

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 27th March 2024

*Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 4th April***

As we move towards Easter, I've been pondering the thought that God is "the stronger presence." It has opened a different way of thinking about everyday things. What does it mean if God is a stronger presence than our ruptured relationships? What does it mean if God is a stronger presence than the worries that consume us? What does it mean if God is a stronger presence than the busyness that runs us ragged? What does it mean if God is a stronger presence than the illnesses that ravage our bodies? What does it mean if God is a stronger presence than the temptations we struggle with? What does it mean if God is a stronger presence than our natural world that is being overwhelmed with global warming? What does it mean if God is a stronger presence than the conflict raging in many parts of our world? And with Easter fast approaching what does it mean if God is a stronger presence than death?

This Easter will be different for us all. Some of us will be in Good Friday, facing the horror of unwanted bad news where there is no out. Some of us will be in the abandonment and free fall of Easter Saturday where our world has been shattered and lost all meaning. Some of us will be experiencing the reality of the resurrection after the darkness of death. Resurrection life has dawned bringing new hope and joy for the future.

However we find ourselves this Easter, I invite you to sit prayerfully with these ponderings where they might hold meaning for you. This Easter may we be reminded anew that through the cross Jesus has made a way for God's stronger presence to be with us in every situation. That stronger presence might mean healing from the things that burden us mentally, physically or emotionally, but equally that stronger presence might mean enabling us to journey through our situations with the renewing, resurrecting power of God. Whichever way we look at it, God's stronger presence made available to us in Jesus Christ is a presence that I would not want to be without in this world. May the peace of Jesus Christ and God's stronger presence be with you through the Spirit this Easter.

Rev Phyll Harris—Moderator, Alpine Presbytery

Nelson Church Service for West Coasters

A 10 am Sunday Worship Service will be held on Sunday 19th May 2024 for the many former West Coasters who now reside in the Nelson Tasman District or in Marlborough and Canterbury. Services of this nature have been successfully held in Christchurch in various churches for a number of years.

The venue for the Nelson service will be the Nelson Tasman Methodist Parish's Church at 94 Neale Ave, Stoke, Nelson. The congregation of that parish will also be in attendance.

Ian Davidson will be the guest preacher for the service. Ian was born in Hokitika, and is an experienced lay minister and preacher who has served in New Zealand, outback Australia, and Papua New Guinea.

If you would wish to attend this special service, or know others who may be interested, please contact Shona McLean at shona.mclean138@gmail.com or 021 078 5597.

Any questions please contact Paul Tregurtha at pwtrig@gmail.com or (03) 546 4358

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

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

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

Ministries Coordinator:
Rev Dan Spragg
minco@alpinepresbytery.org
Phone: 021 770 112

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

Treasurer: Keith Christie
treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org
Office Support: Gail Weaver
gail@alpinepresbytery.org



Registrations for our Gathering in April are now open. This will be on 5th – 6th April and held at St Margarets Presbyterian Church in Bishopdale.

As part of the Gathering we will have Brett & Helen Mann share with us about their bicultural journey and why supervision is critical for those in ministry.

Full details are on our website at: alpinepresbytery.org/autumn-gathering/

Alongside the Gathering we will be hosting two events for elders and church council members on 4th of April, and there is an option for dinner on Thursday – please indicate on the form if you would like dinner to be provided.

- We are hosting a **Q&A with the Executive Officer of Church Property Trustees**, Russell Garrett at 4.30pm on the 4th April. Russell will be addressing the issue of insurance costs for parishes and will also be available for questions as part of this time.
- **Eldership in a Changing Age:** Adjacent to the Gathering we are holding an Elders workshop in the evening of the 4th April. As part of this workshop we will look at the role of the elder and their place in the life of the Presbytery. We will also look to discuss moving into a space of discernment (as opposed to management) and how we connect with our communities. This workshop will be run with KCML (Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership).

Registration for The Gathering and for the two workshops on the Thursday is at: forms.gle/jhPX9c13ewG5BSVU8

A Guide for Archives Management in the Parish

Is it time to check your parish's church records and archives? Are you keeping everything you should (or maybe too much!)?

Parish archives are valuable and delicate documents:

- they are strands of memory
- they are collective memory
- they help us converse with our Presbyterian past
- they convey visions
- they tell of hope
- they tell us about the progression of faith in the community
- they act as reminders where we have erred
- they are important in charting a future of Christian witness

The primary responsibility for a parish's archives belongs to the congregation. Archives are the collective memory of our Congregations and the Presbyterian Church. In order to preserve the entire history of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, well maintained and accessible archives are needed in each parish.

The most effective way to ensure that records are gathered together to receive the care they require for long-term access is to appoint an archivist or archives Committee. For those who enjoy history and the study of society and culture caring for the parish's archival treasure (taonga) is not only fun but a 'ministry'. However, an archivist is not necessarily the historian or interpreter of the congregation's history.

Information available from the Presbyterian Research Centre (the Archive & Library for the PCANZ) will help you to decide what action your parish may need to take. Go to pcanzarchives.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/8386

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

At the Community Gardens at Trinity Church, Timaru, potatoes were planted to break in new ground. This picture shows the results!



War Memorial Boards

The NZ Society of Genealogists would like to update their record collection and list of War Memorials and Honour Boards for Christchurch City. The original list they have available was compiled before the 2011 earthquakes.

They are asking for churches that hold War Memorial boards or Honour Boards within their buildings to contact them with the information. They are keen to photograph them and transcribe the information, which will then be forwarded to the NZSG Research Library in Auckland.

Please contact Lorraine Wilmhurst at malcwilms@gmail.com to arrange for her to visit.



MORE THAN MUSIC MENTOR

CORE CONTENT WORKSHOP

Training for the **heart** & the **art** of **worshipping** musicians & technicians

FRIDAY

3rd

MAY

6:30PM

MINGLE

7-9:30PM

PROGRAM

WITH **GRANT NORSWORTHY**

of PAUL COLMAN TRIO, SONIC FLOOD & GRAMMY NOMINATED
producer of **The Blessing | Aotearoa/NZ**

HOSTED by ...



St Albans
Baptist Church

@ THE MCFADDENS CENTRE

64 McFaddens Road, St. Albans, Christchurch



THIS EVENT IS NOT FREE!

While those who attend will not be charged for admission, benefitting churches should contact churchmanager@sabc.org.nz to make their financial contribution towards the event costs.

CAN'T ATTEND IN PERSON?
WATCH ON



Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/1l1PDjxmj>



Jubilate Singers presents

Gabriel Fauré

A centennial celebration

Featuring his much-loved Requiem plus Pavane, Sicilienne, Cantique de Jean Racine, Après un Rêve, Madrigal and more.

Conducted by Philip Norman

Knox Church

28 Bealey Avenue

Saturday 13 April 2.00pm



www.trybooking.co.nz/RGC
Advanced booking \$30/\$10
(Full/student) or cash at the door.
Includes afternoon tea.

www.jubilate.org.nz



Coming Up

Presbytery Gathering: 5-6 April

Nelson Church Service for West Coasters:
19 May

Knox Church, Waimate, 150th Celebrations:
21st –22nd September

From the last Newsletter

- The Pruner—Harvest reflection
- Ministry opportunity— Mackenzie Country
- I Love Taiwan Applications open for 2024
- The Knox Church Peace Seminars
- Ethics & Risk Management Workshops
- Invitation to the launch of Friends of Sister Eveleen Retreat House
- Haere rā from Megan at Presbyterian Support
- South Island Ministry Conference
- Climate Aware Pastoral Care Seminar

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