



THE MOORING POST

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

Having Faith: Reasons of the Mind and Heart

Feature writer Joe Bennett wrote an article recently in the Press suggesting that Darwin and Dawkins 'had the church by the throat' and although he applauded the personal qualities of the Pope it was time for the Catholics to 'ditch the hocus pocus'. The article made me think about the nature of faith and why so many people in our community think that faith is contrary to reason. Many seem to support Dawkins who said that faith is 'blind trust in the absence of evidence, even in the teeth of evidence.'

But is this correct? From the very earliest days Christian apologists have sought to present Christianity as a rational faith anchored in history and appealing to human reason. Augustine in the 4th and 5th centuries said 'Heaven forbid that we should believe in such a way as not to accept or seek reasons...But they are much deceived who think that we believe in Christ without any proofs concerning Christ.'

There are a whole range of reasons why one might embrace the Christian faith. These reasons fall on a spectrum from subjective at one end and objective and rational at the other.

For example, some experience an encounter with God which is personal and subjective. Others point to the

deep human awareness or longing for something that is much more than is currently experienced. We feel a deep need to encounter the transcendent one who is the ground of all being. Just as hunger is fulfilled with food and thirst with drink, so our desire for God can only be fulfilled when we come to know God through Jesus Christ. Again Augustine put it well when he prayed to God 'You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.'

Other reasons tend towards the rational end of the spectrum. For example our existence itself is suggestive of a creator. We all know that things don't create themselves - they are made to exist. And yet it was only relatively recently, that scientists discovered that the universe had a beginning. Just over 13 billion years ago all the matter and energy in the universe exploded outwards from a singularity - what we now call the Big Bang. As the matter cooled, gravity clumped the matter together into galaxies, stars and the whole structure of the universe was formed. But whatever exists must be caused to exist by a power and a mind greater than the thing itself.

Furthermore, the universe appears

to be rather precisely tuned to enable human life to develop on planet earth. There are up to 35 constants such as the speed of light, the force of gravity and the masses of the elementary particles, if they were even slightly altered, we wouldn't be here to talk about it. It very much appears that life on earth was made to happen by a higher power.

The moral law that seems to pervade human societies is also suggestive of a moral law giver - another name for God. Atheists tend to take a more pragmatic approach to ethics, arguing that our moral framework is something that the community itself develops and agrees upon. However this approach acknowledges no higher law capable of critiquing human standards. And yet we all invoke this deeper law when we see examples of injustice. We know that certain things are just plain wrong, whether or not there is a human law that spells it out.

So in this way the Christian faith appeals to both the heart and the head. It is not contrary to reason but fulfils our deepest aspirations and needs.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain



Come and hear Nick and Tessa Laing NZCMS Mission Partners in Uganda

Tessa helps organize community aid projects and Nick is a doctor.

**They will be speaking at the 8am, 9am and Lifestreams services on Sunday 15 November
 Come and be inspired by God's global mission!**

'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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Marriage Preparation at St Barnabas – Definitely a Major Decision

Last Sunday Kathryn and I had the pleasure of meeting three delightful young couples who are about to be married; Anna and Jason and Santos and Susie from St Barnabas and Craig and Bec who attend another church in the city. Together we began the first of a five week marriage preparation course based on the Alpha programme originating from Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican Church in London.

The program is designed to assist couples to develop their all important communications skills, how to resolve conflict and explore meaningful ways to express their lifelong commitment to one another. There is extensive use of video presentation, combined with times of practical engagement where couples put into practice what they have just learned.

It was wonderful to see the commitment these young people have towards each other and the investment of time they are prepared to make in developing their relationships.

Everyone appears to have enjoyed the first session, the only minor disappointment being my marriage joke that no one seemed to grasp. Even Sam Knight didn't particularly get it when I ran it passed him.

Undeterred dear readers, I share it with you, confident that it will resonate with some of you.

'Murray and Barbara, decided that it would be good to discuss the process of decision making in their marriage. "Why don't we do this" suggested Barbara -

"I'll take responsibility for all the minor decisions, and you, being the man and the head of the house, can be responsible for all of the major decisions?" Murray felt that was entirely appropriate, and talking to him recently after 40 years of marriage he reported they have yet to make a major decision!"

Brendan McNeill



St Barnabas to Help Refugees Learn English

No one wants to be a refugee. Refugee status is forced upon people by war or persecution. Fearing for their lives and the safety of their families, people leave their homes, places of work and worship, community and country, taking any path that promises a glimmer of a new and safer life. The trauma and loss refugees experience can never be underestimated and often echoes through the generations.

Next year our government has promised to bring in an additional 600 refugees above the usual quota of 750. Some will come to Christchurch. Resettlement in New Zealand brings its

own challenges. Isolation, homesickness and loneliness go hand in hand with the relief and gratitude experienced by refugees.

Once the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter are addressed, speaking English becomes a major stumbling block. Without English refugees struggle to become fully functioning members of society. As part of our response to this need, and in keeping with our mission to be a compassionate, spiritual centre in our community, next year we will be offering a free English language class for refugees.

Olive Lawson

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.

Thank you from Philip and Adrienne

Dear Mark and Parishioners,

Our hearts are filled with gratitude by the expressions of goodwill, love and appreciation made at our farewell on Sunday 27 September. The generous provision of food, including the roast pig from the Havea family was a veritable feast! The words of thanks, the singing of the Celtic Blessing and the attendance of so many was greatly affirming.

Many people spoke to us following the well-attended morning services, others have written, phoned and sent cards in the preceding weeks. We have always felt richly blessed throughout our time in the parish and so the farewell event, books, other gifts and generous cheque all confirm both God's abundant blessing and the realisation of how fortunate we have been to serve in the Fendalton Parish.

Please thank everyone most sincerely for everything. God bless you all in this great ministry and mission. With our love and best wishes to all.

Philip and Adrienne



Reflections on Philip and Adrienne's Farewell

As I reflected on farewelling Adrienne and Philip, I remembered all the clergy we have said goodbye to over the years and the sadness we felt at their parting. Then I mused about the many and varied contributions of their ministries to our parish. We have journeyed with those for whom providing pastoral care and social justice were core to who they were. I remember the outspokenness of some, the gentleness and compassion of others, and yet others who had the ability to make real for me their lived experience of spirituality. What a diverse and engaging group they would be if they were all gathered together!

These varied aspects of ministry are reflected in our wider parish life – how thankful I am for the colour and variety that is encompassed within our Christian family at St Barnabas. This led me to wonder whether we could come together as a Christian family to celebrate our unity and diversity. The earthquakes have left us with no opportunity to do this - except when we have the marquee.

I imagine a service of celebration where representatives from all congregations take part - Sundays at 8am, 9am, 10.30am, 5pm and 7pm and Thursdays at 10am. Perhaps the beginning of Advent would be an appropriate time. It is the beginning of the Church year and could be a celebration of our parish in all its colourful diversity, and a chance to express the joy of being together with all our Christian brothers and sisters.

Let's come together to celebrate our unity, our fellowship, our belief – let us embody our confidence in this place, in our parish, in each other. Let it be said of us "See how these Christians love one another"

Zeta Laurie

New Chapter for 24-7 Youth Work at Boys' High

Malo e lelei! My name is Perry and I am the new 24-7 Youth Worker at CBHS. 24-7 Youth Work is an established, not for profit organisation, that is focused on building a trust relationship between a local church and a local school in the context of the local community working together.

I'll be working with Matt Meek our other 24-7 Youth Worker under the leadership of Sam Knight, our team leader.

Matt is a youth pastor at Riccarton Community Church and is responsible for youth activities and other community based events. Matt focuses more on the sports side of things at CBHS, like coaching football and volleyball teams.

After talking with the Assistant Headmaster, he would like to see our team getting more involved with the Pacific Island and Maori students. I will be focusing on these students, specifi-

cally new Tongan students.

The opportunity to take up 24-7 actually came up a couple of months ago. At that time I felt God calling me to this ministry but because of my own selfish reasons I turned it down. God frequently called me through the people around me, but I was persistent! I kept making excuses and tried to run away from it - basically pulling a 'Jonah.' However after a series of events in my life I realised, just like Jonah, that I couldn't run away from God. I finally gave up with all the running and excuse making and answered his call and said yes.

Now I am answering Gods' call in the hope that I can connect with the young people at CBHS and share with them God's love through my own experiences and most of all showing God's love through Jesus Christ!

Perry Vakameilalo





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 4 November at 2 pm

AGM in the Tui Room

Leader: Adrienne Robinson – 352 9200

In Between

In Between AGM

Tuesday 17 November at 7.30 pm in the Hall

The AGM will be followed by Eucharist

No sales table

All most welcome

Leader Pam Chapman 322 9409

Parishioner Interview with Miyuki Saito

Where do you come from and where did you grow up?: I came from Japan – from the northern island Hokkaido. We lived in a city called Hakodate which has a population of about 300,000. The climate is similar to Christchurch.

What family members do you have?: My husband's name is Hiroshi and then we have a 20 year old son whose name is Kenshirou, a 16 year old daughter whose name is Natsuko and a 13 year old son whose name is Yusuke. Yusuke and Natsuko go to Middleton Grange School.

What brought you to New Zealand?: A person told us that there would be a big earthquake in Asia somewhere and so we decided to shift to New Zealand. Our family decided to escape and shift to another country and so we came to Christchurch. My husband wanted to go to the US but because of the guns I said 'No' I wanted to come to New Zealand. We didn't know much about New Zealand before we came. New Zealand is warmer and peaceful. That was 7 years ago.

How long have you been learning the English language?: I learned English from aged 13 for about 8 years. I was a good student but we didn't learn conversational English – we only read and wrote English.

Why did you first come to St Barnabas?: I came to St Barnabas

to sing in the Japanese Choir. Then my son Yusuke got to know Keenan Aubrey and his mother Helene invited me to St Barnabas. I was a nominal Buddhist and believed in God but not the Christian God. I like a logical approach to religion. I am interested in Christianity but was not able to learn about it. I have the chance to learn here at St Barnabas.

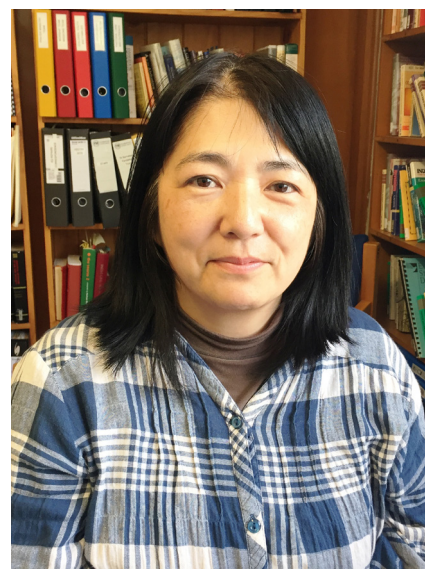
How did you get involved in the Alpha Course?: I was invited to the Alpha Course and then Rev. Sam Knight got a copy of the Alpha Course in Japanese for me and I was able to learn a lot and I was very glad and grateful. I watched each session of Alpha 2 or 3 times.

What did you learn?: I learned about Jesus, God the Father, the Holy Spirit and how to pray. This new information was amazing and surprising for me. I knew that I didn't know anything about Christianity for example I didn't know that Jesus is God's Son and I didn't know that Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father are one God.

Did the course in the Japanese language help you?: Yes! It opened my eyes and my understanding.

What do you like about being involved at St Barnabas?: I feel peaceful and I love the people. I feel that the people are beautiful and that they're good.

How do you respond to Jesus?: I want to learn more and I want to know more about Jesus. I believe in my head but I don't feel Jesus in my heart. But I want to know him. I'm glad I came here but I want to be sure.



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Forgotten or Forsaken... Where on Earth is God today?

Joe Bennett's regular column in The Press, with its trenchant views on every-day life, is compulsive reading for many. But too often Christians and their belief in God, whether Pope or bible basher, are a prime target of his ridicule or disdain. Let's not be too hard on Joe – he is expressing views that are widely held today, if seldom uttered. He simply has the courage to articulate them.

If there was one book I would ask Joe in all fairness and integrity to read, and consider alongside of Darwin and Dawkins, it would be Ron Hay's 'Finding the Forgotten God - Credible Faith for a Secular Age'. Here, Ron deals with the most common 'road-blocks to faith' that keep many distant from God, such as reconciling science with religion, conflicting views on creation and the origins of life and the

problem of suffering.

But it is not only Joe who would profit from reading this slim 200 page book. Believers also need to think through these issues so that at the next coffee break we can, with more confidence, contribute positively to discussions about church, life and faith today.

Not that everyone will be enticed to buy a copy – and then actually read it. It is not Mills and Boon. Ron himself acknowledges in his Introduction 'This is a book for those who care about the 'big questions' of life.' But it is well-earthed in the soil of Aotearoa - and easy on the eye. Even our Curate Sam and Kim Knight's discovery of faith features in it!

For home groups in the parish, chapters 1-13 offer excellent resource material for a three month discussion

course. Copies of the book are available from the Parish Office for \$25.00 which represents a small discount on the retail price.

Brian Carrell.



Great Weather and Vibe for Parish Fair

What a great day for a fair! The sun shone down as people arrived for our biennial Spring Fair. It really was an opportunity for us to welcome the whole community onto our site and show once more that St Barnabas is one of the spiritual centres of our community.

The atmosphere was extremely positive and embracing. Many people, including those not connected to the parish, commented on this. Large queues lined up early to get that elusive bargain and they were not disappointed! It was a great feeling to give excellent value for money to those setting up a home or needing some furniture, linen,

child's toy or item for the kitchen.

The stalls were fantastic - the white elephant stall with its variety of goods, the plant stall with its beautifully presented plants, the hall filled with gifts, china and jewellery, the aroma of sausages and onions cooking, the music and entertainment, the bouncy castle and the face painting - many other stalls contributed to a fantastic day.

People sat having their morning teas at the tables under the trees. Hillary from "The Breeze" Radio Station kept the mood moving along.

Hours of preparation were rewarded with approximately \$25,000 taken on the day. Some more money is still to come in and expenses to be deducted. Don McKenzie, Ruth Harwood and their teams should all be congratulated for this great effort.

Shirley-Anne Collins





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An Invitation to 'Take a Breath'

In amongst the busyness of Christmas preparations, why not 'take a breath' of eternal Love?

We are privileged indeed to be able to spend a few hours in Alison Ayling's beautiful garden once more.

Angela Brown and Sage Burke will offer us one or two things to ponder, then we will be encouraged to spend some quiet time, maybe sitting in the garden, snoozing in the sun, enjoying the beauty of our surroundings and pondering our amazing God!

Never done anything like this before? You will be warmly welcomed and we guarantee you will leave refreshed!

- Saturday 28 November
- 1-4pm (if you need to go earlier that's OK)
- Gold coin koha suggested
- Organised by the Prayer Ministry Oversight Team

We'd like to know how many to prepare for, so we ask that you let the office know by 24 November.



CAMEO –

Good for the Soul!

CAMEO stands for Come And Meet Each Other – it's a friendship group for seniors and a great place to come to meet others and have lots of fun together. CAMEO meets each Thursday afternoon (school term) from 1:30pm to 3pm in the hall.

A programme with lots of variety is provided and includes exercises, quizzes, puzzles and games. The whole afternoon is about interaction, mental stimulation and fun! We close off with afternoon tea which is provided by our willing volunteers.

This term's programme includes a quiz, a Guy Fawkes theme as well as Show Week and Christmas activities.

If you need transport, this can be arranged - we want everyone to be able to participate. If you would like to be involved in this group either as a volunteer or a participant please contact the parish office.

We also welcome Seminarian Intern Sage Burke onto our organising team. Sage will be present at the weekly meetings to offer his support to CAMEO.

Shirley-Anne Collins

What's Coming Up?

Remembrance Sunday

All those who have lost loved ones in the last two years are warmly invited to attend this service of remembrance.

Everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle and hear names of loved ones read out.

SUNDAY **2**
NOVEMBER

Nick and Tessa Laing Visit

As a parish we support Mission Partners Nick and Tessa and have the opportunity to see them as they come to preach at our morning services.

SUNDAY **15**
NOVEMBER

Mooring Post Deliverers Morning Tea

All those who faithfully deliver the parish magazines are warmly invited to morning tea in the hall at 10.45am. This will immediately follow the 10am Communion service.

THURSDAY **26**
NOVEMBER

Wafer Room Party

All those involved in the Wafer Room ministry are invited to the annual Christmas Party at 4.30pm at the Vicarage, 7 Makora St.

THURSDAY **26**
NOVEMBER

Advent Lessons and Carols

Come to this special 5pm service as we mark the beginning of Advent.

SUNDAY **29**
NOVEMBER

Priesting in Transitional Cathedral

Come to support Rev Harry Newton and Rev Ben Truman as they are ordained Priests in the Transitional Cathedral at 3pm.

SUNDAY **29**
NOVEMBER

DIRECTORY

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MOORING POST DESIGN

Alex Thomson
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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 & 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

Church Walk Through: Vestry agreed that a 'walk through' of the church should be organised. This took place on Sunday 11 October and a large number of parishioners took the opportunity to go into the church for the first time in almost 5 years.

Blackout Curtains: A photographic group want to hire the hall but it needs to be fitted with blackout curtains. Wendy Kington, Greg Brown and the Vicar have investigated this and it is possible to have them fitted. Wendy and Greg adjusted some donated curtains to see if they would fit.

Registering for Charities Commission: Alistair Sheard will be completing the application forms for the parish to be registered as a charity through the Charities Commission. The Diocese has decided that all parishes should register rather than just having the Diocese registered

Parish Fair: The Parish Fair was a great success because it built on the knowledge and experience of previous fairs. The provisional profit was about \$25,000 but there is further income and some expenditure to come out. The overwhelming view was that this was the best organised fair for many years. Don Mackenzie, Ruth Harwood and the whole team should be congratulated. There were well over 100 volunteers – many people had worked hard for many months. Large numbers of non-parishioners were present.

Advent Calendar: Vestry were very supportive of a plan put forward by Megan Blakie to produce an attractive Advent Calendar that would be given away to people during the Fair and also be included in the December Mooring Post. This is a way of helping people engage with the season of Advent and giving them a reason to pause at this busy time of the year.

Cost Splitting: Chris Wilson was asked to organise a meeting with Suzanne Price to discuss the way the costs for the church repair have been split between CPT and the parish. The Works Team believe that some clarification is required.

REGISTER

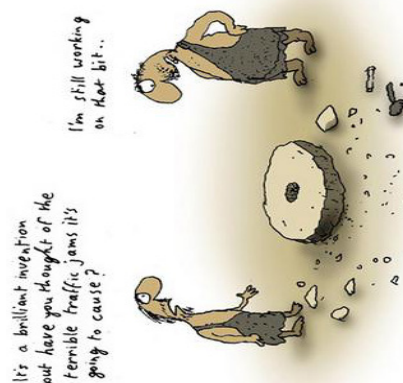
REGISTER

FUNERALS

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

September

- 15 Bryan Neville Le Cren
21 Annie Elizabeth Moore



Contributions to the Mooring Post:

Deadline for December Issue

Friday 13 November



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 3.30 – 5.30pm.
Angela Brown 027 335 0105

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