

# HALO



**June 2022**

**ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH TARADALE**

## From the Minister



On Sunday I asked this question: “How would your life change if you put this passage into practice?” This question shaped the way I presented the teaching, focussing not so much on the historical background of the passage or its context but its application. Many times I face the challenge of too much information and too little application. For me the danger in sermon preparation is there is always more to read and understand rather than biting the bullet and putting what I know into a helpful message. The danger is that I fill the sermon with information rather than actionable steps to live as a disciple of Jesus. I find it is true for leadership as well, every day I get several emails from people wanting to help shape my leadership by their latest insight or course and it is so

easy to learn but not do. The same is true for conferences – lots of ideas but little implementation when you get home.

What if Christianity is not about knowing more but doing more, or at the very least putting into practice what you do know? The question above comes from a training programme for new Christians and is one of a few key questions people use to ensure that people become like Christ, not just people who know stuff about Christ. In that training program there are two preceding questions which are “What does the bible story tell us about God?” and “What does it tell us about people?” Then there is the question about putting what the passage teaches into practice. The other follow up question is “Who do you know who needs to hear this lesson?”

It reminds me of the sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7. Jesus has spoken on the blessings of the kingdom, that foolishness of worry, the need to live from the heart (not thinking you are ok as you have never murdered or committed

adultery when you are burning with Anger or Lust)... after all these topics Jesus finishes with the Parable of the two houses built on the rock or sand. “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

We know doing is what counts. I often see the sign outside of a Taradale shop that says “you’re belief doesn’t make you a good person” (or something like that). I wonder what prompted the sign writer to put those words on a sign but they are right. Belief in Jesus is never belief alone, but always belief that translates into action. James 1:22 says “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James

also says – what good is saying I love you when you are cold and hungry, and I have the means to make you warm and full (James 2:15-17).

The implication is in the question “How would your life change if you put this passage into practice?”. Life change is an essential part of following Christ. Maybe as you read the scriptures these four simple questions might spark some new life into your devotions and worship.

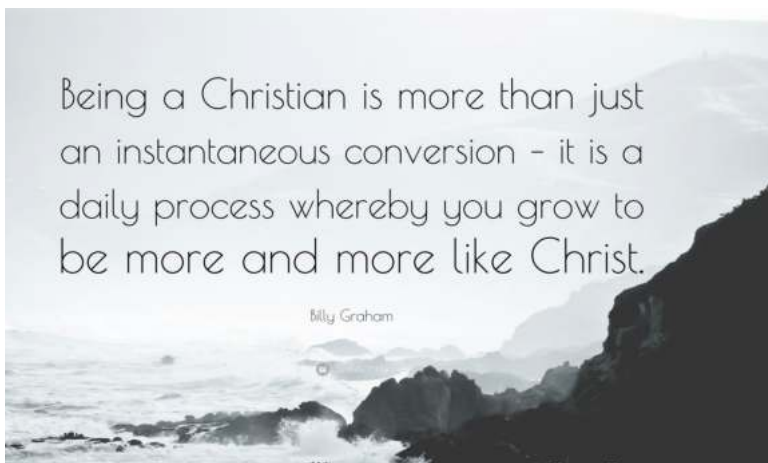
“What do we learn about God in this section?”

“What do we learn about humanity from the section?”

“How would your life change if you put this passage into practice?”

“Who do you know who needs to hear this lesson?”

**Brett**



## Incoming Session Clerk – Joanne Magill

Following in the footsteps of many gifted people I feel a little daunted in my new role at St Columba's. I have been encouraged and supported by so many people since I have been at St Columba's, especially the St Columba's Session. I became an elder back in March 2019 and like Pam has said previously "I thought I was reasonably inexperienced for the role and wondered how I could live up to expectations". Prayer was my answer. If you ever feel like you are not praying enough – do something you find hard and you will feel the need to pray a lot more! I find God's direction for my life is often not in line with my vision for an easy life but it usually leads to some great experiences. Pam especially has helped me smoothly transition and kept me from making massive errors in judgement.

Now a little more about me. I currently work for the Hawkes Bay District Health Board as a Digital Enablement Project Manager (what a mouthful!). I started there last November after 6 happy years at EIT in the IT Services area. Steve (my every patient husband with the

Scottish accent) and I have really settled into living in Napier complete with our tabby cat and a little house in Tamatea which keeps us mostly out of trouble. God has been good to us blessing us with so many chances to meet people here and make a rewarding life within our church and home. Since moving here from the UK in 2015, I have also undertaken some further study which is culminating in my master's submitted any day now titled: "Examining the use of virtual reality technology in palliative care in Hawke's Bay: The Introduction of a VR (Virtual Reality) Headset". This is one of my passions – introducing technology to those I feel have been overlooked.

Many years ago, I heard a quote attributed to Gandhi "Be the change you wish to see in the world".

I have often used this to encourage myself to get out of my comfort zone or to get involved when I see a gap or want to criticise, or feel someone is not doing enough which



has led to some incredible opportunities. I was also told the quickest way to feel committed to a congregation is to get involved in the place so I take this idea to heart and it has meant in my short time at St Columba's (since 2016) I have met some fantastic people, had a lot of fun and seen a lot of Gods work undertaken.

I really try to be positive and "look at what is working well" as Brett mentioned in the last Halo. We are regularly grateful to have a supportive congregation here in Taradale who repeatedly step in and get involved constructively. St

Columba's has so many things that work well and this is usually due to the remarkable work performed by the volunteers each day, week, month and year. If you feel you would like to be more involved there are lots of different opportunities here at St Columba's. I feel in some ways I have the easy job of taking credit for some of these smooth workings which are really the hard work of those who have come before me and do the real work of a church.

As always, my mantra is to seek, serve and follow Christ.

Joanne



## Sound System

The Board of Managers of St Columba would like to acknowledge the amazing effort and generosity that you, the people, have made to raise \$30,000 to enable us to upgrade and replace our ageing Sound System. We have experienced a few teething problems over the past few weeks but it is looking good now and we are confident we have an excellent system which should serve us all for many years.

## The story of Wim and Agnieta Slooten in the Netherlands during WWII

My grandparents, Wim and Agnieta Slooten met during WWI. They married young and lived in southern Netherlands. They had four children. Their youngest daughter, Gus, found employment as a domestic worker and child minder for a family who lived not far from Amsterdam. The family had two children 8 and 10 years old. Gus was not race aware and didn't realise that they were Jewish until the son had his Bar Mitzvah.

After invading Holland during WWII, the

Germans started to make life more and more difficult for the Jews. Initially Jews had to wear the "Star of David" so they were easily identifiable. Then Jewish children were not allowed in public schools, nor could they use public transport. Eventually they could no longer own businesses and in mid-1942 the Germans moved the remaining Jewish people out of their homes into designated ghettos in

Amsterdam from where they were eventually sent to the gas chambers or labour camps in Eastern Europe by train. The Jews were totally unaware of the fate that awaited them.



Dutch Jews board the train that is to take them to Auschwitz. Photograph from 1942 or 1943.

Gus decided to stay with her employers and moved with them into the ghetto in Amsterdam. This was rather unusual but she did not want to abandon them. She had one huge advantage in that she could move freely in and out of the area as she was not Jewish. On a visit Gus told her parents what was happening. Wim and Agnieta were highly alarmed and said "These people are in grave danger, we've

got to help them. Go and get them out and bring them here, as we don't trust the German motives".

The first hazardous trip started late one afternoon, with Gus walking the family to the railway station at a time when the streets, trams and trains were very busy, boarding a train for a journey of around 2.5 hours with the constant risk of discovery by German Police. Then finally a 3 km walk to the modest home of Wim and Agnieta. Despite the odds, the journey was successful and Gus got them safely out.

Then my grandparents decided that this was not enough and they would try to rescue some friends and relatives of Gus' employers too. Wim got in contact with the Resistance and arranged false papers, food coupons and a network of families who would accommodate these people. Gus became a courier and brought out another 33 people from Amsterdam, two at the time. They were all put up with different families and miraculously they all survived the war. (One even fell pregnant whilst in hiding and was moved by the Resistance to a

German hospital for Army personnel. She delivered without the Germans being any the wiser).

Was it dangerous? I don't think we can quite understand this today in New Zealand. Imagine the train journeys with very anxious travellers who would simply sit in the railway carriage pretending to read a book: they would not even turn a page they were so frightened. One child vomited during the train trip and when the Germans came to investigate they opened the carriage door, took one whiff of the smell and walked away. Gus thought the end had come.

There were Nazi sympathisers living in my grandparents' street. One of them climbed the lamppost outside my grandparents' home to look inside and find out what was happening as he had become suspicious. Loyal neighbours then visited him at his home and told him that they didn't care that he was a German sympathiser but if anything happened to Wim the sympathiser would sign his own death warrant, so the choice was his. The staying "out of sight" for about two years and the fear of "a knock on the



door” must have been dreadful. Yes it was very dangerous and the penalty for housing Jews was execution or being sent to a concentration camp. 104,000 Jews from the Netherlands (75% of the total) perished, the highest percentage of any country in Western Europe. Yes, the dangers were very real.

Wim and Agnieta never wrote down their story and rarely talked about what happened. We lived about 100 meters from my grandparents’ home so I knew them well. I met some of the refugees after the war when they came to visit.



**My grandparents in the centre with family and some of the rescued Jews (taken in 1956)**

I am fortunate to have an audio tape where Gus describes her experiences. Steven Spielberg initiated these recordings of

survivors from WWII. The tapes are kept in the Holocaust Museum in the States so that there is a proper record of these events and no one can deny what really happened when those involved had passed on. This is so important these days of “alternative facts”.

Israel recognised the efforts of my family by honouring them with a tree planted with an acknowledgement plaque in the “Avenue of the Righteous” at the Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem. Inger and I felt very privileged to visit this Museum in 2000. Righteous Gentiles refers to those

non-Jews who aided Jews during the Holocaust. To date Yad Vashem has recognized approx. 10,000 Righteous Gentiles.

I often wonder what I would have done had I been in their shoes. They never

doubted for a minute that what they did was the “Right Thing to Do”.

**Wim Slooten**



## Christian Lovelink Napier/Hastings



Christian Lovelink has been helping families in the Hawke's Bay area for 30 years. Christian Lovelinks were started by churches and were initially in many towns throughout New Zealand, with a strong network connection between them all. The Napier / Hastings office is the only one left operating in New Zealand, a real testament to the area itself, the volunteers, the donors and critically the supporters. Each work day starts with prayer in which every volunteer is invited to participate in. Critically, Christian Lovelink is a mission outreach and every person who calls is offered a bible, last year over 100 bibles were given out, and thanks to the generosity of a supporter children's bible books were also given out.

Christian Lovelink gives household goods to those in need, without judgment, in Jesus name. Christian Lovelink works closely with over 20 different government agencies who daily refer people to us for help. We work 5 days a week, 49 weeks a year.

If you have any spare household items in good condition or know of someone who needs help please contact us on 027 532 2611 or talk to Keith Woodcock, your church's representative on our Board. Other church members working at CLL are: Barry Thrupp, Nancy Bryan and Edward Smith.

We would love to hear from you either as a volunteer or donor.

**Keith Woodcock**

### Two Fold Op Shop

We are short of volunteers. Do you have three hours to spare on a Wednesday or Thursday between 10am–1pm or 1pm–4pm; weekly, fortnightly or monthly?

You may have a neighbour or a friend who would like to be involved.

The pay is not too good, but the fun and fellowship is great!



Please contact Anne on 844 9025 or Heather on (06) 211 6145.

## **Celebrating our Volunteers**

Without our volunteers the Church would not function. Many volunteers work tirelessly to make things happen. Not only in our Church but in the Community and other facilities that belong to the Presbyterian Church.

This month we celebrate two volunteers who work extremely hard.

### **RON LAING**

Ron is the caretaker, lawn mower and general 'dogs body' of the Tukituki Campsite. This campsite belongs to the Presbyterian Church and is a beautiful facility which many groups are now hiring and enjoying. It was completely revamped and rebuilt, several years ago. It has a lovely caterers kitchen, new bunk rooms and a lovely warm hall with a fireplace for groups to gather in.

Ron spends hours looking after both the grounds and the buildings. He spends six hours mowing the lawns with a ride on mower, which shows you how big the grounds are, sometimes doing them weekly if they need it. He greets the people

who are arriving to stay and to show them around and then he goes out when they leave and inspects the buildings (which are sometimes left in a very unclean state) and washes all the bunk covers and towels. Yvonne helps him when she is able. This commitment shows real passion and dedication and it is a voluntary job. Thank you Ron—as an 80 year old you are amazing!

### **WIM SLOOTEN**

Wim is the keeper of the St Columba's books. He spends many hours pouring over the books making sure everything is above board and that everything balances. He produces balance sheets for the Board of Managers each month to examine and does the budget for the annual AGM. Not an easy task in this climate.

He is also responsible for getting the books to the Accountant at the end of each financial year and then paying our fees to the National Church.



Along with Anna he keeps the Kids Friendly accounts.

This is a hugely responsible job and we are very grateful to you Wim for the many hours you spend sitting in

front of your computer and looking at the \$ signs. God Bless you—and our accounts.

*Watch out for the next episode of 'Celebrating our Volunteers'.*

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## **Mission Birthday Gift Scheme**

Many years ago, Rev H J Fletcher, working in the Church's Maori mission made the suggestion that if every Presbyterian gave a shilling a year, all the financial needs of the mission could be met.

The challenge was met and since the year 1906 the scheme has been part of the APW (Association of Presbyterian Women) programme. In 1969, APW decided to broaden the scheme to support all the mission activities of the Church and the present "Mission Birthday gift" evolved. Today, the re-named PWANZ (Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ) continues to encourage us to support this mission initiative—male and female alike.

Here, at St Columba's. we have supported the scheme since its inception, mainly through the members of the Missionary Guild and Evening Fellowship groups.

With our ageing and smaller congregation, our subscribers are now few but loyal. A big "thank you" to the congregation members who participate at present. In the past year, our 19 members have contributed \$250. We encourage you to join us for this special thank-offering.

At a time near your birthday, you will receive a small envelope. Your birthday gift is placed in this envelope and thence into the offering bag.

All we need is your name and birth date NOT the year! Please contact Anna in the Church office or Anne ph 844 7495 with your details. Thank you for considering this form of mission.

**Anne Lanigan**



## Kids Musing about Church / Kool Kids

Laura

Laura likes everything about Kool Kids but especially the craft and the toilet roll game they played.

Zoe

Zoe said she loves everything about Kool Kids but especially the art work they do

James

James like the artwork and the games

Hayley

Haley likes the artwork and hanging out with her friends

Kate

Kate likes spending time with new friends and doing the activities.

Karlien

Karlien enjoys the lessons a lot because she learns more about God.

She loves the activities which are fun filled. She loves the interaction with the other kids

Dylan

Dylan enjoys learning about God in a fun environment

Dian

Dian likes the chairs!!!

Emily

Emily likes the Kool Kids Café

Teenagers

Henri enjoys Kool Teens as he learns more of the Bible verses

Rubin said the lesson are very good and he enjoys being equipped with better knowledge of the Bible.

They all like learning about Jesus

**Kids Friendly Care**

We provide a FUN and safe enviroment 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

Anna Neil: 022 643 1691

## Dylan & Emily's thoughts on Taradale Intermediate

I am Dylan Steyn and I live at 35 Mckee Fry Ave, Greenmeadows. I live with my mum, dad, sister and dog 'Cosmo'. I went to Greenmeadows Primary. But now I go to Taradale Intermediate as a year 7.

At school we do math, writing, reading and technology. In tech we do all sorts of things like, wood work, art, food, digi, P.U.N.K, performing arts and science. I play hockey and cricket at school.

At school I like playing football at lunch with my friends and learning new facts.

Recently I had to go to the hospital. The reason I had to go was because I had suspected appendicitis. At the hospital I had to get some blood tests and an ultrasound, which is an x-ray for your stomach. In the end I didn't have appendicitis and had mesenteric adeniti. Mesenteric adeniti is a swelling of the glands in the stomach. I didn't like the hospital because it was very boring and because the other person snored all night. Dad didn't like it because he had to sleep on the floor.

Dylan Steyn

**What are your favourite subjects?**

Maths and PE which we do most days and play all sorts of different games.

**How are you enjoying Taradale Intermediate?**

I enjoy Tech which I do one day a week, usually on a Thursday, and I spend three weeks on one module. So far Ive done mixed materials, digital technology and art. I'm looking forward to food technology.

**Do you have a favourite teacher?**  
Ms Le Comte

**What sport do you play at your new School?**  
Hockey

**How do you get to School?**

Bike, scooter or bus.

**Do you have lots of new friends?**

I have some friends from Taradale Primary in my class, and I'm joining the Taradale Intermediate Book Club.

Emily Donovan



## What on in June/July 2022

Sunday	05 June	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	12 June	9.30am	Communion Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Thursday	16 June	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	19 June	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	23 June	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	26 June	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	03 July	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	10 July	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Sunday	17 July	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	21 July	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	24 July	9.30am	Family Service
Thursday	28 July	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	31 July	9.30am	Church Service



## Regular Events

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

