



Anglican Parish of
Cabersham Saint Peter,
Dunedin, New Zealand

THE ROCK

September 2020
Trinity—Ordinary Time



The trouble with infinity

By Kit Bunker, Assistant Priest

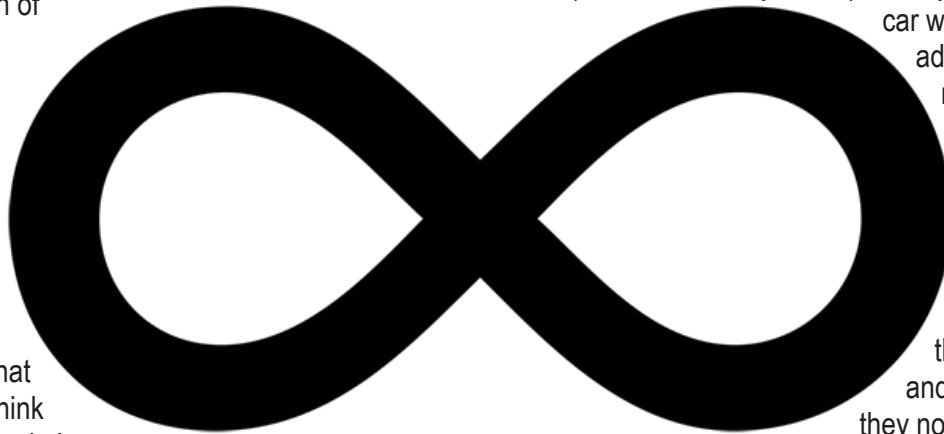
How will God ever find room for the infinite number of inhabitants which heaven will eventually accommodate?

I just do not know the answer to that question. But I do know that the idea of infinite anything is very difficult. Just think for a moment, and try to come up with your own definition of 'infinite'. What is 'infinite love'? Or Infinite compassion? I, and I suspect most people, think of the Love of God as being 'more than we will ever need', and that is a good way to think about it, though we do know there is no limit to that love, and in that sense it is infinite. Have you ever day-dreamed about perhaps arriving at the Pearly Gate and being let in? That is, I am sure, a perfectly legitimate day-dream... though I am equally sure

the reality will bear very little resemblance to that dream.

A mathematician called Georg Cantor thought a lot about infinity and came to the conclusion there are several different kinds of infinity, all undoubtedly truly infinite.

He invented the idea of the 'infinity hotel', a hotel with an infinite number of rooms. No problem with booking, there is always space. Arriving guests get issued with keys to rooms (as luxurious as you like) as they arrive: suppose a



car with ten single adults all needing a room. They get the keys to rooms 1 to 10, which means everyone already in the hotel has to go to the desk, hand in the key they have and collect the key they now need, which has

a number ten more than the one they just had. There is an infinite number of rooms, so that is just fine, no one misses out.

(Continued on page 3)



"Men don't read novels"

By The Vicar

So Kim Hill dogmatically opined on her Saturday morning Radio New Zealand show. She was backed up by a recent New Zealand research poll which apparently shows that women outnumber men as readers of fiction. This puzzles the Vicar who has voraciously read novels for as long as he can remember. It all began at secondary school as a way of coping with the endless bus journeys to and from Christchurch. In those days I could cope with very heavy

duty literary classics but nowadays my reading is mostly contemporary fiction. Novel reading is mostly an aid to relaxation but there is serious warrant for it as an activity in as much as the Vice-Principal of my theological college recommended it as an aid to our preaching. I guess what he was getting at was the way well written novels show us the art of well-crafted wordsmithing and the way they invite us into imaginative worlds where striking new points

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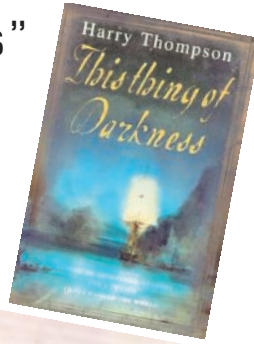
“Men don’t read novels”

(Continued from page 1)

of view can be presented to us. Here is some of my recent reading.

Nina Revoyr writes novels about Los Angeles. In *A Student of History* she reprises the plot lines of Dickens’ *Great Expectations* amongst the world of today’s super rich white citizens of that city. A bored history PhD student is invited to type up the journals of one of Los Angeles’ most wealthy, powerful and reclusive women and finds himself drawn into a world he could never have imagined. There are amusing bits of insider information, such as the local nickname for the University of Southern California, the university of spoilt children. It could apply to some of the covens of wealthy young female students I routinely see around central Dunedin. Perhaps Revoyr’s most well-known novel is *Southland* which reveals the racism which is such a strong undercurrent in LA life. What is singular about the way she comes at this theme is the bypassing of the expected white/black tensions, instead telling the story from a Japanese American and black American perspective. A law student of Japanese American descent, who also happens to be lesbian, and a black American youth worker set out to investigate a terrible atrocity which occurred during the 1965 Watts race riots only to find the perpetrator is someone they least expected. Revoyr’s great skill is the ability to penetrate the mind sets and life styles of diverse inhabitants of Los Angeles from crack heads to head bangers to struggling store keepers to millionaires. I have never been that much interested in the city of Los Angeles. Now because of Nina Revoyr I am.

Historical novels have always been a draw card for me. They help you to enter the world view of past societies and cultures without having to do lots of research and read heavy history tomes. Currently I am reading **Harry Thompson’s** *This Thing of Darkness*. The story of Charles Darwin and of the voyage of the *Beagle*, in the course of which he made the discoveries which underpinned his block buster book *The Origin of the Species*, has been told many times but perhaps never as well as this. It is the story of a friendship which was made and destroyed during this voyage between Darwin and Captain Robert Fitzroy. Fitzroy is the main protagonist in this novel and we are made to care about him as the fine naval officer he was, of enlightened views and treatment of indigenous people, wide scientific interests and of admirable strength of character. We learn much about him in his tenure as Governor General of New Zealand and as a pioneer of the weather forecasting office. Fitzroy was a man of certainty who could not cope with Darwin’s



new point of view destroying his world of certainty. This brought their friendship to an end. I have never been one for Patrick O’Brian’s ripping naval yarns but in this history presented as a thriller I came to be interested in the details of life on an early 19th century sailing ship and of the customs of the Royal Navy. I had not known that RN captains were obliged to lead a Sunday morning Service for all the crew.

Elisabeth Strout is a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and most of her novels have been best sellers. Usually set in Maine, where she grew up, they often take the form of short stories strung together as a coherent whole of overlapping narratives and interlocking characters. One critic described her style as “taciturn and elegant.” What makes her such a rewarding read is her penetrating insight into human character and motivation. Usually her characters are by no means perfect but her understanding of their woundedness makes us care about them. As a reward for reading her novels we learn more about what it is to be a human being .

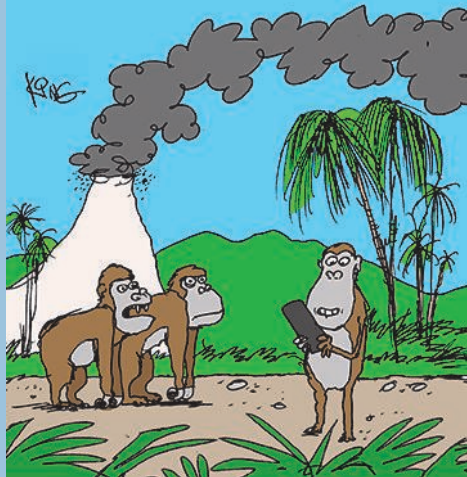
I do not care for her first novel, *Amy and Isabelle*, a story of two unattractive human beings living in a claustrophobic world but *Olive Kitteridge*, *Olive, Again*, *The Burgess Boys*, *My Name is Lucy Barton* and *Anything is Possible* are all outstanding.

I am not a fan of Irish fiction but **Sally Rooney** is an Irish writer with a difference. She has written only two novels, *Normal People* and *Conversations with Friends* but they have taken the Atlantic world by storm, winning numerous awards and staying in the best seller lists for a long time. *Normal People* has been made into a film for television and can be viewed on TVNZ on demand. It has gained some notoriety for its frank sex scenes. My sister loves the novel so much she refuses to watch the film for fear they have ruined it but I think her fears are groundless.

Normal People is set in contemporary Ireland and concerns Connell and Marianne who meet at school in their small town on the west coast of Ireland. Later they pursue a more fulfilling life at Trinity College, Dublin. At first they appear to be very different. Connell is popular and well liked and has been raised by a solo mother with a shrewd sense of honourable behaviour and little money. Marianne is intensely disliked for her prickly behaviour and eviscerating wit. Her wealthy family are appalling people. Yet these two are soulmates, bright, literary minded, intense and convinced that an unexamined life is not worth living. What makes a story compelling is aroused curiosity, the tension of what is going to happen next and our desperate desire to find that out. As Marianne and Connell meet, come together briefly, part, then find each

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The Frolicsome
Friar



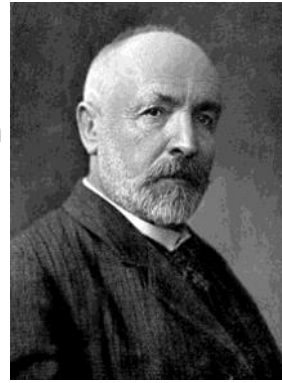
"He's standing upright and using a mobile phone.
I think our evolution has begun."

SOURCE: WWW.HOWTOGEEK.COM.

The trouble with infinity

(Continued from page 1)

But suppose one day an infinitely long bus draws up, so big that it is carrying an infinite number of passengers. How does the hotel manage to accommodate them? Easily, just send them to bigger room numbers: though there is a cleverer way to get them all in. Now this might be a real cause for problems. Suppose the infinity of people on the bus is bigger than the infinity of spare rooms in the hotel—how frustrating to find that after a very long walk you have no room! To prevent this happening, the hotel manager rings up all the guests, apologises, and asks them simply to move along the corridor to a room number which will certainly now be available, one with twice the number of the one they



Georg Ferdinand
Ludwig Philipp Cantor
(1845—1918).

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA.

previously occupied: if you were in no 13, go to room 26 (they've gone to 52 (they've gone to 104)) and so on. This frees up an infinite number of rooms...

If you look on the web, you'll find 'infinity hotel' and some nice animations. Talking to mathematicians, I have noticed some tend to think that mathematical truths were 'always there' even if someone (like Cantor) discovers them. Others believe that clever mathematicians invent new mathematics: invent, not discover.

Which you agree with probably indicates something about the way you view God.☒



Letters

The Rock welcomes letters to the Editor. Letters are subject to selection and, if selected, to editing for length and house style. Letters may be :

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c/- The Vicarage, 57 Baker Street,
Caversham,
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Emailed to : TheRockEditor@stpeterscaversham.org.nz

"Men don't read novels"

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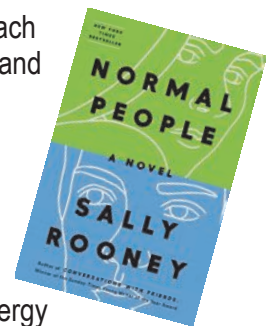
other again, then part again the reader finds themselves desperately willing them to get it that they were made for each other and should be together for the rest of their lives.

I am perplexed as to why I find Sally Rooney such a compelling writer. She depicts a world whose values and outlook are so different to mine. The catholic church of their west of Ireland origins is just a vague background influence which is occasionally attended for rites of passage which make no impression on the thought world or values of the characters. Perhaps it is because this

story of soulmates who find and lose each other again and again provides insight and raises questions about what intimacy between men and women is all about.

Why so many women novelists?

Readers will have noticed that three of the four novelists discussed here are women. Why have I chosen them? Clergy live in a world of predominantly women and it could be argued that they become by association honorary women. No wonder the more thoughtful of them will want to come to understand these mysterious creatures they must spend so much time in the company of. Novels by female novelists are a way into this world of understanding.☒



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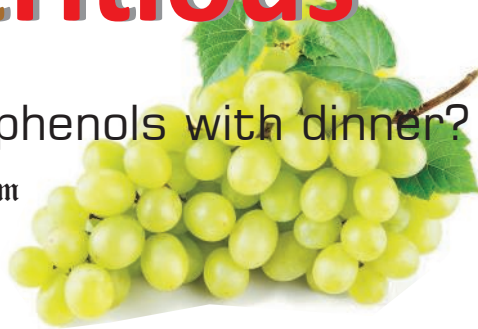


Nutritious

Anyone for polyphenols with dinner?



By Alex Chisholm



Cavoring recently, as is my wont, through the offerings on PubMed[see note below], a review paper entitled *Is a Meal without Wine Good for Health?* caught my eye.

For millennia wine has accompanied humanity, for religion or for health. The benefits of wine in ‘...appropriate and just measure according to the individual constitution’ were expounded by Hippocrates, the father of medicine. Saint Benedict recommended 2-3 standard drinks for his monks, in his rule number 40. The red wine was, back then, the only source of antioxidants for the winter, as canning and freezing did not exist.

It is well established that alcohol, in a glass of red wine, improves the bioavailability of polyphenols in the food bolus. This is the principle of the Cretan diet. It is also one of the factors which make the Okinawan diet beneficial as the small dose of wine or sake allows the polyphenols, present in fruit and vegetables to become more available to the body. Moderate drinking may provide protection from diseases and have longevity potential. So what exactly are polyphenols and their effects?

Polyphenols are micronutrients we get through certain plant-based

foods. These compounds have been selected through evolution and are generally preserved in all living beings. For instance, resveratrol, which plays an essential role in vine plants as elicitor of natural defences, has been shown to be a protector of health in humans. And is also found in high quantities in peanuts, blueberries and cacao.

In beneficial diets such as those in Greece, Crete, the Southern part of France and Okinawa however, the setting is important. The way of eating remains the leisurely savouring of food (preferably cooked with love) with friends and family. Taking time over a meal—undistracted by televisions or smartphones—and enjoying good conversation and each others’ company are just as beneficial to the mind and soul as they are to the body.

The word “diet”, coming from the Greek *diaita*, originally meant a way of life, a balance between eating, working, movement and relaxing. According to the president of the Hellenic Health Foundation, the focus on vegetables makes the Greek version of the Mediterranean diet a bit healthier than its counterparts. The fasting rites and dietary observance of the Greek Orthodox Church may contribute to an eating pattern which is more moderate in comparison to most other countries.

Although moderate drinking may



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provide protection for diseases and has longevity potential, there is still the caveat that those who do not drink alcohol, for whatever reason, should not feel obliged to start. In support of this there is the example of the Seventh Day Adventist Health Study cohort who are teetotal, mostly follow a vegetarian diet and are often very long lived.☑

*Note: The abbreviation PubMed is in no way related to the topic of this paper, rather it is a free resource supporting the search and retrieval of biomedical and life sciences literature with the aim of improving health—both globally and personally.



References:

- JEAN-PIERRE RIFLER: IS A MEAL WITHOUT WINE GOOD FOR HEALTH? *DISEASES* 2019,7, 30; DOI:10.3390/DISEASES7010030
- PIERLUCA MINELLI, MARIA ROSA MONTINAR: THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET AND CARDIOPROTECTION: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND CURRENT RESEARCH. *JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY HEALTHCARE* 2019:12 805–815



Nutritious

THE RECIPE : ALEX'S SOUP

What you need

- ◆ 1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes (using a flavoured variety, e.g. basil and oregano, gives an extra boost)
- ◆ 1x 400g can baked beans OR any other variety of beans, OR corn OR chickpeas OR lentils (if using tinned lentils or chickpeas I usually rinse them in a sieve under running water first before adding to the soup)
- ◆ 4 medium carrots, peeled and sliced
- ◆ 1 cup frozen peas (or beans or mixed vegetables)
- ◆ 1-2 Tbsp olive oil
- ◆ curry powder—depending on taste (I use 2 tsp—1 Tbsp)
- ◆ chilli flakes—if liked and depending on taste (I use about ½ to 1 tsp)
- ◆ salt, pepper and other spices may be added if desired (tsp = teaspoon; Tbsp=tablespoon)

Method

- ◆ Prepare carrots as per usual (washed, peeled, sliced)—cook until tender in a generous amount of water (forms the base of the soup)
- ◆ Thaw frozen peas cook until just 'done' in another generous amount of water (forms rest of the base of the soup)
- ◆ Place carrots, peas and their cooking water in a pot or microwave container (I use a large round casserole dish)
- ◆ Add tomatoes, tinned beans and /or corn etc
- ◆ Curry powder and chilli flakes can be mixed with the olive oil before adding to the soup
- ◆ Stir gently to mix
- ◆ Heat to the desired temperature

Note: I heat the soup until really hot then dish out what I need for that meal and transfer the rest to a large covered plastic jug. After cooling this will keep well in the fridge for several days. Dish single servings into a bowl and reheat until piping hot.

I find this soup a useful way to get a large serving of vegetables and legumes and over the years it has become a comfort food.

CHURCH SIGNS

An intermittent series featuring catchy signs seen outside churches and discovered by Di Bunker.



Remember!
Vote
NO
in both
referenda.

- ◆ Asparagus originated in the Eastern Mediterranean and was a favourite of the Greeks and Romans who used it as a medicine.

In parts of Europe, Turkey, Africa, Middle East and Asia some varieties of asparagus grow wild.

- ◆ Leeks are thought of as native to Central Asia and have been cultivated in this region and in Europe for thousands of years.

They have been the national

Nutifacts

Lesser-known facts about vegetables.



emblem of Wales since 640 AD when, according to legend, the patron saint of Wales, Saint David, ordered his Welsh soldiers to identify themselves by wearing the leek on their helmets in an ancient battle against the Saxons which took place in a leek field. The origin is also dramatised in Shakespeare's Henry V when the Welsh captain Fluellen remarked that Welsh soldiers fought a battle "in a garden where leeks did grow" for England in the time of Edward III [see also in *The Rock*, February 2020.—Ed.]. It is still worn on St David's Day each March 1. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_symbols_of_Wales). 🇬🇧

By Di Bunker
People's Warden

My son and his family spent a year in Helsinki while Nick worked much further north looking for gold. They all marvelled at this church and the vision behind the model and structure.

Excavated directly into solid rock, the Temppeliaukio Church (Rock Church) is situated in the heart of Helsinki, at the end of Fredrikinkatu. Because of its special architecture the church, completed in 1969, is one of the main attractions in Helsinki. The



PHOTO'S: SUPPLIED.

CHURCHWARDEN
CORNER

church hall is covered with a dome, lined with copper and supported on the rock walls by reinforced concrete beams. Interior walls are of rugged rock and rubble wall. Before noon, the light spreads from the row of windows surrounding the roof periphery to the

altar wall, where an ice-age crevice serves as the altarpiece. Due to its excellent acoustics the church is a popular venue for concerts.

It was quarried out of the natural bedrock and designed by architects Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen.



Rock music

Encore

(Continued from page 8)

Old but good:

Q: How do you know the church band vocalist is at the door?

A: She has lost the key and doesn't know when to come in.

Q: What do you call someone who hangs out with musicians?

A: A drummer.

And, finally:

Thomas Attwood, organist of St Paul's Cathedral, London in the early 19th century, was once told by Canon Sydney Smith, 'you organists are like over-worked cab-horses—always looking for another stop!'

Mark Lee, as quoted in a British magazine, said while speaking at Bristol Cathedral: 'Cathedral organists are the ones who don't actually play the organ; their assistants do the playing. I suppose you could say, by definition, that a cathedral organist is one who used to be good enough to be an assistant'

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Organ pipes in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

PHOTO.: MYPIPEORGANHOBBY.BLOGSPOT.COM

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(for variations consult *The Pebble* or our website)
All services are held in Saint Peter's unless noted otherwise

SUNDAY:

8am: Holy Communion according to the Book of Common Prayer
10.30am: Solemn Sung Eucharist
5pm: 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month: Evensong and Benediction

THURSDAY:

10am: Eucharist

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH:

11am: Eucharist in the lounge of Frances Hodgkins Retirement Village, Fenton Crescent

Special Services

Contact The Vicar to arrange baptisms, weddings, house blessings, burials, confessions and other special services.

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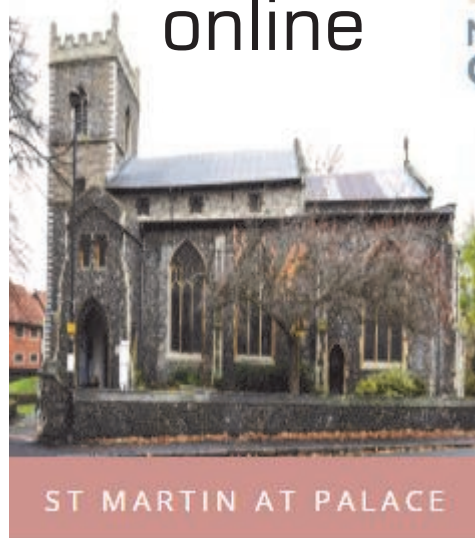
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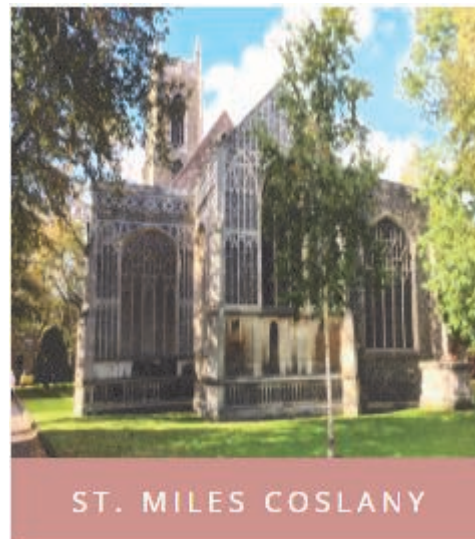
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Historic churches online



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<https://www.nhct-norwich.org>



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For your diary

Tuesday, 22 September : Fellowship Group lunch at 12.15 at Equinox, Forbury Park. Let Raylene or Gay know if you will be attending.

Thursday, 24 September : Curry evening

Saturday, 3 October : Working Bee in the parish grounds

Wednesday, 14 October : Vestry meeting at 3pm in the parish lounge

Sunday, 25 October : Deadline for copy for the October edition of *The Rock*

Wednesday, 18 November : Parish visit to Hui Te Rangiora Church, Karitane

Encore by request

Rock music

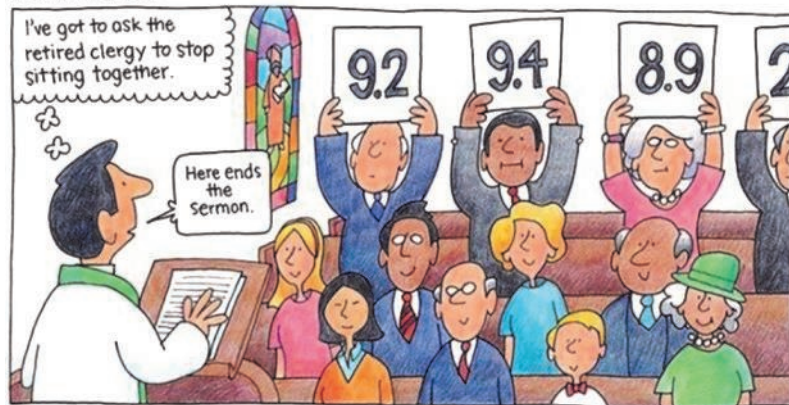


I took the liberty in last month's **Rock** of offering a little humour to lighten the present critical times we find ourselves in. This has proved popular and as organists love nothing better than an encore, here is Part Two. There will not be a Part Three!

By David Hoskins, Director of Music

And another thing.....
A Guide to Understanding Your Organist:

SERMON REVIEWS



SOURCE: JAY SIDEBOTHAM WWW.CPG/GLOBAL/ONLINE-RESOURCES/CARTOONS/

- ♪ Bach Prelude and Fugue: The Organist is happy
- ♪ French Toccata: The Organist is happy
- ♪ French Toccata at double speed: The Organist is very happy
- ♪ An Improvisation: The Organist has lost his glasses
- ♪ A prolonged chord: The Organist has gone to sleep

(Continued on page 6)

Wednesday, 18 November at 11am

Visit to Hui Te Rangiora Church



Built on a hill overlooking Karitane on land donated by Johnny Jones, Hui te Rangiora (the place of heavenly assembly) was dedicated by Bishop Nevill in 1873.



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Justin Welby
The Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop and the Bishop of London writing in the *Telegraph* this month.

“As lockdown has eased, it has given us the chance to appreciate afresh what our communities have to offer. Many of us have celebrated the freedom to go to a favourite local restaurant or get a haircut. For people of faith, the opportunity to gather again in worship and prayer has been a great blessing. Locality matters: it means a home; community; stability.”



More online :

Read the complete text at:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/speaking-writing/articles/archbishop-canterbury-and-bishop-londons-article-telegraph>

