



THE MOORING POST

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

Does Social Media Cause Social Isolation?

I saw an image the other day of a group of people waiting to be seated at a restaurant and they were all gazing into their cell phones. In the darkened ambiance of the eatery, their faces were bathed in the glow of their private screens as they (presumably) checked their social media accounts. A tragic image of being alone in company, being present but absent and having virtual friends at the expense of real ones.

After a significant increase in the number of suicides in the community recently, many are asking what is wrong with our modern society that so many feel they can't carry on. We face a growing epidemic of loneliness with dire mental health consequences.

And there is a growing body of evidence suggesting that social media is a least partly to blame. At one time we may have thought that connecting with people through social media was a good thing - keeping in touch, sharing experiences and joining in causes of common interest. What could be the problem with 'friending', 'liking' and 'sharing.' Well quite a lot as it turns out.

A recent study in the 'Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology' found that extended social media use and feelings of social isolation and depressive symptoms go hand in hand. There appear to be a number of

reasons for this.

First of all social media tends to be a distraction from real life. For example instead of interacting with fellow travellers on a bus, many are glued to their devices. Parents, at their child's sporting match, can often be seen looking at their screens instead of engaging with the game or striking up conversations with other parents. The time needed to build real friendships and community is stolen by the virtual world.

Secondly researchers have found that social media promotes the phenomenon of social comparison. We're wired up to compare ourselves with the achievements, possessions and status of others. Furthermore people tend to more commonly post about positive things such as happy holiday times, exciting events and personal successes. This of course offers a distorted view of life and sets up an environment where we can feel inadequate in the face of the exciting lives of others. Teens are especially vulnerable to this process of comparison.

Finally, social media gives an illusion of companionship without delivering the benefits that real life relationships offer. Ultimately it's a parody of friendship that fails to offer the mutual support, encouragement

and understanding that we all crave.

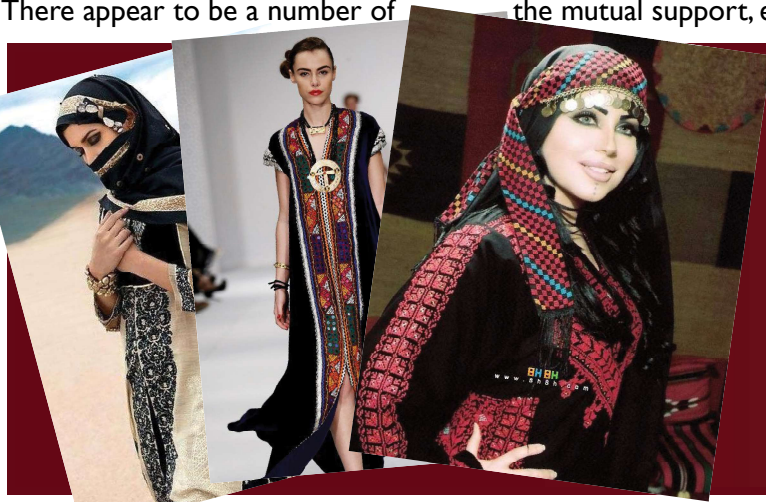
St Barnabas and indeed all churches have something very important to offer here. Christianity at its core is about experiencing reconciliation with God and being brought into a new community. Because every Christian belongs to Christ, we also belong to one another. Going it alone as a Christian is not only inadvisable but not actually possible.

And so the Church ought to be a place where rich human relationships are fostered, where we are a community of equals and where we are mutually committed to the wellbeing of each other.

That's why we have weekly worship, English lessons for migrants, pastoral care for the young men at Boy's High and children's groups like Mainly Music, Playgroup and Fridayzone - with refreshments and meals. That's why we keep in touch with the elderly through Home Communion and visiting. That's why we have men's groups, women's groups and a host of other interest and service groups.

So maybe we need to be more intentional about turning off the virtual world a bit more and begin investing in the real world of real people and real communities - with God at the centre.

Rev. Mark Chamberlain



Arabian Nights Fashion Show

Come to an exotic, Middle-Eastern fashion show!

Fundraiser for our buildings

Friday 24 Nov. in the church. Drinks at 7.15pm for 8pm start.

Tickets \$30 from Office

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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Why am I Still a Christian?

An interview with Tom Coulson and Pamela McKenzie on what their faith means to them.

When did you remember God becoming more than just a word?

Tom: That would be my first Easter Camp when I was listening to one of the speakers and had what I believe to be a true Holy Spirit moment. I felt the Holy Spirit coming down on me in the form of a great peace. For the first time in a long time I felt at peace with myself.

Pam: I was brought up in a Christian family and so God has always been meaningful to me. When I was young I biked four miles to meet a teacher who took me the next 2 miles to go to Sunday School. Later I joined a correspondence Sunday School and remember coming to Christchurch to meet my teacher.

What are the ways you best relate to God?

Tom: I hate to see suffering going on in the world and would like to do more to change it. So I see God at work when people take action to relieve suffering.

Pam: Talking to God using arrow prayers through the day. Any time!

What does being a Christian mean to you?

Tom: It means being there for other people when they need it. Being open to loving and helping people regardless of who they are or what they have done.

Pam: Knowing that God is there and that I can relate to God at any time. Being able to talk things over with God.

Describe how you resource your faith in God?

Tom: Through thinking about it and research. I like to find out about new things through asking questions and doing research on the internet.

Pam: I really enjoy the daily readings printed by Marion each month. I'm enjoying the Book of Chronicles at the moment. I also enjoy reading good books by Christian authors like Philip Yancey, CS Lewis and William Barclay.

Eugene Petersen once described following Jesus as 'a long obedience in the same direction.' Is that something you can relate to?

Tom: I try to follow Jesus by doing what I believe he would want me to do – and helping with the youth. My career path which is in engineering is to help people. In the future I might be able to invent something that is good for all humans!

Pam: God shifted us every 5 years in ministry for a long time! Shifting was hard for me because of my rural background. I've never felt that God had abandoned me. God has enabled me to do the things he's called me to do!

Why are you still a Christian?

Tom: Because I haven't heard any convincing arguments against Christianity and I have heard many good arguments for Christianity. As well as that I have had moments when I have been truly influenced by the Holy Spirit. It would be illogical for me not to be a Christian. This experience proved it to me. On top of that I believe it is the right thing to do and it is the best for people.

Pam: More than ever I feel the need to be a Christian. I need God in my life more than ever! For some people church going is a culture not a belief. For me it's not a culture it's a personal commitment.



Youth Ministry at St. Barnabas

Contact Phil Parkes 022 032 3663

Youth Group: Christian youth community! Friday nights in the hall. 7-9pm – Yrs 7-13.

The Revs: Christian group for high school age young people. Meets on Sundays during Lifestreams at 10am.

Religious Education in State Schools

A recent protest outside Wharehenui School against Religious Education in State Schools made for some confusing reading in the newspaper. The Secular Education Network (SEN) made claims about the content of RE teaching. The Churches Education Commission (CEC), which is responsible for the content, counter claimed that SEN was talking about material which was last used eight years ago. But we should not let such confusion obscure the fact that some well organized agitation is seeking to dislodge RE from our schools.

We are a society which increasingly distances itself from its Christian foundations (which, ironically, nourish free speech and protest). Mostly this is passively happening over time but it is not surprising that some proactive moves will be made to hasten this process.

On the one hand we can be glad that we are not the Northern Territory which is considering the possibility of prohibiting any religious organization (including Christian schools) from advertising for employees who share those religious aims. On the other hand, we can reflect on what is worth fighting for as Christians. One of those things is for the Christian message of God's love, mercy and forgiveness to be taught in our schools (in appropriate ways, consistent with our Education Act).

The first reason is that it is this message which has shaped our society as one in which people are cared for via redistribution of taxes to each as they have need. The

welfare state (begun in NZ by Christian politicians) flows out of, not against Christian values which still lie deep within our culture. We do not yet know what our society will be like if these values are lost and forgotten.

The second reason is that the Christian message challenges and inspires us to be an open, welcoming, inclusive country, determined to treat every human being with respect and dignity, whatever gender, creed, race or social background. This message continues to shape our society.

But we can see other societies around our world in which this message is being overwhelmed by racism and nationalism. A secular schooling system without any input via CEC materials does not, in my view, inspire confidence that we would then nurture future citizens who are immune to racism and nationalism.

Ven. Dr. Peter Carrell



LET THE BELLS RING OUT!

The bells in the Belltower which have been silent for seven years are now repaired and their joyful sound can be heard each Sunday morning and before and after wedding services.

The eight bells are in the key of C Major and were made at the Gillette & Johnston Bell Foundry in Croydon, England. Their total weight is just over 7 cwt. They were installed in the church tower in 1926.

They are rung from a wooden carrillon stand



with eight horizontal wooden levers that are strung individually to the bells higher up in the tower.

The bell ringer sits on a high stool facing the carillon stand and using both hands alternately pushes down the levers in the manner of playing a keyboard.

The bell peals are set out on manuscript pages for the ringer to follow. Each bell change is made in various combinations of the eight bells and there can be well over fifty possible combinations of their eight notes.

A practice set of 8 small handbells given to the St Barnabas parish by the Guild of Bellringers of Christchurch Cathedral in 1932 is now mounted in a wooden frame on the wall of the bellringing room so that newcomers learning the skill can practice on them quietly before attempting to ring the large publicly-audible bells.

At the moment there is only a small roster of bellringers but if anyone who can read music would be interested to learn the skill, please contact Margaret Mahoney on 351 6523.

Margaret Mahoney



Association of Anglican Women

Aim: To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church. To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

Daytime Group

Wednesday 1 November, 2pm in the Tui Room. Annual General Meeting. Our guest speaker following the AGM is Pip Chamberlain.

Leader: Madeleine Price – 354 4299
021 188 5138

In Betweens

Tuesday 21 November at 7.30pm in the church. AGM followed by a short communion service led by the Vicar. Followed by supper in the hall. All welcome.

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179

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Angela and Greg Brown's 60th Birthday Tour

Greg and I were blessed by taking an 8 week "Recharging and Life Purpose Tour" to celebrate our 60th birthdays. Our travels took us to Sri Lanka to see Godfrey Wijetillake with Angela, then to Greece to see the home village of my great uncle fulfilling a 43yr old promise, a Greek Island tour with cruise, Croatia cruise, Seattle visit and the grand finale of 2wks in Hawaii with our adult children and their partners and 3 grandchildren – 13 of us.

Our 2 weeks with Godfrey, Angela and his 2 nephew helpers, was a mission and tourist time. After 13 yrs since his Motor Neurone diagnosis, Godfrey is still in a wheelchair, unable to speak without his talking machine, but is still able to eat and beam his wonderful smile. He cried with delight hearing the St Barnabas Family were praying for our time with him. The Lord was gracious to give me a dream of Godfrey's healing – not knowing which side of heaven it will be, I was able to share it and spent time in prayer with Angela and Godfrey. Witnessing the devotion and care of Angela and nephews and curiosity of Sri Lankans who don't normally see folk in wheelchairs was precious. Meeting Godfrey's siblings and families at his brother's house was humbling as we ate first with Godfrey and Angela as they watched. Singing 'The Butterfly Song' to his nieces and nephews will always be a precious memory.

Our walk in Ephesus in Turkey was so spiritually stirring. Seeing how the people of Greece and Croatia have rebuilt their lives after invasions and destruction gave me hope for our Christchurch rebuild and the rebuilding of hope in our hearts. The beauty, warmth and delight of blue warm water and amazing sunsets were all God's gifts. We witnessed people in a restaurant in Santorini clapping as the sun set – it felt like they were praising God.

We were inspired by the massive statue of St Gregory in Split, Croatia and hearing his passion for trying to introduce the Croatian language into services, in the language of the people not Latin, and his being persecuted for that. A challenge to us at St Barnabas is to see whether the language and style of worship we use reaches the people of today.

A lifetime dream for me was surprisingly fulfilled in seeing the Church of St Ignatius, St Francis Monastery and St Clare Convent in Dubrovnik on the birthday of my dear late friend Rev Pamela Warnes, who led the year long St Ignatius Spiritual Formation SEED course in the year 2000.

In Seattle we were reunited with Sue (Pierson) Rhodes after 35yrs. The last time we met her, her first daughter Clare was 2weeks old, I was pregnant with Charlotte and this time we met with Clare now 12 weeks pregnant with her first baby! The circle of life continues. It was inspiring to hear how God had used us in different ministries since our time in the Young Adults St Barnabas group in the 1980s.

The blessing of us being reunited with our family in Waikiki Hawaii and time in Maui was heart-warming. Watching our adult children support one another and have fun together with their nieces and nephew and having adventures, swim and retail therapy was so memorable.

The inspiration and lessons we bring back to our lives and St Barnabas are the preciousness of couple time, love of family and the joy that generosity brings. God challenges us to live with compassion, with dreams, visions and hope. We value afresh the beauty and quietness of this land and the soul feeding of corporate worship and our sister and brothers in Christ at St Barnabas. We continue to seek God's will and purpose for our lives and our St Barnabas family and church vision.

We prayerfully thank all those who fulfilled our St Barnabas ministries so we could enjoy this precious couple and family time.



Angela and Greg Brown

Catholicism of Bill English and Current Ethical Issues

Recently Synod discussed two important ethical topics of significant national interest, gay marriage and euthanasia. The Roman Catholic church has historically never condoned gay marriage, euthanasia or abortion. How does Bill English, a practising Roman Catholic, wrestle with these political issues?

Bill English, was asked what part does his faith play in his life. He replied his faith is a significant part of who he is, so it can't help but affect his personal decision making. It is part of his conscience. He goes to church most Sundays. He describes sitting at the back in church and just as any other congregation member listens to a lot about humility, forgiveness and mercy which are not part of the general political forum. He finds this very balancing.

He states there is no harm in voters noting the religious association of Prime Ministers. He said he remains personally opposed to euthanasia and abortion, but is now no longer opposed to gay marriage. He stated parliament treats these topics as non-partisan issues and in that context he has one vote, the same as everyone else. He said he would never exercise undue political influence on these issues.

Whatever his church's position, Bill English has now come around to the view that same sex marriage

ceremonies do not undermine the status and sanctity of marriage, "in some ways it is an affirmation of the concept"

John Key openly declared support of a private member's gay marriage bill and is credited with a pivotal role in bringing conservative opinion around on the issue. John Key did not persuade Bill English at the that time.

He said that when these ethical issues come before parliament they are decided by a free vote. The Prime Minister's is one of about 120, but can be influencing.

He stated that while he is an 'active Catholic and proud of this, he does not use his position to promote socially conservative changes in New Zealand. He quoted JFK, a Roman Catholic, 'while his faith was an important influence, it did not define him'.



Bill English was our third Roman Catholic Prime Minister; his predecessors are Michael Savage and Jim Bolger.

Madeleine Price

Youth Dive Deeper Into God

St Barnabas was well represented at Deeper Camp this year. Our crew were really close but we managed to build stronger bonds with one another by opening up and being real with each other.

There were two really outstanding talks about forgiveness and secrets that fell under the theme of 'transformation'. We learnt about how great God's forgiveness is for us and how to forgive others in a healthy manner.

One speaker encouraged us to be real and honest with the people in our lives. She shared a story about one of the biggest lies she had ever told. Throughout the weekend our youth shared things they normally kept hidden. By being honest we were able to feel unashamed and free.

Our leaders also came to find that we as a community need to be more relevant with what we talk about because the things young people are dealing with today are huge. Today youth are taught you can do whatever you like as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else. For Christians we're called to be 'in the world but not of it' so I think we could set a new standard of behaviour that blesses and uplifts those around us.

There was a worship band playing that was absolutely fantastic with lots of dancing and singing. In our down time between the talks from speakers and dancing to the worship band, the youth and the leaders would play the one card game that needs no introduction... Scum!

The weather over the weekend left a lot to be desired! There was lots of rain and there were only short moments of sunshine. Despite the rain the young people would go outside to play 'Octo Hand Ball' and get very muddy. I was not one of them. Instead we listened to music, did makeovers (including some of the boys) and laughed together. All in all it was a fantastic weekend not to be forgotten!

Kathryn Fee – St Barnabas Youth Intern



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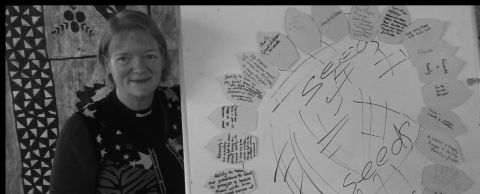
Invitation to High Tea

Each year the St Barnabas AAW Day-time Group and their AAW Ellesmere link Branch host one another to a meeting.

In September we reciprocated and invited Ellesmere AAW members to join us for a high afternoon at St Barnabas.

Members of the St Barnabas Inbetweens AAW and local Diocesan members also joined us. Our high tea was preceded by a presentation by Rev Mary Minson "The Changing Stages of Life". We then recorded factors currently important in our lives on yellow petals to form the sunflower below.

The high tea was indeed a highlight! The table was laden with a glorious array of bite size delights prepared by our members and enjoyed by all. It was a fund raising occasion to support Overseas and Outreach activities.



Guest Speaker Rev. Mary Minson

Heritage Week Success

There's nothing quite like showing off your achievement to others! That's what it was like for us during Heritage Week. We welcomed members of the community into the church and they were shown the repairs, strengthening and improvements that have been made to St Barnabas.



Ruth Harwood and Don Mackenzie led the organizing team and Richard McElrea provided the historical material that was incorporated into a smart new information brochure. The brochure explained the interesting features of our church including the architecture, stained glass windows, carvings, plaques etc.

Thanks to the team who worked hard so that we could be involved in Heritage Week.

Saying Thank You With Breakfast!

What's the best way to thank the group of people who helped various parish ministries while Angela and Greg Brown were away on leave for the third term? You take them out to breakfast!

It was great to thank this wonderful team of people over Eggs Benedict and other wonderful breakfast creation at the Addington Coffee Co-op.

We are grateful for our strong St Barnabas Team who are able to step up and cover for those away. And it's wonderful to see the Brown's return with great energy and vision!



What's Coming Up?

Love in a Box

Fill a shoe box of Christmas gifts to local children or the elderly in need this Christmas. Return by 10 December.

SUNDAY **12**
NOVEMBER

Van Outing

All seniors welcome to a van outing to Springston and Leeston. Fellowship, interest and refreshments along the way! Leaves car park at 1.30pm, back by 3.30pm. Book through the office.

WEDNESDAY **15**
NOVEMBER

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 **23**
NOVEMBER

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Food donations are sought for the Aranui Christmas Hamper Appeal. Donations will be taken to the Aruanui-Wainoni parish and hampers will be made up for less well-off families. Return by 17 Dec.

SUNDAY **26**
NOVEMBER

Diocesan Youth Ball

All young people are invited to the annual Diocesan Youth Ball. See Phil Parkes for more information.

FRIDAY **1**
DECEMBER

Advent Lessons and Carols

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

SUNDAY **3**
NOVEMBER

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MOORING POST DESIGN

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

ST BARNABAS CHURCH

- 8.00am Eucharist, followed by breakfast
(Tui Room)
- 9.30am Sung Eucharist followed by
morning tea (Tui Room)
- 5.00pm 1st and 3rd Sundays – Evensong,
2nd Sunday – Choral Night
Prayer, 4th Sunday – Eucharist

ST BARNABAS HALL

- 9.30am Lifestreams Eucharist with
children's and youth programmes
followed by morning tea.
- 7.00pm Antioch in the hall for students
young adults but all welcome

MID-WEEK WORSHIP

- 8.30am Wednesday – Eucharist all welcome
in the Church
- 10.00am Thursdays – Eucharist in Church
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.

PLEASE NOTE:

Lifestreams to start at 10am from 5th
November 2017

Vestry News

- **Scoping of Hall and Admin:** Suzanne Price of CPT indicated to the parish that the Structural Engineers and Heritage Architects had been engaged for the work of repairing, strengthening and improving the Admin Building and the Hall. Vestry needs to develop plans for the kinds of improvements required in these buildings to make them fit for purpose for the future.
- **Community Fun Day:** Vestry was informed of plans to be part of this community initiative next February. The first meeting of those involved in the organisation of this event took place on 19 October. This has traditionally been a substantially free community event.
- **Heritage Week:** Vestry were given a report of the parish's involvement in Heritage Week. Modest numbers of people visited the church on Friday 13 – Sunday 15 October. An excellent new brochure was planned, designed and printed and this will be useful into the foreseeable future. Excellent contacts were made with the visitors.
- **Kofe Havea Moving On:** Vestry were informed that Kofe Havea will be resigning from her position in January next year to attend St John's College in Auckland. Kofe has been in her role as Ministry Assistant for ten years. Vestry considered the ways we might replace Kofe – there are a number of different options.
- **Record of Policy Decisions:** Corinne Haines has produced a summary of all Policy Decisions made by Vestry from January 2013 until the present. She will keep this updated and it will be printed for the information of Vestry members each year.
- **Site Landscape Plan:** A site plan produced by the landscaping team was tabled. This plan covers the entire site and includes recommendations for developments.

REGISTER

BAPTISMS

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

October

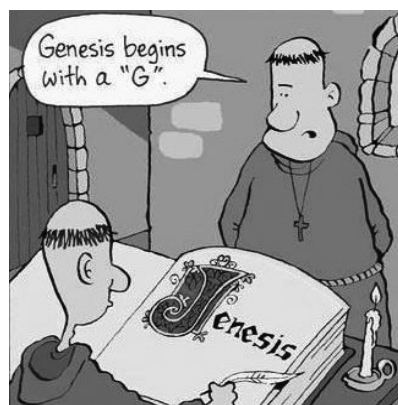
- 22 Isla Emmeline Bacon
22 Oliver Edward Bacon

FUNERALS

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

October

- 13 David Harrison Booth
17 William Douglas Hodge
17 Ewen Cameron Morrow



**Contributions
to the Mooring
Post:**

**December Issue
Deadline:**

Friday 17th November



Kidzone: Creative Sunday School for children 5 – 11 yrs
Sundays 9.30am. Christine Fokkens: 027 429 4613.