



Pastoral Letter #31

We are still in Level 2 and now Aucklanders are free to escape the border of their level 3 confinement as they have dropped to level 2.5. So it is more important than ever to maintain our physical distancing of 2 metres in public and 1 metre in church and 305 and homegroups more than ever as we are so close to Auckland. Although masks are not mandatory here, it is worth considering so we do not breathe in anyone else's germs. Please use the QR codes at places you visit (even at church) or sign in so that there can be contact tracing should we have a positive test in our area.

Focus on Advent: What are you waiting for? with Mark Pierson (Focus Webinar Series 2020)



Webinar: Wednesday 14 October 7.30pm-8.30pm **FREE**

In the last 15 years there has been a rise in interest by non-traditional denominations in what is known as the Christian Year - the dates given to a cycle of remembering the key elements of the life of Jesus and the Church such as his birth, death, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Far from belonging only to the Anglicans and the Catholics, this cycle celebrates the events of the Gospel story we share. It does so in a way that ensures we don't focus our worship events and preaching only on the events we like or are familiar with, but give our communities a well rounded view of the whole story.

This webinar will give worship leaders, planners, curators and pastors some practical ways into Advent (the four Sundays before Christmas Day, and maybe into Christmas Eve/Day as well.) Practical resources of video, music, audio, liturgy and themes will be offered.

Register at <http://www.lifelonglearning.nz/focus>

A model for deciding a response to ethical issues

Wesley Carr in his book *Handbook of Pastoral Studies, a - Learning and Practising Christian Ministry* suggests 4 questions when thinking on ethical questions:

What does my Christian faith prompt me to say and feel in this situation?

What are the realities of life in this community of faith?

What is from the Bible?

What is from Christian tradition?

A mission thought from Elizabeth Jones, Missions deacon:

Jay Ruka's book "Huia Come Home" Chapter 16 discusses Lesslie Newbigin's observations about the call of modern missions with the emphasis on "going" whereas the original Greek placed greater emphasis on "making disciples". Newbigin, who spent 40 missionary years in India notes how the West failed to recognise that the most urgent contemporary mission field is to be found in our own traditional heartland and the most aggressive paganismis the ideology that controls the developed world."

Card Making Group with Diane Pawley and Jenny Cooper is back up and running. The last Monday of each month at 1.30pm in the church lounge. Make your own Christmas cards, add the personal touch

Some interesting ideas came out of the Church Council meeting last Wednesday night when I asked ministry leaders to consider where the church and particularly their ministries would be in 3 years:

- identify people with passion and support them with what they want to do if it fits with the mission statement
 - Redecorating outside of church e.g. tiles done by children, then moving inside e.g. mosaic.
 - Do something for older people e.g. computer or technology classes, perhaps as a joint venture with other churches
 - a rostered lunch programme on Sundays to make sure newcomers are welcomed
 - holiday programmes for kids. partnering with KVCC or CAPS Hauraki
 - relocating church or using multiple sites or having different congregations that come together for some meetings e.g. newcomer services.
 - more prayer for missions
 - people coming to Open Door need to be given purposeful things to do when here
 - going into schools to help give skills to children e.g. carpentry, cooking etc.
 - developing relationships with families and children
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Thanks to Shaz for organising the Quiz Night last Friday. How enjoyable. How competitive we are. We would never get away with challenging the quiz master in a pub like some did with Shaz.

Baptist Hui 2020 has been cancelled:

The Assembly Council together with the Mission Council have made a decision, after recommendation from Charles Hewlett and Alan Jamieson, that Hui be cancelled for 2020. Because of the continued uncertainty, we feel it would be irresponsible to bring people from around the country to Auckland (where the current outbreak is), to be in close proximity with one another, to

worship together, pray together and hug one another, and for those people to then return to the rest of NZ. We will be working to provide local gatherings around the country, where Charles, Alan and your Regional Leader will have an opportunity to engage and share with your region. The shape of these are yet to be firmed up, but we will keep communicating as we progress.

Prayer for the world

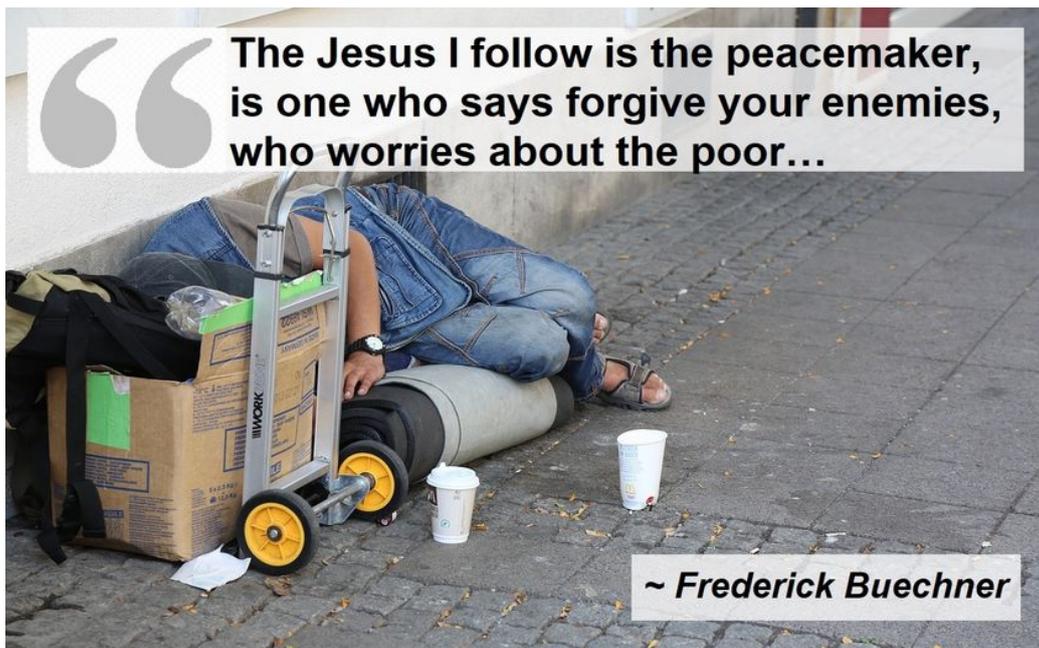
All are welcome to join the BMF Prayer meeting at 9.30 am on Thursday 10th September in the Church Lounge. NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME

Steampunk The Thames weekend 5-8 November



This festival is to celebrate Thames' own blend of art, heritage and culture; inspire and stimulate local talent; showcase local art and creativity and attract visitors to town to join us in having a rollicking good time.

We are running a Steampunk themed worship service on the Sunday 8th November. If you have any ideas of decoration in the church or song choices, can you let me know please. Rose can offer help if you want to dress up for the occasion.



“ The Jesus I follow is the peacemaker,
is one who says forgive your enemies,
who worries about the poor...

~ Frederick Buechner