

inside LOOK



holym Trinitydoncaster

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2009

Dear friends

My time as Vicar of Holy Trinity is fast coming to an end. While I remain confident that God is leading me to this new ministry overseas, it is with deep sadness that I leave this church. I have been so encouraged, excited and supported by so many of you for so long.

A Concern

My greatest anxiety I think for HTD as I prepare to leave is to urge you all to remain! I find unhealthy the view that people simply 'go to a church' because of the preacher or minister. Church is something we belong to, not attend. The view that I go to hear a preacher is actually deficient for our Christian life and growth. We learn and grow and serve within a Christian fellowship and community. That brings its trials, difficulties, frustrations and hurts. But that is what Christian life, and church life, is all about.

A danger I have often felt at HTD is that of attracting sermon sponges, people who love listening to sermons, but play little active role in the life of the church, giving as well as receiving. Thankfully the vast majority of people at HTD do play an active role in many ways. I would urge everyone fully to belong to church life.

Related to this is the cult of the person/pastor. I personally cringe at being any centre of attention and certainly have never wanted people to attend HTD because of me. Now that I am leaving, my plea is that you ensure your allegiance is to God and his people and not to a particular person or preacher. I heard of a couple a little while ago who, having heard I am leaving, decided it was not worth coming any more to HTD. I was not only saddened at such an attitude but really quite appalled. It represented to me a very deficient view of church life and commitment.

Basically I am urging everyone to have a strong church commitment, to be givers as well as receivers, not to have the consumerist culture of being a 'user', but having the godly culture of committed belonging.

Key Events

I want to urge your attendance at five events in particular in my final weeks.

1. Presentation on My Future Ministry

I will be sharing about my future ministry on a few occasions and would urge you to attend one of these to find out more. The options are:

* MOF (Mission Fellowship Meeting): Tuesday 6 October, 7.30pm, Pickering Room

* CRAVE Young Adults: Wednesday 14 October, 7.30pm

* Open Meeting: Thursday 29 October, 2pm, Pickering Room

* Men's Group: Tuesday 3 November, 10.30am, Pickering Room

Please select the time and date that suits you best. In the last issue of Inside LOOK, a CMS fridge magnet and card was inserted. I have spares should you need one.

2. Prayer Meeting – 20 October

I urge everyone to come and join me in praying together for HTD on Tuesday 20 October at 7.45pm in the church. This is our regular monthly prayer meeting and my last one to pray with, and for, you and the future of HTD.

3. Thanksgiving Sunday – 1 November

Sunday 1 November is our Annual Thanksgiving Sunday. See below for further details of our Thanksgiving Projects. As in past years, this is a wonderful opportunity for prayers of thanks for God's gracious provisions in our lives as individuals and as a church. Each service that day will have opportunities for those in the congregation to lead us in prayers of thanks in place of our usual intercessions.

4. Annual General Meeting – 6 November

Friday 6 November, 8pm, in the church is our AGM. Apart from the usual business, I will use my annual address as an opportunity for personal reflection on more than thirteen years as Vicar, some expressions of my thanks plus hopes for the future. I urge you to come on that day.

5. Final Service – 8 November

Sunday 8 November is my final service as Vicar. Please come for the lunch at noon (bookings essential). The service commences at 1.30pm. Afternoon tea will follow. Please feel welcome to invite former parishioners. I have invited former staff to attend. It will be a privilege to conclude with preaching on the glory of God and of his Son Jesus, our Saviour and Lord.

My Preparation

As part of my preparation, I will be at St Andrew's Hall, Parkville, the CMS Training Centre, Monday to Friday for three weeks from October 5. Apart from some evenings, I am unavailable during those days.

After concluding at HTD on 8 November, I am speaking for a clergy conference in Christchurch at a retreat from 9-12 November. Then I am doing deputation on behalf of CMS raising support on the following Sundays. My other link churches are St Mark's Emerald, St John's Cranbourne, St Jude's Carlton, All Saints' Mitcham and St Philip's Deep Creek.

My major prayer need is for storage of furniture and household goods. If anyone has a spare room, or dry shed or garage available I would be very grateful indeed.

Electoral Roll

In preparation for the AGM, we are in the process of updating our church electoral roll of members. Forms are available in the noticerack and can be returned to me or the office ASAP. Completing such a form is a good expression of commitment to the local church and I would encourage everyone who regularly attends HTD to become an electoral member. You need to be 18 years old or over, baptised and have regularly attended HTD over the previous three months and not a member of another church.

A copy of the current electoral roll will be on the noticeboard so you can check if you are listed or not.

Election of Office bearers

At the AGM we elect churchwardens and Vestry members. Nomination forms will be available shortly. Nominations close Wednesday 28 October at noon. Please pray that God will raise up godly and wise leaders for our church. We normally elect an Incumbency Committee but until the current committee's role is completed, they remain in office.

Annual Reports

Annette Clarke, the Vestry Secretary, has asked group leaders to write brief reports for the Annual Report. Please complete these punctually and return (ideally in email format) to Linda in the office by October 11.

Thanksgiving Sunday – November 1

Each year we have some specific projects as the focus of our Thanksgiving Sunday offerings. Enclosed in this issue of Inside LOOK is the Thanksgiving Sunday envelope and offering sheet. I urge you prayerfully and generously to give as an expression of thanksgiving.

This year our projects are as follows:

Mission

Ridley College Centenary Appeal.

In 2010, Ridley College celebrates its centenary. This college is crucial for biblical ministry in Melbourne and beyond. We support Ridley modestly in our missions budget but want to make a special gift for its centenary, both in thankfulness for its ministry and the benefit HTD receives from its graduates on staff, as well as contributing for its long term future ministry and financial security.

MEGST OT Lecturer PhD support.

We currently support the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in Yangon where a mission team visited this year and Paul teaches. Ronald, the Old Testament lecturer ought to progress to do his Ph.D. and plans are underway for that to happen in Melbourne at Ridley and with Holy Trinity as his base church. Ronald's family would probably join him in 2011. We want to make a contribution towards his expenses for this strategic venture.

Ministry: Evangelistic and Promotional Materials

We have a number of projects requiring evangelistic materials and/or promotions. These include the homework club at Doncaster Secondary College, Bibles for newly baptised believers, Bibles for CRE Grade 6 students, course materials for Introducing God course and Chinese evangelistic courses, materials for the Mustard group in Doncaster Secondary College, promotional and advertising materials for various outreach events, including youth.

As a church we need to keep up our evangelistic efforts as we seek to reach our local community with the gospel.

Maintenance/Property: Equipment Upgrades

It is always easy to delay maintenance and upgrades of equipment to make budgets balance. However we are now in a situation we need to make some replacements. These include the computer that drives the data projection in the church (the current one is weak and becoming unreliable, not good for services including weddings and funerals), projection screen, an additional library cabinet, library resources for all types of ministry, typewriter, ongoing upkeep of sound equipment.

With my deep thanks for your fellowship in the gospel in the past, present and for the future.

Paul Barker
Vicar



HTD Port Hedland Mission Trip 2009

On Saturday, 19th September a group of 12 excited but rather nervous people set out from Melbourne for the distant shores of Port Hedland on the north-west coast of WA to support the church of St. Matthew's and to proclaim the good news of Jesus. As we all found out, God had prepared the way for us and we witnessed many doors opening in amazing ways.

The people of St Matthew's Port Hedland kindly opened their homes to us and received our group with such warmth that we all felt at home very quickly. We began our mission visiting a primary school to lead some scripture seminars with songs, a drama and a puppet show which were all centred on the parable of the Hidden Treasure in Matthew 13:44. The central message was "the greatest treasure in the whole wide world is peace with God" (the last three words to be shouted at the top of your voice!). During the week we visited five primary schools in Port and South Hedland and Marble Bar occasionally doing the scripture seminar to two separate age groups. Later in the week we were privileged to be invited to do the puppets at the local shopping centre. Through this the gospel was preached openly to a large audience of parents, children and passers-by.

When not visiting the schools the group split up to participate in different events organised by the church for the week. A men's BBO was organised for the guys in the group to meet men in the Hedland community and to challenge them to think about what it means to be a Christian man as part of a family and in the workplace. The following day a few went door knocking along 'Battle Street' and surrounds in South Hedland to meet people and speak with them about Jesus. All would agree that this was one of several unforgettable experiences throughout the week and that God is shining light into the darkest corners.

Other special events were interviews on the local radio station where we were able to share our faith publicly, dialogue dinners that reached out to people searching for God, the ladies' cooking demonstration hosted by the outstanding local cook Sonya who provided delicious lunches every day and the ladies' bible study which was a great encouragement to the local women. A particularly memorable activity was helping out people from the local Youth In Crisis group digging out and levelling of a small plot of land at the South Hedland shopping centre. From this, a group of four of us were invited to visit their after school drop-in centre for local Aboriginal children which was a wonderful experience. After meeting with some of the organisers we met some of the children for a game of basketball. A few of the children recognised us from our school visits which was fantastic. We were really happy to make good connections with the group there and be witnesses of Jesus among them.

Our deepest and most sincere thanks go to the church of St Matthew's in Port Hedland for their wonderful hospitality and strong partnership in the gospel. Thanks especially to

Phillip and Elke Knight, and Bill and Jocelyn Ross for their friendship, leadership and excellent organisation of the mission week. God has greatly blessed us through our visit to Port Hedland and I pray that He may continue to nurture the seeds that He has sown. I give thanks and praise for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Port Hedland and I pray that God will bring to completion the good work that He has begun in them. To God be the glory for ever and ever.



Vaughan Barras

NEWS FROM BARCELONA

More than a month ago, when I was preaching to over 200 Chinese Christians in Madrid, I began my sermon with these words: "I just arrived Spain for a month. Everything is new to me and my family. New place, new people, new church, new school, ... But the English song that the Choir just sung is so familiar to me. Indeed, 'IN YOUR TIME, ... YOU MAKE ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL ...'. These words encourage me so much."

Praise the Lord! Under His guidance, we have passed another amazing month since then. We are more accustomed to the life and ministries here in Barcelona and the wider Europe. I've preached in Barcelona, Lisbon (Portugal), Madrid, Rome, Dusseldorf (Germany) and Bilbao (Spain). We are into the ninth week of lecture. Lydia has entered into Year 8 and Jedidiah into kindergarten. Theresa can now catch 3 trains to bring the kids to attend Sunday service at a local Anglican Church (which took 1.5 hr one way). I'm more used to drive on the right hand side of the road. We've also attended the first Spanish class (late for 1 hour) run by the local council but missed the second class (due to college activity). The annual board meeting of our seminary went successfully last week. Altogether we have 28 board members turned up from different parts of Europe and overseas. I was given a preaching session (which I preached from 1 Chr 11:10-25, entitled "David's Mighty Men") and Theresa was given a sharing session (her sharing was so touching that every board member was in tears). We met many committed board members who are so supportive of our ministry here. It was good to know that there are so many people supporting us just as the mighty men who supported David in establishing his kingdom.

There are still many challenges laying ahead of us which need your prayer support. As our principal Peter Wang has poor health, Mrs Wang, me and Theresa need to share some of his responsibilities. Theresa shall become full-time faculty in Oct. Both our kids still do not have Spanish visa. Their application was rejected in late Aug. At the moment, we are waiting for their reply to our appeal. Also, Jed needs to pick up Catalan as they will only learn Spanish in primary school, not kindergarten. Lydia is learning English, Spanish, Catalan and French at school (to her, the most difficult is French, though she has studied for 2 years at Camberwell Girls).

Lastly, we are so grateful to HTD for praying and showing concern on us. We were so happy to hear Gill on the phone calling us from France recently. May the Lord bless each and everyone of you!

From Barcelona,
Timothy, Theresa, Lydia and Jedidiah Lau



INVITATION

*You are invited to give thanks to
God for Paul Barker's ministry
at Holy Trinity Doncaster*

Sunday, 8 November 2009

*Lunch will be served at
12 noon.*

*Service begins at 1.30pm with
afternoon tea to follow.*

*Please RSVP to the church
office
(9840 2577)*



holymtrinitydoncaster



YOUTH CAMP 2009

A great time was had by all on the HTD Youth Camp 2009. 27 youth and 9 leaders plus 3 cooks went away, learning more about what it means to follow Jesus, having fun together, and making new friends. We had a number of regular members of the youth group bring friends who had no church connection and it was great to get to talk to these guys on camp. A couple have come along to youth group since camp which is great.

Our speaker was Tim Clare who spoke on what it meant to be a part of God's Kingdom and how this should affect our daily life. We were challenged to think more broadly about how we worship God and that God is involved intimately in our lives.

We also had some pretty cool activities including trying to blow up a coke bottle with mentos lollies, a shaving cream fight, lots of games of tennis, basketball and volleyball, a big bonfire with marshmallows, playing on the pool table and chatting on the comfy couches. We also finished camp by all attending the 6pm service which was a great highlight.

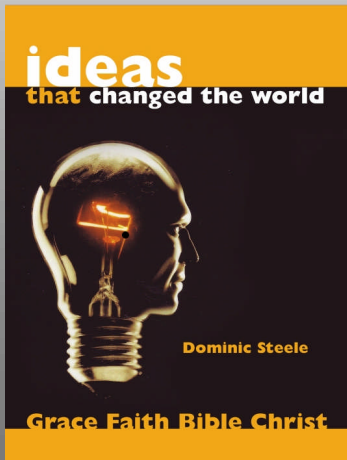
A great time was had by all on HTD Youth camp. Many thanks to all of you who helped support the camp financially and through prayer. Without this, I'm sure camp would not have been anywhere near as successful.



Chris Bowditch

"Ideas That Changed the World" Course

For four Thursday evenings from 7.30pm, October 22, we are running again this great course which combines a fascinating historical study of the Protestant Reformation with a biblical introduction to Christianity. It is a friendly course and is especially good for people from a Roman Catholic background. For more information please speak to Matt Scheffer 0411 121064.



Key Dates

- Oct**
- 4 Hospitality Sunday
- 11 Confirmation Services
1.30pm, 6pm
- Nov**
- 1 Thanksgiving Sunday
- 6 AGM at 8pm
- 15 Commitment Sunday
- 28-29 Men's Weekend Away
- Dec**
- 13 Mandarin Baptism Service
- 20 All Age Service (10am)
Chinese Carol Service
(1.30pm)
Carol Service 6pm

CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE MEETING

All church members are encouraged to attend this meeting to be held on
Sunday, 18 October 2009
11.45am-12.30pm
in the Main Church

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH DONCASTER

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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

Ruth Newmarch

Carole Norman

"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 October 24th 4.45pm at the church	Discussion Forum: Training Children in Gospel-Driven Forgiveness - Please bring a plate of food to share. Includes creche/children's program.
Tuesday November 3rd 12.30pm	Families BBQ at the Caruana's
Sunday December 6th	Families BBQ at the Schuller's—after 10am Service (109 Church Rd, Doncaster)

For more information speak to Wayne Schuller, 0400 800 309