



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

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Newsletter 9th July 2020

Introducing the new Executive Officer

Kia ora! I'm Martin, the new Executive Officer!

I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to the community of people who subscribe to the Alpine Presbytery Newsletter! I think I know of a fair few people, but there will be many others who I haven't met, and I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

I've served in various parish ministries in the South Island over the last 31 years, but I'm still a young thing of only

59 years (yeah, yeah, I know, 'young' is pushing it!). Most of my early years were spent in Timaru, and it still has the 'home' feel to me. The last 13+ years for me have been in Christchurch, first at St Stephen's in Bryndwr, which then became part of The Village Church. I have particularly enjoyed working in team ministries, with only 11 of those 31 years in sole charge situations. However, when I think about it, all good ministry is in teams – teams of elders and others – who focus their energies on the sense of God's calling in their respective communities. In that sense, I am frustrated by the persistence of the lay/clergy divide and the language around that. There isn't meant to be 'us' and 'them' anywhere in the kingdom of God, at least not in my reading of it, and especially not in the church!

I'm married to Anne, the soon to expire (from the role) Moderator. We very much enjoy the three adults, and their life-partners, in the generation below us, and, especially, having grandchildren. Our little passion project is the old Presbyterian Church at Totara Valley, on an acre in rural South Canterbury, that we are slowly but surely converting into our future home.

I am gradually finding my way into the EO role. I'm very grateful for Barry Ayers' legacy – he set up systems and relationships that I can build on, and it is great working in what is our great big Presbyterian team, spread over the upper South Island area, a team that has so many interesting people in it. I have to say that, at present, the gap between what I know and what I need to know is wide enough to sail a ship through, but I am learning, and I am confident I will narrow the divide and remain human, but please bear with me while my ignorance is to the fore!

There are several things that are really important to me in this role: like, *people* first, people second, people third (our structures and systems exist to serve people and enable fullness of life—please keep reminding me of this!!); and *positivity* (I believe that, while we might well be participating in a way of doing church that is slowly passing, God is calling us from ahead to something good, and that we don't need to be fearful); and *good behavioural practices* (like, treating people well, having healthy



*Me in one of my television appearances
(just joking, it was a one-off)*

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 16th 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.



and safe buildings and well-hosted activities, taking a deep breath before you react, minimising nasty surprises, going the second mile, giving the benefit of the doubt, shaping good flexible systems, cultivating trustfulness, and being worthy of that trust); and, especially, *a sense of humour*, and *a sense of adventure*.

My hope is that your experience of me reflects these things, and I look forward to serving you as part of the Presbytery team in the days, months, and years to come.

Please feel welcome to call me and say 'giddyay.' If you are really grumpy, talk to Anne, and then Barry!!!

God's blessings to you!
Martin

Financial Year End XERO Course Material

Following on from the recent online training, a pdf of the course material is now available, both for those who participated and those who were unable to. Click here to download: [Xero online training](#)

Gateways Community Scotland

The Gateways community is a fresh expression community, which you can see their story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QhYiuGs5oA>.

We have connected with Alistair Birkett, one of the founders of Gateways, to hear more of the story and have an opportunity to ask some questions. It will be a Zoom link on **Thursday 30th July, 7,30pm**.

We particularly wanted to connect to hear more of the relationship between the existing church community, and the new community (a relationship important for any new expression of church). Alistair is now the Rural Ministries Director, North of England & Scotland, so we might explore some of that area as well. If you would like to join in, please rsvp to darryl@alpinepresbytery.org and you will be sent the details. Please also send in any questions you would like to ask and we can pass them on beforehand.

Volunteers Needed

Christian World Service is looking for volunteers for the mail out of the Winter Appeal from Monday to Wednesday, 13-15 July, unless we finish earlier. Volunteers can sign up for any time from 9 am – 4 pm each day. CWS is located at the Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham Street – parking may be available in parks numbered 28-37 unless already occupied. If you want more information or can help please contact Jordyn at 366 9274 or at cws@cws.org.nz

New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library

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

[Australian Journal of Liturgy, Vol 17 No 1, 2020](#)

[Sojourners, Vol 49 No 7, July 2020](#)

[Tui Motu InterIslands, Issue 250, July 2020](#)

Email hewitson@prcknox.org.nz if you would like copies of any of the articles scanned and sent to you.

From last week

- [The Garage Series](#)
- [Canterbury Lay Preachers](#)
- [Bush Telegraph July 2020](#)
- [Update from Alpine Presbytery Council](#)

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4niqgg/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