

# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February***

We are saddened to note the death of Catherine McNaughton, wife of Rev Alistair McNaughton the minister at St Andrew's in Geraldine, in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Catherine had a long and courageous battle with cancer. The funeral service for Catherine will be held at St Andrew's Church, 1pm, Saturday 17th February.



Tena koutou katoa

Easter is early this year – almost as early as it can be. And that means Lent has crept up on us as well. A friend sent me a text, part of which read, “R u giving up anything, or taking up something, 4 Lent?” A good question.

This season of Lent emerged out of the practice of preparing new converts for Baptism on Easter Eve or Easter Day. By the middle of the fourth-century, a 40-day preparation period had been established. Later, Lent became a time for all Christians to prepare for Easter. It remains a 40-day long period, not counting Sundays; Sundays are considered ‘little Easters’, celebrating the Resurrection.

While Lent is no longer seen as a time to enter into a period of excessive gloom and self-denial, it remains a season that invites people into a more reflective mood.

We hear of people ‘giving something up for Lent’. Some give up particular foods for the season. Others give up things like television, Facebook, obsessive use of mobile phones and so on. All of this is designed to help reflect on what is important in life, to focus on the needs of the spirit, to think of one’s faith commitment, to identify with the majority of the world’s population who have so little.

Others prefer to ‘take up’ something new instead, something that will make a difference. Taking time each day to read and reflect on Scripture, to reconcile themselves to someone they have fallen out with or don’t like, to volunteer for a worthy project, to be in contact with people they have neglected, to pick up rubbish in the neighbourhood, and so on. Again, this is about being intentional in looking at one’s life and contributing something positive to the community.

‘Giving up’ something can carry with it the sense of it being a grind, doing it through clenched teeth! However, often when we give up something we gain something valuable.

I recall a recovering alcoholic telling me of the experience of giving up drinking. For years his family had told him he had a problem, but he didn’t see it. One night a television programme on alcoholism spoke powerfully to him and he started his journey of sobriety. He reflected on how much he had ‘gained’ through this. A whole new world opened up - the world looked, smelt and tasted different. He observed colours he hadn’t seen for a long time. Relationships with his family and friends improved. Giving up can lead to freedom.

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The season of Lent can be used as an opportunity to slow down, take stock, and reflect upon the direction of our own lives. We contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross and what that means for us.

I found a little list of popular Lent Bible verses:

Isaiah 58: 6-7	Take on something
Mark 1: 12-13	Find your wilderness
John 3: 16	Remember his sacrifice
1 Peter 5: 6	Reveal your struggle
Matthew 6: 16-18	Keep a secret

Giving up. Taking up. Reflecting on Jesus's journey to the cross. Let this Lenten season be a time of growing deeper into our faith and seeing the fruits of this play out in our lives and the communities in which we live.

*Kia tau te Rangimarie*

Rose

**Right Rev Rose Luxford, Moderator, PCANZ**

## Presbyterian Support Upper South Island Community Relations Coordinator

Megan Waddington has advised that she is moving on from this role. She writes:

"It is with some sadness that I am writing to confirm I will be leaving my role as Community Relations Coordinator at Presbyterian Support, with my last day being Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

I recently completed my Level 4 Certificate in Health and Wellbeing and have decided to pursue a new career within the social service sector. I have genuinely loved working at PSUSI over the last seven years, and it was through seeing the positive changes our staff have made within the lives of others, that first encouraged me to study and work within this field.

I wish to thank you for your support over the past few years and look forward to introducing you to our new Donor and Community Relations Coordinator in due course.

Thank you for the privilege of working with you all and I pray God blesses you and keeps you well."

PSUSI are now advertising to fill the full-time position of Donor and Community Relations Coordinator. To find out more, go to [psupper-south.org.nz/get-involved/work-with-us/vacancies/donor-and-community-relationship-coordinator/](https://psupper-south.org.nz/get-involved/work-with-us/vacancies/donor-and-community-relationship-coordinator/)

## Online Ethics & Risk Management Workshops

PCANZ are holding several Ethics & Risk Management Workshops this year. *There are still places available on the workshop to be held on Tuesday 27 February, 9.00am-12:30pm.* To book for this or any other session this year, email Kate Wilson: [kate@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:kate@presbyterian.org.nz)

The other dates for this year are:

- Tues 16 April; 1-4.30
- Tues 4 June; 9-12:30
- Tues 6 August; 1-4.30
- Tues 15 October; 1-4.30
- Tues 19 November (time to be confirmed)





**Saturday  
2nd March  
11am to  
4pm**

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# AUTUMN GARDEN TOUR

**Enjoy & be inspired by a selection of gardens between Cashmere & Tai Tapu**

From small-but-large-in-content gardens, to one with four hectares of native planting, there is something to interest everyone!

Cream Teas available to purchase at the Church from 10.15am

The link to book online is at [cashmerechurch.org.nz](https://cashmerechurch.org.nz)  
Or contact the Church Office: phone (03) 332 7129  
email: [cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz)

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TICKETS

**\$50**

**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.

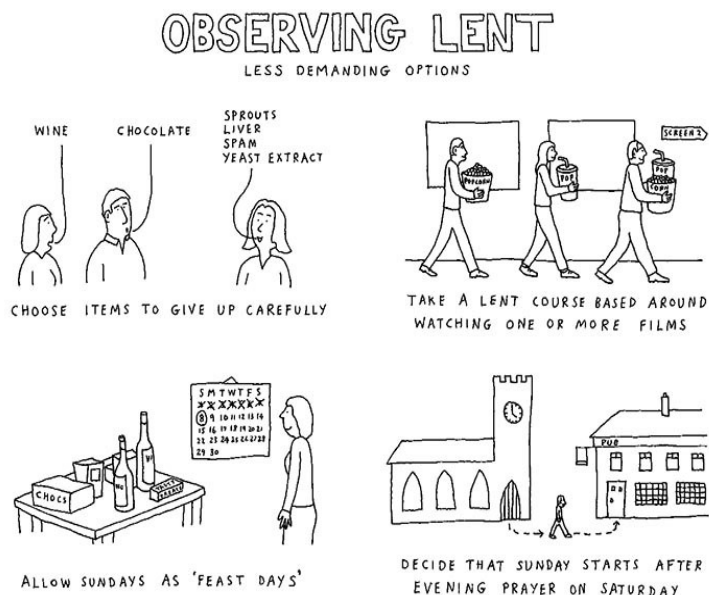
## Exploring the Name and Boundaries of Palestine/Israel in the Christian Biblical Imagination

Tuesday 20 February, 7.30pm – 9pm  
Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre, Villa Maria College, Peer Street, Upper Riccarton.

Facilitator Kathleen Rushton RSM

Without disregarding the complexity and intricacy of the Israeli/Palestinian Israeli situation, we shall explore what we carry in our biblical imagination about the boundaries of the Land of Jesus and his Jewish ancestors. What are the implications if Christians are to engage with efforts to promote a just solution?

The poster for this can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/ydxhyx8m>



### From the last Newsletter

- Decommissioning at Hari Hari
- Presbytery Staff

### Coming Up

Hope Rolleston Opening:  
24 February

Cashmere Presbyterian Autumn Garden Tour:  
2<sup>nd</sup> March

# SISTER EVELEEN

RETREAT HOUSE

Warm invitation to our Upcoming Retreats (*limited places available*). Our full programme, including the links to register for any of these retreats, can be found on our website: [www.sistereretreat.com](http://www.sistereretreat.com).

Our prayer times are open to the public: Mon, Tue, Thu - 12 o'clock, Wed 7pm, Thu 7am - Everyone is invited to join in.

### Open Retreat Day at Sister Ev:

**Wed, 28 February, 9:30 – 2:30pm**

Join us at Sister Eveleen Retreat House for a quiet day of reflection, prayer, silence and sharing. (every last Thursday of the month from March) - inspired by the earth and church seasons. Theme for February - *Lent*

### S/he God - Exploring God images"

**29 February, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Immerse ourselves in, and connect with, the Biblical tradition of feminine God-images. What impact might they have on our lives and faith? Join us for this evening taster retreat reflecting, pondering, enjoying and maybe being surprised...

### 7 Day Silent Directed Retreat:

**Sunday 3 (5pm) - Sat 9 March (2pm)**

*"In God we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28*

These 7 days of silence are an opportunity to realign our lives to that of God and to come to an inner quiet which allows us to hear God afresh. Daily individual spiritual direction will be available.

### Trusting the Voice Within: 14th March, 9:30am - 2:30pm

How has our faith been shaped by the lived-in experience of a female body? Is God more than 'He'? What is nurturing your faith now?

This day-time retreat gives voice to the diversity and similarities of women's faith experiences, which haven't always been honoured or acknowledged by our various faith communities/traditions.

### Coming home to the Father's Loving Embrace: 15 - 17 March *Praying with and walking through the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Luke 15: 11-3*

A weekend silent retreat, where we will consider each person within the parable: the Father, the youngest son and the older brother. Reflective questions will be provided after each input session. Henri Nouwen's book, "The Return of the Prodigal Son: a Story of Homecoming" will be drawn upon as a basis for the retreat.

### 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