

## Is Jesus Really The Only Way to God?

In the last 50 years, New Zealand has become one of the most religiously diverse countries in the world. The Pew Research Centre ranked us as the 19th most religiously diverse country out of 232 surveyed. New Zealand has sizable Hindu (89,000), Buddhist (58,000), Muslim (45,000) and Sikh (19,000) communities. To put this in practical terms, in any random meeting of individuals, there is an 82% chance that they will come from a different religious group.

This raises the inevitable question about the relationship between Christianity and other religions. In this multicultural environment, how can Christians continue to claim that Jesus is the unique Son of God and Saviour of the whole world? Isn't it better to say that "There are many paths up the mountain?"

There are a number of approaches to this question. Religious exclusivists say that their position is true and that other religions are wrong. Inclusivists assert that other religions are not so much 'wrong' as 'incomplete' and need the fulfillment of 'my' religion. Finally pluralists say that the religions of the world offer many, equally valid, paths to God, and they all offer some aspect of the truth.

So what do you make of these positions - Exclusivist, Inclusivist

or Pluralist? Certainly the Pluralist position is one that's most acceptable today. Many people say to me "There are many roads to God", "All religions are basically the same" and "The main thing is to be sincere whatever your faith." But is pluralism correct?

The pluralist position is often explained using the story of the six blind men and the elephant. The first blind man felt the trunk and said the elephant was like a snake, the second felt the tusk and said it was like a spear, the third its ear - like a fan, the fourth its tail - like a rope, the fifth its side - like a wall and the sixth felt its leg and said the elephant was like a pillar. "And that", the pluralist argues, "explains the religions of the world. They all have part of the truth, but we need all of them to discover the full truth."

But the fatal flaw in this parable, is that the pluralist must claim to have a privileged perspective. They must claim to be able to see the elephant, all the blind men and the whole scene as it really is. The blind men, they argue, are limited in their experience. So this view, smuggles in, in the guise of openness, what is actually just one more exclusivist position. It turns out that both the inclusivists and pluralists are making truth claims just like the exclusivist.

So a better way forward is to actually engage with people of other faiths and really listen to them - to their beliefs and values - the things we agree about but also the things we disagree about. And as we dialogue we will discover that some beliefs are logically irreconcilable and it's important to acknowledge this.

For example Christianity says there is one personal God who is involved but separate from creation. Whereas some forms of Hinduism claim that everything is part of the impersonal divine and Atheism claims that there is no god at all.

Well as I listen to these viewpoints, I begin to realise that they cannot all be right at the same time. God cannot exist and not exist, be both personal and impersonal and be everything and separate from creation.

So as a Christian I will still say, "I believe that there is one God and he sent his Son, Jesus Christ". But I will add, as winsomely as possible, "and I invite you to examine this claim and see for yourself." And we don't make this claim because the Church alone offers salvation, nor because of our own virtues or merits, but because of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and his love for the people of every nation, culture and language.

Mark Chamberlain | Vicar

## Begin The Adventure

#TryAlpha

Information about the Alpha Course on Page 6.

## Survivor Roman Empire

Come to a public lecture with Prof Paul Trebilco.

Speaking on 'How early Christians survived and thrived in ancient times and how we can too.'

Parish Hall, Sat. 9 June at 7pm.  
Gold coin donation. See page 2.



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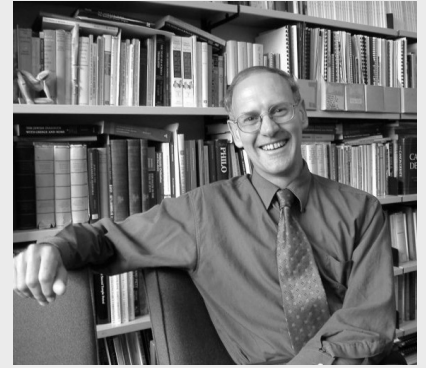
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## Professor of New Testament to Visit St Barnabas

On the weekend of 9 and 10 June Professor Paul Trebilco of Otago University has been invited to the St Barnabas Day weekend. Paul will be speaking on the Saturday night at a public lecture in the hall and at all services on Sunday morning. The title of his Saturday night talk will be "Survivor Roman Empire – how early Christians survived and thrived in ancient times and how we can too." Come along and engage with an eminent scholar on early Christian history.

Paul reported "I'm greatly looking forward to being with you at St Barnabas during the weekend of June 9-10. I grew up in Christchurch, and as a Christchurch Boys' High School lad used to attend weekly prayer meetings in the St Barnabas Church Hall! It'll be great to be back! It will be a real privilege to share the Saturday evening and then services on St Barnabas Day with you."

Paul Trebilco is Professor of New Testament. He studied Chemistry at the University of Canterbury, and then did a Bachelor of Divinity at Otago before completing his PhD in the New Testament in 1987 at the University of Durham.



## God's Generosity – Invitation to a Retreat

I love to go tramping, this is where for me the demands of everyday life fall away and all I have to do is put one foot in front of the other. Although this can have its own challenges on some of the steeper slopes, once at the top I am rewarded with great views and a sense of awe and wonder at the breathtaking beauty of God's creation.

God's generosity and abundance is evident throughout the natural world, but even this amazing creation is only a partial reflection of the depth of God's love and generosity in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Once home, I soon slip into the busyness of everyday life. I have lists of things I believe I need to do; I strive to do my best at home and at work, I try to fit in quiet time, family time, exercise time and time for friends. It's taken me a long time to really appreciate that whatever is going on for me, God remains the same. Like the blue sky which is always there even when we can't see it because of the clouds. So it is with God, no matter what is going on for us, God's the same - generous and loving.

When the Prayer Oversight Team asked Philip Robinson and myself to lead a quiet retreat, the theme of God's generosity was on our hearts. You are



warmly invited to join us at the Te Waiora Christian Retreat Centre in Hororata, from 10am to 2.30pm on Saturday 12 May. Please let the office know if you would like to come and if you need a seat in the mini-bus, which will be leaving at 9.15am. There will be a koha to cover transport and venue costs. Please bring your own lunch.

Angela Moore



**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.

# AGM Report – Thanking God Who Granted Faith and Vision

On what might arguably be the worst evening weather this year, forty-four hardy parishioners gathered in the Hall for the 143rd Annual General Meeting of the Parish of Fendalton. We commenced the meeting by singing “God who granted faith and vision”, an apt hymn where we are reminded to be true to the vision of those who worshipped before us. How amazing to think that in 1875 the first AGM was held. I am sure that those faithful people were focused on creating a church that would build the foundation for future generations. I hope that we are fulfilling their dream in 2018, and continuing to build strong foundations for future generations.

As is done every year, we read the list of those servants of our Lord who have had their funeral service in our church during the year. The reading of the names will have brought back fond memories of those friends and loved

ones who have faithfully been part of our church over the years.

The AGM booklet had been circulated, and was on the website leading up to the meeting, so the bulk of the reports were taken as read. As you read the reports you cannot help but be encouraged by the activities that take place in our parish each day, week and month, and which are led by very faithful and committed Clergy, Staff and Lay People.

Mark read his Vicar’s report and concluded by focusing on the challenges ahead of the parish this year, some of which were; decision on St Thomas land and buildings, appointment of a Pastoral Care Coordinator and a 3rd 24/7 Youth worker, strengthening the parish finances, supporting and guiding youth and young adults as they strengthen their faith, and reaching out to families in creative ways, like Messy Church.

Several long serving Vestry members resigned from their roles at this meeting. We give thanks for their support, commitment and positive contributions over many years; Maurice Walker, Patsy Wardell, Moka Ritchie, Alison Tait, Rebecca Sewell and Tom Coulson.

As a Parish, we are blessed to have parishioners who are willing to join our Vestry in 2018; Selwyn Paynter, Olive Lawson, Jono Brown and Steven Marshall. May they be warmly welcomed into our team, and we look forward to their offering of time and talents as they serve in this role.

*Corinne Haines | Secretary to Vestry*



## Messy Church - A New Way Of Being Church

Messy Church is an all age Saturday programme that is part of the St Barnabas community outreach. Messy Church is partly funded by a generous donation by Dean Brownie of Brownies Mattress Direct.

There were five Messy Church events last year and they were very successful attracting large numbers of children and their parents. The five key values of Messy Church are Christ centred, All Age, Hospitable, Celebration and Creative. Events include drama, puppets, games, science experiments, storytelling, crafts, singing, prayer and a shared meal. We find children engage with the activities while they are learning Christian values and life skills.

The 5 Messy Church services in 2017 were attended by 153 people including 77 non-church people. Total attendance per session was about 65 people. The St

Barnabas team includes families, youth and older adults and they are developing their gifts of creativity, hospitality in welcome and activities, game leading, teaching and worship in fun ways.

The vision for 2018 is to have 7 Messy Church services so we can keep building on our successes and increase the numbers of children and adults who come to over 200.

The feedback we’ve received from non-church children is very positive. They are saying that Messy Church is their church and they are inviting their school friends to come. Several non-church families and vulnerable single adults are receiving left-over Messy Church food and are grateful for this practical help.

*Angela Brown | Children and Family 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 2 May at 2pm in the Tui Room.

Speaker is Denis Guyan – “An organist’s Tour of France”.

Leader: Madeleine Price  
354 4299  
021 188 5138

### In Betweens

Tuesday 15 May at 7.30pm in the Hall.

“The Way We Were”.

Guest speaker, Julie Cunningham (Turpin), will share her interesting perspectives and anecdotes on the early days of radio and television in Christchurch.

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie  
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## Welcome Back to St Barnabas!

**Hi Rachel! Can you give us some details your background, family, employment, etc?**

Currently I am in my fourth year of a medical degree, having recently moved back to Christchurch after three years in Dunedin. I’m a little bit older than your typical medical student. Before I decided to take a different path in life I worked as a Speech Language Therapist in Whangarei. Going back to university and living in a student town, was somewhat daunting! My parents live in Christchurch, so I have moved in with them for now. I’m not quite sure where this path will take me, but for the next couple of years Christchurch is my home town again. I am not married, and have no children; my sister, her husband and their two beautiful children live in Lower Hutt.

### How long have you been a Christian?

I have been lucky enough to have been born into a Christian family, so have been a Christian my whole life. I grew up in the St Paul’s, Papanui, parish where my family regularly attended and have been involved in church life there. My parents still attend St Paul’s (my father is on the Vestry and my mother rings the bells).

### How do you grow in faith?

I’m finding this question a little difficult to answer at the moment as so much of my current life is focused on surviving medical school that it feels as though I have little time to focus on anything else. At the moment I feel it’s more a case of trying not to diminish my faith because of this other focus. This is something I need to continue to work on, as knowing what I know about the intensity of medical work, I’m not



sure that this will get any easier over time. Certainly discussing ideas and thoughts with other people, especially those who have travelled similar roads can help, as different perspectives can provide you with insight you might never have thought of yourself. I think, for me, a step in the right direction has been to start getting involved in church a little bit more.

### How long have you been at St Barnabas and how did you come to be a part of our parish?

This is my second time attending St Barnabas. Over 20 years ago I was invited by a friend to the St B’s youth group, and then I joined the choir under Mrs Murray. I left St Barnabas when my family and I moved overseas. Since being back in New Zealand I have lived in different parts of the country. My university education has brought me back to Christchurch for a few years, so I started attending St Barnabas again, from the end of 2017.

### What congregation do you belong to and what do you appreciate about it?

I come to the 9:30 Sunday morning service. I’m a very much a creature of habit, when I can be, and the somewhat more traditional service (compared to the 10am service anyway) feels familiar and comfortable to me, so I’m pretty sure this is where I’ll stay.

### In what ways are you involved at St Barnabas?

I was so focused on study during my last three years in Dunedin, that my life outside university was pretty stilted. I did attend church there, but held myself back from getting involved to give myself more time to fill my brain with knowledge (it’s not the sponge it used to be!). I caught myself complaining to friends that I was feeling very unconnected to what was going on in the world, because I was so study-focused, and decided to do something about reconnecting. That is a longwinded way of saying that earlier this year I joined the Sunday morning choir, so you’ll see my up the front every second Sunday (almost always anyway!). I also volunteered a day at the Easter Camp that just occurred, albeit on the ‘loo crew’. It was amazing to see so many young people there, so enthusiastic!

*Rachel Matthews was interviewed by Margaret Harper*



# Festival of the Ascension

*Director of Theology House Peter Carrell, explains the significance of the Feast of the Ascension which is to be celebrated in 2018 on Thursday 10 May.*

Only one gospel gives us a definite statement about the cessation of earth-based appearances of the risen Jesus. Luke does this in Luke 24:51: "While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven." (Also Acts 1:9). Matthew almost gets to such a statement in Matthew 28:16-20 but falls short. Mark and John say nothing at the end of their gospels, although John has quite a bit to say throughout his gospel about the Son of God/Son of Man ascending to the Father.

But with or without Luke's definitive statement we know that the appearances of the risen Jesus "on earth" stopped after a period. Even when Jesus appears to Paul on the road to Damascus, the sense of the account is that Jesus appears "from heaven" rather as one who meets Paul and his companions as a fellow traveler (Acts 9:1-9).

So the Festival of the Ascension draws on one gospel's definitive statement but its significance lies in what the other gospels presume, that there came a time, following the resurrection when direct, visual experience of the risen Jesus ceased. We celebrate the end of those amazing appearances of Jesus by focusing on his ascension to the throne of God. Ten days later we celebrate a new way of experiencing the direct presence of God, Pentecost, when the Spirit comes.



## Easter Camp 2018 – Loving Every Moment!

Every year we take our youth group to join with thousands of other young people for four nights out at Spencer Park for the annual Easter Camp. This year we took our largest group yet, with 23 youth, 5 leaders and the George family of 5 as our 'Youth Group Parents' and kids. Camp this year was incredibly successful, absolutely achieving all goals and expectations!

The group who run Easter Camp are called Canterbury Youth Services. Their goal for camp each year is to provide an opportunity for the 33 thousand teens in Christchurch to hear the gospel at least once in their teenage years. Not only will they get to hear the gospel, they will get to experience living in Christian community as they tent within their own youth group's area, doing life as a wee youth group family for those 5 days. They say that one Easter camp weekend is worth as much as a whole year at youth group for relationship and community building – we certainly found that this year.

Not only did we experience deeper relationships as a group, we found the speakers who shared at camp to be of an incredible quality, presenting the gospel in very effective and understandable ways, but also with a level of vulnerability that encouraged our youth to be vulnerable with their response and with one another. A highlight each year is the very talented band 'Satellite' who do a great job of leading the worship for the weekend, every morning and night. This year the band wrote several songs around the theme of joy, declaring the freedom and joy we have in Christ over our lives – actively combatting the depression and anxiety we see in our youth today.

Our group loved every moment of camp this year. We are truly grateful to the large number of people from our parish who gave money towards camp costs, bought from our bake sale and for those who prayed. Thank you!

*Phil Parkes | Younger Persons Worker*





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## Quilts: Expression of Appreciation

The AAW In Betweens' group at St Barnabas has many wonderful caring members, many of whom work tirelessly to offer acts of kindness to others.

As a way of showing appreciation, some have been presented with a beautiful quilt – hand made by Pam Chapman with material donated by members.

Robyn Gopperth is the latest recipient and was presented with her quilt at the March meeting by leader, Trish Carrick-Leslie. Phil Parkes and his family received one in February as a way of welcoming them to the parish.



## 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon': Inspiration for Faith.

Come to the first 'Faith in Film' for the year and be inspired by the amazing story of St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). He established two orders, the Friars Minor and the Poor Clares, to create greater simplicity of life and to narrow the gap between rich and poor.

Francis shed his old life when he famously stripped naked in front of the bishop, leaving behind wealth and privilege to embrace a remarkable life. He earned the nickname "a second Christ."

"Brother Sun, Sister Moon" is directed by Zeffirelli. Wednesday 30 May 6.30pm in the Tui Room. The evening begins with soup and rolls – all welcome – bring food to share. Phone Don Rowlands on 027 688 2061 for more information.



## Questions of Life

Everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. On Thursday 5 July Alpha begins at St Barnabas in style with a candle-lit meal, music and winter wine. This is followed by seven, no obligation Thursday evenings, that explore the Christian faith.

We talk about the ultimate questions and how we can get the most out of life. This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family and work-colleagues for a relaxed night out talking about things that matter.

So why not begin thinking and praying about coming on Alpha?. You might also think about who you might bring – after all, asking someone to a course on Christianity doesn't need to be awkward! More information to follow.



## What's Coming Up?

**Fri**

**4th May**

### General Synod

The national meeting of our Anglican Church runs from Friday 4 May to Friday 11 May. Among other things General Synod will be discussion Motion 29 – the blessing of same gendered partnerships.

**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.

**Tue**

**8th May**

### Staff Retreat

The parish staff are staying at Te Waiora Retreat Centre overnight for a two day retreat with input sessions on "Pastoral issues in mid-life" from Anne Shave.

**Sat**

**12th May**

### Parish Retreat

Parish Retreat at Te Waiora. Come and reconnect with God in the tranquillity of this country retreat house. Leaders are Angela Moore and Rev Philip Robinson. Ring the parish office on 351 7064 for further information and to book a place.

**Sat**

**19th May**

### Messy Church

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

**Sun**

**20th May**

### Pentecost Sunday

Come and celebrate the birthday of the Church – the day on which the Spirit filled and empowered the Church for mission! All Age service at Lifestreams. Anglicost in church at 7pm.

[www.stbarnabas.org.nz](http://www.stbarnabas.org.nz)

# Vestry News

**Parish Finances:** Year to Date (YTD) offertories are up \$11,804 on budget. YTD expenditure is down \$9,067 on budget and instead of a budgeted deficit of \$15,790 the parish achieved a surplus of \$8,788 – a \$24,578 variance. This first quarter result is especially pleasing since it did not contain any five Sunday months nor did it include income from the Easter period.

**Nominators:** Marcus Read, Wendy Kington, Steve Wakefield and Corinne Haines were appointed as the parish Nominators for the next year.

**New Payroll System:** Corinne Haines again reported on the implementation of the new Diocesan payroll system for the hourly paid staff. Paperwork has been received by most hourly paid staff members and this information will be loaded into the Diocesan system. It is hoped to 'go live' by May.

**Letter to Bishop Victoria:** A letter of farewell was sent to Bishop Victoria to thank her for her time as Bishop of the Diocese. This letter was signed by the Vicar and Wardens.

**Synod Report:** Linda Adams gave a brief report on the March Synod and she reported on the debate and voting around Motion 29 which had to do with the blessing of same gendered relationships. There was a wide ranging discussion about the implications of the recommendations of this Motion if it is enacted at the May General Synod. The Vicar said that in a parish such as ours there would inevitably be disagreements and he supported the traditional view of marriage.

**St Thomas' Site:** Vestry received a written proposal to do with the St Thomas land and buildings on the Strowan Rd site. The St Thomas' working group will be reconvened by Don Mackenzie to discuss the proposal and to decide whether Vestry should embark on a process of due diligence or not.

**Staff Positions:** Applications have been received for the positions of Pastoral Care Coordinator and 24-7 Youth Worker. Interview teams were appointed for both positions with interviews taking place in the next week or so.

**Fri**

**11th May**

**Mooring Post  
June issue,  
contributions  
deadline.**

## Sunday Worship

### St Barnabas Church

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

### St Barnabas Hall

- 10.00am** Lifestreams Eucharist with children 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, 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:

#### April

- 15 Jesse Dallas Rich  
21 Lucy Grace Mary Farwell  
22 Darcy Isabella Baxter  
22 Sienna Rose Parkes

### MARRIAGES

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

#### April

- 14 Miriam Jane Hulston and  
Anthony Laurence Murray

### FUNERALS

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

#### March

- 23 Dianne Caroline Murray  
27 Stephen Philip McElrea

#### April

- 4 Phyllis Leonie Barr  
14 Helen Stewart Nicholls

## Directory

### PARISH OFFICE

**Secretary: Marion Cook**  
8 Tui Street, Christchurch  
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### PEOPLE'S WARDEN

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### CARETAKER / VERGER

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### TONGAN CONGREGATION

**Rev. Leni Havea**  
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**E** leni\_havea@yahoo.co.nz

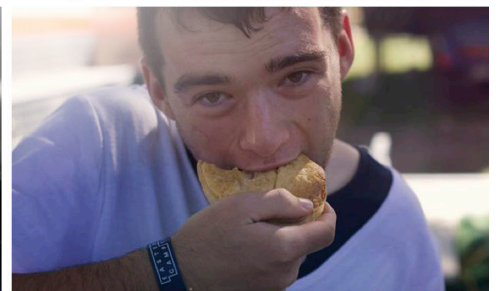
### MOORING POST DESIGN

**Braeden McInnes**  
**E** b.mcinnnes96@gmail.com





## Easter Camp 2018



## Children's Ministry at St. Barnabas

**St Barnabas Playgroup: WED 9.15 - 11:30AM.**  
- Creative play for pre-schoolers in the hall  
Helen Wakefield 021 307 878.

**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.**  
- 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.