



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ~ HAWKES BAY

Newsletter Advent-Christmas-Epiphany 2015/16



Hello all,

The new Christian year is upon us, beginning with Advent which starts on November 29.

Events in Hawke's Bay

We have two **all-ages events** planned during Advent. On Sunday 29 November we will celebrate the **Advent Festival** including songs, stories and a shared morning tea (please bring a plate). For more information or if you have a contribution, contact Sandra Simpson (ph. 877 9992) or Nicole Scheidegger Mallow (877 6016). On Sunday 20 December we will sing **Christmas Carols** together. Both of these events start at 10:30 a.m., and will last about an hour.

The **Devotional Gathering** (intended for those aged 14 and over) will be held on each of the four Sundays of Advent. We will not meet on Christmas Day itself, but in January we resume our pattern of 'first and third Sunday', which means our Christmas devotional gathering will be on January 3! We will mark the beginning of **Epiphany** with an extra devotional gathering on Wednesday January 6.

The committee has invited Elke to share reflections on her recent time in Europe, working in a curative community in Germany. This will take place on Sunday December 6.

We will have a **pot-luck shared meal** at 6p.m. on Saturday 5 December. This will be followed by a **committee meeting** (open to all) at 7:30pm. You are welcome to either or both.

National events

The [New Zealand Family Camp](#), 12-17 January, will go ahead, and will be held by chaplain Andrea Tomanek and visiting priest Rev. Franziska Hesse. An 'early bird price' will apply to registrations received by November 30.

The Hawke's Bay retreat, with Rev. Lisa Devine and either Hartmut or Franziska, will be held at Rangimarie, 6-8 May.

A retreat will be held in Christchurch, 2-4 December 2016, with Rev. Martin Samson and either Hartmut or Franziska.

Those who went to the Trans-Tasman conference greatly appreciated both Lisa's and Martin's contributions, so you might like to put those in your diary. Martin runs the [Home Study Course](#) as well.

Other New Zealand news

Please find attached a letter from the committee, reporting on our recent meeting with Cheryl Nekvapil and Anand Mandaiker, about Hawke's Bay's situation and Elke's situation.

The letter makes reference to Rev. Cheryl Nekvapil coordinating **funeral services** for the time being. Although Hartmut has returned to Auckland, his availability in emergencies is uncertain due to Lis's health. In the case of a funeral, please contact local committee members Sandra Simpson (ph. 877 9992) or John Graham (844 2256 / john.graham.nz@gmail.com) and we will liaise with Cheryl.

A national newsletter will be published soon, with further details about the situation in Auckland.

Peace Initiatives

A number of initiatives are springing up in response to the world's critical situation. Martin Samson, a priest in our Adelaide Community, has started an initiative called **The Circle of Light** (for those of any religion or no religion). Information is included with this newsletter.

Cindy Hinds, a priest in the Christian Community in California, has written recently about another initiative called the **World Prayer Circle**. "Often the best way to fight for peace is to pray. Ephesians 6 reminds us that we are not fighting against powers of flesh and blood, but against dark spirit beings. We can become 'prayer warriors'. A year ago a voluntary prayer group for peace started in our sister Christian Community congregation in Berlin Germany. They have volunteered to **pray the Lord's Prayer three times a day** at 6:30 a.m., at noon and at 7:30 p.m. (or at least one of those times) for world peace. Since then the group has grown to 77 members in four countries and have invited any who wish to join them. If you would like to join, just begin. Because of the differing time zones, it will create a daily rolling prayer wave across the world. Please contact Rev Hinds by answering this email (cindy.hinds@gmail.com) with a yes if you would be joining as a member of the group - it would be good to be able to give the originator some good news and feedback. Warmly, Cindy".



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY - HAWKES BAY PROGRAMME for ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY 2015/16

Services and events are held at "Rangimarie", 617 Heretaunga Street East, Hastings.

Sunday 29 November

10 am Devotional Gathering (Advent)
10:30 am **Advent Festival** for all ages

Saturday 5 December

6 pm Potluck shared meal
7:30 pm Committee meeting (open to all)

Sunday 6 December

10 am Devotional Gathering (Advent)
10:30 am Elke will share about her time in Germany

Sunday 13 December

10 am Devotional Gathering (Advent)

Sunday 20 December

10 am Devotional Gathering (Advent)
10:30 am **Christmas Carols** for all ages

Sunday 27 December

No service

Sunday 3 January 2016

10 am Devotional Gathering (Christmas)

Wednesday 6 January

10 am Devotional Gathering (Epiphany)

Sunday 17 January 2016

10 am Devotional Gathering (Epiphany)

Sunday 7 February

10 am Devotional Gathering (Trinity)

Committee contacts :

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