



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

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Newsletter 2nd July 2020



Tuesday 30th June was Rev Barry Ayer's last day as Executive Officer, and he handed over the role to Rev Martin Stewart with great glee. Martin does not look quite so overjoyed!

The Garage Series

The Garage Series is taking a wee break, normal transmission will resume soon. In the meantime, catch up on previous episodes at the Alpine YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN1zIOMYMjvI78CclqMRcVQ>

Canterbury Lay Preachers

The latest listing of lay preachers active in the greater Christchurch area (including townships outside of the city) is now available and can be downloaded here: [Canterbury Lay Preachers listing for 2020](#).

Bush Telegraph:

View the latest one here: [Bush Telegraph July 2020](#)

Update from Alpine Presbytery Council

Presbytery Council met on Thursday 25th June at The Village, Bryndwr, our first face to face meeting for three months!

Devotions: *Agility & Nimbleness.*

Anne led a conversation about what we consider to be the essence of the Council's reason for being.

Responses included:

1. ensure Presbytery is doing what it needs to be doing,
2. the governance of the affairs of Presbytery,
3. the oversight and fostering of the Presbytery's development,
4. putting out fires and trying to light other fires,
5. performing the necessary functions to enable our Presbytery to live out the gospel and serve the Lord for the sake of the being and becoming of the fulness of the gospel, and,
6. conducting this as part of the wider family of churches.

Anne then went on to share some reflections from a recent sermon by Rev Dan Spragg, at The Village.

Dan used the book of Acts to outline how the first Christian church scrambled as fast

Newsletter Items

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

Details of events, or requests to be added to the distribution list, should be emailed to gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Cut off date for next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 9th July**.

Resources

A selection of resources – and links to resources – to assist you with your work and outreach can be found on our website here: alpinepresbytery.org/resources/

If you are preparing material that could be shared with other congregations please let us know the details and we can include it on this page.



as it could to keep up with where the Spirit of God was leading them. There are some characteristics of the church in the book of Acts that could help us as we sit with our questions as we emerge from lockdown.

Dan framed them this way:

- They understood their purpose was to bear witness to the good news that Jesus taught and lived.
- The Spirit led them and enabled them outwards beyond their own groups.
- Any structures or organisation they had, had to respond to God's leading and adapt as they went.
- Their essence can be seen as three dimensional:

Up - through worship and prayer they grow in their relationship to and understanding of God.

In - they grow in their relationships with one-another sharing hospitality and resources.

Out - they reach out to and share the good news in words and actions to those around them.

In particular their 'agility' seems very important. Mostly by necessity as the Spirit seemed to be leading them very quickly and things were growing quickly, they had to adapt their practices and structures in response to what they were encountering. They were literally scrambling to keep up.

In our world today things are changing very quickly, all the time, and that was before we had a global pandemic! In our context it seems that being agile is how we need to engage with the world. Which when combined with the characteristics of the church in Acts leads to more questions!

Are we as the church agile? Do we change our structures and traditions in response to what we encounter? Do we listen to God's Spirit and go where we are led?

Anne then constituted our meeting with this thoughtful prayer:

*God, we seek your guidance again today as we meet to ponder,
to question and to guide us in our work – your work.*

Give us patience, wisdom, courage, where needed.

Open our eyes to your creative ways,

so that your Spirit may be free to lead us where you need us to be.

We pray today too, for our parishes as they journey

in finding who they are, why they are, and how to be in this new world.

We have heard the call too, echoing around the world,

to be awakened to the inequalities buried deep in our assumptions of how the world is.

So deep, that many of us, who live such privileged lives, have never had to encounter what they suffer.

You, who entered (and continues to enter) our flawed humanity,

bring now your divinity to raise us up out of our preoccupation with our ways,

and thereby closer to you and your ways.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Martin Stewart was welcomed in his role of Executive Officer.

Discussion matters

- Risk Management & COVID-19: Barry reflected on how we are identifying ways to keep in touch with ministers, parishes, and key leaders. This was followed by a general conversation about how people and churches are managing financially, as well as in their overall well-being. Barry noted how Northern Presbytery had conducted a survey of key people to ascertain church well-being and achieved an 87% response rate.
- An appeal has been lodged with the PCANZ, by a church member, against a decision of Council. We agreed that the Executive Officer and Andrew Nicol represent the Presbytery at the Commission being set up because of this appeal.
- EO Hand-over: It has been happening!!! Martin Stewart began working with Barry on 16th June. It is recognised that a new person might well take to the role in a different way! People will find that out when July begins and Barry is gone!
- COA Update: Rev Charissa Nicol joined the meeting and referred to matters in the Council of Assembly report (available on the PCANZ website). Among other things this included some reflection on: the significant budget deficit, the General Assembly postponement to 2021, Covid-19 effects, having one of the Presbytery EOs report each time COA meets—this time Barry Ayers spoke about Alpine's life, the appointment of Darryl Tempero (Leadership Sub-Committee convener) to the COA. Some mirth followed, at the incoming EO's expense!

Business Section of the meeting

- Apologies were received from Ann McMillan, Dugald Wilson, Phyll Harris, & Maureen Bishop
- Budget Voting Update: Barry reported that Presbytery voting to approve the Budget was clearly *carried* with 97%

of respondents saying yes. 78% of parishes responded.

- Acting Resource Team Leader's Report: Several changes present us with an opportunity to 'helicopter up' and review how we have been working in the Resourcing area. Abi comes back from Maternity Leave on 20 July, and Clare Ayers' Mission Coaching contract has finished.
- Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework update: We added the phrase 'while safeguarding the people with and around us' to a section of the framework.
- Nominations: Martin presented a process for engaging people in recruiting new people to our Council, Human Resources, Finance & Property, and Mission Fund teams. Full details are in the Council minutes. We agreed to approve this process.
- Property & Finance: We agreed to approve the applications from *St Andrew's, Takaka*, to sell the existing manse, set out to find a replacement property, and attend to deferred maintenance on the church subject to several conditions. We also agreed to support the rebuild project at *St Paul's Kaikoura*.
- Human Resources: We agreed that Rev Phil Bettany be approved as MSB coordinator and Susan Moore as Presbytery representative for St. David's Timaru.
- Putea Misoni (Alpine Mission Fund): We agreed to support a technology project at *St Andrew's, Takaka*. We also agreed to grant \$500,000 to *Hope Church* for the *West Melton* build project, subject to some conditions.

The 2020 **Presbytery Gathering** be held at The Village Bryndwr, Christchurch, on 11-12 September. This will include the commissioning of Josh Olds (Prestons) and Ben and Philippa Necklen (Hanmer Springs) into their respective roles, as well as the change of EO and Moderator. It is hoped to hold the early 2021 Gathering in Ashburton.

The **Presbytery Retreat** is to be held at Hanmer Springs in mid-October. The retreat will have a ministry support component to it, including providing some Relief Fund money for people's costs.

As it was Barry's last meeting at Council as EO, the time was celebrated with food and cake, with Clare Ayers as a guest, along with Abi, Gail and Darryl from the staff. Speeches were made, a prayer was prayed, and a gift was presented.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 30th July 2020** in Christchurch.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction at 2.31pm

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



Barry receiving his farewell gift

From last week

- **Thank you Alpine! - from Rev Barry Ayers**
- **Returning Staff Member—Abi Trevathan**
- **Queen's Birthday Honours Recipient—Peter Smale**
- **The Garage Series**
- **Other Newsletters:**
 - [The Buzz](#)—PYM Newsletter
 - [Council of Assembly News June 2020](#)
- **Theological Education and Leadership Training (TELT) Report**
- **New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library**
- **More Musings & Thoughts from Lockdown**

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4nighgg/AABDjLatKUt2-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