



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

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Newsletter 5th May 2022

A 'Small Church' conversation

As part of my study leave I hope to host a conversation open to anyone in Alpine Presbytery on the topic of 'small church' and what a new way of thinking about how we organise ourselves and where our energy is best directed.

At The Village over the past few years we have experienced the emergence of what could crudely be described as a 'network' of congregations, groups and locations coming into and becoming part of our life. In the wider church scene globally there is a growing amount of literature and content being made public about the idea of 'small' church ('*missional communities*', '*micro church*' - to name a couple). Alongside this there seems to be an increasing desire for groups 'on the ground' to have more autonomy and less reliance on the large institution for decision making ability. We are experiencing this in the church as Presbyteries are handling more work and are being more proactive rather than deferring to our national structures. The business world is also experiencing this. I would like to use a block of study leave to explore how we as a parish and as a presbytery can capitalise on what already seems to be happening to the ways that we organise ourselves and direct our energy as people in the 21st Century. Can we reimagine our theology, our organisation, and our mission to best suit this time that we find ourselves in?

Would you join me in throwing this around?

Tuesday May 24th, 10am - 3pm, In the newly renovated Manse at Hanmer Springs. Accommodation available at the Manse Monday 23 - Wednesday 25 May (for a koha) for first in first served if you would like to make this more than a day trip.

Link to register - <https://forms.gle/VFL5LKPj8XmcXYao9>

Dan Spragg - 021 770112, dan@villagechurch.nz

Acknowledgement of the recent deaths of three of the ministers in Alpine Presbytery

Rev Robert (Bob) Coates M.A

Bob was married to Margaret and then to Elsa. He trained at the Theological Hall 1957-59, and was ordained at Queenstown in 1960.

He was Associate Minister at Alexandra-Clyde Union Church (1970), was then at Sumner-Redcliffs Union (1979) and North Avon (1989), before retiring in 1994.

Bob died on 11 April, and his funeral was held at St Albans Uniting Church.

Messages for the Coates family may be sent to 19 London Street, Richmond, Christchurch, 8013.

Rev Alastair Kimball Thomas (Kim) Bathgate B.A.

Kim was married to Lola. He trained at the Theological Hall 1957-59, and was ordained at Central Westland (Dobson) 1959.

He then served at Rangitaiki (Edgecumbe) (1965), Half-way Bush, Dunedin (1970), St Pauls Oamaru (1975), Trinity, Nelson (1981), Mt Victoria, Wellington (1985), and

COMING UP

Pathways Programme: Blenheim, 9th June

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 12th May**.



St Andrews, Ashburton (1989). He was Interim/Transition Minister at Sumner/Redcliffs/Lyttleton Parish (2001), and retired in 2003.

Kim died 26 April 2022, and his funeral was held at Knox Church, Christchurch.

Messages to the Bathgate family PO Box 39001 Christchurch 8545

Rev Ivan George Pierce B.A.

Ivan was married to Cecile. He trained at the Theological Hall 1959-1961, became Assistant Minister, Cardonald Parish Church, Glasgow, Scotland 1962-1963, and was then ordained at Makarewa, Southland, in 1963.

He was Collegiate Minister, St Marks Avonhead/Westburn (1968), Hospital Chaplain, Middlemore, Auckland (1976 - 1985), Southbridge, part-time, 25 October 1990, and Chaplain Presbyterian Support Services Christchurch, 1 October 1990. He retired in 2000.

Ivan died on 26 April 2022, and his funeral was held at Cashmere Presbyterian Church, Christchurch.

Messages to his family care of Nazareth House, Christchurch.

Notes from Presbytery Council

Meeting held 26 April 2022 held on Zoom

Present at the meeting were: Rev Phyllis Harris (Moderator), Maureen Bishop, Rev Rory Grant, Lyn Heine, Ann McMillan, Rev Jon Parkes and Rev Martin Stewart (Executive Officer). There were apologies from Jason King, Brent Richardson, and Christine Arnold.

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

Devotions:

Phyll reflected on Courage, noting, among other things, that to be in ministry in a postmodern, post-Christian, pandemic, war torn, global warming world takes courage. Even though the writer of Ecclesiastes says there is nothing new under the sun, and every generation have experienced being on a journey that, at times, requires courage of one sort or another. But for those who are called to leadership, it's not just courage needed to get through everyday life with our families, the ups and downs of illness, parenting, teenage years, ageing parents or aging ourselves, it's the added courage we need to front up week by week with a word from God for his people, a word that will turn water to wine, heal the sick, raise the dead....and courage to shoulder the criticism when we fall way short of Jesus in this arena!! And, the courage to lead people forward when we're not even sure which way that is!

But courage doesn't happen in a vacuum, what is the usual catalyst for courage? Interestingly, some research was done around courage, and it was found that "those who don't have the courage to take risks and those who do experience the same amount of fear in life." How might we as a Presbytery face what we fear and not retreat?

Reading Deuteronomy 31: 6-8, Phyll concluded with this sentence, "Let's come to prayer with the words from Karl Barth, 'Courage is fear that has said its prayers.'"

The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on 24 March 2022 were ratified. The Minutes of the Alpine Presbytery Gathering held on 26th March 2022 be approved.

Martin (The Village), Jon (Whakatu) and Ann (St George's/ Iona) all identified conflicts of interest in relation to property matters relating to the churches they are part of.

Moderator

Phyll mentioned attending the funeral of Rev Bob Coates with Martin, meeting with Martin, and with Hamish Galloway, Abi Trevathan, and Martin, re the Presbytery Retreat in July. Other meetings are scheduled and some rescheduled for various

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

Online Worship Options

Visit the "Resources" page of our website to view the links from those of our churches offering this.

reasons.

Executive Officer

Martin reported on a variety of aspects of his work including meeting with various ministers, staff, Doug McConnell (East Side New Mission Seedling), Russell Garrett EO of CPT, Bishop Peter Carrell, and Peter Nelson re the Mission Fund Review.

Meetings included: St Ninians/PSUSI project, PCANZ Insurance Advisory Group (he chairs this), PESC (this is the group established to handle the earthquake settlement process), General Assembly prepping and coaching of the dialogue group process. Plus the usual round of emails seeking advice etc.

It was noted that a team will conduct the ten months in review of the East Side NMS.

Council noted:

- The transfer of Rev Gene Lawrence to Southern Presbytery
- A process for a conversation with the Rev Dr Darryl Tempero (who is currently seconded to KCML)

Human Resources

Several things were noted in the report that are being worked on.

Property & Finance

Council approved:

- The Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 31st March 2022.
- The Whakatu Presbyterian Church application to proceed with a new build in Nelson
- The application from The Village to sell the residential property at 18 Valerie Place
- Looking into the future position/possible use of the buildings at St George's/ Iona; available to Presbytery from July 2022

Correspondence

- A letter re Eco Church was deferred to the May meeting
- Forming a Pastoral Resolution Committee is being looked into as an option for a church. This will be subject to the consent of the parties involved.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26th May 2022 at The Village, Papanui.

News from Partner and Other Organisations

Full-time minister, Auckland

St Heliers Presbyterian Church and Community Centre, located in the beautiful Eastern Bays of Auckland, is seeking a full-time minister to lead our church and join us in our mission to reach out and serve our local community and welcome all.

We aspire to be a faith community that witnesses to the hope, love, joy and peace found in Jesus and to express a faith that is authentic and relevant. We value inclusiveness, truthfulness, listening to all points of view and exploring new ways of being Church and enabling people to encounter Christ and grow spiritually.

This is a sole-charge position which will be supported by the Church Council, elders, pastoral care team and church members. There will also be close collaboration with the Community Centre Manager and staff seeking to fulfil our mission to serve and engage with our local community.

The buildings and facilities are modern and utilized by many community groups and house our community preschool Small Miracles. The 4-bedroomed Manse is located on a property behind the church, which is a short walk to St Heliers beach and village.

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.

We are seeking a leader with a range of experience and attributes, a team player who can encourage staff and parishioners to participate and contribute to fostering a community of belonging. We are seeking someone with a passion for connecting and engaging with the many young families in our community.

If this challenge appeals to you, please contact Rev Nikki Watkin at watkinward@actix.gen.nz or ph 027 296 4098 for the Parish Profile and an outline of the relationship between the Community Centre, Parish Council and Minster.

Applications close 30th June 2022.

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.

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

If you are hoping to attend, but haven't registered yet, you have until Friday (tomorrow) to do so! It is easy to register, just click on the link: <http://www.etchurch.co.nz/conference/registrations>

From the last Newsletter

- **Ministers' Deaths:** Rev Ivan Pierce & Rev Kim Bathgate
- **Special Assembly**
- **Service for Ukraine**
- **Youth Pastors/Youth Key Leaders get together**
- **Hospital Chaplaincy vacancy:** Christchurch Women's Hospital
- **Prison Chaplaincy Vacancy:** Christchurch Men's Prison

Presbytery Contact Details

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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/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>