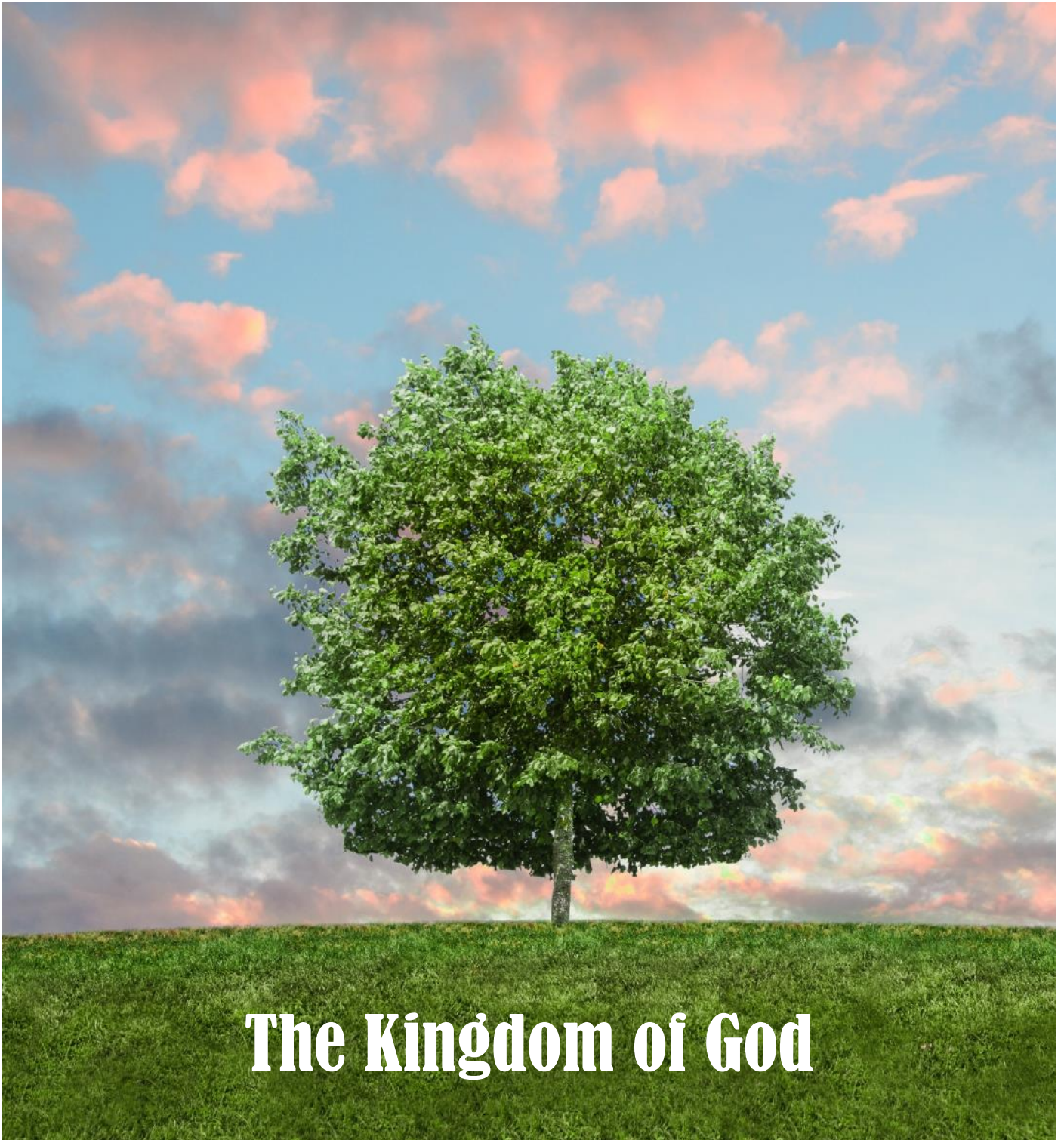


July
Outlook



The Kingdom of God



ST BARNABAS CHURCH, STOKE

We are a vibrant Anglican church in the heart of Stoke extending a warm welcome to all. If you are simply trying to find out more about the Christian faith or are already a committed Christian there is a place for you to journey with us here at St Barnabas.



Outlook

Psalm 139

- ¹ You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
- ² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
- ⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
- ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
- ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
- ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
- ¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully
made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- ¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

When I was working in London I was asked to lead the devotions for the church stuff team, it was a big church with a big staff team. Luckily for me it was in the holidays and many of the team were away, so there were about forty to fifty people in the staff meeting (it was a big church). This was my first time speaking or doing anything like this and I was, as you would expect, on edge. I can tell you it might have been the shortest devotion ever given. It went something like this.....

Even though I am on the other side of the sea (In England from New Zealand)

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea
as far from home as I can be,
God you are there with me.

In fact where ever we go, God you are with me, and if we think about this, it is a comforting thought - long pause.....Amen.

Of course there is much more to take out of this Psalm and all the Psalms if we meditate on them and let them speak and soak into our being. Each time you read this psalm, hear God's voice saying to you....

I've got an eye on you, he is behind and before you.....
You have been wonderfully and fearfully made.....
No matter what, God will always be there for you.....
Darkness will not over take you.....
The hand of God will guide you.....
God will hold you fast.....

Psalm 139 is such a personal Psalm:

¹ You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.

The God of the universe knows me, he knows you, he knows you and he loves you deeply. As the Psalmist says, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain." Amen

Prayer

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

Rev. Philip Greenwood - Vicar



Join us on Facebook
StBarnabasStoke



Visit our Website
www.stbarnabas.co.nz

YOUTH



St B's Youth are back into the swing of things, and we're having so much fun! As soon as we were able to come out of lock down and meet together again, we enjoyed a girls night with pizza, games and lots of chatting; followed by boys night consisting mostly of pizza and football! Everyone was very happy to be together again. Once the number restrictions were further lifted, we came together as a full youth group for games, worship, prayer, Bible studies, spotlight and to finish the Term some 'Christmas in July' fun.

We will enjoy the school holidays from 4 July through to 19 July before getting back into our regular Youth group events on Friday 24 and Friday 31 July.

Thank you for your prayers and support over the previous few months. It has made the transition back into physical youth ministry fairly smooth and enjoyable. Please continue to pray for the spiritual growth of our young people, for the development of our leaders and for continued clarity and vision for me as I lead this ministry. Much love and blessings to you all.

Georgia Allen - Youth Leader



The Book Club

The Book Club meet on a Thursday each month. Before lockdown they discussed holiday reading - an entertaining and informative morning. Books discussed included *Where Underpants Come From* by Joe Bennett. It an entertaining and serious look at Chinese culture following a purchase of a pack of underpants. *With These Hands* is an account of incidents and humorous anecdotes in the early life of Pam Ayres. *Taking Tom Murray Home* is an Australian story by Tim Slee about events while moving Tom's body by horse and cart on a journey of 350km from Yardley in country Victoria to bury him in Melbourne where he was born. *Frost Fair* is an illustrated book of a poem by Carol Ann Duffy about a day on the Frozen Thames in 1683 when a small town was created. Beautifully illustrated by David De Las Heras. The next meeting of the Book Club is 10.00am Thursday 30 July where they will be sharing and discussing more books. All are welcome to attend. Contact Margaret Hackston Ph 547 6643 for more information.





Snippets From Whareama

This week at our Gold In Our Memories fellowship group 7 week old Scarlett came to visit with her Mum who used to be a Caregiver and her Grandmother who has just clocked up 25 years of caregiving at Whareama. It was a real joy to see the smiles and interaction between baby and older folk. I have permission to share a photo of 96 year old Norma with the little one.

After our visitors left I led a reflection based on Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under Heaven," which led to discussion about the different seasons of life.

We still had some time before lunch to talk about the delicious soup our mothers used to make and how it filled hungry tummies and was often shared around wider family and community. The ladies spoke spoke about their favourite flavours and recipes and some interesting combinations were mentioned. We will share a soup lunch together in a couple of weeks time.

At lunchtimes I try to be of some assistance to the busy caregivers by feeding someone or encouraging a person to eat or sip a drink. I guess I spend quite a bit of time sitting alongside people, keeping them company and offering reassurance when needed. Joining in and helping with activities is fun and it's good to have a chuckle together.

Sometimes the dynamics, as in any group situation, can be interesting and one can find oneself in something of a peacekeeping role! I always hope that the staff feel that they can 'let off a bit of steam' to me when they need to. To be able to pray with individuals is a wonderful privilege.

During lockdown the residents coped very well but I know how hard it was for their families. Thankfully many people were able to keep in touch via Skype. I was fortunate that I could continue going in to Whareama over this period. Keeping residents safe in their bubble felt like a huge responsibility and I was in awe of the caring staff and their ability to carry on, knowing that for many other people it was a time to stop still and spend time at home with family.

You can imagine how excited residents were when they could finally get out and about in the mini-van and I was lucky to go along on some of the trips.

We held our first Communion service again on Sunday the 21 June. People were pleased to welcome back Margaret Hackston who always shares a good message and lovely prayers.

At hymn singing last Wednesday we talked about the visit from the precious little baby and I read Joy Cowley's psalm 'Smallness' which finishes with the line... "Knowing my smallness is knowing the kingdom of Heaven". We then sang All things Bright and Beautiful and I must say each time we sing "all things wise and wonderful the Lord God knows them all, I look around the room realising I am in just such company. Blessings.

Angela Galbraith - Whareama Chaplain



Pastoral Care Update...

- As we return to some semblance of normality, some of us still feel unsettled and even threatened by this corona virus. It's so good to be close to God at this time.
- Thanks to the staff and particularly Yvonne in organising the "telephone tree" so we were able to keep in touch with one another during the lockdown.
- Sadly we lost a few parishioners during the lockdown... Ruth Collins died peacefully at her home in Saxton Road Community House. Laura Trigger died suddenly in the North Island. Our sympathy goes to Jenny and Kevin Currie and family. Beverley Muirhead's funeral was held recently at our church. Beverley and accomplished musician, worshipped here for many years, playing the organ and singing in the choir. We also heard the Gilbert Prat (the late Muriel's husband) died recently in Christchurch.
- Some address changes... Eileen Woods has moved from Omaio Village to Flaxmore Rest Home following a time in hospital and Norah Growcott is now residing at Kensington Court.

"Be sure if God sends you on stony paths He will provide you with strong shoes"

Blessings, Margaret



Home Group Spotlight

At the Sunday 21 June Services Philip Greenwood spoke about God's plan for reconciliation. He explained it as bringing something that is broken back to the state that it was before it broke. He shared that its also about restoring relationships to what they were originally designed for. The Wednesday evening Richmond Home Group led by Ruth Maxwell decided to take a closer look at reconciliation. Here is an outline of their study...

Both Bishop Steve and Phil have spoken about reconciliation. We understand that when God created the world with us in it we were reconciled with God. But we broke that. God made the way of reconciliation through Christ Jesus. God calls us all to be reconciled.

Reconciliation with God

We were enemies of God, separated from Him. (*Colossians 1:19-22*) Now made holy and blameless and able to stand before God. (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

Short prayers of thankfulness for this amazing gift

"You must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News..." (*Colossians 1:23*)

Discussion Points:

- Do you know people who have "drifted away"?
- Have you ever "drifted away"?
- Does this mean that they are no longer reconciled with God?
- Do you think that some people wonder if Colossians 1:21,22 can be reversed by their wrong actions or "drifting"?
- How should we try to help them to "renew" their reconciled relationship with God?

Reconciliation with each other

- Forgive others and we will be forgiven (*Matthew 6:12,15*)
- Rabbis taught to forgive 3 times – Jesus means don't even keep track of how many times (*Matthew 18:21,22*)
- Don't judge or condemn- or you will be, but forgive and you will be (*Luke 6:37*)
- When you pray first forgive others (*Mark 11:25*)

Reconciliation between 2 people requires engagement on both sides.

- True or false?: Forgiveness can always occur but sometimes reconciliation isn't possible"
- Paul tells us to "live in complete harmony with each other" (*Romans 15:5, 12:16*)

Reconciliation with creation

We know that the world as we know it is decaying but we look forward to a new and glorious future with new heavens and new earth. (*Romans 8:20, 22*)

- What is our responsibility here and now? God created this planet for our good
- What do you see as your role in reconciliation with the planet God made for us?

Reconciliation with ourselves

God saw us as important enough to raise us up with Christ and seat us with him in Heaven (*Ephesians 2:4-6*)

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago (*Ephesians 2:10*)

- Do you really believe that verse?
- Does God make mistakes?
- Then why do we ever have difficulty with self-esteem or self-doubt?



Missions Giving for 2020...

Last year we raised \$13057.70 for Overseas Missions. This was 2.8% over our target of \$12,700 for the year.

This year our Missions giving to 15 June is \$8963.60 which is 71% of our budget of \$12,500 for 2020



THE KINGDOM WAY

We are living through a unique time in history. COVID-19 is the sort of event that will be recorded in textbooks for our children and grandchildren to study in years to come.

For the sake of our collective health as a nation, New Zealanders have changed our patterns of behaviour and the way we relate to one another. We have kept our distance, we have isolated, we have been wary of close contact and stayed in our homes. Ecclesiastes 3 has taken on a whole new meaning. "There is a time for every purpose under heaven ... a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing"!

This has made sense; however, my prayer is that this has indeed been a temporary change and does not become an embedded behaviour in the way we relate to each other. As followers of Jesus, our mandate is to be outwardly focused not inwardly, to be known by our love for and servant-heartedness towards others, especially those in need.

This has been exactly the pattern I've observed as the distinctive default of our Bright Hope World partners around the world. Faced with others in need, they have willingly shared what they have. Faced with scarce resources, they do not hoard, they share. We have received stories of partners who have been gathered together with their community and put all they have in the middle to share amongst those present. Precisely as the early church did!

For many of our partners, this time has provided an incredible open door for the gospel into their wider communities. In India especially, the lockdown has meant that millions of daily wage earners have found themselves without work in the cities, having to return to their villages on foot over many hundreds of kilometres, and unable to feed their families. The lockdown has been a government's choice to try to avoid death from COVID-19 perhaps at the risk of families dying of starvation. It's into this context that many of our Indian partners have been distributing food supplies to needy families. This connection has given them an open door into many families and the opportunity to share the Good News.

Providing for these felt needs has been the response of many of our partners around the world at this time. As the global church we have the opportunity to join together with them as family, in their response to the needs of those for whom this period of history leaves them literally hungry, thirsty and without basic needs.

Our human instinct is to pull away and isolate. To protect ourselves. But this is not the Kingdom way. Jesus moved towards others in time of need. He made himself present in the midst of suffering and difficulty. He took on the nature of a servant.

As some of us move towards less restrictive levels of choice in our countries, may we be inspired to reclaim the distinctives of an outwardly focused Jesus follower. The one we see lived out in the DNA of our Bright Hope World partners.

Nicki Rees-Thomas - Bright Hope World

Services...



This Month Philip Greenwood continues preaching about The Kingdom of God.

The series began on Sunday 21 when Philip examined the Kingdom theme of Reconciliation. "There are some big themes that run right through the bible and reveal the very nature of God. From the beginning to the end the bible is about reconciliation. It's about bringing something that is broken back to the state that it was before it broke. It's about restoring relationships to what they were originally designed for..."



On Sunday 28 June Philip Greenwood continues the Kingdom of God series where he seeks to answer the question "What is the Kingdom of God?" He compares earthly concepts of a Kingdom with the attributes of God's Kingdom and looks at various Kingdoms in both the Old Testament and the New. Find out what are we really asking for when we pray "Your Kingdom Come"



On Sunday 5 July Philip Greenwood continues the Kingdom of God series looking into our role in the Kingdom. The disciples left everything to follow Jesus. It wasn't easy, but they were willing to trust him to lead them and teach them. They gained so much more than they had left behind - more of his heart, his perspective, and his desires for everyone to know and experience his love. Are we willing to seek out our role in the Kingdom?

Theme What is our role in the Kingdom? // **Readings** Matthew 5:13-16, Mark 10:17-31
8.30am Morning Worship & Holy Communion // **10.00am** Family Communion



On Sunday 12 July Philip Greenwood continues the Kingdom of God series exploring the Kingdom of Power. As Christians, we have been given the presence of the Holy Spirit. God has empowered us to be his hands and feet that we might do the works of the kingdom. What difference would it make today if we truly believed that the Spirit of God was within us, ready to empower us for the work of the kingdom?

Theme A Kingdom of Power // **Readings** Acts 5:12-16, Mark 6:6-13
8.30am Healing // **10.00am** Family Worship



On Sunday 19 July Philip Greenwood continues the Kingdom of God series sharing about Kingdom healing. When a person was healed as Jesus laid hands on him, the Kingdom of Heaven, the rule of God, came into effect in the person healed and delivered. Jesus was pushing back the kingdom of Satan, Satan's rule, and was bringing in God's Kingdom. How do we demonstrate this same authority and power to those around us?

Theme Kingdom Healing // **Readings** Acts 8:4-25, Luke 6:17-26
8.30am NZPB // **10.00am** Family Communion



On Sunday 26 July Philip Greenwood continues the Kingdom of God series looking into The Lord's Prayer. One of the things Jesus did was to provide us a glimpse of the kingdom on earth. When we pray for the Kingdom to come, are we patiently and persistently seeking to show the kingdom in our society as he did? Do others see that we love justice, kindness, and mercy or do they see something different?

Theme Your Kingdom Come // **Readings** Luke 11:1-10, Matthew 25:1-13
8.30am Choral Communion // **10.00am** Family Worship

Worship teams at St Barnabas

The worship bands at St B's is stepping into a new season of worship. Over lockdown Grant Norsworthy has been mentoring me into this next season. We are looking at getting new equipment and going deeper into what it means to be leading a congregation in worship. We want to step into God's calling as a band. God is at work in the St B's worship band and I am very excited to see what he's got in store. If you would like to be a part of the St B's worship team feel free to contact me Theo Greenwood 021 026 3254



What's on in July

Tuesday 10.00am	30 June Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	1 July NZPB Service
Friday 7.00pm	3 July Youth - Christmas in July
<i>School Holidays Commence</i>	
Sunday 8.30am 10.00am 6.00pm	5 July Morning Worship & Holy Communion Contemporary Worship Young Adults Alpha

Tuesday 1.30pm	<i>Stillpoint</i> - Meditation
Wednesday 10.30am	8 July NZPB Service
Sunday 8.30am 10.00am 6.00pm	12 July NZPB Contemporary Communion Young Adults Alpha

Wednesday 10.30am	15 July NZPB Service
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Saturday 8.00am	18 July Walking Group - Motueka Reserves
Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	19 July Choral Contemporary Communion

Monday <i>School Term 3 Commences</i>	20 July
Tuesday 10.00am	21 July Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	22 July NZPB Service
Friday 7.00pm	24 July Youth - Blackout
Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	26 July NZPB Contemporary Worship

Tuesday 10.00am	28 July Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	29 July Reflective Service
Friday 7.00pm	30 July Youth - Classic

Youth and some Home Groups take a break for School Holidays. Contact the office for more info.

Home Groups help to connect

¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other. - *John 15:15-17*



No matter who you are, what you do, or where you're at in life, and faith, Home groups are a great way for you to find your way into community where we can love each other. I have seen people thrive in their faith, when they are in a Home group. A place where people can be known, with friends that help them do the Christian life, where people share their lives in the good times and the not so good times. Home groups are a great way for people to create authentic Christian communities in which they can practice loving God, one another, and the wider world. We want to encourage everyone to be part of the family here at St Bs, and one of the best ways to do that is to join or start a home group. If you would like more info please ring the church office for contact details and group time. If you would like to start a home group, please get in contact with Philip.

Theo Greenwood Internship through BTC

Over this semester at BTC I have been learning lots about what leadership in the church should look like and how to be the most effective leader I can be. I have undergone a lot of spiritual formation over the semester and can feel God's calling on my life. I felt God's calling to run Alpha for young adults at my flat after lockdown. We run Alpha at the flat every Sunday night at 6 o'clock, its really cool to see God at work in the young adults that come along and I'm very excited to see where God will lead Alpha. Pray for Alpha would be awesome and if you'd like to donate meals or help serve in any way please contact me and let me know.



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