



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

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Newsletter 3rd December 2020

Scam Alert

Since last week's Newsletter we have become aware of at least two other instances of scammers impersonating Ministers and asking contacts to purchase i-Tunes or other such gift cards for them. *Please do be wary of any such requests—they are more than likely fraudulent!* When presented with unusual requests from supposed contacts, you are always best to phone them back on a known number to confirm whether the request is genuine.

Alpine Prayer Retreat 2021

We live in challenging times. A number of colossal forces are colliding: a worldwide pandemic, the economic fallout, the growing gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', civil unrest in many countries, the climate change emergency, the pressures on our environment, race relations, most of our churches being in decline, growing apathy or resistance to faith-expression...the list is long! Then there's the usual stuff that affects our day to day living! There is widespread fear and anxiety in the mood of people as we find ourselves bumped around in these choppy waters! Resilience is going to become a necessary skill for people - spiritual resilience in particular!

Those in church leadership are not immune from the anxieties and fears. Things are not easy. Where does our help come from?

One of the great tools in the Christian *kete** is **deep prayer**. Prayer anchors our lives in the life and love of the Eternal One - the Ground of our Being - the Life and Light who Jesus draws us to. Prayer anchors us, and enables us to be less prone to the bumps on the surface. The deeper we are in prayer, the less prone we are to being dominated by our fears and anxieties. At the October 2020 Alpine Retreat, Donald Scott introduced the thinking of Ignatius who challenged people to operate out of consolation (deep peace) rather than desolation (fear and anxiety). Deep practices in prayer enable us to find consolation.

To help us build our spiritual resilience, we are creating a **guided 'deepening in prayer space for church leaders' at Staveley Camp, Mid-Canterbury, on 14th to 16th February (Sunday afternoon to Tuesday morning). It will include some brief introduction to deep prayer practices along with plenty of time for silent prayer.**

If you are interested in this opportunity, mark it in your diary, and express your interest with Abi: abi@alpinepresbytery.org

(*kete - basket)

6 DAY SILENT RETREAT

28 February - 5 March 2020, Orangapai

A 6 day silent directed retreat in the vast open spaces of the Maniatoto.

Date: 28 February - 5 March

Venue: En Hakkore, Orangapai (near Ranfurly)

COMING UP

Prayer Retreat at Staveley Camp: 14—16 February

Next Presbytery Gathering: 19-21 March at St David's in Ashburton

Presbytery Retreat at Hanmer Springs: 2—4 May

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 items for next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 10th December.**



Time: Sunday 28 February 11.00am to Friday 5 March lunchtime.
Cost: \$510. Registration closes 19 February. Max 16.
Retreat Team: Barbara McMillan, Kelvin Wright, Lex McMillan, John Franklin

Registrations and enquiries to John Franklin, john.franklin94@gmail.com

Presbytery Key Dates 2021

14th - 16th February Prayer Retreat @ Staveley Camp
19th - 21st March Presbytery Gathering @ St David's Ashburton
2nd - 4th May Presbytery Retreat in Hanmer Springs
24th July Preaching the Parables Workshop with Geoff New (Christchurch, location TBA)
28th August Presbytery Gathering (Elder's Day) in Timaru
11th September Presbytery Gathering (Elder's Day) in Nelson
18th September Presbytery Gathering (Elder's Day) in Christchurch
29th Sept - 3rd Oct General Assembly @ St Andrews College, Christchurch
16th October Preaching the Parables Workshop with Geoff New (Nelson)

Death Notices

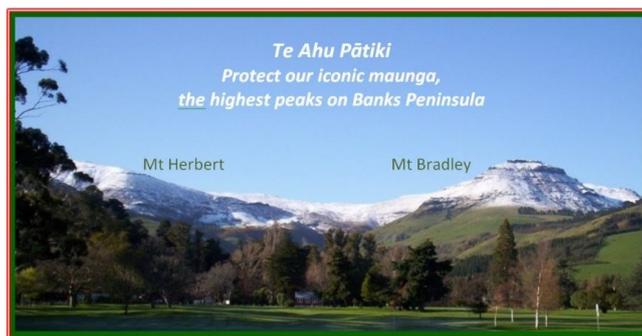
Notice came recently that **Rev Edward (Ted) Body** died on November 24, 2020, peacefully at home, aged 87 years. Ted served in a range of churches across the country; his last ministry was at St Andrews, Blenheim, from 1995-1999. We give thanks for Ted's life and ministry and pray for Yvonne and the family.

We note the death recently of **Mrs Eliza Eggleton** the widow of Rev Bill Eggleton. Bill had been the director of Presbyterian Support in South Canterbury when he retired. Eliza and Bill had been part of St Paul's in Timaru. Eliza died in Waimate in her late 90s.

Gift a mountain to those you love!

Give a planet-friendly gift to your friends and whanau this year by donating to the Te Ahu Pātiki fund Christmas Gift Special.

Your donation will help purchase beautiful Mount Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki and Mount Bradley and set up a conservation park. You and your gift recipient will enjoy a life-long bond with this special place as you watch it transform to native forest and get up close on wonderful walks and bike rides.



It's so easy – just tag your donations XMAS and we will send Te Ahu Pātiki Christmas cards to the recipients of your choice with your personalised messages. Have your credit card and personal messages ready and then click [here to head to the Christchurch Foundation](#) to make your donations.

- Minimum gift to qualify for a physical card is Tiny Pekepeka (\$65).
- Please donate prior to Dec 18 to ensure physical cards will arrive prior to Christmas.
- Smaller donations will receive an email card.
- One card per donation.

For more information on the Te Ahu Pātiki project visit www.roddonaldtrust.co.nz

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.

Red Cross Survey marking ten year anniversary of Christchurch earthquakes

Red Cross are inviting parishioners to contribute to a survey that is taking place to mark the ten year anniversary of the Canterbury earthquakes, that has changed so much about life in Canterbury. The purpose of the survey is to understand what recovery has looked like for the people and communities who lived through this time and they would particularly like to hear the views of faith groups.

The findings of the Survey will be shared in the new year. You can access the survey at: tinyurl.com/y3ynnedb.

Participants will also go into a prize draw, with some great prizes to be won, a \$500 Prezy Card, \$250 cash that can be gifted to a friend or family member, or a family pass to the Akaroa Harbour Nature Cruise.

For further information please phone 0800 REDCROSS.

Other Newsletters

[Bush Telegraph December 2020](#)

Alpine Presbytery Council Report

Alpine Presbytery Council met at The Village Church, Papanui on Thursday 26th November 2020

Rev Barry Ayers reflected on the passage from John 1 that talks of The Word coming into the world (he created) and people not being aware, and the mixed emotions associated with Advent and Christmas. Where the sense of wonder becomes diminished as we grow older and face life's challenges. There have been a few challenges this year!!! What do we take with us as Advent approaches and how do these things look through the lens of wonder? After some conversation, Barry constituted the meeting with a prayer 'My Heart Is A Mess' written by Rev Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Key Decisions of Council

From the Human Resources Team:

- Endorsing the call of Dr. Michael Reid to full time LOM position at Hoon Hay.
- Having Pip Moore and John Vargo, (Hope, West Melton) being trained to officiate communion.

From the Property & Finance Team:

- Approving the Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 31st October 2020.
- Approving the Christchurch North, St Luke's application to alter and upgrade their church property at 2 Daniels Road, Christchurch, at a cost of up to \$200,000 utilising PIF capital property funds (The project will now be submitted to CPT for their approval of the concept stage application along with the Strategic Ratings comments).

From the Alpine Mission Fund:

- Approving the 'Have A Go' applications from Plains & Awatere Churches

From the Executive Officer:

- The Moderator of Te Aka Puaho, Marina Rakaraku has agreed to be the speaker at our Autumn 2021 Gathering
- Rev Richard Lawrence (Hamilton) is being asked to facilitate a conversation between the disputing parties in the KPCC congregation, with a representative from Presbytery also present

From the Resource Team Leader:

Presbytery Contact Details

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- That a more fluid way of operating the Resource Team be trialled over the next six months.

From the Hanmer Springs Project:

- \$65,000 to be reallocated from the building of new accommodation units to upgrading the manse subject to ratification by the Alpine Mission Fund Board.

Council welcomed Anne Edgar and Jane Dore from Hoon Hay, along with Rev Dugald Wilson, in support of a Call being issued to Dr Michael Reid to Hoon Hay Church. This was approved subject to Michael satisfactorily completing his Locally Ordained Minister training.

Council received a Report from Commission to St George's-Iona

- Council agreed to rescind a motion from the October meeting and apologise for its misstep.
- The Commission was asked to visit again with the parish and reassess the financial situation and report back in the new year, as well as provide monitoring of the situation on a regular basis.

We had lunch together and thanked Anne Stewart & Andrew Nicol for their service to Council, and Clare Ayers for her work in the mission coaching area.

The next monthly Council meeting will be on 25th February.

Council has met 13 times between January & November 2020, 6x in person, and 7x by Zoom.

From the last Newsletter

- **Scam Alert**
- **Andrew Norton Young Leaders Scholarship** (Applications close 20 December)
- **Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board:** Ecumenical Chaplain based at University of Otago, Christchurch Campus (0.1, fixed term for a year)
- **Essential items needed in Christchurch please!** (PSUSI)
- **Studying Theology at the University of Otago**
- **Sister Eveleen Retreat House, Christchurch**
- **Cranes Ever Flying: Introductions to Asian Christian History & Theology**
- **The Farewelling of a Home**
- **Student flat for young Christians in Christchurch**

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/

Alpine Presbytery Culture & Strategic Framework

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

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4niqhg/AABDjLatKUt2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>