



The Herald

July 2019

Recently Ric and I spent a wonderful five weeks driving around several beautiful parts of England. In particular we explored much of Northumberland, an area which we have wanted to visit for many years, but never had the opportunity. On the way up from Heathrow, we spent a couple of days attempting to trace some of our own family roots - Ric's paternal grandfather from the Manchester/Cheshire area, and my paternal grandmother from Pinchbeck in Lincolnshire. This was very interesting for us both.

However, as we spent about ten days in Northumberland, we found ourselves discovering roots of a different kind - those of the Christian church in Northern England during the 6th and 7th centuries. Included among those early missionaries we read histories in stone, brass, wood and paper of Oswald, Aidan, Cuthbert, Wilfrid, Bede and Hilda.

Shortly before we flew to England, Malcolm Roberts had lent me a novel by Melvyn Bragg, 'The Sword and the Miracle', written about the same period. So often as we visited cathedrals, abbeys and churches (and other places too) I found myself saying, "I've just been reading about him or her!" It felt as though we were walking where the saints had trod, and their faith and experiences really came alive! It was such a blessing to me.

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There were stories of courage and faithfulness, of joys and sorrows, of suffering and even rebellious hearts. Some of these 'saints' did not want to do what they were called to do. Some were argumentative, some loved riches, or enjoyed positions of authority far too much. They were people who were often imperfect, like most of us, yet were used by God to pass on His message of new life and love, and to demonstrate His power when they obeyed Him. The local people were blessed and the kingdom of God increased.

Some of the trials they went through - and the resulting blessings - made me think of Jesus' words in John 15, where He speaks about His Father as a gardener pruning every branch that does bear fruit that it may be even more fruitful. In verse 8 we read, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

God still prunes and uses us today, however imperfect we think we are. May His name be glorified through our lives, and His kingdom continue to grow.

Penny.

Pānui o ngā Pihopa / Bishops' News: Prayers and Parties

“He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me
was love”

Song of Solomon, 2:4 [NIV]

Dear whanau

Greetings in the name of the risen and ascended Christ, who was, is, and is to come.

It has been so encouraging to hear of the stories of God's transformation taking place across the Diocese during the Thy Kingdom Come period of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. Thank you to our Cathedral whānau for the resources provided during this time.

What we love is that the range of stories we have heard reflects the diversity of Christ's body in this place; a fitting celebration for what is the birthday party of the church which continues to work to lengthen and extend the banqueting table we are invited to. Over this last ten days, many of you have undertaken 24-hour prayer vigils within your churches. The Sunday morning of Pentecost saw many different parties – our Cathedral was decorated with a massive installation of swathes of red fabric and a celebration family lunch.

St Thomas' Newtown held a slap-up breakfast and early morning dance party prior to the service. Members of St Michael's Kelburn went prayer walking.

Churton Park whānau borrowed the Prayer Ambulance and took opportunities for prayer out into their local streets and shopping precincts. St James Lower Hutt in partnership with Chilton St James school hosted an Iftar meal; enjoying the privilege of new friendships as they joined members of the local Muslim community in breaking the Ramadan fast.

If you have further stories we would love to hear them – please email in either to our office or to Duncan Brown, communications advisor.

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In each of our places we have been praying that our communities would encounter the love of God afresh. We encourage you all to continue to pray that God will break our hearts with the things that break his. As we reflect on this, it's timely that this coming weekend will see (at latest count) over 35 parishes take part in the push to mobilise our people to sign submissions in support of the Zero Carbon Act, and keep our government accountable to targets to reduce New Zealand's carbon emissions.

As Christians we have the opportunity to speak hope into a situation which for many seems hopeless and which affects so many who have little power and little voice and are at the mercy of the greed and over-consumption which marks so many of our Western lifestyles. When we reflect that we each have a God-given say in controlling the banqueting house to which God invites all creation, how shall we use that power?

The 14th century mystic Julian of Norwich was given a vision of a hazelnut in the palm of her hand. Her understanding of this tiny and fragile thing was 'the first is that God made it, the second is that God loves it, the third is that God preserves it...God is the creator and protector and the lover.'

As we contemplate the enormity of the challenge of climate change, be encouraged that every small action we do to speak hope into this situation is an offering that we bring to Christ's banqueting table.

+Eleanor and +Justin

From July Harris

After reading the Gospel verses of John 17: v20 to v26, I have an amazing feeling to learn about the Unity and Oneness of our Lord, Jesus Christ with His Father, our God.

Jesus knows that he is leaving his disciples, but he is not leaving them alone. He equipped them with his Holy Spirit to strengthen them and to guide them.

And then Jesus has his last prayers for his future believers. Thanks be to God that is including us and how grateful we are for Jesus' love for us. At the same time, we also recognize our God's great divine love for being sending His beloved Son, Jesus to the world, so that we might have eternal life through Him as mentioned in John 3:16 and 1John 4:9.

Jesus prays for the believers who have come to Him through the messages of the apostles for a Unity of Love, a Unity of Obedience to God and His Words and a Commitment to His Will.

1Corinthians 12:13 said that all believers belong to a body of Christ. Jesus calls us to live a life that would manifest with a spiritual unity the same way as His relationship with His Father.

Jesus calls us to love one another, to help and bless others, to build each other up and to work together in humility. I pray that as we are the believers of Jesus Christ, may God equip us with wisdom, patience and courage to reach out to the world to bring the "Awareness of who Jesus is" and to share His Gospel around.

May we give Glory to God for His Mercy and Grace and give thanks to Jesus who has lifted and saved us!!

In Jesus name, Amen.

REMINDER:

“Dessert Evening”

Saturday 6th July
6.30pm
St Mary Magdalene Hall

We are holding an informal get together for all who volunteer on the Parish rosters — to talk about the rosters, share thoughts for improvement, and enjoy dessert together.
(Please bring a dessert to share)

If you aren't on the rosters but would like to join us anyway for dessert, you are most welcome.



Overseas experiences re climate change, by Russell Lyon

Having recently returned from being overseas, whilst there I observed actions European countries are taking to lessen the effects of climate change.

I spent 3 months in the UK and during that time the National Grid was saying that they had gone over 60 days without using any power generated from a coal fired power station. Even one coal mine had closed due lack of demand. This is a change from the late 1980's when over 70% of their power was from coal fired stations and the visibility was much reduced from the emissions from these stations.

What was noticeable were the number of solar panels on house roofs and solar panel farms on waste land. Staying on a farm in Yorkshire they had wind turbines. Farmers can either own them outright or allow a generating company install them. A good income stream (saw lots of wind turbines on land and at sea).

Going shopping was also a big change. Supermarkets are rapidly gong away from plastics. Many are trialling plastic free areas, especially in the vegetable sections. Even the plastic wrapping of cucumbers is being reduced. But why wrap them? It increases their shelf life by up to 4 days due to reducing the transpiration of the cucumber. Even the fast fashion industry is under scrutiny as people order three or more items of the same garment, being in various sizes or colour, returning what they don't like or wrong fit. And what happens to the returns? In many cases its not returned to the shop floor but sent to the refuse centre. (I have heard since coming home that the fast fashion industry is under pressure as shopping habits change again).

The emphasis on public transport is increasing. I stayed with friends on the outskirts of Cambridge. The house that I was staying in was only about 300m from the park and ride (You see them around most cities in the UK). All I had to do was pay 3 pound and I could go into the city and return again. One day I took the car in and it cost 14.50 pound for just over three hours parking and also I had to do more walking around.

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The home I was staying in at Cambridge was only 7 years old and it had no garage. Only about half the houses in the subdivision had garages as it's easier to get around by bicycle or public transport, cars being an expensive luxury. The family I stayed with would hire a car whenever they needed one, they said about 4 to 7 times a year...

One odd thing I came across was when my daughter hired a car with sat nav installed. She cursed it as whenever we passed a speed sign say going from 40mph to 30 mph and not reducing your speed, the car alarm would go off until you slowed down to the correct speed limit. (Luckily my rental car did not have this feature).

We complain about roads and how we need more and better ones. In the UK I heard little about that but lots of complaints about lack of rail services. Trains running late due to overloading (need more as growth is exceeding supply) the re-establishment of railway tracks that had been uplifted in the 60's when Dr Beeching said rail was on the way out. Even looking at using their major canals again to move goods inland especially in the north. Takes trucks off the roads.

What can we do? I read recently (via internet) that some of the freight forwarding companies want Kiwi rail to put on more trains to (1) take trucks off the roads and (2) to overcome the shortage of long haul drivers.

Next month I will look at what I saw while river cruising in Europe.

Bridge building in Ethiopia!

At the beginning of May, Alan Stuart and his equally capable neighbour Jim Weston, farmers from Mauriceville near Eketahuna, flew at their own expense to Addis Ababa where they were met by Amlaku and taken to a huge market to purchase the gear they needed. Then it was up to Lalibela, and out to the village, where they spent the next 2 weeks. They built a bridge! The only machinery they had was a chainsaw and a drill bought in the market in Addis. Everything else had to be done manually. At times, there were up to 100 villagers helping – the only way to get the tree trunks to the site was to drag them with ropes.

On Saturday July 13 at 2.30pm, in the Anglican Church Hall on Cambridge Ave, Ashhurst, Alan will talk about his bridge building experiences in Ethiopia. It should be a fascinating session, illustrated by photos and some heart-warming, and at times hilarious, videos.

Ken Pratt, formerly of the Ashhurst Domain, utilising an inheritance from his late son, Sam, has provided the village with some manual, precision single row seeders, widely used in the market gardening field. These should prove invaluable for the farmers with their vegetable gardens, which are now producing substantial income for each family.

He will talk about the impact these will have on the community.

We will also briefly include our **Bricks for Life AGM** at this meeting. Hopefully it will take no more than 10 - 15 minutes, before Alan and Ken report back to us.

All welcome to attend this meeting. Afternoon tea will be provided. Anyone able to bring a plate (with some food on it!) will be made even more welcome!

Ric Foxley
Tel 326 8887

Summary of Vestry Meeting 19 June 2019

The following is a brief summary of the topics that were discussed at the last Vestry Meeting:-

- Vestry Away Day—has been postponed. New date to be set
- Hall Refurbishment: Neill Smart has written an article which is available on the Parish Website—see Neill if you'd like to read it.
- “End of Life Choice” Bill—there is an article available to be read on the Wellington Diocese website and it is worth reading.
- Community Christmas Service: the date of 22nd December 2019 has been set by ACF and we have been asked if we would like to participate again this year. All agreed, yes.
- Bricks for Life: Ric advised there is a meeting on Sat 13th July at 2.30pm in the church hall—video of bridge building and afternoon tea, plus AGM
- Church numbers: these are increasing and it is very encouraging to see the new families.

Finances for May 2019:
Offerings banked \$5812
Expenses paid: \$3882

Tithes and Offerings; Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

We give because;

- *It is an act of honour and obedience when we give God the first and best of everything we own. (Proverbs 3:9-10)*
- *It acknowledges that God is our provider. (Philippians 4:19)*
- *It is an opportunity to imitate God's generosity. (Ephesians 5:12)*
- *It maintains that our possessions do not control or define us. (Luke 12:34)*
- *It is one of the ways God involves us in the good work He does throughout the earth. (Philippians 2:13)*

Offertory recording allows parishioners to claim a rebate from IRD after 31 March each year. In April receipts are issued with total giving for each person/family for the previous year. If you would like to be part of this system using envelopes or automatic payments please talk to Helen or Lyn.

Services for July 2019

7th 8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
14th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
21st 10.00 am Ashhurst
28th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako

Prayer Breakfasts 2019—8am start

June, July & August: no breakfast
September 7th, Saturday: Penny & Ric
October 5th, Saturday: Alva
November 2nd, Saturday: Noeline
December 7th, Saturday: Barbara & Michael
February 1st, 2020, Saturday: Penny & Ric

Dates for your Diary

6th July, Saturday: Service Leaders Dessert Evening, 6.30pm, Learning/
Sharing evening for those that "have an active part" in our services.
13th July, Saturday: Bricks for Life meeting, 2.30pm, church hall
17th July, Wednesday: Vestry Meeting, 7.30pm

House Groups

Monday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm
At either Ric and Penny Foxley's 100 Worcester Street, 3268887
Or Mike and Barbara Russell's 144 Winchester Street 3268547

