



Ministering to a ‘mixed economy’

Last month Dean Nick wrote of his vision of what a Cathedral should be. For this issue Russell Smith asked Nick some questions of how he thought this might take shape.

Nick, you have been the Dean of Nelson Cathedral for four months now. How’s it been so far?

Well, it has been a steep learning curve, but I have become aware of the enormous potential for the cathedral to fulfil the mandate of Jesus to make disciples. In the end we cannot ignore the commission that Jesus has given us for the sake of our comfort and traditions.

You already seem to be initiating some changes at the cathedral?

From what I have been told though, nothing I have suggested so far, has not already been done previously here. Some people have indicated to me that they are happy to see new things, others may fear change.

People may be afraid that you will bring too much change to our traditional forms of worship.

I thought we could integrate some new things into our 10.00am service, but that doesn’t seem to please everybody! Some people have said they would like to see more contemporary worship while others want to see the traditional liturgical service stay as it is.

Some people are concerned that you want to introduce contemporary songs in place of traditional hymns.

Hymns do form part of the traditional Anglican service. However we do need to remember that the things we consider to be traditional now were once contemporary. If we had a contemporary worship service we would introduce different music, but we would probably use hymns as well. I understand that Yvonne used to organise a regular worship service that catered for families and used a mixture of both. We already have families who come to the cathedral who have expressed a desire to worship in different ways to our main service.

What do you think is the solution?

Part of the problem is that we lack resources. It would be good if we were able to have both traditional and contemporary services, but I don’t think we have the resources to maintain two different styles at present, but we are working on that. Eventually we will have to find a way to begin a new

contemporary service. What I think is most important at the present time is to develop some good discipleship strategies.

So, is maintaining the traditional service important to you?

People like different styles of worship. The traditional form is a framework of expression that has risen through historical western cultural progression. It provides people a depth of theology and comfort in their faith.

There are those who want this form of worship and it is particularly the role of a Cathedral to provide it. However, faith and obedience to the commands of Jesus are more important than tradition. Part of our challenge is going to be exploring ways of maintaining the essence of our worship in both traditional and contemporary ways.

Does that mean that you think eventually the traditional must give way to new forms of worship?

It is ‘both and’. We need to take care of the needs of our present people, but we also have to be looking at ways to extend God’s Kingdom beyond the borders of the church into the community. This is our mission as Christians. We need to use the areas in which we live and work and our interest areas as platforms to build relationships so the gospel may be extended and people discover their need of Jesus.

Rowan Williams talks of a ‘mixed economy’ in a parish, where many things happen in different ways and different levels. He says this means “finding new flexible and appropriate ways to proclaim the Gospel afresh to those who do not relate to traditional ways”.

Other churches face the same issues. If, in the end, new people don’t come to the cathedral as a place of worship we will not have sufficient resources to maintain anything.

Some people might say that there are other parishes in Nelson that people could go to if they wanted a modern style of worship?

That may be true, but we are the ‘mother church’ of the diocese and so if anything, should be leading the way. Also, we are talking about contemporary worship in the context of the cathedral. I think that could be an exciting journey! I should add that my experience of God is that he does new things. He doesn’t keep repeating himself. Worship arises out of the hearts of people in a particular historical context as an expression of their experience of God in that context.

I am looking forward to discovering the new things God is revealing through the hearts of his people.

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Organ scholars update</i>	2
<i>Canon’s Cupboard</i>	3

<i>The Parish Nurse</i>	4
<i>October Services</i>	4



Alpha

Alpha weekend at Bridge Valley Adventure Camp

From September 16-17, 22 parishioners from the Cathedral Alpha Course gathered at Bridge Valley Adventure Camp for the 'Holy Spirit Weekend'. This comprises of three talks called; 'Who is the Holy Spirit?', 'What does the Holy Spirit do?' and 'How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?'

We worshipped, prayed and learned; ate yummy food, listened to the sheep and their lambs bleating and enjoyed a beautiful spring day at the Adventure Camp. In the free time some walked, climbed and rowed across the lake, others braved the flying fox, visited the prayer garden and played table tennis. It was a special time for many people in a beautiful place enabling us to appreciate all that God has created.

The final talk of the time away is called 'How can I make the most of the rest of my life?' A very important question for us all to consider. God has supplied everything that we need to live abundantly but so often we fail to avail ourselves of his gifts and empowering. God's grace, love and spiritual gifts are offered to everyone! We just need to make the time to ask, seek and knock on God's door and he assures us that we will give us his answers, show us the way and open the door to the very best that we can have both now and for all eternity.

What are you missing out on?

Alpha continues until 11th October, watch this space for what comes next!

With God's love and blessings

The Reverend Yvonne McLean



News of Cathedral Organ Scholars

As many will know, the Cathedral Vestry in 1989 established Organ Scholarships for school pupils from the bequest to the Cathedral from Jean Gear for '...the furthering and improving of the musical traditions of the said Parish and especially among the Youth of the Parish'.

Over the years there have been updates on past holders in this publication and this is another about recent notable successes of Nelson young people.

Mark Simpson, the first holder, now a neurologist in Auckland and a member of Holy Trinity Auckland Cathedral Choir, sang the solo in the Nunc Dimittis at the state funeral of Bishop Sir Paul Reeves.

Michael Stewart, previously for five years Director of Music at Wellington's Roman Catholic Cathedral, started in June as

Organist and Director of Music at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, NZ's top Anglican church music position. This is a considerable achievement, as I believe there were 22 applicants.

Eugene Lavery, who I started on the organ before his feet could reach the pedals, completed his M Mus at The Juilliard School in New York and after a period in another church has just started as Artistic Director of the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware and Choirmaster/Organist for the Cathedral Church of St John in Wilmington, Delaware, USA. He is married to Sharon and has a son, Ryan.

Paul Tarling last year completed both BA (in German and Philosophy) and B Mus (in Organ Performance) in just four years at the University of Auckland while also being Auckland Cathedral's Organ Scholar. This year he became Acting Assistant Organist before this month taking up a two-year fully-funded German government scholarship for a Master of Musicology degree at Heidelberg University, Germany's oldest.

The parish should be proud that it has, by paying their tuition fees, been able to encourage and fund these people and others through the initial years of their organ study. It has fulfilled an aim of the Scholarship which is 'to contribute to the number of organists and church musicians available to the wider church in the future'.

As the initiator of this scheme I would be pleased if there were currently 'Youth of the Parish' on this scholarship.

Roger M Williams

Family Fun Night at the Cathedral

Monday October 31 from 5-7pm

*Fancy dress (no Halloween costumes),
Bouncy castle, flax craft, paper darts,
treasure hunt and much more plus
sausage sizzle, Thai food, Mr Whippy,
candy floss.*



The Canon's Cupboard

Several months ago I was feeling rather unwell for 10 days or so and confined to barracks. A big thank you to folk who called, rang and emailed, including especially Alan Gray who arrived one afternoon with a book from which he wanted to read to me. It was just what I needed: *Benedictus* – a book of blessings.

The author, John O'Donohue (right), was a Catholic priest for a time in a remote spot in the west of Ireland; a gifted writer, his first book on Celtic spirituality was 'Anam Cara: soul friend'. He decided to leave the priesthood (marriage among other things) and concentrate on his writing which is a remarkable intersection between philosophy, poetry and theology. Emerging every three or four years, his books are written in a kind of long-form prayer style, impossible to read quickly and they don't work for everyone.

Those who knew him well said that while he worked best in solitude, he was also a fun-loving companion and a great storyteller in the bar. Sadly he died prematurely in 2008, but I have read that there are further books to be published.

And now a few excerpts from *Benedictus*, particularly his last chapter, 'To retrieve the lost art of blessing' where he concludes by writing about something of which I am sometimes sceptical, but at the moment less so.

For a certain number of days, some years ago, a group of people made a circle around the city of Washington and meditated continuously... Unknown to itself within this circle of loving-kindness, Washington changed. The stats for that period showed a remarkable decrease in violence and crime... To bless is not some utopian fantasy; it can be shown factually to effect concrete and transformative action.

We have no idea of the effect we have on each other... Blessing as powerful and positive can transform..., be a source of creativity and healing..., and awaken possibilities we cannot even begin to imagine!

Who is game, and what or whom would we encircle and bless? Better read the book first.

In a passage called 'States of Heart', O'Donohue concludes: *The state of one's heart inevitably shapes one's life; it is ultimately the place where everything is decided.*

- *A courageous heart will go forth and engage with life despite confusion and fear.*
- *A fearful heart will be hesitant and will tend to hold back.*
- *A heavy heart will make for a gloomy unloved life.*



But

- *A compassionate heart need never carry the burden of judgment.*
- *A forgiving heart knows the art of liberation.*
- *A loving heart awakens the spirit to possibility and engagement with others.*

Yes, we are not going to get anywhere in our faith without using our God-given mind, but O'Donohue is taking us back to something that is quite central to our Christian faith, expressed most beautifully in the New Testament as 'where your treasure is, there your heart is also'. Not sacrifices, rituals or rules – only the heart. 'The heart is beautiful, precisely because

it is where God dwells; the heart is the divine sanctuary'.

Canon Colin Wright

Friends of the Cathedral

Do you like hearing a good story?

The Friends are hosting story teller Roger Sanders on Wednesday October 5 in the Quiet Room at 2pm.

So come along for an enchanting afternoon.

Cost \$5. RSVP Helen at 544 5613.

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From the Parish Nurse

I would like to thank Val Sirrett for doing a great job and filling in for me while I was away in August. We had a great break away. It was lovely and restful. Both of us came back refreshed, renewed and healthier.

Like a holiday, a green prescription can enable you to enjoy a healthier, happier and more active life style. So what then is a Green Prescription? A Green Prescription (GRx) is a health professional's written advice to a patient to be physically active, as part of the patient's health management.

It's a smart and cost-effective way to help people stay healthy. All of us need just 30 minutes of physical activity a day to stay healthy on the inside.

A Green Prescription is not a substitute for medication, but a free support service if you are ready to make some

healthy changes. Each Green Prescription is individualised, lasts for 12 weeks and the support team encourages you to be physically active within your own limits.

With a Green Prescription you can improve your health and feel better at the same time. Anybody over the age of 18 who wants some help to get moving more can ask their practice nurse/GP for a referral to the service.

To find out more about how a referral to the Green Prescription team can help you get motivated to move more, come and hear Leigh Dalzell, the Green Prescription Co-ordinator speak at the cathedral Wednesday October 26 at 11am.

For more details contact

Jane Wulff – Parish Nurse

Future Speakers

October – Tuesday 4 at 10.30am. Registered nutritionist Sally McKay a will be speaking about healthy eating and meals for one in the quiet room at the cathedral.

October – Wednesday 26 at 11am. Leigh Dalzell, Green Prescription Co-ordinator will be speaking about Green Prescriptions.

November – Tuesday 22 10.30am. Heather Hackner speaking about services offered by the Alzheimers NZ Society.

Services for October

Please check the weekly bulletin for confirmation
Weekday services are held at 12.15pm daily except
Wednesday 10am and Saturday 8am

Note: Sunday evening services times are now 6pm.

Sun October 2

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Eucharist
Preacher at 8 and 10: Br Christopher John SSF
6pm Choral Compline
7pm Sunday @ Seven

Sun October 9

8am Holy Communion
10am Pet Service
6pm Arts Festival Service
Preacher: Bishop Richard

Sun October 16

8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
6pm Alpha Celebration Service
Cathedral Choir is on holiday for October 16 and 23

Sun October 23

8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
6pm Evening Prayer

Sun October 30

8am Holy Communion
10am Choral Eucharist
6pm Choral Evensong

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Pet Service: Sunday Oct 9 at 10am.

Arts Festival Service: Sunday Oct 9 at 6pm.

Walks for health: Tuesdays at 9am. Meet at the cathedral for a one-hour walk.

Meditation group: Tuesdays 7pm in the Chapel.

Flax making: Tuesdays at 10.30am.

Exercises: Wednesdays at 11am.

AAW Meeting: Tuesday Oct 18 at 2pm. Holy Communion and AGM.

Alpha Course: Tuesdays at 1pm and 7pm until Oct 11.

Youth Group: Wednesdays 6.30-8pm at the cathedral.

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