



THE MOORING POST

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

God: Capricious, Mean-minded, Stupid?

My how the tables have turned! In centuries past, one of the principle motivations for ethical behaviour was the certainty that one day, we would stand before the great judge of all, and account for our deeds. In modern western society however the roles are reversed. God is now on trial.

In 2015, on UK TV, well known British comedian Stephen Fry was asked what he would say if he was confronted by God. He replied: "How dare you create a world in which there is such misery that is not our fault? It's not right. It's utterly, utterly evil... Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world which is so full of injustice and pain?"

How do you respond to this critique of God? How do we reconcile the Christian God of goodness and love with the suffering in the world? There appears to be no obvious answer to the most painful question of all in the face of intense suffering; 'Why?'

This classic objection to faith was first posed by the Greek philosopher Epicurus in around 300 BC when he said "Either God wants to abolish evil and cannot; or he can, but does not want to. If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent. If he can, but does not want to, he is malevolent. But if God is both able and willing to abolish evil, then why is there evil in the world?"

However, if the problem of suffering is difficult for Christians, it's just as challenging for atheists. St Augustine said "If there is a God, why is there so much evil? If there is no God, why is there so much good?" In other words where did we get the idea of good and evil from in the first place? We seem to be acutely tuned to distinguish between right and wrong - goodness and evil - but who says the good is good and evil is evil? The atheist actually calls upon an absolute standard of justice when he accuses God of injustice - but absolute standards can only come from God. As C.S. Lewis said in this connection "Atheism turns out to be too simple."

So how can we address the paradox of suffering? Well the first thing to recognise is that by far the most suffering in the world today, is actually the result of human evil rather than the 'natural evil' of say disease, birth defects, cancer and natural disasters. The horrific loss of life under 20th century tyrants like Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot still haunt humanity.

Secondly Christian theology describes a world that is seriously out of step with God's original intention. Christianity does not deny the reality of suffering as some religions do, but faces it squarely and acknowledges that it does not represent the will of God. T. F. Torrence said "It is difficult

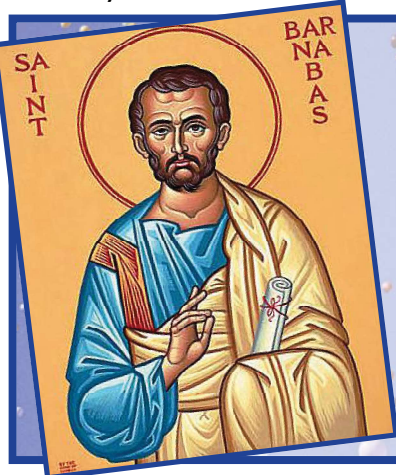
not to think that somehow nature has been infiltrated by an extrinsic evil... introducing irrational kinks into their order."

And finally and most importantly, at the very centre of the Christian faith is the conviction that in Christ, God stepped into our world and took human suffering upon himself. He laid his immunity aside and entered human life - of rough wood, sharp nails and excruciating pain. And so God knows us through and through. He knows all our pains and sufferings. God is not only the one who draws alongside us in our suffering but the one who knows it firsthand.

Nicholas Wolterstorff, a professor of philosophy at Yale, who lost a son in an accident said "God is not only the God of the sufferers but the God who suffers. The pain and fallenness of humanity have entered into his heart. Through the prism of my tears I have seen a suffering God...to redeem our brokenness and lovelessness God... sent his beloved son to suffer like us, through his suffering to redeem us from suffering and evil. Instead of explaining our suffering God shares it."

As the prophet Isaiah said in ancient times; 'He bears our griefs and carries our sorrows; by his wounds we are healed.' Isaiah 53:4,5.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain



LET'S PARTY!

St Barnabas Day, Patronal Festival Party

Saturday 17 June, 5pm – 7.30pm in the St Barnabas Hall

Everyone is welcome to this wonderful party for all the family – to meet others and enjoy fellowship together! Bring a plate with food to share, something to drink, a sense of humour and your friends and family. Coffee and Tea provided.

To make it a party, we need group and individual items – skits, singing, instrumentals, poetry – any entertainment item at all!

'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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Building Bridges Through English Lessons

Olive Lawson explains why the St Barnabas English Language Class has become such an important point of contact for recent immigrants.

Why have you come to English class? When asked this question all students reply, "To improve my English." A few lessons later, as trust and confidence grows, we learn they are attending for far more than just the acquisition of language.

Many migrants are unemployed and job seeking, are working at jobs far beneath their capabilities and qualifications and looking to improve their position, are between short term job contracts, are at home and lonely, are looking for a place to belong and feel valued, or know few other migrants in the same position as themselves.

At present we have a young man with an IT degree washing dishes at a restaurant, a young woman who is an out-of-work barista, a young mother who has early child care qualifications and currently no work as her contract expired, Chinese grandparents at home looking after preschoolers while the parents work and some students so keen to improve their English they attend Papanui High School by day and come to St Barnabas after school. This is to mention just a few of our current students.

The English class, teaches English, but it also provides a safe haven. It is a place of welcome, warmth and friendliness. Students attending meet others struggling with the same issues of cultural adjustment, finding their place in New Zealand and the difficulties of communicating in the English language. Often they bond together making firm friendships and supporting one another out of class.

Some students ask to volunteer in the church because they would like more contact with New Zealanders and want to 'give back' as a way of thanking us for what they have freely received. Two Korean women help at 'Mainly Music' and others have attended Messy Church and Kidzone with their children.



The six volunteer St Barnabas tutors are there to provide help and support and that vital contact, one to one, with a native speaker. Surprisingly there are many migrants who speak no English at all, day after day, apart from a word to a supermarket assistant or petrol station attendant.

The English class is fun, constructive and a wonderful way for our church to build a bridge into the community and welcome migrants to Christchurch!

Olive Lawson, Coordinator

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.

How To Respond To Those With Mental Illness

Mental illness is wide-ranging in its nature and it affects people from all walks of life. For many people, coping with mental illness remains a difficult and lonely struggle. Most of us, at some stage, will find ourselves in a position of knowing a friend or family member who is dealing with mental illness. We may struggle with mental illness ourselves. The following pointers can be helpful;

Empathy is Important: Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another but we must never presume to know what a person suffering from mental illness may be feeling like (even if we have suffered through the same illness) – for only they will truly know how they feel. Statements such as “it seems like...” or “it appears that...” can be helpful, as opposed to saying “I know how you feel”. Avoid the temptation to relate their experience to your own – as this can make people feel that they are not being heard, or that their problem is being minimised.

Be an Active Listener and Provide On-going Support: This may mean that we have to be pro-active and offer to take them out for a coffee or to catch-up over a walk. The caveat to this being that although we should be there for them when we can, this should not be to the detriment of our own health – we can't look after those whom we care deeply about if we take on all their baggage and are not

looking after ourselves.

Encourage Them to Seek Help: Some people may need ‘professional’ help and the development of a good relationship with someone that they feel they can trust and be listened to is critical. Such people could include a family doctor, psychologist or counsellor.

At all times, show love and compassion. Treat them with respect and don't forget the empathy!

Dr Nigel Yeoh – Lifestreams and Antioch



Will You Pledge to Pray?

Many people question the power and purpose of prayer. But when these questions arise, I find myself thinking about the individual stories I've heard which underscore the importance of prayer in the lives of others.

Here's an example - when I was at uni there was a young woman who came along occasionally to church events, because a few of her friends belonged to our parish young adult ministry. She was a post-doctoral student who went on to work at the forefront of cancer research. She was incredibly intelligent and also happened to be a committed atheist. During our time at university she had very little time for what she considered ‘spiritualised silliness.’

However, unknown to her, a group of older women began praying that she would come to know Jesus. She

experienced some significant challenges in her life and during this tumultuous period she felt a prompting to seek deeper meaning. She is now a regular attendee at her local church and her entire way of life has been revolutionised through her new found relationship with Christ.

My point is this - prayer matters. It is indispensable when it comes to praying for those we want to come to know Jesus.

With this in mind, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is inviting Christians around the world, to gather together between Ascension and Pentecost - 25 May to the 4 June - to pray that friends, families and neighbours would come to know Jesus.

Prayer events all over the world, of all shapes and sizes, will be taking place throughout the 10 days, including 24-7 prayer rooms, prayer days, prayer walks and half nights of prayer. Cathedrals, churches and other venues will host prayer gatherings for people to worship and to pray for the empowering of the Holy Spirit for effective witness.

If you're interested in joining this global wave of prayer visit ThyKingdomCome.global and pledge to pray. We will be hosting an evening of prayer at our 7pm Service Antioch on Pentecost Sunday and there will be opportunities at all services that day to receive prayer for God's Spirit to refresh each one of us and to bring those we love closer to Christ.

Rev Harry Newton





Association of Anglican Women

Aim: To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church. To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

Daytime Group

Wednesday 7 June at 12.45pm in the Tui Room. Joining together for a light lunch at 1pm. \$5 charge in lieu of sales table. Lunch will be followed by the video of the service celebrating the re-opening of St Barnabas Church.

Leader: Madeleine Price – 354 4299

In Betweens

Tuesday 20 June at 7.30pm in the hall. Our speakers will be Annie and Andrew Henderson, members of our Parish, who are going to share the story of their interesting lives - both here and overseas.

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179

Hope In The Midst Of Loss

The Kingsley family reflect on their recent visit to the 9/11 Memorial in New York

My son Robert and I had the privilege of visiting the World Trade Center and the 9/11 Memorials in New York while on holiday. I was struck that, like our earthquakes, historic events are riddled with a thousand personal stories, with each experience different. Having seen the scale of the city and these buildings, it underscores the magnitude of the events and the horror of facing the malice with which they were planned.

But within the calamity, miracles occurred. St Paul's Chapel is only two blocks from the World Trade Center, but it survived undamaged to be used as a base for rescue and recovery workers and served as a focus point for public expressions of sympathy and support. St Paul's maintains a memorial chapel that we were able to visit.

We are able to see the Survivor Tree, a pear, which was buried in the rubble, damaged, burnt but alive. It was transplanted and now forms part of the public memorial. Seedlings from this tree and now sent around America and around the world to cities which suffer tragedy and loss as symbols of resilience and hope.

The scale of disaster can make death seem impersonal. Our visit to this place reminded us that it is always personal and God is there, in the wilderness of our suffering as well as in the joy of our holidays.



St Paul's Chapel, New York

Gavin Kingsley

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God's on Holiday

Holiday reflections in poetry by Raina Kingsley

God was with us as we travelled
by plane, train, boat
in the subway crush
and tooting taxi queues.

He was waiting for us
at St Francis of Assisi,
Massachusetts,
priests sprinkled us with
holy water
as the temperature
climbed to 30 degrees
and He was outside
the church handing out
donuts after the service.

He made Himself known
through our friends,
who looked after us so
well
happy to generously
share their neck of the
woods
their friends and local
customs.

In Salem He pointed out
the
pitfalls of fanaticism
allowed us to enjoy
the corn bread, clam
chowder and a lobster
roll.

Liberty Enlightens the
World
her seven rays of light
flare from her head
she steps away from the
chains around her feet
toward freedom
may God protect her and
everyone
who seeks freedom.

We saw art at the
Guggenheim
the Jewish Museum and
other places
it was transcendent
human creativity with the
divine
privileged to meet so
many originals
my prayers were
answered.

God loves Broadway
performers expressing
themselves fully,
fluttering jazz hands, high
kicks
songs that make you
reach for your hanky,
and music that makes you
wanna dance.

New York was so huge
it makes Christchurch
Toy Town
all those skyscrapers
made by all
those hands over all
those years.
God knew them and
loved them all
and he knows and loves
us too.



Delivering Our Daily Bread

Jesus asked us to pray 'Give us this day our daily bread.' He also urged us to give a drink to the thirsty and food to the hungry. The St Barnabas food delivery ministry enables us to be God's agent to support hungry families and individuals in our city.

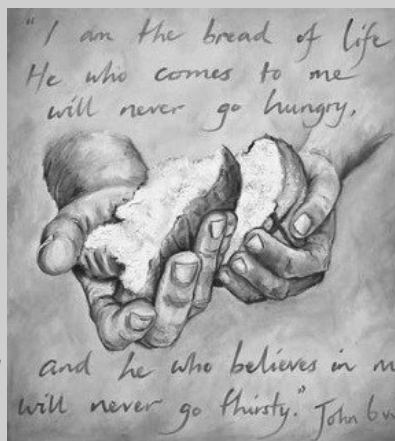
Three times each week for the last two years parishioners have collected surplus bread and bakery items from Fendalton New World. On Mondays Louise Hewson delivers to the City Mission where the items are included in food parcels.

Sue Angus makes a mid week delivery to St Aidan's, Bryndwr. Items are given to needy families and are also used in a meal on Thursday which is provided for about forty at-risk young people.

The final delivery is made each Friday by Marjorie Smart to St Chad's in Linwood. Some items are used in the communal lunch which is available each week. The balance is given to lunch guests and other families known to be in need.

On average ten clean sacks of food are distributed each week. We are most grateful to Fendalton New World for making this outreach possible.

Alison Tait – Pastoral Care and Outreach Team

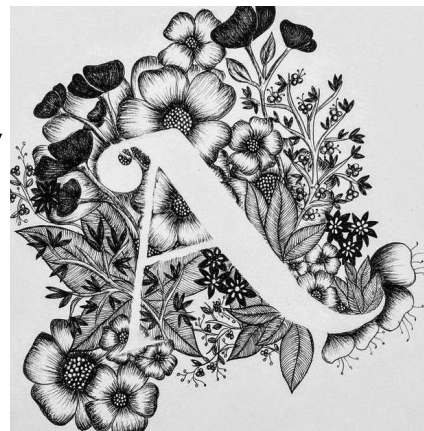


Pastoral Care Through Calligraphy

Calligraphy for me is more of a passion than a hobby. I have always loved the fact that it enables me to give so much pleasure to others and almost everything I do is given away. I could sit and write for hours and my soul would sing.

My grandfather was an artist/calligrapher - far more professional than I am, and although I never knew him perhaps the interest has come through the genes. I have been fortunate to attend a number of workshops, both here and in Australia, which has kept my interest alive and enabled me to pursue many different styles of writing.

I love to combine different styles with different backgrounds (pastels, watercolours, coloured pencils) and embellishments, and different layouts ranging from traditional to modern.



When asked if I could provide some cards for our Pastoral Care visiting I was very happy to do so. I have many well-loved verses. These have sustained me during difficult times and it is a pleasure to share them with others. It is a small way in which I can serve God and help others to immerse themselves in the truth and beauty of the Scriptures, particularly in times of need.

Trish Carrick-Leslie

The Reward Of Serving Others

I accepted taking on the leadership of the AAW Day-time group about 18 months ago. The group was looking for a new leader. I had recently retired from full time work and, when approached, I could not think of a good excuse to decline their request!

I confess I knew little about the group and even less about many of the women who belonged. I felt rather like an interloper on taking over the leadership. As it turns out I am so pleased to have accepted! It has been a very rewarding stepping stone into retirement. It has proved to be an enjoyable rather than onerous responsibility.

We have a membership of about 27. The women have all led interesting lives. Their depth of knowledge and experience has been invaluable in helping me take on this new role. I am very grateful for their support.

I believe my contribution as leader is to continue to meet the

aims of the Association by uniting us in prayer, maintaining our focus of supporting overseas and outreach, facilitating meetings of interest and to ensure friendly social meetings.

The aims of AAW are:

- To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church.
- To Promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

Madeleine Price, Daytime AAW Group Leader





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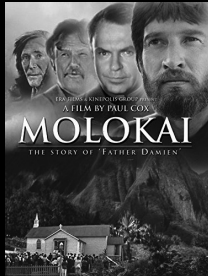
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Faith in Film Evenings

All are invited to a series of three film evenings exploring what it means to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. All sessions begin at 6pm in the Tui Room with soup and rolls – bring food to share. There is a discussion following each film.

Wednesday 31 May: *Molokai: The Story of Fr Damien*

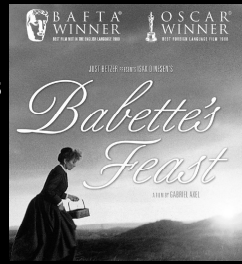
This Australian film chronicles the last fifteen years of the life of 'the apostle to the lepers.' Father Damien, a Belgian priest serving in the Hawaiian Islands, responds to the call to go and take charge of the leper colony on the island of Molokai. The story is a moving depiction of a man willing to give everything to his Lord – even his health.



Wednesday 7 June: *Babbette's Feast* - Academy award Best Foreign Film 1987

In 19th century Denmark, spinster sisters are honouring the memory of their late father, a stern preacher, by doing good

works and hosting prayer groups, having rejected the pleasures of love and marriage. Into these old women's lives comes a mysterious French woman, Babbette, a refugee from the French Civil war!



Wednesday 14 June: *The Insatiable Moon* - 2011 New Zealand Film TV awards

A 2010 New Zealand drama that stars Rawiri Paratene in the leading role of Arthur, self proclaimed second son of God. Arthur sets off on a mission to find the 'Queen of Heaven' and finds her, just as the community boarding house he calls home, faces the threat of closure.



Thank You To All Our Donors!

At the time of publishing the Mooring Post, the St Barnabas Fendalton Trust was just over \$9,000 short of its \$1.6 million dollar target.

Cash received to date is \$1,325,919 and pledges now stand at \$265,000.

Special thanks to 'Bruce and Kay Miles - Miles Toyota' who recently donated a substantial sum to the Trust. A further donation will be made next year.

As you are able, please support Miles Toyota and the many other companies who have supported our repair and strengthening project over the last six years.

Miles Toyota 

What's Coming Up?

Faith in Film Series

All welcome to the first of three films showing in the Tui Room on three consecutive Wednesdays at 6pm beginning with soup and rolls. First film is 'Molokai: The Story of Father Damien.'

WEDNESDAY **31**
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

Annual Men's Dinner

All men are invited to our annual Men's Dinner at 6pm in the parish hall. Guest speaker this year is Reg Garters speaking about 'Leadership Transcends All.' Tickets \$25 from the parish office.

WEDNESDAY **7**
JUNE

Van Outing

Philip Robinson will be leading another Van Outing - this time to Pegasus Town. Leave car park at 1.30pm return by 3.30pm. All Seniors welcome.

THURSDAY **15**
JUNE

Patronal Party

This will be a great evening of food and home-grown entertainment. Parish groups will contribute items. Begins 5pm in the hall. Bring food to share and your own plates, cutlery and wine.

SATURDAY **17**
JUNE

Dinners for Eight

Begins Friday or Saturday. Pick up a sign-up form from the office and select which meal you'd like to be part of. Enjoy a night of fellowship and good food. Consider inviting a newcomer to our parish.

FRIDAY **23**
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

- **Upgrade of Hall and Admin:** Vestry agreed to undertake a process of consultation with the users of the Hall and Admin to determine what improvements to our facilities we would like to undertake at the time of the earthquake repairs and strengthening. We will also have to carefully consider the community groups who use our facilities and seek to make alternative arrangements for these groups at the time of the repairs. The church will be available and may be suitable for some groups.
- **Staff Absence:** Vestry heard about some tentative arrangements to cover Greg and Angela Brown's various ministry areas while they are away on extended leave in the third term. Since then Christine Fokkens has agreed to work 5 hours a week to cover Kidzone. Olive Lawson and Don Rowlands have kindly agreed to run Fridayzone.
- **Commemorative Book:** It was decided to move ahead with the production of a commemorative book marking the reopening of the church. This would include information and pictures covering the history of the church, fundraising, repair work, acknowledgement of donors and other information. It was imagined that the parish would print copies that could be purchased. The Vicar was asked to advertise and find a parishioner who would help with this.
- **New Vestry Structure:** The Vicar and Wardens presented a proposed new structure for Vestry whereby it would meet every two months and in between a separate 'Parish Strategy Group' would meet. This group would oversee the development of a Strategic Plan for the parish, be future focussed and consider matters such as policy development, future developments in general and risk. Recommendations would come back to Vestry for approval. At the same time the accountability and financial management of the Ministry Action Teams would be strengthened.

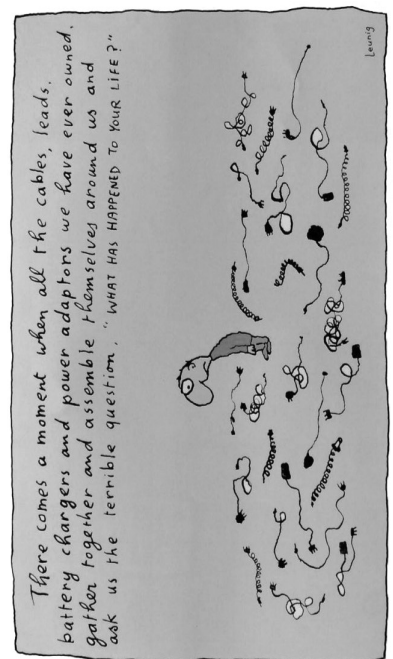
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FUNERALS

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

April

28 Cushla Learmonth Barker



Contributions to the Mooring Post:

Deadline for July Issue:

Friday 9 June



Anzac Day 2017

