

HALO



December 2016

**ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TARADALE**

From the Minister



I am in Dunedin as I write this. Waiting for the Presbyterian General Assembly to start later today. The sky is grey and the rain constant. But at least we are not in Kaikoura, where another earthquake has rattled buildings and nerves. This makes me nostalgic for home, and grateful for familiar surroundings and secure buildings and sunshine!

Yet if you had listened to me last week I could have moaned about the leak in our house roof and the \$1,100 I have spent so far without curing the problem, I moaned about the mess left in the kitchen, I moaned about half a dozen other things that didn't go my way. I wonder where our sense of gratitude goes sometimes. Why am I quick to moan and slow to say thanks? Being away from home even one day so far has reminded me of the line in the Joni Mitchell

song— "You don't know what you've got till it's gone." (Big yellow taxi).

Here in Dunedin I am staying with friends from the Parish I used to work at. They talked about people we used to know and what has happened to them. The kids in the youth group who are now parents themselves, the ups and downs of Parish life (they are on their third minister since me). They showed me a video clip of our farewell and it was funny to see myself and Sue and both our boys 18 years younger. I had a beard! I will have to add my youth and facial hair to the things that are gone. We were grateful for the love and friendship we had from the parishioners then and grateful that the same is true now. We are grateful that as time goes by some things endure like the Love of God for each of us, like the value of belonging to a caring community, like the need to make a difference in the lives of those we touch.

I was reading a book during my four hour wait in the wellington airport (I am not moaning) which talks about how people are seeking Identity – who Am I? Connection – where do I belong? And Significance – do I make a difference? And it spoke of the value of churches for we focus

on these three core values and the gift we can be to young people if we help them find God's answers to these existential questions. Who am I? answer: "I am a child of God". Where do I belong? Answer: "these people know me and love me, I am one of them." Do I make a difference? Answer: "I am gifted by God to serve." This weekend we are having a baby shower for a young woman who is part of the church. One of the activities I am getting them to do for that is to write on a baby onsie how God sees this child. I would like the mother every time the baby wears the onsie to see the words that this child is "loved", "special", "created in God's image", "Child of God".... Hopefully the mother and the child grow up with these messages and even from birth the child will know the answers to these big questions.

Knowing who you are – where you belong and that you make a difference in the lives of others means that there is not the deep anxiety that wracks many people. As we move towards Christmas may your life be marked by gratitude and a deep awareness that because of Jesus you are a child of God (John 1:12 "to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"). Because of Jesus you belong(1 Peter 2:10 "At one time you were not God's people, but now you are his people...."). Because of Jesus you are significant (Eph 2:10 "¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.")

May God Bless you all,
Brett



One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, The child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher.

He never wrote a book, He never held an office, He never went to college.

He never visited a big city, He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things usually associated with greatness. He had no credentials but himself .

He was only thirty three when public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away, one of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. And went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today Jesus is the central figure of the human race, And the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that have ever marched, All the navies that have ever sailed, All the parliaments that have ever sat, All the kings that ever reigned put together, Have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life.



Dr James Allan Francis © 1926.

My time to reflect on the 150 celebrations

Planning had been a year long project endeavouring to cater for as many differing ages, cultures and people as possible.

The weekend was a time for reflection of the people who have made our church to what it is today and the people who have inspired me over the years. What a wonderful array of role models our church has had and continues to do so.

I came to St Columba's at the age of six and can remember my Sunday School teacher Mrs Helen Anderson teaching us bible verses, the Lords Prayer and the order of the books in the bible. (Although, I'm not so sure I could say them now).

I also was a Girls Brigade girl and Mrs Marshall was a huge influence in my life. It was not just her Girls Brigade influence but as I reflect as an adult, the way she lived her life. While spending nearly two hours pondering over the records at fish hall, including the Girls Brigade memorabilia you can't help but wonder what has become of these large number of girls. It was also noticeable just how many leaders were involved, giving there time weekly to serve God and be

positive role models in our lives.

While theirs and many others contribution might be over their legacy lasts much longer. While it is timely to celebrate 150 years we do need to be looking ahead so whatever we do is relevant going forward. With changing lifestyles we need to be focused on delivering the Christian message in the most appropriate way.

It also struck me that change is constant. As we reflect on photos and times past you can't help but wonder if people back then hadn't had a vision where would we be now.

It struck me that as our congregation gets older it is time for others to step up.

As I looked at the photos of the different decades I pondered just how quickly time has gone by. I fondly remember Duncan Jamieson baptising Mark and Kurt. What a special day it was when Duncan not only baptised Kurt but eight others that morning in 1989. Later Rachel Paulin baptised Scott. Where have those years gone?

Over the weekend it was lovely to see so many people passionate about the life in our church. It

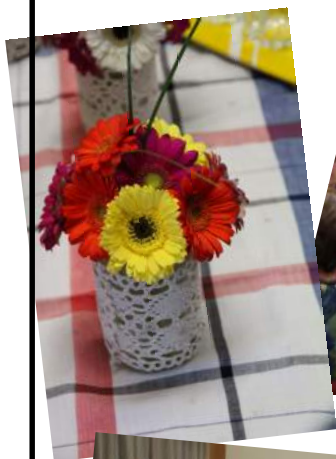
wasn't just the stalwarts of our church who participated but the newest and younger members helping with what they do best, so that the longest serving members could enjoy the weekend.

The church service quite clearly showed me what an array of talent our church family has. From our

musicians, artistic people, those who can stitch, arrange flowers, cook, those with a talent to write, those with a sense of humour, the list goes on.

Thank you for our St Columba's church family

Ruth Reid



Baby Awake Our Joy

Sweet sleeping baby Jesus
in your manger made of straw,
where cows and donkeys lo,
a job you have to do.

Sweet sleeping little boy
a king without a crown
but the glow of peace
sins captives to release.

Sweet pure baby innocence
no knowledge of lowly birth,
your mother cradles you near,
knowing time with you is dear.

Sweet sleeping baby Jesus,
where shepherds came to bow,
no sorrow is your ploy,
as you awake our faith to joy.

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St Columba's Church 150th Anniversary Report

Date: September 24 -25 2016

Held at: St Columba's Church, Taradale, New Zealand

Committee Members:

Claire Smith, Pam Thrupp, Nancye Munroe, Ruth Reid, Margaret Allan, Sheena Beaton, Anne Lanigan, Hanlie Marnewick,

Displays & Quilt:

Alison Morrison, Inger Slooten

The Colouring –in Competition:

Brain Patton drew a black and white picture of St Columba's journey over the past 150 years from the old to the new church design. Children were invited to colour in the picture in 3 categories. The winners were announced in church and prizes given out.

Advertising:

Three signs were displayed – one at the front of the church, one in Gloucester Road and one in Leigh Road. Also ads were placed in the Halo, weekly bulletins, SPANZ, Napier Mail, the church Website, and letters written to past members, Andrew Norton the Moderator, Stuart Nash and the mayor.

Decorations:

Janice Zachan and the Curtain Bank / Red Cross made bunting which was strung and hung by the Reids. This can now be used for Church fairs or other occasions. Margaret Allan provided large pot plants for outside the church.

Souvenirs Crosses:

Pam Thrupp got 20 wooden crosses made by a neighbour with St Columba's Taradale 1866 -2016 for \$5. These were sold \$8 each.

Photographers:

Ian Smith and Jon Read – The photos have been given to Anna to display in a variety of ways on Facebook, the church website, to the congregation.

St Columba's Church Taradale celebrated 150 years on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September 2016.

Registration for the Anniversary was \$10, \$40 pp for the Saturday dinner, and Sunday boxed lunch \$15 pp with children 12 and under free to encourage families. Name tags worn on the weekend helped committee members keep a tally.

The celebrations began with Open Church on Saturday 10 – 4pm with a variety of displays, floral artworks in the church by the Taradale Floral Art Club, a continuous DVD playing in the church, a photographic journey of St Columba's over the last 150 years in the Old Church, the OP shop open for service and Devonshire Teas provided in Fish Hall for a gold coin donation. On Saturday night at 6pm, a two course dinner in Fish Hall at the Church gave folks an opportunity to recall past events and important people. This was catered by Margaret Allan who employed 5 ladies from the Lions club to assist in the kitchen.

On Sunday morning a church service was held at 9.30am, starting with the original St Columba's Bible (currently stored at the MTG) being brought in and Rev Rachel Judge opening with a prayer. Some of the congregation dressed in art deco outfits, Boys and Girls uniforms or their Sunday best.

There was a great variety in the service with Steve Demetrius leading the church youth group to discover the treasure of St Columba's, the Korean church group sang, Tobias played the piano during the offering and Inger presented her quilt 'Eternal Presence' dedicated to the 1866 founding and 150th Anniversary, along with a new lectern hanging which reads I am with you always.

The quilt has now been hung in the church above the pulpit. After Brett's excellent sermon Anniversary cakes made by Anne Tristram and Jenny Zeibe were cut by the oldest (Shelia Comrie and Sheena Beaton) and youngest (Laura Donovan) members of St Columba's. Morning tea was served in Fish Hall followed by a boxed lunch and tea and coffee for those who had registered. Due to the weather

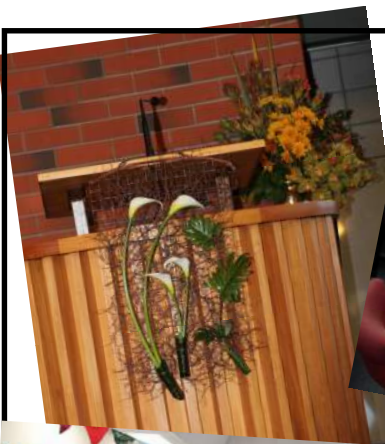
being cold and wet, the planned outdoor garden party was an indoor affair where there was a wonderful atmosphere and good conversations.

The committee had meetings beginning in May 2015 to plan the 150th Anniversary. They and other church members worked tirelessly setting up and preparing food on the Friday, monitoring the displays and welcoming people to St Columba's on the Saturday and serving food, returning property and cleaning up on the Sunday.

Thanks go to all those who supported St Columba's church, New World, Tremains, and church members who made the 150th Anniversary such a success because everyone at St Columba's now knows the importance of the past 150 years, enjoyed being together, learning how much they are valued and loved, and looking to the future of our church.

Claire Smith





Hope and The Unknown

*"...That the world ain't got you beat
That it ain't got you licked
It can't get you crazy no matter how many
Times you might get kicked
You need something special all right
You need something special to give you hope
But hope's just a word
That maybe you said or maybe you heard
On some windy corner 'round a wide-angled curve*

*But that's what you need man, and you need it bad
And yer trouble is you know it too good..."*

Last thoughts on Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan

It's Advent and we're thinking of the coming of our Savior in the form of Baby Jesus. We are hoping for a world that understands and extends kindness to all, no matter the color or creed. We think of forgiveness through an infant come in humility. Yet there is that niggling at the back of one's mind as the United States of America just went through a vicious, backbiting election. Neither candidate really said what they were going to do to help the nation be better, be more congenial toward the rest of the world, to be kinder to our ecosystem, to be more accepting toward their neighbors. Attack and defend. That doesn't sound like much hope, but it does sound like the world Jesus came to teach. I can only say in all this mix that one of those candidates did care enough to

always work with and for people in need.

It is disappointing when we don't get our way. It is disappointing when others instill fear in us. It is hurtful to hear of or experience rejection because of one's beginnings. Who knew that better than Jesus? He was hunted by the time he was two years old because of Herod believing another person had come to overthrow him. Herod didn't know hope. Herod didn't understand caring. He was only concerned about his own well-being and his lineage. As a Christian that's how I feel the USA has transpired with our completed election. It is frightening and I wonder about hope. It makes me take pause when we have this Savior, Messiah, Prince of Peace to follow and have hope in.

Sharon Watkins, General Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the USA [which would be Church of Christ in New Zealand] wrote a poignant letter to the church following election night in the USA. She reminded us that though our election changed its politics, “the Gospel still calls us to love God first of all with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. It calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves...Jesus calls us to show mercy and to receive mercy. Jesus calls us to ‘love one another’ (John 13:34)”. That should give us hope that we can help each other whether hurting or in need.

As Bob Dylan said, “But hope's just a word, that maybe you said or maybe you heard on some windy corner 'round a wide-angled curve”. We aren't always certain of what hope might be. Hope needs to remind us of innocence, that of our baby Jesus. It needs to be more than just a word.

Minister Douglas Skinner shared words on Facebook the day after the USA elections from an annual “Election Day Communion Service”. The service design was taken from several sources and are helpful when we are seeking hope: “If you feel like your voice is lost in the public square, come and remember the covenant God has made with

you, to never leave you...if the brokenness of the world, the nation and the city seem beyond repair, come to pray for the coming of God's realm here and now.” Taken in this context, there is hope.

We are an Easter people, yet Christ came to us a tiny child before he eventually died on the cross and rose again. We are called to the bread and wine of the communion table as a decision of who will run



our lives. We are, therefore, called to hope. We are called to reminisce at this advent season on the reason we celebrate Christmas. As we look toward Christmas we do so in a time of waiting called advent. It allows us to build our faith, our hope. It allows us to come with joy to worship together and look on life afresh. Sharon Watkins again reminds us that our job “is still the same as it was yesterday, as it will be tomorrow – to proclaim by what we say and what we do that God is a God of love, and we are people of love – for all God's children...all of creation waits for revealing of the

children of God' (Rom. 8:19)."

Yes, the word hope is confusing when we look at it in the context of the world. Since we are Christians seeking to express God's love and kindness, it has a completely different connotation. Hope is that both seen and unseen, known and unknown, particularly as we look through a mirror dimly or clouded. Hope is in Jesus, it is from Jesus. Come Lord Jesus, come to us as a child to open our eyes to

the wonder of the sparkling nighttime stars, the laughter on the lips of your people, and the love we embrace in knowing you and all your children.

Esther Freeman

Kool Kids

Kool Kids thank the Congregation for their support and love over the past twelve months. Thank you for the way you encourage and embrace the children to make them feel a part of this wonderful Church Family. Its so good to see the younger children stepping up to read and to take part in the Family services. They do it so well don't they?. They gain so much confidence from doing this.

Thank you to the Op Shop committee who have donated money to us to buy gifts for the children. We really appreciate your generosity and for thinking of Kool Kids.

Thank you to all the teachers who give their time, their energies and who bring their faith to share with our children. We are so blessed to have both children and teachers.

We wish you a very special Christmas all wrapped up in God's love and pray for His peace and His grace to surround you all. May you always know how much He loves you.

*Merry Christmas,
Kool Kids Team*



Church Review

St Columba's Presbyterian Parish Review May/September, 2016

It is our prayer that this report will both bring encouragement and be beneficial to the parish as it continues on its missional journey, and that it will be a helpful tool as members work together on direction, goals and strategies for the future life of the parish.



Recommendations:

We have seen a strong desire and willingness to continue to build God's Church here at St Columba's, to be salt and light for your local community, and to see people find saving faith in Jesus Christ and be nurtured in their Christian walk.

It is evident that over the last five years Session has worked hard to bring a deeper cohesion between people. The sense of community is strong. This is very apparent in the improved relationship with the Board of Managers where communication has improved markedly.

We recommend that:

1. Traditional structures of parish life to be reviewed and adjusted In light of the diminishing energy, availability and financial resources of this aging congregation. Two examples where this would be beneficial are Pastoral Care Support and Worship Services.
2. Parish Leaders undertake Leadership Development together to explore ways that might assist them to find new ministry strategies / new models of church.
3. Strategies be developed to encourage young people to remain in the congregation.
4. Brett be released from some responsibilities to have time to concentrate on facilitating the process of forming parish direction, goals and strategy.
5. The members of the congregation works through what adjustments they will need to make in order to support the direction that is set.
6. That the congregation be bold in supporting initiatives to help integrate children and families and young people into a living faith in Jesus Christ and into the church community. The church already has meaningful relationships through its community-facing ministries and we encourage these to be built on. Exploring

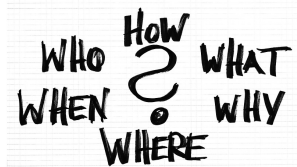
opportunities for family-focussed events is one example of how this could progress.

7. That Parish Leadership explores and implements a regular second service in light of:

- Discussions and differences we have heard about attitudes to music and format
- Lack of people supporting **both** the traditional Sunday Service and the Family Service
- Deep desire to create bridges between community-facing ministries and church life

Please note, a group will need to commit to supporting and attending second service to help it gain momentum.

8. That the leadership continues to develop lay involvement in services. This will provide a platform which would allow the exploration of providing two services as a way of growing the church and meeting the different needs of the congregation in light of the above conclusions.



Summary Report:

Our prayer is that the whole Review Process has been worthwhile for your parish and that it will help and encourage you as you plan, set and implement goals and strategies to further impact your community with the gospel.

Thank you for welcoming us into your midst. Thank you for your contribution and helpfulness and honesty. May you continue to experience God's leading, encouragement and blessing as you serve him in the name of Jesus.

I close with these words from Ephesians 4: 15-16:

"Instead, we will lovingly follow the truth at all times—speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly—and so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of his body, the Church. Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

*Kay Craig, Paul Loveday, Evan Huggett
Reviewers for St Columba's Church, October 2016.*

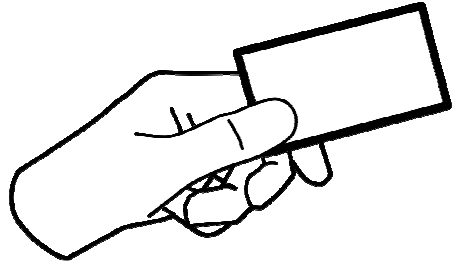
Moderator's Earthquake Appeal

At our recent General Assembly, on the last day of our meeting, I launched an appeal in response to the earthquakes of 14 November which caused devastation across the northern part of the South Island and Wellington.

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand has many churches in these areas led by able and faithful ministers of the Gospel who love their people and the communities they serve. These people and their communities are now facing levels of unprecedented stress because of the disruption caused by the 7.8 earthquake. They face long delays, perhaps indefinite, before normal services resume, such as the provision fresh water and the resumption of sewage service. Many are now feeling the bite of post-traumatic stress symptoms as they contemplate the enormity of what has happened to them and their livelihoods.

At General Assembly we raised \$8,000 to start the Appeal fund, and the needs are great and we want to give all our parishes and people a chance to contribute.

As a Church we have four parishes within the hardest hit quake area: Hurunui led by the Rev Nancy Jean Whitehead; Amuri Cooperating covering Culverden, Rotherham and Waiau led by the Rev Colin Price; St Paul's Presbyterian in Kaikoura led by the Rev Alistair McNaughton, and then



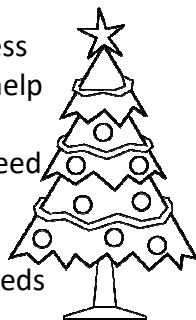
further north the Awatere-Flaxbourne parish lead by the Rev Dawn Daunauda. We recognise too the Blenheim parishes of St Andrews and Wairau (St Ninians) who have also had a significant shake; and the significant damage to the Wellington CBD. We are in contact with these folk and are praying that their energies and wisdom may be sufficient for the day – each day! However, they will need extra support and care, to say nothing of their families.

We ask congregations to give generously to the **Upper South Island Earthquake Appeal**, and for your prayers of intercession for our people and the communities they serve there. I will be visiting these areas in the next week and will bring further news.

- Donations to the **Upper South Island Earthquake Appeal** can be made by deposit into this bank account, please use details below:
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, BNZ Willis Street: 02 0500 0086963 000 (please add a reference "Quake16" and your name and advise Katrina Graham katrina@presbyterian.org.nz if a receipt is required).
- Local congregations are encouraged to take up special offerings, which can to be sent to address below. Please **make cheques out to the PCANZ:**
*Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand,
"Upper South Island Earthquake Appeal" Fund,
PO Box 9049, Te Aro
Wellington 6141*

Session– December 2016

The year is almost over and many are feeling the aging process taking hold and are having to rely on others to support and help them with their daily tasks. Something many of us don't envisage, until it creeps up and grabs us. This is why we all need to care for each other and look out for those we know, who need help. This is what family is all about. Thank you to the many people who visit, support and pray for those whose needs are greatest. The prayer chain is a good way for people to be aware of those needs and for us to collectively pray for each other.



This year seems to have gone faster than ever. We look back and remember those within our Parish who have passed away leaving empty seats and broken hearts for their loved ones. We remember, with love, the families of those people. Christmas is always hard without them. Knowing where their resting place is, brings us comfort and reassurance and helps with the healing process.

Jesus is the perfect gift to a world that is sick and tired. He came bringing healing, rest and peace that passes all understanding and so we look back with gratitude and thanks giving-- Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her King. We look forward in hope to His coming again when all the struggles will make sense and all questions be answered. For many the holiday period is just around the corner and people are planning their summer break, when they will either be looking after Grandchildren or will have their families home to stay. Whatever your plans, enjoy and stay well and be safe.

As we approach another Christmas, may we fix our eyes firmly upon Jesus remembering always, that it is because of Him we have hope for the future. To all the people who assist with visiting in the Pastoral area and delivering the Communion invitations-- it would be an impossible task for the Elders and Brett to cover the whole Parish. We are very grateful to you all and thank you for your commitment.

In the Christmas rush, in your parties and celebrations, in the shopping and preparations I 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 will be on leave until about the 9th January and some of the Elders will be away on holiday in January, so if you are requiring help in any form please contact me (Pam Thrupp) 8355785 or your Elder and we will endeavour to assist you or put you onto some one who can.

We wish you all a very happy, safe and Blessed Christmas.

Peace and Grace be with you all.

Pam Thrupp
On Behalf of Session

Two Fold Op Shop

Two Fold Op Shop had our Christmas Morning Tea on 28 November. We had fifty people join in for a good chat and some yummy food. Thanks to Jenny and Anne.



The Op shop closes soon for our Christmas break which during this time we give the shop a good clean so it will be very spruce when we reopen on Jan 10th.

We are needing more people to help us out especially for Thursday afternoon. This is one or two turns per month. If you are interested talk to me Cynthia on 8453539.



CWS Appeal

The 2016 Christian World Service Christmas Appeal focuses on many places where hope is desperately needed. The United Nations reports 34,000 people are displaced by conflict or persecution every day. Too many people cannot afford enough food to feed their families or the medicines they need. Young people cannot find work and other people are locked in violent situations or face discrimination on a daily basis. Growing numbers of people are risking their lives as migrants to seek their fortune in another country because there is no hope at home.

For 71 years CWS has worked through a strong network of local partner groups who have the contacts and experience to make change happen. Their decades' of experience mean they know how to

help families support each other whatever happens. By training small farmers in new farming techniques they are better prepared for drought. Syrian refugees learn how to protect their health and get free medical care. Children can attend their local school and learn how to protect their environment.

Your gift at Christmas will give hope to people in need of food, water, support and medicine. Together we can make a world we all can live in.

You can find out more about the partner groups and the work they do in the envelope available as you come into the church/ enclosed or at <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/>

Donations can be placed in the envelope in the church offering, by internet banking or on line. Please give generously to the 2016 Christmas Appeal.



The History and the Mystery of St Columba's Episode 4—The Final Chapter

The Search for the mysterious hidden treasure continued...

- Agent J found clues when looking into the Church Choir, the Op Shop and the several Outstations of the Church. The mystery was well known in all those places.
- Zac Powers discovered that the Church shared about the treasure at Socials and Fairs in the Community. He also unearthed the fact that the mystery was at the heart of the Bible Classes and Sunday School Classes.
- Nancy Drew found out that the Minister after Reverend Jamieson was A Paulin. Not appalling, but her name was Rachel Paulin. She came in 1992 and left for Ranfurly in 1992 (not to seek after the Rugby shield!). A Youth Pastor was hired by the Church in 2000. One was hired on a Wim, after that they had to Seek for a new one, and the next was a Bruwer. The latest one has been like a Father to Nancy Drew. All of these people knew and talked about the treasure with young people.
- James Adams' investigation showed that the Church started KFC in 2003, not Kentucky Fried Chicken, but Kids Friendly Care to help care for children. The mystery was shared with these kids too! The Church became a KFC in 2010, not the restaurant, but a Kids Friendly Church. He also found out that Rhonda Holt finished 25 years of working in the Church office in 2014. Much of what she dealt with was about the treasure!
- Batman found out that a new Minister arrived in 1999. His name is Brett Walker and during his time at the Church the monthly midweek service and the Alpha programmes were started. Both of these were centred on the mysterious treasure.
- The Detectives did some investigation in Brett's office and, while they lost Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Watson in the process, they did some digging and found the biggest clue yet! They found a treasure box with a book with some pages marked. It says:

For it is not ourselves that we preach; we preach Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. The God who said, "Out of darkness the light shall shine!" is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of God's glory shining in the face of Christ. Yet we who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us.

- The Super Villains ran in and tried to get the treasure all for themselves. The Detectives told them that everyone can have the great treasure because God offers a relationship with Himself to everyone. The Bible says that we have all sinned, but God offers the greatest treasure in the world: being forgiven by Jesus Christ to start a new life with God. This made the Villains very happy.
- In the end, the mystery was solved. Over the last 150 years, the people of St. Columba's Church have shared the great treasure of the gospel with the community and throughout time, God's message of love and hope has gone out across the world.

Steve Demettris



Report on the General Assembly

It was quite appropriate that the candle of Hope was lit today, because that was the theme of the General Assembly that Brett and I have just been to. Hope for the World. So what is General Assembly? It is the governing body of our church. It is democratic in it's governance, in that people at congregational level can have their say, through Session and Presbytery and on to the National body. Assembly now meets every second year, and this year, it was in Dunedin. The elected head of Assembly can be either a man or a woman, and is known as, The Moderator.

I was privileged to go, along with Brett, as a commissioner. The difference between a commissioner and a delegate is, that a commissioner votes according to his or her opinion, formulated by the discussion at the time, as opposed to a delegate, who votes according to the opinion of the body, he or she represents.

The business of Assembly was conducted at the University of Otago's St David's Lecture Complex, and accommodation, for those that required it, including all meals, was just a short picturesque walk away, at Arana College. The very impressive opening ceremony was held on the Tues evening at Knox

Church on George St. It is a beautiful building with stunning interior woodwork. Especially when viewed from up-stairs. During the service, the cloak of office was transferred from past Moderator, Rev Andrew Norton to Rev Richard Dawson from the Leith Valley church in Dunedin.

If his handling of the business of Assembly, over the following 3½ days was anything to go by, Richard is going to be a very good leader

of our church over the next two years. The five Presbyteries of NZ were well represented as well as the Maori Synod of Te Aka Puaho, and the Synod of the Pacific Islands. At a guess, about 350 people attended, including those who were there just for the Hope Conference and observers. Each day started at 8-30am, with an inspirational ½ hour of worship, written and led by Rev Malcomb Gordon and his music group, with their beautiful singing, along with a progressive miming each day of Jesus on the road to Amaeus. It was pretty full on, some days going through to 6pm and some evenings as well. A large part of the business session was taken up with administrative matters, with adjustments to rules and regulations



to do with our church governance, and the churches stance on various issues. There were work-shops for group discussions on allocated topics. As you might expect, the subject of same sex marriage was on the agenda and the motion “that ministers may only conduct a marriage between a man and a woman” was passed, but surprisingly, with a very narrow margin. Any motion at Assembly had to have 60% majority to pass. So, even though 3/5ths of those that voted, were in favour of the motion, and 2/5ths against, the pass was only 60.15%

Other issues, not so controversial, were changes to the minister’s retirement fund, resulting in both ministers and congregations being better off. Rev Andrew Norton would like to see the church having a greater voice on issues of social justice and equality. There was some support for this, as long as it did not become political. There was also support for Tertiary Chaplaincy. Jill Kayser, our Kids Friendly advocate, spoke on the importance of all ages

worshipping together.

There were addresses from various people, including a delightful little lady, Rev Dr Cheon Min Heui from the Presbyterian Church in South Korea. She was saying that due to the up-rising against the President there, it is more important than ever to have peace with Nth Korea. A comment from the leader of the church in Vanuatu, was that of the 250,000 people in Vanuatu, 70,000 are Presbyterian. The main key-note speaker though, was Dr Rod Wilson from America, with a progressive address each day, on Hope.

To try and summarise what he said, is for another time. Except to quote the hymn, “On the cross of Christ I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

The conference concluded Saturday mid-day, with a collection to support the churches affected by the earthquake in Kaikoura.

Robin Arnold



Kids Friendly Care (KFC) - 2016

Kids Friendly Care has almost finished another successful year of caring for the Children in this community. The numbers continue to be steady and we have been blessed to be supported and encouraged by the Church.

Three weeks ago Erin finished with KFC after having worked with the programme for 9 years. She started as a volunteer as a school girl and worked her way up to become the convenor for the past 18 months. We acknowledged Erin's final day at a farewell afternoon tea and thanked her for the contribution she has made. She has a deep faith and continued to bring the Christian content and values to the programme.

We wish Erin every success and blessing in her new job.

Anna Neil, who is the Church office

lady, has taken on the task of Convenor of KFC as well. Anna helped Erin out when required, so she had a good idea of what skills were needed. We are excited that Anna is doing this as she has a lovely sunny nature while knowing how to discipline, love and care for the kids in her care.

Anna will be working both jobs, so as her Church family, lets give her lots of support, pray for her and the children of KFC.

If you know of any children requiring care over the holidays, Anna has flyers with all the information on the programme she will be running.

KFC thank St Columba's for their support and prayers and wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas.

On behalf of:

KFC Management Committee.



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

Outings for January Holiday Programme 9—27 January 2017

Tuesday 10
Onekawa Pools



Thursday 12



Tuesday 17
Tuki Tuki Camp



Thursday 19
Mystery Bus Trip



Tuesday 24
Te Mata Peak
adventure



Thursday 26



For any enquiries, please ring
Anna, our coordinator on:
022 643 1691

More details about the outings
will be provided closer to the
time.

Celebration Song



Hallelujah

The leas filled with sheep
And sleeping shepherds awakened.

Hallelujah

In the village quiet
Birth has brought a boy.
Hallelujah the heavens never brighter
Sparkled in the midnight skies.

Hallelujah

That birth is celebration
Of Jesus, Savior of all nations.

Hallelujah.



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Notices



Sermon Recording

Recent recordings of the sermon are available
on our Church website:

<http://www.stcolumba-taradale.org.nz/sermons/>

Family Centre Christmas Gifts

The presents will be collected on Monday 12 December,
so they need to be at the church no later than Sunday 11 December.



Kids Friendly Care Vacancy

Can you help with after school pick ups?
This requires the use of your car and a full licence.
Please see Anna for more information.

What's On in December

Sun 11 Dec 9.30am Kool Kids Service



Sun 11 Dec 1.30pm Patoka Church Service

Sun 18 Dec 9.30am Christmas Music Service

Sat 24 Dec 8.30pm Carols by Candlelight



Sun 25 Dec 9.30am Christmas Day Service

Regular events

Mondays	<i>House Group</i> Contact: Bob Wallis 844 5630	7.30pm - 9.00pm
Tuesdays	<i>Op Shop open</i> Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539	10.00am - 4.00pm
	<i>Youth Group Massive Bible Study</i> Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734	6.00pm - 7.00pm
	<i>Tuesday Church Service</i> 2nd Tuesday of the month	10.30am - 11.30am
	<i>Women's Fellowship meeting</i> 4th Tuesday of the month	7.30pm
Wednesdays	<i>Mainly Music</i> Contact: Margaret 843 2272	9.30am - 10.30am
	<i>House Group @ Church</i> Contact: Brett Walker 844 2256	7.00pm - 8.30pm
	<i>Op Shop open</i> Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539	10.00am - 4.00pm
	<i>Craft Group meet at the church</i> 1st Wednesday of the month Contact: Sue Walker 844 2256	7.00pm
Thursdays	<i>Mainly Music</i> Contact: Karen Jensen 843 9447	9.30am - 10.30am
	<i>Op Shop open</i> Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539	10.00am - 4.00pm
	<i>Board of Managers meeting</i> 3rd Thursday of the month	7.30pm
	<i>Session meeting</i> 4th Thursday of the month	7.30pm
Fridays	<i>Massive Youth Group</i> Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Sundays	<i>6789 Youth Group (fortnightly)</i> Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734	6.15pm - 7.30pm



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LIGHT OF THE
WORLD**

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ANGELA SEOL**

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