

ST BARNABAS MAGAZINE

APRIL/MAY 2025

Outlook

**Could there
be more to
Easter than
eggs?**



Nelson
Anglicans

Haere Mai
Jesus matters – come and see

Our Vision: To impact Stoke and beyond, for the Kingdom of God.

Come and see.



Haere Mai
Jesus matters - come and see

**Nelson
Anglicans**

Haere Mai: Jesus Matters, Come and See

Over the next couple of months we will be pushing into telling others the good news about Jesus. Haere Mai: Jesus Matters, Come and See is a chance to embody the love and hospitality that Jesus calls us to offer.

Sharing the gospel/good news is at the heart of the Christian faith. Jesus last words to his Disciples were "To go make disciples of all nations". The early church thrived because believers proclaimed the good news about Jesus. Yet, many of us today, struggle with evangelism. We feel unqualified, we worry about rejection, we don't know what to say and we don't want to offend our friends. However, telling others about Jesus is not about having all the right answers or even about been really clever about Christian things; it is about sharing the love and truth we have encountered in Christ with the people around us, in a loving way.

Why Should We Tell Others About Jesus?

Jesus Commanded Us To Do So

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 is clear that making disciples is not optional for followers of Christ. Jesus calls us to "go and make disciples of all nations." This command was not just for the apostles; it applies to every believer. When we have something good happen in our lives, we want to tell others about it, so they too can know the good news.

People Need to Hear the Good News

The world is full of people searching for meaning, hope, and purpose. The gospel message is the only one that truly satisfies the deepest needs of the human heart. Romans 10:14 reminds us:

"How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

If we don't share the gospel, how will people hear about Jesus? We are God's messengers, called to bring His light into a dark world.

Sharing the Gospel Glorifies God

When we share Jesus with others, we are fulfilling the purpose for which we were created, to bring glory to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 calls us "Christ's ambassadors", meaning we represent Him to the world. Just as a representative of a nation speaks on behalf of their country, we speak on behalf of Christ, proclaiming His love and truth.

It Brings Us Joy

One of the greatest joys in the Christian life is seeing someone come to faith in Jesus. Luke 15:10 tells us that even the angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents. When we share the gospel, we are participating in the work of God, and there is no greater privilege.

We Are a Living Testimony

As followers of Christ, our lives should reflect His love, grace, and power. When others see how Jesus has transformed us, they may become curious and open to hearing the gospel. 1 Peter 3:15 encourages us:

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Sharing our testimony is one of the most powerful ways to witness to others.

How Should We Tell Others About Jesus?

Pray For Opportunities & Boldness

Evangelism starts with prayer. Ask God to open doors for good news conversations and to give us the courage to speak. Colossians 4:3-4 says:

"Pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ."

When we pray for opportunities, we will begin to notice moments where we can naturally share our faith.

Live out Your Faith

Loving our neighbours, showing kindness, and living with integrity are essential parts of sharing

the gospel. Matthew 5:16 says:

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Share Your Personal Testimony

One of the easiest ways to witness is by sharing your own story. How has Jesus changed your life? People may argue against theology, but they can not argue against your personal experience. Paul often shared his testimony when preaching the gospel. A simple way to share your testimony is by answering these three questions:

1. What was your life like before Jesus?
2. How did you come to know Him?
3. How has your life changed since following Him?

Ask Questions and Listen

Effective evangelism is not just about talking; it’s also about listening. When Jesus spoke to people, He often asked them questions to engage their hearts. By asking thoughtful questions, we can understand where people are spiritually and respond to their concerns with wisdom and love. Engaging in conversation, rather than preaching at someone, helps build trust and openness.

Not everyone will respond immediately to the gospel, and that’s okay. Our job is to plant seeds, God is the one who makes them grow. Keep praying for those you share with and trust that the Holy Spirit is working in their hearts.

Keep It Simple and Authentic

You don’t need to have all the answers or use complicated theological terms. The gospel is simple: God loves us, we are sinners, Jesus died for us, and through Him we can have new life. Share the good news in a way that is clear, genuine, and filled with love.

By praying for opportunities, living out our faith, sharing our testimony, asking good questions, and trusting the Holy Spirit, we can share the message of Christ with those around us. As Jesus said in Matthew 9:37–38:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

Let us be those workers, boldly sharing the love and truth of Jesus with a world that desperately needs Him.

From Bishop Steve:

Why is prayer such a key focus for the Haere Mai project?

Because without God, we can’t do it. It is God who is calling people to Himself, and He invites us to join Him in His mission. We need to pray that He will be working in people’s hearts and that we will

respond to the opportunities He gives us. Jesus said, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”* (Luke 10:2). He calls us to pray first.

Why do you think having a prayer partner is important during this season?

Left to ourselves, we know how easily distracted we become. Having a prayer partner helps keep us focused. There’s something beautiful about people praying together—it strengthens us, keeps us accountable, and reminds us that we are not alone in this. Jesus said, *“Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”* (Matthew 18:20).

Every Sunday during Lent, there will be corporate prayer gatherings on Zoom. What is the vision behind this, and what can people expect?

It will be a one-hour prayer gathering, bringing people together across the Diocese to pray. This allows us to share encouragements about what God is doing and reminds us we are in this together. The vision is that we will be informed, encouraged, and united in prayer—praying for our communities and asking God to move in people’s lives.

How does this initiative connect with the wider vision of the Haere Mai project?

There are so many things we can pray for, but during Lent, I am specifically calling the Diocese to pray for people to come to know Jesus. I know that faith is a journey, but my prayer is that the people we know will take a step closer to Jesus over these 40 days. I also hope that as we pray, God will stir conversations and open people’s hearts to faith. Prayer creates a posture of expectation—it helps us become more spiritually aware of what God is doing around us.

If someone is thinking about joining but isn’t sure where to start, what’s the first step they can take today?

We want to know who wants to be part of this 40-Day prayer journey. You can join at any time, but here’s what we’re inviting people to do: Pray daily & Join us for weekly prayer on Zoom.

If you’re ready to commit to this Lenten prayer journey, then go to:

<https://forms.gle/CSnXDrKWM4Q7C5s37>

This is an incredible opportunity to seek God together, pray for our communities, and expect Him to move in powerful ways. Will you join us?



Philip Greenwood // Vicar

April & May 2025



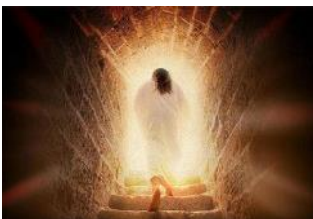
Sunday 6 April
8.30am NZ Prayer Book Service (Pg. 404)
10.00am Family Worship
Theme Jesus Matters, Come & See
You must be born again, flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to Spirit.
Readings Genesis 1:26-31 (pg. 8) // John 3:1-21 (pg. 1031)
Preacher Philip Greenwood



Sunday 13 April
8.30am NZ Prayer Book Service (Healing)
10.00am Family Worship
Theme Jesus Matters, Come & See
Becoming a people of invention, come and see...What?
Readings Acts 9:1-20 (pg. 1066) // Luke 24:39-49 (pg. 1027)
Preacher Philip Greenwood



Friday 18 April (Good Friday)
9.30am Reflective Service (Combined Service)
Theme Remembering the death of Jesus
When Jesus had received the wine, he said "It is finished." A contemplative service reflecting on the crucifixion of Jesus.
Readings Psalm 69:1-18 (pg. 562) // John 19:16-37 (pg. 1052)
Preacher Kathryn van Veen



Sunday 20 April (Easter Sunday)
9.30am Easter Service (Combined Service)
Theme Jesus Is Risen
The resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion.
Readings Luke 24:1-12 (pg. 1026) // John 20:1-10 (pg. 1053)
Preacher Philip Greenwood



Sunday 27 April
8.30am NZ Prayer Book Service (Pg. Morning Worship & Holy Communion?)
10.00am Family Worship
Theme Walking With Jesus
This is the third time Jesus appears to the Disciples and invites them "Come and have breakfast". Encountering Jesus.
Readings John 21:1-14 (pg. 1054)
Preacher Kathryn van Veen

April & May 2025

Living As God's Church

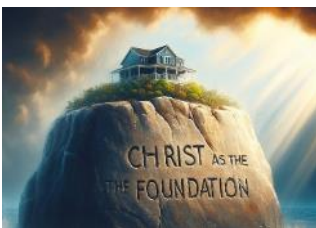
A Journey through 1 Corinthians. A call to holiness, unity, and faithfulness in Christ while living in a broken world. The book of 1 Corinthians is one of Paul's most practical letters and addresses real issues within the church at Corinth; division, immorality, worship, spiritual gifts and the resurrection. In this series, we will explore how Paul's teaching still applies today as we seek to be a faithful, Christ-centred church.



Sunday 4 May
8.30am NZ Prayer Book Service (Pg. 404)
10.00am Family Worship
Theme The Church Belongs To Christ, Not Us
Paul begins his letter by addressing the divisions in the Corinthian Church.
Readings 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 (pg. 1107) // John 17:20-26 (pg. 1050)
Preacher Philip Greenwood



Sunday 11 May
8.30am NZ Prayer Book Service (Healing)
10.00am Family Worship
Theme The Message Of The Cross
Foolishness or power?
Readings 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (pg. 1108) // Matthew 16:24-28 (pg. 951)
Preacher Jude Saxon



Sunday 18 May
8.30am NZ Prayer Book Service (Pg. 476)
10.00am Family Worship
Theme Building On The Right Foundation
Christ as the only foundation.
Readings 1 Corinthians 3:1-23 (pg. 1109) // Matthew 7:24-29 (pg. 940)
Preacher Philip Greenwood



Sunday 25 May
8.30am Morning Worship & Holy Communion
10.00am Family Worship
Theme True Servants Of Christ
Faithfulness in ministry.
Readings 1 Corinthians 4:1-21 (pg. 1109) // Mark 10:35-45 (pg. 981)
Preacher Kathryn van Veen



Convergence Church Camp 2025 was an unforgettable time of fellowship, teaching, and encountering God. This year, we were privileged to have Mark and Kirsty Johnson as our guest speakers, and what a treat it was to learn from them!



Mark brought powerful and insightful teaching, focusing on three key aspects of evangelism:

1. Community – How genuine relationships and a strong sense of belonging play a crucial role in sharing the gospel.
2. Knowledge – The importance of understanding and being equipped with the truth of God’s Word to effectively engage with others.
3. Encountering God – Recognizing that evangelism is not just about words but about leading people into a real and life-changing experience with Jesus.





Beyond the incredible teaching, the camp was filled with meaningful worship, deep discussions, and plenty of laughter, children's groups, water slides, and real fruit ice creams. Whether gathered around the camp, or at the beach, sharing meals together, or engaging in prayer, we saw God move in powerful ways, strengthening our faith and confidences to tell others about Jesus.



As we look back on Convergence Camp 2025, we are grateful for the transformative time spent together and excited to take what we've learned into our communities, sharing the love of Jesus in fresh and bold ways.





Continuing our series of short glimpses into mission in far-away places, Peter Renew reports back from the front line...this month from Central Asia.

THE JOB DESCRIPTION

Over the last three weeks of March, the Sunday sermons have been themed "Jesus matters, come and see." And in particular Phil posed the question,

"What makes the great commission so challenging for us?"

Making Christ known can be defined by circumstances. Usually, when people apply for a job, a job description is available giving details of duties expected. When following a vocation to Christian ministry, especially overseas mission, things are not always so predictable.

People assume that mission is only about evangelising to the local people where you're sent. But, in Central Asia we had more contact with other expatriates. This bothered us, so we discussed it with our regional manager and he proposed that God probably called us there to minister to the other foreigners; often businessmen and embassy staff, some of whom were financially rich, but spiritually poor.

We were friendly with just such a couple from a local Embassy. And as the only civilians taking part in a joint U.S. Marines vs Gurkhas weekly hockey match, we often emerged bruised and tired, but enjoyed great times together.

Conversely, elsewhere a member of our church home group was a very elderly ex-C.I.A. operative, who had apparently 'forgotten' to go home. He was materially poor and spiritually rich.

Our assignment in Central Asia was in a place known for considerable political and religious sensitivities; evangelism was not permitted. One of the problems was that the secret police

constantly kept watch, to see and know what everyone was doing. This particularly included the Christians. All over the city there were offices, training facilities, interrogation cells; whatever the secret police needed. We had one next door.

The men would sit on the balcony of the house, cleaning their guns. As this overlooked our gate, being scrutinised became normal. My mission work involved going to embassies, so whatever I did was automatically of interest to them.

Visiting embassies was seen as making contact with other governments, and in their view, very suspicious. The reality was not sinister; it was routine. I often had to obtain a team member's visa, or have their books approved by the censor, before they went on leave.

Or, I sometimes received an Embassy phone call asking if our clinics could use a donation of, for instance, 10,000 syringes and 2,000 pairs of surgical gloves. "Yes please!" I'd always say. "Back up a truck to the rear entrance at 3 p.m. sharp." I was told. Therefore, with such apparently suspicious activities being part of my work, I couldn't go anywhere without being watched, right up to night curfew.

became friendly with two U.S. Marines who were there on Embassy guard duty. Sometimes we talked of life and faith. They were lonely, far away from home. One of them gave me his Marine Bible which is camouflaged green and brown just like everything else in the military. I still have it as a precious memento.

They wanted to find out more about Christ and we chatted about the idea of reading and discussing the Bible together. Arrangements were made to meet at the sports club of another Embassy, which would provide neutral ground. This was important as such activities were not permitted, certainly not in public.

We met in a corner of the library with the sound of snooker balls clacking in the background. All seemed well until, about a week later, the head of

the mission received a covert message warning us to desist, or we would be deported. Well, that was the end of leading Bible studies with the U.S. Marines!

Once, I was visiting a fortress-like Embassy on a routine visit to see a man about medical supplies; I was ushered into his office. Though normally a very moderate man, he was sitting with his head in his hands swearing and occasionally thumping the desk. He was staring at a picture of his family. "Am I pleased to see you!!!" he exclaimed. He was desperate.

By a slip-up of security, someone had allowed a big parcel-bomb into the embassy grounds and he was waiting for orders to defuse it. But his bomb disposal training was a long way out of date. Presently the bomb lay outside under a lead bomb-blanket. We talked and talked; it was mission with the expats, exactly as our boss had said.

He asked me to alert our doctors to be on trauma stand-by, just in case, waiting for a phone call

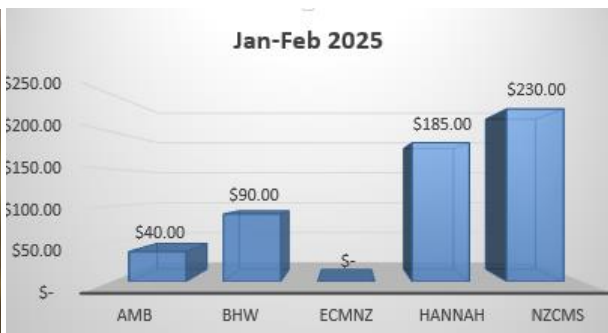
from the embassy. The call never came, but a bomb disposal expert did arrive next day, quickly ushered in at the airport. I saw him. Neither the bomb, nor the disposal expert were ever mentioned again.

None of this matched my original idea of missionary work; but nobody had given me a job description. Part of the mystery of God is that he knows we can do amazing things, far beyond our own assumptions. We just have to trust Him.

Ephesians 3: 20-21 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



Peter Renew // Assisting Clergy



MISSIONS GIVING 2025

Our total received for Overseas Missions up to Feb 2025 is \$545.00.

This is 5% of our \$11,000.00 Target for the year.

Thank You For Your Support..

ST BARNABAS WALKING GROUP
Saturday 19th April (Easy)
Mushroom Farm—Neudorf
Leaving St Barnabas Church at 9.00 am
(\$10.00 For Transport Costs)
Contact: Kevin Nilsen 03 548 0964

ST BARNABAS WALKING GROUP
Saturday 17th May (Easy/Medium)
Baigents & Faulkners Bush
Leaving St Barnabas Church at 9.30 am
(\$5.00 For Transport Costs)
Contact: Kevin Nilsen 03 548 0964

QUICK QUIZ

Answers on page 11.

- Q1. Which Royal House did King Henry the VII (1457-1509) belong to?
- Q2. Who painted the oil on canvas, "The Starry Night" in 1889?
- Q3. What is the largest flightless bird in the world?
- Q4. In which book of the Bible do the Ten Commandments first appear?
- Q5. How old was Elvis Presley when he died: 40, 42 or 45 years?



In which city would you find this building?

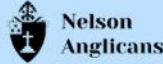
TIME OUT

Come and see.



Discovery & Alpha

See details below...



YOU'RE INVITED TO

Discovery

di'skav a ri' ti.

revealing, the act of making something known, a moment of revelation, find out, become aware. expose to view

Talk over a meal about life and faith

6.30PM MONDAY 5TH MAY @ ST BARNABAS CHURCH STOKE

R.S.V.P to Admin Centre 547 5631 or office.stbarnabas@xtra.co.nz

Alpha

@ St Barnabas

Starts 6.30 pm
Monday 12th May 2025
(6 week course)



Explore Life, Faith & Meaning

More than 200,000 people in New Zealand and millions worldwide have attended Alpha and enjoyed exploring life, faith and meaning. Alpha is a free 6 week course - an opportunity for anyone to discover more about the Christian faith over a meal in a relaxed setting.

Topics include:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did he die?
- How can I have faith?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- How do I make the most of my life?

For more information or to register please contact: *The Admin Centre on 03 547 5631 or E-mail office.stbarnabas@xtra.co.nz*

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Overview of St Barnabas Parish Accounts to 31 December 2024

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Parish Giving	\$229,988.00	\$218,000.00	\$11,988.00
Total Income	\$387,595.00	\$358,907.00	\$28,688.00
Total Expenses	\$362,988.00	\$385,342.00	(\$22,354.00)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$24,607.00 Surplus		
Non Operating Income	\$6871.00 (From Trusts/bequests)		
Final Surplus / (Deficit)	\$31,487.00 Surplus		

Daniel Pluck
St Barnabas Finance Chair



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO DEEPER IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE OR DEVELOP YOUR FAITH FURTHER?

THEN ONE OF OUR HOME GROUPS IS A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE PLACE TO DO SO.

St Barnabas has several Home Groups running at present. Each group offers friendship, tea & coffee and a comfortable place to talk about faith. Some groups offer a formal bible study while others offer practical spiritual support. One group offers singing and music as part of their celebration of faith. Whatever your need, we are sure you can find a group to help you grow in Christ.

The groups and contact details are listed below.

Group 1 (Wed 7pm): Bible Study, Prayer and Social Support. **Ruth 021 557 340**

Group 2 (Thu 7pm): Bible Study, Prayer and Support. **Annie 027 524 4524**

Group 3 (Mon 7.30pm): Bible Study, Prayer, Music and Social Support. **Kathleen 027 313 8045**

Group 4 (Every 2nd Tue 7pm): Prayer, practical support and Social. **Glynne 021 221 2909**

** We are working on a small booklet outlining the groups in more detail. In the meantime feel free to contact the Admin Centre on 547 5631 for further information.*

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liz@totalrealty.co.nz

TEA, CAKE & CONVERSATION

APRIL 2025
Fri 11th

MAY 2025
Fri 9th & 23rd

ST BARNABAS CHURCH FOYER
2.00pm - 3.30pm
Every 2nd & 4th Friday

Bring a friend to enjoy good company and afternoon tea.

TIME OUT ANSWERS: Quiz: 1. House of Tudor 2. Vincent van Gogh 3. Ostrich 4. Exodus 5. 42

Building Photo: Dubai.

What's on in April

Tuesday 10.00am	1 April Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	2 April Reflective Service
Thursday 6.30pm	3 April Youth (Church/Hall)
Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	6 April NZ Prayer Book (404) Family Worship
Tuesday 10.00am	8 April Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	9 April Reflective Service
Thursday 6.30pm	10 April Youth (Church/Hall)
Friday 2.00pm	11 April Tea, Cake & Conversation (Foyer)

Note: School Holidays 12 April to 27 April

Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	13 April NZ Prayer Book (Healing) Family Worship
Wednesday 10.30am	16 April Reflective Service
Friday 9.30am	18 April Good Friday Reflective Service
Saturday 9.00am	19 April Walking Group (Meet @ Church)

Sunday 9.30am	20 April Combined Easter Sunday Service
Wednesday 10.30am	23 April Reflective Service
Friday	25 April ANZAC Day

Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	27 April Morning Worship & Holy Communion Family Worship
Tuesday 10.00am	29 April Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	30 April Reflective Service

What's on in May

Thursday 7.00pm 6.30pm	1 May St Barnabas AGM (Church) Youth (Hall Only)
Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	4 May NZ Prayer Book (404) Family Worship
Tuesday 10.00am	6 May Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	7 May Reflective Service
Thursday 6.30pm	8 May Youth (Church/Hall)
Friday 2.00pm	9 May Tea, Cake & Conversation (Foyer)

Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	11 May NZ Prayer Book (Healing) Family Worship
Tuesday 10.00am	13 May Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	14 May Reflective Service
Thursday 6.30pm	15 May Youth (Church/Hall)
Saturday 9.30am	17 May Walking Group (Meet @ Church)

Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	18 May NZ Prayer Book (476) Family Worship
Tuesday 10.00am	20 May Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	21 May Reflective Service
Thursday 6.30pm	22 May Youth (Church/Hall)
Friday 2.00pm	23 May Tea, Cake & Conversation (Foyer)

Sunday 8.30am 10.00am	25 May Morning Worship & Holy Communion Family Worship
Tuesday 10.00am	27 May Melody Makers
Wednesday 10.30am	28 May Reflective Service
Thursday 6.30pm	29 May Youth (Church/Hall)



Giving to support the work of St Barnabas

If you choose to give by online banking or direct credit our account details are:
St Barnabas Church // 03 1709 0041226 00 // Westpac Richmond

St Barnabas Anglican Church ■ 523 Main Rd, Stoke, Nelson 7011

Phone: 03 547 5631 ■ E-mail: office.stbarnabas@xtra.co.nz

Office Hours: 8.00am - 12.00pm Monday to Thursday