



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church
Eastbourne

Record

May 2023

7 May	Shared service with St Albans, at St Ronan's.....	9.30am
14 May	Reg Weeks.....	9.30am
21 May	Informal worship service.....	9.30am
28 May	John Howell.....	9.30am
4 June	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

Hindsight meets foresight...

Ecclesiastes 1:9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

This verse has something of the tone of (1) a bored child or (2) a cynical comment on politics or (3) a statement of inevitability - if you but live long enough or read your history books.

But it is also a statement of foresight. It is axiomatic that one usually gets a best estimate of what will happen in the future, from a careful consideration of what has happened in the past.

If we look back over our lives, most of us can bring to mind moments when the 'finger of God', seemed to have been there to guide and support us. These life moments are not regular, nor are they frequent, but they do happen. And they usually happen when we least expect them...

This verse from Ecclesiastes, comes to life when we realise that the God who has provided for us in the past, is also there in the future, and it's fair to presume that His lovingkindness will continue to guard and guide us there.

And there is that other famous line in Lamentations 3:22-23 *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

From which we have Thomas Chisholm's familiar hymn
*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Sandy Lang

Clerk's corner...

Shared Service: Our fourth 'Shared Service' with the people of St Alban's will be this Sunday 7 May at St Ronan's at 9.30am. So, for us, the usual time and the usual place and the usual St Ronan's service format but with St Alban's providing:

- The readers (Jutta Chisholm & Joy Baird)
- The sermon ***Power and Public Art: How we deal with the hurts of history*** (Canon Peter Stuart and former Art History lecturer Phyllis Mossman)
- And about half the congregation...!



Our website: I don't know how often you look at St R's website?
www.stronans.org.nz Just now I sent a copy of Rev Ross Scott's recent reflection '9/11 The Twin Towers...' to Michelle for uploading to it. This one might be of interest to you...?
Click on [THE CHURCH / SERMONS](#)
By the way, thanks Michelle, for looking after our website for us...!

Drainage sump: About the end of May a drainage company will restore the soak-pit into which much of our roof water is deposited. This has become less effective in recent years (blocked with leaves?) so needs to be excavated. It will mean a large hole in the lawn for a few days but then, less pooling of rainwater under heavy-rain conditions. Which seem to be getting more frequent these days...

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Sandy Lang

Rood screen – 'Still on patrol'...

I suspect few of us pause to consider what life must be like in a submarine – particularly in wartime. When things go wrong, there can be no outside help. The crew must rely entirely on one another to survive and, of course, in many cases they do not. The Royal Navy lost 76 submarines in WW2 and the US Navy lists 52 lost in that period.

His Majesty's Submarine H49 was launched on 15 July 1919 and was lost 21 years later on 18 October 1940. Hitler sent out 40,000 sub-mariners of whom less than 10,000 returned. Other navies also report heavy losses of submariners.

It's not only in wartime that a submariner's life is risky. Many of us are old enough to remember the US Navy submarine *Thresher*, that sank to what was euphemistically called "crush depth" in 1963. There was nothing anyone could do to save it or its crew.



If you ever want to experience the emotions of life on a submarine without actually going on board, watch the movie 'Das Boot' (it's in English). It's about the German submarine U-96 on a patrol in 1941. There are no 'good guys' nor

'bad guys', just a crew of ordinary people doing the job assigned to them by their superiors. 'Das Boot' just happens to be (in my opinion) the best depiction of what life is like in a submarine. You will be emotionally exhausted by the end.

Unlike a surface vessel, when a submarine sinks, there is often no trace. No SOS communication. Nothing. The ship simply does not return to base. There is a tradition in the United States Navy that no submarine is ever truly lost at sea. Those submarines and their crews who do not return to port are considered to be 'still on patrol' - in perpetuity. Sailors on active duty wouldn't dream of leaving their 'still on patrol' shipmates behind, so, every year, usually at Christmas, sailors manning communications hubs ashore and at sea send out a message. They send holiday wishes for health and happiness to all those they know will receive them, but they also send those same wishes to all those listed as 'still on patrol'.

The Royal Navy has a similar tradition and, I suspect, many other navies too.

There are three things that I will draw from this story:

1. Easter reminds us that our Risen Lord is always out there 'still on patrol'.
2. The navy will never declare a submarine 'lost' and Jesus will never write off any one of us. ...great is the rejoicing in heaven when a lost sheep (or submarine) comes home.
3. ANZAC Day reminds us of the thousands of men and women who have given their lives, so we may live our lives, the way we do.



At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we shall remember them. We shall remember them.

John Harris

An ANZAC floral tribute

I was delighted by my daughter's surprise bucket of greenery from her home and her kind thoughts; "I thought you might like some foliage for your St Ronan's bouquet this Sunday." It was made to be! And so, I was inspired to start the creation of an ANZAC floral tribute for St Ronan's service on 23 of April 2023.

The foundational greenery included lots of olive branches (peace), dark green rosemary (remembrance) and feathery ferns (symbolising our Kiwi defence force). Along with the red-orange cotoneaster berries, there were gorgeous flaming orange-blood flax flower heads standing strong, firm, and boldly upright (as if in spite of the tyranny of war). The green of the flax is similar to the army camouflage green.

The red-orange poppies, reflected those from the fields of Flanders (northern France) where so many soldiers lost their lives in WW1. They also symbolise today's red poppy lapel badges which we wear when we give a donation.

ANZAC Day reminds us of those who lost their lives or suffered in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. It is a tradition that began after WW1 to remember the children and women of fallen soldiers in northern France.

*If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.*

In Flanders Field (Lt Col John McCrae, 1915)



In our Christian-ANZAC floral arrangement, the three showy poppies form the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Near the bottom centre, there is the one large radiating green and white variegated native leaf, looking like the star of Jesus in whom we put our faith.

Continuing downwards, the photo shows the striking brass vase - a recycled artillery shell. And below, there are the fallen red Virginia creeper leaves representing fallen defence force people. These leaves are sitting on

handcrafted red, green, blue and black striped chevrons, as found on military uniform insignia. There is an irony in the arrangement with the peaceful woodland greenery enshrouding the bloody agonies of warfare.

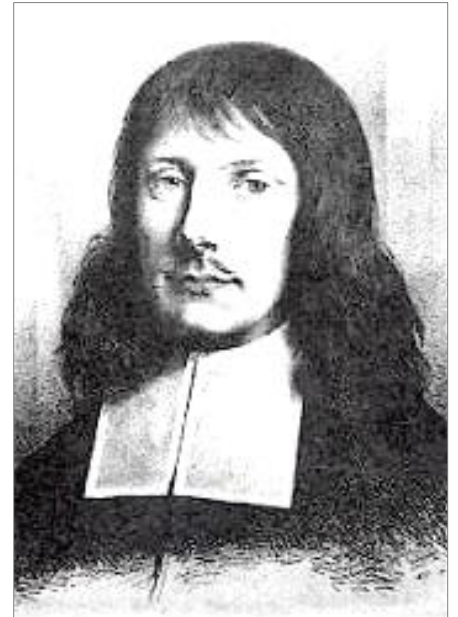
I wonder what Jesus would have to say - sitting in the midst of it all?

Susan Connell

The Neander Valley

The Düssel River flows through the Neander Valley (Neander Tal) about 20 km above the point where it flows into the Rhein at Düsseldorf (Düssel Village). This area is in the northwest of Germany, not far from Holland.

Joachim Neander was a pastor of the German Reformed Church¹, which evidently found its roots in the reformed traditions of the Netherlands. Joachim found great inspiration in the Düssel Valley where he often went to meditate. He was a prolific hymn writer, writing some 60 hymns, which have been translated into many languages (including Vietnamese). *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the king of creation* and *All my hope on God is founded*, are two of his hymns which have become a familiar part of our worship and tradition.



Joachim Neander 1650-1680



The Düssel River in the Neander Valley

Born in
Bremen in
1650,
Neander²

died there of TB when he was still young (in 1680). The members of his congregation were so moved by his life and death, they renamed the valley where he had spent so much time meditating and preaching - the *Neander Valley* (in the German orthography of those days, the *Neanderthal*.)

¹ The Evangelical Reformed (i.e., Calvinist/Presbyterian) Church is still alive and well in Germany and is centred in Leer, a city of 35,000 people in Lower Saxony close to the Dutch border.

² Even the name Neander is interesting. The family name was originally Neumann (Newman) but Joachim's grandfather (a Latin teacher) following the custom of the day, changed it to something more classical. He chose Neander, meaning 'new man' in Latin or Greek.



Neanderthal Museum, Mettmann, near Düsseldorf

As the centuries rolled on, Düsseldorf became a big industrial centre, and a great limestone resource was discovered in the Neander Valley. So, during the 19th century, limestone was quarried there. It was during this excavation that a cave was found, and in it the bones of a prehistoric inhabitant, who became known as the Neanderthal man, thus giving a name to an entire human species.

Geoff Mann

Power Hour – Building children’s faith on a rock foundation

At the end of our Power Hour sessions, we are currently reinforcing our faith foundation by sharing together a thoughtful verse given us by Gill Burke from when she was a child.

What is joy?

J is caring for **J**esus (make a J with thumb and forefinger)

O is caring for **o**thers (make an O touch together left & right, thumb & forefinger tips)

Y is caring for **y**ourself (make a Y - hold up two fingers spread apart)

This is joy...!

This short fun message provides a clear overview of the foundation for growing our children’s faith. It is like giving our children a rock to hold, while they grow in knowledge and faith.

Recently, in Scripture Union (*Liz Echler, SUNZ Adventure Jan 2023*) it was stated that a child’s connection to God is built upon growing a child’s faith. This is based on four vital parts in children’s ministry:

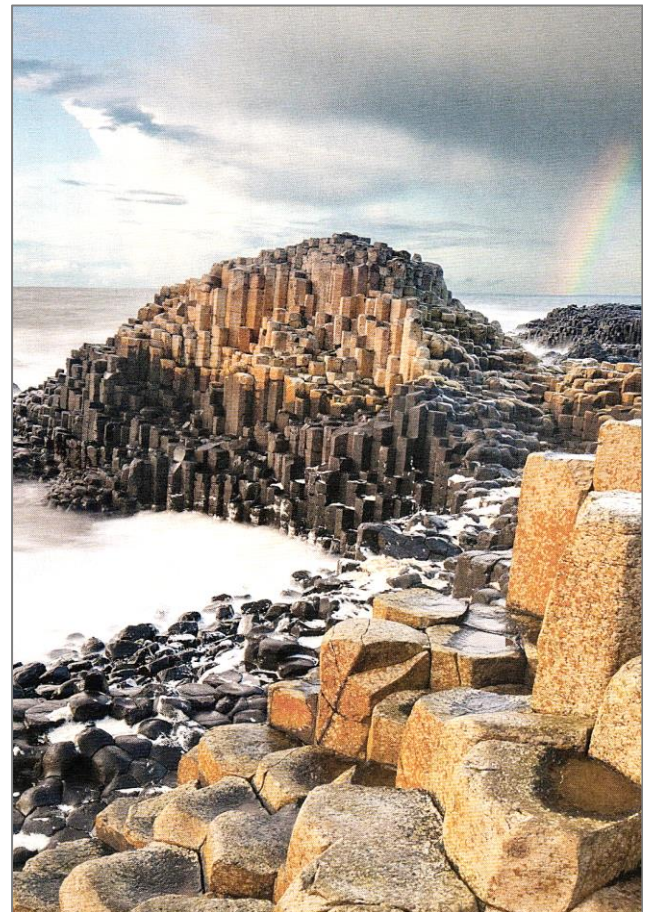
- 1) Connection to God
- 2) Connection to God’s story (Bible)
- 3) Connection as family/ Whānau
- 4) Connection to others

A bedrock or foundation is formed from these vital parts and upon which to build that secure, strong faith in our children.

In our current, very changeable world it becomes even more important for children to have that firm foundation to help them cope with their daily lives. Their faith provides that stability and enables them to better handle their situations.

Additionally, there is a smorgasbord of diverging ideas to distract them, with differing levels of validity for a faith foundation. So, children may develop differing levels of coping if they achieve differing levels of these faith foundations.

Hence, we need even more the presence of Jesus to hold us steady. Knowing that God's love for us stays the same, makes a firm foundation for us. Putting our trust in the firm foundation of Christ as His disciples to serve and love, no matter what swirls around us, gives us strong steady guidance in living.



***A firm rock foundation?
Giants Causeway, Co. Antrim, Northern
Ireland [photo Les Molloy]***

TERM 2: 30 April–25 June Start time 9:30am

Susan Connell

Phil's Photo - The new name...

Recently, the *DomPost* (*The Dominion Post*) has been trying to justify their dropping of 'Dominion' from their title to leave us with just *The Post*. It's to do with dropping anything that relates to our ties with the UK. Also, "We are under no-one's dominion" they say. Oh yeah...? What about an obligation to our nation's laws? A moral obligation to be kind? And (for a newspaper) a moral obligation to be honest and balanced in their reporting...?

In an attempt to gain our support for their name change they have been republishing articles from yesteryear to convince us just what a great paper the *DomPost* has been in the past...



If their 28 April, double-page, photographic feature 'Witness to our history' is anything to go by, we can expect mostly negative reporting from the *Post* into the future. Of the 12 photos, 9 were negative - protests, criminals, human distress. A couple were a bit playful - bare bums. Nothing particularly positive - except perhaps one of our very own 'Ashley B' striding off to a lunchtime TV COVID update.

Truth is, most of us, most of the time, go about our lives of peace and joy and kindness. Life isn't all turmoil and misery and evil. So, I give you some positive pix from our own backyard...

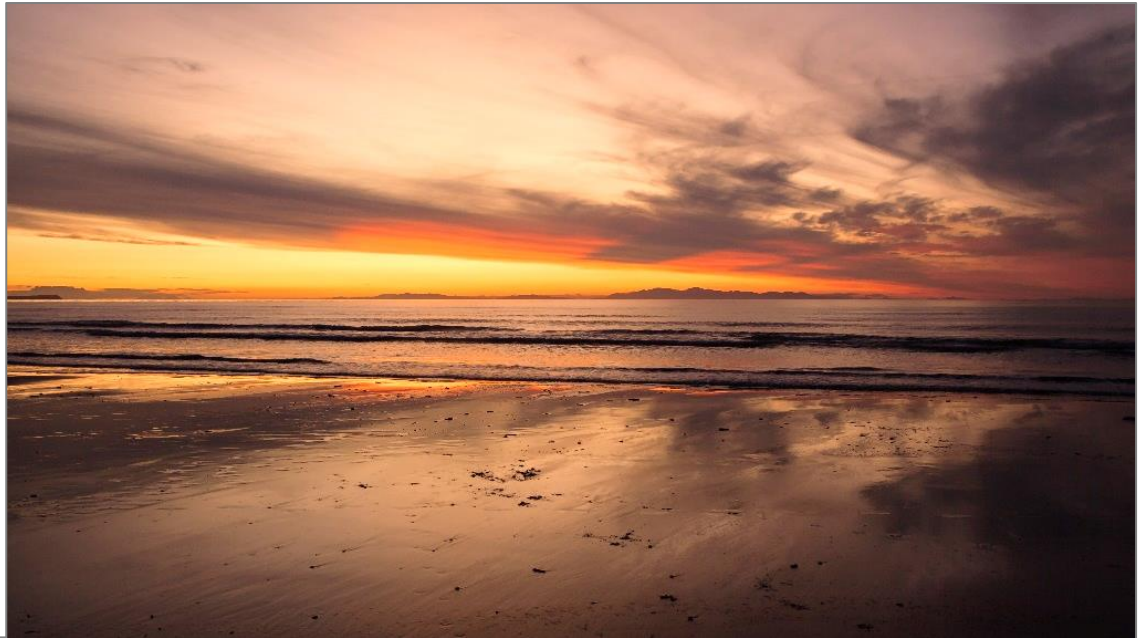


Serenity at Seaview



***Poignancy at Pukeahu
(Armistice Centenary
11 Nov 2018)***

***There's something
about a sunset
(Raumati)***



***Solace in the Wind
(Wellington)***

Enjoy every day...!

Phil Benge

SUNDAY AFTERNOON JAZZ

Sunday 14 May at 4pm at St Ronan's
Eastbourne

DUNCAN HAYNES TRIO

Duncan Haynes piano
Blair Latham saxophone
Seth Boy double bass



'DIRECTIONS IN JAZZ'

A selection of seven pieces by Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter

Programme	<i>About 60 minutes, no interval</i>		
Admission	<i>\$20 - General admission - Children free (under 12 yrs)</i>		
Tickets	<i>Limit 100</i>		
Information	<i>Sandy Lang</i>	<i>slang@xtra.co.nz</i>	<i>021 222 0383</i>
At	<i>St Ronan's Church, 234 Muritai Road, Eastbourne</i>		

Members of the trio aim to broaden your horizons in an intimate acoustic setting and to share their passion for creating genuine musical moments.

The repertoire is chosen to represent the most significant aspects of the two master composers, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter, and to communicate their own joy of improvisation...

They want you to feel involved in their energy, drama, humour and spirit of play - to feel you are almost part of their band...

This is Mother's Day. How about you buy mum a ticket? Just drop me an email...

Sandy Lang



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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Local Ministry Team

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Parish Clerk	Sandy Lang
Hall Bookings	Sandy Lang

Contributions for the 'Record' are most welcome
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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 June 2023
is Sunday 28 May 2023**