

## St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 21 March 2022

### Perseverance

*As a young man author AJ Cronin was a medical doctor in London's West End. He was a good doctor but he did have one character flaw – he didn't stick with any one thing for long.*

*One day he was diagnosed with gastric ulcers and, to his dismay, was prescribed with six months complete rest in the country on a milk diet. Cronin retreated to a small farmhouse. After a week of forced idleness, he felt himself going crazy. He recalled that some years ago he had considered becoming a writer, and so he decided he would write a novel.*

*Upstairs in his small bedroom he sat a table and tried to think of something to write, but his mind was blank. Eventually, he was able to put pen to paper but it came very slowly. After three months he had very little to show for his efforts and he was dissatisfied with what he had written. He screwed up his sheets of paper, threw them into the rubbish bin and went for a walk.*

*He came across a farmer ploughing a paddock that resembled a bog. The farmer told him that his father had worked on this piece of land for many years and he was continuing to do the same. He said to Cronin, 'Both my father and I know that if we persevere, one day we will make a pasture from this bog.'*

*Cronin, understanding the farmer's words, tramped back to his farmhouse, retrieved his papers from the bin, and continued working on his manuscript with a renewed determination. He sent the manuscript to a publisher and forgot all about it. Just before leaving the farm, he received a telegram from the publisher. His manuscript had been accepted.*

*His novel, 'Hatter's Castle,' was chosen by the Book Society, dramatized, translated into nineteen languages, bought by Hollywood and went on to sell millions of copies.*

The same goes for prayer. The fruits of prayer are invariably born through perseverance. Throwing out a brief prayer in the hope that God will catch it and act upon it, won't cut the mustard. Persevere!

**'And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for.'** Luke 11:9

### Finances

As can be expected, the year has got off to a slow start on the financial front and we are currently operating in the red. I would remind you that the end of the financial year is very imminent. Any payments made before the end of this month qualify for a tax rebate in the next few weeks.

On that note, we will be working hard to get the tax rebates out asap. But please be mindful that Trust Management, who manage our accounts, are short-staffed due to COVID. It is quite a time-consuming process even without that obstacle. A further complication is the myriad of donations that have been made to our building campaign, all of which require tax receipts.

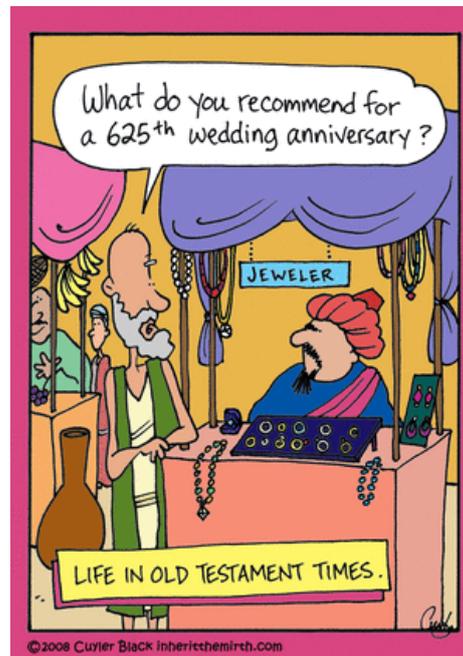
### Build

Update following soon. Just awaiting outcome on negotiations on several fronts.

### Time for a Smile (Parenting)

A nine-year old boy announced to his parents that he had a date. A date with a girl at the age of nine? His parents were taken aback. He had invited her to his house for dinner. The little girl was duly dropped off by her mother. After dinner the two youngsters went down to the rec room and watched Michael Jackson. At 10.00pm the father delivered the girl home.

Back home, dad sat before the dying fire soberly thinking about how fast babies grow up. His young son, misinterpreting his father's mood, walked over to him, put his hand on his dad's shoulder and said, 'Don't worry, Dad. Nothing happened!'



### AGM

We are unsure just when and how this will take place. If we are back to church later next month, we will hold it after the Sunday morning service at the end of the month. However, there is a possibility we will be holding it via zoom.

### To Ponder

'It is not just what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable.' Anon

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