



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

Executive Officer, Rev Martin Stewart:
email martin@alpinepresbytery.org;
phone 021 308 519

Presbytery Moderator, Rev Barry Ayers:
email barry@alpinepresbytery.org;
phone 021 264 9677

Office Support, Gail Weaver:
email gail@alpinepresbytery.org
Office phone (03) 420 1400

Postal Address: Alpine Presbytery, PO Box 42120, Tower Junction Post Shop, Christchurch 8149

Newsletter 4th February 2021

Pastoral Prayer request from the Moderator

I had contact recently from Rev Dr Alan Missen who is currently in Christchurch hospital awaiting heart bypass surgery. At this stage surgery is scheduled for next Tuesday, 10th February. Alan & Sue would be grateful for your prayer support. Please remember them at this time. *(Barry Ayers)*

Ordination

The ordination of Dr Michael Reid as LOM will take place on Sunday 14th February, 4pm, at Hoon Hay Presbyterian Church.

Any apologies should be sent to the EO, Martin Stewart.

Prayer Retreat—14th—16th February

The retreat will be led by Rev Heather Simpson and held at **Raincliff Anglican Youth Camp** in South-Canterbury (find a map here: <http://www.raincliff.freeservers.com/custom2.html>) and will run from the **14th - 16th February**. (From 7pm Sunday evening to approximately 11am on Tuesday morning.) The cost for the weekend is \$75 which includes food and accommodation.

Anyone who is serving in a leadership capacity in your church is welcome to attend and you can register by filling in the form here:

<https://alpine.infoodle.com/f/PrayerRetreat2021Registrations>

Cut off date for registrations is Tuesday 9th February.

Friendship First Course at Linwood Avenue Union Church

Friendship First is a Christian course designed to introduce you to Islam and to Islamic cultural and religious customs so that we, as "People of the Book" (as Christians are called in the Qu'ran) can be good neighbours. The basic idea is that we learn how to break down stigmas and get over any cultural or religious roadblocks so we can build genuine friendships with our Muslim neighbours, which we see as an essential ministry following the still recent terrorist attacks on 2 mosques in Christchurch in March of 2019.

The 6 week course (spread out over 8 weeks, with the potential for an added mosque visit and hopefully a shared meal) provides a basic understanding of Islamic tenets, which are different to ours, but more so focuses on the similarities Christianity actually shares with this Abrahamic faith so that we can build on points of commonality instead of arguing and debating religious truths. This way we are less concerned with conversion and more concerned with compassion and understanding and friendship. Once friendships are made, sharing your faith will become natural and who knows what the Holy Spirit may do within those relationships?

So, if you're interested, on any level - from just wanting to know a little more about

COMING UP

LOM Ordination of Dr Michael Reid: 14 February, Hoon Hay

Prayer Retreat at Staveley Camp: 14—16 February

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



Islam to deepening already existing relationships - please come along and join us for this journey.

Light supper is provided. Koha is appreciated.

Thursday evenings from 5.30-7.30pm: Feb 18-April 8 (with a break on March 11 and April 1), 387 Linwood Ave (cnr of Linwood and Tilford St.)

To **RSVP** to let us know you're coming, or if you have **any questions** about any of this, email Rev. Jonathan Barb at jonathan@lauc.org.nz

[side note: Not only does this course correspond with the anniversary of the mosque attacks, but it also runs the duration of Lent, so if you're looking for something new to devote yourself to during the Lenten season, I'd highly encourage you to try this as an exploration into what "For God so loved the world he send his only son" means in this context.]

A big thank you to Rangi Ruru Girls School & Rangi Ruru Preschool!

Struggling families, children, whānau and young people had something to celebrate at Christmas thanks to a special project between Presbyterian Support and Rangi Ruru Girls' School. Co-ordinated by Presbyterian Support's Community Relations Advisor, Megan Waddington, the school was approached and asked to take part in this special Christmas project. Presbyterian Support identified families and young people most in need – a single parent raising young children; grandparents raising grandchildren; a young person unable to live at home; or parents raising children with mental health needs – and gave the school some guidance on what type of gifts would be suitable. Almost \$10,000 worth of Christmas presents had been purchased by students and their families and given to Presbyterian Support staff to pass on to children and families the organisation has been helping throughout the year. "The students, staff and pre-schoolers were delighted to be involved and want to express their aroha as we celebrate God's love for us all this Christmas" says Rangi Ruru's Chaplain & Teacher of Mathematics, Rev Charissa Nicol

Thank you for supporting our clients!

Also, a huge thank you all of the churches that donated essential items for our Youth Services clients. Our cupboard was bare and we truly appreciated the response and the generous giving at an already expensive time of the year. Our clients often have to choose between food and cleaning products, toiletries, sanitary items and other essential items so the fact you gave them freely meant our young people were taken care of.

God bless you all.

Megan and all the staff at Presbyterian Support Upper South Island



Presbytery Contact Details

Alpine Presbytery Moderator

Rev Barry Ayers

barry@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 021 264 9677

Executive Officer

Rev Martin Stewart:

martin@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 021 308 519

Resource Team Leader

Abi Trevathan:

abi@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 027 339 6006

Office Support : Gail Weaver

gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Ministers' Coffee Groups

A reminder that our first two Ministers' coffee group for 2021 will be on the following dates:

- Thursday 11th February, 2.30pm, at Terra Viva Cafe with Anne Stewart
- Wednesday 17th February, 10.30am, at Black and White Coffee, Rolleston, with Abi Trevathan

Bush Telegraph

Follow this link to view the [February Bush Telegraph on the PCANZ website](#)

An 'Enviro' network for the PCANZ?

Invitation to a national zoom meeting, for all those interested in Care for Creation.

Thursday 18 February, 7.30pm.

Please email Silvia Purdie to register: silvia.purdie@gmail.com, or phone 027 242 1113

At GA18 the PCANZ affirmed our calling to be "responsible stewards of God's creation", and agreed to take "achievable and measurable actions" to express this. We also agreed to report back on this. Let's do that! The zoom meeting on 18 February will be an opportunity to hear from each other about what our churches and presbyteries are doing in care for creation. It will also be a chance to plan 'what next?', including what we might want to discuss at GA21. Some kind of loose on-going network may be a way to encourage each other in this important and timely face of mission. Come along!

Note: The GA18 decisions are on PCANZ website: www.presbyterian.org.nz/index.php/speaking-out/caring-for-creation

New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library

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

[Call to Worship, Vol 54 No 1 - Lectionary Aids Year B](#)

[Call to Worship, Vol 54 No 2 - Invitation to Christ](#)

[Call to Worship, Vol 54 No 3 - Poverty and Liturgy](#)

[Christianity Today, Vol 65 No 1, January/February 2021](#)

[Journal of Presbyterian History, Vol 98 No 2, Fall/Winter 2020](#)

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

The Rubbish Challenge

10 Steps to Less Waste in 10 Months for churches and homes around NZ

Introducing The Rubbish Challenge

The 'Why?'

We all know that we make too much rubbish. Too much goes in the red bin, off to landfill. Too much stuff is only made for one use before getting chucked. Too much recycling gets contaminated and dumped. Not enough stuff gets composted.

This is not just a problem for our city councils. It is a problem for God's creation, and so it is a problem for God and God's people. We all add to landfill waste and so we all get to share in solving the problem. Could this even be a way of serving God? Could it be a face of mission in 2021?

The 'How?'

How? By taking small steps.

To cut down on our rubbish, we think about what we use and where it goes. We make choices, about what to buy and how to dispose of what we don't want any more. The Rubbish Challenge is a series of little actions, one each month. Together they add up to a big impact.

The Rubbish Challenge is a brief resource for churches, groups, families and individuals, designed to fit into a newsletter. Each month there'll be thought, a verse, a prayer, and

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

a practical task to do. Plus links to more material.

Written by Silvia Purdie. Full resource available at: www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html

10 Steps over 10 Months:

- Step 1) February: Consider
- Step 2) March: Measure
- Step 3) April: Recycling
- Step 4) May: Disposables
- Step 5) June: Food
- Step 6) July: Paper Towels
- Step 7) August: Office
- Step 8) September: Kids
- Step 9) October: Cleaning
- Step 10) November: Celebrate

Meditation in the Christian Tradition.

The New Zealand Community for Christian Meditation is hosting a BYO picnic in the grounds of All Souls Church on Saturday 27 February. This is an ideal opportunity to explore Meditation in the Christian tradition and see if it is a form of prayer that suits you. The earliest records of Christian meditation go back to the 4th century AD, well before the various schisms that damaged the church.

People of all faiths are welcome to join the in this shared tradition of the deepening of the spiritual life.

The WCCM website is wccm.org and that for the NZ branch is christianmeditationnz.org.nz

From the last Newsletter

- **Presbytery Moderator's Message**
- **Royal Commission on Abuse in Care**
- **Dedication of Crossway Church**
- **New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library**

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

No printed Newsletter next week, as Gail is on leave.

Cut off for items for the following week's Newsletter is **Thursday 18 February**

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>