



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church
Eastbourne

Record

October 2021

3 October	Graeme Munro.....	9.30am
10 October	Diane Gilliam-Weeks.....	9.30am
17 October	John Howell.....	9.30am
24 October	TBA.....	9.30am
31 October	Doug Rogers.....	9.30am
7 November	Graeme Munro.....	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 our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators,

Colin Dalziel 562 7238 or Mary Williams 568 3216

Time and time again...

Idioms, poems and proverbs about **time** abound...

We kill time, save time, lose time, make time, and have all the time in the world, but no one can stop the passage of time, a reality expressed in the well-known proverb, 'Time waits for no one.' That's a modern version of 'time and tide wait for no man,' written when 'tide' referred to a season of the year (as in Yuletide), not the movement of the sea. The phrase appeared first, neither in the bible, nor in a play by Shakespeare, but in "*Prologue to the Clerk's Tale*" by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1392.



JB Phillips, in his popular modern translation of the New Testament, uses 'this time' over 20-times, and 'that time' another 20-times. And in answer to his disciples' question about when things would happen, Jesus once said "*No one knows.*" That's how it is in life...

χρόνος
καιρός

Nonetheless, the writer of the biblical letter to the Ephesian Christians encourages them to make the best use of time. In English we have only one word to describe all the things we mean by time but, in Greek, there are two words for time - *chronos* and *kairos*. Writing in Greek, the biblical authors made use of both words (*chronos* 54-times, *kairos* 81-times).

Chronos: They were aware that *chronos* refers to our usual understanding of time in terms of 24 hours to the day, and ordering our lives by the hours we work. As an old song goes: "*I work eight hours, I sleep eight hours, I keep eight hours for fun!*"

We keep lists of things to do and are conscious of the time it will take to get them done. We keep 'minutes' of meetings which remind us how we used time in the past.

In fact, at this time of the year it is common for churches to schedule their annual meeting, where reports on the various aspects of their community life are received and considered, and plans for the future are decided. This is also the case with the *General Assembly* meeting occurring between the writing and the publishing of this little reflection. And, as with so many things in our life at the moment, the advent of COVID, and particularly of the Delta variant continues to have a devastating impact on how we are forced to use our time.

Kairos: On the other hand, *kairos* means something like the **right** time, the opportune moment. Many think of it as 'God's time'. Unlike *chronos* time which is quantitative (measurable), *kairos* time has to do with the quality or

significance of the moment (experienced, rather than measured). So, in Acts 27:9 in the phrase "much *time* had been lost and sailing was now dangerous..." *chronos* is used. Whereas in Mark 1:15 where Jesus came to Galilee, and said "The *time* is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand..." *kairos* is used.

The author Madeleine L'Engle in her book, *Circle of Quiet*, effectively describes *kairos* as:

"...that time which breaks through Chronos with a shock of joy, that time we do not recognize while we are experiencing it but only afterwards, because Kairos has nothing to do with chronological time. In Kairos we are completely unself-conscious and yet paradoxically far more real than we can ever be when we are constantly checking our watches. The saint in contemplation lost to self in the mind of God is in Kairos. The artist at work is in Kairos. The child at play totally thrown outside herself in the game, be it building a sandcastle or making a daisy chain is in Kairos. In Kairos we become what we are called to be as human beings, co-creators with God, touching on the wonder of creation."

It is also in those special moments of sharing where there is deep fellow-feeling and a sense of time is lost. Or in those moments when deep in our hearts we just know that this is the time to speak or act.

Let us not be so caught up with Chronos that we miss those precious moments of Kairos.

Reg Weeks

Clerk's corner...

AGM: The 97th Annual General Meeting (St Ronan's is getting old) on Sunday 26 September was ably chaired by Reg and went very smoothly and positively (as usual).

Church chats - Remember we have *Church Chats* roughly quarterly to create an opportunity for people to raise issues of concern or to make suggestions. This allows the AGM to deal just with the formal annual business – short and to the point.

Thanks - The meeting expressed gratitude to all those who work so hard to ensure things carry on smoothly during the year. A few of us were singled out for special thanks. But this is a team effort, nobody has either the time or the skills to do it all, so all of us who are part of 'Team St Ronan's' should take a bow here...!

Mission - As I assemble the *Annual Report* each year from its many 'bits' I am always impressed at how well we fulfil our mission. We are busy doing a great deal of really good stuff. This as a 'church team' but also as individuals.



Budget - For the second year in a row, we approved a deficit budget. Parish council is doing all it can to manage this situation – obviously it cannot continue indefinitely. We're not fiddling while Rome burns...

COVID: We continue at Alert Level 2, which makes not a lot of difference to us (large building, small congregation etc). We stay well within the Level 2 regulations, being slightly stricter about mask use and attendance recording, etc, than strictly required of us at Level 2.

Gardens: As we come into spring, the gardens are beginning to respond to the new level of care and attention they are receiving.

Painting: You will see the painters have been at work sprucing up the very tatty north side of the church. The worst face because it is most exposed to the wind and rain and sun, and it's also St Ronan's most public face - who looks at the south face or the back? Simon is managing all this...

Photo: At Malcolm Burdan's recent funeral I was reminded it was Malcolm who had produced and mounted the long and complete series of photos of our ministers in the foyer. Now we have an LMT (we five share the ministerial responsibilities) it's appropriate we bring Malcolm's photo series up to date...



Phil took the photo [from left: Michelle Bolger, Colin Dalziel, Rev Reg Weeks, Sandy Lang, Simon Shaw]. Anne organised the smile on Colin's face (this involved a be-heading, a re-heading, no anaesthetic, no screaming, no stitch marks, a triumph, he never felt a thing...)

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Sandy Lang

Presbytery gathering – Knox Church, Waitara...

As St Ronan's Presbytery representative, I was privileged to attend Presbytery's latest *Central Gathering* on 14 August. It was held at Knox Church Waitara, a departure from the usual venue of St Alban's in Palmerston North.

Knox Church is a great example of a modern, community-facing church in action. Its six-year-old buildings have a welcoming, friendly appeal. The main auditorium can seat up to 330 in different configurations and is designed for multi-media church services as well as musical performances, conferences and gatherings. The lighting, sound and data systems are managed from an impressively technical control desk.



Adjoining the auditorium is a large café served by a commercial kitchen. Opposite the auditorium is a large, half-sized basketball court gym together with three meeting rooms, a prayer room and offices.



Sebastian Murrihy

Senior Pastor Sebastian Murrihy leads a team that includes a Community Worker/Family Coordinator, a Youth Pastor and a Youth Worker (both based at Waitara High School) and a Youth Work Team Leader. This team is supported by an Administrator and two office secretaries.

An active children's programme includes a Rainbow Playgroup, Knox Kids, games groups for boys and girls, youth groups and holiday clubs.

I was impressed by the more than 17 different special interest groups that Knox supports, ranging from small groups, prayer groups, to discussion and craft groups. For more information on Knox Church check out www.waitara.org.nz Three singers supported by a seven-piece band set a lively opening tone for the Gathering. Dr Mick Duncan from Whanganui, delivered a challenging keynote talk – *Humility, the ability to be able to hold your power*. This was followed by small-group discussions, workshops and the AGM.

This year, Presbytery Central is again budgeting for a financial loss of \$512,482, continuing a deliberate strategy of investing in mission ventures.

Simon Shaw

Rood screen – 'Dem bones...'



We had salmon for dinner last night. Delicious, pan-fried, Bluff salmon served on a bed of mashed potatoes and spring onions. "So, what?" You may well ask. It was just the fishmonger was not quite as efficient as usual, and there were a few of those very fine bones left in the steaks.

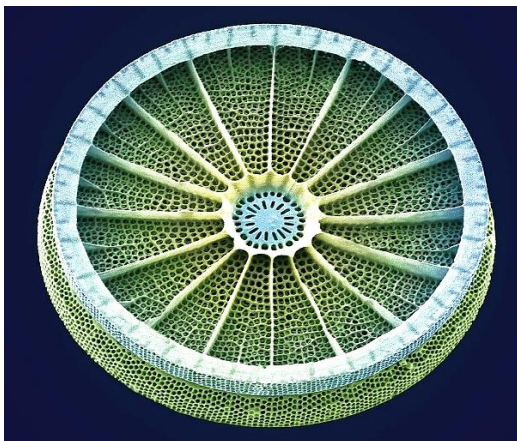


Sea water – naked eye

Is it not truly amazing how, despite having a fullish mouth, your tongue can immediately detect something's wrong?

And even more amazing how, without having to concentrate too much, your tongue can isolate the offending bone, and ease it to your lips, where you can remove it with your fingers. All that, despite the fact fish bones are so fine...

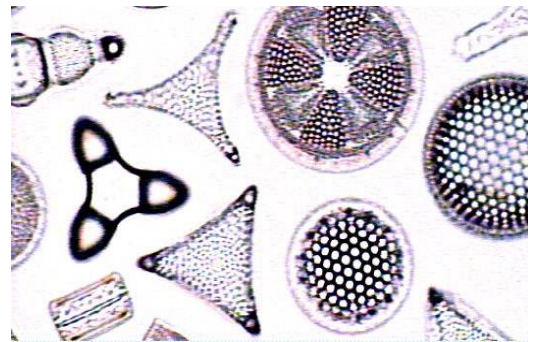
Our Creator certainly knew how to build some efficient safety devices into our design...!



Sea water – scanning electron microscope

It got me thinking. Do you sometimes pause in your prayers and think "No,

God has more important things to deal with than my little troubles? I'll just edit that bit out". Sure, God has some big projects on the go – like world peace for a start.



Sea water – light microscope

But, remember Matthew 9:20...

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

God certainly has an eye for detail. God cares about the little things too. God cares about YOU (and even me).

John Harris

COP26...

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens?

Can you establish their rule on the earth? Job 38:33

Come along on 17 October and John Howell will unpack this for us.



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Meanwhile...

- Google [COP26 wiki](#)
- And watch the news

Now, what was I going to say...?

I have everything I wanted as a teenager... only 50 years later.

- I don't have to go to school or work.
- I get an allowance every month.
- I have my own place to live.
- I have a driver's license and my own car.
- The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant.
- I decided to stop calling the bathroom the "loo" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying "I went to the Jim this morning".
- When I was a child I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now it feels like a vacation.
- The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it!".
- Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.
- At my age "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Now, I'm wondering... Did I send this to you, or did you send it to me...?
[Ed. Thanks to Anne Manchester for ferreting out this wry contribution]

On entering the estuary, from the River of Life...



The tide is still out and the river's current is still strong. There are eddies around its banks, each one with its own focus, for gathering ideas together, knitting up the ravelled ends, completing tasks, making life more shipshape before the tide comes in. Not the time for cramming more in.

As tasks come together those eddies subside and a calmness follows. The time when it is slack water in the estuary is a time for living, for enjoying being alive, for re-collection, of letting go, giving, of accepting this stage of one's life.

A time of peacefulness all the while trying to follow Christ's example. No longer fighting the inevitable - after all it is part of the eternal cycle of living.

Soon, the tide will turn and the outgoing current will pull us out into the wide blue ocean, where the physical body will dissolve and become part of the spirit world and be one with the life force.

But for now, I am alive and it is time to live and love it...

Jan Heine

Children's Power Hour – God's power to protect us

Given half a chance, the Power Hour children (aged 6-9 years) can show how capable they can be at this young age.

Their strengths always humble me. Last week they excelled at ranking in order 10 food items in terms of their importance in survival living. Let me share with you what happened.



We did an introductory activity leading to understanding the power of having God in our lives (exemplified later by the story of the prophet Elijah testing King Ahab and visiting the Zarephath woman with never ending flour and oil/bread: *1 Kings 17*).

After exploring the 10 food items, the children were challenged to arrange them in a row from most important to least important to survive.

Their first sort was into two groups – most valuable and least valuable for survival. They easily picked out a bottle of water as #1 - the most important of the lot. Next, when it came to selecting the least valuable, both the 'hundreds and thousands' cake decorations, colourfully attractive and "yum", and, the "UGH! So full of sugar" chocolate drops tied for #10 position.

Good discussion followed in ranking the remaining items. Some placed the onion in a low rank; others ranked it higher. The vanilla beans, with their fascinating smell, were a puzzle; finally, they were placed at the low end. Salt was difficult because its hidden value was unknown. More discussion revealed that the common and multipurpose flour in food was helpful. Likewise, olive oil. Dates were given a good tick but not considered as important as water. So, dates shuffled down to a middle ranking and flour moved up. This meant the onion moved down the rank. Oh! And the Milo was hugged, evoking happy memories, and was placed higher than water to the very first place – but for a short time only...

What would you have done?

Their final ranking from *Most Important* was: 1 Water, 2 Flour, 3 Oil, 4 Salt, 5 Onion, 6 Dates, 7 Vanilla Beans, 8 Milo, 9 Chocolate Drops, and 10 'hundreds & thousands' as *Least Important*.

It was easy to then move on to chat about the making of bread....pita bread, wraps, pancakes and the actual making of these with flour, water, oil and salt.

Photos of current and Biblical time home-baking of bread and eating some buckwheat flat bread made the ranking exercise closer to real life.



By then we felt that God is nice, awesome, a superman (demonstrated by fully stretching out arms and legs on the floor) and caring. It seemed so right to say thanks to God for providing our food, and for God's protective caring of us.

To round off the session with an application to "Our Living the Life in God's Way", we planted carrot seeds in homemade compost and had a discussion of what we needed to do to care for our plantings. This was agreed as: sunshine, water, good soil, thinning, and daily attention from us.

Susan Connell

Paul's road to Damascus experience...

Was the apostle Paul converted to Christianity on that road to Damascus? "Of course," most will snort. "What a silly question!" But the answer that seems obvious to us would not have been so to Paul.

Sure, something dramatic and life-changing occurred that day. It changed his whole perspective on Jesus, and his determination to purge the synagogues of Christ's followers withered and died. It did not, however, lead him to reject his deeply Jewish faith for Christianity - there was no such thing at that point.

Yes, there was a nascent Jesus movement, but it was still deeply embedded within Jewish religious and community life - that's what riled Paul, and why he was bent on rooting it out. Then, out of the blue, something happened that spun him around.



There's a ton of speculation about the Damascus Road experience, but it is probably best thought of as a flash of insight, a revelation, an apocalypse that

this Jesus was not the enemy of Jewish faith, but the fulfilment and extension of all the best in the Jews' religious heritage . . . a great prophet . . . the messiah! Everything Paul wrote later reflected that pivotal understanding. But the revelation came to him as a Jew, and he remained a Jew all his life - a transformed Jew, certainly, yet one who recognised in the story of Jesus the messiah his people longed for. Writing in Greek, his word for messiah was "Christ".

Paul's momentous insight was not only that the whole point and purpose of the special Jewish way of being had been fulfilled by Jesus, but that the messiah's promise was for *all* peoples, not just the Jews. This was good news and, he insisted, he was called to be an apostle or envoy to pass it on.

In other words, Paul didn't see himself as being converted away from Judaism to an embryonic new religion but called to proclaim that the central promise of God's covenant with the Jewish nation was being extended to embrace the Gentiles, other nations - and it was happening through Jesus as messiah. The messiah presented a vision of humanity as a single family, breaking all the old barriers of tribe, race, sex, class and status. It was a new way of being human.

Better still, non-Jews didn't have to go through the rigmarole of Jewish custom and religion to become part of the covenant. The messiah made that superfluous. Within this lies an echo of the ancient promise that Abraham would be the father not only of the Jews, but of "the nations".

There's a wider, down-to-earth context for Paul's vision. In the New Testament everything was happening under the rule of a Roman emperor exalted as divine, Son of God, Lord, Liberator, Redeemer, the Saviour who had brought peace to the world. All honour and glory were due to him.

Absolutely not, Paul retorts. Those titles belong to the one who opens the way to God's kingdom on earth. The emperor imposes peace and order through military conquest, violence and oppression. The messiah brings peace and order through faith, love and justice, especially the justice of a fair distribution of the earth's resources.

That is a radical religious and social vision, but it has been blurred in translation and obscured by later interpretations centred on sin, guilt, punishment and individual salvation which the church has preached with great authority for hundreds of years.

Paul has also been lumbered more recently with assumptions about his approval of patriarchy, slavery and subordinating women, mostly based on letters attributed to him but written by others. Others say he succeeded only in fouling up the simple message that Jesus taught and tangling him in a web of supernatural speculation.

To see the real Paul, you need a different pair of glasses. It helps to use alternative translations for some highly-charged religious words, allowing a more neutral perspective. In his book *The Real Paul*, American New Testament scholar Bernard Brandon Scott uses *envoy* instead of *apostle*, *community* instead of *church*, *nations* for *Gentiles*, *corrupting power* for *sin*, *the anointed* for *Christ*.

For Paul, the messiah or Christ is central and, when radically rethought, the word should claim pride of place in Christian experience. New life “in Christ” is the recurring motif running through his letters. Today the concept is best thought of as an archetype of love, grace and transformation, lying deep within the human psyche: the Christ within.

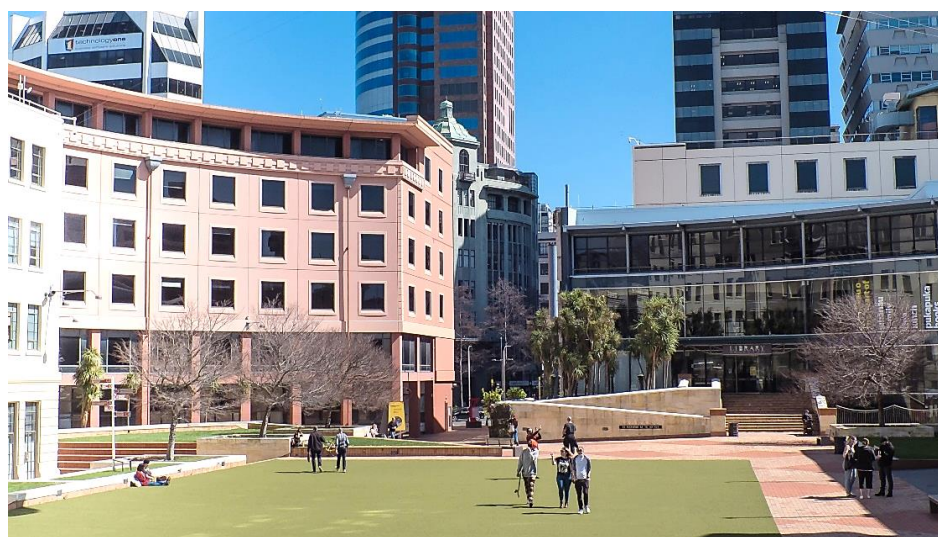
Ian Harris

(Reprinted with kind permission from Touchstone September 2021)

Phil's photo – City life at Level 2...

In my working life, I spent a lot of my time in Wellington City. The great attraction of the place is the vibrancy of those who live and work there.

We've been subject to various levels of COVID Alert these last 18 months or so. Last Friday (24 September) was a beautiful spring day and I went to the city, to see what and how the people were responding to Alert Level 2. Going to the city is a rare event for me these days.



My first impression was the city was rather empty. Sure, there were a few people about, but not the crowds and the hustle and bustle one would expect for a lunchtime, on a beautiful day.

The people seemed happy enough. About

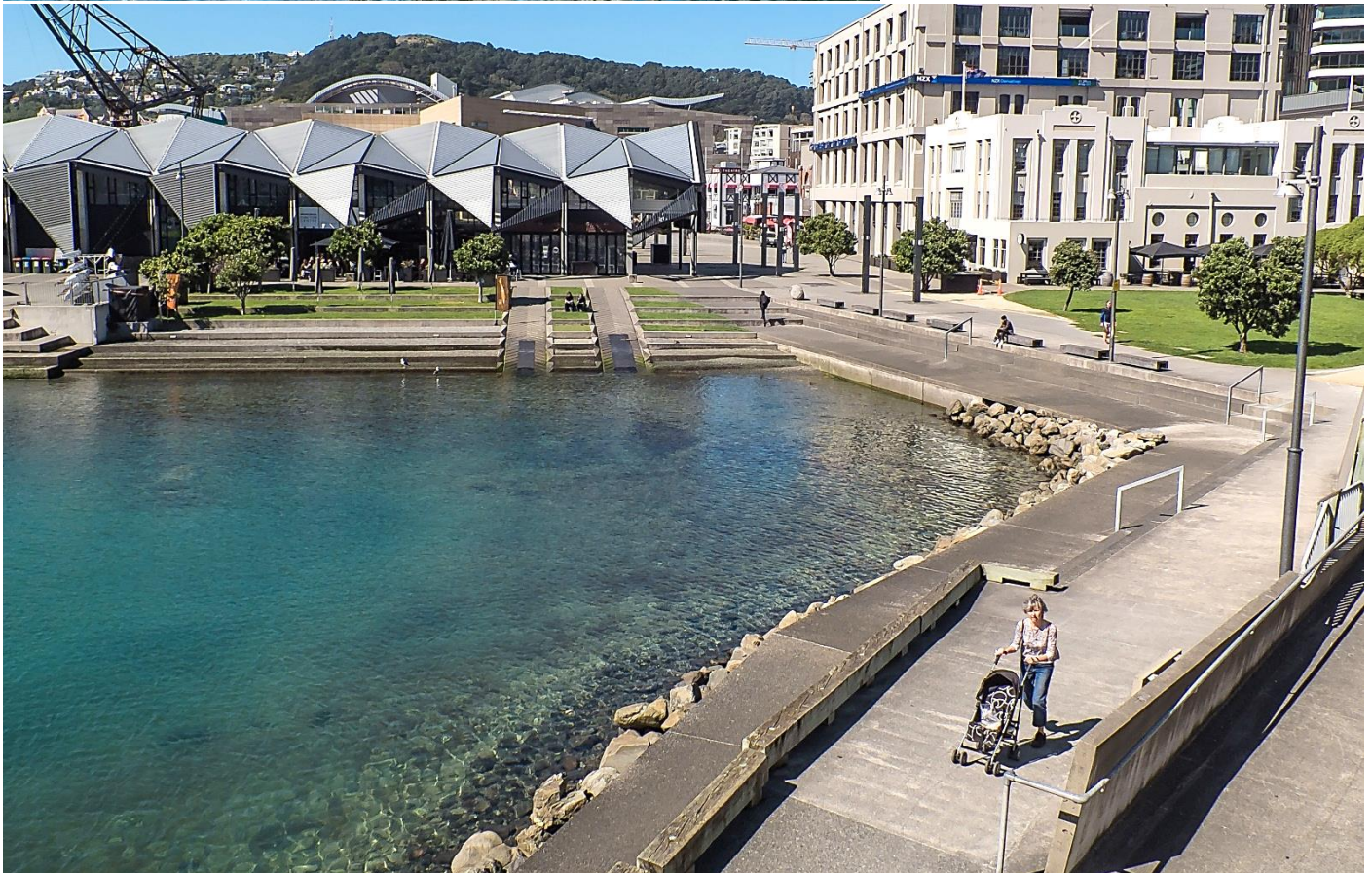
90% were wearing masks as they talked and walked the streets. In the area of Civic Square and round The Lagoon it was almost completely empty. Still, the beauty of the place and the atmosphere was wonderful. Scenes of peace and tranquillity. So, out with the camera...!

During the last year-and-a-half our lives have been changed. We've mostly adapted well enough to the new 'normal'.

But hearing and seeing (on TV, from family and friends overseas) how things are around the world - and even in Auckland - I'm so glad to be living right here in Eastbourne,



and with our nation's capital city just a 25-min, boat-ride away on a free (thanks Winston), soon to be electric (thanks *East by West*), ferry...!



They say: "You can't beat Wellington on a good day". But I say: "Any day in Wellington is a good day...!"

Phil Benge

Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan's Purse

For a number of years, St Ronan's has donated many 'shoeboxes', filled with gifts for children in and around the Pacific region.



Shoeboxes: These will be available at St Ronan's in early October...

Gifts: suggestions are... Something to wear, to love, for school, to play with, for personal hygiene and something special...

For more information call: 0800 726 274

Or visit: www.operationchristmaschild.org.nz

Please contact Colin Dalziel 562 7238 for information leaflets and shoe boxes. The leaflets contain a list of suggested gifts to suit children of different ages. Also, a list of prohibited items.

Freight: A donation of \$10 is required in an envelope with each shoebox to cover freight. Donations can also be made through the Samaritan's Purse website (link above) where you can also download coded labels and to let you follow your box to its destination.

Filled shoe boxes should be brought to St Ronan's by Sunday 24 October 2021. After a blessing during a morning church service, the boxes will be delivered to the local ShoeBox drop off point to continue their journey to Auckland and on to other countries.

Colin Dalziel

Paraprosdokians...

Winston Churchill loved paraprosdokians (pronounced as *para-pross-dokian*, as in **parachute** – **prosecute** – and spoken to rhyme with oak). These are figures of speech in which the latter part is unexpected. Some examples...



- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- I thought I wanted a career. Turns out, I just wanted pay checks.
- In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put "DOCTOR."
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street...with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
- A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
- There's a fine line between cuddling and...holding someone down so they can't get away.
- I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- I'm supposed to respect my elders, but now it's getting harder and harder for me to find one.

Contributed by **Anne Manchester**



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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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 November 2021
is Sunday 31 October 2021**