

HALO

St Columba's Church Fair



Saturday 5th March 10am-1.30pm

FEBRUARY 2016 edition



Words of Wisdom from the Minister

“Going back”

It was a strange and slightly odd experience. I decided to go back to Toastmasters for the first time in about 10 years. This fits my study leave theme of storytelling and I

needed a few places to practice. The venue was different but there were the same old guard still present. Out of the 14 present at least seven had been members when I was there all those years ago.

The strange feeling of being back was a mixture of familiarity but also a certain nervousness. I knew they would be doing table topics, which is an impromptu speech – would they ask me to do one on my first day? Despite being a Toastmaster member for four or five years I was unsure what to do several times. How long was my impromptu table topics talk supposed to be (one minute, but one of the people before me had gone for more than two minutes and I wondered whether that was normal now.) Toastmasters also has a certain old-fashioned formality, you address the leader of the meeting as the Toastmaster. Such formality may be good etiquette and useful practice for formal meetings but it seemed strange and foolish and unnatural for me and with so few in the little room. It didn't help that I didn't recall the formal salutation to the table topics master so I felt like a real outsider and I had to bluff my way through that. My nervousness was also a mixture of guilt for abandoning them 10 years before and anxiety, would it be worth coming back. I had quit because I wasn't getting anything out of it any more. It was my fault of course, I wasn't putting in the effort.

I was speaking with Kevin Wood last week. Kevin had grown up at St Columba's but for the last 20 years only ever came to the Christmas Eve services. But a few years ago he was diagnosed with cancer and was now

in the final stages. He wanted to reconnect both with God and with the church. I visited him a couple of times and he even made it to church a few times (Christmas Eve plus another Sunday). Kevin and his wife were also nervous about coming back. Would they be welcomed? What hoops would they have to jump through? Would they be embarrassed or shamed for not coming more regularly over the years? Would they know what to do?

Kevin passed away this week but his wife said what a difference it made for him to be able to reconnect and to be accepted. Kevin and I had discussed faith and dying and what it meant to trust in Christ. We clarified what a true Christian was and our conversations seem helpful to him. Overall they describe their experience as welcoming and it was easy to belong again.

A Christian church is a bit different to Toastmasters club. The church is about belonging as well as believing. Is about being a part of the community and building relationships as well as worshipping, learning and serving together. But the anxiety of reconnecting, of coming back is very similar I'm sure.

I'm still not sure whether I will go back to Toastmasters regularly as by the end of the meeting I'd recalled why I left! I still wondered whether it would be of value for me. Would it be worth my time? Would I grow and develop as a speaker as I wanted? How do we continue to ensure that people who come to church whether for the first time or after a break also want to keep coming back?

If church is about community and relationships then having people willing to welcome the newcomer and invite them for coffee or for a meal is a great place to start. If churches are also about worship and learning then ensuring our services and small groups and other learning opportunities are easily accessible, stimulating and worth attending. The church is also about serving so creating meaningful opportunities to make a difference in the world and help change other's lives is also important. This means doing more than

serving on the Coffee roster or church cleaning.

St Columba's wants to be the welcoming place. This doesn't happen by accident or by assuming that former members know what to do. But by deliberately engaging with them, showing them what to do, and helping to ease that nervous tension that comes from joining a group for the first time or after a long time it is possible.

May God bless you all

Best wishes

Brett Walker

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH FAIR

Saturday 5th March 10am – 1.30pm

YES a change of day. Not Friday night - but Saturday.

Food stalls, cakes, jams, white Elephant, plants and more.

Please come, bring your family and friends and let's make this a huge success.

Our biggest fund raiser of the year and we need you!!!

Ring – Barry 8355785 or Margaret 8445452
or Arthur 8449025 if you can help or
donate goods.



New Church Volunteers

The latest Volunteers have arrived and both are boarding at Brett and Sues. Will will be working mornings and Laura afternoons at Kids Friendly Care plus both will do various other jobs such as cleaning the Church, helping at Mainly Music and other things that come to hand. If people know of people who need lawns mowed, windows cleaned or weeds pulled Will is available!! Please make them welcomed.

Hi, my name is Will Sanchez, I am an 18 year from San Francisco, California. I have been volunteering in New Zealand for 7 months. Before I moved to Napier I lived in Rotorua working as a rock climbing instructor at Tui Ridge adventure camp. It was a long day as I was also helping the cook and serving food and whatever else I was asked to do.



My passions include playing guitar and drums, cooking (specifically American BBQ), camping, adventure sports such as bungy jumping or white water rafting and watching Martin Scorsese movies such as Good Fellas, my favourite movie.

While staying in Napier I will be helping with the KFC program, Mainly Music and the St Columba's Youth Group. I have one sister who is a veterinarian in at the SPCA in San Francisco. I hope to get to know some of you and have some fun.

I'm Laura and I'm from Germany. My family lives in Chemnitz, which is a small city in the east of Germany. I have one younger sister, her name is Luisa and she is 12 years old. Before I came to New Zealand I finished school. My hobbies are mainly sports. I did a few different sports in Germany with friends together. I did gymnastics and was in a cheerleading squad. I enjoy swimming and every winter we go



skiing. Last German summer I learned sailing and it's great. Here in New Zealand I have tried surfing, which is fun too and I really want to do it again before I go back.

I have already been 6 months here in NZ. For my first half year my ACVE project meant I lived in Culverden in the South Island and I worked in the Amuri Area School as a teacher aide. I really liked the work with the kids and to see how they learn things and how they were getting better. I practiced their reading with them and with the 5 years old I practiced the alphabet and how to write the letters. I think the job with the 5 years old was the one I liked most and it was the part where you can see the most progress. I also had to look after 2 special need students sometimes.

For the second half of the year I wanted to work with kids, so I came to St Columba and now I'm working at KFC. It's really different to my first project, but it's fun. I enjoy working with children and learning or just playing with them. I did a bit of volunteering work in Germany too.

I hope for the next few months to make lots of friends and have lots of good new experiences and meet different people and learn more. It is also my hope to see a lot more of the North Island.

SESSION NEWS

Session met for the first time this year on the 28th January. We discussed a new format for the Halo, as it was felt by some, that it is time for a change. If you would like to contribute your ideas, please free to do so.

Brett is away on Study leave until April 5th. He is leaving to go to Bahrain in early March for a few weeks to visit his sister, as he continues his studies. While he is away please DO NOT feel alone and abandoned. We care about you and are only a phone call away. Phone Pam 8355785 or your Elder or Visitor if you require help. We will endeavour to find help for you, if it isn't beyond us.

Communion will be served on the 6th March and your Elder or visitor will be delivering your invites before then. A good time to discuss things with them.

We are very grateful to those people who have stepped up to help with the Services while Brett is away. There are a lot of gifted people in our congregation. Please support and encourage them.

Listed below, for your information, is a list of Session members plus their phone numbers:

Robin Arnold	844 7808
Nancy Bryan	845 4111
Hans Marnewick	845 1245
Jon Read	844 5210
Sue Read	844 2975
Ruth Reid	876 3245
Claire Smith	844 1222
Barry Thrupp	835 5785
Pam Thrupp (Session Clerk)	835 5785
Keith Woodcock	844 1424
Colin Zachan	844 8050

Patoka Service Sunday 7th February

An outreach Brett commits to on a monthly basis is taking a service at Patoka. It's a 40minute drive out into the country where about 7/9 people attend. It's the only service that takes place at Patoka and Brett the only Minister who travels out there.

As Brett is on study leave Wim Slooten agreed to take the service this month. We decided to fill the Church van and go to support him. It was a beautiful day , we took a picnic lunch and sat under the lovely trees in the school grounds.

Seven people turned up for the service and we sat in the Hall surrounded by an old Christmas tree, lots of bird droppings, heat and dust!!

However God was very much present among us and we came away uplifted, joyful, and very thankful for the experience.

Maybe it's time for us to support Brett as he mostly travels there alone.

Thank you Wim and the 10 people who travelled there, for the wonderful day.



Urgent Messages & Notices

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 2nd April 7.45am for 8am start

At St Columba's Church—come along and enjoy some fun and fellowship

Celebrating 150 Years at St Columba's Church

When: September 24th/25th, 2016

Where: St Columba's, Gloucester Street Taradale, Hawke's Bay.

A programme will be finalised by early next year, please let everyone know about it so they can mark it down on their calendars.

Information can be obtained from the Church Office 8445004 or
Claire Smith 8441222

Brett is Away!

Brett is on three months study leave from January to March next year. If you need to talk to someone during this time then go and see Pam and the Session Team. They will do their best to help.

Prayer Chain

There is now a group of people who are willing to pray on request, specifically for a person in need. These requests are confidential to the person doing the praying.

Requests for prayer either for yourself or for someone you know, maybe either made to Pam Thrupp, Robin Arnold or Anna Neil at the office.

You can also use the prayer link on our Church website.

Recordings of Sunday Services

Should you wish to hear a recording of any Sunday service, it may be down-loaded onto a USB flash drive from the sound desk laptop. However, it is not as good as hearing it first hand. It would be nice to see less empty seats in church on Sundays, as appear to be the case these days. Is this a sign of the times, or what?

What's On in February, March

Tuesday 23rd February	6.00pm	Women's Evening Fellowship
Thursday 25th February	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday 28th February	9.30am	Church Service—Family Service
Saturday 5th March	10.30am	Church Fair
Sunday 6th March	9.30am	Church Service—Communion
Tuesday 8th March	10.30am	Tuesday Church Service
Sunday 13th March	9.30am	Church Service
Sunday 13th March	1.30pm	Patoka Church Service
Thursday 17th March	7.30pm	Board of Managers Meeting
Sunday 20th March	9.30am	Church Service
Tuesday 22nd March	7.30pm	Women's Evening Fellowship
Thursday 24th March	7.30pm	Session Meeting
Sunday 27th March	9.30am	Church Service—Family Service

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

Erin Combrinck: 022 643 19691

Regular events

Tuesdays	Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539
	Prayer Group 11 – 11.30 a.m. Contact: Marjory Yelverton 843 5331
	Youth Group Massive Bible Study 7-8.30pm.
	Contact Steve Demetrius 844 2734
	House Group 7.30 - 9 p.m. Contact: Bob Wallis 844 5630
	Women's Fellowship meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month
Wednesdays	Mainly Music 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. Contact: Margaret 843 2272
	House Group @ Church 7.30-9pm. Contact Brett Walker 844 2256
	Op Shop open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539
	Craft Group meet at 7.00 p.m. in the church lounge on first Wednesday. Contact Sue Walker 844 2256
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: Cynthia Duncan 845 3539
	Missionary Guild meets on the third Thursday of the month
	Board of Managers meet at 7.30 p.m. on the third Thursday
	Session meet at 7.30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday
Fridays	Youth Group 7 - 9 p.m. Contact: Steve Demetrius 844 2734
Sundays	678 Intermediate Group 6.15—7.30pm every second Sunday
	Contact Steve Demetrius 844 2734

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