

# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

*Last Newsletter for this year; Gail will be back at work the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> January*

### **Child Protection WOF training**

The PCANZ Safety Warrant Fitness Training provides practical tools and insights to assist all those working with children and young people. The training will equip parishes to comply with New Zealand law, the PCANZ's Child Protection Policy and, most importantly, keep the children and young people in our care safe.

The WOF encompasses essential training on:

- An introduction to the PCANZ Child Protection Policy and Ethical Practice
- Health and Safety Practices
- Recognising, Recording & Responding to Abuse + Safe Recruitment Practices

***This training is compulsory for all those working with children and young people under the age of 18 who do so as part of the PCANZ.***

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30am at Hope Presbyterian 27 Amyes Road, Hornby we will be hosting a training. Please either bring lunch or money to purchase food at the local mall. Morning and if required afternoon tea will be provided.

Register at: [alpine.infoodle.com/f/WOFTrainingFebruary2023](http://alpine.infoodle.com/f/WOFTrainingFebruary2023)

### **Christmas Message from the Presbytery**

Christmas is coming with all that means for us. For some it is a time of joy and celebration, for some it is a time of chaotic busyness, for some it is a time where grief, loss and pain rise within hurting hearts. For me personally I love Christmas and I always have, the anticipation of being together with whanau and friends, the fun of exploring unopened gifts together. The wonder and delight of the nativity with baby Jesus cradled safely in the hay! The wonder of God making all things new in Jesus.

But there is a danger of reducing the Christmas story to a sanitized, sentimental nativity scene when there is another side to Christmas. The long dark journey of advent as God's people waited beyond all hope for God's son to dawn into their darkness and bring new beginnings into their suffering and pain.

This year pain has been a significant part of the journey for many in our world, and for many of us. Earlier this week I was reading from Matthew 2 about the wise men going to king Herod in their attempt to find baby Jesus. Herod, while feigning care and concern on the outside, sent them on their way to find this baby. Then the wise men were to come back and tell Herod where the baby could be found so he could worship him. On the inside Herod had murderous intent and not worship on his mind.

Matthew 2:16 tells us "Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance."

It was into this heartbreaking place of pain that God's promise of a saviour to the world was fulfilled. God entered our world in Jesus in all its pain, in all its hardship, in all its cruelty, in all its unfairness. Every Christmas reminds us that God is still entering our world in Jesus in all its pain and injustice as God continues to fulfill the promise to make all things new.

The great gift of Hope God gives us at Christmas is that this world with all

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its pain and suffering is not the end. In Jesus, God is making all things new. So I invite you to pray with me for our world this Christmas with one of my favourite Christmas poems from Iona community ...

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.  
You crept in beside us.  
And no one knew.  
Only the few who dared to believe  
that God might do something different.  
Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?  
Will you come into the darkness of tonight's world;  
not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness,  
but the peaceless, fearful darkness,  
in which people have stopped believing that war will end  
or that food will come or that a government will change  
or that the Church cares?  
Will you come into that darkness and do something different  
to save your people from death and despair?  
Will you come into the quietness of this town,  
not the friendly quietness as when lovers hold hands,  
but the peaceless, fearful silence when the phone has not rung  
the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks,  
the doctor's face says it all?  
Will you come into that darkness, and do something different,  
not to distract, but to embrace your people?  
And will you come into the dark corners  
and the quiet places of our lives?  
We ask this not because we are guilt-ridden or want to be,  
but because the fullness our lives long for  
depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you  
as you were to us, when you came,  
wearing no more than the cloth you were wrapped in,  
and trusting human hands to hold their maker.  
Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different?  
When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came.  
You crept in beside us, bringing peace and hope.  
Do the same this Christmas, Lord. Do the same this Christmas.  
Amen.

*Cloth for the Cradle." Wild Goose publications*

Meri Kirihimete to you all,  
Phyll Harris - Moderator

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You will have had a lot to contend with in your church communities—it is the nature of the times we are in—things are not always easy. But how we see the world is not shaped by the struggles we encounter and endure. God is with us. We are not alone. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Blessings to you all.

*Martin Stewart - Executive Officer*

**Save the Date!**  
Calendar  
Our next Presbytery Gathering will be on 3<sup>rd</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> March 2023, and we will be meeting in Kaikoura.  
More information to come.

**A Shirley Murray Seminar**



Having spent a number of years researching the life and work of the Aotearoa New Zealand hymn writer Shirley Murray, Anne Manchester has produced a seminar called **“Under Shirley’s spell: researching the life and work of Shirley Erena Murray”**.

Knox Church, Ōtautahi Christchurch is pleased to be hosting the seminar at 5.00pm on **Sunday 29 January 2023**, in the Hall of the Knox Centre, 28 Bealey Avenue. Entry is free, but any koha would be appreciated.

- Anne will discuss:
- \* why she decided to write Shirley's biography,
  - \* her sources of information,
  - \* and some of her interesting discoveries along the way.

The presentation will conclude with a study of two hymns.

**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

## **Christian World Service Board Membership**

Christian World Service (CWS) is the aid and development agency of the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, and the Society of Friends. See their website here, [cws.org.nz](http://cws.org.nz). They are seeking nominations for a new PCANZ representative on their Board. They are looking for a candidate who will have some of the following attributes:

- International Development knowledge and experience
- Belief in and respect for CWS theological perspective, its history and ecumenical nature
- Comprehensive understanding of governance
- Understanding of strategic planning and policy development
- NGO or business experience
- Financial management and planning expertise
- Key influencers in their church networks, preferably at a National level

The CWS Board meets at least six times per year with two of these meetings usually being in person. The in person meetings are held on a Saturday, in Auckland or Christchurch. Board members are all volunteers; however, travel and accommodation costs are met by CWS for the face-to-face. The remainder of the meetings, held via zoom, are generally about 2 hours long and currently held from 7:30pm – 9:30pm on a Thursday evening.

The PCANZ will select a maximum of three candidates to be referred to the CWS Board. They will be interviewed by a panel made up of the CWS Board Chair, National Director and other Board members. Referees will be contacted following the interviews. After this process the Chair of the Board will make a recommendation to the Board of the preferred candidate. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be contacted to inform them of the outcome.

If you are interested in applying for this voluntary role you are invited to send a covering letter and CV including the names of two referees to Global Mission Director Phil King. The covering letter should outline why you want to be on the Board and the skills and experience you will bring.

To apply or to request more information, email Phil King at [phil@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:phil@presbyterian.org.nz) or phone 0212506467

Closing date for applications: February 24th

### **Notes from the 3 December 2022 meeting of Presbytery Council held via Zoom**

Present at the meeting were: Rev Phyllis Harris (Moderator), Christine Arnold, Rev Rory Grant, Lyn Heine, Ann McMillan, Rev Brent Richardson, and Rev Martin Stewart (Executive Officer).

There were apologies from Rev Jason King & Rev Jon Parkes

The Moderator, Rev Phyllis Harris led a reflection based on the story of Jesus bidding the disciples to go to the other side even though that means there will be storms needing calming. Phyllis led a prayer to constitute the meeting.

**Conflicts of Interest:** Phyllis identified a conflict in relation to the Alpine Mission Fund report on a grant to Lincoln Union Church in the Comprehensive Motion.

The **Minutes** of the Presbytery Council meeting held on 26th October 2022 and an email decision on 23rd November 2022 approving the Terms of Call for a full-time minister at St Margaret's Christchurch were ratified.

**The Moderator's Report:** Phyllis Harris mentioned

- representing the Presbytery at the Presbyterian Support Upper South Island Annual Meeting
- attending the Strategic Hui and One Conference in Wellington
- catching Covid and the various events she could not participate in as a consequence.

**The Executive Officer Report:** Martin Stewart reported on a variety of aspects of his work including a conversation with Abi Trevathan and Donald Scott re bicultural development in the Presbytery, meeting with Bishop Peter Carrell re cooperative ventures, HR Team, EO zooms, review of Youth Oversight role, preparation for review of Abi's work as Resource Team Leader and the role itself, Resourcing Team,

#### **From the last Newsletter**

- **Revs Chris and Silvia Purdie**
- **Hakatere Presbyterian Celebration Service**
- **Carols on the Lawn: Hoon Hay**
- **Presbyterian Investment Fund**
- **Psalm & Hymn books to give away**
- **Vacancies:**
  - \* **Brooklands Cooperating Church, New Plymouth**
  - \* **Bethlehem Community Church, Tauranga**

**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.

Timaru Presbyterian Parish Council (pastoral visit after the Commission experience – Phyll was unable to attend), conversations with Dallas Harema and others about a potential partnership in his development of a bicultural approach Christian spirituality & discipleship (Dallas currently works as a part-time contractor alongside Doug at Iona House), conducting services at Fairlie & Lake Tekapo and preaching at the two Timaru Presbyterian church services, guest speaking with Anne Stewart at the Hakatere Church dinner, and meeting with Port Hills Uniting Parish Council with Kathryn Walters as Rev Mark Gibson is retiring at the end of January.

Other matters included catching Covid and missing several Wellington meetings while isolating in Wellington, attending to an employment issue at the Iona House Aranui project, meetings with Picton Union and St Lukes Nelson people, Mid-Canterbury Steering Group meeting, and launching his book of poems and images, 'When I'm Awake.'

It was agreed that two names be forwarded to the Nominating Committee for consideration as the Alpine representative on the Council of Assembly.

### **Property & Finance**

Ann McMillan reported and Council approved

- the Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 31st October 2022
- the application from St Margaret's Christchurch to sell the house at 100 Farrington Avenue subject to the decision of the Church Property Trustees
- the increased costs of the St Margaret's Christchurch worship centre rebuild up to \$3,200,000 subject to the decision of the Church Property Trustees
- the application from Hakatere to sell their property at 18 Graham Street Ashburton subject to the decision of the Church Property Trustees; supporting the St Andrew's Blenheim decision to insure their worship centre at 75% of the modal valuation for the 2022-23 insurance year
- the revised paper, including an increase of the hourly rate to \$27.00, for payments to Interim Moderators and MSB convenors; to apply from 1 January 2023. Rory Grant to prepare a paper on the method of payments for the Council to consider.

### **Resourcing**

Rory Grant reported and Council approved

- renewing the Resource Team Leader (Abi Trevathan) contract for 2 years, subject to available funding.
- extending the Youth Enabler MOU between Whakatapu and Alpine for 1 year: 1 Jan 2023 - 31 Dec 2023, continuing at 5 hours a week.

### **Human Resources**

Lyn Heine reported and Council approved

- the appointments of Interim Moderators: Rev Daniel Yeazel at St Martins, Christchurch and Rev Anne Stewart at Hakatere from 1 February 2023

### **Alpine Mission Fund**

- Council approved the application from Lincoln Union Church for \$30,000 over two years to support the ongoing Tamariki Time Children's outreach worker be.

### **Other business**

- Call to Rev Steve Talbot as Lead Pastor at Hope Church [Note: whilst Steve is already a minister at Hope Church and serving as Acting Lead Pastor, this is a separate position that an MSB has set out to fill and the congregations have voted].

Two members of the MSB, Rev Anne Stewart and Mark Henderson were associated with the meeting and they spoke of the robust discernment process the MSB undertook that led to the 96% congregational vote to call Steve to the position.

**It was agreed to extend a call to Rev Stephen Talbot to be the Lead Pastor at Hope Church.**

- Call to Ryan Feng, St Margaret's Bishopdale  
Three members of the MSB, Rev Murray Talbot, Malcolm Bishop & Lyn Prentice were associated with the meeting, and they spoke warmly of the process and meetings with Ryan who has recently completed his training for the ministry in Cromwell, and the 52 for, 1 against congregational vote.

**It was agreed to extend a call to Ryan Feng to be the Minister at St Margaret's Church, Bishopdale.**

- Nominations: Phyll & Brent will do some work towards bringing names of people to serve on Alpine Presbytery teams as nominations to the March Gathering.  
Council – 2, HR – 2, Resourcing – 1, Property & Finance – 2
- **3-5 March is the date for the 2023 Presbytery Gathering in Kaikoura.**
- Information for the budget will need to be into Christine Arnold late January/early February.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26th January 2023 via Zoom