



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

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Newsletter 1st October 2020

Presbytery Retreat—11 & 12th October 2020

Venue: Hanmer Springs Forest Camp

Dates: Sunday 11 & Monday 12 October from 3.30pm (cuppa at 3pm), with optional extra session Tuesday morning.

Sunday evening meal and Monday lunch provided, but please bring along a food contribution for morning and afternoon tea (e.g. packet of biscuits, home baking)

Register here: <https://forms.gle/AcMpBHg8k8ajiq787> Registrations close 9pm, Tuesday 6th October.

A **travel subsidy** is available for those who will be driving to the retreat (not passengers). This will be made in the form of petrol vouchers. If you would like to access this please email Abi (abi@alpinepresbytery.org) by Wednesday 7th October.

Theme: Tending my Vineyard Within—Pastor Donald Scott

In the Song of Songs the Shulamite says that her brothers had *'appointed me guardian of their ministry vineyards, yet I've not tended my vineyard within.'* Song of Songs 1:6 (from the Passion Translation).

See more about the theme on our Presbytery website: alpinepresbytery.org/events/

Commissioning: We will be commissioning Philippa and Ben Necklen on Sunday 11th October 4pm.

Working Bee: At the end of the retreat on Tuesday 13 October, those who are keen and willing will be having a working bee at the manse in Hanmer Springs to make a big dent in the garden, overgrown shrubs and trees, and other general tasks. Bring your old clothes, and we will send out any specific needs for equipment next week. *You don't have to be at the Retreat to join in on this, looking to start around 11am on Tuesday morning.*

Vaipuna

Kiwi Church and St Paul's Trinity Pacific invite you to a monthly Sunday evening worship service called "Vaipuna," 6pm on the 1st Sunday of each month, at 45 Fitzgerald Ave.

Vaipuna means springs, oasis, a never ending supply of water that bubbles forth even in drought like conditions, and for both our communities we want to have a regular time to worship together and be refreshed by the living waters of Christ. It is a time of mostly sung worship with contemporary songs, some contemplation, and in time we will have other creative expressions.

More information is here <https://vaipuna.wordpress.com> and September's gathering is this Sunday 4 October.

Please pass on this invitation to anyone you think may enjoy this type of gathering, and for more information contact Makesi (mak.trinitypacific@xtra.co.nz) or Darryl (darryl@alpinepresbytery.org)

COMING UP

Plants 4U @ Rakaia: 3 October

Twilight Food Fair: 9 October, St Martin's Presbyterian Church, Christchurch

Annual Spring Fair: 10 October, John Knox Centre, Rangiora

Holding on & Letting go: Spiritual Recovery: 11 October, The Village Community Centre

Presbytery Retreat: 11-12 October, in Hanmer Springs

Blenheim Garden Tour: 17 & 18 October—contact St Andrew's Blenheim

Faithful & Flourishing: 20 October, Hope Church, Hornby

Reclaiming Death & Dying: 21 & 28 October, New Brighton Union Church

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 Newsletter is **Thursday 8th October**



Faithful & Flourishing

1 day conference, Tuesday 20th October, at Hope Church, 27 Amyes Road, Hornby

9.30am-5pm (lunch included)

Topics include: renewing local churches and helping them flourish, substitutionary atonement, universalism, Christian creation care.

Speakers include: Courtney Wilson, Mark Maney, Stuart Lange and Dennis Flett.

No cost, but a koha for lunch would be appreciated.

Please RSVP to alistair@standrewsgld.org.nz

Download the poster here: [Faithful & Flourishing](#)

Have you been building recently?

If you have, you will know that there is a lot to think and plan for. Here in Kaikōura we have just sunk the piles for the new Church Hall and restaurant. It is exciting that 4 years after the earthquake we are now rebuilding.

We wondered if you could help us – we are considering the chairs and tables we will use in the Church hall/multi-purpose space. Have you in the last few years brought some that you have found good? If so we would like to hear your thoughts and recommendations. Email us at kaikourarev@gmail.com



Piles for the new building – the building is going to have a stunning view!

Te Whakahoki mai i te Mate me te Mate/Reclaiming Death and Dying

A two-part seminar series to empower individuals, and whanau/families to:

- explore alternative ways of celebrating funerals, and honouring and farewelling our loved ones
- support each other well through the grieving process both before and after death.

When: Wednesdays 21st & 28th October 10.00am-12noon

Venue: Chapel of the Waves, New Brighton Union Church, corner of Union and Collingwood Streets, New Brighton.

Part one focuses on alternative ways of celebrating funerals and will be led by retired Catholic priest and former prison chaplain **Jim Consedine**, a co-founder of the Funeral Choice Collective many years ago, with extensive experience at planning and leading alternative funerals.

Part two will be a free-ranging session led by **Jim Consedine**, **Sheena Dickson** (Minister of St Georges-Iona parish and former chaplain) and **Mark Gibson** (Minister of New Brighton Union & Port Hills Uniting parishes) that explores the challenges and privileges of supporting people who are dying; grieving well their loss following death, while also caring for ourselves.

In both sessions there will be ample time for questions and further discussion. Morning tea/coffee will be provided in the adjacent Hospitality Room.

A koha will be taken. All welcome.

Organised by Te Ara Hou – a partnership of New Brighton Union, Port Hills Uniting & St Georges-Iona parishes.

Enquiries to New Brighton Union Church office: Tel.388.9220 or nbunionparish@methodist.nz

Twilight Food Fair

Friday 9th October 2020, 4pm – 6.30pm, at St Martins Presbyterian Church, 43 St Martins Road. Christchurch

Take away food – curry, beef or chicken; Jams, Pickles, Home Baking, Sausage Sizzle

.... And as an added bonus – check out the St Martins Menzshed Hand Tools stall.

A great occasion to stock up, as well as go home with your dinner already cooked.

PLANTS 4 U @ RAKAIA

Saturday 3 October 9am—1pm, at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Rakaia (Main Road, by the 2 big trees)

Lots of Plants for Sale, featuring:

- Natives shrubs, bulbs, perennials, succulents, plus many more varieties.
- Vegetable Seedlings for that spring garden

- ☼ Produce, preserves, baking.
- ☼ White elephant
- ☼ Special bargains throughout the morning.

All must go after 12 o'clock.

A Plains Parish Project. Contact. dottsknights@gmail.com

Alpine Presbytery Council Meeting Report

Council met on Thursday 24th September 2020. We welcomed our new Moderator Barry Ayers as he took up his role.

Barry led devotions reflecting on his 'Moderatorial' theme 'Well-being and attending to the Whole Self.'

He referenced the writer/teacher Shirzad Chamine and his observations about what stops us being happy – such as the sabotaging and judging voices within, and the contrasting sage-like voices. Barry outlined how mental fitness can come from facing life's challenges (of which there are a few for all of us!) by being more consciously seeking the wise voices. He noted three things in Richard Rohr's recent writings to a Covid-19-beseiged people: firstly, a reference to Ety Hillesum who, though eventually incarcerated in Auschwitz and then killed there, could still identify the well deep within where God dwells; secondly, Psalm 62's promise that in God alone are our souls at rest; and thirdly, an engagement with Yeats' poems in *Second Coming*, written in the season of WW1 and the Spanish Flu. God cannot abide with us in a place where fear, anxiety, and endless angry noise hold sway. We are to offer God a place to dwell. All circumstances are a gift or opportunity for the deep indwelling of God.

Barry then constituted the meeting with prayer.

Council had a wide-ranging discussion about the recently adopted [Culture & Strategic Framework](#) and how the Framework can inform the Council and its teams, and even our various ministries/church communities.

A few initial things were identified:

1. We could provide copies to the churches and a short study guide encouraging conversation in meetings.
2. The 12 pointers on the values could be used as conversation spaces over a two-year period, and Council could participate in this as well. E.g. a 10min discussion on the theme of each of the 12 pointers.
3. How does Presbytery help these statements sit alongside the discernment that happens in our church circles so that they assist the discernment of God's leading in our life?
4. YouTube clips could prepare to act as prompts.
5. Prompted by the EO in his report, Council discussed one of the aspirations 'Be a multi-ethnic church with a bi-cultural commitment.' Might a conversation with our 'Presbyterian family' treaty partner, about how to embark on this more seriously, be a good place to start? Barry & Martin to follow up with a conversation with Te Aka Puaoho (Maori Synod).
6. A useful book for people to read was suggested: 'Bible and Treaty' by Keith Newman
7. It was mentioned that we could learn much from our Anglican and Methodist partners.
8. We also wondered whether 'with not at' could be a good starting place for promoting engagement with the document.

As an example of how mission/strategic planning can work in Council meeting, Rev Dan Spragg (The Village) popped into the meeting and talked of how The Village Parish Council had adopted a rhythm of working on the Mission Plan in a quarterly rhythm so that there was an intentional living of what had been decided as important, this enabled constant reflection and tweaking to keep the MP alive and relevant.

Key Decisions of Council

From the HR Team:

- Approving Rev. Dr. Don Fergus as Interim Moderator when he takes up stated supply at St Martin's in October
- Approving Rev. Glenn Livingstone continuing as stated supply minister at St. Kentigern's Burwood up until 31.8.22
- Approving Rev. Nancy-Jean Whitehead continuing as stated supply minister at St. Albans for another year.
- Approving Rev. Phyll Harris' application (Lincoln Union) for study leave for Dec 20-Jan 21.
- Setting the evening of 8 November as the date for the ordination of Steve Talbot, at Hope Rolleston.

From the Property & Finance Team:

- Approving the Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 31st August 2020
- Approving an amendment to Gail Weaver's hourly rate increase to 2.1% for this year in line with the latest stipend information and backdating it to 1 July 2020.
- Approving the Korean Parish concept application to upgrade the kitchen in their Packe St building and undertake a modest new build to provide facilities for their youth and young people, at a cost of up to \$1.4 million, utilising

capital property funds from the sale of their Purchas St building and their residual funds, and sending the Strategic comment with the application to the Church Property Trustees.

From the Putea Misioni (Alpine Mission Fund):

- Accepting the funding for the first year of the pilot, at \$30,000, for the Dynamic Discipleship and Congregational Vitality Project at Cashmere.
- Granting \$15,000 to Lindisfarne Camp (South Canterbury) towards the stage 2 ablutions upgrade.
- Granting \$10,000 toward the Timaru Parish Kitchen Upgrade in their Community Centre.

[Note: two Have A Go projects of \$1000 each have also been approved for Whakatu & Lincoln]

From the Moderator's Report:

- Barry noted that he's had a few activities already including talking with members of the extended family of Andrew Norton about the scholarship established by Presbytery. Andrew was raised in the Waimate church.
- He has appointed two deputy Moderators who can stand in for him if necessary, be a back-up, and an occasional sounding board. They are Rev Arii Taimataora & Rev Dr Andrew Nicol.
- He is working on his focus around well-being and pastoral and culture oversight.
- He has a few engagements on the horizon and is keen to get among people as he is able and also maintaining connections with the Moderators of the other Presbyteries.

From the EOs report:

- The [Boundaries, Conflicts of Interest, and Confidentiality document](#) has been adopted.
Some discussion was had around how to introduce it to the Presbytery ensued, especially how our teams embrace it, work into it, and help each other live to its ideals as we seek to work well together.
- We are looking to hold the Autumn 2021 Gathering in Ashburton (as we had intended in 2020).
- A small team to conduct a Parish Review requested by Plains Church will be set up.

Other Business:

- There's been an adjustment of some of the operational expenses in the Hanmer Springs Project.
- The names of two candidates be forwarded to the National Assessment Workgroup.
- Andrew Nicol has indicated that he wishes to finish his time serving on Council. Andrew very ably stepped in as Acting Moderator while Rev Anne Stewart was on leave in 2019. Andrew's precision and ability to articulate himself thoughtfully and theologically has been a great gift in the life of the Council. Nice things were said as Council acknowledged his service.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22nd October by Zoom

From the last Newsletter

- **Introducing the Alpine Presbytery 'Have a Go' Fund**
- **Visiting Ellesmere**
- **Land Sunday**
- **Children's Worker (Church and Community): Lincoln Union Church**
- **Annual Spring Fair—John Knox Centre, Rangiora, 10th October**
- **Presbyterian Support Upper South Island**
- **New books in the Hewitson Library**
- **Terrace Talks - Treaty Engagement: Oxford Terrace Baptist Church**
- **The [Buzz newsletter](#) - from PYM**

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>

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Alpine Presbytery Culture & Strategic Framework

[Click here](#) to download this document, updated September 2020

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/

Presbytery Directory

If you need to obtain information from the Presbytery Directory, please initially ask your Parish Office, as most of these have been given a log-on to Infoodle.

If you do need for your own logon access, send your request to Gail at gail@alpinepresbytery.org.

Please do bear in mind, though, that we need to be aware of our obligations under the Privacy Act.