

Cutting Through Perceptions to Reality

They say that our perception is our reality. In other words our upbringing, education and the opinions we listen to, all contribute to our perceptions, and that turns out to be reality for us. And right now, that turns out to be bad for Christianity.

For example I often hear the claim that Christianity is based on irrational, pre-scientific myths. And yet the Christians I know, are not irrational people. They have thought deeply about the evidential underpinning of their faith and have come to the conclusion that it is true and trustworthy.

In 2013, Christchurch student Rata Ingram was reported in the Press as saying "[Christianity]... doesn't have much to do with our lives. It seems very outdated and restrictive. I don't think many people can relate to it." And yet in a few weeks time over 30 young adults from St Barnabas are going to Hanmer on retreat. So at least some younger people, find that faith in God is a vital part of their lives and that being a disciple of Jesus Christ is intensely relevant.

And yet there remains a perception that Christianity is somehow obsolete, passé and false. What can be done? If Jesus Christ really was God, if he really taught a new and vibrant way of being human, if he established a new community of mutual caring

and equality called the Church, and if he really died for us and rose again on the third day, why is it so hard for people to believe that this news is true and good? And why is this perception so contrary to the person and message of Jesus who was so exciting, penetrating and enthralling?

Part of the problem must of course be the string of self-inflicted wounds the Church has suffered down through the centuries which have done much to harm the brand 'Christianity.' Just think of the Crusades, the religious wars of the 16th century and the abuse perpetrated by churches and priests. Just last week US Attorney General Jeff Sessions quoted the Bible to support the policy of separating children from their families at the Mexican border and in so doing, another hit for Christianity.

So again I ask, what can be done? Well it turns out to be quite simple. The more Christians take the claims of God seriously, and live out the faith we espouse, then the bad press will begin to lose traction. That's what eventually happened in the early centuries of Christianity – the bad rumours just stopped making sense in the face of the evident goodness of Christians.

You see there's nothing more attractive than a person who is transformed by God's love, is growing

in holiness and is seeking to love neighbour as self. And such lives of transformation are provocative - they develop more 'cut through' than a library of words.

The prophet Micah put it this way; "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Human transformation is the signpost the world needs to stop and take the claims of Christ seriously. It is the megaphone that rouses an apathetic world. CS Lewis said "If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire. If you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them."

So it all comes down to getting close to God and being transformed by him - getting 'into God'. That's what it will take - every Christian getting close to the fire of God's joy, power, peace and eternal life. Of course it also means moving away from other claims on our hearts and that can be hard. But to turn around the perceptions of a community, city and nation, we must begin with ourselves. Let's start a revolution!

Canon Mark Chamberlain

Begin the Adventure

All of us explore. We ask questions, we seek answers. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explores all the big questions of life with food, a talk and open discussion. Explore life, faith, meaning and more, try Alpha. Begins in the St Barnabas Hall on Thursday 12 July at 6pm

To register call the parish office on 351 7064 or email office@stbarnabas.org.nz

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Exploring the Experiences of Churchgoers in Midlife

In May, clergy and staff from St Barnabas Church attended an overnight retreat at Te Waiora House, in Hororata. They invited Anne Shave, a parishioner who attends the 5pm service, to share some of the findings from her recently completed PhD thesis about the needs and experiences of churchgoers in midlife.

It would be fair to say that within many churches in New Zealand the spiritual and pastoral needs of people in midlife are less frequently the focus of attention than those of people at other stages of life. However, the complexity of this life stage means that it has the potential to be a time of discovery and spiritual growth.

Anne had interviewed 20 Anglican, Presbyterian and Catholic churchgoers, 10 members of the clergy, and 10 spiritual directors, asking them to reflect on the opportunities and challenges of midlife and the place of faith and church involvement in responding to these.



Psychologist Margie Lachman suggests that the "central issues" of midlife centre around "generativity, caring and concern for others in the work and family spheres." However, at the same time as dealing with these responsibilities, people in midlife are also addressing "their own needs for meaningful work (paid or unpaid), health and well-being. The need to balance multiple roles and manage the conflicts that arise is a reality that is characteristic of middle age, regardless of one's specific lifestyle or circumstances."

At midlife certain developmental tasks, which "often go beyond conscious awareness," may also assume importance. The developmental tasks of midlife, although understood and described in a variety of ways by different authors, include learning to cope with significant and often cumulative losses, adjusting to a changing perspective of time and one's own mortality, integration of sometimes surprising and often conflicting aspects of self, values clarification, and dealing with aspects of the past while looking towards the future. As Lynne Baab points out, in 'Embracing Midlife: Congregations as Support Systems', people who are involved in faith communities are likely to look to their faith for answers when issues arise.

Midlife churchgoers who were interviewed by Anne spoke about aspects of their church involvement that they valued and from which they derived support – including elements of worship services, fellowship with other Christians and participation in a range of small groups, ministries and programmes within and beyond their parishes.

Anne concluded her presentation by highlighting the importance of listening. Many people in midlife, who are often called on to support others, appreciate being able to talk about their own experiences. Some of Anne's interviewees said simple enquiries about their welfare, made at church over a cup of tea, were enough for them to feel very well supported by other parishioners. Some found adequate opportunities to share their lives with others, at a meaningful level, in small groups and in social contexts within their churches, particularly when intergenerational relationships were involved. Other interviewees appreciated opportunities to speak to someone privately. All of us can play a role in lending a listening ear to others.

Dr Anne Shave



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.

Anglicost - Exciting, Energetic, and Inspirational!

Since joining St Barnabas I have become aware of a big need among our youth and young adults, not just in this church, but throughout the diocese. A need that any single parish on its own currently struggles to meet. And I believe this year on Pentecost Sunday we met that need.

On Sunday 20 May we held a special worship service called 'Anglicost 2.' The service was special for many reasons - it was inside our beautiful memorial church building that the young people of St Barnabas seldom get to enjoy. We had an excellent attendance of just over 100 people, hosting young people from many different parishes throughout our Diocese – and personally special to me because the band's hard work paid off – we sounded great!

I believe that Anglicost is important and met a need because it was exciting, big, energetic, loud and inspirational. The format for the night was mostly based around sung worship, lead by an excellent band made up of members of several parishes, with the emphasis being on encountering God's presence as we worshiped him.

Each parish has its own service style and vision for encountering God in our lives, but there is something special and significant about coming together as a large group to sing God's praises together and to seek refreshing in his Spirit - as one body. Many young people come to faith at big events such as Easter Camp, where the loud worship band is such a key part,



and coming together for a special occasion like this is really important for our spiritual journey and continued refreshing.

At one point in the night I took a brief moment to read the Acts 2 passage where the disciples received the Holy Spirit, and then I challenged all those in attendance to be continually filled afresh. We opened the front of the church for people to receive prayer, specifically to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and we had the opportunity to pray for many.

The night was a huge success thanks to the hard work of many volunteers. Thank you - I can't wait for Anglicost 3 in June next year!

Phil Parkes | Younger Persons Worker

Alpha – Exploring the Big Questions of Life!

All of us explore. We ask questions, we seek answers. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explores all the big questions of life with food, a talk and open discussion. On Thursday 12 July at 6pm, the Alpha Course begins at St Barnabas. Run all over the globe, Alpha is designed to engage and inspire conversation and discussion. Everyone is welcome.

The course runs for 11 weeks and each week there is a 30 minute talk followed by discussion in a group. Topics include the big issues of faith and the basics of Christianity. The questions discussed range from Who is Jesus? and How can we have faith? to Why and how do I pray? and How does God guide us?

The most important part is the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic and to hear from the experience of others. There's no obligation to say anything and there is no question that is out of bounds (seriously!). It's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

Here's what Peter, a golf course manager, said about Alpha; "I had so many questions and going through Alpha

helped me with so many of them. I could see there was so much in the world that was unexplained. And no matter what science could do you could never explain it. So I came to Alpha and it just clicked straight away. I'm a very logical person and even though I had so many questions that were unanswered...going through Alpha...answered so many of those questions."

Kath had been taking her children to mainly music and was invited to come on Alpha. This is what she said; "Although I loved my Mum and Dad's faith I still used to roll my eyes 'I can't believe that'...I would ask my parents questions and they wouldn't give me the answers. So I couldn't wait to do an Alpha Course because I wanted to get the answers..If you want to know about God and Jesus, come along to Alpha."

So seriously consider coming on the Alpha Course at St Barnabas. It will be the highlight of your year! Bring your questions, be ready to learn and get to know a great group of other people on the journey. Register by emailing office@stbarnabas.org.nz or phoning the parish office on 351 7064. More information is on the St Barnabas website – www.stbarnabas.org.nz.

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.



#TryAlpha



Association of Anglican Women

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Daytime Group

Wednesday 4 July at 2pm in the Tui Room. Guest speaker is Madeleine Price speaking about her travels in Scandinavia. There will be a sales table.

Leader: Madeleine Price
354 4299
021 188 5138

In Betweens

Tuesday 17 July at 7.30pm in the Hall.

Our speaker is Ali Jones speaking on "Public Relations and Communication." Ali looks at the mantra of the 80s, 'Girls can do anything' and discusses whether the pendulum may have swung too far one way."

Leader: Trish Carrick-Leslie
351 5179



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Early Days of Ordination

Rev Peter Chapman reports on his first few months serving as Deacon in the parish

Following ordination as a Deacon on Friday 2 February, I continued at St Barnabas with my normal duties and added, after training with Kofe Havea, responsibility for services at St. Winfred's Rest Home. I find pastoral care for mainly dementia patients, stimulating and rewarding. In addition to taking communion to parishioners unable to attend church, I liaise with communion ministers and send out the fortnightly roster.



Holy Week commenced with the Ash Wednesday service we shared with Holy Trinity Bryndwr and later on, daily services for parishioners. On Maundy Thursday I gave my first homily, washed parishioner's feet, and on Good Friday, helped to carry our large wooden cross from Holy Trinity back to St. Barnabas. I wondered if the horn tooting of passing cars might translate to increased church attendance? We celebrated the triumph of Christ's resurrection in our well attended Easter Sunday services with appropriate music from the choir.

I am kept busy with various meetings, post ordination training and the camaraderie of our staff in weekly staff meetings. I have also undertaken Cursillo workshops, a staff retreat, a three day clergy conference and a one day Synod.

There are many highlights through the Church year; the Anzac Day service with placing of poppies, address, the roll of honour read out of those parishioners fallen in the wars, appropriate music and reading to children. This is a special occasion as we are a memorial church. Other events to look forward to include an Alpha Course, film evenings and a house and garden tour later in the year.

As we continue to walk in Christ's footsteps to the Kingdom of God, I thank God for his many blessings of family, our parish church and new friendships. We have entered a new era with meetings of laity, deacons and priests for choosing the 9th Bishop of Christchurch. In the words of the hymn: 'We have a gospel to proclaim!'

Building Relationships at St Barnabas Play Group

If you call by the St Barnabas Hall on a Wednesday morning, between 9.15 and 11.30am, you will find the St Barnabas Play Group meeting in the hall. Mothers, caregivers, a team of St. Barnabas women and extra helpers - everyone wrapped about with peace - well, relative to the activities!

This is not a 'drop-off' centre but a place for spending time together, relating in different ways and on different levels. If one word were needed to describe it, probably 'relationship' would be the best fit, qualified by words such as relaxed, friendly, inviting and peaceful. There are low-key times of bubble activities, songs, story times and of course karakia and kai!

It is a Ministry of Education certified group that has been running for eight years. The group is ably led by Helen Wakefield and Christine Fokkens and their team of helpers. All those in the team delight in providing this safe and engaging space, as an overflow from their Christian faith, and their love of children.



The group currently is running comfortably averaging fifteen children and can cope with more. If you would like to bring a little one to the group, or know of someone who would enjoy a supportive and engaging environment, you would be most welcome to come.

Rev Mary Minson

Questions about Abortion Law Reform

Some challenging questions are raised by moves this year to reform abortion laws. Here are three;

1. The way the government is framing what it seeks, to shift the law from criminal legislation to health legislation and to make it simpler for women to obtain an abortion, assumes that there is no further debate over the ethics of abortion. Few Christians are comfortable with zero ethical concern for the rights of unborn children. Why should we have a view on a change to the law without an ethical debate?
2. Abortion is not an abstract ethical or legal issue for women who have experienced or are contemplating an abortion. A woman's decision to choose to have an abortion is unlikely to be primarily concerned with ethics. More likely it will be a decision stressed with anxiety for future prospects for the child. If a woman is determined to have an abortion, is it the role of Christians to nevertheless make this a legally difficult decision to act on?
3. In a society avoiding ethical debate about abortion and intent on making the legal pathway to abortion easier, what constructive action can churches take to promote the value of life and the dignity of every human being, born and unborn? Perhaps the least we can do as Christians is to talk among ourselves about these matters and perhaps this discussion is especially pertinent to our children as they grow into adults and themselves enter into marriage and raising families.

Ven Dr Peter Carrell | Theology House



Rohingya Crisis Appeal

It is now 9 months since an escalation in violence in Myanmar forced Rohingya families to begin fleeing to Bangladesh itself one of the world's poorest countries. However, it is now in the unenviable position of hosting the world's largest refugee camp which is home to nearly 1 million people. Their tragic plight is exacerbated by the imminent arrival of the monsoon which has the potential to devastate their flimsy living conditions and create a humanitarian disaster of unprecedented proportions.

In addition to immediate relief Tearfund are working to establish programs for the estimated 200,000 adolescent boys and a similar number of young women to give them some hope for their future.

The Rohingya in the camps have witnessed the most terrible atrocities and are the victims of ethnic cleansing by the Myanmar Government.

The woman pictured said "[my husband] was my whole life. We were just teenagers when we got married. I really miss him at night. That's when I feel the most insecure. I feel so alone, I am a single older woman. I don't have anyone. I miss our lifestyle. He was a day labourer and I would cook and clean for him. Then one day when I was at home, I heard gunshots. I saw with my own eyes as the soldiers shot my husband three times in the chest. I started to run to help him and the soldiers turned their guns on me. Their bullets hit my goat and killed it and I escaped with my life. I turned back to see them light my house on fire."

Their need is urgent. Donations can be made via the Tearfund website or to the office. Go to www.tearfund.org.nz/Rohingya-Crisis-Appeal.aspx.





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Mission Partners

The work of our mission partners, Dr Nick and Tessa Laing, in Gulu Town, northern Uganda, was detailed in last month's Mooring Post. Their newsletter arrived after the magazine was printed – find below an update;

- Tessa's sister, Phoebe is visiting for 6 months and is running a combined weekly adult literacy and Zumba dance class at Gulu women's prison.
- Sermon preparation training has been held at their church and a small library of bible commentary books launched.
- Tessa has been working on absenteeism in the local health service. From this Tessa won a 'Gates Scholarship' and will do a PhD through Cambridge University.
- Nick will also do a Masters in Public Health. This will take them away from Uganda for 9 months from October 2018, but they really believe this opportunity will help them to have a bigger impact in Gulu long term.



Bible Sunday

The Bible is the most published and valued book in history. Christians see the Bible as God's Word and the most important source of information about God, humanity and how we might find life-giving community and human flourishing.

The important message we need to hear on Bible Sunday is really simple. Read your Bible! And not just read it, but think about what we read, talk to others about what it means, and apply what we learn to our lives. Engage deeply with the scriptures. Small Groups can really help us do this.

This year we celebrate National Bible Sunday on 15 July.



Different Drumbeat

Professor Paul Trebilco attracted 75 people to a public lecture at St Barnabas recently. Paul is one of the country's leading New Testament scholars and was invited as a guest to speak and preach on St Barnabas Day.

He spoke about the persecutions of Christians in the Roman Empire and how the authorities found it difficult to know how to handle them. They appeared to be subversive and 'anti empire' because they didn't worship the traditional Roman gods.

Prof Paul explained that they were trying to live out Jesus' vision of a new community of love, equality and compassion. Everyone was welcomed and considered equal including women, slaves and children – groups who traditionally had no rights or power. Christians 'marched to the beat of a different drum.'



What's Coming Up?

Sun

1st July

Canon Mark Installed

All invited to support the Vicar as he is installed as a clerical Canon of the Cathedral. This will be part of the 5pm Evensong service.

Wed

4th July

Alpha Marriage Prep

This five week course is designed to prepare couples for marriage. Topics include Communication, Commitment, Conflict, Keeping Love Alive, Goals and Values. Contact the office for more info on 351 7392.

Thu

12th July

Alpha Dinner

Anyone interested in discussing and learning about the questions of life are welcome to come on the Alpha Course beginning with a dinner. Any questions and perspectives are welcomed! Register through the office.

Fri

13th July

Young Adult's Retreat

The Young Adults group have organised a weekend retreat at Hanmer Springs with guest speaker, walking in the forest, swimming in the pools and enjoying life together! Contact Phil for more info.

Sun

15th July

National Bible Sunday

Let's give thanks for the Bible, God's Word, this Sunday which is National Bible Sunday!

Sun

29th July

Rev Mary's Farewell

All are invited to a parish lunch to say farewell to Rev Mary Minson who leaves the parish to take up the role of Chaplain at Christchurch Women's Hospital.

Vestry News

St Thomas Church: A team was formed to review the contents of St Thomas and to collate the existing data on St Thomas'. This team has undertaken a site visit and a formal meeting has also taken place. The St Thomas parishioners will also be consulted in the near future.

Senior Assistant Priest: Advertising for this position has begun. This position will become vacant after Mary leaves the parish on 29 July. It is imperative that arrangements are made to appoint an interim priest should there be a delay in appointing a permanent priest. Staff are already stretched and there is a need to plan for a delay in appointment.

Payroll: The new payroll system through the Diocese is now in use and is operating well. Annual Leave and Sick Leave balances have been loaded into the system. There is still some teething problems and the parish spreadsheet needs to be updated.

Alpha: The Alpha Course is beginning on Wed 12 July and it is hoped that 50 people will attend the opening dinner in the hall. There will be some expense incurred with respect to advertising. Invitations will be available soon and all parishioners will be asked to consider attending or bringing a friend.

131 Fendalton Rd Property: The current lease will expire in September at which time it was decided to revert to a periodical rental. This property is currently offering the parish a very welcome income stream.

Finances: To the end of May parish income was \$221,304 - \$15,001 over budget. Expenses were \$233,834 which was \$10,224 below budget. This leaves a year to date net deficit of \$12,530. Ordinary income was significantly lower in May. Staff have been asked to manage their expenses closely. Vestry noted a bequest of \$5,000 had been received. A brochure asking people to remember the parish in their will has gone out to the parish in the latest Mooring Post.



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

FUNERALS

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

June
18

Rosamond Jeanie Chaffey



Directory

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MOORING POST DESIGN

Braeden McInnes
 E b.mcinnnes96@gmail.com



Come Holy Spirit - Anglicost 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 10AM
- Creative Sunday School for children 5 - 11 yrs.
Angela Brown 027 335 0105.