



THE MOORING POST

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

The Scandal of Particularity: Why Jesus?

The recent US Presidential election showed a side of American life that was troubling. There was a distinct lack of respect shown, little sustained engagement on issues of importance and the fissures between the political parties seemed to grow deeper by the day. The Pew Research Centre reported that for the first time in its polling, over 50% of people said they disliked or hated those on the opposite side of the politics.

When you hate your opponent, all hope of rational discourse is lost. You stop listening and simply look for ways of confirming your own view. The different sides begin to exist in their own bubbles of social media and opinion pieces - listening to voices they agree with. It's called 'motivated reasoning' or 'confirmation bias' - looking for evidence that will fit your settled opinion, rather than really engaging with the other person. It takes a jolt for people to entertain new ideas and move outside their bubble! A new kind of engagement is necessary.

In Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. In the child Jesus, born in Bethlehem, God became one of us and entered human history. Jesus came to live among us, as one of us. He came to really connect with us because he was one of us. Jesus was born at a certain time in history, at a certain place and

within a certain culture. It really was a new kind of engagement altogether. Jesus punctured our human bubble and entered fully into the human story.

But this is where it gets tricky, because for many people, this sounds ridiculous. I was at a wedding last week and spoke with a person eager to talk about matters of faith. It certainly wasn't obvious to him what was so special about Jesus Christ. And many others ask "What's so important about Jesus? Why do you say that Jesus holds the key to our human destiny? Why would God restrict himself in this way? Why wouldn't God communicate in some timeless idea or set of religious axioms that transcended the messiness of history?"

Theologians have called this the 'scandal of particularity' because at first glance it seems ludicrous that the eternal God should enter into human history in this very localised way. Why should this one man, Jesus Christ, have universal significance? And doesn't focussing on a particular religion, lead to arrogance and religious bigotry - the one thing the world doesn't need at the moment? Didn't Jesus himself epitomise the scandal when he said 'No one comes to the Father but through me?' - John 14:6.

To answer this, I invite you to lay aside any confirmation bias you may have and take another look

at Jesus. First of all the scandal of particularity says that God loved humankind so much, that he became a human being, speaking a language understood by people. Jesus was a Jew, spoke the language of the Jews and used the thought forms of the Jews to communicate effectively with his people. God's love found local and particular expression first and then it spread out to the world. We intuitively know that real love is not an ethereal, timeless message - true love must be embodied and experienced.

Furthermore in Jesus Christ, God committed himself fully and permanently to our humanity. The eternal entered time - the infinite entered space. God bound himself to our humanity never to lay it aside. He embraced our humanity with such intensity, that all of humanity is represented in his person. And so in this way the single man Jesus, is qualified to be the saviour of all people.

We live in an increasingly divided world where many people choose to throw slogan bombs at each other rather than really engage. Into this world Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace. He is immanently qualified to bring peace because he is one of us. A particular person to love and worship and the universal saviour. Merry Christmas to you all!

Rev. Mark Chamberlain

You are invited to Celebrate the Reopening of St Barnabas Church!

All parishioners and the whole community are invited to a series of celebration events marking the opening of St Barnabas from 14-21 Feb 2017

- Public Lecture on the history of Fendalton and St Barnabas - 14 Feb
- Celebration Dinner - 18 Feb
- Reopening and Thanksgiving Service - 19 Feb
- Variety Concert - 21 Feb

Tickets required. All events free except the Dinner. See the advertising brochure and website for more information or call the parish on 351 7064.



'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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Archbishop to Speak at Reopening Dinner

We are delighted that Archbishop Philip Richardson is to be the guest speaker at St Barnabas' Formal Reopening Dinner on Saturday 18 February 2017.

The Most Reverend Philip Richardson was born in Devonport in 1958 and went to Rangitoto College. He holds a B.A. and B.Theol from Otago and has studied at Tamil Nadu Theological College in South India. Archbishop Philip is married to Belinda Holmes and they have two adult children. He was ordained priest in 1982 and undertook pastoral ministry in Auckland, Whangarei and Dunedin. He then became Head of Selwyn College at Otago University

He openly talks of times when he was on the edge of the church, involved with academia, and was critical of those at the centre of the institution after being moved by the poverty he saw in India. He acknowledges God's sense of humour at putting him now at the heart of the very institution he once dismissed for not knowing how to serve the most vulnerable and marginalised!

Archbishop Philip believes that "the Church is not a club. We are to be people who are committed to building communities which are healthy and life giving. All God's people are called, each has a vocation to be what God is purposing them to be. We are each given tasks and responsibilities for the purpose of increasing and strengthening the community of faith."

"Jesus was open to the world around him, in dialogue with it and yet standing in contrast to it - so the church must also be. We need to be clear about the Gospel we proclaim. The Gospel argues the health of the community is measured not by the relative comfort of the majority but by the experience of its weakest member. It is a Gospel that expresses power through servanthood, that proclaims a community in which loving is more important than winning, being vulnerable is more important than having power and where helping someone to find the best in themselves is better than managing peoples lives."

Suzie Walker

Young Adults Retreat

2016 has been an exciting and busy year for St Barnabas young adults. We have two small groups - 'TYA' and 'Life @ 91' - that are entirely young adult led. Combined, our small groups have an average weekly attendance of 20 young adults. At the moment our focus is on developing a sense of community by building relationships across our small groups and welcoming new members. A retreat to Akaroa from the 4 - 6 of November provided a perfect opportunity to continue to develop connections across our young adults whanau.

The retreat involved 12 young adults and was an awesome chance to relax and recharge batteries that had been drained throughout the year. Our days were filled with laughter, good kai and worship. We began and finished each day with an adaptation of Morning and Night Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book. A special thanks goes to Rena Hamilton for leading the music and sharing her beautiful voice.

We enjoyed staying at two palatial holiday homes with plenty of space for rest and relaxation. Our group enjoyed a range of activities including games, swimming, sunbathing and stand-up paddle boarding. There was ample opportunity for quiet time and personal reflection in the beautiful natural surrounds. We were also able to continue to grow as a community with a good mix of young adults from both 'TYA' and 'Life @ 91' home groups.



Cheers to all those who attended the retreat and made it such a success. We hope to organise further events for those who weren't able to make it this time.

Matt Chamberlain and Nigel Yeoh

Youth and the Revs

Contact Harry Newton 027 342 2574

SBYG: We gather weekly at 7pm Friday for fun, discussion and food. We hold social events monthly and go on camps most school holidays.

Bible Studies: Sunday during Lifestreams at 10.30am a group of us gather to study the Bible. We also have other opportunities to gather together to ask the hard questions about life and faith.

Reflections on Pregnancy, Motherhood and Faith

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. As it happens we will also be celebrating the arrival of three other babies! Elizabeth Yeoh, Emma Read and Amber Brown share their reflections on bringing a child in this world, nurturing a new life and raising their child to love and follow Christ.

Emma Read (baby Percival Elias born on 8 November):

"I feel very fortunate to have been able to have my beautiful boys and am very grateful for the gift of another child! Being pregnant is not an easy physical process and it forces me to rely more heavily on family and friends for help. It is such an important reminder that I live as part of a community and that it is okay to need help at times. It is a bit humbling to admit you are not on top of everything all the time and to rely on the kindness of others but I



think it is part of how we are called to live in Christian community."

Amber Brown (Baby Hannah born on 21 November):

"Jono and I believe God has played a massive role in our baby's life so far. We have used prayer together, alone, with our Lifegroup and with family. We have enjoyed reflecting on how generous and great God has been and this has strengthened our faith in Him. We can't wait to tell our child of her beginnings and show her God's awesome love."



Elizabeth Yeoh (baby due December 12):

"The journey of pregnancy is an amazing one to be on. In the early stages, feeling a bit unwell was a great reminder about God's amazing creation and how awesome and mind boggling it is to

have a little person growing inside you - especially when you get to feel and see it move around!

Through this journey so far, as a couple, Nigel and I have learnt what patience really means. Our trust in God has become much stronger as we have learnt to rely on His timing and not our own.

We are very fortunate to have had such great support, love and encouragement from the church family and in particular from our Lifegroup. We are also grateful for the potential babysitters we have accrued! Nigel and I are very excited about becoming parents sometime in December and we look forward to beginning a new journey as a family!"



Fresh Perspective – You Are Not Alone

Everybody needs a little help sometime in their lives. Fresh Perspective is a free service that brings trained volunteer mentors into supportive relationships with people who have asked for help. The team of eight mentors at St Barnabas are working to capacity helping people in the community especially parents and caregivers. Most mentors make a commitment of one or two hours per week to this Christian service. Confidentiality and good personal boundaries are maintained.

Fresh Perspective is a partnership with local Christian churches throughout New Zealand. Mentors are asked to attend a training course and walk alongside another adult supporting their desire for change and hope. Each mentor attends monthly supervision with their Coordinator from the local parish.

People can refer themselves or someone can make a referral on their behalf to 0800 555 300 or via the website www.freshperspective.org.nz.

The local organiser has collected some feedback from mentees who have valued the support they have had.

Walking Alongside: A Father of five said that it was good to debrief each week and see things from another perspective. He said that his mentor was down to earth and talked at the same level.

Good Listener: A grandmother raising a grandchild with special needs found the mentoring helpful. "When you see the person you know someone else is listening to you."

Motivation Strength-based Care: "I was living in

domestic violence and in the wrong crowd. Drugs and stuff. Things are heaps better now. I left my ex partner. I am drug and alcohol free and smoke free since January. I worked hard to get my kids back (successfully). It's nice to have someone not judge you, and treat you like a person. This is motivating to yourself."

Special Valuing: A young mum said she found it really special when her mentor visited her at the hospital after the still birth of her baby and brought fruit and baking.

Hopeful and Non-Judgemental: "My mentor was open, supportive, honest, non judgemental and knowledgeable. I could talk to her about anything. She helped me through my emotional turmoil. ...She was there for me...her supportiveness helped me get through a hard and dark time. I don't know if I would be here today if I had not met up with her...She gave me hope."

Acceptance: A recent immigrant with a special needs child said that her mentor was good for her. "She had a heart of gold and opened up opportunities for me in the community."

Don Rowlands
– St Barnabas Fresh
Perspective Coordinator



CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

The Kiwiana Christmas Tree

The pohutakawa tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*), which blossoms from November to January with bright crimson flowers, has become an iconic symbol of New Zealand and features prominently on souvenirs, paintings and other tourist memorabilia. How has this evolved?

In 1833, missionary Henry Williams described holding a service “under a wide spreading pohutakawa tree”. Years later, in 1867, Austrian geologist Ferdinand von Hochstetter observed “the pohutakawas are full of charm with blossoms that the settlers use to decorate their homes and churches”.



Other references described the pohutakawa tree as the ‘settlers Christmas tree’ and ‘Antipodean Holly’.

It has been recorded that in 1941 in the Libyan Desert, of all places, an army captain, Father Ted Forsman, was feeling very homesick and penned the Pohutakawa carol beginning with the following lyrics;

*Now crimson, crimson Christmas tree
Pohutakawas rim our seas
And flower to flame every shore
For joy of him whom Mary bore.*

Today many school children sing about how ‘the native Christmas tree of Aotearoa fills their hearts with aroha! Pohutakawa and its South Island cousin, the Rata, hold a prominent place in Maori tradition. There is more information at nzhistory.net.nz.

A Mexican Legend for Young and Old!

I had always been curious as to why shops were selling poinsettias, native Mexican plants, at Christmas time and people were giving them as gifts. It didn’t make sense to me until in the last few years of my teaching I discovered this enchanting story.

It dates back several centuries to a Christmas Eve in Mexico when a very poor little girl named Pepita had no gift to present to the Christ Child at church. Her cousin Pedro urged her to come and give a humble gift. So on her way she gathered a bunch of straggly weeds from along the roadside. As she approached the altar, a miracle happened. The weeds blossomed into brilliant, lush red flowers! The flowers became known as Flores de Noche Buena – Flowers of the Holy Night. Now they are called poinsettias.

Suzie Walker



Restart dates for 2017

Selwyn Centre	Monday 16 Jan
St B's Play Group	Wednesday 8 Feb
CAMEO	Thursday 2 Feb
Refugee English	Thursday 9 Feb
Youth Group	Friday 27 Jan
Fridayzone	Friday 17 Feb
Mainly Music	Friday 10 Feb
Antioch	Sunday 12 Feb
Kidzone	Sunday 12 Feb

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

Journey of Hope

Jesus does light up our life and world and give us hope to carry on. This year's Christmas theme is 'Journey of Hope'. Our hope as lovers of God and carriers of the Good News of Jesus is to give love and hope to all we meet this Christmas journey and into 2017.

At the Christingle and Christmas services you are invited to take home a 'Journey of Hope' bracelet and take photos of you and your bracelet experiencing hope and sharing hope on your Christmas Day, New Year and summer holidays with family, friends and the environment you find yourself in.

You can share your 'Journey of Hope' and moments of hope under these headings – 'Family and Friends Hope', 'Environment Hope' and 'The Funniest and Wacky Hope Moments!'

Send these photos by email to St Barnabas and on Sunday 29 January we will have a special service at 10.30am to celebrate your 'Journey of Hope' with a slideshow of your photos and prizes will be given.

Remember to include your bracelet in each photo you take.

Enjoy your 'Journey of Hope' this Christmas!



Angela Brown – Children and Family Worker

The Grand Opening of All Saints Church, Tonga

After being drenched by heavy rains for several days, Tonga woke up on the 1st of November to bright sunshine and a gentle breeze. The big day had arrived, and the whole district of Fasi moe Afi was buzzing with service preparations, finishing touches to decorations and a frenzy of cooking.

At 10am, Archbishop Winston Halapua and the clergy of the Diocese of Polynesia gathered at the front gate of the church to welcome the guest of honour, Tonga's Princess Royal, HRH Princess Salote Pilolevu whose daughter is part of the congregation of this parish.

Archbishop Winston was handed

the keys to the building and blessed the church site and the labourers who, for many months, had worked so hard towards this auspicious day. HRH Princess Pilolevu then opened the new church to a fanfare of music from the parish choir. There were about 200 people seated in the church itself and in a marquee outside for the occasion, and during the service, ++Winston also ordained the Vicar's wife to the priesthood.

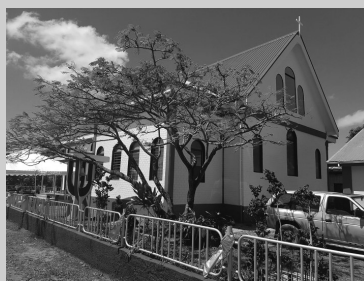
Just before HRH Princess Pilolevu delivered the sermon for the day, a letter of congratulations and goodwill from our parish of St Barnabas was read out, and the parishioners of St Barnabas, together with all those who

had contributed to the build we are acknowledged and thanked.

After the service, we moved to the grounds of St Paul's Church in the town centre for the rest of the festivities. Interestingly, there was a crowd of about 400 for this part of the celebrations!

There were presentations of Tongan fine mats and tapa cloth made to dignitaries, dancing, singing and lots of food set out in several marquees. It was a day filled with colour and song, and I was privileged to be part of the celebrations of a church St Barnabas had helped out.

Rev Leni Havea



Join a Lent Study Group in March, 2017!

I was reminded a couple of weeks ago that God never intended Christianity to be a "me, God, and my Bible" lifestyle. The Bible teaches that we also need each other for a host of reasons. Many people, including Christians, lack close friends but when people get together in a small group, close friendships form and often remain long after the group ends. When people become connected emotionally, they are more open to praying for one another. Often, group members exchange prayer requests or become prayer partners. We strengthen each other's faith.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul taught us that when we see the faith in another believer, it encourages us in our own faith. It is indeed true that small group members encourage each other to grow. When people share, other group members see new ways they can draw closer to God and new steps they can take with others.

The 2017 Lent studies will focus on 'Risk' from the Acts of the Apostles. Co-authored again by Rev Dr Peter Carrell, this series promises to force us to look again at the message of Christ we proclaim, especially over the risks we have had to face since the 2010 Earthquake, and more especially after the very recent earthquakes.

Kofe Havea - Pastoral Assistant

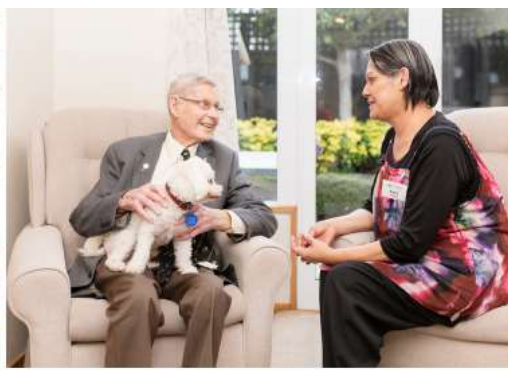
Study Chapters

- Study 1. Acts 4:1-22 Risking Standing up for Jesus
- Study 2. Acts 8: 26-40 Risking Following the Spirit's Lead
- Study 3. Acts 9:1-22 Risking Welcoming the Adversary
- Study 4. Acts 15:1-21 Risking Debate in Order to Seek Reconciliation
- Study 5. Acts 17:22-34 Risking Rejection for the Sake of the Gospel
- Study 6. Acts 20:17-38 Risking the Present for the Sake of the Future

Risk:

Through Lent with Acts





2016 Ministry Moments

2016: Year of Repairs

Chasing The Chickens Out Of The Manger... A Reflection On Christmas

Call me a skeptic.

There are things about the traditional Christmas story that just don't stack up.

For instance, it's a source of amazement to me that the Holy Family returned to their Nazarene neighbourhood after Jesus' birth despite receiving gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. If it had been me, I'd have sent my hubby off quick-smart to buy a trendy flat-roofed home with a panoramic view of Lake Kinneret ... and organised more than a few slaves to do the



domestic chores!

Which leads me to ponder. What's it all mean, this superficially cutesy story we trot out each year, with camels and boy shepherds and a baby who "no crying he makes".

Like other writings in the Bible, we can approach accounts of Jesus' entry into this world from a literal, historical point of view ...and/or we can see past embellishment and exaltation to ponder meanings that

What Do You Think?

- If Easter hadn't happened, would we bother to celebrate Christmas?
- What does the story of Jesus' birth add to your faith?
- What traditions or family rituals do you follow at Christmas time?
- Are there any you would like to change or introduce?
- What values and virtues does Christmas bring out in people in the wider community?

How do you respond to Jesus' invitation to be fully alive (have 'eternal' life)? Can you imagine, like he does, that 'eternal' life and the kingdom of God can exist on this earth, now?

undergird the events depicted.

In other words, let's chase the goats and chickens out of the manger.

With myrrh and 'No Vacancy' signs, the Christmas story points to alienation and death - which isn't a warm fuzzy message for greeting card companies to want to peddle on Christmas morning!

The manger story tells of the arrival of a human being who will turn the world upside down. It is contextual: it sets the scene to help us better understand the adult who emerges from the subsequent pages of the holy and inspired writings we call The Bible.

The irony of kingly gold and frankincense (both extremely expensive commodities) shouldn't be lost on us, followers of an itinerant rabbi who illustrates, and advocates for, serving others.

The manger story invites us to look beyond swaddling clothes to a man striped all but naked on a cross. It points us to the adult who will share a blueprint for the Kingdom of God.

Megan Blakie

POSTSCRIPT:

I once heard an Old Testament lecturer cast much doubt on the popular concept that the wise people who feature in the Christmas story (no guarantee there were three of them) rode on dromedaries. He said they were likely to be Zoroastrians who travelled on horseback. Feel free to pass that on to Sunday School pageant coordinators!





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 December at 12.30pm
Christmas Lunch at Faye Norman's Home,
1 Kereru Lane. Please bring a plate of finger
food to share.

Leader: Madeleine Price – 021 188 5138

In Betweens

Tuesday 6 December from 5pm-7pm
St Barnabas Church Hall
Drinks and Nibbles

Please bring your spouse or partner
Entry is \$10 payable at the door

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179

Joins Us At Messy Church

Saturday 3 December from 3.30pm –
5.30pm

Food, fun, faith, family craft and meal
together

Imagine a place to come and gather families
of all forms, shaped and sizes to have food,
fun, faith, family craft and meal together. A
place to hear about the Christmas story of
the love of God and hope for our journey –
this is Messy Church!

Come join us for the next Messy Church
'Journey of Hope', St Barnabas Church Hall.



Please Give Us Hope!

Our parish is supporting the Christian World Service (CWS) Christmas Appeal

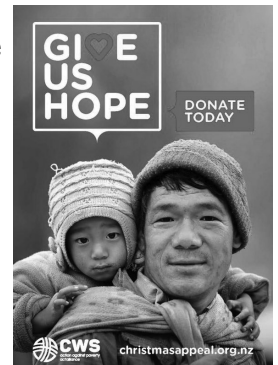
CWS is the international aid and development agency of Protestant Churches of New Zealand. Established in 1945 to help in war-torn Europe, CWS works through 20 partners on the ground in areas of acute need, helping communities survive disaster and overcome poverty. The Christmas Appeal funds this vital work, so much in tune with Christ's gospel of peace with justice.

This year's appeal takes the theme 'Give us Hope'. In the season of Advent we follow a profound story of hope. Preparing for the celebration of Christmas, we can look for the light that can transform the world. Week by week, we will hear stories of the transforming work of CWS through its partners among young people in war-torn South Sudan, with refugee mothers in Lebanon, with victims of the disastrous earthquake in Nepal, helping Dalit ('untouchable') children in South India and bringing some education to children in Haiti.

Giving is the currency of hope. By giving to those far less fortunate than we are, we help to make the world a place we want to live in – a place where everyone has enough food, shelter, comfort, peace and respect. We follow the Christ Child!

Please give generously to further the work of CWS. We have won a reputation for generous giving in the past. Please help us keep it.

Information leaflets, which include a Freepost envelope, will be available in the pew sheets and the Hall vestibule, and the office can give extra information. Please make sure you mention the Parish of Fendalton so that your donation can be credited to our parish total. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes.



Marie Catanach

St Barnabas Repair Update

The strengthening work is effectively complete meaning that the external steel braces are now redundant. There is very little evidence of this work other than internal steel brackets and external patten plates, as most strengthening is hidden within the stone walls.

The earthquake repairs inside and outside are nearly all complete with excellent reconstruction of the stonework. The stained glass windows that needed repair are ready to install.

Determining all essential building maintenance for the 90-year building has been challenging as some was not visible prior to scaffold access. Significant contract variations included further pointing to the stonework on the tower and replacement of the lead valleys on the tiled roof. Replacement of old wiring and distribution boards is being done to ensure ongoing electrical safety. More extensive work was found necessary on the three flat roofs, and the flag pole on the tower.

Betterment includes the fire sprinkler system. The sprinkler pipes have been installed in the church. The outside valve house is still to be constructed although the water supply pipes are being installed.

Prewiring is currently being done for the proposed ceiling mounted radiant heaters. Internal fitting out for the audio and monitor systems and any visual worship space changes to the interior await the Christchurch City Council adoption of the updated city plan, the heritage architect sign off for any changes to the interior that impact on heritage (other than in the current building resource consent for the repairs and strengthening), and the Diocesan Design Advisory Group approval, before this work can be done.



Don Mackenzie –
Vicar's Warden and Parish Works
Coordinator

Christmas in Kenya

Christmas is a time for many families in Kenya to get together and celebrate. Many people live in rural areas and therefore around Christmas time, relatives who live in cities and towns head to villages to celebrate with extended families.

Churches, shopping centres and homes are decorated in a similar way that they are in developed countries, except that green plants and trees are used instead of synthetic/plastic Christmas trees. These are adorned with bells, balloons, ribbons and small presents that are given out on Boxing Day (also a public holiday).

On Christmas Eve, children usually recite poems in church about the birth of Jesus Christ and worshipers remain in church until midnight. Most people buy new outfits to wear on Christmas Day. Children wear sparkly dresses and decorate their faces and hair. Most churches organise open air services to accommodate large numbers of worshipers.

Food is always central to Christmas celebrations. Depending on family size, a turkey, goat, sheep, or bull is slaughtered for meat and served with rice ('pilau'),

chapatti (made from wheat flour), 'ugali' (from maize flour) and cooked banana. Local brews, soft drinks and roasted meat ('nyama choma') are also prominent in the festivities.

Ben Wamamili – 9am congregation



Help Us Pass on the Hope

As part of our 'Journey of Hope' program this Advent we will be giving away a small parcel of truffles – yes the small balls of chocolaty goodness not the fungus you dig out of the ground! They will be symbols of our love and good will to all those in the community.

We will give away these Christmas treats in the weeks before Christmas to the seniors in our community who find it hard to get out, or have had bereavement during the year. Those families in the streets around St Barnabas will also be offered these treats.

If you can help us by making a batch, please leave your name with Marion in the Parish office on 351 7064. If you would like to help deliver the truffles, also leave your name. This is an opportunity to serve which is part of our Journey of Hope strategy.

We have so much to be thankful for as a church family, especially as our church building nears completion. Let's pass on the love and care we have received to our neighbours!



'Journey of Hope' Evangelism Programme

Our parish outreach strategy this Advent is based on a 'Journey of Hope.' At Christmas we celebrate the obedience of Mary and Joseph to journey to Bethlehem for the birth of the Christ Child – this was a journey of hope. Jesus Christ was born as the hope of the world!

However we also make other kinds of journeys at Christmas time. We embark on a spiritual journey to worship Jesus Christ. We often journey as part of our summer holidays and enjoy a break and the summer weather. Still others are on a journey of discovery to find out more about faith in God and our Saviour Jesus.

Our parish outreach consists of three parts – **Pray, Serve and Invite** and I urge all parishioners to get involved in each of these challenges. The first one is to Pray for a friend, colleague or relation for one minute a day for one month. Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple said 'When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't, they don't.' Let us all believe that in the mystery of God's will, he will answer our prayers as we lift up our loved ones to him.

The second word is Serve. I invite you to serve others this Christmas. Either contribute to 'Love in a Box' which is the City Mission program to give gifts to the needy at Christmas, or donate to the Aranui Christmas hamper appeal, or you could make truffles to give away as part of the parish programme. Contact Marion in the office for more details. Joining in carolling around the parish is also a great way to serve.

Finally Invite – this is about inviting a friend to an Advent service, the Christingle children's service, the Pageant or a service on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day this year. We hope that many will also invite a friend to systematically explore the Christian faith after Easter in an Alpha Course. May God bless you as you join with us to reach out to our community this Christmas.

Further information about all these options is on the parish website – www.stbarnabas.org.nz

Rev Mark Chamberlain

What's Coming Up?

December '16 – February '17

CWS Appeal

Please give generously to the Christian World Service appeal this Advent. Envelopes are available at all services throughout Advent. Donations will help refugees, those suffering through natural disasters and those in poverty.

SUNDAY **27**
NOVEMBER

Vestry-Staff Christmas Party

Vestry will work through an hour of business from 5.30pm and the party will begin at 6.30pm with spouses and children invited. This is an opportunity for Vestry to thank our hard working staff for a great year!

WEDNESDAY **7**
DECEMBER

Christmas Hamper Appeal

This is the last day for food donations for the Aranui Christmas Hamper Appeal. The food will be taken over to the Aruanui-Wainoni parish and hampers full of Christmas food will be made up for less well-off families.

WEDNESDAY **14**
DECEMBER

Christmas Home Communion

Those unable to attend Christmas services but who would like to receive communion contact Kofe on 351 7064 or email kofe@stbarnabas.org.nz and she will make arrangements.

WEDNESDAY **14**
DECEMBER

Carol Singing

Meet at the St Barnabas car park at 6pm to pool transport or join us at 6.15pm at St Winifreds, 7pm at Fendalton Retirement Village and 7.45pm at Holly Lea. Holly Lea has kindly offered refreshments after all the singing!

TUESDAY **20**
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. These reports are of great encouragement to all the parish.

FRIDAY **25**
JANUARY

Youth Group Camp

All high school aged youth are invited to Glenroy Camp for the weekend. The theme is 'Faith and Doubt' with guest speakers. Contact Youth Minister Harry Newton on 027 342 2574 for more information.

FRIDAY **25**
JANUARY

Men's Breakfast

All men welcome to come to breakfast at 8am in the hall - enjoy the fellowship of other Fendalton men! Guest speaker is engineer and heritage architect Trevor Lord. Call the Parish Office to book your tickets.

SATURDAY **28**
JANUARY

AAW Sunday

We celebrate this special Sunday with a service of Hymns of Praise in the Hall at 5pm. Hymns will be specially chosen by AAW members from both groups who will speak briefly on why their choice has significance. A light meal will follow.

SUNDAY **7**
FEBRUARY

Confirmation Service

Bishop Victoria will be present to confirm candidates wanting to make a public confession of faith. Service is at 7pm. If you would like to be confirmed please see the Vicar.

SUNDAY **26**
FEBRUARY

Parish AGM

2016 AGM will be in the Hall beginning @ 7pm. Agenda will include reports, finances and election of officers. Let's celebrate what God is doing among us and seek God's will for the future.

WEDNESDAY **8**
MARCH

Quiz Fundraiser

Bring a team of four to the Quiz night fundraiser. Interesting questions, raffles, wine and nibbles – lots of fun for all! 7pm in the parish hall.

SATURDAY **11**
MARCH

DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

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MOORING POST DESIGN

Alex Thomson
Contactable through office or
alexthomson.mp@gmail.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 and 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

- 8.30am 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

- Funding Calendar:** The Vicar presented a calendar detailing times during the year when we need to apply to Philanthropic Trusts for additional ministry funding. This will be invaluable for next year as there will be a need for higher levels of funding for the 24-7 Youth Work at Boys' High.
- Reopening of the Church:** Corinne Haines gave a verbal report on progress for the events around the time of the reopening of the church. Organisation of the Public Lecture, Formal Dinner, Reopening and Thanksgiving Service and Variety Concert is all going well with key people taking responsibility for each event. There is also a group organising the internal decoration of the church and another one drawing up plans for the landscaping. A budget will be submitted next month however there is a person who has agreed to seek sponsorship from the firms who have been involved in the repairs.
- Children and Family Ministry:** Angela Brown was invited to attend a portion of Vestry to give a report on the progress of her ministry areas. Both Fridayzone and Messy Church have been going well with significant numbers of children and families attending these programmes from the community.
- Works Team:** Chris Wilson and Don Mackenzie gave a detailed update of progress of repairs, strengthening and betterment. Strengthening of the building is almost complete with stonemasons now cleaning the exterior stonework. The sprinkler pipes being also installed. Vestry approved a package of electrical work as well as a new audio system for the church.
- Finances:** The finances of the parish have picked up somewhat since last month. Offertories were up \$4,571 against budget with an improvement of total income which was \$7,556 over budget. Actual deficit for the year is now \$11,875 against a budgeted deficit of \$18,560. Vestry was presented with the first draft of the 2017 budget and went through some of the assumptions it was based on.

REGISTER

Baptisms

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

November

- 13 Pippa Kate Burrridge
Max Harry John Burrridge

Marriages

We extend our good wishes and prayers to the following couple recently married:

November

- 19 James Joseph Harrison
Glubb and Anna Louise
Harwood



Happy Christmas!

Deadline for February Issue

Friday 13 January

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 Play

Sunday 11 December @ 10.30am in the hall

This is not a combined service – all welcome to this Lifestreams service

Christmas Home Communion

Wednesday 14 December

If you can't make it to worship but would like to receive communion this Christmas please call Kofe on 351 7064 and she will make arrangements with you.

Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18 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 service of Lessons and Carols telling God's big story of redemption through the birth of our Saviour. Supper.

Christingle Service for Children

Saturday 24 December @ 4pm

- A special service for children and families re-enacting the Christmas story where children come dressed up as Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary or Joseph.
- Each child receives a 'Journey of Hope' wristband and invited to submit a photo of themselves on holiday this summer. Winners acknowledged on Sunday 29 January.
- A mixture of traditional and modern carols and all children will receive a Christingle. (Christ Light)

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday 24 December

11.15pm Traditional Midnight Service with candle-lights and choir in the marquee – begins with carol singing. Formal service begins at 11.30pm.

11pm Antioch Midnight Service in the hall – contemporary with band beginning with supper. Service itself begins at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday 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, contemporary songs and children's talk. Children bring your Christmas presents!



Christmas Joy with Ali Harper

Sunday 18 December at 2pm and 7.30pm at the Piano Centre for Music & Arts, 156 Armagh Street. Tickets \$34 and a portion of this money will go to St Barnabas Building Fund.

If you would like to join a group from St Barnabas please contact Patsy Wardell on 351 6046 or the Parish Office.

Capture the spirit of Christmas with some of Ali's personal favourites. Featuring Matthew Pike, Richard Marrett and Lily Barrowcliff.



Children's Christmas Play

Sunday 13 December @ 10.30am

Everyone is invited to our annual Children's Christmas Play – this year it is entitled 'Say Yes to Jesus.' Please note that it is not a combined service this year. We'll also thank the teachers for another successful year and pray for the children who are 'graduating' to youth group.



We thank the following sponsors for their contribution and support given towards the Restoration House And Garden Tour;

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