

March 2013 —May 2013  
Autumn

# Knox Life

The quarterly magazine of Knox  
Presbyterian Church



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## From the Minister's Desk

It is good being back in Christchurch and we are enjoying our time at Knox. Thank you for inviting us to be part of your congregation for these two months.

I first came to Christchurch at the beginning of 1956 when we emigrated from Scotland. My parents and I lived in St Albans and then the central city before settling in Hoon Hay. Christchurch West High School and the town site of Canterbury University were the places I received my education before going to Dunedin to train for ministry.

Christchurch in those days was a “city of bikes” thousands of them flowing through the streets. I biked a lot because we didn't have a car, so I was really glad that Christchurch was so flat! What I didn't like was biking into an “easterly” in the morning and a “southerly” at the end of school.

There weren't many high buildings in those days. I think the St Elmo Towers in Hereford Street was the highest. I also remember that when I got lost it was easy to see either the Port Hills or the spire of the Cathedral and get re-orientated again.

It is really sad to see the state that Christchurch is in – so many old and familiar buildings gone. But even sadder is the effect on people's lives. Learning to renegotiate different ways to work is fine for a few weeks but it must be difficult in the longer term.



One thing that surprises and delights me, however, are the signs or creativity and hope I come across. Flowers blooming in waste land and amongst broken concrete and also in the orange road beacons. Shoes and businesses continuing in “make do” shelters and containers. People gathering for concerts in the Botanic Gardens. The sharing and concern and support I see amongst members of the congregation. You could say they are signs of resurrection. New life appearing out of the rubble of loss and destruction.

We are heading towards Easter and the celebration of the triumph of love over death and destruction. It is God's love in our lives, shared with others, that enables us to live creatively and compassionately. May it be so for each of you as you travel the slow road of healing and restoration.

Shalom  
**Jim Cunningham**



## Easter Services 2013

### **Palm Sunday**

10.00 am

**24 March 2013**

Morning Worship

“Reflection from the gutter”

Please bring a small branch from a tree or shrub and gather in the main vestibule before the service.

7.00 pm

**Café Church in the Lounge**

Bring some drinks and nibbles and share in discussion on the meaning of Easter.

### **Maundy Thursday**

7.00 pm

**28 March 2013**

Quiet Reflective Service with Communion in the Chapel.

### **Good Friday**

10.00 am

**29 March 2013**

“Palm Sunday to Calvary”

Readings, Music, Reflection followed by morning tea and hot cross buns.

### **Easter Day**

10.00 am

**31 March 2013**

Easter Celebration

## EASTER CAMP

Zolo Youth is heading to Easter camp this year 28 March– 1 April, and taking young people from Knox, Kowai, St Mark's and possibly St Paul's, Linwood Ave Union and Crossway, and we would like for our parishes to be part of this. What we would like to do is collect the extra bits and pieces that make camp great by giving anyone who would like to contribute the opportunity.



We are looking for:

**Old carpet for the marquee**

**Some home baking**

**Bacon**

**Eggs**

**Bread**

**Spaghetti/Baked Beans**

**Noodles**

**Milo**

**Tea**

**Coffee**

**Easter eggs** (we like to give each camper one on Easter morning)

Small donations to help with fees

**Prayer** for our kids and leaders while we are a camp.

If you would like to contribute in any way it would be really appreciated, any little bit helps.



Please put donations of food stuffs into the basket labelled in the foyer, the last Sunday for this would be 24th March or if it is perishable please talk to Liz on 027 2577112 or [gynni@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gynni@xtra.co.nz)

**Liz Whitehead**

## Horizons of Hope – 2013

Happy New Year greetings for 2013 are long past and now that we are well into the year we look for some implementation of those greetings. One of the themes of the New Year is hope. What do we hope for? Do we have a wish list? Are our hopes random, occasional? What can we do to make others happy?

Here is a wish list from one person's perspective –

- ⇒ Rebuilding people's lives. Those of children, families and individuals devastated by structural poverty, earthquake, fire, flood and war.
- ⇒ Rebuilding homes, churches, community facilities and public spaces where people may gather.
- ⇒ The hope that the process of rebuilding contains a promise of a future in which all may share.
- ⇒ That when Knox is rebuilt the doors will be opened to the community.
- ⇒ That we may recapture the tradition of St Francis, who saw all life as sacred and a gift of God.
- ⇒ For the greening of our damaged planet, our land, our city, our church and our hearts.

For the fulfilment of the prophetic vision that:

The mountains and hills will burst into song,  
And the trees will shout for joy.  
Totara trees will grow where now there is gorse;  
Rewarewa will emerge in place of thistles.  
This will be a sign that will last forever.

Isaiah 55: 12-13  
(adapted)

Your wish list will, doubtless, be different but it is a good exercise to make one for yourself, and then ask what you can do to bring your hopes to fruition.

**Kim Bathgate**



## **“Welcoming the Stranger” – theme for World Day of Prayer**

Welcoming the stranger is the theme from French women who organised the 2013 World Day of Prayer.

The French women took the opportunity of their turn at theme setting to highlight the tolerance that France is showing to newcomers.

In modern France about a fourth of all French people have a foreign born grandparent. France has one of the highest rates of mixed marriage in Europe.

This huge exposure to multicultural, multiracial reality provides the French with a unique insight into dealing with diversity.

It was the reality that impelled the French World Day of Prayer organisers to choose the theme “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” based on the Gospel text of Matthew 25.

Each year the job of choosing the theme for the World Day of Prayer is done by a different country.

Held on the first Friday in March for over 80 years, the World Day of Prayer attracts participants in over 170 countries, bringing together various races, cultures and traditions on a common theme.

Prayers are said in more than 1000 languages beginning at dawn in the Pacific and finished 40 hours, and many time zones, later in Alaska.

Built around Christian beliefs the event is unique in that it is run under the leadership of laywomen, rather than direct church control.

Probably for this reason it is a genuinely ecumenical event that includes participants from virtually all Christian denominations.

The New Zealand national committee for World Day of Prayer is based in Christchurch.

They expected that this year there would be about 250 World Day of Prayer events organised by local interdenominational groups.

Funds raised during World Day of Prayer events will go to four projects.

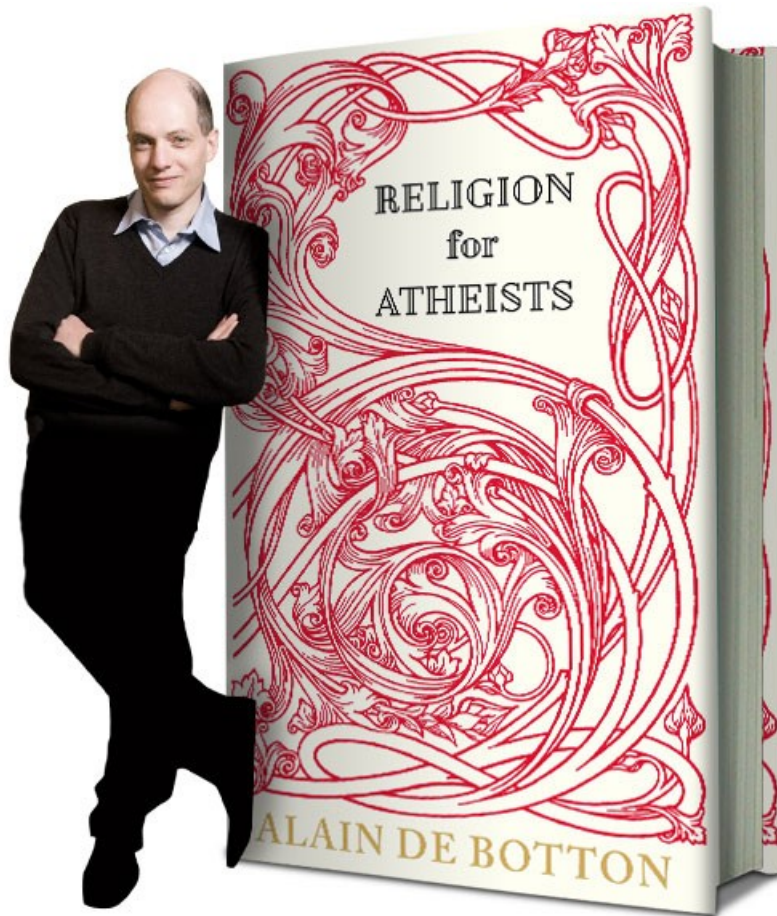
- ⇒ Christian World Service to build resilience in the face of drought and climate change in Africa's Sahel region ([www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)),
- ⇒ ECPAT (Ending Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Child Trafficking for Sexual Purposes [www.ecpat.org.nz](http://www.ecpat.org.nz)),
- ⇒ Bible Society in France, Bibles in Prison project [www.biblesoc.org.nz](http://www.biblesoc.org.nz),
- ⇒ Hospital Chaplaincy in New Zealand [www.ichc.org.nz/chaplaincy.htm](http://www.ichc.org.nz/chaplaincy.htm)



A photograph of a white paper house on a wooden floor. The house is a simple, rectangular structure with a pitched roof. Around the house, several white paper cutouts of people are holding hands, forming a circle. The scene is lit from above, casting shadows on the floor.	<p>Sunday night occasional service starting in May 2013 please see Kim Bathgate for more details</p>
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## Book Review

**Religion for Atheists: by Alain de Botton** (Penguin Books Ltd 2012)



Alain de Botton has written several books. I have read only two of them: this one, and his *Consolations of Philosophy*, a few years ago, and I immediately warmed to him (re both of these) as scholar, good communicator and warm human being. He says he was brought up in a committedly atheistic household as the son of two secular Jews who placed religious belief

somewhere on a par with an attachment to Santa Claus. In spite of that background he has done his homework well on the many and remarkable positive aspects of religious belief

*Religion for Atheists* could well have the sub-title “And religion for the religious!” Alain de Botton while calling himself a non-believer has distilled from the writings and beliefs of the world's great religions the essence of what – when their supernatural claims are eliminated – is central to their teachings about living well, relating well, and what makes for harmony, peace, community and justice. That emphasis has the same ring about it as Knox's defining statement: love – faith – outreach – community – justice!

While I greatly applaud what he has written I am somewhat surprised that Alain de Botton (as far as the Christian religion is concerned)



seemed unaware that most of present-day liberal (or progressive) Christian theology has abandoned the so-called supernatural claims of theistic religion.

While he operated on a much broader plain than just the Christian religion, he did seem to be ignorant or unaware of what was being said by such theological writers as Lloyd Geering (e.g., Christianity without God, Such is Life), Greta Vosper (With or Without God – why how we live is more important than what we believe), the many books of John Shelby Spong (e.g., Reclaiming the Bible for a non-religious world, Eternal life: a new vision: beyond religion, beyond theism, beyond heaven and hell, just to mention a few of his books), as well as the research of the Jesus Seminar scholars, and the scholarly work of Marcus Borg to cite but a few possibilities. He says in one place in the early pages of the book:

*I never wavered in my certainty that God did not exist. I was simply liberated by the thought that there might be a way to engage with religion without having to subscribe to its supernatural content.....*

I would like to be able to say to him, **there is!**

As this review has to be brief, rather than attempt an overview of the book in any further detail, I will present you with a flavour of what comes out of the “horse's (own) mouth”!:

*One can be left cold by the doctrines of the Christian Trinity and the Buddhist Eightfold Path and yet at the same time be interested in the ways in which religions deliver sermons, promote morality, engender a spirit of community, make use of art and architecture, inspire travels, train minds and encourage gratitude at the beauty of spring. In a world beset by fundamentalists of both believing and secular varieties, it must be possible to balance a rejection of religious faith with a selective reverence for religious rituals and concepts.....  
.....religions serve two central needs which continue to this day and which secular society has not been able to solve with any particular skill: first, the need to live together in communities in harmony despite our deeply rooted selfish and violent impulses. And second, the need to cope with terrifying degrees of pain which arise from our vulnerability to professional failure, to troubled relationships, to the death of loved ones and to our decay and demise.....*

Again, I would like to say to him, **there is!**

**Arthur Mitchell**

# Members of the New Humanity

A Sermon preached at Knox Church, Christchurch  
On Sunday, 27 January 2013

by The Revd Dr Ken Booth

Readings: Luke 4:14-21, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

A week or so back, I read an article in the paper about how various enterprises in Christchurch were so desperately short of staff that they wanted to bring people in from overseas. Nothing wrong with that of course, but the interesting aspect was the fact that many of the jobs were being turned down by New Zealanders who were supposedly looking for work. They wanted to turn up in the sloppiest of dress, didn't like the hours involved and a hundred other excuses.

What intrigued me was my own reaction to all this. I am, of course, such a warm and generous-hearted soul as a rule, with a charitable outlook to all God's creatures, but I could feel the milk of human kindness curdling in my veins as I read, and I muttered some words I cannot repeat here and sentiments that would have made Paula Bennett sound like a very kindly and generous aunt.

The story does give a fairly sharp focus to the issues of Christian charity. Has mine run out? Do the misfits of society not deserve something better? Most of them have been ground up and spat out by society itself, probably beginning with their family environment. Is Christian charity to be weighed so that once again we see the world in Victorian terms of the deserving and the undeserving poor?

It's but a small step from that to the frustrations of the earthquake repairs, the minefield of insurance claims, and then the toe-rags who have nothing better to do than scatter the flowers that some groups have put around the place to at least make us feel better by the brightness of what we are looking at. None of this does anything for an optimistic view of life.

You can read more on the Knox website

[www.knoxchurch.co.nz](http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz)

click on News to access past sermons and newsletters

## **Knox Finance**

### **Summary report for 6 months report to 31 December 2012**

Knox has budgeted a loss for this financial year (July 2012- June 2013) however our current position and forecast loss looks to be approximately \$10,000 more than expected.

Most expenses seem to be following forecasts however insurance is significantly over budget (\$25,000) due to limited information at time of budget.

Our income is down with offerings expected to be significantly under what was budgeted. We have received a bequest in this financial year that has contributed to our total income.

Interest is better than expected but we are needing to dip into these funds to top up running costs such as insurance and rates.

The church rebuild has been separated out from our operating budget now that insurance proceeds have been received and rebuild expenses are being incurred. The funds are earning interest which is being credited to the fund rather than used for operating costs.

Funds on hand for the rebuild as at 31 December 2012: \$2, 276,365.

Trudy Heney

#### **Call to Service and Blessing**

Spirit of God brooding over the waters of our chaos

**Inspire us to generous living.**

Wind of God dancing over the desert of our reluctance

**Lead us to the oasis of our celebration.**

Breath of God inspiring communication among strangers

**Make us channels of your peace.**

**Kia tau ki a tatou katoa te atawhai o to tatou Ariki,**

**O Ihu Karaiti, me te aroha a te Atua,**

**Me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Warua Tapu,**

**Ake ake amine.**

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**

## A Prayer for 2013

Loving God

As we enjoy the wonderful weather, relaxed lifestyle and warm associations with friends and family in this caring, supportive community, we give thanks for the rebirth of this city while recognising the needs of those still affected by earthquake issues. We pray that we, with all others committed to a belief in justice for all, can focus on their needs so that we might give leadership to make a positive difference to those less advantaged than ourselves.

We acknowledge that as we are free to follow our faith and have a responsibility to serve those in our community and to share the responsibility for taking care of this fragile planet to make sure that it can provide for future generations. Help us to work towards the reversal of the many destructive practices and pollution created by our own generation.

God of all creation, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have suffered from the bushfires in Australia. The similar distress experienced by our neighbours here in Canterbury reminds us of the destructive power and frightening consequences for all those caught up in the effects of fire and other natural disasters. We offer our prayers for those who have suffered pain and uncertainty and we pray for the safety and wellbeing of all those engaged in fighting those fires and for the many who continue to provide aid to those who have suffered.

God, of compassion hear our prayer.

We pray for those in suffering in conflict areas of the world, particularly in Africa where the horror of war in Mali and Somalia has created disaster and starvation for so many defenceless people. It is our prayer that those in authority be guided by compassion for those who are unable to speak for themselves. Help us to be their voice in the world. We pray for the families and all who are affected by the continuing gun violence in the United States, that all people of the world might come to the understanding that peace and justice can never be achieved by force or terror with guns and other instruments of war.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

We pray for those in Fiji and other politically torn states, that they might yet have the opportunity to live in a free, democratic society where they can lead their lives in freedom and where they can practise their faith free from dictatorship and corruption. We pray for those suffering from political uncertainties and war in Syria, Palestine, Egypt and other troubled areas of the Middle East, that your message of peace, justice, hope and love can return the birthplace of our faith.  
God of justice, hear our prayer.

We pray for those with political responsibility in our country, both nationally and locally. May they be guided to make decisions on behalf of every disadvantaged member of our society. Help us to show leadership and give support, to be a voice for them so that their needs can be heard and acted on in the corridors of power.  
All powerful God, hear our prayer.

In this New Year, we have confidence in your assurance of support and we pray for guidance as we work towards the rebuilding of our church. Work through us and in us, loving God, so that we can achieve, not only the reconstruction and replacement of bricks and mortar, but the spreading of your word with its message and promise of compassion, peace, justice and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Support us in the work we are called to do as your church in this community and wherever we are able as a part of the church universal.  
God of love, hear these prayers that we offer in the name of Jesus Christ.



Amen

## Do you like to sing?

The Knox Singers continue to enjoy bringing you music to share in the services.

We are very grateful to Gillian King for her magnificent contribution as alto for the years they were with us. We miss her friendship and her music, and hope that the King family can now enjoy more weekend time together.

A vacancy now exists for an alto or soprano. Is this your opportunity to join us? We sing twice each month, usually on the first and third Sundays, with some variations, accompanied by Richard Oswin (first Sundays) or one of the other pianists, and sometimes unaccompanied.



We rehearse at 9.15am on the day we are singing. We normally sing in three or four parts. If you love to sing, can hold a tune particularly in the alto or soprano range, and can sight read a bit, we would love to have you in the Singers.

Please contact any of the singers, or phone Bronwyn Wiltshire 3519445.

## Yamaha FS – 20 Keyboard Electronic Organ for sale or give away



As I am moving house I have this organ to give away to a good home. It is in excellent condition and comes complete with the original manual. The organ must be picked up, as I cannot deliver it.

Phone: 03 355 7253  
or 0274577660  
Noeline Bain

*Disclaimer: The content of this article is necessarily brief and general in nature and not intended as a substitute for specific professional advice on any matter and should not be relied upon for that purpose.*

# Lane Neave

LAWYERS

## THE LEGAL PITFALLS OF BUYING TC3 PROPERTY

Purchasing TC3 property in Christchurch has become an attractive option for investors, and it is easy to see why; among other things, there is the potential for significant capital gains if the property is acquired on the cheap and with the thriving rental market, landlords seem to be receiving premium rental rates for any property that is habitable, regardless of its fate. There are, however, certain legal "pitfalls" that come hand-in-hand with purchasing such property.

The first of these is whether you can obtain insurance for the property. If the property has been written off by the vendor's insurance company, a subsequent purchaser may struggle to get insurance for the property as it has been deemed either beyond repair, or too expensive to repair. You will need to contact your insurer prior to purchasing to see if they will cover you.

As a purchaser, it is likely that you may not be able to get finance to purchase such a property (dependant, of course, on your personal circumstances), as banks may see the investment as a high risk one. If you are determined to purchase a TC3 property you should be prepared to either pay cash, or offer some significant collateral to a mortgagee.

Another issue is that although a property may be sold with full disclosure, there is no public record of insurance companies' decisions on the state of repair of properties. This means that as a purchaser, you are relying on the word of the vendor as to the condition of the property and whether or not repairs have been completed.

You will also need to consider the condition of the foundations of the dwelling. If the foundations have been badly damaged it is possible there could be significant remediation costs. These will decrease accordingly if the foundations are in sound condition.

Try to ensure that any quotes you get for repairs are fixed quotes otherwise you may find yourself incurring much higher costs if more defects are discovered and the complexity of the work increases.

If you are considering buying TC3 land, be sure to take all practical steps to protect yourself; have your lawyer look over the land information memorandum, ask them to explain the insurance implications to you and it may also be necessary to have a geotechnical engineer survey the site.

For further information or to discuss any of the above please contact the Lane Neave Private Client team on 03 352 3923.

*This article has been written by Thomas Hill at Lane Neave.*



## Knox Church

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**Knox Church** is a congregation within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

**We aim** to create Christian community in which people of all ages, sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic situations are included as equally valued participants in our congregational life.

**We cherish** our diversity, offering a safe place of belonging to any who wish to explore their beliefs in an atmosphere promoting discussion, the development of healthy relationships and spiritual growth.

**We strive** to be open to dialogue and shared experiences with people of other faiths.

**We enjoy** worshipping the God made known in Jesus, endeavouring to do so in ways that are relevant to our daily lives, respect the integrity of creation, and make a positive difference