

HALO

AGM
Annual General Meeting

After Church on Sun 18 Sept

August 2022

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH TARADALE

From the Minister



I have been reading “Reading the Bible with the Damned” and other books by Bob Ekblad. Before you take offense, “the damned” is the way the people Bob works with describe themselves. He works with the poor of Honduras, as well as undocumented migrant labourers in the US and prison inmates. They consider themselves “Damned” because they know they are not good enough. When the church tells them they need to try harder to “be good” or when they are presented with role models of those who are successes they feel even more helpless and estranged from God because to them God seems to bless good people, those who pray lots and give generously whereas they have addictions they can’t shake, they have circumstances that make living legally the hard choice. They

hear again and again that God “cannot stand the sight of people doing wrong” (Habb 1:13 – a part verse) without looking at the context which is about the Babylonians and God is quite clearly seeing what is going on. Many feel God is a prosecutor – pointing out their fault or failings, or God is a Judge, pronouncing guilt and sentencing them to hardship and ultimately damnation.

When Bob reads the Bible with such folk, he often points out that Jesus doesn’t see the world as they do. For instance, in Luke 7 some Jewish leaders come to Jesus and ask for help on behalf of a Roman Centurion whose servant is ill. They say “This man really deserves your help” and so Jesus heads off with them. This agrees with the normal story that God helps the deserving. But in the next verses the Centurion twice says he is undeserving or unworthy, yet Jesus still heals the man’s servant. God seems to be on the side of the undeserving. Other times he speaks how Jesus helps all sort of people who are outsiders. The man on the cross beside Jesus says “we are

getting what we deserve” (Luke 23:41) Yet Jesus promises he will be with God in paradise. He has not earned such favour, he cannot repay such favour, it is all grace.

We say we understand grace, we know we all have sinned and yet because of Jesus, we are forgiven and given new life, but I wonder how often we think we need to earn God’s approval and help. If we want something good to happen, do you do what I do and increase my prayer time, perhaps fasting to show my dedication and giving more to charity or the church. Bob tells the story of one inmate who was on the verge of suicide as he was coming up for sentencing and he had asked God to help with a lighter sentence and had made a vow to read the whole Bible before the court date but he had only gotten as far as Exodus, so he felt God was not going to help him but also punish him more because he had broken his vow.

If God doesn’t answer my prayer, I can easily justify why not as I remind myself of all my failings both recent and over my lifetime. I am thinking I don’t deserve God’s help

rather than seeing God as a loving Father. God has made a decision that my best is served some other way. Even when God says “no” he is still with me as I am his beloved child.

One of my challenges is to catch myself when I start thinking I or others deserve God’s help. I heard yesterday of a wonderful Christian woman who has been diagnosed with cancer and my first thought was – “that’s not fair, she has served God so faithfully”. I don’t know how God is going to respond – whether he will answer her family’s prayer for healing or take her to be with himself in heaven but in either case I know she will know the presence of God and be loved by a heavenly father who cares, not because she deserves it but because Christ loves her and died for her.

You can listen to some of Bob’s messages on YouTube e.g.

<https://youtu.be/FilmWSa9UOg>

https://youtu.be/wYc_vG_Cyik

Brett

Pink Ribbon High Tea

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this fundraiser such a success. To the men who worked in the kitchen, the women who baked and lent their precious china, (nothing got broken!!) and to the three young ladies who helped wait on the tables, we so appreciate you. Rachel Read was our guest speaker and we all enjoyed hearing of her travels and the many acts of kindness shown to her. The money raised, \$1,600, is for the Breast Cancer Foundation. Will we do it again??? Of course we will. It was such fun!



Breast Cancer
Foundation NZ



Op Shop Volunteers

Cynthia Duncan passed away on 10 June and I thought it timely to recognise the amazing work she did when she took on the task of managing the Two Fold Op Shop.

Cynthia was passionate about the way the shop looked, the way the clothes were presented and that staff were appreciated. Her own home took in the overflow and her garage and spare bedroom were full of op shop items. She would sort, clean and price them before they were taken back to the shop. John her husband would give her all his support and would fix things and help as much as he could. When John passed away she continued to go solo! Through Cynthia's diligence and hard work the Op Shop became a very profitable asset to the Church and to the Community. She was always keen to support the Kool Kids and the Youth Group, seeing them as the future of the Church.

When Cynthia's health took a turn for the worse she was forced, with great reluctance, to retire and hand over the reins. St Columba's will always remember Cynthia with gratitude and love for her work at

the Two Fold Op Shop.

St Columba's has been blessed with committed and loyal volunteers over many years. With Cynthia leaving a vacancy at the top, Heather Timmins, Margaret Allan and Rhonda Holt took over coordinating a day each, to continue running the shop in the efficient manner it was used to. There is always room for more volunteers to help on either a morning or an afternoon to lighten the load of those who sometimes find they become over committed or are away on holiday. Thank you to everyone who willingly help, both men and women. You are valued and appreciated.



Fun Time is had at Mainly Music

Every Wednesday and Thursday morning of term time, excited children burst into Fish Hall ready for their Mainly Music session. They are ready to jump and hop, clap and sing and dance about, with their friends. Mainly Music is a Christian based programme run by volunteers for preschool aged children, their mothers, grandparents and caregivers.

Children are encouraged by rhymes, old and new songs, all loaded onto a database and displayed on a screen.

They all enjoy playing with percussion instruments – shakers, drums, wood blocks of various designs, bells, cymbals, triangles. Rhythm is encouraged.

Pianists Sheena Beaton and Heather Sim encourage children to explore the sound of another instrument.

Props are used with many songs – scarves, bunny ears, animal pictures, illustrated cards, stretchy lycra and colourful parachutes.

Children and parents learn about large and small body movements, names of these parts, balance,

sharing and patterning.

After half an hour, morning tea is served. Loraine brings pikelets served with jam and cream. The adults chat together and discuss a wide range of topics. Brett usually joins us to catch up with the new parents.

At least twice a term, theme programmes are presented. We decorate Fish Hall to enhance the theme, with balloons or large pictures, streamers and toys. Each child receives a gift, special food is served, and leaders 'dress' for the occasion.

Along with acknowledging the important events of Easter, Christmas, mother's and father's days. These special days are interactive, they do take longer to set up and clean up, and much fun.

Theme programmes include "Down on the Farm" with pictures of farm animals, a swing gate made to be opened on entry, boots, coats and hats.



mainly
music®

"St Patrick" with a

green theme, green balloons and green iced cakes.

“Creepy Crawley” day with insects, admiral butterfly, Hungry Caterpillar story. “This is my body” - I bring my animal skulls, bones, posters and models. Many moving and jumping songs.

“Teddy Bears picnic” with travelling songs, teddy’s enjoying their picnic. “Box” and/or “Transport” a good Father’s Day theme. With toy vehicles, wheels and all in boxes.

“Beach” or “Princess and Pirate Day” with sea songs, many pirate songs

And more!

To acknowledge birthdays, each child is presented with a card birthday badge and a suitable gift. A suitably inscribed Children’s Bible is given when they move onto Kindergarten or Playcentre. We do enjoy this special time with young mothers together. The older women share experiences and advice. The grandparents enjoy each other’s company.



We have fun!

Each group pays an annual levy to Mainly Music, which began in

Auckland by Jo Hood at her church. The groups quickly spread all over New Zealand, Australia, now in UK, and wider. Overseas groups often begin by mums who enjoyed the programme while in NZ. The organisation is now associated to Mainly Ministries. Jo Hood emails weekly updates, thought for the week, positive story, etc. Each term leaders receive a pack with stickers or a new book promotion or links to workshops, or ideas for children’s gifts.

In the past leaders were invited to a day training with key note speaker, but challenging times makes for different method of communication.

Group leaders meet each term with other local leaders to share plans and discuss challenges. We can work through a work book on how to share our beliefs, and invite mothers to join the team.

Margaret de la Haye

Editors Note

If this programme interests you and you want to know more or would like to help in some way, talk to Margaret or pop in on Wednesday or Thursday for a look.

Mother/Daughter Story

Recently, I overheard a mother and daughter in their last moments together at the airport as the daughter's departure had been announced. Standing near the security gate, they hugged and the mother said:

"I love you and I wish you enough."

The daughter replied, "Mom, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Mom." They kissed and the daughter left.

The mother walked over to the window where I sat. Standing there, I could see she wanted and needed to cry.

I tried not to intrude on her privacy but she welcomed me in by asking, "Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be

forever?" "Yes, I have," I replied. "Forgive me for asking but why is this a forever good-bye?"

"I am old and she lives so far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is the next trip back will be for my funeral," she said.

When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, "I wish you enough." May I ask what that means?"

She began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone." She paused a moment and looked up as if trying to remember it in detail and she smiled even more.

"When we said 'I wish you enough' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them". Then turning toward me, she shared the



To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens.

following, reciting it from memory,
"I wish you enough sun to keep your
attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate
the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to
keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the
smallest joys in life appear much
bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy
your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate
all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you
through the final good-bye."

She then began to cry and walked
away.

They say it takes a minute to find a
special person.

An hour to appreciate them.

A day to love them. And an entire
life to forget them.

It's perfectly OK to talk to
yourself and it's perfectly
OK to answer yourself.
But it's totally sad that
you have to repeat what
you said because you
weren't listening.

Did you know?

In 1954 Jeanette Barker
competed in the Empire/
Commonwealth Games as
a diver. Gaining a 4th and
5th placing.

Communion Service
Sunday 4 September
All Welcome



Robin Arnold's 36 years, experiencing life at St Columba's

On moving up from Central Hawke's Bay in 1986, to a property on Omarunui Road, Jeanette and I, being handy to Taradale came to worship at St Columba. Duncan Jamieson was the minister at the time. The church was so well attended, that if we didn't get there by 20 past 9, it was difficult to find a seat!

We were warmly welcomed and soon settled into the routine of various events there. It wasn't too long before Keith Woodcock and Alister King approached me to go onto Session, which I did in 1987. I was already an Elder, having been ordained previously in Waipawa.

Speaking of Keith, I recall his part in "The Sights and Sounds of Easter". It was a pageant in 1987 with several scenes in various parts of the church, directed by Wendy Doole, involving people from other churches as well. It was part of the Rainbow Enterprise program, organized by Pauline and Stan Stewart from Sydney. Keith had the part of Jesus, with red stripes down his back. Duncan directed a similar one at Christmas time. Duncan was a person, never to be forgotten. I remember during one service, he got on the piano, which was then,

just below the lectern and belted out "When the Saints come marching in". Jeanette said that he was the only minister she had sat under, that by Wednesday she was still mulling over what he had said.

Duncan's ministry was followed by Shirl Butler as a 'fill in' before Rachel Paulin. Shirl being an American ex Marine Sergeant, could be a little "pushy". At that time it was customary to carry in the bible at the beginning of the service. I happened to be the one doing it this time and while pausing to allow some people to get to their seats, he actually pushed me forward! Another time he was not so popular was at the end of his first communion service, he called the Elders round the communion table to finish off the wine. It was real wine too. Session made sure he didn't do that again! Rachel was followed by our Brett and in my opinion, we are very lucky to have him.

The church, in earlier days was active in arranging outings and picnics. One such was held at Arnjay, our place on Omarunui Road where we had a large garden. Also concerts. I was Miss Sweden in one, with a blonde wig and a couple

of swedes hanging in the appropriate area. Pam Thrupp's group took off the Abba song Waterloo, but instead, it was "Portaloo" waving toilet seats! Fun times.

By the time we had moved into town and were living in Bishop's Close, I had become involved in whatever projects were on the go round the church. Such as when the Op-shop was being built, and Fish Hall redeveloped. I still have the drawings of our suggestion for remodeling the kitchen. The finished design is much the same, doubling the size of the old one. When the manse was being refurbished after the Jamieson's left, Jeanette and I wall-papered the kitchen. Jeanette did her share as well with her talent for arranging flowers, among other things. There is a picture in Nancy Munro's book of her and Alys Alexander preparing food for the farewell for Helen Anderson in 1991.

Then of course, the annual fair. Bringing my BBQ along and doing the sausage sizzle. Another time, when there was a problem of water lying in front of the church, organizing a group to dig a channel and lay a pipe to a soak pit.

Leading a Pastoral care group for Session involved quite a bit of

visiting, which I quite enjoyed for about 10 years, then passed that on to Tom Wares.

At the time of Jeanette's death in 2000, I experienced the value of belonging to the church family of St Columba. The support I received from wonderful friends at that time was so special. I greatly valued Cranford Hospice where I spent the last two weeks of Jeanette's life in her room with her. Due to her involvement with Cranford for 18 years providing flower arrangements there, her room was like a florist shop! John Alexander also died there the same week and he, with his great sense of humour, said to Jeanette, "I'll see you up there".

Some of the people who were so good to me have passed on now, but not forgotten. I am so grateful to them, and to those of the present. I am very fortunate to be in a part of the life of St Columba, Taradale.

Editors Note

Robin served as an Elder for over 50 years at St Johns Waipawa and here at St Columba. He still regularly visits people in hospital and in their homes and still has a list of people he visits for Communion. Robin is a fine example of a man filled with God's grace. We, as his Church Family, were privileged to celebrate his 90th birthday with him on 26 June.

Wise words from 'The Word for Today' 2nd July 2022

TRY TO SLOW DOWN

*You will not leave in a hurry,
running for your lives Isaiah 52:12*

Have you heard of 'hurry sickness' ? Those that have it zoom in and out of lanes in congested traffic; try to be the first off the plane, even though they have to wait forever at the luggage claim; honk at you if you don't take off like a racehorse when the traffic lights turn green; tap their fingers against anything they can find if they have to wait; punch the elevator buttons repeatedly to attempt to move it faster. They remind us of hummingbirds. These tiny birds can fly forwards then hover in mid air going no where. Their tiny wings can move up to seventy five times every second! The trouble is, their average life span is only 3 years

Wanted— new costumes for our Christmas pageant

Our kids have grown so much. If you are a sewer would you be willing to help make some new ones? Please talk to Pam.

compared to an eagle that lives thirty years. What's the difference? The Eagle has learned to conserve it's energy by riding the God-given wind currents.

The message here is simple: when you draw on the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, you last longer and go higher than you ever dreamed. One Pastor said he was a "stress distributing machine" when he was younger and everyone around him felt it. One day one of his kids said "Daddy, I'll try to hurry up and tell you this". He replied "it's okay Honey you can speak slowly" After a long pause he had an ahah moment when his child said "then—listen—slowly".

Deciding to move at a slower pace will improve the quality of your life and your relationships.



**If you look at the world,
you'll be distressed.**

**If you look within,
you'll be distressed.**

**But if you look at God,
you'll be at rest.**

**It's what you concentrate on that
decides your amount of peace.**

**So when trouble comes,
focus on God's presence:
he is with you, and he has promised
that He will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5)**

Kids Friendly Care



**We provide a FUN and safe environment for
children aged 5-13 years old**

Before School: 7.30am-8.30am

After School: 3pm-5.30pm

Holiday Programme: 7.30am-5.30pm

WINZ APPROVED

**Our doors are always open so feel free
to come in and meet the team!**

176 Gloucester Street, Taradale

Phone 022 643 1691

What's on in Aug/Sept/Oct 2022

Sunday	07 Aug	9.30am	Church Service
Tuesday	09 Aug	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	14 Aug	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Thursday	18 Aug	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	21 Aug	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	25 Aug	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	28 Aug	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	04 Sept	9.30am	Communion Service
Sunday	11 Sept	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	13 Sept	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Thursday	15 Sept	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	18 Sept	9.30am	Church Service
		After Church Service	Annual General Meeting
Thursday	22 Sept	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	25 Sept	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	02 Oct	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	09 Oct	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	11 Oct	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	16 Oct	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	20 Oct	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	23 Oct	9.30am	Family Service
Thursday	27 Oct	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	30 Oct	9.30am	Church Service

Regular Events

Tuesdays	<i>Op Shop open</i>	10.00am - 4.00pm	
	Contact: 844 5004		
	Tuesday Church Service	10.30am - 11.30am	
	2nd Tuesday of the month		
	House Group	7.00pm	
	Contact: Colin Zachan 844 8050		
	Women's Fellowship meeting	7.30pm	
	4th Tuesday of the month		
Wednesdays	<i>Mainly Music</i>	9.30am - 10.30am	
	Contact: Margaret 843 2272		
	House Group @ Church	10.15am and	
	Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256	7.00pm - 8.30pm	
	<i>Op Shop open</i>	10.00am - 4.00pm	
	Contact: 844 5004		
	Craft Group	7.00pm	
	1st Wednesday of the month		
	Contact: Ruth Stoddart 844 2336		
	Thursdays	<i>Mainly Music</i>	9.30am - 10.30am
Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447			
	<i>Op Shop open</i>	10.00am - 4.00pm	
	Contact: 844 5004		
	Board of Managers meeting	7.00pm	
	3rd Thursday of the month		
	Session meeting	7.00pm	
	4th Thursday of the month		
	Fridays	Massive Bible Study	6.00pm - 7.00pm
	Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734		
	Massive Youth Group	7.00pm - 9.00pm	
	Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734		
Sundays	6789 Youth Group (fortnightly)	6.00pm - 7.00pm	
Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734			

St Columba's Elders

Reverend Brett Walker
027 408 3658

Joanne Magill—Session Clerk
022 687 9130

Nancy Bryan
845 4111 or 021 267 0459

Joes Polehwidhi
021 215 8729

Jon Read
027 236 1314

Claire Smith
844 1222 or 027 678 8849

Stefan Steyn
845 4116 or 027 436 1708

Barry Thrupp
835 5785 or 021 0269 8370

Pam Thrupp
835 5785 or 027 429 6305

Keith Woodcock
844 1424 or 027 449 5948

Colin Zachan
844 8050



Board of Managers

Reverend Brett Walker
027 408 3658

Mike Latter—Chairperson
027 441 0749

Dean Ackland
021 270 0837

Gavin Long
021 165 8102

Edward Smith
844 6324

Barbara Stewart
021 053 4248

Anne Tristram
021 118 6516

Jenny Ziebe
027 466 424

Children's Programmes

Kool Kids

Pam Thrupp
835 5785

Youth Groups

Steve Demetrius
844 2734

Mainly Music

Margaret de la Haye
843 2272
Karen Jensen
843 9447

Kids Friendly Care

Anna Neil
022 643 1691

