



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church
Eastbourne

Record

July 2023

2 July	Informal worship service.....	9.30am
9 July	Reg Weeks.....	9.30am
16 July	Informal worship service.....	9.30am
23 July	Leanne Munro.....	9.30am
30 July	BYO Fellowship Lunch with Doug Rogers.....	12 noon
6 August	Shared service with St Albans, at Wellesley.....	10.00am

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Power Hour – Sundays 9.30am
Breakfast Prayer – Tuesdays 8.00am
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

What does it mean to be Presbyterian...?

Having been baptised in a Presbyterian church, confirmed in a Presbyterian church, later ordained to eldership in my early twenties in a Presbyterian church, then ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian church over 50 years ago, I've had quite some time to reflect on what it means to be Presbyterian.



And having recently been commissioned by Presbytery Central as one of the elders and ministers to represent it at the upcoming General Assembly, the question of who we are and what we are about, has again become a matter of serious reflection. And not for the first time...

When living in Wanaka and driving buses while Diane was the minister, I wrote a brief reflection on this question so I thought it might be a good thing see if anything has changed since then. My first question was about the name!

Presbyterian! Why continue to live with such a mouthful of a name?

There was a time when like Tevye in 'Fiddler on the Roof' all Presbyterians would have shouted with one voice "Tradition...!" It was a time when the rate of change in the church was slow, things felt comfortably stable and most in the community had a basic, if rudimentary, understanding of Christian heritage, story and values.

If you wanted to know what 'Presbyterian' meant you could just go to a Presbyterian church and see how things were done. There would usually be a small foyer, a central pulpit, suited seniors at the door and a male minister - invariably dressed in black. Black cassock, black gown, black preaching scarf; all set off with a white clerical collar and preaching tabs. Most wore academic hoods, for they were educated men, important and sometimes imposing figures in local community life. And some of our finest elders graced the highest political corridors of the land.

But things have changed! Both women and men are now elders and ministers. In keeping with today's kaleidoscopic variety in clothing, music, culture, ethnicity and lifestyle, the monochrome clerical black has given way to a staid flirtation with colour, or conformity by wearing the ecumenical alb, or the abandonment of any form of special garb. And the patterns of worship, even architecture, are just as varied. "Presbyterian" on the sign at the door can give little clue as to what might be going on inside on any given Sunday.

So, what does it mean to be Presbyterian today?

Perhaps the most basic aspect to the name, and the thing that hasn't changed, is our system of government. We don't recognise any ordained office higher than that of 'elder' (*Presbyter*). There are both 'teaching' elders (ministers) and 'governing' elders (church councillors) who are all of equal rank. Each congregation is governed by a church council, which is itself responsible to the regional Presbytery.



Presbyteries are responsible to the General Assembly, both are made up of equal numbers of ministers and church councillors. Presbyterians have always placed a high value on a competent and well-educated band of 'teaching' elders, and the word 'Elder' is not so much about age, rather maturity of insight and the ability to appreciate and reflect on a wide range of life experience. We look for a faith-filled leadership, both inspired and inspiring.

We, of course, honour our Moderators (a non-sexist term) who chair our various councils. They may be either a minister or church councillor, but we make clear to them that their appointment is just for a while. At Assembly their first duty is usually to preside over the election of their successor.

Moderators have no vote, nor can they move motions – their task is to ensure that all are treated fairly, all have an opportunity to speak, and that discussions stay on track. Their position carries responsibilities but no personal authority.

What has changed? Churches are smaller, and Presbyteries much larger with a consequent drop in the opportunities to build a sense of community beyond the congregation. However, every Christian community larger than a family needs to choose some way to organise itself. Over the years I've had the opportunity to check out the various ways in which authority and responsibility are organised and exercised in a range of denominations as well as in the wider community. (Back in the day, I was elected for a term on a Hospital Board, later became a director on the board of a regional service organisation, and also trained as an industrial chaplain serving a couple of Crown Entities as well as a fast-growing electronics company).

While each system has its strengths, I have continued Presbyterian because our way of doing things seems to me to be fairer and less open to personal influence; closer, if you will, to early New Testament models, than any other form. I also think it more likely to produce a gathering where what the Spirit is saying to the Church may be more clearly heard, today as ever before.

It's a system of finely tuned checks and balances developed over the years to temper enthusiasm with experience, passion with prudence, creativity with direction, and discipline with compassion. At its best it continues to re-form,

guided by new insights and new understandings of both scripture and of the world at large.

Let's face it, the name is archaic (and Greek at that) but archaic terms have never been a problem in the sailing community. The sailing community continues to use the widest range of archaic and unintelligible terms, but sailors just continue to do their stuff to the best of their ability, and when they get it together, as in the America's Cup, not only does the world take notice, but it also takes the trouble to give support, get involved, and find out what the strange words really mean.

I hope that the same might apply to us. Perhaps, when we get it together, at church, or Presbytery, or General Assembly, then maybe it does.

Reg Weeks

Clerk's corner

Shared services: The next 'Shared Service' with the people of St Alban's will be at Wellesley, at 10am, on Sunday 6 Aug.

First Aid Workshop: This is on 18 July 2.30-4.30pm. Places are nearly all taken now (limit 20). I hope to run a second first aid workshop a bit later on in the year, to give people another opportunity to attend one. Hopefully in the evening as a weekday afternoon doesn't suit many people.

We are working on getting an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) at St Ronan's.



Sunday Lecture: A great success (see later this *Record*). I was unwell so missed it. But I have an audio recording of the lecture and a PowerPoint of the slides (thanks Paul) which I can share with any who missed it - just drop me an email and I'll send them to you.

Well done to Gill Burke for lining this up. I understand the refreshments were a bit over-catered. Over-catering is a sure sign of a warm welcome (and the opposite is true too...!) Such a pity I missed the opportunity to hear the lecture live, ask questions and gain a few kg...!

Katherine Mansfield: And the same day in the evening, Anne and several others from the wider Eastbourne community ran a magnificent evening event at Wellesley (see later this *Record*). Well done all those people too. I missed the mulled wine at that event too... 😞

New Curtains: And next time you're in, you'll see the Fellowship Room now boasts new curtains. Thanks again to Gill for noticing the tattered state of the old ones and doing something about it...!

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Sandy Lang

Rood screen – The Girl from Ipanema...

You may have read recently of the passing of Astrud Gilberto (pronounced *Aas-stroo-gi*). Astrud was the voice that made the song *The Girl from Ipanema* famous around the world and helped popularise the Bossa Nova.

Astrud was just 22 when, in 1963, she accompanied her husband João Gilberto to New York to help him as a studio translator while he cut an album with jazz legend Stan Getz.

When the band came to record the English lyrics for *The Girl from Ipanema*, producer Creed Taylor said that he wanted to get the song done right away. But they didn't have a trained vocalist. Astrud was the only woman in the room...!

I gather she volunteered rather shyly, saying she could sing in English, and Creed said, 'Great.'

Although she had almost no time to prepare, Astrud's detached but sultry vocals perfectly captured the vibe of a "tall and tan and young and lovely" girl who turned the heads of everyone she passed.

The rest is history. The song was an instant hit and went on to win the Grammy Award for *Record of the year*.

The sick part was that Astrud wasn't even credited on the track which was released under the names Stan Getz and João Gilberto, and she only received the standard \$120 session fee for her performance.

The important part was that Astrud was there and, when called upon, she stepped up to the plate.

There's a story in the Bible about a lad named Samuel. He was there, and he stepped up to the plate too. Sure, he may not have recognised it was God's voice calling him at first, but as soon as he realised what was happening, he said "*Speak, for your servant is listening*".

Are you listening? And are you prepared to step up to the plate if the Lord calls you to do something? Even if it is way outside your comfort zone?

John Harris



**Astrud Gilberto, born
Astrud Evangelina Weinert**
(March 29, 1940, to June 5, 2023,
Brazil)

New curtains in our tearoom...



After noticing our old tearoom curtains had frayed and faded around the edges, Parish Council gave me the green light to purchase some ready-made, thermal-lined replacements. They are 'Chinois Green' in colour, which reminds me of duck egg blue.

These are now hanging in place thanks to some Parish Council lads helping to put them up. They are still a little creased from their packaging, so if these creases don't fall out as they hang, they will be ironed or steamed out.

We have kept the old cheery print curtains to see if they can be re-purposed to replace the rather ragged curtains in the church hall. Otherwise, we can donate them to a charity that helps people without curtains, often fixing and relining them first.

When I have ever replaced an old with a new item in our home, I try to pause and be grateful for the purpose it has served and the occasions it has been part of!

The old tearoom curtains were apparently sewn by a church member about 30 years ago and were a cheery floral print. Being large, I imagine they were quite a task to sew. A reminder of people and times past that are all part of the stories comprising the St Ronan's community.

Gill Burke

The community made it happen...

On Sunday July 2, we launched our *At the Bay* photographic tribute, made to mark the centenary of Katherine Mansfield's death in 1923, at the age of 34.

The tribute is an 18-minute audiovisual production capturing five scenes from Katherine Mansfield's wonderful story, *At the Bay*. This describes a day in the life of a small community, holidaying in the 'summer colony' – our colony!

I am the director and narrator of the tribute, working closely with Days Bay photographer and editor Simon Hoyle to realise it. The launch was the culmination of four months' work. Each of us – Simon and I, our producer John Horrocks and our researcher with the *Historical Society of Eastbourne* Ali Carew – gave our time freely. We are grateful for a grant from the *Eastbourne-Bays Community Trust* to cover expenses.

What has been most heartening for me has been the community spirit that has supported this deeply creative and satisfying project from go to whoa. I think of the people in Eastbourne from whom I borrowed props for the various scenes; I think of Ashley Bloomfield stepping in at the last minute to help me out when one of my six actors pulled out; I think of the principal of Wellesley College, Michael Bain, generously opening up the school to us for shooting some of the scenes and providing the hall for our wonderful launch.

I think, too, of the *Butterfly Creek Theatre Troupe* lending us its costumes (not to mention its actors); I think of Sandy creating eight different versions of the programme till we finally settled on one that satisfied everyone; *St Ronan's*



The *At the Bay* tribute creative team.

**From left, Simon Hoyle, Anne Manchester,
John Horrocks and Ali Carew** [Photo Eileen Brown]



Anne directing actor Jonathan Knox in one of the scenes

[Photo Simon Hoyle]

and *St Alban's* lending us their glass mugs for the mulled wine; the team of volunteers who collected tickets on the night, gave out the programmes, served the mulled wine and cleaned up the next morning; the chair stackers, traffic wardens, rostrum heavers. So many people helped make this project and its launch happen!

Thank you, thank you, thank you, from the bottom of my heart...

And, if you didn't make the launch, the good news is you can watch the AV production in the comfort of your own home by going to the link www.vimeo.com/southlightnz/KM2023. Try casting it to your TV so you see it on a reasonably large screen. And look out for an exhibition on Katherine Mansfield and her links to the Eastern Bays, plus another screening of the AV, at the *Eastbourne Community Library* later in the year.

Anne Manchester



Sunday Afternoon Lecture

Sunday 2 July, 2pm, St Ronan's, 234 Muritai Road, Eastbourne

THE FUTURE IS RAIL: REVIVING LONG-DISTANCE PASSENGER TRAINS

Dr Paul Callister • *Economist* • *Climate change policy*
• *Sustainable transport* • *Ecological restoration*

The future is rail...



SAVE OUR TRAINS

WWW.ALLRAILWAYS.CO.NZ

Reviving long distance passenger trains is the aim of the "Save Our Trains" advocacy group. Their national spokesperson, Dr Paul Callister, outlined the case in a public meeting at St Ronan's on the afternoon of 2

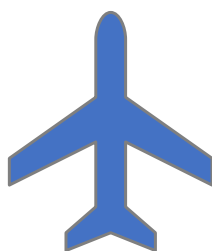
July. Paul lives on the Kapiti Coast and has long enjoyed tramping, cycling, and the conservation of New Zealand's flora and fauna. A Doctor of Public Policy, he is interested in social policy and research into various aspects of life in New Zealand. His busy retirement includes volunteering for many projects, such as pest control on Kapiti Island and the establishment of the popular Paekākāriki Escarpment walking track.



Paul approached the restoration of our long-distance passenger rail (and associated bus networks) from the perspective of the critical need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While the agriculture industry produces most emissions, transport is the next biggest emitter, with domestic air travel producing most carbon dioxide.

Indeed, New Zealand ranks fourth in the world for domestic aviation emissions



- **We rank 4th in the world for per-capita domestic aviation emissions.**

- **On a per capita domestic basis, New Zealanders emit 7 times more domestic aviation emissions than people living in the UK and 9 times that of Germany.**

per capita. This is seven times the per capita emission rate for the UK, and nine times the rate for Germany. These differences are due to the much better rail and bus networks in these and other European countries.



'Save our Trains' lobbies our government and Kiwi Rail to revive long-distance passenger rail by utilising 'clean' technology (such as electric trains) and the existing railway lines that used to link most of our country's small and large towns.

Paul listed, then refuted, many of the arguments used to oppose the reinstatement of long-distance passenger rail services. He said night trains are increasingly popular in Europe and have reduced emissions by cutting down the use of planes and private cars. Fast trains are also alternatives to higher emitting forms of transport. While electric trains are preferable, even diesel-powered trains full of passengers cut emissions compared to cars and planes; electric cars alone are not a solution.

We are not short of railway lines.

Many disabled people in New Zealand have stated they would find passenger rail services more accessible than buses, especially with wheelchairs. Unfortunately, bus drivers are not allowed to leave their bus to assist passengers on and off due to Health and Safety rules, and double decker buses are especially inaccessible for most people with mobility challenges.

Paul also advocated for better buses with onboard toilets, terminals that are more user-friendly in all weather conditions, with parent rooms, showers, and drinking water available. Our current Intercity buses are privately owned and the service they provide has diminished significantly, especially with the reduction in overseas tourists during the covid pandemic. There was also a need for integrated ticketing that could be used nationwide for both buses and trains; at present many regions and services require an array of different tickets or passes.

Domestic flight



255 grams/km/person

Eurostar



6 grams/km/person

Paul's public lecture was well attended and very well received by the 30 or so people present, mostly of them from the Bays/Petone area and with a good representation from St Ronan's members. Afternoon tea and further discussion

followed a lively question time of the ideas presented.

Gill Burke

Power Hour – from the mouth of babes...

It always takes my breath away when children can wisely see through matters clearly and state it so matter-of-factly.

Recently, our Power Hour children were exploring how Moses and God's people were building a beautiful sacred worship tent, Tabernacle, in honour of "The Lord" and the newly accepted Ten Commandments. It was huge! They too made a model of this portable worship tent. They learnt that what the Israelites brought to the tent was their act of giving to God in worship. Some women wove the blue and red curtains. Others gave gold jewellery to cover the wooden posts, poles and sacred wooden chest or Ark of the Covenant. The carpenters made tent poles, altar and sacrifice tables and the ark. Precious jewels were placed on the priest's special suit. The blacksmith made bronze bowls for hand washing, oil lamps and incense burners.

So, by offering material and sharing skills, the Israelites were happy giving to God in worship. Thus, the sacred tent was used in worship to God, and it reminded the Israelites that God was always with them.

Living our lives today, we came to also understand that worshipping wasn't just about singing; that we can give or do things to help in worship just like the Israelites did.

As a warm-up, the children sorted out different ways of worshipping:

Worshipping God - giving, making, singing, loving, helping, praying...

Not worshipping God – being rude, stealing, fighting, lying...

Next, the children were encouraged to think of how they could do any of these ways of worshipping God during the week. Here are some examples of their heart-felt ways of worshipping.



Children's crafted Sacred Worship Tent

Making – Make a present/card or baking for others.

Giving – Give to a person who needs to feel better.

Loving – Give a hug, kiss, think kind things towards a person or things.

Helping – Carry for a person; if hurt, take them to someone who can help, e.g., to the hospital.

Singing – Like in church; praising; to make others feel better if sad; being together to express happiness.

Praying – To God, for anyone; every night for protection and keeping safe; asking for help or sharing a concern

In conclusion, when the children were asked, "Where can you worship God?" they immediately, like babes, declared "Worship everywhere, every single day, anytime, anywhere."

Term 3: Power Hour 9:30am 23 July–17 September 2023 **Susan Connell**

Phil's photo - Winter here & there (but not everywhere)...

The seasons roll round the globe. When it's summer in the north, it's winter here, but in the tropics they enjoy a sort of perpetual summer. Here in Eastbourne, midwinter is mid-July, so not long to go now. The equinox is just past (22 June) and the days are now lengthening - but not so's you'd notice (about half a minute a day).

Here in our little village by the sea we feel keenly, the elements that make up our climate - that special mix of hot and cold and wet and dry and still and windy. Our climate's average values are very reasonable, it's its extremes that sometimes bother us...

So far, this winter's mix of cold, wet and windy has been moderated by some really beautiful days with well-below-average wind. Just walking along the beach in Robinson Bay. Or contemplating the clouds or seeing the seagulls soaring or (on those more normal days) feeling the sting on our faces of gale-blown sand or rain. We are so privileged...!

One December (winter), I took a walk on Hampstead Heath (London, UK). There'd been a massive drop of snow the day before. Such fun to feel the crunch of snow underfoot. Many were out enjoying it. I had a delightful conversation with a young mum, with her kid on a sled. Really made my day...



One June (winter), I was in Caloundra (Sunshine Coast, AU). Daytime temperatures were 25°C (it was 8°C in Eastbourne that day). There were many out enjoying the winter sun. Children running through beach puddles.



But, back here in Eastbourne, the weather has been so good the last few weeks. No snow crunching underfoot, but driftwood drying in the sun.



And, as always, the promenade is such a delightful place to walk and meet and talk.

This place sure beats a baking summer in the Mediterranean, or a frozen winter in North America.

Phil Benge

An evening with Sean Hatwell...

As one of New Zealand's top investigators of trafficking and exploitation, and former *Head of Organised Crime* for Tearfund's partner *LIFT International* in Thailand, Sean will lift the lid on his many years at the coal face of fighting modern-day slavery.

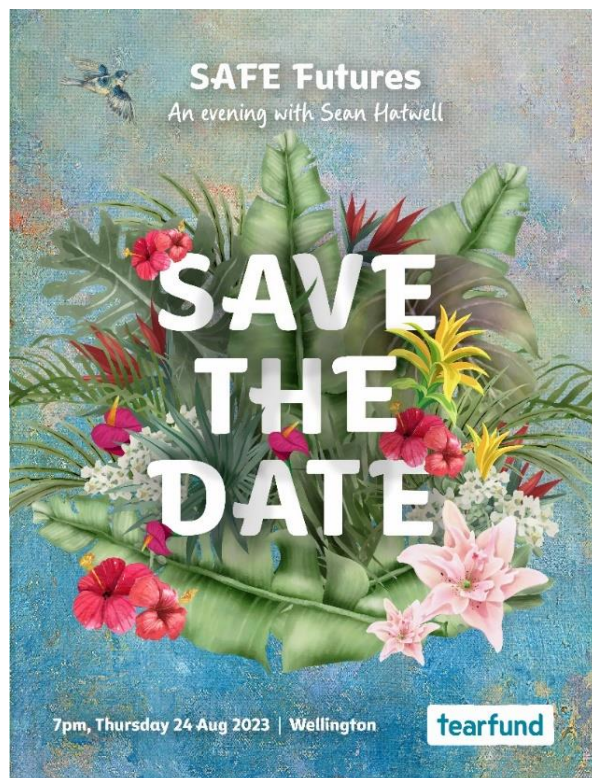
Join us for an evening of gripping storytelling and hear about Tearfund's expansion into the Pacific to tackle the growing epidemic of abuse and exploitation.

Our new *SAFE* Programme is a five-year partnership with the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) to see communities become Safe, Aware, Free and Empowered in Asia Pacific.

SAFE blends Tearfund's expertise in developing sustainable livelihoods along with anti-exploitation initiatives.

Tearfund Partnerships Team,
www.tearfund.org.nz

Thursday 24 August 2023
7.00pm
MOJO @ Featherston
55 Featherston Street
Wellington.



Contributed by Diane Gilliam-Weeks



FIRST AID WORKSHOP

Tues 18 July, 2.30-4.30pm, St Ronan's, 234 Muritai Rd, Eastbourne
First Aid Workshop - One 2-hour session - Anyone welcome - \$40
No door sales. You must book. Sandy Lang slang@xtra.co.nz

The workshop covers the **four most likely emergencies:**

- How to do **CPR**
- How to use an **AED**
- How to deal with **choking**
- How to deal with severe **bleeding**

You might save a life...!



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,
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Parish Clerk	Sandy Lang
Hall Bookings	Sandy Lang

Contributions for the 'Record' are most welcome
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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 2023
is Sunday 30 July 2023**