

# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 4th May 2023

*Cut off for items for inclusion in next Newsletter is **Thursday 11th May***

### **Alpine Presbytery Retreat 2023—A Journey with Hagar**

**Thursday 20th – Saturday 22nd July at Hanmer Springs Memorial Hall**

Register at <https://forms.gle/36LdWbmroQuMrwGPA>

In a biblical narrative that focuses on the establishment of the people of Israel, Hagar's story is one we are too often prepared to dismiss. Yet the God-of-all-Creation meets this young teenage runaway and converses with her. How does Hagar's story invite us to find ourselves when we are in the desert, escaping from the life before us? How can her story re-story our imagining of the God-Who-Sees?

This retreat will invite us into the story of Hagar with a lens to see and behold and be with the God who encounters us too. Through story, poetry and textiles space will be created to exhale, to wonder, to be encouraged, and to explore our own responses to the narratives that play out on the fringes. Time will be given for contemplation and an invitation to think about the ways creativity might offer ways into the story – for us and those we serve.

**Our Facilitator** will be Miriam Jessie Fisher, who works at Laidlaw in Ōtautahi as part of the education faculty. In 2022 she completed a Masters in Theology with a focus on re-reading the stories of Eve, Hagar, Leah and Mary Magdalene with a lens of manaakitanga (hospitality) convinced she would discover the largeness of God's grace in their stories and insights that would take her beyond the tropes and invisibility these characters have experienced. Her masters included academic writing, poetry, spoken word and textiles.

Miriam Jessie is deeply convinced that Scripture speaks to our current contexts, of the wonder of the God at work in the fringes and the value of contemplation and loitering in thin places. She is interested in creative theological expression that honours the context of Aotearoa New Zealand and all the richness of bicultural partnerships, including the use of Te Reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL). She has been married for 23 years to Mike and they have two teenage sons.

There is no charge to attend the Presbytery Retreat, however you will need to organise your own travel and accommodation in Hanmer Springs. Limited accommodation is available in the Manse at Hanmer Springs at a reduced rate. If you are interested in a room in the manse please let us know when you fill out your registration form.

Dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday will be provided as part of your registration. On Friday night there will be an opportunity to gather for dinner at a local restaurant at your own cost. Please let us know if you will be able to join us for that on your registration form.

**Registrations close Monday 10th July 2023.**

### **Bush Telegraph**

The May Bush Telegraph can be accessed here:

[www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2023](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2023)

This edition also includes information on the **I Love Taiwan Programme** and an **English Teaching position in Vanuatu** — go to [www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/global-mission](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/global-mission) to find out more.

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**St Margaret's**  
**Official Opening**  
**Service**  
**11am -12noon**  
**Saturday 6 May 2023**  
**94 Farrington Ave, Bishopdale**

Beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,  
the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.  
*Isaiah 61:3*

See, I am doing a new thing!  
*Isaiah 43:19*

*"To be a dynamic community of faith  
helping people to be lifelong followers of Jesus Christ."*

## Rev Dr Andrew Nicol appointed Lecturer/Ministry Formation Coordinator at KCML

The Council of Assembly are delighted to announce the appointment of Rev Dr Andrew Nicol to the position of Lecturer/Ministry Formation Coordinator at Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML).

Andrew will begin his new role on 31 July 2023 and he will be based at KCML in Dunedin.

It was with both gratitude and excitement that Council of Assembly approved the recommendation that Andrew be appointed to this role at its 4 April meeting, says Council Convener, Rev Dr Jaco Reyneke. "We are looking forward to seeing the fruit of Andrew's ministry in this context. Andrew brings experience, skills and a theological foundation which will help the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership team to continue to serve the Church and the Kingdom well".

It is Andrew's experience that will make him a great asset to the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership team says KCML Principal Rev Dr Geoff New. "Andrew joins us with his gifts and experience honed and crafted after years as a parish minister and theologian. I am thrilled that he will be part of the KCML ministry. We seek to provide training that includes deep spirituality and robust intellectual engagement with the scriptures and dynamics of the Church's mission in God's world; Andrew's ministry journey means he is eminently placed to serve such a venture.

Read the full announcement at <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/rev-dr-andrew-nicol-appointed-lecturerministry-formation-coordinator-at-knox-centre-for-ministry>

## Worship at Oban Presbyterian Church, Stewart Island

There is an urgent need for people to provide a service of worship at Oban, in the near future—Rest assured the weather is lovely on Stewart Island in the winter!

The Sundays that need to be filled on the roster are May 14; June 11; July 16; September 10; and from October three weekly.

New arrangements for the service will be emailed to any inquiries.

Two nights free accommodation in the manse is provided. Make your own travel arrangements and pay for your own Workers Concession rate tickets for the ferry or plane.

Contact Rev. Heather Kennedy, Interim Moderator, on 03 218 1952 or 027 436 4554, [rev.heather.kennedy@gmail.com](mailto:rev.heather.kennedy@gmail.com)



**St Margaret's**  
**Official Opening**  
**Community Event**  
**2pm-4pm**  
**Saturday 6 May 2023**  
**Bouncy Castle ★ Coffee ★ Sausage Sizzle**  
**94 Farrington Ave, Bishopdale**  
**Come and look around our new building!**  
**All Welcome**

*"To be a dynamic community of faith  
helping people to be lifelong followers of Jesus Christ."*

**Presbyterian Children & Families Family Faith Moments:** Family Faith Moments are designed to help families celebrate significant days throughout the year. The resources are created with the intention to be used at home but are easily adaptable to be used within a children's ministry setting. PCF have released two new ones—for Mothers' Day and Coronation Day. Access these and other Family Faith Moments at [pcfm.org.nz/family-faith-moments/](https://pcfm.org.nz/family-faith-moments/)

### 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/](https://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



## Brian Zahnd Conference and Leaders Day

Holy Trinity, Tauranga and St Lukes Church, Tauranga are hosting a **Leaders Day for Church and Ministry Leaders** on the 29 June, followed by a **2-day conference open to all** on the 30th June and 1st July. Brian will be exploring Faith in this uncertain world as we explore how culture impacts faith and meaning.

For enquiries, contact [httevents@holyltrinitytauranga.com](mailto:httevents@holyltrinitytauranga.com)

Tickets are now available from [www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/brian-zahnd-conference-and-leaders-day-tickets-602950409907](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/brian-zahnd-conference-and-leaders-day-tickets-602950409907)

Earlybird tickets until 31<sup>st</sup> May.

## Te Raranga Leaders Networking Event

Tuesday 16th May 9.00am - 12pm

Are you overwhelmed by the noise, busyness, and pace of your life? You are invited to an exclusive half-day Leaders Networking Event exploring the topic of soul care. Featuring in-person keynote speaker Jason 'Perko' Perkins as he shares practical insights on how you can reach your goals without losing your soul.

Network, learn, grow and connect with hundreds of leaders from across New Zealand. Discover practical tools for staying healthy amidst the increasing demands of leadership.

Jason will be sharing what it means to apprentice under the Master, Jesus, by living the way He lived, adopting His rhythms of rest and relationship, and practicing His habits to thrive and bear fruit.

Find out more and book at [globalleadership.org.au/line23/](http://globalleadership.org.au/line23/). Ticket includes morning tea. Discounted pricing when you register 2 or more people.



# Discover

## STRENGTHS-BASED RELATIONSHIPS

The things that make each of us unique as individuals are the very things that bring colour and beauty to our relationships; they're what makes relationships flourish. But, if we are honest, then there are also the times when we let tensions and challenges undermine our best endeavours, even in the happiest of relationships. If that is you, then you are in good company: we've all been there!

'Finding ways to muddle through by good luck rather than design', is certainly one option; yet it is time-consuming, costly on our emotions, and can lead to unnecessary hurts.

The good news is that there are easy, practical steps that we can learn and apply, so that our relationships don't just 'work': **they flourish and thrive**. The proven method of Strengths-based Relationships is a powerful approach that helps us to celebrate both our similarities and our differences. Using the multi-national experience of CliftonStrengths, it works intentionally towards uniting us through curiosity and understanding, intended to last a lifetime.

Register now for one of our workshops. Join thousands of others worldwide who have learned practical, take-home skills of discovery and communication, honouring the contribution and needs of your, and your partner's, unique talents. Just like a car's 60,000km "tune up", could this be just what your relationship needs after the experiences of recent years which have tested even the strongest of relationships?

Book online at [Eventbrite.co.nz](http://Eventbrite.co.nz)

For enquiries or special pricing, contact [ramon@validated.co.nz](mailto:ramon@validated.co.nz)



Ramon Utting is a certified Gallup Strengths coach, Imago Relationships trainer, and a registered marriage celebrant.



Rosemarie Utting is a registered counsellor, couples counsellor, certified Imago Relationships therapist, and author.

Ramon is offering a discount to anyone in ministry (paid or volunteer roles included), or to two or more couples who book together.

Download the flyer to find out more: [www.dropbox.com/s/q3e9xya1arw566x/Discovering%20SBR%20Flier.pdf?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/s/q3e9xya1arw566x/Discovering%20SBR%20Flier.pdf?dl=0)

## South Island Ministry Conference—16 & 17 May "Heart Matters: Ministry in a Secular World"

Registrations for the Conference close this Friday! To find out more, and to register, please go to [www.etchurch.co.nz/conference](http://www.etchurch.co.nz/conference)

**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 Infodile, 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.

## Notes from the 27 April 2023 meeting of Presbytery Council held at The Village Papanui

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

It was agreed that Lynmaree Sopoaga (5-6 months) and Rev Jonathan Barb (2-3 months) be substitute members of Council during the absence of Jon Parkes and Brent Richardson.

### Devotions

Phyll shared some reflections on the theme of keeping the 'why' more than what and how. She read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and reflected on the life of Corrie ten Boom and her experience in a concentration camp and the thought 'the blacker the night around us, the more beautiful the light of God.'

Phyll constituted the meeting with prayer.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

### Minutes

The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2023 were approved.

### Risk Management

A discussion was held in private on matters of risk.

### Moderator's Report

Phyll shared several things:

- The wonderful ordination and induction of Rev Ryan Feng into St. Margaret's Bishopdale. To see them come to a new ministry in their new building was with such joy and gratefulness was a true blessing.
- Meeting with Lynmaree Sopoaga to work through her induction which will be taking place in Darfield on Sunday May 28th at 9.30am.
- Conversations with Martin re council numbers being down with Jon and Brent away, including asking Lynmaree Sopoaga and Jono Barb to consider stepping into the roles temporarily to enable a quorum and give them an opportunity to see if council is somewhere they could use their gifts.
- Along with Abi, Darryl, Doug, (Martin was absent) meeting with Dallas Harema to korero and discern what God might be calling Dallas to within our Alpine Presbytery setting.
- A meeting with Abi to catch up with how she is going in her role. This was a good conversation and a reminder of how Abi is a key part of our Presbytery structure. She gives a lot for the hours she is employed.
- A zoom meeting with Martin to catch up on goings on in the Presbytery and for them.
- A zoom meeting with Lyn to catch up with her as HR convenor.
- A thought: some of these discussions have brought the way we fund our Presbytery work to the top. I know we have given some thought to this but with the EO review under way and the need to apply for funding in June I wonder how we can change this from needing to apply for funding every three years to making it a permanent (and other roles we see as necessary to Presbytery functioning well) part of our presbytery structure.

### The Executive Officer Report

Martin reported on several aspects of his work

- The decision to dissolve the Waimate District Cooperative Venture, south and west of Waimate. And the implications for the Glenavy and Waihao communities. Follow-up meetings will be needed in the area.
- Leading the final service at St Lukes, Nelson on 23 April. Ann McMillan is working with them on property and finance matters. The leadership of the Interim Moderator Ian Davidson from Whakatu has provided a steady gentle presence.
- A Commission is meeting with the Pleasant Point congregation 30 April re closure.
- Other activities: The Mid-Canterbury Steering Group plan to canvas the Parish Councils of all churches in May to look at future options. Meeting with the Plains Parish Council. Catch-ups with several people. Ryan Feng's ordination. Conversations re Dallas Harema's role. Conversations with two possible LOM candidates. Conversation with Lindsay Jones (Ashburton) re Staveley Camp developments and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Chairing the Presbyterian Insurance Advisory Group – the churches are facing a minimum 25% premium increase this year. Conducting services at Timaru Presbyterian & Lake Tekapo and several days of leave.

### Human Resources

Lyn Heine reported and Council approved

- That Council endorse Lincoln Union Parish's Children's Worker contract.
- That Council give permission for Kowai/Waikari/Hurunui to proceed to advertising for a full-time ordained minister.

### **Property & Finance**

Ann McMillan reported and Council approved:

- That the report be received.
- That Presbytery approves the Alpine Financial Statements for the nine months ended 31st March 2023.
- That Alpine Presbytery support the application from Crossway Community Church to access a Property Development Grant from the Methodist partner of \$20,000 towards the sewer and stormwater repairs at their manse at 68 Mahers Road Christchurch; acknowledging that this will result in a change to the parish capital ratio.
- That Alpine Presbytery, in respect of the Kaikoura application to utilise capital funds for work on their manse, support the proposal from CPT to share the costs between operating and capital funds for this work; and that the full cost of the roof replacement and wall cladding work as a minimum, be met from capital funds.
- That Alpine Presbytery approve the concept applications from St Ninian's Christchurch, in respect of their site at 5 Puriri Street Christchurch to:
  - a. Subdivide the property as shown in the concept plan A
  - b. Sell the two parts known as the "car park" and the "tennis courts" acknowledging there is work to be done on finalising the easements and shared ownership of the proposed Right of Way; at which point a final approval will be sought, and
  - c. Agree with the adjusted strategic ratings as adjusted and comments.

### **Mission Fund Review**

- The report was presented by the Executive Officer in the absence of the convenor Peter Nelson.
- The Executive Summary of the report noted the following:
  - Recognition that the Mission Fund is vulnerable in that its ability to operate is entirely reliant on church closures
  - Funds received are not 'working for us' in that they do not grow future funds
  - There is an ongoing tension because a significant part of the funding of Presbytery sits under the Mission Fund
  - A proposal to disestablish the Alpine Mission Fund
  - Create the Alpine Enterprise Fund with an emphasis on growing the fund to enable Presbytery to establish a secure funding stream and develop, grow and sustain important mission initiatives in what is a challenging season.
  - Establish a one third to Presbytery life & mission and two thirds to Enterprise Fund split, including the same split for the proceeds of Enterprise Fund initiatives.
- Discussions about process led to the Council agreeing that gaining initial concept approval from the Presbytery was essential before any detail be worked up and that a clear rationale be communicated. Any further recommendations re the detail of the Enterprise Fund wait until feedback is received.

The following recommendations were agreed,

- That the report be received.
- That the following recommendations be taken to the full Presbytery (online) for discussion and feedback:
  - a. That Presbytery work towards disestablishing the Alpine Mission Fund.
  - b. That Presbytery work towards establishing the Alpine Enterprise Fund.
  - c. That in the interim, two-thirds of the remaining money in the Alpine Mission Fund be transferred to the Presbytery accounts, and one third be left in the Alpine Mission Fund pending the establishment of the Alpine Enterprise Fund.
  - d. That in the interim any future monies from the closure of churches be one-third for the Presbytery and two-thirds for the Alpine Enterprise Fund.
- That the review team be thanked and discharged.

### **Order of the Day #1 Iona House Review**

- Rev Dugald Wilson was associated with the meeting and shared of the 20 month review noting:
  - a. the work of the project over the period since the 10-month review
  - b. the announcement that Doug McConnell has intimated he will not seek to renew his 2-year contract that closes in July 2023.
  - c. the emergence of the Oversight Team (Niki Davis from Cashmere, Jim McClintock from Hope Hornby, Dugald

Wilson, with Martin Stewart ex officio)

- d. the appointment of Kevin Hapi working alongside Doug, and the need and ability to connect more closely with Māori, and the pain of Māori.
- e. aspirations for the next season include:
  - a new weekly hui that builds around the pain of disconnection from roots, and the valuing of who we are in the love of Christ,
  - the continuing ministry of raising up, and utilising key leaders,
  - fostering Te Reo Māori for people of Aranui, and the people of PCANZ and also exploring how Te Ao Māori, a Māori world view might enhance our understanding of the gospel,
  - a ministry of dialogue/kōrero between Māori, Pākehā, and others to find a way forward in our deeply divided communities that have not yet learned to honour their marriage vows (as outlined in the Treaty),
  - the re-use of the Iona building as a Christian-Māori reconciliation centre and base for a transformational community of Jesus
  - the upgrade of the currently not fit for purpose Iona Church building
- It was agreed that the report be received.
- It was agreed that Presbytery Council endorse the building strengthening project in principle.

## **Order of the Day #2**

- Hope Church loan application options  
Rev Steve Talbot and Mr Gerald Bradfield were associated with the meeting.  
Steve and Gerald talked of the challenges Hope Church have had negotiating the current mortgage rate on a loan from the Church Property Trustees wondering if the CPT could be encouraged to be more creative and missional in the funds that they hold in the case of new church developments and if there is a national vision for the future growth of the church.
- It was agreed that the Executive Officer write to the Church Property Trustees and enquire about the current policy and whether some creative opportunities to promote development could be explored.

## **Application from Abi Trevathan to train as a Local Ordained Minister**

- This was received warmly and noted as a growing point in our understanding of the varying ministry roles that God is calling people into. The application from Abi Trevathan to apply for Local Ordained Ministry in her Presbytery role was endorsed.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May via Zoom.

Martin Stewart  
Executive Officer

### **Coming Up**

**St Margaret's, Bishopdale Opening Service: 6 May**

**West Coasters Church Service:  
7 May, Christchurch North Methodist**

**Presbytery Retreat:  
20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July in Hanmer Springs**

**Coracle:  
10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> August in Hanmer Springs**

### **From Last Week's Newsletter**

- **Vacancies:**
  - **Parish Visitor, Hakatere Parish Ashburton**
  - **Ministry Vacancy, St Martins Presbyterian, Christchurch: 70% ministry position**
- **Presbyterian Church Schools' Newsletter**