



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 the manse.....

A Sense of Celebration....

Christmas seems to come around more quickly each year. We hardly get over one and the next one is being advertised. Each year we hear the same story told in the same words, and we sing the same carols we have sung since we were quite small. That is something of the charm of Christmas. That old story is still very precious and it bears re-telling. At Christmas people

love singing the old familiar songs. There is something special about the time honoured carols.

But how do we keep it fresh and real? If familiarity breeds contempt, how do we prevent ourselves simply going through the motions and missing the impact of this amazing story – especially when Christmas is accompanied by such a lot of busy-ness.....

continued...

– the gifts to be brought, the house to be prepared for extra guests, the food to be prepared, the end of year functions to attend.



This year we have welcomed a new grandchild into our family –little Ezra James. The birth of a baby is always a time of celebration, but it is also a time of great change. New parents (like our James and Amy) who have been accustomed to

sleeping through the night know about the change that a baby brings to their lives. Everything changes. Priorities change. Social life changes. Think of all the gear you have to cart around when you take a baby away from home.

The remembering of the birth of the baby Jesus is a celebration –but have we insulated ourselves from the change it signals? When we can just put the tinsel back in the box, throw away or pack away the tree and pack Christmas up for another year and forget about it –it certainly lacks the life changing impact that a small baby normally entails. It's as if he hasn't come. I am sure that is not the way it is meant to be. The coming of this baby – Jesus Christ – Emmanuel (God with us) will actually impact our lives powerfully, if we let it . And impact our lives in such a gloriously wonderful way that it will add mightily to the sense of celebration at Christmas.

In the accounts we have in the Bible of the birth of Jesus, there is a real sense of celebration and worship –from the angels in the fields outside Bethlehem –the visits of the shepherds and the Magi (Wise men from the east) and the response of some of

the key people in the story of Jesus' birth – Mary, Anna and Simeon.

So I hope you can join with us in our celebrations of the birth of Jesus this Christmas in the Upper Clutha. (see back page for details about Christmas services)



My wife Jacinta joins me in wishing you and yours God's richest blessings –and rest and refreshment and recreation and deepening fellowship with Him as He reveals Himself to you this Christmas

*Your pastor and friend
Ian Hyslop*



Email ian@wpccc.org.nz

Office 4436759 **Manse** 4432002

Cell 0276938210

SESSION Report

The season of Advent is upon us, which means Christmas is drawing near. Christmas - the time of the year when we rejoice that God gave the gift of his Son, Jesus. The gift God gave to save the world and the gift He gave that is available to every single person. Our prayer is that this Christmas will be a time when each of us can affirm for ourselves, how much God's gift cost Him and what we are going to do with His gift!!

The first year of Ian (and Jacinta's) ministry with us "ticked over" in November. We have been blessed and encouraged by his leadership, wisdom and pastoral care.

Our team of elders have been joined by Inez McClea, Peter Southwick and Mark English

As we are having Communion on the first Sunday of each month the elders are not doing pre-communion visits, as in the past.

At present our ministry to the elderly and how we best do that, is under review. For the folk involved in home groups there is care and support from the other members.

As well as this, there is a huge amount of visiting and just "dropping in" on people, that we know little about. Thank you to all of you who keep an caring eye on those around you.

The completion of the Network Course for the elders will strengthen our team as we better understand who God created us to be and where we can serve more effectively.

I have just returned from the meeting of General Assembly (the National Presbyterian Church Meeting) in Dunedin where many issues were debated - such as; ministry to congregations without a full time pastor, earthquake prone buildings, Presbyterian Women, Chaplaincy positions, Justice in action, and added to the Book of Order (Presbyterian Manual) "that a Presbyterian minister may solemnize marriage only between a man and a woman"

Our new Moderator, Rev Richard Dawson, chose "Hope for the World" as his theme for Assembly and his two years in office. I experienced first hand the multicultural nature and the great diversity of belief and opinion of our church.

It is with great excitement that we look forward to Aaron and Laura Johnstone joining us next year in February. Aaron is training for ministry in the Presbyterian Church and will do his internship here in the Upper Clutha during 2017/18.

On behalf of Session I thank all those people in our parish who volunteer for the huge number of tasks that arise out of our mission to our community. Your time, energy and dedication is much appreciated.

Finally if you have any concerns about our parish, please speak to one of the elders or to pastor Ian.

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas.

Rena Cowie
Session Clerk

Presbyterian Women (APW)

PW's November meeting was sharing lunch at Edgewater. There will be no monthly meetings until February 2017. We have noted that on March 27 the Potters who work in Thailand will be in Wanaka at the 7pm worship service so you are encouraged to attend this event.

The Special project for 2016-17 which supports the Christian World Service work in Nicaragua is called "Let God's Light Shine". It will help with projects working to establish gender equality in that country. The New Zealand part of the Project is aimed at helping families who support members who have Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. It is hoped that we can help in developing an emergency respite care fund.

We hosted "The Gathering" here in Wanaka on September 29th. This is a meeting of women from Union and Presbyterian parishes in Central Otago, for learning and fellowship. We were helped on the day by a willing group of people who served in the kitchen, and learned much from Alvin Reid who told us about

his dairy farming work, using robots on one farm for the milking of cows. We also heard from Jackie Boylen who manages Elmslie House and Aspiring Enliven rest home. She shared her insights into the care of the aged, and brought her wee dog Smudge along too. Smudge is on duty most days sharing life with the residents at the homes.

We were able to make a donation to help with the costs of the 'Angels and Heroes' party held on October 31st.

We were involved for the catering for the new Aspiring Enliven facility

Sincere thanks to those who have helped with the catering and serving at funerals recently. Without your support and generous help we could not offer this service to families.

We meet at 2pm on the second Monday of the month. A welcome awaits anyone who wants to attend. For further information phone 443 1620.

Catherine Little President



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

Luke 18:1

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.

We continue to meet every Sunday at 5pm in the upper room.

You are very welcome to join us.

June Harris

Prayer Convenor 4431788

The following funerals took place at St Andrews:

20 August	Joan Robertson
22 September	Frank Farquharson
25 October	Patricia Wood
26 October	Leslie Huddleston
07 November	John Fraser



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 put in the food basket at church on a Sunday.

Have you thought about joining one of our homegroups?

There are several to choose from in our Parish.

Being part of a homegroup is a wonderful way of getting to know people better (making new friends) as well as discovering gems in the Bible. Our Thursday morning women's group has gone well. We start with a cuppa and folk are free to go by 11am. This year we looked at the Gospel of John. We were making new discoveries and reaffirming what we believe. A very helpful time. You are welcome to join us next year

Jacinta Hyslop

Searching for meaning....

Every year it seems harder and harder to block out the blatant commercialism rampant at this time of the year and focus on the real meaning of Christmas.

Bing Crosby remains synonymous with Christmas for many of a certain age (and that includes pretty much anyone over 30!) "White Christmas" can still be heard resounding through the speakers of high street stores in 2016. Over 70 years since its first release, it remains the best selling single of all time. Yet listen to the lyrics and you would be forgiven for thinking that sleigh bells were the reason for the season.



But Mr Crosby was involved with another project during the 1940's that captures the real spirit of Christmas.

It was featured in Bing Crosby's Christmas Day radio broadcast of 1946 and Decca Records soon arranged to make a new recording of it. Based on a children's book by Charles Tazewell, "The Small One" tells the tale of of a young boy who is told by his father to take one of their donkeys to sell to the tanner for its hide. Let's just say there is a happy ending, wonderfully linked to that story of all stories. In 1978 Disney made an animated short film by the same name.



This wouldn't be Bing Crosby's last foray into the world of the Nativity. At the time Irving Berlin was penning White Christmas in the early 1940s, an American woman called Katherine Kennicott Davis was writing another song originally titled "Carol of the Drum" based upon a traditional Czech carol.



"The Little Drummer Boy" as we now know it, appeared on many Christmas Albums through the years, until in 1977 added melody and lyrics were written for a Christmas special called 'Bing Crosby's Merrie Olde Christmas' (yes they really did spell it like that!).

Those freshly penned words and tune were for Crosby's duet partner David Bowie and were apparently scribbled and arranged at last minute, barely 75 minutes before the recording.

You do not have to search for meaning here and the words ring true today:

**Peace on earth, can it be
Years from now, perhaps we'll see
See the day of glory
See the day when men of good will
Live in peace, live in peace again
Peace on earth, can it be
Every child must be made aware
Every child must be made to care
Care enough for his fellow man
To give all the love that he can
I pray my wish will come true
For my child and your child too
He'll see the day of glory
See the day when men of good will
Live in peace, live in peace again
Peace on earth, can it be
Can it be**

by Ian Fraser, Larry Grossman and Alan Kohan

And if you can, gather your kids or grandkids or even just rediscover the big kid in you and click the following links to listen and watch:

Bing radio version "The Small One"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTggSdU8pFw>

The Little Drummer Boy/Peace On Earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9kfdEyV3RQ>

Disney short feature: The Small One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGa6oCxhpZA>

Have a blessed Christmas

Helen Brooks

Communications Team

(Credit must go to Grant Gordon for introducing me to the story of the Small One and inspiring this article. Thanks Grant!)



Did you know a selection of messages preached at 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 - the latest message we have up is from Dr Rod Wilson, our Guest preacher a couple of weeks ago...well worth a listen.

Or click on the "F" and you'll be redirected to our Church Facebook page to keep up with the latest news

Church Office

Tracy Mayhew

Phone 03 443 7887

Cell 0274334395

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

Office Hours :

Tuesday to Thursday 1-4pm, Friday 9am-1pm

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



We have been studying Romans with different folks taking ownership of the study. It has been a challenging study and one particular verse has stood out to me. **Romans 2v 24** "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you. " Paul had just been talking about hypocrisy and how folks were finding fault with others yet doing similar things themselves.



We joined with the ladies group for breakfast at the distillery to farewell Jim and Lois Patrick. This first Saturday in December we met at Neil and Rena's place for breakfast and a time of sharing. Plans are in place for another combined church off road experience up Bendigo to old gold mining areas and either have picnic there or at one of the vineyards. We are planning for this to take place on Waitangi Day 6th February, so save the date. *Murray Bennett*



YOUTH MINISTRY



The YAK crew at work

YAK meets every Tuesday in the school term and numbers have remained constant, averaging around 15 students each week.

Is it the hot chips or is it the sense of belonging to a group where they are able to learn and discuss the bigger issues of God and faith in their lives ?

From left to right:
Rosie Smith, Josephine Schafer, Caleb Dearlove, Cole Masters, Casper van Nappen

Front:
Sam Sandri (not leaving)

Absent:
Hannah Davey



Our Seniors...most of whom are leaving for pastures new next year

A quote from Bono....."Jesus went around saying he was the Messiah, that's why He was crucified. He was crucified because He said He was the son of God. So He either was the son of God or He was nuts. And I find it hard to accept that whole millions and millions, half the earth, for 2000 years have been touched and have felt their lives touched and inspired by some nutter."



ANGELS AND HEROES 2016

PIC's

What better excuse for a party than Jesus, the Light of the World?

On Monday 31st October we hosted our inaugural Light Party....a positive alternative to Halloween.

As you can see it was a great evening.....





RAINBOW CLUB



Since our last report to you all, we have moved through the Season after Pentecost in the Church year. This is a time of learning and growing in God's ways. The month of September saw us look at God's wonderful Creation, and stop and think about how we are to care for this wonderful gift which God has given to us.

Our learning time just lately has been based on stories from the New Testament and thinking about key words to help us grow in our understanding of God's loving ways. The word 'encouragement' saw us looking at a letter Paul wrote to young Timothy, in which Paul reminded Timothy of the encouragement his mother and Grandmother had given him as he was growing up and now Paul gave more of the same as Timothy became a leader in the church. We wrote down who were our 'encouragers', and planned to encourage others.

Then there was remembering to be thankful as we read the story in Luke's Gospel about 10 lepers who were healed and only one came back to thank Jesus. In a story Jesus told, recorded in Luke's Gospel, we thought about how persistence can bring justice. Being fair in all things is important. Jesus also told a story about a man who boasted about how good he was, not like the cheating tax-collector, whose prayer was asking God for forgiveness. Sometimes we forget to be humble and respect everyone.

We enjoyed the account of Jesus meeting with Zacchaeus, the chief tax-collector in Jericho. The citizens of Jericho thought Jesus should not have chosen to go to Zacchaeus' home. Jesus looked at Zacchaeus through God's eyes and welcomed Zacchaeus as His friend. We did some weaving with wool and sticks to remind us to see people through God's eyes, even if it hard to do that at times!

Then on the Sunday which ends the Church year we remembered that Jesus is the 'King of Peace' who shows us by His actions and words what God is like. Now we move into ADVENT and the Celebration of Christmas.

continued.....

The Rainbow Club children have been busy again, raising money to purchase 'Really Good Gifts' to help people who have suffered from leprosy. The money raised has purchased a piglet for a family[\$92], which helps develop a pig farm for a family; a sewing kit [\$45] which will help a woman support her family; and protective sandals [\$10] which keeps feet safe which have been injured by leprosy. A really good effort by the children who chose which 'gifts' to buy!

There will be no Rainbow Club on Christmas Day, but on all the Sundays through the holidays, there will be a programme of stories and activities for children from 3 years and upwards. Remember we meet at 9:30 am in Wanaka.

Rainbow Club is here on a Sunday for worship with the church family and learning in classes, followed by morning tea and games together.



MM finished the year in style..... See you next year!



Welcome to our new feature **TAKE FIVE**...a great way to introduce people.....it's just what it says, we ask you 5 questions, you answer! This time we put our new Ministry Intern Aaron Johnstone on the spot



Aaron with his wife Laura and son Luke

1. Where in New Zealand did you grow up ?

Southland – land of milk and honey. Invercargill, Lumsden and Gore.

2. What job have you been doing most recently ?

The last few years I've been completing my theology studies, along with various church involvements.

Before that I trained and worked as an engineer, and have enjoyed some building work since being back in NZ.

3. What is a Ministry Intern ?

The internship system is the Presby churches relatively new method of training pastors to be ordained.

Instead of being full-time in study then full-time in ministry (like it used to be), there's now a two year period where an intern works in a church under supervision while doing pastoral studies. After this the intern is ordained for ministry.

4. What are you most looking forward to in your new role ?

Being involved in the church community. Meeting and getting to know people. Seeing God's hand at work and knowing him more.

5. It's your day off....what would you most like to be doing ?

Hanging out with Laura and the family, off for a walk or an adventure somewhere.

We look forward to welcoming the Johnstones in February

Eely Point Sunday Afternoon Picnic

It was all boats, biscuits, picnics, sunshine and great fellowship on 11th December



MISSIONS ABROAD TEAM

We have finished working at the markets for this year on behalf of Orphans Aid International and have raised a total of \$3098.50 including donations. Our congregation played a big part in this fund raising.

When I returned unsold goods and delivered the money, Vicki, a buyer for the Queenstown shop, told me of her experience of visiting Northern India and being there for the opening of the school that Sue van Schreven and friends built. Children with no hope of education otherwise, were crossing the border from Bhutan to enrol at the school. Vicki was greatly moved to see firsthand how our fund raising was being spent on education for those who are usually denied schooling.

Liz Hall

Thank you to everyone involved who helped to make the movie fundraiser such a successful evening.

\$1,225.00 was raised towards the Bangladesh Orphanage Appeal.

Next year we will look at another quiz night and keep working away towards the goal of a new facility for children and families in Northern Bangladesh. International Needs Canada is also raising funds so it just takes many groups to make it happen.

Blessings, Inez McClea



Christmas Appeals 2016

Create a recipe for life this Christmas

The political turmoil
that began in

Burundi over a year ago has caused suffering on a huge scale. Around 4.6 million people are facing hunger – with 1.3 million children under five suffering from acute malnutrition. Yet, in the midst of suffering, God's hand can be seen, just as his plan unfolded some 2,000 years ago when Jesus came into the world to bring the gift of new life. This Christmas you too can help bring life where the need is greatest.



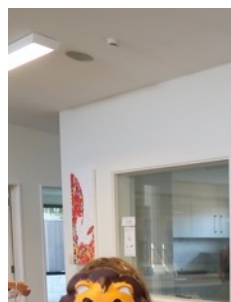
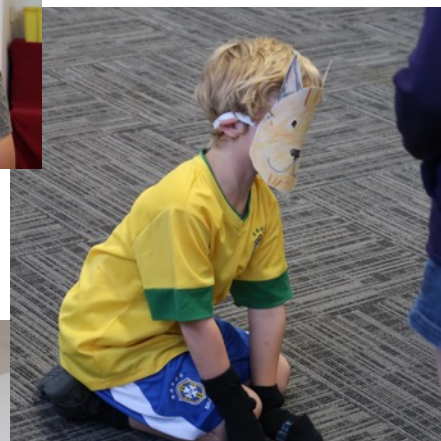
“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” John 1:5

For 71 years Christian World Service has kept the light of hope shining for people who need food, water, healthcare and more. Our partners are part of the communities where they work and they are passionate about the people they work with. These are people who need hope that is real.

Not satisfied with only meeting immediate needs, our partners want to set families up with a more secure income and strong community support. Your donations make this happen.

***The Christmas offering this year will be divided between
Christian World Service and Tear Fund***

This year's **Christmas Pageant** led by our Rainbow Club kids was a truly intergenerational affair with everyone invited to join in.....





Put the Christ back into your Christmas this year !



Sunday 18th December Remembrance Service

St Andrew's Wanaka 9:30 am

*bring a long stemmed flower in
memory of someone*

St Columba's Anglican 7:00pm

Combined 9 Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th Community Service

St Ninian's Hawea Flat 7:00 pm

Candlelight Service

St Andrew's Wanaka 11:30 pm

Christmas Day Sunday 25th Family Service

St Andrew's Wanaka 9:30 am

Usual Family Services each Sunday at
9.30am throughout the holidays



wanaka

PRESBYTERIAN

COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTRE

loving God, loving people