



# THE MOORING POST

ANGLICAN PARISH OF FENDALTON – ST BARNABAS AND ST THOMAS  
*The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia – Diocese of Christchurch*

## A Faith Beyond Reason

Faith gets a bad rap in today's scientific world. Many speak of faith as infantile, pre-scientific nonsense and that Christian faith in particular as plain credulity. Atheist Richard Dawkins once wrote "Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence." So what is faith based on? What is the relationship between faith and reason? Is Dawkins right - should we grow up and lay aside the faith of our childhood?

The first thing to say is that Dawkins cannot know many Anglicans! Anglicanism has always encouraged the exploration of the evidential basis for faith. The motto of the Anglican Communion is a phrase from John 8 verse 32; 'The truth shall set you free.' Anglicanism is interested in the open exploration of truth in all its facets - that is one of the reasons I'm an Anglican!

However this exploration of truth is not always a comfortable journey. When I was in my early twenties, I experienced a personal crisis because I felt the foundations of my faith were being undermined. And it was through the support of my Vicar at the time, that I was able to explore my faith more critically and find some answers. Questions led to stronger faith.

It was at that time that I learned

about Thomas Aquinas' definition of theology; *Fides quaerens intellectum* - faith seeking understanding. In other words once we have come to have faith in God, all kinds of questions are raised about the nature of our faith and how our faith relates to the world and human experience. And so we explore the consequences of our faith by asking questions.

Now it's clear that reason can help us come to know God in certain ways. We can observe the structure, order and rationality of the natural world. And this is suggestive of a wise and powerful creator God. Furthermore we can look into the historicity of Jesus Christ - his words, deeds and supremely his death and resurrection. And we can also gather information about the Church down through the ages and also the experience and knowledge of other Christians. We can use our reason to explore the possibility of the existence of God.

However reason alone cannot take us all the way to a living faith in God. The following illustration may help. Imagine a young man who sees a young woman and develops an interest in her. He might observe her appearance, height and hair colour from a distance. He may even know one of her friends and asks about her family, her interests and her personality. However he will never get to know her personally

unless he asks her out and meets her.

And this process of knowing involves trusting the other person. And as this happens they may fall in love. But note that to 'fall in love' involves surrendering to the other person. It involves trusting the other person and getting to know them on their own terms. The moment we try and control the process and manipulate the other person, trust cannot grow.

The analogy with God is clear. Reason, observation and the gathering of facts can only take us so far. At a certain point we must surrender to God in trust. Where reason stops, faith takes over. Anglican theologian Alistair McGrath said "Faith is not something that goes against the evidence, it goes beyond it. The evidence is saying to us, 'There is another country. There is something beyond mere reason.'"

And so Dawkins misunderstands the way faith in God works. Faith or trust is vitally important in any human relationship. How much more is faith important when it comes to relating to the living God. It has a solid evidential basis, but goes beyond mere reason to the exciting and deeply satisfying possibility of knowing our creator God. In this season of Easter, I urge you to explore the possibility of coming to know and love the God of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!

*Rev. Mark Chamberlain*

## WHERE'S GOD ON MONDAY?

Come and hear international speaker and author Alistair Mackenzie and Don Rowlands speak about the intersection of Faith and Work and answer questions you may have about Spiritual Gifts, our identity as workers, our calling from God and how to balance our work and leisure.

Seminars are in the Tui Room running from 7pm – 9pm on May 3rd, 10th and 17th.

*'The Mooring Post' is a phrase from p479 in A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. Christ is described as the single mooring post for many waka – Ko te Karaiti te pou herenga waka. Christ is the one who unites us.*



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## Introducing Two New Members of Vestry

Tom Coulson and Braden Ramsell joined Vestry at the March AGM. Below is a recent conversation they had with Rev Harry Newton.

**Hi Tom and Braden. You are two of the newest members of our parish Vestry which is fantastic. What made you decide to stand for Vestry?**

Tom: I decided to stand for Vestry in the hope that I could give something back to the church as it has supported me my entire time in New Zealand. I also want to be part of Vestry so that I have a better understanding of what is going on around church and how church is being run.

Braden: I have been a member of the St Barnabas parish for 10 years now, and the Lifestreams band for 9 years. This parish is my home, so I wanted to get involved in the decision-making aspects of St Barnabas and offer my ideas in my areas of knowledge.

**Is there anything in particular you'd like to achieve during your time on Vestry?**

Tom: In my time on Vestry I'd like to help see the youth and young adults area expand even more than it has been recently as this is an area that is very important to me.

Braden: I'd really love to ensure we are technologically up to date, future proofed, reach all the corners of our community, and to build up the Lifestreams band's presence and members.

**Young people often want to change the world around them. Is this a part of why you joined Vestry - to make a difference in the life of our parish?**

Tom: Hoping to help change the world around us is a large part of why I joined Vestry. In particular, I am hoping to reduce the number of youth who leave the church as I believe this is a large problem in the church.

Braden: Yes! Everyone's voice is important, and there are very few young adults on Vestry. I then have felt the need to express a new generation of ideas and to bring a new perspective too.

**Dreaming big for a moment, what is something you'd love to see happen here at St Barnabas?**

Tom: Something I would like to see happen is an increase in our children, youth and young adults areas as I believe this is key for the church's future.

Braden: I'd love to see our numbers increase and to be in the news quite a bit too - that's exciting!

**What are your thoughts about how we as a church community should extend God's love to our neighbourhood?**

Tom: I believe as a Church, we could be doing more community events, in the hope of encouraging the community along to Church, as well as to hopefully bring the community closer together.



Braden Ramsell

Braden: By following Jesus and extending God's love, we emphasise the importance of an inclusive community, and collaboration amongst our church and wider community. We can extend on what the church is currently doing in terms of community outreach and building relationships between different groups within the church.



Tom Coulson

## Youth Ministry at St. Barnabas

Contact Harry Newton 027 342 2574

**Youth Group:** Christian youth community! Friday nights in the hall. 7-9pm - Yrs 7-13.

**The Revs:** Christian group for high school age young people. Meets on Sundays during Lifestreams at 9.30am.

# New Insights From Vestry-Staff Consultation

On Sunday 26 March Vestry, Staff and 2 Wardens put aside an afternoon to meet together to develop and increase understanding of the interface between governance and management. Having almost completed the repair of the church, and facing strategic decisions about mission and plans going forward, it was an opportune time to engage with an expert in the field of governance and management.

Jane Huria, a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Directors, and serving member on many Boards, led the afternoon programme. Jane has had a great deal of experience in not-for-profit organisations, including



iwi organisations and provided valuable information on topics such as values and vision, strategic planning, risk management, health and safety and accountability.

All present at the training gained increased understanding of the value of having a strategic plan which focuses on 'where to' in the future, how to measure if progress is being made, and how to manage an organisation such as St Barnabas so that resources are targeted to identified needs.

Around 30,000 voluntary hours per year are provided by those in the St Barnabas family, in addition to the small number of paid staff. Continuing good governance and management is very important as we focus on our mission of 'Following Jesus and Extending God's love.'

The professional development provided by Jane identified how to navigate the many challenges which arise in any organisation with diverse stakeholder expectations. The afternoon of valuable learning has enabled Vestry and staff to update their skills as we chart our course forward in the company of St Barnabas, the Encourager!

*Rev. Dr Pauline Stewart, Assistant Priest*

## Wet and Wild Easter Camp Embrace by Youth

*While the wider St Barnabas community gathered together over the long weekend to celebrate Easter, 23 of our parish young people snuck off to go camping at Spencer Park for the annual Easter Camp.*

Over the course of EC'17 our young people laughed, danced, played, and prayed together which helped cement an ever deepening sense of community and belonging within our group.

Sadly our marquee was flooded out with shin-deep water on the opening night with the flooding continuing through the first day. However things ended up not being too bad thanks mainly to our tireless adult volunteers and the Sumner youth group who managed to commandeer a tractor which they used to collect dozens of wooden pallets which we perched our kit on top of in order to keep above the water line.

We once again linked up with a number of other Anglican youth groups under the banner of 'Anglican Party Central.' We had our own marquee complete with a clothes drier (for sodden personal kit caught up in the flood), couches, and rugs. This communal space proved invaluable when it came to creating a relaxing atmosphere.

As far as our young people are concerned EC seems to have cut the mustard with Gaige going as far as to say that "Easter Camp was lit. I can't wait until 2k18." High praise indeed! Meanwhile for Perry Vakameilalo, an Easter Camp veteran who was attending his final youth camp, the biggest highlight was seeing our young men and women open up to each other and God in an unprecedented manner. Perry gave a brief speech at the end of camp and truth be told a few

tears were shed.

As for myself I was stoked to hear that a few of our community young people are interested in being baptised. When I asked one of them why they wished to be baptised they responded, "Because I want to publicly dedicate my life to following God." What a fantastic outcome from EC'17!

So all in all Easter Camp was a great experience for everyone involved! Many thanks to all those who helped sponsor our young people to camp, drove vehicles, lent kit, and dropped of emergency gumboots during camp.

*Rev Harry Newton, Youth Minister*





## Daytime Group

## In Betweens

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179

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# Popularism

We are all in favour of democracy - unless we democratically elect a Trump or vote for Brexit. Or look like we might vote for Le Pen in France. Then, some of the democrats – obviously not all! – have a buyers' remorse.

'Remainers' in the UK become 'Remoaners'. Moaning if not mourning the consequences of some popular mood swing among voters is the new mood of the worriers among us. Not that the popularists sweeping Trump to power or the UK out of the EU are at all worried about the worriers. They can be dismissed with a wave of the hand as "the Establishment" or "the Elite." The twats if not twits that thought they knew how to run things, stuffed up and neglected those to whom they were accountable.

What is really going on with these popularist waves of discontent sweeping the world like Mexican waves at the AMI Stadium? A

possible explanation lies in the waves of popularism which buffeted Jesus in the last week of his life. The popularism which swept him into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday with shouts of acclamation was the mood of the people for change, for a new ruler bringing in a better life (Trump, Brexit and beliefs that, e.g., cutting immigration would improve the lot of resident Americans and Brits).

By contrast, the popularism which swept Jesus to the cross on Good Friday was the mood of the people whipped up by manipulative leaders - note the roles the media have played in fanning waves of discontent in the USA and in the UK.

There is nothing wrong with the majority of voters seeking a better life. But sometimes that majority can be wrong. And it can turn out that it has been misled. A great question in 2017 as Trump's presidency develops and as Britain negotiates Brexit is

whether right choices have been made under the influence of truth and not falsehood.

Rev Dr Peter Carrell



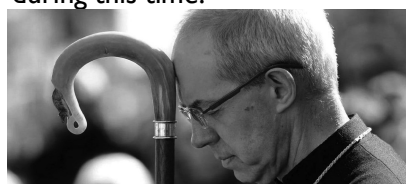
## Archbishop's Call to Prayer

'Thy Kingdom Come' is an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury encouraging us all, especially from 25 May till 4 June, to pray that our friends, families and neighbours would come to know Jesus Christ.

We can do this in all kinds of ways but the important thing is simply to set aside time, on each of the 11 days to pray for our loved ones.

This period of time is between the Ascension of Christ to Pentecost Sunday and is an excellent opportunity in the Church year to pray and wait and believe that God acts through our prayers. He does this by drawing people, by his Spirit, to faith in Jesus Christ.

At St Barnabas we are planning a number of prayer initiatives which we will reveal in the coming weeks so we're all prepared to pray purposefully during this time.



## Where's God on Monday?: Exploring Faith and Work

International lecturer and author Alistair Mackenzie is offering a series of seminars at St Barnabas in May for all those who want to think more deeply about the connections between faith and work. This is for those in paid work, volunteer work, for parents and students. Alistair has made this theme his life's study and is an inspirational speaker. The seminars will take place in the Tui Room beginning at 7pm and running through till 9pm.

**Wednesday 3 May: Spiritual Gifts:** How does our innate personality and skills impact our sense of 'calling' and job satisfaction. Links will be made to our personal strengths and the careers or tasks we have chosen to do.

**Wednesday 10 May: Our Calling:** Alistair will speak about the idea of 'Calling and Vocation' within the history of Christianity. A panel of six local people will discuss their choices of Christian service.

**Wednesday 17 May: Healthy Lifestyle Balance:** Alistair will outline the challenges and give us guidelines to balance our lives in work and leisure - from new parents to retirement. There will be a panel and the people to be interviewed will be from different stages of life.



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## A Personal Easter Reflection

We have once more gathered and re-walked the steps of Christ's Easter journey. On Maundy Thursday we recalled together through communion and then the Liturgy of Tenebrae, Christ's last meal with his friends. We recalled his words, "This is my body, given for you; this is my blood, poured out for you." We remembered his agony and arrest in the garden later that night, the betraying kiss, and his trial the next day.

On Good Friday we walked with Christ, in three different gatherings, through his trial and the crucifixion, in songs, silence, readings and prayers. The traditional walk with the cross was done in Holy Trinity Catholic Church because of the weather.

Come Holy Saturday we waited, recalling those hours the world waited between Christ's death and his Resurrection.

And then on Easter Sunday a celebration of Joy once more occurred. Five services filled the day with music, Gospel accounts, songs and the celebration of Holy Communion. We are indebted to our Church's Liturgical calendar to bring these memorable days to us year after year, bringing together our Church family around these events, and for us, the taking time out to centre ourselves in these great events in Christ's life. Even though the leaves are falling, we trust God for the greening of our faith.

*Rev Mary Minson*

## "Yes Prime Minister" Fundraiser

Buy your ticket now to the riotous Repertory Theatre comedy 'Yes Prime Minister' playing at the Elmwood Theatre on Thursday 18 May. Tickets are \$40 and the parish has the challenge of selling all 100 tickets for that night.

Come for drinks and nibbles at 6.45pm with the show beginning at 7.30pm. This is a fundraiser – the Repertory Theatre get \$20/ticket and the parish gets \$20/ticket – a fun way to raise \$2,000 for our buildings fund!

Written by Antony Jay and Jonathan Lynn, 'Yes Prime Minister' will be a night out to remember!

Tickets from the parish office.



## What's Coming Up?

### Guest Preacher Antioch

International lecturer and author Alistair Mackenzie will speak about our Christian calling - seeing all our work as an offering to God – for those in paid work, volunteers, parents and students. 7pm.

SUNDAY **7**  
MAY

### Science and Faith

A sermon on 'Science and Faith' will be presented at the 8am and 9.30am service.

SUNDAY **7**  
MAY

### Staff Retreat

The parish staff are staying at Te Waiora Retreat Centre for the night for a two day retreat with input sessions on Liturgy and Pastoral Care.

TUESDAY **9**  
MAY

### "Yes Prime Minister"

This hilarious new stage show is at the Elmwood Theatre. Form a group, buy tickets through the office and get ready for a wonderful night out! Begins at 6.45pm with drinks and nibbles.

THURSDAY **18**  
MAY

### Messy Church

All children, families and young people are invited to this outreach event which includes food, fun, faith, family craft and a meal – St Barnabas Hall – \$5 per family.

SATURDAY **27**  
MAY

### Pentecost Sunday

Come and celebrate the birthday of the Church – the day on which the Spirit filled and empowered the Church for mission! All Age service at Lifestreams.

SUNDAY **4**  
JUNE

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# SUNDAY WORSHIP

## ST BARNABAS CHURCH

- 8.00am Eucharist, followed by breakfast  
(Tui Room)
- 9.30am Sung Eucharist followed by  
morning tea (Tui Room)
- 5.00pm 1st and 3rd Sundays – Evensong,  
2nd Sunday – Choral Night  
Prayer, 4th Sunday – Eucharist

## ST BARNABAS HALL

- 9.30 am Lifestreams Eucharist with  
children's and youth programmes  
followed by morning tea.
- 7.00pm Antioch in the hall for students  
young adults but all welcome

## MID-WEEK WORSHIP

- 8.30am Wednesday – Eucharist all welcome  
in the Church
- 10.00am Thursdays – Eucharist in Church  
1st Thursday – Prayer and Healing

## ALSO OFFERED...

Home Communion:  
Each 2nd & 4th Wednesday in the month.

Communion is also provided at Fendalton  
Retirement Village fortnightly and  
St Winifred's & Holly Lea monthly.

## Vestry News

- **Staff Appraisals:** The Vicar and Wardens were instructed to undertake Staff Appraisals for the ordained and paid lay staff of the parish. This will take place in May. The parish Nominators will work through an Appraisal Process with the Vicar. This process is important to give staff an opportunity to formally express their aspirations and concerns as well as have an opportunity to receive feedback on their ministries.
- **St Thomas' Task Group:** Vestry agreed that a task group should be set up to review the future of the Strowan Rd buildings and site. This group will review all possible options and bring back recommendations to Vestry. Don Mackenzie was appointed chair. A group of people will be approached to form the Task Group in the coming weeks.
- **Sound Desk:** Braden Ramsell brought forward a quote for further equipment required for the Sound Desk. There is to be a presentable, secure cabinet built for this. A full proposal will be prepared for Vestry so that all the information is available before a decision is made.
- **Refurbishment of Bells:** Currently the bells are inoperable. We are awaiting a report from CPT on the condition of the bells and how the cost is to be apportioned. Once this has been received we can move forward with the repair and also get a price for the means by which the bells can be remotely operated. There is the possibility of receiving a grant for this work and an application will be submitted when costs are known.
- **Resignation of Rev Harry Newton:** Vestry received news that Harry had secured another position in the North Island and, along with his family, would be moving there in July. Vestry discussed the announcement of this news to the parish and the appointment of a replacement for Harry.

## REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of God the following children who have been baptised;

April

2 Riley Michael Herring

### FUNERALS

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of those who have died:

March

21 Harley (Bob) George  
Knowsley

30 Jennifer Diane Gibb

April

12 John Lindsay Joseph

21 Christopher Edward Francis  
Brownie

## Contributions to the Mooring Post:

**Deadline for  
May Issue:**

**Friday 12 May**





## Palm Sunday and Easter Cameos



## Children's Ministry at St. Barnabas

**St Barnabas Playgroup:** Creative play for pre-schoolers on Wednesdays from 9.15 – 11.30am in the hall.  
Helen Wakefield 351 3595.

**Mainly Music:** Music and movement for pre-schoolers and their caregivers, Fridays 10 – 10.30am followed by morning tea. Pip Chamberlain 021 085 77640.

**Fridayzone:** Christian after-school club for Primary School children and their families. With meal. Fridays 3 – 5.30pm.  
Angela Brown 027 335 0105.

**Kidzone:** Creative Sunday School for children 5 – 11 yrs Sundays 9.30am. Angela Brown 027 335 0105.