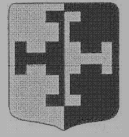




Crossfire

St Chad's and St Johns
Anglican Parish of West New Plymouth



August 2010

HOPE

The Reverend Andre Le Roux, a Methodist minister, recently shared the following:

"In writing about hope, I need to begin on a personal note. Many of you know that I have been diagnosed with a rare cancer that has not responded to treatment. Medically, "there is no hope." What does this mean for me as a Christian? From a faith perspective, is hope now only about a miraculous healing?

So, I would like to offer some random thoughts on hope. They arise out of growing belief that hope does not depend on outcomes or circumstances, but on a fundamental state of being – one that carries us through the valley of the shadow of death, holds us in times of despair and challenges us into new ways of living when everything else seems uncertain. Hope is, after all, right up there with faith and love as one of the great qualities of life (1 Cor 13:13).

In many ways I see faith and hope as a seamless garment woven into the fabric of love. *Faith is the seedbed of Hope and Hope is the energy of Faith, and over all these things is love.* They all feed each other.

Hope is not about "one day things might get better". Hope is about the certainty that God is with us, and will travel with us through anything we face. It is not about outcomes but about presence and process.

The trouble is that this presence of God often seems illusive. Like Elijah, I have told God how much I have done for Him and the church (1 Kings 19:10).

I have begged for a miracle, searching for God in the earthquake, wind and fire of a spectacular turn around that would prove to the world that God is real.

As yet God has not been in these things. It is interesting that one could translate verse 12, the "still small voice" as a "small voice of silence." What I got was silence. And it is in this silence that

I search for hope because I believe that God is "about to pass by" (v11)...

"The candle is a symbol of protest. It says to the darkness, "I beg to differ." Hope protests against the darkness...

Hope is also nurtured by community. People expressing healing love can carry those who struggle through difficult times, even when the outcomes that they are hoping for do not arise...



To read the full article contact Bruno Egli (753 8538) or log on to our website in the "Events" section and find the link for Andre Le Roux's **HOPE** Article, Sunday 20 June.

Postscript: Andre Le Roux died on Tuesday 13 July 2010.



ChatterChinos

ChatterChinos is a coffee group for young mums with connections to St Chad's Church.

If you have children who are involved in mainly music, Cadets, Choice-Makers, or our holiday programmes then this group is for you.

We meet at the WestBar and Café in Westtown on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 7.15pm.

If you would like to know more about this group contact the church office on 7534306 or Maureen Hook on 027 2372069. You are welcome to bring along a friend.



From our AAW



Women of the parish you are invited to join one of our Association of Anglican Women fellowship groups. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1.30 pm (organised by Kathi Egli), and the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm (organised by Pam King).

Both meetings are held in St Chad's Church and lots of fun is had by all who attend. Sometimes there is a guest speaker, maybe a quiz or a game; and always time for social interaction, sharing news of social concerns and what AAW is doing in overseas mission. If you are interested in knowing more contact AAW leader Pam King on 753 2021 or check out our website (see below).

AAW Leader, Pam King

Archbishop David Moxon writes:

"You may have read and heard recently that a group of New Zealanders, and now our General Synod, is making a stand against the binge-drinking culture in New Zealand.

As a Church, we endorse the Alcohol Action NZ group which is promoting a "5+" strategy which includes:

1. *Raising alcohol prices*
2. *Raising the purchase age*
3. *Reducing alcohol accessibility*
4. *Reducing marketing and advertising*
5. *Increasing drink-driving counter-measures*

PLUS: increasing treatment opportunities for heavy drinkers.

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia is committed to making a difference on this issue."

If you want to support this action fill your name in the postcard enclosed with this Crossfire and send it to an MP of your choice.

Debbie Garrett

Contemplative Service

A contemplative service is held at 7.00 pm, on the first Sunday of each month, at St Chad's Church. It lasts for about half an hour and offers an opportunity to withdraw from the busyness and noise of life and become still in the presence of God.

No experience in meditation is needed, just come along and enjoy some quiet music and silence.

Parish Administrator Required

A parish administrator is required at St Chad's Anglican Church, 12 Omata Road, Westown. Hours of employment - Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 12 noon. A full job description is available from the parish office, phone 753 4306, or the website: www.stchad.co.nz. Applications, along with a current CV, may be sent to: The Reverend D Garrett, 188C Tukapa Street Westown, New Plymouth 4310, or email: stchads@clear.net.nz. Applications close on Tuesday 3 August 2010.

CONTACT DETAILS

VICAR: The Reverend Deborah Garrett 753-4306 021 868 869
188C Tukapa Street, New Plymouth, E-mail: revdeb@clear.net.nz

FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR: Maureen Hook 751-4648 / 027 237 2069

OFFICE & CHURCH: 12 Omata Road 753-4306

WEBSITE: www.stchad.co.nz

W. Abraham Ltd

Funeral Directors

Phone: (06) 7575210

Barrie Head Megan Head
Bronwyn Macey Mark Baker
Nicky Bryan Colin Knowles

www.wabraham.co.nz
"Qualified, caring professionals."



Available Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am—12.30 pm from St Chad's Church. Order on line or phone 753 4306. Deliveries can be arranged for a fee of \$5.00.



People caring for people

257 Devon Street East, New Plymouth
(06) 759-0912