

# KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

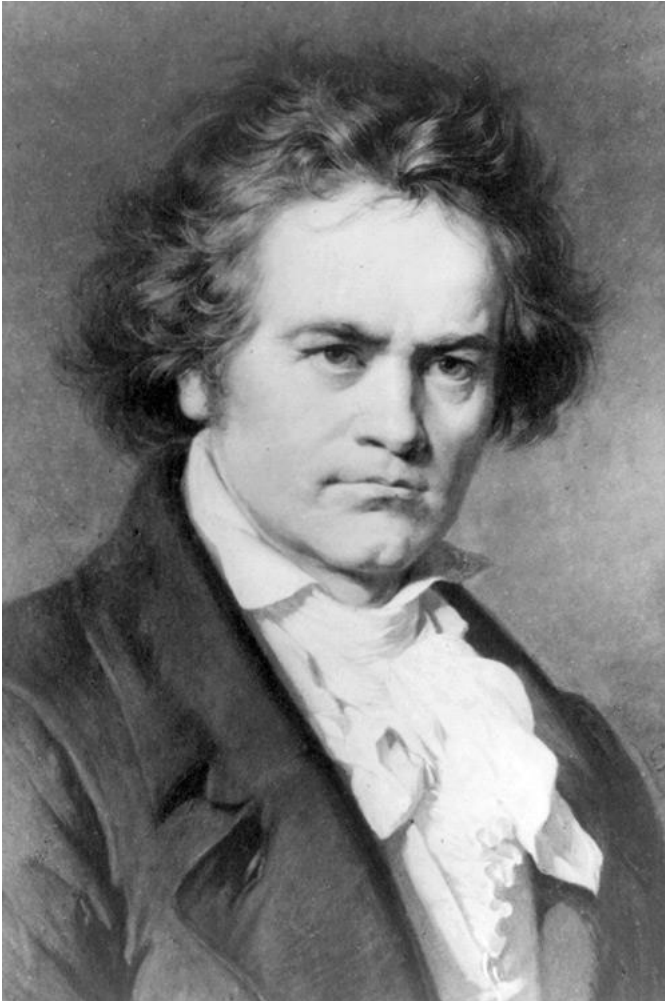
# KNOX LIFE

June 2024



**Lake Clearwater**

# Beethoven and Clerical Shirts



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VHldgzW60I>

Beethoven, who late in life could not hear, had a musical idea. He imagined a violin making certain sounds, with a second violin and a viola wrapping some other sounds around them. Also in his mind were some cello sounds that fitted well. What was this, as it sat in his mind? Was it String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130? It was all there.

Consulting the thoughts in his head, Beethoven took a quill and wrote some notes on a piece of paper. The notes were instructions for musicians who (understanding the notation) might make noises in keeping with his imagination. For the moment he kept it in the top right hand drawer of his

desk. At this point it was publishable, but was it his String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130?

In 1826, the cellist received a piece of paper from Beethoven and did some practice at home. Faithfully rendering what Beethoven had written, she did her part. In part, it now was "sound in time", but was this the String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130?

Later in 1826, the cellist got together with three other musicians, and found her part beautifully augmented by the rest of Beethoven's parts in the practice room. It was an exercise to prepare for performance. Was that String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130?

Later again in 1826, the four played to a room of people who weren't really listening. Complete, performed, not received, was this String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130? A week later, it was performed again, this time to a diligent audience who heard it. (Same work, different reception.). Did a proper hearing make it String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130?

Beethoven died, and a publisher purchased the rights to the work. It was an entity of legal possession. Was this entity now the String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130?

Using a technology whereby a piece of vinyl is scraped by a diamond tipped needle, Matthew listens to a recording of something called Beethoven's String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130. He puts the piece of vinyl into a cardboard sleeve and then into a cupboard. In the cupboard, do we find Beethoven's String Quartet No. 13 in B $\flat$  major, Opus 130? Does Matthew have the Quartet in his cupboard? Where is the real work?

I do not compare myself to Beethoven - he's far too clever and grumpy for any helpful similarity to present itself! And nothing of what I produce will ever find itself valued 200 years after I've gone.

I follow this somewhat esoteric line of pondering about "the location of the work" to explore our service of worship. Our public prayers at Knox begin in my thinking, praying, imagining. An order of service gets produced (first as a computer file, then as a printed document - which one is *the* work?) Then there is a live event (where the work is received by people who have their own things going on, and so decode the prayers in their own ways - augmenting it in the reception). Eventually the file is uploaded into the

"cloud", where it sort of persists as a "thing". A parallel version of the sermon gets viewed by people who are not with us on Sunday mornings, creating a kind of virtual augmentation. And maybe, beyond all of this, something of what altogether has been expressed by us all is received by the One of whom Jesus spoke.

In terms of our worship, where is the work? I'm pretty sure it's not in my mind. I'm pretty sure it's not in the pieces of paper we hold in our hands for an hour on Sunday. Maybe it's more truly in the act of our gathering for prayer (this is where my sympathy lies). But maybe the online people at our shoulder afterwards are part of it too. And maybe it's all about our offering it to eternity. Worship is, after all, an "offering".

## **Clerical Shirts**

My black clerical shirt is beginning to show some signs of wear around the collar. Wee bits of white are coming through the black. The shop where I've bought clerical shirts previously doesn't seem to be stocking my size and colour just now. So I've found myself looking at other options. The broad search (enhanced by my properly dressed friends) is bringing me into contact with free-trade concepts.

A colleague recommended that I buy from Watts and Co. He said "Pretty [expensive], but good quality and not made by children chained to a sewing machine. As Percy Dearmer pointed out: 'A modern preacher often stands in a sweated pulpit, wearing a sweated surplice over a cassock that was not produced under fair conditions, and, holding a sweated book in one hand, with the other he points to the machine-made cross at the jerry-built altar, and appeals to the sacred principles of mutual sacrifice and love.'"

Another colleague has drawn my attention to shirts made by a sole producer in Nigeria. I like the idea of wearing a shirt made by a real person, rather than by a firm. The trouble is that his shirts are quite expensive and he works from Nigeria, the international SCAM home of the world.

I'm making up my mind!



I wonder how ethically informed your purchasing is, and how much you know about who made your clothes.

Arohanui,

Matthew

## **Church Council Notes**

Our Easter church services were well attended and much appreciated, with Matthew's Lenten theme of Covenant culminating in a joyful celebration on Easter Day. Both the music and the dramatic decoration of the sanctuary area greatly enhanced the services. Knox is blessed by having many talented people who contribute willingly to give us creative and stimulating experiences. Thank you, Matthew, Jeremy, the Knox Singers, visiting musicians, Rochelle and Barbara, Doug, Jennifer and the Easter Breakfast helpers.

Sadly, we farewelled two longstanding Knox elders recently. John Collins had served on the session/church council for decades and Noeline Bain, who joined Knox after marrying Stuart Bain, also served on the council.

Although neither Noeline nor John, was able to attend church much in recent years, they both retained a great interest in Knox matters.

Matthew has reconvened the Public Questions group and about a dozen people are currently deciding where to direct their interest and efforts this year.

At the May council meeting Don McEwan, Convener of the Finance Committee, reported that Knox is currently recording a less-than-budgeted operating deficit. Although total expenditure for 10 months of the financial year is over budget, our net deficit is much less than budgeted thanks to increased income from offerings, property, and investments. Increased hiring of the Knox Centre, including extra rooms leased to Tangata Atumotu, together with greater-than-budgeted long-term investment rates have helped to bring about this pleasing situation. Council has decided not to hold an extra appeal for funds this year.

Knox maintains a good relationship with our close neighbours, Presbyterian Support Upper South Island and periodically their Community Relations person comes into the office to have morning tea and a chat. Megan, who has held that role for several years, recently brought over newly appointed Rae Thomas to introduce her to Matthew and Lynda.

The Property Committee continues to work quietly in the background checking, repairing and cleaning our buildings and carparks. The hedge has been cut, the windows of the Knox Centre have been cleaned and the flat roof has been cleaned of algae and pigeon poo. Minor maintenance in the toilet areas has been done. Unexpected extra maintenance is required for the organ and we are fortunate that the Knox Trust will cover that unbudgeted cost. The Knox Trust has agreed to allow us \$20,000 annually to help with maintenance - the so-called Contingency Fund. This fund has been limited to \$5,000 for many years so the increase is greatly appreciated.

Council has approved holding an Open Afternoon in the church during this year's Christchurch Heritage Festival. Knox will be open to the public on Saturday 19 October and will feature an informal programme of choir singing and organ music.

Janet Wilson

# COMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

## Coming Services

Sunday 9 and 16 June	Art display by Peter and Joyce Majendie
Sunday 30 June	Matariki
Sunday 7 July	Service featuring jazz music
Sunday 4 August	Peace Sunday
September	Season of Creation

## Other Events

Saturday 8 June - official closure of the Knox APW Fireside Group. 2pm in the chapel for members to meet together as a group one last time.

Shalom discussion group - 11.30am on selected Sundays, usually second and fourth, in the committee room. Varied topics relating to aspects of theology.

Public Questions group. Occasional meetings concerning important societal issues. Meets on Sundays at 11.30am on dates advised in the Order of Service beforehand.

Film group - first Sunday of the month at 4pm in the lounge (5pm during summer months). Everyone welcome. Come a bit early to enjoy a hot drink and chat.

Shared lunch in the lounge - second Sunday in the month. Held about 11.30am in the lounge. Bring a small plate of food to share, but feel free to come without a plate as there's always plenty of food.

Café lunch together every third Sunday in the month. Held at 12noon in the Black and White Café in Merrin Street, Avonhead. Names on the list at church or email <[jannekenuysink@gmail.com](mailto:jannekenuysink@gmail.com)> by the preceding Wednesday.

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

Read the weekly sermon and the Order of Service and the notices. Catch up on previous sermons and get the link to watch Matthew's video of his sermon practice.

NB. If you are unable to get to church these days, you are encouraged to contact Lynda in the church office to put your name on the list of people who receive weekly emails containing the link to Matthew's practice video of the sermon. Click the link and you can watch Matthew on YouTube even if you can't come to church in person.

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## Dear Baroque Music Lovers

The Vivaldi concert was a resounding success! We are so pleased to be able to showcase such talented, emerging artists. We would love to share a video of Antonio Vivaldi - Cello Concerto C major with Natsune Yuge so that those of you who were not able to attend or were at the Oamaru and Timaru concerts do not miss out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6nJmH8chSI>

We are already preparing our next Travel Through Time concert with Back to Classic. This concert will feature Mozart's masterpiece Divertimento KV 563 and other hidden gems of string trios from the Classical Music era.

So enjoy the video and we look forward to seeing you at the next concert!

For more information google The Beautiful World of Baroque Music.

Kind regards

**Tomas Hurnik** on behalf of Baroque Music Community and Educational Trust of New Zealand



# Living Wage

Neil Lambie and Norman went to a training put on by Living Wage. The purpose was to learn how to strategically get organisations to pay their employees the Living Wage. Norman writes:

Some points of interest:

The Living Wage movement had an interest in the City Council not selling its assets. The Council has committed itself to paying the Living Wage but if it sells organisations such as the Port or the Airport, the new owners will not be obliged to pay more than the minimum wage. Our co-ordinator, Nathaniel, embarked on a very strategically thought-out process to persuade the Council not to sell our assets. It came down to needing to change the vote of one councillor. This was achieved.

We were asked to pair off and interview each other as to why we were involved with the Living Wage movement. I said that I believed that the purpose of the Church was to enable people to live the most fulfilled and good lives that they could. To do my best to achieve that was my purpose as a church minister. Being paid enough to live on was necessary for that, so it was right for the Church to support the Living Wage movement. My interviewer knew how to ask the relevant questions and asked me why I was committed to the Church. So, the largely secular listeners heard, what is described in old fashioned terms, as my testimony. I think it was well received. When it was my turn, I asked my “interviewer” how come she knew how to ask such relevant questions? She said she was a trained counsellor.

We have all heard of the Golden Rule of treating others as we would want to be treated. We heard about the “Iron Rule” which is to not do something for someone else that they could do for themselves. Oh dear! Does that mean that I should not open the door for ladies and generally try to behave as an “old fashioned gentleman?”

Norman Wilkins



Frauenkirche Dresden

# Give Peace a Chance

With Anzac Day just behind us, I want to share with you all, two recent experiences at the end of our two months in Europe.

People here are very aware of having two wars on their doorstep, and we have stayed with two close families who are directly involved.

The wife of one of Richard's English brothers is from Ukraine, and they now live in Portugal. When the war started, her son with his wife and three children drove all the way across Europe and lived with them for a year. But the children were not happy, so the family moved back to Ukraine. Now, with the constant stress of the war, the family is considering returning to Portugal.

One of my old friends in Germany has a son who is married to an Israeli woman. They live in Tel Aviv with their three children. They were booked and checked in to fly to Germany last Friday 19th April, but that morning Lufthansa cancelled all flights from Israel.

With all this on our minds, and completely by chance, we attended two moving and timely Protestant church services for peace!

On 19th April in Dresden at the iconic Frauenkirche, devastated in the World War II firebombing and lovingly restored after the unification of Germany, we attended what was advertised as an opportunity to hear the organ. In fact, it was a brief service for Peace and included singing the familiar *Donna Nobis Pacem*.

Two days later in Bonn, on our way to Beethoven's birth house, we spotted a church hosting a concert by a visiting community choir. The theme was Give Peace a Chance and there was a collection for Ukraine. One of the songs they sang was another favourite of the Knox Singers: John Rutter's "For the Beauty of the Earth".

What we experienced by chance was unmissable.

Please continue to pray for Peace.

Bronwyn



Namen-Jesu-Kirche (Name of Jesus Church)

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**“The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest possible amount of feathers with the smallest amount of hissing.”**

**Jean-Baptiste Colbert, finance minister for Louis XIV in the 17th century.**

# I'm Just One Person - I Can't Stop Climate Change

Well, no. But there are things you can do to help. Here are measures recommended by several hundred lead authors and review editors of reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

1. Use your vote to choose a government or local authority advocating for strong climate change measures. This is considered the most important action you can take.
2. The second most effective action is to reduce flying and fossil fuel transport. Flying is the most polluting activity an individual can undertake and makes up a large part of the carbon footprint of rich people. And yes, if you fly even occasionally you are rich by world standards - globally only one tenth of people flies at all so you are in the richest ten per cent of humankind.
3. Choosing electric and public transport options whenever possible will also make a difference to your personal contribution to polluting emissions. Walking and cycling are particularly helpful for creating fewer emissions - maybe just puffing out a bit of extra CO<sub>2</sub>.
4. Eat less meat! Producing animals for meat has a huge effect on the environment, as we in New Zealand know. Almost half of our national greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture. The scientists pointed out that most people in wealthy countries (that's us) eat more meat than is actually healthy for them. Try eating more non-meat meals and help both yourself and the climate!

“Many a mickle makes a muckle” as the old Scottish saying goes! (Lots of little bits make a big bit.)

Janet

# Nataliya



Nataliya and her husband arrived in New Zealand in late 2022 after acquiring a special visa for Ukrainians who have family here. She went to live with her daughter's family in Burnside, having arrived with only a spare set of clothes and not speaking any English. Some months later, her daughter-in-law Kate, arrived from Ukraine and lived with them initially. Kate knew more English so she and Nataliya set about learning how to navigate the bus system and get around Christchurch city.

Kate and Nataliya turned up at Kairos Freestore one night when I was volunteering and we soon became friends. I brought Kate and Nataliya along to Knox Church and, even when Kate got a job which prevented her from joining us on Sundays, Nataliya was still very eager to come along. So, each week I would drop her home after Kairos Freestore on Friday nights and then pick her up for church on Sunday mornings. They were very quiet car rides!

Nataliya had a routine after church, to go for a walk around Hagley Park and feed the ducks, until one day she told me (via Google translate); "Apparently I am not supposed to feed the ducks so now I watch them." After she admired the flowers and ducks, she would go to Tūranga (Library) where she would practice reading English books during which



time she made friends with a Polish staff member. She bussed home when the library shut.

I was told by Nataliya; "Children and flowers are my favourite." She was so appreciative when she received the posey of flowers in the Spring Service.

Nataliya felt so comfortable and welcome at Knox and appreciated how happy everyone is. She really enjoyed the Knox Singers' performances and organ pieces.

The happiest I saw her was during the service with the blessing of the pets and getting to pat the dogs. Her confidence in communicating through Google translate or in bits of broken English increased since she began attending Knox and she became more confident to attend the doctor's practice on her own and ask strangers for help. She really enjoyed the cups of coffee and biscuits after church and was always very grateful for the hospitality shared with her.

Much of Nataliya's time was spent crocheting items of clothing for herself and others. I think it was her way of showing appreciation for people when she didn't have much to give.

Nataliya was looking forward to seeing her neighbour and being in her own home with her flowers which her neighbour had been caring for. She sent me the photo of her orchids in bloom in her kitchen. When asked what meal she's looking forward to having at home, she enthusiastically wrote out "herring and lard". Nataliya's strength, courage and gratefulness was evident beyond words. She is truly an amazing, strong woman.

Nataliya and her husband live in the city of Kharkiv, the second largest city in Ukraine and very close to the Russian border. Please pray for their safety, protection and guidance as well as peace in Ukraine. Feel free to let me know if you have any messages you'd like me to send her.

Thank you for embracing Nataliya and being a safe community for her.

Jo

# Tanzania Safari

The Columbus family celebrated the completion of a very lengthy redevelopment of a property of my late husband's by going: "On Safari."

"This safari provides the quintessential Tanzania safari experience and aiding a Wild Life biologist's studies."

March 9<sup>th</sup>: A typical day - Up early (wake-up call before 6am) to the Ngorongoro Crater. Full day game drive with picnic breakfast and lunch. Later, travel back up the Crater walls to camp overnight (5pm return).

For 14 packed days four of us "endured" - most breakfasts in the dark, sitting in an open 4-wheel drive vehicle for hours and hours on end, watching animals, birds, insects big and small, photographing and learning from a Wild Life biologist guide. Most evenings we arrived back at 5-6 pm, had sundowners around a camp fire, dinner in the dark, an armed escort back to our individual tents, deleted daily photos and bed.

Heaven!

Marjorie Columbus







Afternoon nap time.



Mum on the right with three-month cubs after a successful lunch



THE PHOTO.

# Being Embraced by Christchurch

I guess when we make a "sea change" in our lives there will always be thoughts of rejection - are these preconceived? In my case, the very thought of "breaking into a new scene" simply added more stress to what had already been the nerve-wracking process of shifting house. Yes, one of my daughters lives here and I have several cousins nearby who are loving and supportive, but I didn't want to "lean" on them. Yes, there were odd occasions when I felt negative "vibes" - do these people feel uncertain/uneasy about an "interloper"? Yes, there have been roads where I think maybe I don't want to go down, where I've felt that "strangers" are a threat but on the whole the "roads" I've travelled are places where I've found shared anxieties, "no pressure" and certainly a welcome mat.

From the outset, my Knox family has been very welcoming despite me landing in their midst when Covid was still very much on everyone's radar. "Social distancing" didn't figure in the warmth in people's eyes (masks obscuring smiles). Here I've found peace, comfort and a sense of belonging.

Very soon after I arrived, I managed to fall flat on my face outside the Arts Centre. A lovely young woman out for a lunch-time stroll and an equally lovely young man out for a jog, came to my aid. The woman sat on the road with me, rang 111 and then phoned my daughter. The paramedic called an ambulance and while she was giving me a very thorough check over, my daughter arrived and was offered support by the young woman and, the young man came back to check on my progress - Cantabrians at their best! All the while, my mother's advice was ringing in my ears: "When you go out, always wear good underwear." That day I had on a VERY elderly camisole - sorry, Mum. Needless to say, I ended up with two very black eyes which "bled" down to my chin - thank goodness for sunglasses and masks!

Going "cold" into a new Mah Jong group wasn't easy. Happily, very quickly I felt welcome, not a "stranger". When it's all boiled down, it's the connection and company that really matter (but it is quite nice to win the odd game or two).

Likewise, when I approached a handy NZ Friendship (used to be Probus) group, I felt accepted "sight unseen" - little did I know then that they were already measuring me up as a potential "office bearer"...

I have certainly found some wonderful new freedoms. The freedom to be myself; to express myself without fear of censure; the freedom to do (or not) as the weather permits; the freedom of not constantly feeling I have to "measure up" to someone else's expectations and the freedom to indulge my love of music.

I love Auckland where I grew up, I love Wellington where my children were born, now I'm loving living in Christchurch - the soul (and music) of Knox, a walk along the beach, a cuppa with friends, laughter during a game of Mah Jong, a genuine smile at the petrol station/supermarket... Can we feel embraced by a city (town, village)? Yes, I believe we can!

June W

## Quivery Quakey

Shakey shakey quivery quakey  
The little grey mouse ran out of her hole  
Her burrow it shook – she didn't even look  
Out of there she hurried – her feet they scurried

The leaves on the trees were all falling down  
The birds up high were flying around  
The spiders were falling out of their webs  
And the snails were woken up in their beds

The little grey mouse cried "What's going on?  
The earth, it is moving – why – for how long?"  
The ground it did rumble and rock and roll  
The mouse lost her balance and fell down her hole

Then all went quiet and still once more  
The earth stopped shaking – not quivery quaking  
The little grey mouse was safe and sound  
Safe once more in her hole in the ground.

Anon. E. Mouse

# Marching for Palestine

We discovered from our 17 year old granddaughter, Ruby, that there is a Ceasefire March for Gaza held every Saturday starting at 1pm from the Bridge of Remembrance. It is organised by the Palestinian Solidarity Network Aotearoa. We're very proud of Ruby, who has been going on her own for most of this year, and we asked if we could join her. You may have seen something of these marches which are taking place in our main centres and also all over the world. Usually there are about 200 people who gather, some carrying Palestinian flags, and others with placards. It is very well organised and people are respectful, peaceful and listen to speakers who tell stories about their friends and relatives who are suffering in Gaza. We are also urged to boycott certain products and companies which support Israel in some way.

Here are two of them:

McDonalds, who provide free meals for Israeli soldiers and allow their brand to be associated with the genocide in Gaza.

Caltex and BP who are involved in extracting petroleum products from within Palestine's maritime boundary for the benefit of Israel.

We usually march down the Cashel Mall as far as High Street, then back along Hereford and then along Oxford Terrace. Yes, there is a lot of chanting and noise but in our experience there's no extremism but instead a general air of sadness about what is happening. It's a small thing that we can do which in the big world may make no difference but maybe it will.

Who was it who said?

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing."

Linda and Norman Wilkins





We are a new business launching in centres around New Zealand.

The idea is that some patients must leave hospital after an operation or procedure/treatment but don't feel able to fend for themselves for a while, especially if they live alone with no help available.

We can offer a comfortable bedroom and meals in accessible homes for those that need a bit of TLC to recuperate.

All our hosts are friendly, welcoming people who have met specific requirements to hold a Hosting Certificate, including references and a check by the Ministry of Justice.

### ***Benefits of a CaringStay***

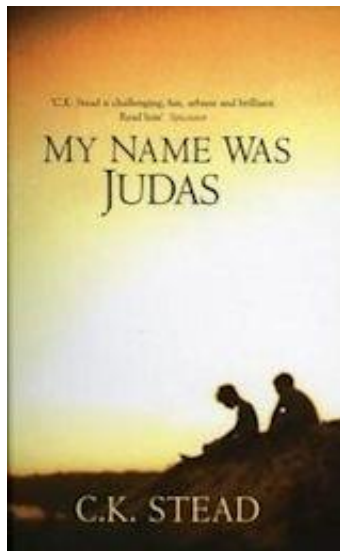
- You can book your stay on the website [www.caringstay.co.nz](http://www.caringstay.co.nz).
- Our private homes, hosted by caring individuals, provide the care and support you need.
- We will welcome and look after you during your stay but we cannot give any medical or nursing care.
- It is short term.
- Driving Miss Daisy can deliver guests to us and transport you to medical and other appointments. Pre booking is essential.
- Nurse Maude carers can be organised by hospital staff if necessary.

***For local information feel free to phone Kate 0211294486***



# FAITH, FILM AND FICTION...

## Movies and Books



We remember Judas, who betrayed Jesus to the Roman soldiers. But what if Judas chose to do this in order to fulfil the prophecy and support Jesus? C.K. Stead is one of the finest New Zealand writers, and **My Name was Judas** (2006) is no exception. Well written and convincing, it challenges the reader to think about belief, endurance and loyalty.



Cherry Simmonds grew up in the back streets of Liverpool in the 1950's and 60's. In **Nobody in Particular** (2000) she writes about her life there. As the youngest of nine children in an Anglo-Irish family, there was always something going on! In those years Liverpool changed from the despondent, rationed years of the 50s to the Swinging years of the Beatles in the 60s.

Then in 1972, Cherry Simmonds left Liverpool for a new life in New Zealand, with her husband and six year old son. In **The Smell of an Oily Rag** (2006) she describes the long voyage in a Russian ship and the trials and fun of a new life, including, of course, the "Bring a plate" experience familiar to every new immigrant to NZ! But after her years growing up amidst the poverty of Merseyside, Cherry can handle, with humour, anything that life brings. These two books are a wonderful read.

Happy reading.

Bronwyn Wiltshire



Methven

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.

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