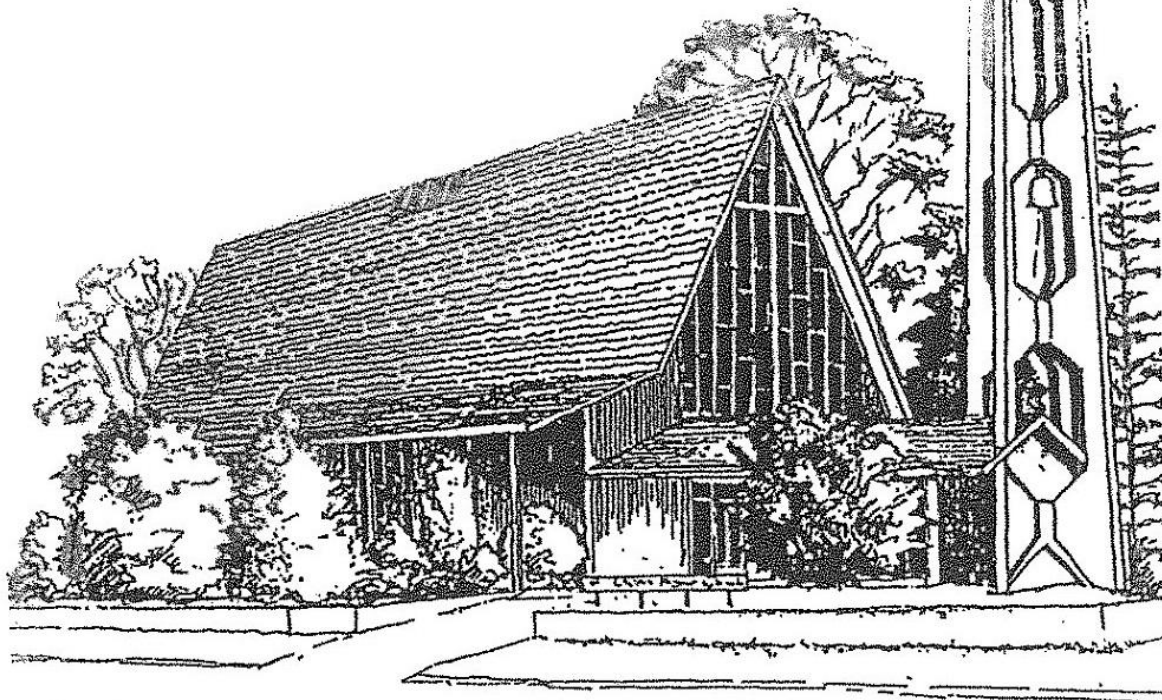


**St Columba's Havelock North
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand**

Columba News

April - May 2025

Issue No. 65



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

The Season of Lent – the Autumn of The Christian year

Lent is a bit like the autumn of the Christian year. It is a season when we try to discard things that have weighed us down. Like the trees which shed their old leaves. A season when we come down to the core of who we are before God. A time to be honest to God, and honest to ourselves.

During the season of Lent I find it helpful to read some of the penitential psalms. Psalms which acknowledge our sins and our shortcomings. Psalms which also speak of God's forgiveness when we are honest to God and honest with ourselves. Psalm 32 is just such a psalm. It is also about 'the joy of forgiveness'.

I don't know if you've ever felt the joy of forgiveness. It usually comes when we do something to rectify the things that are wrong in our lives.

There's nothing worse than having something 'hanging over you'- something you have done, or said, which you now regret. Or something you promised to do which you still haven't got around to doing yet. Or, nothing worse than having a conviction which you have not acted upon, as time to act runs out...

I've done all those things and, reading David's psalm, suggests to me that he also had many 'things hanging over him' that needed to be rectified and resolved.

³While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

Its as if we are wasting away. As if the hand of God is weighing us down. As if our energy and motivation have been sapped from our very bodies, until we take action and do something about whatever it is that is 'hanging over' us.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

Lent is the perfect season/time to acknowledge those things that are 'hanging over us' needing to be acknowledged and resolved.

Some of those 'things' may be too hard for us to resolve in our own strength, but God who is ever faithful, will help us when we reach out in prayer and when we reach out to forgive the grudges we hold against others who have sinned against us.

The good news about Lent and about Autumn is that it only lasts for a season and is followed by winter and spring - each season bringing its special blessing.

Let's hope and pray that we may again know the joy of forgiveness.

Thank you for being part of our St Columba's Family. It's a pleasure to serve as your minister.

In Christ, *Wayne*



BLOKES BREAKFAST

The Blokes have met on two occasions to date, with about 25 attending on a Saturday morning. In February the group had a fun activity – testing people’s knowledge of New Zealand’s history and natural features (Not done well, by the way!) In March we had a local architect (Pierre du Toit) speak about his many motorcycle tours abroad, covering all continents over several years.

A better sound system has helped speakers give their addresses, and the breakfast itself remains a highlight.

Blokes Breakfast takes place on the third Saturday of every month at a cost of \$23.00. Please register with Elma in the church office by Friday midday prior to Saturday.

John Taylor
027 3498576

MINI MARKET

Another Successful Market Day!

Our market day on 1 March was another great success, adding \$2,000 to the coffers! These funds help support various charities and enable the church to continue its good work. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, whether through donations, volunteering, or simply coming along to enjoy the day.

Two more markets to go! Mark your calendars for our next market days: 5 April and 3 May (followed by the annual Rose and Shamrock Dinner).

Your continued support is invaluable. If you can lend a hand in any way, please reach out to the conveners listed below. Otherwise, just come along, enjoy the atmosphere, and have a coffee with Dorothy!

Market Day Details:

Set-Up: 7:30 AM

Market Opens: 9:00 AM

Market Closes: 12:00 PM

Key Organisers & Conveners:

Market Committee: John Heesterman, Kevin Rose, Phil Carter

Finance & Floats: John Heesterman

EFTPOS: Elma Pienaar (look for the distinctive hat!)

Free Coffee/Tea: Dorothy Thawley

Raffle: Sophie Duggan (\$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5)

Jam & Pickles: Janet Browne

Baking: Elma Pienaar, Ailsa Rewcastle

Crafts: Annette Broadley, Dorothy Thawley, Lois Churchill

White Elephant & Jewellery: Janice Hopkinson, Kevin Rose, Anne Vermunt. *Donations of good quality items, jewellery, and fine china are much appreciated!*

Plants: John Heesterman (collaborating with Oderings)

Produce: Arthur Peake, Jos Vermunt

Sweets: Jill Thomsen

Environmental Centre Products (Dishwashing Liquid, etc.): Walter Breustedt

BBQ: Wayne Rewcastle, Mike Earle, John Heesterman.

We look forward to seeing you there and making these next markets just as successful!

See you soon!

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

PRAYER GROUP

The needs of our world and all it encompasses is vast and ever present, just as God is with us all. To him we bring our prayers for people and situations of great need, through our Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks for many positive outcomes.

Our next meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday 9 April at 2.00pm at Janice and Edgar's home. We will meet again in June.

Blessings to you all during this season of Lent and special wishes for a Happy Easter.

*Yours in Christ
Mary Sittauer*

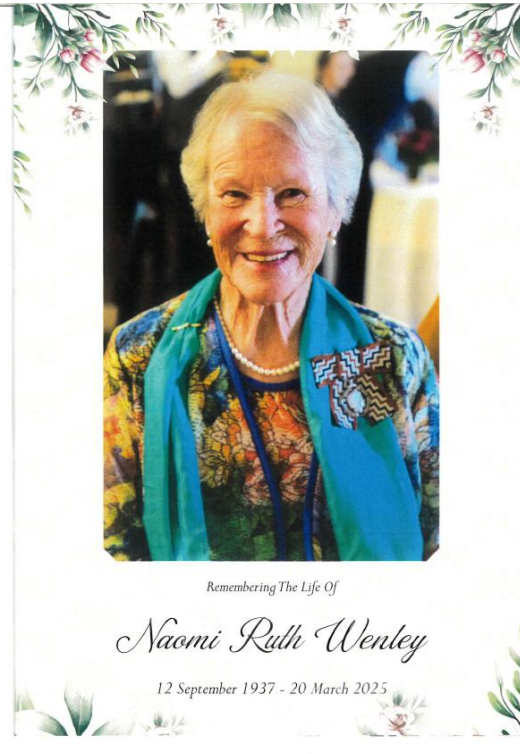
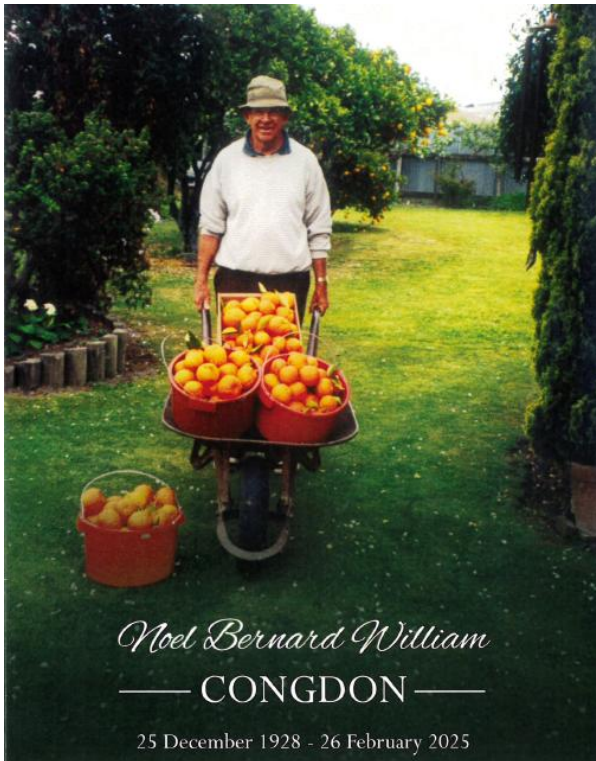
WOMEN'S COFFEE CLUB

At our March meeting we enjoyed hearing from Janine Mason (nee Heesterman), who came all the way from America to speak to us. She spoke about their business of bringing 'Christian Beliefs and Workplace Responsibilities' together. She and her husband were running workshops in other parts of New Zealand before flying home. Our April guest speaker is from 'Sustainable Hawke's Bay'.

Mark the dates in your diaries: 9 April and 14 May, at 10.00am in the church foyer – you'd be made very welcome.

Dianne Taylor

IN MEMORIAM



NOURISHED FOR NIL

Nourished for Nil continues to grow as need in our community continues to grow.

A new 'Social Supermarket' is opening in Queen Street in mid-April – following the success of the Napier one.

The food and money we donate from St Columba's goes to providing "Food Bank Parcels" for emergency needs. Last month 139 of these parcels were given out in Hastings and 141 in Napier.

Every little bit helps, so please continue to support the basket in the foyer at church. Many thanks.

Dianne and John Taylor

BIBLE STUDY

On the second Monday of March our group meet for a brief study and discussion of plans for study throughout the year 2025.

After a three month break it was very refreshing, and our first meeting back was interesting. We started by looking into the last days in the Bible just to get our minds focusing on what is going on around us. This was followed by a good chat about what we wanted to focus on for the rest of the year. Ideas were many and varied but we decided on studying different characters from the Bible. Each person will undertake a different character each month.

The Bible study group meets on the second Monday of every month in the Miller Room at 2:00 PM, and new members are warmly welcomed.

Judith Bartlett



KNIT N NATTER

As autumn kicks in, our knitting needles are working faster. We would love you to join us in the Millar Room from 10am to 12noon on Wednesdays (except the 2nd Wednesday!) to knit peggy squares and ‘put the world to right’. Dorothy brought along some completed blankets last week – ready to donate, and they look fantastic! Suzanne from Pregnancy Help arrived with a lovely donation of 8ply pure wool to help us on our way. We have wool and needles to share – so come and have a go.

By joining us, you’ll enjoy good company, a lovely coffee and helping fill a need in our community.

Dianne Taylor

MAINLY BALANCE

The Mainly Balance exercise group is going strong! Join us every Tuesday at 1:00 pm in the church foyer for fun and effective fitness sessions led by Lance Marsh, a professional trainer specializing in senior fitness.

The cost remains just \$5 per session—cheaper than a coffee in the Village! Concession cards are available for added convenience (e.g., \$30 for six sessions), and Eftpos is available for easy payment.

Whether you're returning to continue building your strength and balance or joining for the first time, we'd love to see you there. Open to parishioners and the wider community—bring a friend and let's stay active together!

Elma Pienaar

FOCUS GROUP

In 2024, a dedicated Focus Group was established to foster community engagement and growth within our parish. This initiative emerged from insightful discussions during recent Elders meetings, highlighting the need for greater connection, especially with young families and youth.

The first meeting of the year took place on Sunday, 23 February, following the church service. Attending were Sophie Duggan, Olive Duggan, Keri Benefield, Elma Pienaar, Rev. Wayne Toleafoa, Chris Hinton, and Morley Davis.

The group was welcomed and reminded of its mission: to plan activities that engage and connect with young families and youth.

Term 1 Focus Areas:

- Welcoming packs for newcomers and children
- Encouraging parishioners to share and celebrate birthdays and anniversaries
- Hosting an ANZAC BBQ after the HN service at 10:00 am as a community outreach
- Establishing a children's singing group
- Setting up a stall at the mini market for children

We'd love more hands on deck! If you'd like to get involved in organizing or supporting an initiative, please reach out to Elma or Sophie.

Let's continue to strengthen our parish and community together!

Elma Pienaar

CYCLONE RELIEF

Our parish continues to support Dick and Trudy Robinson in their tireless efforts to assist cyclone and flood victims.

A message from Trudy:

Thank you so much for the money—it is truly appreciated! I'm still in the process of getting things to those in need, but petrol costs have been a real challenge, so your support means a lot.

Next week, I'll be taking a trailer load of furniture to a family in Napier who lost everything in the floods. They've just purchased their first home, and I was able to encourage them to take that step.

I've been back to Levin to pick up wire, which I delivered to an elderly farmer and his son in Eskdale—this is the third load of wire we've managed to get to them.

Thanks again for your kindness and generosity!



Trudy Robinson
Phone: 027 3237522

COLUMBA BOOKS

The book shop has experienced a relatively buoyant period during the summer months consistent with seasonal trends. Autumn is here and the leaves are beginning to turn.

We have once again been very busy receiving, processing and recycling books from the community. We are asking our donors to please drip feed us with books if they have large quantities, as it is easiest for us to take one box at a time to allow us to control the processing flow. It is important that our volunteers adhere to these concepts so that we are not getting large stacks of boxers out in the Millar Room. May I remind donors that we are unable to take encyclopaedias, dictionaries and other large books as these are not saleable, no matter how beautiful and loved they may have been in your homes.

Although the summer months were buoyant and our returns quite high, we have now experienced a drop, in keeping with the rest of the community. Nevertheless, people are still reporting to us on the high quality of the books we have and their pleasure in shopping with us.

We have been approached by the Iona Girls Community Outreach regarding helping us in the book shop and we are delighted to have met with them and discussed ideas. We are putting most of the onus on the girls as this must be their project and their ideas.

As always, may I thank our volunteers sincerely for all their hard work.

If you are interested in volunteering at the bookshop, please give your name to me or Anne Keown, and we will try to organise a time for you to come and observe and see if you would like to help on a regular basis.

Happy Reading.

Judith Bartlett
Manager

FAITH & REASON DISCUSSION GROUP

Lloyd Geering – A Theological Voice of Our Time

Sir Lloyd Geering resides in Petone, New Zealand. Born on 26 February 1918 in Rangiora, he recently celebrated his 107th birthday.

Sir Lloyd is a distinguished theologian and scholar, renowned for his contributions to religious studies and his thought-provoking perspectives on Christianity. Throughout his career, Sir Lloyd has been recognized for his services to religious studies.

Sir Lloyd's extensive body of work continues to inspire and challenge readers, encouraging ongoing dialogue about faith, modernity, and the evolving role of religion in contemporary society.

Jocelyn Kirkwood

EASTER SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S



Thursday	17 April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	18 April		Walk of Witness to the Cross 9.00am <i>meet at Our Lady of Lourdes, Te Mata Road</i> 10.00am <i>devotional service at Arohanui Church, Middle Road</i>
Sunday	31 March	10.00am	Easter Sunday Service and Communion

REQUIEM

A poem for Anzac Day based upon the message contained in a letter written by a young serviceman shortly before his death in action.



“Build us no cold stone monuments,” they said,
“To stand unchanging through our own lost years,
No chiselled words, no dutiful, bowed head.
From out this wilderness of blood and tears
Build us a freedom mightier than before,
That we may say, ‘It was worth dying for!’

“This is our trust to you, who live to know
The sunlight falling on a grassy steep,
Who feel the salt spray flying, winds that blow,
Hear friendly poplars whisper in their sleep,
See mountain peaks stand clear against the light,
The evening star hung low to greet the night.

“We gave up all these things, the years ahead,
Rich with the promise of what might have been,
So much undone, so many words unsaid,
All glorious life untasted and unseen.
Yet, shall a freer world arise again
We cannot count our sacrifice in vain.

“We are the men who swept the oceans free
Of those who sought to cut our lifelines through,
The sailors who did not come home from sea.
Somewhere out there we sleep, beyond the blue.
We died, but you must make all wars to cease,
That other lads may sail the seas in peace!

We are the army, steady, khaki files
Who fought and died upon a foreign strand
A world away. Ten times a thousand miles
From out the hell of swirling dust and sand,
Jungles and mountain slopes, our challenge rings,
‘Build us a world of clean and decent things!’

“We are the airmen. Swift-winged into flight
We saved an Empire’s heart. Ours was a world
Of searchlight fingers stabbing through the night,
Of desperate odds, and tired wings ne’er furled,
Of death that split the skies with sudden flame –
Remember us - and build in Freedom’s name!

“We are the dead. Remember us in these,
 Not wordy epitaph upon a scroll of stone,
 But in new life, new laws, new liberties,
 New understanding! Then shall we be one
 With that brave world! Yours now to strive and plan,
 To carry on the work that we began.

“For we have died in war, but when wars cease,
 Then you must not say merely, ‘It is done!’
 But fight again, that in a lasting peace
 Faith, tolerance, and truth may well be won,
 That you may say, when we meet face to face,
 ‘Truly we made your world a finer place!’”

Nancy Bruce

BIBLE READING ROSTER

6 Apr	Barbara Randal
13 Apr	Stephen Randal
20 Apr	Craig Kilgour
27 Apr	Anne Keown
4 May	Jasmine Malcolm-Toleafoa
11 May	Rex Bartlett
18 May	Val Parish
25 May	Mary Benson

MORNING TEA ROSTER

APRIL	
6 April	Jan Peake, Arthur Peake
	Elma Pienaar, Louis Pienaar
13 April	Anne Heesterman, John Heesterman
	Annette Broadley, Murray Broadley
20 April	Helen Sinclair, Craig Kilgour
	Janet Browne, Sam Browne
27 April	Ailsa Rewcastle, Wayne Rewcastle
	Mike Earle, Jenny Berntsen
MAY	
4 May	Ngaire Holford, Ian Holford
	Dianne Taylor, John Taylor

11 May	Judy Bark, Jill Thomsen
	Barbara Randal, Stephen Randal
18 May	Judith Bartlett, Rex Bartlett
	Jill Rose, Kevin Rose
25 May	Elma Pienaar, Louis Pienaar
	Val Parish, Sophie Duggan

APRIL CALENDAR

Tuesday 1	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 1	7.00pm	Elders meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 2	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 2	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 3	10.00am	Mainly Music, foyer
Friday 4	11.00am	Lenten Studies, Millar Room
Saturday 5	9.00am	Mini market
Sunday 6	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 7	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan Club Hall
Tuesday 8	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 8	7.30pm	Board of Managers meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 9	10.00am	Women's Coffee Club, foyer
Wednesday 9	2.00pm	Prayer Group, Villa 48, Summerset, Te Mata Road
Wednesday 9	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 9	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Friday 11	11.00am	Lenten Studies, Millar Room
Sunday 13	8.00am	Communion
Sunday 13	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 14	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphans Club Hall
Monday 14	2.00pm	Bible Study, Millar Room
Tuesday 15	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Wednesday 16	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 16	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 17	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 18	9.00am	Good Friday – Walk of witness to the Cross - <i>meet at Our Lady of Lourdes, Te Mata Road</i>
	10.00am	Devotional service - <i>at Arohanui Church, Middle</i>

Road

Saturday 19	8.00am	Blokes Breakfast, HN Function Centre
Sunday 20	10.00am	Easter Sunday Service & Communion
Monday 21	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall
Tuesday 22	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 22	7.30pm	Church Council meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 23	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 23	5.00pm	SCHNEG, Millar Room
Wednesday 23	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Friday 25	10.00am	ANZAC service, cenotaph, Havelock North <i>followed by BBQ and coffee/tea at St Columba's</i>
Sunday 27	10.00am	Sunday Service
Sunday 27	3.00pm	Faith & Reason Discussion Group, foyer
Monday 28	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall
Tuesday 29	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Wednesday 30	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 30	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd

MAY CALENDAR

Thursday 1	9.30am	Mainly Music, foyer
Saturday 3	9.00am	Mini market
Sunday 4	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 5	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphans Club Hall
Tuesday 6	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, foyer
Tuesday 6	7.00pm	Elders meeting, Millar Room
Wednesday 7	10.00am	Knit n Natter, Millar Room
Wednesday 7	7.30pm	Indoor bowls, Summerset, Te Mata Rd
Thursday 8	10.00am	Mainly Music, foyer
Sunday 11	8.00am	Communion
Sunday 11	10.00am	Sunday Service
Monday 12	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan Club Hall
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, Orphan's Club Hall
Tuesday 20	1.00pm	Mainly Balance, 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 & Reason Discussion Group, foyer
Monday 26	9.30am	Table tennis, Orphan's Club Hall
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
Sunday 1	10.00am	Sunday Service