



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

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Newsletter 25th February 2021

10th Anniversary of Canterbury Earthquake

On 22 February 2011 the earth shook in such a way that 185 lives were lost in Christchurch, and the lives of almost everyone in the city were severely disrupted. It is good to pause and note the passing of this decade and ponder not only the amazing things that the community has made of the tragedy, but to also be mindful of the ongoing trauma for many.

In March the new Crossway Church will be officially opened. Crossway found its life after the St Columba Church building in North Avon was destroyed by the earthquake. The Shirley Methodist community were already in a shared arrangement with St Columba – but the Crossway community had to move from their Petrie Street site. It turned out to be ten years of in-between for this community. That is a lot of waiting, praying, planning, and ongoing disruption! Their story is one that has illustrated the kind of resilience around here, and I find it rather inspiring. But it has been testing! Unfortunately, for one or two other church communities, the state of in-between still continues.

I know that there has been a lot of media coverage and possibly some people are a bit over the 'poor Christchurch' sentiment, however, having lived through the experience and worked with others alongside our affected Christchurch church communities, I simply want to express my admiration of the Presbyterian community in the city.

Changes come hard at the best of times, but radical change was forced on many of our church communities, and at times there was hardly any time to take a breath. But, on the whole, the vast majority of people have constantly risen to meet the challenges. What a blessing they are! What a witness to the resurrection they are!

May the grace of God continue to unfold in their lives.

Martin Stewart

Alpine Presbytery Gathering

19-21 March, at St David's in Ashburton

Registrations are now open for the Gathering. Please follow this link to access the registration form: <https://forms.gle/4Gi8BtEXCP4W5qrA7>.

Full details of the programme will be available shortly.

Alpine Mission Fund and other Presbytery Grants

A reminder that the cut off dates for applications for Grants is **this week, Sunday 28th February**.

Information and application forms can be found here:

[Alpine Mission Fund](#)

- [Grants information sheet](#)

COMING UP

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

Crossway Community Church Dedication: 21 March

Coracle—weekend for explorers:
30 April—2 May

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 for items for next week's Newsletter: **Thursday 4th March**



- [Application—Buildings \\$10k+](#)
- [Application - general \\$10K+](#)
- [Expression Of Interest](#)

Presbytery Grants

- [Information Sheet](#)
- [Grant Application Form](#)
- [St David's Trust Application Form](#)

Ministry Retreat Week at Sister Eveleen

Sister Eveleen Retreat House (SERH) in Sumner, Christchurch, has set aside some time in April specifically to host people working in ministry. If you're involved in church leadership and looking for a chance to reflect and pray after the Easter season then why not come over to Sumner for a night (or even a week!). From Friday April 9 - Sunday April 18 they are offering accommodation, a cooked dinner, and daily spiritual direction for **\$135 per night (plus \$10 cleaning fee)**. During this time they will be hosting Heather Simpson, who specialises in spiritual direction to people in ministry.

For more information and registration, please call Eddie on 022 563 6879 or email sister.e.retreat@gmail.com. You can also visit the website at www.sistereretreat.com

From the last Newsletter

- Expressions of interest invited Board of the Prison Chaplaincy Service
- Ministers' Coffee Groups & Zoom meetings
- Ordination of Rev Dr Michael Reid
- Friendship First Course at Linwood Avenue Union Church
- Pulpit supply for Stewart Island
- Rubbish Challenge Step One
- UCANZ Forum
- Invitation to book launch

Presbytery Contact Details

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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.

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 can be accessed via this link: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4niqhg/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>