

HALO



Kindness
doesn't cost a thing,
yet it's the richest gift
you can give.

March 2023

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH TARADALE

From the Minister



Cyclone Gabrielle

What a few weeks it has been. We all heard about Cyclone Gabrielle and I must admit I thought the media was hyping it up – but it turned out I was wrong. Many areas from Northland, Coromandel, East coast, HB and Wairarapa have had extra ordinary amounts of rain and damage. I was at Tauranga when Cyclone Bola (1988) came through this area and I remember the stories I heard of slips and destruction and seven deaths and it became the touchstone for the severity of flooding. Gabrielle has out done that in terms of water, destruction and unfortunately deaths.

First we are able to report that most church people got through relatively unscathed. Two families have extensive flooding, some children of

members lost their homes and everything they own. Many have lost the contents of their freezers, and the inconvenience of no phone networks or power (seven days at my home). Many of our rural members have major slip damage on their farms and road access is still out for many communities.

How have we responded as a Church:

Our initial response was to provide hot water and a place to gather and to cook meals (the church has large BBQ's and plenty of gas.) I also visited the evacuation centres on the day and we got our leaders to contact many people over the following few days. We have spoken about being salt and light in the community just two weeks prior to this event and we did see a strong community care response and hospitality in our members. The Op Shop gave two families in an evacuation centre some clothing as they had lost everything.

When people got their power back some have been helping people clear mud from their houses and streets worked with other churches

and agencies to get relief supplies to those districts that are isolated. Our contribution has been relatively small to the scale of work as groups like the army with their unimogs and helicopters are the only way to deliver help. We are also starting to deliver baking and meals to volunteers and others who are exhausted.

Several other Presbyterian Churches and individuals have given us money to assist those affected. We have given some money immediately to some who have flood damage to their houses—a small drop towards their costs but hopefully an encouragement that they are not alone. We have also given some to a Church in Gisborne to give to a member with no insurance. Donation centres have plenty of food, clothing and blankets which we can also draw on to give as needed. Some of our members are working extra hard in their professional roles to make a difference or as volunteers shifting mud. We would like to celebrate their efforts in due time.

We have also asked Steve, our youth Pastor, to make extra contact

with the youth and he is a Chaplain in a high school and intermediate and he has reported that many kids looked shell shocked on the first day back. Anna, the coordinator of Kids Friendly Care, (offering before and after school care and holiday programmes) has also contacted all families associated with those activities to offer support and care.

Lovelink is a Christian organisation who supply furniture and bedding etc. to people who need it. They said that after the last flood in Napier (in a different and urban area – about three years ago) it was between three to six months later when their demand peaked and people started getting back to their homes after staying in Motels and with family and friends. So we are not rushing to distribute all the funds immediately until we see where we can help.

Once again thank you for your generosity and your prayer.

Brett

HB Presbyterian parishes discuss deeper cooperation

HB Presbyterian parishes are in an interesting time. Some call it a crisis that there are six parishes in Hastings and Napier and only three ministers, with parishes taking longer and longer to find someone (St Columba's Havelock North took three years and it has already been two years since Maurice and Kay Craig retired from Ahuriri (Napier North)). Many Parishes are finding their average age going up and their financial viability going down. Others are calling it an opportunity – an opportunity to reshape the future so that Churches can focus on their mission and ministry rather than just on surviving. An opportunity to create a structure of church life that suits the current age and situation.

Over the past five month's parish representatives have met to discuss this situation and to plan for the future. At a recent meeting in January Rev Susan Jones who was preaching at St Paul's for a few weeks shared her experiences of Parish amalgamation in Timaru from about 10 years ago. There were four individual churches which became

one Parish with four congregations.

People attended the meeting because they were keen to see how we can work together but also for practical help with current issues Churches are facing. Our overall aim is to Help congregations thrive not just survive The focus was a desire to see churches more engaged in Mission with the thought that to accomplish that we would need to pool resources more.

The meeting identified four key things we need to work on:

1. **Developing relationships across Parishes.** If we are to cooperate across parish boundaries we need to know and trust each other. We can Invite others to join what we are already doing. We invited other parishes to a picnic on Waitangi weekend and we have received an invite to a combined worship service in Hasting in March (26th).
2. **Sharing Worship and Pastoral resources.** Parishes without ministers need lay preachers and help with pastoral care (esp. in

times of death or significant illness). We are coordinating a list of speakers.

3. **Practical help with Admin and Health and Safety.** Here at St Columba's we are fortunate that Mark Stoddart, Rob Leach and Edward Smith have been inspecting the buildings and learning all we need to do to comply with the complex demands of H&S legislation. We might offer their skills and experience to the other churches and draw on others experience and strengths. There will be a meeting of Parish administrators.
4. The more strategic thinkers amongst us want to look at the longer term vision and model for the churches and are creating a group who want to move forward with a change model/plan for the region considering possible configuration of parishes.
5. While not discussed at length – we are also calling together Children's and Youth leaders to support one another and see how we can cooperate across parish boundaries.

The next meeting will be 9 March,

7pm at ST Paul's Napier

Postscript

Cyclone Gabrielle has reminded us even more that we need to work together. We have been blessed that many Churches and individuals have wanted to partner with us to meet the needs of our community. All the churches in Napier have been working together to share resources and set up one or two distribution hubs rather than every church do their own thing. We have given small amounts of stuff to All Saints in Taradale as they have been supporting the cleanup in Puketapu. We have offered other Presbyterian churches access to the money we have been given and we have already sent \$500 to a Church in Gisborne who told us one of their members was flooded out and was uninsured.



Gratitude

We are so grateful to the Ministers we have in our Church who are willing to step in and help in Brett's absence. While on holiday over Christmas we were so blessed to have Steve Lindsay (now a part time Chaplain at the hospital), Duncan Leighton—a very experienced Preacher and open air campaigner for many years and David Gordon a retired Minister but active in our Parish to take the services. David preaches every third Sunday to give Brett a break and we are very grateful to him.

We are blessed to have people who also step up to lead the Worship time before the Ministers deliver their message and we are grateful to them as well. Our Musicians are wonderful and make our Worship time meaningful and special.

St Columba's is alive and well and we have many good people who step up to fulfil the tasks that need doing. We have many caring and loving people within our Parish so lets be grateful and give thanks.

Remember

Service and worship are inseparable. Worship is a service of praise and adoration, a recognition of priorities. The acts of worship, whether formal or informal, whether through singing hymns or doing our best, say that we know who is first, who's in charge, who's the boss. This is why we can't relegate worship to a once-a week habit ... Only by living in worship will we get away from promoting ourselves to head [person].

Cheryl Forbes



Session

It's been a shaky start to the year with all the storms raging around us and seeing the distressing signs of the devastation left.

Session is very aware that many of you are feeling vulnerable and lonely and we encourage you to ring any one of us if you need help. One of the duties of an Elder is to care for the people and we are certainly here to do that.

There has been a lot to discuss already this year. We are working with the Hawkes Bay Churches, but particularly the Napier Churches, to try and see where we can help each other. With Brett being the only full time Minister in Napier and with two vacancies, we are searching for ways to help them without it being a burden on Brett.

We are assisting the Board of Managers in the big task of making decisions regarding the earthquake strengthening requirements by the National Church and the Napier City Council. Thank you to Mike, Wim and Brett who conducted a very informative Congregational meeting to inform everyone. It was well run

and everyone seemed to understand the process that has to be followed.

Delivering Communion Invites has been difficult for some of our Elders and other deliverers so please understand if you don't get one it's not because we don't care but other things have disrupted our lives.

We pray that things will improve over the next months to come but in the meantime know that we are here for you and that God loves you and you just need to reach out.

God Bless you all,

On behalf of Session.

God has taught me that I never need to worry about tomorrow.

I survived yesterday.

I am alive and dealing with today.

With **God's help**

I can face tomorrow and whatever may come my way.

Amen



Kids Friendly Care

The programme started off the year well with new children being enrolled for before and after school care. It was encouraging and exciting to look forward to a more successful year after all the Covid disruptions over the past two years. None of us could predict what was ahead with a Cyclone brewing. With power outages and schools closing, Kids Friendly Care was forced to close also.

Now that schools are open and the power is on, the kids are back but many people are working from home due to the traffic issues, so

are not needing care for their kids right now.

If you know of any child needing before or after school care please advise them of the excellent programme Anna and her team run. The kids are collected from their schools by the van or by walking with a carer. They are then well fed, given a choice of activities to do and are always cared for with love and care. Feel free to pass on this information. Contact details: 022 643 1691 or email kfc@stcolumba-taradale.org.nz.

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

The Winds are blowing! News from the Board of Managers

Phew, the winds are blowing not only outside but also inside our church and it has been a busy time for those who serve on the Board of Managers and for those who assist in making some big decisions.

Mike Latter has told us of his imminent departure for the South Island. Mike has been one of the “rocks” of the BOM for so many years, as head of the building committee and also many years as Chairperson. I don’t think there are many parts of our building he has not planned, made a drawing off, installed, repaired, painted or reorganised and he has been very involved in Op Shop and Sound Desk duties too. Thank you Mike for all you have done over the years! Our church will miss you terribly!

On top of all these discussions, making plans, and people struck down by illnesses, we got Cyclone Gabrielle creating havoc in Hawke’s Bay. Our church was spared the worst fortunately, no flooding or significant leaks but the wind damaged our beautiful tree at the front of our church that has supplied

us with so much shade over many years. Anne Lanigan is certain the tree was there before she appeared on this earth. By the time you read this the tree will be cut up into firewood and keep some of us warm next Winter.

At a meeting with our congregation we made some far reaching decisions regarding our buildings:

1. To improve the safety in our main church building by addressing the Reredos and grey wall issues.
2. To try to sell the “Old Church” as it is too expensive to meet the Earthquake Safe Building standards. If we cannot sell it we will sadly need to demolish it.
3. To try to keep the Youth Lounge, KFC Kitchen and Art Room and engage an engineer to do the EQC assessment.
4. Starting this process we will require an asbestos survey of these buildings.

The winds of change are certainly blowing in our church!

The Reredos challenge.

We know that this wall needs to come down for safety reasons (this is the easy part) but what do we replace it with? (This is the difficult part).

Duncan pointed out to me that we should use the “Reredos” problem as an opportunity to refresh the appeal of the front of our church so that it becomes more attractive to younger folks. If we simply replace “like with like” to keep us seniors happy we could be missing an opportunity to attract a younger generation to our church. So we need to involve some young people in solving the Reredos challenge and I have asked Steve D for feedback

from his youth group.

I would encourage anyone with positive ideas to come forward as soon as possible.

God Bless,

Wim



Two Fold Op Shop

Thank you to everyone who volunteers and works in the Op Shop. You are very much appreciated. Not only does the Op Shop financially benefit our own Church hugely, it provides funds for other charities and for that we are grateful. It has been helping people out who are in desperate need after the floods which is what we, at St Columba's, are all about—Reaching out to our Community in love.

Margaret, Rhonda and Heather, between them, are doing a great job in keeping it running smoothly.

There is a great need for more helpers so if you can spare a few hours once a month either on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 10am—1pm or 1pm—4pm please contact the office and Anna will pass your name on to the Ladies.

My Family –St Columba's



This is me – Ruth Stoddart. I was Ruth Munro and I grew up as part of the St Columba's Church family.

I lived away from Hawkes Bay for many years but have returned since Mark's retirement. We have been regular visitors as Mum (Nancye Munro) was a steadfast member of the congregation until her death in 2018.

What you may not know is that my roots go further back in the church's history. Mum's father was George Wood who was minister here from 1944 until his retirement in 1949. His wife Cicely was involved in all the church activities – Women's



Fellowship, Busy Bees and Sunday School. They lived in the manse which was where the carpark is now with a large section with a long drop toilet at the rear of the section. Mum recalled her mother's embarrassment when they were farewelling visitors and the night cart man who emptied the toilet would off his cap and say "Good Evening Ma'am".

Mum and her sister Dorothy were also involved in Bible Class and teaching Sunday School and playing tennis on the church tennis courts which were where the church front lawn is now.

My father's family, the Munros, were also part of the church. They moved from Napier to Taradale after the second world war when Grandad Ron set up his chemist shop in Gloucester St (now the Unichem). Granddad was Session Clerk for many years and wrote the first church history. My parents met at Bible Class when they discovered that they both had the same birthday. They, too, were very involved with Dad, Alan, doing some lay preaching and they were

married in 1953—the last couple married in the Old Church before it was moved to its current position. They had their reception in Fish Hall.

When Mum was widowed in 1963 at the age of 33 and left with two children aged 4 and 8, the Church became even more our extended family – I remember once we three all got a terrible flu, and the church members came and looked after us all until Mum was able to resume mothering. Mum was ordained as an elder in 1972 and served me my first communion when I was confirmed at the same service.

St Columba's has always been a place of warmth and safety for me and I found it impossible to replicate it in any of the places I

have lived—Mum was always sad that we hadn't continued in our church going but she would be delighted that I have now returned and make it to church every few weeks!

Everywhere I look there are reminders of my family – the Iona cross on the communion table which has my Wood family names engraved on it, the memorial wall with my Munro family plaques, my wedding in 1983, the christenings of my boys in 1994 and 1997 as well as funerals in more recent years.

Even in the years I was away, singing the Go Now in Peace at the end of a service made me feel that I would be safe in my time far from St Columba's and until my return.

Ruth Stoddart

At the end of life,
what really matters is
not what we bought but
what we built; not what we
got but what we shared; not our
competence but our character;
and not our success, but our
significance. Live a life
that matters. Live a
life of love.

If you see someone
falling behind walk
beside them. If you see
someone being ignored,
find a way to include
them. If someone has
been knocked down,
lift them up. Always
remind people of
their worth. **One
small act could mean
the world to them.**

Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness

Have you noticed the text that now has a new home at the end of the foyer, above the door to Brett's office?

It used to be in the old Church and some of you would remember seeing it on your wedding day or maybe on Sundays when you came to Worship. When the Old Church was no longer used as a Worship centre but as an Op Shop or a youth hall where the kids kicked the balls around, it stood the test of time. Have you ever given much thought to who originally painted it? Did you ever wonder who had stood up on a wooden trestle for hours on end with pencil and ruler making the outline and then painting it by hand?

Recently Barbara Stewart had it removed, restored and put up in the foyer.

Nancye Munro along with her daughter Ruth, looked into the History of the painting, Ruth was an Archivist and found out this information.

It was painted by a 19 year old man named Jim Moir, in 1928. Jim attended school in Taradale but was never very attentive to his lessons and spent his time illustrating the margins of his notebooks. The school was so taken by some of his 'doodlings' that they kept these as mementos for a number of years. He left school at the end of Standard 6 as he was needed to work on the families small farm, being the eldest of 8 children.

He was very active and competent as an amateur landscape artist which was his great love. He practised as a sign writer in Gisborne for many years but also established a house painting business and a car painting business.

This is a brief glimpse into the man who painted the text that has been hanging in St Columba's for 95 years. May it continue to look over us as we Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness.



What's on in March, April & May 2023

Sunday	5 Mar	9.30am	Communion Service
Sunday	12 Mar	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	14 Mar	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	19 Mar	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	23 Mar	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	26 Mar	9.30am	Family Service
Thursday	30 Mar	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	2 Apr	9.30am	Church Service
Friday	7 Apr	9.30am	Good Friday Service
Sunday	9 Apr	9.30am	Easter Sunday Communion Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	11 Apr	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	16 Apr	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	20 Apr	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	23 Apr	9.30am	Family Service
Thursday	27 Apr	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	30 Apr	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	7 May	9.30am	Church Service
Tuesday	9 May	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday	14 May	9.30am	Church Service
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Thursday	18 May	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	21 May	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	25 May	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Sunday	28 May	9.30am	Family 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: Karen Jensen 021 0695 909		
	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 021 0695 909			
<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 027 698 4048	
Massive Youth Group		7.00pm - 9.00pm	
	Contact: Steve Demetrius 027 698 4048		
	Sundays	Kool Kids	9.30am- 10.30am
		Contact: Pam Thrupp 027 429 6305	

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

Board of Managers

Chairperson & Treasurer:

Wim Slooten

Rev Brett Walker	027 408 3658
Wim Slooten	021 550 305
Mike Latter	027 441 0749
Dean Ackland	021 270 0837
Edward Smith	844 6324
Barbara Stewart	021 053 4248
Anne Tristram	021 118 6516
Rob Leach	022 563 7870
Steve Magill	022 687 9131
Ron Sim	843 9980
Mark Stoddard	021 076 3089

Pastoral Care Team

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

Children's Programmes

Kool Kids

Pam Thrupp	027 429 6305
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Youth Groups

Steve Demetrius	027 698 4048
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Kids Friendly Care

Anna Neil	022 643 1691
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Mainly Music

Margaret de la Haye	843 2272
Karen Jensen	843 9447

