

KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

KNOX LIFE

March 2025



Mount Cook

Life Saver



In December of 2005, a number of "white Australians" objected to the presence on Cronulla Beach (a South Eastern beach suburb in Sydney) of increasing numbers of Middle Eastern people. Muscle cars full of angry young men, festooned in Australian flags, went down to the beach. Softball bats and fists were used to move on the Middle Eastern men. Hijab wearing Middle Eastern women were shouted off the beach or left the beach to attend to the injuries sustained by their husbands, boyfriends or brothers. Bogan commentary made it clear that Cronulla was a white beach, and brown people were not welcome there. Brown people should just go back to Lakemba - or to Pakistan, Afghanistan or wherever. When the quite new minister of St Stephen's Uniting Church in central Sydney suggested that Australia had a problem it needed to deal with, he was told that, as a new immigrant in Australia, he just didn't know what he was talking about. Clearly, blood, violence, territorialism and racism aside, there was no problem.

The photo of Zayd Alameddine comes from a much later TVNZ story about a number of Middle Eastern people qualifying to work as surf lifesavers at Cronulla beach. Zayd has no memories of the riots during which his people were told that they didn't belong. He was too young at the time of the riots to remember. But, on qualifying as a life guard, he's aware of the history of the beach at which he now guards life. Sometimes we move from unhappy history into a greater wholeness. In the greater wholeness, white people and brown people are rescued from the waves by Zayd. One imagines that no one saved from the sea objects greatly to Zayd's having come, by generations, from the Middle East.

To my lover: You're not Middle Eastern, my love; but if you were, that would be just fine.

To my God: Help us all, O God, to become life savers.

Lines of sight between weaklings



Let's try not to know who these two people are. Liberated from that, let's wonder what we make of the interaction captured in this photo.

Both are men. Where are the women?

One man is taller. He is the one who is speaking. His hair and eyebrows point forward, giving him an advancing presence in the scene. His tie is colourful, giving him a sense of significance. His line of sight has him not eyeing the other man. He is speaking into a space just this side of his conversation "partner". One wonders whether maybe his words aren't actually framed for others.

The other man, shorter and less colourful, not speaking, is looking his taller interlocutor right in the face. He is seeing him. How would you describe his expression? I wonder whether he might be enjoying his own capacity to not speak while others blab. I think I see on the shorter man's face a delight in realising an advantage. The shorter man now knows that he can beat the taller one. Maybe that's what's moving the slight smile on his face.

Looking for a title for this photo, many might choose to include words other than "weaklings". These two people, at the time of the taking of the photo, had significant global power. Each had codes to unlock nuclear capacity for weapons. I call them "weaklings" because their use of power, thus far, has shown them to be morally weak. They have no honour or moral strength

To my lover: My love, may all our conversations make light, peace and love.

To my God: Give us better leaders, O God, than we deserve.

* * * *

Anyone Want A Little Jaunt Out Of Town?

We're planning a little jaunt out of the city on Thursday 27 March for anyone who wants to join us. It's all very low key and no fuss - just turn up on the day.

We'll make use of the bus that stops in Victoria Street almost opposite Knox. It's free with a Gold Card and will take us out to Rangiora where we'll be able to wander the shops or sit in a café for coffee or lunch, before catching a bus back to Victoria Street.

We'll catch the Number 1 bus which stops opposite Knox at 10.40am and reaches the Rangiora Town Hall at about 11.30am. Returning buses depart from the Rangiora Town Hall at 12.22pm, 12.52pm, 1.22pm, 1.52pm and so on, so you can decide for yourself how long you want to linger there.

Before Covid we had a number of trips like this. Other possibilities for bus trips from Knox could be to Kaiapoi, Pegasus, Woodend or Waikuku if people are interested.

There's no need to do any booking. Just be at the bus stop (by the barber's van) by 10.35am on Thursday 27 March. The bus could be a little early!

Janet Wilson
Pastoral Committee

Church Council Notes

The Knox Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

At the February meeting, the first for 2025, we were pleased to welcome three new members – Jo Fox, Murray Winn and Paul Westrupp.

Janet Wilson has retired from the position of Council Clerk after fifteen years of outstanding service. Janet has been a tower of strength through very difficult times, including the disruption caused by significant damage to the church as a result of earthquakes, followed by a lengthy rebuilding process. Strengthening and refurbishment of the Knox Centre was also required. The Covid Pandemic posed additional challenges. Throughout her time as Council Clerk Janet provided calm, considered leadership. We are pleased that she continues to serve on the council.

It is hoped that the exterior of the Knox Centre will be repainted before the winter. This should bring the appearance of the Knox Centre in keeping with the renewed church and the interior of the Knox Centre. Some patching of plasterwork on the columns is required, as are repairs to some of the downpipes and replacement of the window and door panel at the bottom of the exit from the upstairs flat – now occupied by TAT. A request has been made to the Knox Trust for financial assistance for this project.

The Finance Committee reported that the church accounts are currently looking favourable compared to the budget. While an operating deficit is still likely, it is hoped that it will be less than previously predicted. Offerings have increased, and the lease to TAT continues to provide a healthy income. The overall insurance invoice was 7% less than we paid last year.

Those attending the Christmas services appreciated the creativity and skill of the organist and Knox Singers, the beautiful decorations in the church and, of course, the careful and thoughtful words from Matthew. The retiring offerings on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were sent to Christian World Service who have acknowledged the receipt of \$593.40. In addition, many Knox people contribute privately to the CWS Christmas appeal.

Jean Brouwer
Knox Church Council Clerk

COMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Lent 2025 Slavery - Longing for Freedom

9 March - 10:00am

Lent 1 - Slave to Egypt



We explore the experiences of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt. In Exodus 3:1-10, Moses is called to advocate for his people's freedom. In Matthew 20: 20-28, Jesus is described as living his life as a "ransom for many", a ransom being a price paid for the freedom of another. Is this a Lenten vision of an Easter freedom?

16 March - 10:00am

Lent 2

Slave to the hardened heart



In the next chapter of the Egyptian story, Moses finds his liberation efforts frustrated by the Pharaoh's "hardness of heart", Exodus 7:1-7. What is hardness of heart, who suffers when leaders have it, and how can it be defeated? We also look at Paul's agonized characterization of a heart and mind at war, Romans 7:14-25.

23 March - 10:00am

Lent 3 - Communion

Slave to the Father of Lies



In an argument with the Pharisees, who insist that, being children of Abraham, they are free, Jesus disagrees. He tells them that they are in fact enslaved children of the "Father of Lies" - John 8:31-44. We look at the power of the lie, and how truth sets us free.

30 March - 10:00am

Lent 4 - A Slave's Tale



We look at the letter of freed slave Jourdain Anderson to his one-time Master, responding to the latter's invitation to return to "service". Jourdain outlines some of what he's enjoying about his new freedom. We look at Paul's famous request to Philemon to give freedom to his run-away slave, Onesimus - [Philemon 1-22](#). For Paul, the life of Christ is the beginning of the end of slavery.

6 April - 10:00am

Lent 5

The Manifesto - flags of dawn



When Jesus announces the beginning of his ministry in Nazareth, [Luke 4:16-21](#), he calls upon the concept of the "year of the Lord's favour", which in Jewish thought involved the returning of land to its traditional owners and the setting free of all who had been sold into servitude. While these practices were seldom observed in Israel's life, Jesus seemed confident that his "way" would do better. Was he right?

13 April - 10:00am

Lent 6 - Palm Sunday The Conquering Victor?



After reading the Palm Narrative ([Luke 19: 28-40](#)), we do our annual Palm Procession along a short stretch of Bealey Ave.

Noting that Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem lacked many of the muscle-flexes that people might have expected of a conquering victor, we explore Jesus' alternative approach to winning freedom. [Luke 9: 18-21](#).

17 April - 7:30pm

Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae Slave Food

Communion



[Exodus 12: 1-14](#) - The Hebrew slaves in Egypt are called to prepare a special meal for the night before their racing to freedom.

Years later, Jesus commemorates that meal with his disciples, who also have known a kind of captivity. But what will follow the meal? What will the cost be for Jesus?

We end the service with the Litany of Shadows, during which the light in the church is extinguished.

18 April - 10:00am

**Good Friday
Thirty Pieces of Silver**



If Jesus' ministry was about smashing the structures of slavery, then being sold for thirty pieces of silver is a tragic outcome. On Good Friday, slavery appears to have won.

We read the full Passion Narrative from John's gospel. Music includes excerpts from Pergolesi's Stabat Mater.

Easter Day 2025

Freedom - there he goes!

20 April - 10:00am

Easter Day Communion



The service begins with the reading of Matthew's version of the Resurrection story. In 1 Peter 3: 18-22, the first thing that the risen Jesus does is preach freedom to his companions in the realm of the dead. His first impulse is to share freedom with his fellow sufferers. We hear Maya Angelou's poem "Still I rise" and sing some wonderful Easter hymns.

Peter Majendie Art

On display in the Church from 8 to 15 June.

Easter Day Breakfast

As we have done in other years, we will be celebrating Easter Day with breakfast on Sunday 20 April served from 8.30am-9.15am in the Lounge.

Cost: \$10 per person

Menu: Fruit and Cereal, Scrambled Eggs with Bacon, Toast and Spread, Tea/Coffee

Art Exhibition - 3-12 April

Some Knox members may remember Valerie Heinz who was a life-long member of Knox and a member of the Knox Church Council for many years.

Valerie was a recognised artist and taught art for many years at Christchurch Girls' High School, becoming Head of Art there. She studied art at the Canterbury College art school and also in London in the 1950s and held numerous exhibitions of her paintings over her lifetime.

A retrospective exhibition of some of her paintings is being held in April at Chambers Gallery, 80 Durham Street South in Sydenham.

Valerie produced work on many varied subjects ranging from forest and sea to studies of people around town. All works are for sale, but worth a look at, even if you are not interested in buying.

Exhibition hours: Thursday 3 April - Saturday 12 April

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10.30am - 4pm
Saturday: 11am - 3pm

Closed Sunday and Monday.

Quiet

We are each made of quiet that the universe can hear
Be at peace with how things are
Walk softly so you can hear what is ahead
Keep your hand ready to your heart when grief comes
Life says nothing needs fixing – all is a celebration
We were made to bend so we would find the miracles at our feet
Made to stretch to discover the beauty above
And shine under the showers of love
For we find life is mostly quiet.

Written by Joyce Kiddie on the passing of her sister Evelyn Schwass and reproduced with permission of Joyce's niece.

Impressions of a Visitor to the USA

“He was the greatest patriot, in their eyes, who brawled the loudest and who cared the least for decency.”

“He was a great politician; and the one article of his creed, in reference to all public obligations involving the good faith and integrity of his country, was “run a moist pen slick through everything and start afresh.” This made him a patriot. In commercial affairs he was a bold speculator. In plainer words, he had a most distinguished genius for swindling and he could start a bank or negotiate a loan, or form a land jobbing company (entailing ruin, pestilence, and death on hundreds of families) with any gifted creature in the Union. This made him an admirable man of business.”

“Dollars. All their cares, hopes, joys, affections, virtues and associations seemed to be melted down into dollars. Men were weighed by their dollars; measures gauged by their dollars; life was auctioneered, appraised, put up and knocked down for its dollars.”

No, not Trump and the USA in 2025.

Quotations are from “Martin Chuzzlewit” written by Charles Dickens in 1843.



Impressions From Around the World - Part 3

CASTLES AND CAVES

Carcassonne - In 1973 I had visited this fabulously preserved castle in the Languedoc region of southern France. Needless to say, it has been vastly upgraded since then and there are even families permanently living in houses there now! Languedoc is named for the ancient language Langue d'Oc and we spotted some place name signs in both languages.



Rouffignac Cave and Beynac Castle - This was definitely one of the unexpected highlights of our entire trip – when history really came alive! We had prebooked (we thought) a guided tour of the prehistoric caves at Lascaux, also in Languedoc. We took the appropriate train from Bordeaux to the village where the tour started, had lunch and waited at the designated bus stop. When after 20 minutes, no minivan had arrived, Richard phoned the number on the booking sheet and the nice man, who spoke excellent English, said there was no booking! However, he was able to rearrange his afternoon and took us to the prehistoric cave of **Rouffignac** where, unlike at the more well-known Lascaux, visitors can see the original cave paintings! We were taken on a tiny railway one mile deep into the caves and gazed at the most superb and realistic pictures of horses drawn on the walls and roof of the cave between 8500 and 5300 BC.

Then he took us to the castle **Beynac** – which had been the castle of Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122 – 1204) when Aquitaine was part of England! Her second husband was Henry II of England and her two sons were Richard Lionheart and John (who was drowned in the Wash). Eleanor's castle has never been captured (you can see how steep the rock is on

which it is built) and has been in private hands and is well maintained. From up at the castle you can see the Dordogne river which divides Aquitaine from the rest of France. Our fabulous driver lives in the village below - his house was built in the 12th century so he is not allowed to change the outside – but is currently in the process of installing a new kitchen!



England on the left – France on the right
(circa 1,000 years ago)

TV GUIDED TOURS

Call the Midwife Guided tour at Chatham, Kent in the old Naval Yards where the programme is filmed. Steps and doorways are attached to the brick walls – so we don't see people actually going into each others' houses. But the tunnel is real, as are the cobbles where Chummy learned to ride a bike.



Coronation Street including the pub!! Excellent guided tour with tiny bits of trivia. Have you noticed the bench that characters sit on in Victoria Gardens? It was donated by a Manchester family whose son was killed in the Hillsborough football stadium disaster of 1989. And, unbelievably, we met one of the actors two days later! He works in the pub we went into for a toilet stop... He has appeared in various episodes over the years as a nasty person – his most recent iteration was as a cruel man who ran a ‘puppy farm’ and had stolen the dog off one of the characters.



Note the high rise building behind the Rovers Return. The camera work is so skilful that viewers never notice it. And the “Railway Viaduct” is actually very short. An occasional train sound bite is added to enhance the concept.

PEOPLE

There are some interactions that are universal:

- The lady at the market in Monza who smiled after waiting until I had taken my photo before she moved on.
- The Italian teenagers on a school trip in Florence who were far more excited about looking at the shoes in a Footlocker shop than about all the museums they had to visit.
- The kind strong man who lifted my suitcase into or out of the train (repeated in several countries).

CONVERSATIONS

Because I speak French and German as well as English, I was able to have some inspiring conversations:

- The lady on the train to southern Italy who was retiring to the south so she could stand in the waves and relax.
- At the train station in Florence was a lady from New Orleans with her recently retired husband, who told me she works in a hospital but everyone there is completely exhausted.
- A lady on the tram in Hamburg who had a beautiful bag which her friend had made her in autumn colours because her birthday is in October.
- The man at the electrical shop in Hamburg who had every light bulb ever made – including the one Richard needed to buy for his sister's room. He supplies light bulbs to the whole world.
- Marina on the train to and from Dresden! Yes! - we got friendly on the journey from Köln to Dresden and were amazed to meet each other for the return trip! She had grown up in Dresden, gone to the West in 1980 but had kept in touch with her classmates and had just attended a class reunion which she organised. She had been a librarian in Köln - which is exactly the same career as one of my friends in Köln!
- And most amazing of all – the lady on the half hour tram trip to the Airbus factory in Toulouse, whose family has the same jobs as ours: her late husband was an air traffic controller and her son is a technician who keeps the radar going. She is a French teacher and her daughter teaches Spanish!

Bronwyn



West Coast - near Heaphy river mouth

A simple, reflective prayer dating around 600AD by the Bishop of Rome, known as St Gregory the Great:

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, by Your radiant and magnificent resurrection, You broke the bonds of death and rose from the grave as a conqueror. You reconciled Heaven and earth. Our life had no hope of eternal happiness before You redeemed us. Your resurrection has washed away our sins, restored our innocence, and brought us joy. How inestimable is the tenderness of Your love.



Here's my next organ "chapter"...

Oh my goodness! Where to continue... Do we talk about the "negatives", e.g. rats as reported 10.7.1922; damaging the bellows of the organ or as reported 14.5.1923; the electric coil under the organ having fused? No, let's talk about "positives". It seems appropriate in this, the ten-year anniversary of the post-earthquake restoration of the organ, that mention is made of an earlier restoration.

In 1928 the possibility of replacing the water engine with an electric motor was proposed but the water engine was repaired and it was not until 1934 that an electric blower was installed. The organ continued to provide fine church music and it was 1968 before further major work on the instrument was proposed. A new Organ Committee was set up and quotations for alterations were received in 1971. These were fully considered but because of uncertainty about future direction, e.g. the City Council's plan to widen Victoria Street, only essential repairs were made at that time. The Organ Committee was reconstituted in 1978 and fresh quotations for restoring the organ obtained.

In 1981, Session accepted the Committee's recommendation that the organ be rebuilt and this move was supported by a congregational meeting held in 1983. At that time, the organ fund stood at \$19,000 and another fund-raising campaign began immediately. By 1985 sufficient money had been raised to permit the signing of a contract with the South Island Organ Company Ltd of Timaru for restoration of the instrument.

In addition to seeking general donations, the Organ Fund-Raising Committee proposed a scheme for people to "Adopt a Pipe" (I really like that idea!); suggested amounts being \$1,000 for a 16 footer, \$500 for an 8 footer and \$200 for a 2 footer or \$3,000 for each manual of a 3 manual console! In the words of John Ashby – "There are still many lonely unadopted pipes. Please choose one - the big ones are most attractive!"

An article headed "Knox Church Celebrates" which appeared in the Christchurch Press on 24 June 1987 says: -

"The Church organ, which is about 80 years old, was stripped down and renovated during the past year. About 1,500 separate pipes, many of them distorted over the years by traffic vibrations, have been reshaped to their original condition as well as cleaned. Many of the moving parts within the organ were clogged by dirt and dust which had accumulated over the years and a lot of the timber framing, having fallen victim to borer, was replaced.

Dampness in the organ bellows also posed a problem requiring a complete overhaul of the organ. With the moving parts inside the organ pipes replaced by solid bronze, rather than steel which rusts and some very fine leathers replaced, the completed project is expected to have a 'life' of 80 years.

Altogether, restoration costs totalled \$80,000 which was raised amongst the congregation. This rather 'awesome' sum seems even more so when compared to the cost of the original organ for the then new church building - installed at a cost of £350."

Celebrations to mark the restoration of the organ began on 27 June 1987 with a recital by David Childs (Organist), Christopher Doig (Tenor) and the Cecilian Singers. A service to dedicate the rebuilt organ was conducted by Rev. Dr. Alan Torrance, on Sunday 28 June 1987, followed by an afternoon recital by Grant Williams (Organist) with the Knox Musicians.

And yes, there is yet another chapter to come....

June

In times of change it is the learners who inherit the future. Those who have finished learning find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.

Eric Hoffer
(American philosopher and social critic)

Churchspeak for Beginners No. 1

A glossary of churchspeak terms for those people new to our churches who do not understand the churchspeak in which we talk.

Churchspeak	English
Conversational	
I want to share ...	I want to tell you
My vision ...	My idea
I feel it is right ...	I want
We feel it is right ...	I really want
I believe that God wants us to ...	And I'll have a tantrum if I don't get
There is a sense in which ...	That is half true
There is a very real sense in which ...	This is a quarter true
My dear brother ...	The chap I can't stand
I hear what you say ...	You're wrong
I'll take it on board ...	Forget it

The Diocese of Guildford Herald

Published in Knox Life August 1991

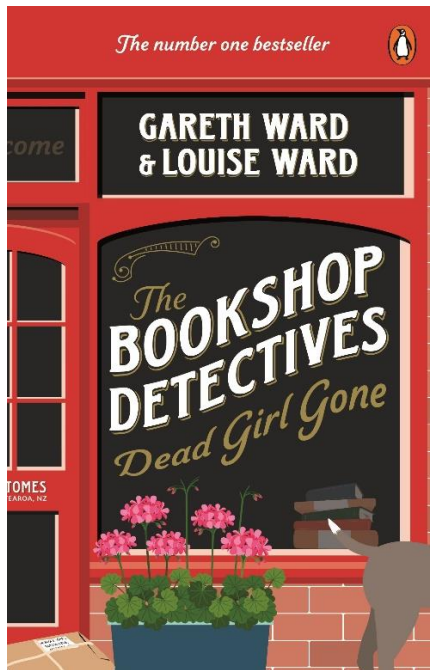


Such a beautiful display of hydrangeas from the garden in front of the houses at Summerset on Cavendish – thanks Yvonne/Susan.

FAITH, FILM AND FICTION...

Book Reviews

A strong New Zealand flavour this time!



Gareth and Louise Ward are British ex-police officers who emigrated to Hawkes Bay and opened a bookshop. They have now also started writing a series of murder mysteries based around the Sherlock Tomes Bookshop run by British ex-police officers Garth and Eloise Sherlock in Havelock North. The first book, **The Bookshop Detectives: Dead Girl Gone** appeared in 2024. It concerns a schoolgirl who disappeared decades ago. The writing style is fun, the characters are quirky, the Hawkes Bay setting is very realistic, and the mystery is solved. The authors themselves each write a chapter alternately. I highly recommend this book and look forward to the next in the series.



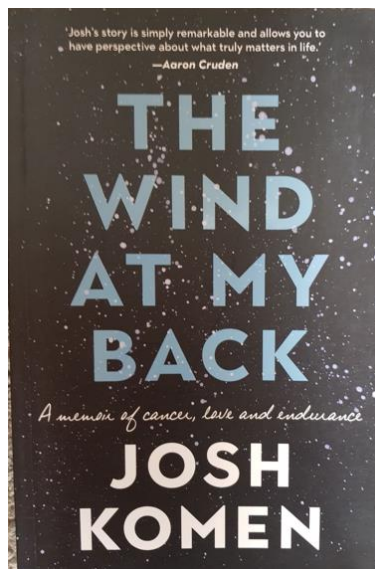
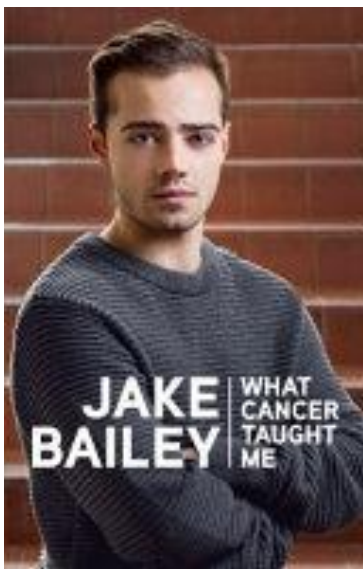
Damien Wilkins is a professor at Victoria University of Wellington and Director of the International Institute of Modern Letters, with several award-winning novels behind him. **Delirious** (2024) is about Mary, an ex-cop and husband Pete, a retired librarian who have decided to move into a retirement village. Their own house overlooks Kapiti Island and, again, the setting is an integral part of the book. As well as adapting to the new home, Mary and Pete learn further information about the death of their son Will, who drowned while on a school camp.

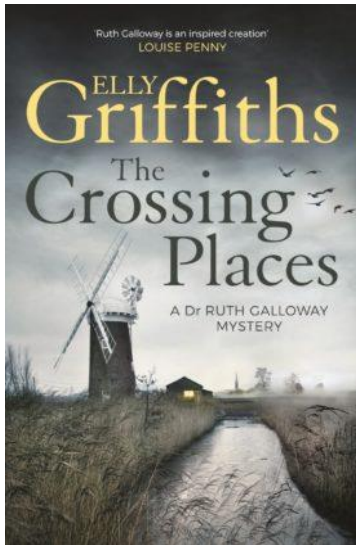
Three inspiring young Kiwis who have written inspiring books about overcoming severe medical setbacks are Jake Bailey: **What Cancer Taught Me** (2017), Josh Komen: **The Wind at My Back** (2019), and Jason Barrell: **Try, Try Again** (2009).

You will remember Jake Bailey when he gave the inspirational end-of-year in his role as head student at Christchurch Boys' High School in 2015. He spoke from his wheelchair, and said "None of us get out of life alive, so be gallant, be great, be gracious, and be grateful for the opportunities you have." This speech ended up being shown around the world. His book is co-authored by Nicola McCloy and is heartfelt and inspiring

Josh Komen grew up on the West Coast. He was about to represent New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games when he was diagnosed with leukemia. Despite excruciating pain, treatments and side-effects, he came through these challenges. In this book he shares his story and his beliefs and passions that got him through.

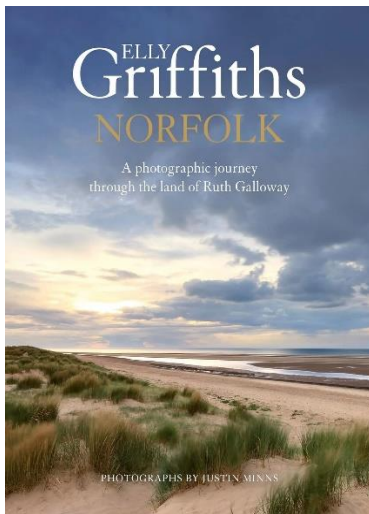
Jason Barrell was dyslexic and a rugby player. He suffered a series of strokes which eventually left him semi-paralysed and unable to work at age 32. In this uplifting book he describes how he used courage and determination to create a new life as an inspirational speaker.





And now for somewhere completely different!

Following the theme of murder mysteries with an interesting setting and development of the main characters – have you tried the North Norfolk books of Elly Griffiths? So far there are fifteen books in the series – and you need to read them in order – starting with **The Crossing Places**. Published from 2009 to 2023, they feature Dr. Ruth Galloway, a lecturer in forensic archaeology at the fictional University of North Norfolk, who works with DCI Harry Nelson, and a colourful cast of others such as the druid ‘Cathbad’ (aka Michael). The murders themselves involve specific local settings such as a deserted World War II airfield, salt marshes, flat lands and huge skies. The details of her archaeological finds are also particularly accurate as her husband is indeed an archaeologist!



In 2024, Elly Griffiths (her pen name for this series) published a wonderful book of photographs of England’s atmospheric North Norfolk coast showing specific places and settings from the various novels. In fact, when we were there last year, we happened upon the very bookshop in Holt that had, two days previously, hosted the launch of this book, **Elly Griffith’s Norfolk**. It is available from the Canterbury Public Library (but you will have to reserve it).

Bronwyn



Hamburg Lighting Shop (see page 13)

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