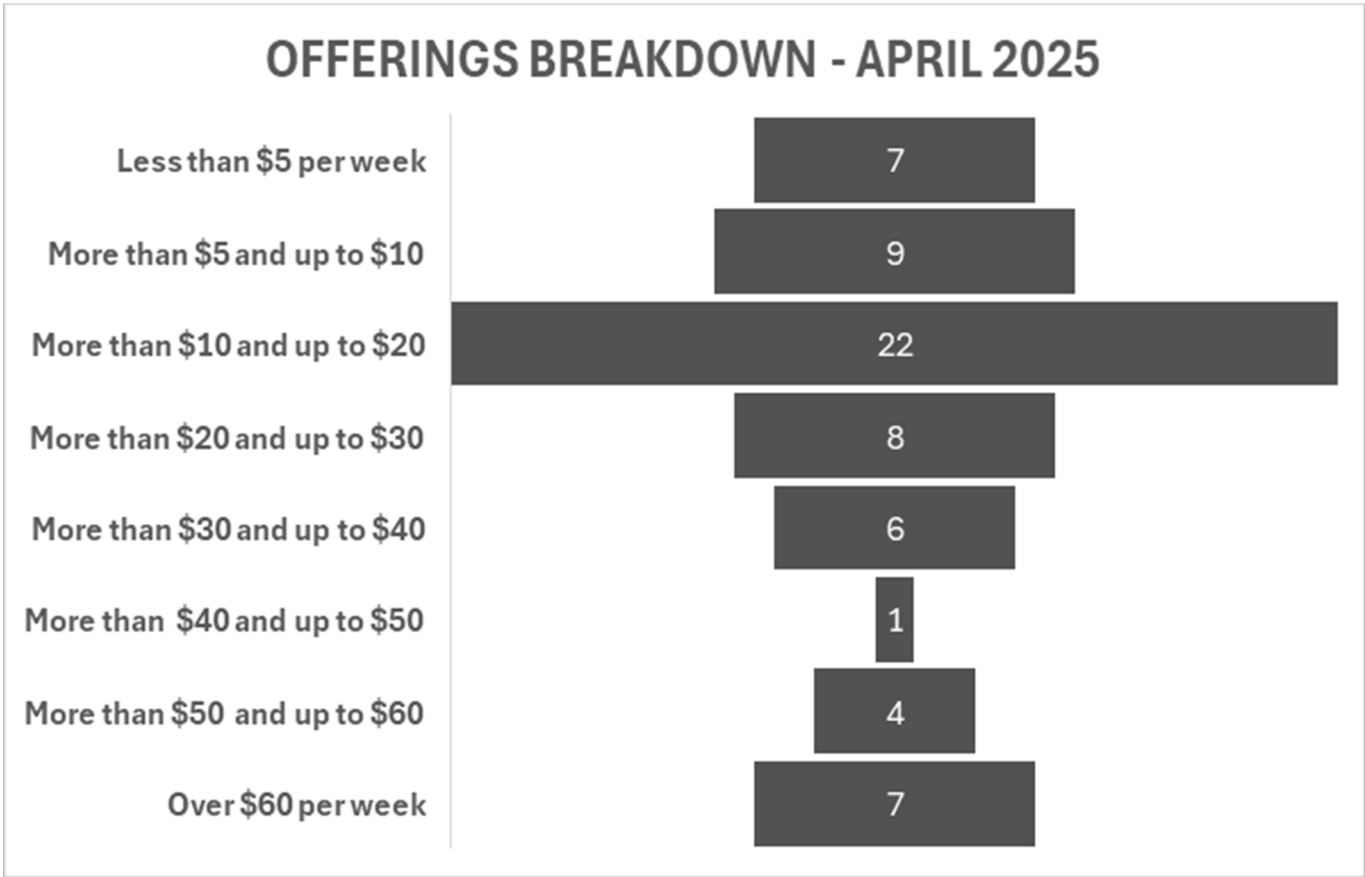
Some of us who use the Automatic Payments (AP) method have increased the amount of their contribution as our costs have increased but others haven't. However our Church has a long standing and clear policy that our members who are on fixed incomes should not feel that they are under pressure to give more when they simply can't afford it. Fortunately we have some members who can and who give generously to sustain our church.

Please give this matter your prayerful consideration and if you are currently not contributing or are in a position to increase your amount of offering to our church that increase will be very much appreciated. However we repeat that those who cannot afford to increase their level of giving should not feel under pressure to do so.

If you do not already have an allocated offerings number and wish to have one please contact the Church Office (4786180) or email office@bayspc.nz so that one can be allocated to you. This will allow us to issue a receipt for your donations at the end of the tax year thus allowing you to claim a refund of 33% of your donations. The system of numbers that we have ensures a degree of confidentiality is in place. At the time of getting your number you can choose to donate by the AP method or by the envelope in the plate method. Our bank accounts for APs are ASB 12 3042 0002489 00 or Westpac 03 0180 005234 002. You can use your offering number as identification or use your name – whatever you prefer.

Stewart Milne Treasurer

MAIRANGI & CASTOR BAYS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEMBERSHIP & OFFERINGS ANALYSIS – APRIL 2025



Stewart Milne Treasurer

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY, SOME RECENT INITIATIVES

Around September of last year the leaders of the Northern Presbytery held a Presbytery wide road show in which they told us, something about their structure, something about their operations team, and something about their recent initiatives. Last year we reported on the first two topics and here we cover the third, which is an account of a few of their initiatives.

Sadly not all were pleasant to undertake. Over the past few years, for instance a number of parishes (10) were closed. In several cases, however a new ministry was put in place these were as follows

- An upper City Outreach Ministry funded by money that was part of the Church and Community of St James*
- An initiative by the Clevedon Presbyterian Church to call a minister alongside a children's /family ministry at Takanini*
- A partnership with Presbyterian Support Northern on the property of St Giles , Mt Roskill, which included the store house as a new worshipping community. There has also been mergers of churches, at Whangarei (4), Glenfield (2), Onewa (2) and South Kaipara (with Massey, Riverhead)*

There has also been seven other new initiatives as follows

- (a) Children's ministry (Riverhead)*
- (b) New worshipping community at Pokeno*
- (c) St. Davids Community Outreach*
- (d) Hindi Mission Mairangi and Castor Bay*
- (e) St Heliers Church*
- (f) Drury Presbyterian Church expansion*
- (g) Andy's Pace Café St Andrews First Church.*

Finally there has been extensive building developments, fourteen in all which include three new churches. And to top it off, eighteen of the 46 churches in the Presbytery are participating in the City to City, Australia revitalisation project

Ian Watson

UPDATE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

At the April meeting of the Church Council we:

- Spent time on pastoral matters with particular concern for those needing support
- Appointed John Shadbolt to be the Commissioner from our church to attend the General Assembly in Christchurch in October
- Received the good news on our financial situation at the end of the tax year that we are a bit ahead of our budget in revenue and behind the budget in expenditure. However that was somewhat dampened by the knowledge that we have a leak in the flat roof above the kitchen and we are expecting a repair bill .
- Were advised of the long list of property items that are being worked on by members of the Property Committee.
- Received advice from Karen that Mainly Music on Friday Mornings is going well with 15 families and 21 children participating
- Considered the report back from Tokerau, Raewyn and Stewart on the CTCA Mini-Intensive Session which they attended on 28/29 March along with representatives from 9 other Auckland Presbyterian Churches. Key points were: the importance of having total commitment if we are to succeed in revitalizing and growing our church; and the importance of having regard to the actual situation in our community when drawing up plans.
- There is another Mini-Intensive Session coming up on 25/26 July and Tokerau encouraged other members of Council to attend.
- Decided that the suggestions being made by members of our Congregation on changes that we should be considering will be sent to the Committee handling that matter and that the person making the suggestion be invited to the meeting when it is being considered. So far the suggestions have been:
 - Glen Stanton - Invite School Choirs - Worship Committee
 - Peter Henderson – Develop the relationship with Radio Rhema – Worship Committee

- Helga Greenwell – Distribution of Activities pamphlet – Church and Community; sounding of Church Bell when funeral casket removed – Worship Committee;
- Margaret Callaghan - Times of Services (eg Easter) on all noticeboards – Worship Committee
- John Somerville – publicise services in paper – Worship Committee
- John Shadbolt – consideration of signage, access and seating – P & F

Decided that Recommendation 7 – the development of a Succession Plan for leaders should be advanced by having ‘training positions’ to allow the willing replacement person to have a period of time to come to understand the requirements of the position

- Encouraged thought being given to a changed name for our church. This is one of the recommendations and we will be discussing it at the May Meeting of Council. Suggestions from members will be welcomed.
- Received an analysis of offerings for the 12 months of the Tax Year and decided that an article should be produced for the Newsletter. (See elsewhere in this issue)

Stewart Milne (Clerk)



***A Mainly Music cushion revival project underway
by Norma Baker & Karen Ruffell***

UPDATE ON OUR REVITALISATION / GROWTH PROJECT

The meeting of the Congregation on 6 April approved the growth Vision and Goals which we shared in the March Newsletter and there were several suggestions made by members at the meeting as to what initiatives should be taken.

The Church Committees (Worship, Christian Education, Church and Community and Property and Finance) are working on the CTCA Consultant's Recommendations with a view to reporting back on progress at the May Meeting of the Church Council.

Suggestions from Members are being referred to the appropriate Committee and are being invited along to discuss them. So please if you have ideas to help us to attract and retain new members, including young families, let me or a committee convenor know so that it can be considered.

One of the recommendations in the Consultant's Report is to change our church's name from Mairangi and Castor Bays Presbyterian Church to Mairangi Bay Village Presbyterian Church. Our initial thinking is that a name change would now be appropriate however the inclusion of the word 'Village' is not indicating our wider membership and interest. Suggestions for a new name will be welcomed.

A clear message from other churches who are working with CTCA on rejuvenation is the need for a strong commitment and involvement from us all. We will be updating the situation in each monthly newsletter.

If you have any queries, comments or suggestions please raise them with Tokerau, myself or a Church Council Member.

Stewart Milne

Hibiscus Coast Singers concert, 'Chasing Dreams' Sunday, May 25 at 2:30pm

Come and join the Hibiscus Coast Singers for their upcoming concert, It is a concert about the hopes we hold and the journeys we take - whether big or small, personal or shared.

Tickets are available from <https://hbcsingers.com/next-performance-1>.

If you are interested, contact Norma Baker on 443 3108 or crnjbaker@gmail.com for more information & carpooling arrangements.

Scottish Phone - Line to Heaven

Ronnie and Diana Douglas Farewell

On 16th March, we farewelled a couple of very special friends, Ronnie & Diana Douglas. They returned to their “other” home in Glasgow, having spent several months with us, as they’ve done for the last 12 or so years. We are so privileged to have them keep returning, and sharing their warmth and friendship. When the church choir existed, they were active participants – as an alto and tenor – both parts of which, in many choirs, are scarce as hen’s teeth! As we farewelled and thanked them, I tried to find a suitable “story” with a bit of a Scottish “twist” in the nicest possible way. Google presented me with this one which seemed to fit the brief, and recognized their strong faith.

Bronwyn Stone

An American decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. He bought a plane ticket and took a trip to Orlando, thinking that he would start by working his way across the USA from South to North. On his first day he was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '\$10,000 per call'. The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way. Next stop was in Atlanta.

There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same looking golden telephone with the same sign under it. He wondered if this was the same kind of telephone he saw in Orlando and he asked a nearby nun what its purpose was. She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. 'O.K., thank you,' said the American.

He then travelled all across America , Africa, England , Japan , New Zealand. In every church he saw the same looking golden telephone with the same '\$US10,000 per call' sign under it. The American decided to travel to Scotland to see if Scots had the same phone. He arrived in Scotland and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same looking golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '40 pence per call.' The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. 'Father, I've travelled all over the world and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to Heaven, but in all of them price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?'

The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Scotland now, son - it's a local call'

REGULAR PARISH ACTIVITIES

- **SENIOR FRIENDS**

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

Contact Carole 021 0235 7398 or Raewyn 027 733 7612



- **ENGLISH CONVERSATIONS**

1pm - 2.30pm Mondays & Wednesdays Meeting Room 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 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**

2nd Friday of the month Church Hall 6.15pm

Ph Tangi 022 657 3223 or Stewart 027 293 8499

- **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 027 293 8499 or 09 478 5786

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

Quick Contacts

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