

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

KNOX LIFE

December 2023



Sea lion currently residing on Stewart Island



The Annus Horribilis and "a kind of love"

A number of times recently, people of goodwill have noted that my 2023 began with a dose of Covid. It went on to feature a flood in my garage, two car thefts, a broken shoulder, an unexplained medical event and a car-destroying head-on collision. People have suggested that I would have to describe 2023 as an "annus horribilis"; they have, further, imagined that I would be eager for the year to be over. Although I feel it's not very Christian to wish time away (since time is a gift), I kind of know what they mean! I've found the frequent blind-siding of a peaceful life by unwanted fate-intrusions "wearying". Licking my various wounds, I have thought that it would be nice if life could be a little more predictable (less chaotic) for a while. Last Sunday, when the Knox Singers sang "So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb", I found myself thinking "amen to serenity and calm".

The Bible's creation story begins with God creating light and pushing back the waters of chaos. There's a strong identification from the beginning of God as the One who brings an order that gives space for life. Pretty much every chapter of the rest of the story could be characterised as God pushing back against the seemingly tireless forces of chaos (slavery, apostasy, exile, crucifixion). The Book of Job (the good person who suffers all manner of loss and misfortune) is an extended reflection on faith sifting through intrusive chaos. The Passion of Jesus is a striking meditation on what chaos

does. The story of Easter draws limits around chaos's power. In the end, creation will be renewed and the people will say "amen". Order will prevail over chaos.

I came across a short piece written by the late Pat Schneider, an American poet and adjunct faculty member of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. It's called "The patience of ordinary things".

*It is a kind of love, is it not?
How the cup holds the tea,
How the chair stands sturdy and foursquare,
How the floor receives the bottoms of shoes
Or toes. How soles of feet know
Where they're supposed to be.
I've been thinking about the patience
Of ordinary things, how clothes
Wait respectfully in closets
And soap dries quietly in the dish,
And towels drink the wet
From the skin of the back.
And the lovely repetition of stairs.
And what is more generous than a window?*

I find it comforting to think that all the often unperceived reliabilities of creation are expressions of "order pushing back against the chaos", a "kind of love". Until Pat encouraged me to think about it, I may not have received a cup of tea as "light in the darkness", or a bath towel after a shower as "God's pushing back the waters of chaos". Pat encourages me to see, in the general reliability of things, an intimation of the God who works for order and peace.

The garage floods; the car is stolen; the shoulder is broken; the loud crashing sound of buckling metal; the soul fears that chaos is winning.

The stairs ascend; the clothes hang in the closet; the soap dries in the dish; the cup holds the tea; the soul is reminded of a love that brings order and peace.

"So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb".

Arohanui,
Matthew

Church Council Notes

It's been a busy three months at Knox. Spring Sunday and Animal Sunday brought special services and during Matthew's absence on leave, we enjoyed leadership from Hugh Perry and Margaret Garland at our Sunday worship. Linda and Norman Wilkins have been appointed as part-time Pastoral Assistants and have already visited a number of our members who are no longer able to attend services. Jennifer McKinnon continues to be our Presbytery Representative and Jean Brouwer our Health and Safety officer. Matthew has undertaken responsibility for Privacy and Child Protection issues.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 24 September and all written reports and financial performance reports were accepted by the congregation. While we continue to have an operating deficit each year it is pleasing to note, as we move through the new financial year, that our income from various sources is increasing. Our Finance Committee Convener, Don McEwan, thanked the congregation for their continued financial support during difficult times.

The Annual Appeal donations have enabled us to buy a new TV screen and accompanying trolley to replace the old and ineffective screen in the church. The new setup was in place for the photo show on Animal Sunday and the photos were much clearer than on the old screen. The donations have also enabled us to purchase blinds for the large glass windows at the Victoria Street end of the church. They will greatly reduce the amount of reflected light falling on the new screen, so vision will be improved even more. Many thanks to all who contributed to this very satisfactory development.

The lease of upstairs rooms to the Tangata Atumotu Trust has been renewed for the next two years and we are delighted that they will continue to be our neighbours. They are lovely, friendly, co-operative tenants and do much valuable work with Pacific people in Christchurch. The number of staff they employ has steadily increased and Council has agreed to provide them with another two upstairs rooms - rooms which have been seldom used in recent years. The larger one, in particular, needs upgrading and Council has approved applying to the Knox Trust for funds to cover new carpet tiles plus extra lighting and power points, all of which are much needed.

A very successful Te Reo course of five sessions has been held and Council is most grateful to the Justice and Compassion Trust for providing funds for the course, together with an excellent workshop day at Tuahiwi Marae. All the tutors were extremely helpful, supportive, encouraging and patient as participants struggled with correct pronunciation of Te Reo and showed great ignorance of Maori history and customs. We have all learned a lot and feel enriched by our experiences.

Matthew turned 60 in October and has now been with us at Knox for nearly ten years. We celebrated these happy events with a special morning tea after church one Sunday. The beautiful and delicious centrepiece was a wonderful birthday cake made and iced by our baker extraordinaire, Rochelle Howley. How grateful we are for Matthew's leadership and how good for Knox that he continues to be happy to stay with us. As 2023 draws towards its end we acknowledge that it has brought various challenges for Matthew and we hope that 2024 will be totally devoid of burglaries, Covid, accidents and all other inauspicious events.

Janet Wilson, Knox Church Council Clerk

Newcomers At Knox

Over the past year we have been delighted to have a number of newcomers begin worshipping at Knox. As is our custom, the Church Council invited these lovely people to meet with Council members one evening and share simple refreshments as we all got to know each other a little better. Charlotte Bryden, our Church Treasurer, also attended along with her husband Paul who serves on our Finance Committee. And our new Pastoral Assistants, Linda and Norman Wilkins, came along also to acquaint themselves with our new church members.

Fifteen new people were able to attend and the Knox lounge was filled with chatter for nearly two hours. It was a relaxed and enjoyable occasion and the council hopes that newcomers now feel a little more at home in our Knox church community.

The gathering also reminded me of how noisy the lounge is when numbers of people are all talking at once. The church copes rather better with over-the-teacups chatter!

Janet Wilson

Coming Services and Events

COMING SERVICES

10.00am	03 December	Advent 1
10.00am	10 December	Advent 2
10.00am	17 December	Advent 3 -Nine lessons & carols
10.00am	24 December	Advent 4 (shortened service)
11.15pm	24 December	Christmas Eve service
10.00am	25 December	Christmas Day
10.00am	31 December	Sunday service
10.00am	07 January 2024	Communion service

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday 14 January	Shared lunch in the lounge. See separate notice.
Sunday 21 January	Café lunch - names on list or email office@knoxchurch.co.nz
Sunday 24 January	11.30am - discussion group led by Len Pierce. See separate notice.

Shared Lunch In Knox Lounge

You are invited to a shared pot luck lunch in the Knox lounge on Sunday 14 January 2024. It is hoped that these lunches will become a regular item on our calendar.

Please bring finger food to share, sandwiches, muffins, biscuits, or anything you like. If you forget there will always be plenty of food, so come anyway.

Yvonne Barnes

Advent 2023

a series of four services on the theme:
"Our Advent Longing"

Searching Israel's ancient wisdom for insights, we explore three aspects of the spiritual longing of those who waited for the coming of the Messiah, with the view of articulating our current hope for the world. On the third Sunday, we tell the Christmas story in our service of Nine Lessons and Carols.



Sunday 3 December
Useful and Beautiful
Clay fashioned in the hands of God



Sunday 10 December
Comforted and Uncluttered
Peace through clarity of vision



Sunday 17 December
Joyful in the Story
Nine Lessons and Carols



Sunday 24 December
Born into a Living Hope
Travelling light and with love

Further responding to the longing of the world, our Christmas services celebrate how the people's hope has been met in the person of Jesus Christ.



Christmas Eve
11:15pm, Saturday 24 December
Eternity in the heart



Christmas Day
10:00am, Sunday 25 December
For travellers, the new life begins

Decadent 1970s 3 Bowl Cheesecake Recipe

Ingredients:

1 packet super wine biscuits (or similar minus 6)
110gm butter
1 packet lemon jelly and 1 C boiling water
300ml double cream and 2 tspn vanilla essence (or 1 only of extract)
250gm cream cheese and ½ C caster sugar

Use round cake tin with removeable base lined with baking paper, sides greased.

Base:

Crush biscuits then add melted butter. Mix well and press firmly into tin base.

Small Bowl 1:

Dissolve the jelly crystals in the water and leave to cool.

Medium Bowl 2:

Beat cream with vanilla essence to a soft flow consistency.

Larger Bowl 3:

Soften the cream cheese and beat in the sugar.

Fun Part:

Add bowl 1 to bowl 2, then bowl 2 to bowl 3. Pour onto base and refrigerate. Can be made a day ahead.

Tip:

It's better for the cream and the cream cheese mixtures to be on the soft side as they firm up with the added jelly.

Topping:

Load up the top with fresh summer berries or serve on the side - see Mary Berry's similar recipe.

Comment: This was a well-loved dessert in the 70s when I was a member of St Johns Presbyterian Church in Wellington. Any concerns (apart from cholesterol levels etc.) call me (Susan Peake) on 027 765 9898 or 3520 535.

See Lola (Susan's cat) below, supervising in the kitchen.



When reflecting on the '3rd age' and the inevitable changes that occur and acknowledging that 'change' can often be a difficult process, I find this quote from T. S. Elliot somewhat reassuring:

“To make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.”

Susan

The Cricket Match

On a calm and warm early summer evening in November, more than 200 people, complete with picnics, chairs and rugs, gathered on the embankment of the Hagley Oval to watch a cricket match but for the saddest of reasons. This was a cricket match between the Hagley All Stars and the Bagshaw Bashers in honour of, and to remember, Dr. Andrew Bagshaw who was killed in Ukraine while undertaking the most honourable of human acts, that of saving other people's lives.

Admission was free but there was the opportunity to donate. The money raised will be used in various ways in Ukraine, in particular, for supplying warm clothes for the coming winter and wheelchairs for the amputees. Later, we heard that over \$22,000 was raised.

Even if you weren't a cricket fan, it really didn't matter. It was a T20 game and pretty light-hearted. Towards the end when it was obvious the Bashers, who were batting, weren't going to win, the All Stars brought on a young boy who promptly bowled someone out. I don't think it was arranged. He was just a jolly good bowler!

The Andrew Bagshaw Memorial Cup was presented to the winning team by Sir Richard Hadlee and immediately handed over to the Merivale/Papanui Cricket Club where Andrew was a member.

Norman met Sue Bagshaw (Andrew's mum) and said: "I don't know what to say." She graciously shook his hand and thanked him for being there. The sun went down just after 8pm, the lights came on and we wrapped ourselves in our rugs until the end at 9pm. Our bus driver realised where we'd been, having seen our chairs etc and asked how it went and told us it had been on the national news and there was a good write up in the paper the next day. We're so glad we went.

Andrew Bagshaw was presented posthumously with the Civic Peace Award following the inaugural Andrew Bagshaw Memorial Cup match. It is a "special one-off" for the advancement of peace and human rights and recognises Bagshaw's outstanding humanitarian service.



Photo of winning team complete with the “young boy” who helped his team to victory.

Living Wage

This is the link to the Living Wage Christmas catalogue:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/59B69788B7A/living-wage-2023-christmas-catalog/full-view.html>

The Nor’ West Winds

In this blustery spring season it was interesting to note in a recent Avenues magazine that there’s a graphic Te Reo name for this Canterbury phenomenon.

Te Hau Kai Tangata’ is the name given. That means ‘the wind that devours people’!

The Elephants are Coming

Do you remember the giraffes and then the penguins which were dotted all around Christchurch streets? Well now, it's the turn of the Elephants, Patchwork Elephants in fact.

David McKee's much-loved elephant character, Elmer the Patchwork Elephant comes to life in what will be the most colourful art trail yet. 30 large elephants, individually designed by professional and emerging artists, will be displayed through the streets, parks and public spaces of Christchurch and the surrounding towns from 25 November 2023 to 18 February 2024.

Elmer's Ōtautahi Elephant Trail will be supported by a learning programme enabling thousands of children and young people to participate in this highly visible, family-friendly, art trail. Ultimately the sculptures will be auctioned to raise money to enable the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust to support people impacted by traumatic brain and other complex injuries throughout Canterbury.

It's not just for children and young people. Come and follow the trail yourselves and bring your grandchildren.

***God, Lord of all creation, lover of life and of everything
Please help us to love in our very small way
What You love infinitely and everywhere.***

***We thank You that we can offer just this one prayer
And that will be more than enough
Because in reality everything and everyone is connected
And nothing stands alone.***

***To pray for one part is really to pray for the whole
And so we do.***

***Help us each day to stand
For love, for healing, for the good
For the diverse unity of the Body of Christ and all creation
Because we know this is what You desire
As Jesus prayed, that all may be one.***

***We offer our prayer together with all the holy names of God
We offer our prayer together with Christ, our Lord
Amen. Richard Rohr prayer***

Europe 2023



The Grund (old town of Luxembourg)

How long does it take to break out of jet lag? How long is a piece of string? I'm finding it rather hard to keep my feet on the ground after my visit to Europe – so many images, recollections (not all good!) to process. For the most part Linley (my daughter) and I had a great time. For me the highlight was, without doubt, catching up with my dear friends in northern Holland and Paris who all look exactly as they did pre-Covid...

From north Holland we travelled south by train to Maastricht, a delightful city on the River Maas, whose speciality is chocolate – seen on a wall “Snaccident, eating a family-size bar of chocolate entirely by mistake.” (No, we didn't run into Andre Rieu). We took the opportunity, while there, to make a brief sortie to Aachen as Linley hadn't stepped on German soil before. Interestingly, all along the way were huge stands of sunflowers – the “usual” crop or a show of support for Ukraine??

Next stop was Luxembourg – a stroll through the “Grund” (old city) picturesque below the city walls. Dwellings can still be seen in the cliffs. St John the Baptist church, rather plain on the outside, has a very grand high altar. A bonus here was a group of dancers and musicians performing in the square celebrating UNESCO International Heritage Day (in support of Hungary).

On to Paris – Montmartre, Sacre Coeur, Left Bank, crepes, inflated hotel costs, sore feet ... Security was noticeably heightened. LOTS of men in uniform carrying serious-looking weapons – didn’t give the Rugby World Cup a thought when we were making our bookings! Notre Dame looks so sad at present but is in the process of regaining her grace and dignity.

We took the fast train to Avignon through lovely countryside – miles of stubble fields, remnants of recent harvests – that very haunting song “Fields of Barley” (aka “Fields of Gold”) kept running through my head. Loved wandering around this wonderful historic town, once the “seat” of the Popes. A short train ride to Aix-en-Provence where lavender is grown by the hectare – another very attractive “small city” with a huge history. We found an art gallery in a pretty, white Penitent chapel, showing some wonderful works by Picasso – what a sense of humour he had! The Cathedral St Saviour (architectural styles from 8th to 18th century) – an incredible mix that really works. The bonus here was a multi-national choir rehearsing for a concert that evening. I tasted truffles... ummm. ‘Nuff said!

A brief stop in Lyon whose catholic cathedral, high above the river is an absolute “must see”. On to Bergamo – this stop hadn’t been on our original itinerary, but we thoroughly enjoyed three days exploring the old city. Venetian traders visited here en route to the west – pizza and gelato to die for!

Having never been to the north-western corner of Italy, I was excited about visiting Lake Como. It lived up to all my expectations. Linley enjoyed the markets! The duomo, plainish on the outside, has a magnificent pipe organ. We took the fast boat up the lake to Bellagio. From the lake the beauty of the villages is breath-taking. At the corner, by our hotel, was an intriguing circular concrete monument. I asked our hostess what it signifies... It is a memorial to one of Como’s famous sons, Alessandro Volta, physicist and chemist who was a pioneer of electricity and power. He is accredited with being the inventor of the electric battery and the discoverer of methane. During our wanderings around the town, we found ourselves in Volta Plaza with a beautiful statue of Alessandro centre stage.



Monument to Alessandro Volta

Our last stop was Milan, from where we flew home. The buildings here are HUGE and ornate. Do they REALLY need such a lofty, flashy railway station?? Spent a wonderful few hours in and around the Duomo. Had a coffee in the Vittorio Emanuele II Galleria (Gucci, Prada, Louis Vuitton etc).

We were ushered to a back corner (out of sight) with our humble cuppas. At the back of the Galleria is Leonard da Vinci Plaza – himself warily eyeing passers-by. Across the road is La Scala, fabulously OTT ornate inside but rather drab and dreary outside. The Castillo covers a vast area and houses some interesting exhibits (a wonderful tapestry of St Ambrose) and a lot of period furniture pertaining to ruling Milanese families of old.

Next day – train to Milan airport and so home to NZ where my Banksia rose was in full bloom – totally redeeming itself after I'd been threatening its demise.

June

Saturday 2 December - a team of busy workers gathered in the foyer to pack up the Christmas cakes, shortbread, chocolate chippies and truffles that had been ordered by the congregation and others. You can tell it was a fun morning.



Knox Book Table



Have you had a look at the Book Corner in the foyer of the Knox Centre?

There is quite a variety of books that people have donated. The cost is \$3 per book or two for \$5. If you have books to share, think about adding them to our Book Table. I also have a connection to the Slightly Foxed Bookshop in Oamaru which specialises in New Zealand books. Let me know if you have some you think might be suitable:

bronwynwiltshire@gmail.com or bring them to church. This is one of our regular Knox fundraisers.

We usually make about \$800 - \$1,000 per year!!

Bronwyn

Quest for the Sacred Feminine

As I look back on this year, I realise that I have encountered a lot of writings, webinars and inferences to the part Mary plays in Christian imagination and spirituality. When we turn to the Gospels, what is amazing is the brevity of reference to her – from her confrontation with the Angel Gabriel, and a modest “Yes” to what is almost a “rent a womb” request. She says her Magnificat, one of the most explosive prophetic utterances in the Bible, then a short visit to her cousin and she disappears into obscurity until at the last she is amongst the group of women who supported Jesus’ ministry at the foot of the cross. She never features in any of the Resurrection appearances.

What provoked this unplanned search for the sacred Feminine?

I feel 2023 has been dominated by the mayhem of “rogue leaders” – all men: Putin in Ukraine, radical Islam and ultra-right government in Israel, bereted Generals in Sudan driving millions of refugees into Chad. Then there is unleashed weather caused by a century of industrialised culture that lead to the using of Nature. Perhaps I need to qualify this rant by saying that putting the blame on “Patriarchy” isn’t quite fair but it’s called for. It is not about gender. Patriarchy has destroyed the lives of millions of men, women and children through the horrendous wars of the 20th century and we are still going on.

Where does Mary fit into this?

While the Gospels do not mention Mary after Jesus is born, in the Fourth Century when the Councils of the Church began to creed up the significance of the God-Man Christ, they had to deal with “Mary” status. Whereas in the distant past, Europe had a long matriarchal culture, this was all swept aside by the incursion into Old Europe of a warrior peoples (Kurgans) from the high Steppes of the North and Semitic tribes from the desert (including the Hebrew tribes). So, the Goddess worshippers (who saw nature as sacred) gave way to Yahweh (Warrior God). The world was taken over by those who conquered others, took land, made slaves, mastered Nature (seen as a thing to be tamed) and made to give up its treasures. As well, it led to the suppression of the feminine, the formation of nation and Empire and so we come up to our day.

Why focus on Mary?

Seeing the trajectory of Mary from young peasant girl to her Assumption to Heaven, her crowning as “Queen of Heaven” and perpetual virginity, what is going on here? Scriptures of all religions tell us that historical events are just the visible part of a deeper influence of powers, in the under world of Spirit. It was the Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Gustav Jung, who opened up the inner map of the hidden part of reality he called “the Collective Unconscious.” If, for some 3,000 years, since the beginning of the Iron Age, the dominant powers have been “patriarchal” there are corrective powers in the spirit world. Jung heralded the Assumption of Mary in 1950 as a major breakthrough for humanity, saying that at last the male God was tempered by a feminine presence.

So, Mary is my symbol of hope this year. I am anticipating that the warrior, dominator, power hungry and greed driven powers that have driven us to the edge of extinction are in their last gasp. That there is evidence of a rising tide of the sacred feminine across the Earth, to balance the sacred masculine so beautifully pictured in Jesus of Nazareth. She comes to heart, minds and souls as a harbinger of peace. So this Advent I shall be praying a prayer I had never thought to want to say:

“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee
Blessed are you amongst women and blessed is
the fruit of your womb, Jesus.”

Leonard Pierce

Notice: on the fourth Sunday of January 2024 I would like to fill out the background of my article. 11.30 – 1pm.



Christmas Memories

Christmas for me has mostly been a New Zealand celebration in various parts of New Zealand from Auckland to Dunedin; never exactly a Christmas on the beach, but associated with family, long daylight hours, warm weather and the prospect of holidays to follow. I did have some Christmases in the Northern Hemisphere which bring back memories of something different, triggered perhaps by an unfamiliar experience, a sliver of music or the kindness of others. I recall two such Christmases in earlier times.

Back in the 1950's, when I was about ten years old, my family spent two years in St Margarets in the United Kingdom, when my father was studying at the University of London. We lived those years in the attic flat of the home of a medical professor, originally from New Zealand. The family was always welcoming. They invited us, both years, to their elaborate Christmas celebrations including a Father Christmas visit. Exciting for two small girls! When the lights were dimmed at dinner, I was honoured with the task of carrying the flaming pudding to the table. Later that evening, snowflakes began to fall; another new experience for us.

The snow remained on the ground for most of Boxing Day, a day which was absorbed with holiday preparations and not expressly celebrated by us in New Zealand. We belonged to the Kew Road Methodist Church at that time and some kind parishioners, who lived nearby, invited us and the minister's family to a little Boxing Day party. There were games and puzzles for the children and entertainment for the grownups, including the latest music from Flanders and Swann. My father purchased that LP entitled "At the Drop of a Hat", when he returned to New Zealand and was reunited with his radiogram.

The second long ago, Northern Hemisphere Christmas was as a young married at the beginning of a two year stint in Rhode Island, USA, in the early 1970s. It was cold then too. New Zealand friends living in Canada came to visit us. We drove them to the beach to see the snow meeting the waves on the seashore. My memories of this Christmas were recently triggered by an LP. With the current enthusiasm for LPs we have reactivated our turntable and are listening to our old LP collection. One of the first records on the pile of Christmas records so far brought down was, "A Nonesuch Christmas" a miscellany of medieval, renaissance and baroque music. This record was playing throughout The Fantastic Umbrella Factory, a wonderful shop on the southern Rhode Island coast which became a favourite to visit. I happily purchased that record too.

For the present we are seeing Christmas and its joy through the eyes of our grandchildren, both here and in the snows of northern Japan. Right here in Canterbury I am reminded of the Colin Gibson/Dorothy Ballantyne “Carol for a New Zealand Child” which appeals to me –

“Carol Baby Jesus on a nor’west day; a summer wind is blowing across the beach and bay....”

Deirdre McKean

Marae Visit

Two photos from the Marae visit. See Church Council Notes.

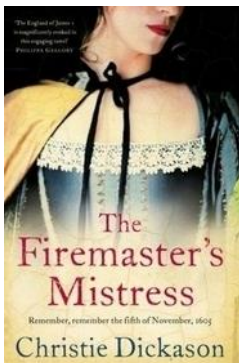


FAITH, FILM AND FICTION...

Book Reviews:

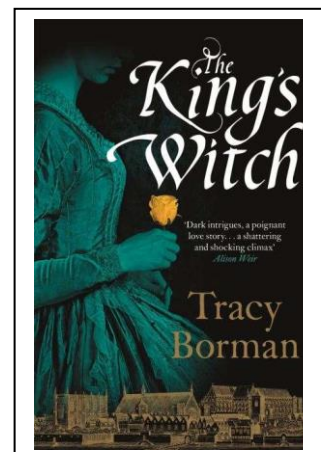
As we have recently experienced the fireworks (for some people, every weekend in November!) for Guy Fawkes, I was very interested to read two novels set before, in and after 5th November 1605. At the time, England was rife with plots and discontent. Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603 and was succeeded by her cousin's son James I from Scotland. Under Elizabeth, the tensions between Catholics and Protestants simmered but there was a certain amount of tolerance. However, the new King James, supported by his advisors Francis Bacon and Robert Cecil, supported Protestants and relentlessly hunted down Catholics. A group of Catholic nobles developed a plot to blow up the new Parliament and, with support from Spain, depose the king. Their leader was Guido Fawkes with eleven other nobles. How was the plot discovered?

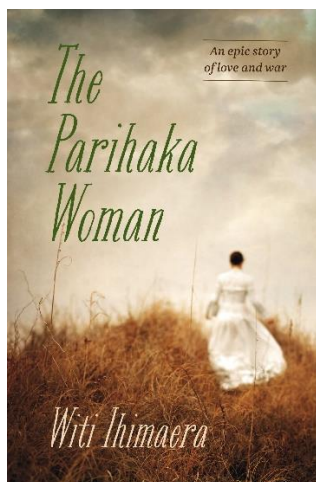
Two novelists have recreated this event, with excellent research and compelling story lines.



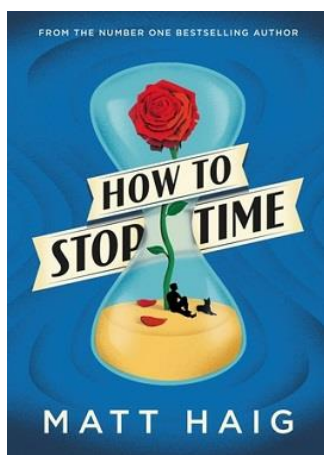
The Firemaster's Mistress by Christie Dickason (2005) looks at the Firemaster, Francis Quoynt, who made and supplied the gunpowder. The main character, Kate Peach, is his mistress. The reader learns about the plotting behind the scenes, leading to the discovery of the gunpowder and subsequent deaths of all the conspirators.

The King's Witch by Tracy Borman (2018). Here we meet Frances Gorges who falls in love with the conspirator Tom Wintour. Because Frances is a healer, she comes under threat from King James who has vowed to kill all Catholics and witches. Despite this, she becomes the governess of the young Princess Elizabeth, whom the conspirators intended for the throne. The author, a highly acclaimed historian, has also written two sequels about Frances Gorges, who really existed.





In New Zealand we remember another event on 5th November: the invasion of Parihaka in 1881. The well-known writer Witi Ihimaera, author of short stories and novels, published **The Parihaka Woman** (2011) based around Erenora whose home at Parihaka is destroyed. The novel is a mixture of fact and fiction, and leaves an indelible memory for the reader, as well as a deeper understanding of this crucial event.

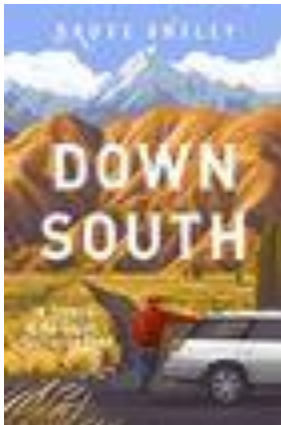
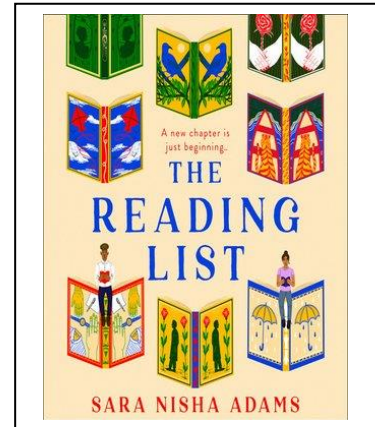


You may have read **The Midnight Library** (2020) which I reviewed a few years ago. By the same author comes **How to Stop Time** (2017, republished 2022). Tom Hazard has been alive for centuries. As long as he changes his identity he can stay alive, unless he falls in love. The book flicks between various time periods as Tom learns the value of love and friendship.



You may already have read a book by Charity Norman, a talented author who has made her home in New Zealand after living in England and has written several books. **The Secret Life of Luke Livingstone** (2015) is a sensitive and empathetic book about a man who has always felt himself to be female. He is married, a father and grandfather, but all his life he has hidden the truth about himself. How does he tell his family and how do they react? This is a truly sensitive and realistic look at the life and family of a transgender man.

If you love reading, you have probably read most or all of the eight books on this mysterious list that appears pinned to neighbourhood notice boards with the heading “Just in case you need it”. Sara Nisha Adams is the author of the book **The Reading List** (2021) but we don’t find out where the list comes from until the end. Aleisha, a troubled teenager, finds the list first and it leads her into a whole new life. Along the way she makes new friends and her life is transformed. A reading MUST for all book lovers!



And finally, with the summer upon us, how about reading about our own South Island! Bruce Ansley was a highly respected journalist with *The NZ Listener* and has also had several books published. **Down South** (2020) details many trips over the years around the South Island with interesting facts and stories. There are places you might have driven past and not realised they are worth a stop. I highly recommend this well written book.

If you would like to recommend a book you have read, please send the information to Lynda in the office: office@knoxchurch.co.nz or let me know: bronwynwiltshire@gmail.com.

Happy reading!!

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