wanaka
PRESBYTERIAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTRE

loving God, loving people

From the manse……

Whatever the weather….

Yesterday Jacinta and I were down south and some of the conversation at a funeral we attended was around the weather (the need for rain… in Southland!) Christmas is here again – despite the weather.

We will all celebrate in a whole lot of different ways – buying gifts, enjoying food, welcoming friends and family home in the Upper Clutha or travelling to a favourite holiday destination.

And the same old incredible story of the Saviour's birth will be told again in lots of different ways and contexts – regardless of the weather.

In the words of one of our Kiwi carols:

Not on a snowy night
By star or candlelight
Nor by an angel band
There came to our dear land
Te Harinui Te Harinui Te Harinui
Glad tidings of great joy

But on a summer day
Within a quiet bay
The Maori people heard
The great and glorious word
Now in this blessed land
United heart and hand
We praise the glorious birth
And sing to all the earth

2000 years ago God became a baby –'The Word became flesh and lived among us' (John 1:14) or as the Message paraphrase puts it:

– The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one–of –a–kind glory, like Father, like Son'

Just over 200 years ago the Christmas story was heard for the first time in New Zealand on the shores of an idyllic beach in the Bay of Islands. Today the same story works miracles as the Saviour of all comes to heal and transform lives. This Christmas may the old story touch you afresh and renew your life.

We hope you are able to join with us for some of our special Christmas services. You will find information about these elsewhere in this newsletter. This year at our Christmas services –in the evening on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day our offerings will be going toward our International Needs partnership project in Bangladesh . For those who receive this as a hard copy there is info enclosed. For those who receive this as an electronic copy, info and envelopes are available at church.

Jacinta joins me in wishing you a happy, holy and blessed Christmas with a hope –filled year to follow.

Your pastor and friend
Ian Hyslop

Email ian@wpccc.org.nz

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From The Intern's Desk……

A lot has happened since I began work at the Upper Clutha Parish in February. Laura and I are thankful for the warm welcome, encouragement and support we've received since arriving, especially with the birth of our baby Phoebe during the year.

Phoebe enjoying some Central Otago strawberries

Laura, Luke & Phoebe, Abel Tasman Track

More and more I've realised we are a part of a great church. I've been inspired by a number of things - all ages joining together in Sunday worship, the faithful service of many within the congregation, vibrant ministries which engage our community, to name only some. There has been plenty for me to learn, and I've appreciated the grace given to me throughout this time. Thank you for the opportunity to grow and develop my sense of call to ordained ministry, here at Upper Clutha.

I'd like to wish you a blessed advent season, and a restful break at some stage during Summer. I look forward to sharing the next year with you all.

Yours in Christ,
Aaron Johnstone
Ministry Intern

Presbyterian Women (APW)

Our group have met for business and fellowship on the second Monday of the month over the past few months. In October we held a Dessert and Coffee evening as a fund raiser to help with local and overseas projects. It was a happy and successful evening, and members were glad of the support received.

For our last meeting of the year we went to the Cardrona Hotel for lunch, and Lynley Ives and Kath Carter told us about the conference they had attended in Mosgiel, which was the annual meeting of Presbyterian Women Aoteroa New Zealand, as well as a time of learning and sharing together. A kind traveller took the photo of those who were able to attend the lunch!

Each month the newsletter 'Bush Fire' is sent out from Wellington with information about the role of Presbyterian Women within NZ and overseas. If you would like to have a copy to read please contact me.

Our first meeting for 2018 will be in February.

Catherine Little
President

Tel: 443 1620

Fellowship At Florence's is a weekly social event for the women of our church.

florence's
FOODSTORE & CAFE

Come along for great coffee, conversation and a sense of belonging!

If you're new to Wanaka you'll fit right in - many of us are!

Venue: Florence's Foodstore & Cafe, Corner Cardrona Valley and Orchard Roads, **Every Tuesday at 10am**

rightnow MEDIA

RightNow is a non-profit ministry committed to serving churches. Everyone who is part of our church family here should have received an email about 'Right Now Media'. This is wonderful resource for all of us to use with a whole variety of really good videos you can access online. If you haven't received an email about this – simply fill in one of our info forms in the church foyer and we'll get the details

The best view comes after the hardest climb!

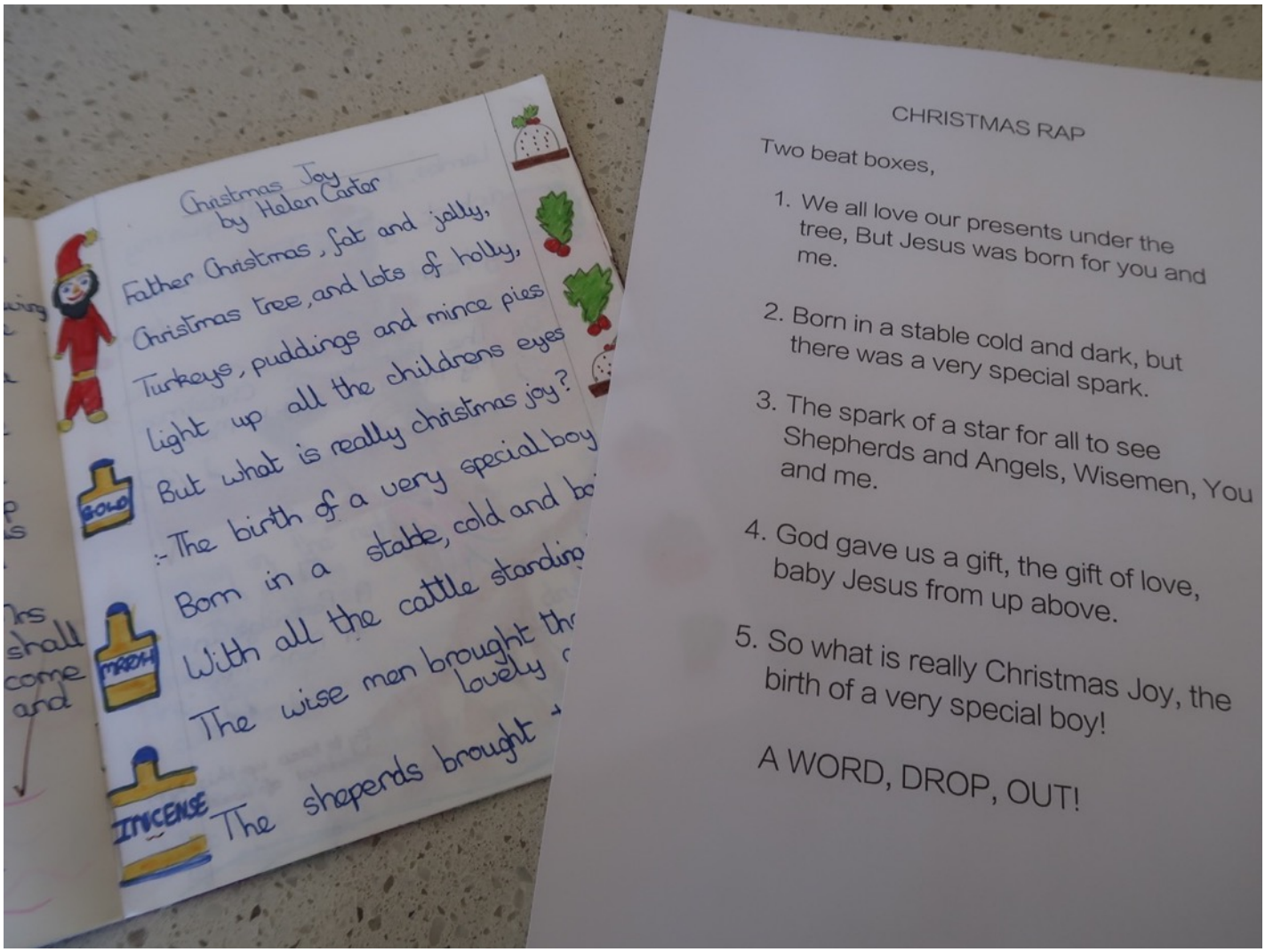
Saturday 25th November, Ian and his multigenerational group at Roy's Peak during their 9 hour Mt Roy Skyline walk

It's a (W)RAP

This time last year I was writing about the search for meaning as all things 'Christmas' hit the shops from October onwards. With a little help from David Bowie, his unlikely pairing with Bing Crosby and a Disney donkey, my conclusion was that some searching was worth it.

Recently, my Mum was recalling a Christmas poem she remembered me writing when I was at school and about my daughter Layla's age.

Amazingly we were both able to remember some of the words. More amazingly, after a rummage through a dusty box on a high shelf in a cupboard, I found the school book it was written in all those years ago (and on the other side of the world). My 10 or 11 year old self showing an awareness of creeping consumerism *continued.....*



Christmas Joy
by Helen Carter

Father Christmas, fat and jolly,
Christmas tree, and lots of holly,
Turkeys, puddings and mince pies
light up all the childrens eyes
But what is really christmas joy?
The birth of a very special boy
Born in a stable, cold and bo
With all the cattle standing
The wise men brought the
lovely
The shepends brought

GOLD
MYRRH
INCENSE

CHRISTMAS RAP

Two beat boxes,

1. We all love our presents under the tree, But Jesus was born for you and me.

2. Born in a stable cold and dark, but there was a very special spark.

3. The spark of a star for all to see Shepherds and Angels, Wisemen, You and me.

4. God gave us a gift, the gift of love, baby Jesus from up above.

5. So what is really Christmas Joy, the birth of a very special boy!

A WORD, DROP, OUT!

More than 35 years later, the sentiment hadn't changed, but Layla was happy to rework the words and 'modernise' the delivery. Handwriting replaced with a Word docx, not to be read but rapped ....with a little help from her Rainbow Club friends

I know that the real spirit of Christmas is available to all of us. The gift is ours to share and to express in whatever way we can. CS Lewis expressed it beautifully in his book The Last Battle:

"In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world"

Have a blessed Christmas,
Helen Brooks, Communication Team

Did you know that the sermons from Sunday morning worship are available to listen to on our website?

www.wpccc.org.nz

Go to top right side on front page to headphone symbol and click there. Or click on the "F" and you'll be redirected to our Church Facebook page to keep up with the latest news

Church Office

Tammy Clegg & Penny Eaton

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Office Hours :

Tuesday to Thursday 9am-12pm
Friday 9am-1pm

Our full **Parish Directory** is available in the foyer or on PDF from the Office

We finished our study in Romans and are now using the Right Now series studying James. These times have been challenging and we have had some good discussion as to how what Paul and James are saying affects us today. What are we doing in our day to day lives that demonstrates God's gift of forgiveness? The answer can be found in **James 1:27** "***— taking care of widows and orphans and keeping oneself from being corrupted by the world***" Living Bible.

We have a good core group which is good and we have also had some new folks come to join with us. We would like for more to come and share with us as we don't just want to be like a club, but want for this to be a vibrant part of our church.

Our monthly breakfast is a special time for fellowship and sharing with one Saturday at Mike and Sue Yates' Silverpine Lodge, and December out at Russell and Bev Lovelock's place.

In the New Year we are looking at possibility of going for a group picnic to the Lindis Hotel site, maybe another walk through gold diggings by Red Bridge, and also a trip through to Geraldine to view Alvin and Judy's computerised dairy system.

Murray Bennett

YOUTH MINISTRY

YAK meets every Tuesday in the school term

Thanks for all the support for this ministry, we are indeed blessed to share faith and fun with these great kids.

End of year photo of team YAK.

Missing are the seniors who were sitting exams!

"Jesus was actually kind of a 'badass' in a counter cultural, all inclusive, anti-materialistic, radically bold love kind of way"

Sheri Faye Rosendahl

Tuesday 5 December we had the final mainly music session for the year.

50 families and 82 children attended which was our biggest number ever! Lucy had set up a Christmas stable scene with animals and a manger.

Lucy and Linli presented the Christmas story between appropriate songs such as Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Away in a manger, and the Halleluia Christmas Carol. Hannah Davey acted as Mary. We gave every family a Christmas book, the children who were old enough a chocolate Santa and the adults chose a Roses chocolate from a bowl.

Hawea had their final session on Wednesday 6 December with a similar programme.

We have a great team involved in this outreach programme but there is always room for others if you have an enthusiasm for little ones and their parents, and time on a Tuesday morning. We start again next year about the time school starts so do get in touch with Lucy Davey or any team member if you would like to be involved. I always come home after the session with a smile on my face, as seeing the happy children and the happy chatter between the parents makes you realise what a great blessing a community is. As well as the benefit of the music for the children On we provide such a good opportunity for parents to get together and for us to show God's love in action.

RAINBOW CLUB

We have had an interesting learning time since last we reported. It has been good to look at stories from the Old Testament: Abraham and Sarah our "ancestors in the faith" and hear of all the ups and downs in the family life. God was always there for them all, even when they did not understand that. Then in September we spent time thinking about how we can learn about God by looking at all God has created in our beautiful planet Earth. It is good to take time and look and listen and be still and 'know God'. It was good too, to look at God's rules to help us live together, and to think about Moses and all that he did for the Hebrew people. It is important to put into practise every day the truths we have learned together. Now we are hearing parables Jesus told…they are stories which make us think!

In October and November we have been earning money to get GOOD GIFTS to help people who have had leprosy. We hope to buy a piglet again to help a family and have enough to help a girl go to school. It is good to think about gifts for others as we get ready to celebrate Christmas.

Our numbers are growing which is good; Audrey Cretney has moved from crèche up to the Red Room now she is three.

From next year we will have three classes in Rainbow Club. Several of our members will be moving to Youth 101 as they enter Year 7 at school.

Rainbow Club and Youth 101 meet on Sunday morning at 9:30 am with our Church family and then go to classes. Children are welcome to come along and join us.

Over the School Holidays there will be Holiday Rainbow Club with stories and activities in the Upper Room.

On Tuesday 31st October we hosted for the second year our positive and fun filled alternative to Halloween.....a community party.

The sun shone and the crowds came. As you can see it was a great evening.....

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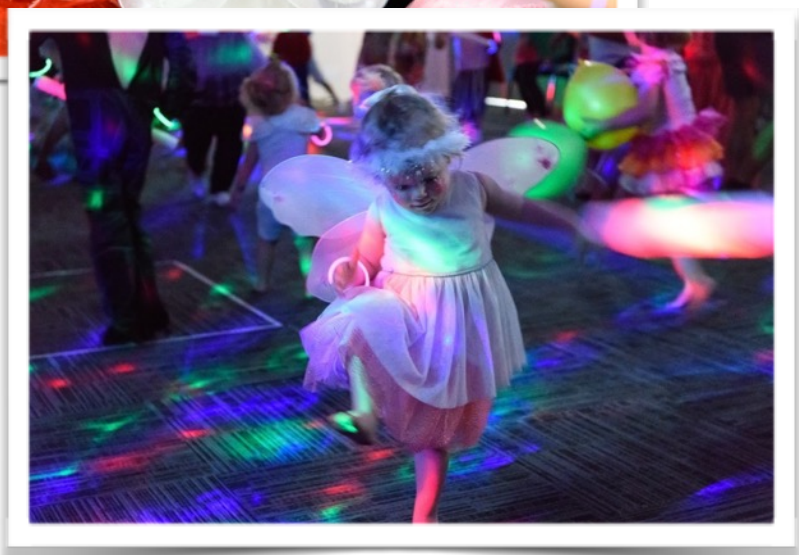


Church Register (April to December 2017)

Baptisms

16 July Infant Baptism at St Andrews Church Wanaka
Phoebe Esme Johnstone daughter of Aaron and Laura

26 November Baptism by immersion on confession of faith (Roys Bay Lake Wanaka)
Ethan Highsted - son of Marcus and Jo

Funerals and Memorials

24 April James (Jim) Leckie

04 May Helen Patricia (Pat) Ross

22 May Lockhart Dobbie Easton

31 May Harvey George Wellman

22 July Marjorie Stephenson

25 August Laurie Stenhouse

Our Sunday 5pm group are very thankful to the Lord for the many prayers that have been and are being answered throughout the year.

We continue to trust in Him to help us. Please come along and join with us to pray

June Harris

We welcome your offering by automatic payment to the church account

02 0673 0001745 00

Envelopes are also available from the office

The following list of food stuffs are helpful contributions to **food bank** parcels
at this time of the year:

Rice and pasta , Baking goods, Tinned fish/meat , Pasta sauces, single serve meals, Crackers, biscuits and muesli bars, toilet paper and toiletry items (e.g sunscreen, toothpaste),

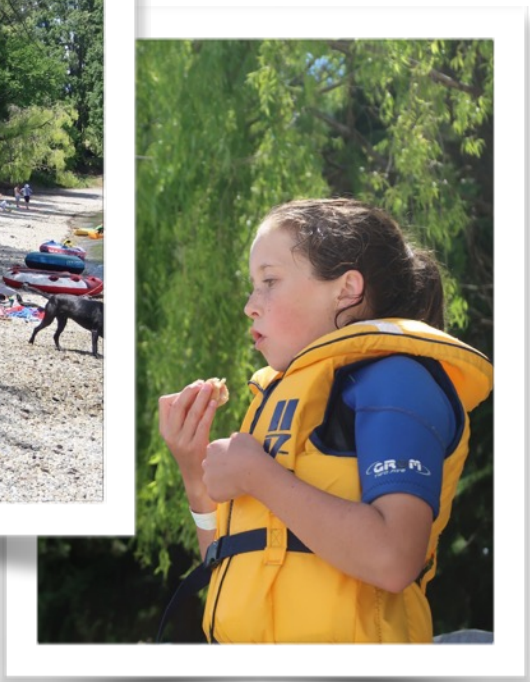
Treats for the Christmas Food Hampers

If you can help please contribute to the food basket at church on a Sunday.

Christmas Reminders

May the Christmas presents remind you
of God's greatest gift - His only begotten Son
May the Christmas candles remind you
of Him who is the light of the world
May the Christmas tree remind you
of another tree on which He died for you
May the Christmas cheer remind you
of Him who said 'be of good cheer'
May the Christmas feast remind you
of Him who is the bread of life
May the Christmas bells remind you
of the glorious proclamation of His birth
May the Christmas carols remind you
of His glad tidings which we are to proclaim to all mankind
May the Christmas season remind you
in every way of Jesus Christ your King

After church on Sunday 10th December, it was down to Eely Point for the Annual Church Picnic… boats, biscuits, kayaks heaps of fun and even a little bit of adventure!



Our **TAKE FIVE feature**…a great way to introduce people……it's just what it says, we ask them 5 questions, they answer!
This time we put Penny Eaton on the spot. Penny has recently begun job sharing with Tammy in the Church Office.

Peter & Penny Eaton

The four Eaton Girls

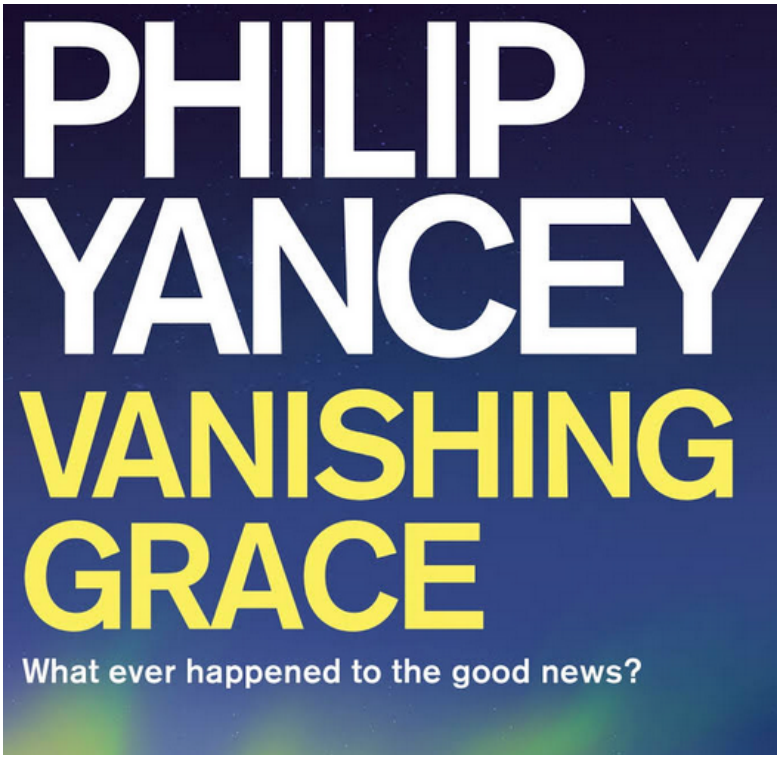
Where did you grow up?
On a farm on the Karaka, just south of Auckland

Why Wanaka?
Peter and I have a strong sense that this is where God wants us to be.

What have you been enjoying about church life this year?
To me, church is a friendly place, I have felt included here and am enjoying you all. I love working in the church office as I can meet even more of you and my keywords are 'family' and 'belonging' so I aim to promote that environment in everything I do.

Who do you admire?
Pandita Ramabai – campaigner for women's rights in India, education, health and founder of Mukti Mission (http://mukti.org.nz/) She translated the entire Bible into Marathi – a very courageous and intelligent woman of faith.

You have a free day, what would you most like to be doing?
Either cycling with Peter on our e-bikes or reading down by the lake, swimming when hot, watching people and eating ice cream.



Whatever happened to the Good News?

Philip Yancey has been asking this question all his life as a Christian journalist

Over 20 years ago, his international bestseller *What's So Amazing About Grace* explored Christianity's great distinctive - grace - at street level.
In 2014 Philip returned to the question with the book *Vanishing Grace,* exploring what exactly the church has to offer a broken world today. In a time of division and discord, grace seems in vanishing supply. Why? And what can we do about it?

Vanishing Grace Small Group Bible Study by Philip Yancey is a five session small group DVD study which we plan to facilitate during Term 1 next year.
Spare time over the holidays? Why not grab a copy of the book and get prepared!
Are you striving to make sense of faith and live it out amid the changing landscape of our day? Then this is for you

MISSION ABROAD TEAM

Mission Abroad has been busy fundraising lately and we want to thank you to all who have supported the movie night or bought items at the stall for Orphans Aid Int. lately. The Sunday 26th November stall made over $500. Wonderful news for the children who are in such dire conditions overseas.

At our last meeting we decided to give $1,000 of our funding to Orphans Aid and have been focusing on the Bhutan refugee children who have been removed from Bhutan over the border into India and require a school and resources. We have been doing a few Thursday afternoon markets as well. This also helps to raise the profile of the organisation.

Our movie night raised $1,170, which we made up to $1,500 from our funds, to send to International Needs to continue the building of the Orphanage in

Bangladesh. They are now up to the third level. To help them further, our Christmas Appeal will also support the Orphanage. Special envelopes will be given out over the services close to Christmas and tax refunds will be available.

We hope the head of International Needs in Bangladesh, MacDonald Adhikary, will be coming here next March to thank and encourage us.

We have also sent $500 to David Kauva in Bougainville. He is doing great work in church planting and evangelism there. This is another International Needs project.

Our display in the church foyer highlighting the Christmas Appeal

Jean's daughter Judy will now be known to most of you as she has shared recently on her work in Calcutta with Freeset. As all her family go to our church and we have come to regard Judy as one of us, and admire her very much for the sacrificial life she has chosen, we wanted to support her as a church and have committed $1,000 per year towards her support.

Next April, I will be going to the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology to help with an English course so students there will be able to attain a level of English to be able to do their postgraduate theological training.

continued...

It is a three month course and so there are three teams of us, as visas are only available for a month at a time. One of the problems is that some of the students still struggle to attain this level but are able to repeat the course during the following year when they have their break. However for many, they cannot afford the US$500 fee. A fund has been set up to help those who would benefit repeating and our committee has decided to give NZ$500 towards this fund. These students will be the future church planters in Myanmar and beyond.

Thank you all for your encouragement, support and prayer for these projects and people who are on the coal face of mission. We all play an important role in making a difference and bringing the love of Jesus to these nations.

God bless

Inez and the Mission Abroad team

We had an amazing response to our first participation in Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse www.samaritanspurse.org.au . In a special intergenerational service focussing on God's compassion, the gift filled boxes were piled high in the centre of the church hall ready to be sent off for delivery to children in need across the South Pacific.

This year's **Kids & Youth End of Year Service** was as usual an intergenerational affair There were puppets, rappers, new songs and old, a quiz with a message and as always Jesus was at the centre of our worship…….

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Services

Sunday 10 December

9.30am Rainbow Club Break Up—Intergenerational Service
to be followed by boats, swimming and a picnic lunch at
Eely Point - weather permitting

Sunday 17 December

9.30am Remembrance Service
Bring along a long stemmed flower in memory of a loved one

7.00pm Carols and Lessons with folk from the Anglican Parish
Featuring our special choir

Sunday 24 December

9.30am Neil Cowie leads the service

7pm "Christmas for the Family"
led by Aaron Johnstone
St Ninians, Hawea Flat

11.30pm Carols by Candlelight@Tenby St

Christmas Day

9.30am Christmas for the Family
A message of hope for Christmas

Dec 31—end of January

9.30am Morning Worship
Aaron and Ian will be speaking on "Psalms for the Summer"

No night church

Please note that Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offerings will go toward our Church's overseas partnership with International Needs at Naogaon in North Bangladesh.

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