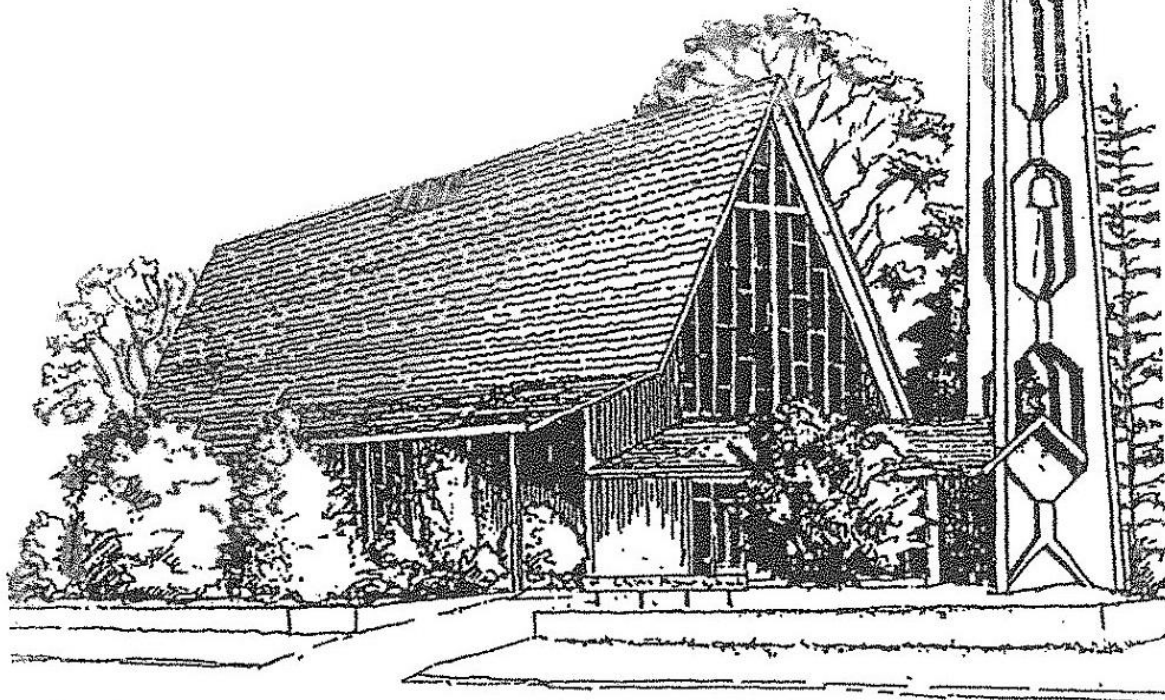


**St Columba's Havelock North
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand**

Columba News

February – March 2025

Issue No. 64



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



Greetings, Kia ora tatou and welcome to 2025.

I spent my holidays up north in Auckland and Paihia, which is three hours north of Auckland.

The weather was great, and I welcomed the new year by conducting a service at the Bay of Island Uniting Parish in Paihia. I do the first Sunday of each year in this Church because I love this part of the country with its beautiful beaches, its blue water and its wonderful history.

The congregation is not large – about twenty people, mostly Methodists. I do a Methodist ‘Covenant Service’ each year, where the congregation – using a modern version of John Wesley’s Covenant prayer - pledge themselves to the service of Christ for yet another year. I’m including that Covenant Prayer in this article.

It’s a good way of beginning a new year - pledging our allegiance to Christ and all that He stands for. All that He means to us.

I also travelled with some members of my large family to Oihi Bay, where the gospel was first preached in Aotearoa NZ, by the Rev Samuel Marsden on Christmas Day, 1814.

The spot is now marked by a huge stone Celtic cross, which is aptly named, 'The Marsden Cross'. You climb down quite a steep hill to reach the spot. Access is much easier by sea.

When you are at the Marsden Cross - especially if you know the history, there was definitely a sense of being in a holy place, or a 'Thin Place' as the Celts call it.

We noticed that a young family had brought an elderly member of their family down the steep hill in a wheelchair. We spoke to the young father who happened to be a lawyer and Baptist Lay Preacher. He told us of his pledge to his father-in-law – to bring him to see the Marsden Cross. We wondered how he was going to get him back up the hill.

As we watched the young father struggle to push the elderly man up the hill in the wheelchair, my son and I decided to go back and give them a hand.

We turned the wheelchair around, so that the old man was looking back down the hill, and we grabbed a handle each and dragged the elderly gentleman up the hill. The young father and his family were very grateful for our help. Sometimes, being strong Samoans comes in handy.

The young father offered us money, which we refused until he insisted that we use it to buy ice creams for the three grandchildren I had with me.

Being a Christian means pledging ourselves to follow Christ. It means we are part of a fellowship that cuts across race, gender, age, class and beliefs. Part of a fellowship where helping others makes us stronger and blesses us. Part of a fellowship that recognizes sacred places and the One who creates the sacred spaces and beautiful islands and the sea that we are privileged to enjoy.

You are welcome to pledge your life to Christ for yet another year.

THE COVENANT PRAYER of John Wesley:

Loving and holy God, with joy we take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience and for love of you commit ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and whole-heartedly yield all things to your pleasures and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. May it be so forever. Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Have a Happy New Year. I wish you and yours every blessing in 2025.

Arohanui
Wayne

BLOKES BREAKFAST

The first breakfast of the year will be held on Saturday 15 February. Blokes, come along—and why not bring a friend with you?

This year, we're excited to host an array of interesting speakers and plan to invest in a sound system to ensure everyone can hear the proceedings clearly.

Please note that there will be a slight increase in cost—now \$23, payable by cash or Eftpos. The venue and start time remain the same: the Community Function Centre with an 8:00am start.

We look forward to seeing as many blokes as possible joining us! To help with planning, please let the office know if you'll be attending. Email reminders will also be sent out in advance.

Looking forward to catching up over breakfast!

John Taylor

MINI MARKET

Welcome Back to Mini Market 2025!

Save the dates: 1 February, 1 March, 5 April and 3 May (followed by dinner at the Rose & Shamrock)

The final market on 7 December was a tremendous success, raising \$3,000—nearly a record! While the AGM decided to reduce December markets to one due to capacity

challenges, the virtual market initiative brought in an additional \$1,030. Huge thanks to Di Taylor for spearheading this effort and to everyone who contributed! We also extend heartfelt gratitude to Kevin and Jill Rose for stepping into leadership roles following Peter Kidd's passing. Thanks to everyone's effort, the signs are going up smoothly, and the recent call for white elephant contributions on 25 January was a resounding success!

Join us in making this year's Mini Markets a success by contributing or participating in the following ways:

Supporting a Healthy Environment - Organic dishwashing liquid will be available for purchase.

Jams & Preserves - We welcome donations of white or brown sugar, malt vinegar (not white vinegar), and sultanas.

Fudge - Donations of condensed milk (not Lite), sugar, and butter are appreciated.

Cash Donations - Prefer to give cash? Hand it in at the office or place it in the offering bag in an envelope marked 'Mini Market'.

Jars - Small, clean jars for deli products are always needed.

Cake Stall - Drop off your baked goods at the office during the week before the market or directly at the cake stall on mini market Saturday morning before 9:00am.

Plants & Fresh Produce - Bring plants, seedlings, or fresh produce to the market on Saturday morning before 9:00am, or to the parish office during the week. Kindly label all seedlings and plants.

White Elephant Stall & Jewellery - For donations of good-quality items or jewellery, contact Kevin Rose (White elephant) or Janice Hopkinson (China & jewellery).

The Mini Market, together with the bookshop, is vital for keeping the church viable and supporting ongoing community initiatives.

Even if you don't plan to shop, come along for a tea or coffee with Dorothy in the foyer.

See you at the Mini Market!

The committee (Phil Carter, Kevin Rose & John Heesterman)



PRAYER GROUP

Greetings and good wishes to you all for 2025. With the recent loss of our two foundation members, Kath and Millicent, the future of the Prayer Group has been discussed as there are now only five men and women. Again, we reach out, hoping that our numbers will be boosted as we follow Christ's call to pray for people and situations of great need within our congregation, community and world. Also giving thanks for positive outcomes.

Regular monthly meetings for a short time of fellowship and prayer are scheduled for Wednesday 5 February and Wednesday 5 March at 2:00pm at Janice and Edgar's home – Villa 28 Summerset, Te Mata Road. Prayer requests can be made to Rev Wayne or Elma in the parish office.

*Yours in Christ
Mary Sittauer*

NOURISHED FOR NIL

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who contributed additional food in the lead-up to Christmas—your generosity made a real difference to those in need.

As the new year begins, the demand for donated food remains as great as ever. The food you give goes directly to families referred by agencies that have assessed their urgent need for assistance.

Our food basket is in the foyer, ready and waiting to be filled to the brim with items suitable for families. Your continued support helps bring relief to those struggling in our wider community, and we are deeply grateful for your kindness.

Thank you for making a difference!

Dianne and John Taylor

OUR FUNERAL POLICY

(1) As a general rule, our parish minister, the Rev Wayne Toleafoa, will officiate at funerals held in our church. There may be occasional exceptions where the family request that a different minister officiate. In such cases a request must be made to the Rev Toleafoa who has the discretion whether to grant the request. It is emphasised that these would be only occasional instances and that the normal rule is that the proper person to officiate at a service in the church is the parish minister. Normally, it

would not be considered appropriate that the church be used as a venue for funerals conducted by lay celebrants.

(2) All enquiries relating to the availability of the church for funerals need to be addressed to the church office (phone 877 8096) office hours 9:00 – 1:00, Monday – Friday, or the Office Administrator, Elma Pienaar, after hours (phone 02102773099).

(3) As a general rule, the church organ will be played at funerals by our charge organist, Jean Jarvis, or one of our other organists. There may be occasional exceptions where the family request a different organist. In such cases a request must be made to the parish minister, who has the discretion whether to grant the request, and who will decide after conferring with our charge organist. It is emphasised that these would be only occasional instances.

(4) The following charges apply for the use of the church for funerals as from 14 September 2022:

FEE FOR THE USE OF THE CHURCH

a) Where the deceased is a communicant or an associate member of the parish

No charge

b) Where the deceased is neither a communicant nor an associate member of the parish and the funeral is conducted by the parish minister or by an outside minister with the agreement of the parish minister - \$400.00 + GST

c) Where the funeral is conducted by a lay celebrant - \$700.00 + GST

FEE FOR THE MINISTER

a) Where the deceased is a communicant or an associate member of the parish and the funeral is conducted by the parish minister, or the minister's nominee should the minister be unavailable. No charge

b) Where the deceased is a communicant or an associate member of the parish and the funeral is conducted, by request of the family, by an outside minister with the agreement of the parish minister, any fee payable to that minister shall not be the responsibility of the parish.

c) Where the deceased is neither a communicant nor an associate member of the parish and the funeral is conducted or led by the parish minister - \$400.00 + GST

d) Where the deceased is neither a communicant nor an associate member of the parish and an outside minister either conducts or participates in the funeral, any fee payable to that minister shall not be the responsibility of the parish.

e) In any case, where the parish minister leads or participates in a funeral service and an outside minister also takes part, any fee payable to the outside minister shall not be the responsibility of the parish.

FEE FOR THE ORGANIST \$100.00 + GST

FEE FOR THE SOUND OPERATOR \$50.00 + GST

FEE FOR THE CLEANER \$70.00 + GST

Elma Pienaar
Parish office administrator

KNIT N NATTER

This cheerful group resumes on Wednesday 19 February and meets every Wednesday of the month—except the second Wednesday, which is coffee morning!

We gather at 10:00am in the Millar Room, and if it's too warm to knit, we'll simply enjoy a good natter.

Join us for a cuppa, a chat, and some knitting as we create peggy squares for "Pregnancy Help." These squares are lovingly turned into beautiful blankets—special thanks to Dorothy for her handiwork!

If you happen to have any surplus 8-ply pure wool that you no longer need, we'd be delighted to take it off your hands. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Dianne Taylor

MAINLY BALANCE

The Mainly Balance exercise group is back in action after a well-deserved break!

The group meets every Tuesday at 1:00pm in the church foyer, where they enjoy fitness sessions led by Lance Marsh, a professional trainer specializing in elderly fitness.

The door charge remains an affordable \$5 per session—less than the cost of a coffee in the Village! For added convenience, concession cards are available. With these, you can prepay for a specific number of sessions (e.g., \$30 for six sessions) and simply tick off each one as you go. Eftpos is also available for payments.

We look forward to seeing everyone return to continue building on their fitness, balance, and strength. Newcomers are always welcome—whether parishioners or friends from the wider community. Let's keep moving together!

Elma Pienaar



WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB

We're excited to kick off the new year on Wednesday, 12 February at 10:00am in the foyer!

Mark your calendar—the group meets on the second Wednesday of every month, and we'd love to see a great turnout. Bring a friend along to share in the fun!

A gold coin donation is appreciated. We look forward to catching up with everyone and starting the year on a high note!

Dianne Taylor

CYCLONE RELIEF

Our parish continues to support Dick and Trudy Robinson in their tireless efforts to assist cyclone and flood victims. As of the end of November 2024, our Cyclone Relief Fund held a balance of \$3,346.56.

In recognition of their ongoing work, we made a \$500 deposit to their account in both November and December. Additionally, they are still making use of our parish trailer to transport essential supplies to those in need.

Trudy expressed her gratitude in the following two messages:

November 2024:

I just noticed the \$500 deposit in our account—thank you so much for this generous support. It's truly appreciated, especially as we've been making trips to Levin to pick up trailer loads of wire and wire strainers, which we've been delivering to a guy up in Eskdale.

After Christmas, we're planning to make three more trips, as three farmers have reached out to me asking for wire and strainers.

Once again, thank you so much! Your support is making a real difference.

In addition, I wanted to share that emergency housing has evicted so many tenants recently, and Dick and I have been delivering essentials daily for the past two weeks. Just today, we picked up and delivered a lounge suite to a very needy family. Tomorrow, I'll be helping another flood-affected person from Pakowhai. She lost everything and couldn't afford insurance. Even though she works 40 hours a week, the high cost of rent is taking up most of her income.

I'm also putting together a food parcel from our pantry and freezer for her, as the Baptist Church, which usually helps me get food parcels to those in need, has closed for the year. I plan to use some of the money from your church to buy a few special food items for her as well.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity—it's having such a meaningful impact on so many lives.

December 2024:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we approach the second anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle, I remain busy delivering essential goods such as wire, tools, and food to those in need.

This past weekend, I made two trips to Horowhenua for trailer loads of wire. This time, I used a sturdier trailer with a spare wheel, as I initially underestimated the weight of the wire rolls. The wire, sourced second-hand from a vineyard forced to close due to council rule changes for housing, is already proving invaluable. A farmer in Eskdale, desperate for wire, has received the entire delivery for the Esk Valley community.

Dick and I also delivered bikes to five children who had been living in emergency housing—a two-room cabin—for four years. Their family recently secured a rental home. During Christmas week, we provided them with a lounge suite. Both parents are working hard, and seeing the need for additional support, I reached out to a church. With their generous donations, I delivered food and purchased gifts for the children.

Another recent project involved repairing and donating a weed eater to a family in need.

Looking ahead, I am beginning to plan a Christmas Dining Experience as a fundraiser for Abbeyfield House. Over the next month, I will gather details, including contacting the woman who organizes the Hospice Garden Tours. If anyone knows her, please let me know at 027 323 7522.

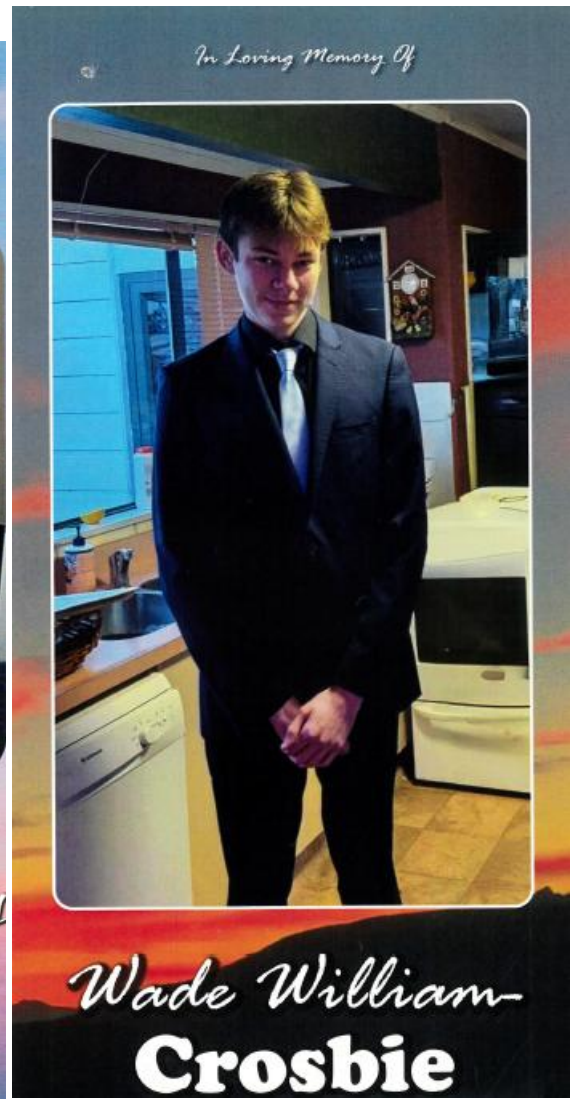
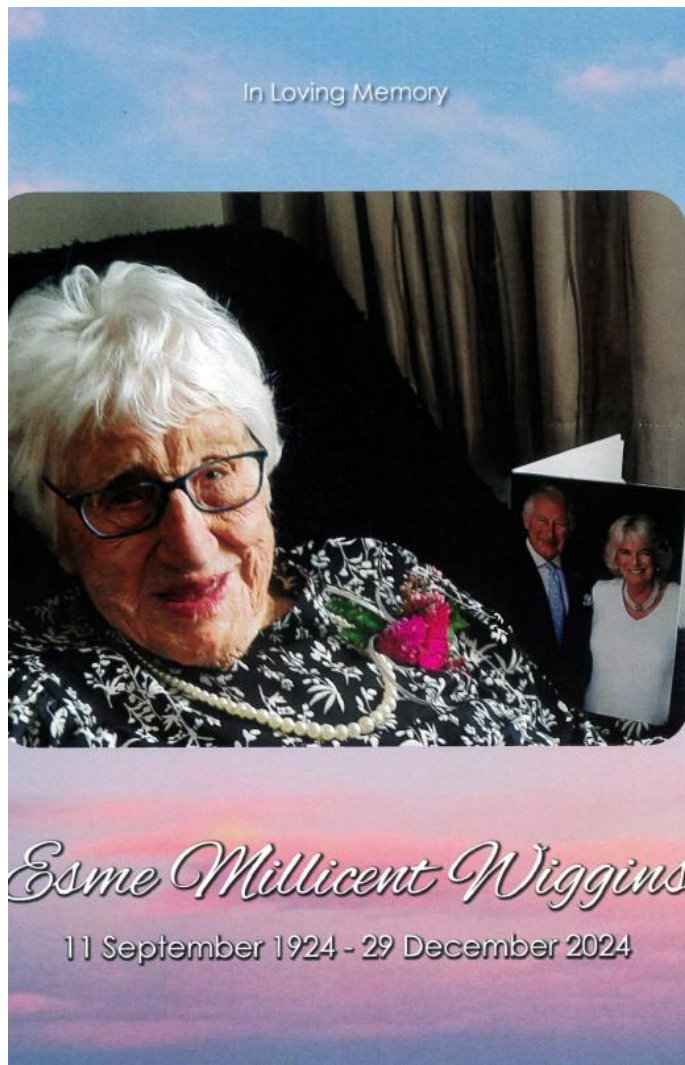
The idea involves inviting about 12 homeowners to decorate their dining tables with unique Christmas themes, such as a nativity scene, Santa theme, or a gift display. Ticket holders could tour the homes near Christmas, with a central venue offering food trucks, coffee, a winery, and restrooms. I am also considering asking my daughter, who has a half-acre lawn and gardens, to host.

Your donations have made these efforts possible, covering petrol costs, repairs, and Christmas presents for children. Recently, I also helped a single man transitioning out of emergency housing by providing furniture. He had been a dedicated flood volunteer and was instrumental when Dick was unavailable. He now has a job and is rebuilding his life.

Thank you once again for your generosity. Your support brings hope and joy to so many. Until the next newsletter, may God bless you, and please stay safe on the roads.

Trudy Robinson

IN MEMORIAM



MAINLY MUSIC

Columba Mainly Music resumes on Thursday, 13 February, at 9:30am in the foyer.

We warmly welcome young families from the community to join us for this popular session filled with song and dance from 9:30 to 10:00am, followed by a relaxed morning tea with delicious home baking generously provided by our parishioners. While parents and caregivers enjoy their tea, the little ones can socialize during playtime with biscuits and water until 10:30am.

Our dedicated team makes this all possible: Elma Pienaar, Mike Earle, Ailsa Rewcastle, Barbara Randal, Margie Kaye, Lois Churchill, Dorothy Thawley, Anne Heesterman, and Jocelyn Williams. A special thank-you goes to Len Hodgson for managing the parish office while Elma leads Mainly Music on Thursday mornings.

We invite any young family with babies or toddlers to join us during school term time for fun, connection, and community. We can't wait to see you there!

Elma Pienaar

STAYING AHEAD IN 2025 - TECH TIPS AND TRENDS

A message from Bruce Metelerkamp, the parish office's trusted IT guru:

Well Done Us!

We've made it through another whirlwind year—congratulations! Now, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get ready for what's ahead.

The start of the year is a great time to address any lingering technology needs. For those ready to tackle computer or tech upgrades, January and February are ideal since it's a quieter time for appointments. I have plenty of slots available, so feel free to book using my online calendar.

Time to Upgrade?

If you're still using Windows 10, it's important to plan ahead. Microsoft will stop providing security updates in October, and without those, your antivirus won't be able to protect your computer properly. Now is the time to consider upgrading to Windows 11 or even switching to a different system, like Mac, Linux, or Chrome. If you're unsure which direction to go, I'm happy to help explore the options that best suit your needs—whether for your home or business.

Other Tech Fixes

Thinking about a phone upgrade? Need help sorting out your Wi-Fi or getting that printer to behave? I can assist with all of that and make the process as smooth as possible.

Tech Trends to Watch

Here are some exciting trends to keep an eye on this year:

Passkeys: Say goodbye to typing passwords! Passkeys store your login information securely on your devices. Once set up, you won't need to manually enter passwords for most sites or services.

AI: Artificial Intelligence continues to evolve—who knows what groundbreaking changes we'll see in 2025?

Web Apps: Microsoft is shifting tools like Outlook Classic to the "New Outlook," a web-based app. Web apps function like apps on your phone but run directly from your computer's browser.

As always, I'm here to help with any questions, upgrades, or tech challenges you may have. Let's make 2025 a year where your technology works seamlessly for you!

Book an Appointment Today.

Bruce Metelerkamp

027 318 5567

IT Systems Technician / Analyst

Herbert, Harrison & Associates Ltd

33 Village Court, 10 Napier Road, Havelock North

Open 9-11 weekdays or by appointment

Office Phone 06 8704330

INDOOR BOWLS

After our summer recess we are ready to start our new indoor bowls season on Wednesday 19 March at Summerset in the Vines, Te Mata Road at 7.30pm. We will play through until Wednesday, 15 October. New members will be very welcome, don't worry if you feel a little rusty - many of us started that way!

Shirley Hodge

A REMINDER

The church building belongs to all of us, and we share the responsibility of looking after it. Please ensure after any gatherings in the church that all doors are locked and

turn off heat pumps and lights before leaving. Thank you for helping to care for our space!

“NO WORK” MINI MARKET

Thank you for your incredible support! ♥ Together, we raised an impressive \$1,030.00 from our parishioners. Well done, team!



CAROLS ON THE GREEN



THE POWER OF WORDS

On 12 January, Rev. Warren Fortune graciously led the church service while Rev. Wayne Toleafoa was on leave. Several parishioners requested a copy of the service, and we are delighted to share it with you here:

Lord, take my lips and speak through them; take our minds and think through them; take our hearts and set them on fire with your love. Amen.

I'm sure we all remember this saying: *Sticks and stones can break my bones, but names will never hurt me.* But for the purposes of this morning's reflection, I'll change one word - *Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me.*

What do you think? True or False?

So, here's the thing: Cuts and bruises heal. Most of the time, they heal completely. Sometimes they heal with a small scar. But they do heal naturally. It's not the same though with words. Words can hurt. And the wound does not always heal. The wound can remain open for years even decades, even a lifetime!

I think that the sticks and stones saying is telling us something about the culture we live in. I think it shows that we have lost our understanding of the power of words and how they can impact other people.

Words can call a child in from the cold, rescue a lost animal, lift a saddened heart, calm an anxious mind, and encourage a weary soul.

Words can teach a room of students, build unity, and can do all kinds of amazing things in the world – good or sadly, not so good.

I remember well the night of my ordination back in December 1983. The church in Clinton, South Otago was packed. After six years of academic study the big moment had come – family and friends had gathered to share in the occasion. After the service, as I greeted parishioners and others present, one member of the congregation of a more charismatic/evangelical persuasion shook my hand and said, “God has told me that you have not been called to be our minister, and I agree with him.

How to burst one's bubble. The wound those words created remained with me throughout my tenure in the parish, no matter how hard I tried to push them aside. The wound never fully healed.

I think we have a sense of how words can be very destructive, but also, very affirming. We're human. We are human beings who deserve to be treated as children of God. So, it's God I want to turn to. It's God who first used words. It's God who is our heavenly parent from whom we should be learning how to speak just as a child learns to speak from his or her mother and father.

Think about those first words that we have from God:

Let there be light. (Gen 1:3) With these words God brought light into the world. Are you hearing this? God's Words make light.

If you read no further in the Bible, this is a great model for our words. Words should bring light into the world. Words should bring light into people's lives. And if words don't do this, then we are not following in the way of God.

God continues with these words: Let there be...

Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters to separate the waters from each other.

(Gen 1:6)

Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear. (Gen 1:9)

Let the earth grow plant life (Gen 1:11)

Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will mark events, sacred seasons, days, and years. (Gen 1:14)

Let the waters swarm with living things, and let birds fly above the earth up in the dome of the sky. (Gen 1:20)

Let the earth produce every kind of living thing: livestock, crawling things, and wildlife. (Gen 1:24)

Let us make humanity in our image (Gen 1:26)

Let there be...land and waters, trees and plants, day and night, animals and birds, and yes human beings – you and me.

God's words create. They have the power to bring things into existence. They create order from chaos. They brought the waters and lands together. They inspire trees to rise out of the ground. They cultivated a life-giving rhythm of days and months and seasons within the world. They filled the waters, land and sky with life – animals, fish, birds, and all kinds of living creatures. They created a likeness of God in the world and this likeness was (is) humanity – you and me.

Now, step back and look at what God's words create. God's words created you and me. God's words create the space around us in which to live and grow. God's words give us room to be. God's words give us freedom. Not only is that freedom represented in the physical space of land and water and sky, but it's also represented by the words God uses: Let there be... It's an invitation. It's an opening, a request to extend freedom to creation. God's words free us for abundant life.

This – all of this – shows the power words have. And it gives us a model for the way we should use words. If we are made in God's likeness, then the way we use our words ought to sound like God. Words create, bring order, inspire, cultivate life-giving rhythms, fill the earth with life, free us for the life we were created to live, and make us like God, depending on how we use them!

So, if you and I or anyone out there in the world is not using words to create, to encourage, to inspire, to build up, to bring light and life, to set free, then their words

are like those of the serpent, of Satan, of the devil. The good news is that we have the opportunity every time we speak to be like God through our words.

Based on the story from Genesis, the gift of words is fundamentally about being like God. God gives us words that we might be like Him.

What do I mean? Allow me to share a story –

An elderly man encounters a young man who greets him with a question: “Do you remember me?” The old man pauses and replies, “No, I’m sorry, I don’t.” The young man smiles and explains, “I was one of your students.” Curious, the old man asks, “Ah, I see. And what do you do now?” The young man responds, “I became a teacher.” The old man’s face lights up. “A teacher? Like me?” “Yes,” the young man says. “In fact, it was you who inspired me to become one.” Intrigued, the old man asks, “Really? What made you decide to become a teacher?” The young man takes a deep breath and begins his story:

“One day, during class, a friend of mine came in with a beautiful new silver fountain pen. I wanted it so badly that I stole it from his pocket. A little later, my friend realized his pen was missing and told you about it. You addressed the class calmly and said, ‘A student’s pen with sentimental value has gone missing. Whoever took it, please return it.’ I didn’t return it because I didn’t want to be caught. So, you closed the classroom door and asked us all to stand up and form a circle. You explained that you were going to search each of us until the pen was found, but then you added something that changed my life: ‘Close your eyes, everyone.’ We all closed our eyes, and you went pocket by pocket. When you reached my pocket, you found the pen, but you didn’t stop. You kept searching everyone else’s pockets, and when you were done, you simply said, ‘Open your eyes. The pen has been found.’ You never revealed who had taken it. You never said a word to me about it, not then and not after. You protected my dignity in front of the entire class. That was the most shameful day of my life, but it was also the day I learned a lesson I would never forget. I understood the power of compassion, the importance of teaching with respect and care and the using of appropriate words. You didn’t humiliate me or lecture me, yet your actions spoke volumes. From that day on, I decided to change my ways and eventually become a teacher, just like you.”

The man listened intently, then said softly, “I remember the situation with the stolen pen. What I don’t remember is you, because when I searched everyone’s pockets, I closed my eyes too.” He smiled and added, “That’s the heart of living and teaching: correcting without humiliating.”

Correcting without humiliating - some 20 plus years ago whilst at Lindisfarne we had a student come to us from a local primary school – he had been expelled from there - he had been with us only 2 weeks when he was sent out of a science lesson for using

bad language - when I talked with him later I said to him “Zack there are thousands of beautiful words to say, why not try using some of them.”

He left the College at the end of the year and the district - bad language too - some 5 years later I was at a conference at St Paul’s Collegiate in Hamilton, a young man came up to me, his blazer adorned with badges, and he said Hi Sir, remember me, I’m Zack - I am now a prefect and when I hear boys using bad language I don’t put them on fatigue, I simply say to them what you said to me, “there are thousands of beautiful words to say, why not try using some of them“ - my heart burst with pride.

You see, so often in life, be it in our schools, work places, society and sadly the church we don’t encourage people, we continue to hold them to account of something that happened in the past - we don’t use appropriate words, we tend to keep holding them down, sometimes even belittling them, not giving them a second chance - our words have impact – lasting impact! What I want to say is this: our words and sometimes the absence of words – shape who we become. Ever heard of the phrase, “*You are what you eat.*” Well allow me to alter it slightly: *You are what you say.*

Words shape who you become. Your words and the words of others. So, what you say does matter...immensely. What you say has the power to create light and life. What you say has the power to set people free.

As we read earlier from John’s Gospel - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

Your magic is in the words you use. God is in the words you use. The way you speak about a topic with passion, the people that get to feel your love right from the depths of your soul, the lives you touch as you move throughout the world. The way you make someone feel heard, how you say hello to the barista in the morning, the memories friends hold dear of adventures and words you've shared. You leave magical marks and pieces of you, everywhere you go. You ripple, even when you can't see it. There are rooms that light up from your presence, eyes that twinkle, bellies that hurt from laughter. Don't dull the spark that makes you shine. The world needs it to be a brighter place.

So, before you say anything, check whether it is true and timely, whether it will result in peace, and whether it is gentle and affirming. To do so, we need to be wise and discerning. Speak wholesome words over ourselves and others. Bring people

together. Create unity. Invite others to the table. Set people free. Be like God. Let your light truly shine. And may it begin with your very next word.

Let us pray -

God, you are worthy of all our praise, and we want our words to be pleasing to You. Give us words to speak to others that will bless their lives. Help us all to grow in our knowledge of Your Word so that we can speak the truth boldly over every situation that arises in our lives. Thank You, Lord, for the gift of Your Word – the true light of the world. We pray that it will be on our lips today and every day. Amen.

PLEASE HELP

Piano Available to Lend: Sam and Janet Browne have a piano they'd like to lend to a family for the foreseeable future. While the piano is not for sale, they hope it can be of use to someone who will enjoy playing it. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please note that transporting the piano will be the borrower's responsibility.

Additionally, as the Brownes are downsizing, they are seeking storage space for the next six months. If you can assist with this, please contact Sam at 021 458 378 or Janet at 021 1023 45589.

BIBLE READING ROSTER

2 Feb	Wayne Rewcastle
9 Feb	Jocelyn Williams
16 Feb	Jocelyn Kirkwood
23 Feb	Jenny Jackson
2 Mar	Barbara Randal
9 Mar	Helen Sinclair
16 Mar	Meg Benefield
23 Mar	Stephen Randal
30 Mar	Kevin Rose

MORNING TEA ROSTER

FEBRUARY	
2 February	Judith Bartlett, Rex Bartlett
	Barbara Randal, Stephen Randal
9 February	Ailsa Rewcastle, Wayne Rewcastle

	Jenny Berntsen
16 February	Helen Sinclair, Craig Kilgour
	Jill Rose, Kevin Rose
23 February	Pat Burden, Grayham Burden
	Elma Pienaar, Louis Pienaar
MARCH	
2 March	Annette Broadley, Murray Broadley
	Sophie Duggan
9 March	Shirley Hodge, Jan Jenkins
	Judith Bell, Jane McElroy
16 March	Jocelyn Kirkwood, Margaret Loughlan
	Colleen Field, Anne Keown
23 March	Ngaire Holford, Ian Holford
	Dianne Taylor, John Taylor
31 March	Judy Bark, Jill Thomsen
	Jan Peake, Arthur Peake

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Saturday 1	9.00am	Mini market
Sunday 2	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 3	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphans Club Hall, Cnr Miller & Albert Streets, Hastings
Tuesday 4	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 4	7.00pm	Elders meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 5	2.00pm	Prayer Group, Villa 48, Summerset, Te Mata Road
Thursday 6	10.00am	Mainly Music TEAM MEETING, foyer
Sunday 9	8.00am	Communion
Sunday 9	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 10	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan Club Hall
Tuesday 11	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 11	7.30pm	Board of Managers meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 12	10.00am	Women's Coffee Club, foyer
Thursday 13	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Saturday 15	8.00am	Blokes Breakfast, HN Function Centre
Sunday 16	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 17	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall
Tuesday 18	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer

Wednesday 19	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Thursday 20	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 23	10.00am	Sunday Service
Sunday 23	3.00pm	Faith & Reason Discussion Group, foyer
Monday 24	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall
Tuesday 25	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 25	7.30pm	Church Council meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 26	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 26	5.00pm	SCHNEG, Millar Room
Thursday 27	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer

MARCH CALENDAR

Saturday 1	9.00am	Mini market
Sunday 2	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 3	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphans Club Hall, Cnr Miller & Albert Streets, Hastings
Tuesday 4	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 4	7.00pm	Elders meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 5	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 5	2.00pm	Prayer Group, Villa 48, Summerset, Te Mata Road
Thursday 6	10.00am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 9	8.00am	Communion
Sunday 9	10.00am	Sunday Service & Quarterly Communion
Monday 10	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan Club Hall
Monday 10	2.00pm	Bible Study, Millar Room
Tuesday 11	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 11	7.30pm	Board of Managers meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 12	10.00am	Women's Coffee Club, foyer
Thursday 13	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Saturday 15	8.00am	Blokes Breakfast, HN Function Centre
Sunday 16	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 17	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall
Tuesday 18	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Wednesday 19	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room

Thursday 20	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 23	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 24	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall
Tuesday 25	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 25	7.30pm	Church Council meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 26	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 26	5.00pm	SCHNEG, Millar Room
Thursday 27	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 30	10.00am	Sunday Service
Sunday 30	3.00pm	Faith and Reason Discussion Group, foyer
Monday 31	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall