

# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

# KNOX LIFE

September 2023



## IMPROVING THE SITUATION

I'm composing this Knox Life editorial at a table just off the food court of the Riccarton Westfield Mall. It's about 2:30pm, and great waves of secondary school students are sweeping through the place. Different uniforms (each being worn somewhat casually) make the mall feel like a meeting place for different tribes. It has a slightly edgy energy.

I'm working from the mall because I have an appointment at the Riccarton branch of the ANZ bank. It's the only branch that had an appointment available before Monday, and I'm keen to be seen as soon as possible. The "pressing" matter for discussion is "topping up" the loan I set up 18 months ago to buy my 2016 Toyota Aqua.

Those of you who were in church on Sunday 3 September would have heard that my car had been stolen from outside my house overnight on Sunday 27 August. What most people won't know is that the car was found (damaged) a few days later, had its window repaired on Monday 4 September, but was stolen again on that same Monday night. I have decided, regardless of whether the car is returned to me again, and regardless of what its level of damage is, I need a different, less stealable vehicle. I put a deposit on one this morning, and am waiting now to see the bank.

All the evidence pointed to my car thief being a child or very young adult (position of the driver's seat, lolly papers left on the floor). There are many youth crime stories circulating at the moment. And now I find myself sitting in a shopping mall with hoards of edgy youths (boys - where are the girls?) hanging about.

The Jesuits used to say "give me the child until it's seven, and I will give you the adult", or words to that effect. There was a belief that the early formation of the human being was critical for its on-going character. At Bible Study last week, someone spoke of a programme that provided wrap-around support for young mothers in the first few years of their new parenting responsibilities. Data showed that the programme had good success and was entirely worthwhile - until funding was withdrawn and the whole thing collapsed.

I imagine that the period leading up to the election in October will be filled with much talk about youth offending, and law and order in general. I wonder what other kind of discourse might be encouraged about nurturing the generations. And I wonder what part might be played in all of that by people of creative, imaginative faith. Surely nurturing young people into good character is in all our interests. Maybe a Christian community dedicated to peace-making might have something to say. I'd be interested to pick your brains about that for the next wee while.

In the meantime, though, keep an eye out for your minister in a new car as from next week. It's red - red goes faster!

Arohanui,

Matthew



# CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council has had a relatively quiet few months, with not many major matters to consider. Matthew has been appointed Knox's Privacy Officer, a role which the Alpine Presbytery requires each church to provide. Trudy Heney has taken over as Donations Secretary and will be keeping the records of all regular donations and providing end of year receipts to donors.

Appointment of a new pastoral assistant is progressing.

A Concert Review group met with Jeremy Woodside and ascertained that his heavy programme of musical commitments means he has no spare time to train the Knox Singers for any concerts, as indeed he had indicated to us before his appointment as our Musical Director. His skills are in wide demand and we are lucky to benefit from his talents at our Sunday services.

We were saddened to hear in August that Rev Bob Fendall had died. Bob and Leita began attending Knox after Bob's retirement from parish ministry and he and Leita have been very supportive members ever since. Bob served Knox as a Pastoral Assistant for many years and people loved his cheery visits. He was always willing to lead a Sunday service if asked and was an enthusiastic member of the Knox Singers. We remember him with great affection and respect.

Another recent death was that of Rev Dr Dame Phyllis Guthardt. Phyllis was the first woman in New Zealand to be ordained into ministry and served at Knox from January 1976 until April 1984. Phyllis was prominent in the Methodist Church but her funeral was hosted at Knox, in recognition of her time with us.

Our annual Re-Birthday Appeal has been launched, aiming to enable us to upgrade audio-visual equipment in the church. The annual appeal is customarily directed towards items which are not budgeted but which would be nice to have and Knox people have responded most generously in past years.

Len Pierce has begun his next study series, based on Marcus Borg's book "The Heart of Christianity". Sessions are being held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 11.30am to 1pm and include a lunch

break for soup and rolls. These informal discussion sessions are appreciated and enjoyed by the attendees and we thank Len for organising them.

All places have been booked for the Te Reo course in October. As well as Knox people, Abi Trevathan, Presbytery's Resource Team Leader, has been invited to join us as it may be a course that other churches in the Presbytery might like to organise for their members in the future.

Matthew is planning to take two weeks of annual leave from 26 September until 8 October. He has lots of leave owing so we have encouraged him to take some of it. In his absence, services will be taken by Hugh Perry and Margaret Garland. Enjoy your break from work, Matthew!

Janet Wilson



# Coming Services and Events

## SERVICES

### SEPTEMBER

10th: Spring Sunday

### OCTOBER

15th: Animal Sunday

29th: Parihaka Sunday

### NOVEMBER

5th: All Souls Sunday

26th: Reign of Christ the King Sunday

### DECEMBER

3rd: Advent 1

10th: Advent 2

17th: Advent 3

24th: Advent 4 10.00am - (shortened service)  
11.15pm - Christmas Eve service

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 24 September immediately following the morning service and before morning tea is served.

## OTHER EVENTS

Weekly Bible Study group:

10-11am on each Wednesday morning in the lounge.

Emerging Christianity - discussion series:

10th and 24th September at 11am in the lounge. Includes soup and rolls and concludes at 1pm. All welcome.

Film group:

Usually held on the first Sunday of the month in the lounge.

1 October	5pm	Operation Mincemeat
5 November	5pm	Goodbye Lenin
3 December	5pm	To be advised

Notices in weekly Order of Service or contact Bronwyn Wiltshire  
<[bronwynwiltshire@gmail.com](mailto:bronwynwiltshire@gmail.com)>

**Look out for the Knox Centre being a voting place for the next general election  
to be held on 14 October 2023.**



# REPAIR CAFÉ AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Have you heard of the Repair Café organisation? It's a great idea.

Repair Cafés are free local pop-up events where local people can bring in their broken or damaged belongings and volunteer professional experts do their best to repair them. The aim of the Repair Café movement is to foster a culture of repairing in New Zealand.

Currently there are two regular Repair Cafés operating in Christchurch:

- 5-7pm on the third Thursday of each month at St Augustine's Anglican Church, 5 Cracroft Terrace, Cashmere.
- 5-7pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Turanga, the central library. This café can access the library equipment such as sewing machines, overlocker, soldering iron and 3D printer.

Take along clothing, shoes, bags, electronics etc needing repair. If a replacement part is needed take that along too. No charge, but a donation is appreciated.

Check out the website <[repaircafeaotearoa.co.nz](http://repaircafeaotearoa.co.nz)> It includes a monthly calendar listing the venues for repair events.



## REPAIRS FOR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

You may not need to dump your old electrical gadget when it stops working. Ecotech Services in Sydenham carries out repairs and refurbishes, recycles and sells anything that runs on electricity! They have many spare parts from cables and power supplies to screws and computer parts.

Find out more at [www.ecotechservices.co.nz](http://www.ecotechservices.co.nz) or phone 377 0773 or visit at 139A Wordsworth Street, Sydenham.



## REPAIRING OUTDOOR GEAR

Is your rain jacket beginning to leak? Does your weekend bag need a new zip? Don't throw it away!

Tucked away at 63 Gasson Street in Sydenham is a repair business that could help you. Twin Needles specialises in working with any textile based outdoor gear - jackets, bags, tents, sleeping bags, backpacks etc.

They can fix problems with zips, buckles, straps, belts, waterproofing, tears, stuffing (lots of problems), with a wide range of items. Check them out at [twinneedle.co.nz](http://twinneedle.co.nz).

## **LIVING WAGE**

Norman attended the AGM of the Living Wage on 20 July. There were 36 participants.

This is some of what was reported:

The finances of the movement are good and we have a good solid income.

Nationally, there are now 377 Living Wage Employers and because of this, 52,177 employees are now receiving at least the Living Wage of \$23.65.

Knox being involved was mentioned in the Christchurch report.

Our regional council is now an Accredited Living Wage employer and is the first regional council in the country to have achieved this.

The number of Living Wage employers in the Canterbury area has increased and there are now 34.

We heard from the Global Living Wage Affiliate Network about work to involve multi-national employers in the movement.

Norman was personally very pleased to hear that the Hutt City Council was spoken of as the most supportive council because he was involved in getting their involvement in the movement.

The previous Living Wage rate of \$23.65 had been celebrated by providing cupcakes at Living Wage meetings decorated with "\$23.65". The rate from 1 September will be \$26.00/hour.

By the time you read this we will be getting close to the General Election and the Living Wage movement will have held a Forum on 16 August to plan to ask party leaders to keep the Living Wage being paid in the core public service and start paying it to all workers in health, education, school cleaners, teacher aides and aged care workers. Knox will have had representation at that Forum. We will be making direct approaches to the party leaders on 29 September and how successful we are, will be largely influenced by showing the leaders that there is extensive support for the Living Wage in the electorate.

## **LITTLE TANE MAHUTA**

I have a little kauri  
In my small garden plot  
In the cold winter months  
He shivers quite a lot

Moira gave him to me  
A few years ago  
I said to her "Moira  
Do you know how tall he'll grow?"

Tane Mahuta  
In the forests of the North  
Has grown three hundred metres  
To put his branches forth"

She laughed at me and said  
"What really can be done?  
By the time he grows that tall  
We'll be dead and gone."

Anon E Mouse

### **Limerick**

There was a young woman called Bright  
Who could travel much faster than light  
She went out one day  
In a relative way  
And returned the previous night

## Yes To Love

It all began with an email from Paul and Mark asking if Rev. Norman Wilkins would conduct their wedding at Old St Pauls in Wellington on 3 January 2014.

This is the story of how 9 years later we travelled to St Louis, Missouri to visit Mark.

The title of this story refers to the name of a website set up by Fionnaigh Mackenzie, a member of St Andrew's on the Terrace, Wellington. Clergy and celebrants who were prepared to conduct same-sex weddings were invited to add their names and details and a little about themselves. So it came about that Paul and Mark chose Norman, who in turn, was delighted to respond with a "Yes". Paul and Mark were unable to be married in their own state in America and, having already decided to honeymoon in New Zealand, they decided to get married here too. Emails flew to and fro as plans for the ceremony took shape and they discovered more about each other. Norman will tell you that he considers Paul and Mark's wedding to be the best thing he has ever done during his ministry and the couple to be the most sincere and loving Christians he has had the privilege to marry.

The ceremony in beautiful Old St Paul's took place on a rainy, chilly day even though it was summer. Paul and Mark, dressed in tuxedos, were led down the aisle by Norman while the organist played. The two young photographers did their job and Linda sat in the choir stalls as the sole member of the congregation. It was the most memorable occasion. Some weeks later, the photographers and Norman and Linda gathered in front of the computer clasp glasses of champagne and "attended" the wedding reception in St Louis, through Skype.

We kept in touch and Paul and Mark returned to New Zealand to celebrate their 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They always said please come and visit us.

We started planning in 2019, intending to go in June 2020 but of course Covid stopped us. But far worse happened. Paul's health started to deteriorate and we knew the cancer had spread and his condition was terminal. He died in June 2021. For the next 2 years, we added some support to the great support Mark received from his family and friends.

Then at the end of 2022 we made our bookings for June 2023. Once again, emails flew to and fro as plans were made and excitement mounted. Very late on the night of 5 June we arrived at St Louis airport to find Mark waiting for us, holding up a welcome card with the New Zealand flag on it and so began our month in America. As we walked into Mark's home, he said "I hope you can feel Paul is here. He was so looking forward to you coming." Indeed, we could and once again we said "Yes" to Love.

Linda



# FAITH, FILM AND FICTION...

## Book Reviews:

### Call Me Brother

“Call Me Brother” by Kate Day (a researcher from Christchurch) is the amazing, but little-known story of Edric Baker, a New Zealand doctor who set up the Kailakuri Health Centre in a remote rural area of Bangladesh and worked there for decades, organising health care “for the poor, by the poor”.

Gareth Morgan, who has supported Kailakuri through the Morgan Foundation, dubbed Edric “New Zealand’s Mother Teresa”. Like Mother Teresa, Edric had a strong Christian faith and also, like her, he lived amongst the people in the same conditions as they did. He was totally committed to improving the health of people who had little other access to even basic health care.

“Call Me Brother” tells of Edric’s experiences during the Vietnam war, experiences which set him on his life’s journey. In his work as a member of a NZ surgical team, sent to help civilians in central Vietnam during the Vietnam War, Edric discovered that patients he had successfully operated on, all too often, went home again only to die of a totally preventable disease like dysentery, from drinking unclean water.

Over the next few years Edric visited and worked in various other countries and realised the need to develop easily learned basic health measures that almost anyone could use. At Kailakuri he began teaching and training local people to carry out these life-saving procedures. Diabetes is common in the area and Edric worked out simple processes for patients to test their own blood sugar level at home without any modern technical devices. Village health assistants were trained to diagnose and treat common problems and to support TB sufferers through the long regime of taking medication. Local village women were trained to educate and assist other women during pregnancy and childbirth. When families brought a patient who had to be admitted to hospital, the family members were taught about hygiene and healthcare, along with the patient. Healthcare by the poor, for the poor.

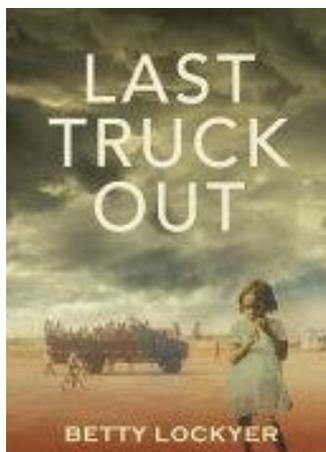
Edric Baker died in 2015 but Kailakuri continues on, going from strength to strength and limited only by the funds it receives. Its recent Annual Report notes that more than 47,000 outpatients and 1,500 inpatients were

treated during the past year - by just 77 staff, most of whom have had little or no formal education, but who have been trained on the job and who continue to attend weekly training sessions. Edric's system for providing accessible health care continues to improve countless lives.

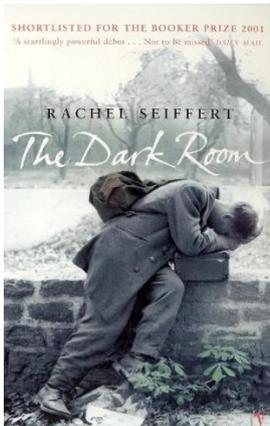
Kate Day's account of Edric's life and work is very readable, drawing as it does on his own letters to family and on interviews with a wide range of friends, colleagues and acquaintances, as well as Kate's visit to Kailakuri. Many photographs are included. The book was published in Bangladesh and any profits will go to support the work of Kailakuri.

A copy of the book may be borrowed from our Knox library in the hall. It's an inspiring story about the difference one determined person can make in the lives of others.

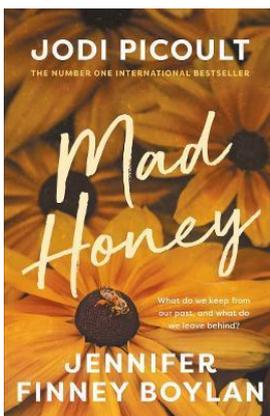
Janet Wilson



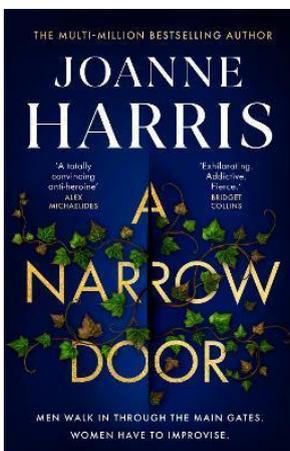
**Last Truck Out** by Betty Lockyer (2009) was lent to me by Stephen Best. It is the wonderful telling of the author's childhood growing up as a part Aboriginal and part Asian child in the 1940s and 50s in northern Australia. The title refers to the moment in World War II when families were being evacuated from Broome to the Beagle Bay Mission. Reading the book is just like having Betty Lockyer sitting talking to you. She uses the language of her folk and we learn of the total control which the Department of Native Affairs had over the indigenous peoples of Australia. Whole cultures and languages were lost forever. She tries not to be bitter and always makes friends and helps others. She later became a community worker in the area of indigenous health. Her memoir is both harrowing and inspiring.



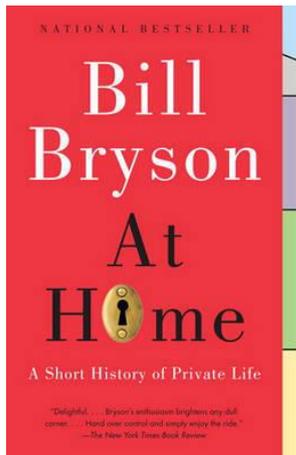
**The Dark Room** by Rachel Seiffert (2001) was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Unlike some of the young English and Americans who imagine life in World War II, this author has a German background herself. She tells three separate stories whose characters and settings reflect different aspects of the times. In 1930s to 1945 Berlin, Helmut is a young photographer who uses his skills to record his patriotic fervour, even to the end. In 1945 Lore, a 12 year old girl, guides her young siblings across devastated, divided Germany to their grandparents in Hamburg. In the 1990s, Micha is a young teacher who struggles to find out exactly what his grandfather did in the war. Through the three different characters the reader gains a realistic picture of those complex years.



**Mad Honey** by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan (2022) deals with a current issue. Olivia McAfee and Ava Campanello have each had a change of circumstances forced upon them. They end up moving to a sleepy New Hampshire town, where at first, things seem to be going well. Olivia takes over her father's beekeeping business and the everyday life of the bees is realistic and informative, as well as a background and metaphor to the lives of Ava's daughter and Olivia's son. This book is indeed a masterpiece from these gifted writers.



**A Narrow Door** by Joanne Harris (2021) keeps the reader engrossed to the end. St Oswald's School has opened its doors to girls for the first time and has appointed a woman principal. Rebecca Buckfast is just forty and highly ambitious. The new regime takes on the old guard but then the remains of a body are discovered near the school grounds. This is a psychological thriller with atmosphere. Joanne Harris brings all her familiar writing skills to this book. You can't put it down!



**At Home: A short history of private life** by Bill Bryson (2010) turns the spotlight onto the history of every aspect of daily life. After his well publicised travels in England, USA, Australia among others, the author now lives in an old rectory in Norfolk. This house dates from 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition in London. The author ‘travels’ room by room through the house exploring and explaining aspects of daily life. Why do forks have four tines not five? When was concrete invented and what difference did it make to New York? What was the effect of whale oil lamps on evening activities? With an extensive bibliography, photographs and index, every aspect of daily life comes alive. You will be blown away!!



**The Wedding Dress Sewing Circle** by Jennifer Ryan (published 2022) author of the wonderful **Chilbury Ladies' Choir**. This time the women of a small country village set up a group to repurpose wedding dresses into beautiful gowns to get round the very limited clothing rations. As always with this author, the story is based on fact. This book particularly resonated with me because my mother told me of her own wedding preparations over several years in Wellington when my grandmother queued for set lengths of fabric whenever any came into stock.

Happy Reading!  
Bronwyn Wiltshire

**Knox Church values the support of all who are involved in our community's life. Knox Church is a charity. All charitable donations are eligible for a tax rebate of 33%. Bank account - 03 1705 0029641 00. Put your name in the reference field and email your contact details to the office. For further information or options contact: [office@knoxchurch.co.nz](mailto:office@knoxchurch.co.nz) Ph: 379 2456.**



Marina Bloom Concert held recently at Knox. Marina can be found on YouTube, Spotify and Facebook – “Marina Bloom Music”.



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