

# HALO

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TARADALE

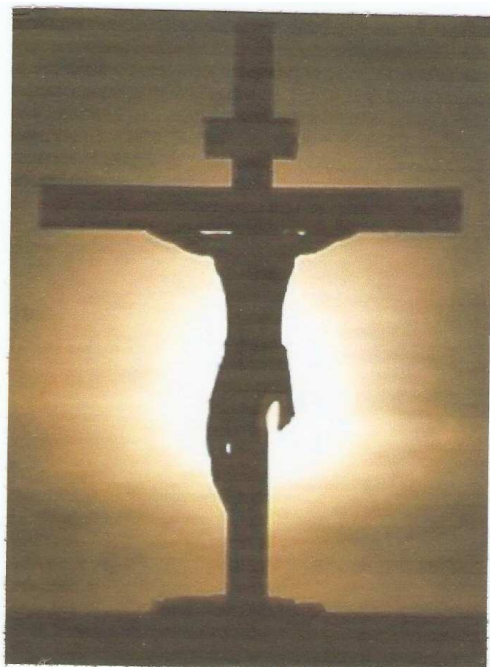
Church Website: [www.stcolumba-taradale.org.nz](http://www.stcolumba-taradale.org.nz)

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Vol 21 - No 3

April 2011



HE HAS RISEN

## Mid Week Church Service

**Jeanette Barker**

For transport phone 844 3554

## Men's Breakfasts

**Robin Arnold**

## Bible Readers

**Rhonda**

at the church office

## Prayer Group

**Marjory Yelverton**

phone 843 5331



## Women's Fellowship

**Peggy Flack**

phone 844 8412

## Music Group Worship Band

**Kirsty Jamieson**

phone 844 4652

## House Groups

**Pam Thrupp**

phone 835 5785

## Pastoral Care

**Robin Arnold**

Material for April Halo in by 11 a.m. Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 please

## *From the Minister*

### **Being an Adult**

I liked the focus in the February Halo of keeping us informed of some of the activities we do in reaching out to children and youth and living out our aim of being kids friendly. The challenge this month is to create that same awareness of our activities with adults. We have fellowship groups (Guild, Women's Fellowship, and Men's breakfasts) home groups, service teams (including Op Shop, morning tea...), a prayer group, and some committees. We also have Robin Arnold and a large team of visitors providing pastoral care.

Being adult is more challenging than being a child – you have to fend for yourself and care for others. You have to stand on your own two feet. As a church, we invest a lot of money in our children's and youth programmes because they are not able to be self sufficient but other than the minister's time the adult ministries have to live off encouragement and teamwork – not cash.

But actually, I prefer being an adult. Being an adult means I am independent and free. I do not always have someone looking over my shoulder telling me how they would do things. (Sometimes I still have to say - thank you for your opinion - but I am doing it this way.) One of the criticisms you sometimes hear in churches is "we are not being fed." As if the Sunday sermon would be enough to nurture anyone's spiritual life. Being adult means I can take responsibility for my own spiritual growth. I like a good challenging book, or the discipline of praying and reading the Bible every day. I like the cut and thrust of debate in a small group where others broaden my thinking or challenge my prejudices. This is much more varied and stimulating than waiting solely for weekly input on a Sunday.

Being an adult also means I get to be a productive member of the community rather than a taker. I am richer because of what I give. The joy of preaching a sermon is not in the delivery - but in the new insights learnt in preparing it. The joy of visiting is the relationship that is built as well as the satisfaction that any help offered has made a difference.

The prayer of St Francis says

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 5 also challenges us to be adult in our faith and understanding... You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognise the difference between right and wrong. (v12-14)

The challenge for the Church to ask is: Are we providing opportunities for people to grow and serve, and are people taking them? Of course we can live out our faith in our work place and other networks but my prayer is that we will as Ephesians 4:11-13 say allow people to use their gifts so that we may be equipped "for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." This is true Adulthood or maturity.

Blessings to you all

*Brett*

# SESSION REPORT

The Minister's review was held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the Church lounge, conducted by the Rev. Sands from Knox Presbyterian Church, Fielding. Brett is still waiting to hear the result of that review.

At the Presbytery meeting held at St. Columba's it was approved that a review of parishes will be done. First up is St. Columba, and Paul Loveday will visit us at our next Session meeting to explain the process as to how the review will be done. This is likely to be carried out over a three-month period of May, June and July.

The Christchurch earthquake has been discussed and prayers offered at Session. The church building has been open every morning until noon for people to use for prayer for the Christchurch people. For offers of accommodation, we suggest people go on-line to Quakescape.co.nz or donate money to PCANZ who has opened an account for this. It has been advertised in the weekly bulletin.

Session is currently working at changes to the Book of Order, to be voted on by local Church Councils or Sessions. Previously Presbyteries only voted on these matters. The Book of Order orders the life and mission of the Church, defines its membership and provides for the Governance of the Church. It is a good thing that Session has an opportunity to vote on what is in it.

*Colin Zachan*

*Acting Session Clerk*

## SEMINAR FOR ELDERS

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February a seminar for eElders was held at St Columba Taradale. This was organised by the Hawke's Bay Presbytery. There were approximately forty-five present from throughout Hawke's Bay and beyond.

We were indeed fortunate to have Bruce Fraser, who is the Mission Advisor for the Otago and Southland Synod. Bruce conducted thought-provoking topics. Two of the topics covered were "What is an Elder"? and "What does an Elder do"?

We looked at what the Apostle Paul tells us. *"An elder is to be a person who is above reproach (1Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7) His/her life style is such that no one can legitimately accuse him/her of conduct which is unbefitting a mature believer. However this does not mean he/she is perfect or without room for improvement. Why? Because none of us are perfect (Phil 3:10-14; Ps 143:2) Generally speaking an elder is to be a model of Christian maturity.*

Functions of the Session

Provide for governance

Plays a role in the wider community

Enable the congregation to identify and play its part in God's mission

To provide pastoral care for one another and the wider community

Leadership in worship.

*"We are teachers in the midst of the people" – God has called you.*

We wonder what you the reader thinks If you would like to discuss the topic at greater length contact one of the elders over a cup of tea.

### Current Elders:

Robin Arnold

Dot McLeod

Pam Thrupp

Nancy Bryan

Sue Read

Peter Wooten

Hans Marnewick

Barry Thrupp

Colin Zachan

# Children's Area

## Thank You For My Easter Egg

by Jim Payton

What type of Easter egg do you like? The hollow ones with nothing inside them or those with a present inside, or with a gooey filling, or those with any type of filling in them. I like the ones with filling in them because they remind me of why Jesus died.

You know that a bird lays a real egg. There is a hard shell on the outside but inside are the white and the yoke of the egg. Now, if nobody takes the egg away from the bird, and the mummy bird is allowed to sit upon the egg and keep it warm, then in time the yoke will turn into a baby bird. That baby bird will feed on the egg white until it is strong enough to break open the shell and be a real live bird. Once the growing bird is strong enough to break the shell, it has a good chance of surviving if it is fed by it's family, and taught to fly. So how does that remind me of Jesus dying at Easter? Well before I became a Christian, I was like the egg yoke. I was a baby Christian. I don't mean that I cried and wore nappies, and sucked on a dummy, I mean that I only knew stories about Jesus. As I stayed a baby Christian, I started to learn about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and a lot of other things that you learn as you become a grown up, or mature, Christian. That stuff provided me with food and it taught me how to be safe as a Christian. When I say it gave me food I don't mean hamburgers and coke, I mean learning how God helps us, how God has saved us from being bad, and things like that. Just as the egg white provides food for the chicken to live, so the learning I received as a baby Christian provided 'food' to keep me growing. Once I understood about how Jesus had died to allow us to go to Heaven, I was strong enough to break out of the shell that had kept me safe until I knew that stuff. Once I got out of the 'shell' the Church family fed me some more and taught me how to be a Christian in the real world. At Sunday School, you are like the yoke in the egg and when you get to youth group, you will be outside the shell.

So, if I only have an Easter egg that is hollow, then does it teach me anything? Actually it does. It shows me that while it looks as though it probably has many things inside it, once you break it open there is nothing. That is the way things are with many things in life. Some things look really nice on the outside but once you break the shell, or open them, you find nothing inside.

I suggest that you go for the Easter eggs that have a filling. Once you un-wrap it, and bite into it, remember that Jesus died on a cross so that God could make you a member of his family forever.

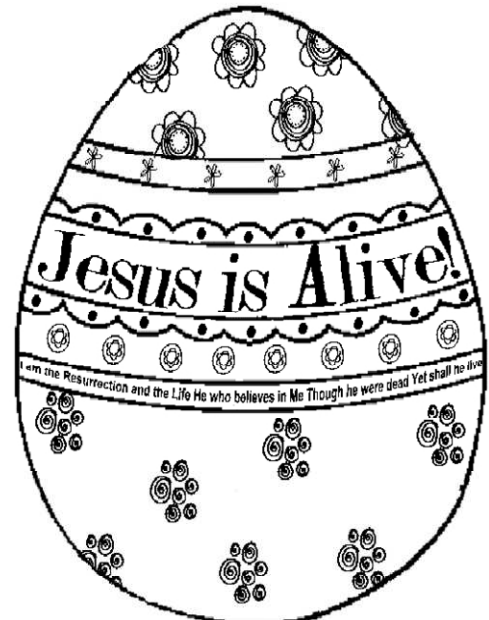
### Memory Verse

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.

**John 3:16**

*This is a big one to learn but it is a very important verse so do your best to learn it off by heart.*

### Colour This Egg



# FAIR AND GARAGE SALE

5

The morning of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> dawned fine but we did wonder, as we were busy setting up for the fair, whether it would rain. However it held off and we had a very successful day. Some thought that numbers were down but we actually made the wonderful total of \$7420. This included some items sold beforehand in the Op Shop, the money Harry raised by using Trade Me, and the apples sold and donations made on the Sunday. All this is a great help to our deficit budget. Holding a fair not only raises much needed finance but also working together draws people closer together. We get to know folk a little better, making us more of a 'family'.

Thank you to all those who helped in any way [and some of you put in hours of work], who donated goods or money, and not forgetting those who came.

## BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers extend their grateful thanks to all who distributed leaflets, collected goods for sale, bottled, sewed and manned stalls etc for the Fair and Garage Sale. A special thank you to Annette, Harry and Arthur for their work on our behalf. The amount of \$7,420.00, \$3,300.00 of which came from the Garage Sale/White Elephant, will go a long way towards helping our budget deficit.

## OFFERINGS

Make your offerings grow! If you make cash offerings, why not consider using the envelope system or direct credit? That way your offerings are recorded so that you get a receipt at the end of the financial year. This can then be forwarded to the IRD and you will get a rebate of 33% returned to you, which you can then in turn give to the church or keep. We have a robust system in place so that your offerings remain confidential to you.

## TAX CLAIMS

For any envelope subscriber who does not file a donations claim with the IRD, I am offering to do it for you for NOTHING. I will do all the paperwork for you and you will receive in return one third of your contribution, paid directly into your bank account, ie you will receive \$33 for every \$100 you have given to the Church and other charitable donations. All you have to do is ring me at 844 2232. What could be more simple?

What you do with the \$33 per \$100 when you receive it is entirely over to you, but you may consider giving it to the Church as an extra contribution. This will increase your rebate next year and each year thereafter. It could mean your contribution could be almost doubled in four years' time. And it is all within the law!

Think about it and give me a ring.

*Ian Scott*

### Reading and Prayer

**Reading:** "The disciples brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowd that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David'. 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven'." **Matthew 21:7-9**

**Prayer:** Thank you Lord, you are the Prince of Peace, the source of hope, healing and restoration. We bring to you those we see who are hurting, those without homes, food and clothing. May they find hope, healing and restoration. Lead us, Lord, to be your servants in serving others. May we be enabled to be your servants, of your love. Amen

## 6 FREQUENCY OF COMMUNION

The Session have agreed to ask the congregation their thoughts after our six month trial on having Communion monthly rather than quarterly.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> April a questionnaire will be distributed asking your preference – whether monthly or six times per year as before (we add Easter and World Communion Sunday) and how strongly you hold this preference.

If you are interested in a challenging article on Communion from the Knox School of Ministry opening lecture go to <http://www.scribd.com/doc/50310288/Inaugural-Lecture-Learning-to-See-and-to-Waddle-With-Our-Tongues> (by Professor Jason A. Goroncy)

If you wish to do some biblical study on this question – some passages to start would be *Acts 2:42 20;7 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 (esp v 26)*

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### Past Communion Services

We have had several months' trial with more communion services.

I have recalled some things about some of the celebrations of the Lord's Supper.

These incidents do not come from St Columba's, Taradale.

Can you recall the times when the church pews were decorated with white table linen and the communion table was dressed with a throw over? We were taught that those pews not dressed with table linen would not be served communion. Do you remember the terrible clatter as the metal clips holding the cloth on the narrow ledge were knocked off?

In our church two dear old ladies did all the preparation – filling the tiny glasses, cutting the bread, polishing the chalice and the bread trays. I cannot forget the look of amazement on our minister's face at the serene and dramatic moment when they took the throw-over off the table. His eyes leapt from one tray of tiny glasses to another. There was no wine in any of the glasses. With quick thinking he said, "It seems there has been a mistake. We will be having only one of the elements in our service today. We will imagine that we have taken the wine." I admired his quick thinking and the communion service was shorter that day.

Having mentioned time – many Sunday School teachers were given a 'get out early' card for Communion Sunday. Teachers would double up classes and attend the final part of the service. We all know that services on Communion Sunday are longer. Some of our pupils were exuberant – so they got louder and louder.

Some final brief thoughts...

One of the Communion Services I will never forget was on Christmas Eve – the old church was filled with candle light. A Christmas gift worthy for the birth of our Lord.

*Thank You Ian McLeod*

### DOING GOOD

A speaker at the funeral of Mrs Barbara Atley, held in St Columba's recently, read this quote. I believe it is well worth printing, and acting upon! The quote is number thirteen in a "Book of Daily Readings". John Wesley wrote the quote.

Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can,  
to all the people you can,  
as long as you can.

*Thank you Nancye Munroe*

## View From Under the Pew By Church Mouse

7

Bring on Easter I say. All those little bits of chocolate and hot cross bun crumbs that seem to fall from people's pockets, clothes and handbags makes it a great season for me. I know that it is a special time for you humans and I respect that. All I suggest is that some one leaves me a marshmallow egg under the rear pew. Please take the tin foil wrapping off as it is hard on my poor old arthritic paws and plays the devil with my teeth.

As it is Lent, I have been reviewing my past activities. I am mouse enough to own up to the fact that I have not always been as good as I should have been. There has been the odd bit of gossip I have passed on and the odd waspish comment has slipped off my tongue. I have not been as loving and forgiving as I should. You humans have God's grace to get you through, so I am hoping, as one of Gods creatures, it will also apply to me. I know that if I were human I would take serious advantage of that grace.

## The Sufferings of His Broken Heart *by Max Lucado*

Go with me for a moment to witness what was perhaps the foggiest night in history. The scene is very simple; you will recognise it quickly. A grove of twisted olive trees. Ground cluttered with large rocks. A low stone fence. A dark, dark night.

Now, look into the picture. Look closely through the shadowy foliage. See that person? See that solitary figure? What is he doing? Flat on the ground, face stained with tears, fists pounding the hard earth. Eyes wide with the stupor of fear, hair matted with salty sweat. Is that blood on his forehead?

That is Jesus, Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Maybe you have seen the classic portrait of Christ in the garden. Kneeling beside a big rock, snow-white robe, hands peacefully folded in prayer, a look of serenity on his face, halo over his head; a spotlight from Heaven illuminating his golden-brown hair. Now I am no artist, but I can tell you one thing. The man who painted that picture did not use the gospel of Mark as a pattern. Look what Mark wrote about that painful night. He used phrases like these: 'Horror and dismay came over him', 'My heart is ready to break with grief', and 'He went a little forward and threw himself on the ground'. Does this look like the picture of a saintly Jesus resting in the palm of God? Hardly. Mark used black paint to describe this scene. We see an agonizing, straining, and struggling Jesus. We see a 'Man of Sorrows'. (Isaiah 53:3 NASB) We see a man struggling with fear, wrestling with commitments, and yearning for relief. We see Jesus in the fog of a broken heart.

The writer of Hebrews would later pen, "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death." (Hebrews 5:7 NIV)

My, what a portrait! Jesus is in pain. Jesus is on the stage of fear. Jesus is cloaked, not in sainthood, but in humanity.

The next time the fog finds you, you might do well to remember Jesus in the garden. The next time you think that no one understands, reread the fourteenth chapter of Mark. The next time your self-pity convinces you that no one cares, pay a visit to Gethsemane. And, the next time you wonder if God really perceives the pain that prevails on this dusty planet, listen to him pleading among the twisted trees. The next time you are called to suffer, pay attention. It may be the closest you will ever get to God. Watch closely. It could very well be that the hand that extends itself to lead you out of the fog is a pierced one.

*This story is from the book; This is Love – the extraordinary story of Jesus by Max Lucado. Max Lucado is the Preaching Pastor at Oak Hill Church in San Antonio. If you wish to know more about Max, you can visit his website, [MaxLucado.com](http://MaxLucado.com) or find his devotionals at [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com).*

## 8 TENDER WORDS TO THE TIRED HEART

by Max Lucado

*On the previous page, we have reprinted an article by Lucado. On Sunday 27 March, Chris Hingley preached on 1 Samuel 30:1-12. Chris focused on us not knowing how or when God is going to respond to our prayers, which in this case was resolved, by David and his men finding a man who knew where the enemy was located. This article focuses on the men too tired to follow David the whole way.*

Brook Besor. Don't feel bad if you've never heard of the place. Most haven't, but more need to. The Brook Besor narrative deserves shelf space in the library of the worn-out. It speaks tender words to the tired heart. The story emerges from the ruins of Ziklag. David and his six hundred soldiers return from the Philistine war front to find utter devastation. A raiding band of Amalekites had swept down on the village, looted it, and taken the women and children hostage. The sorrow of the men mutates into anger, not against the Amalekites, but against David. After all, hadn't he led them into battle? Hadn't he left the women and children unprotected? Isn't he to blame? Then he needs to die. So they start grabbing stones.

This could be his worst hour. But he makes it one of his best.

David redirects the men's anger toward the enemy. They set out in pursuit of the Amalekites. Keep the men's weariness in mind. They still bear the trail dust of a long campaign and haven't entirely extinguished their anger at David. They don't know the Amalekites' hideout, and, if not for the sake of their loved ones, they might give up. Indeed, two hundred do. The army reaches a brook called Besor, and they dismount. Soldiers wade in the creek and splash water on their faces, sink tired toes in cool mud, and stretch out on the grass. Hearing the command to move on, two hundred choose to rest. "You go on without us," they say.

How tired does a person have to be to abandon the hunt for his own family?

The church has its quorum of such folks. Good people. Godly people. Only hours or years ago, they marched with deep resolve. But now fatigue consumes them. They're exhausted. So beat-up and worn down that they can't summon the strength to save their own flesh and blood. Old age has sucked their oxygen. Or maybe it was a deflating string of defeats. Divorce can leave you at the brook. Addiction can as well. Whatever the reason, the church has its share of people who just sit and rest.

And the church must decide. What do we do with the Brook Besor people? Berate them? Shame them? Give them a rest but measure the minutes? Or do we do what David did? David let them stay. He and the remaining four hundred fighters resume the chase. David and his men swoop down upon the enemy like hawks on rats. Every Israelite woman and child is rescued. Every Amalekite either bites the dust or hits the trail, leaving precious plunder behind. David goes from scapegoat to hero, and the whooping and hollering begin.

And what about the two hundred men who had rested?

You might feel the way some of David's men felt: "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children" (1 Sam. 30:22). A Molotov cocktail of emotions is stirred, lit, and handed to David. Here's how he defuses it: "Don't do that after what the Lord has given us. He has protected us and given us the enemy who attacked us. Who will listen to what you say? The share will be the same for the one who stayed with the supplies as for the one who went into battle. All will share alike." (30:23-24 NCV) Note David's words: they "stayed with the supplies," as if this had been their job. They hadn't asked to guard supplies; they wanted to rest. But David dignifies their decision to stay. David did many mighty deeds in his life. He did many foolish deeds in his life. But perhaps the noblest was this rarely discussed deed: he honoured the tired soldiers at Brook Besor. .../

Someday somebody will read what David did and name their church the Congregation at Brook Besor. Isn't that what the church is intended to be? A place for soldiers to recover their strength? If you are listed among them, here is what you need to know: it's okay to rest. Jesus is your David. He fights when you cannot. He goes where you cannot. He's not angry if you sit. Did he not invite, "Come off by yourselves; let's take a break and get a little rest" (Mark 6:31 MSG)?

Brook Besor blesses rest. Brook Besor also cautions against arrogance. David knew the victory was a gift. Let's remember the same. Salvation comes like the Egyptian in the desert, a delightful surprise on the path. Unearned. Undeserved. Who are the strong to criticize the tired? Are you weary? Catch your breath. We need your strength. Are you strong? Reserve passing judgment on the tired. Odds are, you'll need to plop down yourself. And when you do, Brook Besor is a good story to know.

### **God created Deacons because He needed someone to do the dirty work**

*Halo came upon the following article, with the above heading, relating to Church Deacons. We presume it to be Anglican in origin although such do belong to other denominations as well. Our equivalent would be the Board of Managers, (BOM). Brett informs us that under the old Book of Order, the BOM could alternatively be called a Deacons Board. With consideration by the Session and BOM as to whether or not St. Columba's current governance requires changing, Halo thought that this article highlights some areas that perhaps need to be considered during that discussion, particularly relating to the accountability issues that arise with our very valuable volunteers as well as paid staff.*

Jesus gave us the ultimate picture of servanthood when He stooped and washed the disciples' feet (John 13). The Jerusalem incident of Act 6 – commonly believed to be the origin of the diaconate, even though they are never called Deacons there – confirms that these Godly men are to serve the Lord's people in the lowliest tasks in order to free up the leaders of the ministry of the Word and prayer.

In the Old West, during cattle drives, there was a division of labour. Someone rode point in front of the herd, others rode the flanks to keep the cattle together, and some poor soul had to ride drag. Usually this dirty job went to the newest hire or youngest cowboy or the one in trouble with the boss. His task was to see that no animal was left behind.

That's the deacons. They are not the point people, setting the vision for the congregation; God has His '**called**' pastors for that. They are the background workers who spend their time and energy to see that everyone is cared for, that the headstrong stray is corralled and brought back, and that the stragglers are dealt with.

The Greek word translated deacon, diakonos, literally means 'through the dust'. That has to mean something.

At a concert in your favourite public arena, workers wearing tee shirts with 'Event Staff' across the back scurrying around. They are not performing on stage, they are not the highest paid, but the concert would not happen without their faithful labour. That is you, deacon.

Thank God for you.

*Incidentally, Brett reminds us that of the seven chosen in Acts 6 ( you should really read verses 1 – 7) Stephen became the first martyr and Phillip became an evangelist. He also notes that Stephen, a man full of grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people: Ed.*

## 10 **Flyers, Runners, Walkers**

‘...They will soar...They will run...They will walk...’ Isaiah 40:31 NLT

Watchman Nee wrote a best-selling book entitled *The Normal Christian Life*. Why such a title? Because only when you understand what’s ‘normal’ in Christian living, will you be able to recognise which season you’re in, evaluate your circumstances accurately, and adjust. At one point, Paul raises a man from the dead; at another point he writes, ‘We despaired even of life...’ (2 Corinthians 1:8 NIV) The Bible says, ‘Elijah was a man just like us...’ (James 5:17 NIV) Yet one day he is calling down fire from heaven, the next day he is suicidal and in the depth of depression. Now, you cannot use this as an excuse for spiritual lethargy, but you must be discerning. Faith does not exempt us from life’s seasons; it just enables us to go through them victoriously. So: (1) If you are a flyer: If you are being blessed by God and experiencing success beyond your natural abilities, enjoy it. But, always remember, your ability to fly comes from God - not you. Forget that, and down you will go! (2) If you are a runner; Thank God you are still in the race. Do not compare yourself with high flyers or you will get discouraged, and do not compare yourself with walkers or you will become proud. Just keep running and your time will come. (3) If you are a walker: Keep putting one foot in front of the other. Some days, pain, discouragement and fatigue make it impossible to fly high or run; all you can do is walk without fainting, and even that is hard. No problem - give yourself permission to be where you are. Walking counts with God. When it is the best you can do, it is enough!

*From The Word for Today via Radio Rhema*

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### **If You Are Offended**

To become offended means that you stop trusting someone that you should continue to trust, even though you do not understand their actions.

An example; Many of Jesus’ ‘disciples’ left him (became offended) when He said that to be his followers they must eat His flesh and drink His blood. They did not understand this so they left Him. “The twelve” stayed. Peter said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

They followed on to know Him, gained understanding, and received more and more insights and blessings.

Pastor Keith Moore, Life Faith Church, Branson, Missouri, USA, via Pat Gordon.

### **GOD’S WAY**

I asked the Lord for a bunch of fresh flowers  
But instead he gave me an ugly cactus with many thorns  
I asked the Lord for some beautiful butterflies  
But instead he gave me many ugly and dreadful caterpillars.  
I was threatened,  
I was disappointed,  
I mourned.  
But after many days, suddenly  
I saw the cactus bloomed with many beautiful flowers,  
And those caterpillars became beautiful butterflies  
Flying in the spring wind.  
God’s way is the best way.

*Rev Chun-Ming Kao*

If you have a problem or a concern about something that’s happening at church, or relating to the Church Family, there are **ISSUE OF CONCERN** forms in one of the pigeonholes in the foyer and you are invited to fill one in and express your concerns. Completed forms go in the Session Clerk’s pigeonhole.

**BEREAVEMENTS** Our love and sympathy to the families of May Blair and Jim Kinnear.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** Remember that our next Men's Breakfast will be held at 7.45 am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April in Fish Hall. The guest speaker is Doug Banks from "Whatever It Takes" Trust. Cost \$5 for a good cooked breakfast. Bring a friend, cousin, acquaintance etc.

**AF CARE/HOLIDAY PROGRAMME** The end of this month sees the school holidays arriving once again. KFC will run our Church holiday programme from 18<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> April. With Easter weekend in the middle there will be no programme for the days of Good Friday and Easter Monday. If you are able to help out in any capacity please contact Peter Wooten at 843 7770. Help could be during a morning or afternoon session, by providing transport, morning or afternoon teas etc.

## EASTER SERVICES

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	7 p.m.	Tenebrae Service
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	9:30 a.m.	Good Friday service
	11 a.m.	Walk with the cross – Starting at All Saints
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	9:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Service – Communion



**BRIDGE BUILDERS COURSE** 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May, (Thursday and Friday evenings plus Saturday). This course gives skills to develop listening and conversation in order to make your relationships more meaningful and to give skills to make an impact on someone's life. You also learn how to pray with others. This course should be excellent for all involved in pastoral visiting, or just wanting better relationships.

## What's on in April

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30 p.m. - 9.30 a.m.	Six-week Parenting Course continues
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	7.45 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April		Holiday Programme begins
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30 p.m.	Board of Managers monthly meeting in the lounge
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	1.45 p.m.	Missionary Guild
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30 p.m.	Women's Evening Fellowship
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	10.30 a.m.	Monthly Mid Week Service
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	7.30 p.m.	Session meeting

## Regular events

Mondays	House Group 7.00 p.m. (fortnightly) Contact: Pam Thrupp 835 5785
Tuesdays	Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Prayer Group 11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Contact: Marjory Yelverton 843 5331 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contacts: Wim & Inger Slooten 844 9070 House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contact: Robin Arnold 844 7808 Women's Fellowship meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month
Wednesdays	Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Margaret de la Haye 843 2272 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Youth - 'Pimp My Ride' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404 Board of Managers meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the third Wednesday
Thursdays	Mainly Music 9.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447 Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Verna Gillum 844 8265 Missionary Guild meets on the third Thursday of the month Session meet at 7.30 p.m. in the church lounge on the fourth Thursday
Fridays	Youth - 'Contact' 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Contact: Mark Seek 027 478 9404

Church Office Phone and Fax 844-5004 Monday—Friday 9.30am—12.00pm  
 If no reply, please leave a message and we will call you back as soon as we can.

<b>Church Postal Address:</b>	<b>P O Box 7136, Taradale</b>	
Minister	Rev Brett WALKER	844-2256
Acting Session Clerk	Colin ZACHAN	844-8050
Parish Assistant—Youth	Mark SEEK	027 478 9404
Pastoral Care	Robin ARNOLD	844-7808
Communication	Dot McLEOD	844-1211
Af Care/Holiday Programme	Peter WOOTEN (convenor)	843-7770
Change of Address	Church Office	844-5004
HALO - Editor	Jim Payton	843-3937
- Distribution	Wendy GOSLING	844-0282

**Services** – Sunday 9.30 am morning worship

**Communion** is celebrated on the first Sunday of March, September and December and the second Sunday of June, plus Easter and World Communion Day. On the Wednesday following, a Communion service will be held at 11.00 a.m. in Fish Hall.



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