

# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

## Newsletter 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

### CHILDREN'S DAY 2024 Sunday 3 March



#### Pray for our Children and their Whānau

With Children's Day coming up 3 March, I have asked Karo Wilson, Director of Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry, to write a message about celebrating our children, and what we might pray for. Let us keep our young people in our prayers at this time, and at all times.

(PCANZ Moderator, Right Rev Rose Luxford)

Every year, the first Sunday in March marks Children's Day, a time for intentionally celebrating and cherishing our tamariki.

Throughout Scripture, God's followers are reminded that the youngest amongst us are not only valued by God but are used by and spoken to by God. I am reminded of the way God speaks directly to Samuel, and that God chose David to lead the nation of Israel, not when he had proven himself as a man, but when he was still a young boy.

Christ himself came as a child, so that he might experience the reality of human life. It's funny to think about Jesus learning to walk, or losing his first tooth. But if we are to believe that Christ experienced the very fullness of life as a human, then the milestones of childhood would have been something he experienced also.

Our children are a treasure to be cherished. Unfortunately, for many of our children, this is not their reality. According to UNICEF, New Zealand has one of the worst rates of child abuse in the developed world. There are many factors that contribute, including socio-economic circumstances and substance abuse. May we be moved to find ways to support families in our own communities, and may God show us where we can make meaningful change in the lives of families who are struggling.

This Children's Day, we are invited to pray for our children and their whānau. Together, we need to pray for the protection and wellbeing of our tamariki; that families would receive the practical, financial, and emotional support needed to raise children in safe environments. We pray that our children would have the confidence and ability to navigate an ever-changing world. Above all, pray that our children would know that they matter. That they are loved and valued, not only by their whānau and community, but by a God who truly cherishes them as the taonga that they are.

Karo Wilson, Director, Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry

[Karo@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:Karo@presbyterian.org.nz)

**Moderator: Rev Phyll Harris**  
[moderator@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:moderator@alpinepresbytery.org)  
Phone 027 352 7886

**Youth & Young Adults Enabler:**  
**Rev Sage Harris**  
[youth@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:youth@alpinepresbytery.org)  
Phone: 027 356 0740

**Executive Officer: Rev Martin Stewart**  
[executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org)  
Phone: 021 308 519

**Ministries Coordinator:**  
**Rev Dan Spragg**  
[minco@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:minco@alpinepresbytery.org)  
Phone: 021 770 112

**Resource Team Leader:**  
**Abi Trevathan** [abi@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:abi@alpinepresbytery.org)  
Phone: 027 339 6006

**Treasurer: Keith Christie**  
[treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org)  
**Office Support: Gail Weaver**  
[gail@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:gail@alpinepresbytery.org)

## Knox Church, Waimate, 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Waimate Knox Presbyterian Church would like to announce that we are holding our 150 years celebration this year, 2024. This will be the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> September and so, in advance, we welcome all those who have had some part in the life of Knox Church to come and join with us in these celebrations.

Information will be added to our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Knox.Waimate](http://www.facebook.com/Knox.Waimate)) in due course, or contact Jan Dugdale: [knoxwaimatepres@gmail.com](mailto:knoxwaimatepres@gmail.com), phone 027 2676480

## Sister Eveleen Retreat House

In this Lenten season we encourage you to reserve some special time for karakia, contemplation and pause to reflect. Warm invite to our retreats and events. For more information go to the website: [www.sistereretreat.com](http://www.sistereretreat.com)

**Open Retreat Day at Sister Ev:** facilitator: Antje Duda

**Date:** Wed, 28 February, 9:30–2:30pm, Theme for February - *Lent -*

**S/he God - Exploring God images:** facilitator: Megan Blaikie

**Date:** 29 February 2024, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Exploring God-images.

**Trusting the Voice Within:** facilitator: Megan Blaikie

**Date** 14th March, 9:30am - 2:30pm. A day-time retreat that 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** (*only limited places*): facilitators: Carol and Colin Renouf

*Praying with and walking through the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Luke 15: 11-32*

**Date:** Fri 15 March (7pm) – Sun 17 March (3pm).

**Open Retreat Day @Sister Ev March:** facilitator: Antje Duda

**Date** Thursday 27 March, 9:30 – 2:30 - Theme in March: – *Holy Week*

**The Contemplative Gaze:** facilitator: Donald Scott

*"... beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, we are being transformed into the same image." 2 Cor 3:18*

**Date:** Fri, 12 April (7pm) - Sun 14 April March (1:30pm)

**An Introductory Encounter with the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola:** facilitator: Dr. Mary Allen of

*A 4 week retreat with weekly sessions*

**Date:** Fridays: 19 & 26 April, 3 & 10 May. (3-4pm)

**Attending to the needs of people in midlife:** a day with Dr. Anne Shave. *A day for clergy, church leaders, teams and pastoral workers*

**Date:** 1 May 2024, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



Cashmere Presbyterian Church's self-guided AUTUMN GARDEN TOUR is on this Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, with three gardens in Cashmere, one in Halswell, and two in Tai Tapu. Gardens range from small to large, and include an award-winning garden encompassing around 5,600 m<sup>2</sup> of grounds, one with challenging-to-plant clay banks, and others that are well-planned to take account of a smaller area.

Tickets \$50 each. Book at [events.humanitix.com/autumn-garden-tour](http://events.humanitix.com/autumn-garden-tour), or contact the Church Office to pay by cash, or Eftpos (ph. 03 3327129, email [cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz))

**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.

## News from PYM (Presbyterian Youth Ministry)

To find out more go to their website: [www.pym.org.nz/](http://www.pym.org.nz/)

**Connect Online Training 2024:** Quality training and engagement around key youth ministry topics.

For more information go to [www.pym.org.nz/connect-online](http://www.pym.org.nz/connect-online)

**Thursday 7th, 14th & 21st March · 7pm-9pm**  
PCANZ Safety WOF Training Online · PYM Team

**Monday 8th April · 7pm-8:30pm**  
Supporting Neuro Diverse Young People

**Tuesday 14th May · 7pm-8:30pm**  
Proclaiming the Gospel to a Lost Generation · Matt Chamberlin

**Tuesday 11th June · 7pm-8:30pm**  
Understanding Sexuality 1 · Details to follow

**Monday 17th June · 7pm-8:30pm**  
Understanding Sexuality 2 · Details to follow

**Tuesday 20th August · 7pm-8:30pm**  
Fundraising - What's in your Hand? · Mitch Shaw

**Monday 9th September · 7pm-8:30pm**  
Pornography · Geoff New

**Tuesday 15th October · 7pm-8:30pm**  
Good Transitions · PYM Team

**Tuesday 12th November · 7pm-8:30pm**  
People's Choice · TBA

### The PCANZ Child Protection Policy has been updated:

See the latest version at [safetywof.org.nz/PCANZ-Child-Protection-Policy-Updated-September-2023/](http://safetywof.org.nz/PCANZ-Child-Protection-Policy-Updated-September-2023/)

Included in the new CPP is clarification around the responsibility to report abuse, including the option to obtain advice from national support agencies. The Safety WOF training has also been updated in line with the new Child Protection Policy.



In March of 2024 we are hosting an online version of the Safety WOF Training. The WOF training will be broken down into three separate sessions done over three Thursday evenings, 1.5-2 hours long.

If you are leading young people under the age of 18 you need to do the full Safety WOF training once and then do the much shorter refresher every three years.

To book in, go to: [safetywof.org.nz/](http://safetywof.org.nz/)

## JOIN OUR ONLINE WOF TRAINING SESSIONS IN 2024

**THURSDAY THE 7TH OF MARCH 7-9PM - SESSION 1: INTRO & ETHICAL PRACTICE**

**THURSDAY THE 14TH OF MARCH 7:30PM - SESSION 2: HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**THURSDAY THE 21ST OF MARCH 7-8:30PM - SESSION 3: SAFE RECRUITMENT AND RESPONDING TO ABUSE**

### 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

### Rangatahi Noho Marae

**3pm, Friday 26<sup>th</sup>—11am Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

We are Inviting year 11-13 students from our Presbyterian Churches and Church Schools to join us for two amazing days of fun, food, faith and leadership development as we explore our bi-cultural past and future.

Hosted by Te Aka Puaho (the PCANZ Maori Synod) and the PYM Youth Leaders Network, our stay on the marae will provide an engaging learning experience around key themes of

Tikanga Maori

The emergence of Christianity among Maori and how Te Ao Maori (the Maori worldview) and Christianity can be woven together

The partnership between the Presbyterian Church and Te Aka Puaho

The Treaty of Waitangi

Leadership principles from Te Ao Maori

Each school or church is invited to nominate up to 5 year 11-13 students. Please discuss with us if you would like to nominate additional students.

Ideally students need to be accompanied by a youth leader, chaplain or a teacher. Please discuss with us if you are not able to do so.

Registration is open. For information on the aims, schedule and travel scholarships go to [www.pym.org.nz/rangatahi-noho-marae](http://www.pym.org.nz/rangatahi-noho-marae).

### Coming Up

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

**Knox Church, Waimate, 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations: 21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> September**

### From the last Newsletter

- Request for Resources—Iona Project
- World Day of Prayer services
- Emu Music Concert & Conference
- Events in Nelson
- Exploring the Name & Boundaries of Palestine/ Israel in the Christian Biblical Imagination