

Talking and Walking with Hawking

Last week world famous physicist Stephen Hawking died at the age of 76. When he was just 21 he was diagnosed with a degenerative muscular disease and given just a few years to live. However against all the odds, he continued his work on theoretical physics and became the most popular scientist in the world since Sir Isaac Newton - although his appearance on popular TV shows may have had something to do with that!

Hawking made some significant advances in our understanding of black holes. His most recent work had to do with the origins of the universe and the possibility of the existence of many universes - the so called 'multiverse'.

Because of the nature of his work, Hawking published his thoughts on the existence of God on a number of occasions. For example in 'A Brief History of Time' he said that if he achieved a theory of everything it would be "the ultimate triumph of reason for then we would know the mind of God." Later he would say that he identified the laws of nature with God but rejected the idea of a "human-like being with whom one has a personal relationship."

When asked if he believed in an afterlife he said "There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that's a fairy story for people afraid of the dark." So in the final

analysis, Hawking appeared to be an atheist and certainly argued for the superiority of science over religion. He said "There is a fundamental difference between religion which is based on authority, and science which is based on observation and reason."

But wait on Stephen Hawking! Isn't it much more complex than that? The Christian faith, for example, emerged from a particular time and place in history and anyone can find out about that - by reading firsthand accounts and going to the places where the events took place. Like science, much can be learned about Christianity through 'observation and reason.' I certainly don't put my mind in neutral when I'm in church.

Conversely, science itself, is not just about 'observation and reason'. Scientists also use intuition and follow their hunches to develop hypotheses. They must also exercise faith that the physical world is intelligible, rational and testable. Furthermore, young researchers must have faith in senior scientists as they learn the ropes. Hence, science has more faith in it than you might imagine, and religion has more science in it than its opponents usually accept.

But more importantly, Hawking must be challenged, when he asserts that the laws of nature themselves are responsible for the existence of the universe. He said "Because there is a

law such as gravity the universe can and will create itself from nothing." Note carefully that Hawking defines nothing as "an unstable quantum vacuum that contains no particles" however that is not nothing! Nothing is actually the absence of anything. Nothing is not a vacuum - nothing is absolutely nothing! And as Thomas Aquinas once argued "Ex nihilo nihil fit" - "out of nothing, nothing comes."

Furthermore everything in the universe is contingent. We don't contain within ourselves, the reason for our own existence. We are non-self explanatory. We need to call upon an extrinsic cause to explain humankind and the physical universe. Appealing to gravity just won't do because gravity is a force within the universe.

So where did the universe come from? It must have come from a being that is non-contingent - that is not dependant on anything to explain its own existence. And that being is what we call God. God is the ground of the existence of everything. God is the fullness of existence itself.

I close with a final quote from Hawking. He said "It would not be much of a universe if it wasn't home to the people you love." I would argue that neither would it be much of a universe, if we didn't recognize and love the one who made it in the first place.

Mark Chamberlain | Vicar

'Come Celebrate Easter at St Barnabas'

Monday 26 March – Sunday 1 April

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

7.30pm Reflective Communion in the Church

Maudny Thursday in the Church

10am BCP Eucharist

7.30pm Eucharist and Foot Washing

8.30pm Tenebrae - Service of Shadows

Good Friday

9am Devotions around the cross at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish.

9.45am Placing of the Cross at St Barnabas

10.30am Lifestreams contemporary service

12 noon Vigil and reflections in the church

Easter Sunday

8am ANZPB Eucharist with hymns in the church

9.30am Festive Eucharist with choir in the church

10.00am Lifestreams Intergenerational Service

5pm Coral Evensong in the church

7pm Antioch – Contemporary Worship



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Youth Ministry at St. Barnabas

Youth Group: FRI 6PM - 9.30PM.
- Christian Youth Community in hall. Intermediate 6 - 8.00pm. High School age 7.30 - 9.30pm.

The Revs: SUNDAY 10 - 11.00AM.
- Christian group for high school aged young people.

An Interview with Medbury's New Headmaster Ian Macpherson

Ian Macpherson is the new Headmaster of Medbury School and has served in a number of church schools in Brisbane as well as most recently as Head of Middle School at Brisbane Boys' College. Ian and his wife Elizabeth have become committed members of St Barnabas. The Vicar caught up with Ian recently and asked him a few questions;

What does our faith in God mean to you?

Our faith provides a clear sense of purpose for me by following God's calling in my life. I believe that it is this calling that has brought me to Christchurch to lead the Medbury family towards the School's Centenary in 2023.

I am an avid proponent of Servant Leadership and therefore actively strive to lead by serving and to serve by leading.

What difference does your Christian faith have on your life?

The one message that God tells us throughout The Bible more than any other is to 'Fear Not'. This is one of the most powerful elements in any Christian faith as it is a guiding principle when experiencing challenging times, knowing at all times to remain focused on Jesus and trusting in His purpose in our lives.

Why is it important to maintain the Christian values of Medbury?

I believe it is important to provide children with a strong foundation for their lives. Wherever life takes them, it is important that they know the presence of God in their lives and the unique purpose God has for each and every one of us. Extensive research highlights how impressionable children are from a very young age. What children learn during the early years up to 6 years of age, will set the stage for their behavioural, emotional and mental health as they move into middle childhood and adolescence. Similarly, from 6 to 14 years of age, children are developing their sense of identity as they experience significant social, emotional and physical changes. Christian values are important elements in supporting Medbury's 12 Values, which are integrated into the fabric of the School to provide boys with real and tangible examples to help guide their formation of matters of the heart.

What ongoing role does St Barnabas have at Medbury?

The Medbury School community has a very strong sense of family, with staff, students and families not only supporting each other, but providing outreach service opportunities as a member of the broader community. The St Barnabas parish provides an extension of this family by providing a link to the School's Christian traditions. This presence plays a significant role in building children's understanding of Christian Values. Medbury School has had and continues to enjoy a strong and active relationship with the St Barnabas parish.

Ian Macpherson | Medbury Headmaster



Elizabeth and Ian Macpherson

Euthanasia - My Body My Choice?

The debate around euthanasia has profound moral implications for society but also has real, human consequences that are borne out in the lives of its individual members. Our Christian faith provides us with a unique perspective and forces us to question the subtext of secular arguments. A Christian response to euthanasia might question sentiments like "my body, my choice." Such statements are a reflection of the supremacy that our society gives to autonomy; our free will choice. It leads to the privatisation of the human body where our bodies are seen as our 'property' to do with what we wish.



The Christian perspective offers a contrasting view which suggests that through faith in Christ our bodies are not our own. Instead we are members of Christ's body and decisions about our physical bodies take on a corporate nature. Such thinking has important implications for how we live out our faith. We see ourselves as inextricably linked to one another through Christ and are obligated to care for those around us.

If the Christian community rejects euthanasia, it must offer a better way forward. Our churches must seek out and care for those who are sick and suffering. We must be present in real-world practical ways, ready to offer prayer, cook a meal and share laughter or tears. We can bear witness to the fact that our God sustains and comforts when medical intervention reaches its limit. Such a witness gives meaning to a situation desperately seeking it.

The discussion around euthanasia raises broader questions around how the Church engages with ethical issues. The Christian response to technological advance and medical reform must be informed by up-to-date knowledge and a humble reading of scripture. We must examine the evidence for ourselves to avoid over-simplification and rhetoric like 'sanctity of life', 'death with dignity' and 'my body my choice'. Finally we must find a way of framing our arguments in a manner that is admissible in a society that is increasingly secular and pluralistic.

Dr Matthew Chamberlain (MB ChB) | Psychiatric Registrar

Fun Day for the whole Community

St Barnabas and its grounds shone in the sunshine for our most successful Community Fun Day yet. The festivities kicked off at noon with a welcome from Rev Mark and the MC for the day, Hilary Muir from The Breeze, and proceeded at breakneck speed until 3 pm.

Against a backdrop of entertainment from the stage, including a 4-piece band and magnificent singing from Medbury boys, locals were given a taster of so much that our local community provides - from a quick roll-up on a temporary green provided by the Fendalton Bowling Club to joining Christchurch City Libraries.

Of course, our various activities for all ages at St Barnabas were on show and generous sponsorship enabled us to provide delicious food at low cost. The church was open and a steady stream of people admired the various memorials and had the earthquake repairs explained to them by knowledgeable parishioners.

The afternoon concluded with a tug o' war and the deafening cries of "heave" resounding around the neighbourhood.

Margaret Harper



PS: Between 400 and 500 people came to the Fun Day with lots of parents with small children wandering on to the church site throughout the day. It was a privilege to welcome so many and to offer a low cost event and to contribute to the well being and resilience of families in the area.



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 4 April at 2pm
Tui Room.

*Speaker is Madeleine Price –
'Travels in Scandinavia'.*

*Leader: Madeleine Price
354 4299
021 188 5138*

In Betweens

Tuesday 17 April at 7.30pm
Hall.

*Our speaker is 2016 New Zealand
Personal Trainer of the Year, giving
seven tips to help lead a healthier,
happier life.*

*Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie
351 5179*

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Expressing The Inexpressible Through Music

What makes a worship service special? The sermon? The prayers and readings? The energy of community? The reverent atmosphere of devotion? All of these? For some it's the music which helps make the difference!

The indefinable something that we get from participating in music is what helps some of us express the inexpressible, to find fulfillment in our approach to God. We all worship God in different ways.

St Augustine may or may not have said "They who sing, pray twice." (Try Googling this!) Isn't this a little bit unfair for those who don't like to sing?

Ah, that's where the choir might come in. A choir in church can help others to sing. It can also enhance worshipful atmosphere, as can the organ music.

We're fortunate at St Barnabas to have two choirs. The morning one sings in the church for 9.30am services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, rehearsing the day before, at 10am, and for about 40 minutes before the service. The evening choir sings in the church for every 5pm service, rehearsing on Thursday evenings and just before each service.

Join us – you'd be most welcome!

Denis Guyan | Organist-Choir Director



The Boiler Room Sessions

For several years, youth groups within the diocese of Christchurch have sent their leaders to a regular monthly training night called 'The Kiln,' as a way of having consistent leadership training throughout all our parishes and as a way to connect the Anglican family. This model has been quite effective for many churches and their teams, but this year there is a new direction.

Bishop Victoria has challenged her team who oversee the youth, young adults and children's workers within the diocese with this question: Where is the Holy Spirit at work within our ministries? Why don't we talk about him?

This challenge has caused the diocesan leadership to change tactics with 'The Kiln,' moving from simply a training event to what is now 'The Boiler Room Sessions.' We came together as a family of youth leaders at a house in Bryndwr where several St Aidan's youth leaders live. We crammed ourselves into their garage to sing worship songs, have honest conversations about "how we're doing," pray for one another, share Thai food and hear from the diocesan leaders about their passion to see the Holy Spirit as the fire that fuels our youth ministry.



We also had the privilege of hearing from the Bryndwr team about why several of their youth leaders choose to live together in one house, committed to daily rhythms of prayer using the NZPB, weekly sit-down family dinners, deep accountability and support for each other, and the way's that their combined Christian walk is having an effect on the youth in their community – their neighbours. It was a deeply inspirational night, encouraging me personally to seek God for clarity on what parts of our youth ministry at St B's are currently fuelled by the Holy Spirit's fire, and where he wants to be invited in.

Signs of Life at Sign of Takahe

Can you see where we gathered for this communion? Each Sunday night in January, the Antioch 7pm community chose a location around the city to meet, including celebrating the Eucharist here on 21 January. There was a stunning view over the city and a great sense of the awesomeness of God's creation. About twenty young people gathered to worship God together in song, prayer and communion.

What is it about the Eucharist that invites participation, outdoors, overlooking the city? Is it the spaciousness that reminds us that we live in a big place, created by Almighty God? Sometimes our own small environments can reduce God to the same dimensions - inadvertently.

Or is it the camaraderie of gathering together at dusk after a hot day, feeling the wind taking out the heat as darkness falls? Each person known, all prepared to stand there, sing and pray there at Eucharist, and so witness to God whom we have begun to know. Or whom we have begun to realize, knows us!

Was it being prepared to rub shoulders with others outside our group, who came up to share the view at the lookout by the Sign of the Takahe? Whatever the combination for each person, it made for a moment where God drew near to many hearts in many ways.

Rev Mary Minson | Senior Assistant Priest



Synod Decides on Same Sex Blessings

In early March the Christchurch Diocesan Synod debated the recommendations of the Motion 29 Report about the blessing of same sex couples in our churches. Fundamental to the recommendations was the principle that the theological convictions of clergy were to be safeguarded within episcopal units.

This means that clergy who want to preside at the blessing of same gender unions would be allowed to without fear of discipline and similarly if other clergy cannot agree to preside they will not be disciplined. Individual Bishops will decide if these ceremonies will be allowed to take place within their episcopal units. Local vestries must be consulted by clergy wanting to preside on these occasions.

There were a large number of speakers for and against these recommendations however the debate was both thoughtful and respectful. Among those who opposed the recommendations were a group who felt that the recommendations didn't go far enough and strongly wanted to see the church allow marriages of same gender couples. A further group opposed the recommendations as they felt that the blessing of same gender couples was going against scriptural principles and the history and practice of the church.

In the end the recommendations were passed by 60% for and 40% against. The Diocesan General Synod Reps will carry the vote and mood of our Diocesan Synod to General Synod in New Plymouth in May for a national vote.

The overriding need in our churches at this time is to accept that there will be differences of opinion over this matter within parishes but this must not interfere with or deflect the mission of the church. A number of speakers stressed the importance of maintaining our unity as a church even though there would be fundamental disagreement of ministry practice in this regard.

Rev Mark Chamberlain | Vicar





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Mission Action Plan – MAP for future

Pip and I went down town for an urban walk last week and we still needed a map to navigate our way our emerging city – it's exciting but still a little bit new and unknown! In the same way our parish is developing a Mission Action Plan that will help us plot a course for the future and navigate both the pitfalls and opportunities that exist in our changing culture.

The Mission Action Plan lays out some ideas that we hope will carry forward parish life and help us engage with the community and make the love of God known to more people - young and old.

The MAP focuses our efforts on things like developing our Youth Ministry, engaging more parishioners in ministry and mission, running an Alpha Course, strengthening our Pastoral Care and getting better at welcoming Newcomers.

The draft MAP is available on the website and will be debated and adopted at the AGM on 11 April. Feedback is welcome.

Rev Mark Chamberlain | Vicar



Pray That Youth Will Know God!

Please pray for our youth as they attend the annual city wide Easter Camp, 29th March – 2nd April. This is a great opportunity for our youth to hear the gospel presented at their level in an incredibly professional manner, with the excitement of tenting with 3,500 other young people feeling like they are part of something bigger.

Please pray that God would open their hearts to his message of love, that the weather would be fine, that our youth would be safe and that our leaders would be encouraged and refreshed as we serve. Thank you for all your support!

Phil Parkes | Younger Person's Worker



What's Coming Up?

Wed

11th Apr

Parish AGM

The 2018 AGM will be in the Hall beginning at 7pm. The agenda will include ministry and financial reports and the election of Vestry members and People's Warden.

Sat

21st Apr

Men's Breakfast

All men welcome to come to breakfast at 8am in the hall. Guest Speaker will be Gray Crawford speaking about the work and vision from the Christchurch City Mission. Tickets from office.

Wed

25th Apr

ANZAC Day

Young and old are invited to this community commemoration service at 10am in the church. Colouring Competition winners awarded.

Thu

26th Apr

Cursillo Weekend

Cursillo, a short course in Christian living, runs from 26 – 29 April at Blue Skies, Kaiapoi. Call Peter Chapman on 322 9409 for further details.

Sun

29th Apr

Multicultural Service

Give thanks to God and celebrate the diverse cultures of the people of our parish at this special service at 5pm. All welcome.

Sun

6th May

Science and Faith

The relationship between science and faith will be addressed at all morning services today – 8am 9.30am and 10am.

Vestry News

Parish Finances: Year to date offertories are up \$390 on budget and total income is \$3,024 up on budget. Year to date expenditure is down \$7,905 on budget with an overall year to date deficit of \$263 compared with a budgeted deficit of \$12,417.

Shade Sail: Vestry were informed that St Barnabas Play Group were wanting to install two shade sails to give shade over the playground. They have some finance for this expense but there is a shortfall of about \$3,000. Because this is a project that many children and families would benefit from, Vestry decided to include this figure in the 2018 budget.

Payroll System: Corinne Haines gave a brief report on the progress of implementing the new payroll system. This will offer considerable improvements over the existing system and will help track staff leave entitlements.

Staff Progress Report: The Vicar reported that the new staff members were settling in very well. Anne Shave is making pastoral calls to older parishioners and those in particular need. She is sometimes taking a frozen meal to parishioners. Emma Parkes is making a great start as the Lifestreams Band Coordinator selecting music and providing oversight for the band. Lynette Crestani is learning the ropes in the parish office on Wednesdays. Kathryn Fee is our new Assistant Youth Worker helping Phil lead the St Barnabas Youth Community on Friday nights.

Donations to Tonga: It was decided to make a \$1,000 donation from the parish outreach fund to the Anglican Missions Board for disaster relief in Tonga following Cyclone Gita. \$2,000 will also be donated directly to All Saints' Fasi, Tonga for food and building repairs. Parishioners have so far donated over \$2,400 and this will also be sent to the AMB before Easter.

Wedding Charges: Vestry approved a memo that updated and clarified wedding charges that will apply from now on. Considerable staff time is spent supporting couples in their marriage including a priest, Verger, organist, PA system operator and bell ringer.



**Mooring Post deadline
May Issue
Friday 13 April**

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** Evensong (1st & 3rd)
Night Prayer (2nd)
Eucharist (4th Sunday)

St Barnabas Hall

- 10.00am** Lifestreams Eucharist with children's and youth programmes followed by morning tea.
- 7.00pm** Antioch in the hall for students, young adults where all are welcome.

Mid-Week Workshop

- 8.30am** Wednesday - Eucharist, all are welcome in the church
- 10.00am** Thursday - Eucharist in the 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.

Register

BAPTISMS

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

March

4 Oscar William Gabites

MARRIAGES

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

March

10 Lydia Muschamp and Innes Johnstone

FUNERALS

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

February

22 Joan Clark

Directory

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MOORING POST DESIGN

Braeden McInnes

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St Barnabas Community Fun Day



Children's Ministry at St. Barnabas

St Barnabas Playgroup: WED 9.15 - 11.30AM.
- Creative play for pre-schoolers in the hall
Helen Wakefield 351 3595.

Mainly Music: FRIDAY 10 - 10.30AM.
- Music & movement for pre-schoolers and their caregivers,
followed by morning Tea. Pip Chamberlain 021 085 77640.

Fridayzone: FRI 3 - 5.30PM IN THE HALL.
- Christian after-school club for Primary School children
and their families. With Meal. Angela Brown 027 335 0105.

Kidzone: SUN 9.30AM
- Creative Sunday School for children 5 - 11 yrs.
Angela Brown 027 335 0105.