



# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

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

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## Newsletter 7th May 2020

The Government has today given an update on the rules regarding Level 2. More information and guidelines will come to us from National Office in the next few days, once they have had the opportunity to discuss the implications, and we will share them with all parishes once they are received.

In the meantime, here are some questions churches *will need* to address **before you meet for the first time**:

- Physical Distancing - how are you planning to manage that as people come to your buildings, enter your buildings, sit in your buildings and leave your buildings?
- Contact Tracing Register - how will you arrange for *every person* entering your building to be noted down as attending with their contact details in case any tracing is required?
- Food/Drink - it will probably not be possible to have morning or afternoon teas in our buildings. However if it was possible how would you manage that keeping in mind you need to maintain physical distancing at all times?
- Sanitation/Cleanliness - how will you manage to keep every touchable surface in your buildings clean before, between and after use? How about door handles, keypads, seating etc?
- Age/Health - how will you ensure that any seniors or people with underlying health issues are kept safe if they are allowed to attend at all?
- User Groups - if your buildings are used by other church or community groups how will you ensure that both you and they have adequate health & safety plans for such use. Remember - **you are responsible** for the safe use of your building and **you are responsible** to ensure that any user group has an appropriate health & safety plan for their activities keeping in mind Ministry of Health guidelines. And how might you manage different groups using the same buildings at the same time so there is no contact?

**Now is the time** to think about all of these matters so that we have plans and practises in place **before we use any buildings**.

The Parish Council (via the parish Health & Safety Officer) is accountable (and liable) for all of these matters.

### The Garage Series

In uncertain times like this, it is important to ask questions with each other, so to help we have a new Youtube series called "The Garage Series. This is where we go out and about and find out what questions people are asking.

Watch the series introduction here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2XeRLo1grM&t=3s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2XeRLo1grM&t=3s)

Episode 1, all the way from Bryndwr Christchurch (Martin and Anne) is here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMV-VHBMdOI&t=39s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMV-VHBMdOI&t=39s)

Episode 2, from Twizel (Grant) here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3pPhfWSV2o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3pPhfWSV2o)

### 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 next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 14th May**.



Maybe you have the same questions? Maybe you can talk about them in your congregation leadership meetings? Please share with us what solutions and ideas, and maybe further questions you come up with.

## **Moderator's Mother's Day message Sunday 10 May**

*When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother". (John 19: 26-27)*

Mother is God's plan for humanity - for the human life to be carried, born, nurtured and reared. It is a plan patterned in love since the beginning of creation. There is no plan B, no other means of procreation. There never was. Every living person is born of a mother. And we each are indebted and grateful for each of our own mothers without whom we would not experience life. Bless you our dear mothers.

Mothers also show up in different forms. Usually, the norm is as our biological mother. But mother can also describe those who cared for you, took you in, provided for you, gave you a home, adopted you, were a guardian, step or foster mother to you...the list goes on. Mothers come in many different roles. Their characteristics are all similar as providers of love, care, food, shelter, education, discipline, comfort, attention and so much more. Mothers are sacrificial, unconditional, constant, family and...always there. This is the experience for most of us. Certainly, this is my experience in my life. I have so many brothers and sisters because of my loving, beautiful mothers.

A true story. My father is a preacher, I am a preacher, my younger brother is a preacher, my eldest nephew is a preacher. My youngest son, at age 14, was asked "Who is the greatest preacher in your family"? My son answered quickly, "My Mother". Sometimes, men and women who never stand at a pulpit preach the greatest sermons through living out the Word in their daily lives. Again, this is very real in my life, in my experience with my mothers. And in my reality - the mother of my children.

There is a sad situation where some of us experienced hurtful, and unfortunately painful, times with our mothers. I am sorry if this is your case. My hope and prayers are for you. Be at peace, the peace of Christ. If you can, give to Jesus that burdensome experience. Forgive, let go and move on. Make something wonderful of your life. In all cases, your mother gave you life.

There is a wonderful mother's perspective that I learned from my wife. And I suppose it is the same for all mothers. "I have a favourite child" my wife shared at a Women's Fellowship Dinner. Startled, and somewhat annoyed, I glanced at her. We treat all our children the same. As far as I am aware, I work hard on making sure my four children realise without a doubt that they are all equally loved. With her voice breaking, tears flowing, eyes roaming the gathering from side to side my wife said, "My favourite child is my daughter who is stressing out in Wellington, caring for Nana and sitting her final nursing exams; my son who has been made redundant and moving back to Auckland; my daughter who is training so hard but not enjoying her sport; my youngest son who is moving to Australia." All her children are her favourite child. I realised the depth of a mother's love, for each of her children.

My sons are big, strong men. When they are ill, feverish and down, they seek out their mother. Lying on her lap, since they were born. In fact, all my four children do the same thing. The only time they run to me, or I am their first port of call, is when they need my card, my car, my cash. I love this.

*"Mother is the name of God in the lips and hearts of little children."  
- William Makepeace Thackeray*

Thank you God for mothers, for our own mothers, for the mothers of our children. Thank you to all mothers. We are all blessed because of mothers.

Happy Mother's Day. We love you.

*Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

## **Other Newsletters**

- Click here to download this week's [Vine Newsletter](#)  
[Click here](#) to sign up for the **The Vine** in your email inbox each week.
- [Bush Telegraph](#)

## Pray As One NZ

These ZOOM-based nation-wide prayer gatherings, which began last month and which many hundreds of people participated in, are now to be held weekly, on Monday nights from 8pm to 9pm.

Join the Prayer meeting here: <https://prayasone.nz/resources/#zoomprotocol>

## Where is God in a Pandemic?

St Barnabas' Anglican Church are hosting a Zoom seminar with theological and author Dr Nicola Hoggard Creegan on **Thursday 14 May at 7.30pm**, addressing the question 'Where is God in a Pandemic?' It will be a very stimulating seminar with lots of time for Q and A.

Nicola is a theologian based in Auckland. She specialises in the interface between evolutionary theory and systematic theology and has broad interests also in all issues of public and contextual theology and ecology. Her recent book, *Animal Suffering and the Problem of Evil* (OUP, 2013), examined theodicy given the reality of long aeons of animal suffering before humans arrived. She is currently completing a book on *Free Will*. Nicola has taught theology (and previously mathematics) in the US and NZ. She is co-Director of New Zealand Christians in Science, and is an adjunct supervisor at Flinders University, South Australia. She worships at All Saints in Ponsonby.

The link to join the seminar is <https://anglicanchurch-nz.zoom.us/j/95427063994>

## New e-books in the Hewitson Library

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hewitson Library print collections are currently unavailable. In response to this, they have added [12 new e-books to the theology collection](#). Some of these are duplicates of print books already held and recommended on the Living Library website. Some are new titles which may be helpful in this new reality.

To access these books, you will first need to log in on the [Hewitson Library](#) page, then you will be able to paste the link into the URL search bar at the top of the page. You can also browse through the EBSCO resources on the online resources page. Please contact them by emailing [hewitson@prcknox.org.nz](mailto:hewitson@prcknox.org.nz) if you don't have or don't remember your login details.

[This video](#) demonstrates how to read an EBSCO e-book and may be helpful if you are unfamiliar with this platform.

## From last week

- Rev Barry Ayers on Leave
- Scouting team
- Moderator's Appeal for Vanuatu—Cyclone Harold
- Bubble courses - a unique online Level 3 training resource from KCML
- Update from Presbytery Council Meeting –Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April
- The Vine Newsletter

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>

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## Presbytery Directory

To download the Presbytery Directory, [Click here](#)

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

## Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework

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

## How has the lockdown been for you?

Here are some thoughts from Plains Presbyterian Parish—why not share with us some from your own parish?

### Lockdown Thoughts

I've tidied drawers and Pantry  
They're really shiny bright.  
And though the Office took a week  
I found the floor last night!  
I've sorted out some photographs  
And Family History too  
A jig saw puzzle took some time  
But now it's finished – phew!  
I've been through Grandma's recipes  
(My cakes don't look like hers!)  
But when I do get something right  
I'm like a cat that purrs.  
I've talked to friends both near and far  
Caught up on all their news.  
The phone now has flat batteries  
and almost blew a fuse!  
But most, I'm so very grateful  
To friends and family  
Who've gathered grocery orders  
And bought them home to me.  
Those folk who are essential  
Deserve highest praise each day  
Doctors, Nurses, Chemists, Grocers  
Give them a shout – Hooray!!  
Thank God for our beautiful Country  
For the scenery and our space  
And a special thanks for Methven  
Our great Community place!  
- Joan Wright

Some words from Fay Cuttriss, Rakaia.

### It has made Norm and I really appreciate the benefits of living in a small town like Rakaia.

*Who would live in a crowded city in these uncertain times...* Rakaia has provided us with more than we need over the past month. The local Four Square delivering our groceries to the door, the day after e-mailing them the order and payment being made by internet banking. Our freedom walks around the neighbourhood, people are eager to talk from a distance or give a friendly wave. The parish bulletin is great. The colour is eye catching and the puzzles interesting - relaxing to do after doing yet more gardening and tidying up outside.

Have enjoyed Tai's podcasts... very interesting and his voice is so calming and soothing yet still informative. Have not attempted Zoom, we have not had much joy with Skype here so rather hesitant to try Zoom.

- Fay and Norm

Hi fellow parishioners at Plains,

Hope you are keeping well in our lockdown. *Strange times.* We had our first outing out the gate in the car yesterday which was exciting. Strange really to be excited to travel to Methven to get your flu vax! **We are so lucky to live in a place with beautiful views and space to walk.** Whilst I have missed attending church and catching up with you all it has been great to receive Aarii's services, Tais podcasts and services with the Moderator. Are you aware that the Plains Presbyterian Facebook page now has all these services and reflections on it.

Well done to Miranda and Aarii for making it so easy to access.

Keep well, keep safe, and continue to be kind.

- Annette Symne