John Knox
Rangiora
www.johnknoxrangiora.co.nz

18 May 2025

A hermeneutic of Suspicion vs a hermeneutic of Redemption.

I have been thinking about this recently, especially in terms of what posture we take towards areas of life that might seem to us to fall outside what is orthodox or comfortable. This could be anything like yoga, Sunday sport, socialism, going to the pub, smoking. Anything really that has traditionally sat in that "grey zone" where we might say, is this OK for us or not? (Perhaps this might also inform our response if we were thinking of speaking prophetically into some person's life or situation.)

A hermeneutic of Suspicion will see a demon under every rock and will look to avoid or prohibit any form of engagement. Pharisees, Puritans and Exclusive Brethren to different degrees reject any form of secular intrusion into their religious life. While a hermeneutic of Redemption will seek to reclaim and influence any areas of society for God and His purposes. Taking seriously scripture that sees the kingdom of God like yeast working its way through dough or using salt with the intent of seasoning and bringing out natural flavours. (This probably reflects my posture more than that of suspicion.)

If it is true that *"… the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world…"* (1 John 4:4) than let us hold true to God's word and seek to be a spirit of life and a catalyst of light in the darkness, not shying away from every opportunity to be a blessing where possible. Getting in amongst it for the sake of the redemption of all creation. (Romans 8:21). *Jas*

CHURCH SERVICE TODAY

Service Leader: Anne
Preacher: Lincoln
Our Service will be streamed online today at:
https://youtube.com/live/11N-kHotGIk?feature=share

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER: 9.45am in Barrett Room

READINGS:
Isaiah 9:2-7
John 16:1-15

The Worship Hymns and Songs:
God Has Spoken
I Will Run To You
Oceans
Trust And Obey
The Blessings

CELEBRATIONS:
Birthdays: *Claire Calder, Bob Reid*
Wedding anniversary: *Lincoln & Anne Moffat*
May The Lord bless you and keep you well 😊

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon 19 May:	**Acts 11:19-26**
Tue 20 May:	**Acts 11:27-30**
Wed 21 May:	**Luke 10:25-28**
Thu 22 May:	**Acts 15:36-41**
Fri 23 May:	**Acts 16:1-8**
Sat 24 May:	**Luke 19:1-10**
Sun 25 May:	**John 14:23-29**

NOTICES: -
Friday 16th May: Hard Knox Café, 6.30 – 8.30pm
Tuesday 20th May: Young Adults, 7pm – 8.30pm, JKR
Wednesday 21st May: Connect, 10am – 11am, JKR
Wednesday 21st May: Pastoral Care meeting, Charles Upham, 1.30pm
Wednesday 21st May: Parish Council, 7pm, JKR
Sunday 25th May: newcomers' lunch
Sunday 25th May: Operation Cover Up goods displayed JKR
Sunday 25th May: no Heroes programme this week
Wednesday 29th May: Congregational Prayer meeting 1.30pm, JKR

Friday 30th May: Hard Knox Café, 6.30 – 8.30pm
Last call for: Operation Cover Up. Please get your items to Annette Paterson or Adele Warburton before Sunday**.** You can alternatively support with goods or money to help with the shipping costs.
Operation Cover Up share this quote by Amelia Barr:
"Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers."

- Marlene Hawke will be away for three weeks in June. Please can we have some volunteers with cleaning toilets and floors. A roster will be provided.
- New Parish Council members will be appointed at the AGM.
- A hearty and sincere thank you to all of you who helped with the Alpine Presbytery Gathering at JKR. We have had wonderful feedback and it was made special by our people. Martin Stewart remarked "it was the friendliest Gathering he has been to".

Firewood: orders are being taken now. Text 'firewood' to 0274527546 for 3m3 trailer load of dry pine, $350

Prayer for our friends:
Our neighbouring Parishes: Oxford Union, Kaiapoi Co-operating Parish, Kowai-Cheviot Presbyterian Parish Amberley as they go through seasons of change, *Clare Calder*, *Neil and Sue Burt*, *Edna Van Der Loon, Mary Stewart and Ian Cormack.*

CHURCH DUTY ROSTER FOR MAY 2025

18 May

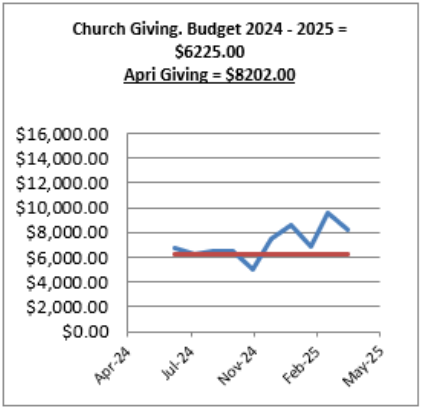
Elder Duty: Richard Mc Murdo	**Door Duty**: Kim Fletcher and Maureen Landreth
Power Point: April McMurdo	**Mini Bus:** Donna and Alan
Morning Tea: Moira Courtney and Gaye Edwards	**Offering Count:** Tracy/Leigh
Readings: Joan Shearer	**Heroes Leader:** No Heroes this week
Prayers: Anne Moffat	**Fun with Music:** Margaret Vallance (19th)

25 May

Elder Duty:	**Door Duty**:

Anne Moffat	Moira Courtney and Margaret Hamilton
Power Point: Annette Wright	**Mini Bus:** TBC
Morning Tea: Alon and Tracy Mayhew	**Offering Count:** Tracy and Howard
Readings: Ewen	**Heroes Leader:** Megan
Prayers: Vincent	**Fun with Music:** Marlene H & Marlene H (26th)

Giving Chart for April 2025:



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