



# THE MOORING POST

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

## Love, Identity, and Reality TV

'The Bachelor' reality TV programme has gained national prominence in the last few months for all the wrong reasons. I admire those who resisted watching it, so for your sakes I'll briefly explain how it works. 25 young women vie for the affections of an 'eligible' bachelor through a series of meetings, dates and outdoor adventures. They compete shamelessly for his attention but one by one are rejected until only a single young woman is left - who presumably is 'Miss Right.' Unfortunately for her, on this occasion, she was jilted by the bachelor, who after it was all over, began seeing some of the other young women who had appeared on the show.

Viewers were left feeling that the bachelor had been cynically manipulative in order to 'play the field' later on. The show is shamelessly sexist - an eligible bachelor peruses a large group of women rejecting all but the 'best' one. This is the commodification of woman writ large on the screens of the nation. Furthermore the bachelor, under the guise of 'searching for love', sets up a kind of competitive 'meat market' guaranteed to manipulate and hurt.

What was interesting however, was the way The Bachelor exemplified the

fragility and shifting nature of human identity in our contemporary world. In the past we learned about who we were through family, church, village and work. This reinforced a stable view of human life - especially in family based industries or farming where multiple generations worked together.

Today our lives have become much more fragmented and people in the West tend to live, work and play in many different worlds. As a result identity is much less stable - it is created and recreated - through fashions, personal styles, social media and sexual choices. A person is someone at home, another at work, another on the weekend and yet another in social media. Jim Fidelibus in the book 'The Death of Truth' said "...the images that we are fed...are so varied and incongruent that we begin feeling like patchwork."

The Christian account of human personhood however is very different. Our identity is based first of all on the conviction that we are made in God's image and are profoundly loved by God. We've also been called into God's family - the Church; to be, to serve, to flourish and to learn how to grow into our full humanity. Christian identity is grounded fundamentally

upon God's love and acceptance of me. It is rooted in God and can never ultimately be shaken.

And being human and made in God's image is so exciting! We are capable of rational thought and able to stand outside ourselves and evaluate ourselves - to be self conscious. Of course we are infinitesimally small in comparison to the universe, but our minds are capable of probing the complexity and origins of the universe. We are exactly equipped to explore God's world.

Most exciting of all however, is that we are capable of knowing and loving God. This turns out to be the key to our identity. We have been made to thrive within this relationship of trust and love. The great Commandment, to love God and neighbour, turns out to be truer than we ever realised and better for us than we ever hoped for.

The Bachelor was billed as 'reality TV.' All I can say is that the reality can't be up to much. It was supposed to be about finding true love, but what it offered was a parody of love. But without God that might be as good as it gets.

*Rev. Mark Chamberlain*

### Dates for the Meals

June 24-26

July 29-31

August 26-28

September 16-18

Friday October 28

### Midwinter Shared Meals

This year we invite you to a new concept fellowship meal called 'Midwinter Shared Meals' with the emphasis on flexibility. Friday, Saturday or Sunday; Breakfast/Brunch, Lunch or Dinner; Child friendly or Adult only; Host or not. Pick up a registration form from the foyer or Parish Office - it's all about the pleasure of great food, fellowship and meeting new people!



*'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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# Grace and Truth: Forgotten Values in Our Contemporary Society?

John's gospel tells us that Jesus, the Son of God made his dwelling among us, and that he was 'full of grace and truth' John 1:14. During his ministry on earth Jesus exemplified for us both of these two dimensions of God's unchangeable character.

Once when attempting to resolve a dispute between two employees I asked one of them 'Is it possible that you might extend grace to this person', to which they replied 'What is grace?'

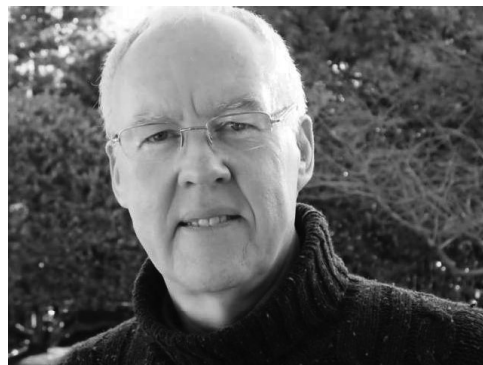
How tragic that the concept of grace has been lost in this generation. I explained that grace means to show unmerited favour, to extend the benefit of the doubt, to care for someone even when they are hostile towards you.

This is what Jesus demonstrated towards the women caught in adultery in John 8:1-11. "Has no one condemned you?" asked Jesus. "Then neither do I condemn you". Grace in action. But Jesus knew that grace was only half the message she needed to hear. "Go now and leave your life of sin," He said. Jesus' call to repentance demonstrated that both grace and truth were necessary for her redemption.

Pilate asked Jesus rhetorically 'What is truth?' John 18:38, Just as it was for my employee who had no idea about grace, truth has become subjective for this generation. What is true for you may be different from what is true for me.

Can we know truth objectively? Jesus thought so. He said we can know the truth and it would set us free (John 8:32). Free from what? Free from sin.

In a recent article Professor Chris Marshall implied that sincerity is an appropriate measure of a person's faithfulness to Christ, but is that really true? The Church in Corinth sincerely believed they were living faithfully under the Lordship of Christ, yet Paul wrote "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?" 1 Corinthians 5:1-2.



As with Jesus and the women caught in adultery, Paul demonstrates that both grace and truth are necessary for the governing of our lives, and the establishment of order within the Church.

There are issues over which Christians can agree to disagree, but sexual immorality is not one of them. Eventually Paul encouraged the church to welcome this man back following his expulsion and repentance, to 'forgive and to comfort him' (2 Corinthians 2:5-11).

God's ways do not always align comfortably with our culture's mores, but they are always redemptive - full of grace and truth!

Brendan McNeill

## Youth Ministry at St. Barnabas

Contact Harry Newton 027 342 2574

**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.

# The Time of Your Life: A Personal Reflection on Time

“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.....” Ephesians 5: 15-20.

Time, for Christians, should be far more important than money. It's a fallen world we're living in, so no doubt many people think money matters most. But it often takes just a funeral of a close friend to remind us that time is precious indeed, as no-one knows how much of it there is left.

Cantabrians are possibly far more

aware of the passing of time since our destructive earthquakes half a decade ago. We've learnt that we can insure ourselves against financial losses, but not against gaping lapses in timeliness. Our time is being wasted in trying to reinstate what we had before. No amount of effort seems to fix this.

All around there is evidence that suffering Cantabrians, of whatever belief system, are tired of having their life taken up with material possessions – and to Christians there's a nagging

sense that this post-quake package of hassle is a distraction from the main event - or the reason we're here.

We have different gifts and therefore different purposes, but we're all instructed to love God, love our neighbours, to love justice and to walk humbly. I heard one Christian describe the foundation of his security in life a few years back. He said that for Christians, it doesn't really matter where you hang your hat, because 'God is our home.'

I know we're still obliged to reinstate our physical homes, as we're able, but the basis of our true infrastructure is probably far more important to God. Have a think on these few verses. They will no doubt do all the speaking needed.

*Liesl Johnstone*



## ‘Faith in Film’ Series

We can learn so much from a good film! Why not come to any one of four films to be screened in the Tui Room on Wednesday nights from 6.30pm – 9pm in June and July. Shared meal - finger food plus soup and rolls.

**June 8**

**Film Title: “As it is in Heaven”**

Who is Jesus in our midst? Who is my neighbour? This film is about a choir conductor who helps to transform a church choir into a loving community. Best Foreign Film in 2005. Commentary and discussion led by Don Rowlands and Wendy Kington.

**June 15**

**Film Title: “Shadowlands”**

The story of Christian author C. S. Lewis who struggles to come to terms with the death of his wife from cancer. Where is God in times of suffering and loss? Commentary and discussion led by Olive Lawson and Don Rowlands.

**July 2**

**Film Title: “Amazing Grace”**

William Wilberforce and John Newton inspire Christians to stand up for social justice. What do we need to advocate and challenge in our own times?

**July 27**

**Film Title: Extracts from “The Railwayman” and “Long Walk to Freedom”**

A prisoner of war finds a way to forgive his persecutors. Nelson Mandela begins a journey of reconciliation at the end of apartheid. How do we experience forgiveness in our lives?

**Format:**

- Opening prayer
- Food is shared
- Introduction to the theme of the evening
- Watch the film extracts

- Commentary based on the spirituality, biblical themes and issues for our lives
- Group discussion and feedback
- Closing prayer

For enquiries and enrolment (for catering) contact Don Rowlands on 388 6882 or [rowlands.don@paradise.net.nz](mailto:rowlands.don@paradise.net.nz) or contact Rev. Harry Newton 027 342 2574.





## 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 1 June at 2pm in the Tui Room.  
Judith McKenzie will be speaking about her role as the new President of the Association of Anglican of Women, Diocese of Christchurch Members of the AAW In-Betweens group are warmly invited to join us.

There will be a sales table.

Leader: Madeleine Price – 354 4299

### In Betweens

Tuesday 21 June at 7.30pm in the Hall.  
Roanna Dalziel, 'Front of House Manager' for the Court Theatre, will be speaking about "All things Court Related."

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179



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# Returning Hope to Families

*Jan Murphy speaks of her faith and work at the Champion Centre*

My name is Jan Murphy. I am married to Bryce and together we have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. St Barnabas is where we were married and where we have worshipped for the past 45 years. It has been the community of faith in which we raised our 3 children and through which our journey of living, working and believing has been, in part, shaped.

I am unable to separate my faith from any part of my life including work. The relationships of believing, thinking, working and feeling, are all interconnected as are the relationships of family and community.

At the same time as having our children Rebekah, Samuel and Susanna a remarkable research project was being undertaken in the city. It led to the establishment of the Champion Centre. The history of the Champion Centre is a story of ideals, and of faith, meeting realities; of the vision of Dr Patricia Champion and of those who joined Patricia to effect change in the lives of children and their families. It is a story of relationships, of understanding that the family is the child's most important context, of knowing that emotional bonds underpin all of our development and that every relationship we have has the potential to make a difference in our lives.

The Champion Centre is now a world class early intervention service designed to meet the needs of children with multiple developmental delays resulting from a range of identifiable and unidentifiable causes.

At the heart of its practice is the belief that children with developmental challenges are children first and foremost and like all children they grow up in their families and neighbourhoods. These children – these families – have hopes and dreams.

In everyone's life there can be a defining event that veers them off the path they were steadily treading. We can all believe that we have good fortune – that if we eat the right food, work hard, are nice people – then we reap the rewards. These simple measures propel us safely through life.



Then comes a defining event. A child with a disability or a different developmental trajectory is born. With this birth the tenets of our existence, which seem so solid, can shatter like glass. The dreams and fantasies people build evaporate. It can be the darkest time – a bleak cold winter. Joy and grief can become a tug of war. These families, these mothers and their babies, can feel they are an imperfect unit in a world where perfection matters. Yet we believe that "all are welcome ... all are perfect in God's sight."

As Clinical Practice Manager at the Champion Centre, it matters enormously to me that hope is returned to families, that new dreams are built and inclusion in their community is a reality. Inclusion is a wonderful word. It is about embracing humanity and figuring out how we are going to live with one another and make it work for the best outcome.

It is about believing and celebrating all life. I believe this is what Christ teaches us.

*Jan Murphy*

# Ancient Poetry Teaches About Forgiveness

*A Biblical Study From Psalm 51 on Forgiveness by Dr Richard Neville*

Psalm 51 is an exquisite piece of poetry that has long been identified as David's prayer for forgiveness when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband Uriah killed. It is a beautiful psalm that contains profound insights, of which we have space for a couple.



Psalm 51 begins with a petition for forgiveness grounded firmly in the character of God: "have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love" (51:1). David was under no illusion that forgiveness could come by any means other than God's mercy and unfailing love. No sacrifice could atone for what he had done (51:16). And so David openly and unreservedly confesses his sin and uses a variety of images to represent forgiveness (51:1-2): the erasing of a written indictment, the washing of a stained garment, and the verb "cleanse" is a ritual term that is elsewhere translated "purify" (51:7 cf. Numbers 19:18).

None of these images from the realm of administration, or laundering, or ritual should be understood literally. David is stacking up images one upon the other as he expresses his dire need for moral forgiveness. David knew as well as anyone that forgiveness could not be earned, but is based on God's gracious and merciful



character, and it comes to those who seek it with contrite hearts (51:17).

After a few verses of confession (3-6) David resumes his petition in verses 7-12. Verses 7-9 repeat in greater detail the same request for forgiveness that we saw in verses 1 and 2, but verses 10-12 introduce something quite new. David asks God, "create in me a new heart". The verb "create" here is the same one used of God's creative work in Genesis 1. David has moved beyond simply asking for forgiveness, and is now asking that God also do a work inside him that will keep him from ever sinning so terribly again.

This is a remarkable insight. Three thousand years ago it was already clear to Israel's king that nothing short of a transformed heart would deliver human beings from their propensity to sin. He was under no illusion that external provisions like the law could ensure a life pleasing to God. The same thought is expressed in the second half of the same verse, "renew a right/steadfast spirit within me". David's request here is for an inward disposition (spirit) that would be fixed in its commitment to God.

Psalm 51 concludes with a lengthy vow of praise in which David promises to tell others about "God's ways" once he has been forgiven (51:13). God's ways here refers to the fact that God is merciful and forgives contrite sinners. After David has experienced God's mercy and has been forgiven he will be able to tell others of God's ways and as a result "sinners will turn back to you". For David, God's gracious gift of forgiveness was something to tell others about.

We owe all that we are or ever will be, to the heart and hands of God. Our forgiveness is a gift of his grace and our transformation is the work of his hands. It remains for us to make known the ways of our God

so that others will also turn back to him.



*Dr Richard Neville | Senior Lecturer,  
Laidlaw College*



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## Tribute to Geoff King

It was with regret that in March, Geoff King resigned as Director of Petersgate Counseling Centre. He had been Director since 2013. During that time Geoff has been respected by all who have had contact with him.

Geoff made the decision to resign with mixed emotions, as did the Board in receiving it. His foremost concern was for the agency's financial sustainability in an increasingly constrained funding environment. He has also felt the pressure of his considerable workload and has been 'stretched' by the challenge of balancing internal agency requirements with the growing demands of his own clients' needs.

Geoff finishes in July and takes up a position as Guidance Counsellor at Burnside High.



## National Cursillo Ultreya 2016

"Celebrating Our Journey"

Friday evening 21 October – Sunday

Noon 23 October.

Also celebrating Christchurch Cursillo's 20th birthday!

Registration forms will be out soon, via email.

If you are not on the mailing list or miss out please contact the Registrar, Glenda Prosser, phone (03) 313 5083 or email to [harmony@xtra.co.nz](mailto:harmony@xtra.co.nz).



## Voluntary Hours

Thanks so much to all those who volunteer their time for the parish and community through St Barnabas ministries. You offer your time in a huge range of ways!

Just last week Sue Angus and Peter Chapman both agreed to be part of the Pastoral Care and Outreach Team. They will join the five existing members. This is the group that provides oversight, guidance and support for the many pastoral care and social service ministries that take place through our parish.

The impact that volunteers have on our church and community was clear when the Volunteer Hours Spreadsheet was updated recently. Every Parish ministry is listed along with the people and time involved. We found that parishioners are contributing approximately 27,000 hours each year to supporting, helping, visiting, cooking, organizing, serving etc etc.

What a tremendous commitment! Thank you to all those who serve Christ by serving our neighbours!

## What's Coming Up?

### Men's Dinner

All men are invited to the annual Dinner at 6pm in the parish hall. Guest speakers Duane Major and Adam Gardner speak about buying a beach in the Abel Tasman. Tickets \$25 from parish office.

WEDNESDAY  
JUNE

### Sponsored Walk/Run

There are 15 members in Team Barney this year all raising funds for the church repair by walking or running a Half Marathon or 10km. Lend your support by sponsoring them!

SUNDAY  
JUNE 5

### Patronal Party

Mark the date in your diary! This will be a great evening of food and homegrown entertainment. Parish groups will contribute items. Begins at 4.30pm in the hall – bring your own plates and cutlery.

SATURDAY  
JUNE 11

### First Aid Course

All staff and key ministry leaders will be undertaking a First Aid Course throughout the day from 8am – 5pm. This is part of the parish's Health and Safety strategy.

SATURDAY  
JUNE 18

### Commission Team Tonga

The 12 strong missions team will be commissioned at the 10.30am Lifestreams service. They will be in Tonga from 25 June – 1 July to support the All Saints building programme.

SUNDAY  
JUNE 19

### Midwinter Shared Meal

The first meals begin on Friday, Saturday or Sunday of this weekend. Pick up a sign-up form from the office and select your options. The emphasis is on flexibility so that everyone can be included!

FRIDAY  
JUNE 24

# 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, 3rd & 5th 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 Applications Lodged:** The Vicar reported that three funding applications had been lodged for the 24-7 Youth Work service at Boys' High. Funders included the Rata Foundation, the Keith Laugesen Trust and the Todd Foundation. This funding is required to supplement funding from Boys' High, the Riccarton Community Church and our parish.

**Defibrillator for Parish:** Investigation is being undertaken about purchasing a Defibrillator for the parish in case a parishioner or member of the public has a cardiac arrest. The cost, maintenance, storage, training and legal framework will be investigated.

**Ministry Team Goals:** A schedule of goals for the various parish ministry teams were submitted for the year 2016-17. The intention is to help each team carry forward the mission of our parish – 'following Jesus and extending God's love' - in their respective areas. These include Worship, Prayer Ministry, Pastoral Care and Outreach, Overseas Mission, Discipleship and Evangelism, Children Youth and Young Adults, Communications and Finance & Stewardship.

**Future Planning:** Following the Vestry and Staff Planning day, Vestry appointed a short term group to evaluate and refine the ideas that were produced. One of the main themes was the recognition of the need for greater intentionality over the making of disciples and including new people in parish life.

**Planning for Church Opening:** Vestry established two task groups that relate to the opening of the church when all the repairs are complete. The first group will be responsible for organising the opening celebrations as well as arranging for some new interior decorations. The second group will be responsible for consulting the parish over the worship places and times of the various congregations as well as developing a ministry plan to encourage new people to attend church and become part of the church family. We will also need to plan for an increased number of Funerals and Weddings.

## REGISTER

### FUNERAL

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

May

13 Brian Johnson

### BAPTISMS

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

April

24 Elena Rose Ash

May

8 James Patrick Wilson

### Merivale St Albans Games Afternoon

The Social Justice Group of the parish of Merivale St Albans are holding their annual 'Games Afternoon' on Tues 21 June at St Barnabas at 1.30pm. Activities include Bridge, Mah Jong and Scrabble. Phone their church office on 355 3287 to register. Proceeds, \$10 entry fee and raffles go towards a scholarship for a student from Aranui High School to go to Polytech and shoe vouchers for school children.

## Contributions to the Mooring Post:

Deadline for July Issue

Friday 10 June





## 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. Olive Lawson 021 067 6587.

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

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