

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

KNOX LIFE

June 2021



Knox Church Complex

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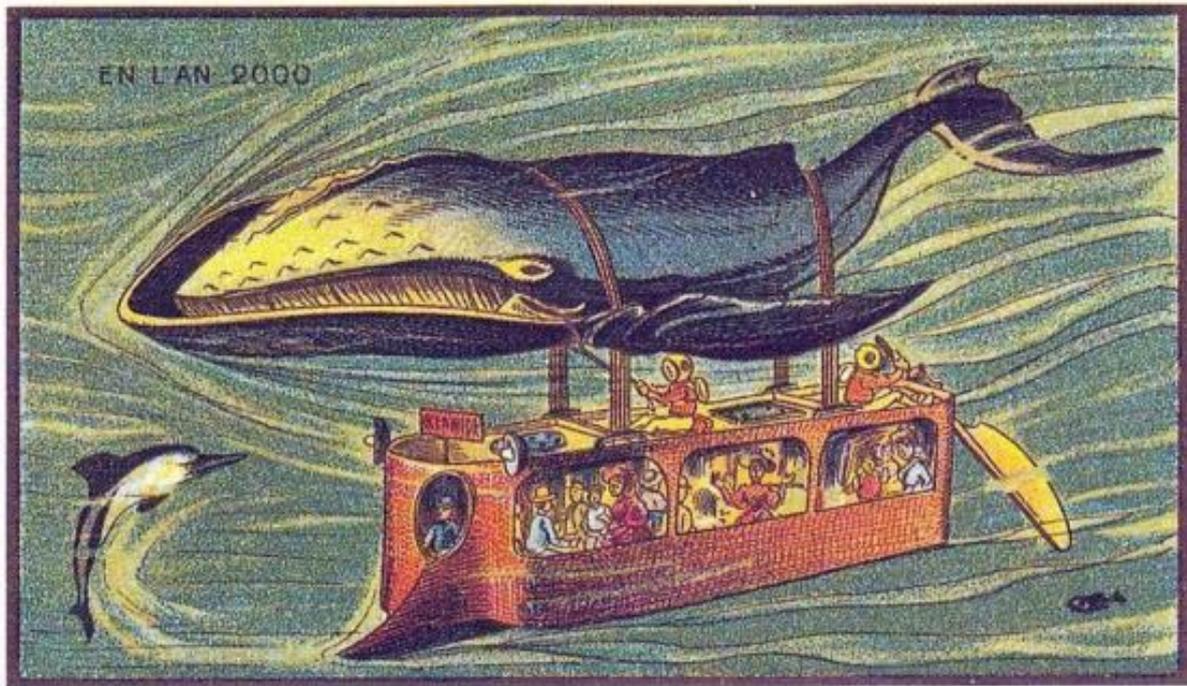
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Visit us on the internet at: <http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz>

On Facebook search: Knox Church Christchurch.

In Search of a Day Properly Appreciated

DREAMING OUT OF INNOCENCE



A Whale-Bus

A series of postcards prepared for the World Exhibition in Paris in 1899 featured pictures by commercial artist Jean-Marc Cote. They were designed to get audiences thinking about what life might be like in the year 2000. I'm sad that the "whale bus" never got off the ground (or into the water). Perhaps no one was able to develop a way of making the whale follow a route and a timetable. Perhaps the cabin's complete lack of doors created access problems. Perhaps the travelling public preferred to get on board the unicycle, segue or hovercraft. Whether or not Cote actually had any serious belief in a whale-bus, his postcard's "what if" is charming. Maybe that's why we've held onto it for a hundred years.

The charm of "what if". Kiwi comedians Jermaine Clement and Brett McKenzie asked some children to brain-storm some fund-raising ideas for a children's hospital. The children's ideas included:

- catching baddies in a trap and taking their money
- borrowing money from people and paying it back, but not the whole amount
- selling magic crystals
- gathering teeth and selling them to the tooth fairy

The interview is delightful to watch (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ca4ty7tz9xo>). It's good to witness people unencumbered by the adult logic that so efficiently closes most of our doors. Do we remember a state of mind when many things seemed possible? How do you think we might be able to recover such an open, imaginative approach to life?

APPRECIATING OUT OF LOSS

A journalist at Te Reo Irirangi o Aotearoa / Radio New Zealand did a story on a native seed planting programme being run at Tongariro Prison. Prisoners enrolled in the programme get to work in the seedling nursery within the bounds of the prison. The nursery provides a much greener and more natural environment



than can be found in other parts of the prison; it's a green sanctuary. Speaking of his experience in the nursery, one prisoner says:

Being around nature has grounded me. It's slowed me right down - I can breathe and I'm in nature and fresh air, and breathing. It's really warming; it's really healing as well. Being in a space like this - being in prison, you need this sort of space to be able to ground yourself and re-set. You know, if there's anything I can get out of it, it's a re-set for me.

Another prisoner speaks of being allowed, as part of the programme, to take the seedlings from the nursery and plant them in the earth by a river. As I heard the description of his experience, I pictured someone appreciating the sun and the sky, the grass on the ground, the water running down the river - the freedom of "no walls", the wonder of being a free creature in the "garden".

I sometimes spend time planting things in a garden. It is not, for me, a heightened or wonderful experience of freedom and open skies. I guess

that is because I am not a person who ever, seriously, has lost my freedom. There is an appreciation that comes only through loss. We learn the value of things sometimes only by losing them.

I wonder if there is a way we might be able to appreciate things without losing them - a way of moving through our day more aware of the good things we have.

GRATITUDE AND HOPE FOR TODAY

In his book, *We Celebrating People*, John Hunt describes a ritual for the start of the day. Of the morning, John writes:

You may see the sun rising, with the promise of another day. You may hear the birds singing their dawn chorus, glad to be alive, celebrating the beginning of another day. Think about the day ahead of you. Bring the day before God.

Open the curtains and look out; pause a moment, welcoming God's love with you through the day.

*Thanks to Thee ever, O Gentle Christ,
that Thou hast raised me freely from the black
and from the darkness of last night
to the gentle light of this day*

(Carmina Gadelica)

I wonder, if we were to begin the day in this way, whether we would more likely appreciate what the day holds and dream more imaginatively about its possibilities.

I wonder what you think about searching for a day more fully appreciated.

Arohanui,

Matthew.

Knitted ANZAC Poppies

It all began with a TV news snippet in late March. Sheila Cuthbertson watched a clip of two ladies up north who had knitted poppies for a Navy banner to be used in a parade.



Sheila thought, I could do something like that. So, she thought up a pattern, got out her needles and ran up a couple of samples. She wasn't quite sure what to do with them, but took them down to Knox and showed them to Matthew and to Jane Ellis. They said, they're wonderful! And a plan was devised to see if people from Knox would like to buy them and we could raise some money for the RSA.



It went sort of viral from there. Sheila set to work and, still in time for ANZAC day, had knitted 220 of the poppies. By that time the needles were a bit bent and Sheila had a sore finger. The poppies sold rapidly.

Knox people bought some and raised \$237.00. Then Bronwyn Wiltshire offered them to the NZ Youth Choir, who were singing in Knox about that time, and that raised \$267.60. Daniel took them along to the Liedertafel Choir he directs and they bought 50 of them to wear when they sang at the Dawn Parade in Christchurch, and donated \$250.00.

All told from Sheila's thoughts in front of the TV, her love of knitting and her industry, we were able to present the RSA with a gift of \$784.60.

Plans are afoot for more sales next year. With a little more time to do it all, it may spare the needles and, more importantly, Sheila's finger.

Delicious Cheese Rolls

Many thanks also to Rochelle and Barbara Howley whose delicious cheese rolls are being widely enjoyed. Hard work by the Howley duo produced dozens of cheese rolls and almost \$900 for Knox.

And finally thanks to all who supported these ventures and made them so successful.

POLYPHONY

KNOX SINGERS' FIRST CONCERT FOR 2021

After the pandemonium of 2020, the Knox Singers are pleased to bring beautiful music to Knox in June. The Singers already have built up a reputation for versatility and originality, and under their new director, Gabriel Baird, they are continuing to build a wide, classical repertoire. They also enjoy performing new works such as Gabriel's own compositions.

On Saturday 26 June at 7.30pm and on Sunday 27 June at 2.30pm, The Knox Singers present *Polyphony*, a performance of Josef Haydn's *Missa Brevis*, Gabriel Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, and two *Graduals* by Anton Bruckner, as well as other favourites. Admission costs \$20.

the Knox Singers present

POLYPHONY



musical director
Gabriel Baird

FAURÉ - BRUCKNER - HAYDN

26th June 7:30pm	KNOX CHURCH BEALEY AVENUE Entry \$20	27th June 2:30pm
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Church Council Report

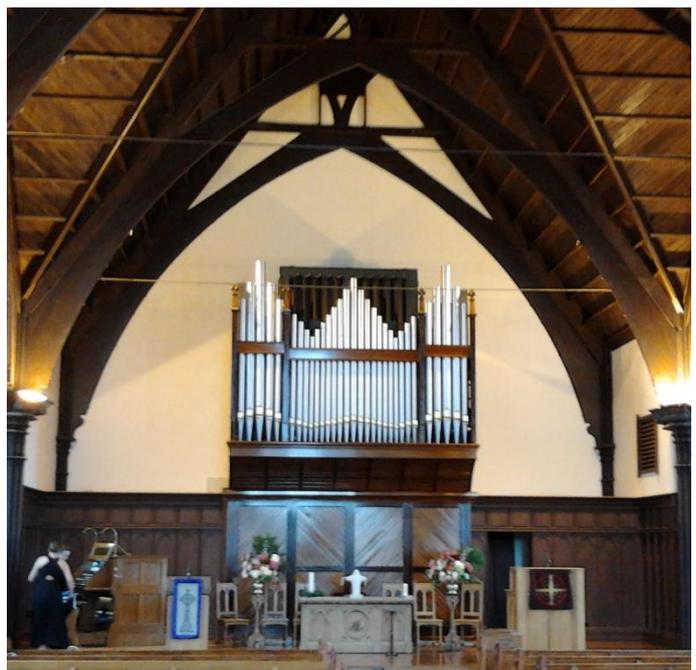
You may have noticed that the St Luke's Anglican congregation is using our chapel again, an arrangement that will continue for the next six months. It is nice to have St Luke's back at Knox. The Tangata Atū Motu Health Trust, which is based in some of our upstairs rooms, wishes to expand into two more rooms and to enter into a formal lease. We are currently arranging for a lease for two years with a further two rights of renewal. The extra rooms need some upgrading and the Knox Trust has agreed to provide the funds for that work.

The one year fixed term job working Wednesday to Friday mornings in the Knox office has been advertised and an appointment is likely to take place soon. Meanwhile we thank Di Harrington for helping us out during the long process of finding a suitable assistant for Jane. Di's willingness to step in has been invaluable.

At the PCANZ General Assembly, being held in Christchurch from 29 September till 3 October, Helen Cannan will represent Knox. We are very grateful to Helen for offering to take on this commitment.

We received very belated notice from the City Council that changes are proposed to the rates remission policy for not-for-profit groups. The proposed changes could cost Knox an extra \$6,000 per year, though the proposed conditions are not very clear. Matthew checked whether Presbytery had put in a submission but was informed that none had been made because there was a diversity of opinion in Presbytery. Matthew commented that no-one had asked for our opinion or even drawn our attention to the matter. However, he managed to get a copy of a comprehensive submission made by the Anglican Church arguing against the proposed changes, and thanks to rapid work by Charlotte and Paul Bryden we were able to use that submission as a basis for a submission of our own and managed to get it in just before the deadline. Our reasons for objecting to the proposed changes were based on six concerns: insufficient notice, lack of pre-engagement, lack of information, flawed remission assessment criteria, no cost/benefit analysis, and that the existing policy is adequate.

Council has decided to give general oversight of the organ to the Worship Committee. The new blower has arrived in NZ and installation will take place before long. Rewinding and revoicing the trumpet rank will also be done and the console may be moved. As an amusing aside on organ matters, Don McEwan read out from old Knox records that in 1904 the boys who had to physically work the blower were causing problems by getting up to mischief



(unspecified) or by falling asleep, and had to be sent to sit with the congregation in order that they might properly benefit from the sermon!

Thanks have been given to Barbara and Rochelle Howley for their wonderfully creative contributions to the presentation of our Easter services and to Doug Shaw for cooking our delicious Easter Breakfast.

April was a busy month, with an afternoon communion service and a Knox Café evening as well as all the Easter services. In May a very enjoyable informal coffee and dessert evening was held at which new people at Knox were welcomed by members of the church council.

Since the completion of the Strengthening Project at the end of last year much sorting and clearing out has been done in various nooks and crannies around the Knox Centre. Thanks, John Brouwer! If you remember the old blue plastic chairs we used to have in the hall you may be interested to know that we gave them away as we no longer needed them. Most went to the Lindisfarne campsite near Cave and the rest were taken by the Waltham Community Centre. A table tennis table has been relocated to the hall storage cupboard and is available for use.

Matthew has been involved with many events, meetings and services. Early in June he is taking some time off work to enable him to shift into his new home. Matthew is also overdue on taking study leave, which he has now arranged to take from 14 September until 31 October. He plans to follow a programme of study on Peace and Conflict issues and also on Supervision Skills. He will produce a report on his studies and anticipates that his work will be of benefit to Knox in various ways. During his absence on study leave Rev Hugh Perry will lead our Sunday services, moderate two church council meetings and attend the weekly Bible Study group.

Jennifer McKinnon, our Presbytery elder, reported on the Presbytery Gathering which was held in Ashburton in March. Amongst other matters dealt with was the Presbytery budget and it was decided that the annual levy we all pay to Presbytery will be increased. Some new ventures which were granted Presbytery Mission Fund money gave reports on their progress, but really are still getting established.

During this year's Heritage Festival Knox will be open to the public during the afternoon of Sunday 10 October.

Lastly, a plea to keen gardeners for hardy ground cover plants to fill the spaces and crowd out weeds in our carpark gardens.

The Spirit of Autumn

Barry Armstrong was recently working as a road works sign holder. Rather than being bored when there was not much traffic, he delighted in the glorious autumn leaves blowing around. Suddenly an unusual leaf flew down, and he caught it with his phone before it flew on its way again. Later he wrote a poem about it.

Here are the picture and the poem, for Knox people, with love from Barry

Lollipop Man

Stop, Stop, Stop
Red leaves carpet the quiet road
Stop, Stop, Stop
Light autumn wind stirs the leaves
Stop, Stop, Stop
Gentle fluttering as fresh leaves fall
Stop, Stop, Stop
Yellow leaf on red leaves
Thin stalk, pointed head
Arms outstretched, racy legs
Stop, Stop, Stop
Smart phone out
Click!
Spirit of Autumn captured
Stop, Stop, Stop
Truck Arrives
“Clear to send?”
Stop, Stop, Stop
“Hold, Last car 706”
Stop, Stop, Stop
“Received, sending back”
Go, Go, Go
Wave
Truck Leaves
Stop, Stop, Stop
Spirit has left
Stop, Stop, Stop.....





Lunch with Friends

There's an extra attraction for Knox Church folk, which a group of us enjoy. It's the monthly social Sunday lunches, organised by Janneke and Lacey. It's a time to socialise and get to know our church friends better as we share about our lives and discuss issues. There's humour and gentle stirring as well in a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere.

We've met at a few places over the time, but the main venue is Urban Eatery, the café in Oderings Garden Centre in Barrington. There's a sufficiently wide variety on the menu for all tastes, or there is plenty to choose from in the cabinet: frittatas, sausage rolls, filled rolls, quiches, pies, etc. Coffee and other drinks are available, all at reasonable prices.

The café staff are friendly and well organised for dealing with bigger groups. St Mark's Methodist Church from Somerfield and another regular group also lunch there on Sundays. The tasty food and lovely coffee are much appreciated. If you're like me, you'll head home for a relaxing rest and read afterward, or wander into the garden section before leaving with something else for the garden!

Stephen Best.

So, Why not Join Us!

Sunday lunch together takes place on the third Sunday of each month. It's held at the Urban Eatery Café at Oderings Garden Centre, in Stourbridge Street, just off Barrington Street. All very welcome - just put your name on the lists to be found at the church entrances on preceding Sundays.

Kuwi & Friends Maori Picture Dictionary

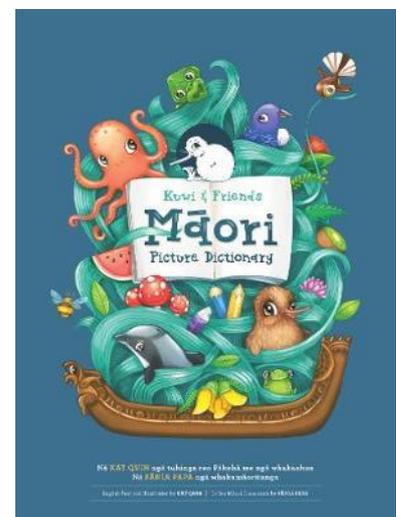
Finding it difficult to keep up with grandchildren and also understand the increased use of Te Reo in the media these days? This large colourful dictionary (papakupu) was put together by Kat Quin and Pania Papa. It has an English text and also Te Reo Maori translation.

It contains the basics of pronunciation, followed by items gathered under 66 subjects. These range from Aotearoa, New Zealand, and the universe, to the body, family trees, birds, food, formal greetings and terms of address, etc.

Some Illustrations of animals, fish, people, and other creatures have appealing little eyes. All are designed to be accurate and attractive. There is a Maori index and an English index. It is an enjoyable book to browse through as well as to consult when needed.

Nga mihi (Thank you),

Bee Bryant



Coming Services and Events

SERVICES

20 June	Blessing of the Animals.
11 July	Matariki
8 August	Peace Sunday
12 September	Spring Sunday
27 June 11am	A congregational meeting will be held to approve the budget for the next financial year.
21 July 2pm	Afternoon communion service

COMING EVENTS AT KNOX

Saturday 26 June 7.30pm and Sunday 27 June 2.30pm - Knox Singers' concert

BOOK AND FILM GROUPS

13 June 4pm	film - The Rabbit-Proof Fence
27 June 11.15am	book - The Queen's Gambit
4 July 4pm	film - The Dark Horse
25 July 11.15am	book
8 August 4pm	film
26 August 11.15 am	book
12 Sept. 4pm	film
26 Sept. 11.15am	book

Ready, Set, Go!

Go to a more active future!

We all know that exercise is essential for physical and mental health, but go to a gym, run a marathon, ride a steep mountain bike track? No thanks!

Fortunately, we can all keep fit and active without such high-powered (and expensive) exercise. There are dozens of delightful alternatives and the website www.activecanterbury.org.nz lists lots of them: groups, classes, clubs and events, It's all there: aquacise, dance, community gardens, Sit and Be Fit, table tennis, yoga, walking etc, etc. Something for



everyone! Walking groups alone number nearly 40, covering everything from walking in the shelter of Northlands Mall to full-on tramping in the wilderness.

Why not check out the “Recreation Guide for Older Adults” booklet which is hanging from the noticeboard near the book sale area? It’s available from libraries if you want your own copy. And for potential walkers there’s a whole City Council booklet giving details of walking groups.

Janet Wilson

Moving In

Early in June, Matthew took a few days leave to move into his own house. We trust it all went well, and that he has many happy years living there.



An inspiring teacher: one book and one film

Did you ever have a particular teacher who believed in you and inspired you, perhaps gave you your future career? This book and this film will remind you of that person. Or maybe you are or were a teacher, and you remember certain classes or students whom you taught. The following book and film could remind you of what a privilege it is to teach young people.

Tuesdays with Morrie, by Mitch Albom.

"An old man, a young man, and life's greatest lesson". Mitch Albom did remember his college lecturer, but his life moved on and he lost touch. He became a prize-winning author. Then one night he saw his old teacher interviewed on TV and realized he must contact him.

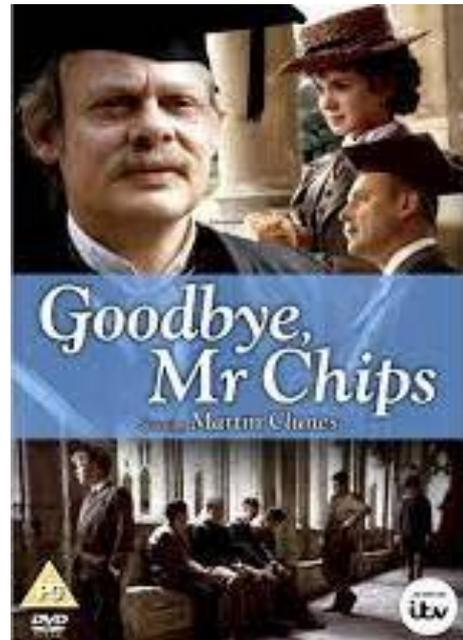
In this book he recalls the series of visits he made to his former sociology professor Morrie Schwartz, as Schwartz is gradually dying of ALS. This is a moving and beautiful book in which the wonderful professor gives out anecdotes of life as he walks towards his inevitable disease and succumbs to it. On YouTube you can find many links to his interviews. The book has also been made into a film starring Jack Lemmon.



Goodbye Mr Chips

This well-loved book by James Hilton first appeared in 1934 and has been filmed several times. The 2002 film version stars Martin Clunes as Latin master Mr. Chipping.

The film follows Mr. Chips from his arrival as a fresh, temporary teacher at Brookfields boys' boarding school in the later years of the nineteenth century. Although seemingly married to the job, Chips goes on a walking holiday, where he meets and marries the vivacious Kathie. Just before World War One, the insensitive new headmaster Ralston tries to edge Chipping out, but the boys rally round, and he is appointed headmaster during the traumatic years of World War I. The film ends with his death many years later, surrounded by his friends, colleagues and ex-students. Filmed at Winchester College and Harrow, this film is a wonderful, heart-warming production.



Bronwyn Wiltshire

Toby The Astrocat

Toby the Astrocat saw the Man in the Moon
He wanted to visit him, sooner than soon
So he put on his helmet and his spacesuit
And boarded the spaceship, with his parachute.

Up into orbit the Cat blasted his way
Out into space, up and away
He saw from his window both Venus and Mars
And looked back to Earth, then up to the stars.

A comet passed by on its way into space
And the Moon was approaching at a very fast pace
So the Cat slowed his ship and his parachute he opened
Then to its surface he gently floated.

He looked all around for the Man in the Moon
There he was! A smile and a tickle, and a cuddly welcome
But soon the Astrocat had to reboard his ship
To fly back to Earth. Wow! What a trip.

He landed in his yard and took off his suit
He scampered to his door, flip flap he was through
He ate all his bikkies and with a great yawn
Curled up on his chair and slept there till dawn.

Sheila Cuthbertson

