



THE MOORING POST

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

Iraqi Christians – forgotten minority

The Bishop in our recent Confirmation Service prayed that God would 'Guide, protect and uphold...' each candidate. Iraqi Christians would value that prayer too as their country plunges into a sectarian war where the Christian minority risks being wiped off the map completely.

Before the Iraq war in 2003 Christians in that country numbered about 1.4 million - one of the larger Christian communities of any country in the Middle East. Far from being a colonial vestige, Iraqi Christians traced their history back to the first century when the Apostles Thomas and Addai (Thaddaeus) came to Mesopotamia. A flourishing Christian community developed especially in the northern Nineveh Plains area. Since then however they have been subjected to successive waves of persecution.

Even in the last decade, 70 churches have been attacked, several priests have been murdered, there have been kidnappings and Christians have suffered in many other ways. In

early June this year the radical Islamic group the 'Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant' took sudden and swift control of northern Iraq and Christians found themselves again the subject of brutal treatment and a radical interpretation of the Koran which dates from the 7th century.

Islamists have said that Christians will be forced to pay a 'jizya' or tax, no crosses may be displayed, no public prayer, no church bells to be rung and women are to stay inside. The basic idea is that no Muslim should be able to hear or see any evidence of Christianity at all.

Canon Andrew White, Vicar of St George's Baghdad and peace activist, explained that the area around Mosul is 'the heartland of the Christian community. Most of our people come from Nineveh and still see that as their home. It is there that they return to regularly... Now the Christian centre of Iraq has been totally ransacked.'

Many Christians who lived in Mosul, have fled to the neighbouring Kurdish enclave which is protected by the efficient

'Peshmerga' militia. Others have stayed because they are unwilling to leave the place they call home - they would rather take their chances in the hope that things will improve.

It is tragic to witness the decline of Christianity in the very neighbourhood of its birth. Early in the 20th century Christians made up 20% of the population of the Middle East but today their proportion is only 5%. This has been caused by a mixture of a low birth rate among Christians compared to Muslims, extensive emigration and ethnic and religious persecution.

While we pray for ourselves that God might 'guide, protect and uphold' us, we also pray for Christians in Iraq whose lives hang by a thread. Consider how we might respond to our brothers and sisters in Christ who feel that they are forgotten by the world.

'What can we do to remember and stand alongside you in your suffering?' Let this be our question.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain

Do you want to find out more about life's big questions:
meaning, purpose and hope?

Do you want to know more about Jesus and what it
means to believe in him?

Do you want to refresh your faith?

Then Alpha LIFE is for you!

see page 3 for details

'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.

Explore our website and like us on Facebook – www.stbarnabas.org.nz | www.facebook.com/stbarnabas.nz



Children's Ministry at St. Barnabas

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

Mainly Music: Music and movement for pre-schoolers and their caregivers, Fridays 10 – 10.30am followed by morning tea. Becky George 357 1363


Fridayzone: Christian after-school club for Primary School children. Fridays 3.30 – 5.30pm.
Angela Brown 027 335 0105

Kidzone: Creative Sunday School for children 5 – 13 yrs
Sundays 10.30am. Angela Brown 027 335 0105



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Youth Ministry at St. Barnabas
Contact Lynda Davies 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.

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

Facing Weaknesses – Building on Strengths

St Barnabas' retreat for young adults took place in Hanmer in early June. Sam Knight had organised an engaging duo, Matt and Belinda Stott, to teach a version of their 'Soul Tour' course for young adults. This consisted of 5, hour-long sessions with Matt, outlining some spiritual tools for examining, evaluating and modifying the fundamental beliefs our character is constructed upon. Run parallel to this, Belinda provided coaching sessions to help us identify our personal strengths.

The Stotts' combined teachings complemented each other perfectly. On the one hand we learnt how to spot our spiritual weaknesses and on the other we were given the tools to confront and grow beyond these shortcomings.



Among the myriad spiritual lessons, we still managed to visit the hot pools where Pete's heavily muscled torso, caused many a swoon amongst our fellow pool-goers - though most blamed the sulphurous heat. After a bit of negotiation and shuffling of plans, we were also able to watch the All Blacks' first game of the season - in all its error ridden agony!

On Sunday morning Matt asked us to clear the air and break down any misconceptions we may have had of one another. He invited us to use the phrase "When I first met you I thought you were...but now that I know you..." While this initially appeared confrontational its worth was quickly confirmed. We laughed nervously, pursed our lips, held our breath and then came together in a way that had never happened before - forged in the fires of awkward tension. I felt the dust being blown off my soul as I realised the circumstances I'd met someone in, and the social minefields I'd subsequently wandered into, were of no account and were in fact quite funny!

After a bit of church, Sam left us with a poignant challenge. He said "It's hard to build a community in an hour and a half on Sundays. If we want to grow as a fellowship of Christians we need to live in each other's lives". Something I think, we could all apply to our lives.

Jonathan Chamberlain

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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

Christmas Marquee: Vestry provisionally approved the hire of a marquee to be erected in the car park again this Christmas to provide for the expected numbers. The final decision depends on whether the cost of this can be covered by our Business Interruption claim.

Vicar's Sabbatical Leave: Vestry were appraised of arrangements that have been put in place for the Vicar's Sabbatical Leave. Philip will be priest-in-charge and Jill Keir will work for one day a week.

Secretary of 15 and 15a Tui St Body Corp: Vestry received news that Paul Cook would probably undertake this role. His availability was confirmed following the meeting. His appointment needs to be confirmed by CPT. This is important as EQC work is expected to commence soon.

Curtain Bank: A report was received that the Curtain Bank receptacle was being used widely and being filled with second hand curtains. These are being emptied each week or so. The curtains are fitted with new thermal backing and offered to families who lack this kind of insulation.

Vicarage Insurance: Don Mackenzie informed Vestry of progress related to seeking more cost-effective insurance cover for the Vicarage. The current premium is considered to be excessive. Don will negotiate with CPT about this.

New Payroll System: Corinne Haines had researched a suitable payroll system that offered improvements over our current system. Corinne was instructed to purchase the software. Cheryl Earl was asked to learn how to operate it and be a resource person for Marion.

Vicarage: Vestry was informed that painting of the Vicarage was now almost complete. A rotten window frame has been replaced. There is still no progress on the broken garden walls and carport wall. James Mackay has been asked to repair the roof above the Youth Room and reinstate the beam covers in the hall that were removed for engineering inspections.

REGISTER

Baptisms

The Parish welcome into the family of the Church through Baptism:

June

9 Rena Hamilton

Funerals

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

June

19 Nola Brown

House Sitting Wanted

A very particular 71 year-old Anglican Lady is seeking to house sit after mid-August indefinitely. Please email aoraki@aorakiaero.co.nz or phone 352 7251

August articles due by
Friday 11 July

Fundraising Update 'running for Jesus'

About 18 parishioners were involved in the Christchurch Marathon this year as a sponsored walk or run to raise funds for the repair of the church. Helene Wray completed her first marathon – well done Helene! Other parishioners ran a half marathon and some ran or walked 10km. Congratulations to all those who achieved their goal. About \$5,000 was raised although some sponsorship money is still being collected.

The Gala Variety Concert is in the final stages of preparation as this edition of the Mooring Post goes to print. Fourteen acts will be performing on Saturday 28 June with almost 140 singers, dancers, drummers and instrumentalists involved. When people arrive they will be offered bubbles and nibbles and there will be an

auction at the intermission. This will be a great opportunity to show-case the work of the Trust and garner further support for the repair of our beautiful church building.

A Spring Concert Series, Book Fair and Major Raffle will be held in the second half of the year and the fundraising team are also considering having a market and craft stall outside the hall on Election Day 20 September. The hall will be a Polling Station on that day.

The St Barnabas Fendalton Trust has now raised over \$926,000 and talks are now underway to set out the exact scope of works for the repair of the building as well as the pre-construction time line. The project is moving closer to the start date!

Rev. Mark Chamberlain

St B's Children walk the road to Emmaus

The village of Emmaus was the destination of two of Jesus' disciples when they encountered the risen Lord on the day of resurrection. As they walked along together, one whom they did not recognize, explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. It was not until the evening meal at Emmaus that their eyes were opened and Cleopas and the other disciple realized the identity of their travelling companion.

Extract from Luke 24

So the Kid Zone group (10-13 year olds) went on a similar journey around St Barnabas. They had to explain what they saw - as if they were Jesus. They responded to this imaginative journey in the following way;

View of the Church Building: House of the Father; Yes it's broken but still here; People are broken and propped up too; Dead things are not entirely gone; We remember.

Easter Pellets: Understanding; Take time to contemplate what God has done for us.

Mural: Art like that comes from emotion; Colour and life and children of all ages I give to my world; The world is bigger than the church buildings.

Door and Statue of St Barnabas: Barnabas is a saint; Come in through any door that's open.

Road and Boardwalk: Don't get caught up in fear or troubles; Jesus says stop your busyness; Pause and wait.

Founders Stone: Give thanks to faithful people and their sacrifices.

MELTING POT OF MISSIONS? How the Anglican Church resources mission

Have you ever experienced 'death by acronym'? Sometimes this is just a subtle way of ensuring that outsiders don't become insiders – because it's so hard to learn what's going on!

It's a shame that we do this because the Anglican Missions Board (AMB) and the Church Missionary Society (CMS) are two stunning mission agencies and the primary vehicle for our outreach aspirations.

The Church Missionary Society is the older of the two – it was formed in 1799. The New Zealand branch of the Society (NZCMS) was founded in Nelson in 1892 and seeks 'to glorify God by faithfully bearing witness to the gospel of Christ in the world'.

CMS is essentially a sending agency supporting mission partners who are working in various and sometimes dangerous parts of the world. It has recently become more involved in sending short-term, cross-cultural

mission teams away and this has certainly been a major growth area.

The Anglican Missions Board (AMB) on the other hand is not as old as CMS. It was formed by General Synod to promote missions and to ensure that our historic partnerships (such as CMS) had a strong financial base. The Anglican Missions Board took the pressure off the local church feeling that they had to respond to each and every request for help.

It was also formed to coordinate parish, diocesan and Tikanga based mission initiatives. In a nutshell; AMB promotes, co-ordinates and educates - NZCMS motivates and sends. It's a very effective coordinating and governing arrangement which exists to promote the mission of Christ in many countries of the world.

From "The Witness"
Newspaper of the Nelson Diocese

AlphaLIFE

On 23 July Alpha LIFE begins in style with a candle-lit banquet, live jazz and winter wine. The banquet is followed by seven, no obligation Wednesday evenings that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.

We talk about the ultimate questions and how we can get the most out of life. This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family and work-mates to get a taste of who we are as a church and present the basics of Christianity.

So why not start thinking about whom you might bring and pop the question – after all, asking someone to a course on Christianity doesn't need to be awkward!

Call Sam on 351 7064 for more information and to register.

What's Coming Up?

St Thomas' Lunch

All are warmly invited to Robbies, Riccarton for the annual St Thomas' Day lunch from 12 noon. Please contact Owen Jones on 351 3575 to make a booking. The lunch is combined with the monthly 9am lunch on this day.

SUNDAY **13**
JULY

Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to breakfast in the St Barnabas Hall from 7.45am - 9.15am. Guest, Richard Gardiner, is speaking about model houses in post-quake Christchurch. Enquiries to Philip. Tickets from the office \$10.

SATURDAY **19**
JULY

Bible Sunday

On this Sunday we give thanks for God's word the Bible and the benefit it has had on our community, nation and world. Let us pray for a renewed interest and commitment to reading and studying the Bible.

SUNDAY **20**
JULY

Alpha LIFE Banquet

This is a great opportunity to share a meal together and find out about introduction to Christianity course, Alpha LIFE! Contact Sam Knight in the office for more information.

WEDNESDAY **23**
JULY

Social Services Sunday

'Building Community' – we're reminded that the church is a community of God's people and we seek to contribute to healthy communities nearby and far away through compassionate service and prayer.

SUNDAY **27**
JULY

Messy Church Conference

Lucy Moore, founder of Messy Church UK, is the guest speaker at this conference 1-3 August. A fresh expression of church especially for children and families. Contact Angela Brown for more information.

FRIDAY **1**
AUGUST

Book Review: Unapologetic by Francis Spufford

I had never heard of Francis Spufford till I listened to Kim Hill interviewing him recently. He spoke, among other things, about this book – or did Kim grill him about it? The title intrigued me, so I bought it to see what it was like. The verdict? It is one of the most refreshing books I have read in a long time on being a Christian, and more specifically a church-goer.

An immediate attraction is the sheer verve of his writing style. He begins with a rollicking chapter on the

stupidity of his undertaking in the eyes of those who dismiss Christianity and the Church. Church is for the wet and brainless nonentities who can't think for themselves; it is for the morally corrupt; it is for those strait-laced and narrow-minded people who want to lock up all deviants. We can smile knowingly with Spufford here. That does not mean you will always find him comfortable. Some of the ways he puts things cut right through the traditional words we use that dodge the full implication of what they mean.

Take "sin". Sin is one of those concepts that has been so bent out of shape that it means little more than minor misdemeanours particularly anything to do with fun. We have thrown off those puritan shackles. We are good people who might slip occasionally – but nothing to get excited about. Spufford won't let us off the hook so easily. Think instead of sin as what he calls the Human Propensity to Foul Things Up; and that HPtFuT crops up throughout the book as the very

thing the Christian faith is about and that is addressed by Christ.

The HPtFuT is universal – it is the human condition, but so too is the grace of God. Grace constantly calls us in Christ into new relationships and new possibilities. So the church is The International League of the Guilty – yes, the guilty, but by the grace of God also forgiven. Spufford tackles religion not as a head argument but as a heart one, and time and again he nails our emotional experience of ourselves and our world.

If you are looking for a stimulating book that will encourage you as a member of the church and that cuts through so much nonsense about religion and does it engagingly, try this one.

Reviewed by Ken Booth

Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense, by Francis Spufford. London: Faber & Faber, 2013.





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 July 2
Luncheon at Chateau on the Park
Meet at the Chateau, 11.45am for 12 noon
All Welcome
Leader: Yvonne Cummins 358 2153

In Betweens' Group

Tuesday July 17 at 7.30pm
Speaker Gavin Bishop, author and illustrator of children's books. We welcome all members of In Betweens as well as the whole Parish family young and old! Gavin will have books to sell following the meeting.
All Welcome
Leader: Pam Chapman 322 9409

The meaning behind the 2014 Paschal Candle

The theme this year seeks to embody the Bishop's charge to us all of making this a special year of Discipleship. The 'Epiphany Star' signifies Christ as the light of the world with the 12 stars of the disciples on it. This is placed on the crude wooden cross which is situated with the world at its base.

After Jesus' death the 12 stars of the disciples go out to multiply more disciples of Jesus. These are all the small stars, spreading His word and love to all the corners of the earth. The white dove is the Holy Spirit watching over all and giving us strength. The Alpha and the Omega tell us that Christ is the beginning and the end.

Our grateful thanks to Wendy Kington for painting the beautiful Paschal candle which was presented to the parish at Easter and blessed. It has been used during the Easter season but will continue to be used at Baptisms and special occasions.

CONFIRMATION JOURNEY

Confirmation is a way of publically declaring our faith and receiving the strengthening and empowering of the Holy Spirit. This year, our candidates grew together as a group and personally in faith and commitment. Each week there was Bible study, discussion and prayer. This is what they said!

Jan Cameron: 'I have found it to be a valuable experience meeting with Mark and the other people on the same journey. Being provided with a mentor was beneficial giving the opportunity to discuss the future and how to deal with it.'

Elliot Luo and Lily Zhu: 'Being confirmed is such a unique experience. We read more, studied more, and prayed more throughout the preparation stage with the love and support from our sponsors Pip and Denis, and experienced more about the Spirit being with us. By declaring our faith in public, we answer the call of Jesus to be his disciples, we are strengthened on the way of the Lord, and we are part of the church family.'

Rena Hamilton: 'The meetings leading up to confirmation have been awesome for me. I've met really lovely people and had the opportunity to learn much more about Jesus in depth. It's made me really excited for confirmation, to be able to declare my faith in front of my church. I've also really enjoyed having it led by Mark, he's so encouraging and he makes it a really enjoyable environment. I will miss meeting up with everyone!'



L-R: Bishop Victoria, Elliot, Lily, Jan, Rena and Rev. Mark

Elliot Luo: I grew up in communist China where atheism is the only correct ideology according to the Communist Party. When I came to school education, from primary school to university, nothing about God, Jesus or Christianity was allowed to be discussed in the classroom.

As a young student, I tried to understand the meaning of life but the school education system provided no answer. So I tried to find it by reading many philosophy books. However I never found a satisfying answer.

In my last year at university, I happened to tune my radio to a gospel station in Hong Kong, and was soon fascinated by the programmes. One of the programmes was a half-hour sermon late at night. Each time after listening to it, I felt encouraged. And it was amazing that if I had troubles or problems during the day, the sermon at night would often answer my questions.

The more I listened, the more I felt that I needed Jesus. Later, with the help of some Christian friends, I started reading the Bible. When I read Romans 1: 20, "For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse", I felt that all my questions about life were clearly answered. I decided to accept Jesus as my saviour and I would follow him all my life.

A HOUSE THAT SERVES THE VISION

The task of re-imagining worship

If we are required for any reason to live for a while in someone else's house, we know how frustrating it is; we can never find any kitchen utensil we need and nothing is where we think it should be.

This is what it is like for Christian communities to live in houses of prayer – our church buildings – which were designed and laid out by other people, i.e. by Christians from another era when the world and the Church, was a very different place. We may get fond of these inherited buildings, some of them historic treasures, but because we have a job of work to do – celebrating God's presence in worship and proclaiming good news in mission – we cannot afford to be too sentimental.

Rather, we must continually assess the rooms where we gather for worship, whether an old church building, or a school or hall, as

to their suitability. Do they help us create the kind of worship that forms us in the pattern of Christ? Do they help us welcome the newcomer, enabling them to feel included? Does their layout cause us to feel like ministers and participants, or just people who watch others do worship? Do they allow us to move and express in our worship the journey of faith?

The answer will be different in each case, but the principles remain the same. Our church buildings are there to serve the living church, not we them. All previous Christian generations (particularly Victorians!) knocked their buildings around to suit their needs, more intent on honouring their vision of God rather than the patterns of the past.

Now we are called to do the same, robustly submitting our inherited worship spaces to close scrutiny, to



determine how their re-arrangement might help us be true to ourselves as the pilgrim people of God in the 21st century.

*Rev. Richard Giles
Richard Giles was the principal speaker at the 2014 clergy conference at Pudding Hill.*

Modern Day Monk

Every summer, amid the rolling hills and ancient houses in a remote French village, the sound of thousands of young people chanting fills the air.

They come from all over the world, yet they sing with one voice.

Founded in 1941, la communauté de Taizé, or the Taizé community, is situated in an old village in Bourgogne in the East of France.

The community has become a site of Christian pilgrimage and welcomes more than 100,000 young people every year.

There, they pitch their tents and stay for a week of bible study, prayer, and Taizé's quintessential worship. They share their faith and culture with the people they meet, and are encouraged to make friends with young Christians throughout the world.

In early June, Brother Ghislain came to visit Antioch – our young

adults service – to share the story of Taizé with us.

Ghislain told us that at Taizé everything stops. It is a stillpoint. A place of reflection and prayer.

Amber Lindsay, the Antioch band leader, is considering her ministry and is starting at Laidlaw in the next semester.

Amber said she valued the experience to hear about how others live their lives with God and that she would love the opportunity to go to Taizé in the future.

"I think, personally, the experience of Taizé would be interesting. I value the idea of spending time in prayer and [being] with other Christians. In terms of music... I like the repetitiveness as it's like a prayer. I aim to mimic the mood and style of Taizé with more modern and relatable songs."

Michael Cropp

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