



KNOX CHURCH

love faith outreach community justice

Pastoral Letter during the first week of the second lockdown

23 August, 2021

Kia Ora Knox Community,

UPDATE ON ALERT LEVELS: As you probably already know, last Tuesday the whole of the country went into Level Four lockdown in response to cases of the more transmissible Delta variation of the Covid-19 virus in the community being detected. We probably knew that community transmission was always a possibility, but now that it's come to pass, I'm sure some of us are feeling a bit anxious or angry. Those feelings are valid; but for the moment we just need to work together to do the right thing to prevent any spread of the virus in our part of the world. So, well done for staying at home, wearing your face mask while accessing essential services, washing your hands, and getting tested if you have any symptoms of Covid. Today the government's cabinet is considering whether Level Four is still the right level for us in Ōtautahi Christchurch. We'll see what is determined soon. Whatever is decided will be based on sound scientific assessment.

WHAT KNOX IS DOING: As we did before, we've closed the Knox Centre for meetings. The office is still operating, with the phone line being re-directed to our secretaries who are working from home. Having suspended our physical gathering for worship, we've reinstituted our online worship services, which we post on the You-tube website. Each week's link will be posted on our website and emailed to you by our office on Fridays. The link for yesterday's service is: <https://youtu.be/Gy2zTZJZ52E>

In anticipation that it may be a while before we can gather again, we're reactivating the "keeping in touch" phone call programme - through which you should receive a phone call from a Knox person each week. People really appreciated this contact during the last lockdown. If you don't receive a phone call, and would like to receive one, please ring the office, and we'll make sure you're included.

Also, I'll make sure you get one of these lockdown newsletters each week. It's all about keeping our community connected during a time of social isolation.

THE CARK PARK CLEAN-UP: The car park clean-up scheduled for this coming Saturday the 28th clearly cannot happen so will be postponed until we are permitted to gather.

WHAT THE MONEY PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME: When PCANZ changed the way they were running their superannuation scheme (causing me for a while to worry about my retirement plans), I was put in touch with a financial advisor who was meant to help me plan for my future. His name was Joseph; he was a most personable young man, and I hope his advice has set me up well for a sustainable future in terms of income in retirement. As a result of my coming into contact with him, I now receive monthly emails from the organization for which he works. I don't recommend or "not recommend" his organization - but the organization's latest email contains some thoughts about how to use lockdown creatively. I wouldn't bother too much with the latter parts of the article, but it starts quite well with some thoughts about Nelson Mandela and his use of his time in captivity.

https://www.milestonedirect.co.nz/articles/making-most-lockdown?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Public_Making_the_most_of_lockdown&utm_content=Public_Making_the_most_of_lockdown+CID_a6f50d7041f512e0b548143fabd89f1a&utm_source=Ezine&utm_term=How_you_can_make_the_most_of_lockdown

WHAT SOMEONE RECENTLY HAS SENT ME: A Knox person recently was thinking about one of the first socio-theological things he read as a younger person. It concerned the church's loss of confidence in the light of society's perceived loss of interest in the church's role in public life. While the quote was written in the 1940s, and harkened back to experience of the 1920s, maybe the reflections still are pertinent.

ONE does not need to be a Jeremiah in order to feel oppressed and distressed by the general conditions of human life to-day. Look where we will, it is hard to find much solid ground for cheerfulness and optimism. The Great War, which was to have ended war and ushered in the Kingdom of God, has bequeathed to us a heritage of suffering and confusion and embitterment, which will take us a century at least to remove, and which threatens to involve us in several wars long before that century elapses. Our Achan has gone, but the accursed

thing remains. Everywhere there is unrest and dissatisfaction and mutual recrimination over political and industrial grievances. The Press records its full daily toll of private folly and iniquity. The Christian Church, the body to which belongs of natural right the task of moral inspiration and leadership, is coming to realize more acutely than ever her powerlessness to deal adequately with the enormous problems that face her. It is not true, indeed, as some would have us believe, that the churches are dead. There is very much in their life and work to be proud of and thankful for : and it may be that much of the feeling of depression prevalent in Christian circles to-day is due to the natural tendency of all idealists to exaggerate their own shortcomings.

BEING WHANAU: Our neighbours in Bealey Avenue, Presbyterian Support Upper South Island, are very good neighbours. Barry Helem, their CEO, likes us a lot, and Megan W, their community liaison person comes for morning tea at Knox now and then. Her presence at morning tea is delightful, and she often expresses the synergies her organization and Knox share. Recently Megan suggested that if I were to be listed as PSUSI whanau, I could be offered a place in their prioritized Covid-19 vaccination roll out. Since, at that time, I was considered too young and healthy to qualify for vaccination (even though I spend quite a lot of time with higher risk people), I was pleased to be offered a whanau place. Thank you PSUSI. I had my first jab early this month. I was meant to receive my second jab today - but lockdown has messed up the schedule. Hopefully I'll be fully vaccinated soon - thanks to the willingness of PSUSI's willingness to count me as family.

MORE WHANAU: Also among our whanau are St George's / Iona, whose foodbank we support each week with our offering. Lockdown doesn't change the plain fact that the foodbank needs to keep betting groceries to people, so needs support. During the last lockdown, when we couldn't put food into baskets for St George's / Iona picked up each Monday, we encouraged people to send Countdown or Pak 'n Save vouchers to St George's / Iona. Our not listing New World as a supermarket

whose vouchers we want was no "put down" of New World. It was a simple matter of New World not having an outlet in the neighbourhoods where St George's / Iona are based. I'm told that the best place to post vouchers to is: 39 McLean St, Linwood, Christchurch 8062.

BEING AT HOME, AND HOUSE WARMING: At the morning service on 25 July, an open invitation was extended to all to visit my new home in Papanui that afternoon. Lots of people came along, and there was a really warm and warming vibe at home. The general feeling was that people liked the house and didn't envy me the amount of dusting that I was going to have to do. It seems the consensus is that I have many delightful but dust-gathering things in my house. The major logistical challenge was trying to serve tea and coffee to about thirty people with only seven cups! We formed a nice orderly line for hot drinks, and no one complained!

KITCHEN THINGS: On a recent trip to see my mother in Auckland, I came across a gem iron, stamped as having been made by the Delta Iron Company of Christchurch. Returning to Christchurch, I went looking for the Delta Iron Company, only to learn that it no longer existed. Gem irons now are hard to find. Through Trade-me, I tracked one second-hand one down in Ilam (fifteen whole dollars). Now proudly owning it, I used it to make some really tasty ginger gems. Behold!



ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON WALK: On "window duty" down the road from my house, I found a clown, pink seal, teddy and one womble. And with no traffic, some ducks have taken up the practice of sitting in the middle of the road.



PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS: I am fortunate to be able to work from home. (Thank goodness for internet connectivity, the phone, and all that.) Please continue to be mindful of the essential workers who cannot work from home, but have to continue going to work (bus drivers, supermarket workers, doctors and nurses, police officers, Fire Service people, et al). Please also be mindful of those whose jobs may be dissolving in the current lockdown. I note

the government is reinstituting the wage subsidy scheme, but some businesses won't make it through this. It's horrible when your job disappears.

Council Meeting Report Wed 18 August

Due to being in Level 4 lockdown the Knox Council met by email on Wednesday 18 August at 7.30pm. Having previously received the agenda and reports, Matthew started the meeting with prayer and sent us additional correspondence, reports and recommendations. It was all very efficient and well managed with experience from the first lockdown being well used.

Council noted and agreed to:

- Matthew reported on his many meetings, hosting and conducting of the funerals for Win Johnston and John England.
- Tangata Atū Motu Trust are extending their upstairs lease into the flat.
- There was an issue with a car break-in in the carpark. To make the carpark more visible part of the hedge will be removed during the carpark clean-up on August 28th.
- A number of items have been fixed or replaced, or will need to be, including a roof leak and further work to insulate the walls to seal the organ blower room to prevent long term damage to the organ .
- The Office will lease a refurbished photocopier for a 5 year term with costs frozen for 2 years [\$119/month + 0.9c/mono and 9c/colour copy]
- Matthew's report on the Knox Public Questions Group, with a Terms of Reference for the group, was deferred for consideration at a later Council meeting.

We said the grace together – in our own separate bubbles!

I have written this following virtual church today (Sunday 22 Aug) instead of giving a verbal report. Thanks Matthew and Daniel for your Service – it was much appreciated.

Trudy

THREE PICTURES:





Recently liberated from its pot, and planted in the ground, pandemic or no pandemic, this wee rhododendron is doing its "pink". The beautiful planet just carries on.



Post-Coronavirus males, displaying their Hunter Gatherer prowess in order to attract mates

Arohanui,

Matthew.

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