



THE MOORING POST

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

The Transcendent – Missing Factor in the West?

Pip and I had the privilege of travelling in Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Turkey recently. We were on a pilgrimage visiting the many holy places and historic sites of early Christianity. Our group of ten kiwis was led by local guides who enriched us with their broad knowledge. One of the things that struck me in Jordan and Turkey was the influence of Islam. Mosques were prominent on every skyline and the sound of the muezzin calling people to prayer was a pervasive feature.

Why is it then, that in the West, people have largely turned their backs on a belief in God? There may be a vague acknowledgement of a benevolent force, but nothing that resembles the robust and almost universal belief in a transcendent God that existed 100 years ago.

It's as if we have regressed as a people because this most fundamental dimension of our personhood lies neglected or is entirely absent. We have stopped attending to the needs of our souls and have become hollow, living life at a reduced level. Furthermore people don't seem to be aware that they are not living with the fullest purpose, dignity and destiny that they could have.

It seems that the angry atheists have entranced us and there's a pervasive scepticism and even antagonism toward faith. Somehow we have been talked out of believing

in God. Even to admit that you believe in God, or are exploring faith in God, is seen by many as pitiful - a sign of weakness or naivety.

Celebrated scholar of comparative religion Rudolf Otto, in his classic work 'The Idea of the Holy', set out to describe the universal human experience of God. The book was published about 100 years ago but became one of the most successful German theological books of the 20th century. In a comprehensive study of religion and cultures, Otto came to the conclusion that there is a capacity for God wired into our humanity. We are drawn to this mystery which is at once terrifying and comforting.

Scientists have tried to explain this phenomena by reducing it to chemistry or genes or social conditioning or even to an evolutionary trait that was useful for survival at one time. However Otto and scholars who followed him, sought to understand the transcendent on its own terms and not simply reduce it to rational and scientific categories. Otto's approach is actually consistent with the scientific method which seeks to approach the object of study humbly on its own terms.

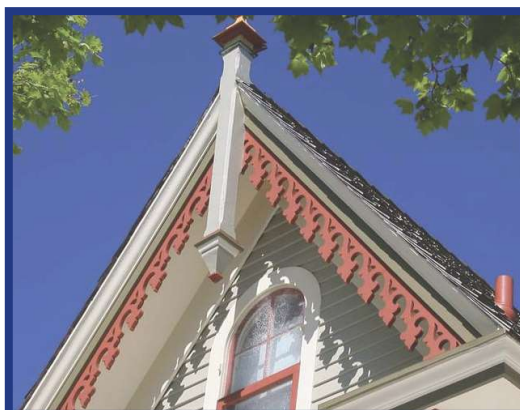
So is a belief in a transcendent God pitiful or simply a natural and necessary expression of our humanity? And what are the results of living in a society that has a reduced interest in God?

Without a sense of God there is a commensurate decline in ethical motivation and conduct. Without a sense of God our dignity as human beings is diminished and an important source of comfort for those who are suffering is removed. And without a sense of God there is an increased sense of alienation from society and this leads to increased anti-social behaviour, substance abuse and suicide. The link between an absence of religious affiliation and these negative effects is becoming more strongly attested in empirical studies.

As Jesuit Priest Robert Spitzer wrote "We live in paradoxical times - experiencing an increase in scepticism and antagonism toward the transcendent in the very era in which we have the greatest clarity about our interior awareness of the numinous, our ability to transcend artificial intelligence, our capacity to survive bodily death, evidence of a Creator from contemporary physics, and proof of God from contemporary metaphysics."

What we most urgently need are local spiritual guides, similar to the ones who were so helpful on our pilgrimage. Spiritual guides who have come to know God well, are being transformed by God themselves and willing to share their experience with others.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain



Restoration House and Garden Tour

26 November, 11am – 4pm

You're invited to an exciting tour of a range of restored homes and gardens created following the Canterbury earthquakes. 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
- Tickets available from the Parish Office or Ballantynes - \$40.
- Refreshments included

'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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Aspects of Marjorie Smart's Journey of Life and Faith

I've been blessed by being raised in a nurturing church-going family. The diet needed for the growth of my faith has been varied and enriching from different parishes and people with whom I've shared my life. Influential in primary school years, the Gore parish of Holy Trinity, provided opportunities for all ages, good teaching and choir singing.

At St Mary's I attended a well-led, stimulating youth group which met on Fridays for fun, food and stimulating discussions. We concluded with Compline in church. As we grew up, a '20s-30s group' evolved out of the youth group and a number of marriages - including mine and John's!

After John and I moved to Ilam, we attended St Barnabas and our family enjoyed a variety of innovative worship, groups and activities. I enjoyed reading widely, including books about theology and faith, which broadened my own thinking and belief.

The deep shock of our second child being stillborn forced me to wonder how people coped who did not have any sort of faith in the love of God to uphold them. That, with wonderful support of family and friends, certainly gave us the necessary strength during this part of life's experience.

With our four children at school and part-time work, I was eventually led to co-ordinate theological study courses at College House which later became Theology House. One was Education for Ministry, a 4-year study course for small groups, which I also joined and really appreciated. There were also opportunities to hear stimulating open lectures by visiting scholars and speakers.

Studying Greek provided insights into the biblical world then learning Te Reo opened the door to the spiritual world and values of tikanga Maori. Participation in Cursillo was another delightful opportunity.

Being a member of the Anglican Diocesan Bicultural Education Committee since these were established in all Dioceses has been another way of service and learning.

I value belonging to AWESOME – Anglican Women Exploring Spirituality - actually an inclusive group of women from different backgrounds who meet for discussion and exploring worship using gender inclusive language, aiming to encourage and empower women on their faith journey.

Faith-in-action underpinned my involvement in Meals on Wheels, Bible in Schools, the Hikoi to challenge government policies and the Maori Women's Welfare League.

I'm very grateful for past blessings and those ahead on this journey of life and faith.

Marjorie Smart



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.

Church Repair Update

There has been good progress on the repair and strengthening of the church building in the last month. There are now 10 tradesmen on the job and Site Foreman John Taggart reports that the project is on track and all the work is going well. Currently effort is focused on the following areas;

- Tie rods are being installed in the exterior corners of the building. These stainless steel rods are three meters long, run through the volcanic stones and are epoxy grouted into place.
- Gable end pinning is progressing. This involves epoxy grouting short stainless steel ties through the exterior volcanic stone, through the core and into the oamaru stone interior
- Tie rods are being installed vertically through the tower parapets into the main body of

the tower for additional strength

- New bracing elements are being installed at the gable ends
- The north window adjacent to the tower has been deconstructed, including the mullions, and is in the process of being repaired – see the photo below
- A new cross for the top of the east gable is being made - we need to decide what to do with the original one which was broken
- Re-pointing of interior stone joints is being carried out
- Exterior cracks are being racked out and re-pointed

There is also maintenance being undertaken at the same time and this includes replacement of the Vestry flat roofs, replacement of some guttering and down pipes and replacement or

re-fixing of some slates.

The Works Team are getting ready to lodge an application with the Diocese for the installation of betterment items which will include new heaters and AV equipment.

Don Mackenzie



St Barnabas Youth Leaders Encouraged by The Abbey

The aim of annual youth gathering 'The Abbey' is to encourage and resource those ministering to and with youth from within Anglican churches in New Zealand. It was also a great chance to meet, laugh, pray, encourage, worship and eat with over 230 other Kiwi Anglican youth leaders who love Jesus and young people.

This year the conference was hosted on the Mainland for the first time by the Diocese of Christchurch at Living Springs. Four youth leaders attended from our parish with Evangeline Gilmour and Tom Coulson being two of 25 high school aged leaders from across Aotearoa invited to attend by their respective Bishops.

The keynote speakers this year were Chris Clarke (CEO of World Vision NZ) and Jade Te Uri Karaka. There was also an incredible range of workshops on offer which tackled subject such as leadership development through to ideas of how to facilitate worship for teenagers.



Of particular note was a workshop led by Bishop Justin Duckworth about creating a sense of belonging for youth through the formation of community. According



to Perry Vakameilalo "Justin's talk about ways to create a posse to roll with was really encouraging, but it was also challenging about how we do youth group at St Barnabas."

Evangeline also found +Justin to be encouraging as well as inspirational. "It made me think about how I can connect with our junior youth by doing stuff together outside official youth group events."

While Perry and Evangeline both found +Justin to be a major highlight, Tom struggled to identify one particular thing saying, "It was probably the best thing I've been to all year. The Abbey was great!" High praise indeed! Suffice to say that we all found The Abbey to be not only encouraging but also spiritually refreshing.

Rev Harry Newton | Youth Minister



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 5 October, 2pm in the Tui Room.

This month's guest speaker is St Barnabas parishioner Olive Lawson who will be speaking about her experience with Prison Ministry. A sales table will be held.

Leader: Madeleine Price – 354 4299

In Betweens

Tuesday 18 October at 7.30pm in the hall. Rev Mark and Pip Chamberlain will speak about their recent visit to Jordan, Israel, Palestine and Turkey. This is an open meeting for the whole parish – 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 pewsheet and Mooring Post and sermon recordings.

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

www.stbarnabas.org.nz

www.facebook.com/st.barnabas.nz

St Barnabas & St Thomas
All Welcome!

Braeden McInnes Talks

About Finding and Following Jesus

How did you come to know Jesus?: I came to know Jesus through Lynn Kim. I was invited to the Pet Service at Lifesteams last year because I was interested in animals. This allowed me to get a little taste of what church was like - unfortunately I pushed away from church after that! However, as I started to open up more, I learned more about Jesus. I was given a copy of Mark's gospel which I read and came to learn just how awesome Jesus was.

What were the difficulties you encountered along the way?: During high school my friends were all scientifically minded, believing that humankind came through the Big Bang and evolution. Along with that, I had some bad experiences with a few Christians and a church that was quite pushy. So when I was first invited to church by Lynn I was like a closed book!

What answers were you looking for?: Shortly after attending church I began thinking about my purpose here on earth. Are we meant to just go on day by day, pay-cheque from pay-cheque, not realising what we are meant to be doing on this earth? I wanted answers to these questions and science could not help me. So I began to open up and think more about God and my questions have slowly been answered.

What helped your search for faith in God?: Ultimately it was my friend Lynn, followed by the home group I was invited to each week, and finally the St Barnabas community. Once I stepped inside the church I felt welcomed. Everyone was caring and approachable and no one tried to make me become a Christian. If I had any questions, people were very easy to talk to. This allowed me to think through everything at my own pace.

What does following Jesus mean to you now?: Following Jesus means a lot to me! I have slowly been learning how awesome Jesus is and what sort of impact he had on the world. Following Jesus has made me become a better person where I don't think about myself all the time but others as well. The fact that Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins was pretty awesome and I just want to try to live every day following him.

What encouragement would you give to others looking in to Christianity?: I would first of all encourage people to find a positive church to belong to. If you don't belong to a church you will slowly lose faith in God. This happened to one of my friends in the past. Secondly find a group of individuals who you can meet up with each week for bible study. Talking with more experienced Christians sheds light on passages in the Bible.

What do you appreciate about St Barnabas?: I appreciate the kindness and care that St Barnabas offers. Everyone is easy to approach and willing to give up their time for you to have a chat with. I also appreciate how St Barnabas is involved within the community - helping people in need who might not be very well off. The involvement with the children in the church is very strong which is important as I grew up not knowing Jesus and I look back now wishing I had the opportunity to have grown up with him.



What is the Future of the Church?

A few months ago renowned NZ Religious Historian Peter Lineham came to Christchurch to present a lecture entitled, "Will Christianity survive in Christchurch beyond 2020? - A diagnosis and realistic prognosis." It contained some pretty sobering and depressing statistics.

Nationally the percentage of people identifying as Christian slipped below 50% for the first time shortly after the 2013 census, and the rate of decline remains steady and steep in most denominations. More locally he was able to show that in 1981 38.7% of Fendalton residents identified as Anglican while in 2013 that had slipped to 20.6%. Of course the number of people who regularly attend church is always much, much lower.

It is easy to become despondent in the face of such statistics, but I don't believe it is a hopeless

situation. It does however require change. Einstein said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results." Sadly though this is often the church's modus operandi.

Thankfully, despite the decline, Jesus loves His bride, the church. And He is still the head of it. For the church to have a future, it needs to constantly be looking to Him. In particular we need to be a lot more obedient to His call to go and make disciples. Author Mike Breen makes the point that if we make disciples we will always have the church, but if we try to make the church we rarely get disciples. The future of the church is less about the power of the institution and more about the power of personal story.

The church is most relevant and alive when we are able to do two things: Name how the church

is relevant and life-giving to us personally, and share the above with someone else.

Who might God be calling you to share your story with? Who might the Spirit be nudging you to disciple?

Ben Truman | Curate, Parish of Lincoln



Health and Safety at St Barnabas

Recently Vestry approved a comprehensive Health and Safety policy and framework for the parish. Find below a general Health and Safety message for all those who attend services or use our parish site or facilities in any way.

- **Report Hazards:** Please be aware of any hazards that may be encountered in the buildings or grounds of our site. If you see a situation that you consider hazardous please report to Verger Greg Brown or Administrator Marion Cook.
- **There are two First Aid kits on site;** one is located in the Hall Kitchen and the other in the Admin Block Kitchen. Marion and Greg have a list of people who are able to offer First Aid.
- **What to do in an Emergency:** In the case of an emergency please comply with the emergency signage that you will find at key locations. Everyone on site is required to gather in the parish carpark on the north east corner of the site.
- **How to Report an Accident:** If there is an incident, accident or near miss, this must be reported to the Parish Administrator Marion Cook or Verger Greg Brown and they will complete the required form.
- **Please Keep Our Church Tidy:** Please do your best to keep our buildings tidy and put away items after use. Do not let rubbish accumulate and keep doorways and thoroughfares clear of furniture or any obstructions.
- **Parking:** The church is a multi-use site so please take care when driving in the carpark or when dropping people or items off at the hall or parish office.
- **Wafer Room:** Please do not enter the Wafer Room unless you are authorized to do so.
- **Kitchen Safety:** Please be aware of the hazards in the kitchens and do not allow children access into either the Admin or the Hall Kitchen. Be especially aware of hot water, hot elements, sharp objects, detergents and gas.

St Barnabas Health and Safety Committee

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CAMEO

CAMEO is an open, friendship group for seniors who feel they want to get out and meet others. It runs on Thursday afternoons during the school terms from 1:30pm to 3pm.

The programme can include quizzes, puzzles, games, a sing-a-long, guest speakers, a variety of presentations and afternoon tea. It's all designed for interaction and fun!

Each time there is a theme and in the coming weeks we will look at Guy Fawkes, Show Week and Christmas.

If you would like to be involved in this group, either as a volunteer or a participant, please contact the church office or phone Shirley-Anne Collins on 343 6263. If you need transport please contact the office – we are happy to pick you up.



Restoration House and Garden Tour – 26 November

Everyone is invited to tour a range of homes and gardens that have been restored following the Canterbury earthquakes of nearly 6 years ago. The ages of the houses range from 100 years to those completed just this year. So please support this fundraiser and be inspired by the design, creativity and hard work of local home owners!

All houses are within close proximity of St Barnabas Church which should enable many people to walk between the houses.

This will be a wonderful fundraising activity for the restoration of our church. The repairs of the church have now commenced, but more funds are needed. So please keep the date free and be part of this exciting tour. Tickets will be in the form of a booklet and will cost \$40.

The organising committee wish to thank all home owners who have agreed to be part of this tour as well as our sponsors who have generously supported us.

Free refreshments will be available at one of the gardens. Tickets will be available nearer the time from the Parish Office or Ballantynes.

Ruth Harwood | Organising Team



What's Coming Up?

Clothing Sale

Hats, gloves, scarves, handbags, adults and children's clothing for sale in the parish hall from 9am. If you have any donations please drop in to the parish office or call Patsy on 351 6046.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER

Women in Scripture

We begin a three week preaching series on Sunday mornings entitled 'Women in Scripture.' We will be covering Ruth, Priscilla and the Samaritan Woman.

SUNDAY
OCTOBER

Men's Breakfast

All men are invited to breakfast in the hall. Excellent food, company and a guest speaker! Information from Peter Chapman or the Parish Office.

SATURDAY
OCTOBER

Operation Christmas Child

This is the last Sunday for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to be returned. These boxes are to be filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene and craft items and will go to children in need.

SUNDAY
OCTOBER

Messy Church

All children and their families are invited to this outreach which includes food, fun, faith, family craft and a meal. St Barnabas Hall - \$5 per family. Also a great opportunity for grandparents to bring grandchildren!

SATURDAY
OCTOBER

Remembrance Sunday

All those who have lost loved ones recently are warmly invited to attend this service of remembrance. Everyone will have the opportunity to place a flower, light a candle and hear names read out.

SUNDAY
OCTOBER

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

- **House Swap:** Vestry agreed in principle with Holly Lea's proposal to buy 131 Fendalton Rd and swap it for the parish's house situated at 15 Tui St. This proposal will be subject to the Church Property Trustees process. Part of this process involves the calling of a Special Meeting of Parishioners. This took place on Wednesday 7 September and the meeting agreed with the proposal in principle and that it should be taken to the next meeting of Standing Committee. The proposal must be cost neutral for the parish and not require the Newtons to move out of 15 Tui St before the end of next year.
- **Opening Day Planning Group:** The group formed to plan the opening day of the Church early next year will incur some expenses. Vestry requested that a budget be prepared to clarify and make provision for these expenses.
- **Staff Encouragement:** Vestry noted that staff were often working many more hours than were being paid for and that some staff were under pressure. The Vicar and Wardens were encouraged to spend time with staff to affirm them and listen to their feedback.
- **Church Betterment:** The Works Team had written a specification for the Audio-Visual requirements for the church and three firms are currently quoting on supplying and installing this equipment. A revised heating plan was also received and the Works Team will be going out for quotes.
- **English Language Course:** Vestry approved the provision of a small budget for this ministry so that it could continue to be offered free of charge. This ministry is going well with about 12 people attending who are learning conversational English.
- **Church Repair Progress:** A report was tabled from Project Control company BBD on the progress of the repair and strengthening of St Barnabas. Work is progressing well and is generally following the construction programme that has been issued.

REGISTER

BAPTISMS

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

September

- 18 Emily Mia Gaunson
25 Austin Burns



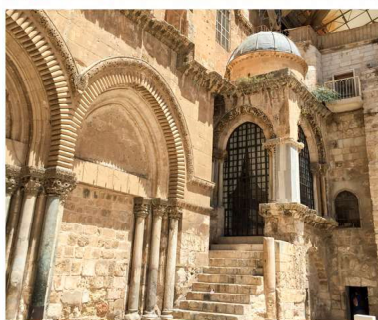
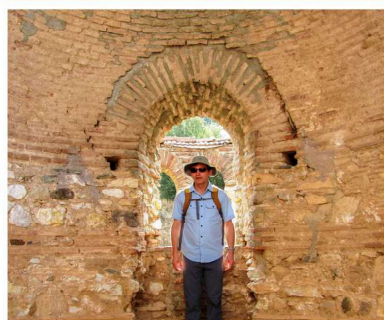
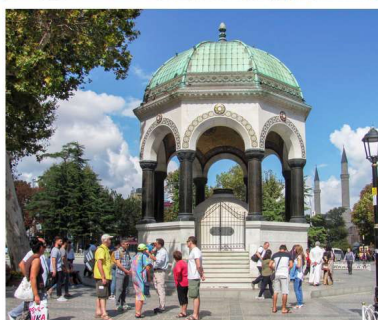
Contributions to the Mooring Post:

Deadline for November Issue

Friday 14 October



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



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.