

A PLACE TO BELONG

PARISH OF POHANGINA



The Herald

August & September 2023

The Bible does not mention the word 'concrete', but the NIV online version has 75 references to the word 'foundation'.

Ah so there is some importance attached to it.

Concrete is by itself a very useful thing. It allows us to do a great many things, useful, practical, structural. But if the concrete is not right, has the wrong properties, is not prepared well, is laid too thin, or is not reinforced according to its purpose, it will fail.

In Ezra 3, we read of the Israelite's rebuilding the temple after Cyrus had sent them back from exile. After the Lord had spoken through Jeremiah, despite the fear of the people around them, they built the altar of the Lord on its foundation. Fear? They did that what was required of them, knowing that they could be killed. So, they did it right, and offered the sacrifices needed according to the law.

And then you have Job, whom I have pity for because God Himself asked him to answer.

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone - while the morning stars sang together, and all the angels shouted for joy?”

God set it; it must have been good!

In Isaiah we have “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.”

Now there's a clue.

In Corinthians, Paul writes “By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

And there you have it.

If we as followers of Christ, lay what we do on the right foundation, with the right ingredients, in the right proportions, in the right manner, with the right care and prayer, believing what is right, it will stand. If we do this in God's will, nothing will prevail against it – it will stand!

Be like the house in Luke 17:48. Dig deep and lay the foundation on rock – who is Christ.

Peace and Blessings

Neill Smart

Am I Losing my Marbles

Am I losing my marbles??
No I'm only now finding them.
Marbles aren't what I thought they were.
They are way more precious than the ability to think,
to remember
They are the present, indwelling knowledge of God
And He is the One who polishes them
When I let them get dirty and they lose their shine
He is the Creator of my marbles,
HE is the Author and Finisher of my faith.

So what about me?
My role in all this?
Let them roll,
Release them to Him
For His keeping, His care
Enjoy their sparkle
Use them for Him

Marbles are marvelous gifts of God
He made them, gave them to me
So that I can give myself to Him

Pam Barnett July 2023

Environment by Russell Lyon

Over a period we get two weather events, El Nino and La Nina. We have recently experienced La Nina that brings more rain to east and north of NZ (some areas have had more than their annual average rainfall already). Eventually we get El Nino and everything changes. The west and south get wetter while the north and east get droughts. To the residents of the rain soaked areas, El Nino is starting to form, so they should dry out.

The jury is still out as to what effect climate change is having on these events.

El Niño Southern Oscillation: what is it?

El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of a naturally occurring global climate cycle known as the El Niño Southern Oscillation, or ENSO for short. ENSO influences rainfall, temperature, and wind patterns around the world, including New Zealand. El Niño and La Niña episodes occur on average every few years and last up to around a year or two.

Although ENSO has an important influence on New Zealand's climate, it accounts for less than 25 percent of the year-to-year variance in seasonal rainfall and temperatures at most locations. Nevertheless, its effects can be significant.

El Niño

During an El Niño event, ocean water from off the coast of South America (near Ecuador and Peru) to the central tropical Pacific warm above average. The warming takes place as trade winds (the permanent east-to-west

prevailing winds that flow around the equator) weaken or even reverse, blowing warm water from the western Pacific toward the east. As a result, sea temperatures in the far western Pacific can cool below average. The unusually warm water in the eastern Pacific then influences the Walker Circulation, acting as a focal point for cloud, rainfall, and thunderstorms. It is this change in the Walker Circulation that impacts weather patterns around the world.

El Niño's average influence on New Zealand

It's important to bear in mind that while we know the average outcome of El Niño because of historical data, no El Niño is average—each comes with a unique set of climate characteristics and therefore can be expected to influence the weather differently.

During El Niño, New Zealand tends to experience stronger or more frequent winds from the west in summer, which can encourage dryness in eastern areas and more rain in the west. In winter, the winds tend to blow more from the south, causing colder temperatures across the country. In spring and autumn, southwesterly winds are more common.

La Niña

During a La Niña event, ocean water from off the coast of South America to the central tropical Pacific cools to below average temperatures. This cooling occurs because of stronger than normal easterly trade winds, which churns cooler, deeper sea water up to the ocean's surface. Sea temperatures can warm above average in the far western Pacific when this happens. The unusually cool water in the eastern Pacific influences the Walker Circulation and suppresses cloud, rain, and thunderstorms. This change impacts weather patterns around the world, but in a different way than El Niño does.

La Niña's average influence on New Zealand

Northeasterly winds tend to become more common during La Niña events, bringing moist, rainy conditions to northeastern areas of the North Island and reduced rainfall to the lower and western South Island. Warmer than average air and sea temperatures can occur around New Zealand during La Niña.

Monitoring ENSO: Southern Oscillation Index

Sir Gilbert Walker documented and named the Southern Oscillation in the 1930s. The clearest sign of the Southern Oscillation is the inverse relationship between surface air pressure at two sites: Darwin, Australia, and the South Pacific island of Tahiti.

Over periods of a month or longer, higher pressure than normal at one site is almost always concurrent with lower pressure at the other, and vice versa. The pattern reverses every few years. It represents a "seesaw" or a mass of air oscillating back and forth across the International Date Line in the tropics and sub-tropics.

PS Was listening to a podcast on Sunday morning about a historical event in the 1860's. One person wrote about the big flood over the Heretaunga Plains when all the houses on the low lying areas only had their rooves showing. As a result of this flood event the Ngaruroro river dramatically changed its course to what it is today. (History does repeat)



**Parish Of Pohangina
Potluck Dinner & Quiz**

**19 August 2023
6pm**

**Chapman Hall
St Mary Magdalene's**



The Ancient Path That Brings Rest

By Phil Lancaster

Thus says the LORD:

“Stand at the crossroads, and look;

ask for the ancient paths,

ask where the good way is, and walk in it,

and find rest for your souls. ... Jeremiah 6:16

This verse was written to the nation of Judah at a time when they had turned their back on God. Throughout the book of Jeremiah God is warning Judah to turn back to Him. In the midst of these warnings God tells the people what they need to do.

Stand at the crossroads and look ...

The “crossroads” are the choices and decisions that we make every day. Most of the choices we make each day don’t have major consequences (porridge or weetbix for breakfast?) but there are decisions in life that do have major consequences. Without a doubt, the biggest decision anyone can make in life is whether to follow Jesus or not. And it’s not a one-off decision. Jesus tells us in Luke 9:23 that we should take up our cross daily.

Ask for the ancient paths ...

For the nation of Judah these words meant a return to obeying the Mosaic laws recorded in the first five books of the Old Testament. In today’s context the ancient path is the Bible.

For followers of Jesus, this idea of the ancient paths being the written word of God goes a step further. John 1:14 says “The word became flesh and dwelt among us ...”.

Jesus is our ancient path.

Ask where the good way is, and walk in it ...

Jesus put it very simply in John 14:6 *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”*

Jesus is the good way. And by walking in the ways of Jesus we will find rest for our souls.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

But wait. There's more ...

Most of what is written above is for those who have been told the good news about Jesus. But what about the multitudes of people standing at the crossroads trying to make major life decisions. I'm talking about people looking for answers; looking for their purpose in life, wondering what this life is all about. These are beautiful people who, in their searching, may consult psychics, mediums, tarot card readers, astrology, meditation etc. etc.

The Bible says that they should ask for the ancient paths.

Who are they going to ask?

... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you ... 1 Peter 3:15

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, ... Matthew 28:19

As followers of Jesus, we have been entrusted with this awesome message of hope and rest. (2Cor 5:19)

So, let's go out to the crossroads and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, help people find the ancient path and the rest that He brings.

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.
Hōmai ki a mātou āianei
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.
Murua ō mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.
Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te korōria,
Āke ake ake. Āmine.

Our Father in the kingdoms of heaven

How excellent and holy is Your name

Bring to us the power of Your Christ

Let it happen in the way that is You; and let it happen here on earth.

In the same way as it is in the kingdoms of heaven

Give us now the food we need this day.

Wash us of our iniquities and cleanse us from sin.

Give us what we have lost so when we are delivered by Your Spirit we will be with You again

We will not enter into temptation,

made complete we will turn away from sin and iniquity

In the name of Your Christ is the power and the glory

Forever and ever Amen

Services for August and September 2023

August 2023

6th August 8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
13th August 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
20th August 10.00 am Ashhurst
27th August 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako

September 2023

3rd September 8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
10th September 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
17th September 10.00 am Ashhurst
24th September 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako

House Groups

Ric & Penny Foxley's 100 Worcester Street, 3268887

Russell's House group 144 Winchester Street 3268547-Monday 7.30pm

Lyn & Phil's study group @ O'Fees ph 3551135—Monday 7.30pm

Tithes and Offerings:

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 Nicola Lancaster or Lyn O'Fee.

Leaving a Bequest in your Will:

Should you wish to leave a bequest to the Parish in your Will, it will be accepted with grateful hearts and you can be assured that it will be used wisely, and most certainly will be a blessing to all those who follow after us.



Every Sunday (when church services are running) there will be an open prayer time in the church, at 9.40am

This time is open to everyone, who would like to pray before the 10am service, whether it be praying FOR the service before it starts, or simply for anything else that may be on your heart, or if you need prayer or would even like to offer to pray for someone else!

Mike Russell

We would like to thank the many people who gave us such loving support, in so many ways, throughout the time of Mike's illness and death, and whose presence and words made his funeral a memorable tribute to his life as a pastor, minister and friend.

Barbara, Clare and Ben.



**Combined Service with River Church on 6 August at
Cambridge Ave**

**This is a great opportunity to fellowship with others in
our community who share our love for our AWESOME
God.**

Please bring a plate for a shared lunch.

Summary of Vestry Meeting 21st June 2023

The following is a brief summary of the topics that were discussed at the Vestry Meeting 21st June 2023:

- A stainless steel plaque with “Chapman Hall” has been purchased and will be presented to Eddie at his 100th birthday celebration on 15 July. The plaque will then be mounted at the hall front door.
- Combined service with River Church at their premises on 6 August. Shared lunch to follow
- The Diocese is asking for intentional prayer in six key areas:
 - Revival
 - Growth and believing in growth
 - Our youth
 - Discipleship both in and out of the parish
 - Leadership Vacancies
 - Wisdom for the Board of Nominations
- Flowers were purchased by Vestry on behalf of the parish for Mikes funeral

Income for May 2023 : \$5,179

Expenses for May 2023: \$5,201

Deficit (\$22)

Summary of Vestry Meeting 19th July 2023

The following is a brief summary of the topics that were discussed at the Vestry Meeting 19 July 2023:

- Diocese Training Day on 12 August at Central Baptist
- Hall Plans are with two builders for pricing
- Saturday 19 August a Parish Potluck Dinner and Quiz Night is to be held at Chapman Hall

Income for June 2023 : \$6122

Expenses for June 2023: \$10,914

Deficit (\$4,793)

Happy 100th Birthday Eddie



*Saturday 15th July 2023
was a great day
celebrating the life of a
great man.*

Starlight

Cathy, Olive and Nicola have been beavering away since Christmas making a few items for the Starlight groups that St Mary Magdalene have offered to support.

1. Agape Fellowship, with approximately 35 men, 28 women and 3 school aged children (not sure of age or gender) the number can fluctuate as new people join up.

Agape fellowship is a day fellowship which offers friendship, activities, outings, music for people with both physical and mental disabilities and appears to run on weekdays normal business hours.

2. Supporting Families with mental health. This group runs several programmes to support families. Includes “Project Calm” and “Go Kids” for school age children which are short courses run over several weeks. Other programmes for adults are “Connections with Hope: depression” and “Connections with Hope: anxiety.”

What we have been making so far:

Fabric covered notebooks

Zip and drawstring toilet bags

Pouches

Shopping bags, and a variety of carry bags

Knitted beanies

Aprons, pot holders and recipe books

Sewing and mending kits

Flat caps and bucket sun hats

Knitted slippers

Soft toys

Continued ...

We would love any help that others can do either sewing or knitting/ crochet of any of the above etc.

We particularly need things for men but also for ladies and children.

If you can't knit, crochet, sew or craft maybe you could buy some things to go with our Handmade gifts. All gifts are requested to be new.

Suggestions:

Soaps, shampoos and conditioners, facecloths and other toiletries, both for ladies and men

Pens to go with the notebooks

Baseball caps

Activity and colouring books, playing cards, Dominos

Coloured pencils, felts, pencils and other stationery items

Soft toys

T shirts

- See Cathy, Olive or Nicola if you can assist or have any questions

Dates for your Diary 2023

6th Aug	Sun	Combined service with River Church 10am
12th Aug	Sat	Diocese Training Day—Central Baptist
16th Aug	Wed	Vestry Meeting 7.30pm
19th Aug	Sat	Parish Potluck and Quiz Night 6pm
20th Sept	Wed	Vestry Meeting 7.30pm
24th Sept	Sun	Neill Smart - 60th birthday!

Ashhurst Foodbank Suggestions

These are only suggestions but it would be great to help boost the Ashhurst Foodbank stocks in any way possible. Any non-perishable items will be gratefully received so please consider contributing.

As a parish this is an effective and intentional way to support and encourage those in our local community who need assistance.

'For I was hungry and you gave me food...' Matthew 25:35

Month	Date	Suggested Contribution
August	6	Cleaning and laundry products
	13	Cleaning and laundry products
	20	Toilet paper/tissues
	27	Toilet paper/tissues
September	3	Shampoo, soap, toiletries etc
	10	Shampoo, soap, toiletries etc
	17	Tinned goods—both sweet and savoury
	24	Tinned goods—both sweet and savoury



Being Coached to Victory

Victory in the Christian life, like any other endeavor, involves effort, sweat, tears, pain, doubt, and commitment.

And like any elite athlete at the top of their game, we must lean into the strength and wisdom of our coach, knowing that He's been where we are and has the roadmap to help us reach our goal.

Jesus is our Coach.

... learn from me ... Matthew 11:29

Jesus is our Roadmap.

"Follow me ..." Matthew 4:19

Jesus is our Victory.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57

Parish Office Hours

Wednesday 9.30-3.30pm

Friday 1.00-3.00pm

About us

Lay Minister in Charge: Lyn O'Fee

Bishop's Warden: Neill Smart

Co-People's Wardens: Nicola Lancaster & Helen Morgan

Officiating Priest: Rev Pam Barnett

Office Administrator: Nicola Lancaster

The Herald is the newsletter for the Parish of Pohangina which is the two Anglican churches of St Mary Magdalene's in Ashhurst and St Bartholomew's in Komako. If you have something to write about just let the Office Administrator know –info@parishofpohangina.net or (06) 326 8543.

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