

inside LOOK



holyltrinitydoncaster

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
106 CHURCH ROAD, DONCASTER 3108**

From Paul Barker

Dear friends

It is with very mixed emotions that I announced on Sunday 10 May my resignation as Vicar of Holy Trinity after over thirteen years as Vicar.

I have been accepted by CMS (Church Missionary Society) to teach in various places in Asia (e.g. Burma, Pakistan, India, China) with a base at the Malaysian Theological Seminary in Seremban, Malaysia.

My final Sunday will be 8 November. We will reschedule the AGM and my final address on Friday 6 November. On Sunday 8 November, there will be one service at which I will preach. This will be at 1.30p.m. after lunch. I would especially value your attendance on that day.

After finishing at Holy Trinity, I will have five weeks of deputation for CMS in other link churches and will leave soon after the Boxing Day Test match. I will also spend three weeks in October doing some training at the CMS St Andrew's Hall Training Centre, though I will still be at HTD on the Sundays.

Part of the strategy for this new ministry is to be able to teach more in strategic places, especially where it is impossible or difficult to be permanently. Being single, and with a Ph.D. means I have some facility to be able to assist in places where I already have taught, as well as in some others. Also the more frequent visits will help make this ministry more effective, mentoring faculty and students. I certainly firmly believe that theological education in the developing world is a highly strategic ministry where needs and resources are harder to find.

At this stage it seems I will concentrate on being in Seremban, Malaysia for their first semester each year which runs from January to May. During that time I expect to be in Burma leading a preaching conference in January for a week and in Nagaland, India for a week in April. Then from mid-May I will be more on the move, probably visiting Burma twice (for each of their semesters) for 2-3 weeks, Pakistan for 2-3 weeks to teach an intensive course, potentially SAIACS in India for one or two modules, plus a couple of intensive courses in Malaysia. Each year I would have about a month back in Melbourne for deputa- tion.

Let me say how much of a privilege and joy it has been since April 1996 as Vicar here. I have not sought to leave for any reason other than believing this to be God's call on me. In fact I have been sensing this call and investigating such a ministry for the last two years or more. Maybe there is no right time to leave, but this seems to be as good as any. However I believe I will leave HTD in a healthy state, still growing with an excellent set of ministries, staff and leaders and wonderful church members.

I invite you all to participate with me in the ministry that lies ahead. Your prayers and financial support through CMS will be greatly appreciated. In many ways, I would like to consider that the ministry God is leading me into will be viewed as HTD's continued and growing ministry in the world. Your support will also help me still regard HTD as my home. I hope that the Missions Committee and Vestry will agree for HTD officially be a link parish for me.

Enclosed with this edition of Inside LOOK is a letter from CMS and me inviting your support in prayer and or finance. I'd be delighted if many of you are able to respond. You can either return the form direct to CMS or to our church office and we will forward them on in bulk.

It is a costly exercise going where God leads. It is very costly for me financially. It is also costly in terms of friendships and support. I will also most likely miss preaching week by week to a familiar congregation. Though I go with much trepidation indeed, I keep praying that God will be faithful in his sufficient provision. I similarly pray for HTD, for God's provision for the future.

I will express more fully my thanks in November, but I give God thanks for such godly and loving people, an outstanding staff team throughout my time, a godly and humble Vestry and Churchwardens every year I have been here. I was very encouraged by your expressions of love and support last Sunday. Several people commented that this move seems the right step for me and that is very encouraging.

MAY 2009

Incumbency Committee

Eric Smith, Judy Savage and Andrew Moody are HTD's Incumbency Committee members. Please pray for them frequently as they seek, with the Regional Bishop and Archbishop, a new Vicar for HTD.

In simple terms, the process involves the church's three elected Incumbency committee members meeting with the Bishop, Archdeacon and usually a lay person and another clergy person from a panel elected by synod. They discuss the parish, the profile and sort of person required, compile a list of names which is then reduced to a short list for interviews. In the end, the Archbishop does have to agree to any appointment.

Pray for a New Vicar

The prayer meeting on Tuesday 19 May (7.45p.m. in the church) will be a great opportunity for church members to come together before our Lord and pray for his provision for a new Vicar. Please do attend. We must not ignore the significance of regular prayer to God for this appointment.

Trinity Sunday – June 7

I sincerely hope everyone will make the effort to attend our Anniversary Service on Trinity Sunday, June 7. This year our service will be at 1.30pm preceded by a lunch. Please sign up for lunch on the sheets by the exit door. We will ask for a donation on the day to cover the costs (estimated at about \$5 per adult) but we do not want money to be an issue in not attending.

Tim Johnson, our former Children's Minister, is our preacher. We are devising a way to make listening easier with the translation of the sermon on the screen for our Chinese congregation to read while Tim preaches in English.

Notice of Change of Dates

Because of my departure date, the Vestry has agreed to the following dates (which are different from originally advertised).

Sunday 1 November – Thanksgiving Sunday

Friday 6 November – AGM

Sunday 8 November, 1.30pm – my final service at HTD; lunch at noon

Sunday 15 November – Commitment Sunday

I apologise for the inconvenience in making these date changes.

Vestry Members

It was suggested that I mention the names of the members of Vestry in Inside LOOK. Along with the staff, you are welcome to raise matters of concern or suggestion at HTD. They are Ralph Woodward (8am), Frank Thornton (8am), Eric Smith (Churchwarden, 10am), Annette Clarke (Churchwarden, 10am), Geoff Goodson (Churchwarden, 10am), Sharon Mathew (10am), Bill Gong (10am), Matthew Connolly (10am), Doug Norman (10am, 6pm), Linda Chau (1.30pm Mandarin), John Deng (1.30pm Bi-lingual), Jennie Dong (1.30pm, Bi-lingual), Jonty Smith (6pm), Ross Maddison (6pm), Ross Walker (6pm).

Buildings

As you probably know, we have been investigating doing some building renovations and extensions. Our needs are for a better place for the bi-lingual congregation to meet, a better hall for children and youth activities, and more meeting rooms and offices.

The Building committee currently comprises Hong Young Tsao, Ross Walker, Geoff Goodson, Doug Norman and myself. We have been meeting an architect for a few months and Vestry has now agreed a concept plan for the building works. We are excited by this and have worked hard to achieve something that is going to provide more excellent facilities while being affordable.

In broad terms, we plan to build a completely new basic sports hall at the back of the Vicarage and old office area, big enough for basketball, with integrated storage for CEBS and other users. The current hall will be refurbished into a space for the bilingual congregation (with multi use for meetings and groups during the week) plus an additional meeting room in effect adjacent to the men's toilets now. The stage area will be blocked off from the hall and converted into staff offices. The archives room will be downstairs in what is now Chris's office. The current meeting rooms, Wayne and Ben's offices will be redesigned into four meeting rooms. The external ramp up to that area will become an internal corridor.

We believe these works will greatly enhance our ministry, provide added spaces, better spaces and easier usage. The ball park figure of cost is \$800,000. Our income from Doncaster Holden using our land for parking will offset about 30% of this. We will be inviting contributions to help pay off a loan for the remainder. Contributions can be tax-deductible.

I am optimistic that a preliminary design might be included in the next edition of Inside LOOK in June, with more information on the project.

Building Fund

We remind you that we have a tax-deductible Building Fund which is still operable and, we anticipate, needed for some of our future plans. At this time of year, we encourage you to think of a tax-deductible donation. Cheques are to be made payable to 'Holy Trinity School Building Fund'. Be assured that all donations are receipted and put to good use.

The tax-deductible building fund rules allow it to be used for maintenance and cleaning, as well as a significant part of our proposed building project.

Bequests

Many church members may not be able to contribute much in general giving or for the building project. However mentioning HTD in your will is a great legacy to the church and ministry of the gospel for the future. We have bequest forms available in the noticerack. I would urge everyone to consider that, as I have myself.

Mission Trips

Two small teams from HTD are involved in mission trips this year. In June, Ben Wong and I are leading a group consisting of John Deng, Andrew Ruan, Katie Zhang, Mei Ting Liu (Bi-lingual congregation) and Jan Budin and Eileen Yang (6pm congregation) to Myanmar. They will have experience visiting the theological college (MEGST) where I teach and which we support, as well as orphanages and local churches and ministries.

In September, Wayne is leading our second team to Port Hedland. The team at this stage comprises Ainslee Walker, Chris Bowditch, Ellisa Walker, Jonty Smith, Matt Scheffer, Vaughan Barras, Vannessa Prideaux, Helen Schuller. They will be based in our link church at Port Hedland and involved in a week of mission activities.

Many on these teams are students or unemployed. We are hopeful that some church members might consider a subsidy towards travel and accommodation costs. You can make such an offering through me or the office marked 'Mission Team Support'.

Teaching in Myanmar and Beijing

I will be away for three weeks teaching in late June and early July in MEGST in Yangon and at Renmin University in Beijing. During some of the time in Myanmar, I will be co-leading with Ben the mission team from HTD. I also have a spare day between the two in order to visit the Malaysian Theological Seminary where I will be based from next year.

In the past, some church members have given money for various needs where I teach, students, faculty members and college facilities. I am hoping we might be able to get a refrigerator for each student dormitory in Yangon. There are also some students who are particularly needy and a graduate student in China whom some of us have helped out. Thanks to those who have contributed so generously in the past. Any offerings can be given to me or the office marked 'Asia Ministry'.

Thanks

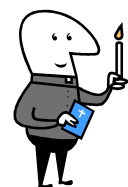
Once again, my sincere thanks for your love, prayers and support. To leave has been a very difficult decision indeed. I once mentioned Charles Simeon as a role model. He was Vicar of Holy Trinity Cambridge for 54 years. While I could happily stay for years and years at HTD, I doubt anyone would want me when I got to 88 years old! As much as I would love to stay, I would not be acting under God's call. Part of our Vision 2022 document for HTD, delivered at the 2007 AGM was that we would be a sending church. I guess my leaving is an unexpected part of fulfilling that vision.

Charles Wesley once said that 'The world is my parish.' A few years ago, Joy McGrath kindly gave me a desk plaque with that quote on it. I see it every day. Blame her!

With my love and the assurance of my prayers for HTD for years to come.

Paul Barker

Vicar



From MAWIA, an Indian Student

From Mawia, a student at SAIACS in Bangalore whose testimony was in Inside LOOK last year, and whom some HTD members have sponsored for his studies in the last two years..

Mawia wrote to thank everyone for the financial support during his final two years of MA (Honours). You may remember Mawia's testimony about taking drugs in his youth, being in prison and then converted.

Mawia received his grade for his Honours thesis, on the topic of Drug Rehabilitation ministry in his home state of Mizoram. He received an A-, which is an outstanding result. He is delighted. He graduated from SAIACS in early April, an achievement he never imagined possible but is full of thanks to God for his enabling grace.

Two days' later, Mawia was interviewed in Mumbai and offered a position working with Teen Challenge, a Christian organization working with youth and young people, especially in drug rehabilitation. Mawia still hopes he may continue with further study in time to come.

Give thanks for him, for God's work in his life and pray that God may use him mightily in this ministry in India. Thank you again to those who generously helped support his study.

From Chris and Jeni (Missionaries in Eurasia)

Dear friends at Holy Trinity Doncaster,

God works in mysterious ways! As many of you know, we have been working quite hard towards setting up an English teaching business for visa purposes and to be more 'credible' in our presence here. A year after applying we still hadn't received work visas, so we came back into the country on tourist visas, to discover an English teaching business had started about 100 m. from where we live. An Englishman had done all that we wanted to do, and in some ways had done even better than we would have done! What was more, he was keen to have us as teachers AND was prepared to take us on with all our conditions which included plenty of time off for ministry. So, as of 2 weeks ago, we accepted his job offer and are expecting work visas in a couple of weeks, this being made possible as one of Chris' first students will be the Director for Migration Services, who handle all the visa processes in our part of the world. We're still a bit dumbfounded, and wondering exactly what God has in mind for us to do now that we have all this time for ministry!

We're also very conscious that you were very generous in sending a gift towards setting up our business. We have in fact used just about exactly the sum you sent us, so that if you let us keep it, we would see it as God's provision for CMS's costs so far. (Our expenses so far have included the investigation of 2 franchises and legal expenses, both of which should have on-going benefits for CMS). We're not sure why God had us do all the work that we did, but even now, looking back, we know that we would not be where we are now if we hadn't started that process. Also there is a sense that God is going to do something unusual, and even better than that which we could have planned, as we will have contact with all sorts of quite 'high-up' people, who all are signing up to do English courses through this business.

May God bless you,

Chris and Jeni.

[HTD gave Chris and Jeni money from our Thanksgiving Sunday offerings.]

IMPACT ministry

by Georgie Sutton

He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God. - Proverbs 14:31

As a part of the Young Adults' CRAVE Discipleship Strategy, a new and exciting ministry is being launched at Holy Trinity in 2009, called IMPACT. The vision for the overall CRAVE strategy is "To see Revival and Redemption in our Community as we Follow Jesus, Proclaim Jesus, and Impact the World for Jesus." Under this strategy, IMPACT aims to be a **loving, merciful and grace-filled ministry seeking to serve people in need in our local community and beyond, impacting the world for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

IMPACT will have three key focuses:

Advocacy – Raising awareness of injustice within both church and local communities. This could include fund-raising and government lobbying. We are hoping to forge a strong link with TEAR, a Christian aid and development agency

Action – A practical manifestation of God's love and grace towards us, through outreach, service and supporting those in need within the local community and the HTD congregation. We hope to collaborate with other organisations such as the Salvation Army. We will also look to support overseas missions from within HTD and the wider church family.

Prayer – Key to any Christ-centred ministry, we will commit to praying regularly for the ministry, for global leadership and for the oppressed and needy of our fallen world.

Overall, we seek to outwardly express the faith we have in Christ. *"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead"* - James 2:26.

I hope that IMPACT will develop into a strong ministry at HTD, and I would appreciate your prayers as we look to grow this area of the CRAVE strategy as a Christ-centred ministry bringing Him glory. If you would like to get involved with IMPACT, whether by committing to become a prayer partner for the ministry in its infancy or to express interest in being involved with advocacy and action at a later time, please speak to me or email me at

georgie.sutton@gmail.com

He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8

“Family Matters”

Equipping Faithful Christian Parents

“Family Matters” helps families at Holy Trinity revel in godly Christian marriage and parenting. Being a parent is exciting, challenging and hard work. Child minding is provided for the discussion forums. Dinner is always great together!

Saturday May 30th 4:45pm	Discussion Forum + Dinner: “Beautiful Homes and Magnetic Children - Parenting for Gospel Beauty and Glory” at the church.
Sunday June 21st	10am All Age Service, BBO Lunch and Thank-you Party for our Children’s Minister, Matt Stevens. At the Church.

For more information speak to Wayne Schuller, 0400 800 309

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

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STAFF

The Rev’d Dr Paul Barker

The Rev’d Wayne Schuller

The Rev’d Jonathan Smith

The Rev’ds David & Esther Ruan

Chris Bowditch

The Rev’d Ben & Ivy Wong

Matthew Stevens

Carole Norman

KEY DATES

June

- 7 Trinity Sunday (1.30pm service after lunch @ 12 noon)
- 15 Ladies Coffee & Dessert Evening
- 21 All Age Service 10am

27-July 4

Mission Team to Myanmar

July

- 25 Big Night In

31–2 Aug

Young Adults Camp

Aug.

- 9 Mandarin Baptism Service
- 15 Men’s Breakfast
- 17 Ladies Coffee & Dessert Evening

Sept.

- 4-6 Youth Camp
- 6 All Age Service
- 18-21 Mandarin Youth Camp
- 19-27 Mission team to Port Hedland

Youth Camp

This year our annual youth camp is on again. We are going to Koala Park Resort from Sept 4-6. Brochures are available from the church noticerack.

This year we would again like to invite you to consider partnering with the youth ministry in a real way, by financially supporting this camp. We will be asking the Burmese Youth to attend again, and will need to fund their attendance, as well as the hire of a vehicle(s) to get them to camp, as well as trying to offer financial assistance to friends of youth who may not attend due to lack of finance.

Some of our own youth also may not have the support of their parents, in terms of providing the money, to pay for camp. So please start to pray and think about whether this camp might be something you would like to get behind and support. Please feel free to speak to me if you have any questions or concerns about this camp or the youth ministry in general. It is a privilege to be a part of this church’s mission to young people.

Chris Bowditch

