



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river
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Newsletter 3rd February 2022

New Years Honours List

It is a custom that our PCANZ Moderator writes a letter to any Presbyterians who have received a New Year's honour. Can you please advise Gail (email: gail@alpinepresbytery.org) of the name/s and full contact details of any folk from the Alpine Presbytery region who have received a New Year Honour and any background information about the person and the reason for the honour. We will then pass these onto the Moderator, who will write on the Church's behalf.

Commissioning of Josh Olds

An important event at The Village in Bryndwr last Sunday (31 January) was the commissioning of **Josh Olds** as a National Ordained Ministry intern. Josh has been leading the Prestons seedling outreach and completing a Bachelor of Theology at Laidlaw prior to his commissioning. He will spend the 22 months of the internship based at The Village while also studying towards ordination at the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML) - and continuing in the Prestons project. Four generations of Josh's family were at the service, and also present were Martin Stewart (Presbytery EO), Michael Reid (Presbytery Student Co-Convenor), and the ministers at The Village, Revs Dan Spragg and Anne Stewart. As an intern, Josh will take a full part in the life of the parish including administering the sacraments and leading worship.



Josh & Susan Olds and their two children, with Michael Reid

Oxford District Union Church

Rev Julia de Groot (right) has been appointed to Oxford District Union Church, and was inducted there as Presbyter/Minister on Tuesday 1st February.



COMING UP

Children's & Youth WOF Training Day: 19 February (Christchurch)

Pathways Taster Day, South Canterbury: 24th February

Alpine Mission Fund cut off: 25th February 2022

Presbytery Grants applications cut off: 28th February

Presbytery Gathering: 18 & 19 March 2022

Pathways Taster Day, Nelson/Marlborough: 19th 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

Items for inclusion in next week's Newsletter should be sent in by **Thursday 10th February**.



Kiwi Church new site

Also on 30 January, Kiwi Church held an event marking their engagement with a new site to base their various ministries on Hanson's Lane. Rev Dr Darryl Tempero led a small ceremony where people symbolised their commitment to the site by watering plants (but not each other - even though it was a perfect day for a water fight!).



Please support Tonga

Joint Ecumenical Statement

We are deeply concerned for the people of Tonga, and surrounding areas, following the recent eruption of Hunga Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai. Our heartfelt prayers are with those affected and those who are worried about family and friends. We pray for strength and courage in the days and weeks ahead.

As churches and organisations we are looking at how we can help and provide practical support. We are working to assist Tongans with water, food, whatever is needed across Tonga.

*Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia (Anglican Missions),
Methodist Church of New Zealand,
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (Global Missions),
The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers),
Baptist Churches of New Zealand,
Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, and
Christian World Service.*

CWS has launched the [Tonga Emergency Appeal](https://cws.org.nz/donate-now-tonga/) to assist those affected. They will support the Tonga Community Development Trust to repair and replace with water, sanitation and food crops, and assist in any other ways that they can. To make a donation, go to: cws.org.nz/donate-now-tonga/

Bush Telegraph

Click here to read the [February 2022 Bush Telegraph](#)

Notes from Presbytery Council meetings, November, December & January

November & December meetings

#1 Meeting Thursday 25th November in Christchurch

Devotions: Andrew Nicol reflected on Jesus' teaching in Mark 7 where the disciples are accused of eating with defiled hands. After some reflection together he focused on the fact that in Mark's Gospel, Jesus constantly crosses boundaries, but how the human heart can turn purity into idolatry. How, in this pandemic season, do we practice sensible health practices but not elevate them into some higher form of faithfulness?

The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 28th October 2021 were ratified. The following email decisions were also ratified:

- Sue Missen of St Albans Uniting Church being accredited as a Lay Preacher by the New Zealand Lay Preachers

- Association, and informing the NZ Lay preachers of New Zealand Association and the Methodist Superintendent
- Confirmation of the decision to approve the application by Crossway Community Church to endeavour to purchase 11 Petrie Street Christchurch at a price not exceeding the market valuation

Moderator

Andrew reported on a number of conversations and pastoral approaches he had made.

Executive Officer

Martin reported on a variety of aspects of his work including:

- assisting some St Paul's Trinity-Pacific people as they prepare to advertise a new Assistant to the Minister role
- St Ninians & Presbyterian Support Upper South Island (PSUSI) joint project: The CPT has supported the strengthening work at St Ninians on certain conditions. The conversation with PSUSI is now progressing
- Darryl Tempero's secondment to KCML for a further year: Wayne Matheson has asked if Alpine Presbytery would be willing to release Rev Dr Darryl Tempero to a half-time role at KCML for 2022. This is a continuation of the existing arrangement. The Presbytery role that Darryl has held finishes in the middle of 2022
- an idea re supporting parish ministers

Council approved

- the extension of the secondment of Rev Dr Darryl Tempero to KCML for through to the conclusion of his contract with Alpine Presbytery at 30 June 2022, and adjusting the MOU accordingly
- inviting parishes with people serving in minister roles to consider offering them an extra week of paid annual leave in recognition of the challenging times we are in, and providing the funds to cover pulpit supply for that extra week if a parish seeks them. Christine Arnold noted that a recent donation from Workplace Support could provide funds for any support.

Human Resources

Council approved

- the extension to Alan Missen's appointment as IM to Hurunui until May 2022
- Sheena Dickson as assessor of Matthew Jack's study leave report
- considering the supporting of changes to the rules governing participation in the Beneficiary Fund to better reflect the need for flexible and diverse arrangements
- appointing of Marion Rowe as Interim Moderator for St Andrews, Blenheim and thanked and discharged Sage Harris from the role
- the idea of appointing a senior Christchurch minister to act in a mentoring role for St Andrews Blenheim Parish by communicating regularly with Marion Rowe and Parish Clerk Jane Heywood
- Rev Stephanie Wells has completed her ministry at Kaiapoi

Property & Finance

Council approved

- the Alpine Financial Statements to 30th Sept 2021
- adopting the Air Travel Guidelines circulated having regard to Covid-19 travel limitations
- the application from the Malvern Cooperating Parish to re-roof part of the Trinity Joint Use Church in Darfield at a cost of \$170,000 incl GST using funds in hand from grants, fundraising and savings, along with the strategic ratings and input to questions in the CPT form for this project

Resourcing

The Resource Team Leader, Abi Trevathan was associated with the meeting.

Abi reported, in Rory Grant's absence, on a number of developments in the Resourcing work, in particular:

- her involvement with the Forge oversight team and interviews for the 2022 course
- the review of the youth enabler position
- reports from Doug McConnell from the east-side New Mission Seedling (NMS), and Ben & Philippa Necklen from the Hanmer Springs NMS. A discussion was held about the soon to be held Mid-Canterbury Hui and some Presbytery Council people being there as observers
- possible dates for events in 2022 were also discussed

Council approved

- the MOU for the Youth Enabler being extended until the end of 2022 (Rev Sage Harris fulfils this part-time role), with funding for the role coming from the Presbytery Youth Fund, and the MOU with Whakatu being adjusted accordingly

- Tina Taula [St Paul's Trinity-Pacific] being invited to serve as an associate on the Resourcing Team

Putea Misioni - Alpine Mission Fund

Council approved

- the extension of the Prestons NMS timeframe into early 2022
- the Kiwi Church Retreat Centre lease application for \$141,000

Correspondence

- a letter from KCML re Intern Placement of Josh Olds with The Village, which includes continuing in the Prestons New Mission Seedling project. Logistics to be followed up with The Village by Christine
- letter re PSUSI matters. A reply was drafted and circulated ahead of sending
- Sage Harris – re the decision of a church to pursue having a Locally Ordained Minister. The EO to assist with a congregational meeting
- the indication from a minister of the situation in the church where he serves in regard to his vaccination status and the implications. Information to be sought from the church concerned and several levels of follow-up to be organised
- St Georges-Iona – relaying decision that the parish has elected to close

Council approved establishing a Commission of Presbytery to follow up the decision of the St Georges-Iona congregation to close under Book of Order Regulation 5.9.

Call to Rev Phil Bettany

- A call to Rev Phil Bettany to Discovery Church, Fairfield, Hamilton was processed and sustained

Other matters:

- Council established a team comprising of the EO, Ann McMillan & Christine Arnold to work on a Health & Safety plan in relation to Presbytery staff, and other relevant policy matters in relation to the new Covid-19 framework, including consulting with staff
- Christine indicated that items to be considered for inclusion in the 2022-23 budget need to be with her by 30 January
- possible dates for the 2022 meetings of Council were circulated

The next ordinary Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27th January by Zoom.

#2 Extra Meeting Tuesday 30th November 2021 via Zoom

A. Covid Church Risk Assessment Health & Safety

Council approved asking all Church Councils to provide copies of their Health & Safety Vaccination Policies to the Executive Officer by 30 January 2022.

B. Trinity Temuka Situation

The EO reported that the Parish Council at Trinity Temuka prepared a Risk Assessment H&S Guidelines that required that all workers and volunteers operating under the PCBU of Trinity Temuka Presbyterian Church must be vaccinated against the Covid-19 Delta variant no later than 17 January 2022.

The EO received an email from Rev Lawrence which included an acknowledgement that he is unvaccinated and a request that Presbytery is formally involved in ongoing discussions between himself and the parish. A letter was received from the Parish Council requesting Presbytery to administer the Rev Lawrence's request for stress leave and asking Presbytery to put in place some pastoral support for him.

Council approved

- establishing a Commission of Presbytery to meet with the Church Council and Minister at Trinity Temuka to investigate and make recommendations whether to pursue grounds for termination of a ministry settlement under Book of Order regulation 10.21f
- the members of the Commission being Rev Murray Talbot, Rev Henry Mbambo, and Mrs Helen Carter
- granting stress leave to Rev Gene Lawrence for the duration of the Commission process

#3 Extra Meeting Tuesday 7th December 2021 via Zoom

A. Expression of thanks to Rev Shona Bettany

Shona Bettany and Abi Trevathan joined the meeting.

Abi acknowledged Shona's role for the Presbytery as a Resource minister in South Canterbury. Martin acknowledged Shona's role as Supply Minister at Pleasant Point and her work with the Geraldine Cluster. Shona shared that she is taking up the newly created Executive Officer position in Kaimai Presbytery.

Council acknowledged the service of Rev Shona Bettany within Alpine Presbytery be with gratitude.

B. Appointment of Rev Dr Andrew Nicol as Chaplain at John McGlashan College, Dunedin, Southern Presbytery to commence in late January 2022.

Jon Parkes chaired this part of the meeting. Malcolm Bishop & Alison McLintock from St Margaret's Church be associated with the meeting.

Andrew shared about his sense of call to the chaplaincy position but acknowledged the late notice and the challenges it presents for his family and the church community. He spoke warmly of the St Margaret's people and his almost 9 years as minister there.

Malcolm acknowledged hard for family to be moving, but that the church supported Andrew's call and he has their blessing.

Council approved

- the Rev Dr Andrew Nicol's appointment to another ministry position within Southern Presbytery being sustained
- Southern Presbytery being notified of his appointment, and
- Andrew's service (including being Acting Moderator) within Alpine Presbytery being acknowledged with gratitude

C. Resignation of Rev Gene Lawrence from Trinity Temuka

Rev Murray Talbot, from the Commission, joined the meeting

Murray shared of the meetings held on Sunday 5th December with Rev Gene Lawrence and his support person, and then the Parish Council.

As identified in the Report of the Commission, following the process outlined in Book of Order 10.23.6, after the consultations, and with the acceptance of the resignation by the Parish Council the decision was made 'That the Alpine Presbytery accept the resignation of Rev Gene Lawrence and that he be relieved of all responsibilities until 28th Feb 2022 when the resignation takes effect.'

Council agreed

- That the report of the Commission to attend to the resignation of Rev Gene Lawrence from the ministry at Trinity-Temuka be received
- That Presbytery ratify the decision of the Commission to accept the resignation of Rev Gene Lawrence

Andrew thanked Murray and the other members of the commission.

D. Adoption of draft Covid Policy update

Council approved

- the draft of the updated Alpine Presbytery Health and Safety Policy on Covid-19 being adopted ad interim
- Martin following up the implications of this with any paid staff

E. Words of appreciation were offered to Andrew for his time serving as Moderator of Presbytery.

#4 Meeting 11th December 2021 via Zoom

A. Trinity Temuka Situation

The EO outlined some of the points made in the background material provided to the meeting, including two letters from Rev Gene Lawrence.

The draft letter of response to Rev Lawrence was discussed and suggested changes were affirmed together.

Council agreed

- that the Presbytery Response to the review request from Rev Gene Lawrence be endorsed

B. Follow up from the meeting on 7th December:

It had been recognised that the Commission, while thanked verbally, had not been formally discharged. Council agreed *that the Commission to Trinity -Temuka be thanked and discharged.*

#5 Meeting Monday 20th December 2021 held via Zoom

Report of the Commission to St Georges-Iona Church

Rev Dr Darryl Tempero was associated with the meeting.

- Darryl and Maureen Bishop reported on their visit with the congregation
- appreciation was expressed for the welcome offered by the parish and the courage and willingness to take the initiative with the move to closure
- it was obvious to us a deep sense of love was shared by the people there, including deep respect for their minister Rev Sheena Dickson
- the motion voted on was: "That St George's-Iona Parish close as a parish of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand." The vote was 10 in favour, and 1 abstention

Ann McMillan indicated that she would not participate in the voting by Council.

Council approved

- receiving the Report of the Commission
- ratifying the decision of the Commission, that St George's-Iona Parish close as a parish of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
- giving notice to the Rev Sheena Dickson that, due to the closure of the parish, her ministry at St Georges-Iona will need to conclude by the end of June 2022
- thanking and discharging the Commission

Meeting held 27 January on Zoom

Devotions: Jon Parkes (acting chairperson) reflected on the 'love quotient' with reference to 1 Corinthians 13, noting the diversity of gifts and ways of being church, and how all the correct processes, emphases, regulations, and styles are bankrupt if they are offered in any kind of spirit other than love.

The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on 25th November 2021 were ratified, and the Minutes of the extra meetings and email decisions of 30 November, 3 December, 7 December, 11 December, and 20 December were approved.

Executive Officer

Martin reported on a variety of aspects of his work including:

- St Andrews Ashburton visit with Barry Helem PSUSI
- Attended Hope Rolleston for Jess Dreadon commissioning as a LOM probationer with Rev Dr Michael Reid
- St Andrews Blenheim for congregational meeting to call Marion Rowe as a Local Ordained Minister
- New Brighton Review with Rev Kathryn Walters (Methodist Synod)
- Health & Safety: Sought reports on traffic light pass status from all churches by 30 January, along with vaccination status from ministers given roles they have or may have in the Presbytery

Council approved:

- it being conveyed to Presbytery members that the appointment of the Presbytery Moderator be effective from the date when the voting process for Presbytery Moderator is completed.
- Rev Gene Lawrence being granted the status of Minister within the Bounds of Alpine Presbytery from 28th February 2022.
- Mr Pana Togiasso being appointed to the Alpine Mission Fund Board and that the appointment be ratified at the March Gathering.
- a letter of thanks being sent to Rev Charissa Nicol acknowledging her ministry at Rangi Ruru and her representation on Council of Assembly.
- the EO organising conversations with ministers and supervisors that can lead to the preparation of guidelines for supervision arrangements for ministers and ministry leaders.
- the Alpine Mission Fund Board be asked if the funding window for the Resource Team could be extended to October 2023, to allow time to prepare a new proposal for the future funding of the Resource Team Leader and other resourcing activities.

Human Resources

Council approved the Terms of Call for Rev Esther Sabey being changed to 30hrs a week, from 1 January 2022 subject to final confirmation from a congregational vote.

Property & Finance

Council approved

- the Alpine Financial Statements to 31st December 2021.
- the finalisation of the dissolution of the Rolleston Combined Church which is being purchased by the Anglican diocese.

Correspondence

- The resignation of Rev Andrew McDonald from Mackenzie Cooperating Church. The EO to follow up with the Anglican Bishop.
- A Parish Clerk wrote about a situation requiring Presbytery assistance. The EO to follow up. A Pastoral Resolution process may follow.

Andrew Norton Scholarships

Grants of \$1,000 each were granted to Rev Dan Spragg towards Study Leave, Philippa Necklen towards Forge costs, and Ben Necklen towards Forge costs, while noting that the balance of extensions or changes to the existing grants to Abi Trevathan and Jasmin Vanderwerff are to carry over from 2021.

March Gathering

A discussion was held about the March Gathering about the scheduled dates not being a suitable option for the probable incoming Moderator, and whether it will even be suitable to meet face-to-face because of Covid. The EO to discuss with key people ahead of a final decision being made.

Notices & News from other organisations

International Rural Churches Association

**Networking for prayer and conversation with video, worship and presentations:
7-8 March 2022**

Come and share 24 hours of celebrating rural people, places and ministries!

Joining the Rural Ministry Conference at [Wartburg Theological Seminary](#), Dubuque, Iowa, USA at 0900 local time, 1500 GMT, on Monday 7 March, the schedule then moves through the Americas, across the Pacific, through Asia, Africa, Europe and the UK.

Our Oceania slot begins at 0000GMT with Manasa Vatanitawake in Fiji (noon local time), 0100GMT with an Aotearoa NZ team (1400 local time), and 0200GMT with Saltbush Ministry to Scattered Communities in Australia (1300 Eastern time)

The final hour 1400GMT, Tuesday 8 March will feature closing prayer and worship led by our chairperson Mark.

A ZOOM link will be available through registering on Eventbrite, with the ability to come and go as you choose

Go to irca.online/conferences for more information as it comes available.

Feel free to come and go as suits during the 24-hour period

From the last Newsletter

- 'The Gathering': Hoon Hay Presbyterian Church (HHPC)
- Oxford District Union Parish 50th Anniversary
- Junior Youth Worker
- Church Property Trust Newsletter: [CPT Newsletter](#)
- Presbyterian Investment Fund Annual report: [PIF Annual report](#)

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/5k528skz4nighgg/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>

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 they 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.