



St Ronan's Presbyterian Church  
Eastbourne

# Record

## August 2015

<b>2 August</b>	Worship with Rev Reg Weeks .....	9.30am
<b>9 August</b>	Holy communion with Rev Michelle Shin .....	9.30am
<b>16 August</b>	Worship with Rev Ross Scott .....	9.30am
<b>23 August</b>	Worship with Rev Michelle Shin.....	9.30am
<b>30 August</b>	Worship with Rev Doug Rogers.....	9.30am
<b>6 Sept</b>	Worship with Rev Reg Weeks .....	9:30am

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**Power Hour – Sundays 9.30am**  
**Bible Study – Sundays 11.15am**  
**Meditation – Mondays 5.30pm**  
**Breakfast Prayer - Tuesdays 7.30am**  
**Mainly Music – Thursdays 9.30am**  
**Messy Church – monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 4.30pm**

### **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**

## ***From the pulpit***

It seems the cold, wet winter has not dampened the spirit of St Ronan's. The winter lecture series is well under way, drawing big crowds to hear some wonderful speakers brought together to inspire us. It is exciting to have something to offer to the community, as a church caring for the world, a church with a calling for justice and peace in the place where God has given us life.



On the day the lecture series began, a parishioner from Waiwhetu died and I had to be with the family on Sunday at the same time as the lecture. I am learning I can't be in two places at once. I know there were many in the congregation who care deeply about the ministry we offered that afternoon – I was pleased to hear it all went so well. We are living the word, in a spirit of compassion and love.

This month, we have enjoyed Bible passages that teach us about God and how we see God in Jesus, in what he said and did. It is wonderful to see the wisdom of the scriptures, especially in the epistles. Their simple messages that are sometimes specific to their historical and cultural context, but come alive and relevant to us with the power to change and transform our lives.

We have thought about the concept of grace recently. I was inspired by the eulogy of President Obama as he reflected on the tragic event in Charleston, South Carolina, where eight church members were killed, including their minister, who was also a senator working for social justice for the marginalised and poor urban African Americans. We thought of how God's grace is like a string that can link us together, not by our own merit or worth, but by God's unconditional grace. We have been invited to take part in life with the richest of blessings, regardless of who we are.

Someone suggested we could let go of that string. If we do, we can become isolated and disconnected from God and his blessings. There are people who have let go of God's blessings, or are not aware of him and what he offers, or refuse to hold on to God. When we become disconnected from God, we lose the blessings God gives to us - forgiveness, compassion and genuine love for all.

Jesus was rejected in his own hometown. He was amazed at the people's unbelief. I think we all know what 'rejection' feels like. It hurts. The

wound may not show but the scar is there for life. Jesus did not get angry or defensive by trying to change the people's minds. He just walked away, perhaps broken, knowing there were bigger things God had called him to do. Jesus showed we must not give up on God. He knew he had to trust in God, and do what he could do.

In July I attended a meeting at the Pomare Community Centre, hosted by the Living Wage campaigners. This organisation is trying to change the way we deal with inequality in our society and the poverty statistics we are all aware of. The living wage has been calculated at \$19.25, before tax.



Community workers there that night, spoke of people who go without and of children living in substandard conditions - and most are from working families.

In Deuteronomy 24:18, we read that you shall not pervert the justice due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge, but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and that the Lord your God redeemed you from there, therefore, I command you to do this thing. "When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it, it shall be for the alien, for the orphan and for the widow, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands..."

St. Ronan's is a community that cares deeply about people, nature and the world, and seeks to live out that love of Jesus and the compassion and grace we hear so much about. It is our calling to cultivate that in our lives and hearts, and in our community here, and beyond. There is always more grace to receive and to share.

**Michelle J Shin**

### **Clerk's Corner**

**Cleaners:** Cleaners usually go unnoticed till something goes wrong. A couple of weeks ago, our church cleaners (Sue & Rob) asked if they could come back on a Saturday afternoon - in their own time, with their own buffer machine. They did this, and our vinyl flooring now has a lovely shine (for the first time in years). They went that extra mile for us, and they have been thanked...!



**Ecumenical Messy Church:** Next MC is on Sunday August 16 (3rd Sunday) at St Alban's. It would be nice to see some more of you there. Bring a plate to share. I think you will enjoy it and meet a few people you already know, and a few more you don't already know. Our MC sessions are great fun.

**Biographical:** You may remember a year or so ago I encouraged some of you to write a biographical piece for the Record covering some of the things that have specially motivated you in your professional or voluntary lives – so we can get to know you better and so we may be inspired. Kevin Pringle has now penned the latest in this occasional series. Kevin's writings will help us to understand and miss him even more as he and Carol are about to drive off into the sunset - actually, not quite correct, they will drive north...!

**Eastbourne Winter Series:** The first two lectures went very well:

- ❖ Sir Anand Satyanand, 107 people, excellent talk on a tricky topic.
- ❖ Judge Carolyn Henwood, 72 people, another excellent talk on a topic close to the core of what it is to be compassionate.

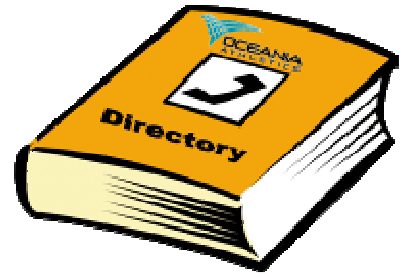
On both occasions, audience participation in the question times was vibrant. On both occasions too, Malcolm did a brilliant job as our sound man. Afterwards, large numbers joined us as guests for coffee/tea and good food. Thanks to all involved – a great team effort. Two lectures down, two lectures to go. See later this issue...

**Fellowship Zip:** While catering for our 107 Winter Series visitors on 12 July, we learned something about the Zip water heater in the fellowship room. It's worthwhile you all know about this.

If you make a lot of tea/coffee in a short time, you can draw off hot water faster than the Zip can heat it. When this happens, the hot water flow simply stops – suddenly nothing will come out the tap. Don't panic, don't switch the Zip off. Leave it on, and it will deliver hot water again after a few minutes, when it has had time to heat up the next lot to the right temperature for making tea/coffee. It simply refuses to give you tepid water for your tea...! If you are worried about running out of hot water for a large crowd, then fire up the Zip in the hall kitchen too. This will roughly double the beverage-making capacity.



**Directory:** Thanks Michelle B – a lot of work in redesign and extension of content, a key and really useful document for St Ronan’s. Updates can be frequent and are relatively easy now.



**Charities registration:** John Harris and I have successfully completed the process of registering St Ronan’s as a charity. This was required now we no longer come under the umbrella registration of our national church. This new arrangement involves stricter financial and other reporting for which we are already prepared. The change was required by a change in the law for charities. The change will not affect you – just more compliance work for us - but that’s the age we live in...!

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

**AGM:** Our AGM is usually in September but will be a bit late this year. It will be after the service on Sunday 11 October. Mark your diary...!

**Reports** - If you wrote a report last year, please may I have a report from you for this year? The period covered is 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 so you could go away and write it right now...!

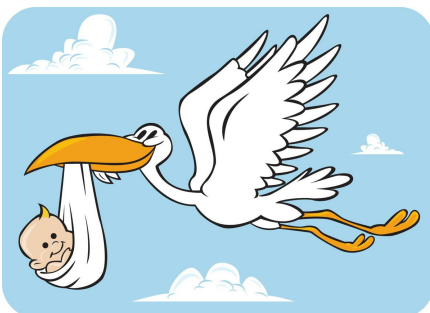
**Deadline** - I will be away for the period immediately prior to the AGM (grandparent duties), so to have the printed Annual Report in your hands by Sunday 4 October (7 days before the AGM) I must actually do the collation and printing before I go away, so printed by Sunday 20 September. This means I require your report by Sunday 13 September (allows me 7 days to put the document together and print it). This is still some way ahead but the sooner we start the job the easier it is all round. Especially for me...



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**Sandy Lang**

### And breaking news...!



Mike and Elspeth Cotsilinis are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of Emma Rose, a baby sister for Sophia and Leo. She was born at Hutt Hospital on 26 July and weighed in at 3.29 kg (7 lb 4 oz). Everyone seems very well – a tiny bit exhausted but...

## **Paediatric Surgery: Service and Faith**

I was always going to be a doctor, right from the time I was going to be an engine driver one day, and a farmer the next. In high school I was employed by one of the local GPs in his rooms in the afternoons after school. I learned a lot from him.

When I went to Otago (the only option at the time) to enrol in the 'Premed' course (now First Year Health Sciences) I had no 'Plan B'. Fortunately, I didn't need one, as I was accepted into medical school, where I had an unspectacular

undergraduate career. I had thought about becoming a neurosurgeon, but I quickly discovered that I was not optimistic enough for that. In the 4<sup>th</sup> year of my 6-year course, we had our one lecture on paediatric surgery from Vic Pearce who was the general surgeon doing most of the paediatric surgery in Dunedin at that time. I realised that this was going to be the last bastion of general surgery, and I was sold! I completed my medical school course in Dunedin and stayed on there, completing my general surgical training. At the completion of that training, I was offered a registrar training post at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. So we moved there, with Carol and our three children (all born in Dunedin) ranging from eight months to five years. I completed my second independent research project while working there.

At the end of my two years in Melbourne, I was offered a Paediatric Surgical Fellowship at the University of Chicago and at the end of that time I was offered a joint position at the University of Illinois and Cook County Hospital. I stayed there for 18 months, doing teaching, research and clinical work before moving to the University of Iowa. We spent seven years there, before returning to New Zealand in December 1987, to take up a post as Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Surgery to become the only Paediatric Surgeon south of Hamilton.

It was an interesting challenge, changing the culture of Wellington Hospital to enable me to deliver acceptable paediatric surgery services. When I arrived, it was impossible to heat the operating theatres and small babies became very cold during their operations. I asked for modifications to allow me to heat one room. When that was refused, I started putting ice packs on the thermostats, which resulted in a nice warm room. When the hospital engineers found out about it, I got my modifications for two rooms.



So what does a Paediatric Surgeon do? In Wellington, we operate on children from birth until their 16<sup>th</sup> birthdays. On at least two occasions, I have finished an operation on a 1.2 kg premature baby with a blockage in its bowel and followed that with an appendectomy on an obese 100 kg teenager. The most common operations we do are hernia repairs in infants and young children, and operating on undescended testes to bring them into the scrotum.

We do non-cardiac thoracic surgery, most commonly for congenital anomalies or for empyema. We do all sorts of abdominal surgery. On two occasions, I have removed a liver tumour and reduced a young child's weight by 10%. I have removed a kidney tumour and reduced the child's weight by 20%, and I have removed what is known as a sacrococcygeal teratoma (a tumour arising from the tip of the spine) and in doing so, halved the baby's weight from 3.2 kg to 1.6 kg.

As an Academic Paediatric Surgeon, I also teach and do research. My early interest was in trying to find a way of repairing a diaphragmatic hernia before the baby is born. A baby with a diaphragmatic hernia is born with most of its intestines (and, sometimes, the stomach, spleen and half of the liver) up in the chest. This severely compromises the development of the lung, and some of these babies just don't have enough lung to live on and they die shortly after they are born. The idea was to repair the problem before birth. I was able to show that this was possible, but patient selection remains a problem to this day, although units in both Europe and the USA perform this sort of surgery. I still don't think that we have indicators reliable enough to predict at 20-24 weeks gestation, that the baby will die after birth if it doesn't receive fetal intervention.

However, that research led on to my current research, which is investigating the development of the kidneys and bladder in a fetus that has an obstruction to urine flow before birth. This may yet lead on to a better treatment for these babies before they are born. If we are successful in this



**Pre-list briefing for my last elective list**

endeavour, we may improve the long-term outcome for these children.

At this stage of my career, it is interesting to reflect on just how much has changed in my practice life-time. When I graduated, ultrasound as a diagnostic tool didn't exist. Now we can measure the blood flow through a 3 mm fetal vessel and create 3-D reconstructions of a fetus. (As an aside, at the meeting I was at in September last year, a paediatric surgeon from France brought a fetal skeleton that had been created by using a 3-D printer to print out the data generated by an ultrasound). The CT scanner came next, followed by MRI in the mid-1980s. We now have PET scanning, and real-time functional MRI scans investigating what parts of the brain are active during any given activity, and real-time 3-D nuclear medicine scans. Blocked arteries can now often be stented, rather than requiring extensive surgery. The human genome has been mapped, and many important genes have been identified. The karyotype, in which the chromosomes are photographed during cell division, is rapidly being replaced by micro-array analysis of individual genes, made possible by powerful computers analysing individual genes. This is based on the understanding of cell biology and how DNA and RNA work together to make a cell function correctly - something that was only just beginning to be worked out when I graduated.

In some ways, I will be sad to leave this field. However, the call is very onerous. When I was at Cook County and the University of Illinois I worked 18 months on a 1:4 call schedule. This meant that I was on call from 8am on one day to 8am the next. If I was up all night, I worked a normal day the next day. Weekends start on Friday morning at 8am and finish at 8am on Monday morning. If you are up all night, you still work a full day on the Monday. In Iowa, it was seven years of 1:2 and for the first seven years in Wellington I had every Tuesday night and every 4<sup>th</sup> weekend off. I currently work a 1:3 roster, but with conference leave and annual leave entitlements, that equates to a 1:2 call for about six months of the year. I can no longer sustain that, and it is with significant regret that I have initiated plans for a phased retirement over the next 20 months.

In all of this, where does my faith come in and how does that influence what I do? It can be summed up in one word - service. My goal, every day is to BE Christ to all I meet. All too often, I fail miserably in my goal, but every time I fail in that way, I reset the goal and try again.

My faith-journey began in my childhood. My mother was a devout Anglican, and I grew up in that tradition, attending Sunday school, and in high school being part of the Crusaders group. For the first three years at Otago, I struggled to maintain my faith, until I began to attend the Apostolic Church. Carol and I attended the same youth group there, but we never went out together until she moved to Hamilton - but that's another story. We continued attending the Apostolic Church in Melbourne, but when we went to Chicago, the only Pentecostal Church in



the area was almost exclusively black, and the Sunday services went on for three hours! That was not an option at a time when I was lucky to have eight hours out of 48 at home, so we attended a nearby Uniting Church. In Iowa, we attended a nearby Presbyterian Church which had an excellent youth group and when we returned to New Zealand, we continued in the Presbyterian Church. The challenge for me, now, as I leave clinical medicine, will be finding my next areas of service.

**Kevin Pringle**

### ***The Eastbourne winter series 2015***

*Eastbourne winter series brings in the crowds...*

Our winter series got off to a great start last month with former Governor General Sir Anand Satyanand and Judge Carolyn Henwood attracting appreciative and large audiences. Sir Anand gave a thoughtful, well-researched address, which is now on the St Ronan's website, while Judge Carolyn spoke from the heart and without notes. What came through strongly was her frustration with the youth justice system that sees so many young men heading down an inevitable road to prison, many of them with a history of state care. "I am desperate to make a difference," she said.



New Zealand needs to develop a shared vision for what it wants for its kids, she said. "As a nation, we know we want to win at rugby but there are not a lot of aspirational statements about how we manage young people and what we want for their futures. We need more horizontal leadership in this country, rather than hierarchical leadership, and we need to find a designated leader in the field of youth justice."

Judge Carolyn presented us with some stark and disturbing facts. The children of prisoners are seven times more likely to offend, while children with a care and protection history are 17 times more likely to offend. Many of these children have been in 30 to 40 homes or institutions during their lifetimes. And 57% of these children (the same figure for both sexes) report being sexually abused, with girls reporting being raped up to 16 times while in care. Almost all members of the Mongrel and Black Power gangs have come through the care and protection system.

"We have 700 social workers in New Zealand and 10,000 police. I wonder what our society could be like if these numbers were reversed and we had far more social workers than members of the police force?" Judge Carolyn asked.

New Zealand needed to develop "reasonable and robust alternatives to

gaol”, she said, and be prepared to pay for these alternatives. “We are a country of only 4.5 million people. Surely we can find a better way of doing things.”

Don't miss the last two winter series lectures. Massey University associate professor and social scientist Robin Peace will tackle (August 9) the great New Zealand urban/rural divide, and how to manage the uneven growth between a mega city like Auckland and small rural settlements.



On August 23, journalist, author and former York Bay boy Max Rashbrooke will examine the links between poverty and wealth, and tease out the forces that are driving New Zealand society apart.

My thanks to everyone who has helped bring food to share for our first two sessions. Hospitality is a key part of the series. Please let me know if you can help serve afternoon tea on either of our August sessions. The hard-working and faithful July team of Les and Allison Malloy would like a new team or teams

to take over this month.

**Anne Manchester** (series co-ordinator)

### **Eastbourne Messy Church**

Next Messy Church is on Sunday August 16 at St Alban's (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month, but not school holidays). Mark this in your diaries.

Come along and meet up with Eastbourne's 'generation Y' (roughly, your children's generation). You will meet a few people you already know and a few more you don't already know - but these are people you will see often around the village, pushing prams, shopping, drinking coffee, and dropping off their kids at school.

We gather at 4.30pm and after a few informal minutes we engage in some themed, all-age, activity. Then maybe about 5.15pm the leader ties this up with a few words of 'application', before we eat a pot-luck meal together followed by tea/coffee. We end about 6pm.



**Sandy Lang**

## **Peter began to sink...**

Matthew 14:22-33 is an odd little story. Jesus walked on the water; then Peter did too; but then Peter began to sink...

One interpretation of quantum physics predicts a multiverse. Not just one universe, but many parallel universes, with no simple way to leap, or even to communicate, between them.

The existence of a physical universe and a spiritual universe, is an old way of looking at faith. As children of God we are told we are made in His image (Gen 1:27), but we have only to look at ourselves in the bathroom mirror to realise we are also mammals and (along with a number of creatures we see at the zoo) we fit in the taxonomic order of the primates. But God is pure spirit (John 4:24) and so does not have arms and legs etc, as we do. So, it would seem, we have a proverbial foot in both worlds – we are part spiritual beings (like God) and part animals (like King Kong – the image is actually of an adult male silverback). CS Lewis somewhere calls us 'amphibians'.



**Am I my keeper's brother...?**

As with the parallel universes of physics, there's no way we can ever really prove anything about the spiritual universe of faith, from within the framework of the physical universe of science. Hence, a theist's belief is no more, and no less, logical than an atheist's non-belief. So, while we can be intellectually sure about the physical universe, we can't be intellectually sure about the spiritual one. This is very frustrating – and especially so in today's so-called 'scientific age' where we seem to deny anything we can't prove.

Many attempts have been made to 'prove' the spiritual from within the 'physical' but these proofs are never very convincing. Strong faith does not emerge from weak proofs. Indeed weak proofs can even weaken a faltering faith - and faith, by its very nature, is always potentially faltering, else it would not be called faith...!

Instead, experience shows that the application of faith, breeds more faith. So, put the spiritual side of your 'amphibian' nature to work. Take a risk and pray, take a risk and obey, love, give and forgive. Then risk being calm in a storm, risk waiting, risk being kind, being good and being faithful. And see what happens to your faith.

And what is the lesson of Matthew? Just do it. Overanalyse your faith and you may sink...

**Sandy Lang**

## ***Phil's photo(s) – Parangarahu restoration...***

Parangarahu or Pencarrow, is about 7.5 km south of Burdan's Gate and marks the eastern side of the entrance to Wellington harbour.

On Saturday 25 July, iwi from the Port Nicholson Block Trust and Taranaki Whānui, together with people from our local Eastern Regional Park Restoration Organisation, MIRO (Mainland Island Restoration Operation) and staff from the Greater Wellington Regional Council went to Parangarahu to plant trees as part of a tree restoration programme, now in its ninth year.



The planted area, is to the left of the walking track that runs from the Pencarrow road at the top of the hill by the stile. So that the new plantings can survive and thrive, the area has recently been protected by a hare- and rabbit-proof fence.

The 600 plants selected for this initial planting were all 'pioneer' species which over a few years will create the soil and shelter environment to allow secondary plantings of species which would not survive if planted there today. These will include rata, pukatea and kahikatea.





There were 37 planters – the youngest just 18-months. The Regional Council provided transport for people and equipment, while iwi and MIRO provided the labour.

There was much happiness and humour on that special day - but also a quiet dignity. This was most evident before the planting started in the speeches, with one of the iwi then leading a karakia (prayer), and this followed by a beautiful waiata (song).

It was a splendid winter's day with a light sea breeze and bright sunshine. The green fields and blue sky, made this a most peaceful scene. The day was made by the speeches, prayers and singing. We all felt most

privileged to be part of our fabulous nation, of fabulous people, in our fabulous country.

**Phil Bengé**

### **CHILDREN'S POWER HOUR**

At the time of writing, all is very exciting as we hear of the birth of new baby Emma Rose Cotsilinis. Such a very special and wonderful event! Like an angel from God. Isn't this an awesome way to start our Term 3...?!



I am sure we will be having lots of conversations about 'our' baby at Power Hour and how our love reaches out. We will also explore how the prophets Elijah and Elisha had such passion and love of God which in turn changed the lives of others for the better. In another way, Peter will be the third person we will encounter as he experienced God's goodness and mercy when he followed Jesus.

Similarly for us, we need to come to God in our own way. One way is to do artworks and create a contemplative space. These spaces can be done by anyone at any age. I like what St Gregory the Great (6<sup>th</sup> century) said about contemplation. He said that contemplation is like 'resting in God'. So, a day-to-day contemplative approach is one where you create space to experience God through your whole being. Here is an example that can be done either as an individual or a group. Place a

large cloth either on a table or the floor with a candle or cross in the middle. Place a large collection of various small items such as stones, glass, marbles, shells etc in the middle. Around the outer edges of the cloth place plates of sand and create a sense of beauty with the centre items. Patterns in the sand can also be done by themselves. An atmosphere of quietness and calm should prevail.

At the end of this term during the school holidays we shall be reaching out to the children in Eastbourne with a morning session of fun activities designed by us! We will keep you posted with more details later on. Another neat thing in the upcoming school holidays which we will do is to help with the St Ronan's Bake Stall. We will raise funds especially for Randwick School as our church has a special on-going relationship with them. Blessings.

**Susan Connell, 568 5747**

### **Knitting outreach**

Five parcels of knitting have been sent out over the past six weeks. Two parcels of baby beanies and tops have gone to Hutt Plunket, for distribution to new-borns, born in the Hutt Valley to needy families. I have received very positive feedback on these parcels, from my contact here in Eastbourne. It is nice to be able to help close to home, as well as continue the overseas parcels with Global Volunteer Network. Three parcels have gone with GVN volunteers, two to Vietnam and the other to Peru.



A large amount of yarn, mostly acrylic, was dropped off at the church office. Amongst it were several unfinished crochet projects that I have passed on to Elizabeth at Waiwhetu Uniting Church who has crocheted many baby blankets for our outreach. It is all double knitting yarn, so if you need some, please let me know. Acrylic is really good for blankets and also to knit with wool for slippers. Tops for warmer places would also be an option. A thank you must go to the person who was kind enough to donate to us this large amount of yarn. We appreciate it.

It has been good weather for keeping warm and doing some knitting that will warm someone else somewhere. Thanks again and God bless you

**Carol Pringle, 568-5061**

## **St Ronan's bake stall**

Remember all that beautiful baking you made last year and you raised so much for 'our' Randwick School camp? Our Bake Stall this year is coming up during the next school holidays in early October (date to be confirmed). We are hoping you will be able to contribute a couple yummy baked items so we can again have good success. More details nearer the date.



of

## **Garden stuff**

**Free:** Tree-chip mulch continues to be available free for the taking on the tennis court area bedside the RSA (car access off Tuatoru Street). Special thanks to Downer and to Armes Tree Solutions who maintain the supply.

**For sale:** A couple of months ago the mulch pile was joined by pallets of Mitre Mega brand bagged organic compost and bagged potting mix. These 40 L bags sell at the same price as in store in Petone. Buy here and save a 40 minute drive (petrol, time)...!

Just help yourself any time of day or night and remember to pay (an honesty system) by internet banking to the San Antonio School PTA bank account. You will find full details of product prices and the PTA bank account number on the nearby signage. The small profits go to the school.



As spring approaches we hope also to offer for sale kitset planter bins, similar to those used by the school. Watch out for them over the next few weeks...!



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

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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  
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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.

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**The closing date for the September 2015 Record is  
Sunday 23 August 2015**