

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 11th January 2024

Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is Thursday 18th January

Rev John Hunt

Presbytery acknowledges the death of Rev John Hunt. John's funeral service was held in a packed Knox Church in Christchurch and led by Rt Rev Bruce Hansen.

John's ministries were in Te Kuiti and at St Giles in Christchurch where he served for 30 years.

John was a warm-hearted pastoral man, a great story-teller, and he had considerable ability to weave a reflective, warm, and earthy spirituality into all that he did. He pointed people to the compelling and embracing love of God. John published three books drawing from his engagement with Celtic spirituality. John recently celebrated 50 years since his ordination.

We offer our love and support to Lesley and their family as they find their way ahead.

New Years Honours List

It is a custom that our PCANZ Moderator writes a letter to any Presbyterians who have received a New Year's honour.

Can you please advise Gail by email of the name/s and full contact details of any folk from the Alpine Presbytery region who have received a New Year Honour and any background information about the person and the reason for the honour. We will then pass these onto the Moderator, who will write on the Church's behalf.

Email: gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Summer Servants

I thought I would write a little something for the ones who might be working or attending to things in our churches during the January summer break. Kia ora!

I'm trying to keep my head down after a few weeks off, and I am finding myself massively distracted by the heat, the associated lack of sleep, and all the things that didn't get done last week! Is it like that for you? I figure that January might be the one month a year where we allow a bit of inefficiency and a choice to work with the rhythms of summer rather than against them. To relax. To waste time. And to glory in it.

Last Sunday I attended worship at Trinity Timaru with my mother – it was her 88th birthday. It was good to sit with her among her church family and reflect on the amazing combinations of experiences and opportunities that enabled my mother to reach such an age. It was a time of gratitude. It was also a time of sober reflection: she isn't that well, though the illness is holding off, and I am (still) only 26 years younger than her!

I had found out a few days before that the attending minister had Covid and wasn't able to lead the Sunday service. He had to ask one of his elders to cover the Sunday service *and* a funeral with just an hour and a half's notice!

Lois Shipley was that elder. She led a fine Sunday service including a very creative reflection on the scriptures. I talked with Lois afterwards and thanked her for doing such a fine job with such short notice. Lois was able to draw on her rich experience, she has been preaching and leading worship for over 35 years. That is about as long as I have been

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doing it, but her ministry will have received much less acknowledgement, remuneration, or resourcing from the wider church. Lois is a wonderful example of a person living out the commitment of her baptism, she is a treasure in the field of us!

Who steps up when the minister is away? People like Lois do. One or two people gearing up when others have been enjoying their summer break has been a pattern in most of our churches for many years. It is not the glamour season – many people besides the ministers are away making something of the summer break. These can be low days. It is hard to offer a carefully prepared offering to a congregation with many gaps in it. From time-to-time some people even dare to make disparaging comments about church not being ‘real’ when the minister isn’t there. But there is a ministry leader there, a someone like Lois ditching their own need to yield to the heat and the opportunity to zone out, researching and praying and putting thoughts together, and doing a wonderful job of leading the worship of God.

Aren’t these people in our life great! What wonders they are! How grateful we are for them!

So here’s a cheer from me to them– or to you if you are one of our summer leaders and you are reading this. Can I encourage people to acknowledge these workers among us and make a point of thanking them for their service. They’re amazing!

Martin Stewart

The Gift of Summer—Retreat at Moeraki

Saturday, 17th February 2024, 9.45 – 3.30 pm.

Coronation Hall, Haven Street, Moeraki, North Otago



Celtic sunflower, acrylic on wood panel by Thomas Jacobson

Drawing from the deep well of Celtic Christian wisdom and imagination, may Summer's light, abundance and colour bless you on this contemplative day retreat.

Music, poetry, song, reflection and quiet times will gently accompany you and as you begin your journey towards Easter you are invited in the afternoon to learn how to prayerfully draw and illuminate a simple Celtic knotwork design to take home. This is a spiritual, intuitive and creative way to discern and experience the presence, love and grace of the Holy. You don't need any artistic or drawing experience to come along to the retreat.

Cost: \$80.00 includes morning and afternoon tea, all resources and artist materials. Please bring your own picnic lunch. Fresh fruit, sweet treats, teas and coffee will also be served at lunchtime.

Guided by the Rev. Dr. Hilary Oxford Smith, with harpist Julie Saraswati

For more information and to book your place, go to spiritofbradan.com/retreats-and-workshops/a-celtic-summer-retreat/

Ethics & Risk Management Workshop

Dates for PCANZ online half-day Ethics & Risk Management Workshops for 2024

- Tues 27 February; 9-12:30
- Tues 16 April; 1-4.30
- Tues 4 June; 9-12:30
- Tues 6 August; 1-4.30
- Tues 15 October; 9-12:30
- Tues 19 November (tba - either 9-12:30 or 1-4.30)

To register, email Kate Wilson at kate@presbyterian.org.nz

Kete Aroha o Waipounamu

Sunday 28th to Tuesday 30th January

The Methodist Church in the South Island is hosting a School of Theology in Christchurch. Any Presbyterian ministers, lay preachers, and interested congregants are warmly invited to attend.

Keynote speakers are:

- Dr Peter Lineham, MNZM—respected national commentator on religion and Professor Emeritus of History at Massey University.
- Dr Kathleen Ruston, RSM—a member of Nga Whaea Atawhai Sisters of Mercy.
- Dr David Tombs—Director of the centre of Theology and Public Issues and the Howard Paterson Professor of Theology and public Issues at Otago University.
- Rev Tara Tautari, who serves the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriano a Aotearoa as its General Secretary

For more details download the poster here: <http://tinyurl.com/4569n8hh>

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.

Call for Research Participants

Laidlaw Centre for Church Leadership is working on a research project to support churches in Aotearoa in training more pastors and ministry leaders.

About the Project: This project seeks to understand the experiences and challenges faced by emerging leaders called to pastoral ministry in the Christian church in Aotearoa. The aim is to identify barriers to entering pastoral ministry or becoming ordained ministers, so that support can be put in place for potential leaders. By identifying barriers that require support, it also aims to facilitate the training of more pastors/leaders, to address a leadership shortage in Aotearoa. Results from this research will be summarised in a report, which will be distributed by Laidlaw Centre for Church Leadership to pastors and denominational leaders in Aotearoa New Zealand, with the aim of facilitating support.

Why Participate: By participating in this survey, challenges and supports can be identified to help identify ways that more pastors and leaders can be trained and supported. Your participation will also support training of ministry leaders for other denominations and churches across Aotearoa.

How to Participate: We are looking for anonymous survey responses from three groups of people:

- Pastors/Leaders involved in the process of training new ministry leaders or ordained pastors.** We want to hear your experiences of training leaders to identify helpful support systems, potential barriers, and identify what the expectations are for successful ministry leaders in Aotearoa. This survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/jQwDs0ZeS7>
- Recently ordained pastors / leaders (ordained in the last 5 years)** We want to hear the experiences of recently ordained pastors to find out what has been helpful and what has been challenging, so that support can be put in place in the training process. This survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/WTFhiUYjxj>
- Those called to ministry who did not complete training processes, or chose to pursue other vocational calls.** We want to hear from this group to identify any potential barriers or support needs to help support leaders to train for ministry. Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/wVWvm23Rja>

We are also looking to interview a small group of people to hear more about their experiences. All surveys will be anonymous. Individuals or churches will not be named.

Please forward this research to anyone you think fits one of these criteria, or, if you fit the criteria, complete the relevant survey.

Sister Eveleen Retreat House.

Retreats: SERH have a choice of 1 to 7 day retreats focusing on different themes and topics. The next upcoming 2 day retreat is "*The flame of love - Beyond the two habits - a retreat with the two T(h)eresas*", 17-18 Jan 2024.

You can also book your own personal retreat day to rest and replenish your soul and mind.

They are always looking for people to support them as **helpers & volunteers**, for example as weekend retreat cooks. If this might be something for you please get in touch.

The **midday prayer** rhythm recommenced this week.

For more information, or to book a retreat, visit their website: www.sistereretreat.com

New Vacancies at ICHC

All applications need to be submitted via the seek website. To be considered, please submit a CV, Cover letter, and Application form.

Hospital Chaplain 0.8FTE General & Mental Health

Tauranga Hospital, Te Whatu Ora – Hauora a Toi

Closes: 4pm, Wednesday 24 January 2024

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/72871934>

Hospital Chaplain 1FTE

Hawkes Bay Hospital, Te Whatu Ora Te Matau a Māui

Closes: 4 pm, Wednesday 31 January 2024

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/72874726>

Māori Chaplain 0.6FTE

Dunedin Hospital & Wakari Hospital

Closes: 4pm, Friday 2 February 2024

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/72927087>

Hospital Chaplain 0.8FTE

Christchurch Hospital, Te Whatu Ora Waitaha Canterbury

Closes: 4pm, Friday 2 February 2024

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/72927381>

From the last Newsletter

Christmas Greetings from:

- **Presbytery Moderator, Rev Phyll Harris**
- **Presbytery Executive Officer, Rev Martin Stewart**
- **PCANZ Moderator**

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