

HALO



November 2022

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH TARADALE

From the Minister



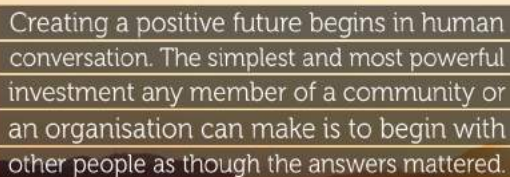
In October I took four weeks study leave, learning about appreciative inquiry and about ways in which churches have cooperated together to strengthen themselves and to outreach more effectively to the others. Appreciative Inquiry is not a specifically Christian approach but it is rooted in hope (it is looking for a positive future) and Community (it seeks involvement from as many people as possible). I have found it useful in personal conversations as well as leading groups to think about the change we want to see.

The Christmas principle: Why did God send his Son to earth? Yes, Jesus makes God fully known, and yes, it fulfils the promises of the old testament, but ultimately Jesus came because God has a dream for the world he wants us to fulfil. God

wants all people to have life in abundance. He wants a world filled with love and grace and justice and compassion. It is therefore in hope that Jesus came. God could have focused on the problems of the world and sent judgement but instead he sent a Saviour. Jesus came with a dream of how the world could be and he invited people to be a part of what God was doing. God invites us not to focus on the problems but to engage in the solutions.

Appreciative Inquiry also reminds us that the future is not fixed but shaped by the images we hold and the questions we ask. A person or an organization's story is constantly being co-authored. There are many stories that can be told about any situation. If you ask what went wrong you will get one story, if you ask what went well – you will get an entirely different story about the same event. Appreciative asks us to focus on when things went well, not because we are a Pollyanna, but because it inspires hope and we can learn from those good moments what to do to see them occur more

frequently. We learn to ask “what do we want more of?” The questions we ask become the material out of which the future is conceived and constructed. Our questions are fateful—



Creating a positive future begins in human conversation. The simplest and most powerful investment any member of a community or an organisation can make is to begin with other people as though the answers mattered.

William Gendler

they shape the future. The seeds of change are in the things people think and talk about, the things people discover and learn, and these inspire images of the future and energise change.

In talking to people I am trying not to focus on their past failures but to ask questions about when things went well and what can they learn from that experience. In Churches and in people’s lives it is easy to become negative and cynical but in the end that helps no one. The same is true for Christmas. Do you expect fun filled family times when Christ is known and honoured, or is it just another year, another Christmas? What would it look like if you were to have a Christmas worth talking about?

I read an interesting story about a lady who loved her job but hated her boss. She kept thinking “how is he going to humiliate me today?

What dumb thing is he going to say?” Someone suggested that since these were the questions she was asking it was no wonder it was easy to find what she was looking for. They suggested she change her questions to: “What is there to understand and appreciate about him?” and “What can i do to make him look good?” When she looked for his good points she found some and everything changed in their relationship.

What do you want more of this Christmas? Maybe that is a question you can ask around the table as you plan for Christmas. If you were to have your ideal Christmas what would you be doing?

For me part of the answer is people feeling like God is truly with them and they belong and God has a dream that is so much bigger than just Christmas.

St Columba's
Church
Taradale



Christmas Eve 8pm

Christmas Day 9:30am

Report on Meetings of Presbyterian Churches in Napier and Hastings.

Napier and Hastings churches are finding themselves short staffed with several retirements and difficulties recruiting new ministers and questions are being asked about the sustainability of parishes with aging and, in many cases, shrinking congregations. The benefit of appreciative inquiry is that instead of being filled with gloom about the situation we can be fully engaged in helping the churches to thrive and discover the ways God is calling us to engage with his world.

We have had three meeting this year to discuss ways we can work together and cooperate so that we

might strengthen each other. We are talking about a covenant that says 'We will seek to do together all that we can do together.'

The traditional parish church model presumes a full-time stipendiary ministry serving the spiritual needs of each congregation. This may become the exception rather than the rule. This is not bad if it leads to the rediscovery of the ministry of all people and the revitalization of worship and a recovery of the joys and demands of discipleship and being in community and in mission together.

Change an ever present reality – just look in the mirror. My first parish Flagstaff Union was created when

the larger conglomerate West Dunedin Union Parish (six or seven congregations, formed about 1970) was broken up into four parishes (1984-ish). Flagstaff had the congregations of Wakari and Halfway Bush. Since then they have become a single denominational Presbyterian parish. Here in Napier we have seen St Stephens in

Wycliffe St (originally St Peters) start, thrive, close and merge with St Paul's, with some members joining us all within one generation.

The main question is not how can we survive but how can we work together to thrive? That is a project worth our energy.

Brett

What Wrinkles?

Arthur: Zoe B Metzger

Little Zoe, our granddaughter, was coming home with us for overnight. Buckled between us in the front seat of the car, she looked up through the windshield at a sky studded with stars.

"I wonder how God keeps the stars up there," she said. "Do you think he uses white glue?"

Grandpa chuckled, and I gave Zoe a squeeze. "I don't know how he does it, honey, but I do know you are a precious baby."

"I'm not a baby," she corrected me. "I'm four. I'm getting old."

Oh no!" I replied. "I'm the one who's getting old."

"Grammy, you're not old." She reached up to touch my face. "You

don't have any wrinkles!"

Now, I've left sixty behind and I do have wrinkles. But Zoe looks at me with love; she doesn't see them.



And that's the wonderful way in which God looks at me—with love. Through the eyes of love, he sees me without blemish, made perfect by the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. He chose me to be "a jewel in a crown," and fastens me there, not with white glue, but with his promises.

God loves me, and he loves you. Because of Jesus, he doesn't see our wrinkles!

A busy time at St Columba's

Glow Movie Evening

Over the past 3 weeks we have had a very busy time. On the 30th October we had a Glow Movie evening for families. This was an alternative to Halloween although we were a day early. This was to avoid clashing with a school night, busy working parents and other sporting activities. We had 35 children, parents Grandparents and senior Parishioners attend. They were greeted with a smile, a bag of popcorn with a few sweets hidden in the bag and then we watched a noisy, action packed kid's movie. The kids loved it, not all the Grandparents did!! At half time (remember that's how it used to work) we gave them a sausage in bread and an ice block and then continued the rest of the movie. Everyone left with a scripture to think about. It was a fun night and several comments were made as to 'when will you do it again'??



Tuesday Church

On 8th November we had our Tuesday Church Service where approximately 40 people from outlying Rest Homes were brought to the Church for a delicious morning tea and were then entertained by 65 children from Greenmeadows School. They came with their ukuleles and their singing voices and played and sang for half and hour. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Brett then gave them a lovely message and we sang a couple of hymns. Thank you to the team who bake the morning tea, to Anne Lanigan who organises and runs the kitchen and to our happy helpers who help with getting the folk on and off the vans and delivering cups of tea, coffee or





Milo. We're sometimes asked for a gin or whisky but we tell them with a smile we're Presbyterians and our Treasurer doesn't budget for that kind of Spirit!!

Men's breakfast

On the Saturday 12th November we held our first Men's breakfast in over 2 years. Obviously Covid put a stop to this so it was great to see a group of 38 men come together for food, fun and fellowship. Thank you to Jon Read for organising this and to the team who cooked the food---cereals peaches, yoghurt to start off with, then poached eggs, baked beans, sausages and toast jam and marmalade. Not bad for \$7 per person!

Rob Leach was the guest speaker and he had everyone enthralled with his tales of his life on the oil rigs in the North Sea, where he worked for eleven months. He completed his address by sharing his faith journey. Thank you Rob, Jon, Anja, Barry and others for making this a fun filled morning.

We now look towards our kids Christmas pageant on the 11th December and the Christmas services before some of us take a well earned break.

Thank you to everyone who makes St Columba a warm welcoming place to belong, where God is at the centre of all we do. **- The Editor**

BOM News

Who is who?

There are new faces on the Board this year and we welcome Mark Stoddart, Rob Leach, Ron Sim and Steven Magill. Remaining members are Anne Tristram, Barbara Stewart, Dean Ackland, Mike Latter, Wim Slooten, Edward Smith and Brett Walker. Jenny Ziebe and Gavin Long have stepped back. We thank Jenny and Gavin for all their years of service. The board elected Wim as its chairman, whilst Rob will act as Vice Chair with the aim of reversing these roles next year. The BOM is aware of the difficult issues faced by Barbara and Mike and our team will endeavour to make your loads as light as possible and support you wherever we can. Our prayers are with you.

A breakdown of responsibilities:

- Mike and Ron head the **Building Committee** with 3 immediate tasks on top of the usual maintenance work:
 - Fix the invisible leak that is wasting about 4000 Litres of water daily
 - Fix the leak that has been

ruining our kitchen ceiling for too long now

- Ensure that our church complex meets the EQC requirements of Napier City Council and PCANZ in a cost effective manner.

It is never easy to stay “on top” of all the maintenance work that a church requires. We are lucky

that Barry Thrupp heads our Wednesday Maintenance Group with the help of Mark, Rob and whoever he ropes in for specific tasks. Guys, your efforts are really appreciated!

- Rob, Mark and Edward have taken on the **OSH portfolio** and are tackling a huge project of creating and updating an OSH manual with relevant checklists so that our systems are compliant with NZ safety laws.

They will need everyone’s help in making our church an even safer place.

- Steven is overseeing our **electronic equipment**, he will focus specifically on:

- Ironing out the problems we experienced with our sound system
- Training a larger pool of Sound Desk operators
- Anne is **the secretary** and she also:
 - represents the board at the “Kids Friendly Care” Committee
 - represents the Board on the Opshop Committee
 - handles the Manse together with Barbara
- Dean and Barbara handle **lots of other tasks** not mentioned here (e.g. rosters)
- Wim is the **treasurer**, sits on the

Kids Friendly Committee and assists the Opshop committee with their financial duties.

A working Bee was held on the first Saturday of November to dig a trench for the new water pipe. This was heavy work and involved concrete cutting and operating a “heavy beast” of a machine that cut a 400 mm deep trench in the soil. Our young bunch of volunteers (none has reached the age of 80 yet) enjoyed a fabulous morning and suffered some sore muscles in the following days! Thanks to everyone involved and we pray that this effort will put an end to the wasting of so much water on a daily basis.





Food for Thought?

Although St Columba appoints a “fresh” BOM every year at the AGM, there is no rule how long board members will serve. This has obvious advantageous but has also resulted in having quite a static board with some members serving 10, 15 or even 20 years “on the trot”. Some would call this a life sentence?

At St Paul’s Church they addressed this same issue by introducing a rule

that 1/3 of the board must stand down annually. They can then be reappointed the year after, giving them at least a 1 year break. Should we not look at introducing a similar rule here?

Pledge

We will do our best to handle the tasks before us to the best of our abilities and will aim to have some fun in the process!

Wim

Kids Christmas Pageant

11 December—9.30am

Please come and support the Kool Kids and Youth who are practising hard to put this pageant on for us all. We thank the Op Shop for their financial support to help make Christmas special for our Kids.

Christmas Blessings to you all.



Christmas Message from Session and the Board of Managers.

In the Christmas rush, in your parties and celebrations, in the shopping and preparations we pray that you make room for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let Christ be a part of your every moment as you celebrate Christmas with family or friends for He is the reason for the Christmas season.

Brett and some of the Elders will be away on holiday in January, but if you are requiring help in any form please contact your Elder or Inger Slooten, coordinator of Pastoral Care and we will endeavour to assist you or put you onto some one who can.

We wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.



Communion Service
Sunday 4 December
All Welcome



Hall of Memories

In less than 2 year's time, Fish Hall will have been an important venue as a part of our Church complex for 100 years.

Originally, Fish Hall was sited across the driveway from the Church. Margaret Goodwin's painting on the wall of the Lounge portrays this position. Wooden steps led up to the entrance porch at the Western end of the building. A stage was sited at the Eastern end of the interior.

Our Sunday School classes were segregated by folding partitions

attached to the wall and pinned down into holes drilled into the floor boards.

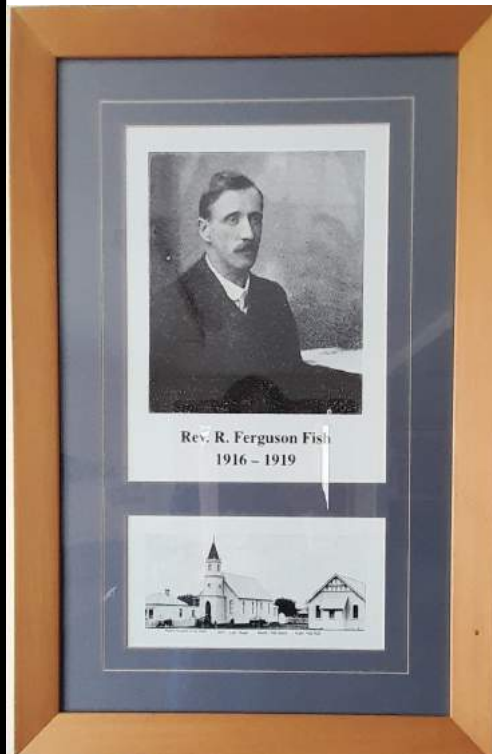
Bible Class times meant concerts, piano duets and a special pageant for the Queen's Coronation. B C dance with friends visiting from Napier, Hastings and CHB meant "mind the piles" especially when doing the Hokey Tokey!!

When the "old" church building was shifted to its present site, Fish Hall was linked to it. Rev Ian Milner led the building of the "middle room" which joined the three buildings to make a new Church complex.

The Ladies' Guild held amazing Fairs in the Hall with Rita, our local butcher, stitching beautiful embroidered aprons for sale. The income from these sales of work provided much of the furniture and fittings for St Columba.

The Hall and its facilities were used for many family celebrations. One exciting event was the wedding breakfast for Ruth Stoddart's parents.

During Rev. Milner's ministry, the 1st Taradale Boys' and Girls' Brigades were established. So many young people would have spent time in Fish Hall over these



years. This would include the many children attending Sunday School and Bible Class.

Over the years, charitable activities have never stopped – bottling peaches for Atawhai started in the “old” kitchen, then, for a few years, we squeezed many lemons for the juice to be sent to South Island parishes.

Now we move on again! With the “new” Church building in the present position, Fish Hall was swung towards the Clock Tower. It was given a new entrance, the stage removed and carpet laid over the partition holes! Prior to the

carpet, each summer the Ladies of the Guild would scrub the floorboards of Fish Hall. The floor looked so good after being given a good scrub with sandsoap.

Fish Hall today still has fellowship as its focus. In recent years it has been the venue for Church dinners, APW meetings, Funeral catering, Charity fundraisers, Mainly music, Tuesday Church, Kids Friendly and Youth Groups and our after Church morning teas.

Rev Ferguson Fish, we thank you.

Anne Lanigan

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 Nov, Dec 2022 & Jan 2023

Sunday	27 Nov	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	04 Dec	9.30am	Communion Service
Sunday	11 Dec	9.30am	Kids Christmas Pageant
		1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Tuesday	13 Dec	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Thursday	15 Dec	7.00pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday	18 Dec	9.30am	Church Service
Thursday	22 Dec	7.00pm	Session Meeting
Saturday	24 Dec	8.00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday	25 Dec	9.30am	Christmas Day Service
Sunday	01 Jan	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	08 Jan	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	15 Jan	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday	22 Jan	9.30am	Family Service
Sunday	29 Jan	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 7.00pm - 8.30pm Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256
	<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 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
------------	--------------

Youth Groups

Steve Demetrius	027 698 4048
-----------------	--------------

Kids Friendly Care

Anna Neil	022 643 1691
-----------	--------------

Mainly Music

Margaret de la Haye	843 2272
Karen Jensen	843 9447

