



into the Melting Pot

the question is more important than the answer

Sunday 08 April 2018

Why Do You Go To Church?

Two folk had given this question some thought before the meeting

Chris Knamiller

- Meet interesting, thinking and caring people and be a part of that community.
- Come together on a regular basis.
- Opportunity to reflect on others, and the state of the world (rather than think about self).
- Hear the words of Jesus and about the life of Jesus who I consider to be a very inspiring person and to hear other inspiring messages.
- Think about the huge mystery of life and the world.
- Consider where I am and where I am going.
- Opportunity to sit and think.
- To give me hope and encouragement when I need it.

Gary Knamiller

- I too like being with the church community, good, caring people.
- To renew commitment to engaging / helping others.
- To renew hope that some things can be done to make the world a fairer, just place for all, and to come up with some specific ideas about how to push along the hope / liberal agenda
- To continually seek answers to the questions, "Why am I here and what is worth doing?"
- To hear what others are saying about belief, faith, Jesus, social justice, etc.
- Sometimes, often in fact, I don't know what I'm thinking until it falls out of my mouth. Then other folk jump on it for better or worse and help me to think again, to refine, to raise yet more uncertainty . . . a good thing. Focused discussions in church are really good for this.
- Also, I want to support 'The Christian Church' as an Institution for doing good things, for helping the poor, for social justice, for 'good' causes. Examples on the international stage are the 'Drop the Debt' and 'Make Poverty History' campaigns. 'Church' has an organised structure that can facilitate getting good things done, on the local level: the Café and Dan's Den at Christchurch and the CTI Food bank.
- By the way I do not think that 'Church' is unique in being able to offer what Chris and I have suggested. Lots of secular organisations provide a similar forum. This begs the question, "Does 'church' have to be unique in some way?" I would say, no, well almost no. Except for the one that Chris mentioned; that is to "Hear the words of Jesus, about his life . . .". This does make going to church unique. "Church," as Richard Holloway says. "keeps the Jesus story going." And that is worth coming to church for.