



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church  
Eastbourne

# Record

## April 2021

2 April	Reg Weeks Combined Good Friday Service St Ronan's.....	9.30am
4 April	Reg Weeks Sunrise Service on beach by RSA.....	6.15am
4 April	Reg Weeks Easter Day Service.....	9.30am
11 April	TBA Communion Service .....	9.30am
18 April	Worship with David Jackson.....	9.30am
25 April	Worship with Gill Burke.....	9.30am
2 May	Worship with Ross Scott.....	9.30am

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**Power Hour – Sundays 9.30am**  
**Breakfast Prayer – Tuesdays 7.30am**  
**Mainly Music – Thursdays 9.15-11.15am**  
**St Ronan's Pastoral Care**

For pastoral care needs, please contact our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators,  
**Colin Dalziel 562 7238 or Mary Williams 568 3216**

## ***Taizé again...***

With the end of Daylight Saving on Sunday 4 April we are back into the days of early-evening darkness. While it truly signals the end of the long twilights, it does mean that candles are again able to shine as the sole illumination for our Taizé services, beginning this year on the first Sunday of May (2/5/21) and continuing through to September, as people relax in a meditative atmosphere of music, readings and periods of silence.



These services are in the style of the ecumenical Community of Taizé, centred in a small French village near Lyon, where it all began in 1940 during WW2.



At the age of twenty-five, Roger Louis Schütz, the youngest child of a Protestant pastor in Switzerland, had studied Reformed theology in Strasbourg. But he left Switzerland, to go and live in France, where his mother came from. During a long battle with tuberculosis, the call had taken shape in him to create a community where simplicity and kind-heartedness would be lived out as essential Gospel realities.

In the words of the Community itself: "Thanks to a modest loan, Brother Roger as he came to be known, was able to buy a house in Taizé that had been uninhabited for years, along with the outlying buildings. He asked one of his sisters, Genevieve, to come and help him offer hospitality. Among the refugees they sheltered were Jews. Material resources were limited. There was no running water, and food was simple.

Brother Roger's parents, knowing that their son and daughter were at risk, asked a friend of the family, a retired French officer, to keep an eye on them. In the autumn of 1942, he warned them that they had been found out and that everyone should leave at once.

Brother Roger was able to return in 1944, and then he was not alone. In the meantime, a few brothers had joined him, and they had begun a life together that continued in Taizé.

Although Brother Roger was stabbed to death during an evening service in Taizé, the Community now has over a hundred brothers, from both Catholic and Protestant backgrounds, drawn from more than twenty-five nations. By its very existence, the community is a concrete sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples. The brothers live by their own work.



They do not accept gifts or donations for themselves, not even their own personal inheritances. These are given by the community to the poor.



Every week from early spring to late autumn, young adults from different continents arrive at Taizé. Some weeks in the summer months, more than 5000 young people from 75 different countries live under canvas to take part in this adventure. They set out on an inner pilgrimage that encourages them to build relationships of trust among human beings. And this adventure continues when they return home. There they continue to deepen an inner life and their readiness to take

on action to make the world in which to live, a better place.

Diane and I spent a week at Taizé, some years ago, as have several others of our congregation, and through our winter Taizé services we hope to convey something of Taizé, its values and tradition.

**Reg Weeks**

### **Clerk's corner...**

**Church Chat:** Somehow, we all forgot about the March Church Chat, so it never happened. Ooops...😞 The next one will be on Sunday 11 April, after the service, over coffee – *remind me if I forget again...!* Your opportunity to raise any matters you think we should think about.

**Mainly Music:** We will buy a new data projector (\$699) for Mainly Music – the old one is obsolete and failing. Diane has donated her recent (but still good) laptop to replace MM's very old and obsolete and failing laptop. Thank you Diane...!



**Gardens:** We have recently employed someone to care for our gardens. These have taken a bit of a beating in recent months - what with one thing and another. Expect to see things looking much tidier and more colourful over the next few weeks/months. Like *Mainland* cheese, good gardens take time...!

**Rubbish/Recycling:** Along with the rest of Lower Hutt, we expect St Ronan's soon to be in receipt of four new bins for (1) Glass recycling, (2) Plastic /paper /metal recycling, (3) Greenwaste recycling and (4) Landfill. These bins will be clearly marked.

•It is VERY important stuff is **not put in the wrong bin**  
*or all that bin load goes to landfill for our grandchildren to deal with.*

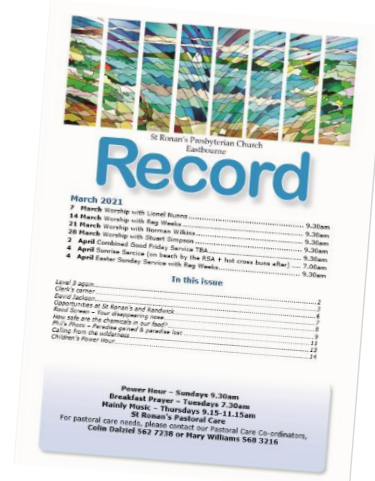
•It is VERY important the recycled stuff is **clean (un-contaminated)**  
e.g. cardboard with attached food remnants (pizza boxes) or cans and plastic containers (unwashed baked bean cans, milk bottles)  
*or all that bin load goes to landfill for our grandchildren to deal with.*

•We should do our best to **recycle everything that can be recycled.**

**Get the picture...?** 😊

**Record:** Les Molloy has put up his hand to take over from Jan Heine as editor of the *Record*. Thank you from us all, Les. Our great little magazine is now in your tender care.

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**Sandy Lang**

## **Partnership, Participation, Protection and Presbyterianism...**

David Jackson will be leading our service on **Sunday 18 April**. His theme will be *Partnership, Participation, Protection and Presbyterianism*. This should be an interesting reflection...

Inspired by Scots Collegian Rev Hēmi Pōtatau (first Māori Moderator of what is now Te Aka Puaho), in 2020 David Jackson undertook a pilgrimage to key locations in Pōtatau's ministry, to gain a greater understanding of Māori expressions of the Christian faith.



In a desire to discover more about his own whakapapa and what it means to be a chaplain in a school embracing New Zealand's biculturalism, David also travelled to the far north, including to Waitangi, and to Oihi his family marae.

Through these journeys, David discovered how Te Ao Māori [[the Māori world](#)] has engaged with Ihu Karaiti [[Jesus Christ](#)] and was reminded that Christianity need not be tied to Pākehā [[Western](#)] culture.

**David Jackson**

College Chaplain, Scots College, Wellington



## ***Shirley Burdan – a heart for family and community...***

"Mum's life was multifaceted and revolved around family and community," said Shirley Burdan's son Neville at his mother's funeral service at St Ronan's Church last month (March 13). "She had the biggest, warmest heart, giving her all to the community."

Shirley, née Press, attended Muritai School and Queen Margaret College, then worked for a time as a hairdresser and later receptionist and accounting machine operator at Joseph Nathan's General Merchant and Bond Store.

After marrying Malcolm in 1957 and starting a family, her community involvement included leading Brownies and Girl Guides, Sunday school and Bible class, Rotary, and helping with the Eastbourne drop-in centre.

Home for both Shirley and Malcolm was St Ronan's Church. Both of them had been baptised there, attended Sunday school and Bible class, had married there and had their three children – Alan, Shona and Neville – baptised there.



"They were keen on getting married and married quite young," Neville said. "They liked family and enjoyed the Press and Burdan families coming together to make an even bigger family. My siblings and I always had plenty of cousins to play with, and aunts and uncles to care for us when we were growing up in Eastbourne."

Shirley was also a very sporty person, with both she and her mother Margaret excelling at bowls. Shirley served as president of both the Eastbourne and the Wellington Women's bowling clubs and, despite her hating speaking on radio, gave regular radio reports on bowling club activities in the Wellington region.

"Mum and grandma were a sporting duo," said Neville. "They were very competitive, with Mum and Grandma even beating the Commonwealth gold medallist in a bowling tournament on one occasion."



Shirley was very competitive with her flower-growing and flower-arranging too, and won countless gold medals at the Eastbourne Horticultural Society shows. The family still has boxes of her winning certificates.

St Ronan's Church also benefitted from her flower-arranging skills. Later in life, she made some artificial arrangements for us (see left) that continue to grace the church, today.

Other highlights in his parents' lives, Neville said, were Christmas holidays in Taupō where Shirley would organise all the picnics and time with daughter Shona and family in Alexandra. "Mum was famous for her scone making during harvest

in Alexandra. She was seen as one of the locals."

The Burdans travelled widely overseas and throughout New Zealand on campervan holidays with friends. Shirley gained huge enjoyment with the many days she spent playing cards with her friends at the Eastbourne Harbour Women's Club in later years.

But above all, they loved celebrating the successes of their children and grandchildren, and sharing in their lives. There was a large family gathering in 2017 when Shirley and Malcolm celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. Many family members from around New Zealand and overseas were able to watch Shirley's funeral service online.



**Anne Manchester**

### ***A close encounter with Colin Gibson...***

Most St Ronan's members are familiar with the hymns of Colin Gibson. Just think of *When the road runs out and the signposts end*, or *I'm a fishbowl Christian, watch me flutter my fins*, or an all-time favourite *He came singing love*.

*Singing love* came second in a national hymn-writing competition in the early 1970s. And only the other week (March 21), we sang the beautiful hymn – new to most of us – *For the man and for the woman*. Colin's musical talents are remarkable, as he writes both lyrics and music.

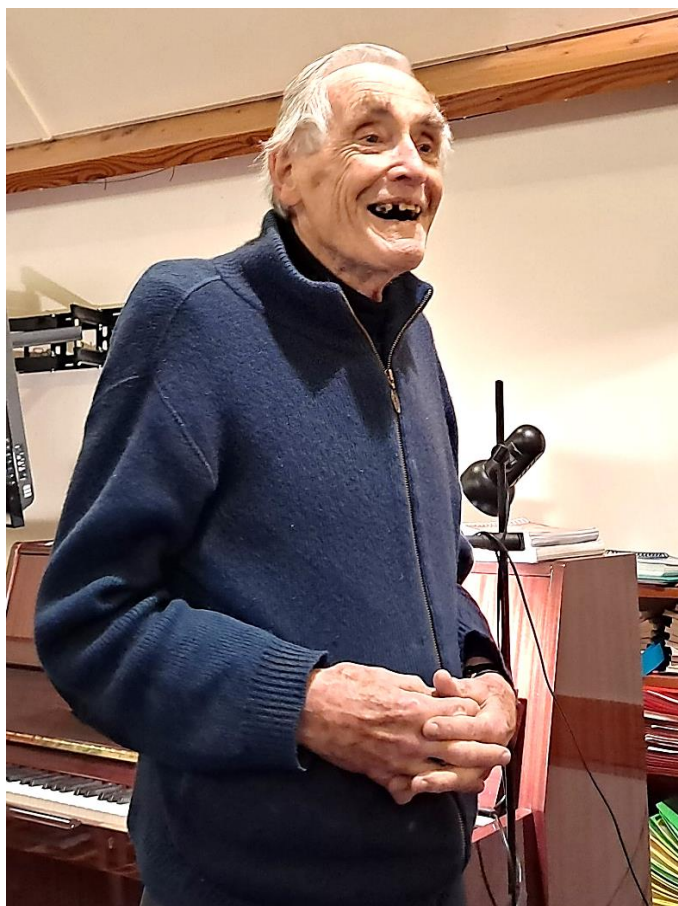


Soon to turn 88, Colin has been organist at Dunedin's Mornington Methodist Church for 64 years. Emeritus professor of English at the University of Otago, he has led the church choir for most of those years, is a lay preacher and has donated his collection of more than 2200 hymn books and books about hymns from around the world, to the Dunedin Public Library. This is the largest gathering of hymnology resources held by any institution in the country.

It was this collection and the man himself who drew me to Dunedin earlier in March. Despite caring for his disabled wife Jeanette (a very talented embroiderer), he offered to have me to stay, and I was privileged to record four in-depth interviews with him about his collaboration with New Zealand's most well-known hymnographer Shirley Murray.

Shirley began her hymn-writing career writing new words to some pre-existing hymn tunes. A few years later, she approached Colin to see if he would set some of her hymns to music. This marked the beginning of a long and fruitful hymn-writing partnership.

It was at Shirley's funeral service in January last year that I heard Colin say: "Someone needs to write Shirley's biography. But that person needs to be a bit younger than me."



**Colin in action leading Dunedin's Mornington Methodist Church choir**

I went away, pondered this challenge, and eventually put my hand up for the task. I knew Shirley personally and have always loved her hymns. In fact, I would say it's her words and their theology that have kept me in the church – her themes feel so relevant, contemporising the gospel message with their use of metaphor and deceptively simple, poetic language.

Before launching into this project, I worked hard to win the confidence of her family. Shirley's many friends and collaborators have also offered me their endorsement and support. This project will no doubt keep me very busy for the next three or four years!

One of the evenings I spent with Colin was choir practice night at his local church. I went along too, keen to see the great musician in action. I was

delighted to observe Colin's enthusiasm and gentle encouragement of the choir, to hear his beautiful piano playing and to witness his creative spirit at work.

In 2007, Shirley Murray wrote a hymn celebrating Colin's 50<sup>th</sup> year as organist at Mornington Methodist Church. Verse 2 feels particularly apt to me:



*Honour the gifted mind, with riches to create  
in note and tone, in word and song what we  
can truly state;  
who laughs at solemn drone, who tilts at  
concepts drear,  
who sings a world of joyful praise for all the  
world to hear.*

Churches in New Zealand and internationally continue to have their worship enriched by the talents of these two very generous and thoughtful people – kindred spirits in the world of modern hymn writing.

**Anne Manchester**

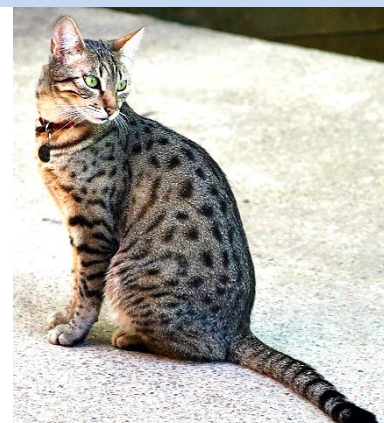


**The historic Walker Organ  
(London, 1874) recently restored  
and  
Jeanette's embroidered panels**

### ***Rood Screen – 'It says in the bible...'***

Psammetichus III was the last pharaoh of the Twenty Sixth Dynasty of Egypt. In 525 BC, the Persian King Cambyses II defeated him at Pelsium, and the events of intrigue and omens leading up to the invasion make for fascinating reading.

One story that's survived two and a half millennia is the one about the cats. It seems that, because the Egyptian deified cats, their religion forbade them from harming





any cat in any way. Knowing this, the invading Persians apparently carried cats into battle, using them as shields.



It makes a great story. Until... Can you imagine riding into battle while trying to hold a cat? Methinks the Persians would have been shredded before they even reached the Egyptian defenders! We shall never know what part (if any) cats actually played that day. Maybe they just painted pictures of cats on their shields? Also, I suspect if you were planning on invading Egypt in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you would not try using cats as shields. The Egyptians have moved on a bit since then.

But we know about the cat story all these years later because it has been told and retold, apparently without question.

I guess that it is why my antennae rise when someone declares "But it says so in the Bible". Without reading the text in its context – both in terms of the times and the circumstances – we might be getting ourselves into serious trouble. I'll let you be the judge of the following:

- We really ought to be stoning people more often. After all, the Bible cites stoning as an appropriate punishment for (among other offenses) paganism, necromancy, manslaughter, adultery, breaking the sabbath, male homosexuality, cursing a parent, contempt of court and giving false testimony in a capital crime.
- Bigamy must be okay because so many of our Old Testament forefathers had multiple wives and mistresses: Abraham had Sarah and Hagar, Jacob had Leah and Rachel (and their handmaidens Bilhah and Zilpah). King Solomon reportedly had 700 wives, including Pharaoh's daughter.
- Genocide must be approved because in 1 Samuel 15:3, Samuel tells King Saul "Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."
- Did you know that Exodus 22:2-3 tells us that if you catch a burglar at night, it is okay to kill them – but apparently not if you catch them during the day.
- Does the story of Lot and his daughters in Genesis 19: 30-36 legitimise incest? After all, it says so in the Bible.
- The Bible has a lot to say about how we ought to treat our slaves. Does that by implication, legitimise slave ownership?



Let's just stick with what Jesus told us in Luke 10:27 *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.* That's definitely in the Bible and it covers most situations. Yesterday, today, tomorrow and in any context.

**John Harris**

## **How to put out the 'fires within'...**

### **Inflammation vs anti-inflammation**

Most of the time, inflammation is a lifesaver that helps our bodies fight off various disease-causing pathogens (bacteria, viruses) or a physical injury, by activating our defence mechanisms to neutralise the infection or assault, and so allow healing to start.

The cause might be something like a knife cut or an animal bite. The area becomes red and swells. Then, after a while, it settles down and the healing process starts.



The inflammatory process can also be triggered by high blood pressure, smoking, consumption of alcohol, too much sugar, hydrogenated fats, stress etc. All the things we know we should moderate or not have at all...

In this case the inflammation does not stop but continues and, just like the cut or bite, the area inside our body stays swollen and this becomes a chronic (long term) disease, rather than transitory. This is the 'fire within' causing aches and pains or feelings of just being unwell.

Some of the common diseases inflammation can contribute to are heart disease, diabetes, arthritis, asthma, cancer and Alzheimer's.

This may all sound very depressing but there are many anti-inflammatory foods we can include into our diets to help mitigate and sometimes reverse these ailments. Examples are:

**Green, leafy vegetables** - such as spinach, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, collards and Brussels sprouts, and nuts such as almonds and walnuts.

**Fatty fish and oils** - such as salmon, mackerel, tuna, sardines and olive oil.

**Fruits** - such as strawberries, blueberries, cherries, oranges, tomatoes and avocados.



There are also anti-inflammatory spices. This recipe uses turmeric and is one of my favourites.

### Anti-inflammatory turmeric coconut milk latte

This turmeric mixture can help ease your digestive system in preparation for a better night's sleep, while also working as a powerful anti-inflammatory. Many sleep issues can relate back to the digestive system working overtime right before bedtime, making it hard for your body to completely wind down and settle in for a restful sleep. Sipping on a warming turmeric mixture in the evening can help settle your digestive system, calm the nervous system, begin the anti-inflammatory process and prepare you for a restful sleep.



#### Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 teaspoon raw honey
- Pinch of ground black pepper
- Pinch of ground cinnamon
- 1 cup unsweetened plant-based milk of choice (coconut, hemp, almond, rice)

#### Method

Make a turmeric paste by mixing the turmeric, honey, cinnamon and black pepper with a tiny bit of hot water.  
Heat the milk in a saucepan or steam.  
Stir through the turmeric paste.  
Serve in a glass or mug and sprinkle with ground cinnamon. Enjoy...!

And a good night's sleep is yours. 😊 Be well...

**Annette J Davidson**  
BN RN Nutritional Consultant

### POWER HOUR - Fair or unfair...?

"That's not fair!" is what children are good at saying to remind others of what is unjust. Children just know these things in their hearts. That is one of their gifts and we as adults should take heed. It then reminds me of what Jesus said about coming to him like a child.



Taking the children's ability to judge fairness, we recently explored the fairness of Jesus' nighttime arrest and trial in the Easter story. As a starter, the children defined fair and unfair by describing an example.

Then they had a game, each judging situations, and casting their votes of fair or unfair? What would you say to:

- A boy at school starts a fight.

*He is not allowed out to play for a week*

Fair / unfair

- Two girls are messing around in class.

*The teacher keeps the whole class in.*

Fair / unfair

- My brother steps on my foot accidentally.

*I kick my brother back.*

Fair / unfair

With Godly Play (table puppets telling the biblical story), picture scenes, speech bubbles/glue and pencils, we immersed ourselves into Jesus' arrest and the high priests' trial.

Now you would think this complex part of the Easter story was too difficult for young primary-age children. Not so. We stopped the story at intervals and assessed the justice. Here are the intervals. Would you find these parts of the trial fair or unfair...?



- During the Passover festival, at nighttime in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, Jesus was praying with his special friends nearby. Soldiers from the temple and others arrested Jesus who did not resist. It was a rule in those days that no arrests should happen during Passover or at nighttime. Fair / unfair

- Next at the home of Caiaphas, the temple high priest, Caiaphas encouraged the teachers of the law and older temple leaders to find reasons, even lies, to really get rid of popular Jesus. "Jesus must die!" said Caiaphas. But the leaders struggled to find a reason for Jesus to die. Causing a disturbance in the temple and tossing out businesspeople did not justify death. Nor borrowing donkeys.

Fair / unfair

- Caiaphas was feeling more desperate and in a hurry. He then challenged and demanded from Jesus, *I command you by the power of the living God: Tell us, if you can, if you are the Christ, Son of God.* Jesus replied, *Those are your words. I tell you, in the future, you will see the Son of Man at the right hand of God, the Powerful One, coming on the clouds in the sky.* Fair / unfair

- Caiaphas was livid with anger. He tore his clothes. He had had enough of word games and was running out of time. Now he accused Jesus of blasphemy. *No more witnesses. Enough! You all heard him. What do you think?* The others in the group replied, *He should die.* Fair? / unfair

The children, independently, decided all the scenes were unfair and they glued speech bubbles on the characters in each picture scene.



They also decided that the trial of Jesus was unfair. We found the reason why Jesus allowed himself to be put to death by working out a word puzzle that said, *For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.* (John 3:16).

In our closing prayer, while lying cosily on the floor, we reflected about ourselves and when we did something wrong. Then we said, *Dear God, I am sorry.* Thumbs down to that!

Next, we jumped up with feet together and arms spread, we said, *Thank you Jesus, for loving me enough to die for me.*

And another jump and clap, *Your love for me is great. Thank you, Jesus!*

Did you know a 'Jerusalem donkey' is named because of the markings on its back which look like a cross. Donkeys have beautiful big soft ears and live to the grand age of 30 years. They are known to be the everyday beast of burden and were a common form of transport in Jesus' time.



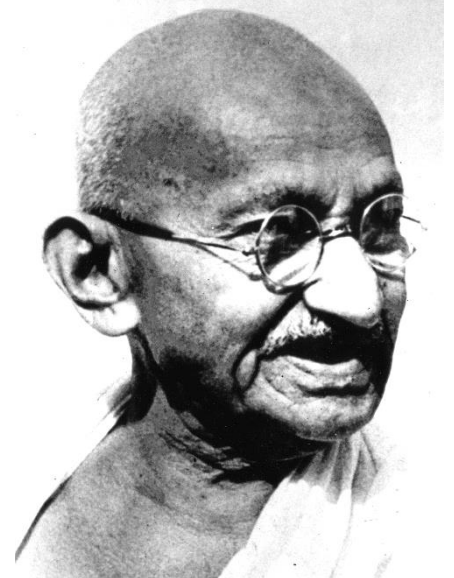
**Term 1** Last day is on 11 April. **Term 2** is from 9 May to 4 July.

***Blessings, Susan Connell***

### ***From "The life and thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi"***

*"I do dimly perceive that whilst everything around me is ever-changing, ever-dying, there is underlying all that change, a Living Power that is changeless, that holds all together, that creates, dissolves and re-creates. That informing Power or Spirit is God. And since nothing else I see merely through the senses can or will persist, He alone is..."*

***Jan Heine***



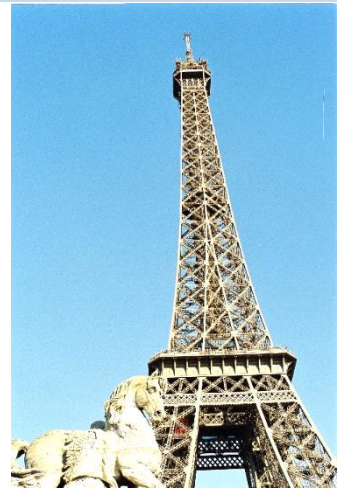
## ***Phil's photo – CubaDupa - Paris vs Wellington...***

It was October 1973 when I first visited Paris. As I walked along the famous streets and along the walkways of the Seine, I thought of the Cole Porter song "I love Paris...". Well, it is springtime in Paris just now, I wonder what life's like in Paris...?

A possum-trapping mate has a sister-in-law who lives in Paris - a nun. In a recent email she painted a very dismal picture of life in that famous and beautiful city - now under strict COVID19 lockdown.

Recently more than 100 patients were moved out of intensive care, to hospitals in other cities to create space for the next influx of Parisians needing intensive care. A nightly curfew 7pm to 6am. Strict guidelines as to how far you may travel from your home. In France there are 30,000 new cases of COVID19 a week. Strangely - schools, mosques, churches and some shops remain open under these strict guidelines. What a life of uncertainty and restrictions...

But this last weekend of March, Wellington celebrated its famous *CubaDupa*. A street festival and party attended by more than 100,000 people. It's a time for Wellington to celebrate its wonderful cultural diversity - a showcase for the wacky, the weird and the wonderful.



Colourful costumes, exciting dance routines from around the world, happiness and a great time for all the family. There is nothing like it anywhere in the world - especially nothing in Paris...





How privileged we are with our nation's response to the pandemic. Well done team New Zealand.

***Phil Benge***







Our God calls us to worship and grow together and to show the love of Christ through serving our community.

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## Directory

St Ronan's Presbyterian Church,  
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### Local Ministry Team

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Contributions for the 'Record' are most welcome.  
Please email them to [lesmolloy7@gmail.com](mailto:lesmolloy7@gmail.com)

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors.  
They do not necessarily represent those of St Ronan's Church

**And the closing date for our next *Record* for May 2021  
Sunday 25 April 2021**