



**Don't Waste the Merry!** By the time you read this you will all have celebrated in some fashion the season of Christmas. Presents will have been opened, food will have been consumed, families reunited, friends wished well but should we have been so cheerful? There is so much in the world that is not right; so many live in poverty, displaced, discouraged, disenchanting with their lot. Should we not have a thought for them, indeed, should we not be giving all we give to them? Well, to be frank, we could give more and we at Leith will in the New Year try to raise both our consciousness and our generosity levels again as we did this year. We will work to bless those who need our blessing—to be God's hands in this dark world. But for goodness sake don't stop celebrating for if we do this we shun the spirit of thankfulness which is at the heart of our new relationship with God. Jesus was once criticised for partying with 'sinners.' His reply to those who criticised Him is important. "18For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; 19the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." His final remark is to the point. We are not being pious by simply not celebrating. Indeed, it will be wise at times to do so. It will also be wise at other times to live, as it were, in and with grief for it will be right to grieve. God's kingdom is not one which outlaws celebration but which calls us to appropriate behaviour at all times and this includes partying at times. It is right to enjoy Christmas and it is right to celebrate the coming of Jesus, so long as we don't over-indulge or make this the theme of our life for the times to mourn our sinful world will come only too soon and then we will need to fast again.

*Richard*

### CONTACTS

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**Kidstime:** Fran Dawson 027 456 1188

**Music Team:** Richard Dawson See above

**Mission:** Kristin Jack 022 075 3286

**Admin:** Rachel Bates Church Office

**Treasurer:** Matt Dent 027 428 9215

### NEXT WEEK

**Service Leader** Richard Dawson  
**Preacher** Richard Dawson  
**Worship Leader** Geoff Bevan  
**Children's talk** Fran Dawson  
**Bible Reading** Rachel Elder  
**Prayers for others** Russell Elder  
**Door & Offering** Colin & Chris Fitzpatrick  
**Prayer Ministry** Nigel Jamieson  
**Data Projector** Fiona Cooper  
**Sound** Ged Forbes  
**Morning Tea** Rachel P, Judith F  
**Offering Counter** Keryn Harrex



# Leith Valley Church

## SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2015



*In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

*John 1:4*



### Welcome!

It's great to have you with us for this last Sunday of 2015. If you are visiting from out of town, please stay and enjoy morning tea with us and get to know us a little.

**Today's Readings:** Isaiah 52:7-10  
 John 1:1-14



### Today's Team

**Service Leader:** Ivan Martinez  
**Worship Leader:** Richard Dawson  
**Door/Offering:** Fairlie & Nilanthi Sim  
**Bible Readings:** Ivan Martinez  
**Morning tea:** Chrissy Cameron  
**Offering Counter:** Keryn Harrex

**Preacher:** Ivan Martinez  
**Children's Talk:** Fiona Cooper  
**Data Projector:** Rachel Elder  
**Prayers for Others:** Prue Paterson  
**Sound:** Daniel Sim



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#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS OVER THE BREAK

**Tuesday 29 Dec:** 9am-12 noon

**Weds 30– Thurs 31 Dec:** 9am-2pm

**Tues 5 Jan– Thurs 7 Jan:** 9am-2pm

**Tues 12 & Thurs 14:** 9am-2pm

**Tues 19– Fri 22:** Try your luck or leave a message!

Phone messages and emails will be checked regularly and both Richard and Helen can be contacted on their cell phones (see contact section over page)



### CWS Christmas Appeal

Our church supports the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal, first launched in 1945. Making sure refugees have food, shelter and education, small farmers have seeds and water to grow food and children have medical care when they need it are ways to peace.

Your gift at Christmas will help rebuild lives and give hope to people in need of food, water, support and medicine. You can make a donation by putting a labelled envelope in the church offering, by internet banking or online.

[christmasappeal.org.nz](http://christmasappeal.org.nz)



### TEAR FUND CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Your donation will help vulnerable mothers and children in Indonesia and India, as well as support similar projects in Laos, Cambodia and the Pacific. Emphasis is on health education and disease prevention.

<https://www.tearfund.org.nz/for-the-love-of.aspx>

### NOT TOO LATE TO SUPPORT

#### On Sunday 10th

we are meeting at the Hospital chapel and joining with the service there. We need a team of ten people who can come early (9.45) and help transport patients from the wards to the chapel.

Also, Cameron Sinclair who is taking the service is keen to have some Leith people involved with prayers/reading/singing.

Give Rachel a call/email if you would like to be involved in any of these ways.



*Thanks to those of you who helped on Christmas Day!*

**Service time on the 10th is 10.30am**

**BUDGET UPDATE:** The church finances are still very tight and in order to meet our commitments over the next two months we need everyone to continue with their regular donations even while on holiday.

**THANK YOU** all for your faithful giving, we really appreciate your support.

[Account number if you need it!  03-0883-0620501-00]

### FOODBANK NEEDS

Don't forget to keep supporting the foodbank over January. The needs don't go away and people can be even more in need after Christmas.

### ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Accommodation for a girl (13 years old) and a boy (14 years old) for just 2 nights (16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016 and 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016) from overseas visiting over the summer. They are fine with pets and kids. They can go to two separate households. If you can help in anyway, please contact Mission 0212952638 ([leem2468@gmail.com](mailto:leem2468@gmail.com)). Able to negotiate if needed:

### ALSO

Homestay required for 18 year old Chinese girl about to begin BA/BCom at Otago. She has lived in New Zealand for a year already and really enjoyed her homestay. Contact Rachel at the office to find out more.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE AT FIRST CHURCH

Watchnight Service 11pm, 31 December.

### INDUCTION AT LEITH

Rev Steve Taylor is the new Principal of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership. His induction service will be held at Leith Valley Church on Monday 15 February 2016.

### POSITION VACANCY, KNOX CHURCH

Student and Young Adults Worker - Part-time

We need an enthusiastic Christian leader who will engage students and young adults and help us listen and support them, changing as we do. We have growing participation by students and young adults. We encourage an inquiring, genuine, enlivening and inclusive faith in Jesus Christ.

For position description and terms of appointment, contact [admin@knoxchurch.net](mailto:admin@knoxchurch.net).

Applications close 4 January 2016.

### KCLM INAUGURAL LECTURE 2016

Cameron Hall, Knox College, at **4:00 pm** on **Tuesday 9th February**. Guest speaker **Professor John Swinton**; 'Friendship as witness: The body of Jesus as a place of belonging.'

John is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care in the School of Divinity, Religious Studies and Philosophy at the University of Aberdeen. He is the founder and Director of the Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability at the University. In 2014 he also established the Centre for Ministry Studies there.