



KNØX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Pastoral Newsletter (not during lockdown)

10 September, 2020

Kia Ora Knox Community,

A NOT LOCKDOWN NEWSLETTER: During one of our Mission Discernment sessions, we gave time to do something of a post-lockdown debrief. We reflected on what we had learned or appreciated while we were confined to our homes. One of the things people seemed to have appreciated was the regular posting of the Lockdown Pastoral Newsletters. It made people feel connected to the Knox Community even though we weren't meeting. The idea was floated that maybe a simple version could be e-circulated once each month for the months when a Knox Life was not produced. The idea was popular, so here's the first one! I'm grateful to those who have sent me articles and links. Having material on hand makes the production of newsletters so much easier.

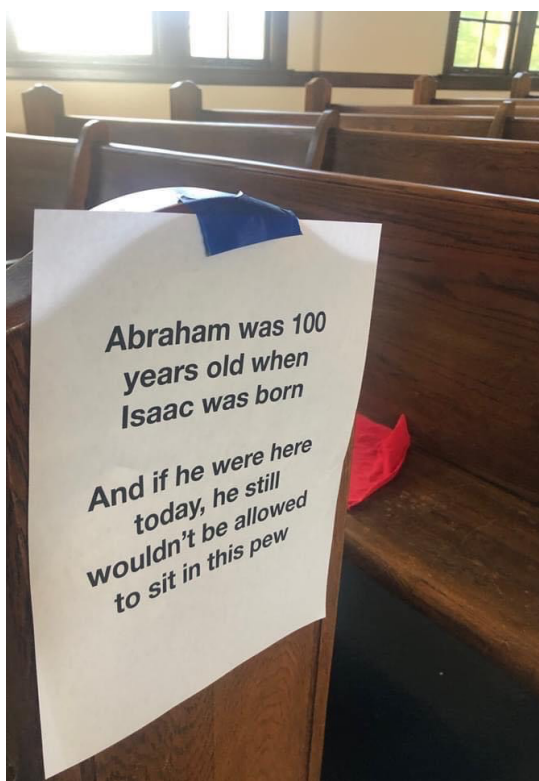
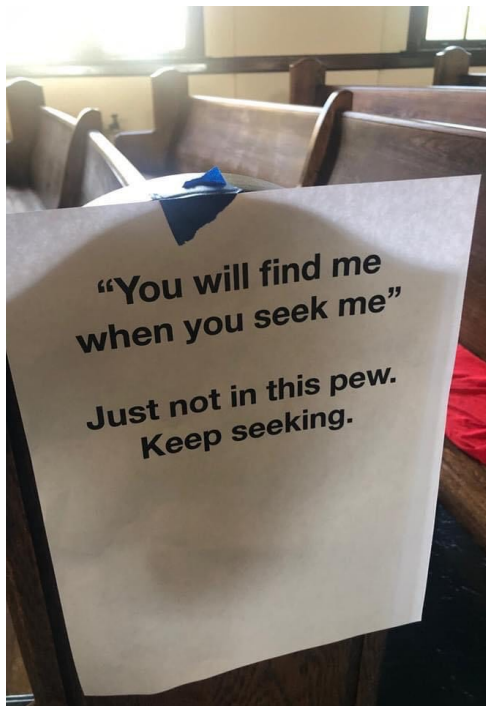
RESPONSE TO THE TREE ARTICLE: My "tree" article in the last edition of Knox Life prompted a number of people to think about significant trees in their lives and to let me know that they had no intention at all to climb any tree these days. The article prompted one person to send me a link to a really interesting interview broadcast recently on Radio New Zealand. Called "Two years with an ancient tree", it's Kathryn Ryan interviewing James Canton, an England-based author. The RNZ website describes the interview as follows:

James Canton talks with Kathryn Ryan about the two years he spent visiting and studying an 800 year old oak tree in Essex. The Honeywood Oak in Coggeshall was a sapling when the Magna Carta was signed in 1215, and once stood among a forest of 300. It is the lone survivor in that field today. James Canton's book The Oak Papers is a meditation on the life of the tree, the wider natural world and humans' connection with them. He says humans have had a close association with oak trees since pre-history.

You can listen to the interview at:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoonoon/audio/2018761548/two-years-with-an-ancient-oak-tree>

PHYSICAL DISTANCING AT CHURCH: While Knox uses clear, concise ticks and crosses to show which pews are available, and which ones are closed, one other church has taken a wittier approach.



KEEP FIT DANCING AT HOME: Occupying a number of rooms upstairs in the Knox Centre is Tangata Atumotu, a wellness and social connectedness organization mainly supporting the Pasifika community in Christchurch. A registered nurse, Suli Tuitaupe is one of the important staff members. Suli has won a number of prizes for his "dancing for fitness" sessions. He recently video-recorded one so that people confined to home could dance along. I don't think I'll be using it, since I'm not quite at the same energy-level as Suli, but I think it's great to watch. The link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/tangataatumotutrust/videos/665398200846690>

CARAVAGGIO'S BASKET OF FRUIT: The order of service for Spring Flower Sunday featured a very small picture of a basket of fruit - painted by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, probably in 1599. A larger image reveals that some of his fruit is likely beyond its best-before date. The apple has a few moth holes in it, and some of the leaves are seriously withered.



This is not because Caravaggio couldn't afford good fruit; it's because he was following the convention of including images of decay in still life paintings. It was felt important to make the point that all physical matter (even nourishing, healthy matter) is mortal. Some artists made the same point by placing a human skull amid their still life objects. An example is Paul Gauguin's aptly named "Still Life with skull".



IN RESPONSE TO "THE BOWL OF BEES":

One of the good things about lockdown was that people from beyond Christchurch could join us for online worship. One lockdown regular was Wolfgang Rehfus, who is based in beautiful Golden Bay but worships with us whenever he's in Christchurch. Stimulated by the sermon, "A bowl of bees", Wolfgang started compiling material about living at a gentler pace. That compiling has evolved into a newsletter he now produces. I'm sure he'd be delighted for me to share this latest link:

https://solarpeace.org/e/20200412_CoronaEaster.htm

VERTICAL PLANTER: Each Spring I replant the vertical planters that cover the ugly concrete posts that hold up the wall in my garden. Hopefully the next pastoral newsletter will feature an "after" shot to augment this "before" one.

Arohanui,

Matthew.



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