



W A D E S T O W N P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

NEWSletter

Volume 58 No 4

November 2011

In September I had the wonderful experience of travelling to Cambridge in the UK with Rev Sue Fenton, to attend the International Fresh Expressions and Pioneering Conference. There were 51 people from 10 countries (Including three of us from the PCANZ, Rev Barry Kelk from Dunedin being the third kiwi) at the conference, all with an interest in talking together about the shape which the church is taking in today's world.

The Fresh Expressions movement is a joint initiative of the Church of England, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. It defines a fresh expression of church as 'a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church'. The Fresh Expressions movement was begun by these churches about eight years ago in response to a recognition that the Spirit was at work in the midst of their aging, declining denominations and 'fresh expressions' of church in many different shapes and forms were springing up. Sometimes these fresh expressions were entirely independent churches but more often, they were being developed alongside existing Sunday morning congregations.

The Fresh Expressions movement has responded to these new forms of church by providing training, resourcing and support and a commitment to 'connect the edge to the centre' of their denominations. As we heard and saw examples of fresh expressions of church in the UK we realised that we are holding our own in this regard within NZ. Within our Presbyterian church there are some very positive examples

of new forms of church reaching those who are not yet members of a church, eg B@tCH at Highgate Presbyterian in Dunedin and various Messy Church services including our own established this year at WPC.

Since our return Sue, Barry and I have been encouraged by the level of interest in fresh expressions of church at both a regional and national level within the PCANZ. We look forward to being able to play our part in listening to where the Spirit is at work within our denomination and to encouraging and supporting fresh expressions of church alongside our current ones. If you would like to read our study leave report I would be very happy to provide you with a copy. ministerwpc@xtra.co.nz

Sharon

Congratulations!

It was a total surprise to Heather Lane to be met at the church on the morning of 5th August by our local Member of Parliament, Grant Robertson, Sharon, and a number of friends. Grant Robertson presented her with the "Wellington Central Community Champion Award" for August 2011, in recognition of Heather's contributions to the community through Wadestown Presbyterian Church.



Most of you will know of Heather's leadership in *mainly music*, Open House and the Wadestown Singers. She has also taught Sunday School, served on the Parish Council, and been involved in so many of our other WPC activities over many years.

Heather said "It's just wonderful to be recognised. I'm quite overwhelmed really." (and she was!) "I'm passionate about what I do, and if you do things with a passion, you do them with joy. Everything I do is a joy and a delight." She also acknowledged that the people present, and so many others, all deserve to be recognised in a similar way.

Well done Heather.....and our thanks to Sharon who arranged this surprise for our "Community Champion".

Wadestown Presbyterian Church

Annual General Meeting October 2011

The Wadestown Presbyterian Church's AGM was held on Sunday 2 October after a Café Church style service in the Church Hall. The 42 of us who attended the AGM were greeted with yummy morning tea nibbles, coffee and tea. There was lots of laughter and chatter before Church and also during the service! Despite the hiccup of Sharon's computer "dying" at the last minute, (*and with all her preparation on it*) others came to the rescue with electronic wizardry to save the day.

The AGM was opened with prayer led by Rev Sharon Ross Ensor and everyone was welcomed.

We took time to give thanks and gratitude for those who had passed away during the year: Trevor Foley, Helen Leask and Andrew Jamieson.

We were asked to look at the year, which was shown in picture form and in a wiggly worm format showing events in the parish life.

Some of the verbal highlights mentioned from the year were;

- Confirmations
- Baptisms
- Home Groups
- Having Ryhan Prasad as ministry intern, with his family
- Carols in the Park
- Winter Series
- Messy Church
- Celebrating 10th anniversary of *mainly music*
- Church camp.

Some of the challenges that WPC faces are:

- In what direction is WPC going?
- Continue extending links into the community
- Earthquake prone buildings – Church, Hall
- Living without Ryhan next year
- Low numbers at Sunday School

Good discussion was generated around the 2010-2011 Financial Accounts, and special thanks went to the Boyds for managing the

Manse rentals and the appointment of Quinovic Property Management to find new tenants for the Manse.

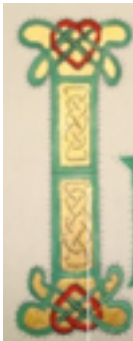
Sharon gave a broad outline of the year ahead for her and wants to continue to focus on the “me and my family” theme. She mentioned that Parish Council wants to review our needs both present and future, to increase the parish’s ability to actively participate in God’s mission, meet both current and future needs of the congregation, and to address structural requirements.

There was discussion around the Wellington City Council’s wanting WPC to strengthen its buildings to meet earthquake standards. An estimated cost of \$200,000 will be required to earthquake strengthen the church. Leanne Munro advised that Ansvar who insure mainly church buildings were no longer going to insure them. However WPC buildings are covered by Ansvar until August 2012.

Changes to the King’s Table food bank were also highlighted. Special thanks and gratitude were extended to Phyllis Purdie who has been the co-ordinator for 21 years.

It was fitting that Sue Myhill concluded the meeting by giving thanks to numerous people and then promptly dispensed what seemed to be a mountain of chocolate to everyone at the meeting.

Keith Bittle



saw a stranger yesterday.
I put food in the eating place,
Drink in the drinking place,
Music in the listening place,
And, in the sacred name of the Triune God,
He blessed me and my house,
My cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark said in her song:
“Often, often, often,
Goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise.”
Celtic rune of hospitality

Overwhelming Support for Community Minister

At the WPC Congregational Meeting held on Wednesday evening, 26 October, the thirty-three people present voted unanimously for the motion put forward by Parish Council;

“That the position of Community Minister (half-time) for an initial three-year period be established at Wadestown Presbyterian Church”.

The Community Minister will be responsible for the management of the food bank, resourcing and supporting our community activities e.g. Mainly Music, Messy Church, Carols and Pancakes in the Park and other community-facing aspects of WPC’s life.

The Community Minister will also have a strategic support role for our children and family work, particularly Sunday’s Cool which meets on Sunday morning.

There is a strong community-facing focus with assistance for the already established activities, while at the same time there will be a building of relationships with schools, Plunket, local churches, the community centre and other agencies.

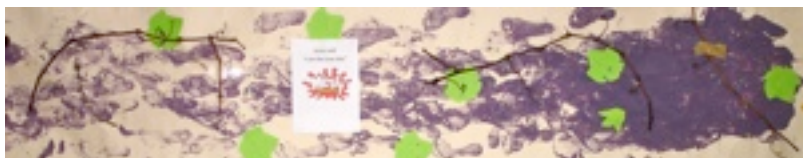
The position also acknowledges the contribution made by WPC’s many valued volunteers and includes responsibility for appropriate training, support and resourcing.

The person appointed to the role is to have training and experience in both community work and Christian ministry and it is considered appropriate for an ordained minister to be called to this role.

The matter has now been referred to Presbytery whereby a Settlement Board will follow due process. It is to be hoped that our Community Minister will take up this exciting and challenging role by February 2012.

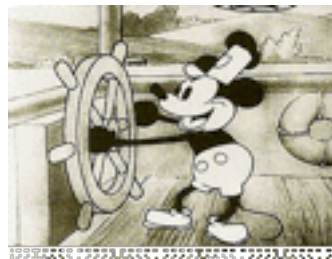
Parish Council thanks everyone who has offered their views and support for this new position; your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Kevin and Lynley Wilson (Co-Parish Clerks)



Bruce's Big Night Out

The fourth in our annual series of musical reviews from the twenties, thirties and forties, this year we looked at music from the stage and theatre shows, 1928-1935. There is huge history in those years, which included the golden years of Broadway, the Ziegfeld Follies, the first talkies in cinema, then the great Depression, the move to movies, the rise of shows with political commentary, and some of the biggest names in the business.



Every year is a little different as we seek to find that right mix of singing and playing and watching. This year we had a fixed programme, with a song or two from each year. Personal highlights for me would have been Sally Barrett-Boyes singing to Judy Humphrey's playing with 'Begin the Beguine' (a flop when it came out in 1935) and Peter Gardenier reworking some favourites from Showboat. We had Bruce himself giving us Tiptoe through the Tulips, we had the expert backing from Ian, Judy, Roger, Tim, Grant and Peter, and an involved audience who were not afraid to tackle some half remembered tunes like 'Happy Days are Here Again' and 'Lambeth Walk'. YouTube gave us access to some of the original clips of Ruth Etting, Frank Sinatra and Fred Astaire, and Ethel Merman, with some updated versions by Rod Stewart or the Muppets (for better or for worse). This year, it was the DVDs that refused to work, so that will be worked on for next year.

Many thanks have to go to Sue Myhill for her calm under the high ball, setting out the hall and organising supper and publicity. To St John's Presbyterian for the use of their sound system. To Bruce for his original ideas and research. To our dedicated audience, and to the stars of stage and screen.

Brian Ensor



Shirley Simmers

has had her 80th birthday, and so we honour her in our newsletter.

Shirley and David Simmers came to Wadestown in 1991 when Shirley retired after 11 years as a parish minister (Karori West and Ngaio Union Churches) including a stint as Moderator of Wellington Presbytery. Her 20 years in Cecil Road have been by far the longest single home in her entire life.



Her father was Irish and her mother Canadian. She spent her childhood with them and her brother on the mission field in Manchuria until in 1941 they returned to Canada, where she was the “preacher’s kid” in Rossland (British Columbia). Then back to Winnipeg for High School and the University of Manitoba; her BSc led to work on quality control of munitions in a government laboratory in Montreal. Next came training in Toronto as a deaconess for the United Church of Canada, two years as Director of Christian Education and assistant to the minister in a Montreal church, and 5 years in Zambia as a missionary. She was on study furlough in the USA when she met David, who souvenired her for New Zealand.

At that time he was chaplain at Auckland University. Two parishes (and four children) later, Shirley returned to employment in distance education for the national Presbyterian Church. Then came a change of roles, with Shirley being ordained to become a parish minister and David joining the Department of Social Welfare. The children are well scattered; Tony is in Ngaio, Ngaire on the Gold Coast in Queensland, Kathy near Toronto in eastern Canada, and Eleanor near Whistler in the far West. They, and the nine grandchildren, give her plenty of excuses for trips overseas.

In the years immediately after her retirement she did a fair bit of occasional preaching and leading of groups at WPC; now she contents herself with being a member of Frontiers of Faith and the Caring Group.



Worship on the journey

In our nine weeks on the road I found several churches where I felt very much at home.

At our first stop, in Winchester, we went with our friends to the 9 am service at their United Church (URC and Methodist), a quiet, formal communion service based on Iona liturgies and led by the Associate Minister and five of the congregation.

Our host in northern Wales normally goes to a Welsh language service, but she was happy to come with me to St Thomas' Presbyterian church over the road at 10.30. Unfortunately the service, focussed on a baptism, had started at 10 am, but I did enjoy being in a church full of Welsh people singing. We returned for the evening service, with a smaller congregation; the young minister preached on Solomon's request to God for an understanding mind, able to discern between good and evil – but when his mike picked up a fine tenor voice in the hymns we could see why his congregation were urging him to enter the next eisteddfod.

After travelling as far as north-west Sutherland, we reached Iona for a two-night stay, and there I was able to worship in the abbey with the Community (it was Community Week)

and other pilgrims. The evening service, dedicated to themes of peace and justice, focussed on Communication. We are in constant communication by telephone, iPhone, email, radio and television, but at what price? – all our hardware contains metals that are often mined by low-paid workers, at risk of their lives, and traded by criminal gangs. Before we left we signed letters to the heads of corporations – I chose the Apple option, of course – detailing the elements in their manufacturing that were of dubious origin and

approving efforts that they had made to source ethical material. A soloist sang Shirley Murray's *God in the Silence*, and we sang *Know that God is good/ Mungu ni mwema/Hale, heleluya*.



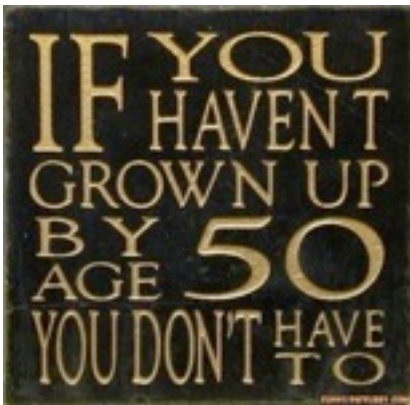
We both went to the morning service, the Iona liturgy for the start of the day, and this time we all sang another of Shirley's hymns, *Sing a happy alleluia*.

Back in Winchester, the 10.30 service was very like home, and we were impressed with the church's outreach opportunities; activities were much like ours, but being on a main city street they run a public coffee bar twice a week.

A check of the Prayer Room at Heathrow Terminal Three revealed two adjoining rooms, one of which had shoes outside – that will be the Moslem one. Presumably the rest share with the Christians, who offer a bowl of water with pebbles for the passer-by – unattended candles not being allowed, you may make a prayer and drop a pebble into the bowl, and the Chaplain will later add further prayers.

On to Canada, where St Andrew's Church in Rossland (where once Shirley Simmers' father was minister) is one of four churches in the Communities in Faith Pastoral Charge. On the first Sunday, the church was filled by all four congregations, as Rev Liz Bowyer was moving to another parish and the service was framed around a Releasing Covenant. I must say that the United Church of Canada likes singing: the somewhat extended service included eight hymns, two sung responses (*Know that God is good* and *Santo, santo, santo*) and a sung blessing. And as once before, one familiar hymn with an unfamiliar tune. Some women presented Liz with a prayer shawl they had knitted in many colours, a beautiful thing.

As Liz is not being replaced, I wondered how the the four parishes would manage with one minister; much discussion is taking place. The service next week was conducted by members of the congregation, but the message, on Forgiveness, was preached by a Baptist minister who runs an after-school mission in nearby Traill. I came away with a copy of the end of service sung blessing which begins 'May God's sheltering wings, her* gathering wings protect you... (*alternative: "his")'



Calendar

Every Sunday: Worship at 10.00 am; Youth Group and Sunday's Cool in term time; children's activities available during holidays; Communion on the second Sunday each month.

Sunday 13 Nov	4.30-6.30pm Messy Church at WPC
Sunday 11 Dec	10.00am Sunday's Cool Christmas pageant 4.30-6.30pm Messy Church at WPC
Tuesday 13 Dec	5.30 for 6pm Community Carols in the Park
Sunday 18 Dec	10.00am Readings and Carols service
Christmas Eve	7.00pm Christmas Eve storytime & carols service
Christmas Day	9.30am Christmas Day celebration (note the change in time)
Sunday 1 Jan	10.00am combined service at Ngaio Union
Sunday 8 Jan	10.00am combined service at St Luke's Anglican, Wadestown
Sunday 15 Jan	10.00am combined service at WPC
Sunday 5 Feb	10.00 am Sunday's Cool re-starts
Tuesday 21 Feb	Shrove Tuesday, Pancakes in the Park

Groups

Lighthouse Life Group

Our Life Group began as a Lenten study group in March 2010. This called for us to meet weekly during Lent, and culminated in a glorious "Celebration Feast". We really enjoyed getting together and sharing stories about happenings in our lives and decided to keep meeting, but on a monthly basis. And we gathered a few more members keen to cluster around.

We increased the frequency of meetings to weekly again when Lent 2011 rolled around. And we have continued to meet on a monthly basis since then.

At our Lighthouse Life Group, we always catch up on personal news – and in the process get to know each other better – and usually watch a Nooma video on a provocative Christian theme which we relish discussing. (Last time we deliberated on how we handle anger). We start and end by praying for each other. We enjoy a place of friendship, openness and a sense of being listened to, and always seem to leave on a high. I do hope we continue to meet together for a long while yet.

Frontiers of Faith is a group for people with an interest in contemporary biblical scholarship, and the implications of this for the doctrines we have inherited. We meet on Wednesday evenings when there are enough of us in town.

Our meeting in August looked at the reasons why we still go to church, and in particular to WPC. A strong theme with many of us was the importance of community, and the value we place on the friendships and support that the church offers. We also valued the wide diversity and mix of ages at WPC. Another important factor was the ability to explore faith issues in new ways, and the acceptance and valuing of different perspectives.

In September we looked at prayer, and discussed the different ways of understanding it. We examined several examples of prayer which we had found helpful.

We will meet again before Christmas, and then next year. Please contact Jenny on 472-9866, or the Simmers on 977-4252 for details.

Youth Group

The older members of the youth group (year 9 and over) have been meeting on Sunday evenings during the year with Sharon, Sarah Harvey and Ryhan. Over a meal or dessert we have explored faith issues including beginning/end of life issues (ably led by Brian Ensor), Israel/Palestine, the Bible, unpacking the Presbyterian church and learning about one of the 'heroes' of our faith Dietrich Boenhoeffer. (with thanks to Robin Lane)

Our meetings are on hold while the greater task of studying for exams takes up our time and attention, but we look forward to getting together again once exams are over.

OPEN HOUSE MYSTERY BUS TRIP

Thursday 24th November

Meet @ WPC 10.30am

(Home by 3pm)

cost: \$25.00

Please let Heather Lane know if you want to go.

First Light's First Year

About a year ago, Sharon asked if anyone would be interested in getting together to discuss the various spiritual practices that are common to the Abrahamic religions (Christianity, Islam and Judaism). Some of these practices, include, in no particular order: fixed-time prayer, fasting, feast days, Sabbath keeping, giving, gathered worship, and hospitality.

A group of us responded to Sharon's call and met for the first time at the church to chat about what living a life that incorporated these spiritual practices on a regular basis might look like. In the course of that first discussion, we decided to focus on one spiritual practice at a time and to delve deeper into its meanings, possibilities, challenges and realities. We're now over a year into our adventure and we're still on only our third "spiritual practice"!

We looked first at the spiritual practice of fixed-hour prayer. After some reading and discussion, one of the first commitments we made was to try praying at the same time each day for at least a month. We all committed to praying when we woke up, or between the hour of 6.30-7.30am, for as long and about whatever we felt led. This commitment to praying at the same time each day (what was effectively dawn, or first light, in the winter when we started) led to us naming our wee group of adventurers, "First Light". To make it feel like we were in this together, even when we weren't actually meeting together to pray, we committed to pray for each of the people in the group by name. It was an incredibly uplifting month, knowing that six or seven others were praying at the same time, and for each other, every morning. A year on, at least two of the group members have retained this practice of fixed-hour prayer, and specifically, of praying for the other First Light-ers.

The next spiritual practice we looked at was "giving" and we had some incredibly useful, open, and candid conversations about tithing, giving to charity, giving to family, giving of time and energy rather than money, and about how much, when, where and why we should give.

The third spiritual practice we've delved into is "hospitality". And we're still on it! We keep finding more resources, and having more discussions, on what it means to practice Christian hospitality on a regular basis: at home, at church, at work, in the community. All of us

have been challenged in some way by our own choices, the way we've been brought up, our cultures, our personalities, our expectations, and some of us by the physical limitations of the spaces in which we live and work. This spiritual practice, it seems, is at the heart of what it means to live out a Christ-centred life on a daily basis – we'd be lonely hermits without people extending their hospitality to us, and the church would be a series of empty buildings and unfulfilled human hearts without our extending Christ's hospitality to the world. It looks like we'll be spending a few more of our First Light gatherings on this practice, before we move on to the next one, which may or may not be "Fasting" – maybe an appropriate next step after all the hospitality we'll likely experience over the next couple of months!

A couple of resources that the First Lighters have found incredibly helpful, and which we'd encourage you all to read, if you can find the time, are listed below.

Jo Swinney, *God Hunting*

A PCANZ resource, *Giving and Getting*: <http://tinyurl.com/6ryako8>

We'd love to welcome any potential new First Lighters to our evening discussions. At the moment we meet on the third Thursday and first Tuesday of each month, but it really does vary, and the location rotates every time, so you're best to get in touch with Sharon to find out where and when we're next meeting. And now that the weather is a bit warmer, we might start a semi-regular First Light prayer group at "first light" some mornings – we'll keep you posted!



"NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS ON THIS JOB."

Echoes from El Rancho 2011



A weekend with friends from St Ninian's, Karori, was a success as always. We looked from the Past to the Future, and focussed too on the theme of Hospitality.

We asked three generations of one family to write their responses to the experience of the weekend:

I like the special type of Christian community that there is at Church camp – *Michael*

I liked playing a game of 'moonball' with Dad – *Ashwin*

I enjoyed spending time with my family, going for walks to the beach, making hot chocolate for the children – *Suni*

The pleasure of having the leisure

To talk with little ones, elders, teenagers, in-betweeners.

The fun of sharing ideas for quizzes and for worship.

The joy of wandering in the sunshine beside the flowing river and the gleaming sea; the grit of sand underfoot and between the toes.

The birdsong in the morning, the shouts of children at play.

The tense and cautious excitement of a novice horse-rider.

Above all, sensing deep connection with the wider church family.

– *Robin and Jeanette*

Others added their words as part of the prayer of thanksgiving in our Sunday worship:

For doing crosswords together; for the break from school and work; for walking without wondering what tasks I should be doing; sunshine, quiet and conversation; for time to chat... and listen; family basketball games and ice cream, walk to the beach with the church family; joining in with other campers especially those new to me; listening to each other – conversations; for laughter, community, sunshine; Mum and Dad and my pony; for the hospitality; companionship, sunshine after rain, my daughter's hugs; good food and nice showers; deeper conversations... being a community; for sunshine and friends and the time to enjoy them.



See you there next year!



What will *you* build?

Everest Build II. Some of our El Rancho campers became excited at the idea of joining this Habitat for Humanity project

I think it would be fantastic for a group of us to go to Nepal in October next year, and have the experience of a lifetime.

After the success of the 2010 Everest Build, we are planning Everest Build II, when we return to the majestic Himalayas to help families. Habitat for Humanity invites volunteers to return to one of the most beautiful parts of the planet to build environmentally-friendly bamboo and adobe houses. This time Habitat for Humanity is working with indigenous Dhanwar, Pariyar, and Sarki communities.



Habitat for Humanity New Zealand has posted a video of volunteers' experiences during the 2010 Everest Build in Nepal. Watch the 10-minute video at <http://tinyurl.com/6w7ocsj>.

Everest Build 2012 is also a celebration of the 15,000 families in Nepal who have been helped by Habitat for Humanity in the past decade and a landmark on the path to assist 100,000 families to have proper homes by 2016.

Time: October 7 to 13, 2012 dates of build, plus R&R

Location: Dhulikhel, Kavre (40 km. from Kathmandu)

Number of homes: 40

Volunteers needed: 150

Cost: around \$5000 for travel, subsidies, accommodation, food plus a donation to the project.

Final details of timing and cost to be confirmed shortly.

Feel free to circulate this to anyone else you know who might like to come and join us.

Talk to Gill Burns Tel 476 2292 or gillb.habitat@xtra.co.nz

Daily Advent Reflections 2011

This is my last promo as Adult Education Elder, with thanks for your support with the various programmes we've run, or attempted to run, over the last six years. It is time for some fresh input into the role, so thanks to Kath Sutherland for hearing the call.

This year we are doing another homegrown Daily Advent Reflection booklet. As I write this I am in the process of handing out readings to willing volunteers in our faith community to read and reflect on and then share their reflections in written form with the rest of us. We also hope to have this available for the start of Advent (Nov 27th) in electronic form - we'll keep you posted via the weekly bulletin!

Advent is when we prepare for and anticipate Christmas - the celebration of Jesus' birth. So with these reflections we are all invited to take some time out in the weeks ahead and reflect on what lies ahead, on why we do what we do at this time of year, to pause and think on the wonder of precious new life and to celebrate "God among us".

Blessings, Leanne

Rugby and Curry Night

On Saturday 8 September the first of the semi-final games for the Rugby World Cup was being held in Wellington, and the Men's Group decided to use their IT skills to put the game on to the big screen in the church and watch it as a group. Ryhan decided to take it a step further and so we combined this as a Global Mission fundraiser for Jagadhri, our new Global Mission project – and the concept of 'Rugby and a Curry' was born!

About 30 people gathered on the night, for the food (Butter Chicken, Lamb Korma and Samosas) in the hall decorated with RWC bunting for the event, and in the church for the viewing, where casual seating was arranged so that the game could be watched in comfort. Members of St John's congregation joined in and were the keenest, staying on to watch the second game as well!

A big thank you to Alison Smith who provided the kitchen skills and to Ryhan for sorting the IT to make the viewing happen. A donation from funds raised has been passed on to the group from St John's travelling to Jagadhri.

A Memorable Sunday

First, a note of thanks from Kath

I would like to thank all of you who were present on Sunday 6 November to witness my baptism and to welcome me, Vasi, Bill and Anne into membership at WPC. It was a spectacularly special morning for me, and I feel blessed to be part of such a loving church community. My family and friends were so impressed with the love shown to me, and the welcome that you all extended to them, as well as by the magnificent singing of my favourite hymn! Thank you for living out Christ's love and mission in such visible and heart-warming ways; t's a joy to be a member of this special community.

Then in the afternoon...

There was a large gathering (all females this time) to surround Kerala with our love, prayers and good wishes as she – and we – await the birth of the baby daughter she and Andy so look forward to welcoming.

There were games – we didn't do too well identifying others' baby photos but we contributed words to one of Heather's hilarious narratives; and we scratched our heads as we tried to remember the baby



necessities that had tumbled out of Eli's back-pack (*er – not all female!*). There was a spread of tasty treats for afternoon tea. There was a huge carton of excitingly gift-wrapped parcels, which Eli and Helen delighted in handing to Kerala one by one to open.

What a lot of aunties that precious baby is going to have!

(With thanks to Heather and Elizabeth for organising the event, and to Glennis and Rhonda for their support in the kitchen)



WE REMEMBER YOUR PROMISES

HERE WE ARE, LORD;
WE ARE NOT MANY,
NOR ARE WE VERY WISE
OR POWERFUL,
NOR RICH BY THE STANDARDS OF THE WORLD,
BUT WE DO COME
JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT
ON THIS SPECIAL DAY,
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

ON THIS DAY
WE REMEMBER YOUR PROMISES
THAT YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE US
NOR FORSAKE US,
THAT YOU WOULD SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR US IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY,
THAT YOU WOULD ALWAYS LET US KNOW THAT YOU LOVE US,
DESPITE ALL OUR FEARS.

ON THIS DAY
WE JOYFULLY REMEMBER YOU
CREEPING IN VERY QUIETLY
AND VERY VULNERABLY
AMONG US
IN JESUS CHRIST, BORN OF MARY.
BORN TO BE WITH US,
BORN TO LOVE US,
BORN TO SAVE US,
BORN TO FREE US.



PLEASE FORGIVE US
FOR FORGETTING ALL THIS SO OFTEN;
FOR THINKING OF YOU IN HUMAN TERMS –
FOR IMAGINING YOU TO BE A FEARSOME
FAR-OFF SORT OF GOD,
ANGRY AND VENGEFUL;
OR THINKING OF YOU AS A PETULANT PARENT,
REWARDING US WITH SWEETS WHEN WE ARE GOOD
AND SMACKING US WHEN WE ARE BAD.
FORGIVE US FOR BLAMING YOU WHEN THINGS GO WRONG
AND IGNORING YOU WHEN WE THINK WE ARE IN CONTROL;
FOR BEING SO BUSY AND CAUGHT UP IN OUR OWN CONCERNS
THAT WE DON'T EVEN TAKE TIME
TO STOP AND LISTEN TO YOURS.

HELP US
TO COME TO YOUR BIRTHPLACE
AND TO YOUR BIRTHDAY.
HELP US TO LET YOU ENTER OUR LIVES.
SPEAK YOUR WORD OF POWER IN OUR HEARTS
AND CHANGE US, ONCE AGAIN.

JOHN HARVEY



The Adoration of the Shepherds – Murillo

CWCI invites all women to
"EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS"

December 5th at 7.30 pm

The Street City Church, Hania Street

Featuring: Summer Treats

Faith thoughts with Sophie

Destitute Gourmet Books/Gifts

Tickets \$9.00 - available from Heather Lane

Door sales - \$15.00



On Thursday 10 November the **Caring Group** will hand over to the Prison Chaplains the result of the year's work so prisoners' children will receive a gift from Dad at Christmas. Again thanks to all the workers and our supporters.

Elizabeth

Christmas prayer on page 18 taken from HAY & STARDUST
Resources for Christmas to Candlemas; ed Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications

