



Guy Pilkinton <pilkinton@gmail.com>

Knox Church Waitara Update

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Kia ora Guy,

This weekly newsletter contains information about what's happening in the life of our church. If there is a notice you would like in The Update, please email sharon@waitara.org.nz.

God bless,

Sharon

In this update

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Sunday 7th July

This Sunday Jenny McCullough will be leading the service and we have the pleasure again of Alexx Shipp visiting and sharing about the mission work he is involved with in the Philippines. Alexx usually comes each year, it is great to catch up with him and hear in person the progress and challenges in his ministry. Read below to find a bit more out about Alexx.

Our children and youth programmes will be running as usual.

Our gathering will be livestreamed YouTube. The link to this can be found on our Knox Church Waitara Facebook page [here](#). Alternatively you can find our Knox Church Waitara YouTube account and subscribe. The live stream will appear in your subscription box each Sunday morning. If you need help or have questions please see Lisa.

Sunday Roster

Date	Door and Offering	Serving Morning Tea and Cleaning Up	Baking for Morning Tea	Prayer Ministry
7 July	Tiri and Tarryn W	Graham and Judy, Susan, Kath J	Di H, Susan	Dorothy, Chris B
14 July	Peter and Bronnie	Ngairi, Nichola, Joy A,	Coral, Sharon, Jennie Mc	Nigel D, Guy
21 July	Mark and Joy Jones	Tesa, Lesley, Alani	Judith, Sharon	Joyce, Andrew

Missions with Alex Shipp

I was born in Africa to British parents. I came to NZ as a child, later studying at Otago Boys High, and then at Canterbury University where I became a Christian. I became a minister 35 years ago and have been a missionary in East Asia for 27 years. My passion in ministry is to be an instrument of social reform, transforming lives through education, health, faith promoting strong Christian principles by working with government, local government, schools and communities while simultaneously always having a handful of local teenagers and young adults living in the house with me for years at a time where they are put through school and university who are intensively discipled and eventually sent out to be Christians of significant influence. In particular, the Lord has lead me to work with Indigenous tribal people groups. Join me if you like a challenge.

Looking forward to being with everyone.

Alexx

An interactive evening with East Asian
missionary Alex Shipp

Exploding Myths & Uncovering facts about Mission

**Tuesday 9th July 7.30pm,
Knox Church Cafe, Waitara.
All Welcome.**

**A fun, interactive evening together. We
will fundamentally reconsider what
cross-cultural mission really means and
what it actually doesn't.**



**CHANGING PERSPECTIVES
BUILDING CONFIDENCE
WIDER ENGAGEMENT
EMPOWERING
MAKING CHANGE**

For further information, contact Debbie. 0204 069 1876

PrimeTimers

Tues 9th July, Knox Café at **12 noon**

Come along and join us for lunch followed at 1pm by a movie,

'The Miracle Club' starring Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates.

We'll have a sales table as usual. No charge but a gold coin donation is appreciated.



Updating our Contact Booklet

Each year we check our contact information is up to date. Over the next month clipboards will be handed around church for you to check your details on or you can update me by email sharon@waitara.org.nz. If you are aware of new people at church who are not receiving our weekly Email Update encourage them to sign up and keep informed.

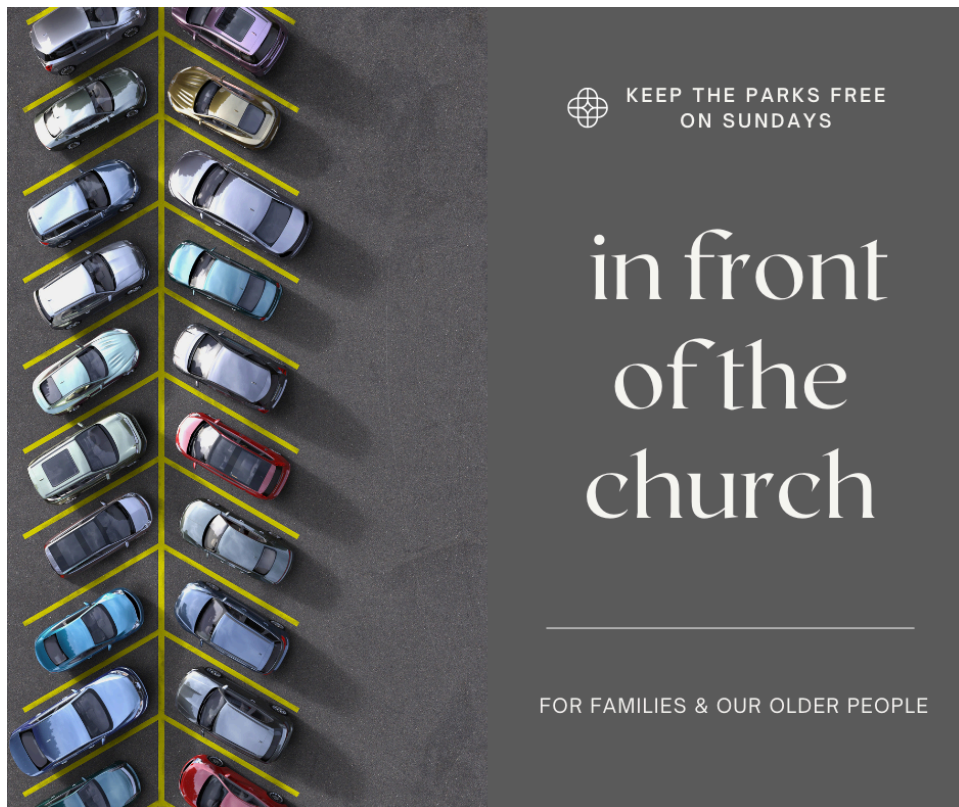
Are your details correct?



Check your info to keep the connection going.

Parking on Sundays

We like to keep the parks in front of the church grounds for our young families (children 8 and under) so they don't have to navigate crossing the road with little ones in tow and for our older people/those who have mobility issues. A few weeks ago someone told me they arrived at church but the only park available was further away than they could walk so they went home again. If you have good crossing the road skills and can walk easily then the choice of where to park is obvious.....



Sport 'n Talk

Come along on Wednesday's at 1.30pm. We will be playing badminton, Pickle Ball and table tennis. The games won't be too competitive and will have a focus on fun and keeping active. We'll be finishing by 2.30/3pm with a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. All are welcome.

Phone Graham Armstrong on 0273 490 966 or 754 6005 if you have any questions.



Thought for the week

Over the last few weeks, I have been thinking about what it means to know God. As Guy and Seb have been preaching through the Book of Hosea in our Sunday sermons, we have been hearing about how Israel is on the cusp of disaster through being internally disorientated and politically vulnerable. The root cause of the nation of Israel's problems is laid bare by Hosea. While they acknowledged God existed and practiced a few religious rituals, really knowing God and being faithful in their worship and relationship with Him had been rejected by both the leaders of Israel and the people. Life may have seemed great to them at the time: lots of sex and wine in honour of paying homage to the fertility gods to ensure a good harvest, lots of prosperity (then not), lots of following their own truths and some strategic alliances with powerful neighbours when things got difficult. This would not last, instead they would be let down, overpowered and plundered by those they had hoped would look after them.

One obvious application of lessons we could learn from the plight of Israel is: Where are we putting our hope today? Is it in knowing God and pursuing a faithful and personal relationship with Him? Jesus talks about knowing God and having the promise of eternal life. He defines eternal life as knowing the only true God, and Jesus Christ (John 17:1-5). Eternal life is something most Christians I know hope for and believe they have because of their faithful and personal relationship with Jesus. Not having eternal life is something most people I know, who don't have a faithful and personal relationship with Jesus, are either quite touchy about or quite worried about.

A while ago the name of a mutual acquaintance came up in a conversation with a friend. We were discussing the topic of the Bank of Mum and Dad (think broke uni student children). My friend relayed an observation she had made about our mutual acquaintance. This person, well into adult life, still had a big Bank of Mum and Dad and was set to inherit a substantial amount. Knowing this made quite a difference to how they lived. While they didn't splash their very comfortable position in life around in a big way, one could observe the lack of hesitation in things like buying that extra pair of boots for winter or booking the nice little weekend away.

As a follower of Jesus, I have a very comforting position in life, and in death too, knowing that my eternal destiny is in His hands. Eternal life started with knowing and trusting God. Eternal life continues with living out life in pursuit of knowing and trusting God more deeply and more fully. Eternal life will be gained by dying and being raised to eternal life through Jesus. The challenge is to keep trusting and pursuing God the central theme of my life. Like the

Israelites in Hosea's time, it's easy to get off task, particularly as the squeeze of the culture we live in doesn't seem too much different from Hosea's day. The wild and exciting alleged benefits of living a life made up of defining our own truths and the pursuit of wealth, fame and desire shout so loudly in every aspect of our society.

I am very grateful for our church and the many people who are also on this different journey of knowing who God really is and pursuing him more deeply. Some of us struggling and some in full flight. I am grateful for the honest conversations about our sins and the things that keep us from God, the need to repent and the reluctance to do so, the honest sharing of doubts, the hospitality, the prayer, the practical provision of food, the helping and sharing resources, Sunday services, home groups/Bible study, and the realness of laughing and crying about life together. So, let's keep encouraging each other to keep on this different journey and in doing so be a beacon of hope to those who are searching for something better than they have now, and are tired of the shouting.

Sharon Moala

Weekly Prayer Points

- Pray that the words of Jesus will be really evident among our church family: that people around us will know that we are His disciples because of the love we have one for another
- Pray for our Nourish Community meal which is happening again this Monday. Pray that it will indeed Nourish people mind, body and soul.
- A few of our elderly folk have had falls recently. Pray they will heal well and know the peace of God.
- Think of an area/sector of our society that is struggling with the economic headwinds our country is facing. Pray people in crisis will turn to God in their desperation and be receptive to His care and love as they cry out in their need.

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