



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

**July 2025 NEWSLETTER**

**Minister: Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph**

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

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



**A fond farewell to our Joseph-Matapo family**

## UPDATE FROM TOKERAU

I came across an article (reflecting the U.S. context) that encouraged me as I continue to ponder and pray for the Revitalisation Process we are undertaking. I share part of it as way of encouraging you as well.

*“The church isn’t dying. It’s being remade” by Shannon Hopkins*

*“As the 1950s model declines, new ways of being the church are popping up all over, and gospel truths are now being found in new containers, writes a social entrepreneur.*

*Picture this: An old church is now a cafe. From 9 to 5, it serves coffee, cakes and sandwiches in the historic hallowed space, with light streaming through the stained glass. Young people with piercings serve chai and lattes to customers of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds. Then, on a Sunday evening, with the smell of coffee still in the air, people gather around tables to talk about justice and economics and to question the role faith plays in their lives.*

*It’s not a secret: the way we church is changing. Yet many of our structures and systems and ways of doing church still hang on a model from another era. Modern life is different. Work is different; dating, community life, technology — they’re all different. So shouldn’t church be different as well?*

*This is a question I’ve been asking for nearly 30 years. Perhaps it started when I took my college friend Kim home with me one Easter. When we went to church, everyone else got dressed up, but Kim just had jeans. Afterward, she said that while her experience in church had been nice in some ways, she had felt like a fish out of water.*

*After college, I had friends who were longing for conversations about meaning and purpose — but church was the last place they would look for such discussions.*

*Over the last 20 years, I’ve worked to create communities that offer space for deep relationships and deep questions while at the same time serving people less fortunate than ourselves. I’ve tried a lot of experiments, building the road as I’ve walked it.*

*In turbulent times, we look for the safe harbor, the thing that doesn’t change to help us stay grounded. For the church, I believe that the **gospel** — not the form of church — **is that thing**.*

*As new forms of mission and ministry are taking shape, this is a moment of hope as well as pain. Just like the messy but beautiful process of giving birth, the reimagining of the landscape of the church is an intricate dance of pain and promise.*

*There's always a risk when we step into the new. We have to let go of something to make room for fresh things. Isn't this a hallmark of the Lord's leading? There is an invitation to trust. We don't have to have it all buttoned up and figured out before we step out.*

*As someone who has lived and worked on the margins of the institutional church for decades, I am grateful, proud and optimistic when I see all the vibrant initiatives that are taking root. It is clear this is no longer a fad of the 90s.*

*You don't have to look far to see breweries and bakeries popping up in restored church properties or in new monastic communities. Just look around and you will find kitchen table entrepreneurs putting idle church kitchens into service, using food to address loneliness and food insecurity. Churches are also leveraging their land to meet the needs of their neighbours with efforts such as affordable housing, senior communities and new economic development.*

*These new models are creating jobs, community and new financial futures for congregations. But they're also showing the world a dynamic church, transforming the lives of people and the community around them. To me, that looks like the gospel in action."*

**“To be a vibrant growing church, representative of the demographic of Mairangi Bay and the surrounding communities, known for being gospel-centred in all we do.”**

***Tokerau Joseph***



**Photos from the Cook Islands 50th Anniversary Uapou Fellowship celebration 2025**

## WORDS FROM KAREL

A study group is meeting on the 7th and 21st of July at 10:30 am in my apartment, G285, 45 Akoranga Drive, Northcote. We are studying the book “Jesus: Uncovering the life, teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary,” By Marcus Borg.

You are welcome to join us. The format of the study is that we listen at a chapter read as an audio book and then discuss and questions that arise. Tea and coffee are provided. The group finishes at 12 noon.

Below is my summary of the first chapter which we listened to at our first session.

### Chapter 1 Summary: "Jesus Today: Telling His Story"

In this opening chapter, Marcus Borg explores why Jesus still matters today, and how the way we tell his story shapes our understanding of who he was and what he means.

#### 1. Jesus is Still Important

Borg begins by observing that Jesus remains one of the most influential and fascinating figures in history. People across the spectrum—believers, sceptics, spiritual seekers—continue to care about Jesus. But who Jesus was, and what he means, varies greatly depending on how his story is told.

#### 2. The Power of Stories

Borg stresses that how we tell the story of Jesus matters. Stories shape identity, worldview, and religious life. Over time, the church developed a particular version of Jesus’ story, emphasizing:

His divinity,

His role in atoning for sin,

And the importance of believing in him to gain eternal life.

This version became central in Western Christianity, particularly in Protestant and Catholic traditions. But Borg argues that this is not the only way to tell Jesus’ story—and perhaps not the most compelling or faithful to the historical Jesus.

#### 3. Two Major Visions of Jesus

Borg outlines a key distinction:



The “Earlier” or more traditional story, focused on belief in Jesus to gain forgiveness and heaven.

A “Newer” emerging story, which focuses on Jesus as:

A wisdom teacher,

A social prophet,

A movement initiator,

Someone whose message was about transformation of life here and now, not just after death.

He clarifies that this newer story is not new in the sense of being invented recently—it draws from historical Jesus scholarship and the earliest layers of the Gospel tradition.

#### 4. The Question of Relevance

Borg asks: Why should we care about the historical Jesus today? His answer is that Jesus’ life and message—about justice, compassion, the Kingdom of God, and a radically new way of being—still speak directly to contemporary spiritual hunger and social issues.

#### 5. The Aim of the Book

Borg concludes the chapter by stating the purpose of the book:

To reconstruct a historically grounded portrait of Jesus,

To explore his teaching and movement,

And to consider how Jesus remains relevant today, especially when viewed through the lens of faith as transformation, not just belief.

## **UPDATE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL**

At our June Meeting we were pleased to welcome Grace Liu back from her period of study related absence.

Pastoral information was shared and those in need of support through prayer and action were identified.

- Particular matters of wider interest were: My report on the Uapou 50 years celebration which was held in Tokoroa and which I was fortunate to attend. This report can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.
- The Tear Fund Quiz which was a lot of fun and where \$793.50 was raised through registrations, raffles and food. Great effort by many. This has been sent to Tear Fund.
- A very clear message on our financial situation in that we have had to dig into our reserves over the last 2 years to meet capital costs at the manse and church and now with reduction in revenue and increased costs we are in the position of needing to be very careful when looking at the costs of new proposals.
- A decision to go ahead with creating a family space at the back of the church worship area on the left as you enter. (See photo of similar arrangement).
- A decision to try to find a new home for the organ which hasn't been played since Maureen died. We are wanting to declutter the stage.
- A report back from Stephen, our property Convenor, on his meeting with the Local Board and their support for getting action on the purchase of the Penzance Vehicle Accessway.
- The start up of the latest House Group which meets at 1030 on the first and third Mondays each month. The group is meeting at Karel Lorier's apartment G285, 25 Akoranga Drive. All welcome.
- Reports from the Committees on progress with the changes they are working on following the report from the CTCA Consultant.
- With regard to the name change for our church there is a consensus that inclusion of Castor Bay is no longer appropriate and we see the inclusion of the word 'Village' as too restrictive. Tokerau has asked us to pray over this important matter. Meantime one member of our congregation (Margaret) has responded to last month's request for ideas. Thanks Margaret. Ideas still welcome.
- Advice from Roopali on the first of the change to Saturday 6pm for the Indian Congregation's Worship Service. This is a trial to see if it can become more popular than the Sunday services were. There is more English spoken. We meet at 6pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month and then have a delicious meal. All welcome.
- We are looking for some tasteful, non garish decorations for the walls in the church complex. Ideas welcomed.

*Stewart Milne*

**Indian Congregation of Mairangi Bay Church** held their first Saturday night worship here, Saturday 22nd June. Their new regular worship is now held at 6pm on the first and third Saturdays of the month



### **Empty Jars and Lids Anyone?**

If you have any medium sized empty jars and lids you don't want, Sylvana Whyborn would very much like you to pass onto her so she can fill them with yummy products. Sylvanna then sells them as a fund raising activity for the church. Sylvana's phone number is 027 328 6282



### **Home Group - 1030am the 1st & 3rd Mondays per month.**

The group meets at Karel Lorier's apartment G285, 25 Akoranga Drive. We are working our way through Marcus Borgh's Book on Jesus and learning a lot from research that has been carried out. All welcome. Karel ph 021 903762.

**We love receiving photos of parish activities, please send your photos through to us at [office@bayspc.nz](mailto:office@bayspc.nz)**

# COOK ISLANDS UAPOU FELLOWSHIP 2025

On Friday 30 May I travelled to Tokoroa to join the celebration of 50 years of the Uapou Fellowship.

Uapou means 'Collective effort' in the Cook Islands Māori language.

The Cook Islands Uapou Fellowship had been slumbering over the last decade but when our Minister Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph was approached and responded to the call to become the Moderator last year, he not only spotted the forthcoming opportunity to celebrate 50 years but also managed to energise Cook Islander congregations within PCANZ to participate in a memorable event.

Tokerau and Tangi invited me to attend, and I am so grateful for that. It was a marvellous and unforgettable event with 10 Cook Islander churches participating in the celebrations which stretched through to the Monday with performances, worship, meals and sporting events.

The Moderator of the Māori Synod (Te Aka Puahou), Rev Tamiana Thrupp and his wife Honey, were there throughout. Other dignitaries were also present including the mayor and the local MP Hon Louise Upston who incidentally we learned attended Sunday School at our Church in Mairangi Bay.

The Host Church was St Lukes Tokoroa (described as the 16<sup>th</sup> Island of the Cook Islands due to the number of Cook Islanders living in Tokoroa) and they did a great job. The welcoming ceremony was special with the representatives from the 10 churches parading in with banners and singing and then each church had a time slot for an item of singing and dancing. On the opening night there were about 750 people present and I understand that over the 3 days more than 900 were present.

Seeing the young and very young joining in the dancing and singing, mixing in and clearly learning and enjoying themselves has left me with a new appreciation of the value of church.

This was a wonderful occasion of joyous fellowship and Cook Islands culture which Tokerau, Tangi and the organisers can look back on with great satisfaction and which I will remember for a very long time.



*Stewart Milne*



## **FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST 10.00 AM**

**Deadline for Favourite hymns requests is Sunday July 13th.**








All enquires and requests to Bronwyn Stone ph 4796631 or email to [pebros@gmail.com](mailto:pebros@gmail.com)

It's time to get your musical caps on and submit your favourite hymn.

These are the details I need;

1. Your name and contact number.
2. Your favourite hymn. (Title, First line, Where I might find the music if it's obscure)
3. Which 2 verses you'd like sung
4. Why it's special to you e.g. significant time in your life (the best backed stories ensure their inclusion!!)

### **Here's some quotes to brighten your day**

- Without music, life would B b (flat!)
- Help! I'm  in I ran over something  and now my tyre is b.  
I need a  for the phone please... do I need to  any of that?
- I don't want to practice I just want to skip ahead to the part
- where I'm awesome
- All I need is   



## **A fond farewell to our Joseph-Matapo family**



On Sunday 29 June we farewelled the Joseph-Matapo Family (Angel, Manu, Ananiah, Kimi and Mastell) at a special morning tea after church as they begin their new journey in Melbourne. They have been an important part of our church family since 2018 and an integral part of the Manse family.

Manu is a “Field specialist Technician” in the concrete industry. The International Company he works for promoted him to Australia. Angel has now completed her teaching degree and will graduate in August and so they move with great prospects.

Over the last seven and half years that they have been with us we have seen the youngsters grow in all ways and participate positively in the church activities. We have really appreciated worship services led by Angel, who also had a spell as our Family and Mainly Music Coordinator, and we very much appreciated Manus expertise on the drums and his hard work at our working bees.

Ananiah’s singing and netball accomplishments, the accounts of Kimi and Mastell’s exploits on the rugby league field have been of continuing interest. Will they end up playing for Australia now??

Above all though, we have benefitted from experiencing a family functioning the way that families should. We farewelled them with some sadness at seeing them go but with appreciation, best wishes and affection. At least we know that we will see them again as some or all travel back for joining celebrations of their wider whanau.

*Stewart Milne*



## TEAR FUND QUIZ NIGHT

Team Aroha won the first prize at the Tear Fund Quiz on Saturday 14 June which was held at our Church. It was once again a fun occasion although the competitive spirit was certainly present. The photo shows the winning team inspecting their prize. Who can you recognize?

Thanks to Karen, Gerry, Alastair and Glen for running things and to Grace Xu and Jessica for selling the food, tea and coffee.

Tear Fund is an International Christian non profit organization working for a just and compassionate world. The \$10 a person entry fee as well as the money made from raffles and food sales goes to the Tear Fund and the Church provides the prizes. A total of \$793 went to the Tear Fund.

## Roast Lunch at Montrose Sunday, 13th July 12pm

There will be a choice of pork, beef or lamb and vegetables.

The cost is: Small \$24, Medium \$26, Large \$28.

Contact **Dorille on 479 3953 or 027 692 3738** or let her know at church. Looking forward to you joining us for fellowship, good company & food.



# 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](mailto:office@bayspc.nz)*

## Quick Contacts

Rev Dr Tokerau Joseph Ph: 027 371 4733 [tokerau.j@gmail.com](mailto:tokerau.j@gmail.com)

Office Ph: 478 6180 [office@bayspc.nz](mailto:office@bayspc.nz)