



# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024

*Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August***

### Rev Errol Hildreth

You will be sorry to hear that Errol Hildreth died on 24th July.

Bruce Hansen tells us: Errol was a delightful fellow who was always cheerful and positive and felt a strong connection to his colleagues. Whenever I spoke to Errol he would always say “Pass on my good wishes to everybody. I don’t forget my colleagues.”

Errol was ordained within the Baptist Church in 1957 and was received by the General Assembly in 1982. It was probably these early years in the Baptist ministry that he shared with Don Wilson that explained their closeness. Don had been visiting Errol when he was knocked down crossing the road on his way home. Errol felt that closely and never quite got over it.

It was also Errol’s more liberal approach to life that led to his change of ministry— though he never made any negative comments about the Baptist Church.

He began his ministry in the Presbyterian church as Stated Supply in the Heriot parish before moving to the Waikouaiti parish in 1983. From there he came to the Kaiapoi parish in 1989 and stayed there until his retirement in 1994

Errol took a genuine and personal interest in everybody he met and was genuinely accepting of people’s idiosyncrasies and differences.

Errol cared for his wife Barbara for many years and when she needed greater care and went into Nazareth House he visited her every day from their home in Phillipstown (I think that he made that journey by bus). Unfortunately he himself had a heart attack and underwent surgery just days prior to Barbara’s death in January 2021. He then moved into a townhouse at Windsor Care and later moved into their care facilities where he went into the room that had been occupied by Brian Metherell (Errol saw that as a positive thing, having frequently visited Brian there prior to Brian’s death).

Errol was always positive. When I asked how he was he would say “I’m O.K. I’ve just had too many birthdays”, and if I asked if he was in pain he would say “Not often. Well I am in discomfort but not agony”.

Errol had recently spent some time in Burwood Hospital and his death comes as a release. His funeral was held today at Knox Church, Christchurch.

### Winter Wānanga with KCML

St Pauls Trinity Pacific, Christchurch

**Walking the Road: Pastoral Care and the Road to Emmaus** - Friday 23 August, 7pm - 9pm (Option for dinner available at 6pm)

**Preaching for the Old Testament: Learning from the Book of Esther** - Saturday 24 August, 9.30am - 3pm (Lunch & Morning Tea Provided)

**Facilitator:** Rev Dr Geoff New, Principal Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML).

**For more details and to Register** go to [alpinepresbytery.org/winter-wananga/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/winter-wananga/)

### Statistics forms

All parishes should by now have received the Statistics forms for the year ending 30 June 2024 directly from Wellington.

The statistics forms should reflect your church’s membership and finances at balance date of 30 June 2024. General Assembly requires that all Presbyterian churches complete financial and membership statistics.

The forms are also available on the PCANZ website: [www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/church-statistics](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/for-parishes/church-statistics).

These statistics forms are spreadsheet-based and designed to be filled in electronically. Please complete the forms and return them to Katrina Graham, Finance Administrator at [katrina@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:katrina@presbyterian.org.nz) by **31 August**

We ask that you also send a copy to the Presbytery office: [office@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:office@alpinepresbytery.org)

If you have any questions or believe you will have problems meeting the 31<sup>st</sup> August deadline, please contact Katrina Graham

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#### 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 sent to Gail Weaver

#### 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 Weaver, Office Support, advising of their position in their Parish or the Presbytery.

## Global Mission: English Teacher Required in Vanuatu 2025

Applications are invited for the position of English teacher at Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu for 2025. Preference will be given to applicants willing to commit to two years, but consideration will be given to those only able to commit to 2025. This position will suit either an individual or a couple with the appropriate qualifications and an interest in cross-cultural mission. The position does not come with a salary, but a living allowance is paid, expenses are covered and accommodation is provided on the college campus. Find the minimum requirements and full role description at [www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/global-mission#ENGS](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/global-mission#ENGS)

## Scripture Union NZ summer camps

Scripture Union NZ summer camps have just opened up for registrations! There will be 16 camps around the country for kids, teens and young adults. Take the chance to explore your faith in the outdoors with friends! There are a range of activities offered – from surfing, sailing, tramping, a week on a Pōnui island and more... what better way to take hold of the opportunity summer brings! Make sure to register before they fill up.

For details go to [sunz.org.nz/event-category/sucamps/summer-youth-camps/](http://sunz.org.nz/event-category/sucamps/summer-youth-camps/)

**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH,  
349 WAI-ITI ROAD, TIMARU**




**PLANT SALE**

**Wide variety of plants ~  
Cake stall ~ Morning tea**

**Please bring along a bag for your purchases**



**9AM SATURDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER**



## Event to honour the victims and survivors of sexual abuse

The victims and survivors of sexual abuse in New Zealand will be honoured in a public reading in the Transitional Cathedral on Thursday, 8 August. Dr Jane Simpson will read from her new book, *Shaking the Apple Tree*. Copies may be purchased at the Cathedral Shop or from [www.poiema.co.nz/shop](http://www.poiema.co.nz/shop)

All are welcome. The event starts at 7.00pm and will be live-streamed on [www.cardboardcathedral.org.nz](http://www.cardboardcathedral.org.nz)

## Notes from the meeting of Presbytery Council

held Thursday 25 July 2024 at St Andrew's College, Christchurch

**Present at the meeting were:** Rev Phyll Harris (Moderator), Keith Christie, Rev Brent Richardson, Rev Jonathan Barb, Rev Rory Grant, Lyn Heine (via Zoom), Rev Jason King, Ann McMillan, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga, and Rev Martin Stewart (Executive Officer).

**Welcome & Devotions:** Phyll welcomed everyone and shared some stories from her Study Leave of a few years ago as she noted the release of the Report

## From the last Newsletter

- Study Leave—Martin Stewart
- Christchurch Ministry Leaders' Lunch
- Refresh—Ministry Leaders' Conference
- New Vacancy at ICHC
- Piano give-away scam
- Online Ethics & Risk Management Workshops
- Concerts at Knox, Christchurch:

## Coming Up

Christchurch Ministry Leaders' Lunch: 15 August

KCML Workshops: 23—24 August

Plant Sale, St Stephen's, Timaru: 14 September

Knox Church, Waimate, 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations: 21—22 September

Presbytery Gathering in Nelson: 1—3 November

## 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

of the Royal Commission on Abuse in States & Religious Care, including the reflection that 'there is a time to speak and tell your story.' She made the observation that on the cross Christ faces brokenness bringing healing and reconciliation. One person she interviewed in her study made this comment, "A judgemental God was not a helpful picture as a lifeline even if I am drowning, self-judgement was one of the things I was drowning in, - a loving God was essential to my healing."

Phyll read from Psalm 34:18 'the Lord is always close to the broken-hearted and rescues those who's spirits are crushed.'

Phyll initiated a time of prayer.

**Conflicts of Interest:** None were identified.

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 27 June 2024 had been approved by email and were ratified at the meeting.

Two email decisions re PnF matters were ratified:

Approving up to \$20,000 be set aside from the Enterprise Fund for legal advice etc regarding the setup of the Fund.

Approving selling the previous Albury Pleasant Point property at 102 Main Road Pleasant Point; based on the latest market valuation.

**Risk Management** As usual, a discussion was held in private on matters of risk.

**Moderator's Report:** Phyll reported on preparations for the installation of the new Principal at Rangī Ruru Girls' School and conversations with Martin. People congratulated her on the birth of a granddaughter in Brunei.

**The Executive Officer Report:** Martin reported on several aspects of his work, highlights included:

Activities included:

- Being at Whakatu Nelson for the farewell service for Rev Jon Parkes and preaching at the Commissioning service for Sage Harris as the sole minister.
- Development Unit (Mid-Canterbury replacing the Plains Parish) meetings and preaching at Methven
- Meeting with Anglican Bishop of Nelson, Steve Maina
- It was noted that Abi Trevathan's commissioning will occur when the Knox Centre have prepared the learning agreement.
- Martin presented a reflection on things as he marked 4 years in the EO role.

Decisions:

- Martin to organise meeting with the Bishop and the Awatere church leaders about future strategy at Awatere.
- Follow up with the Nelson Diocese re the partnership with Hills Community Church.

## Property & Finance

Ann McMillan shared key aspects of the report, including,

- St Andrew's Organ Fund: The Village have agreed to contribute the equivalent of two years funding for 2025-26. Presbytery to also contribute.
- Lindisfarne Camp – registration of easement: the neighbour (who donated the land for the camp originally) is subdividing a small part of their land which adjoins the camp

Decisions:

- Approving the allocation of \$4,500 from the Discretionary Fund for the annual St Andrew's Organ Scholarship to Rangī Ruru Girls' School; as a contribution to covering five years of the scholarship.
- Noting that a new easement has been registered for the Lindisfarne Camp to allow conveyance of water for Lot 1 of a subdivision.

- Approving no MEF deduction from the proceeds from the sale of the Pleasant Point property at 102 Main Road, Pleasant Point.
- Approving covering the cost of Ministry Development Reviews for Ministers up to \$500 per review from 1 July 2024, funded from the Discretionary Fund for a 3 year cycle.

### Human Resources

Lyn Heine shared key aspects of her report.

Decisions:

- Approving Rev Dr Alan Missen be both IM and MSB convener at St Albans.
- Approving Rev Dan Yeazel be approved as Stated Supply minister at St Martins for up to 2 years subject to an employment contract being prepared and signed.
- Approving Rev Anne Stewart (convener), Rev Henry Mbambo & Peter Yates be the Presbytery reps on the Hakatere MSB.

### Resourcing Report

Rory spoke to the report

He identified a shift away from Resourcing as a category in the Presbytery structure, while something emerges and is taken to next year's Gathering for approval, he will continue in the convenorship consulting the team as needed.

Decision:

- Approving Rev. Josh Olds be appointed as the convenor of the Forge Aotearoa oversight team on behalf of Alpine Presbytery.

### Order of the Day:

St Andrew's College representatives, Rector Christine Leighton, Rev Paul Morrow & Presbytery rep on the Board of Governors Peter Nelson joined the meeting.

They spoke about their work and shared stories of the life at St Andrew's and a good discussion was held about the special character and ways Presbyterian values and an ethos is reflected in the life of the college.

It was noted that Christine is retiring at the end of the year after 17 years as Rector. People spoke warmly of her leadership, the challenges and triumphs over the time of her service and wished her well as she prepares for retirement.

Mr Mark Wilson will begin as Rector in 2025.

Discussion about the possibility of establishing a scholarship to enable a student for whom the fees would be prohibitive was discussed.

Phyll thanked them for coming, for hosting Council, and prayed for the College and the work of those present.

### General Business

- Approving the **Standard Terms of Call** for a new full-time minister at **The Village Church**.
- Approving the amended to **Standard Terms of Call** (with no time limit) for **Rev Eric Mattock at St Andrew's Ashburton**.
- Rev Dan Spragg joined the meeting for two matters

#### a. **Hanmer New Mission Seedling Review**

A report had been prepared last month by Dan Spragg and the oversight team for Hanmer Springs. A discussion followed noting several points:

1. there was acknowledgement of the achievements and challenges faced in the work carried out by Ben & Philippa Necklen over three years.
2. accessing the material from the Gathering discussion would be helpful as Council considers options
3. clarity about a range of options for the future would be helpful as Council considers the affordability and ways Presbytery could be present in Hanmer Springs.

#### b. **a request for mediation expenses**

Approval given to meet the costs for a suitable mediator in a situation

- A brief discussion was held on the key points from the **Council Planning Day** on 24 July at Lincoln. Martin to follow up.
- Jason King has indicated he will complete his term on Council finishing later this year or ahead of the 2025 Gathering.

The Meeting closed with the saying of The Grace. People wished Martin well on his study leave.

The next meeting is Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August via Zoom