

## Richard's Corner



The ambiguities of Christmas are not hard to spot. Rampant consumerism masquerading as generosity; over-consumption pretending to be celebration; a 'holy-day' which few know the reason for and much else. If we were inclined to, we could all become very cynical about Christmas. And yet even in the midst of this muddying of the waters we can see signs of the first Christmas for it too occurred amidst incredible ambiguity. In a Holy Land which was controlled by an unholy world power; amongst God's people whose ruling class were anything but; through an unmarried virgin engaged to an unprepared husband in an unclean stable away from all normal patterns of care for women giving birth against the backdrop of a regional tyrant bent on killing this child as soon as he could be found. I wonder if your Christmas will contain some ambiguities? A rush to prepare... a clash of tired wills with family... a complete lack of ideas for presents... a background of a huge loss in the last two years... sickness... sadness... loss... tiredness. Whatever it is, Christmas brings these things and we often bemoan them as ruining Christmas but I suspect the truth is somewhat different. I suspect that they introduce an element of reality into Christmas which makes it more and not less like the first Christmas and like families and communities and life itself—Christmas wouldn't be really Christmas without the hard parts. So friends, keep making the effort, keep letting the life of the Christ-child enter our world, as difficult, tired, worn out and un-Christmas-like as it is. This is the world that Jesus came to love.



# St Stephens Leith Valley

"Growing great community"

## 22 December and 29 December 2013



Welcome to our service today.

If you are new or visiting please stay for some morning tea, we'd love to get to know you.



**22nd December:** Our final service at George St for the year. There will be a DVD for children today. We will also be sharing communion together.

**29 December:** This will be the first of our summer services held at Leith Valley Church, 267 Malvern St. Activity sheets will be provided for children during the service.

### New Grandparents!

Congratulations to Helen and Wayne on the birth of their grandson

**Luca James Petterson** on 19 December.

Well done to Rosie and Tim the new parents.



### Christmas Eve Services:

Family Service: 7-8pm  
Traditional Carol Service: 11.30pm  
Both at Leith Valley Church

## www.leithvalley.org.nz

### Leith Valley Church Contact Details

Office: 267 Malvern St, Leith Valley. Phone: 467 9208

Email address: [office@leithvalley.org.nz](mailto:office@leithvalley.org.nz)



<b>Ministers:</b>	Richard Dawson	027 224 2026	<a href="mailto:rdawson@ihug.co.nz">rdawson@ihug.co.nz</a>
	Helen Harray	027 473 0042	<a href="mailto:hmharray@paradise.net.nz">hmharray@paradise.net.nz</a>
<b>Studentsoul:</b>	Ivan Martinez	022 1909 499	<a href="mailto:Ivan@studentsoul.org.nz">Ivan@studentsoul.org.nz</a>
	Studentsoul office	474 9470	
<b>Parish Manager:</b>	David McKenzie	027 765 1922	<a href="mailto:parish.manager@leithvalley.org.nz">parish.manager@leithvalley.org.nz</a>
<b>Youth Worker:</b>	Tim Gonzales	027 240 0907	<b>Kidstime:</b> Fran Dawson 473 0311
<b>Worship Team:</b>	Pauline Lovelock	473 1106	<b>Treasurer:</b> Keith Wallis 454 5338
<b>Church Admin:</b>	Rachel Bates	467 9208 (Office 9am-2pm Tues-Fri)	

5th January

**Service Leader:** Lynne Baab  
**Speaker:** Lynne Baab  
**Door & Offering:** Dave and Sandi Jull  
**Prayers for Others:** Peter Crothall  
**Data Projector:** Ruth Pearce  
**Morning Tea:** Jennifer A, Lynn W

**Worship Team:** To be confirmed  
**Children's Talk:** Dave Jull  
**Bible Reading:** Emily Yates  
**Duty Elder:** Catherine McKinlay  
**Sound:** Liam Hutton

22 December

**Worship Leader:** Pauline Lovelock  
**Welcome/Offering:** Turners  
**Bible Readings:** Pip Robertson  
**Morning Tea:** Debbie Griffiths, Sandra Dillon, Keryn Harrex  
**Data Projector:** Bronwyn Bennington  
**Sound:** David McKenzie  
**Duty Elder:** Catherine McKinlay  
**Set up:** Bill Lee

29 December

**Worship Leader:** Richard  
**Welcome/Offering:** Fitzpatricks  
**Children's talk:** Fran Dawson  
**Bible Readings:** Peter Crothall  
**Morning Tea:** Fitzpatricks  
**Data Projector:** Sandi Jull  
**Sound:** Ged Forbes  
**Duty Elder:** Susan Jack



## HOLIDAY READING

Staying around Dunedin in January? Lynne Baab will be preaching 5 and 12 January (up at the church in Leith Valley) on the "parables of the kingdom" from Matthew 13, and she invites you to read the seven parables in that chapter ahead of time and to ponder what the kingdom of heaven means to you.



### Wipe Away Their Tears

Is this year's Tear Fund Christmas Appeal.

The funds from this will go to three major projects in Sri Lanka:

- ◆ Rebuilding the dairy industry enabling people to have an income
- ◆ Providing a child protection programme
- ◆ Bringing rescue to victims of slavery and sexual exploitation

Please take a brochure from the notices table to read through and donate as you are able.

### Finance Admin @ LVPC

Do you have some Finance Admin skills? We are looking for someone to train on our new accounting package, **Reckon**. (Quickbooks online) Once up and running this will be a commitment of 6-8hrs per month.

Please contact David McK for more info:  
[parish.manager@leithvalley.org.nz](mailto:parish.manager@leithvalley.org.nz) or 027 765 1922

CHRISTMAS without CHRIST is  
Mary without a miracle  
A Manger without the Messiah  
Angels without an Announcement  
Shepherds without the Saviour  
A Star without Significance  
Three Kings without The King  
Gifts without the Giver  
Happiness without the Hope of Heaven



Source unknown

### Cleaner Needed @ LVPC

for 3 weeks holiday cover.

Weeks of 30<sup>th</sup> Dec,  
6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Jan.

Contact David if you're interested.

Ph 027 765 1922

# Noticeboard



*"Our modern culture seems increasingly indifferent and at times even hostile, towards our faith. Yet amazingly, again, we've been granted NZ's biggest radio audience for 18 hours this Christmas. That's cause for celebration!"*

*With your help, we'll keep the true Christmas story alive and vibrant by retelling the message of Christ to huge numbers of non-Christian listeners, in ways that are creative, fun, fresh and appealing.*

**Newstalk ZB and Radio Sport**

**24 Dec: 6pm-midnight**

**25 Dec: 6am-6pm**

**Help CBA reach 250 000 listeners this Christmas. Go to [cba.org.nz](http://cba.org.nz) to donate online or phone 0900 80 222 to make an instant \$20 donation.**

### Strengths Finder 7-9 February, 2014

Opportunities available for individual and couple coaching. Contact Helen for more information  
473-7511 or 027 473 0042

### Tapanui Presbyterian Church 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

22-23 March 2014. See noticeboard.

### Parish Council Nominations

We need to replace two of our elders who have stepped down over the past year. If you would like to nominate someone please be in touch with Paul Trebilco in the new year.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

**Watch Night Service**

**First Church**

**Moray Place**

**11.00pm**

A time of reflection and thanksgiving, offering God the year that is past and opening ourselves to God's presence for the year that is to come.  
*(Time to join the festivities and fire-works in the Octagon afterwards)*  
Parking available behind the church



### 2014 Calendars for Sale

Photos from Sudan, produced by Hannah Sim.  
\$15. Order from:

[hannahsimcreations@gmail.com](mailto:hannahsimcreations@gmail.com)

**House for Rent:** 2 bedroom unit, 18b Selwyn St. Sunny, newly decorated, heat pump and osp for 2 cars. Fridge, w/m and drier.

Available end of January, \$260 per week.  
Call Bruce 473 7692 or 021 205 4576

### CHILDREN'S and FAMILIES' PASTOR EAST TAIERI CHURCH

20 hours per week.

To explore this opportunity further please contact Ed Ablett-Hampson:  
Ph: (03) 489 6308, or email:

[ed@etchurch.co.nz](mailto:ed@etchurch.co.nz)

Applications close 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014