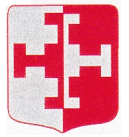




Crossfire

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



September 2010

Last month Owen Williams made a trip to Mongolia with a Habitat for Humanity Team.

Impressions from Mongolia

Mongolia is a very large sparsely populated country (6 times the size of New Zealand) with only 2.7 million people.

It is a country whose people have lived a nomadic lifestyle for many centuries, and which has only in the past 15 to 20 years emerged from under communist rule and suppression that had been in place since the 1950's. Prior to that time the people had very little contact with the western world and as Mongolia was a closed society it was not easy to visit.

Nearly half the population still live in the countryside where they live in the traditional gher. A gher is a round tent comprised of a lattice timber frame covered with a thick blanket of felted wool collected from their animals - sheep, goats, yaks, and camels. These blankets are impervious to rain and provide a good waterproof covering. The gher are made in such a way as to be easily shifted during the summer months to follow the animals while grazing. The animals are kept in fenced enclosures during the winter.



The traditional gher is only one room where all the family live and eat and sleep together. They are quite cold in the winter with the

only heating being from the central cooking fire that is kept going most of the time. The gher do not have running water or electricity. Toilets are outside.

In recent years many people have moved into urban areas and have taken the familiar rural conditions with them. Many of these people still live in gher on small lots of land where they have the advantage of electricity and running water. The only change being that there are no wide open spaces and no animals.

The people were very friendly and willing to be of assistance. Many of the people still live at subsistence levels and the average wages for a middle income worker is about \$250 US per month.

The main roads are sealed and quite rough in places with most of the other roads being dirt roads or almost non-existent tracks. In the desert there are no roads – one follows a track and goes in the general direction of the destination.

Driving is on the right hand side of the road but with vehicles being a mix of left and right hand drive getting about can be a little chaotic. The majority of vehicles would be less than 15 years old.

Buildings are varied from 5 star up-market hotels, cramped 6 or 7 storey apartment blocks, small 2 or 3 room houses, shacks built from whatever is available and gher.

Shopping in the major cities is from top of the line Western

fashion down right through to second hand shops and markets. Rural areas do not have a large selection – basics only.



Currency is all paper money at nearly 1000 Tugrik = NZ\$1.00 one is generally carrying a wad of paper around.

Mongolia is a country of contrasts and on reflection is well worth a visit.

Earthquake Appeal

The Bishops David Moxon and Philip Richardson have invited parishioners to respond to a diocesan-wide appeal to support the Diocese of Christchurch. Please send donations to:

The Diocese of Christchurch Earthquake Appeal

c/- The Diocese of Waikato, P O Box 21, Hamilton 3240 or place in a envelope marked "Diocese of Christchurch Earthquake Appeal" and drop it in to any ministry unit in the diocese.

The bishops write:

"The citizens of Christchurch have shown considerable courage, compassion and solidarity. People have reached out to each other, demonstrating a remarkably positive and courageous spirit. We pray for peace and strength for the people of the Diocese of Christchurch and for the wider city."

Guess who's coming to dinner



A most enjoyable parish fundraiser held in conjunction with AAW (Association of Anglican women).

The host/hostess supplies the meal (dinner or lunch), and each guest pays \$20. Host and guests do not know with whom they will share the meal; guests will be informed just prior to the event.

The money raised goes to AAW missions projects. The funding for the next 3 years will cover projects and people in the following regions: Polynesia, Melanesia, P.N.G., Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Pakistan to name just a few.

It's a great time out with fun and laughter and surprises. What better way to get to know each other! Give Mary Needs a call on 751-1224 if you want to be a host or guest, and you won't regret it.

Youth Info

Exciting things are happening at St Chad's.

ChoiceMakers

For children from 9 to 13 years meets on Fridays at 6.30pm in the hall and church.

Now is the time to invite new friends to come along.

SCY Cadets

Meets on Sundays at 9.30am. Welcome to Cath McVey who has joined our awesome team of leaders.



From the Vicar

I say it often, but I am sure you will agree with me, that the year seems to have flown by!

I do hope you like the new format of our Crossfire magazine. This is the first issue to be in colour, and we are grateful to the dean of the cathedral, Jamie Allen, who offered to print it for us. A big thank you must go to the Reverend Bruno Egli who has compiled most of the magazine.

Coming up at St Chad's:

Sunday 3 October is St Francis' Day and parishioners are invited to bring their pets along to the



9.30 am service for a blessing. Dogs must be on leads at all times, and cats and other small animals in appropriate cages. Large animals, such as donkey's and horses should they come along, will be blessed outside. Great fun should be had by all.

Sunday 31 October is All Soul's Day and a service will be held in St Mary's Cathedral at 7.00 pm. We will be sending out special invitations to those families we are aware of who have had a bereavement in the past year. However, all are welcome to attend this memorial service for the loss of loved ones.

Debbie

New Parish Administrator



Meegan Baldwin is our new parish administrator. Meegan, who attends Northpoint Baptist Church, comes to us with a variety of skills, both administrative and pastoral.

She is on a steep learning curve getting to know the work involved in running a parish office, and also parishioners who pop into the office. When you meet Meegan please introduce yourself and if you have a role in the parish let her know what it is.



Thinking Of Reviewing Your Insurance?

ANSVAR is offering all Anglicans a 10% discount off its standard rates, and much more, when you purchase your home or motor insurance from them. The Anglican Insurance Board will receive 5% of the purchase price of your insurance. Phone 0800 123 344 for more information.

SERVICE TIMES

Sundays at 8am & 9.30 am
Wednesdays 10am
St John's 2nd Sunday
each month at 10am

CONTACT DETAILS

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"Seasons" is a programme for children experiencing grief from a significant loss. For further information contact the coordinator Diana Lawrence: phone 753 5657.



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