



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Pastoral Newsletter

24 October, 2023

Kia Ora Knox Community,

As is the Knox custom now, in some of the months when we don't have a "Knox Life", I send out a pastoral email newsletter.

Reflections of Someone with a Broken Arm

Late on the evening of Thursday 14 September, I tripped over a wooden box, hit the ground, and broke my humerus (upper arm) in two places. It hurt! After quite a long time of waiting for a tightly stretched staff at the 24 Hour Medical Centre in Bealey Avenue to see me, I was x-rayed, pain-killed, prohibited from driving (incapacity of a broken arm) and told to wear a sling for six weeks. Sling life provided me with insight into how many very simple household and work tasks depend on the proper functioning of two arms. Many things became complicated - including getting properly dressed for Sunday worship. Also complicated was getting to and from



places, given that I was not able to drive a car. Pastoral visiting basically came to a halt - so I was really pleased that Linda and Norman Wilkins were able to begin as our new pastoral visitors at around this time. I have also been very grateful to those who have driven me about, helped me with simple parish tasks that had become impossible, and have forgiven me for wearing clothes that, while easy to put on, have made me look like a "street kid". People have been very understanding and so kind. I'm most grateful!

A Kowhai Update

On 16 April this year, the front page of our order of service featured a picture of a kowhai that had spent almost ten years growing in a pot. In the sermon, I used the tree as an image of a mysterious life that was flourishing even though it shouldn't be - like resurrection life sustained by a God whom the world neither sees nor understands. While people appreciated the theological point, some expressed concern for the tree, should it spend much longer in the pot. On Saturday 7 October, some friends called Daphne and Dave helped the tree out of its pot and into a freshly dug hole in the ground in my garden. The tree seems happy!



Te Reo classes at Knox

Made possible by the generous support of the Justice Compassion Trust (founded by Rev. James Symonds, PCUSA), we organised for a series of five te reo Māori classes to be offered at Knox. The fabulous tutor, Kylie Clark of Kai Tahu, has introduced fifteen keen Knox people not only to some useful basic Māori language, but also some fascinating perspectives from te Āo Māori. Some participants have learned how to give their pepeha (formal introduction of self). We're gaining confidence with some of the prayers we use some Sunday mornings, and we're learning some new blessings and hymns. It is felt that the project is extremely worthwhile. After the fifth class, we will be visiting the local marae at Tuahiwi to experience a formal welcome and attend a "getting to know us" workshop. Thanks to the Justice Compassion Trust and also to Kylie for her brilliant teaching.

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
The longing is cradled



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

Keeping food cheap for the community

Remembering his grandmother, Shar Matafeo speaks to Tagata Pasifika (11 March, 2023) on Lady Dora's Food Market, Otahuhu:

"One thing that I always noted about this old lady was when her sisters or her friends came over, they always had to leave with something, and she would always believe in giving and helping, because the Lord will bless, it'll come back around.

I understand that to run a business you have [to have] the right appropriate margins to cover your overheads; but what I don't understand is how even after covering that, you can still pocket a 90% margin at the end of all of that. For me that just doesn't sit right.

Here is what I remember from the early days for when we would come, and we would lay down after a long 16 hour day downstairs; you would go to the local gym just around the corner in the town centre, shower, come here, and that's your room right here. None of us get paid anything, whether it be salary, whether it be wages - absolutely not! How do we sustain ourselves? We sustain ourselves on some of the left-over fruits that would otherwise be thrown into the bin. We also sustain ourselves on any products or some of the meat that had gotten close to their best before dates, that were somewhat 'write offs'.



Shar Matafeo, Otahuhu

sonder

n. the realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own—populated with their own ambitions, friends, routines, worries and inherited craziness—an epic story that continues invisibly around you like an anthill sprawling deep underground, with elaborate passageways to thousands of other lives that you'll never know existed, in which you might appear only once, as an extra sipping coffee in the background, as a blur of traffic passing on the highway, as a lighted window at dusk.



David Cassidy
@DPCassidyTKC



The final miracle Jesus performed was healing the ear of a man wounded by a sword-wielding disciple trying to defend Jesus.

Jesus still heals people wounded by deluded disciples who think that Jesus needs defending & people need to be attacked.

“Love one another...”

5:27 PM · 4/14/22 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



“I have
often
repented of
judging too
severely,
but very
seldom of
being too
merciful.”

JOHN WESLEY

- 1787 -

#WesleyWednesday



Sermon Practice



Sermon Practice videos continue being posted on Youtube each week. If you would like to go on the email list, so that you can receive a link for each Sunday's sermon, just contact the office.

Sunday 17 September; in a parable about a servant who has been forgiven, but who cannot forgive others, Jesus warns us that unless we learn to forgive from the heart, the world doesn't stand a chance. Wending its way through the recent experiences of someone uninclined to forgive those who stole his car, we find ourselves considering how hurt breeds anger, and what sorts of people might be grown in a culture of forgiveness. <https://youtu.be/2WwWf8uEkiA>

Sunday 24 September; in a parable about a vineyard owner who hires workers at different times throughout the day, paying each worker the same ridiculously generous sum, Jesus explores how human jealousy clashes with God's generosity. We consider how the world would be different if we nurtured a culture of joy and giving. We ask ourselves "what if?" <https://youtu.be/dxXdVIJVq7E>

Sunday 15 October; on Animal Sunday, the first reflection looked at the creation story, in which when the man and woman felt exposed by God in their failure to live well in the garden, their first reaction was to blame an animal - the snake. We look at humanity's inclination to blame the voiceless. The second reaction looked at Jesus' use of the image of the mother hen sheltering her chicks. The animal finds a voice through the exercising of its nature, and teaches humanity an important "God lesson". <https://youtu.be/-2c61aXu7 k>

Sunday 22 October; wanting to trip Jesus up with a tricky question about tax, the Pharisees butter him up with an insincere compliment. Jesus' response gives us opportunity to think about sincerity, truth, partiality, and to whom we belong. We consider the case of the American footballer, Colin Kaepernick, who "took a knee" during the national anthem, arousing all manner of discussion about what Caesar demands from citizens and God moves people to offer instead.
<https://youtu.be/h3KYo5bSvNs>

Environmental matters

Wolfgang Rhexus has added a few things to the "Reflections on Corona and Easter" that we included in the July newsletter. You can see the result at:
https://solarpeace.org/e/20200412_CoronaEaster.htm

Material for Knox Life

If you have any material you think might go well into the next edition of Knox Life, just send it to the office. The deadline for contributions will be advertised through the Sunday notices for a few weeks before the deadline.

Arohanui, Matthew.

Knox Directory

28 Bealey Ave,
Ōtautahi Christchurch 8013

Secretary: Lynda Gerken,
ph. (03) 379 2456,
office@knoxchurch.co.nz

Office hours:
Monday - Friday, 9.00am-noon

Visit our website
<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/>



Minister: Rev. Dr Matthew Jack
minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
voicemail at home (03) 3570 111

Church Council Clerk: Janet Wilson,
ph. (03) 338 7203

Organist: Jeremy Woodside
jeremy.woodside89@gmail.com

Pastoral Visitors:
Rev Norman and Linda Wilkins
<http://g8m8zinbayst@gmail.com>
+64 272499741 (Linda's mobile)
+64 220667626 (Norman's mobile)