



THE MOORING POST

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

Trump and Smith - Who Says Their Behaviour Was Wrong?

US Republican nominee Donald Trump provoked the ire of all but his most one-eyed supporters in recent days when news of his brazen and unwanted sexual advances toward women were revealed. Commentator D.C. McAllister put it well when he said “Never Trumpers descended in holier-than-thou glee as they declared how noble and right they’ve always been not to support such a despicable man. And the left has been howling like puritanical wolves, condemning him for his immorality and sexist treatment of women.”

Similar cries have been heard in our own country at the behaviour of All Black Aaron Smith whose brief tryst with a young woman in a disabled toilet at Christchurch airport was recorded by a passerby and made public. Later Smith said that it was a ‘huge mistake’ and Coach Hansen commented that his behaviour had ‘breached team standards.’ Talkback radio ran hot with outrage at Smith’s actions.

The one question that was not commonly asked however, was on what grounds had Smith done anything that was objectively ‘wrong’. What was the basis of his transgression? So what was the source of all the righteous indignation?

In an age of moral relativism, it is extraordinary that the general public still finds some actions objectively wrong and are not afraid to say so.

In spite of the apparently consensual nature of Smith’s liaison, and that no one acted illegally, we all seem to instinctively call upon a higher law to adjudicate. Our ethical instincts, unbidden, rear up within us.

Now if God does not exist, then it logically follows that objective, moral values and duties do not exist either. As a result, the most you can ever say is that, in the evolutionary process, certain ways of behaviour turned out to be more beneficial for our survival than for others. Philosopher of Science Michael Ruse said “I appreciate that when somebody says ‘Love thy neighbor as thyself,’ they think they are referring above and beyond themselves.... Nevertheless...such reference is truly without foundation. Morality is just an aid to survival and reproduction.”

If then our actions are determined by evolution and the resulting ‘herd instinct’, then personal ethical choices may be apparent but are not actually real. Indeed if there is no God, then objective morality and free choice are both illusory. Atheist writer Sam Harris said that ‘no person is more or less responsible for the actions they perform.’ So according to this account of morality, no one is morally responsible for anything in which case Smith has a surfeit of excuses - ‘Who said it was wrong?’ and/or ‘I had no choice.’

However there is ample evidence

to suggest that God does exist and one of the most powerful arguments is that humankind retains a kind of memory of God and God’s commands to act ethically and responsibly - to love our neighbour. In spite of a thoroughgoing moral relativism that pervades the West, we still retain a potent trace of God’s moral law - and it shows itself when we ‘feel’ that certain behaviour is ‘wrong’. The Christian faith offers a solid foundation for morality because it is based on the character of a loving God.

CS Lewis wrote “If we ask: ‘Why ought I to be unselfish?’ and you reply ‘Because it is good for society,’ we may then ask, ‘Why should I care what’s good for society except when it happens to pay me personally?’ and then you will have to say, ‘Because you ought to be unselfish’— which simply brings us back to where we started.”

The Christian faith offers an objective basis for the ‘ought’ we often feel which transcends human laws and regulations. It explains where our deeply ingrained sense of right and wrong came from and reinforces the ‘ought’ through the Ten Commandments and the teaching of Christ. Fortunately our faith in God also offers the resources to help us live up to this kind of ethical life - to love God and our neighbour as ourselves - as well as the grace and forgiveness when we fail.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain

The GREAT ADVENT-ure

An opportunity to take time out from the busyness of life to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas.

Saturday 19 November from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Gather at 2pm or come between 2 to 4 pm

There will be stations around St Barnabas with opportunities to reflect, consider, laugh and contemplate the sacred in everyday life.

Stations will include DVD’s, paintings and other mixed media.



‘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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A Christian Response to the Refugee Crisis

Brendan McNeill reflects on the book of Ruth and the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the light of the current refugee crisis in Europe

What is an appropriate Christian response to the current refugee and migration crisis from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe and much of the western world? Reading the book of Ruth following Rev. Mark's recent sermon, there are several aspects about Ruth's migration to Israel that separates her story from the current flow of predominantly Muslim populations into the west.

Before she arrived in Israel, Ruth had made a confession of faith, "Your people will be my people and your God my God." She had learned about the Lord from her husband and mother in law that resulted in her expression of faith in the God of Israel. Despite the time of Judges being one where 'everyone did what was right in their own eyes', Boaz was an honourable man of deep faith who lived and worked with people of faith. Ruth's migration to Israel is a world apart from what is happening now in Europe and to a lesser extent, New Zealand.

What would Boaz and his harvesters' response have been if it was not just Ruth and Naomi who had arrived from Moab, but 1,000, or 10,000 or 100,000 Moabites, who were predominantly young men of fighting age? Would they have seen them as legitimate migrants or as a potential threat to their security? Would they have welcomed them, or possibly 'built a fence' at the border? These are the questions facing Europe today and to a lesser extent all of us here in New Zealand.

Is the PM of Hungary, Viktor Orban correct when he says it is their 'Christian duty' not to allow large scale Muslim immigration into Hungary as demanded by the EU, but instead to build camps for those who are displaced by conflict in Libya?



The story of the good Samaritan is often cited as a justification for the open ended acceptance of refugees here in New Zealand, however upon re-reading that story it is apparent that the Samaritan did not take the unfortunate traveller home to his family, but rather placed him into a 'third space' that was safe for him, and paid for all the costs of his care until he was well enough to return home.

Do we risk importing all of the problems associated with Muslim immigration that we have seen in France, Germany and the rest of Europe? It is difficult to see how parts of Europe can now avoid wide spread civil unrest, if not civil war as a result of their experiment with open immigration from Islamic countries.

That we are called as Christians to demonstrate our compassion in a practical way is a given; the question of how best to do that remains open.

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.

St Barnabas Progress Report

Lunds continue to make great progress repairing and strengthening St Barnabas Church. All the transverse ties which strengthen the corners of the building have been installed. The last of the smaller diameter pins are also being installed – these pins strengthen the walls by connecting inside, middle and outside layers.

Most of the parrass plates have been installed – you'll see these on all the gable ends. These plates and through-bolts more firmly connect the gable ends with the roof diaphragm and end trusses. They will be one of the few visible reminders of the earthquake and subsequent repairs and strengthening work.

The sprinkler pipes are also being installed – they are being painted brown to reduce their visual impact. The sprinkler system valve house is being constructed near the North

West corner of the car park. It will be a plastered concrete block construction with a roof that matches the church roof.

The stone masons have also been busy finishing off the wall straightening on the north west side. They have almost finished repairing the small window on the west side of the tower. Stewart Stained Glass, who are repairing the stained glass windows, have been on site measuring the openings and getting ready for installation.

Next week tradesmen will begin injecting the specialist 'Mapei' grout into the concrete core in all the walls. This high-tech, low viscosity grout, will fill the voids, strengthen the walls and increase the resilience of the entire structure.

The project team received a report from a roofing expert recently

which indicated that the lead lined roof valleys had, after 90 years, become very thin and needed to be replaced. There has already been one significant leak where failure of the lead has taken place. This repair is not part of the contract but must be done at this time. Vestry have asked that a quote be sought for a full roof repair.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain



Yes Britain's Prime Minister is a Vicar's Daughter

Recently an article came across the Vicar's desk, giving an insight into Theresa May's background and core values. Britain's shock vote to leave the EU in June propelled her to power as Prime Minister tasked with carrying out this monumental process. We have more in common with Theresa May than we realise! After reading the article I thought I would share my understanding of where the strength comes from for this quiet, shy and judicious person.

Theresa May spent her childhood in Oxfordshire, the only child of an Anglican vicar – The Rev. Hubert Brasier and his wife Zaidee. She attended a publicly funded grammar school and describes herself as having been a "goody two shoes"! She took it very seriously being the vicar's daughter and thought it important to behave in a particular way. Her memories are of an open home where parishioners frequently came to visit and were always welcome.

By the age of 12, Theresa knew she wanted to be a politician and by 20 she was reading geography at Oxford University. She met her husband, Philip May, at a Conservative Party disco and they have been married for over forty years, both having careers in the finance services. In 1981, three tragedies impacted on the Mays lives – the accidental death of Theresa's father, the death of her mother from multiple sclerosis and the news that they couldn't have children.

Theresa May realised her dream of becoming a politician in 1997. While not flaunting her faith, she has

spoken on BBC Radio 4 of her faith impacting on her politics. Every Sunday when she can, Theresa May attends St Andrews in Sonning in Berkshire, where the vicar describes the Mays as very supportive parishioners in all aspects of church life.

With her great inner strength rooted in the Christian faith, hard work ethic, calmness and ability to see the bigger picture, Theresa May, with God's grace, will be able to lead Britain through these troubled times.

Suzie Walker



Theresa with her parents Zaidee and Rev. Hubert Brasier



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 2 November, 2pm in the Tui Room.

AGM followed by our Vicar Mark and his wife Pip speaking about their recent pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Turkey.

A sales table will be held.

Leader: Madeleine Price – 354 4299

In Betweens

Tuesday 15 November at 7.30pm in the hall.

AGM followed by a short communion service led by the Vicar. No sales table. All welcome.

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179



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Stay Connected!

Keep up to date with the latest happenings around the parish and community.

On our website you will find detailed information about our ministries, copies of the pewsheets and Mooring Post and sermon recordings.

'Like' us on Facebook to check out our latest pictures and to see what's happening.

www.stbarnabas.org.nz

www.facebook.com/st.barnabas.nz

St Barnabas & St Thomas
All Welcome!

Wild and Remote Baptism Reflects Bold Step of Faith

Clemency Johnstone answers a few questions about her faith and decision to be baptised recently.

When did you first become aware of Jesus? Bible in Schools! We had this teacher - we called her the 'Green Lady' because she only ever wore green - who one day told us that she was leaving because God had called her to be a missionary in another country. As an eight year old it really struck me that she would totally give up her current life for something that God had put on her heart instead.

So you grew up in a Christian household - why did you decide to be baptised now? I always thought I would get baptised at some point, but during high school I didn't feel quite ready. I suppose it was a bit daunting or scary in a weird kind of way. When I went to university in Dunedin I realised that I really wanted to be baptised but I decided to wait until I got back to Christchurch - partly because I wanted Harry to baptise me but also because this is where my family and friends are.

How would you explain baptism to one of your non-Christian friends? It's a public act to declare my faith in God. It's like a sign of the work of Jesus in my life as a Christian.

Now, you didn't end up being baptised in a church...where did you get baptised and why? My brother Innes and I got baptised at Waimairi Beach. We both really liked the idea of it being a wild, remote place which took a bit of effort to get to - as a reflection of this bold step in our faith! Following Jesus can be pretty wild and even isolating at times, and it's not always easy but it's definitely worth it in the end!

Having grown up in a Christian family were your parents influential in you growing in faith? Yeah definitely! Mum in particular would always offer advice in biblical principles. For example, "those who sow in tears, reap in joy." She'd ask questions around how we could act in a way that Jesus would, which was really cool.

Who else would you say has been pivotal or influential in your faith journey? There have been so many people it's hard to name them all! Definitely my youth leaders at St Augustine's in Cashmere. I also made some really good Christian friends at Otago University who have been really influential in helping me go deeper in my faith. One particularly inspirational person I ran into at university was one of the pastors at DCBC, Mike Bagge. He took a real interest in the spiritual lives of me and my friends. You got the feeling it wasn't just because it was his job but because he really cared.

Have there been any events or experiences in your life which have been spiritually significant for you?

Oh man, they happen all the time! Going to Easter Camp when I was at school was really formational. Also seeing my friends become Christians has been really significant because this was often an answer to prayer for me, and I've seen how real Jesus has become for them. One significantly influential experience for me has to be my youth ambassadorship to Nepal for the Leprosy Mission. It really opened my eyes to the kind of role I could have when I graduate as a doctor.

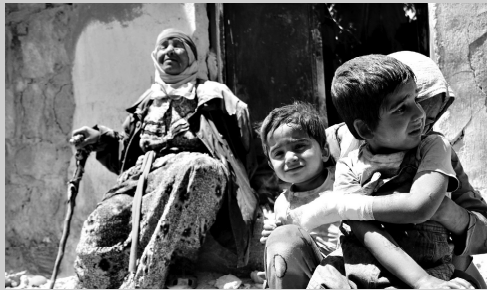


Clemency Johnstone with Harry Newton.

Omran Daqneesh – Face of Aleppo Agony

You may have seen the images of Omran Daqneesh, the little boy pulled from rubble and placed into an ambulance following an airstrike in Aleppo, Syria. Rather than crying in fear or from pain he stared blankly at the cameras, disoriented and in shock.

The photo reminded me of the face of my own son Josiah. True, he can be difficult. He can throw fits. His favourite word is 'no.' But he also gives amazing hugs and kisses, laughs constantly, and is an incredible blessing to us. Omran is precious too. Sure, he has grown up on the other side of the world to Josiah in a predominantly Muslim, war-torn country. But Omran bears the image of God as much as any other little boy.



While the images which circulated of Omran were indeed heart breaking, the reality is that the majority of coverage of Syria goes unread. I spoke recently with the Dean of East Cairo who voiced his frustration with the apparent indifference of the Western World regarding the growing violence and unrest right across the Middle East.

My sense is that we avoid reading stories about Syria because of an overwhelming sense of powerlessness. The emotions aroused by images of children suffering are powerful, but what can we do? How do we as Christians respond? Well, there are a few things we can do:

1. Pray: As we pray to a just God



of infinite compassion remember to uplift those charged with negotiating peace. Pray for the many millions in need of aid. Pray for those risking their lives in order to reach them. Pray that our own hearts will not be hardened.

2. Give: The extent of the need in Syria, and those who have fled, is overwhelming. The United Nations estimates that there are currently 13.5 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance and only a third of their appeal target for aid has been raised.
3. Advocate: Much of the commentary on Syria has emphasised the complicated nature of the conflict. However one simple thing we can do is write to our respective MPs to demand New Zealand uses its newly gained Security Council status to exert diplomatic pressure on key international players.

Rev Harry Newton.

Plumbing the Depths at Deeper Camp

Recently 16 of our young people attended the annual Christchurch Diocesan youth camp held at Waipara Boys Brigade Camp. Harry sat down with a few of those who went along to hear what they thought about Deeper Camp 2016.

Levi Johnstone, a Deeper Camp first-timer, wasn't too sure of what to expect "but after I'd been at the camp for a little bit I started to get a better understanding about what this camp was all about. From bonfires to conversations, there were a lot of things going on and they had planned it all out well. I really enjoyed Night Prayer and the workshops on offer but the thing I enjoyed most was the fact that we were all there to go deeper with God."

For Lucy Webster, another Deeper Camp first-timer, picking a single highlight just doesn't seem possible. "Camp overall was just amazing but I'd have to say that meeting so many people who have such an amazing amount of faith was definitely a big highlight. The worship at night was pretty awesome. If you wanted you could stay in the hall after the service and listen to the band play while praying. I personally reached out to God...and I really built a stronger faith at Deeper Camp."

However according to Robert Kingsley camp wasn't totally about being deep and meaningful. "There was a wide range of awesome activities - a weird mutated version of dodgeball, the world's biggest tyre swings, the biggest obstacle course I have ever seen... water slides, flying foxes, trampolines, stilts and so much more!"

But camp wasn't just about fun and games for Robert. "Camp gave me a chance to go deeper beyond myself and think about how my actions have consequences. I found the theme of self-sacrifice as a disciple to be really challenging."

So all in all Deeper Camp seems to have been a 'deep' experience!

Rev Harry Newton, Levi Johnstone, Lucy Webster and Robert Kingsley





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Reopening of Church

The time has finally come when we look forward to the opening of the church with some confidence. A series of events has been planned for the second half of February 2017 to mark this important milestone and the whole community is invited to share this special moment together!

- Tuesday 14 February – 'History of Fendalton' public lecture
- Saturday 18 February – Reopening Formal Dinner
- Sunday 19 February – Official Reopening of St Barnabas Church
- Tuesday 21 February – Variety Concert in the Church

Put these dates in your diary now!



Restoration House and Garden Tour

26 November, 11am – 4pm

Come to a House and Garden tour with a difference. All the homes and gardens on show have been restored or rebuilt since the devastating Canterbury earthquakes.

The ages of the houses range from 100 years old to those completed in 2016. These homes have never been part of a tour like this before, and two of the houses have either been awarded or nominated for awards in 2016 - so a treat is in store!

Tickets (\$40) are available from the Parish Office, Ballantynes or www.eventfinda.co.nz. You will need to exchange your ticket for the Tour Booklet which can be collected from the parish office from Monday 14 November between 9am - 3pm weekdays.

Support this spring fundraiser and be inspired by the design, creativity and hard work of local home owners.

- All houses are close to St Barnabas
- Refreshments are included in the Parish Hall



What's Coming Up?

Mooring Post

Deliverers Morning Tea

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

THURSDAY **24**
NOVEMBER

Advent Sunday

Come to this annual 5pm service to mark the beginning of Advent. There will be special music and readings.

SUNDAY **27**
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 **1**
DECEMBER

Diocesan Youth Ball

All young people are invited to the annual Diocesan Youth Ball. See Rev Harry for more information or check out the Dio website www.facebook.com/AnglicanYouthChCh/.

SATURDAY **3**
DECEMBER

Messy Church

All children, families and young people are invited to this event which includes food, fun, faith, family craft, meal – St Barnabas Hall – \$5 per family. A great opportunity for grandparents to bring grandchildren!

SATURDAY **3**
DECEMBER

Love in a Box

Please return to the parish office, your shoeboxes of Christmas gifts to children and the elderly in need in our city.

SUNDAY **4**
DECEMBER

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 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

- **Reopening Celebrations:** Vestry received an update of plans for the reopening of the church and the associated celebrations. There will be a public lecture on the history of Fendalton on Tuesday 14 February, a formal dinner on Saturday 18 February, the reopening services themselves on Sunday 19 February and a public concert on Tuesday 21 February.
- **House Exchange:** Linda Adams reported that the exchange of the parish property at 15 Tui St for 131 Fendalton Rd, as approved by the Special Meeting on 7 September, was now unconditional, with settlement to take place in December 2017. The parish will own a higher value property, close to the church and fully maintained.
- **Petersgate Funding:** Vestry received a letter from Petersgate asking that the parish support this important community service. Petersgate provides 7,000 counselling sessions annually and is reliant on donations from the supporting parishes. Vestry pledged \$4,000 from the parish Outreach Fund.
- **Church Roof Report:** Don Mackenzie informed Vestry that a report that had been received following an inspection of the church roof. It was asked for because of an ongoing leak in the south side of the sanctuary. The repair is not part of the main contract and will have to be funded out of the contingency fund.
- **Finance Report:** Treasurer Alistair Sheard reported that in the last two months parish income has not met budget. In September financial giving was \$4,427 (12%) below budget and year to date giving was \$10,948 (4%) below budget. Expenses have been well managed. The overall position was somewhat disappointing given that for the half year to the end of June financial giving was 5.6% over budget and 7.5% more than last year.

REGISTER

FUNERALS

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

September

- 10 Margaret Edith Sheaf
26 Derek Hay Warren

October

- 6 Margaret Mary Steere
18 Mervyn Henry Vile



Contributions to the Mooring Post:

Deadline for December Issue

Friday 11 November



Deeper Youth Camp 2017



St Barnabas Church Repairs

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.