



*wanaka*  
PRESBYTERIAN

COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTRE

*loving God, loving people*



*From your Minister.....*

## **The Reason for the Season....**

It's great to be here in the Upper Clutha Parish. Jacinta and I moved here from Geraldine in mid November and I was inducted as minister on 25 November on a lovely warm summer Wanaka night. Thank you to all those who have helped in preparing for our

arrival – those who served on the Ministry Settlement Board, those who prepared the manse so well for us and so many of you who have assisted in extra ways over the past 18 months. We are looking forward to getting to know you and serve God in your midst in these lovely areas of the Upper Clutha. Jacinta joins me in thanking you for the warmth of your welcome to us here. *continued...*



I am set up in my office in the church complex and this is where I work from in the mornings.

My office phone number is 443 6759 and our phone number at the manse is 4432002 and my email is [ianatwpccc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ianatwpccc@xtra.co.nz)

Over these days ahead we come near to Christmas. For children Christmas is the highlight of the year and it can't come quickly enough. Kids (and some adults!!) are tantalised by glittering lights, wonderfully decorated Christmas trees, parties and caught up in the excitement of writing out cards and wrapping presents. And for others this can be a chaotic time of the year. We dream up all the jobs that 'must' be done by Christmas. Why by Christmas? I have no idea. On top of that there are presents to buy, the pantry and freezer to fill with food, holidays to plan and friends and family, many of whom we may not have seen all year, to connect with.. And for many of us there will be family and friends coming to stay with us over the next month or so.

But fortunately it is not just a time of busyness –it is permeated with a spirit of goodwill, when we make time to celebrate. Celebrate what? We can answer that by quoting the words of the angel to the shepherds that first Christmas –'Do not be afraid I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you : He is Christ the Lord.'(Luke 2:10-11)

Christmas gives us the unique opportunity to remember and celebrate the Christ of Christmas, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world. The Bible leaves us in no doubt of God's love and plan to send His son to reach out to a hurting and broken world.

May you and yours take time this Christmas to pause and reflect on the 'reason for the season' and be filled afresh with the joy, love and peace of God that comes to us through the gift of Jesus Christ –the one called Emmanuel –'God with us.' As the apostle Paul puts it –'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift...' (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Our Christmas services are listed on the back page . I hope you can join with us for one of our Christmas services and then from December 27 until the end of January, I will be preaching a series of messages –'Psalms for the Summer.'

Jacinta joins me in wishing you and your family a blessed and Christ filled Christmas.

Grace and peace

Ian

25 NOVEMBER 2015

# Ordination of **Ian Hyslop** and Induction as Minister Upper Clutha Presbyterian Parish



## SESSION Report

**"The Word (Jesus) became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us." John 1:14**

As we prepare for Christmas this year, I pray each of us will get a fresh understanding of the grace and truth that entered our world on that first Christmas. We have much to rejoice in and give thanks to God for, as we draw near to Christmas.

On 25 November we inducted and welcomed Ian and Jacinta Hyslop to our Upper Clutha Parish.

Their arrival heralds the next ministry in this parish, and also the next stage of our personal christian journey. We look expectantly to what God is planning for us all, under Ian's leadership.

My thanks go again to all who took any part in keeping the parish "ticking along" during the vacancy.

Thank you to those who led the services and shared so much of themselves. Also thanks go to the many people who worked behind the scenes to make sure things were getting done.

My thanks go to Rev Ian Guy, who convened the Settlement board and was for a time our Interim Moderator, for his leadership and direction.

My thanks go to Rev Erin Pendreigh for her time of 4 months Interim Ministry and then more latterly as our Interim Moderator. Her pastoral care of the congregation and the leadership of Session was appreciated.

As a Session we have agreed to have Communion once a month - usually the first Sunday of each month.

Planning for Hawea services will take place in January.

Christmas Day offering this year will be divided between Christian World Service and Tear Fund.

Envelopes for CWS will be distributed and may be placed in the offering plate on any Sunday up to Christmas. Any cash in the offering plate on Christmas Day will be sent to Tear Fund.

On behalf of Session I wish you all a blessed time with family and friends.

***Rena Cowie***  
***Session Clerk***

## Presbyterian Women (APW)

We have continued to meet on the second Monday of each month from February through to November.

Our last meeting was lunch together at Edgewater which was an enjoyable time.

We are responsible for the Tabithia Cafe at the Gala on January 7th and have organized what is needed for that. As a group we are also assembling a gift basket which will be part of the silent auction at the Gala.

We have been able to support the Youngs and their work in Africa and other groups as well; through the money earned from catering for funerals

continued....

Once again we thank members of the Parish for their support when asked to provide food and 'women-power' as we do the catering.

We are responsible for the Birthday Gift envelopes too. On your birthday you are invited to place a gift on money in an envelope which our treasurer Val Garrett, sends on to help with Mission projects. Shirley McNutt has the special envelopes available if you would like to help others in this way (phone 443 7022). The envelopes

can be put in the offering bag on Sunday, to be handed onto Val Garrett, or you can give them to her directly.

Catherine Little President. 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 Foodstore & Cafe, Corner Cardrona Valley and Orchard Roads, Every Tuesday at 10am



## Prayer Notes

*1 John 5: 14 & 15*

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God:*

*that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

The church prayer group continues to meet at 5pm to 5.30pm on Sundays in the Upper Room.

We have been encouraged with answers to our prayers. Please join us.

Many thanks

*June Harris*

*Prayer Convenor 4431788*

Loving God,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

*Robert Louis Stevenson*



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

*Breakfast cereals, rice and pasta, tinned fish/meat, single serve meals, 2 minute noodles, baby food, spreads (e.g jam & peanut butter), kid's healthy lunch box items (e.g muesli bars), toilet paper and toiletry items (e.g sunscreen, toothpaste), Christmas treats (low priority).*

If you can help please put in the food basket at church on a Sunday.



1 Corinthians was a good study for us with leadership of the study shared around. This is a challenging book where, although Paul was writing to the church at Corinth, it, for the most part, is very applicable for us today.

It was good to hear different interpretations and thoughts from a wide range of men from varying backgrounds and age groups and there is a good regular attendance.

Our Saturday breakfast has been well supported and it is good getting together for a chat over porridge toast and cup of tea or coffee. We helped with some painting at the Zulu Lodge and also with work around the manse and car park.

In 2016 we have a trip up the Dingleburn in the planning stages (see below), also a breakfast at the new Cardrona Distillery and planning for a bus trip to Invercargill to visit the transport museum.

*Murray Bennett*



Following the success of previous adventures, save the date for a great day out up the Dingleburn on the Waitangi Public Holiday Monday in February.

The road is such that it is suitable for only competent and confident drivers with suitable vehicles. However, the idea of the day is for everyone to join in the FUN

Therefore, those interested should give their names to Russell Lewthwaite.. Murray Bennett ... Malcolm Baker ... or Alon Mayhew and we will ensure a ride for those who need it. More details in the New Year.



## Communication Team News

In the previous Newsletter, I used a quote from George Bernard Shaw that is worth repeating:

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place”

During the vacancy, I hope that we have managed to keep things ticking over with our Weekly Bulletins, Quarterly Newsletters, the website and Facebook Group.

Our email list has grown to 84 addresses and this proved to be the most effective way to get info out to people quickly or at short notice. Thanks to all those who have sent their details.

Within a couple of days of the Induction, it was encouraging to hear that Tracy had received a phone call from someone who had headed straight for the website trying to contact Ian, to find contact details had not yet been updated....encouraging because it highlighted the fact that people are using it! I have also spoken to visitors after Sunday worship who found us via the map on the website.

With Ian's arrival there is work to be done. Contact details have been updated and expect to see changes over the coming weeks with plans to finally get audio of services uploaded and Ian's weekly "notes" from the Bulletin.

Check it out at [www.wpccc.org.nz](http://www.wpccc.org.nz)

We have 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.



This week we have created a public Facebook page for :

Wanaka Presbyterian Community Church.

Please like us!

Helen Brooks

[helen.churchnl@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:helen.churchnl@slingshot.co.nz)



The giving of gifts is not  
something man invented.  
God started the giving spree  
when he gave a gift beyond  
words...  
the unspeakable gift of  
His Son.

*Robert Flatt*

## FAMILY FOCUS REPORT



In general there was an overwhelming sense of God's goodness evident at our Term 4 Checkpoint Meeting. Once a term, this team made up with representatives and leaders of our Children's ministry Teams - Rainbow Club/Tweens, Yak, Tribe, Core, mm Wanaka and mm Hawea.

The team values the opportunity to share their ministry stories, to celebrate their high spots, to seek support and ideas for working through challenges and in general gain a "big picture" understanding of our shared vision for children, young people and their families.

**Rainbow Club** continues to thrive every Sunday throughout the year with a Junior Class (3-6year olds) led by Doreen Hale and Helen Wells, a Senior Class led by Catherine Little and a fledgling Tweens Group(11+) which have at times met as a group in the Upper room but latterly have been mostly attached to the Senior Group with opportunities for ministry development offered e.g helping younger children with their activities, learning to operate the sound system etc.

Attendances are generally steady with 15 - 20 children on average. As a result of a bulge in Senior Class numbers this year ( and overcrowding in the Green Rainbow Club room) we have agreed to expand our vision to plan for a 3rd class e.g Juniors (3-5) Middle Class (6-9), using the 2 designated Rainbow Club Rooms and a Senior Tweens Class (10+) to be located in a "new" space.

Youth initiatives have been in good hands ecumenically and have attracted consistent numbers of young people throughout the year.

**YAK** meets every Tuesday in the school term and numbers have remained constant at 12 - 14. We are very grateful for Jenni McDougall's faithful commitment to YAK leadership.

She is ably supported in this role by Nathan Veysey from the New Life Church.

*continued.....*

YAK relocated from Kai Whakapai to the Lighthouse Church, a shift which has worked well both socially and for programme needs. We are grateful for this space which has become YAK's home and it is encouraging to hear that there is a strong sense of understanding and trust developing enabling freedom for discussion.

**Tribe** meets monthly (for Yr 9 - 13 young people) around a social event with a teaching component, organised by a roster of participating churches. This year **Core** was introduced along similar lines for Yr 6 - 8 young people. Both programmes are popular and well attended.



**mainly music** in both Wanaka and Hawea are strong, well established outreach programmes, served faithfully by committed volunteers weekly through the school terms.

mm Wanaka's leader, Pauline Hyndman, reported 101 families registered with 40 - 45 children and 30-35 parents/caregivers at each session. Sessions are very busy but cooperative team effort and attention to detail and forward planning make for consistently happy sessions.

Specialist roles such as song leading and music/programme preparation and delivery can be challenging but God's provision prevails and song leaders come forward and programmes run smoothly.

mm Hawea's team leader, Lynda Gregg, reported 45 families registered with keen and enthusiastic involvement by all. Smaller numbers make for a special intimacy in the gathering. mainly music will signed off for the year on Dec 8 for Wanaka and Dec 9 for Hawea after their special Christmas celebration and the presentation of a book gift for each family "My First Story of Christmas."

As we reflect on this Family Focus/ Kids Friendly year there is one aspect which must receive special commendation - all of our children's ministries are blessed with dedicated teams of volunteers whose consistent service is the real strength behind our participation in God's vision for our children.

There is much to celebrate in our children's ministries principally that we are touching so many children and their families with the love of Jesus .....we praise God for His faithfulness and pray for His leading as we share further and deeper into His vision for our children.

*Bev Lovelock*



## Nativity Word Search

C	A	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S	D	N	S	H	S
Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	R	F	A	L	L	U
R	A	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	T	E	J	S
N	E	M	E	S	I	W	S	H	E	E	P	I	G	O	E
J	G	N	I	K	M	A	R	Y	G	I	U	V	N	S	J
M	O	S	Y	I	H	X	Q	U	R	Q	W	I	A	E	T
D	O	N	K	E	Y	R	E	G	N	A	M	T	D	P	M
Z	I	L	I	N	N	K	E	E	P	E	R	Y	O	H	F

angels  
 Christmas  
 donkey  
 innkeeper  
 Jesus  
 Joseph  
 king  
 manger  
 Mary  
 nativity  
 salvation  
 sheep  
 shepherds  
 star  
 wisemen

## RAINBOW CLUB

Since the last 'news' of our activities, we have been moving through the Season after Pentecost in the church year, which is a season of growing and learning more about how to live in God's loving ways.

We followed stories from Mark's Gospel where we thought about how Jesus' actions and teaching focussed on 'welcoming everyone'; on 'sharing' our possessions with others; on being 'great' by serving others; showing 'mercy'—sympathy & kindness to all people; about the most important commandment: "Love God, love others as you love yourself"; about 'giving' generously; about 'listening' to the truth which Jesus has brought into the world.

Now we are in the Season of Advent and getting ready to celebrate Christmas, sharing the HOPE, the PEACE the JOY and the LOVE which Jesus' birth brought into the world.

Rainbow Club are doing a play to help us all to think about the real meaning of Christmas. It will take place at the 9:30 am service in St Andrews, Wanaka on



December 20th. We hope that you can be there to share with us.

We have been saving money to help people who have been sick with leprosy, or whose family have been affected by leprosy. We hope that we can have enough money to buy a good gift to help in their homes and villages. We will announce this on December 20th too.

Rainbow Club will be on over the school holidays too. We look forward to seeing Rainbow Club children and visitors at the 9:30 am service each Sunday at St Andrews, Wanaka.

REMEMBER **"Jesus is the reason for the season"**. Have a happy time sharing with your family and friends at Christmas, and may God's blessing go with everyone into 2016.

*Rainbow Club is here every Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 for worship with the church family and learning in classes, followed by morning tea and games together.*

## Rainbow Club children ponder the question.....



## Who is the Baby born in Bethlehem???

December 13th was the final chance to rehearse this year's Christmas Pageant









On the previous page you will see our 2016 Gala Poster. We are again very grateful for the support of so many local businesses. Their support allows us to go forward and maximise the proceeds on the day.

In addition to Gold, Silver and Bronze partners, we have a further “Pewter” level :

***Pewter***

Findlay & Co  
 Rosemary of First National  
 First National  
 Home & Co  
 Wanaka Computers  
 Class Harvesters  
 Greenlight Painters

Thank you to those of you in the Parish who have offered to assist in any way.

Lesly is still looking for more help on the day and Heather for more items for the Silent Auction and “It’s a Bust” (our version of a lucky dip)

Without this help, all the efforts of the gala committee will fall short of the target that has been set.

Anyone who is unable to help but would like to contribute, we welcome donations to help pay for the costs that are incurred in running a huge event such as this.

**All marquee items are to be delivered to the showgrounds on  
 Wed 6th Jan between 1 & 3pm**

Your committee have once again done a stunning job preparing for your gala.

Best wishes for the festive season and look forward to seeing you on the 7th January.

  
**Jude Smith**  
 Gala Convenor

## MISSIONS ABROAD

I would like to thank all of you who have prayed for myself and the team who spent a fortnight in Bangladesh during November, visiting the work of International Needs.

The mission went extremely well. We spent several days in both a girls and boys orphanage, with full programmes of teaching, music, dancing and activities. They enjoyed all the resources we took over, and were very appreciative.



A team had never been to the boys' orphanage in the south before, and we had armed police escort whenever we left the compound.

However we always felt safe and uplifted by your prayers. God blessed us all abundantly.

Thank you on behalf of the children for your contribution, which was very significant.

***Blessings, Inez McClea***

***Mission Abroad Team***



"A Samaritan travelling the road came to him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him."

Luke 10:33 (The Message)

Who is our neighbour? This summer, we ask you to consider who your neighbour is, and join with us to help people close to our hearts in Indonesia and India. We believe everyone has the right to the basics: healthcare, education and clean water.

Will you open your heart this Christmas?

Will you join us as we walk across the road ?

## CWS Christmas Appeal 2015

Through much of this year the plight of refugees has been a regular news story. From refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea by boat to those trekking across Europe's borders or New Zealand's refugee quota, their stories have been in the news. Like us, each refugee has their own story to tell and their own hopes for a better future. By listening for their stories, we can give them the respect they deserve. Giving food, water and safety is a way of connecting our stories with theirs – a means of showing compassion and an act of peace in a world ripped apart by race, war and religion.



***The Christmas offering this year will be divided between Christian World Service and Tear Fund...see Session Report on page 4 for details***

## Christmas story offers hope for modern problems

Movement of peoples, acts of terrorism, the clashing of political powers, religious extremism, hope and despair. They are the stories and images in our daily news. They are also part of the first Christmas story.

Presbyterian Church Moderator, the Rt Rev Andrew Norton believes that in considering these modern challenges, the Christmas narrative has significant relevance.

"Today as we struggle to make sense of our world, we need look no further than the Christmas story to help us respond to events like the current refugee crisis and terrorism.

"Like millions of displaced Syrians today, Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus were also refugees. They were forced from Bethlehem by extremism and sought a compassionate land to take them in.

"They were fleeing in fear because King Herod the Great, a man obsessed with power and violence, wanted to murder Jesus. He decreed that all baby boys in Bethlehem under the age of two be killed. Mary, Joseph and Jesus fled and found safe haven in

Egypt, returning to their homeland years later after Herod's death."

The Christmas story is one of hope, of bravery and generous hospitality, says Andrew.

"While terrorists claim victory through fear, the Christmas message is 'fear not'.

"Those who 'fear not' are like the innkeepers who open the doors of their hearts in hospitality to those in need.

"Those who 'fear not' are the wise men and women who speak out and take action against violence in our communities and in our world.

"Those who 'fear not' are the gift givers who practice generosity and goodwill towards all people.

"The gift of Jesus is hope for the world because love drives out all fear. Fear not!" says Andrew.

<http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/christmas-story-offers-hope-for-modern-problems>

