

## Church News Marts 2015

*“We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us”*

(Joseph Campbell).

Small changes are easy and often a delight to deal with. They are something we look forward to, differently to big changes in our life, which can be much harder to face. Most people like to be in control and to know what the future holds. They like to navigate through a familiar week, so get nervous and unsure when they need to step out of their comfort zone to meet changes. Some people even hate changes and wish things could always stay the same, while other people seek changes constantly and proclaim that changes are a necessary process and not an event. If we just kept on working every day, doing the things we are good at, counting only on the people that has always been there for us, and repeating what we always have done, then we would fade, get tired and probably sick. We need a break now and then. We need to be quiet for a moment. We need to listen. We need to be open for changes, so we can continue to expand our potentials and meet all the blessings that are still awaiting us. In the history of the Danish Church in New Zealand we are currently facing BIG changes! Our Chairman, Niels Jægersborg has decided the time is right for a change and wish to step down from the board, as part of his retirement plans. Instead Annette Vestergaard Jensen has become the new chair and Helle Gilderdale has been appointed to the board. The change has come at a time when we are reaching a conclusion to significant structural changes. We are very grateful for the leadership and guidance Niels has provided us during this process to enable these changes (you can read more about that on the next pages). On behalf of the new Danish Church board, we welcome the changes and look forward to another year of the Danish Church in NZ. - *Pastor Anja G. Mathiassen.*



## Thanks to Niels Jægersborg

The Danish Church board would like to express our greatest gratitude to Niels Jægersborg, our Chairman of the Danish Church in NZ since its foundation in 2007, in honour of his outstanding contributions, time and interest in the Danish Church. Niels has been a true inspiration to the board and

its members: always optimistic and caring, welcoming and supportive.

The idea about a Danish Church in New Zealand originated from Niels and Rita Jægersborg who have remained the driving force behind the church and what it is today. We are hugely grateful for all their contributions and support of the changes ahead. Anja says: “I’m thankful for their hospitality, friendship, faith in the church and me as a pastor for the church”. We wish Niels and Rita all the best in the future.



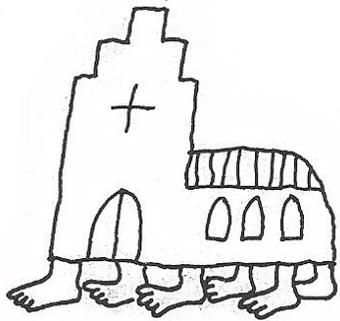
## Welcome to Helle Gilderdale

We are grateful that Helle has accepted our invitation to join the board. We have asked Helle to assist us with an introduction, to those of you who have not yet met her:

“My father was a missionary in Orissa, India. I and my three siblings were all born there, and three of us went to a Danish boarding school in southern India, until my sister had to go to high school, and we returned to Denmark. I went to university and studied to become a translator,

but before my final exam I managed to get a job as a student helper at a Quaker College in Selly Oak near Birmingham, UK. Up till then I had no idea what a Quaker was, having only learnt that a lot of them were very rich! Well, the one I met there was not rich, and he was a Kiwi, something I knew even less about than

Quakers - but I married him nevertheless! We went back to Denmark where I finished my MA in translation, and we lived there for four years before moving to New Zealand. We have two daughters, Christina, who was born in Denmark, and Anna, who was born here. While living in the Selly Oak Colleges I had the opportunity to try a lot of different types of church services, and it was fascinating to see how each denomination clearly showed its origin (e.g. Jamaican) in its choice of music and the way the congregation interacted with each other and the clergy. I enjoyed my visits there, and it confirmed me in my belief that of course there isn't a right or a wrong way to worship, but it IS important to have an anchor to help you focus on the important issues. For those churches the anchor was clearly the language and the music. And it is for me, too. Going to an Anglican service here is not "wrong", but it doesn't "anchor" me in the same way. The way we worshipped during my upbringing, i.e. the Danish Lutheran service, is my anchor. So I am very grateful for having our Danish church and our Danish pastor, Anja Grønne Mathiassen, here in New Zealand, and I am happy if I can in any way play a part in keeping this Church alive". – *Helle Gilderdale, Auckland.*



### Changes to the Church Structure

The Danish Church New Zealand was originally incorporated as an Incorporated Society. We found that this structure limited the Church in some ways and decided that we would incorporate the Church as a Board with Trustees. This necessitated that we incorporate a new entity which we have now done. The new entity is called **The Danish Lutheran Church Of New Zealand**, and the Church will operate under that name from 1 April 2015. In all other respects the Church stays the same. Donations will still be tax deductible, and Anja Grønne Mathiassen will remain our Pastor and a Marriage Celebrant. The Trustees of the new Church will be Anja Grønne Mathiassen, Annette Vestergaard Jensen (Chair), Majbrit Lyngby Christiansen (Treasurer) and Margith Pedersen, General Secretary in The Danish Church Abroad / Danish Seamen's Church in Denmark. - *Knud Fink-Jensen, Wellington*



### Danish Easter Church Service and Easter Egg Hunt in Auckland

The next church service will take place in Auckland at the Danish House on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2015 at 4pm.**

We hope to see you all there and invite families with children to join us in the Easter Egg Hunt following the service. It should be lots of fun!

### The Danish Ambassador's Visit and Fastelavn in Dunedin 2015

At Waitangi day in Dunedin we were honoured to have the Danish Ambassador Børge Petersen and his wife Jytte joining us in our yearly traditional fastelavns party, during their visit from Australia.

Børge Petersen held a speech and showed great interest in the life and dreams of the Danish people in Dunedin. Fastelavn was a success as usual and we enjoyed fastelavnsboller from the Danish Bakery in Dunedin with some excited and dressed up kids, who managed to knock down the barrel.



### We Welcome Your Support

Did you know that you can **support the Danish Church NZ** as a yearly contributor and become a member? Funds can be donated via online banking (Westpac NZ: 03 0502 0445253-000) or sent by cheque to Treasurer Majbrit Lyngby Christiansen. Alternatively you can go to [www.danishchurchnz.org](http://www.danishchurchnz.org) or contact Majbrit on [dkchurchsubs@gmail.com](mailto:dkchurchsubs@gmail.com) for more information.