



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 59 No 1**

**February 2012**

For a few years now Parish Council has had a calendar where we have kept track of the meetings, important events and gatherings planned for our congregation at WPC.

There is only one entry in January: 'deep breath!' Most of us need that break after the Christmas rush and end of year busyness in order to catch our breath, step back from the routines and pressures of our everyday lives and recharge the batteries for another year.

2012 promises to be a full, interesting and challenging year for us.

We are delighted to have received significant funding from Press Go towards the financing of our Community Minister's half-time role. Their grant of \$80,000 over three years along with a grant of \$7,500 from the Presbyterian Foundation and \$2,500 from the James Gibb Fund (Presbyterian Support Central) means that we can move forward with confidence in looking to fill this role. Our Community Minister will help us develop Messy Church, and will give leadership and support to our community-facing ministries and our children and family work at WPC.

King's Table Food Bank is set to reopen in early February after an extended time of closing over Christmas to allow for some reorganisation of the space. The foodbank will now be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 1-3pm and clients will be asked to come to the church and meet with a support worker from Downtown Community Ministries who along with the Foodbank Manager (a role currently being filled by Rev Sue Fenton) and our volunteers will provide them with assistance.

Our Futures Task group will begin their work this month. This group has been asked to review our current and future needs as a congregation to ensure we have a sustainable future. They have been asked in their work to take into account our understanding of the mission God is calling us to, the need to increase the number of active members of the congregation and the issues around our buildings with increased insurance and seismic strengthening requirements. We can look forward to being part of the discussion and exploration of these issues, with a final report due in September.

That should be enough for us to be going on with, don't you think?!

At our service on 12 February we will be celebrating the start of the Sunday's Cool and youth group year and the appointment of several new members of Parish Council. The service will be an opportunity for us all to mark our commitment to being a follower of Christ in this place as we join in on what God is doing in our midst.

Sharon

## **Bruce Anderson**

Bruce left us on the Tuesday before Christmas, after two nights in Mary Potter Hospice, and visits from many of his friends. He would probably have been surprised to know how many people came to 'the kirk' to say goodbye, three days later.



Bruce was in his sixties when he joined us. His mother had died, and someone invited him to come along. He'd once been told 'You wouldn't want to go to church; they'd rope you into doing all sorts of things'. It was rather, as the Psalmist said, *I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the Lord.* Accepted by the church family, he joyfully found himself making a contribution in many ways. As he often said, 'The best thing I ever did was to come to the kirk.'

We remember the passion he developed for recycling: lecturing us, researching the history of recycling (they knew him well at the National Library), collecting scraps and coffee grounds for his compost, and taking charge of both rubbish and recycling in the church and hall, and then at The Ark where he moved after selling his old home. In fact he

made himself responsible for helping his neighbours there, and taking an interest in their welfare.

We were amazed at his encyclopaedic knowledge of the music and performers of the vinyl era and before, dating from his time working at HMV. With Brian's help he shared the music with us in musical evenings, with live performers, video clips and singalongs.

His interest in research extended beyond recycling and music, including family history and anything you might ask him to find out, and his capability increased when he learned, under John Shrapnell's tutelage, to use a computer. Google became his friend – and his recycling reminders for the church newsletter became easier to read.

Relatives were confounded when he learned to cook for himself, and for anyone else who he thought was in need of a hot casserole or some rissoles. And when Leith was ill, Bruce was seen walking a couple of kilometres each evening with a dinner for his mate.

His dearest friend was Doris, and a handful of us were privileged to join him in a little memorial gathering when he planted a rose in remembrance of her.

Bruce loved little children but, being conscious that mothers might not be comfortable with an aging unmarried man in their midst, he contented himself with sweeping the entrance to the hall on mainly music days. But we remember his great joy when he was given a baby to hold in church.

He swept the church entrance, and opened the doors each morning. Seeing him there recalled another psalm: *I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of the Lord than dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

Apart from one glorious trip overseas and occasional visits to his relatives, Bruce was never absent from church on a Sunday morning, and rarely from any other church gathering; he would never miss a church weekend at El Rancho. He liked to share his enthusiasms, but never took offense if someone cut short a chat with an excuse; in fact he would initiate a conversation with "I won't keep you..."

We farewelled Bruce with the hymns he had chosen, *The Old Rugged Cross* and *Mine eyes have seen the glory*, and Judy played *My Way* and got it just right. Our lives are richer for having known him; perhaps he has taught all of us something about how to lead the Christian life.

## Looking back...

So much happens during Advent, when our reporters are too busy preparing for Christmas to write stories. Let's see what we can remember!

### **The Mystery Bus Trip...**

On Nov 24th a bus load of 'oldies' travelled all over Lower Hutt, past where I used to live, and eventually went over the hill to Wainuiomata. We were wondering where we were going as we drove through the town out to a lonelier road which we headed down and eventually stopped at the Casa de Wootton Gardens in Moores Valley

Here we went into the property where we looked at the beautiful shrubs and roses growing there and saw a couple of friendly cats enjoying their motel-like accommodation.

A delicious lunch was served by two friendly but very busy ladies.

At last we headed home via a much more direct route through Ngaio Gorge to Wadestown.

*Phyllis Purdie*

*We looked at another mystery: the Universe...*

### **The Advent Journey Ends with a Child**

On the last Sunday of Advent we continued the journey toward Christmas. It is a journey that began with the energy and talent of the young WPC members at church camp. We looked with them at the planets in our solar system, just a minuscule part of the universe that God has created. The children made the planets – we made nine, even thought Pluto has been demoted – all to scale with the correct number of moons. The idea was to ponder the wonder of a God who can form things so beautifully in what was the void. At Advent, the sky features large. The star that gave direction to the wise men, the host of angels in the sky that praised His name with song, and scared the shepherds half to death initially. We wanted to bring that element of



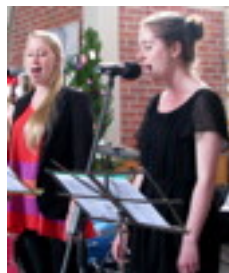
looking up at the vastness, then looking down at the small baby, into WPC. Hanging the solar system in the church and having the "road signs" were all to encourage us to be on the lookout for the miracle about to happen. Watch and Wait, look for something Tiny and Hidden. Then we added the star, the sign that the King of Kings, designer and creator of all, was about to become visible to humankind as a helpless infant. The star, made from grass, bamboo, and raffia, symbolizes the lowly stable setting for the miracle predicted by the prophets. As the Bethlehem star appeared so long ago to point toward a newborn that would change history for the whole Earth, may we each Christmas find our own star that will lead us to a deeper understanding of the mystery that began with Jesus' birth.



*Bill Gaynor*

## **Carols in the Park**

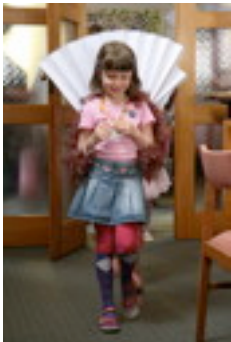
The annual combined Wadestown Churches event of 'Carols in the Park' was held on Tuesday 13 December and followed the same format that it has for a number of years now. The day had been drizzly and unfortunately at the time the decision needed to be made on the venue it was raining and so the gathering was held indoors at Wadestown Presbyterian Church with a large crowd who spilled out into the foyer. They were again entertained by a group of local musicians backing the singing, the telling of the Christmas story and entertainment from the Wadestown School choir.



As the weather had cleared by the time the event was held there was a large group picnicking in the park and the sausage sizzle was held in the courtyard area in front of the church. This combined to make for another successful community facing event.

A big thank you goes to all those who contributed to this event.

**The Children's Pageant** took the story of Wombat's Christmas Pageant and translated it into the story of Kiwi. Kiwi did her best to prove that she could fly and be an angel, but who could improve on the fantails? Mary rode bravely on her donkey; the third king was appropriately in All Black uniform – and



finally Kiwi rejoiced to be chosen to be Baby Jesus.



**The service of readings and carols** was deeply moving; our choir can always put on a professional performance after some solid practice under Val's instruction.

**Carol singers** did their rounds – it would have been nice to share them with our neighbours in Arden Way but they were so frozen that it seemed more generous to invite them inside.

**On Christmas Eve** a small but appreciative gathering listened to stories, sang familiar carols, and made foil stars to hang on the tree.

**And on Christmas Day** old friends and visiting family filled the church with joy.



## Summer has brought news of old friends:

Recently the deaths of two men who served in Wadestown in times past were noted: **Alex Gardyne** and **Gary Meyer**. Our thoughts go out to all their families and friends.

Lovely to catch up on the **Tromop/van Dalen** family, home from Paris for Christmas.

**Joan Ross** and **James Moss** were in Wellington recently before travelling to Britain. Joan takes up a parish ministry after Easter at a 'planted' parish in Newcastle. Great to catch up with them and all their news. We wish them well in this new venture.

And from **Mark Johnston**: We are well settled into the roles in Auckland, mine with Knox and Carolyn currently with the Pressy Schools Office part-time. She taught a paper in Arts and Theology in the Auckland theology dept last year and is keen to keep her academic opportunities alive. We have just bought our first home (an inner city flat) and moved in over Christmas – living off K Road opposite Auckland Girls' Grammar. Learning to live inner city style. Alex is just back from a month immersion experience in India that was part of a school leadership programme. He is 6' 3" these days – a growing lad – turns 16 in May. Both our girls are now living independently, Annaliese about to enter Law honours year at Auckland, and Kelsey is finishing art school in Edinburgh this year.

## Birthday Mission and Stamp money

All the stamps we remember to bring to church for sale by the Association of Presbyterian Women, and the money we donate when we celebrate our birthday, go towards APW projects. These were the recipients in 2011:

Turakina Maori Girls' College	\$8,000
Christian Nursery School (Jagadhri)	\$1,000
St Thomas School (Jagadhri)	\$1,000
Global Mission	\$10,000
Leadership Camp for two young women	\$1,060

For some background on Turakina go to [http://www.tmgc.school.nz/brochures/Newsletter\\_May10.pdf](http://www.tmgc.school.nz/brochures/Newsletter_May10.pdf)

And learn about St Thomas School at <http://www.stthomasschooljagadhri.com/History.htm>

## Green Paper

In November a small group of WPC women (although anyone was welcome) gathered in the church lounge to discuss 'The Green Paper for Vulnerable Children'. This is a paper that the Government has produced and is asking New Zealanders to share their ideas on how we can do better for vulnerable young people. Jo Cribb was one of the people involved in writing this paper so we were lucky to have her attend this meeting and give us some background on it.

The document is large and so created lots of conversation and ideas. Along with the paper are a set of ten questions that we worked our way through and as a result we now have a combined response to each of these that we are currently looking at to make sure we are all happy with them. These will be the response provided by WPC by the deadline of 28 February 2012.

If you would like to have a look at what we have put together, a copy of our response will be placed on the back wall of the church once all agreed to.

*Sue Myhill*

## Since our last Newsletter..



Elise arrived safely and lately has delighted aunts and uncles (well, we are a Christian family) by blessing them with her smile.

Shirleen and Harry were married in Old St Paul's.



Ryhan was ordained and inducted to The Village Church: the Presbyterian parish of Khandallah.

## Changes in Parish Council

We are very grateful for the contribution which has been made to Parish Council and to our congregation's life over recent years by the following people who have completed their term and are stepping down from their roles:

Kevin and Lynley Wilson Co-Parish Clerks. Lynley has also served as Worship Elder, Leanne Munro who has served as Adult Education Elder, Sue Myhill who has served as Outreach Elder.

We are delighted that the following people have agreed to serve on Parish Council:

Sarah and Martin Harvey as Co-parish Clerks, Kath Sutherland as Adult Education Elder, Ann Gaynor as Worship Elder, Janet MacKay as Youth Elder , Ruth Mary James as Outreach Elder and John Boyd as Chairperson (for 2012)

Thank you to you all for sharing your time, faith and skills with us so generously.

*On Sunday 12 February the new elders, Martin, Kath, Ann and Janet were ordained, and along with Sarah and Ruth Mary were welcomed on to Parish Council. The outgoing elders were thanked; and teachers of Sunday's Cool along with Youth leaders were welcomed. All with prayer as well as thanks.*

## Greer's Baptism

Also on Sunday 12, Phillipa and Euan Hogg, with Annabel and Myles, brought Greer Rena Ailsa to be baptised. Greer entered into the spirit of the occasion until she found water being poured onto her head, which was not so much fun.



# Sunday's Cool

started with a hiss and a roar – perhaps literally – as parents and children spent a night at the Zoo.

**Helen** - I enjoyed the meerkats because they stood on the roof of their house. There were cute baby meerkats.

**Georgina** - I really liked the lions. They were really, really close to me. I think they wanted to eat me for dinner!

**Amanda** - I was kept awake all night,



not by children, but by a very grumpy hedgehog! (next to my bed)

**Lihong** - I loved the the spider monkeys. They communicate with their moustaches!

**Timothy** - The lions tried to eat us, but they were just playing.

**Emily** - I loved the chimps. The baby chimps were very cute.

**Caitlyn** - I liked the chimps swinging on the bars. A grown up one had to save the baby chimp!

**Annabel** - I loved the lion scratching on the glass. We also fed the monkeys by throwing



them a pinecone that we put corn and dates on.

**Celeste** - I loved the adult meerkat hugging the baby meerkat!

**Olivia** - I really liked the servals

**Emma** - I loved the lemur, King Julian from the movie Madagascar.

**James** - I loved everything!!!



## Parachute

The lead up to this year's Parachute Festival was much more subdued than that of previous years. The headlining acts were unknown to all but the most ardent music followers. However we bought our tickets, unperturbed by the unknown, and on 26 February made our way up to Hamilton for Parachute 2012.

For those of us who arrived on site early, the first job was to get the tents up. This was made difficult by the sudden downpour of rain that struck as soon as the first tent was unfolded and, miraculously, disappeared when the last guy rope was pegged down. This left the afternoon to dry off in preparation for the weekend ahead.

As expected the music scene was dominated by Indie Rock bands, with a smattering of other styles such as Worship and Metal. Despite the fact that we hadn't heard of many, if any, of the bands present we still managed to enjoy ourselves. One of the more popular bands, and one my sister Bronwyn especially enjoyed, was a kiwi band named 'Avalanche City' who, as well as the typical bass guitar/drums/guitar line-up, also included a glockenspiel and a piano accordion.

The Village was much the same as in previous years, with the normal range of food and clothing for sale as well as stalls from organisations such as 'Voice of Martyrs' and 'Christians Against Poverty'. For those interested, there was also a tent where you could buy merchandise and albums of the bands that were playing over the weekend.

Also available were a series of seminars by a number of speakers, ranging from a speech on how to act towards poverty as a Christian, given by the CEO of World Vision Australia, to a discussion on how to live as a Christian. Although I hadn't meant to come for the seminars I ended up spending most of my time in the seminar space, taking mental notes for my coming year as a youth leader.

Although my family couldn't stay for the whole weekend due to impending start of the school year, we all definitely enjoyed the weekend. And with the 2013 line-up already showing early promise, we're all looking forward to next year.

*Jonathan Ensor*

*The youth group is for young people from about year 8, with lectionary-based studies on Sunday mornings and fortnightly discussion sessions on Sunday evenings from 7.00 – 8.30 pm.*

*Learn more from Rev Sharon 472 6402.*

## 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.

**Tuesday 21 Feb** Pancakes in the Park. A celebration of Shrove Tuesday organised by the Wadestown Churches. starting from 5.30pm. Free entry, live music, pancakes, sausages and orange juice on sale, or bring a picnic tea to the park.

**Sunday 26 Feb** 4.30-6.30pm Messy Church in the WPC hall.

**Sunday 4 March** 10am Church in the Park in celebration of National Children's Day. Bring a picnic morning tea and enjoy some informal, outdoor worship (wet/windy venue...at WPC)

**Friday 23 March** Parents' Quiz Night at WPC, details to follow.

**Sunday 1 April** 10am Sunday's Cool Easter Crafts morning...bring a friend along to hear the Palm Sunday story and make some cool Easter crafts.

**Friday 6 April** 10am Good Friday combined church service at WPC

**Sunday 8 April** 10am Easter all-age celebration service followed by Easter egg hunt in the Park.

## Lent

Lent begins on 22 February this year and we are excited to offer everyone the opportunity to get involved in a Lent Life Group. If you are not already in one of WPC's regular small groups, now is the perfect time to join an existing or new group. Lent Life Groups will kick off with a special screening at church of the film, "The King's Speech" on Saturday 18 February. Groups will then start meeting in the week beginning 20 February, and will use a discussion resource based around this film.

Please let Kath Sutherland know as soon as possible if you are not yet in a group and would like to join in.

Email: [kathsutherland@gmail.com](mailto:kathsutherland@gmail.com)

Phone: 499 0408 Mobile: 027 563 5795

*From CWS: Total giving to date by WPC to the Christmas Appeal is \$1,912, and the parish is thanked for our support.*

## Easter

As we approach Easter, one way to focus our thoughts on the significance of the season is to create our own WPC "Stations of the Cross".

Shortly I will send you details about this idea, including titles for the 12 (or 14) stations and bible text for each. We would love anyone who is interested - individuals or groups, children, youth group or adults, to choose a station and create an interpretation. Any media can be used - Paint, wood, textiles, sound, film, multimedia etc - it can be as simple or as adventurous as you wish.

The idea would be to mount the Stations in the hall or church. and provide a quiet, contemplative environment. It would be open for viewing for anyone who wants to come, on Good Friday.

If you think you might be interested in this project, please do get back to me. More info will be on its way soon.

*Ann Gaynor 470 7800 [gaynors@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gaynors@xtra.co.nz)*

## Groups Meeting

**Women and Words** gather on the second Monday of each month to talk about their varied reading experiences. Alison 476-4454 or Elizabeth 472 5150 can direct you to the venue of the month.

**The Caring Group** meet on the second Thursday each month at 2 pm in the church lounge. Knitting – and un-knitting – cutting and sewing for all levels of skill, with chat and a cuppa. Each year we provide Christmas presents for the children of prisoners in Mt Crawford. Talk to Elizabeth 472 5150 or just come along.

**PLWL, the Praying Ladies Who Lunch** Usually meet at 12 noon on the third Friday of the month – no plans available so far. Margaret 499 9270 or Heather 472 7240 can tell you more.

**Frontiers of Faith** We meet for discussion on a Wednesday evening when there are enough of us in town. as a group for people with an interest in contemporary biblical scholarship, and the implications of this for the doctrines we have inherited. Talk to Jenny 472 9866 or the Simmers 977 4252

**mainly music** Music and movement for 0-4-year-olds, followed by morning tea and play time. Two sessions: 9.30 and 10.30 Wednesday during school term. Contact Karyn on 472 6406 or email [wadestownpc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wadestownpc@xtra.co.nz)

### **Thursday Morning Life Group**

We began meeting again on Thursday (16th Feb) in the Church Lounge at 10.30 am, after 10am Morning Prayers. We will be using the study "Finding a Voice" based on the movie The King's Speech. You do need to watch the movie beforehand, unless you managed to get to the showing at church on Sat Feb 18th. *Contact Leanne Munro ph 976 3331 or email [dugald.leanne@paradise.net.nz](mailto:dugald.leanne@paradise.net.nz)*

### **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 we decided to keep meeting, but on a monthly basis, with a few more members keen to cluster around. Learn more from

*Gill Burns 476 2292  
[gillb.habitat@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gillb.habitat@xtra.co.nz)*

### **First Light**

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. Learn more about this and other groups from *Kath*.

**Open House**, a sociable and stimulating gathering for retired folk of all ages, with morning tea, music, interesting talks and presentations, on the last Thursday of each month at 10.30 am. Heather at 472 7240 can tell you more. Our programme for this term:

#### **23 February**

**Tania Dyett**, violin

**Larisa Bazenova**, piano (Teaching Academy at Kiev)

**Kim Dyett**, classical guitar

#### **29 March: Inge Woolf. "Child of the Holocaust"**

Many of you will know Inge Woolf through her family business Photography by Woolf, now run by son, Simon Woolf. As well as being involved with the family business for over 50 years, she has volunteered for many charitable organisations including Zonta and Arthritis NZ. In 1992 she was awarded the QSO for her services to the community. Inge was born in Vienna and escaped the Nazi regime with her parents in 1938. She will talk about what happened to her family. She will also give a brief overview of the Holocaust and talk about the Holocaust Centre here in Wellington, where she is Director.

### **26 April: “Keeping Your Independence”**

What makes it easy and what makes it hard to manage in later life.  
Dr Judith Davey, Senior Research Assoc., Institute of  
Policy Studies, Victoria University.

### **31 May: Ruth-Mary James: “English Language Partners”**

Ruth-Mary James will share her experiences of teaching  
English to new migrants and refugees who come to NZ.

### **28 June Mary Lambert, soprano**

## **Everest Build 2**

Gill Burns reports that following her November announcement about the opportunity to join a Habitat for Humanity group of kiwis building houses in a village in Nepal in October, several rallied to the call and locally we already have 26 indications of interest, most of whom are members of WPC. This is fantastic and exciting! She believes this experience of sharing God’s love with those in need will become an important part in the story of our church, and grow our church life and community.

Part of the commitment to this journey is paying approx \$5000 per person to cover the airfares, accommodation and food, plus to make a contribution to the construction costs of these 40 new homes. Therefore, we are looking for opportunities to fundraise, both individually and as a group. If any of our dear readers can think of ways we can do this, please let us know. It might be you need work done at your home, or stocktaking at your business, or you have something we could sell, or you know someone who could perform in a paying concert for us, or something even more exciting that people will be Pwilling to pay for in the name of a good cause. And we do hope and pray that you’ll support us in our fundraising efforts as we’ll need all the friends we can get. We’ll keep you posted our progress.

PS If any others might be interested in joining the group for a life-changing experience, there is still plenty of time to sign up. Please speak to Gill Burns for more information (ph 476 2292/ email [gillb.habitat@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gillb.habitat@xtra.co.nz))

**The Foodbank** is open from 1 - 2.30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Support workers from Downtown Community Ministry assist by talking with clients to assess their needs. The Foodbank may be contacted at that time on 472 6406, or at any time a message can be left. WPC reps on the Foodbank Liaison Committee are Ruth Mary James and Leanne Munro.