



# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

[www.alpinepresbytery.org](http://www.alpinepresbytery.org)

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## Newsletter 5 March 2020

### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Earlier this week a message was sent to all Parishes from Council of Assembly, encouraging us to remain compliant with health and safety procedures, avoid unnecessary exposure, and act responsibly to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

There are two important things to remember...

- \* **Do not panic! Be properly informed.**
- \* **Take all reasonable steps to keep yourself and others safe.**

There is plenty of advice from the Ministry of Health and it pays to keep in touch with the latest updates on their website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>, which advises people who have visited [countries or areas of concern](#) and who have developed symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath to seek medical advice – phone Healthline’s dedicated COVID-19 number [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) or contact your GP, including phoning ahead of your visit.

We are aware of some churches who are taking steps to help people learn how to take care over the coming weeks with good hygiene practises, and exploring options for sharing worship services if it gets to a point of not being able to gather. If you have suggestions or ideas on these matters, please email our office and we will share them with the wider Presbytery.

*Remember, with continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low.*

### March 15 National Remembrance Service

A Remembrance Service will be held in North Hagley Park on Sunday March 15 at 3pm. The service, Ko Tātou, Tātou We Are One, will be jointly led by the local Muslim community, Christchurch City Council, the Government and Ngāi Tūāhuriri as mana whenua. There will be several representatives from the Christian Churches, in consultation with Te Raranga, who will represent us all.

It will be an opportunity for people to come together in unity, to show compassion, love and support for all our communities, and the value we place on being an inclusive and diverse country.

It is a chance to acknowledge the unity shown in Ōtautahi-Christchurch, New Zealand and the world in response to the tragedy, and to express appreciation for the responders and all those who helped and to stand in solidarity with the bereaved, injured and all those affected.

Below are links to a number of resources for your use:

'For the Common Good' - a Statement offered from the churches in our region and

### Coming Up

- **Induction of Rev Dennis Flett to Hope Church:** 15 March
- **Presbytery Gathering:** 27–29 March, Ashburton

### Presbytery Directory

[Click here](#) to download the latest directory, dated January 2020

Any amendments or corrections should be advised to Gail in the Presbytery Office.

### Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework

[Click here](#) to download the Strategic Framework



Powerpoint Slides 4:3 and 16:9

[https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/e9ea780c-4ac4-4164-b39b-3c6f5c9fb727/For\\_the\\_Common\\_Good.docx.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/e9ea780c-4ac4-4164-b39b-3c6f5c9fb727/For_the_Common_Good.docx.pdf)

[https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/08163c6b-501f-4a7b-9bef-c3d9cd9c80cf/For\\_the\\_Common\\_Good\\_4\\_3\\_format.pptx](https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/08163c6b-501f-4a7b-9bef-c3d9cd9c80cf/For_the_Common_Good_4_3_format.pptx)

[https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/fb4711c0-b4e2-4174-be00-be87cfbb58a6/For\\_the\\_Common\\_Good\\_16\\_9\\_format.pptx](https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/fb4711c0-b4e2-4174-be00-be87cfbb58a6/For_the_Common_Good_16_9_format.pptx)

A resource document including prayer suggestions

[https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/7d73489f-b2a5-4806-aac0-aca9de4dabd5/Churches\\_Resources\\_for\\_March\\_15\\_Anniversary.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/7d73489f-b2a5-4806-aac0-aca9de4dabd5/Churches_Resources_for_March_15_Anniversary.docx)

Powerpoint Slide for Event - in 4:3 and 16:9 format

[https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/59d05f0a-3012-4b5c-8ded-bc2173e871fe/National\\_Remembrance\\_Service\\_March\\_15\\_4\\_3\\_format.pptx](https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/59d05f0a-3012-4b5c-8ded-bc2173e871fe/National_Remembrance_Service_March_15_4_3_format.pptx)

[https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/e8c78138-4f45-4790-bdd2-ad27db2f67d1/National\\_Remembrance\\_Service\\_March\\_15\\_16\\_9.01.pptx](https://mcusercontent.com/1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da/files/e8c78138-4f45-4790-bdd2-ad27db2f67d1/National_Remembrance_Service_March_15_16_9.01.pptx)

## Alpine Presbytery Gathering:

### 27—29 March at St David's Union Church Ashburton

Register for this important event as we gather from across the Presbytery. With General Assembly planned for later in 2020 this Gathering will be our *only* Gathering during 2020.

The **draft Programme** can be downloaded [here](#)

Register for the Gathering here - <https://forms.gle/d6NjWnjoW9aimrBB9> **Cut-off date for registrations for those wanting meals is Friday 20th March.**

**Workshops** will be held at the Gathering on Saturday afternoon and will be repeated after afternoon-tea subject to demand.

The Workshops are also open to people who might not be attending the whole Gathering, but registration is required so that we can plan venue spaces and resources. If you are only attending the Workshops register here: <https://forms.gle/HqF7vCXoNVWuq7Az8>

Workshop Details are:

- **Multi-Generational Discipleship** - led by the incoming PCANZ Moderator Rev Hamish Galloway (this will be his key theme in the time ahead);
- **Care for Creation** - led by Rev Dugald Wilson - a practical workshop that will give some ideas on how we can live out our calling to be people who care for our common home.
- **Pastoral Care** - led by Rev Dr Geoff New - a recent workshop that Geoff has created to help us be better at caring for one another.
- **Ministry to the Third Age** - a panel coordinated by Clare Ayers - looking at practical ways of connecting with the sometimes 'forgotten' older generations and how we can develop wonderful relationships and show dignity and respect to those who are our mature treasures.
- **Outsmarting Porn** - Matt Chamberlin from PCANZ Youth Ministries - looking at how we can deal with the widespread pressure of pornography.

## Youth Hui - 27th March

Those working with young people in the Alpine Presbytery are invited to come along to a Hui at St David's Church in Ashburton, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 10am—2.30pm to meet and connect with others working with youth and to help us discern what is next for us in this area of ministry.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/9zRByx2uSycDtr3x7>, and Presbytery will cover travel and food costs for the day.

## Update from Presbytery Council Meeting –Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Devotions:** *An Evolving Faith...*

Anne Stewart (our Moderator) shared a devotion from Richard Rohr...

*For our faith to evolve, we need to look at the old and original in order to build something new and novel. We can be*

*learning from the best of Christianity's history and traditions in order to find modern and relevant ways to follow Jesus and embody the Reign of God on earth today.*

*There was a time in the 1980s and 90s, when the response to the hypocrisies in the church was to start new, creative expressions of church—what many came to call “the emerging church movement.”*

*Many new movements have been born amid the remnants of the past. Fresh life can come from the compost of Christendom. I think we are poised for another great awakening. . . .*

*God is restoring all things. Institutions like the church are broken, just like people, and they too are being healed and redeemed. It's the difference between being in a canoe and a rowboat. In a canoe, you look forward as you row, but in a rowboat, you look back as you move forward. Our way forward is behind us. . . . Rather than throw out the traditions, I want to know and study them, find the treasures and spit out the bones. The church needs discontentment. It is a gift to the Reign of God, but we have to use our discontentment to engage rather than to disengage. We need to be a part of repairing what's broken rather than jumping ship. One of the pastors in my neighborhood said, “I like to think about the church like Noah's Ark. That old boat must have stunk bad inside, but if you tried to get out, you'd drown.”*

*Just as we critique the worst of the church, we should also celebrate her at her best. We need to mine the fields of church history and find the treasures, the gems. We need to celebrate the best that each tradition can bring—I want the fire of the Pentecostals, the love of Scripture of the Lutherans, the political imagination of the Anabaptists, the roots of the Orthodox, the mystery of the Catholics, and the zeal of the Evangelicals.*

*One of the most promising things that has come out of the emerging church has been folks looking back and reclaiming the best of their traditions, seeing that it is not an either/or but a both/and—God is doing something ancient and something new. Phyllis Tickle [1934–2015] called it “hyphenated denominations”—Presby-mergence, Bapti-mergence, Luther-mergence—because what they are doing is renewing and building on what was.*

What sort of boat do we want to be in?

It is important to continue to grapple with Scripture over this and sense the leading of God's Spirit!

#### **People Matters:**

Informational:

- Josh Olds appointed at Prestons (North-East Christchurch) Mission Seedling;
- Ben & Phillipa Necklen appointed to the Hanmer Mission Seedling;
- Induction of Rev Dennis Flett set for March 15<sup>th</sup> at combined Hope service at Lincoln;
- Te Reo event at Ohope Marae 20<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March – Lyn Sopoaga and Rev Martin Harrison attending;
- We noted that Liz Whitehead has begun a teaching position in Takitimu Primary School in Nightcaps;
- We also noted the recent birth of Abi Trevathan's daughter Liora;
- The Executive Officer appointment team reported to Council. Phyll informed us that there were two applicants. The team had met several times and considered reference reports. An interview process was held with both candidates and significant prayer and discernment throughout the process. Both applicants brought significant skills to the role.
- It was agreed that the position as the new Executive Officer (full-time) of Alpine Presbytery be offered to the preferred candidate. In the meantime the details of the person offered the position will be kept confidential while they consider the offer and a contract is completed. We hope to have an announcement about this appointment at the Presbytery Gathering later in March.
- PSUSI: The Moderator welcomed Barry Helem, Chief Executive Officer of Presbyterian Support Upper South Island, to our meeting. Barry gave us an overview of his new role and the aims and directions of PSUSI and future options for building relationships between PSUSI & our churches.

#### **Discussion Matters:**

- Andrew Norton Scholarship – the proposed outline is being finalised by Council and will be shared at the Presbytery Gathering;
- Presbytery Retreat at Hanmer Springs – dates suggested were June 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. Resourcing Team will come back to Council with more detailed plans;
- Strategic Framework – Council spent significant time in further discussion on the content of the revised Strategic Framework. Some changes were suggested. Once the draft is updated the revised Strategic Framework will be presented at the March Presbytery Gathering.
- Proposal for GA20: The collective of Executive Officers from all of the Presbyteries have, as part of their ongoing discussions, pondered on the role and make-up of Council of Assembly to ensure that there is a greater alignment between the decision-making of COA and the actual reality of the work of the Presbyteries on the ground. If all or

most of the Presbyteries support this proposal going to GA20 then a collective approach could be possible.

- Council has given its support in principle to this proposal and awaits further information from Northern Presbytery.
- A letter was received from Kaimai Presbytery requesting funding support for its Mission Fund. Council agreed that this raises a number of questions about how our respective Mission Funds work. We are not familiar with the terms of reference of the Kaimai Fund. We concluded that wider discussion is required and suggested it be referred to the meeting of Executive officers planned for May.
- A Ministry Settlement Board report has been received by Council regarding a call to the Rev Martin Harrison from St Paul's Kaikoura. Martin has been Stated Supply Minister there while going through the PCANZ reception process.
- It was agreed that Presbytery approve the Call from St Paul's Kaikoura to the Rev Martin Harrison as full-time Minister. It was additionally agreed that a service of induction be held at St Paul's Kaikoura on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 1.30pm.
- We have been notified of the need to appoint Youth Commissioners to GA20 (i.e. people in the 18 – 30 age-range).
- A Ministry Settlement Board Update has been received from St Andrew's Blenheim. They are indicating a possible preference for a Local Shared Ministry Team going forward. It was agreed that further discussion is required with the MSB and Parish Council before proceeding.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) – the Executive Officer was asked to contact PCANZ to see if any advisory was being issued.

### **Business Section of our meeting:**

Decisions made:

1. Apologies from our meeting – *Andrew Nicol leaving early*
2. Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 Presbytery Council meeting and the 17<sup>th</sup> February Induction service at Rangī Ruru be approved.
3. The approval of the agenda along with any late items;
4. Correspondence report, plus any late correspondence;
5. The Moderator's report;
6. The Resource Minister's report;
7. The Executive Officer's report;
8. HR Committee report:
  1. That the report be received
  2. That Lesley Compton be approved for the MSB at Cashmere.
  3. That the MSB for Hanmer be thanked and discharged.
  4. That Rev. Heather Simpson be approved as IM for St. Luke's, Halswell.
  5. That the MSB for Halswell be thanked and discharged.
  6. That the short term and long-term contract for Lea McEwan as a 0.5 lay pastoral worker at St. Luke's be approved.
  7. That Rev Jonathan Barb be added to the Cashmere MSB.
9. Property & Finance report:
  1. That the report be received.
  2. That Presbytery approves the Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 31st January 2020
  3. That the Alpine Council receive the 2020/2021 draft budget and refer it to the Presbytery for approval.
  4. That Alpine Presbytery
    - a. acknowledge it has an interest of 28.125% share of the capital ratio in the Rolleston Union property at Brookside Road.
    - b. reaffirm that Presbytery has exited its involvement in the Rolleston Union which has dissolved in practical terms aside from property considerations.
    - c. agree in principle to being released from its interest in this property, effectively meaning being paid out its share of the agreed value once details are finalised.
  5. That Alpine Presbytery
    - a. approve the St Paul's Kaikoura parish application to apply for a Lotteries Heritage grant for archaeological investigation of the site, any resulting archaeological requirements and alterations to plans which may be required, to an amount of \$172,680.
    - b. undertake to ensure that the conditions of the grant are met. We have in place the following procedures to

- fulfil this: monitoring of the progress of the use of the grant by the EO and PnF.
- c. agree on the suggested responses from the Resourcing Team to the strategic ratings and question in the Presbytery part of the CPT form for this work.
  6. That Alpine Presbytery write a letter to the St Ninian's Parish Council reminding them of their responsibilities in respect of the CPT EQ Prone Building Policy and that we advise Session to cease using the church building as it is rated under 34% NBS. Notices and communication advising users of the building of the building's EQ prone status to be clearly placed immediately if not already done so by the parish. [update – St Ninian's Parish Council took action on this immediately prior to our letter arriving.]
  7. That Ann McMillan, Barry Ayers and someone from Resourcing Team meet with the parish and discuss options.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 meeting from 9.30am** at The Village Papanui.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction at 2.30pm

A full copy of the Minutes of this meeting [can be accessed here.](#)

## Other Newsletters

[Bush Telegraph](#)

### *News from partner and other organisations*

#### South Island Ministry Conference May 2020

East Taieri Church, Mosgiel. The dates for conference are 12, 13, 14 May. Registrations are limited to 180 places, so register early to ensure your space.

There will be two International Keynote Speakers from Ravi Zacharias Ministries – Michael Ramsden and Sam Allberry. [View the brochure here](#) for more information about these world class speakers and their topics, as well as the fantastic local workshop leaders and topics.

To register go to <http://www.etchurch.co.nz/conference/registrations>

#### St Matthew Passion

After a long hiatus, St Matthew Passion is back in the Town Hall!

Bach's St Matthew Passion begins in the turmoil of Jesus's last days in Jerusalem and ends with his crucifixion and burial. Christchurch City Choir is proud to present this work just prior to Easter in keeping with its story. With over 250 musicians on stage, this performance will be epic.

The St Matthew Passion is one of Johann Sebastian Bach's greatest creations, revealing layers of meaning in the text. The music is dramatic, passionate and emotional. Surprises abound!

This performance will be boosted by City Choir Dunedin and ChristChurch Cathedral Boys Choristers. Conducted by Dr John Linker and accompanied by the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra with David Burchell on organ.

Soloists are Iain Tetley (Evangelist), Scott Bezett (Jesus), Lois Johnston (Soprano), Claire Barton (Alto), Andrew Grenon (Tenor), and Malcolm Leitch (Bass).

Tickets are from \$40 to \$60 (concession \$30 to \$50; students from \$15) and should be booked at [Ticketek](#) (fees will apply)



#### New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library

Here are the contents pages from the most recent issues of:

[Call to Worship, Vol 53 No 4, 2020](#)

[Tui Motu InterIslands, Issue 246, March 2020](#)

Email [hewitson@prcknox.org.nz](mailto:hewitson@prcknox.org.nz) if you would like copies of any of the articles scanned and sent to you.

## Online Donation Tax Credit Claims

Inland Revenue (IRD) has recently made improvements to the donation tax credit process to make it easier for donors to claim a tax credit after they donate.

Donors can claim their donation tax credits online by uploading electronic receipts, or photos, or scans of paper receipts to their myIR account at any time. There is no longer any need to complete a paper form or to send in receipts. At the end of the tax year, IRD will automatically calculate the credit and pay it into the bank account provided by the donor.

It is suggested that churches tell their congregations about these changes when they issue a donation receipt.

An information sheet about this can be downloaded here: [Online Donation Tax Credit Claims](#)

## From last week

- **Interfaith Hui**
- **Applications for the Mission Fund and/or Presbytery Grants**
- **Hammer Springs Hosts**
- **All Churches Power and Gas Tender - 2020**
- **The Rocks Along Our Way: A Lenten Day Retreat to Kura Tawhiti/Castle Hill**
- **International Rural Churches Association - Oceania Conference**
- **Easter Season Retreat on Stewart Island for Ministers and spouses, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April– Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

## Presbytery Contact Details

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**Presbytery Resource Minister**

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Other items can be sent to Gail Weaver, Office Support, at [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

## Share the News!

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Please share this Newsletter around your Parish, especially with members of Session/Parish Council and all office bearers.

Forward the email, or print out copies for people to take and read. If anyone wants to go on the distribution lists to receive the Newsletter directly, please forward their details to Gail in the Alpine Office:

[gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

## Newsletter Items

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Details of events, or requests to be added to the distribution list, should be emailed to [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

Cut-off for items for inclusion in next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 12th March**

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4niqhg/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>