



THE MOORING POST

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

Why I Am Still a Christian

A few of years ago Pip and I went to dancing classes and for a time we had a twirling good time! However after a while our priorities changed, winter came and we stopped going. We were totally committed initially and wouldn't miss a week, but our attendance gradually faded.

Does this same pattern of initial enthusiasm followed by a gradual loss of interest apply to being a Christian? Is being a Christian different in some way? So why am I still a Christian?

Here are four reasons. When I'm at Lake Alexandria late at night, I gaze up at the densely spangled region known as the Milky Way. I think of the vastness of space and the origins of the universe. Cosmologists say that the red shift and cosmic background radiation is evidence that the universe began in a fiery explosion 13 billion years ago.

Now experience tells us that things don't come into being spontaneously - they are caused to exist by something else. Science itself is undergirded by the fundamental principle that phenomena don't happen by themselves they are caused. It's my settled belief that a powerful, creator God caused the universe to come into being. It cannot have come into existence spontaneously from nothing, by nothing.

My second reason follows on from this. If there is a creator God, then you would expect to see evidence of this in

the consciences of people. Well that's exactly what you do find. All human societies have been based on the same moral law - albeit with some variations on the details. This moral law says that it is 'right' to help others and it is 'wrong' to cause them harm. It's a deeply ingrained sense of obligation independent of our opinions, wishes or even human laws.

Naturally there is a connection between objective moral laws and a good and wise God who stands behind them. Absolute moral laws can only be explained by the existence of an objective, personal God. And interestingly even atheists appeal to a moral law. In Richard Dawkins' writings, he condemns actions such as sexual harassment, religious indoctrination of children and the Incan practice of human sacrifice as if they were objectively wrong.

Now a universe devoid of absolute values, is inconceivably terrible. There would be no ultimate purpose, morality or hope. And so it's easier to believe in a holy and wise God, than the alternative.

These first two reasons may have brought us to a belief in God, but they don't bring us to specific Christian faith. However the following reason does! This creative, moral God came to humankind in the person of Jesus Christ. He reached out to people, showed the way of love and

forgiveness, and took upon himself the full, tragic history of human wrongdoing and rebellion. He died and rose again!

Jesus was remarkable. He taught with a unique authority. He healed the suffering, fed the hungry and comforted the sad and lonely. Jesus had a powerful impact on all he met. He both comforted and challenged people and they said he was 'full of grace and truth.' Jesus showed us how we should live our lives - full of mercy, compassion and strong love.

The fourth reason that I am still a Christian is that I need God. I need God because I know I am only one doctor's visit away from being told I have a terminal illness, one market crash away from financial disaster, one car accident away from sudden loss and one earthquake away from personal and family suffering. I am still a Christian because God helps me to make sense of life and helps me get through life with genuine hope and purpose. I am still a Christian for all these reasons and more besides.

CS Lewis once said 'I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen. Not because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.' I am still a Christian because I'm learning to see the world from God's perspective and it is full of hope and goodness!

Rev. Mark Chamberlain

**Sunday 11
September
at all services**

Spring Flower Sunday

Celebrate the coming of Spring and offer pastoral care and friendship.

Posies will be made and delivered to people around the parish who have suffered a bereavement during the year or have other pastoral needs.

All welcome to bring flowers or make posies in the Tui room at 9.30am on Sat. 12 September.

'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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Dracula, Painted Monasteries and a Sea-Organ

St Barnabas Organist Denis Guyan describes his recent overseas trip and his experiences of cimbaloms, cafes, castles, churches, cathedrals, palaces, pelicans and Pokarekare ana – not to mention Bucovina, Bistrița, Budapest, Bucharest and Brașov!

My adventure began in mid-June with the world's longest non-stop passenger flight: 17¼ hours Auckland to Dubai. Greeted there at 4.30am by a fuggy 34°C, I was given a warm-up for even higher temperatures in the Bohemian and Baltic countries of Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro.

In Bucharest, the capital of Romania, I enjoyed walking by peaceful Lake Herastrau, as well as a guided tour of the 2nd largest building in the world (after the Pentagon) – Ceaușescu's grotesquely ornate 'Palace of Parliament', where Michael Jackson had stood on a balcony and shouted "Hello Budapest!" He's not the only one to confuse the two capitals.

At a lavish BBQ in suburban Bucharest our dozen-strong party, mostly Christchurch folk, led by Dr Roger Buckton, were filmed by Romanian TV for a tourism campaign, as we sang Pokarekare ana a cappella, in 4-part harmony.

Villainous Count Dracula is the invention of Irish novelist Bram Stoker, supposedly based on the 14th century leader of Romania, Vlad "The Impaler". Transylvania and the Carpathian Mountains are well-suited to gothic horror stories, especially when ominous black clouds wrap around the forested hills, with lightning and thunder rolling continuously. Picturesque Peles Castle is Romania's answer to Germany's

Neuschwanstein castle, and features plenty of Dracula-themed knick-knacks.

We were astonished at the painted monasteries in the Bucovina region of north eastern Romania. Almost entirely covered, inside and out, with 15th and 16th century Byzantine paintings of biblical characters and stories, they stand amongst fields with pitchforks, little



Dracula's Castle

hay stacks, scythes and horse-drawn carts.

Pelicans? They followed the cormorants we saw on Montenegro's Skadar Lake, as they dived for fish. Sea organ? I was prepared to be underwhelmed by this beach-side construction at Zadar, Croatia - but the sounds were haunting and pleasant.

Pipe organs? Yes, I did manage to play some, in Budapest and Brașov in Hungary, and Cîsnădie in Romania. But many of the churches in these regions are Orthodox, and don't have organs, or pews for that matter. So I'm glad to be back home again at St Barnabas!

Thank you Barry, Graham, Liz, Marcia and Mervyn for deputising while I was away.

Denis Guyan



Denis at Ceaușescu's Palace

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.

Passing on the Good News of Jesus!

A few weeks ago, the Discipleship and Evangelism Team met and further developed a plan to encourage us all to speak up for our faith in Christ. If the Christian faith is true for one it is true for all – and if it's true for all, we have a duty to pass on this good news to others.

The plan first of all involves praying for a friend or relative who is open to faith and then inviting them to an event in the Advent period leading up to Christmas. There would then be opportunities to invite them to a course on the basics of the Christian faith in the New Year. There is still much planning to undertake but below is abroad outline of the plan;

- **LAUNCH:** The initiative would be launched sometime between now and November.
- **PRAY:** Everyone would be encouraged to pray for one

person for one minute a day for one month – we could call it the one, one, one prayer!

- **INVITE:** Invite the person you're praying for to the Advent Carol Service, Carols on the Lawn, Children's Pageant, The Christingle Service or one of the other Christmas Services.
- **SERVE:** This December we would also run a number of other initiatives whereby we serve the community by giving a Christmas gift to the elderly or support parents in some way.
- **LEARN:** Early next year we would run a course on the basics of the Bible and Christianity. We could perhaps run an Alpha Course which introduces all the main aspects of our faith in a small group setting along with food – and where there's

no such thing as a 'dumb' question!

It is important that during the repair and strengthening phase of our church building we continue to be focussed on people. Our parish is a vibrant Christian community. We are all about God and people! So we must not lose sight of our fundamental purpose even while we raise funds and organise new heaters, lighting etc.

The Discipleship and Evangelism Team is led by Harry Newton and includes Andrea Caldwell, May Carrell, Laura Harper, Wendy Kington, Marcus Read and Don Rowlands.



Faith on the Starting Line

Paul Norton shares his passion for running and for Jesus. He has been a competitive runner for 41 years and a follower of Jesus for 34 years. He has run 13 marathons, taught at Fendalton Open-air School for 13 years and was married at St. Barnabas. He has a theology degree and was once Youth Pastor at St. Christopher's Avonhead. He and his family currently worship at St. Saviour's Anglican Church in Colombo Street and he teaches at Hillview Christian School in St. Martins.

When I was 16 years old, the movie 'Chariots of Fire' was released at the box office. It brought together two of the most important things in my life at the time - running and faith.



There was something 'spiritual' about watching Eric Liddell running over the cinders track and winning the Gold Medal in the 400m at the 1924 Olympic Games. Combined with the background music of Vangelis – it stirred something in my soul. Then to hear Eric Liddell say "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel his pleasure" was a pivotal moment in my faith journey.

The following year, when I was 17, I made the choice to give my life totally and whole-heartedly over to Jesus and let him be in charge. Up till then, Jesus (and church) was another 'spoke' of my wheel, like my running, but now I realized that He wanted to be in charge of my life and lead me. My running had become a 'god' and took up so many of my thoughts, time and dreams.

At 17, I won my first Auckland Provincial title in road running but that success did not bring me the fame and recognition and self-acceptance that I yearned for. That came when I truly started my 'marathon'

faith journey, which I continue today.

"My identity as a follower of Jesus is the most important aspect of my life" is what Nick Willis, Olympic 1500m Silver Medalist and Rio 2016 Olympian, said when asked about how important his faith is.

Fellow Rio Olympian, Canterbury 800m runner, Angie Petty, recently shared on her Facebook page, "So grateful to God for this journey and that he is always there for us, whether we have a good race or not!"

The special thing about following Jesus is that we don't have to be an Olympian or champion of anything, just a humble plodder who is ready to hand over our 'race' to Him.

Paul Norton



Eric Liddell in 1924



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 7 September, 2pm in the hall.
All St Barnabas parishioners and friends are welcome to this special meeting. Koha.
Guest speaker is Dr Philip Norman speaking on "The Life and Music of Douglas Lilburn"
Leader: Madeleine Price – 354 4299

In Betweens

Tuesday 20 September at 7.30pm in the hall.
Guest speaker is Professor Geoffrey Shaw from the Intensive Care Unit, Christchurch Hospital.
Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179



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Tom Coulson Speaks About his Tongan Experience

I was baptized at birth and brought up Christian ever since I could first go to church. As such I have never had a true 'God moment', a true moment of revelation, of meeting God for the first time. He's always been with me. Despite this in the past couple of years I found myself drifting away from God and the church, partly due to the 'teachings' of the 'great' atheists, partly due to the lack of understanding from my peers and partly because of my own commitments.

It was during this time that my grandfather died. Initially I felt alone in my sadness, despite the support from my friends and the shared sadness with the rest of my family. As this was going on Rev Mark asked me whether I wanted to be confirmed and, after some deliberation, I ended up saying yes, thinking I'd have nothing to lose and, if I was lucky, I might find some comfort.

As soon as I started this confirmation course I started to regularly go to church again, this time not because I had to, but because I enjoyed it. I started feeling comforted after my grandfather's passing. Some may call this some kind of placebo effect, but I know it was the grace of God, coming back to me as I came back to him.

As time passed I started to get more and more involved in the church, particularly in the youth of the church and the people my age. This eventually led to me being invited on the trip to Tonga, an invitation which I very eagerly accepted. In the preparation for this

trip everyone was warned that life in Tonga was very different to what our life was like, but everything I saw there still surprised me.

Everyone I met was Christian, without exception, despite the significantly more trying circumstances of their life and despite the many reasons I saw which could lead to many of them turning away from Christ. Because of the devotion I saw, everyone seemed to be kinder and significantly more trusting than the strangers we meet in New Zealand, whether we knew them or not. This surprised me as many people in New

Zealand and the 'western world' in general seem to be so suspicious and judgemental of you when you first meet them. As well as this the Tongans, despite having less to give than anyone in this country, were happier to give more.

I believe there is much I have learned from the people of Tonga, and I now wear a pendant, a gift from them to me, to remind me to remain humble and kind, for however bad life seems to me, other people have it worse, yet still do better than me.

Tom Coulson is in year 13 at Burnside High School



The Forbidden Subject

The following is an excerpt from Michael's Green's book 'My God' addressing questions like 'Does God Exist?' 'What is God Like?' and 'What Has He Done For Me?' Over the next few months the Mooring Post will run excerpts from his book.

'My God!' we exclaim when amazed, frustrated or angry. 'God help us' we cry when the plane is about to crash. But those times apart, God does not figure much in our thoughts or conversation. He has replaced sex as the unmentionable subject. Just go into your local pub, order a beer, and start talking about God – and see what reaction you get! Embarrassment, laughter even hostility.

Yes, God is the forbidden subject in Western society these days. But this is a very temporary and local turn of events. Throughout history,

belief in God has dominated human thought and culture, art, medicine and science. And today the vast majority of people in the world believe firmly in God.

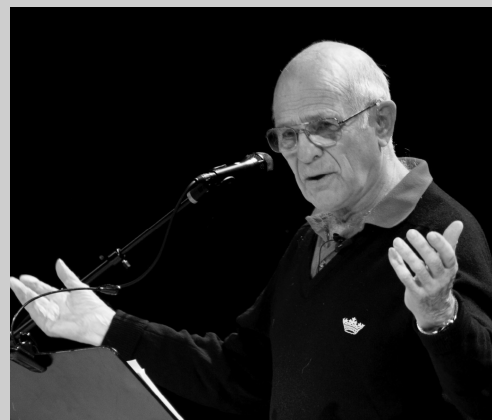
Islam brings God into every aspect of Muslim life, public and private. Hindu temples are everywhere apparent in the East and have an enormous influence on the people. Christianity is flourishing in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Religion is one of the most powerful forces in twentieth century life – as it always has been.

'So what?' you may be saying. 'I don't believe in God, and that's the end of the matter.' But your belief a thing to be true or false does not, of course, make it so. If God does not exist, belief will not produce him. If he does, disbelief will not banish him from the scene. So your disbelief in God is not necessarily the end of the

matter at all.

Belief should be based on evidence right! But many people do not base their beliefs on evidence at all, but on custom, prejudice, wishful thinking or superstition. Surveys show that more Americans, for example, believe in UFOs than in evolution. This however, does not tell us anything important either about UFOs or evolution.

Copyright Michael Green 1991



Repair and Regeneration of St Barnabas

Now that the church repair is underway, a progress report will be provided in this column each month. Don Mackenzie and Greg Brown will attend the fortnightly site meeting which monitors progress, keeps the project on track and responds to questions as they arise.

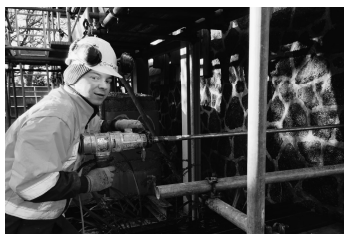
The contractor is C. Lund and Son and the site foreman is John Taggart. The construction site has been established and the vulnerable parts of the church have been protected from accidental damage. Vegetation adjacent to the church has also been removed to provide a clear work site. Scaffolding continues to be erected inside and outside the church.

The organ has been completely disassembled and has been stored in a container on site. This is to enable the ceiling above the organ to be relined.

Stone masons Goldfield Stone Ltd has commenced grouting the north wall and this involves injecting low viscosity, high performance grout into the core which will provide extra strength and resilience to the structure. They are also getting ready to install transverse ties to the corners of the building. Cracks in the oamaru stone interior facings are also being repaired currently.

Reinstatement of the cross on the top of the east gable will take place at the end of August. This will be a significant milestone as it was dislodged, fell to the ground and broke into a number of pieces in the February quake of 2011.

The sprinkler system valve house will be constructed on the north east end of the property in the coming weeks and then the trenching will begin for the sprinkler mains. The main pipe will run toward the church and emerge on the north wall of the Vestry and enter the building there.





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Booming Book Sale

Many thanks to Andrea and Dave Ramsell for managing the very successful July Book Sale. Over \$4,000 net profit was made for the Buildings Trust – almost \$400 more than the previous year.

Andrea and Dave were joined by a 28 strong team who helped sort books before the sale and set up and served on the day itself.

High value books were sold separately which improved the return. The quality of the books was really excellent so thanks to all those who donated books this year!



Elizabeth and Olivia in Concert

'Fields of Gold' was again the fabulous opening song of another memorable concert by Elizabeth Braggins in late July – the fourth year in a row.

Liz and daughter Olivia sang their way through a varied afternoon's programme which included a medley of well known, sing-along tunes, duets and those classic songs we all love to hear again and again.

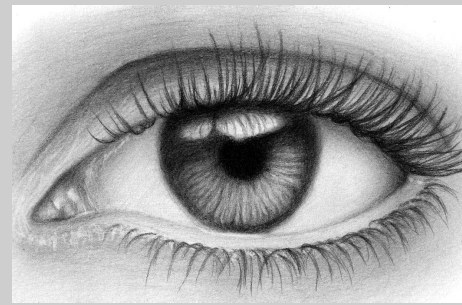
This fundraising concert was the first of two for this year with profits going to the Buildings Fund. Thanks to Liz Braggins, Olivia and Steve Johnston for making the concert happen. The mood was fantastic and the mulled wine hit just the right note on a cold, winters afternoon!



Second Cataracts at St George's

Do you or someone you know need a second cataract operation? Consider St George's Eye Care. Compare pricing and you will be pleasantly surprised.

Furthermore, if you are struggling to afford the second cataract operation, combine St George's Eye Care with the St George's Hospital's Philanthropic fund – you may be able to get it fully funded. Enquiries to Executive Assistant Dawn Hinton, direct dial 375 6013 or email dawn.hinton@stgeorges.org.nz.



What's Coming Up?

Clothing Sale

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

SATURDAY **3**
SEPTEMBER

Dr Philip Norman

All parishioners are invited to hear Dr Philip Norman speak about one of New Zealand's leading composers - Douglas Lilburn. 2pm in the hall. All welcome. Koha.

WEDNESDAY **10**
SEPTEMBER

Spring Flower Sunday

This annual service is an opportunity to offer cheer and friendship to people around the parish. Posies will be made and delivered to people and families. If you can help please call the Parish Office.

SUNDAY **11**
SEPTEMBER

Amped Camp

2 days of awesomeness for all intermediate aged young people. Saturday - Monday at the AMP Showgrounds. Crazy games, music, speakers, sports and good food. See Harry Newton.

SATURDAY **24**
SEPTEMBER

Mission Sunday

All welcome to this service which has a focus on Overseas Mission and hearing about what the Church is doing in countries in the world to bring God's light and love to all people.

SUNDAY **25**
SEPTEMBER

Men's Movie Night

All men are invited to a fish 'n chip movie night in the Hall at 6pm. Movie title to be advised.

FRIDAY **30**
SEPTEMBER

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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

- **Wedding Costs:** Vestry received information on the charges that a number of Christchurch churches and an Auckland church make for weddings. It is important that we are ready for a significant increase in wedding bookings.
- **Consultation:** A group has been set up to consult with congregations regarding the times and places for worship once the church has been re-opened. Lifestreams held a forum in July for these discussions and survey forms were submitted indicating preferences. A consultation with the choir also took place about the best time for Evensong.
- **Tonga Missions Trip:** A financial report for the Tongan Missions Trip was received. Everyone involved in the trip commented on how successful it was and how much members of the team grew spiritually and in understanding Christians living in other cultures. There is to be a final debrief at the end of September and there will be a 'Missions Sunday' 25 September.
- **Church Interior Process:** Vestry were briefed on the process of authorisation to carry out improvements to the interior of St Barnabas. We are required to develop a schedule of works which details the heritage impact the works will have. We are also required to provide a ministry rationale for the changes we seek. Application documents will be tabled at the September Vestry meeting for approval before being submitted.
- **Consultation of Congregations:** A number of parish congregations will be consulted about the usage of the church once it has been re-opened. Lifestreams held a Congregational Forum recently to discuss whether they wanted to use the church or to continue in the hall. They were also asked what time they would like to meet. Once the 9am congregation moves back to the church there is greater time flexibility. Other congregations will be surveyed.

REGISTER

FUNERALS

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

June

- 14 Hilary Patricia Somerville
25 Harry Wyndham Simpson

July

- 7 Kevin Graham Schwass
28 Roger Howard Wait

'Picking the Lock'

A letter to the Editor published in The Times of London recently.

Sir, the excellent obituary for Joe Henson (Nov 5) concluded with the fact that he was buried with a lock of Cotswold wool in order that, at the gate, St Peter would know he was a shepherd and therefore was unable to get to church on Sundays. It made me wonder what the majority of the population would be required to be buried with today. Golf clubs, shopping bag, garden tools, TV, football, computer.

BELINDA HARRISON
Snarestone, Derbyshire

Contributions to the Mooring Post:

Deadline for October Issue

Friday 9 September



Fun and Friendship at
St Barnabas Mainly Music

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.