



THE BIG ASK

CONFRONTING
LIFE'S TOUGH
QUESTIONS

The Big Ask

I am leading a discussion group which confronts life's difficult questions over 8 Thursday evenings.

The discussions are suitable for people who are Christian or not. Anyone who struggles to make sense of the tragedy and problems we see around us will find them helpful. The discussions are shaped around brief interviews with three of the best Christian thinkers and communicators around today: Philip Yancey, Lee Strobel, and Rob Bell.

There will be plenty of time for our own thoughts and insights as we discuss topics such as:

- Why do bad things happen to good people?
- Why should we ever forgive or be forgiven?
- Why would we bother with the church?
- What is prayer all about?
- Is the Bible trustworthy?
- What about our mistakes?

We'll meet in various venues beginning on Thursday 17 October in the parish lounge (hall). Anyone is welcome but numbers are limited so do please contact me to secure your place. Susan Gill 544 8827 or email: susan.churchonhill@xtra.co.nz





Discerning the Seasons of the Heart - Saturday 9 November 2013, Mount Richmond Estate, Rai Valley, Marlborough. 10.00am to 4.00pm

You are invited to join the Revd. Dr. Hilary Oxford Smith, writer, poet, minister of the Church of Scotland and Associate Member of The Iona Community for a peaceful day of reflection accompanied by some of the insights and wisdom of Celtic Christian spirituality. Explore this ancient tradition through poetry and prayers, the music of the harp and voice with Julie Saraswati, quiet times and blessings. Begin to discover the

openness, sacredness and oneness at the heart of the Celtic spirit and how the Celtic way can inspire us and speak to us in all the times and seasons of our lives.

\$35 which includes morning tea and lunch in the café/restaurant. A discounted accommodation package is also available at Mt. Richmond, www.mountrichmond.co.nz. For more details and to register, please visit www.spiritofbradan.co.nz, click onto Retreats and Events page or 'phone 021 113 1980 for a booking form. Places limited to 30 people.

EQUIP - The next unit is happening soon in the Nelson-Waimea region. The topic is "*Ministry with the Vulnerable*" and will be presented by Rev Jude Benton and Mrs Gerrie Mead on Saturday 19 October, 9.30am - 4.00pm at St Paul's Brightwater. The unit will look at the first 2 modules of the *SafeHere* programme and seek to apply them to all areas of ministry – Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, Eldercare Ministry. All who are involved in these areas are welcome to attend.

From the Bishop...

Greetings everyone, this is a note to warmly encourage you to be a part of our Diocesan Mission Festival 'GoFest' on Saturday, 26 October at Brightwater.

Archbishop Philip Richardson is the guest speaker and Rev Mike Hawke from the Anglican Mission's Board will also be actively involved.

This Diocese has an historical passion for overseas mission and, as most of you will be only too aware, was the birthplace for NZCMS, the New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

A passion for overseas mission always leads to a renewed passion and sense of vision for the local church. Many folk from this Diocese are currently serving overseas and there is also a growing move toward short term mission trips, also involving people from the Diocese. And then we have our developing relationship with the Solomon Island Diocese of Malaita.

This 'GoFest' gives us the chance to unite behind the Diocesan Overseas Mission's Council and I would hope that this can be a focal point for Diocesan vision for mission.

May I encourage you to ensure that your parish is well represented at this event.

With every blessing,
+Richard

Financial Giving - If you don't put cash in the offering bag you may like to put in one of the cards kept on the hymnbook shelf. So many of us contribute financially to the life and mission of the church by automatic payment or via the internet can these days. This is a good thing. However it can feel awkward not putting something in the bag.

Perhaps some feel their money is not blessed in the same way as the cash and envelopes that go forward. Putting a card in the offering bag is an opportunity for you to feel more part of the physical action of giving. Thank you for your financial commitment to the Richmond Parish. - Susan.



Appeal - Antonio Sardella is raising money for the Child Cancer Foundation, and will be shaving his hair off on the 27th of October to donate to the Pantene Foundation to make into a wig for women with cancer. There is a small tin by the entrance of the Church which he has left for anyone who would like to give a donation. 100% of the money raised is going to the Child Cancer Foundation. You can contact him on his cell 027 352 5598 or at home (03) 544 9237 or talk to him directly for any inquiries. Thank you very much!

Getting Organised - Hi Dear church folk, it's time to start thinking about next year – scary isn't it?

Please let me know when you'd like to hold some of the events you have planned for our church life in 2014. I want to get some sort of skeleton so that we don't get everything all in one month. Activities fall into 3 main areas – UP, IN and OUT. Worship events, Fellowship events and Outreach events. (Of course some events overlap too.) Vestry are working on a plan for the next 3 years and a new vision statement. So far we have *“Loving Jesus; Building Community”*. Comments welcome. We will all do some more work on this together at family camp.

I'm sure you'll remember that this year I wanted us to focus on God's provision for the new building fund rather than us rushing about too much. I believe it is time to refocus on getting the new building up and running asap. Our facilities are very stretched and the old hall continues to deteriorate (just go into the kitchen after a rainstorm and you'll see one example.) That doesn't mean we take our focus off God though. He is the one who has given us the vision to use this building for our community; for mission. He is the one we need to look to in everything we do. So let's talk with him and each other about some projects we might be involved in to raise funds. At the same time, let's think and pray more laterally because we won't get there just with fundraising. Please pray that the submitted Resource Consent will go through smoothly with TDC. - Susan

Garage Sale - 2 November 8.00am -11.30am.

Potted up your plants yet? Sorted out the Garage Sale items? Remember we have a children's stall. Pencil in bringing a friend for coffee or brunch! If you need goods collected please ring Jan or Keith on 544 8413 or bring to the hall between 3.30pm and 5.30pm on Friday 1 November .



Reflection questions:

- What does genuine humility look like in your own life?
- In what areas is God asking you to persevere in prayer?
- How has this preaching series enabled you to understand the Lord's judgement and mercy?
- You might like to write a poem or draw a picture of praise to our God in response to verses 18 – 20 of Micah Chapter 7.

