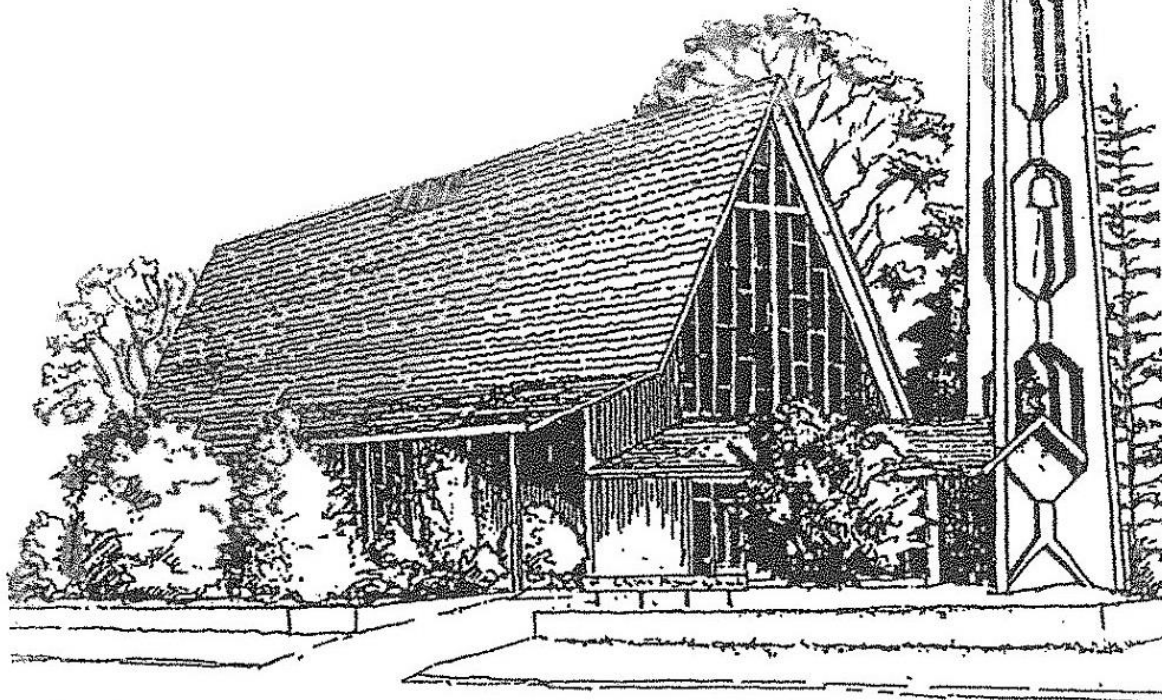


**St Columba's Havelock North
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand**

Columba News

August - September 2024

Issue No. 61



R. J. K. K.

ST COLUMBA'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HAVELOCK NORTH

SUNDAY 10.00am MORNING SERVICE

followed by morning tea in the foyer

KIDS ON SUNDAY (Children's Programme) each Sunday (except January) (crèche available)
8 AM COMMUNION - 2nd Sunday monthly except for January

Mission Statement—The people of St Columba's seek through worship and loving service to offer the good news of Jesus Christ to all people.

Minister

Rev. Wayne Toleafoa
 Phone/answerphone: 877 0244
 Mobile: 0211038144
minister@schn.org.nz
 Office: Tuesday to Friday
 9am to 1pm

Church Council Clerk

Wayne Rewcastle
 Phone 877 5754

Treasurer

Sophie Duggan
 0274804235

Office

Administrator
 Elma Pienaar
 Phone/answerphone: 877 8096
info@schn.org.nz
 Website: www.schn.org.nz
 Postal address:
 P O Box 8487
 Havelock North 4157

Hours

Monday to Friday
 9am to 1pm

Our Bank Account Number is 03-0658-0005625-000, if you wish to make a direct payment or set up an automatic payment, payable to: St Columba's Presbyterian Parish Havelock North.

FROM THE MINISTER

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them,

they would outnumber the grains of sand—

when I awake, I am still with you. *Ps 139: 17 & 18*

Just recently I watched a news item on TV about rising funeral cost.

The news item made me think of how funerals have changed, especially since the COVID-19 emergencies, when funerals were restricted to smaller numbers of people, and where cremation was often the first option, followed by a memorial service. Sometimes no memorial service was held.

Other social changes have changed the shape of funerals. Most people in Aotearoa NZ do not belong to a church. There are more and more secular services, often taken by a celebrant, or by members of the family (without the involvement of clergy, or celebrants). Even religious people are opting for the latter. A ministry colleague who celebrated the lives of hundreds in his long ministry, opted to have no funeral for himself and was cremated almost immediately after his death. I'm guessing that his family would've been involved in fulfilling his wishes.

When I started out in church ministry forty years ago, very few Pakeha would take the bodies of their loved ones to the family home. Now, that has become more common. Children are no longer 'protected' from the reality of death. The funeral, or farewell has become much more personalized. Maori and Pacific Island (and Irish, I am told) have practiced this type of farewell (Poroporoaki) for centuries.

Funerals have moved from being formal, institutional (church) events back into the hands of families, which can only be a good thing, with church funerals as an option, especially where the loved one belonged to a church.

At St Columba's, we have never turned anyone away from celebrating their lives in our church, and we never will. No church that I know of, will ever reject a request for a church funeral.

Where a celebrant is used, the minister and priests in the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, will also be involved in the service, particularly where that person was a member of their flock.

A bit of a morbid topic to be mentioning, but one that is important to all of us as we think about our own mortality and how our families will deal with our final farewells.

Six weeks to spiring and the warmer weather. Take good care of yourself and know that you are blessed.

Love and Blessings,
Wayne

FROM THE ELDERS

The Meditation Discussion Group, initiated by Rev. Warren Fortune as a six-week course following Easter, has proven to be a meaningful addition to our community. The 13 attendees have found such value in the sessions that they have decided to continue meeting regularly. Going forward, the group will meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 3:30 PM in the foyer. Elders encourage anyone interested in joining this reflective and calming practice to come along.

Janet Browne has been granted a leave of absence until the end of December 2024. Janet and her husband, Sam, will be embarking on an overseas trip, and we hope they have a wonderful and fulfilling journey.

Elders acknowledged Kirstie Blueberry and Diane Williams for their outstanding support of SCHNEG. Although they are not members of St Columba's, their contributions have been appreciated.

Ngaire Anderson has expressed interest in being added to the organ roster once again.

Rev. Wayne has informed us about the establishment of a chaplaincy at Royston Hospital, starting on 30 July. This initiative represents a significant step in enhancing our pastoral care strategy. By supporting this chaplaincy, we aim to extend our spiritual care and support to more members of the community.

Elders extended their heartfelt congratulations to Kevin Rose on his 80th birthday. Kevin has been a pillar of our community, and we are grateful for his years of service and dedication. May this milestone year be filled with joy and blessings.

Elma Pienaar
Elders Secretary

FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Coffee was stocked up following the closure of Trade-Aid, ensuring that we continue to have our favourite brews available.

The Board is considering the possibility of establishing a Financial Focus Group. This group would focus on financial planning and management strategies to ensure our church's fiscal health and sustainability.

The Board is conducting a comprehensive review of our insurance policies. Our current broker will be compared with a second broker to evaluate our insurance needs. While we must insure the manse for reinstatement, we are considering reducing the church coverage. Lowering the coverage to indemnity value could save approximately \$5,000 (GST included) on the premium, and reducing it further to demolition cover could save an additional \$4,000 to \$5,000 (GST included). This decision requires congregational approval, which will be sought at a meeting on 21 July 2024.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for October 13. The treasurer is diligently working to finalize the financial year figures by mid-July.

Managers regret to announce the resignation of Andrew Walker from the Board. We thank Andrew for his service and contributions.

The Board has moved to approve account payments for May 2024 totalling \$13,842.00 and for June 2024 totalling \$17,981. The financial statements for both months have been accepted.

Regular repairs and maintenance continue to be carried out to ensure our facilities are in good condition.

Projects:

- Church Roof
Three quotes for the church roof were obtained, ranging from \$21,000 to \$95,000. We are currently evaluating these options to determine the best course of action.
- Storage Shed for Minimarket
A storage shed for the Minimarket has been purchased, and the foundation has been poured. This will provide much-needed storage space and help us organize our Minimarket operations more efficiently.

The Minimarket is currently in recess. The AGM for the Minimarket is scheduled for August.

The financial report for the Book Shop shows a complete revenue of \$36,921 for the year ending 30 June 2024, which is about \$1,000 down from last year. Given the challenging economic conditions, this is a pleasing result. It has been resolved that we will purchase a carpet cleaning machine for \$124 to maintain the shop's cleanliness and presentation.

*Elma Pienaar
Parish office administrator*

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev. Toleafoa announced that he will be stepping down from his role as Interim Moderator at St. Andrew's Waipukurau.

Rev. Toleafoa reported on the next big Presbytery Gathering, which will be held at St. Albans Church in Palmerston North on Friday, 16 August, and Saturday, 17 August. The keynote speaker is Rt. Rev. Rose Luxford, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Her address, titled "Authentic and Hopeful in Christ," promises to provide crucial guidance and inspiration for our journey of faith and community. Rev. Toleafoa also plans to suggest inviting Rt. Rev. Luxford to visit the Presbytery in 2025.

The minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, 21 July, have been approved. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the insurance and cover of the church building. It was agreed that the congregation authorizes the Board of Managers to insure the church building for less than full replacement value if the Board of Managers so decides. The Board is still considering several insurance options.

We are deeply grateful for the generous bequest of \$64,000 from the estate of the late Robert Stott. This substantial contribution will greatly support our ongoing and future projects. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Robert Stott's family for this meaningful gift.

*Wayne Rewcastle
Church Council Chairperson*

BLOKES BREAKFAST

I have lined up several good speakers for the next few meetings. You won't want to miss them. So come and join us on the 3rd Saturday morning of the month and enjoy breakfast and fellowship.

Craig Kilgour

KNIT N NATTER



This wonderful group of women meet every Wednesday, except the 2nd Wednesday, from 10-12 in the Millar Room and knit up a storm.

"Pregnancy Help" is the recipient of blankets, singlets and other baby bits and pieces created by these wonderful people.

Please feel free to join us – even just for a cuppa and a natter.

Dianne Taylor

PRAYER GROUP

As we respond to Christ's calling for us to pray for the needs and concerns of others, it is encouraging to have positive feedback for concerning issues and to hear of the gratitude and comfort our prayers provide.

Although we remain a very small but dedicated group, we encourage any of you to join us for our time of prayers and fellowship.

Our next meetings are Wednesday 7 August and 4 September at 2.00pm at Cath Craig's room, Bramlee House, Mary Doyle.

Any enquiries or prayer requests can be made to Rev Wayne or Elma in the office.

*Yours in Christ
Mary Sittauer*

INDOOR BOWLS

We are now well into our indoor bowling season and all is going along very well. It was great starting back at Summerset in the Vines in March where we have a strong group of enthusiastic players. We have an average of 10 turning up each Wednesday evening, we play one game of seven ends and a second game of five ends (quite different to what we used to play when we were all much younger) and then we retire for supper. This is an important part of the evening as we catch up on news that is happening in the various communities we come from. We are happy for any new players to join us on Wednesday evenings at Summerset in the Vines at 7.30 pm for a cost of \$2 each night.

Shirley Hodge

BIBLE STUDY

The last two months have been exciting. In June we studied 'Women in the Bible' with characters like Esther, Ruth and Mary the mother of Jesus. They were strong and faithful figures and their unwavering faith shaped history.

In July we turned our focus inwards, focussing on the theme of forgiveness. We studied passages from the Bible like Matthew 6: 14-15 and Matthew 18: 21-22 exploring the importance of forgiving others and ourselves. Through group discussions and personal reflection, we grappled with the importance of forgiveness and its potential for healing.

Our upcoming reports will be a surprise, but if you would like to join our group and have your input, contact the office and you will be warmly welcomed. Feel free to suggest areas of study you would like to explore.

Judith Bartlett

NOURISHED FOR NIL

Many thanks to Anne and John Heesterman who kept things happening in this area while we were offshore. The need in our community for food donations continues, and Nourished for Nil are very thankful for the support given by St Columba's.

Thank you to those who donate to the basket each week – you are appreciated.

Dianne and John Taylor

THE NEW MINI MARKET SHED



Thank you to all the helpers who put the shed together on a cold, grey wintry day: From left to right - Wayne Rewcastle, John Benson, Kevin Rose, Grayham Burden, John Heesterman and Hugh Thornton. Also, Stephen Randal and Wayne Toleafoa.

CYCLONE RELIEF FUND

We continue to support Trudie and Dick Robinson in their dedicated relief efforts for cyclone victims. Our primary outreach includes providing the trailer we purchased specifically for this purpose.

However, our Cyclone Fund is running low due to recent expenses, such as purchasing a jockey wheel at the Robinsons' request and upcoming trailer insurance and registration renewals. Additionally, we want to fulfil our pledge to provide the Robinsons with petrol vouchers to aid their ongoing efforts.

Any contributions to our Cyclone Relief Fund would be greatly appreciated. To donate, please make direct payments into our bank account, including your name in the Reference box and 'Cyclone' in the Particulars box for verification. For your convenience, Eftpos is also available at the church.

Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity. Your contributions make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by the cyclone.

Elma Pienaar

MAINLY BALANCE

Our exercise group continues to thrive, with regular members reporting increased strength and confidence. We welcome everyone to join us for a vigorous session of exercise and camaraderie every Tuesday from 1:00pm. The door fee is \$5.00 per session.

Friends from outside the church community are also encouraged to participate. For more information, check out our trainer, Lance Marsh's website

<http://www.fabnfunctional.co.nz/>

Come and experience the benefits of staying active and connected with a supportive community!

Elma Pienaar

8AM COMMUNION

A small group meet on the second Sunday of each month for a short, informal communion service. Usually, we go upstairs to the Upper Room and gather around the communion table. If anyone has limited mobility, we sit around one of the tables in the foyer. Our next two services will be on 11 August and 8 September. Everyone is welcome!

Anne Keown

ST COLUMBA'S HAVELOCK NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP (SCHNEG)

On 24 July we were very fortunate to host Rachel Heydon, manager of the National Aquarium of New Zealand, Napier. She is a lively and informative speaker who brought our attention to the threats to our oceans from global warming and pollution, particularly plastic pollution. She urged us to take on two or three small adjustments to our lives and choose to eliminate our use of products and habits which are harmful. Our planet doesn't need one person doing a million things but each person to do one thing.

Schneg has written to the mayor urging the council to prioritise permeable surfaces to help rainwater soak in and reduce run-off. We are trying to build links to groups in other parishes, and we are working out what being part of Eco Church NZ means for us.

Anne Keown

UPCOMING EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR

➤ **Movie Night**

Date: Saturday, 10 August

Time: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM



Details: This event is focused on children from Mainly Music and the grandchildren of parishioners. Bring a picnic basket and a blanket to enjoy a movie screening with the little ones in the church. We will provide popcorn, soup, and buns.

➤ **Lunchtime Concert**



Date: Tuesday, 13 August

Time: 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Location: Church

Details: Enjoy a performance by musical groups from Lindisfarne College. A koha is appreciated, with proceeds going towards Women's Refuge.

➤ **Blessing of Animals Service**

Date: Sunday, 29 September

Details: Bring your pet to church for a special blessing. Invitations will also be sent to our Mainly Music families.



WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB

Morning tea in a nice environment with a friendly group of women and an interesting speaker... If this sounds like you, we would love to see you on the second Wednesday of every month at 10am in the foyer. A gold coin donation is appreciated and bring a friend!

Ailsa Rewcastle

BOOK SHOP

Sales

Overall sales for the month of June were poor due to the atrocious weather which likely deterred potential customers from visiting. However, it is important to note that despite June's low total our year to date total remains only \$1,000 down. This is very positive despite the weather challenges.

Donations

We were fortunate enough to receive donations of new or near-new books in June and July. These donations included a number of books from various popular genres. These will be a significant boost to our future sales. We are incredibly grateful to our donors for their continued support.

With a strong inventory and the summer months approaching, we anticipate significant increase in our sales in the coming months.

Volunteers

Many of our volunteers have chosen the winter months to holiday overseas and together with the usual winter ills and chills, we have had challenges finding replacements, but these have not been unsurmountable.

While June has presented some challenges, we have shown ourselves to have a strong resilience. Through the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of our donors we look forward to building on this success in the coming months.

*Judith Bartlett
For Columba Books*

READING AND THINKING ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Do you know that we have a theological library open to everyone? It's upstairs in the Upper Room. Theological sounds rather serious but don't be put off, there's quite a variety. I'd be really happy to go up with you, or find something for you if the stairs are a problem.

We even have a catalogue online <http://connect.collectorz.com>

Log in: name – StColumbas, password – neildcollection

Click on – book collection.

Not only do we have a library, but Columba Books also has a shelf of 'spiritual books'. Check them out!

Anne Keown

BIBLE READING ROSTER

4 Aug	Meg Benefield
11 Aug	Warren Fortune
18 Aug	Stephen Randal
25 Aug	Kevin Rose
1 Sep	Judith Bartlett
8 Sep	Val Parish
15 Sep	Jenny Jackson
22 Sep	Anne Heesterman
29 Sep	Anne Fortune

MORNING TEA ROSTER

AUGUST	
4 August	Jill Rose, Kevin Rose
	Margery Livingston
11 August	Pat Burden, Grayham Burden
	Sophie Duggan
18 August	Anne Fortune, Warren Fortune
	Val Parish
25 August	Shirley Hodge, Jan Jenkins
	Judith Bell, Jane McElroy
SEPTEMBER	
1 September	Colleen Field, Anne Keown
	Jocelyn Kirkwood, Margery Livingston
8 September	Jan Peake, Arthur Peake
	Mike Earle
15 September	Elma Pienaar, Louis Pienaar
	Juliet Amponsah, Nicholas Amponsah
22 September	Anne Heesterman, John Heesterman
	Annette Broadley, Murray Broadley
29 September	Judith Bartlett, Rex Bartlett
	Margaret Loughlan

AUGUST CALENDAR

Thursday 1	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 4	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 5	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Tuesday 6	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 6	3.30pm	Meditation Discussion Group, foyer
Tuesday 6	7.30pm	Elders meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 7	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 7	2.00pm	Prayer Group, Kath's room, Mary Doyle
Wednesday 7	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 8	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 11	8.00am	Communion
Sunday 11	10.00am	Sunday Service & Quarterly Communion
Monday 12	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Monday 12	2.00pm	Bible Study, Millar Room
Tuesday 13	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 13	7.30pm	Board of Managers meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 14	10.00am	Women's Coffee Club, foyer
Wednesday 14	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 15	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Saturday 17	8.00am	Blokes Breakfast, HN Function Centre
Sunday 18	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 19	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Tuesday 20	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 20	3.30pm	Meditation Discussion Group, foyer
Wednesday 21	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 21	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 22	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 25	10.00am	Sunday Service
Sunday 25	3.00pm	Faith and Reason Discussion Group, foyer
Monday 26	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Tuesday 27	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 27	7.30pm	Church Council meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 28	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 28	5.00pm	SCHNEG, Millar Room
Wednesday 28	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 29	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday 1	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 2	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Tuesday 3	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 3	3.30pm	Meditation Discussion Group, foyer
Tuesday 3	7.30pm	Elders meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 4	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 4	2.00pm	Prayer Group, Kath's room, Mary Doyle
Wednesday 4	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 5	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Saturday 7	9.00am	Mini Market
Sunday 8	8.00am	Communion
Sunday 8	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 9	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Monday 9	2.00pm	Bible Study, Millar Room
Tuesday 10	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 10	7.30pm	Board of Managers meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 11	10.00am	Women's Coffee Club, foyer
Wednesday 11	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 12	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 15	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 16	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Tuesday 17	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 17	3.30pm	Meditation Discussion Group, foyer
Wednesday 18	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 18	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 19	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Saturday 21	8.00am	Blokes Breakfast, HN Function Centre
Sunday 22	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 23	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd
Tuesday 24	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 24	7.30pm	Church Council meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 25	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 25	5.00pm	SCHNEG, Millar Room
Wednesday 25	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 26	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 29	10.00am	Sunday Service
Sunday 29	3.00pm	Faith and Reason Discussion Group, foyer
Monday 30	9.30am	Table tennis, St Matthew's Hall, Lyndon Rd