

# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

## Newsletter 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022

*Gail is on leave next week, so there will be no Newsletter. Cut off for items for inclusion in the Newsletter the following week will be Thursday 17th November.*

### ***Come to Hokitika! A ramble awaits.***

**St Andrew's Garden Ramble—Saturday 12 November,  
9.30am - 4.00pm**

\$15.00 per ticket (available at the door on the day)

Meet at the church (corner Fitzherbert and Hampden Streets) for morning tea, plant sale & to collect your maps.

Come prepared to ramble as, if you choose, this is our first Garden Ramble you can complete on foot. Bikes an option too. Bring a friend and a sunhat.

### **LINWOOD AVENUE UNION CHURCH**

## **QUIZ NIGHT**



**FRIDAY 4TH NOVEMBER**

**Registrations open at 6pm**

**Quiz starts at 6.30pm**

**Tickets \$10—available at office**

Phone 3895 303

**Lots of Prizes**

**Supper provided**



An exhibition of art, craft, writing and movement therapy. A wonderful collaboration between three diverse groups of adults and children, celebrating their sense of belonging in our community centre space, and their creative expression! Come along and be wowed by the talent and while you're here we would love you to buy a raffle ticket or two. All proceeds from the weekend will go to support the work of the Champion Centre in Burwood.

## **TŌ MĀTOU WĀHI OUR PLACE ART EXHIBITION 2022**

**SAT 05 – SUN 06 NOV  
10.00AM – 3.00PM**

**THE VILLAGE  
460 PAPANUI RD (CNR FRANK ST)**

Free entry, Koha appreciated  
All Donations/Koha received will be given to  
The Champion Centre, Christchurch

painting, craft, writing, movements  
by Creative Nest, Dance & Arts Therapy NZ, Sharon's Art Studio,



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## **Message from the AES on Church investigation into claims of historic abuse**

I write concerning a serious and troubling matter that many of you will be aware of from recent media coverage in the Otago Daily Times and the NZ Herald.

On Wednesday 19 October, the Royal Commission to Abuse in Care heard from the Presbyterian Church as part of the responses of faith institutions public hearing.

On the same day, the Commission also heard from some of the Presbyterian Support organisations. The Commission questioned Presbyterian Support Otago (PSO) regarding a witness who alleged that in the 1950s when they were a child residing in PSO's Dunedin Glendining Presbyterian Children's Homes they were the victim of a paedophile ring involving Presbyterian church parishioners. It was revealed during the hearing that PSO had known of these allegations for at least two years and had not reported this to the Church or Police. Separately, there was an allegation that in the 1960s an adult church worker, possibly a minister, abused a teenaged girl.

In addition, PSO spoke at the hearing of files it held for children in their care having been destroyed around the time the Government indicated it would hold a Royal Commission into abuse in care.

The Presbyterian Church did not know of these concerning allegations, nor did our Southern Presbytery. We first heard of them via the Royal Commission.

The sexual abuse of children is criminal behaviour that is completely abhorrent. In response to these troubling allegations, we began planning an independent investigation into the claims of a paedophile ring involving Presbyterian church members in Dunedin.

Terms of Reference have been finalised together with the appointment of a senior King's Counsel as an independent investigator. Once we have permission from the Royal Commission to allow access to material, our investigator can start her work.

As the Presbyterian Church is a separate organisation from PSO, we can only investigate the allegations that relate to the involvement of Presbyterian church members. We are confident in the Church's processes for an independent investigation however as we have no oversight of PSO processes, it is appropriate that we undertake our own, and not a joint, investigation.

If our investigation uncovers abuse and wrongdoing by current Presbyterian church members, we will lay complaints through our processes alongside (or following) whatever action the Police take.

We believe our investigation will take two months.

Can I ask for your help? If you have any information that could assist the investigation, please share this, initially please email the Complaints and Disputes Manager at [ComplaintsandDisputesManager@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:ComplaintsandDisputesManager@presbyterian.org.nz) or free phone 0800 244 357.

I know that what I write is very disturbing. The thought that members of our Church community could betray the trust of children and be involved in such damaging abuse is devastating. As a Church we are committed to the safety of children. We will not look away; we will seek the truth of these allegations. For the life of our Church, we will not be afraid to shine a light on any darkness. If what we discover challenges us, then with compassion, integrity, and openness we will address it. We will apologise, we will seek justice, and we will uphold Christian values and principles as we find ways to make amends.

**Rev Wayne Matheson**  
**Assembly Executive Secretary**

### **Coming Up**

**Quiz Night:** 4 November at Linwood Avenue Union Church

**Our Place:** Exhibition at The Village, 5—6 November

**St Andrew's Garden Ramble:** Hokitika, 12 November

**The One Conference:** 17-19 November, in Wellington

**The Manse Opening:** 26 November, Hanmer Springs

### **From the last Newsletter**

- **Trinity Community Garden progress**
- **Book Launch—*Faith and Hope in Mid-life: Reflecting on Churchgoers' Experiences*, by Dr Anne Shave**
- **The Buzz—Newsletter from Presbyterian Youth Ministry**
- **Eco Church Kōrero: Ending Plastic Waste - our part in a global movement (7 November, online)**

### **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/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/resources/)

### **Online Worship Options**

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

### **Alpine Presbytery**

#### **Culture & Strategic Framework**

[Click here](#) to download this document, updated September 2020



## When I'm Awake

Martin Stewart is publishing his first book of poems and images later in November.

The book is A5 size with 136 pages and available for \$25 (+ \$3.20 postage in NZ)

There are 80 poems written over the last 7 years in several themed sections:

- \* **Light** (thinking about a posture of lightness of being and being bears of light);
- \* **Free** (the kingdom of God as a wide invitation to freedom);
- \* **Layers** (recognising the circles of people who have shaped who we are);
- \* **Camino** (reflections from the pilgrimage walk Anne and I made in 2019);
- \* **Covid** (yeah, the good, the bad, and the ugly of it);
- \* **Awake** (living attentively, present-ly, and reflectively); and
- \* **There** (thinking about what's next and how to position ourselves).

Each poem has an image curated with it. I see connections between what I have written and what I have photographed. You might as well! I think I am covering a range of themes in a wide enough way that it might resonate with people wherever they are at spiritually.

Martin and Anne are also hosting *a little book launch thingee* with nibbles and drinks at The Village Bryndwr, at 5.30pm on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November**. It would be good if you could indicate if you would like to come along. You might want to save postage and pick your book up then.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please email [martherev@gmail.com](mailto:martherev@gmail.com) for the details!

Download the flyer for this book here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vpriya541kqmpil/When%20I%27m%20Awake%20invitation.pdf?dl=0>

## Bush Telegraph November 2022

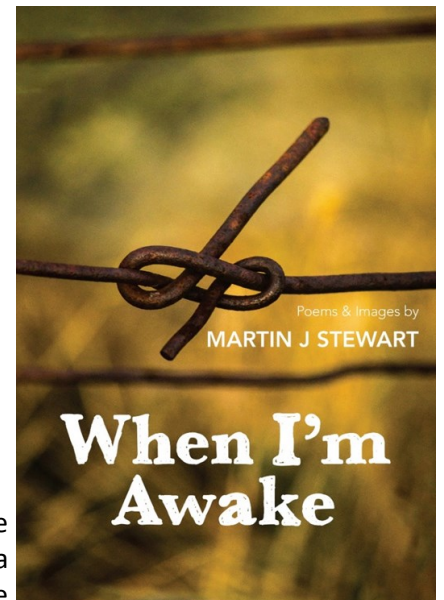
To read the November Bush Telegraph, go to the PCANZ website: [www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2022](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2022)

## Advent Resources

Presbyterian Children and Families have launched a new range of Advent resources, centred around the theme Scripture from Isaiah: "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord".

There are resources for worship, including a service outline, intergenerational activities, and liturgies for lighting advent candles, as well as some take-home resources available. Based on the lectionary, these resources are designed to help families be intentional about journeying through Advent together and compliment the worship resources that have been developed.

Go to [pcfm.org.nz/advent-2022/](http://pcfm.org.nz/advent-2022/) to explore the material



Epiphony  
presents

# RADIANCE

— Choral works by Elgar, Whitacre, Barber —  
and more

10 November | 7:30 PM  
Knox Church, 28 Bealey Avenue

@epiphonychoral Tickets online at **HUMANITIX**

Here is the link for tickets:  
[events.humanitix.com/epiphony-presents-radiance](https://events.humanitix.com/epiphony-presents-radiance)

**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](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

**Presbytery Directory:** All Parish Offices have been given a log-on to Infoodle, so please contact them initially if you need any contact details.

Due to our obligations under the Privacy Act, logon access is not openly available; anyone wanting this should send a request to Gail at [gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org), advising of their position in their Parish or the Presbytery.