

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 29th June 2023

*Cut off for items for inclusion in next Newsletter is **Thursday 6th July***

Retirement of Christine Arnold

At the Presbytery Council meeting held 22nd June, Christine was thanked for all her hard work in the role of Presbytery Treasurer, and presented with flowers and the gift of a painting.



Investing for Mission Impact

**Conference on Social Enterprise and the PCANZ, held during the day preceding the evening opening of GA23
Wednesday 27th September 2023, 9.30am – 4.30pm, St Columba Presbyterian Church Botany Auckland**

Despite talk of financial struggle and decline in the church, most religious institutions have more resources than they know. This conference is an invitation to explore innovation, possibility and hope in utilizing those hidden resources – property, investments, people and passion – that is available right now to revitalize churches as well as their surrounding communities.

Hosted by the Moderator of the PCANZ, Hamish Galloway, Convenor of Resource Sub Committee PCANZ, Craig Donaldson, and the Executive Officer of the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees, Russell Garrett

Come to listen, learn and be inspired to action around ...

- Biblical principles underpinning social enterprise
- Compelling examples social enterprise action and opportunities
- Practical ingredients that make social enterprises work
- Interactive panel discussion
- Workshopping ideas for your context

The cost of the day is \$25 and you can register at: <https://forms.gle/S9637XZdTJJgPq168>

Download the flyer at <https://tinyurl.com/547xw5a7>

Alpine Presbytery Retreat 2023—A Journey with Hagar

20th – 22nd July , at Hanmer Springs Memorial Hall

Details at alpinepresbytery.org/presbytery-retreat-2/; Register at forms.gle/36LdWbmroQuMrwGPA

Registrations close Monday 10th July 2023.

Moderator: Rev Phyll Harris
moderator@alpinepresbytery.org
Phone 027 352 7886

Executive Officer: Rev Martin Stewart:
executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org
Phone: 021 308 519

Resource Team Leader
Abi Trevathan: abi@alpinepresbytery.org
Phone: 027 339 6006

Youth & Young Adults Enabler
Rev Sage Harris: youth@alpinepresbytery.org
Phone: 027 356 0740

Treasurer: Christine Arnold
treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org

Office Support: Gail Weaver
gail@alpinepresbytery.org



An Invitation to Wander and Wonder

10-12 August, Hanmer Springs Memorial Hall, 1 Jollies Pass Road

Are you filled with questions about the Church, its mission, and the future? Do you find yourself wondering about what could be and where we are now? If so, we extend an invitation to you to embark on a journey of exploration and contemplation.

In the 6th century, Columba embarked on a journey that would forever impact the course of history. Arriving on the island of Iona, Columba's mode of transportation, a coracle, captured the essence of his mission and faith.

The Celtic missionaries would embark on their journeys in a coracle, allowing themselves to be guided solely by the tide. This humble vessel became a symbol of their willingness to surrender to the currents and be led to wherever the tide would take them.

Pilgrim, explorer, pioneer, voyager... These are all words to describe people who have ventured into the unknown, without a fixed destination in mind.

Are you seeking answers to questions about the Church, its mission, and the future? Do you find yourself wondering about what lies ahead and where we currently stand? Alpine Presbytery, the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML) and PressGo invite you to join us on a collective journey of exploration and contemplation.

Cost: \$95 per person; more details at alpinepresbytery.org/coracle/

Council for World Mission opportunities

Interfaith Eco-spiritualities Global Consultation

The Council for World Mission is hosting an Interfaith Eco-spiritualities Global Consultation at Missenden Abbey, UK from **23rd October 2023 to 27th October 2023**. The Global Consultation will include participants from Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific. CWM will be working with its member churches and other faith communities, as well as the UN Environment Programme (Faith for Earth).

If you are a lay person, under 30 and currently involved in community interfaith and/or eco-justice work and would like to be considered – please apply including a CV detailing your current involvement in these areas to the Assembly Executive Secretary aes@presbyterian.org.nz **by 12 noon 10 July 2023**

The Presbyterian Church can nominate one person. Council for World Mission will cover all associated costs – travel, accommodation and meals. *Please note it is not possible to add personal travel around this event.*

Youth Consultation on Ecology and Economy in the Pacific

Council for World Mission is hosting a upcoming Youth Consultation on Ecology and Economy in the Pacific. The consultation aims to raise advocates and champions of ecological and economic justice in the region. The consultation, scheduled to take place from **7th September 2023 to 12th September 2023** in Tuvalu, seeks to address the interconnectedness of ecology and economy in the Pacific. The region faces various ecological challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, air and water pollution, and natural resource management issues. Simultaneously, economic challenges such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, and the informal economy persist. Balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability is a critical challenge that requires the active involvement of young leaders.

If you are a lay person under 30 and currently involved in the areas of ecology and economy and/or have a keen interest in issues related to climate justice, sustainability, and economic development would like to be considered – please apply including a CV detailing your current involvement in these areas to the Assembly Executive Secretary aes@presbyterian.org.nz **by 12 noon 10 July 2023**

The Presbyterian Church can nominate up to two people.

The Council for World Mission will cover costs associated with this – travel, accommodation and meals

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/

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

Ministry Vacancy—Knox Church, Dunedin

Knox Church is seeking a full-time National Ordained Minister to be the senior leader in our ministry team. We are seeking a person who will be fully committed to Knox and its people, and who will bring fresh perspectives to our ancient faith as we seek to live faithfully in the 21st century. We are seeking a person with robust theological training, strong preaching, a compassionate heart, and a commitment to social and climate justice. An understanding of the peculiar gifts and challenges of “being Church” in an inner-city and tertiary educational context would be an advantage.

Knox Church is a notable inner-city Church of the PCANZ where a gathered congregation has worshipped since 1876. It is an imposing listed Category 1 heritage building situated at the corner of George and Pitt Streets, and seats up to nine hundred people. Attached to the church building is a gathering and heritage display area. The site includes gardens, and an attractive green space enjoyed by the public. The complex also includes the Knox Church halls, a rental apartment, and a carpark. Knox Church is located at the northern edge of the central business district, along with other important public institutions, including the Dunedin Public Hospital, the University of Otago, and the Otago Polytechnic. Knox Church has a close association with these institutions, and with neighbouring churches.

Contact Rev Ed Masters (ed@firstchurchotago.org) for more information or, for the parish profile, go to www.knoxchurch.org.nz/files/ugd/d2fccd_3047144c87b645a3a0ee2d1c94ed2e19.pdf

Notes from the 22nd June 2023 meeting of Presbytery Council held in Christchurch

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

Devotions: Phyll shared some reflections from the book ‘Resilience’ by John Eldredge about going deeper and drawing from the well of Jesus in times of struggle. It is the aftermath of significant events like the pandemic that can destroy people, and care needs to be taken to attend to the dangers of not attending to ourselves and one another deeply. Phyll constituted the meeting with prayer.

Conflicts of Interest: Rory identified two potential conflicts. It was agreed that he would absent himself from the meeting during any discussion on matters to do with Timaru Presbyterian Parish. It was noted that in the PnF report, Christine Arnold did not vote on the item to do with the replacement of the Presbytery Treasurer.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 25th May 2023 and the Minutes of the ordinations of Rev Ryan Feng and Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga were approved.

Risk Management: A discussion was held in private on matters of risk.

Moderator’s Report

Phyll shared several things:

- **Induction:** Phyll expressed the absolute delight being part of Lynmaree Sopoaga’s ordination and induction during the Sunday morning service on the 28th of May. The packed church and the many people contributing were a real testimony to “Auntie Lyn” and her impact for God wherever she finds herself.
- **Rangi Ruru:** On the same day with a different hat on, Phyll led Sunday afternoon and Sunday evening chapel services at Rangi Ruru for their clan day. Both services were packed. To see the church so full on all occasions, and to feel the fullness of God at work through the body of Christ was truly a memorable day.
- **Carew Decommissioning:** Along with Martin, Phyll officiated at the decommissioning of Carew, Plains Presbyterian. It was great for the few who are left in the congregation to be fully supported that day with a full church. It was a poignant service with the local congregation fully involved.

Conversations:

Phyll caught up with Christine Arnold over a coffee before her retirement as Treasurer. Phyll offered a huge thank you to her for all the many years and countless hours she has given in service to the Presbytery as she has lived out her faith.

Phyll followed up on a minister who had been ill and meeting with several others, and thanks to those who undertook Martin’s review.

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

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, advising of their position in their Parish or the Presbytery.

The Executive Officer Report

Martin reported on several aspects of his work:

- **General:** Martin enjoyed the recent EO Review opportunity and really appreciated the constructive approach the team took. He thoroughly enjoyed a 44-years-on gathering of the 1979 7th Form classes at Timaru Boys' High School over Kings Birthday weekend. He and Anne are enjoying our new granddaughter, Bonnie. They are anticipating moving into their new home in late July.
- **Pleasant Point:** Phyll and Martin are in a conversation at Pleasant Point.
- **Malcolm Bishop & Student Committee:** Malcolm has advised of his resignation from the position of co-convenor. Council agreed that the resignation of Malcolm Bishop from the Student Committee Co-Convenorship be received, and Malcom be thanked for his service.
- **Te Whare Awhero Trust** (This is an independent trust coming out of Hope Church): Martin had an absorbing conversation with Carey Ewing, the trust director. The trust has embarked on what they are calling a Longitudinal Whānau Support Project, looking at sustained intergenerational support rather than a series of one-off programmes which become a bit hit and miss and don't build trust. This is in its early stages and happening in various forms in three lower-decile schools in South Christchurch and attracting significant interest. It would be great if various churches considered linking in and assisting with funding and/or sponsorship. Contact: admin@hpct.org.nz
- **Presbyterian Support:** Martin had a good conversation with Barry Helem. PSUSI have begun shifting to a co-governance model and also a co-leadership model where he and a Māori colleague share the CEO role.
- **Other activities:** EO Review, Lynmaree Sopoaga's ordination, acknowledgement of Sally Thompson's resignation from The Village Church (Sally has been one of the significant elders of Alpine Presbytery through her long and capable leadership in the Christchurch North church). Working on Te Haere Tonu (PCANZ strategic team) GA report, supervision, catching up with Doug McConnell as his work on the Iona Project draws to a close.
- **EO Reflections after 3 years in the role:** Martin presented a paper, and a discussion was held on various matters to do with the life of Alpine Presbytery and the strategic role Council plays.

EO Review

The 3-year review was conducted by Lyn Heine, Rev Murray Talbot and David Dally.

It was noted that Martin had never been formally inducted into the EO role and it was unclear what his status was – employee or minister.

Council approved the following recommendations:

- That the report be received
- That Rev Martin Stewart be inducted to the role of Alpine Presbytery EO as an 'other recognised minister'
- That Rev Martin Stewart's employment contract be renewed for a term of 2 years effective 1 July 2023 (with a further extension of one year subject to funding).
- That the Executive Officer be issued with a corporate debit/credit card for use on Presbytery business.
- That Rev Martin Stewart be allocated five weeks paid annual leave as of 1 July 2023.

A recommendation re exploring alternatives for the line management and agenda-setting and minute-taking responsibilities will go to HR for further work.

Property & Finance

Ann McMillan reported and Council approved:

- That the report be received.
- That Presbytery approves the Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 31st May 2023.
- That the funds Alpine Presbytery had transferred by BAT from the Canterbury Earthquake payout relating to East Christchurch, be put into an East Christchurch Development Fund.
- That Alpine Presbytery acknowledge the work of Johan Dalkie on the Church Architecture Reference Group team for our area over many years and write a letter of thanks to her.
- That Alpine Presbytery increase Gail Weaver's hourly rate by 4.3% from 1 July 2023 in line with the latest stipend increase information based on the Labour Cost Index.
- That Alpine Presbytery adopt the revised paper, including an increase of the hourly rate to \$28.25, for payments to Interim Moderators and MSB convenors; to apply from 1 July 2023. [Note: a further review of the criteria is taking place]
- That Alpine Presbytery approve the St Ninian's Christchurch parish to spend up to \$80,000 of property capital funds to cover the expenses of the subdivision of their site as per the previous applications.
- That Alpine Presbytery receive the updated engineering reports (DSA) from the Plains Parish
- That Alpine Presbytery approve the shortform application from The Village for use of capital funds for bathroom renovations at their manse at 5a Truman Road, amounting to \$18,672.00. [Note: this goes to CPT for approval]
- That Alpine Presbytery approve the final application from Whakatu Presbyterian Parish to:

- a. Sell their property at 271 Songer Street either on the open market, or via private sale at no less than a current market valuation; and
- b. Borrow bridging finance of up to \$1.3m, pending the sale of the property at 271 Songer St, for the purposes of financing the new building at Champion St. *[Note: this goes to CPT for approval]*
- That Alpine Presbytery, in respect of the application from The Iona Project approve the application to strengthen to 67%NBS and make some internal alterations to the property at 304 Breezes Road Christchurch at a cost of up to \$630,000; to be funded from the East Christchurch Development Fund. In addition, \$6,200 has been spent to the end of April 2023 on project management and consultants *[Note: this goes to CPT for approval]*
- That Alpine Presbytery approve the appointment of Keith Christie as Alpine Treasurer from 1 January 2024; and to start attending Property and Finance meetings from July 2023.

Resourcing

Rory Grant reported and Council agreed

- That the Resource Team Leader pay rate be increased from 1 July 2023

Other matters:

Acknowledgement of the Resignation of Mrs Christine Arnold as Presbytery Treasurer

- Kelvin Chapman (from PnF) joined the meeting; there was an apology from Alan Middlemiss.
- Phyll and several other Presbytery Council members shared words of thanks acknowledging Christine Arnold's long and diligent service as Presbytery Treasurer (Christchurch Presbytery & Alpine Presbytery).
- Acknowledgements from other church leaders were passed on to Christine, including messages from Rt Rev Hamish Galloway, the Assembly Moderator; Rev Wayne Matheson, the Assembly Executive Secretary; and several Moderators and other past leaders from Christchurch and Alpine Presbyteries.
- Ann McMillan presented flowers from the PnF committee, and Phyll presented the gift of a painting from the Presbytery.
- Christine expressed gratitude for the words, gifts, and the positive experience of serving the church in this way.

IM - MSB convenorships

- Rory Grant presented a discussion paper on how the Presbytery might manage the future financial compensation to churches whose ministers serve in IM - MSB convenorships in other churches.
- Council agreed that the matter be sent to PnF for further work and report back with proposals.

Prestons New Mission Seedling Review

- A report from Rev Dan Spragg was discussed. Issues re future funding are yet to be resolved.
- Council approved in principle to endorse the Prestons NMS Team Leader role as a 0.3 FTE from November 2023 - June 2026, with a review of the hours and functions of the role to take place annually, subject to funding being secured, and the employment contract for the Movin' to Music Leader was extended for 3 months.

Correspondence

- A letter was received from a church council and a process of follow up was agreed to.

General Assembly in 2025

- It was agreed that Alpine Presbytery host the General Assembly in 2025.

Iona New Mission Seedling

- A report from Rev Dugald Wilson was discussed. Rev Doug McConnell completed his contract as the leader.
- Council approved Mr Kevin Hapi being employed part-time on a two-year contract as the leader at Iona and the appropriate salary being based on the hourly rate for Presbytery contract work reduced by the Beneficiary Fund portion.

Acting Moderator

- Phyll advised that she was going to be on leave for three weeks in July.
- Council agreed, that Lyn Heine be the Acting Moderator for the period of Phyll Harris' absence.

The meeting closed at 2.32pm with a prayer led by Jason King.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for 9.30am 27th July via Zoom

Martin Stewart, Executive Officer

From Last Week's Newsletter

- **Christian Foster Parents needed**
- **Fair Tax Forum**

Coming Up

Presbytery Retreat:

20th - 22nd July in Hanmer Springs

Coracle:

10th - 11th August in Hanmer Spring

Plant Sale, St Stephen's Timaru:

16 September

Halkett Presbyterian Church 150th

Celebration: 15 October