

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

KNOX LIFE

March 2021



Knox Church Complex

28 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch 8013

ph. (03) 379 2456, fax (03) 379 2466, office@knoxchurch.co.nz

Office hours: Mon-Fri 9.00 am-12 noon

Minister: Rev. Dr. Matthew Jack

(03) 357 0111, minister@knoxchurch.co.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland, 027 356 0215

Knox Council Clerk: Janet Wilson, (03) 338 7203

Church Office Administrator: Jane Ellis, (03) 379 2456

Visit us on the internet at: <http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz>

On Facebook search: Knox Church Christchurch.

The Spirit finds a New Form

Melanie Rakena's documentary, "The Changing Face of the New Zealand Dairy", is a sensitive little examination of a social institution trying to adapt to remain viable over changing times.

The first part of the documentary makes the point that running a dairy is all-consuming because "work" and "home" are constantly overlapping. Many of the people interviewed speak about the shop being their cradle. One says "My parents owned a dairy, and at some point, when I was tall enough to reach the till, that's when I was employed. Actually, I wouldn't even say 'employed'; that's just when I was allowed to work." Another says "I had to go to school, do my homework, make sure that I passed all my exams, and do the work in the shop. So, I didn't have a social life as other European girls would have had. I didn't feel resentful about that. Looking back, I've thought that I was lucky to have that opportunity."



The next part of the documentary gives some historical background to the generational nature of dairy commitment. A case in point is the Jeram family's business in Auckland's Ponsonby Road. The current owner / operator is Suresh (Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Engineering from Auckland University), who follows in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. The first Jeram arrived in New Zealand, from India, on 26 April, 1915, finding work as a shelf-stocker and bottle washer. He took over the shop in the early 1920s, putting his name above the door. Returning to India, his son (Suresh's father) took over. He was 14 years old.

The next part of the documentary explores the local reactions to the hard-working Indian dairy owners. Jacob Rajan notes: “Ironically, for some people, the dairy owner is seen as someone who’s quite wealthy, who’s making money off you, because they’re charging higher prices than the supermarkets, and therefore there’s that kind of resentment that happens. And then there’s just good old-fashioned racism, where you’re someone who’s different . . . People blame them; you know it’s the old migrant story: they’re taking other people’s jobs and not belonging here.” Professor Edwina Po, Director of Diversity, AUT, says that the soldiers returning after the First World War “found that the Indians were doing much better than when they left, buying up the land; and they said ‘This is not why we fought the war’, and so the White New Zealand League was started”. Professor Jacqueline Leckie (University of Otago) notes that the League not only wanted Indian immigration to cease, but further wanted Indians repatriated to India.

The next part is about the wider social and economic stresses facing the dairy owners. It was hard to survive the 1930s, because in the Great Depression few people had money to spend at the dairy. In the 1940s, with food rationing in place, the dairy owners had to become rationing



police-officers. This sometimes created resentment in the community. In the 1970s, the burgeoning of the supermarkets provided stiff competition initially for five days a week, and then with weekend trading introduced in the 1980s, competition every day. Dairy owners tried installing space-invader machines and other attractions to keep customers. The Jerams expanded their

selection of fresh-cut flowers, which Suresh noted the supermarkets struggled to source. There was a continual effort to adapt.

Then, in the last two decades, there has been an explosion in the price of tobacco, which resulted in a huge increase in armed robbery in New Zealand dairies. That was one adaptation that couldn’t be made. It’s hard to adapt when you’ve been knocked unconscious or killed.

The documentary moves towards its end with a conversation with Suresh Jeram’s son, Sandeep. Sandeep loves his parents and is proud of the shop they run; but he says “My great grandfather had the shop, my grandfather had the shop, my grandmother owned the shop, my Dad had

the shop, and that's where it's going to end. I have no plans to take over the shop or work in the shop anymore".

The economist Ganesh Nana says "Looking ahead, it's difficult to see the dairy business surviving in its current form, but something will survive. We might not even call it a "dairy". There will always be something, [though] I suppose, on the corner". Jacob Rajan says "There's something about the nature of the entrepreneurial spirit - as long as you have that, and that personal connection, I think they'll continue." Kusum Jeram says "Surely there will be some dairies around; yep; I believe in that."

-ooOoo-

I wonder if you can think of any other social institution that had functioned as a home and place of formation for generations of people. Can you think of another institution that has had to adapt to changes in society? Do you share Jacob Rajan's belief that the spirit within the institution will always express itself somehow? Do you say "yep," with Kusum Jeram, "I believe in that"?

Arohanui,

Matthew.

P.S. You can view the documentary online at:

https://www.primetv.co.nz/changing-face-of-the-nz-dairy-catch-up?fbclid=IwAR3hNup1LbAvI5HgUvB2pVVKkGjrD_5_Gq_V_aCroZHAMAJxTi6s2nxJJdk

Report of February Council Meeting

The Church Council met on 17 February. John Laing was welcomed to his first meeting as a new elder and we also welcomed Don McEwan, who is temporarily back on council, helping with the Finance Committee. Neil Lambie sent apologies for being unexpectedly unable to attend.

We have received a note from Naomi and John Suresh, giving thanks for the good wishes we sent them, as they begin a new stage of their lives, out of Christchurch. They felt blessed to have been part of the Knox community and hope to be able to call in again some time, to see us.

We recently received a handwritten letter from the UK, in which an elderly man named Norman MacLeod, asked for information about Rev Donald McKenzie, who was a minister at Knox in the 1940's. Thanks to research by both Trudy Heney and John Brouwer a lot of information was sent to Mr MacLeod to assist his genealogical project.

Christian World Service sent a receipt and thanks for Knox's donation to their Christmas Appeal. A total of \$445.30 was given.

Recently the PCANZ sent an urgent request to every parish, to investigate records of any past abuse of vulnerable people while in the care of the church, going right back to 1950. Our older records are lodged in the PCANZ archives in Dunedin, but I checked through what we have here, that is, council agendas back to 1994 and Council correspondence back to 2004. I consulted with past session/council clerks, several long-standing elders, past ministers and a current Presbytery Complaints Officer. I was pleased to report back to Presbytery that I found absolutely no trace or hint of any abuse of vulnerable people having happened at Knox.

We received a letter from Jenny Drury, Church Warden of St Luke's Anglican congregation, asking whether St Luke's might be able to hold their services in our Knox chapel again, from 11 April until mid-October this year. Council approved that request and Matthew will update the Memorandum of Understanding, which we agreed with St Luke's last time they were using our chapel.

The Worship Committee report gave us dates for all the special services and events throughout 2021. Easter falls at the beginning of April and we hope that we will be able to hold our customary Easter Breakfast this year, unhindered by Covid. Rosters for Sunday duty teams, morning tea teams and prayer-givers have been compiled and will be sent out shortly. The worship committee would like to have a few more people on the prayer roster and you are encouraged to consider offering your skills for that contribution to our services.



A Knox Cafe evening is planned for Sunday 18 April when Rev Darren Hickling, who has taken over the Christchurch Streets Ministry for the Methodist Church, will speak to us about his work in the city streets. The finance committee report noted that offerings were a little below budget at the end of December, but that property income is above budget, with the Tangata Atū Motu Trust now renting an extra room upstairs, and also renting the car parks in the South Alley beside the church. All the car parks in our main parking area are currently rented and this is a very valuable source of income for Knox.

Matthew's report noted a long list of things which have kept him busy since the last council meeting in December. He gave us advance warning that he will be taking his long overdue study leave, later this year. Study leave is compulsory for all ministers in the PCANZ, and as Matthew has accumulated his maximum allowance, he is entitled to 12 weeks of leave. He is currently working on firming up how he will use that study time. Possible overseas options are, of course, out of the question while Covid is so widespread.

The property committee reported that John Laing has agreed to take over responsibility for the Knox townhouse from Calder Botting. We are grateful to Calder for his years of care for townhouse leasing and maintenance, and thank John for being willing to take over. It was also noted that John Laing has beautifully restored the old communion table which is now in the hall - thank you, John.

The Pastoral Committee report noted that morning tea will continue to be served in the church on Sundays, as acoustics there make conversation easier, and more people tend to stay and chat, than when morning tea is served in the lounge. The monthly Sunday lunches have begun again, from 21 February, but it was decided that the occasional Saturday bus trips should go on hold, because of possible concerns about using public transport, while Covid spread could still occur.

Matthew informed us that both Abby and Megan have completed the online course for Sunday School teachers, which is required by the PCANZ. We are grateful to them both for continuing to provide monthly Sunday activities for the children.

Judging from this council meeting, 2021 will be another busy and interesting year at Knox.

Janet Wilson

The Knox Singers: Two Choirs

The Knox Singers rehearse every Saturday 5-6 pm. We explore choral music, from medieval to modern, and give two public concerts each year, as well as presenting a Service of Lessons and Carols on the Sunday before Christmas. Gabriel Baird is the Director of the Knox Singers.

A core group from the Knox Singers present seasonal anthems during Sunday worship on the first and third Sundays of each month. We rehearse for this at 9 am on the Sunday morning. These anthems are led by the Knox Church organist, Daniel Cooper.

If you are interested in joining the Knox Singers for concerts or as part of Sunday worship, please contact Gabriel or Daniel.

Is God a Musician?

There was always something deeply satisfying listening to my brother practising the piano before breakfast for his senior music exams in his last year at secondary school. The sound drifted from our lounge as he worked his way through Brahms, Beethoven, Bach and a few others. Music has no words; just organised sound and silence, but it moves us in ways that words cannot. Music has its own architecture, grammar, language and punctuation even, and it all makes wonderful sense.

At the end of his long and distinguished career as a musician, Michael Houstoun wrote this in the programme notes to his final public concert:

Originally I was planning to present a programme with more composers represented as it was to be my final recital. But the virus skittled that plan along with a lot of other plans and instead I am concentrating on the music of my two touchstones, J.S. Bach and L. van Beethoven. Their music has



been with me from the beginning and I feel I can say that it has made me as a musician and a man. They have simply forced me out of the

everyday and shown me a life that ignores the usual soap-operatic constraints which keep us mired in a perpetual shallowness. In as much as religion is a re-binding or re-linking to our deeper spiritual selves, their music has been and remains my religion. Its transports transcend belief.

Ken Booth

Faith, Film, and Fiction

The Knox Book and Film Group meets regularly on the last Sunday of the month, at 11.15am after church. One of us introduces a book they have enjoyed, and we discuss the issues it raises. You do not have to read the book first – although the details are given in advance if you wish to. Then on the second Sunday of the following month, at 4pm (or 5pm during Daylight Saving) we watch a film related to the theme. Our books and films, both fiction and non-fiction, have ranged from Johann Gutenberg and Martin Luther to New Zealand short stories, with everything in between.

All are welcome! Contact Bronwyn Wiltshire at bronwynwiltshire@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

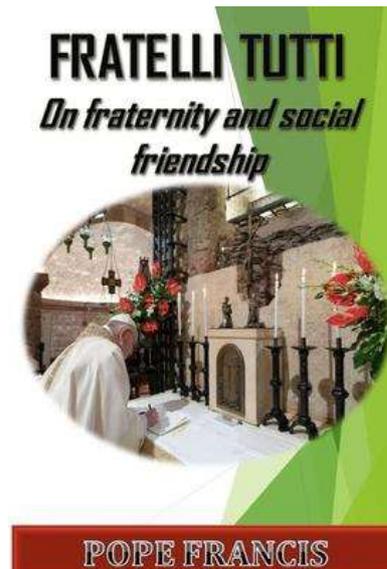
Book Sale!

Every day is Book Day at Knox! You may have noticed the beautiful bookcase in the Knox Centre foyer. There is a constantly changing collection of fiction and non-fiction books for sale. \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00. You can buy a book or two, or bring along any you no longer wish to keep. Everything will sell. This is an ongoing Knox Church fundraiser. Even in 2020, the year of Covid Pandemonium, book sales raised \$500 for Knox.

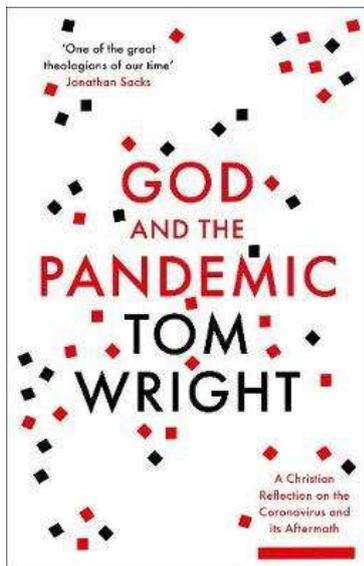
What is God doing about it?

Modern suburban life often means only seeing our neighbours when they drive by. After the quakes in 2011 we all got together, checked on each other, found out what we needed, helped with the liquefaction in friends' yards, negotiated with insurers and the city council for a Vietnamese neighbour and supported one another. We knew we were in this together.

That's a realisation we face on the global stage with food resources, pandemics, climate change, our land, and so on. Just who is in that "all" who are in it together? It's the theme of a little book by Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* (Twenty-Third Publications, 2020 - NZ\$19.00) The title is from St Francis of Assisi, who treated all people and the whole created order as his "little brothers and sisters". On one occasion, Francis made the hazardous journey to Jerusalem just to have a fraternal conversation with the Moslem leader there, who had re-captured the city from the Christian armies?



I've very much appreciated the gentleness and breadth of Pope Francis' feeling for the community of all humanity, regardless of culture, tradition, religion, or anything else. To be in constant dialogue and engagement is vital for our human future.



The other book I have read recently was a little one by Professor Tom Wright, *God and the Pandemic* (SPCK, 2020 - NZ\$16.75) You could in fact swap "pandemic" for anything else that causes problems and suffering. In the earthquakes someone did try suggesting that that it was God's punishment on Christchurch for its sinful culture (expand that last word with whatever modern changes you do not like). I'm much more inclined to agree with the comment of Anne Malcolm at the end of the movie, "When a City Falls" - "It is just random." But there are those then and now who want to blame someone for the unfairness of life.

The other side of blaming God is complaining that God does nothing about it. Tom Wright helps us see again that God has done something about it, and it has more in common with what happened in many communities after the quakes than with divine thunderbolts or displays of mighty power. Power games are all too often our human response to problems. God's answer to our human predicament is the cross. It is at once a demonstration of worldly power wanting to silence love, and love's answer to power by refusing to stop loving "fratelli tutti" and the whole of creation. In so doing, God invites us into the circle of loving all our "fratelli tutti". And it is harder than it looks, requiring of us a conversion of spirit.

Both little books make good Lenten and Easter reading. If you read e.books you can get both of them for \$12.00!

Ken Booth

Japanese Dumplings, Anyone?

Do you fancy doing something different in 2021? Want to learn something new? Find a new hobby? Challenge the brain cells a bit?

Joining the Canterbury WEA could be your answer to any or all of such desires. In an unpretentious little house in the central city, the WEA offers a wide variety of classes, clubs and courses, as it has for over 100 years. The programme for Term One this year includes such varied topics as



Organic Gardening, Middle Eastern Cuisine, Te Reo, The History of China, Amazing Arachnids of Aotearoa, Asian Philosophy and Theology, Drawing and Painting, Learning Ukulele or Guitar, and of course the aforementioned Japanese Dumplings! Plus many other topics. There really is something to interest everyone.

Check out the website: www.cwea.org.nz or their Facebook page: facebook.com/canterburywea/ to see for yourself the wide range of courses available. You can also pick up a printed copy of the current programme from the Knox foyer. Each term's programme is different and there are also interest groups which continue throughout the year. Subsidiary venues in Lyttelton, New Brighton, and Harewood Road offer a smaller selection of courses.

The Canterbury Workers Education Association was set up in 1915 and continues to carry out its original purpose of offering affordable, high quality education for both personal growth and for the development of a more just and equitable society. A number of Knox people have discovered the delights of WEA courses, but generally the WEA is not very well known. It's definitely an undiscovered treasure worthy of investigation!

Coming Services and Events

SERVICES

28 March - Palm Sunday

1 April - Tenebrae service at Aldersgate 7.30pm

2 April - Good Friday

4 April - Easter Day

23 May - Pentecost

20 June - Animal Sunday

Afternoon Communion Service - Wednesday 14 April at 2pm

OTHER EVENTS

Sunday 4 April - Easter Day. Breakfast at Knox (served 8.30 to 9.00am).

Sunday 18 April - Knox Café 7-9pm in the Lounge. Rev Darryn Hickling, Methodist City Streets Minister, will speak about his work in Christchurch.

26,27 June - Knox Singers Concert

BOOK AND FILM GROUPS

14 March - 5pm film

28 March - 11.15am book

25 April - 11.15 am book

9 May - film

30 May - book

13 June - film

20 June - book

MISSED A SUNDAY SERVICE?

Have other things intervened and you missed a Sunday service? You don't need to miss out entirely! Matthew is currently recording himself practising his sermon each week and you can watch that if you miss the actual service - or if you want to hear the sermon again! Here's how to access the practice sermon:

Go to the Knox website - www.knoxchurch.co.nz Select "News", then "Service/Notices". Select "View Document" for the date you wish. The whole Order of Service will appear so just scroll down to the Sermon heading and click on the link displayed.

That's it! Matthew will present the sermon directly to you.

Banks are phasing out cheques

You're probably aware that most banks are phasing out cheques. This has already started and by June 2021 Westpac will no longer issue or accept cheques.

Please know we value your ongoing support and will still accept any donations made by cheque as long as the banks will allow us to.

Here are alternative ways you can help support our work -

Bank Transfer

- Use internet banking, telephone banking or pop into your bank to make a donation.
- Our bank account number is Westpac 03-1705-0029641-00.
- So we know the donation came from you be sure to include these details:
 - Your name
 - Reason for payment eg Winter appeal, envelope #, donation

Automatic Payment

- Complete an Authority for Automatic Payment form from your bank. The information you need to include on the form is:
 - Bank – Westpac
 - Branch – Christchurch
 - Name of account – Knox Presbyterian Church Chch
 - Account number – 03-1705-0029641-00
 - Particulars – your name
 - Reference – reason for payment

Cash

- Payable via the envelope system via weekly collection at Church. This can be regular or irregular as you please. You will receive a tax deductible receipt at the end of the financial year.

Assistance

If you need any help to make a donation please contact –

Janet Wilson, Council Clerk janmwil507@gmail.com Ph 338 7203
Charlotte Bryden, Treasurer paul.charlotte@xtra.co.nz Ph 021 105 1404

Garden Visit February 2021

On a cloudy but warm afternoon a group of Knox people visited the garden of Linda and Phil Ducker .

A winding lane lead us to their huge “organic no dig” garden which covers a very large area on the outskirts of Halswell . Their garden was previously in a mainly rural area but now is surrounded by new housing developments – but there are llamas over the back fence!!



Our first view of the vegetable garden was a collection of LARGE white onions drying before storage. We passed through the orchard with its apples, pears, plums and a huge quince tree into the vegetable garden proper: silver beet 2ft high, brassicas, sweet corn, carrots, beans of all sorts including red broad beans, zucchinis, potatoes – you name a vegetable and you would find it was growing there! At the back of this garden were 2 brick follies. One had been built by Phil and Linda for an Ellerslie Flower show, and of course it had to have a mate!

Then we walked around to the other side of the house (which they had built themselves in the black and white and brick style of an English house). This brought us to the flower side. Even though it was in between seasons, there was a vibrant display of flowers and colours: roses, dahlias, daisies, agapanthus, hydrangeas, heliotropes, a magnificent wisteria that had survived a late frost last year, a grape vine in a cage, and a fig tree. On top of that there was a pond with water lilies – with the beginnings of an island in its middle. Then there was the fort flying the New Zealand flag keeping watch over that side of the garden.

There was a wide expanse of lawns with winding paths - an ideal place for hide and seek!

After well over an hour of walking and looking and asking questions we were very glad to sit on the terrace sheltered from the sun which had

decided to come out. We asked yet more questions of our patient hosts .

Thank you Phil and Linda – when the fireside saw pictures of your garden last year, we knew this visit would be a good one - it wasn't. It was FANTASTIC!

Jennifer McKinnon

