



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church
Eastbourne

Record

March 2021

7 March	Worship with Lionel Nunns	9.30am
14 March	Worship with Reg Weeks	9.30am
21 March	Worship with Norman Wilkins	9.30am
28 March	Worship with Stuart Simpson	9.30am
2 April	Combined Good Friday Service TBA	9.30am
4 April	Sunrise Sercice (on beach by the RSA + hot cross buns after)	7.00am
4 April	Easter Sunday Service with Reg Weeks	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

Level 3 again...

Late afternoon on a warm summer Sunday. A small power boat draws a straight line across a glittering sea as it hurries home from a day's fishing; the laughter of children enjoying the wavelets wafts gently through the open windows; towel-wrapped young women walk barefoot to the steps of the sea wall, intent on a cooling dip in the quiet ocean.



Such a far cry from the anxiety and turmoil that has again turned the lives of Aucklanders upside down – Level 3 AGAIN. Contract tracing swings into high gear. Long queues of cars wait hours at the many pop-up testing stations. Work from home! Home-school your kids! Maintain social distance! Wash your hands!

And so, the well-worn mantra goes, and with it, rising levels of anxiety uncertainty, distress, fear and frustration. When will it all end? "There's a roll-out of vaccines" Ashley's calming voice proclaims. "We could have done it better" says a plaintive Opposition. And so we wait, and hope, that our well-protected borders will soon reopen to a more normal world.

And what about that world? A pandemic of unparalleled proportions, dwarfing the growing problems we saw a year ago, and yet, through it all, the scientific advance continues.

The United States has lost more people to COVID-19 in one year than in World Wars I and II and the Vietnam War combined...! Who would ever have given credence to such a possibility?

- And at the same time, we see them land a mechanical rover on Mars, and our own rockets are launched from Mahia.
- And at the same time the red haze of climate change slowly looms on the horizon.
- And wars and rumours of wars, millions hungry and displaced, homes destroyed, and homelands devastated. How are we to live in such a crisis-filled world?

It will avail us nothing to wallow in the depths of despair, nor yet rail against issues complex beyond our understanding, let alone beyond our ability to address. But what we *can* do, we can *do* – be kind, compassionate, caring for those in our orbit.

Be diligent about the simple things that protect not only ourselves but others; favour cooperation rather than confrontation and competition; follow the science and check the facts; try as far as it lies within us to be part of the answer, rather than to contribute to the problem.

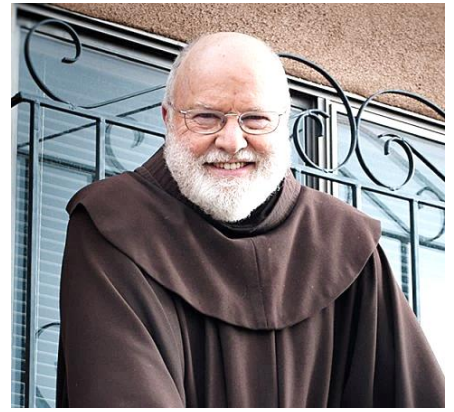
Those who follow Jesus have a mandate to think clearly, and to act appropriately. Ricard Rohr, a well-known Franciscan, has this challenge for us:

Christianity is a lifestyle, a way of being in the world that is simple, nonviolent, shared and loving. However, we made it into an established religion and avoided the lifestyle change.

One could be war-like, greedy, racist, selfish and vain, in most of Christian history, and still believe that Jesus is ones "personal Lord and Saviour..."

The world has no time for such silliness. The suffering on earth is too great.

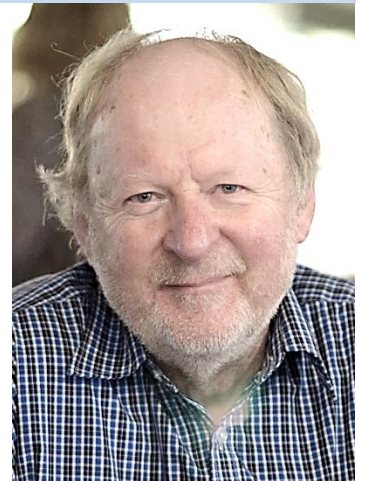
Reg Weeks



Clerk's corner...

Money matters: For those newish to St Ronan's, let me make you aware that I can allocate you a unique **donor number**, so your plate donations of cash (if in a numbered, brown envelope, which I can supply) can later be associated with your name, so at the end of the year we can give you a receipt (St Ronan's is a registered charity) which will allow you to claim back your tax. This is worthwhile...

If we already provide you with a tax receipt, but you've not got around to claiming back the tax for a year or two, one of us can help you do this. Simple if you're in the know...



Meanwhile, if you'd like to set up an AP (automatic payment) our church bank account is: 02-0544-0142859-000

Easter Services: We're hoping to have:

- A 'Combined' Good Friday Service on 2 April (still to be arranged with St Alban's and San Antonio).
- We will have our usual 'Sonrise Service' (Reg Weeks) at 7am on the beach by the RSA on Sunday 4 April (hot cross buns and tea afterwards).
- This will be followed a couple of hours later by our regular 9.30am Easter Sunday Service in the church (Reg Weeks).

Weddings: Two St Ronan's weddings. Recently Reg conducted a wedding service at St Ronan's for a couple from Upper Hutt (Meredith and Conor). It was quite small as Conor's family come from Ireland so, obviously, could not be there. We are expecting another wedding in mid-May (Nyall and Maryana).

COVID: A recent quick flip up to Alert Level 2, then back down again to Alert Level 1. Now back up to Level 2 again. Dizzying...! A good thing (if there is one) is it's jolted us into being a bit more careful about our COVID behaviours. Truth is, St R's 'rules' (posted at the door) have actually had us operating at Alert Level 2 all of the time. This recognises that a number of us fall into the 'vulnerable' groups (age, general health etc). So, we're extra cautious, but not stupidly extra cautious.

The vaccine soon after Easter - perhaps...? 😊



Remember...

- **Don't** come to church if you've a cold
- **No** touching
- **Maintain** 1 m distancing
- **Do** sanitise your hands, on arrival (keeps high-touch surfaces safe)
- **Log in** with the QR code, and
- **Write** your name on the sheet on the foyer table.

But Why QR scan **and** write? Many can and do scan, but not all can, and it's easy to forget. Also, **we** don't know if you've scanned. So, a name list is kept of all attendees – belt and braces. If there's a COVID 'event' then we know for certain who was there...

Shirley Hellen Burdan (née Press):

Most of you will now know that Shirley died recently (8 February 2021). Her funeral has been delayed a month, to allow overseas family the opportunity to attend. It will be at St Ronan's on Saturday 13 March at 2pm.

Very briefly, Shirley Press was born in Eastbourne in 1935. She was baptised as a baby at St Ronan's (Rev E Ross) and attended St Ronan's Sunday school. As a child and young adult, Shirley was active in the life of St Ronan's.





Shirley married Malcolm Burdan at St Ronan's on 23 Feb 1957 (Rev Russell Shaw). Shirley and Malcom have been living at Bob Scott the last few years.

A full obituary will appear in the *Record* after Shirley's funeral.

Church Chat: The next will be on Sunday 14 March, after the service, over coffee. It's your opportunity to raise any matters you think we should attend to, or that are

concerning you, or even to say something affirming...!

Parish Council: We had a PC/LMT meeting a couple of weeks ago – the first for 2021. We discussed ways to best manage our trend towards deficit budgets (obviously unsustainable) while still maintaining our buildings and our various outreaches. There are options... These include options both for increasing our incomings and also for decreasing our outgoings...

Buildings - These days, building costs are rising faster than the general inflation rate – insurances, rates, power, tradespeople, building materials. This alongside the increasing age of our mid-60s buildings with roofing in particular being a problem. Iron roofs have an earlier use-by date in a marine environment. Recently we've had to attend to the roof of the Education Block and the Church side roofs. Soon it will be the Church's steep roofs and the Hall.

Seismicity - The seismic condition of our buildings is legally safe and compliant but it does not align with our denomination's 'super-safe' policy.

The use (and so the risk) of our suite of buildings is very well below that of, say, an office (40+ hour/week), or a shop (70+ hour/week), or a home (100+ hour/week). For comparison, our church is used very lightly (about 1 hour/week); our Education Block (three spaces) is used a bit more (about 5 hour/week); and our Hall is used most (about 10 hour/week).

Seismic strengthening would be cripplingly expensive. I think we may be able to avoid this extra drain on resources. Meanwhile, the seismic work is on hold.

Outsourcing - Increasingly, we are having to outsource specialist functions which in earlier years were done by volunteers. This is partly because there are fewer of us, so fewer volunteers, but also because of the government's increasingly complex 'compliance' requirements. This demands specialist people. It also increases our outgoings.

Meanwhile – We are planning to make some changes to our church. *Outside*, we will paint some of the most obvious and ailing areas on the church's north face (and possibly east face). And, *inside*, we will provide some more suitable and comfortable seating - you will get to see examples before we order. We are thinking upholstered (comfy), armed chairs (easy to get up from) that are also stable and stackable. This will allow us to arrange them in compact rows (for large numbers) or more informally (for smaller numbers).

We will also fit a handrail to make the stage area more safely accessible by the frail. And we will also upgrade the *Mainly Music* audio visuals – they are sadly obsolete and near failing. Watch this space...! 😊

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

Sandy Lang

Partnership, Participation, Protection and Presbyterianism...

Reaching forward in time, please note that David Jackson will be leading our service on **Sunday 18 April** (in about six weeks's time).

His theme will be *Partnership, Participation, Protection and Presbyterianism*. This should be an interesting reflection. Mark it in your diary...

David writes...

Kei te taha o tōku whaea, me mihi ana au ki ngā tohu o nehe, o Murihiku, te whenua o tōku tamarikitanga. Ko Tikitimu te maunga rū nei taku ngākau. Ko Ōreti te awa e mahea nei aku māharahara. Kei to taha o tōku matua, Ko Tauwhare te maunga, Kaipara te awa, Whiti-te-Ra te marae. Ko Te Whanganui a Tara tōku kainga, i whanau mai āku tamariki ki kōnei. Ko David tōku ingoa.



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 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

Opportunities for willing people...

St Ronan's mission statement reads...

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

Now for some opportunities...

Record: Help with editing, collating and producing our monthly magazine.

Record: •Write an article •Contribute a story •Write a regular column.

Service roster: Join the 'Sunday roster' •Pick up the house-bound •Greeting stewards •Bible readings •Lead intercessory prayers •Flowers •Morning tea •Data projector •Sound system.

Mainly Music: Assist with the morning tea/coffee roster.

Study group: Lead a study group.

Prayer chain: Convene a prayer chain.

Other: Maybe there's some other outreach or service you have a gift for that you would like to contribute...?

Drop me an email...

slang@xtra.co.nz **Sandy Lang**

Randwick School...

Over the last eight years St Ronan's support for Randwick School has expanded from reading support, to helping with their breakfast club, school garden, donations towards a bike track and books for the library.

Many pupils come from homes where English is not their first language, but they are eager to develop their English reading skills. For these and other pupils, some additional supported reading at school helps boost their confidence and comprehension.

If you enjoy working with children and supporting their development, you may like to consider joining the St Ronan's volunteers at Randwick. The time commitment is around 90 minutes a week during the school year.

Please contact me if you are interested in making a positive difference in 2021.
simonjshaw@xtra.co.nz 0292 789 947 **Simon Shaw**



Rood Screen – The mysterious case of your disappearing nose...

Ever wondered why you can't see your own nose?

If you put your finger on the tip, or even just think hard about it, your nose appears in the bottom of your peripheral vision. But let your concentration lapse and, poof, it disappears...



The reason is simple. Your brain's job is to receive and process the new data you need to survive - your nose is not new information. So, your brain says (without asking your permission) *That nose is always there, and it always looks much the same, so I won't waste my time and energy 'seeing' it.* That is most commendable and most efficient.

But if our brain can decide *not* to see our nose because it's always there, I wonder what else it can decide *not* to see because it's always there? For example...



- Do you see people queueing outside the Foodbank? You could be contributing something.
- Or the exhaustion of the workers putting the food parcels together? You could volunteer to help.
- Perhaps the loneliness of the recently widowed/separated? You could invite them for a coffee.

• Maybe the person ahead of you in the supermarket who has just had their card declined, despite a modest order. You could quietly step forward and say "Have this one on me".

In Matthew 26:11 Jesus said *The poor you will always have with you.* But he didn't say for us not to see them. Instead, he says in Matthew 25:40 *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*

Particularly in these difficult times, you might say the need is 'as plain as the nose on your face...'

John Harris

PS Do you fail to see St Ronan's Foodbank trolley (it's there every week) and/or the Community Fridge (it's been there a couple of years now).

How safe are the chemicals in our food...?

It was disturbing recently to hear that our export of honey to Japan has been jeopardised by the discovery that it can contain traces of glyphosate. What is glyphosate?

Glyphosate is today's herbicide of choice. It kills a wide range of weeds that would otherwise seriously limit food production on farms, in orchards and in gardens all round the world – including in third-world nations.



Glyphosate has been used as a weedkiller in NZ for 42 years. It is in common use for weed-control across agriculture: with •annual crops (arable), •perennial horticultural crops (in orchards, vineyards, olive groves) and •in pastoral agriculture (pasture remediation/renewal). It is also used by all •city and regional councils to manage weeds in public parks, and beside roads and beside rivers. And by •DOC to manage noxious weeds in conservation areas.



Glyphosate is the active ingredient in around 90 branded weedkiller products. *Monsanto's 'Roundup'* is the original (1973) and the most familiar.

Google [Roundup wiki](#)

BUT

- Glyphosate in the soil can take up to 140 days to break down to half its toxicity (depends on soil type and conditions).
- It can continue to be taken up by plants from the soil for two years or longer.
- Fairly recently, some studies have shown it can be a carcinogen and a mutagen.
- Glyphosate can upset the gut biome (mostly bacteria) - some beneficial bacteria are vulnerable to it and some pathogenic ones are not.
- It can also harm the immune system, •deplete the body of serotonin (the mood hormone), •disrupt the endocrine (hormone) system, and it can be a •neurotoxin.
- A US jury recently awarded terminally ill Dewayne Johnson NZ\$440m in damages after it determined *Monsanto's Roundup* weedkiller had caused his cancer.
- This massive judgment has triggered global concern.

- Some UK retailers are considering removing *Roundup* from their shelves – but they haven't yet.
- Pictured is French Environment and Energy Minister, Ségolène Royal symbolically removing *Roundup* weedkiller as she visits a garden shop near Paris.



World Health Organisation (WHO) studies conclude that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans." But another recent study concluded it was "unlikely to pose any health risk to humans."

I will let you keep thinking how you would like to nourish your amazing, complex and incredible body...!

Annette J Davidson
BN RN Nutritional Consultant

Ed. Not at all denying the real cautions we now read about glyphosate in the mainstream scientific literature by professional researchers - before panicking we should consider a couple of things.

I There are many individuals and organisations these days that promulgate misinformation. This information ranges from un-truths to half-truths. We've come across these recently re the severity of COVID-19 (Donald Trump) and the crazy fears of the anti-vaxxers.

The twin drivers of this misinformation are •commercial greed and •irrational fear. So, •don't believe all you read from *Monsanto* •nor from the organic industry •nor from enthusiastic non-experts. So many have 'an axe to grind'...

But whom *should* you believe? (a) the *WHO* (respected), (b) the *NZ Ministry of Health* (our own Ashley B) and (c) *Wikipedia* (my experience is it usually offers a very fair consensus of expert views on most subjects).

II Scientists have developed analytical techniques able to detect infinitesimally tiny amounts of any substance. This means – *Any sample, of anything, can be shown to contain a few molecules of everything...*

But the *WHO* sets standards identifying the level at which each particular substance starts to pose a health risk. Thus, all NZ tap water contains lead, but in two small Otago towns, the lead level has recently exceeded the WHO safe level. This is a cause for genuine concern...

Meanwhile, we should also think about our intakes of alcohol, nicotine, nitrite and too much sugar, or meat, or highly-processed foods. And habitual inactivity. We KNOW all these are harmful...

Phil's photo – Paradise gained & paradise lost...

The paradisaical world of Eastbourne *sur la mer* lies just across the water from the little capital city of Godzone (aka Wellington).

Over the last three weekends here, we've enjoyed **#1** the *Muritai Yacht Club Youth Regatta* and **#2** the cricket at the HW Shortt Recreation Ground.

Meanwhile, just 90 minutes' drive to the northeast of us, lies the Hood Aerodrome (Masterton) where **#3** there's been the bi-annual *Wings over Wairarapa Air Festival*.

Let's talk about number **#3**. I had with me there my new camera (oh joy of joys...) with a half-decent telephoto lens sticking way out the front. I was in paradise there too...!

There was something at the 'Hood' for everyone. The enthusiastic crowd was in a good mood. The great 'Team of Kiwis' was out together for a day of friendly fun.

The show featured plenty of historic aircraft from WWI, such as this brace of German *Albatros DVa* fighters.



And, a bit later, a fly-past by a USA Airforce *B52 Stratofortress* (c. 1952 and still operational). Like my grandfather's axe, this one will have had a few new handles and heads over the years...



The US Navy was there too with these two 1950s carrier-borne *North American Aviation T-28 Trojans* (used in the 1950s by the USA Navy as a trainer, and later for counter-insurgency work in Vietnam).



The Russians were there too with their WWII Yakovlev Yak-3 fighter - later produced in Romania in the 1990s as 'toys for the rich'.

BUT the paradisaal feeling of security and ease collapsed very suddenly on Saturday evening with the news that Jacinda and Ashley had put us all into Level 2 lockdown (into Level 3 lockdown if you're in AKL) because of the thoughtlessness of a few who've put the whole nation at risk.

Surely, we are better than this? Hopefully, the lockdown will not be for too long? Hopefully, the irresponsible will learn from their mistakes? Hopefully, the lockdown will recover the security we've come to take for granted? Hopefully, our lives won't descend into the misery that has become the norm in so many nations overseas? *Kia kaha* - be strong...!

Phil Benge

The calling from the wilderness

As Lent has begun, I thought I'd share with you a beautiful reflective response for this moment in time. I experienced this *The call from the wilderness* last week at Scripture Union's Easter resource evening for children's ministry.

A 30+ group of us teachers met at Newland's Baptist Church. We were divided into two groups and took turns to read out loud the lines below. This Lenten response can be done in a group, or alone, contemplatively. I hope you appreciate it...



The calling from the wilderness¹

A wilderness *a turning, a calling.*
A wilderness *an encounter, a renewing.*
A wilderness *a taking up, a folding away.*
A wilderness *a movement, a season.*
A wilderness *a vision, a preparing.*

Come and meet God,
who calls us beyond where we are now, to where love will find itself to be.
God of all our journeys,
you call us out from where we are, into wilderness where everything
longs to be restored and held fresh.
Grant us the strength to journey this Lent,
give us the hearts to discover the road less travelled, the walking the walk
with Jesus.
Amen.

Blessings Susan Connell

POWER HOUR

What came out of the ship...

Our Power Hour children are fascinated with their offering box which is in the shape of a small ship.

They like to twiddle with the openings to find out how much money is in it. This is left as a mystery - instead they must judge, just by the sound and weight.



Each week one child has a turn to pass round the offering box to the others so they can make their money offering. They then create their own prayer of thanks for their offerings. Often the prayer is just one or two sentences, but that is the way of children – short and to the point!

Recently, we discussed what we might offer other than money. We discovered we could offer our hands for selfcare (dressing, brushing teeth, putting on a raincoat) and for caring for others (feeding the chicken, sharing morning tea with a younger brother). Now that too, is worthy of thanks to God for the goodness of heart given freely.

¹ Page 10, Engage Together, Intergenerational Worship Ideas For Lent, Emma Parr, Chris Barnett & Melissa Newman, Uniting Church of Australia.

<https://www.ctmresourcing.org.au/engage-together-lent-2020>

In follow up, we learnt how difficult it is to cut a paper shape with only one hand. This gave a wonderful understanding when hearing how Jesus changed the life of the man with the crippled hand by healing it. The children described first the surprise of discovering he again had two good hands, then the joy and thanks to Jesus and last the amazing empowerment offered to us by Jesus.

Now back to the Power Hour offerings. Over the last few years our money collection grew to the point that at Christmas time, one of our *Wiggly Church* teachers was able to go out and buy a great array of books for the children of Randwick School. These were duly wrapped and placed in a large box and taken to the school in December. Here is the thank-you card from the children and Principal.



To the wonderful
congregation at St
Ronan's Church -
thank you so much for
your very generous
donation of books for our
school and class libraries.
I know the students
will really enjoy them.
Thank you for everything
you do for Randwick
School - it is much
appreciated.
Simonne & Randwick School.

Lastly, offering is linked with giving up something for Lent. Lent is the 40-day period before Easter often used for reflection, to give up something and to repent and change to being more like Jesus. Perhaps we can offer something of ourselves in a new way to others.

Blessings Susan Connell



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

Directory

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Contributions for the '*Record*' are most welcome.
Please email them to slang@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 2021
Sunday 28 March 2021**