

St Ronan's Presbyterian Church Eastbourne

#### July 2022

| 3 July   | Shared Communion Service with St Alban's, Wellesley | 10.00am |
|----------|---|---------|
| 10 July  | Graeme Munro (Communion)                            | 9.30am  |
| 17 July  | Informal worship service                            | 9.30am  |
| 24 July  | Gill Burke  | 9.30am  |
| 31 July  | Pot Luck Fellowship Lunch with Doug Rogers          | 12 noon |
| 7 August | Informal worship service                            | 9.30am  |

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Power Hour – Sundays 9.30am Breakfast Prayer – Tuesdays 7.45am Mainly Music – Thursdays 9.15-11.15am For pastoral care needs, please contact one of the Local Ministry Team Rev Reg Weeks 027 491 5947, Simon Shaw 562 8772, Colin Dalziel 562 7238 or Sandy Lang 562 8753

## Celebrating the Tartan...

As I write, my mind is really on next Sunday, the first in July, the day set aside as **Tartan Day**, a day to celebrate this distinctive feature of Scottish culture.

But it's not so much to celebrate a distinctively patterned piece of woollen fabric. Rather, when something taken for granted is then taken away by an oppressive power, there is a new awareness of its value, and great rejoicing, when the oppression is relieved, and normality is restored.



I'm thinking of the aftermath of the Battle of Culloden Field near Inverness, when the highlanders supporting the royal claims of Prince Charles Stuart were defeated by the English. The English Parliament then banned the wearing of tartan. The first of a number of measures to crush the Clan system of Scotland.

That law was finally repealed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1782, and it was celebrated with great jubilation and the creation of the Highland dance called the *Seann Triubhas* ('shown troos') which starts by steps mocking the restriction of foreign trousers; then follows a defiant shedding of the hated trews, to conclude in quick time with the rediscovered freedom of the kilt.

200 years later New York became the first city to recognise and celebrate Tartan Day. It's now widely celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in July, and we have celebrated it at St Ronan's on several occasions.

Indeed, St Ronan's takes its name from a Scottish saint with a passion for education. Although his base was Innerleithen in the lowlands (southeast of Edinburgh) he symbolises the well-known emphasis on the importance of education associated with Scottish Presbyterians. So, if education moves you, or you have a smattering of Scottish blood, feel warmly invited to wear a little Tartan to celebrate Tartan Day.

But there's another coloured symbol that should continue to catch our attention and that's the blue and yellow flag of Ukraine. It was widespread around the village a month ago but as the war drags on, the initial focus can wane with the passage of time and with the competing demands on of our time. These



two colours represent a clear blue sky over a ripening field of wheat, as Ukraine has long been a crucial source of grain for much of Europe. The Russian blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports is now cutting off vital supplies and its unceasing bombardment of apartment buildings and supermarkets are an attempt to enforce an autocratic will, by whatever means, to oppress and subjugate a free people.

Let's take care to value the freedoms we enjoy, offer whatever support that may lie within our power to give, and look for the day when Ukrainians may, like the Scots of old, celebrate their release from oppression. **Reg Weeks** 

## Clerk's corner...

**Fellowship lunch:** As you will see on the *Record* front cover, we will have our next '*Pot Luck Fellowship Lunch'* on 31 July (the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday). Rev Doug Rogers and Gwyn will again be our guests, and Doug will offer a short homily.

Hoping for a few more of you this time. A time to share with one another and to offer and receive encouragement and support in the informal setting of a shared family meal. Church never was meant to be a solitary experience. And talking of sharing...



**Shared service:** Our first Shared Service with St Alban's people will be this coming Sunday 3 July. There will be no 3 July service at St Ronan's.

This is St Ronan's turn to share with the people of **St Alban's** at **Wellesley College** at **10am**. It will be an Anglican Communion Service led by Peter Stuart, Diane Gilliam-Weeks will be preaching, and Les Molloy will do the bible readings.

*Communion* - During these COVID times, the Anglicans partake in communion with the bread only (the wine is consumed by the minister only). After the elements are blessed, the congregation moves to the front, row by row, to receive the bread (a wafer). After receiving and consuming the wafer, you return to your seat. Simply watch what others do and follow suit...

*Mask wearing* – This is **not** now compulsory either for St Ronan's or St Alban's, but it **is** strongly recommended. Most of us continue to wear a mask and I understand most St Alban's people do too.

*Mask wearing and social distancing* - Be sensitive to others. Some may be more vulnerable than you, and some are more nervous than you – as Jacinda would say "Be kind to one another..." She got this phrase from Ephesians 4:32.

Please give priority to attending these *Shared Services* with St Alban's. I'm convinced this is the way ahead for our three Eastbourne churches. All three are now struggling, with declining congregations, and declining financial and human resources. See the timely and interesting article (on page 6, this issue) by local historian and Anglican Julia Stuart. I bet you didn't know all the stuff she reports...!

**Honour:** Congratulations to Dr Les Molloy, QSO appointed to be a Companion of the Queens' Service Order for his services to conservation and outdoor recreation. Already celebrated with chocolate and applause at a church service the other day, and again in the *Eastbourne Herald*. But for posterity, let's record this in the *Record* too – the organ of St Ronan's that will be the primary archival resource in 2053 when someone updates our church history. To remind you we already have...

50 years (1953): <u>https://wellington.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/4884</u> 100 years (2003): <u>https://wellington.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/5054</u>

Les, we're proud to have you among us, not just for what you've achieved professionally but for who you are as a part of our St Ronan's family of faith...

**Metals recycling bin:** We've not been overrun with scrap metal (as I'd feared) but we have had some useful donations (which I was hoping for) and almost no rubbish (which I was dreading). As earlier indicated, scrap iron is not worth very much, but scrap aluminium and stainless steel are worth a bit (and we've had some of these) and scrap copper and brass and lead are worth even more (and we've had some of these too).

Thanks to those who've given this metal to us. This helps keep scrap metal out of the landfill (where it doesn't belong) and helps support St Ronan's building maintenance. As the metal accumulates, it will be sold periodically to Macauley Metals. The more valuable metals (but sadly no gold or platinum yet...) are kept in a safe place in case it should grow legs.

e: slang@xtra.co.nz t: 562 8752 m: 021 222 0383 Sandy Lang

### Church Chat

Simon has provided the following notes on the main points discussed at our *Church Chat* on 26 June...

**Informal services:** •Geoff said he would like to see these held in the church as the church should be open every Sunday. After discussion we agreed to hold an informal service in the church as a trial.

•There was a need to promote the informal services more. Reg noted we are getting a banner made to indicate informal services are being held in the Fellowship Room.

•Reg also plans to send out an anonymous survey to those attending informal services, seeking feedback.

•Some people like the variety of the informal services. Others like the regular format of a traditional service. Some people like to participate, others don't. Participation must be invited in an encouraging way.

**Shared Service with St Albans:** This coming Sunday July 3 at Wellesley at 10:00am

**Community Fridge:** It was suggested it needs a good clean. Yes... But there are no 'organisers'. It's a 'community fridge' and it's up to anyone in the community who feels moved to clean it, to clean it...!

**Church office and minister's office:** We need to have a good clean out of both rooms. Reg noted they are presently holding books that may form a future theological library.

#### Simon Shaw

### Life is...

There are some birthday cards I find it hard to throw away, even months after my latest birthday has passed. One I received in April this year, includes some wise words attributed to Mother Teresa:

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is bliss, taste it. Life is a dream, realise it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is a promise, fulfil it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it.

There is some debate as to whether Mother Teresa really did write this poem, called *Life Is*.

In an internet search, I found some additional lines:

Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it. Life is luck, make it. Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life, fight for it.



Whether or not Mother Teresa did or did not write the words, they continue to inspire me. The card, therefore, will sit by my computer until it buckles in the sunshine and the words fade.

Anne Manchester

## A century of cooperation...

The congregations of St Alban's, St Ronan's and San Antonio's go back a long way, to the time when Eastbourne was a holiday resort for weekenders from Wellington. The Presbyterians were the first denomination to hold regular church services on these shores, way back in November 1902, and they had started a Sunday School with 33 scholars even before then. Eleven months later, they had built a church on the present Muritai Road site, and less than a year after that, the first Anglican wedding in Eastbourne took place – in St Ronan's Presbyterian Church.

Around the same time, the Catholic Marist fathers had a weekend cottage in Rona Bay and invited locals to the Sunday mass; their first baptism was in 1906. Regular Anglican worship began in the eastern bays in 1907, with the Church of England congregation paying 2/6d (about



\$50) per week to use the Presbyterian facilities. A prominent Presbyterian layman and land-owner, Dr McKenzie, was generous to all three churches – he donated land to the Presbyterians and the Anglicans, and sold a cut-price beach-front section to the Catholic community forming around the Marist bach.

Such friendliness was not the norm in the denominationally-polarised days of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. But it set the scene. In both world wars, a service of Intercessions was held every Wednesday evening for all-comers. On the eastern harbour shores, the Sunday Schools in Days Bay and Pt Howard were open to children of all denominations and none. When the National Council of Churches was formed in 1941, it launched a Campaign for Christian Order (CCO) to prepare for a post-war society and a local CCO committee formed in 1942.

Inter-church activity took a back seat post-war, but then in the late 1960s came the Plan for Union which would have united five NZ denominations – Presbyterian, Methodist, Churches of Christ, Congregational and Anglican. Great discussion followed, but in the end the Anglicans refused to join the party. Despite this, local ecumenical activity flourished, and drew the three local congregations (Catholic, Presbyterian and Anglican) into a 'Ministers' Fraternal', later widened to include lay leaders, which continues to meet regularly to this day.



Joint church projects – FISH (a community support service), Okiwi House (later Trust), a Drop-In Centre for older people, the Youth Worker Trust, and the Millennium Celebrations – arose in response to local need, along with joint services such as Good Friday and the Community Carol Service.

And now, more than a hundred years later, Anglicans are relying on the hospitality of St Ronan's and San Antonio's to keep the parish functioning, and are profoundly grateful for this ecumenical tradition. Since our forced departure from the earthquake-risk St Alban's in August 2016, we have used both the Catholic and the Presbyterian churches for worship, and our regular community outreaches of Pop-In-

and-Play and Take-A-Break have operated out of St Ronan's halls.

If our situations were ever reversed, we'd like to think that Anglicans would be equally generous to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Because that's the way we've always done things on this side of the harbour.

#### Julia Stuart

## What are you worth ...?

Back in 75 BCE, Julius Caesar was on his way to the Greek city of Rhodes to study oratory. On the way, his vessel was captured by pirates. Sensing that they had a valuable captive, they demanded a ransom of twenty talents (480,000 sesterces). However, Caesar was insulted and insisted that they raise their demand to fifty talents (1,200,000 sesterces) as he felt that this was more appropriate to his status.

The money was quickly raised, and Caesar was



released. Caesar later returned to the pirate stronghold. What then happened to the pirates is not the stuff for sensitive readers.

I'm not sure if I am more appalled by the fact that he was prepared to sacrifice his freedom (and possibly his life) on the altar of his ego or if I reluctantly admire his confidence in his worth...? Have you ever doubted your worth?

You are made up of 65% oxygen, 18% carbon, 10% hydrogen, 3% nitrogen, 1.5% calcium and 1% phosphorus (the rest are in such small quantities they barely count). None of these is high value so, chemically speaking, your value is less than five dollars – just the same as Julius Caesar and everybody else.



But that is not how God values you. John 3:16 says For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. To do that for us, God must think you and I are worth an awful lot.

And here's a little something to ponder: A rainbow is not a circle. It is a cone. What you

see is a circular section of that cone that has its vertex in your eye. So, when you think about it, the treasure at the end of the rainbow has been inside you all along...

## John Harris

### Lessons from Matariki...

Somehow, I feel we have all taken a great step forward with the first-ever official marking of Matariki on July 24. This is our first indigenous holiday many other public holidays have been colonial imports. Communities up and down the country seemed to have embraced Matariki, accepting new knowledge and understandings from Te Ao Māori (the Māori world view) and using and hearing Te Reo Māori throughout the media.

I am slowly getting to know the names of the nine stars and what they mean. I am sure my grandchildren at Gracefield School are already very familiar with them.

So here is a little information from the 100 per cent Pure New Zealand website: Matariki is known as the Māori New Year in Te Ao Māori. Closely connected with the maramataka (the Māori lunar calendar), the reappearance of the Matariki stars in the early morning sky brings the past year to a close and marks the beginning of the new year.

Mātauranga Māori (ancestral knowledge and wisdom) is at the heart of celebrations of the Matariki public holiday, a time for:

Remembrance – Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki.
Celebrating the present – Gathering together to give thanks for what we have.

•Looking to the future – Looking forward to the promise of a new year.

Historically, the stars of Matariki were also closely tied to planting, harvesting, and hunting. If the stars appeared clear and bright, it signified an abundant season ahead.

The Matariki star cluster contains hundreds of stars but only nine are visible to the naked eye. Each of these nine stars has a distinct story and significance in Māori culture.

According to one Māori myth, the cluster represents a whaea or mother -Matariki - and her six daughters Tupuānuku, Tupuārangi, Waipunarangi, Waitī, Waitā and Ururangi.

Matariki

The name Matariki refers to both the star cluster as a whole and a specific star, which signifies reflection, hope, our connection to the environment and the health and wellbeing of people.



**Pōhutukawa** is the star that serves as a reminder of those who have passed on, encouraging us to take the time to remember them and acknowledge their impacts on our lives.

**Tupuānuku** ("tupu" means 'to grow' and "nuku" is the shortened version of "Papatuanuku" meaning 'Earth') is the star connected with everything that grows in the ground to be harvested or gathered for food.

**Tupuārangi** is the star associated with food sources that come from the sky, such as birds, or fruit and berries from trees.

**Waitī** is connected with all freshwater bodies and the food sources sustained by those waters. Waitī watches over freshwater environments such as awa (rivers), roto (lakes), kūkūwai (wetlands) and waipuna (springs).

**Waitā** represents the ocean and the seafood that can be harvested from it. This star encourages us to respect our coasts, oceans and marine life.

Waipuna-ā-Rangi is connected with rain, hail and snow.

**Ururangi** is connected with the various winds.

*Hiwa-i-te-Rangi* is a wishing star, helping us to realise our hopes and aspirations for the coming year.

I hope everyone at St Ronan's has taken the time to remember those they love who are no longer here, to celebrate the present with family and friends, and to look towards the future with hope. Matariki has much to teach us.

Anne Manchester

## Dealing with a book legacy from Jan Heine...

Throughout their lifetimes, Arnold and Jan Heine collected a wide range of books, around 1500-2000 in all - many were rare or first editions. After Arnold's passing in 2019, and as Jan's health was declining in 2020, it became obvious she needed to shift from their difficult-to-access Days Bay home.

Over several months her friends rallied round to clear out their home of the past 40 years and help her to shift to her new home at Enliven Apartments in Woburn.

Jan asked me to help her sell or dispose of the books. They were primarily on mountaineering and exploration, especially polar regions, Himalaya, and Central Asia. But there was also a wide range of New Zealand books on outdoor recreation, natural sciences, philosophy, religion, etc.

Initially, around 30 boxes were despatched to Colin Monteath of Barking Mad Books in Christchurch. Colin is a well-known Antarctic and Himalayan mountaineer/explorer and long-time colleague of Arnold's.



To honour Arnold's reputation as an Antarctic explorer and scientist, Colin planned to create a 'Heine Polar Library' wing in his bookshop.

The remaining 90-odd boxes of books were ultimately carried down the 98 slippery steps to Kotari Road and off to the Hutt Valley Tramping Club (HVTC) rooms in Waterloo.

By this time Jan had decided that she wanted to donate the proceeds from the sale of these books to a charity which would further mountain conservation and facilitate the greater enjoyment of the outdoors by young people.

The HVTC undertook to organise a book sale and another local longtime mountaineer friend, Dave Bamford, suggested he run an auction of the best books in association with the sale. The charity Jan chose was the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Mountain and Forest Trust.



Sadly, Covid-19 intervened and we considered it would be irresponsible to host such a closecontact public event. So, for 20 months the books had to be housed in the HVTC rooms – and even sadder, Jan was not able to see the outcome for she passed away in December 2021.

Finally, the auction and sale was held over 17/18 June and raised around \$10,000 for the Trust.

The remaining books will be donated to another charity, the Heretaunga Bookfest Charitable Trust, whose 'giant' booksale has been rescheduled for the weekend of 29/30 October. The many beneficiaries of Bookfest include Te Omanga Hospice, Salvation Army, Books to Pacific Island Schools, Citizens Advice Bureau, Upper Hutt Food Bank, Wellington Hospital Foundation, etc. Looking back, for some of us it has been a two-year saga and we are grateful to the many volunteers from the tramping club who made it a success on the day. I'm sure that Jan and Arnold would have been very happy with the eventual outcome.

Les Molloy

### Children's Power Hour – A Letter to St Ronan's

Here is the beautiful children's scrolled-up letter to the Church of St Ronan's. It's hung up in the Fellowship Room for all to read. Have you read it yet...?

It was a perfect day for the children because they came earlier to Power Hour and the congregation came later for the Fellowship Lunch. The children truly appreciate having the Church's presence in their lives and growing their faith.

At that time, we were exploring the spread of the Good News of Jesus after Pentecost. Hence, their scrolled-up letter was modeled on Paul's encouraging letters to the Churches of Philippi and Corinth and to the individuals Philemon and Timothy.

#### Paul's letters often started...

From Paul, a servant/apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God and Christ Jesus our hope. To ... our dear friend and worker with us or my dear child in the faith we



*share. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour/Lord.* 

And they ended...

*Grace be with you or, To the only wise God be glory forever, through Jesus Christ! Amen, or, My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.* 

The children's letter on the scroll read... BLESSINGS TO THE CHURCH OF ST RONAN'S From Power Hour children - Blake, Emma, Mills and Zephram. Grace and peace of God to you. To dearest Church of St Ronan's. Blessings on being nice to us. Blessings on your company. Blessing on being kind. Blessing on being helpful. Blessing on you being beautiful. Blessing on you giving us the Christ Candle. Blessing on you being nice. Sharing your food with us. Smiling at us. On our ministers. Giving your love.



Reg Weeks reads the letter of Blessings to the Church of St Ronan's

## School holidays: 10-24 July

#### **Book Review...**

## *A Field Guide to the English Clergy by Reverend Fergus Butler-Gallie*

The Anglican church has always attracted many eccentric and colourful characters. Just how eccentric and colourful is covered in this entertaining and witty book by the Reverend Fergus Butler-Gallie. He certainly has a large and rich field to draw on. His assembled portraits of colourful clerics are grouped under the headings of Eccentrics, Nutty Professors, Bon Viveurs, Prodigal Sons, and Rogues. Some samples:

The Reverend Edwin (Teddy) Boston, Rector of Cadeby cum Sutton Cheney, had a life long obsession with steam trains. In 1962 he purchased a steam engine (Pixie) and constructed a track in the rectory's large garden. This was

## *Susan Connell* Term 3: 31 July-2 October



followed by purchases of a second steam engine (the Terror) and a steamroller, the latter used for trips to the shops. He was the inspiration for the "Fat Controller" and the "Fat Clergyman" in the *Thomas the Tank Engine* stories written by the Rev W Audry, another clerical steam enthusiast.

The Rev Ian Henry Gaunt Graham-Orlebar, Rector of Barton-le-Clay, was a successful London solicitor before becoming a curate in Hemel Hempstead. He was subsequently appointed Rector of Barton-le-Clay on the condition he maintained the rectory, a large, rambling mansion with acres of grounds and a moat. He successfully restored the rectory and grounds using younger members of the church choir as labourers. He conducted all parish visits on horseback on steeds named Ministry and Sabbatical.

Today we think of Oxford and Cambridge as centres of academic excellence but for most of their history "they were more of a holding pen for the nation's gilded youth and, crucially, the only place where an individual could train for Holy Orders." A noted clerical academic was The Reverend Dr William Spooner, Warden of New College Oxford who gave his name to Spoonerisms. Spooner is credited with saying a lazy undergraduate had "tasted two worms" and once referred to God as a "shoving leopard". During the College's celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee he proposed a toast to "the Queer old Dean."

Canon Brian Dominic Frederick Titus Leo Brindley was Vicar of Holy Trinity, Reading. Holy Trinity became known for its outrageously camp liturgy, with Brindley at one service processing round the church holding the consecrated sacrament while being fanned by ostrich feathers. He wore bright red high heels under his cassock while doing his weekly shopping at the supermarket. At a time when the church was hugely divided over its stance on homosexuality, Brindley was removed from his position and later became a Roman Catholic.

The Honourable and Reverend William Capel, Vicar of Watford, was described as a pre-eminent huntsman, womaniser and drinker as well as Vicar of Watford for 55 years. He spent most of his time away playing cricket for the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and returning to Watford to hunt foxes. He employed a Curate to give him more free time on Sundays, the day he customarily toured his parish blocking up foxholes to make Monday's hunting a little easier.

Other denominations come in for some colourful quotes. The Reverend Bruce Cornford, Vicar of St Matthews, Southsea, hated his ecumenical colleagues, once referring to the Roman Catholic Church in England as "an Italian mission to the Irish". In the Glossary, Methodists are defined as "A sect who were asked to leave the Church of England for singing too loudly and talking about God too much." Presbyterians hardly rated a mention. An enjoyable and witty read. Available from the library.

#### Simon Shaw

## Phil's photo – A cloud with a polychromic lining...

The Kingdom of Tonga has faced exceptional challenges over the last three years. The country has been recovering •from 2020's Tropical Cyclone Harold, next •from the economic losses caused by the COVID pandemic, and now •from January's eruption of the



Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano and the associated tsunami and ashfall.

In this latest disaster, 85% of Tonga's population has been directly affected and the cost has been valued at 36% of Tonga's GDP. This eruption is the most explosive volcanic event in the world in the last 30 years. So, what has this got to do with us in Robinson Bay?

It's sometimes said; Every dark cloud has a silver lining. This is often true •meteorologically but can also be true •metaphorically. You should not feel hopeless in dark and difficult times because they often lead to something better.





For some months following Tonga's volcanic eruption, the stratospheric aerosols have been changing the way light scatters.

On a clear evening, this creates for us a special glow in the sky with hues of gold, blue, purple and violet just as the sun dips below the western hills.





In this sense we could say the Tongan dust cloud has a polychromic – even a golden lining...!



As we enjoy this special lighting, this Matariki season let's remember Tonga in our prayers that this island nation may emerge the stronger from its brutal succession of woes. The best time to see this polychromic light in Robertson Bay is between 4 and 5pm.

#### Phil Benge

[A copy of this Phil's Photo article was emailed to a businessman/grower friend of Sandy's in Tonga.

He replies... "Thanks very much for this - Sincerely appreciate your church's prayers and thoughts and Love the thought of a polychromic cloud lining. The photos are great. Stay well & Kind Regards, Tsutomu II Nakao"]



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

# Directory

St Ronan's Presbyterian Church, 234 Muritai Road, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt, 5013

#### Local Ministry Team

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Contributions for the 'Record' are most welcome Please email them to lesmolloy7@gmail.com Phone (04) 568 3377

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 August 2022 is Sunday 31 July 2022