



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 10th October 2024

*Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 17th October***

As the moderator I occasionally get the opportunity to catch up with people in the Presbytery and listen to their stories. Recently I met with David Sang-Joon Kim (Minister @ St. Marks) before he left to follow God's call north. He was gratefully reflecting on his time ministering alongside the people of St. Marks and on what God had been up to in their space.

It was exciting to listen as David Sang-Joon shared around his recent study leave on the metaphor of an Estuary from a theological perspective. He was particularly captured by the wetlands and how for many years they have had negative connotations as places of industrial wasteland. And yet the wetlands have an amazing ability to filter out toxins and act as a purifying agent for the water that passes through, allowing it to be a place that makes life possible. The wetlands gave a tangible expression to the work of Jesus on the Cross that resonated well in our context today compared to trying to help people understand the likes of penal substitution etc,

David Sang-Joon used to think of the estuary as being the gateway to the ocean but found that his study-leave allowed him to see the estuary as a gathering together of all the small streams, tributaries and larger rivers that flowed into it. This gave a great metaphor for St. Marks as they looked at all the tributaries that flowed through their physical space, mingling with those who gather for Christian worship.

The study-leave also opened up imaginative space around the question "what would it look like for our tributary to flow into the community we are hosted in?" David Sang-Joon noticed a small stream in their area that the community was working to restore from its "drain" status back to a healthy stream. Investigating further it turned out that the local community had been hard at work for several years trying to return this stream to its original healthy state. Here was a place in their community that God was already at work and they made a conscious decision to connect with what was already happening.

David gathered a team of volunteers from within the church and was delighted when members from the community groups hosted in the St. Marks buildings offered to join in as well. Together they began working with the locals to see the stream restored and new vegetation planted around its banks. He told the delightful story of one of the young helpers calling out to him nervously. He was watering a seedling he had just planted with water he had taken from the stream... only to find he had a fish wriggling around in his bucket of water! He wasn't sure what to do with it, but he was reassured this was an exciting moment as it meant the stream was once again able to sustain life.

As the tributaries from St. Marks Church, the community groups within St. Marks and the locals merged in their communal vision to see the stream restored new life emerged. New life not just for the fish but for all involved. A life-giving story worth sharing about what God is up to in our neighbourhoods.

We pray God's blessing on David Sang-Joon, Lisa and family as they follow God's call, on the people of St. Marks as they enter a transition time and on the Avonhead community. May we be inspired to see many more streams will be brought back to a place of being able to sustain life, both physical and spiritual.

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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.

Ministry Leaders Wānanga: 1st—3rd November, in Nelson

What is a wānanga? Wānanga: A space for open discussion, for gathering together to discuss different thoughts, opinions and experiences.

In te ao Māori, te wānanga is the traditional space where knowledge is gained and exchanged. It is a very Māori way of learning – to seek to come to a deeper understanding of the matters that are discussed, but not necessarily needing to come to an outcome or to result in a decision being made. **Wānanga are spaces where differences are welcomed.**

This wānanga is open to ministers, elders, and others who are serving in your parish. We hope that it will be a space where we can get to know each other better, engage with different ideas and learn together!

To find out more and to register, go to alpinepresbytery.org/wananga/

Draw Near: A Lenten Devotional, by Lynne Baab

Lynne Baab sends greetings to Alpine Presbytery. She wants to let you know about her most recent book, Draw Near: A Lenten Devotional, with hopes that you might consider recommending it to your congregation for Lent next year. She chose one psalm for each day of Lent and wrote brief discussion/reflection questions that can be used alone or in a group. She chose one of her husband Dave's beautiful watercolours to illustrate each day's devotional. About half are scenes from New Zealand, which Dave painted when they lived in Dunedin and Lynne taught pastoral theology at the University of Otago. The book is available from Amazon Australia, so the postage is reasonable. If you'd like to see a pdf of the book, email Lynne at LMBaab@aol.com and she'll send it to you.

Te Araroa trail

Jon & Vivienne Parkes have started travelling along the Te Araroa trail, and Jon tells us that he is enjoying the slow cadence of walking through the countryside.

To follow or find out more about their adventures, you can read the blog (ridingandwalking.wordpress.com/) or watch the YouTube clips ([@viviennejon?si=5JmtCas431ruVunR](https://youtube.com/@viviennejon?si=5JmtCas431ruVunR))

Vacancies

Ministry Vacancy – half-time role: Hakatere Presbyterian Church (Ashburton)

The Hakatere Parish was formed in 2019 from the former St Paul's (Hampstead) and St James' (Tinwald). Worship and activities are now all located in the former St Paul's site in Hampstead. The parish consists of a mix of energetic and experienced adults, from various cultures and backgrounds.

We are looking for a nationally ordained minister who is:

- A good preacher – relevant, challenging, inspiring, and able to extend theological thinking
- A capable leader who can teach/coach and is able to collaborate and lead change
- Able to lead a vision for the future strategically
- Caring and approachable with good listening/communication skills

We are looking for someone who can:

- Lead at least two worship services a month and include a reflection which brings scripture alive in our context
- Relate positively with a wide cross-section of understanding, age, ethnicities
- Work with and support our pastoral worker
- Complement our outreach programs pastorally and within the wider community

From the last Newsletter

- Making a different kind of Space
- Forge Aotearoa
- Presbyterian Investment Fund
- Updated Earthquake Prone Building Policy
- Items available
- Part time Youth Worker—Northwest Christchurch Anglican Church
- Notes from Presbytery Council meeting

Coming Up

Plantarama at Cashmere
Presbyterian: 19 October

Ministry Leaders Wānanga:
1st—3rd November, in Nelson

Forge Aotearoa hui
8th - 10th 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/

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

- Become part of developing the concept of cooperation with other churches in Mid-Canterbury, while retaining our individual identities

Standard PCANZ terms of call, are offered at half-time rate. Expressions of interest are invited and can be made, prior to **Thursday 31 October**, to the convenor of the Ministry Settlement Board Rev Anne Stewart—annestewart856@gmail.com—who will provide further details.

St Johns Presbyterian Church, Hawera, Minister - Full Time

St Johns, Hawera is calling a full time Minister to serve and lead its congregation. This position is one of leading a ministry team including a Pastoral Assistant and a Youth Pastor (both part time). More specific details about the role are set out in the Parish Profile. Further information is available by contacting the MSB convenor. The Ministry Settlement Board welcomes expressions of interest along with CV and will follow these up in confidence.

For further information contact Rev John Mattock (Convenor, MSB) jandcmattock@kinect.co.nz. **Closing date: 31st October 2024**

Expressions of Interest – Site Pastor, Hope Presbyterian Rolleston

Hope Presbyterian Church is seeking expressions of interest for the position of Site Pastor at our Rolleston location. The Site Pastor will play a key role in leading the local congregation to fulfil Hope Presbyterian's mission of bringing God's love and transformative power to the world.

As part of a dynamic, multi-site church located in the southwest region of Christchurch, New Zealand, with sites in Hornby, West Melton/Halkett, and Rolleston, team ministry is central to our approach. We believe in the strength of collaboration and work interdependently to advance the Kingdom of God.

We are looking for a candidate with a vibrant and authentic Christian faith, rooted in Christ and reliant on God's wisdom. The successful applicant will have a passion for people, a heart for the church, and a clear calling to lead. Key qualities include:

- Proven ability to lead and develop teams effectively.
- Engaging and relevant preaching and teaching skills.
- Strong organisational and administrative capabilities.
- A responsiveness to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

The Site Pastor is accountable to the Lead Pastor and Eldership of Hope Presbyterian, as well as Alpine Presbytery, as a minister of Word and Sacrament.

To request a full job description or to express interest in this role, please contact Dan Spragg at minco@alpinepresbytery.org

EcuAction Forum

EcuAction have organised a Forum on **Thursday 7th November**, 6pm at Knox Church, 28 Bealey Avenue, Christchurch, entitled "**The Treaty Always Speaks: National and Local Conversations**".

Paul Dalziel (Professor of Economics, Lincoln University) and Jane Higgins (Strategic Advisor, Christchurch Methodist Mission) will talk on recent projects they have led where te Tiriti o Waitangi speaks to designing economic policy and telling the land stories of local sites. Followed by Q&A session

The evening will include the presentation of the 2024 John England Activism Award.

All Welcome; koha to defray expenses. Further info from: ecuactioncanterbury@gmail.com Or Marilyn 021 061 3940 Or Brian 021 1294305