



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

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Newsletter 31st March 2022

Christchurch City Council Strengthening Communities Fund

This is relevant for churches with community facing programs in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula:

Not-for-profit groups working on projects and initiatives that help to connect and strengthen communities in Christchurch and Banks Peninsula may be able to get help with their costs.

Each year Christchurch City Council puts money aside in its Strengthening Communities Fund so that it can provide financial support to the many groups and organisations who are working to build community wellbeing. This year there is nearly \$7 million in the fund.

Learn more about the Strengthening Communities Fund and how to apply for funding at <https://ccc.govt.nz/culture-and-community/community-funding/scfund>

Kiwi Church Chairs

Does anyone have any cushioned chairs spare that we could borrow for a few months please? We are ordering some but shipment is quite some time away. If you can help, please contact Darryl on 027 5560055, or d.tempero@xtra.co.nz

Remembering Mike Riddell (Martin Stewart)

Rev Mike Riddell died in his sleep on Sunday at his home in Otarehua. He's been a mentor of a whole range of people across a broad landscape of New Zealand church and society. I doubt many people know of him, it's the nature of the guy not to seek the limelight even though he contributed quite significantly to the New Zealand cultural landscape. He was born and raised in Christchurch. His somewhat humble working class roots enabled him to connect and speak frankly in a range of contexts. The ministry of Ray Comfort brought about his conversion and led to his training as a Baptist pastor. His parish ministry context was in Ponsonby where he connected deeply with the plight of the homeless and mentally ill who were slowly becoming squeezed out of the suburb as central Auckland gentrified. From this experience he eventually wrote his first novel *The Insatiable Moon*. It was somewhat controversial – not that Mike was overly concerned about that possibility. By the time it was published he had been teaching at the Baptist College for a number of years. The novel represented the final straw for the powers that be, and he was forced out of that role. He had also published a number of other books, he was a pioneer in the alternative worship movement and, though he wondered in his memoir whether anything really altered, a wide range of ministers were influenced by his insights – including me.

He became a dedicated author, part-time lecturer at Otago University, and playwright/film maker. His play based around the last years of James K. Baxter's life was acclaimed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. *The Insatiable Moon* became an award winning movie, starring Rawere Paratene and Ian Mune. Rosemary, Mike's

COMING UP

**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 7th April.**



wife, directed it. It is available on YouTube. Be warned though, there is a scene in it, though somewhat played down, that contributed to Mike's moving on from the Baptist world! It is a gorgeous movie!

Mike has continued writing poetry, essays, screenplays and articles for magazines, and has been instrumental in forming an annual writers' conference and writer's residency in Oturehua. The warmth of his welcome, hospitality, and his infectious laugh, coupled with his earthy spirituality, made him a special man in the lives of many – especially his family.

Anne and I shared a meal with Mike and Rosemary just two weeks before he died – Mike had been one of her theology lecturers. He gifted us a little book of poems about to be published. Here's the closing part of a poem called *Evening Thoughts*

'if this be
my nightfall
so be it

there will be
peonies tomorrow
immodest, brazen

forever opening
to a dawn
unseen'

Notes from the 24 March 2022 meeting of Presbytery Council, held on Zoom

The Moderator, Rev Phyll Harris, opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

Devotions: Phyll reflected on a challenging situation involving death and injury in a car crash and how the provocative Philippians 4 text to 'give thanks in all things' can play out. Phyll observed that it is often amazing what one can find to give thanks for even in a calamity like this like, the doctor who was the first person on the scene, the others who turned up, the ability to get the hurt people to the right place for medical help, the support systems that kick in, and so on. Once the process of giving thanks is entered there can be a growing sense of God's presence in the midst of everything and more reason to trust God at work. Others shared things they were thankful for – many of them Covid-related. Phyll led a prayer 'Poor in Spirit' written by Joyce Rupp.

The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022 were ratified.

Moderator

Phyll mentioned being on leave for three weeks and a minister with some health issues. A prayer was offered.

Executive Officer

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

- Attending his aunt's funeral (including observing the church hosting the funeral breaching the Covid protocols! (Not Presbyterian!)
- Meetings with Kaikoura, Mackenzie, Presbyterian Support South Canterbury, St Margaret's. Various other meetings, planning for the Gathering, enjoying two weeks leave, and working on a team exploring a possible collaboration between Presbyterian Support and a Christchurch church.

Council agreed that Rev Phil Bettany continue to be a commissioner from Alpine Presbytery to the 2022 Special General Assembly given that he was a Commissioner in 2021.

Human Resources

Council approved:

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

- The Presbytery appointments to St Ninians Christchurch MSB being Rev Hugh Perry (C), and Jill White.
- Rev Marty Redhead as Interim Moderator at St Margarets Christchurch.

Property & Finance

Council approved:

- The Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 28th February 2022.
- Following up with a church looking at subdividing some property

Resourcing

Council approved:

- Rev Rory Grant being nominated as the AP rep for the Forge Aotearoa Oversight team.
- Abi Trevathan being nominated as acting convenor of the Forge Oversight team for up to 6 months.

Correspondence

- The Nominating Committee require a Council of Assembly Representative from Alpine Presbytery. It was agreed to forward the name of Rev Jason King as the Alpine Presbytery nominee for the Council of Assembly
- A letter inviting a different approach to how surplus church properties be handled was received from Hakatere Church. It was agreed to work with the parish about the issues raised.

Order of the Day 1: Alpine Mission Fund

- Peter Nelson, convener of the Alpine Mission Fund Board was associated with the meeting and discussed the view of the AMF that it was timely to review the purpose and parameters of the fund after six years of operating. Peter also indicated where Presbytery Administration costs rightly fall – in the operating budget rather than in the Mission Fund grants.
- Council approved Peter Nelson and Martin Stewart working on the terms of reference for a small team to conduct a review of the purpose and parameters of the Mission Fund and report back in due course.

Order of the Day 2: St Andrew's Ashburton MSB

- Rev Dr Matthew Jack (convener), and Ross Thompson, Margaret Kelk, and Rev Eric Mattock were associated with the meeting. Matthew introduced people and referred to his written report.
- Council agreed that Rev Eric Mattock be called to be the Minister of St Andrew's Church, Ashburton, for a period of 2 years on standard terms of call with a 66.6% stipend.
- The MSB was thanked and discharged and the Moderator and EO work with St Andrew's to arrange the induction of Rev Mattock.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 28 April** on Zoom.

News from Partner and Other Organisations

New Hospital Chaplaincy vacancies

Hospital Chaplain (Part Time 0.5FTE), Christchurch Hospital, Canterbury DHB

Part time Hospital Chaplain, 20 hours based at Christchurch Hospital (General Health) Canterbury DHB.

Closes: Friday 22 April 2022.

For more details go to: <https://www.seek.co.nz/job/56458861>

Hospital Chaplain (Part Time 0.3FTE), Hillmorton and Princess Margaret Hospitals, Canterbury DHB

Part time Hospital Chaplain, 12 hours based at Hillmorton and Princess Margaret Hospitals (Mental Health) Canterbury DHB.

Closes: Friday 22 April 2022.

For more details go to: <https://www.seek.co.nz/job/56459131>

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.

South Island Ministry Conference 2022

In it to win it: God's Faithfulness through the Challenges

East Taieri Church, 12a Cemetery Road, Mosgiel, 17th & 18th May 2022.

This conference will provide hope for faithful and fruitful ministry even in difficult times when numbers of people attending are lower than we would want. God is still at work bringing growth in Christ and we can be a part of that.

Download the brochure here: [South Island Ministry Conference 2022](#)

Keynote Speakers: Andrew & Christine Harrex

Cost: \$130 for a single (or \$100 early bird); \$190 for a double (you and your spouse) (or \$160 early bird)

Early bird registrations close on Wednesday 13 April. Registrations close Friday 6 May 2022.

To register, go to: <https://forms.gle/je8JgKkajXXSV7F7>

From the last Newsletter

- **Autumn Gathering**
- **Books & Stoles available**
- **Full Time Ministry opportunity—Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Te Anau**
- **Eco Church online discussion on Building Projects**

Presbytery Contact Details

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Online Worship Options

Listed below are various remote worship options from parishes within our Presbytery.

If your church's offering is not listed below and you would like it included, please email details to gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Parish	Link to online worship
Christchurch - Bishopdale	http://www.stmargaretschurch.org.nz/a/
Christchurch - Cashmere (goes live at 9am on Sundays)	http://www.cashmerechurch.org.nz/online-worship-resources
Christchurch—Hope Presbyterian	https://www.youtube.com/c/HopePresbyterianChurch/featured
Christchurch - Knox (goes live at 10am on Sundays)	http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/news.html
Christchurch—Linwood Ave Union Church	www.lauc.org.nz
Christchurch - St Martins: Meeting ID: 815 0869 6154;	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81508696154?pwd=cnErZFM5VG50QVhsZkxYc0dxOHdvUT09
Christchurch—St Paul's Trinity	https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsTrinityPacific
Christchurch - The Village	contact tracey@villagechurch.nz to be put on the
Nelson - Whakatū Presbyterian-if password needed, use "love"	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3188173979?pwd=L2xwck1zL2FQaFEzMXM3ODF5ektZz09
Timaru Presbyterian Parish—live at 10.30am Sundays	https://youtu.be/kWPhefcX7_Y?list=PLWkmNrITDrmk9kwNQxP1qLul98lnHgbn
Waimate - Knox	https://www.facebook.com/Knox.Waimate

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>