



wanaka

P R E S B Y T E R I A N

C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H C E N T R E

loving God, loving people



From your Minister.....

Finding Hope....

Easter is over, the town is a bit quieter here in Wanaka after Warbirds and the other events we have had here in the Upper Clutha over recent months.

Jacinta and I have been enjoying getting around and visiting folk in

your homes, getting to know you and hearing some of your ideas about what God is calling us to do and be, as God's people here.

This is a fascinating community to live in and serve God. Here in our church family we are grateful for so many who serve the Lord so faithfully.

continued...

As I write to you, I am conscious that for some in our community these recent months have been sad and difficult.

We all, from time to time, face challenges in our lives. Watching the TV news we can sometimes despair as we see situation after situation where there is tragedy, suffering and sorrow - both within New Zealand and in other places.

We have just celebrated Easter - does it's message have anything to say to us? I believe it does - at Easter we are reminded of victory over seeming tragedy, disaster and lost hope. Jesus went the way of the cross for you and me - He understands our sorrows, our pain and our struggles with temptation and sin.

As John 3:16 puts it 'God so loved the world (you and me) that He gave His one and only Son.....' Yes, at Easter we have been reminded yet again of God's love for us - not a cheap or a shallow love but a costly love that was shown in Jesus' death on the cross. We also have celebrated the resurrection. Jesus rose again and so offers us the gift of eternal life and hope for the future. He is with us.

In our services in the lead into Easter we have watched some clips from the NZ 'Hope Project' –you may like to view these stories on 'You Tube' – inspiring stories of ordinary kiwis like you and I who have come to faith in God or are trusting God often in difficult circumstances.

Maybe you struggle to understand or doubt some of these things. Could I encourage you to read the Gospels in the New Testament in a modern translation of the Bible and there you will meet Jesus. Also I am hoping that we can run some courses this year which are an introduction to the Christian faith or a revisiting of it – watch this space. GK Chesterton once said "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried."

God bless you and your loved ones.
Your pastor and friend
Ian Hyslop

***(Ian's contact details are :
e mail ian@wpccc.org.nz and his office
phone number is 4436759.
Ian also writes a regular 'Note from Ian'
in our weekly Sunday bulletin – you can
read this on our website
www.wpccc.org.nz –under the
Communications tab)***



Session Report

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. The leaves are changing and the days are getting shorter!!

Following Session meetings, we are now including in the Sunday bulletin some of the decisions made. I hope you are finding this informative. After our recent Congregational Forum, the decision was made to discontinue the Gala - a decision that was not taken lightly. I want to acknowledge the huge contributions made by many, many people over the years of evolving from early beginnings to the full-on Gala such as we had this year.

I am encouraged to see our church family involved in reaching out to the community with the Love of God.

It is an amazing atmosphere as the Mainly Music groups at Wanaka and Hawea meet each week and serve the young children, parents, carers, and grandparents in the area.

Our youth were involved in an Easter Camp at Christchurch with over 3000 other young people attending. If I think back 50 years - no more like 60 years - it was Easter Camps where I first discovered God's Love for me and my Christian journey began. Ask our youth about the camps they attend and share in their discovery of God's love.

We are fortunate to have such dedicated leaders who teach our young, from Rainbow Club on Sundays, youth after school on Tuesdays and the monthly combined churches Friday or Saturday events. Pray for the leaders and young people of our area. God is listening.

Finally I know many of you have been visited by Ian and Jacinta Hyslop. If you haven't met them yet, I invite you to join us on Sunday morning at 9.30am in Wanaka, or at 11.30am at Hawea on the second Sunday of the month. We are blessed to have Ian's leadership of our team at Session.

Please pray for us as we hold our Retreat Day on 14 May. Together we will seek God's leading for the Upper Clutha in the months ahead.

*Rena Cowie
Session Clerk*

**For Jesus, peace seems to
have meant not the
absence of struggle, but
the presence of love**

Frederick Buechner, Beyond Words

Moderator's Easter Message 2016



God says, "Yes!"

Sometimes when you know a story so well, you read it backwards knowing how the story ends. Easter is like that. It is a story of three days of violence, suffering, rejection, denial and then against all odds, resurrection to new life. Easter is often told as a story of two halves – the cross and the resurrection.

But, what if it was one story with the title "God says, 'Yes!'?"

God says "yes" to suffering.

In the midst of suffering, most people ask, "Where is God?", as if God is somehow absent. Jesus cries the words of Psalm 22, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" But Jesus also knew the words of Psalm 23 "For thou art with me (even in the valley of the shadow of death)". Could it be that in our experience of suffering (the abandonment of God), we experience the presence of God?

God says "yes" to our humanity.

The Easter story makes no attempt to gloss over the flaws of our humanity. It is not hard to see your own face in the mirror of scripture: jealousy, manipulation, deception, doubt, fear, confusion, courage, compassion, betrayal and grief – it's all there. You cannot turn your face away from your own image. God doesn't.

God says "yes" to love as the greatest power the world has ever seen. Violence and injustice are rendered powerless in the face of love.

God says "yes" to forgiveness.



Last year we had good study nights with a group of men keen to take part and share their experiences and what they feel God is showing them through His Word.

The start of 2016 was highlighted by organising the church trip up the Dingleburn and special thanks must go to Alon for coordinating this with the Meads. This was a special trip as you can see from the photos below.....weather perfect, views stunning, good spot for lunch and no vehicle problems.

Our monthly breakfast get together has been well attended and next month (May 7th) we are booked in for visit to the new Cardrona distillery at 8am. This get together is open for husbands and wives and folks in the church who would like to

come and share with us. There will be porridge, bacon and eggs with toast and tea and coffee.

Cost will be \$5 per person. A form will be available at church to advise if you'll be attending.

Later this month (30th April) we have organised a trip to Invercargill and although not enough to take a bus we are looking forward to the companionship of going in cars and visiting Richardson Museum.

We have started a new study of our Christian Beliefs and our understanding with the first one being "God in the World and in the Word".

Murray Bennett



Presbyterian Women (APW)

At national level there are changes taking place for PW. There is a paid part time co-ordinator in Wellington overseeing the organisation.

The local Upper Clutha branch continues to meet, usually on the 2nd Monday of each month from February to November. However, there will be no meeting in April, because we will attend "The Gathering" in Cromwell on April 7th.

This is a meeting of all the women's groups in Union and Presbyterian Parishes in Central Otago. "The Gathering" is a time of sharing ideas, of fellowship and encouragement of each other.

There are two meetings of "The Gathering" a year and the meeting place moves around the parishes who wish to host the event.

In our local group we have shared about symbols which help us in our faith journey; about books which have helped us or that we have enjoyed. We have also hosted a Sunday evening meeting with the Potters, whom we support with a yearly donation. They spoke to us and other interested folk, about their work in Thailand, where they run hostels so that children can attend school.

We are looking forward hearing about Diane and Jim Young's work in Malawai, when they are home on leave in a few months time. We also support the Youngs in their work. We will make sure that this meeting is well advertised so that you will be able to attend.

News about PW events, and the people we support overseas is posted on the noticeboard in the vestibule, St Andrews Wanaka, so you can keep up to date.

Catherine Little 443 1620



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



Fellowship At Florence's

is a weekly social event for the women of our church.

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

Venue: Florence's corner Cardrona Valley & Orchard Roads 10am Every Tuesday

Report from The Gathering

On Thursday, 7th April, eight members travelled to Cromwell for the APW Gathering. It was a very enjoyable day when we met other members from branches in the South Island renewing old acquaintances from previous times we had met.

We were entertained by Nancy, a female country & western singer (who was also a very good yodeller!) and we joined in with familiar songs.

We also heard from an enthusiastic traveller and local viticulturist Robin Dicey who had been on a trip to Russia and had some very amusing tales to tell of his journey. He is already planning his next trip and he really can't wait to get started.

It was particularly good to see Rev. Erin Pendreigh, who had just returned from attending the Commission on the Status of Women CSW60 at the UN in New York. Erin was privileged to be one

of the delegates representing Presbyterian Women Aotearoa.



Erin talked to us of her experiences whilst she was there, including an opportunity to hear Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speak about the goals of gender equality and how he sees that it must become recognised not as solely "a women's movement" but a truly inclusive global movement. You can read more about CSW60 via the following link

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016>

Kath Carter

Take a moment.....

**Heavenly Father,
Into your hands I place my worries, cares and troubles
Into your wisdom I place my path, my direction and my goals
Into your love I place my life
Amen**



Communication Team News

"Getting information off the internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant"

Mitchell Kapor, quoted above, was one of the pioneers of personal computing in the 1980's. What chance do we have when even he cannot see the wood for the trees!

Technological creativity is an amazing gift from God.....we need to apply it responsibly to solve problems and improve our world.

Keeping websites, facebook pages etc current and able to enhance our WPCCC experience is our local challenge and a great consumer of time.

We now upload Ian's weekly bulletin note to the website and in recent weeks we have been trying to get the audio button on the front page of the website working to bring the Sunday sermons to you in the comfort of your own home or even your car, should you not make it to the service. Michael Hyndman and the other sound desk volunteers have been getting to grips with the technology to record and we are grateful to Lloyd Weehuizen for his post processing skills in clipping the audio. We are getting there!

Photographs are a wonderful way of documenting an event. If you happen to be at a Church group or event and can take 1 or 2 pictures please email them to me at the address below if you are happy for

them to be used in the newsletters or on the website or Facebook.

Also welcome are stories shared. My favourite page in this newsletter came about just like that...Grant & Lyn Gordon's granddaughter's poem fitted so seamlessly with Ian's message about finding hope in difficult times.

We can all be involved in creating vibrant channels of communication. Connection is an important part of our Christian lives.

This final quote is not from a brainy mathematician or computer scientist but attributed (according to the internet, so it must be true!) to a now deceased Canadian radio presenter named Al Boliska

"Do you realise if it weren't for Edison we'd be watching TV by candlelight"

Wise words!

Helen Brooks

helen.churchnl@slingshot.co.nz

Check out the website www.wpccc.org.nz



and do 'like' us on Facebook....Wanaka Presbyterian Community Church.

We have also had a *Facebook Group page* for at least a couple of years now. This is a 'closed' group which means communication is between members of the group only and cannot be viewed by the wider public. If you'd like to be a member, just email me and I can send an invite.

St Ninian's Hawea Flat

The small Congregation of our beautiful little Church has swelled to sometimes 20. We are especially grateful for the younger people who take responsibility for some of the regular chores, such as moving chairs out for church and back again for mainly music.

Liz English plays the keyboard (kindly lent to us) and Mark English can work the Powerboard (which belongs to mainly music).

We share lunch after the monthly service and this is a great time for fellowship. Supply of the lunch is covered by a roster and there is always plenty to share so we are happy to have visitors.



The many prayers for St.Ninians are being answered.

Shona Lorimer



The Tenebrae Service on Maundy evening was a great event and quite overwhelmed us 'Regulars' as we did not expect so many and were not prepared.....the 39 communion glasses we have were not enough!

After a few years of just 'keeping it going' it is great to have a new minister (and a new sign!)



Dr Aung Mang from Myanmar, guest preacher at St Ninans Sun 10th March

FAMILY FOCUS REPORT

WPCCC - A Kids Friendly Church!

...featuring the importance of the Church Family and intergenerational worship.



We are all familiar with the saying that “it takes a whole village to raise a child!”

I would like to enlarge on that theme and claim it takes a whole church to nurture our young ones in the faith....that is those who are established in faith commit to disciple and mentor those learning what it means to be a christian. So it's not just about our children and youth programmes it's also about the whole fellowship.

Scripture Union research suggests that “one of the key strategies for faith formation is intergenerational relationships. The church as a family means that our faith is strengthened by developing relationships that stretch across the ages as well as those of the same age and stage.”.....and “the time that is spent with the church as a whole, helps children feel they belong. It connects them to the faith practices of the church community and models to them the expression of faith and worship. This is also a crucial time for children to contribute in their own right and to model to adults, what a life of faith looks like to a young person.”

So, how are we going?

Intergenerational worship occurs every Sunday at WPCCC with a dedicated Children's Worship time shared with the congregation and often including children taking responsibility for tasks such as scripture reading and the call to worship. Monthly communion enables regular participation by our children to share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with the Church Family.

Also we enjoy special intergenerational worship Sundays when children are included in the whole service, with the style and content of the service to match the day....e.g National Children's Day has become an annual celebration for us and an opportunity to invite new families to participate. This year's service with love and forgiveness as the theme was a happy time as young and old worked together even modelling with playdough! These wonderful photographs highlight it's success.....



**National Children's Day Service
Sunday 6th March**

Luke 15:11-32





Special services also offer meaningful opportunities for a special focus for children e.g Palm Sunday was particularly meaningful for our children as they met and mingled with Meg our guest donkey, before the procession. (The children followed Meg into the church waving their palm branches as they moved right round the church while the congregation sang.)



The Picnic in the Park (to coincide with the school year starting) is also a regular.

This year, illustrating passages of scripture using resources found in the park - another very creative, interactive experience with all ages working together.



Our progress in this shared nurturing role??

We are surely blessed in our growing awareness of our meaningful and intentional whole church efforts to be a genuine Church Family.

Bev Lovelock

for Family Focus/ Kids Friendly Ministry



A reminder about our Sunday School Programme - Rainbow Club for 3 - 10+ year old children runs every Sunday throughout the year.

Usually children attend the first part of the service at 9.30am and after their special worship time with the congregation they leave for their classes but join again with the Church family for Morning tea and fellowship.

New and visiting children are always welcome!



MISSIONS ABROAD TEAM

Our main focus for this year is to support an International Needs Project in Bangladesh for a much needed orphanage in the north which will cost about US\$160K. Missionary McDonald Adhikary will be at our church on August 14th to speak to us on the work being done in Bangladesh.

Inez has come home enthused to help the Bangladesh need further. We are donating \$520 from our budget to this cause and are discussing fund raising projects and welcome suggestions.

During her trip Inez' team first lived in Dhaka city and daily visited the girls orphanage in Savar, where the staff suspended their school programmes while the ladies, with the help of an interpreter, took over classes with devotions incorporating English, crafts, singing, music, games, puzzles, activities and competitions. The girls, all orphans or from destitute families, loved the new resources. The team then travelled by a large river boat, 450kms to the south of the country then 1.5 hrs drive to the rural village of Bethany. They lived on campus there at a boys orphanage and did the same work as at the girls orphanage. Inez felt it a privilege to witness what God is doing in the lives of these lovely children.

A trip to Savar & Bethany to relish



In November Dianne Burgess and a team of women (Gillian Budge, Mary Amooore, Helena Mason and Team Leader Inez Mclea) visited our partners in Bangladesh.

From the latest Insight magazine,
www.internationalneeds.org.nz

They are housed, fed, clothed, educated and cared for by the wonderful staff in both villages. Inez and her group visited two schools where children attend part of each day. These children work for money for their family and spend half a day at school. As well as lessons they have a meal, shower and fresh clothing. Bangladesh is not a particularly safe place to go for Christian Missionaries.

These brave ladies touched the lives of many boys and girls in a very positive way.

continued...

We are also supporting an International Needs Project in the Pacific by helping Pastor David Kauva financially with a cheque of \$480. We hope to develop this relationship to a sister church situation with people from both churches visiting each other. We had an enjoyable pot luck dinner with Malcolm and Sandy Potter from Cromwell who have been missionaries in Thailand for 15 years. Their inspiring talk was attended by 25 people.

Last year we raised nearly \$6000 for Orphans Aid International by selling Nepalese crafts at the market and at church. We intend to repeat that effort during July and August this year. We are looking for volunteers who would maybe like to help out occasionally sell at the Farmers Market on Thursday evenings from 3pm – 6pm in the winter.

*Liz Hall
Mission Abroad Team*



Prayer Notes

*To quote Charles
Spurgeon*

*"To pray is to enter the
treasure house of God and to
gather riches out of an inexhaustible
storehouse."*

We continue to meet at 5pm on Sundays in the Upper Room. We have had wonderful answers to prayer. Come and join us as we pray together.

June Harris

Prayer Convenor 4431788



The funeral of
Ernie Colling took place
at Tarras Church on
12 January

and of
Karalyn Macandrew at
St Andrews Wanaka
on 18 March



The Baptism of
Hope Lily Sophia Davey daughter of
Mark and Lucy
took place at
St Andrews on
10 January

February saw the 5 year anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake in which so many lives were tragically lost.

Grant & Lyn Gordon's grand-daughter Scarlett wrote this poignant and mature poem. The 'Aunty' of the poem is their daughter Johanna.

Here a child recognises the human need for hope during difficult times.

My Aunty

We shook,
We braked,
We rattled and battled
Through the heart-breaking time.
Dad worked longer hours,
The walls of our family home cracked.
She encouraged us to stay strong.
The hugs and kisses she placed on my face lovingly,
She told me every little thing is going to be alright,
Sending us letters of hope.



Scarlett Gordon. Aged 10 years.



<http://hopeproject.co.nz/christian-hope/>

The Hope Project website explores the subject of 'hope' with a broad range of New Zealanders.

Church Grounds Landscaping

Another stage towards finishing the landscaping of the Church grounds takes place this month (April). The raised area along the fence line on the south side of the church drive is due to be planted out on Saturday 23rd April

How you can help

- 1 attend **working bee on Saturday 23rd April at 9.30am** Bring a spade and energy to help plant 50 trees and shrubs
- 2 **Donate towards the cost of the plants.** The 50 plants include 3 flowering cherry trees, 3 crab apple trees, viburnum, choisya, carpet roses etc. Donations can be put in an envelope labelled "Church garden" either in offering bag, or left with Tracy at the office.

Any assistance would be appreciated. Questions to Malcolm or Catherine Baker 4436959

Contact Us

Worship and belonging

Minister: Ian Hyslop

027 6938210

office: 4436759

ian@wpccc@xtra.co.nz

Volunteering, giving or booking facilities

Tracy 443-7887 or

027 4334395 or

u.c.pres.church@xtra.co.nz

Children's ministries

Bev 443-1414

Youth

Jenni 443-4678

mainly music

Wanaka Pauline 443-8044

Hawea Lynda 443-8708

Prayer requests

June 443-1788

News & Communication

Helen 443-6726

helen.churchnl@slingshot.co.nz

Study Groups

Ladies: Jen 443-2424

Men: Murray 0272724992

Homegroups: Jacinta 443-2002

We welcome your offering by automatic payment to the church account

02 0673 0001745 00.



The Last Word.....

I do not understand the mystery of grace
only that it meets us where we are and does not
leave us where it found us.

Anne Lamott

*From the fullness of his grace
we have all received one*

Blessing

after another.

John 1:16



wanaka
PRESBYTERIAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTRE

loving God, loving people