

## Christmas at St Barnabas

Come and join us this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour

*'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'*  
Matthew 1:20-21

### Children's Christmas Pageant

**Sunday 14 December @ 10am in the Marquee**  
Combined 9am and 10.30am morning service

### Christmas Home Communions

**Wednesday 17 December**

If you can't make it to worship but would like to receive communion this Christmas please call Kofe and we'll come to you!

### Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

**Sunday 21 December @ 5pm and 7pm**

- **5pm:** Join us for a traditional service of 9 Lessons and Carols telling the story of Christmas with the combined St Barnabas and Schola Cantorum choirs followed by light refreshments
- **7pm:** Antioch – an informal community service – of Lessons and Carols telling the Christmas story. Followed by supper and fellowship

### Christingle Service for Children

**Wednesday 24 December @ 4pm in the Marquee**

- A special service for children and families re-enacting the Christmas story where children come dressed up as angels, shepherds, wisemen, Mary or Joseph – with host Shaun the Sheep! Prizes awarded for 'The Amazing Sheep Hunt' entries.
- A mixture of traditional and modern carols, and all children will receive a Christingle!

### Midnight Services

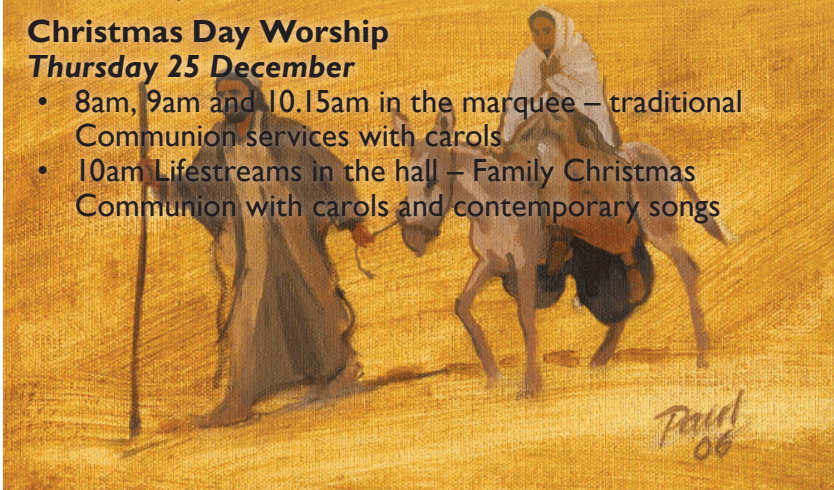
**Wednesday 24 December**

- Traditional Midnight Service with candle-lights and choir in the marquee – begins with carol singing at 11.15pm
- Antioch Midnight Service in the hall – contemporary with band beginning at 11pm with supper. Service begins at 11.30pm

### Christmas Day Worship

**Thursday 25 December**

- 8am, 9am and 10.15am in the marquee – traditional Communion services with carols
- 10am Lifestreams in the hall – Family Christmas Communion with carols and contemporary songs



## Combined AAW

### Christmas Drinks and Nibbles

Tuesday 16 December 5.30pm  
7pm in the Parish Hall.

An opportunity to get together before Christmas for drinks, nibbles and a festive mood. Husbands invited.  
\$10 per person – at the door.

## Children's Christmas Play

**Sunday 14 December**  
**10am in the Marquee**

All members of our parish family are invited to our annual combined 9am and Lifestreams Christmas Play – for parents, grandparents, friends and family! You will love the preparations the children have made! We'll also take the opportunity to acknowledge the children and thank all teachers and helpers involved in our wide range of children's ministries – Kidzone, Playgroup, Mainly Music and Fridayzone.

## Come Carolling this Christmas

*and help to share the spirit of Christmas!*

**Wednesday 17 December**

Meet at the St Barnabas car park at 6.10pm or join up with us along the way.  
6.15pm @ St Winifred's, St Winifred's Place  
7pm @ Fendalton Retirement Village, Bryndwr Rd  
7.45pm @ Holly Lea, Fendalton Rd  
We'll finish at 33 Hamilton Ave at 8.30pm for nibbles and Christmas cheer!  
Come and spread the spirit of Christmas!  
Please bring a plate to share.  
Nibbles, Wine, Tea and Coffee provided.  
All welcome!



# THE MOORING POST

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

## Anniversaries are Important

This week marks my 33<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary! Pip and I were married on election day 1981 and a photo was taken at a polling booth where we cast our votes in full wedding regalia! Anniversaries offer a reason to remember and celebrate significant events but also to consider or reconsider their importance from an improved vantage point. This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since Rev Samuel Marsden preached the Christian message on Christmas Day 1814 at Rangihoua, in the Bay of Islands. Marsden was an enthusiastic Evangelical who had befriended the chief Ruatara of Nga Puhi who then acted as sponsor of the fledgling mission.

Of course this anniversary is immensely significant for Christians but is it significant for our nation as a whole, given the tendency to diminish or disparage the role of missionaries in our history? Rev Marsden for example is sometimes portrayed as the money grubbing, 'flogging parson' although recently at least some of this critique has been exposed as unfounded. So what are the missionaries' positive contributions and what legacy have they left us?

Firstly, we must acknowledge that the arrival of the missionaries predated the systematic colonisation of New Zealand by 26 years. In that time they were able to understand aspects of Maori culture, learn the language and translate the Bible. By 1845 there were no fewer than 60,000 copies of the New Testament in Maori in circulation. Many Maori came to see the practical benefit of reading and writing, fuelling an intense interest in acquiring this skill.

Secondly, missionaries taught Maori the Christian faith. Evangelistic work gathered pace after Rev Henry Williams arrived in 1823 and a few years later Maori were widely embracing Christianity. The amazing feature of this early period of contact was that Maori themselves were the most effective evangelists, carrying the gospel throughout the country and in many cases conversion and organised worship preceded the arrival of European missionaries.

Thirdly, missionaries built up trust with tribes and individual missionaries were able to act as peacemakers between warring iwi. For example from about 1828, Rev

Henry Williams and his brother William were able to bring about a peaceful settlement between Hokianga tribes. Some tribes may have been decimated if it hadn't been for missionaries putting their own lives at risk.

Finally in the years before 1840, Church Missionary Society missionaries committed to brokering the Treaty of Waitangi to protect their Maori converts from what they believed were undesirable European influences. They believed the British Crown offered Maori the best protection from settlers who were on the verge of flooding in to the country through large scale colonisation ventures.

For these and many other reasons, we can truly celebrate the coming of the gospel of Jesus Christ to Aotearoa New Zealand. The passage of time has made the achievements of the missionaries even more impressive given the importance today of Te Reo, our own three Tikanga Church, peaceful living and the Treaty of Waitangi.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain

## Christingle Service

**A Christmas service especially for children**  
**Wednesday 24 December @ 4pm in the Marquee**

Children are invited to enter the 'Amazing Sheep Hunt' this Advent! Pick up an entry from the parish office, visit the shops listed and try and find a knitted sheep. Record the name of the sheep and submit your entry form by Tuesday 23 December. Prizes will be awarded at the service.

All children are invited to dress up as angels, shepherds, wisemen, Mary or Joseph! Sean the Sheep will lead the service! All children will receive a Christingle!

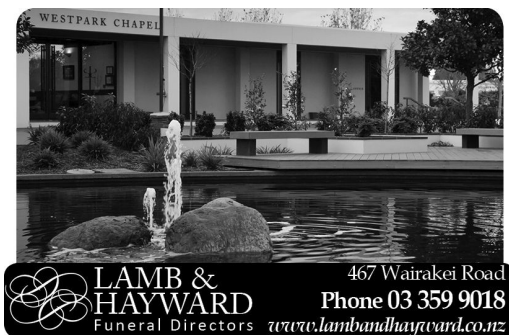
*'The Mooring Post' is a phrase from p479 in A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. Christ is described as the single mooring post for many waka – Ko te Karaiti te pou herenga waka. Christ is the one who unites us.*






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## MAKING CHRISTMAS LIVE FOR CHILDREN

As we seek an intentional but joyful connection with children in our lives, let prayer surround each activity and let forethought equip you. You will need to seek out early such items as gift-wrap, story books, sticker books and models which reflect Christmas and the Holy Family rather than Holidays, Kiwiana, Thomas the Tank Engine, Dora Explorer, Spiderman, Barbie etc.

The following stores are worth a visit if you wish to make purchases; Mana Ministries Hornby, Christian Super Store, 370 Colombo street or Catholic Supplies. Visit Ballantynes to view the nativity scene window. Think back and be ready to share what you and your family did at Christmas – preparations, excitement, pillow cases, stockings at the end of beds etc...



*It's playtime: Adrienne Robinson and her grandchildren*

Have some simple baking tasks to do together. Chatter about star shaped biscuits. Watch stars in the sky. Make playdough or salt dough stars and trees. Draw a star on poster card and poke holes around and over it, hold it up to the light to reveal many mini stars. Make or decorate gift tags in these shapes. With a hole-punch make holes in a Christmas picture outline to 'sew' coloured thread through. Tell about gifts you remember and how our gift-giving is about God's gift of Jesus. Make or wrap gifts together. Ask whether pine or fir trees lose their leaves (needles) in winter and how this is a reminder that God's love is always there for us.

Play a word game of preparations for travelling away, camping, having a sleep over, etc and link it with Christmas preparations to make a list. Tell about Saint Nicholas. Saying the name over and over faster and faster will demonstrate how 'Santa Claus' is arrived at! Leave a mystery parcel for someone or visit the Transitional Cathedral to do just that under their tree. Hum a Christmas Carol for the children to recognise and tell you what it is. Make a song book together. Use a duplicate set of Christmas stickers to put onto cards cut into rectangles, to play a memory game.

Play a game of 'animal, vegetable, mineral,' using only Christmas things. Play 'I spy' using decorations on your Christmas tree or make an Advent Calendar putting stickers in place on poster card with a second card over the top with doors cut. Number the doors. Use Christmas Cards to put the nativity story events in sequence. Make a nativity diorama or scene. You could use stones or shells for figures, animals, Holy Family, angels and shepherds. Make a sand saucer or oasis table decoration using white, red, green, foliage and flowers. Use the NZ Bible Society activity leaflet 'The Secret of the Star' available free from the parish office or in the foyer.

*Happy Christmas, Adrienne Robinson*

### Youth Ministry at St. Barnabas

Contact Jordan van Irsel on 351 7064

**Youth Group:** Christian youth community! Friday nights in the hall. 7 - 8.40pm for yrs 7 - 9 & 8.20-10pm for yrs 10-13

**The Revs:** Christian group for high school age young people. Meets on Sundays during Lifestreams at 10.30am.

## DIRECTORY

### PARISH OFFICE

Secretary: Marion Cook  
8 Tui Street, Christchurch  
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### MOORING POST DESIGN

Michael Cropp  
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michael.cropp@live.com

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### ST BARNABAS (in the hall)

8.00am Eucharist, followed by breakfast (Tui Room)  
9.00am Sung Eucharist followed by morning tea (Tui Room)  
10.30am Lifestreams Eucharist with children's & youth programmes followed by morning tea. For All Age services, check online  
5.00pm 1st & 3rd Sundays – Evensong  
2nd Sunday – Choral Night Prayer  
4th Sunday – Eucharist  
7.00pm Antioch in the hall for students/young adults but all welcome

### MID-WEEK WORSHIP

8.45am Tuesday to Friday – Morning Prayer  
Wednesday – Eucharist all welcome in the Makora Room or Prayer Room at east end of hall.  
10.00am Thursdays – Eucharist  
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

**Financial Report:** Year to date income is over budget at \$378,649 compared to budget of \$377,070. Expenses are under budget – \$383,853 compared to \$391,320. The actual deficit of \$5,204 is \$9,046 less than the YTD budgeted loss of \$14,250. The Finance Team hopes that by year's end there will be a small surplus.

**Parish Database:** A small team is working on the transition to a new database called Church Community Builder. Existing data is being cleaned up for transfer. Once this is done the various features of CCB will be utilized.

**Mooring Post:** Vestry was informed that Michael Cropp has now moved to Wellington and will not be laying out the Mooring Post next year. A parishioner has volunteered to undertake this task and will be using their own copy of InDesign. There will be a learning and transition phase but this news was received very warmly.

**Children Youth & Young Adults Report:** Angela Brown cast a vision of the future development of children's ministry which included more 'Rainbow Promises' events next year, collaborating with local schools and groups, and growing the opportunities to engage children in our community with the Christian faith.

**Fresh Perspective Ministry:** An opportunity to offer mentoring to families who would benefit by a person with life experience coming alongside them for encouragement and support. The parish needs to train 8 people as mentors – this will take place in February. Vestry agreed to this ministry.

**Church Repair Report:** The Works Team reported that the stonemasons were now removing blocks from twelve sites from around the church building. This will allow engineers to assess the condition of the building more accurately and enable them to develop cost effective repair strategies.

## REGISTER

### Funerals

We offer our deepest sympathy to the relatives of those who have died:

### November

7 Joan Caroline Homer  
11 Monica Jean Williams

## Happy Christmas!

The Mooring Post Editorial Team wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

If you've got a good story, or come across one during the summer, that you want to share with the parish we'd love to hear about it!

Get in touch with our Vicar Mark and let him know!

February articles due

Friday 9 January

# What's Coming Up?

## December '14 – February '15

### CWS Appeal

Please give generously to the Christian World Service appeal this Advent. Envelopes are available at all services. Donations will help relieve need in Tonga, Sri Lanka, Gaza, South Sudan and Haiti this year.

SUNDAY **7**  
DECEMBER

### Festival 200

Join over 80 other St Barnabas parishioners who will be attending the special celebration service in the Horncastle Arena at 6pm to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Christian sermon preached in Aotearoa New Zealand.

SUNDAY **7**  
DECEMBER

### Christmas Hamper Appeal

The last day for food donations for the Aranui Christmas Hamper Appeal. The food will be taken over to the Aranui-Wainoni parish and hampers full of Christmas food will be made up. Thanks for your generosity!

WEDNESDAY **10**  
DECEMBER

### Vestry-Staff Christmas Party

Vestry will work through an hour of business from 5.30pm and the party will begin at 6.30pm in the Vicarage, spouses and children invited. This an opportunity to thank our hard working staff for another successful year.

WEDNESDAY **10**  
DECEMBER

### Ecumenical Lessons and Carols

This popular annual event for churches in our area will be held at 5pm at the Chinese Church on Greers Rd.

SUNDAY **14**  
DECEMBER

### Carol Singing

All welcome to come and share the spirit of Christmas at the Rest Homes in our area. Leave from St Barnabas car park at 6.10pm finish at 8.30pm for Christmas cheer at 33 Hamilton Ave.

WEDNESDAY **17**  
DECEMBER

### Christmas Home Communion

Those unable to attend Christmas services but would like to receive communion at this special time of year please contact Kofe, 351 7064, and she will make the necessary arrangements.

WEDNESDAY **17**  
DECEMBER

### AGM Reports

All ministry leaders are asked to write their reports for the AGM booklet by this date. If possible please submit to Marion by email. Please allow time to write a short report describing your group's ministry and activities of the year.

FRIDAY **30**  
JANUARY

### Songs of Praise

This a special annual service for the combined AAW groups which includes commissioning of the Leaders and Committee followed by a shared finger-food meal.

SUNDAY **1**  
FEBRUARY

### Lenten Launch Celebration

Come to a sneak preview of the year's Lenten Studies over dessert and coffee. Peter Carrell will be present to present and answer questions. 7pm in the Tui Room.

WEDNESDAY **4**  
FEBRUARY

### Community Fun Day & Parish Picnic

A free, fun-packed day for all the family. 12 noon – 3pm on the Church lawn. Bring a picnic and enjoy the day! Live music, food, bouncy castle, old style running races and the annual 'tug 'o war'!

SUNDAY **22**  
FEBRUARY

### Quiz Night

The first fundraiser for the year will be a repeat of this year's successful Quiz. Begin forming teams of 4 now for this evening of fun for the whole family. More details to come!

SATURDAY **28**  
FEBRUARY

# BUILD HOPE FOR TOMORROW

## Invest in people.

St Barnabas Supports the Christian World Service 69th Christmas Appeal

This year our parish is again supporting the Christian World Service (CWS) Christmas Appeal. The goal is to empower people to deal with disasters which threaten them. Working together with skilled CWS partners worldwide, they can stand up to powerful interests or win fairer treatment. By supporting this year's Christmas Appeal you are part of their story. You too need not feel helpless in the face of disaster and poverty. Instead you can be confident that your donation is helping to build hope for tomorrow.

Did you know?

- For 70 per cent of the world's rural poor, agriculture is not just their food source; it's also their job and income. Yet, for the last 60 years, less than 1% of research on

agricultural farming has focused on methods for developing small scale, rural, food production.

- 839 million workers live on less than US\$2 a day (26.7% of total workforce) in 2013.
- 842 million people were estimated to live with chronic hunger in 2011-13 – roughly one in eight people (827 million in developing countries).
- 32,000 people were forced to leave their homes every day in 2013.
- The combined wealth of the world's 85 richest people equals that of the 3.5 billion poorest or half the world's population.

Share what you can, so others have what they need to survive poverty and disaster. CWS gets no government funding and is totally dependent on what it can raise from donations.



Please give generously to this wonderful appeal. St Barnabas has earned a reputation for generous giving in the past. Please help us keep it!

Information leaflets, which include a Freepost envelope, are available in the pew sheets and extra information from the office. Please make sure you mention the Parish of Fendalton so that your donation can be credited to our parish total.

Marie Catanach

## The Selwyn Centre – First Anniversary

It's hard to believe that the Selwyn Centre at St Barnabas combined with the Merivale parish has functioned for a whole year! On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November we celebrated in style - balloons, streamers, musical entertainment, a birthday cake and participants wearing hats of all ages, shapes and sizes!

The aim of the Selwyn Centre is to provide support and services to older people in our community as it was found that following the earthquakes many people were more isolated and lonely. Some have minimal family support and poor social contact, others who attend live on their own or are in a retirement complex and enjoy getting out meeting new people. Many just enjoy coming along for the fellowship and fun. The routine exercises and the health tips or health related speakers are much appreciated by the guests.

The group has grown from its first day of 4 guests (participants) to 18 (male and female) registered and 4 who have other commitments on a Monday and are only able to attend once or twice a month.

It has been a great privilege to be able to run the Selwyn Centre group each week alongside a group of very willing volunteers who are a valuable part of the team. Each week they provide afternoon tea, mingle with the guests and help to run the activities. Often there

is a theme for the day, a quiz relating to the theme, or games, scrabble, picture puzzles or a speaker. Guests have shared their stories, reminisced on different subjects or displayed their crafts or hobbies. We are fortunate to have the parish community van for outings to different areas of the city that the guests have not been able to go – especially areas devastated by the earthquake.

If you know of anyone who would like to join or if you would like to be a volunteer please ring the Parish Office or Ruth Harwood on 354 1428.

Ruth Harwood





Peter Carrell – who does have a smartphone, though not an iPhone.

## SAMUEL MARSDEN, iPHONES AND THE KEY TO LIFE

some thinking about is the climate of scepticism which pervades our culture. This is a double whammy because we seem to be a culture which is sceptical about the importance of history (with notable exceptions such as The Treaty of Waitangi and Gallipoli) as well as sceptical about the possibility of a divine being we cannot see or touch existing - let alone intervening in life.

Recently a news story told us a man was willing to swap his house for a new iPhone 6 – a perfect illustration of a culture enthralled by the arrival of the material future. Both history and God get relegated to the back of the store of Life's Keys in favour of glitzy products at the front.

The gospel Marsden announced was news of great joy - the joy of a Saviour being born at Christmas and later raised from the dead as a guarantee that all hearers of the gospel could share new divine life with the Saviour. Such news both values the importance

of history – the Saviour was born many years before Marsden – and the importance of divine life beyond our material existence.

It's an uphill battle to celebrate Marsden's apostolic preaching 200 years later when the key to life is an iPhone 6 and a climate of scepticism affects not only acknowledgment of the historical importance of Marsden but also general response to the gospel.

2014 perhaps is a year of challenge, therefore, as much of celebration - a challenge to offer Jesus as the true key to life and to testify against scepticism to the reality of the risen Jesus alive among us today. The earliest church – a transformation of bewildered, scared disciples – was a living testimony to God's power at work in Jesus, challenging sceptics everywhere. We can be that church and when we are, we celebrate Marsden's preaching.

I was disappointed the other day, standing in a post shop, to realise that our Christmas stamps this year do not acknowledge 200 years since Samuel Marsden preached the gospel for the first time in Aotearoa NZ on Christmas Day, 1814. Disappointed but not surprised. The land to which the gospel came in 1814 was not that receptive then – it was some twenty years before missionary labours bore noticeable gospel fruit – and it is not that receptive now.

There are many reasons for that lack of receptivity. One that I am doing

## Restart dates for 2015

Selwyn Centre	Monday 12 Jan
St B's Play Group	Wednesday 11 Feb
CAMEO	Thursday 12 Feb
Youth Group	Friday 13 Feb
Fridayzone	Friday 13 Feb
Mainly Music	Friday 13 Feb
Antioch	Sunday 15 Feb
Kidzone	Sunday 15 Feb

Please contact the Parish Office for details of the start dates of other groups



### It's not these two!

24-7 Youth Workers Jai Rob and Jordan van Irsel have put in a sterling effort establishing this youth ministry at Christchurch Boys' High this year. They've spent time getting to know the boys and staff and being an encouraging, caring presence around the school. This Christmas, the school collected Christmas gifts for underprivileged children and placed them around their Christmas Tree in the School foyer. Because Jordan and Jai have built great relationships with the school, St Barnabas was asked to distribute these gifts to children and families in need. Thanks to all students and staff at Boys' High for your generosity!

## ST BARNABAS' TRUST Getting the Church Ready for Repair

The Trustees of the St Barnabas Fendalton Trust continue to meet on a regular basis, seeking ways to increase donations for the repair of the church buildings. The Trustees are Richard Ballantyne (chair), Cam Moore, Steve Wakefield, Corinne Haines and Rev Mark Chamberlain. Ruth Harwood also joins the group as Contact Coordinator and Wayne Hann as Secretary.

The initial fundraising target was \$1m and by November 2014 the figure raised, including pledges, was \$996,195. That is a wonderful achievement. The Trustees recognise that the initial target of \$1m may not be sufficient to complete the restoration of the church. Trustees will commit to a new target once they are advised of the figure supplied by the Church Property Trustees and once the parish has gone out to tender and advised of the total cost of the work.

We expect that during 2015 we will actively seek additional funds from past and present parishioners, the community and Philanthropic Trusts. The Trust wishes to thank the parish Fundraising Team who have worked hard on our behalf and have raised approx. \$30,000 during 2014. The money raised by the Fundraising Team is placed in the Trust however 10% is retained for Outreach purposes within the parish.

We know the fundraising team have a list of activities planned for 2015, which we ask you to support, and with that support we hope to be able to move closer towards our goal. It is likely that there will be a Parish Fair next year and we trust that all parishioners will contribute in some way.

Corinne Haines

### CAMEO: Final Meeting for the Year

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) has enjoyed its first full year of fellowship and activities.

The end of the year meeting on Thursday 11 December will be a celebration of Christmas with afternoon tea in the Hall. Members and friends are invited to wear something Christmassy!

Please phone the office on 351 7064 if you intend to come.

Next year CAMEO begins on Thursday 22 January.



All Young Adults and interested others are invited to the Antioch Summer Series this January. Theme is the "200 Year Gospel Celebration" and will explore the invitation of Ruatara to Samuel Marsden to share the gospel at Oihi Bay in the Bay of Islands 200 years ago. Come and enjoy the sun as we engage with our history and heritage. Sunday 11 and 18 January at 6pm at St Barnabas – bring BBQ food to share.

### The Very First Christmas: Book Review

This book introduces children to the most wonderful story of all time - the birth of Jesus! It is suitable for children of ages 2- 5.

You'll find your little ones are caught up in the amazing account of God's entry into our world as a baby. It also clearly explains why we celebrate the Christmas story today!

This book can be purchased from Bible Society New Zealand. orders@biblesociety.org.nz or 0800 42 42 53.







## 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*

### In Betweens' Group

Tuesday 16 December, 5.30 - 7pm  
Drinks and Nibbles

Please bring your husband/partner  
St Barnabas' Church Hall  
Tickets avail. at door, \$10/head

### AAW Sunday

Sunday 1 February 2015, 5pm

'Songs of Praise'

Commissioning of leaders and Committee  
Followed by a shared finger-food meal  
St Barnabas' Church Hall  
All welcome

## CHRISTINGLE

*A strange word, but a fabulous meaning!*

Christingle means 'Christ Light' and is a symbol of the Christian faith. It is made up of an orange, a candle, a red ribbon and fruit or sweets on sticks. Each child present at the Christingle service receives a Christingle while learning about and celebrating Christmas. The service involves children dressing up and re-enacting the Christmas story with all the well known Christmas carols and songs. So where did the idea of a Christingle come from?

The Christingle came from a Moravian Church in Germany in 1747. The minister, John de Watteville, gave children at the service a lighted candle with a red ribbon around it. This represented Jesus the light of the world and the final prayer at that first service was "Lord Jesus, kindle a flame in these children's hearts that theirs like Thine become". Moravian missionaries came to England in the 1700s and the practice began to spread around the world from there. In Moravian churches, the Christingle service is usually held on the Sunday before Christmas.



Christingles are made up of different parts which together remind us of God's love for us.

- The orange represents the world.
- The candle reminds us of Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.
- The red ribbon goes all round the 'world' and being the colour of blood, reminds us that Jesus died for us so we can come close to God.
- The four cocktail sticks could have either of two meanings - the four seasons or the four corners of the world.
- The sweets (or sometimes dried fruit) remind us of God's gifts to the world including the fruit of the Spirit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Bring your children, grandchildren or neighbourhood children to the Marquee at 4pm on Christmas Eve. They'll love the dress ups, the singing and the Christmassy atmosphere! The marquee will be in the car park on the corner of Tui St and Fendalton Rd. We look forward to seeing you!

Angela Brown

## THE 200<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPIRITUAL CHECK-UP

### How are you doing?

This Christmas Day is especially special. Yes, everyone will be stuffed with roast chickens and boozy puddings. And sure, it's quite a big deal to celebrate the incarnation of God's only begotten Son on earth. But this Christmas Christians around New Zealand will also be celebrating the official 200 year anniversary of the Christian message of hope coming to the land of the long white cloud, by the Rev Samuel Marsden at Oihi Bay. It's an exciting story, and it reminds me of the bravado, pioneering spirit and faith our Anglican heritage has pulsing through its veins.

A few weeks back I decided to ask a bunch of the Anglican young adults I work with three questions about the gospel, as a sort of 200 year spiritual check up.

**Question 1:** What would you say the Good News is?

**Question 2:** How are you Good News to other people?

**Question 3:** Have you experienced the Good News as being Good News in your own life?

The first question was met with the most confidence of the three, containing a series of mumbles involving words like "Jesus", "God", "Love", "Community" and "Biscuits". Not great - but not terrible either, depending on the brand of biscuits of course.

Tension rose with the second question. Someone told me they "tried to let people cut in front of them during bad traffic", while another said he "did his best not to swear too much or steal the pencils from his work like the other employees do". Now, I'm not sure this was quite the radical lifestyle Jesus had in mind. But hey, it was something!

But it was the answer to the third question that really caught me off guard. With almost every person I spoke to there was a deafening,

awkward silence. After about 30 seconds one person looked me straight in the eye and asked, "Ahhh, what do you mean?"

You know, it's very hard to share the Good News with the world if we haven't experienced Jesus as being Good News in our own lives. And I'm certain the thing that motivated Samuel Marsden wasn't his passion for biscuits, but the fact that he'd experienced the Good News in some way himself. 200 years is a great milestone to celebrate, but it's also an opportune time to remember that the Good News of Jesus isn't caught off monuments or buildings. For the gospel to thrive for another 200 years, it must thrive in each of us. So this Christmas Day, take a moment to ask yourself this one question: How have I experienced the Good News as being Good News in my life?

Rev. Spanky Moore  
University Chaplain

## Lenten Studies 2015

Why has the advance of radicalised Islam around the world over recent times been sadly matched by an almost parallel decline of the Christian Church in the West?

One reason is that as a faith Islam is being studied more and more faithfully and followed more and more passionately by its adherents, while disciples of Christ have gradually let serious study of their faith and its application to their lives lapse and languish. Muslims now know their Koran better than Christians know their Bible.

Each year during Lent we have an opportunity to redress this in some small measure through the discipline of small groups meeting weekly during Lent to study an important Gospel theme, assisted by a widely appreciated study book authored by Peter Carrell and the late Lynda Patterson.

Through the six weeks of Lent 2015 our parish will again be offering a variety of times and places where study groups will meet, commencing the week of 9 February.

The theme for 2015 will be 'Gratitude and Grace: Through Lent with John' - the difference faith in Christ and following him as Lord makes to living in these internationally troubling times.

The 2015 course will also offer a couple of optional extra studies to meet a widely expressed desire for

further post-Easter occasions to round off the series.

Expressions of interest in leading, hosting or participating in such a group are welcomed through contact with the Parish Office. Studies will begin on the week of Monday 9 February

Brian Carrell

### The Studies:

- |                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. John 2:1-11        | Gratitude for Lives Transformed       |
| 2. John 4:1-15, 27-30 | Gratitude for Inclusion               |
| 3. John 5:2-18        | Gratitude for Wholeness               |
| 4. John 7:53-8:11     | Gratitude for Grace                   |
| 5. John 11:1-44       | Gratitude for Promise of Resurrection |
| 6. John 13:1-20       | Gratitude for Servanthood             |

### Extra Studies

- |                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 7. John 20:11-18 | Gratitude for Abiding Love   |
| 8. John 21:1-19  | Gratitude for Faith Restored |



## Fundraising Note & Gift Cards

Thank you so much to all those who have supported this fundraiser by purchasing so many cards! The Pohutukawa note cards have sold out with just a few Pohutukawa and Rata gift cards available.

There are plenty of St Barnabas cards left. There are no words inside so could be suitable for Christmas greeting cards.

A full range of the floral cards is available. These are suitable for gifts

Note Cards with envelopes \$10 per pack of 5.

Gift Cards with envelopes \$10 per pack of 10.

These beautiful, locally produced cards are available from the Parish Office.





Photos: Mandy Caldwell | Top: St Barnabas' Play Group | Bottom: Selwyn Centre



Top: Love In A Box – making Christmas gifts for others at FridayZone | Bottom: Marathon Fundraiser – June

