

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 7th September 2023

*Cut off for items for inclusion in next Newsletter is **Thursday 14th September***

Opening Day for Hoon Hay Presbyterian Op Shop

The first day of spring was also the first day of our new venture at Hoon Hay Presbyterian Church. We opened our Op Shop after a lot of hard work from our volunteers and God's amazing provision of equipment, expertise provided from Rolleston Hope Op Shop, and donations.

What we have enjoyed about this project is that all can be involved at any level, from a single donation to actively giving time to set up and operate the shop.

We envision this venture as a way to connect with our community and develop relationships with our regular customers. We will be promoting our other church activities as well as providing goods cheaply.

We had a beautiful sunny day to open on and the light shone in on our efforts.

We will be open Fridays from 10am to 1pm. Everyone is welcome and donations of clothing, books, small houseware, toys, scarves, hats, shoes etc are most gratefully received.



Rev Neville Burns

We have been advised of the death of Rev Neville Burns, aged 84, at Nurse Maude Hospital, Christchurch.

Neville and Thelma married in August 1965 and Neville attended the Theological Hall from 1966 to 1968. He was ordained and inducted at Wyndham, Mataura Presbytery in February 1969. From there, he was called to Palmerston, North Otago Presbytery, in June 1977 and then to Woodlands, Southland Presbytery, in August 1982, and finally to St Andrews Invercargill in September 1987.

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

Neville retired and was granted the status Minister Emeritus by Southland Presbytery on 31 August 2003. He and Thelma moved to Christchurch where Neville transferred to Christchurch Presbytery in November 2007.

A service of thanksgiving for Neville's life was held earlier this week. We give grateful thanks to God for Neville's life and ministry and pray for Thelma and the family.

Important Police Check Update

The NZ Police have just updated their vetting forms. Information about Police Checks, including links to the new forms, can be found at <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/employing-and-managing-staff/police-checks>

The new forms must be used from now onwards because the police are now asking two additional questions—a description of the applicant's role and whether the person is in the same role as the last check—and we require this information in order to submit the vetting request.

Investing for Mission Impact

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

The cost of the day is \$25.

Register at: forms.gle/S9637XZdTJJgPq168

Download the flyer at tinyurl.com/547xw5a7

Newsletters

Connect Newsletter from PSUSI: stories of services that empower families, youth, and older people, to grow resilience when confronted with difficulties, especially in navigating mental health concerns. psupper-south.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=51ac762c63b89fbae0cd8536c&id=7013fb75dc&e=f56e87511e

Bush Telegraph: To read the current and previous editions of Bush Telegraph, go to: www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2023

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



Hope West Melton
High Tea
Church Fundraiser

Indulge in a nostalgic high tea, featuring an array of finger foods by a skilled patisserie chef, accompanied by live music in our charming new venue, all in support of the Hope West Melton church building!

Table for 2 \$100 **Saturday 7th October** **Table for 4 \$200**

Two sittings: 11:30am & 2pm

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 15TH SEPTEMBER
 BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
HOPECHURCH.NET.NZ/HIGH-TEA
 (NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12)

Thank you to our sponsors:

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PLANT SALE

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH,
 349 WAI-ITI ROAD



Wide variety of plants ~
 Cake stall ~ Morning tea



9AM SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER



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.

Meet the Ilam Candidates

The Village Presbyterian Church in Bryndwr is holding a "Meet the Candidates Evening" for candidates standing in the Ilam electorate in the upcoming general election. You are invited to come along and hear your candidates speak and answer questions. The meeting will be chaired by Rev David Coster.

WHEN: Sunday 17 September at 7pm.

WHERE: The Village Presbyterian Church & Community Centre, 365A Ilam Road (corner of Ilam and Aorangi Roads)

ENQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS: Any enquiries can be directed to Gavin James, care of the Church office (351 6664). If you want to send through questions in advance, you are welcome to do so in person or via email bryndwr@villagechurch.nz

A light supper will be provided at the end of the meeting.

Presbyterian Investment Fund

The interest rate paid on the PIF On Call Fund will increase from 5.0% p.a. to 5.25% p.a. from 1 September 2023. A reminder to please provide advance notice (of at least 3 days) for major (>\$100,000) withdrawals.

The interest rate on the PIF Long-Term Fund remains at 3.0% pa plus inflation. Rates are subject to change

News from Partner & Other Organisations

Sister Eveleen Retreat House

Creative Play to Nourish the Soul—A creative silent retreat

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." Mark 6: 31

Come spend a weekend at Sister Eveleen Retreat House for a creative and contemplative silent retreat led by Glenda Joy. We'll be working with the mediums of texture, colour, and movement to reflect and envision the seasons of our life and how they inform and shape our world. This weekend will be a time of sabbath, a space where you can explore your spiritual journey away from the busyness of everyday life. Take a moment to stop and be refreshed in a peaceful setting with nutritious food, sweeping vistas, and walking tracks. The retreat includes a rhythm of contemplative prayer. Full silence will be kept for most of the retreat to assist in the contemplation and inward process, with optional sharing during creative group time.

Date: Friday 22nd September, 7pm to Sunday 24 September, 1pm

Cost: \$330 (if you'd like to come but the cost is prohibitive, please get in touch as we may be able to assist)

Location: Sister Eveleen Retreat House, 6 Whitewash Head Road, Scarborough, Christchurch 8081, New Zealand

To register: visit our website www.sistereretreat.com

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact SERH: (ph) 022 563 6879 (e) enquiry@sistereretreat.com

About the facilitator:

Glenda Joy is a registered counsellor who has been working with people of all ages and backgrounds for over 20 years. She has trained in several experimental modalities and brings creativity, mindfulness, and body awareness into her work. Glenda uses simple tools in a supportive environment to help clients find hopeful insights and reflections as they connect with themselves and the deeper themes of life. She encourages everyone to find a sense of playfulness and new ways of enjoyment in life.

Hosting a retreat for your church?

Looking for a beautiful space in an idyllic location? Overlooking Scarborough Beach and Pegasus Bay, Sister Eveleen Retreat House is available for you to host your next church retreat or quiet day.

Get in touch with us www.sistereretreat.com

OUR PRAYER TIMES

Monday.
Contemplative

Tuesday.
Taizé

Thursday.
Celtic Christian

12 o'clock, St. Francis Chapel,
@ Sister Eveleen Retreat House,
6 Whitewash Head Rd. Scarborough

Everybody welcome!

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

Tax fairness

Election 2023 tax forum

Act, Labour, Greens,
National, New Zealand First,
Te Pāti Māori and TOP reps
have been invited

Thursday 14th September, 7pm
Aldersgate, 309 Durham Street North

Chair **Jill Hawkey**, Executive Director
Christchurch Methodist Mission.



The St. Albans Community Choir
- together with guests -
under the direction of Heather Gladstone QSM
- and -
The New Brighton Silver Band
under the direction of Sergeant Cameron Lee

Invite you to join us for

Magical Moments

Sunday 17th September at 5.00pm
St. Paul's Parish Church,
1 Harewood Road, Christchurch

Admission by donation
A light supper will be served at the
conclusion of the concert
All welcome

For enquiries contact:
Heather 021 644 092 or John 027 484 9109

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From the last Newsletter

- New Op Shop in Christchurch
- PCANZ Ethics Workshop
- Rev Max Garrity
- Parish Annual Reports & Statistics
- Current Vacancies at ICHC
- Ohope Bicultural Experience
- Ministries Coordinator/Kaihautū Whakatipu

Coming Up

- Plant Sale, St Stephen's Timaru: 16th September
- Meet the Ilam Candidates: 17 September, at The Village Bryndwr
- Plants4U at Rakaia: 30th September
- Hope West Melton High Tea Fundraiser: 7th October
- St Andrew's, Blenheim, Garden Tour: 14th & 15th October
- Plantarama at Cashmere Presbyterian Church: 14th October
- Halkett Presbyterian Church 150th Celebration: 15th October

Notes from the 31st August 2023 meeting of Presbytery Council held via Zoom

Present at the meeting were: Rev Phyllis Harris (Moderator), Lyn Heine, Rev Jason King, Ann McMillan (who arrived later in the meeting), Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga, and Rev Martin Stewart (Executive Officer).

Apologies were received from Rev Jonathan Barb, Rev Rory Grant, Rev Brent Richardson & Rev Jon Parks.

Quorum: In light of a quorum for the meeting not being reached (we are required to have at least 2/3rds of members present) all the decisions made at the meeting were later ratified by email.

Devotions

Phyll shared from the writings of Dallas Willard
Phyll constituted the meeting with prayer.

Conflicts of Interest: Jason identified a conflict re the Rangiora building reference in the PnF report and did not participate in the decision.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 27th July 2023 had been approved by email and were ratified at the meeting.

Four matters attended to by the Council earlier in August via email were also ratified.

1. Staveley Campsite - approval to approve the building work of up to \$350,000 to upgrade and strengthen their buildings and apply for a Lotteries Grant to complete the EQ strengthening and upgrading work
2. Malvern Manse – approval of an application from the Malvern Cooperating Parish to use PIF capital funds to assist with the purchase of ministry housing
3. Abi Course Costs - it was agreed to meet the cost of a course Abi is participating in
4. It was agreed to proceed with advertising the Ministries Coordinator - Kaihautū Whakatipu position around the Presbytery and PCANZ.

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

Moderator's Report

- Phyll attended the opening of the fully strengthened and restored St. Andrews church in Ashburton. The church was full and the beginning and ending with the local bagpipe band was very poignant. It was also good to see all the Ashburton and Plains churches represented in supporting St. Andrews in this significant moment.
- Messages of sympathy were sent to the Talbot family with the loss of Janice, to Alan Missen with the loss of Sue, and to the Fendall family with the loss of Bob.
- A letter was sent and read at the final worship service at St. Lukes, Redwood.
- Phyll advised that her father-in-law died recently.

The Executive Officer Report

Martin reported on several aspects of his work.

• **General**

Meeting with Abi, attending Janice Talbot's funeral, attending Andrew Nicol's induction to his new role at KCML (with Anne), conversation with the Timaru ministry team re budget and planning matters, attending Coracle, enjoying two weeks of holiday, and shifting!

• **Bereavements**

Noting the deaths of Janice Talbot (Rev Murray Talbot's wife), Sue Missen (Rev Alan Missen's wife), Rev Bob Fendall, Rev Max Garrity (a former minister at Christchurch North), and Rev Neville Burns (who had retired into the Presbytery).

• **Coracle**

Really enjoying the event in Hanmer Springs – this is the second Coracle Alpine has hosted with support from PressGo. The connections made are really worthwhile. There was at least one representative from all Presbyteries except Pacific and Central.

Key reflections:

1. Explorer Ministry

The need for explorer ministries is acute. The decline in numbers, influence, and capacity across our Church is rapidly weakening us, but few 'what's next?' ministries are being tested out anywhere.

How might we encourage our churches to seek to engage with their communities in deliberate ways that do not look like the Sunday morning thing we know. It doesn't need to be either/or – but if we aren't dipping our toes into some sort of imaginative space while we have the capacity, we will lose our ability to reconnect from a base of some sort. As we have seen in our own experimentation, simply dropping people into communities to see what they can do can work but it is lonely work, it is expensive, and it takes time to find its natural form. If all of our churches were all dreaming, experimenting, talking, and planning together we would quickly create fitness and confidence.

2. Bicultural Learnings

It was particularly good to have four people from Te Aka Puaho/Māori Synod with us. It was especially good to hear contributions from two Alpine staff, Kevin Hapi (Iona) and Dallas Harema (Discipleship resource person). Our current attempts at being bicultural are still a long way off from being a true partnership.

How this manifests most obviously in our Presbytery is in the Iona project. It is huge for Presbytery to be engaging in this mission, it is wonderful, and people might be surprised to learn that it has been years in the making – it is not simply about the two years Doug McConnell (and Dallas Harema) worked there.

Martin acknowledged two significant ministries in the bicultural space in Aranui: the late Rev Donald Malloch

(who ministered in Aranui approximately 35-40 years ago) and his wife Anne; and Rev Sheena Dickson who quickly committed to learning Te Reo and advocating for all kinds of people in the community. Martin ventured that the emergence of Kevin Hapi's ministry is built on the trust Don and Sheena were able to build in the community.

A key question is: How might we venture into partnership under Te Tiriti in terms of sharing the financial decision-making through korero and consensus?

- **Office**

Martin has moved from the office in downtown Timaru the last 11 months to work from his new home.

- **Mid-Canterbury**

Martin and Abi met again with the steering group team from the churches after hearing from almost all of the Church Councils. Some possible small steps are now being explored.

- **Alpine Mission Fund Changes**

Martin noted that the deadline for feedback was extended to mid-September thus reflection on it by Council will happen after that.

Property & Finance

Ann McMillan reported and Council approved:

- The Alpine Financial Statements for the period ended 31st July 2023.
- The Village application to access PIF capital funds of \$298,000 to establish a new ministry/mission initiative in the parish at their Papanui building.
- The John Knox Presbyterian Church Rangiora application for final approval for their new church build and associated works at a total cost of \$3,130,000. There is a funding shortfall that will be addressed when the final construction costs are determined.

Human Resources: Lyn Heine reported on several matters.

Other matters

- **Bicultural Event Report** – Lynmaree Sopoaga reported on her rich experience at Te Maungarongo Marae Ohope.



Aunty Lyn Sopoaga and Jonathan Barb at Te Maungarongo Marae Ohope.

- **Plains Buildings** - an email this week from Liz Dupree of Plains Parish led to a discussion and the sense that Phyll, Martin & Ann should look into paying an informal visit to discuss future options.
- **Assembly Nominating Committee**
Phyll reported on several vacancies.
It was agreed to forward the name of someone to serve on the Leadership Sub-Committee
- **Wairau Local Shared Ministry (LSM)**
A congregational meeting on 20 August approved the members to be on the LSM team and sought Presbytery's approval.
Council confirmed the decision of the congregational meeting at Wairau Parish to appoint Brenda Burr, Roslyn Kooistra, Neville Jones & Robert Kooistra as the Wairau Local Shared Ministry team.
The commissioning is scheduled for 15 October. Presbytery is to appoint a Ministry Enabler for this LSM team.

The next monthly Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 21st September in Christchurch.

Martin Stewart, Executive Officer