

## Church Contacts

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Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015.  
Vol. 3

# THE LINK

The Newsletter of  
Brighton Church of Christ



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## *For Your Diaries*

Dear members of the Brighton Covenant Churches

A member of our congregation Judy Schofield (tel 0408 387 230) has been trained and is running a series of evenings to assist people in managing their money. It is a CAP course, CAP standing for Christians Against Poverty, for further info see

<http://capaust.org/capmoneynew.php>

In these days of increasing use of credit cards many find it more difficult to budget and keep within their income. Last year Judy ran 2 courses which were very well received and people found them most helpful. Some of the comments received were: "I have the tools in place to manage my money and remove the stress and anxiety"; "feel more knowledgeable...more confident"; "living within my means, improvement in savings with time."

The course will be run on 3 consecutive Tuesday nights in March – 17, 24, 31 in the Meeting Room at 7.30pm at St Leonard's church.

Having trialled it last year, this year we thought that there may be people you know who would be interested in undertaking such a course. We would be appreciate if you could display the attached flyer (same one but in 2 formats) and promote it in any way you consider appropriate. I apologise for not having the flyer available for the Agenda last Wednesday night.

Kind regards

Wendy Adams – St. Leonard's U.C.A.

## *Op Shop Roster*

### **11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Wednesday 11th	Arvon McFadden Carmel Curtain
Thursday 12th	Elizabeth Hoath Trixie Samaratunge
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Janet McCulloch Jenepher Beudel
Saturday 14th	Yvvoenne Cutler Fiona Bruns

### **18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2015**

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Patsey Funnell Samira Rahme
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Yvvoenne Cutler Fiona Hicks
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Jose Montalban Tuyet
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Eve Flanders Sofia Bucka

### **25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Arvon McFadden Rhona Noakes
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Hoath Trixie Samaratunge
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Janet McCulloch Jenepher Beudel
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Patsey Funnell Samira Rahme

### **4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Frances Miller June Bouyer
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Yvvoenne Cutler Fiona Hicks
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Jose Montalban Tuyet
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Ena & Norm Swan

### **11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Arvon McFadden Carmel Curtain
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Hoath Trixie Samaratunge
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Janet McCulloch Jenepher Beudel
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Yvvoenne Cutler Fiona Bruns

Op Shop will be open from 10.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

If you are unable to do your nominated duty date, please arrange a swap and then inform either Bev Collins 9592 8385 or Arvon McFadden 9592 2183.

## *Worship roster*

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Church Luncheon**

Speaker: Brian Holden  
Sermon Title:  
Reading:  
Worship Leader: Elizabeth Angwin  
Musician: Elizabeth Angwin  
Overheads: David Millar  
Communion  
Preparation: Neville Angwin  
Glass Washing: Maggie  
Count Money: Elizabeth Angwin  
Neville Angwin  
Morning Tea: Irene Ong  
Gardening: Ian Currie

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Speaker: Brian Holden  
Sermon Title:  
Reading:  
Worship Leader: Bethany Holden  
Musician: Bethany Holden  
Overheads: David Millar  
Communion  
Preparation: Neville Angwin  
Glass Washing: Eve Flanders  
Count Money: Neville Angwin  
David Millar  
Morning Tea: Maggie & Cici

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**

Speaker: Brian Holden  
Sermon Title:  
Reading:  
Worship Leader: David Millar  
Musician: Judy  
Overheads: David Millar  
Communion  
Preparation: Neville Angwin  
Glass Washing: Kee Ong  
Count Money: Neville Angwin  
Ruth Stokes  
Morning Tea: Bev Collins

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 – T.B.A.**

Speaker: Brian Holden  
Sermon Title:  
Reading:  
Worship Leader: Bev Collins  
Musician:  
Overheads: David Millar  
Comm. Prep.: Neville Angwin  
Glass Washing:  
Count Money:  
Morning Tea: Ruth Stokes

## *A Word from Brian*

This is from Natasha Parsons in response to her mission trip.

This trip has changed my life. Meeting with the asylum seekers and hearing their stories, I now know that we become attached to small insignificant things and claim that they are what make us happy, that we would not be as content with out them. God's people are suffering and they are being mistreated unfairly because of their faith but they are still smiling and they are still praising and loving God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. To be happy and to be content, all we really need is to understand that God loves us and that He wants to be our friend. For me this is what being a Christian is all about, knowing and understanding that God's love for us is all we really need. During this trip, I thought long and hard about what being a Christian means. I decided that to be Christian you didn't just have to believe in him, you didn't just have to accept in your heart that God loves you and that we wants to be your friend. Every Christian needs to find a way to serve God in some way in their lives. Whether it be teaching your children about God, or preaching at church. Whether it be making disciples, or teaching Sunday club. When we were in Kiribati, dad said, "a Christian loves God, loves others, and makes disciples". Serving God is making disciples. Making disciples of your children, your church, a country or just one person. To be a Christian this is what we must do, " love God, love others and make disciples". This is what I have learned from my mission trip. Thank you for supporting me, whether it was sponsoring my trip or just keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.

God bless you and thank you, Natasha Parsons.

A full copy of her report follows and is well worth reading and passing on to any young person you know, better still pass it onto anyone who you think would benefit from the words of a young Christian who is learning about evangelism and spreading the word and works of our Lord.

## Social Groups

### M'Ingles

A social group for adults who meet on the 2nd Friday of each month. See David Millar for more information. Next M'Ingles is 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Not sure if this is going to happen unless someone else is willing to hold it at their place as I think a new baby in the Miller household is by far more important.

### Fellowship lunch

Second Sunday of each month following our Sunday worship service. Please bring some food to share. The next luncheon is 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

### Men at Milano's

3rd Friday of each month - 5:30pm at Milano's Tavern, cnr. The Esplanade and South Rd. Brighton Beach. This is a relaxed first entry point into our church for men so invite friends, family and work colleagues. Next get together is 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

## Bible Studies

### Know Your Bible (KYB)

Tuesday 10.00am In our Fellowship Room led by Eve Flanders. This is a real study of the scriptures and also provides great fellowship.

## Prayer Calendar

### Healing Prayers

Tuesday 6.00pm at the home of David and Amanda Millar.

## Church Governance

Church Elders and Board meet on the second Thursday of each month starting at 7.00 p.m., on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

If anyone has an issue to raise at these meetings, please inform one of the elders or board by the Tuesday so that the item can be added to the agenda

4.

## Church Diary

### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015

10.00 a.m. Know Your Bible  
6.00 p.m. Healing Prayers  
Church Luncheon

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

7.00 p.m. Elders and Board Meeting

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015

6.30 p.m. M'Ingles

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015

10.00 a.m. Worship Service  
11.15 a.m. Morning Tea

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015

10.00 a.m. Know Your Bible  
6.00 p.m. Healing Prayers

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015

5.30 p.m. Men at Milano's

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

10.00 a.m. Worship Service  
11.15 a.m. Morning Tea

### Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015

10.00 a.m. Know Your Bible  
6.00 p.m. Healing Prayers

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015

10.00 a.m. Worship Service  
11.15 a.m. Morning Tea.

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

10.00 a.m. Know Your Bible  
6.00 p.m. Healing Prayers

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015

7.00 p.m. Ecumenical Pray Service  
Trinity Uniting Church

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2015

10.00 a.m. Worship Service  
11.15 a.m. Morning Tea  
Church Luncheon

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## CHRISTMAS BOWL 2014

The results for the Christmas Bowl Collection in December at Woolworths Brighton are as follows:-

Monday	\$ 600	St Andrew's
Tuesday	\$ 767	St. Stephen's & St. Peter's
Wednesday	\$1,084	St. Leonard's
Thursday	\$ 561	Baptist's & Church of Christ
Friday	\$ 838	St. Joan of Arc & St. James
Saturday	\$ 910	Trinity
Total	\$ \$4,760	

Gross \$43,310 so far over now 11 years.

Well done everyone.

## **NAURU:**

On our first day in Nauru, Dad woke me up at 8:00 am, which I wasn't happy about at the time. We walked up to our first church service, which was held in one of the upstairs rooms of the hotel we were staying at. Dad was asked to speak at the service when we had arrived at Nauru, so that morning we prayed for God to tell Dad what he wanted him to say. On our trip we brought lots of Children's Christian books so I handed out some to the children that were there with their parents. Dad spoke really well and all of the church members were very pleased that he was here as they remembered him from his last visit. I said to Dad "if churches in Australia showed this much passion when they preached or when they sung during church, everyone would be Christians". We both then got a lift to the next service. This one was in a building with slightly more people and a lot more Children, which I was very excited about. They started singing and we both joined in. Since we didn't know most of the songs, we tried to improvise. Long story short, there were some who were staring at us. After what felt like two hours of repetitive singing we heard the sermon. Whilst I didn't quite catch the name of the preacher, he did a very good job at it. After giving away more books to some beautiful kids we were off to the first asylum seeker camp. We went with people from both services to the camp. After our safety briefing we entered the camp. We went into one of the larger tents and set up the church service. I sat with two of the asylum seeker women. As more of the Iranian Christians turned up for the service, that was run by pastor Morley, I was more and more surprised. These people weren't wearing old worn out clothes, they were looking well fed, healthy and enthusiastic. At the end of the service Dad prayed for us all and then I got to have a quick talk with some of the Iranian women. Another thing that shocked me was that when you think Iranians, you think that they would have a darker skin tone but some of them were paler than me! What I also learnt was that almost everything that we are led to believe about refugee camps are wrong. They aren't abused, they aren't all people with dark skin, they aren't all Muslims and they don't not have any Wi-Fi (they get one hour a week each). All the ladies were wearing nice clothes and makeup. They were all so lovely and kind. We were both prayed for at the night service. Dad spoke and we had dinner at a small restaurant with some of dad's friends. I again gave away some books to the younger children. Afterwards, we were dropped back at our room and went to sleep, but not until after playing some "Plants vs Zombies" of course. We would have won more levels if the annoying chicken didn't keep on popping up everywhere.

## **KIRIBATI:**

A lovely woman called Sister Teri had invited dad to Kiribati. She and her husband, Pastor Eria were at a training course in Nauru in October about making disciples. After the course they asked dad if he could come and run the same training at their church in Kiribati. That is how we come to visit this country. On the first day sister Teri, and some other women, brought us breakfast (pastries!). Later that day Sister Teri drove us to a large outdoor church at Golden Beach so Dad could do his teaching. Whenever we would take a break I would have a talk to dad about what he was doing well, and what he could add in. I have done a lot of overseas travel in my time but Kiribati was one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited. I had started to become great friends with some of the young girls at the church. That night, after we had finished that day's lesson we all had dinner together and then died laughing when we played some games. The next day dad ran his lessons as per usual but this time, I got to pray for my friend Wanda. She asked me to pray for her non-Christian family, which I did nervously. I made some friends with two young children, one girl and one boy. I gave out all of the kid's books and they had most beautiful smiles on their faces. That afternoon dad told all the people taking part in the course they had 15 minutes to go out of the church space and find someone to tell either their testimony, a story where God has changed someone's life or a story from the bible. One lady went home to her husband in the 15 minutes. After she told him a bible story, he asked if the man teaching the course could pray for him. After the course had finished we went over to where the two of them lived with their two daughters. He said that he had been having trouble containing his anger. We all sat together and prayed, dad, our translator, the man, his wife, their two young daughters and

lives. Whether it be teaching your children about God, or preaching at church. Whether it be making disciples, or teaching Sunday club. When we were in Kiribati, dad said, "a Christian loves God, me. They all seemed a lot happier after we had finished praying and that's how I know that God had been listening. He came to the church that night and looked very happy and different. During the 15 minutes I also saw one man sitting not far from the church building, talking with a young man. After about 10 minutes I saw them praying together with their heads bowed. The man came back beaming with joy as the young man had just decided to follow Jesus and was now a Christian. Dad had everyone share with the whole group their story of what happened. One elderly woman gave a long report and was in tears as she recounted in her own language sharing her testimony for the first time with the woman she lived with. She was in tears because she felt the Holy Spirit helping her and leading her to pray with the woman. It was very moving to see her tell everyone, even though we could not understand her. That night was a big celebration since it was our last night in Kiribati. We were given some beautiful Kiribati clothes. We ate some amazing food and some of the young people performed a bible story and danced for us. Kiribati was the place I would definitely miss the most. I made so many friends and they had the best food by far.

### **NEW ZEALAND:**

This was my first time in New Zealand and I was very excited. The first day we were there, Dad and me went sightseeing with two work colleagues who both worked for Youth for Christ (YFC). They were here because, like dad, they were helping reboot YFC New Zealand, which before it was shut down was a great success. The four of us spent the next day and a half at the Samoan church that was where they were selecting and training the Samoan half of the YFC New Zealand board. The first day we went there everyone was in a meeting of which I knew nothing about other than that it had something to do with selecting the board. The next day was our last day, half of which we again spent at the church.

I got to write the welcome sign on the white board, which I was very pleased about. The votes had been counted and the new board announced. I was given various phones to take photos of the newly formed group. The board was briefed and had a short training session. Afterwards we all prayed and the four of us were given traditional Samoan necklaces by the church. We were then off to the airport. After a safe flight we arrived back in Melbourne. I was slightly jetlagged so I found it easy to sleep.

### **SUMMARY:**

This trip has changed my life. Meeting with the asylum seekers and hearing their stories, I now know that we become attached to small insignificant things and claim that they are what make us happy, that we would not be as content with out them. God's people are suffering and they are being mistreated unfairly because of their faith but they are still smiling and they are still praising and loving God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. To be happy and to be content, all we really need is to understand that God loves us and that He wants to be our friend. For me this is what being a Christian is all about, knowing and understanding that God's love for us is all we really need. During this trip, I thought long and hard about what being a Christian means. I decided that to be Christian you didn't just have to believe in him, you didn't just have to accept in your heart that God loves you and that we wants to be your friend. Every Christian needs to find a way to serve God in some way in their loves others, and makes disciples". Serving God is making disciples. Making disciples of your children, your church, a country or just one person. To be a Christian this is what we must do, "love God, love others and make disciples". This is what I have learned from my mission trip. Thank you for supporting me, whether it was sponsoring my trip or just keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.

God bless you and thank you, Natasha Parsons  
12-21 December 2014