



ST COLUMBA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE VOICE OF ST COLUMBA

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MODERATOR'S VOICE – MAY 2022

Once again we find ourselves, at St Columba, in a vacancy situation. Some will be disappointed that Alec and Amy didn't choose to seek reappointment at the end of Alec's one year Parish Supply appointment. However, this didn't happen, and we wish them well as they return to Australia where Alec has taken up his new position.

Our faith journey will also continue here at St Columba and we can be confident that Christ, the King and Head of our Church has good things in store for us.

You will see more of me in my role as Interim Moderator, over the next few months, as I take up more responsibility for the Sunday worship. I want to talk about 'the faith we share' and how that impacts what we do together in our Church fellowship and worship.

In instructing his disciples Jesus said, "I will build my Church and nothing, not even the gates of hell will prevail against it." He also said, "Follow me." These two statements go together. We can't call ourselves a follower of Jesus and be uncommitted to the Church.

What did Jesus come to do? Paul says it best, '*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.*' And the Church remains at the centre of his plan. It is to the Christian Church alone that Christ has entrusted the message of reconciliation.

So, what does church membership mean for us? May I suggest it includes three essential steps.

Step 1: Choosing to Belong. The most basic level of response to the Gospel after committing ourselves to God is to find a church family and say – "*This is going to be my family – my spiritual home. I'm going to get connected and put down some roots because this is God's purpose for me.*" **Believing** and **belonging** go together.

"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Eph. 2:19 LB

Step 2: Learning to Share. Friendship is very important to God. "*All believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other.*" Acts 2:44 LB

Meeting together and sharing are the foundation for strong relationships and enduring friendships.

a. We are to share our experiences. "*People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron.*" Prov. 27:17 TEV

b. We are encouraged to share our homes. "*Open your homes to each other.*" 1 Peter 4:9 NCV

c. We are to share our problems. Gal. 6: 2 "*Share each other's troubles and problems.*"

Step 3: 'Playing my Part'. God did not bring us to faith and to His Church just to be **spectators**. In any family there are costs to be met and chores to be done – don't leave it to the few faithful. It is a huge privilege to be a part of what God is doing, but we can only be a part if we **cooperate** and **participate** with Christ our Head. There is **no** place for **individualism** in the Body of Christ because it's **not as individuals**, but it's when we **work together**, that God can make a difference through our efforts.

I hope you can hear something of my passion for the Church. Let's work and pray together to make St Columba the best we can be, leaving the results to God.

When we share, a **problem is cut in half** and a **joy is doubled**. The Bible says we are to, *"Weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice."*

Paul doesn't say **solve one another's problems** – even God doesn't always choose to do that. But we can lend a sympathetic ear and we can pray for one another and offer care and support beyond words.

Hebrews says, *"Let us not give up the **habit of meeting together**. Instead, let us **encourage one another...**"* 10:25 TEV

QUARTERLY COMMUNION

An invitation is extended to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ to join us for the Communion Service

On the 12th June



RUTH'S RAMBLINGS

Ahhh! I'm sitting in a cool sun at the table in the dining room, surrounded by stock books and albums and little, no-longer sticky squares, circles, triangles, trains, butterflies, flowers, monarchy; mmmmm, my stamps! What better pastime could I have - oh with some peaceful Ruth - friendly music to sing and hum to?

I have collected stamps since I was 6. My grandad who had been a naval engineer had travelled the world umpteen times making connections, colleagues, friends and family all a priority to meet and greet and stay in touch with. Because of my grandparents' excursions, in a drawer in the kitchen of grandma's domain she kept all stamps that entered their home for me when I visited; - it was always my first port of call.

Hours and hours of de-papering little pieces of well travelled, pre-licked pieces of hope, that someone might take the time to reply..... Now they cover the bench in the kitchen; no longer sticky, no longer travelling.



I personally collect everything from everywhere, rationing myself on the definitives (the whale tails, the little brown kiwi, NZ's most made, most common stamps.) Every country has them. Thematically, I collect NZ, world trains, world butterflies, and triangular stamps. I have albums full of some of the most exquisite pictures and photos of scenes and items from around the world, that makes collecting them a joy. I have albums from my Dad and Mum, friends and family who all started as children and lost interest.

With my auntie passing recently, I was given her amazing collection; all beautifully catalogued and country themed. It was a love we had in common.

I set my NZ books up according to Len Jury and his way of cataloguing. The thrill is in the hunt to complete sets that give terrific satisfaction when completed.

What do you collect? Rocks, diamonds, train sets, wine books, records? All take up space, but bring such enjoyment and/or dust.... You just can't part with them.

Christ collected people and their hearts. He summoned the crowds to come and follow him, not unlike the Pied Piper, but with so much more love and attention given.

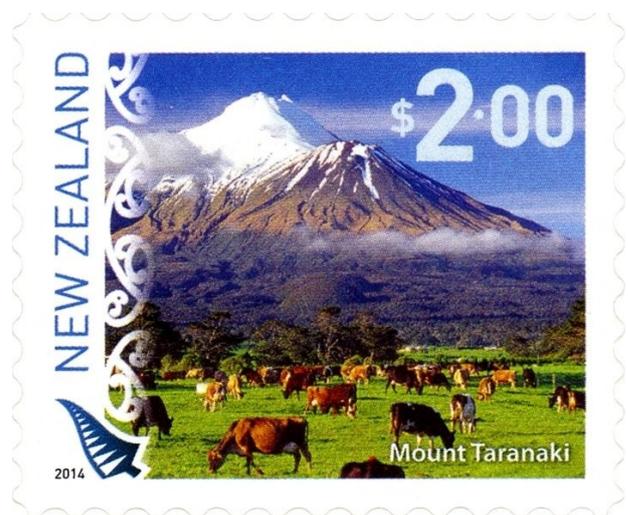
Genesis 17:7 The Lord says

"I will establish my Covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."

He collected his children by challenge, by forgiveness, by love, by teaching, by accepting. Christ is still adding to his precious collection, heart by heart. Are you in his collection? Are you one of his precious? One of his prized, that he smiles at? One he desires to spend time with?

How much time do you spend with your Collector however?

Think about what you spend your most time with. Do you have time for the Great Collector?



THE 'OLE IN THE ARK BY MARRIOTT EDGAR

One evening at dusk as Noah stood on his Ark,
Putting green oil in starboard side lamp,
His wife came along and said, 'Noah, summat's wrong,
Our cabin is getting quite damp.

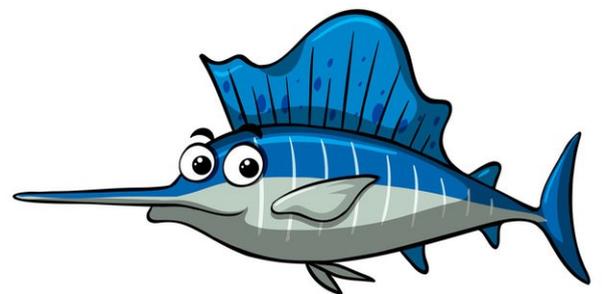
Noah said, 'Is that so?' Then he went down below,
And found it were right what she'd said,
For there on the floor quite a puddle he saw,
It was slopping around under t' bed.

Said he, 'There's an 'ole in the bottom somewhere,
We must find it before we retire.'
Then he thowt for a bit, and he said 'Aye, that's it,
A bloodhound is what we require.'



Se he went and fetched bloodhound from place where it lay,
Tween the skunk and the polecat it were,
And as things there below, were a trifle so-so,
It were glad of a breath of fresh air.

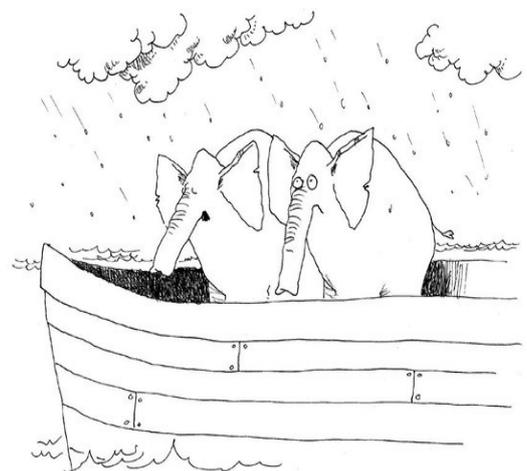
They followed the sound as it went sniffing round,
'Til at last they located the leak,
'Twere a small hole in the side, about two inches
wide,
Where a swordfish had poked in its beak.



And by gum! how the wet squirted in through that
hole,
Well, young Shem who at sums was expert,
Worked it out on his slate that it came at the rate,
Of per gallon, per second, per squirt.

The bloodhound tried hard to keep water in check,
By lapping it up with his tongue,
But it came in so fast through that hole, that at last,
He shoved in his nose for a bung.

The poor faithful hound, he were very near
drowned,
They dragged him away none too soon,
For the stream as it rose, pushed its way up his
nose,
And blew him up like a balloon.



"Great, our first cruise and it rains for 40 days and nights."

And then Mrs Noah shoved her elbow in
t'hole,
And said, ' Eh! it's stopped I believe,'
But they found very soon as she'd altered
her tune,
For the water had got up her sleeve.

When she saw as her elbow weren't doing
much good,
She said to Noah, 'I've an idea,
You sit on the leak and by t'end of the
week,
There's no knowing, the weather may clear.'

Noah didn't think much to this notion, at
all,
But reckoned he'd give it a try,
On the 'ole down he flopped, and the
leaking all stopped,
And all... except him, was quite dry.

They took him his breakfast and dinner and
tea,
As day after day there he sat,
'Til the rain was all passed and they landed
at last,
On top side of Mount Ararat.

And that is how Noah got them all safe
ashore,
But ever since then, strange to tell,
Them as helped save the Ark has all carried
a mark,
Aye, and all their descendants as well.

That's why dog has a cold nose, and ladies'
cold elbows,
You'll also find if you enquire,
That's why a man takes his coat tails in
hand,
And stands with his back to the fire.

COMPUTER INKJET CARTRIDGES.

Tired of paying exorbitant prices for a
computer ink cartridge?

I purchase direct from COMPUTERFOOD,
a Pukekohe based company.

Go to: www.computerfood.co.nz

Click on inkjet cartridges.

Click on your printer model, e.g.,
BROTHER/CANON etc

Click on your correct cartridge coding.

I recently purchased a set of 4 x LCC133
priced at \$25.99 (free delivery).

(BLACK/CYAN/MAGENTA/YELLOW)

This offer is four times cheaper than a
nation-wide retailer is offering in
Tauranga.

HEBREWS 12:14-15

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace
with everyone and to be holy; without
holiness no one will see the
Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls
short of the grace of God and that no
bitter root grows up to cause trouble
and defile many.



COOK UP A STORM

Tim Tam Slice any flavour!

Ingredients

1 pkt Tim Tams finely processed

1 pkt Tim Tams roughly chopped

45g unsalted butter melted

1/3 cup condensed milk

250g milk chocolate chopped or chipped

2 TBSP vegetable oil

Method

Melt butter and add condensed milk in a pot.

Mix over heat until combined.

Mix all the Tim Tams and butter mixture together in a bowl.

Press into a 20cm by 30cm pan and leave in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Melt the chopped chocolate and oil in a bowl over simmering water.

Pour melted chocolate over the slice and refrigerate until set. Enjoy!!



GIGGLE

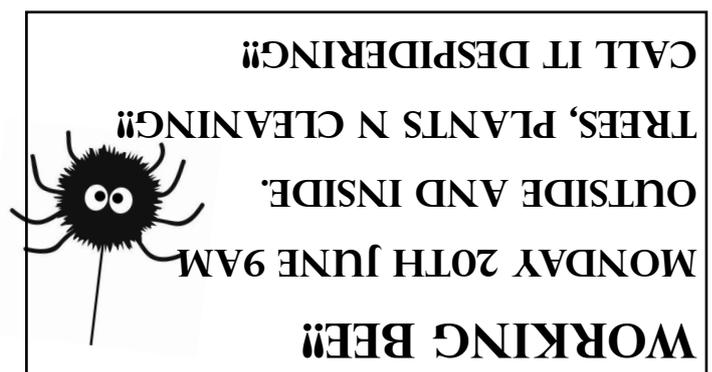
A parson went to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after he got his new teeth, he talked for only eight minutes. On the second Sunday he talked for only ten minutes. On the following Sunday he talked for 2 hours and 48 minutes.

The congregation had to mob him to get him down from the pulpit, and they asked him what happened.

The parson explained that on the first Sunday his gums hurt so badly that he couldn't talk for more than eight minutes. On the second Sunday his gums hurt too much to talk for more than 10 minutes. But, the third Sunday, he put his wife's teeth in by mistake and he couldn't shut up.



TOM YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT I GOT FRONT ROW SEATING AGAIN OH MY GOODNESS RUN UP HERE NOW I'LL SAVE IT WHILE I CAN



ANZAC DAY

In 1916 Anzac Day was gazetted as a half day holiday.



In 1921 Anzac Day became a full public holiday.

In 1936 dawn ceremonies were widely included in New Zealand Anzac Day commemorations.

In 1949 legislation was passed preventing Anzac Day from being Mondayised.

In 1966 the current Anzac Day Act allowed activities after 1pm on Anzac Day.

In 2013 The decision was made that when Anzac day 25th April falls on a Saturday or Sunday , the Monday following will be a public holiday.

In 2020 all Anzac Day public ceremonies in New Zealand were cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MULTIPLE FATHERS

A group of guys I know took a trip to France and decided to attend Mass in a small town, even though none of them understood French. They managed to stand, kneel, and sit when the rest of the congregation did, so it wouldn't be obvious they were tourists. At one point, the priest spoke and the man sitting next to them stood up, so they got up too. The entire congregation broke into hearty laughter.

After the service they approached the priest, who spoke English, and asked him what had been so funny. The priest said he had announced a birth in the parish and asked the father to stand up.

QUIZ - ALL ANSWERS BEGIN WITH M

Answers on page 8

1. Which Second World War fighter plane had the same name as an insect?
2. Which tiny principality has been ruled by the Grimaldi family for more than 500 years?
3. Which word means '1000 years'?
4. What species of game fish can be striped, blue or black?
5. In Harry Potter stories, what name is given to people with no magical powers?
6. What can be either a New York borough or a cocktail?
7. Who was the Italian traveller who was one of the first Europeans to visit China?
8. In Christianity who is said to have been the first to see the resurrected Christ?

RUNNING AWAY

Moses was walking down the street when he bumped into George W. Bush.

Hello, Bush said. Nice weather we're having, huh? Moses took one look at the President, turned, and ran in the other direction.

Bush was puzzled by this bizarre treatment, so he turned and followed Moses. When he caught up, he asked Moses what was wrong.

Moses said, The last time I talked to a bush I spent 40 years in the desert.

OUR ELDERS

Neville Wilson

Keith Bradbury

Pam Brown

Ken Camp

Elizabeth Hockly

Janet Freeman

Avis Currie

Romy Morgenrood

We give thanks to these wonderful people who pray for us, and for St Columba, and direct us with Christ's help. They head up our pastoral care, with kindness and compassion. Please pray for them as they listen to the Lord's voice, for guidance to lead us through 2022.

OUR O-TEAM

Graham Jamieson

Neville Wilson

Ken Camp

Keith Bradbury

Phil Sinclair

Mary Findlay (H and S)

Ruth Scott (Scribe)

We give thanks to these wonderful people who keep our buildings and assets and staff all ticking over. They consider the next project, the next challenge. Please pray for them as they listen to the Lord, the PCANZ, and the Govt, so that we may have a safe, comfortable building in which to meet with others and to worship Christ.

Answers from page 7

1 Mosquito, 2 Monaco, 3 Millennium,
4 Marlin, 5 Muggle, 6 Manhattan,
7 Marco Polo, 8 Mary Magdalene

ST COLUMBA CALENDAR

SERVICE OF WORSHIP Sundays at 9.30 am

MONTHLY MIDWEEK COMMUNION SERVICE

First Wednesday of month @ 10 am in the Chapel

EACH WEEK—REGULAR MEETINGS

Mondays

Tuesdays 9.00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesdays

Wed/Thurs/Fri 10.00 am Basement Boutique (till 4 pm)

Thursdays 9.45 am Bible Study in Creche

Fridays 9.00 am Prayer Meeting

10.00 am Cuppa & Chat in Lounge

Saturday 10.00 am-1pm Basement Boutique

Sundays 8.45 am Prayers

MONTHLY MEETINGS

1st Tuesday 1.30 pm Session

3rd Wednesday 10.00 am O Team

3rd Thursday 3.00 pm Service at Radius Matua

Men's Breakfast in recess

2nd Saturday WOW Breakfasts in recess

PARISH REGISTER JAN - MAY 2022

Deaths: "in loving memory"

**DAVID SIMPSON
LEN HOCKLY
ROSALIE RENTZ**



**CHECK OUT OUR
WEBPAGE**

www.stcolumba.co.nz/sermons

www.stcolumba.co.nz/musings



CONTACT DETAILS

St Columba Church: 502 Otumoetai Road

Cherrywood, Tauranga 3110;

PO Box 8009 Tauranga 3145

Reverend: Interim Rev Keith Hooker

Session Clerk: Neville Wilson 576 4814

Office Phone: 07 576 6756

Office Hours 9 am-noon Monday-Friday

Email: office@stcolumba.co.nz

Website: www.stcolumba.co.nz

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To know, enjoy and share Christ.