

# Beckenham Methodist Church



**Ministry Team:**

*The congregation in its life & work*

**Presbyter:**

Rev. Alan Webster Ch 942 2715 Hm 960 6308

Dr Barbara Peddle Ch Ph 942 2715

**Parish Stewards:**

Ros Jackson Ph 981 7629

Grant Stephens Ph 980 1141

Allan Watson Ph 981 6287

**Pastoral Care Contact:**

Elsbeth Comrie-Smith Ph 338 7669

**Youth Group:** Every Sunday at 7:30pm  
**No Limits Young Adults Group:** Every Monday at 8:00pm  
**Girls' Brigade:** Every Wednesday, Jr at 3:30pm  
 Sr at 7:00pm  
**Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys and Team Section:** Every Thursday  
 at 5:30pm & 6:30

**E**aster is coming...and with it the sense of the year unfolding, time passing, winter approaching, the March of Time. Here at Beckenham, if I had a chance to re-do the church calendar, I'd put Christmas at the beginning of the year and Easter at the end...though I suppose it does depend upon where you start from (!) it's always a little odd to me to be thinking of Jesus' death and resurrection so soon after his birth...and then of course there is a long gap between Pentecost and Christmas again... While we're still sorting out what year it is, and still getting into the swing of a new date, there's this sudden burst of activity, and then nothing...

Or is it not like that for you? We all celebrate in different ways...I was listening some time ago to a group of people discussing how they proposed to celebrate important birthdays. The 50 year old didn't want a fuss made...neither did the ninety year old. The sixty year old was very ambivalent...and the seventy and eighty year olds almost child-like in their enthusiasm! My amateur psychology interprets that as denial on the part of the fifty year old (*I can't be that old!*) despair with sixty (*I'm not that old,...surely?*) a genuine uninterest on the part of the ninety year old and acceptance on the part of the others...but I may be quite wrong. It may just have to do with temperament, with introverts and extraverts, with family and with the baggage of history.

So how do you celebrate Easter? As just another festival, as just another long weekend, as just another holiday, as something you value for sentimental reasons or as something else? I have been quietly surprised and hugely impressed with the numbers of people from all decades who seem to be giving up something for the lead in to Easter, in a deliberate attempt to make it important. People I know have given up coffee, chocolate, meat, Facebook, TV and eating out, all for the sake of marking pre-Easter time in a way that is meaningful.

And I wonder about those people who have made their way across to Jerusalem to celebrate Easter ...and I wonder about the stallholders, the police, the tourist guides, the soldiers, the refugees and the teachers, the doctors and the pilots of aeroplanes in the land in which Jesus lived. For many of them, Easter will be a time of heightened tension, of commercial frenzy somewhat akin to our Christmas, a time of stress and worry where to celebrate Easter is often to make a political statement, to put a line in the sand and raise a flag with all kinds of associations, implications, cross-references.

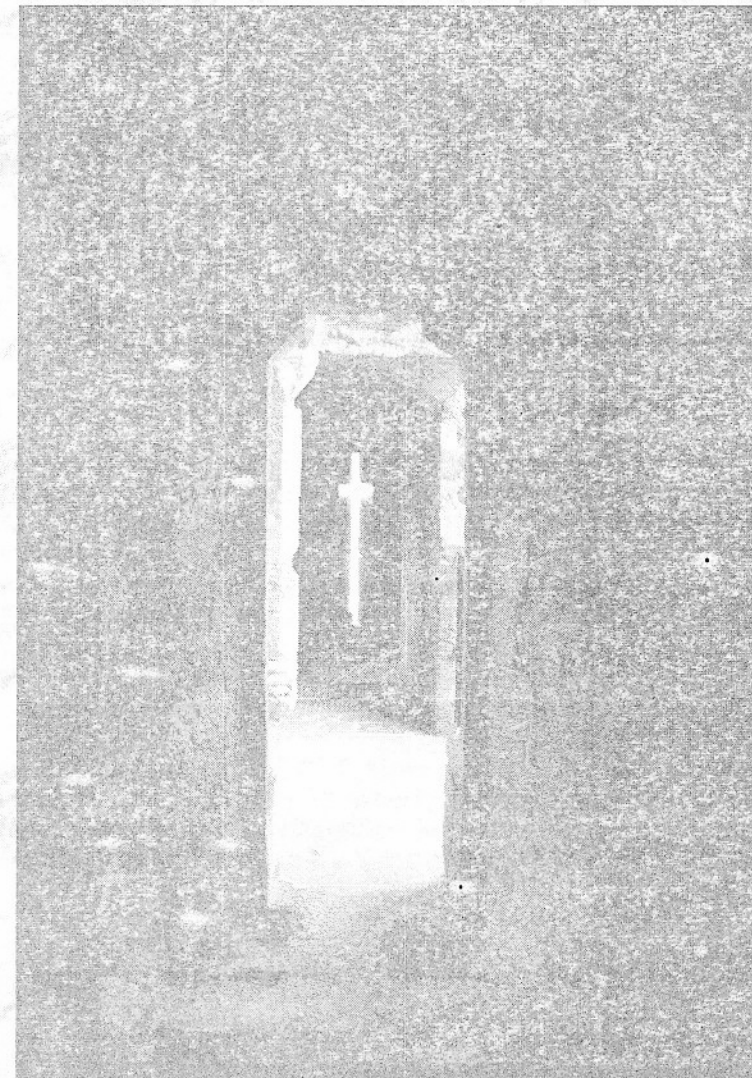
So which do I prefer? An Easter that doesn't really matter in New Zealand, or an Easter that confronts and challenges, that says Yes: this is relevant: this is what makes us Christian"?

The obvious answer isn't always the best one...I'd answer towards that which provides spiritual, not social significance.. towards thoughtfulness, not jingoism, towards love not competition.

And that's how I want to prepare for Easter.

*Alan*

3 Malcolm Avenue Christchurch 8023 Mail to P O Box 42-127, tension...where the celebration of 24 beckmeth@clear.net.nz Church bank account number 02 080



**Brougham castle, UK**

*Photo supplied by Allan Nieman*



	March 18 Lent 4: Family Service	March 25 Commitment Sunday	April 1st
Ministering	The congregation	Alan Webster & Barbara Peddie	Alan Webster
Music	Barbara Beardsley	Young Adults	Poulima and Auckland group,
Scripture readings	Exodus 33:12-23	Genesis 9:8-17	tbc
	John 9:1-7	John 17:21-26	tbc
Readers	Jean Morris	Gwen Morrish	Jeremy Burnett
Audio-visual	?	Mark Stephens	Darren Webster
Flowers	Mark Stephens	Lauren Carpenter	Barbara Beardsley
Loopy Church	everyone in	Siu and Alison	Everyone in?
Morning Tea	Ken and Elspeth Comrie-Smith	June and Norm Allen	Allan & Dianne Watson, Lynette Mulcahey
Door Hostess	Gwen Morrish	Jean Morris	Bev Penney
Door Stewards	Chris Cole's team	Rita Cox's team	Graham Claughton's team
Minister's Steward	Massey Williams	Massey Williams	Lyn McHarg
Pre service Notices	Massey Williams	Massey Williams	Darren Webster

**N**ext week you will be given an opportunity to commit yourself afresh in recognition of important decisions you have made. You will be offered a chance to light a candle, and that candle may, for you, represent a commitment for your marriage, your faith in God, your fellowship here, your intention to stay in Christchurch or to keep on in a difficult situation that no-one else knows about. This will be between you and God: no-one else need know what it means for you unless you tell them..and that may be important for some of you. You might, for example, choose to give your spouse a small present to mark what you do: a candlestick, for example? Over to you...

As part of that we will also be marking officially some requests to become part of the fellowship here at Beckenham Methodist Church...and, as it happens, we will be sharing with our friends from Opawa Community Church, who have been squeezed out of their usual premises at Opawa School by the city to shore runners and attendant cars!

Here Fridays at 9:30 am,  
cuppa at 10:00,  
second session 10:30am  
See Siu, Angela or Kirsty  
for details, or just turn up.

## Loopy Tunes



## Prayer list

Pray for **Todd Gordon, Joan Beaumont, Deb Beardsley, Lynda Bush, Betty Hardwick, Eric Harrington, Brian Jones, Betty Parker, Eric & Olwyn Walls, Val Williams.** Remember the Parish Council and other parish activities, as well as Boys and Girls Brigade and keep them in your prayers.

## Coming Events

**Lenten Studies**  
Six Tuesdays 2:00pm-3:00pm  
26th Feb--3rd April in the church  
*All welcome*

Mon 19		
Tues 20	Lenten Study Four @ 83 Malcolm Ave	2:00pm
Wed 21	GB @ Merchiston	7:00
Thurs 22	Beckenham Courts & Santa Maria Team Section @ St Marks	10:15am 6:30pm
Fri 23	Loopy Tunes @ 83 Malcolm Ave  BB @ St Marks	9:30 & 10:30am  7:00pm
Sat 24		

## Planning forward

This afternoon at 2:00pm here

we will be looking at the material from the retreat at Journey's end and thinking together some more about our way ahead. Please pick up a summary from the desk in the foyer, and come prepared to do some brainstorming, some reacting, some listening and some prayer together

## Congratulations

Murray and Cathie Gibson began their married lives together yesterday at 2:00pm at St Saviours..congratulations to you both, and to a very fine looking bridal party! Alan officiated: and we all had a wonderful time!

We welcome the safe arrival of little Charlie Alan Philip Hill, born last Sunday by C-section at 2:30am, 7 lb 5 oz, healthy and strong and handsome already!



We were to have had a special membership event on April 1st... we've changed that to March 25th now, because we have a visit planned from some young musicians from Auckland for April 1st. We'd appreciate everyone returning the "Count Me In" forms as soon as possible, so we can follow up where necessary!

*Maundy Thursday 5th April service here at 7:00pm*  
*Good Friday 6th service at St Martin' at 10:30am*

