



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church  
Eastbourne

# Record

## March 2020

<b>1 March</b>	Worship with Diane Gilliam-Weeks .....	9.30am
<b>8 March</b>	Worship with Reg Weeks .....	9.30am
<b>15 March</b>	Worship with Norman Wilkins .....	9.30am
<b>22 March</b>	Worship with Liz Barrow .....	9.30am
<b>29 March</b>	Worship with Niki Francis .....	9.30am
<b>5 April</b>	Worship with John Harris .....	9.30am

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**Power Hour & Wiggly Church – 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**

## Ash

Last night St Ronan's hosted an Ash Wednesday service on behalf of the Combined Churches of Eastbourne and members of the three churches took various parts in the liturgy.

Although this service has been part of the Catholic and Anglican tradition for generations, it's only in recent years that other churches have included Ash Wednesday as an important event in their calendar.



Recently the Baltimore Times noted that the United Methodist Church (9 million members) and the Presbyterian Church USA (2.8 million members) had brought out new worship books, each including a service for Ash Wednesday. It went on to say:

"The use of ashes is a practice that Christianity inherited from Judaism as a symbol of mourning and repentance. By the Middle Ages, Western believers began putting ashes on their heads to remind them that their bodies would eventually turn to dust.

Later, many Protestant churches abandoned the rite, emphasising Bible reading, preaching and simpler, more spontaneous worship."

While the 1996 worship book of the Church of Scotland, which we often use as a source book in St Ronan's, has prayers for every Sunday in Lent, Ash Wednesday is not mentioned.

The ancient Jewish custom was actually to lie on sack-cloth and cover yourself with ashes but today, on Ash Wednesday, the ashes ritual is simply to draw on each forehead, with a finger, the sign of the cross within a service of meditation and reflection.

And it's usually done with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". It is a good way for Christians to remind themselves that they are mortal, and need to reflect on how often they fall short of their own best standards, let alone the desire of a loving and Holy God.

Ash Wednesday also begins the season of Lent – a time of fasting and reflection, as we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert without food, resisting the temptations of Satan, and reflecting on what God through the Holy Spirit was calling him to do.

So, Lent is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter day when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. While often the focus is on giving up something for Lent, as a way of identifying with Jesus' experience, probably a more useful tradition for Lent is the practice of joining in a series of studies which can help us more deeply understand what Jesus was on about, and to review our own response to those issues.

If your preference is for private reflection, there are many options available on the web. There are also a number of studies offered by churches in the Wellington area. The Rev John Howell, a published poet who regularly takes services at St Ronan's, is offering four sessions on significant poets, at Ngaio Union Church. The four sessions will be held on Thursdays 12, 19 and 26 March and 2 April, beginning at 10:30am, with a repeat at 7pm for those busy during the day.

A similar series will be held in the fellowship room at St Ronan's on Wednesdays 11, 18, and 25 March and 1 April at 7pm, with a repeat if there is interest at 12.30 the next day.

They will feature discussion of four short videos from the Nooma series produced by the Rev Rob Bell, founding minister of the Mars Hill church in Grandville, Michigan, with regular attendance of 6000 weekly during his ministry – an excellent communicator!

Details of both series are on the St Ronan's website

***Reg Weeks***

### ***What's up with the Talents Scheme?***

The 'Talents Scheme' has been operating since the 'money tree' appeared at St Ronan's last year. I said then, that for us it will be our God-given talents, not Hebrew gold, we are invited to put to use in this give-a-little challenge. And the \$20 bill which a number of folk took from the 'tree' was the seed money to get a start.

Although it was to run until the end of January, the Parish Council has decided to continue the Talent Scheme as an alternative stream of fundraising, which will allow anyone with a creative idea to pursue it for whatever period is appropriate and then contribute the results. While it may normally be that the source of funds is from people not part of the congregation, such activities as craftwork and cooking could well be made available for sale on a table in the Fellowship room.

Money earned through work or services you provide is another way to contribute. It would be good to share, say, at Church Chat what things folk have done.

Now what to do with the money? If it's cash then pop it in an envelope labelled 'Talent Scheme', and also include your name and email address, if you would like a tax receipt. Drop it in the offering bowl or give to any member of the Parish Council.

Or you may prefer to transfer it electronically to St Ronan's bank account 02 0544 0142859 00, with 'Talent Scheme' in the 'Reference' line. Again, please provide your name if you want a tax receipt. You can also use this account for casual donations. Thanks for your efforts.

***Reg Weeks***

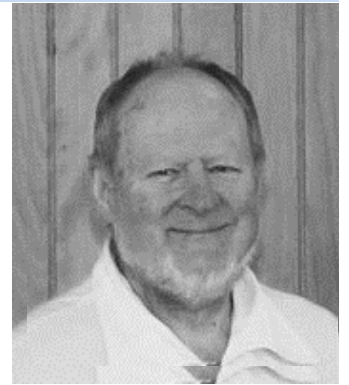


## Clerk's Corner

**Parish Council–Local Ministry Team:** We recently had our first PC-LMT meeting for 2020. A bit of a catch up after the chaos brought upon all of NZ by the convergence of Christmas, New Year and the summer holidays. For us in Eastbourne, thankfully, we've not also had to deal with wildfires, droughts, flooding and deadly viruses. Key news/items/actions arising from our meeting are:

We seem still to be trundling along pretty well.

- Service attendances are down on a couple of years ago. We now average about 20 each Sunday (then about 30). We are enjoying some excellent services as we are fortunate to have access to range high-quality service leaders.
- Mainly Music (our core outreach) is thriving.
- The office/financial management changes we put in place a few months ago are working very well.
- The fibre connection is working well – faster downloads, Wi-Fi is more stable, lower Spark bills.
- No imminent financial crises – i.e. no yawning gulf opening up (yet) between our regular incomings and our regular outgoings. However, we *are* beginning to mine our reserves to carry out necessary building repairs and maintenance (see below).
- We recently put a new roof on the Education Block.



We will shortly fix that ancient (*ab initio*?) leak on the south side of the Church. Then we can repair and redecorate the insides. This requires installation of a 7-m length of new flashing. Heavy rain drains from the steep roof, pools on the little area of flat roof, then gets driven up over the inadequate 1960s flashing by a strong southerly. This work will cost about \$800.

Re the recent leak in the Blue Room. The remedial work for this is covered by the guarantee that came with the new Education Block roof. It requires a couple of extra bits of flashing that should have been installed when the job was done.

We will now proceed with earthquake strengthening for the Hall (now 45% of code, deadline 2020) and with Education Block (now 60% of code, deadline 2023) to raise their compliance to 67% or above as required. These two buildings are much more heavily used than the Church and are also hired out

to the public. This work will cost us about \$40,000. All this work will require some volunteer redecoration afterwards.

Our CWS collection on Christmas Day raised some \$645 towards this year's projects.

e: [slang@xtra.co.nz](mailto:slang@xtra.co.nz) t:562 8752 m:021 222 0383

**Sandy Lang**

### ***Our Lady at the Foodbank***

Having recently taken on volunteering at the Foodbank, I thought I'd share a few thoughts from the role.

The week of Christmas was busy. In one two-hour morning 48 parcels were given out. Normally it would be 20 per morning for Christmas week which shows just how needed the donations are.

The Foodbank operates from very small and pokey premises on a fairly busy road in the Hutt CBD where parking is not easy. People arrive by car, foot, bike and bus and everyone receiving a parcel is so grateful for the help. The need seems to be increasing for lots of reasons. It may be a car repair, a cultural shortfall, homelessness or any other type of unforeseen expense. Whatever the reason, our donations are very much needed and appreciated.

There appears to be no one particular item required over others. As well as the usual necessary items of cereals, spaghetti/ baked beans, pasta and spreads; tinned meats and fish are also popular along with tinned veges, muesli bars and milk powder. Importantly personal hygiene items are always needed, as are nappies of all sizes and baby foods.

The Foodbank are very grateful to St Ronan's for their support – so be assured, whatever the item donated it will be appreciated and put to good use. Please keep up the good efforts.

***Helen Withy, 021 804 624***

### ***Randwick School Breakfast Club***

This term Breakfast Club needs extra hands as several of the regulars can't be there at 8-9am this next month. If you could help out or like to give the 'job' a try, let me know. For example, I will be away 17, 24, 31 March! Not very helpful on my part. If you can cover for four of us we'd be very pleased.

The *Milo* tin will soon need replenishing again, so a donation or preferably one of the actual goods would help please.

***Jan Heine***

## ***Shirley Murray – Let's continue to sing Shirley's legacy***

"Make it happy, make it short, I don't want a fuss." This was Shirley Murray's advice to the Rev Roger Wiig some weeks before her death in January this year. Three years previously, Roger had conducted the funeral service for Shirley's husband, the Very Rev John Murray, so it was fitting he should do the same for her.

She also gave Roger eight pages of notes in preparation for the service, held in Kapiti on January 31 – she had no intention of leaving anything much to chance.

It was in the 1970s that Shirley began writing hymns. She had always loved words, encouraged by teachers as early as standard two to keep on writing poetry.

Her son David described the musical family that Shirley grew up in in Invercargill – of their love of parlour songs and popular ballads and their strong commitment to the Wesleyan traditions. Born a left-hander and forced to learn to write with her right, she failed at sports but began music lessons when she was seven.

She became head prefect at Southland Girls High School and went on to gain a master of arts with honours in classics and French from the University of Otago. (In 2009, she would be named an honorary doctor of literature from the university.) She joined the choir and the Student Christian Movement, which introduced her to new ideas and people.



She married John in 1954 when he was studying theology at King's College in Cambridge, England. The couple had first met at a French-speaking contest in Dunedin in 1947. Shirley famously vanquished John in the contest. They had three sons, David, Alastair and Rob.

It was when John was minister at St Andrews-on-the-Terrace that Shirley's hymn-writing really blossomed. Both John and Shirley wanted the congregation to sing New Zealand

hymns, in inclusive modern language and with contemporary imagery and themes, and to get away from a diet of 300-year-old hymns. A member of the St Andrew's congregation, Rosemary Lawrence, said how lucky the congregation was "to have such talent in our midst. John would ask Shirley to write a new hymn to suit the theme of his sermons – she probably inspired him

as much as he did her". Her hymns, Rosemary said, "gave life and depth to my faith journey".

I agree with her completely. I count myself lucky to have met Shirley when I worked on *Crosslink* in the late 1980s and early '90s. Without the privilege of singing her heartfelt words, I am sure I would have given up on the church institution years ago.

One of my favourites is her 1999 hymn of radical hospitality, 'A Place at the Table', an interpretation, in six verses, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

*For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair.*

*For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live.*

*For gay and for straight, a place at the table,  
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,  
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,  
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace.*

And between the verses, the refrain:

*And God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace;  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy.*

Shirley's grandson Fergus described his grandmother as "an introverted woman surrounded by extroverts". She drew power, he said, from books and times of contemplation. She used her words to spread messages of peace and to fight injustice where she saw it.

The most powerful tribute was given by fellow hymn writer and University of Otago emeritus professor Colin Gibson. Colin and Shirley often collaborated on hymns, with Shirley writing the lyrics, he the melodies. He described her as "New Zealand's greatest hymn writer".



Shirley's smile "lit up every room you were in", he said. Her body of hymns, numbering more than 380 and represented in more than 140 hymn collections worldwide, were filled with truth, originality, integrity and beauty. In them, the languages of science and te reo "could meet and kiss in poetry".

He quoted from Shirley's own manifesto: *Singing our faith in the present tense means having to stock some corners of the Christian household with new themes. For me, human rights and racism, women and peacemaking all need singing out, and words to sing are hard to find.... Some corners need refurbishing, since the words of the past do not always express the theological emphasis we now value... I take it for granted that inclusive language is the mode in which Christian people must express belief.* "Honour the Dead", Colin said, was undoubtedly New Zealand's greatest war hymn, written for Anzac Day in 2005 and, daringly for its time, upholding



the conscientious objectors treated so shamefully during WWI and WWII. This was set to Colin's own score. "Where Mountains Rise to Open Skies", written for Waitangi Day in the early 1990s, was "the nearest we have to a truly contemporary national anthem", while "Touch the Earth lightly", from 1991 and set to Colin's own melody, he went so far as to describe as "the greatest environmental hymn the world has".

As long as people had voices to sing, Shirley would not be forgotten, he said. There was no better response to the grief felt at her passing than to continue singing her legacy of hymns.

**Anne Manchester**

### ***Rood Screen – I've heard it said that -***

A woman who gains a few extra pounds will live longer than the man who points it out to her. I've no idea if that's right but it seems pretty likely.

The trouble is that, all too often, we take "pretty likely" as enough to accept something as true.

There are quite a few 'established facts' that are untrue. Here are a few from the *Readers Digest*.



- Salty water boils quicker. False. Adding salt to water makes it very slightly slower.
- Oil stops pasta from sticking. False. It'll only make it greasy. Stirring stops it sticking.
- The Great Wall of China is visible from space. No. No single human structure is visible to the naked eye from Earth orbit. But you *can* see cities at night.
- Don't touch baby birds. Untrue. Most birds have a limited sense of smell. They don't abandon babies that 'smell' of humans.
- Goldfish have three-second memories. False. While goldfish are not the smartest, their memory span is closer to three months.
- Shaving thickens hair. Wrong. Regrown hair isn't thicker, courser or darker. It may appear different because it now has a blunt tip.
- Everest is the tallest mountain. Yes, it is the tallest above sea level. But if you measure from the base to the top, Hawaii's Mauna Kea volcano sticks up more than 33,000 feet – 4,000 feet more than Everest.



And as this is a church publication. Nowhere in the Bible does it say there were three wise men. Yes, three gifts, but it doesn't follow there were three wise men.

And we all know Adam and Eve ate an apple in the Garden of Eden. As a result, men have laryngeal prominences called 'Adam's apples'. Genesis doesn't actually mention an apple. Instead it says they ate the forbidden fruit of the tree of

knowledge. And, on that score, the serpent was most convincing when it told Eve "You will not certainly die...  
...For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."  
Clearly this sounded plausible to Eve.

Do you ever tell yourself stories to convince yourself that God really doesn't have a problem with something you do? With a bit of practice, these stories can sound plausible. After all, God loves us. It says so in the Bible.



Try running a mental audit of yourself against the ten commandments. I'm sure you'll do okay.

Now read Matthew 5 (the whole of it) and run that test again, with the bar raised appropriately. I don't know about you, but I don't score very well.

**John Harris**

## ***Lamentation - A journey through the emotional landscape of dispossession***

Lamentation is a chamber cantata created by actor/countertenor Glenn McKenzie for *International Refugee Week 2019* in response to the Christchurch Mosque shootings.

This meditation on loss and grief features three 'Lessons of Darkness' from the Old Testament book of Lamentations in the celebrated setting by Baroque composer Francois Couperin. The voices of Shakespeare, Bonhoeffer and Annie Lennox frame his music to connect us throughout time and across culture with all those who have suffered the devastation of displacement and homelessness.



St Andrew's-on-the-Terrace, Saturday 14 March at 6pm

NZ Fringe Festival. Tickets \$28.50 full, \$14.50 concession, through [fringe.co.nz](http://fringe.co.nz)

Part proceeds to Shakti Women/Children's Refuge

*"McKenzie is a consummate performer, both as a musician and an actor"*  
*Theatreview NZ (2018)*



## Phil's photo – Our fabulous youth



What fun it was to be part of the *Muritai Yacht Club's Youth Regatta* last Saturday 15 February.

There were about 70, one-person dinghies, representing the *Muritai Yacht Club* and other yacht clubs from the wider Wellington region. The dinghies were mostly *Optimists*, *O'pen BICs* and *Starlings* - all classes

specifically designed for young people.

Anchored offshore was the beautiful white launch, the *Black Pearl*, owned by local, Graham Webby. She served as the committee boat. She also served as an ideal platform for photography (three decks – top, middle, bottom). She also served lunch (a ham roll and a sausage from the onboard BBQ).



There were four races that beautiful summer's day. As the start time for each race approached, the dinghies and their young sailors (aged nine to late teens) would converge on the start line like a flock of not-so-little white ducks.





It was the spirit of the occasion that most impressed me. Varying levels of skill were shown between the greener and the more-seasoned sailors but they were uniformly keen in competition. All this with many a smile and a laugh. I heard no bawdy sailor's oaths!

How privileged are our young ones to enjoy such fabulous opportunities.

And how privileged are we to be able to enjoy our young people's activities with them.

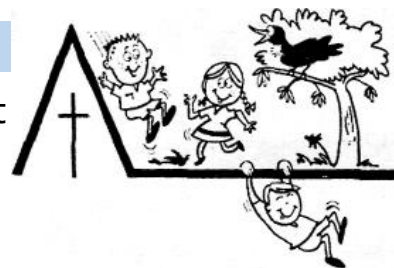
And how privileged are we to live in this beautiful place, with the sea on our very doorsteps.



**Phil Bengel**

## POWER HOUR AND WIGGLY CHURCH

What will you and your family do this March and April that is special for Lent?



Here is a way to easily walk beside Jesus meaningfully and in His Way. This is a way to have God in your heart and action. Jesus had argued that one's faith wasn't about following a bunch of rules that didn't have any heart in it. Jesus was so passionate about how we cared for others, to help them to understand and see, and to heal and make better, follow in God's Way and to include everyone, and fairly.

As a lead-in to Easter, **try this 40 Acts Family Challenge** this March and April during the 40 Days of Lent.

You can do all of the acts, some of the acts, once a week acts. But do at least one act as part of Lent! Easy! Warm fuzzies abound! Good habits! God willing! His Way! You are a better person! Hearty family sharing!

Here's another thought. What if each member of our church did an act and shared their story in church?

Lent 2020 begins on *Wed 26<sup>th</sup> February* and ends on *Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April* 2020. Easter is on Sun 12<sup>th</sup> April.

### LENT TIME: 40 ACTS FAMILY Challenge:

1. Write out your favourite Bible verse as a reminder to keep going for the next 40 days!
2. *Start a Giving Jar and collect loose change or donate some of your pocket money.*
3. Make cakes or biscuits to share.
4. *Smile at 10 people today.*
5. Buy a treat for a friend or someone who needs one today.
6. *Send someone a message to let them know you are thinking about them.*
7. Family Hold back with a difference – hold back at the meal table for that extra slice of cake or meat.
8. *Make a card for someone you know who is unwell.*
9. Leave coins taped to a car/park vending machine or in a shopping supermarket trolley.
10. *Pick up ten pieces of litter today.*
11. Say hi to someone outside your usual circle of friends today.
12. *It's Chocolate Sunday! Give out anything chocolate.*
13. Write out one of your favourite Bible verses and share it with someone.
14. *Get to know the name and say 'hi' to your local shopkeeper, lollipop person, bus driver, or school caretaker.*
15. Go on a prayer walk. Find places to stop and pray (eg on the way to school).
16. *Be neighbourly: say hello or drop a card round to one of your neighbours.*
17. Offer help with anything, at school, church or home.



18. *Climate change: what can you do to save energy today?*
19. Go online and find out about children who are less fortunate than you (e.g. refugee, asylum seekers or children of modern day slavery).
20. *Make a generosity kit and give it away. Add some pens/pencils, a coin, tissues, sweets-what else?*
21. Be generous with your words: pay compliments today.
22. *Today make sure you make your bed and tidy away your clothes.*
23. Today is no complaining! If you or someone else complains about anything a forfeit goes into your Giving Jar.
24. *What are you really good at? Could you use your talent to help or teach someone else?*
25. Find out about your local foodbank; what treat could you bring to church?
26. *Have a proper chat! Phone Granny, Grandpa, a cousin or a friend you haven't spoken to in a while.*
27. Give someone a Fairtrade Easter egg.
28. *Write a mega list of all the things you are grateful for and then decorate the paper.*
29. What have you promised to do and then forgotten? Try and remember and put your words into action.
30. *Your Giving Jar should be filling up nicely. Research what charity you want to donate the money to.*
31. Write thank-you cards to people that help you (e.g. your teacher, postman, road sweeper, checkout assistant).
32. *It's Saturday so a bit more time. Plan a fundraising activity, like a cake or book sale. Discuss what charity you want to support.*
33. Stretch your generosity: what prized possession could you give away?
34. *Spend less time looking at screens, and play board games, or share other activities.*
35. Draw a large heart and write in it all the ways you can love someone.
36. *Tidy up your bedroom and then help do someone else's.*
37. Send an anonymous gift to someone else you know.
38. *It's Good Friday. Say sorry first, even if you think it wasn't your fault.*
39. What horrible jobs need doing? You could empty the bins or wash the car/dog!
40. *Well done; you have reached 40 Acts! Count out your Giving Jar and donate the money to your chosen charity. Work out which of the 40 Acts challenges you could carry on doing after Easter.*

*Ref: PCANZ Kids Friendly February 2020 Newsletter*

Term 1 Power Hour and Wiggly Church at 9:30am ends on 5 April (Daylight Saving ends/Clocks go back).

*Blessings from the Team:*

***Matt McCorkindale, Elspeth Cotsilinis, Susan Connell***



## ***The flight to New Zealand of 1840-60***

Life in the homeland of the British Isles was not to everyone's liking. The class system with the aristocracy and landed gentry was making life uncomfortable, with poverty and poor living conditions. This was despite efforts by a few - such as Prince Albert but he didn't make much headway.



Just 180 years ago, on February 22, 1840, the first Wellington Presbyterians disembarked from the Bengal Merchant onto Petone beach. The next day the Rev John MacFarlane took the service where the Iona Cross now stands. Then began the daunting task of coping with the swamps and forests of Heretaunga/Hutt Valley.

In the next decades, more ships with other 'refugees' from Britain and Europe landed in other parts Aotearoa, the St Pauli to Nelson with German settlers.

On February 22, in a service led by the Rev Merv Aitkin, St Ronan's celebrated the stories of our own ancestors' ships during the children's talk led by Lesley Aitkin.

***Jan Heine***



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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Hall Bookings	Sandy Lang	
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Contributions for the 'Record' are most welcome.  
Please place them in the Church letterbox or email to [helen.withy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:helen.withy@xtra.co.nz) or  
[janheine@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janheine@xtra.co.nz)

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 April 2020  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020**