



THE MOORING POST

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

Do We Really Need God?

I was thoroughly impressed by Rocket Lab's latest launch into space. New Zealand might not have a car industry, but apparently we now have an aerospace industry!

For some however, the technical achievements of humankind, have combined to reduce our felt need for God. We have so mastered our world and space itself, with the tools of science and technology, that belief in an elderly, grandfatherly figure in the sky, is no longer plausible. So who really needs God?

Well first of all I would ask you to set aside the popular notions of a white haired man in the sky for a moment, and get back to what Christianity actually says about God. God is self-existent and the uncaused cause of everything. God is the ground and source of the whole universe. The personhood of God is constituted by a community of self-giving love. God is so much more than we could conceive and far more exciting, thrilling and overwhelmingly good than any of us can imagine.

Not surprisingly, many people think of God as a kind of super extension of themselves - a kind of superhero if you will. But God is not just one more item on the inventory of all the entities in the universe. Rather

God makes the universe possible in the first place.

Thomas Aquinas said that, unlike God, we humans are 'contingent' beings and dependent on things like air, food and our parents for our existence. The clear implication is that we cannot have created ourselves. However God, who is not contingent on anything, is the prime mover and the being who made and sustains all things.

So we need God in order to exist and when we recognise our unqualified dependence on God, it is only right that we should respond in love and worship. So yes, at this most fundamental level, we need God.

We also need God because of the moral framework that theism provides. We need a creator, who created both the physical and moral laws, as a kind of guarantor and upholder of right behavior. Without God, there is only human opinion and pragmatism.

For example it is not intuitive that all people are equal. In ancient Rome between 30 and 40% of the population were slaves and no one questioned this social arrangement. Although some slaves were eventually freed, and others worked as secretaries, managers and even doctors, the great majority lived short, brutal lives in the mines or farms of the empire.

It was the Judeo-Christian belief, that all people are created by God and endowed with infinite dignity, that provided the moral impetus to abolish slavery. This belief was grounded on the loving and redeeming God of Christianity most clearly portrayed in the person of Jesus Christ.

But we also need God because of our common human yearning to experience meaning, purpose and hope. One might say that we have a need for self-realisation and true freedom. And God provides this for us. The whole story of scripture is the story of humanity in bondage and God working to free us which he did in Christ. Today so many people suffer from addictions, oppression and many other forms of slavery. God promises freedom for all those who 'labour and are heavy laden', and this programme of liberty is achieved through the power of the Holy Spirit working through people of good will.

So yes, as old-fashioned as it sounds, we still need God! We need God for our creation, our existence, our ethics and our freedom. As we move into a new year, let's celebrate and enjoy God who has done so much for us!

Rev. Mark Chamberlain

Join A Lent Study Group This Year!

Join a Lent Study Group and learn about 'Hope' from Romans – an excellent resource for spiritual growth! Begins mid February. Further info on website. Phone parish office to sign up.

'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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Vicar Pays Tribute to Kofe Havea

The following was the Vicar's speech on the occasion of Kofe Havea's farewell from the parish on Sunday 14 January. Kofe will shift to St John's College in Auckland for theological study for 2018.

"Kofe, it is with both sadness and gratitude for the ten years you have served our parish, that I rise to thank you for your ministry on the occasion of your farewell. You are well known for your listening, your empathy, your prayerfulness and love for the people of our parish. You bring a quiet and serene dignity wherever you go, and show forth in your manner a deep love of God. We will miss you very much when you leave our parish and head off to Auckland.

So thank you Kofe for your many years of service to God and the people of St Barnabas. You have contributed to parish life in so many important ways. In your pastoral work, moving around the parish, you have been a tangible reminder and presence of God to a large number of people. You have been 'God with skin on'.



And you helped us all to grow in love for God and for each other. You embodied the kindness of the God we worship and speak of, and in so doing, made our faith credible and strengthened our witness. You have been a faithful and helpful staff member and team member. You have been the glue that helped us all to grow as a loving team. And for all this and much more we thank you.

However I don't want this to sound like a eulogy! We have had many fun times. Remember the Tongan fundraising evening in the Big Room at Boy's High - what a night that was! Remember all the Fairs and Fun Days with Leni and you on the BBQs providing food in the Tongan style! Remember the Mission Trips to Tonga. Remember the Staff Retreats, the morning teas, and the mad Fridays with deadlines and PowerPoints to complete.

Remember our weekly staff meetings. Remember the Christmas Parties in the Vicarage and the Patronal Parties. And then of course the Ministry degree you completed at Laidlaw while continuing your pastoral work at St Barnabas. They were hard days but you managed to complete everything with grace.

So thank you Kofe. You were on staff before I was. I inherited you - but I am so grateful that you have been ministering alongside me these last seven years. So go to St John's with our blessing. God has a good future for you. And pray for us as we will pray for you. And come back to see us from time to time."

Rev Mark Chamberlain

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 9.30am.

The Prayer of Examen: A Spiritual Discipline for the New Year

Approximately 500 years ago, Ignatius of Loyola – the founder of the religious order called the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) – taught a form of prayer called the ‘Prayer of Examen’. Jim Manney, author of ‘A Simple Life-Changing Prayer’, describes the Examen as “an attitude, more than a method – a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life.” Putting aside perhaps ten or fifteen minutes to review each day using this structured form of prayer can help us to develop gratitude and to seek God’s wisdom, forgiveness and help in all circumstances.

Over the centuries the Examen has been adapted in different ways, but it usually has five steps. Author Kevin O’Brien writes, “Do not feel that you need to do all five steps or use a precise formula of words. This is not about completing a task but building a relationship.”

Invite God to be with you and to help you during this time of prayer. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding as you look back over the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit.

Review the day with gratitude. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day’s gifts, paying attention to specific

details, including quite “ordinary” things – the food you ate, the sights you saw, and other seemingly small pleasures. God is in the details.

Pay attention to your emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced through the day. Boredom? Anger? Joy? Anxiety? Confidence? Sadness? What might God be saying to you through these feelings? Ask God to help you understand what aroused those feelings and where they led you.

Choose one feature of the day and pray from it. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your attention to something significant. Rejoice and seek forgiveness. Pray for others.

Look toward tomorrow. Ask God for the grace you need to face tomorrow’s challenges. Pray for hope.

This outline of the Prayer of Examen is adapted from Kevin O’Brien’s ‘The Ignatian Adventure’ and from the Ignatian Spirituality website www.ignatianspirituality.com. This website has a more detailed explanation of this form of prayer and provides links to many related resources.



Anne Shave

THE DAILY EXAMEN
IN 6 SIMPLE STEPS

Christingle Service - First Time in Church for 7 years

God’s Amazing Grace and Love was the theme of the Christingle Service 2017. This popular Christmas community outreach service was the biggest service for the Christmas season.

The sight of approximately 50 children dressed as angels, shepherds with toy sheep, wise men with their gifts, Star holder and Mary was only topped off with our Joseph being Tory Moore with his precious son James as baby Jesus.

The combined Antioch and Lifestreams band offered wonderful worship leading with traditional carols. Rev Mark Chamberlain retold the Christmas story with

enthusiasm and invited children forward to make the tableau. Rev Mary Minson did a wonderful dramatization of the Gospel reading of the Christmas Story.



The long awaited distribution of the Christingles lovingly made by Lifestreamers was made after an explanation of all parts of the Christingle – orange for the world, red stripe for Jesus blood shed to save us, candle for Jesus the light of the world, 4 sticks with fruit to represent the four seasons and fruit of the world.

‘God’s Amazing Grace’ take-home wrist bands were distributed to children and adults with an invitation to take photos over the holidays showing the band and all the places God’s Amazing Grace and Love are at work. These photos are to be shown at the Celebration service on 28 January at Lifestreams.

Prayerful thanks to all who set up and packed up and helped dress our visitors.

Angela Brown - Children and Families Ministry Worker





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 February, 2pm in the Tui Room.
Speaker is Mary Anderson speaking on 'Experiences of the Hutterite Colonies in Canada.'
Leader: Madeleine Price – 354 4299

In Betweens

Tuesday 20 February at 7.30pm in the Hall.
Speaker is 2016 New Zealand Trainer of the Year Kate Lugtigheid, giving 7 tips to help lead a healthier, happier life. All welcome.
Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie – 351 5179

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An Interview with Parishioner Annette Paulsen

Annette graduated with a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Canterbury recently and shares something of her life and faith.

Hi Annette. I understand you have just graduated with a degree in Social Work. What attracted you to this area of study? Lots of things really. Over my life I have always been seen as someone to talk with when friends or family had worries in their lives. However, the main tipping point for me was being a barmaid at Burnham Military Camp and watching many broken soldiers come back from war-torn countries that spent hours drinking in my bar and talking about their experiences. I watched them drink night after night and felt helpless to help them in a productive way.

Where do you want to take your career? Wherever God leads me! I have felt that he has put me on this life path and I believe that has not finished. Once my youngest child leaves home I would like to be involved in Volunteer's Service Aboard or something similar. My children have almost grown up and I think I have something to offer other communities here and around the world.

What family do you have and what are they doing with their lives? I have three adult sons who have bought their own homes and one teenage daughter still living at home with me. My eldest is 27 and a clinical psychologist. My second son is a serving soldier with New Zealand Defense Force and my third son is a qualified drain layer. My daughter is in her last year at high school and her future direction is unclear.

How long have you been a Christian and how do you grow in faith? I was bought up in a Christian home. My parents stopped going to church after my brother died of cancer at 2 years of age however they encouraged my sisters and I to still have a faith. I rebelled as a teen and stopped attending church however I had moments in those rebellious years asking for God to help and direct me. I was married at St Michaels where we needed to attend the 3 weeks before the wedding for our bands to be read. Through this I began to love the church community again. Not long after we married we were posted to Linton as my now ex-husband was a soldier. There my faith grew again as I needed to rely on God's strength to endure the life of a soldier's wife and the endless lonely isolation of raising a family on my own with no family support. I grew my faith by attending study groups, regular church services and mixing with other Christians of all denominations to gain a deeper meaning in my walk with God.

How long have you been at St Barnabas and how did you come to be part of our parish? I attended a service over the Christmas holidays three years ago and haven't left. My military church that I attended for nineteen years was shut over the Christmas holidays while the soldiers were on leave and I didn't return. St Barnabas welcomed me with open arms at a time when I was grieving the end of my marriage and my faith was ignited at a deeper level. I had become complacent and stagnant in my faith as my children had grown and left the church, and found I was attending out of habit. The St Barnabas community ignited my faith and helped me to grow again.

What congregation do you belong to and what do you appreciate about it? I attend Lifestreams and sometimes Antioch. I enjoy the family vibe with the young children at Lifestreams and the music at Antioch which always fills me with the Holy Spirit. Most of all it's the people at both services.

In what ways are you involved at St Barnabas? I have been an active member of 'Women at the Well' for most of the 3 years. I have attended evening study groups and Lent Study Groups and Dinners for Eight over winter. I help in the kitchen for our shared lunches and fill in on the morning tea roster.



Christmas Message from the Bishop

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, the 12 days of Christmas have come and gone which included the arrival of the Magi or Wise Men who followed the star to worship the new born King. You may be interested to note that neither the number three nor the depiction of kings is actually found in scripture.

However the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh are in Matthew 2.1-12. It is generally agreed that gold reflects the identity of Christ as Sovereign; frankincense identifies



the new born child as priest; and finally myrrh reminds us that Christ Jesus was born to die for us as myrrh was used in burial preparation. The Magi are also thought to foreshadow the day when all nations will recognise the Lordship of Jesus, the only begotten Son of God.

It is worth noting as we enter the New Year, a number of events internationally which are of great importance. The 'Me Too' campaign in which women of significance have spoken out about sexual harassment and abuse, is certainly worthy of note. The new legal requirement in Iceland to pay both genders equal compensation for equal work is also noteworthy. It is the first such legislation in the world. Finally, if you have not listened to the speech on racial and gender equality by Oprah Winfrey at the Golden Globe awards, I recommend it.

As you enter the New Year I encourage you to reflect on your spiritual and ministry commitments and to ponder if they need revision. This should always be done prayerfully and carefully.

Bishop Victoria Matthews – Bishop of Christchurch

“Sunday Best” – Book Review by Brian Carrell

The subtitle of a just published 460pp book by Massey Professor of History, Peter Lineham, says it all, ‘How the Church shaped New Zealand and New Zealand

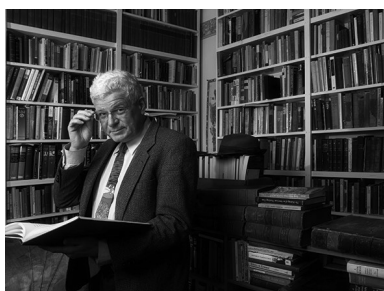
shaped the Church’. How welcome to have this not in a ponderous record of denominational growth and institutional change but in a lively, amply illustrated and factually grounded account of the place of the Church at grass roots in the development of our country over the last two centuries.

The author is even-handed and fair in his coverage from Catholics to charismatics, from Presbyterians to Pentecostals – and Anglicans! I could not seriously fault his findings; in fact I learned much from them.

Overall he describes a gradual but accelerating movement from where the local Church (of whatever denomination) was a vital presence in every

community, city or rural, to a point where often it hangs on grimly to simply survive. ‘Secularisation’ is the term given to this change. A secular society is one where communities believe they can thrive without public recognition of God.

The last four decades have seen secularisation take leaps forward. For example, one of my last official acts as a Bishop was to open a Parliamentary Dinner in the Beehive by saying grace. Later this long-standing convention was dropped. When our current Parliament was convened just before Christmas the new Speaker proposed removing any reference to God or Jesus Christ in the opening prayer. He got part of his wish. The edging of God off the public platform in Aotearoa New Zealand continues. This fine book is available for borrowing from Theology House.



Prof. Peter Lineham



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All My Money On Jesus!

"I put all my eggs in God's basket for one reason: Jesus died and came back to life again. Then he became the life-giving Spirit to give us, be it in dribbles, a sampling of the good world we are waiting for. This is where the trolley stops. If it could be proved beyond doubt that Jesus did not come alive after he was murdered, we have lost our one and only reason for hoping that there can be a good future for the world. Without Jesus we are stuck with two options: utopian illusion or deadly despair. I scorn illusion. I dread despair. So I put all my money in Jesus."

Lewis B. Smedes



Think of St Barnabas in Your Will

Please consider making a bequest in your will to enable the growth of God's kingdom in the Parish of Fendalton. A bequest will bless the parish in the following ways:

- *Contribute to the mission and ministry of the parish*
- *Enable the parish to extend the love of God into the community*
- *Provide Christian teaching for children and young people*
- *Ensure that there is an ongoing Christian presence in the community*

If you would like to make a bequest and haven't got a will, you will need to see your lawyer or the Public Trust or a trustee company to make one which will include a bequest for the benefit of our parish ministry. If you currently have a will, you will need to talk to the person who prepared your will about including a bequest in your will for the benefit of our parish ministry and this will be done either by making a new will or a codicil (amendment) to your existing will.

If you have any questions you may like to speak with our People's Warden Wendy Kington (0272290503) our Vicar's Warden Marcus Read (021750466) or the Vicar (0274327474). Your enquiry will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Sunday Fellowship Lunches

On the 2nd Sunday of each month a group from St Barnabas' meets for lunch at the Double Tree Restaurant (formerly Chateau on the Park) at 12 Noon. These lunches began about 4 years ago and now up to 30 people attend each month. The costs are reasonable.

The first of the lunches for 2018 will take place on Sunday 11 February – all are welcome. Subsequent lunches are on 11 March and 8 April – put the dates in your diary. There is no lunch in May because of Mothers' Day.

It is necessary to register your intention to attend. Do this by phoning May Carrell on 352 9999 by the Friday before each lunch (eg for February this will be Friday 9 February). Phone Marion in the Parish Office on 351 7064 if you require further information.



What's Coming Up?

Hymns of Praise

Join the members of our two AAW groups for the celebration of AAW Sunday at 5pm. We will sing favourite hymns selected by women who will speak about why they have been meaningful to them.

SUNDAY **4**
FEBRUARY

Ash Wednesday Service

This year we combine with the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in St Barnabas for our annual Ash Wednesday Service. Begins at 7pm. Join us for the Imposition of Ashes at the beginning of Lent.

WEDNESDAY **14**
FEBRUARY

Classical Sparks

Join the parish group at the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra classical music concert in Hagley Park. Meet in parish car park at 6pm or outside Girl's High in Matai St East at 6.15pm.

SATURDAY **17**
FEBRUARY

Seniors Van Outing

Travelling to Darfield on the old West Coast Road with Rev Phil Robinson and Madeleine Price. Book through the parish office. Cost is \$5 – bring extra for refreshments.

THURSDAY **22**
FEBRUARY

AGM Reports Due

Reports from ministry leaders are needed by this date so that the AGM booklet can be produced. Thanks to all those who lead groups in the parish!

FRIDAY **23**
FEBRUARY

Community Fun Day

This combines with our parish picnic on the front lawn of the church and will include a bouncy castle, Wateratz, sausage sizzle, games, music and lots more! 12 noon – 3pm.

SUNDAY **4**
MARCH

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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.

Vestry News

- **Monthly Vestry Meetings:** It was decided to revert back to monthly Vestry meetings in 2018 and the Parish Strategy Team will meet bi-monthly.
- **Staffing:** The Vicar informed the group that no one replied to our advertisement for an Assistant Priest. The Vicar was invited to appoint a casual, part time Parish Visitor and casual, part time Receptionist so that Vestry then has time to make firm plans.
- **Mission Action Planning:** Vestry was given an update of the progress of the Mission Action Plan. The Working Group consists of the two Wardens, Marcus Read and Wendy Kington, together with the Vicar. A draft Plan will be presented to Vestry in late January and a draft will then be published to the parish for comment. A final version will be presented at the AGM for final approval. This Plan will help the parish co-ordinate our ministries so that people can grow in faith and the parish as a whole can grow numerically.
- **Hall and Admin Building Project:** A separate Working Group has been formed to carry this work forward in 2018. Corinne Haines will convene the group and members will consist of Chris Wilson, Bert Govern, Don Mackenzie and the Vicar. The first step is to have engineers scope the earthquake repair component and this will form the basis for the CPT payout. The parish will then manage the project as a whole.
- **Landscaping:** The landscaping plan was again reviewed by Vestry and the Works Team was instructed to break down the elements of work into sensible packages that contractors could bid on.

REGISTER

BAPTISMS

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

December

- 17 George Tracy Gough
24 Ava Nicola-Ann Ferguson

FUNERALS

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

January

- 26 Harry Bashford

MARRIAGES

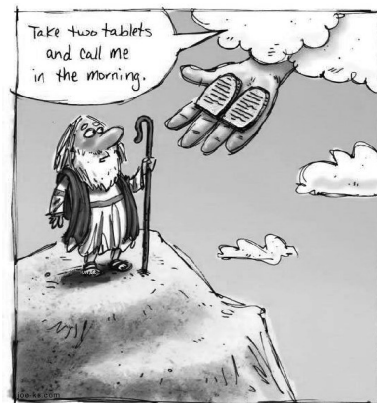
We extend our good wishes and prayers to the following couple recently married:

December

- 16 Althea Carbon and Scott Ogden
22 Wenting Guo and Yun Fu (reaffirmation)

January

- 6 Margaret Hydes and Fraser Paton





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. Pip Chamberlain 021 085 77640.

Fridayzone: Christian after-school club for Primary School children and their families. With meal. Fridays 3 – 5.30pm.
Olive Lawson: 021 067 6587.

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