

Church News – November 2012

A greeting from the Danish pastor

“ Great expectations”

Years ago they needed a new altarpiece in the Faroe Islands. The local church board decided to employ a local painter. They told him exactly what they wanted: A modern altarpiece reflecting the last supper! It was the hope of the church board that this altarpiece would make everyone feel at home in their church and in the Christian community. The expectations of the artist were high. The local artist was very serious about his work and followed the guidelines he had been given. He painted the classic scene of the last supper with Jesus in the middle, Thomas, the doubter, at his left side and Judas at the end of the table. The artist had followed the instructions 100% but there was an outcry in the Faroe Islands at the opening ceremony for the new altarpiece.



Last supper by Tórbjörn Olsens

The artist who was a well known customer at the local pub had painted 12 of his friends from the pub as the 12 disciples. No doubt it was a modern altarpiece he had created but some people thought the friends of the artist were seated at the wrong table. The altarpiece is still hanging in the church and rumour has it that the congregation got used to it and now likes it.

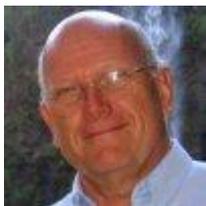
There is nothing like great expectations but the bottom line is that we cannot ensure the outcome of expectations and guidelines. There is a great risk of disappointment when we built on expectation, but also a big chance of being surprised.

This month it is the Danish Church in New Zealand's 4th birthday. The Church board has *not* hired someone to



paint the last supper with the people on the board around the table. After four years we are far from the number of financial supporters we expected, but we are pleased by the support we have and delighted with the foothold the Danish Church has gained. We feel privileged to celebrate church services in Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch and Dunedin, we are happy to receive so much positive feedback on our Church letters, and we are proud to be able to offer baptism, teaching on confirmation, weddings and funerals in New Zealand by a Danish pastor. Last but not least, we are positively surprised by all the volunteers who help every time there is an arrangement in connection to the Danish Church in New Zealand. It takes courage to paint your friends in an altarpiece; even when we know that we are all welcome by the table of God. The Danish Church in New Zealand does not have its own building or altarpiece but it has got you. You are the Danish Church in New Zealand. Happy birthday to you all! My great expectations are that you will continue to be the Danish Church in New Zealand.

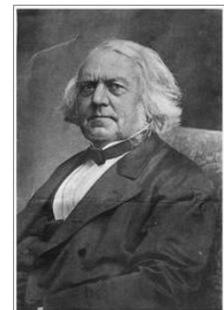
Pastor Anja



Thank you to former Danish Consul General Jørgen Schousboe, Christchurch, for his support and interest in the Danish Church New Zealand. Jørgen Schousboe has been on the church board from the beginning, and has now decided to step down after handing over the consulate to Palle Petersen. We appreciate the information and advice Jørgen has given, as well as the connections to the Danes and

Scandinavians in Christchurch he has shared with us. Your expertise and help has been very important for the Danish Church in New Zealand. We wish you and your family all the best.

NEWS! There has been established a Monrad society in Denmark by the Danish Bishop Steen Skovsgaard and a committee. Everyone is invited to join the society at www.monradselskabet.dk and be inspired and uplifted by the incredible life of D. G. Monrad



Did you know that...

- The Danish Church New Zealand is a private church under the Danish Church Abroad/ the Danish Seamen's Church Abroad (DSUK). The church receives no funding from Denmark, and relies on contributions from members and volunteers, fundraising events, gifts and donations. As a yearly contributor to/member of the Danish Church you will receive 3-4 church newsletters a year. For more information about the church and all its activities see <http://www.danishchurchnz.org/>

Funds can be donated via online banking (Westpac NZ: 03 0502 0445253-000) or sent by cheque (to Treasurer Anne Cathrine L. Petersen, 10 Marion St., Dunedin 9014). Alternatively you can contact Anne Cathrine on aclpetersen@gmail.com for more information.



The Christmas service is coming to town!

During the month of December you are all invited to attend the Christmas services in:

Hamilton, the 1st of December at 11 am at The Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter, 51 Victoria Street Hamilton. 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 2nd of December at 4 pm at the Danish House. From 2 pm to 4 pm there will be an Open House with gløgg and æbleskiver. For more information: (<http://www.danishsocietynz.com/>)

Dunedin, the 16th of December at 2 pm. After the service there will be a shared coffee. Everyone is welcome to bring a plate. For more information: www.danishchurchnz.org

Christchurch, the 20th of December at 7pm at St Paul's *Lutheran Church Christchurch*, Burwood.

More information can be found at www.danishchurchnz.org

Would you like a service in your area during 2013? Feel free to contact the pastor – Pastor Anja G. Mathiassen ph. 03 4640218 or at anjagronne@hotmail.com



There will be an article "Dansk jul derude" by Pastor Anja G. Mathiassen at www.bibelselskabet.dk in mid December.