



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

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Newsletter 2nd September 2021

Dear Presbytery,

I write to let you know that, with regret, the August meeting of Presbytery Council accepted the resignation of Rev. Barry Ayers as Moderator of Alpine Presbytery. Barry's decision comes after considerable prayer and discernment and, despite our regret at losing his leadership in this space, we pray that he and Clare would continue to know God's peace and presence in the post-Moderator phase. As a diligent and much valued servant of our Presbytery over many years, we are enormously grateful to him and Clare for everything they have contributed to the life of Alpine Presbytery. Barry wishes to relay his appreciation to Council and the whole Presbytery for inviting him to serve as Moderator over the past year.

Barry's resignation takes effect in early October after GA this year (in whatever form that now takes). Council is presently preparing a proposal for Presbytery's endorsement of an acting Moderator. Nominations for a new Alpine Presbytery Moderator will be sought and voted on later in the year, as is our usual practice, and the new person will be inducted at the Gathering currently scheduled for March 2022.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew Nicol (Deputy Moderator)

General Assembly 2021 to go online

General Assembly was to be held from Wednesday 29th September to Sunday 3rd October 2021 at St Andrew's College, Christchurch. On 30 August 2021, the Council of Assembly wrote to the Church to advise that Assembly will now be held online due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 Delta variant. Details of the online Assembly will be advised to the Church within the next week by the Assembly Business Workgroup, including the date, length and business of the Assembly.

"Council of Assembly has considered our current environment and, having determined that the threshold for exceptional circumstances has been met, Council has taken the decision to hold General Assembly 2021 online.... In making this decision, Council wish to clarify that it is now up to the Assembly Business Work Group, in consultation with the Clerk of Assembly and the incoming Moderator, to plan and order the business and other activities of the online Assembly – and to bring a recommendation to the Assembly (as is always the case) of what the agenda for the Assembly will be".

[Download and read the full Council of Assembly letter sent to the Church.](#)

Biscuits for General Assembly

Lesley Compton writes: Because of the changes to GA21, the lovely biscuits that you have all kindly promised will no longer be required. If you have biscuits already in

COMING UP

Plants 4 U—Rakaia: Saturday 2nd October

St Andrew's Blenheim, Garden Tour: 16 & 17 October

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 is **Thursday 9th September**



your freezers I hope that you will find another lovely use for them. I am very grateful for your positive responses to my request and thank you all very much indeed.

From Sage Harris, the Alpine Youth Enabler

Calling all churches with youth ministry in Alpine Presbytery, or who would love to have youth ministry. I am working to form a community of youth pastors, workers and volunteers. If you have a youth pastor, worker or volunteer serving I would love to hear from you. I have connected with a large group already but I know I will be missing some of those ministries. So if you have a youth ministry in your church please make contact with me at youth@alpinepresbytery.org

If you don't currently have a youth ministry but would like to explore the possibility of starting something in your community but don't know where to start, I would love to speak to you also. My role as Youth and Young adults enabler is about pastorally caring for our youth ministry, but also equipping our churches and resourcing them in youth ministry. If you require support I am available to support. God Bless.

Parish Annual Reports & Statistics

As in previous years, we ask all parishes to please send us a copy of their Annual Report. Our preference is to receive them by email to gail@alpinepresbytery.org, but if that is not possible please send them by post to PO Box 42120, Tower Junction Post Shop, Christchurch 8149.

Once completed, we would also appreciate receiving a copy of the Statistics Forms which are sent to Wellington—again, email them to Gail.

PLANTS 4 U @ RAKAIA

Saturday 2 October 9.00am - 1.00pm, at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (by the 2 big trees, Main road)

Church hall will be filled with plants of all varieties. Produce stalls with homemade jam & "Heather's Marmalade". Baking. Specials throughout the mornings, bargains after 12pm.

Contact dottsknights@gmail.com

Bush Telegraph

Click on this link to read the [September Bush Telegraph](#) on the PCANZ website.

Notices & News from other organisation

The Hope Seminar

An event from A Rocha—**Sunday 19 September**

This year's The Hope Seminar will be held at the Transitional Cathedral in Christchurch, and will include Choral Evensong (which is very beautiful) as well as having an inspiring line-up of speakers in the evening.

The theme is 'Shalom: Climate Change and Wellbeing': Anxiety about the future is an epidemic, and the need for the peace of Christ is vital. The Hope Seminar will explore the human impacts of climate change from a faith perspective.

More info and registration at: www.arocha.org.nz/events/hope-seminar-2021

Download the poster here: [Hope Seminar poster](#)

Laidlaw College Online Open Night: 23 September 2021

Are you wanting to deepen your faith or prepare for ministry? Or are you sensing a call to inspire young people with a love of learning as a primary or secondary school teacher? Or to serve others through healing hearts, minds and relationships as a counsellor?

Whether you're interested in studying at one of our campuses or by distance, you're invited to explore your study options with Laidlaw staff at our online OPEN NIGHT, via Zoom, at 7:30pm on 23 September. Presentations will be made about our programmes in theology, counselling and teaching, and then we'll have staff available to chat with you in programme-specific break-out rooms.

Register at www.laidlaw.ac.nz/events/open-night-online-sept-2021/

“Meditating with Ignatius” - Weekend Silent Retreat

181 Barbadoes Street, Christchurch: October 29 – 31

The retreat is offered by the New Zealand Community for Christian Meditation, Christchurch Meditation Community

St Ignatius of Loyola was a 16th century Catholic priest and founder of the Jesuits. He is perhaps most well known as a spiritual director and creator of the Spiritual Exercises, which remain a staple of Christian spirituality to this day. In this weekend silent retreat, we'll be looking at how Ignatian Spirituality can help us navigate the contemplative journey and complement a Christian Mediation practice.

The Facilitator will be **Eddie O'Connor**, Director of Sister Eveleen Retreat House and regular meditator.

Expressions of interest: Please email diannewills77@gmail.com with your name and phone number.

Cost: \$230.00 includes accommodation and meals. Places are limited so please book early.

A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand Annual Report 2020/21

The A Rocha Annual Report can be viewed here: [Annual Report](#).

From the last Newsletter

- Westport Floods
- The Zoom Sessions
- Part-Time Ministry Position (Ordained or Lay): Cashmere Presbyterian
- Community Coordinator—Whareora House of Life
- The Rubbish Challenge
- New Song book resource from NZHBT
- The Buzz—PYM Newsletter
- Executive Officer for Kaimai Presbytery—Part-Time

Presbytery Contact Details

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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

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 have a 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.

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/5k528skz4niqhgq/AABDjLatKUt2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>