

Danish Christmas services in New Zealand 2014:



Hamilton the 6th of December at 11am at Hamilton Lutheran Church St. Matthew, 27 Abbotsford Street Whitiara Hamilton 3200. After the service there will be a shared lunch, everyone is welcome to bring a plate. For more information: <http://hamilton.danish.org.nz/>

Auckland, the 7th of December at 4 pm in the Danish House. Everyone is invited to stay for æbleskiver and gløgg after the service. For more information: <http://www.danishsociety.org.nz/>

Christchurch, 17th of December at 7.30 pm in St. Paul Lutheran Church Christchurch Burwood. After the service there will be supper and time to chat with fellow Scandinavians, St Paul's congregation and friends. If able pls. 'bring a plate' to share.



Dunedin, the 21st December at 2pm at St Mark's Presbyterian Church. 304 Pine Hill Road, Liberton, Dunedin. After the service there will be a shared coffee table, everyone is welcome.

Dunedin, Waitangi day 6th of February 2015 at 2pm at St Mark's Presbyterian Church. 304 Pine Hill Road, Liberton, Dunedin. We have the honour of meeting our Danish ambassador Børge Petersen and his wife Jytte from Canberra, who are visiting Dunedin on Waitangi day. At the same time we celebrate our yearly "Beat the Barrel" and eat traditional Danish "fastelavnsboller" made by the Danish Baker in Dunedin. The church would like to ask for a donation of \$5 per person or \$20 for the whole family. Everyone dressed up are welcome to join in "beating the barrel".



Church News – December 2014



If we ask children what they like most in the whole world, they will in general answer: their parents, family, friends and pets. They will point to the relationships they have because that is what is important in their life. We also know from our own experience, that if we are afraid, worried or scared that our world is about to 'go under', we will not be comforted by someone telling us not to be afraid because we have our good economy, a nice house and have always behaved sensibly. When our children wake up at night and cannot sleep or if they are sick, we do not comfort them by saying: "Do not be afraid, you have such a fine room filled with lots of toys". Of course not. We say what the heart is full of: "Do not be afraid, I am with you". And we take time to sit down and be together. We know very well, that what matters is that we are here for each other. I am with you. And that is what Christmas is all about! God comes into our world announcing that from now on he will be with us. The most important elements in our lives are the ones we live with, no matter if it is adults, children, friends, neighbours or sheep. The most important is that we never feel abandoned and alone. The Christmas gospel tells us that God became man to live with us and to tell us: "I am with you".

I'm looking forward to spend time with you at one of the Danish or Scandinavian Christmas services in December. Pastor Anja G. Mathiassen



"This bright star that shows the way and that never leads astray is the word He manifested, which His life with us attested, as a light our steps to guide."

Grundtvig 1853 from the Danish hymn "Dejlig er den himmel blå"

Changes:

A lot of changes are coming up in the Danish Church over the next six months, and some have already taken place.

Annette Vestergaard Jensen has replaced **Niels Jaegersborg** as chairman of the Board. We will profile Annette in the next issue of Church News.

Jane Legart dkchurchnz@gmail.com has volunteered to help the Danish Church keep in contact with our members. In the future Jane will welcome new members, send out notices and Church News as well as keep track of our address and mailing lists.

Anne Cathrine Petersen our treasurer during the last couple of years has decided to step down due to time-consuming work at Otago University.

Our new treasurer is **Majbrit Lyngby Christiansen**. We feel so lucky that Majbrit has accepted to be our new treasurer and look forward to have her on board.

I have asked the two new members of the Church Board to introduce themselves:



Jane Legart; When I recently joined the team of volunteers working for the Danish Church New Zealand Inc, Anja said: "Can you please write a couple of sentences to introduce yourself." Of course I said: "yes, sure", but as I'm sitting in front of my computer with the purpose of compiling this introduction the only words that spring to mind is: "easier said than done!" Another quote comes forth: "a picture paints a thousand words." Mmm, should I just send her a selfie and be done with it? I've noticed that the columnists in Alt For Damerne have started combining a portrait photo with a list of three things they love and three things they hate. I have

decided to let myself inspire by (aka copy) the columnist's format:

3 things I love: * the sound of my kids laughing

* connections with people

* touch down in Copenhagen Airport

3 things I hate: * the feeling in my tummy before a 39hour long journey, alone with two pre-schoolers

*dirty public toilets

* that we use the word hate without really meaning it.



Majbrit Lyngby Christiansen;

My name is Majbrit Lyngby Christiansen and I was born in Denmark. However, part of my childhood was spent in the UK due to my father's work.

We moved back to Denmark when I was 10 and have predominately lived in the Copenhagen area until moving to NZ for good. I have lived in NZ just gone 20 years now, and came out here as I married a Kiwi!

I have one daughter (14) and a step son (22) but only the youngest still lives at home.

I have a part time job here in Hamilton working as a Finance Administrator and lucky that it takes me 5 minutes to get to

work so being Danish I try to travel by bike on the nicer days!

I love travelling with in NZ and seeing lots of this beautiful country we live in, but also enjoy being able to go to Denmark and catching up with family and friends. Since 2008 I have been the President of the Danish Society, Hamilton as well the PR officer.

Thanks to our Treasurer **Anne Cathrine Petersen**

for her support and interest in the Danish Church New Zealand. Anne Cathrine has been our treasurer for some years and has decided to step down after she accepted time consuming work at the Otago University. Anne Cathrine said to me the other day: 'I have been really happy to be on the Church board, as it has taught me about volunteering and especially about the Danish Church in NZ'. We are thankful for her work and will miss her as a member of our church board. Luckily Anne Cathrine is an active member of the church and will continue to support and take part in the activities around the church.



You are welcome to contact the Danish Church NZ by phone or e-mail with any enquiries:

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Danish Church NZ Web site: www.danishchurchnz.org