John Knox
Rangiora
www.johnknoxrangiora.co.nz

Sunday 16 August 2026

Discussion at Connect

At Connect this week we had an interesting discussion around the way the Church can engage in politics. The range of opinion went from keeping anything political out of the Church community discussion on one hand to making space to appropriately discuss politics in a way that fosters healthy discussion and a robust political outlook.

We are going to head into a tough political environment where truth and integrity may be sacrificed on the altar of influence and conquest. Rather than disengaging as a Faith community, perhaps we need an ethic that helps us better work towards the ideal of a fair and honest platform from which to discern what our country's governance needs to look like.

Three practices which I feel can help us engage in an appropriate way are:

1. Start with the details first and then shape your opinion from these. Even better, try to find common facts and details to enable an opinion.

2. If you are stating the position of those you disagree with, ensure your idea of their position is agreeable to them and not just your biased opinion.

3. Try to use "I think, I feel, I read, I heard" language over "you think, you feel, you wrote, you said…" because sometimes what you think you understand is not actually what was intended. This always allows for correction and accuracy and shows empathy.

Maybe we could make space over the next few months to have some good robust discussions around how a Faith Community wrestles well around big issues.

Jas

CHURCH SERVICE TODAY

Service Leader: **Jas**
Preacher: **Jas**

YouTube Link:

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER: 9.45am in Barrett Room

READINGS:
1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

The Worship Hymns and Songs:
O The Mercy of God
Have Faith in God (O Lord You Lead Me)
Wonderful Merciful Saviour
I Then Shall Live

UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS:
Birthdays: *Peter Walker, Barbara Peacock*
Wedding Anniversaries: *none this week*
May The Lord bless you and keep you well 😊

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon 17 August:	**Acts 15:1-21**
Tue 18 August:	**Romans 11:13-29**
Wed 19 August:	**Matthew 8:1-13**
Thu 20 August:	**1 Corinthians 6:1-11**
Fri 21 August:	**2 Corinthians 10:12-18**
Sat 22 August:	**Matthew 16:5-12**
Sun 23 August:	**Matthew 16:13-20**

NOTICES:

Every Wednesday: Connect, 10am, JKR

Wednesday August 19th, Pastoral Care Meeting, 1.30pm, Reflection Room Charles Upham.

Thursday August 20th: Hard Knox Café, Thursday is our Movie Night. 7pm at JKR. Movie, Popcorn, Hot Chocolates and Ice Creams!! All Year 8-13's welcomed. $2.

Piano for free: standup mahogany Charles Begg piano to give away. Contact Lynette or Howard Fowler 310 7891 or 021 1854 706.

AI and Humanity Conference: hosted by Cashmere Presbyterian. 28th and 29th of August. See notice on the noticeboard for more details.

Christmas Trees: Christmas Tree Seedlings are available still, please contact Jason for as many as you wish to plant. We have plenty available and would like to get as many planted as we can.

Prayer Chain: the prayer chain group are available all the time to pray. If you would like prayer for anyone or anything please contact Sue by text or phone for this and she will notify the group. 0274 575 660

Parish Council: at the AGM we will need to elect 3 new people onto the Parish Council. The Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. If anyone is interested in being involved or has any questions about what is required, please see Jason

Prayer for our Family and Friends: If you no longer need YOUR name in the Prayer list, can you please contact Megan and let her know it can be removed. If you are speaking on behalf of someone else, check with them first. Jas

Church Fair: we are scheduling the Church Fair and Kid's Market for the 21st of November this year in order to give us enough time to

manage all the details. Opportunities to help and get involved will be discussed over the next few weeks. There are some minutes from the Meeting last Sunday on the Notice Board.

Update from Hamish:
We are now five weeks into the semester, and things are currently going really well. I have been really on top of my assessments, trying to get them completed early, and I am doing really well at getting them done ahead of time. I think I'm doing this partly because I'm really bored and don't have much else to fill my time with, so I might as well start my assessments! It's actually been really good. I have submitted four pieces of work already and have received one grade back for one of my essays, which was for CHTH336. This essay consisted of three different reflections on our experience at Ohope Marae. I received an A- (84%), which I was really happy with. I only had one correction and one point where I could have added a bit more, so overall I thought it was a pretty good result. I am also starting to take on more jobs around Knox Church. I have my first Sunday morning preaching gig on the 23rd of August, which I am really looking forward to. I have also joined another group focused on outward engagement. However, I feel like we are currently engaging more with the community of the Cross of Nails rather than engaging with other churches or people in the wider community. The more exciting news is that I am proud to say that I have been selected to be part of the group heading to Nepal in January 2027! We leave Auckland on the 17th of January and return on the 28th. I just want to thank everyone for their support and prayers while I have been waiting to hear the outcome. I am really excited about the opportunity and can't wait to see what the trip has in store. Other than that, not much is happening. It's still cold and raining, so it's just a normal Dunedin winter day! It also snowed recently, which was pretty cool to see and made Dunedin look like a bit of a winter wonderland.

Prayer for our family and friends:
Family of Margaret Vallance, Neil & Sue Burt, Family of Nell Ellis, Ken Hawke and family, Max Atkins & Averill Gibson, Janice and Ross Wilson, Donna Abernethy, Clare Calder, *Mary Stewart and Ian Cormack.*

Giving Chart:

July 2026	Current Month		Year to Date		Annual	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Forecast
	7,699	8,798	7,699	8,798	99,840	98,741

CHURCH DUTY ROSTER FOR AUGUST 2026

16 August

Elder Duty: Anne Moffat	**Door Duty**: Alon and Tracy Mayhew
Power Point: April McMurdo	**Mini Bus:** Richard / Graeme Twose
Morning Tea: Margaret Hamilton and Anne Moffat	**Offering Count:** Tracy/Alan McI
Readings: Richard McMurdo	**Heroes Leader:** Megan
Prayers: Annette P	**Fun with Music:** Joan Shearer, Angie Smith

23 August

Elder Duty: Annette Paterson	**Door Duty**: Marlene Hopkinson and Anne Moffat
Power Point: Aime-Cherie	**Mini Bus:** Grenville/ Lincoln
Morning Tea: Kate King and Fran Taylor	**Offering Count:** Tracy/Alan McI
Readings: Peggy	**Heroes Leader:** Lincoln
Prayers: Vincent	**Fun with Music:** Sue Burt, Daphne Begley

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