



# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

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

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## Newsletter 2nd April 2020

Greetings.

By the time this newsletter arrives we will have been in lockdown for one week. I wonder what you are noticing? For me it's been the eerie silence, which is showing me how noisy everyday used to be. And the stillness, the lack of frantic movement that comes with the loss of heavy schedules and deadlines.

I have also noticed that the deadlines and heavy schedules might have changed shape but that doesn't mean that many of us are any less busy. You might be noticing that there are new pressures, new decisions to be made, more pressures around pastoral connections and you might now be sharing your workspace with family, pets and other demands, in a way you haven't had to before.

Can I encourage you to be mindful of your well-being, so you can be well, but also so that you can be there for others in your care? Connections matter and there are new opportunities in the current environment for even better connections than we might have had before. A couple of weeks ago my colleagues in The Village and I were beginning to nut out some ideas about how to keep The Village connected when we can't be physically together. We observed that we have contact with around 80-90% of our people through email and that these systems were up to date and with a few exceptions easily ramped up. We also realised that we had bigger challenges with the 40 or so on our roll who do not have access to email. Here are a few ideas that have worked:

- We found that some of these people had family, or neighbours, very nearby who do have email and who were happy to print and pass on weekly services.
- We found that all the rest homes who have our parishioners in their care, were more than happy to print off a weekly service and see that it got to our people.
- We found a number of people who were happy to ring those not covered in above categories and read the service to them over the phone.

These are just a few ideas that helped to whittle down the concerns around connecting with these people. Along the way of course, we discovered that we are now connecting with some people who, through various circumstances, we had limited connection to previously. There are opportunities for better connection in these strange times, when we might consider we are less connected. Our pastoral visitors also sprang into action and have been reporting back around what they are hearing in their weekly phone conversations with those in their care.

There will be many other stories out there of new and imaginative ways that people are learning to keep connected. We are made for connectedness, remember the One who knits us together does not rest nor does he abandon us. We are gifted with imaginations with which to 'make the best' of whatever life throws at us. Can I encourage you to let us (through Barry) know of things you are trying and which are working well and perhaps in ways you did not expect – so we can share these with others who might be finding these times difficult.

### Resources

We have set up a Covid-19 page on our website to give you ongoing access to the various resources available to use at this time. It will include lists of resources advised in previous Newsletters. Go to:

[alpinepresbytery.org/covid-19/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/covid-19/)

A central place for resources is being coordinated here (scroll to bottom of the page)

[www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information).

### Newsletter Items

We will be continuing with the Newsletter over the lockdown period. If you have notices or resources to share, please email to [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

*Cut off date for items for inclusion in next week's Newsletter is **Wednesday 8th April**.*



There are opportunities too to connect with our neighbours and surrounding communities. I have noticed that on our daily walks around the neighbourhood, people are connecting with smiles, 'from a distance' words of encouragement and understanding. We just may have 'spoken' to more people in our environs this past week than we have for a very long time – maybe since the times of the earthquakes.

So do take care of yourselves and those nearby. Stay home and stay well – as we say these days.

God bless

Rev Anne Stewart, Presbytery Moderator

## COVID-19 Important information from Presbytery Council

Our Presbytery Council is keenly aware of the sudden challenge and pressure on our churches, ministries and Ministers in light of the developing crisis and the recent move by Government to lockdown our country. We are encouraged by the strong move by Government to keep people safe and we support the actions taken and encourage all people to keep up with the latest information published on the COVID-19 website. It is important to be aware of maintaining good hygiene and physical-distancing along with supporting our neighbours and friends through this time.

### Good News

We are aware that there are many good things happening in and through our churches. We want to commend you for your rapid action and creative thinking around the crisis we are facing. Many will struggle with the reality that we might not meet in person for some time. However, learning to adapt and find new ways of **being church** is heartening. Keep up the good work! And feel free to share with Presbytery your creative ideas that could help and encourage others!

### Challenges

This is not an easy time to exist as faith communities in the way we have been so used to doing. You may be experiencing anxiety or pressure over what is happening. We want to encourage you – **contact Presbytery** if you have concerns in your church whether they be around resourcing, financial worries, communication, technical resources, etc. We are here to help you. Please contact us if you have any questions/needs:

#### Contact:

Gail, our Admin Support – [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org) – 021 161 5563

Barry, our Executive Officer – [barry@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:barry@alpinepresbytery.org) – 021 264 9677

Anne, our Moderator – [anne@villagechurch.nz](mailto:anne@villagechurch.nz) – 021 032 3329

#### Our Resource Team:

Darryl, our team-leader – [darryl@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:darryl@alpinepresbytery.org) – 027 556 0055

Clare, our Mission Coach team leader – [clare@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:clare@alpinepresbytery.org) – 021 217 1581

Gene, a resource team member - [gene@trinitypres.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:gene@trinitypres.onmicrosoft.com) – 027 278 1965

We are here to help you!

### Questions

One matter which several have raised is: *how do we maintain connection with people in our church who cannot access online communication/resources?*

If any churches have developed solutions for this challenge we would love to hear from you! Please contact Gail with your thoughts and ideas – thank you!

A further question which has arisen is: *in this current context, when we have adapted quickly to look after our church communities, how can we continue to be **missional** to the wider community?*

If any churches are thinking this through and have some practical ideas to share we would love to hear from you!

### Postscript

In the midst of this crisis when there is a plethora of resources available to us we also need to acknowledge that sometimes we just need to “unplug” and look after ourselves, our families, our “bubbles” and then whatever else God calls us to do. So.... you have clear permission from our Presbytery to use or not use any of the multitude of resources that are flying around on Newsletters, websites, social media, etc. Please try not to become overwhelmed! Use what you need, ignore what you don't need, ask for what you might need...

...and take care, keep safe, be kind to yourselves and others, pray that God will guide us wisely and lovingly through this challenging time, look for opportunities to share His love! Kia kaha!

## Where to go for ministry support and resources

Many of our congregations are finding ways to remain connected through this time with activities from phone trees through to multi room zoom gatherings. If you have creative ways you are connecting with each other who do not have access to technology please let us know so we can share them. It seems we are taking care of our own very well, and some are asking how do we now look out to our wider communities. Again, if you have examples and stories send them in to share.

Last week we mentioned how vital it is to take time to adjust. Zoom and other online tools are great, but it takes more energy to communicate through them than simply being in the room together. We want to take care of ourselves, and many we have talked to remember the season after the earthquakes when we needed to be aware it "is a marathon, not a sprint." If you need any support with locating resources contact Darryl ([darryl@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:darryl@alpinepresbytery.org)/phone 027 5560055) who, along with the Presbytery Resource team, will help you find them.

Important links:

<https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/coronavirus-information>. (Scroll to the bottom for resource links)

A PCANZ face book page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2302897206669617/>

National Moderator devotions <https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/>

## An idea for Palm Sunday

A great idea from fellow Christians: What if everyone, on the morning of Sunday 5 April, puts a branch on the door of their house or on the window, to celebrate Palm Sunday? It could be any green branch you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks.

We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the members of the body of Christ. We are the Church.

## Message from the Moderator & AES concerning General Assembly

We have received advice—which has also gone out to all parishes—that the Moderator and the Assembly Clerk, using the provisions of the Book of Order Section 14.29(2) have made the decision to postpone General Assembly until September/October 2021, to be held within the bounds of Presbytery Central.

The full text of the notice can be read here: [Communication concerning General Assembly](#)

## Rev Maurice Chapman

We have been advised of the death of Rev Maurice Chapman on 30 March.

Maurice was married to Barbara. He attended was ordained and inducted in St David's, Gisborne, on 9 December 1971, and later served in Plimmerton, Wellington Presbytery (from 1977), as Pastor at Large at Hanmer Springs, (from 1984), and at Island Bay, Wellington Presbytery, from 1989 until his retirement in 1992.

We give thanks to God for Maurice's life and ministry, and pray for Barbara and the wider family at this time.

## Implications for Property Insurance in the current environment

CPT have checked in with Crombie Lockwood, the Presbyterian Insurance Collective's broker, regarding any particular implications for property insurance in the current environment.

The key advice is to ensure parishes (and Presbyteries) take reasonable precautions to protect their property by ensuring they are securely locked up, alarms are set, etc. . . in the same way they would at the end of the day.

It has also produced this advisory note regarding contract works—[Contract works client advisory - Coronavirus](#)—which is particularly relevant to parishes that are engaged in construction.

## Update from Presbytery Council Meeting –Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Held online via Zoom

**Devotions:** *Our daily walk...* Anne Stewart shared some thoughts about a recent walk when she was caught in the rain. When that happens one grits their teeth, continues putting one foot after the other, keeping on plodding to the destination. We will get there! After the recent nation-wide lockdown it might feel weird. We need to push on through the hard stuff knowing that we will get there!

A poem penned by Kitty O'Meara...  
*And the people stayed home.  
And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised,  
and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being,  
and were still.  
And listened more deeply.  
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.  
Some met their shadows.  
And the people began to think differently.  
And the people healed.  
And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,  
the earth began to heal.  
And when the danger passed,  
and the people joined together again,  
they grieved their losses,  
and made new choices,  
and dreamed new images,  
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,  
as they had been healed.*

Anne opened and constituted our meeting in prayer.

#### **COVID-19:**

Council spent some time discussing the current crisis.

Barry reported that several lines of communication had begun or had been increased e.g.

- a weekly (Wednesday 1pm) Ministers' Zoom across the Presbytery;
- weekly Presbytery Staff Zooms (currently Monday morning);
- increased Resource Team Zoom meetings (weekly) and phone calls from Resource Team members to all of our churches/ministries/key leaders on a weekly basis to assess how people are and any needs;
- Presbytery staff responding to requests and sometimes referring those to national staff;
- weekly Executive Officer Zoom meetings (Friday at 11.30am);
- updating information in the Newsletter and sending out additional communiques as required.

Concerns around the well-being of ministers and the financial status of churches was discussed. It is important for churches to seek legal/accountant input prior to making any decisions around changing terms of call etc. We need to encourage our churches to talk to the Presbytery in the first instance. Online giving would be helpful in this time.

We are noting that churches have quickly adapted to a new way of being in these past few days. A number of creative ways of maintaining communication have been developed during lockdown. Many are finding the use of technology very helpful.

If churches/leaders require help we do invite them to contact Presbytery for advice.

Resources are available online at [www.presbyterian.org.nz](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz). We are aware that some people are struggling with 'information overload' so we don't want to bombard people with too much material!

Some people are feeling anxious and pressured as they adjust to a new way of being so we do encourage everyone to be kind and caring and prayerful in these days ahead.

#### **Scouting Team**

One further action that Council took was to establish a small team that will begin to explore what our situation as a church might look like on the other side of this crisis. We know that things will change. We realise that we need to learn again how to adapt and be nimble as a movement. Darryl Tempero will head up this team and we will communicate their learnings and approach you for feedback in the time to come.

#### **People Matters:**

Informational:

- Lea McEwan was appointed as a Lay Pastoral Worker at St Luke's Halswell on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Rev Sharaine Steenberg will conclude her Stated-Supply position at St Andrew's Blenheim on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Rev Martin Harrison's Induction at St Paul's Kaikoura on April 18<sup>th</sup> will be postponed until further notice.

### Discussion Matters:

- A Commission working with Hope Church, Christchurch was thanked and discharged.
- A concern raised from the Christchurch Korean Church was referred back to the parish.
- The revised draft Strategic Framework will be tabled at our next monthly meeting for further discussion.
- Material for Presbytery from postponed Gathering:  
The financial report and budget will need to be approved by Presbytery by mid-June at the latest. It was decided we will send important business material from the postponed Gathering out to Presbytery members most likely in April or May for approval.
- Council discussed the best way to assess Strategic Input for significant property issues and decided to ask the EO, Convenor of Property & Finance and Convenor of the Resource team to consider this.
- Council wrote a letter of support for the Kaikoura parish's build project in light of recent inquiries from Church Property Trustees.

### Putea Misioni (Alpine Mission Fund)

Presbytery received recommendations for grants in the latest round of applications. We agreed:

- That Alpine Presbytery Council approve a grant for the Akaroa Combined Parish Council of \$30,000 over three years (\$10,000 per annum) to employ a Children and Families Worker. The grant would be subject to positive annual reports and sighting an approved employment agreement.
- That Alpine Presbytery Council approve a grant of \$10,100 to Lincoln Union Parish for the purchase of equipment for their Te Whare Manaaki Centre.
- That Alpine Presbytery Council approve a grant of \$25,000 over two years (\$13,500 in year one; \$11,500 in year two) to employ a Children's Outreach Worker for Lincoln Union Church. The grant would be subject to positive annual reports and sighting an approved employment agreement.
- That Alpine Presbytery approve a grant of \$5,800 for Knox Church Christchurch to cover the cost of purchasing and fitting blackout blinds for their Knox Centre.

### Business Section of our meeting:

Decisions made:

1. Apologies from our meeting – *Maureen Bishop, Jon Parkes* (although both may be able to Zoom)
2. Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Presbytery Council meeting and the 15<sup>th</sup> February Induction service at the Lincoln Events Centre be approved.
3. The approval of the agenda along with any late items;
4. Correspondence report, plus any late correspondence;
5. That email decisions (5<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March) be ratified... that
  - a) **The Andrew Norton Scholarship proposal be approved;**
  - b) **that we postpone the March 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Gathering**
  - c) **1. That the resignation of the Rev Dr Blair Stirling from Hope Church be accepted and implemented immediately - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020;**  
**2. That the Rev Dr Blair Stirling be granted the status of "Other recognised Minister" within the bounds of Presbytery.**
6. The Moderator's report;
7. The Resource Minister's report;
8. The Executive Officer's report;
9. HR Committee report:
  - 1) That the EA contract for the role of Presbytery Executive Officer be approved.
  - 2) That study leave for Rev. Makesi Alatimu be approved.
  - 3) That Martin VanDer Kley, Anne Martin, Lois Anderson and Lea McEwan (once she is ordained as an elder) be trained to officiate communion for the parish of St. Lukes, Halswell.
  - 4) That MOU be approved between Rev. Nancy-Jean Whitehead and St. Andrew's, Hokitika.
  - 5) That Rev. Dr Matthew Jack be approved as IM at St. Martin's until Stated supply starts.
10. Property & Finance report:
  - 1) That the report be received.
  - 2) That Presbytery approves the Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 29th February 2020.
  - 3) That the Alpine Council approve:
    - a. The removal of Elizabeth Whitehead and Martin Stewart as signatories to the Alpine Presbytery bank account

- b. The addition of Annette Beverley Wright and Allan David Middlemiss as signatories and online banking authorisers to the Alpine Presbytery bank account
- 4) That Alpine Council adopts the drafted Covid-19 policy for employees
  - 5) That Alpine Presbytery endorse the following grants by the St David's Trust and organise the payments accordingly:
    - a. \$40 to the Alpine Presbytery as a contribution to the administration of the Fund.
    - b. \$1,650 to Rev Makesi Alatimu for course costs for a Caleb Leadership course in Auckland in July 2020.
  - 6) That Alpine Presbytery indicate partner support for the Linwood Avenue Union Church project to re clad the exterior of its worship centre, under the management of the Methodist partner, at a cost of \$210,750 plus GST

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020 meeting from 9.30am** online via Zoom. However, given the current crisis we also scheduled an additional meeting for **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30am** on Zoom to keep abreast of developments and any concerns during lockdown.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction at 12.30pm

A full copy of the Minutes of this meeting can be accessed here: [Alpine Council Minutes March 2020](#)

## Newsletters and Resources

- **April Bush Telegraph** can be viewed here: [Bush Telegraph](#)
- **Lockdown: Church response to the mental health challenges of self isolation.** This paper by Rev Silvia Purdie can be viewed here: <http://www.conversations.net.nz/church-response.html>
- **Parenting Place** have created a lockdown hub so you can easily access content covering a variety of ideas, tips and coping strategies. Go to <https://www.theparentingplace.com/lockdown-hub/>



Strength to Strength have advised that all their counsellors are available and are able to provide sessions online or over the phone.

Contact them at [www.strengthtostrength.co.nz](http://www.strengthtostrength.co.nz)

They have also provided links to two useful videos:

- [Managing Anxiety in Uncertain Times](#): This 20 minute presentation by Richard Black is packed with insights to help us through this challenging time.
- [Helping Children's Emotional Wellbeing](#): This 10 minute presentation by Richard Black offers some guidance to help parents and caregivers

## From last week

- **Message from the Moderator**
- **Where to go for ministry support and resources**
- **Ministering during the Lockdown**
- **Local Ordained Ministry (LOM) applications & assessments for 2020**
- **Moderator-Designate nominations—to Presbytery by 9th April**
- [Update from the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees addressing Covid-19 questions and issues.](#)
- [Treasurers' News March 2020 Issue 212](#)
- **Resources for families**
- **Donate to Presbyterian Support**
- **South Island Ministry Conference 2020 - cancelled**
- **A Speed of Soul Invocation**

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4nighgg/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>

## Presbytery Contact Details

**Executive Officer**

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Phone: 021 264 9677

**Alpine Presbytery Moderator, Rev**

**Anne Stewart**

[anne@villagechurch.nz](mailto:anne@villagechurch.nz)

Phone: 021 032 3329

**Presbytery Resource Minister**

**Rev Dr Darryl Tempo:**

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

Phone: 027 556 0055

Other items can be sent to Gail

Weaver, Office Support, at

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

## 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