

HALO

God
IS OUR
Refuge
&
Strength

PSALM 46:1

July 2023

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH TARADALE

From the Minister



On Pentecost Sunday I was the preacher at a combined Presbyterian service at St Columba, Havelock north. I spoke of my visit the day before to Esk Valley where I joined the HB Clean-up Crew for an hour while they dug silt away from a house to allow the home owner to take what they could before demolition. It was frustrating to see 20 people with spades and wheelbarrows nibbling away at a 3 metre pile of silt and thinking they should have a bigger digger who would have moved the pile in minutes. My point is that churches often think – if we had a better leader, a hotshot minister who could reach out to the unchurched and inspire and teach the congregation, and be a brilliant pastor and visitor and ... It is the bigger digger version of ministry. In the hour I watched

the barrow and spade crew, they actually moved a lot of silt.

Pentecost is not about one or two hot shots who have amazing spiritual gifts but how everybody was filled, everybody spoke in other languages, everyone was involved. I think we need to put aside the bigger digger mentality and have a Pentecost way of thinking. If God is at work in you and I and we all pick up our spades and barrows we can achieve so much and be a true community as we do it.

I have seen that in the past two weeks while I have been on leave. We bought a 1960's house which needed painting inside and out, roof leaks patched, many trees removed and so much more. We are grateful for the painter that knows what he is doing, for the plaster, the glass guy to fix the windows, the heat pump guy, the roofer, the electrician but also for the friends who turned up to take away tree branches or sand a window or give advice on curtains or those who came to help us pack our house. I said to someone I felt like the apprentice given the menial jobs like sanding and stripping wallpaper

but even those jobs needed doing so that hopefully we can move in in a couple of weeks. If it had all been left to the hotshot painter it would have taken months rather than the four weeks we have given it.

I have been reading the Multiplication Effect by Mac Lake. He speaks about churches being often short of leaders and hoping that somehow a leader who has been trained somewhere else will turn up and fill the gaps, rather than taking the time to recruit, train and grow our own people. If we trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in every believer giving them gifts. And if we trust that God is calling people to make a difference in the church and the community and if we have a process of showing people what they need to succeed



in the role and training and supporting them then we can have a leadership pipeline. This will allow all hands to take a shovel whether big or small , and if some have the potential to be a higher capacity leader and have the gift of being a bigger digger – there is room for them also on the team. With a bit of training, and oversight, even I might be able to move from apprentice sander to using a paintbrush.

If you are interested there is a spiritual gift assessment you can use to discover what your strengths are.

[https://
assessments.giftpassionstory.com/
login](https://assessments.giftpassionstory.com/login)

It may be worth answering these questions:

1. Do you think God has been calling you to leadership or some form of involvement in ministry- what has God been saying?
2. If God could use you to change one thing in the world around you what would that be?

May the Spirit of Pentecost who fell on all people be at work in us.

Brett

Hawke's Bay Cyclone Clean Up Experience

Thank you for the warm welcome and support I received during my time in Hawkes Bay. I would like to provide you with a brief summary of my experiences to help you gain a better understanding of the work I have been involved in. Over the course of four weeks, I worked on a total of five houses, including those on Links Road, Puketitiri Road, and Pakowhai. Some of these houses had been flooded completely up to the roofline, while others got away with about a meter or two of flooding. The damages in both cases were shocking and overwhelming.



Upon my arrival, I quickly joined the Hawkes Bay Clean Up Team, which allowed me to participate in the cleanup efforts on a house in Pakowhai. The property had been covered in over 10 centimetres of mud due to a slip that occurred directly behind the house. Our team, consisting of 10 to 15 people depending on the day, along with two medium-sized diggers, worked to remove the bulk of the mud from the yard. Fortunately, the family had already cleared out the mud from inside the house, and they had made great progress. Those not operating the diggers were responsible for digging out the mud from the intricate garden and sheds on the property. Whenever the diggers couldn't fit into a certain area, the rest of the team had to move the dirt to a location accessible to the diggers. It was amazing to witness the varying consistency of the mud, sometimes resembling pudding and other times hard clay, depending on its exposure to the air. Additionally, it was peak feijoa season, so we enjoyed many donated feijoas as well as those from the trees in the yard we were

working in.

During that first week, I had the opportunity to engage in a mix of volunteer work. Mornings were dedicated to helping with the mud, while the afternoons were spent at the Kids Friendly Care Holiday Programme, where I assisted the kids' team in finishing their day on a high note. As time went on, the Hawkes Bay Clean Up Team got to know the neighbouring residents and became aware of their needs. On days when we had enough people, we would split the team and start working on the houses of the next-door neighbours. The tasks mainly involved cleaning up the gardens to allow them to start anew.

I also had the privilege of joining Ross and Ngaire Duncan on Links Road. Their house had endured a couple of meters of water and had required a boat rescue to evacuate them. When I joined them, the house was in the final stages of being dried out before they could begin rebuilding the bottom floor. This left us with several yard projects. Knowing that they wanted a smaller garden/orchard to



maintain in the future, we had to clear posts and wire that would no longer be needed. We also had to clean up the remaining mud in the garden and grass. The small orchard had already been uncovered at the base of the trees for better airflow, but the mud between the trees still needed to be removed by hand, as diggers were too large to fit in that space.

On Puketitiri Road, I witnessed some of the most severe damage, as several houses had not been touched since the cyclone flooded them. These houses were

submerged up to the roofline, and much of the mud inside had not dried out. This made for very wet and muddy days, as the mud would stick to everything, weighing down our boots, buckets, and shovels as we worked. Once the furniture was removed, we had to clear out the mud and carpets so that the insurance could determine whether the houses could be salvaged or had to be demolished. As we removed the mud and debris we would sort out salvageable things like picture albums and other sentimental things that survived. Entering these houses two or three months after the cyclone meant encountering mould,



which required us to wear significant personal protective equipment (PPE) to safeguard ourselves during the cleanup process.

Reflecting on my volunteer experience, it was a valuable opportunity for me to see that serving people is not always filled with sunshine and rainbows. By the end of the four weeks, I was mentally and physically exhausted. Initially, I entered the volunteer space with excitement and great enthusiasm, expecting to make a significant impact on the overall work. However, I realized that my role was primarily that of an encourager. Although we did witness progress in the houses we assisted, it was daunting to see how many more people and places still needed help. To maintain my sanity, I learned to focus on the immediate task at hand, as considering the overwhelming amount of work could quickly become too much. I still cannot fully comprehend how the homeowners must feel.

Fortunately, many hands make light work, and I would encourage St. Columba to find ways for everyone to get involved on a regular basis. I

have collaborated with Martha, the head coordinator of the Hawkes Bay Clean Up Team, to compile a list of needs that won't require working in the mud. The first step is to connect with the team's Facebook page. The more awareness we can raise, the better equipped we will be to fulfil the needs of our neighbours. I have appreciated the chance to be involved in your community, where I not only provided encouragement but also received it in return from the teams and families I have interacted with.

With much gratitude and blessings,

Owen Troth

Here are the FAQ for the Hawkes Bay Clean Up Team

What is your biggest need?

- For us to be most efficient, we need digger machines, and people who can operate and deliver them to and from the sites.
- We need able-bodied people to move mud out of the houses and away from the house where the diggers can't get to.

How can I help if I can't dig mud or live too far away?

- JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!
Hawkes Bay Clean Up Team.



- Be a part of our driver's team. We need two kinds of drivers:
 - 1) people who can help us pick up little things like PPE or donations when they become available.
 - 2) Drivers that are comfortable towing a digger or large trailer to and from the site in the morning and in the evening.
 - Cook up something wonderful to keep our volunteers fuelled up.
 - Do you have a pressure washer or digger we can use for a week or even a weekend?
 - Help us recruit more people. Maybe you know an able-bodied person willing to come help but they don't know how to get started.
 - Volunteer to host volunteers for a week or weekend. We have people coming from around the country and even the world.
- Without hosts, they have to pay to stay in a hotel or campground.
- Help us recruit resources. We need people, food, PPE, and digger machines.
 - Join our odd jobs resource pool. It might be repotting plants, helping clean mud from sentimental family keepsakes, or any number of odd things that would make a difference.
 - Maybe you're an expert in a field that could benefit our team or a family who was affected. We would love to hear from you.
- Donations are greatly received and the bank account number for the Hawkes Bay Clean Up Team is:
DIT FUNDS: 02 0719 0175223 005
- Martha Taonui- Team Cordninator
Mobile: 022 050 7056
Email:hbcleanupteam@outlook.com

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

Pink Ribbon Morning Tea May 2023

On 21 May we held our 3rd yearly fundraising event for Breast Cancer research. It was a very rewarding event where 75 men and women joined in and enjoyed a delicious morning tea. It was decided to include men this year as men also die from breast cancer (and men also love food). I am very pleased to tell you that this year we raised \$3,318 which is the highest amount to date that we have raised. Thank you to all the generous donors, the bakers who provided the amazing

food, the men who cleaned up and served the coffee and tea and to those who helped set up and decorate the hall.

Thank you to Anja and her backup singers and to Sachi the guitarist who entertained us.

A great team of people who helped make all this possible.

God Bless you all,

Pam Thrupp

When I think
back to 13



Eskdale School's Cyclone Experience

and 14 February it often feels like it was only yesterday and then at times it feels like it was a lifetime ago as so much has happened between the Cyclone and now, four months later. It does however always feel like a nightmare, that it couldn't possibly have happened to our community, our slice of paradise. But as I pull back the curtains each morning and see the scars left on the hills, like claw marks of a lion on the flesh of its prey the reality hits home once more.

My experience from the cyclone and the days and weeks that followed will be something that shapes me and many others like me for the rest of our lives. The cyclone hit on the evening of 13 February with unimaginable force. I remember the rain being like someone having the fire hose on the roof all night, it was relentless. I know that because I didn't sleep a wink, I couldn't with the noise and, as it continued, the worry on my mind.

As soon as it was light enough in the morning to see, I went out to survey our property for damage, aware that our power had gone off during

the night. The house was in one piece, but I could see a slip in one of our paddocks and then one in another. Our cattle were just standing beside it, stunned by what had unfolded the night before. I moved them to a new paddock, one that still had all its fences standing, and then ventured to the top of our property to look up and down the road. All I could see in both directions were slips covering the road. We weren't going anywhere today or possibly for some time.



With this in mind I was aware I wouldn't be able to make it to Eskdale School where I work. I phoned my BOT Chairperson at the time unaware of the damage over in the Esk Valley. He began describing

it to me, but cut out halfway through and that was it, all comms from my place were gone.

For the first two days we couldn't leave our property, had no power, water, toilets, or communications apart from those with our neighbours who are about 800m across the paddocks away. So whilst we knew everyone in our immediate area was safe we had no idea about the wider area and I was beginning to get very concerned for my other community—the Eskdale School community. The local farmers began clearing the slips one by one with chainsaws, diggers, and blood sweat and tears. Seventy-two hours after the cyclone we managed to make it out. The road, if it could still be called that, was barely passable in a 4WD and we held our breath in certain sections hoping we would make it through.

We made it out and all the way to school. As we came over the hill and looked out to the valley, the scene can only be described as apocalyptic. I thought we had been hit hard in the hills but after seeing the devastation in the Esk Valley our damage paled in comparison. The school buildings had been spared but the lower school field had been

inundated by the Esk River and only a pile of silt remained. It was hard to believe that the Esk River that often is situated 800m north had burst its banks and made it to school.



The once picturesque view from our classrooms looking out onto the Esk valley had changed too. It was now like looking out onto a moonscape with the only things visible being silt and the roof tops of houses. In that moment I began to fear for the children and their families that live in those houses. I thought the wall of water that went in and through the houses in the valley will have surely taken lives, and I was certain that would mean we would have lost a student or more likely students. We couldn't do any more at school that day. Like home, school had no power, water, toilets, or comms. In fact, I realised very quickly the school effluent system

was buried under that silt somewhere and would need replacing.

Whilst trying to begin repairs at home, my attention quickly turned to school and what we could do to help get the children back in some shape or form. It was obvious without the essentials of power, water, or toilets we wouldn't be able to open on our school site for some time.

When the USAR team, operating from the school hall shared with me four days after the flood that they were now searching for bodies not survivors it hit me like a punch in the face. To this day I believe it is a miracle more lives were not lost in this event. As the days went on the stories of survival and rescues were shared with me from adults and children alike. It is almost incomprehensible that more lives were not lost.

We needed a place where we could get our children back to school. They needed to be surrounded by their friends and teachers and needed to lose the sense of isolation. Trying to do learning by distance online wasn't going to cut it for our children and families, they deserved and needed better. We

worked on ideas and landed with the Petane Domain in Bay View. The soccer, rugby, tennis, and bowls clubs are all located in the vicinity so we began planning how we could use these as learning hubs for our children. We approached the different clubs to see what was possible and managed to get our teaching team together and talk through the challenge ahead. The team were up for it recognising relocating a school of 300 students to a public space was going to be massive undertaking. From organising new bus runs, to getting the furniture and teaching tools we needed to the domain our organising went into overdrive.

With the support of the community we began our time at the Domain exactly two weeks after the frightful night the cyclone hit. The children arrived with smiles on their faces,



happy to see their friends, see their teachers, and happy for some normality. It was to become their temporary school home for 6½ weeks.

During the time at the domain we put on as many trips as possible for the students, had as many guests including rugby and basketball players visit the students and made the time a positive one for the children, a time they will remember for the right reasons.

The children's positive attitudes and smiles were great to see and were on display most of the time. But it was also very clear that the emotional scars from the cyclone lay just below the surface. Whenever the rain started to fall a look of fear, trepidation, and horror filled some of their faces. We were able to help some of the children and families with counselling and donations flooded in from around the country to support our children and their families. We took things one day at a time at the school and at home. The electricity, water, and toilets returned at my home after 19 days, for these things to return to school it was closer to 6 weeks.

The end of the term also spelt the end of our time at the domain, allowing us to return to our home base at Eskdale School. Term two began with children returning to their classes and I'm certain I've never seen the students so happy to be back at school. The bottom field that was covered in silt is still being repaired but the school is otherwise operating like normal.



The challenge for the community is not over yet, and for many it is only beginning as families find out when or if they will be able to return to live in their home again. Some don't want to return for fear of flooding but may have to, others want to stay but may be forced to leave. These decisions are not their own and instead are being made for them. We continue to support our children and our families, reminding them and ourselves that one day these tough times will come to an end and together we will be able to move forward.—**Tristan Cheer**

Women in History at St Columba's

As Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) was wound up as at 30 June 2023, it is timely for us to recall the efforts of some of the women involved in the history of our St Columba's congregation.

The first recorded meeting of a group of women was that of the Ladies Guild in 1909. The President was Mrs Hill, wife of the minister Rev. Sidney Hill. As stated in the first Annual Report "the object of the Guild is to render what assistance it can towards the church finance and church work generally". This objective was the focus from that year onwards.



Mrs Marion Hill

In 1911, the Presbyterian Women's Ministry Union (PWMU) group was formed. In 1965, this group of women combined with the members of the Ladies Guild (many were the same women) to form the Missionary Guild. At the same time, Evening Fellowship was established for the younger women.

St Columba's women attended HB Presbyterian meetings and we were proud to have Sheila Jamieson, wife of the minister Rev. Duncan Jamieson, serve the fellow HB women on the National Executive. All this time, our institution was known as the Association of Presbyterian Women (APW).



Mrs Helen Andersen

The first women elder at St Columba's was Mrs Helen Andersen who was inducted and

ordained in March 1972. Helen was a mother and secondary school teacher, she served the national church for a time as a member of the Education for Ministry Committee.

Our first woman Session Clerk was Mrs Ayls Alexander who had been ordained and inducted as an elder in 1983. Ayls was elected as Session Clerk in 1987 and continued to serve us in that role until 1994.



Mrs Ayls Alexander

No Church service would be complete without music. We need to remember the role of the ladies who were involved in providing the music for services, weddings and funerals. In particular, at this time, we remember the dedication of Corolie Phillips who served as organist from 1930 to 1984.

Over the years, many women in the

congregation were financial members of APW. Apart from the many causes which we supported. APW was the link with women in the other Hawke's Bay parishes in Aotearoa NZ and the Church world-wide. Global Mission was most important to the role of PWANZ and also the special consultative states we held with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECO & OC). In this we were committed to general equality and the achievement of sustainable development. We need to keep speaking up for women's issues. We need to be strong in the areas of family and social justice and to step up to leadership roles.

We are thankful for the contribution of women in the history of St Columba's Church. We are thankful for the many blessings which PWANZ/APW provided.

As women of faith, we move forward, as always, to seek, serve and follow Christ.

Anne Lanigan

Introducing: Sachith Peiris

Sachith Peiris is a versatile guitarist specialised in gospel music. He is currently living in Napier and providing his talents for St. Columba's Church services in Taradale.

Prior to his arrival in New Zealand, he has conducted praise and worship sessions in England, Middle East and Sri Lanka within Anglican & Methodist churches.

He has been playing in Pop bands for years as well. Being a music director, melody composer and lyricist, he has his own music compositions, musical videos which can be streamed on his own YouTube channel. Not only for music, but also pursuing his Doctoral studies. He holds double masters (UK & NZ), PGdip (UK), Bsc (Hons) from University of Sunderland, UK. He believes music is divine and continues his service to God.

“Everybody appreciates his music skills and ability to play in harmony with the other instruments, he has brought a real lightness”

-REV. Brett Walker-

“His musical ability is outstanding; his music brings me joy and a sense of calm”

-Kirsty Jamieson –

“Feel blessed to have listened to his guitar playing which brought me joy, such a talented young man”

-Pam Thrupp-



Tuesday Prayer Meeting

The Tuesday Prayer Meeting has become a one man band in that I now pray weekly from home. I pray for St Columba—all the activities that are involved and the sick.

Recently I have had quite a few requests for prayer from beyond our church and this has given me a chance to spread God's Word into the community and I am very grateful for that. It draws me much

closer to my Heavenly Father, my Saviour and Lord and my Comforter as I seek wisdom not to let them down in doing this.

Please let me know of any need you have for prayer as the "throne of grace" is open 24/7 and I will consider it an honour to pray for your need.

Rona Russell

Barbara Ann Stewart—8.6.50 to 6.3.23

On 11 March we farewelled a much loved member of our congregation.

Barbara had been a very active member of St Columba for many, many years.

She served on the Board of Managers for over 20 years both as a member and Chairperson.

Was a member of the music/singing group; participated in the Tuesday evening study group; helped out on a Thursday morning in Two Fold Op Shop; helped out at Mainly Music; helped the guys in the Wednesday



group with any tasks she could do for them; and so the list goes on. She was always willing to help someone or with something. If there was something that needed doing, she was always the first to volunteer.

She was a much loved mother and grandmother to her daughter and granddaughter in Australia and her son in Canada.

She was a friend to many and will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her.

What's on in July, August & September 2023

Sunday	2 July	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	9 July	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	11 July	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	16 July	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	20 July	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	23 July	9.30am	Family Service
Thursday	27 July	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	30 July	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	6 August	9.30am	Church Service
Tuesday	8 August	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	13 August	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Thursday	17 August	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	20 August	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	24 August	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	27 August	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	3 September	9.30am	Church Service
Tuesday	12 September	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	10 September	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Sunday	17 September	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	21 September	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	24 September	9.30am	Family Service
Thursday	28 September	7.00pm	Session Meeting

Regular Events

Tuesdays	Op Shop open Contact: 844 5004	10.00am - 4.00pm
	Tuesday Church Service 2nd Tuesday of the month	10.30am - 11.30am
	House Group Contact: Colin Zachan 844 8050	7.00pm
	House Group @ Church Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256	7.00pm - 8.30pm
	Women's Fellowship meeting 4th Tuesday of the month	7.30pm
Wednesdays	Mainly Music Contact: Karen Jensen 021 069 5909	9.30am - 10.30am
	House Group @ Church Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256	10.15am
	Op Shop open Contact: 844 5004	10.00am - 4.00pm
	Craft Group 1st Wednesday of the month Contact: Ruth Stoddart 844 2336	7.00pm
Thursdays	Mainly Music Contact: Karen Jensen 021 069 5909	9.30am - 10.30am
	Op Shop open Contact: 844 5004	10.00am - 4.00pm
	Board of Managers meeting 3rd Thursday of the month	7.00pm
	Session meeting 4th Thursday of the month	7.00pm
Fridays	Massive Bible Study Contact: Steve Demetrius 027 698 4048	6.00pm - 7.00pm
	Massive Youth Group Contact: Steve Demetrius 027 698 4048	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Sundays	Kool Kids Contact: Pam Thrupp 027 429 6305	9.30am- 10.30am

St Columba's Elders

Session Clerk: Joanne Magill

Rev Brett Walker	027 408 3658
Joanne Magill	022 687 9130
Nancy Bryan	021 267 0459
Joes Polehwidhi	021 215 8729
Jon Read	027 236 1314
Claire Smith	027 678 8849
Stefan Steyn	027 436 1708
Barry Thrupp	021 0269 8370
Pam Thrupp	027 429 6305
Keith Woodcock	027 449 5948
Colin Zachan	844 8050



Pastoral Care

Rev Brett Walker	027 408 3658
Inger Slooten	844 9070
Sarah Atley	845 3448
Esther Woodcock	844 1424

Board of Managers

Treasurer: Wim Slooten

Rev Brett Walker	027 408 3658
Dean Ackland	021 270 0837
Rob Leach	022 563 7870
Steve Magill	022 687 9131
Edward Smith	844 6324
Ron Sim	843 9980
Wim Slooten	021 550 305
Mark Stoddard	021 076 3089
Anne Tristram	021 118 6516

Children's Programmes

Kool Kids

Pam Thrupp
027 429 6305

Youth Group

Steve Demetrius
027 698 4048

Kids Friendly Care

Anna Neil
022 643 1691

Mainly Music

Karen Jensen
021 069 5909

