

Time...
slips through my hands



BANNSIDE BUZZ

August 2017

This month's articles

Time on Iona

What Would You Do If You Had More Time?

Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*

and . . .

Time for Trekkers!

Time...

There are two different types of time in Greek: Chronos and Kairos.

Chronos, you can probably work out, is chronological or sequential time. It is the steady march of seconds leading to minutes, to hours, to days, to weeks, to years to decades, to centuries. It is what we might



call tick-tock time, even though the tick-tock to mark the passing of time has largely gone. One biblical scholar terms this “Swiss time” in reference to when Switzerland was famous for precision clocks and watches that were able to tell time more accurately than ever before. This is the time we sing about in the old hymn, as it bears all of us away like an ever-rolling stream.

In this perspective, the concept of time has given rise to a variety of philosophical musings. Someone ponders that time is free, but that it’s also priceless; you can’t own it, but you can use it; you can’t keep it, but you can spend it; and once you’ve lost it, you can never get it back. Someone else suggests that time is more valuable than money because you can get more money, but you can’t get more time. The author Alice Walker notes that while time moves slowly, it passes quickly. The problem for all of us is that the clock is always running the wrong way, and we simply cannot stop its steady march. When we lose moments to the past, we will never regain them.

Kairos is different. It understands there are moments that are so important they challenge and call for a decision. These are Kairos moments, when time somehow takes on an intensified quality of urgency. They are what we might call turning-point times that often evoke a mixture of crisis and opportunity. When such moments come along, you sense that change is in the air and some sort of response is required.

Let me illustrate. In 1985, a group of black South African theologians wrote about how apartheid was being ramped up before questioning what should be done. They called their booklet *The Kairos Document*. It began “The time has come. The moment of truth has arrived.” The Document was pervaded with a strong sense that the time was ripe for change: the fate of South Africa balanced on a knife edge, and small actions might have the power to change the path of history.

The sense of what Kairos is about is captured in the verse from the hymn that says:

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
Our crisis of judgment for gain or for loss.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. put it, underlining the concept of Kairos time, “The time is always right to do what is right.”

Welcome to this edition of *Bannside Buzz*; it explores the theme of “Time.”

All good things,
Mark

κairos καιρός

(n.) the perfect, delicate, crucial moment;
the fleeting rightness of time and place
that create the opportune atmosphere for
action, words, or movement



*do what is right,
not what is easy.*

Time on Iona

We all have occasions in our lives when we simply can't fit everything we want to do into the time available. Imagine if you discovered some time that no-one else knew about. What would you do with it?

Recently I was fortunate enough to spend a week at St Columbas' Abbey on the Isle of Iona in the Scottish Hebrides. It's not a place you come across by accident! After a car journey, a flight, an overnight stay in Glasgow, another car journey, a ferry crossing, a bus journey and another ferry crossing I finally reached Iona – a tiny island bathed in sunshine, set against a background of deep blue sky and shimmering, clear water.



The Abbey itself is an impressive place of worship originating from AD 563 and, although the accommodation is basic, it is more than adequate.

40 or so people arrived on that day from all over the world to join in the week's activities and share experiences with one another. I was a little apprehensive at first but was surprised at how quickly we got to know one another and how, removed from our familiar environments, we worked (but only a little), played, sang and prayed together as one community. Many different activities were available but, other than a few daily chores, nothing was compulsory.

When I left Iona it was not with sadness. It was with high spirits and a head full of happy memories of times shared with new friends. There had been ample opportunity for fellowship and interaction, for exploring the island; for swimming in the crystal clear (but icy cold) water; for seeking out puffins, seals and dolphins. But there had also been time for solitude, time for peace and time for reflection.



It wasn't exactly time that no-one else knew about – but it wasn't far from it.

By Alison Warner



Time for **Trekkers!**

Trekkers (Sunday School) for children from Nursery to Primary 6 (Ages 3 to 10) starts back on Sunday 3rd September. We meet during the church service in the Minor Hall. (The children are in church for the first part of the service and then leave as a group after the children's address.)

Come along and join us on Sunday mornings for Bible stories, crafts and games.

Parents of children attending for the first time are very welcome to accompany their child until they are settled and see what we get up to!

For further information contact Juliet on 07917098179 or email julietmairs@hotmail.com



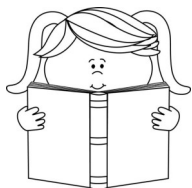
If you are the parent or grandparent of a primary school-aged child, please consider the impact that regular commitment to our Sunday School programme can have on the development of their faith. Gathering together weekly as a church family, learning the stories of Jesus, experiencing God's love and fellowship with others provides a strong foundation for our children's faith to grow.

In an issue in which we are reflecting on time, it is good to remind ourselves how important this investment of time is, for our children and for all of us. Your presence matters so much!

BE A REGULAR PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND GROW WITH US!

What would you do if you had more time . . . ?

Bannside members were asked to ponder the question: "If you had more time, what would you do?" This is what we had to say.



Go traveling the world. ***Julia McAnespie***

Read more books. ***Tori Cowan, age 8***

Sailing and time with friends. ***Fi Matson***

I would learn Access (a database program). ***Thomas Dean, age 12***

Listen carefully to others and try to help or offer my thoughts. ***Denis McLeod***

I would make a scrapbook of all my favourite memories. Since last year when I went on Ulster Project, I have kept little things that remind me of my favourite memories (concert tickets, plane tickets, photo prints, stickers, wristbands, etc) and I've wanted to make a scrapbook ever since but never had time. ***Emma Doherty***

Play with my friends. ***Amie Potter age 6***



Travel the world. ***Alison Nicholl***

Hug my mummy. ***Alexandra Dean, age 9***

Do Irish dancing. ***Zara Nicholl, age 8***

I would do some voluntary work. I would bake more (if I promised myself I wouldn't eat it!). Walk more, visit family more. ***Colleen Rimmer***

Visit more coffee shops! ***Helen Derby***

Practice my drumming to become an ALL IRELAND CHAMPION! ***Ryan Rodgers, age 13***

I would go back to my charity work—Home Start and charity shops. ***Ruth Maxwell***

Go around the world. ***Jennifer Barrett***



If I had more time, I would do some hill-walking in the Mourne. I spent a Saturday in early May at the Blue Lough, nestled between Slieve Binnion and Slieve Lamagan and then walked a little further along the track for a bird's eye view of Ben Croy Dam—truly breath-taking! **Jane Hudson**

Try a bit more sewing. **Amy Matson**

Play hockey. **Maisie Nicholl, age 6**

Practice my drumming and fluting. **Matthew Donnelly, age 10**

I would go back to university and study. Or travel—that's an easier option!
Kim McAnespie

Play more football. **Robbie Nicholl, age 9**



When I read in the Order of Service that TIME was the topic for the next issue of Buzz Magazine I immediately thought of the lovely passage from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, Verses 1 – 8 where we read King Solomon's words telling us of the relationship we have with God and his master plan. We hear of God's impeccable timing, his absolute control and eternal glory. We are told each event which will take place has a set time when it will happen eg the appointed time has been set for us to be born and die (a time for life and a time for death). We also read that nothing in this world is permanent (a time to build and a time to tear down). There are times when we should speak out and other times when we should be silent. There are also times when we feel like singing and others when we must mourn.

The addition of the lyrics “Turn, Turn, Turn” to the passage from Ecclesiastes was a wonderful piece of music composed by Pete Seeger in the 1950's. I remember it best by the singer Mary Hopkin and it was a really catchy little tune. It tells us that the seasons continue to come and go without fail; that life is full of ebbs and flows and that is how it's supposed to be.

By Esther Cromwell

The Dark Side of the Moon

The song 'Time' taken from Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* is a piece of music that is poignant both for its musicality as well as its lyrical content. The song is a snapshot of life which reflects the misuse of time and how mankind has a tendency to abuse time and opportunities given only then to live a life of regret in later years when time itself runs out.



'Tired of lying in the sunshine staying home to watch the rain.'

You are young and life is long and there is time to kill today

And then one day you find ten years have got behind you

No one told you when to run, you missed the starting gun'

How often have we all said – 'where has the year gone'? Even younger people relate to this sentiment despite this being the adage for the older generations.

'So you run and you run to catch up with the sun but its sinking

Racing around to come up behind you again

The sun is the same in a relative way but you're older

Shorter of breath and one day closer to death'

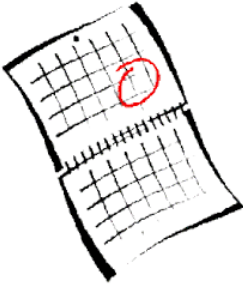
We live in a very advanced technology-enabled society with a much greater reliance upon microchips and the internet and robotics to make ourselves unburdened from what was previously considered 'hard and time consuming work'.

When this piece of music was put together (March 1973), the world wide web was science fiction, stem cell medical advances were unheard of, the humble microwave was something you may have seen in Tomorrow's World – for those who don't know

The image shows the logo for the television programme 'Tomorrow's World'. The words 'TOMORROW'S' and 'WORLD' are written in a stylized, blocky, white font on a black background. The letters are thick and have a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance.

what I am referring to – this was a weekly BBC 1 television programme in the 70's and 80's. However – despite all of this – we have less time than we ever had and always appear to be on catch up – taking rain cheques when we can and making excuses that we have no time.

***'Every year is getting shorter never seem to find the time
Plans that either come to naught or half a page of scribbled lines
Hanging on in quiet desperation is the English way
The time is gone, the song is over, thought I'd something more to say'***



The need to make space and time for things has become a necessity and never before has the appointment become more important. Think about it. We make little appointments, whether it is to spend time with the family or relatives, work, socialising and yes God. Sunday morning for many is the God slot – or the God appointment. It's the time we squeeze God into our busy weekly schedule usually between 10am and 12 noon on a Sunday and after that we return to the demands of a busy life.

The lyrics of this song suggest a level of wisdom much greater than the bunch of twenty somethings who wrote it so many years ago. Perhaps we all can relate to the sentiment of lives caught up in the headlights of a busy and fast moving life and we should stop for just a moment in time and acknowledge that we need to make more time for God in our lives; otherwise, as the songs suggests – hanging on in quiet desperation could be the consequence of over subscribing to the demands of this busy world on which we will spend such a short time. Eternity is the place where this song has no relevance and where all those who made the correct use of time can rejoice in the presence of their God and Saviour.

By Jeremy Kyle

ANAGRAM

Can you figure out these anagrams of time-related words?

(Answers on back.)

emit _____ shy trio _____ tin emu _____

sadly done _____ rainy ravens _____ legend ago _____

rent yeti _____ crow locket _____ dry habit _____

Lord I Have Time - by Michael Quoist

I've been out, Lord,
Outside people were going out.
They were going,
They were coming,
They were walking,
They were rushing.

Motor bikes were rushing by,
Cars were rushing by,
Trucks were rushing by.
The street was rushing,
The city was rushing,
The whole world was rushing.

They were rushing so as not to lose time.
They were rushing after time to catch up
with time, to gain time.
Goodbye sir, excuse me, I haven't time.
I'll come back, I can't wait, I haven't time.

I'd like to help you, but I haven't time.
I can't accept, for lack of time.
I can't reflect, read, I'm snowed under, I
haven't time.

The child - he's playing,
he hasn't time at the moment....later on...
The schoolboy - he's got his homework,
he hasn't time...later on...
The student - he's got his lectures,
and such a lot of work,
he hasn't time...later on...
The young man - he's playing sport,
he hasn't time...later on...
The married man - he has his house to
run,
he hasn't time...and later on...
The father - he has his children,
he hasn't time...and later on...
The grandparents - they have their
grandchildren,
they haven't time...later on...

They're sick! They have their cares,
They haven't time . . . later . . .
They're dying, they have...
Too late! They haven't any more time!

That's how they're all rushing after time, Lord.
They pass by on earth, always rushing, hurrying,
jostling, weighed down, snowed under, nearly de-
mented.
And they never get there, there's not enough time.
Despite all their efforts, there's never enough time.

Lord, you must have made a mistake somewhere.
There's been a tremendous oversight.
The hours are too short, the days are too short,
lives are too short.

You, who are outside of time,
You smile, Lord, to see us struggle with it.
And you know what You are doing.
You don't make mistakes when You allot time to
men.
You give to each one the time to do what You want
him to do.

But is it wrong to lose time, to waste time, to kill
time, For time is Your gift to us -
But a perishable gift, a gift that doesn't keep.
Lord, I have time, I have all my time,
All the time You gave me,
The years of my life, the days of my years,
They are all mine. Mine to fill up calmly, peacefully,
But to fill up completely, right to the brim -
To offer to You, that of their stale water
You may make a generous wine, as once at Cana
for a human wedding feast.

I don't ask this evening Lord,
for time to do this or that.
I ask for the grace to do conscientiously,
in the time that You gave me,
the thing that You want me to do.

Time in the Bible

It is debatable whether the Bible contains enough information to formulate a full-scale doctrine of time; nonetheless, the significance of the biblical concept of time is unmistakable in the way it uniformly presents God at work in guiding the course of history according to his saving plan. There are two “time” aspects at work: one is God’s long term plan ending in Armageddon and the other each of our lives on earth.



Time began at creation and becomes the agency through which God continues to unveil his divine purpose for it. Was it 6 days of creation or six million years per day? You decide.

God is transcendent over time. He established the cycle of days and seasons by which time is known and reckoned and possesses the power to dissolve them according to his eternal purposes; moreover, he controls world history, determining in advance the times set for all nations and bringing them to pass. He will bring about in his own time Jesus' return.

The New Testament presents Jesus as Lord over time. With the Father, he existed prior to the beginning of time, created all things, and sustains all things . He is neither limited by time nor adversely affected by it: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." He too is properly called "the Alpha and Omega, the First and Last, the Beginning and End".



In contrast to God and Jesus, humanity is limited by time in the cycle of birth, life, and death. Every person bears the marks of time in the ageing process and ultimately dies. The span of life is brief and passing. Even our time on earth events/circumstances and length of our days-are in God's hands.

Everyone will experience the passage of time in life to death. Because of sin, people face spiritual death, which involves eternal separation from God. Jesus' death and resurrection brings deliverance from sin and spiritual death, granting eternal life to all who believe.

By George Derby

Do you have an important event or milestone to share with us?

Please send details and photos to the gmail address below for 'News from the Pews'. Thanks!



Answers to anagrams:

time, history, minute, olden days, anniversary, golden age, eternity, clock tower, birthday



The theme for the September issue will be 'New Beginnings'. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, 10 September '17.

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