



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 3rd October 2024

*Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 10th October***

Making a different kind of Space

I have always been a fan of languages. My first few years of schooling were in a country where learning a second language was compulsory and where most of my classmates were bi (if not tri) lingual. My mother's family spoke Mandarin (and various other dialects) and my father's family spoke Malay - naturally my brother and I grew up with English at home! When we moved to Aotearoa, I picked up Spanish in Intermediate and French all through high school. In university I learned Japanese for fun, but focused my BA on communications and linguistics—the study of how language works.

Needless to say, I am a bit of a language junkie - and a master of none of them, as it turns out. Practice is also important!

One of the things I love about languages is how different ideas and concepts can be expressed. We can actually lose a lot in the act of translation, particularly into English which often has just one word to express a variety of concepts. In Christian contexts “love” is the most commonly used example of this—there is one word translated “love” where the Greeks have eight different words which express eight different kinds of love.

I have been reflecting on Genesis 18:1-8 this week. It has reminded me about the importance of hospitality in the Bible. The offering of sustenance to strangers, widows and orphans is a common theme. Jesus also gathered his disciples around the table at the Last Supper.

In te reo Māori (the Māori language) “hospitality” is often translated as *manaakitanga*. This is not an entirely accurate translation. Yes, the idea of hospitality is incorporated into *manaakitanga* but it is more than just simply offering a cup of tea and a biscuit. Interwoven into *manaakitanga* is the idea of reciprocity and *mana* (which is the first part of the word). Mana is a hard concept to explain fully, but a key part of *mana* is that you cannot bestow it upon yourself. “*Mana* is actualized in relationships, and comes into being through recognition by others.”¹

Manaaki is about the reciprocal recognition of the *mana* in each one of us. It is about kindness, generosity and support, but incorporated into that is the understanding that we grow each other's *mana* through these practices and thus help them into a space of wellbeing. *Tanga* denotes that this act is ongoing.

Hence *manaakitanga* is about us being in relationship with each other, extending generosity and kindness with the intent of helping each other grow. It naturally requires a shift in power dynamic - we host others in a way that empowers them, not ourselves. When Christ sits with his disciples around the table he serves them, makes space for their questions and squabbles and even washes their feet. He challenges their way of thinking in the hopes that they will grow and mature in their understanding of who God is.

As we gather around our respective tables, I hope that we can make space for different ideas and ways of understanding our world. I hope that we will do more than just offer a cup of tea and a biscuit, but instead engage in the process and practice of *manaakitanga* - kindness, generosity and wellbeing.

Abi Trevathan

¹. Chellie Spiller, Hotoroa Barclay-Kerr and John Panoho “Wayfinding Leadership: Ground-Breaking Wisdom for Developing leaders”

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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/

Forge Aotearoa

The next Forge Aotearoa hui, Haerenga Tapu is in Christchurch, 7pm Friday 8th November – 11.30am Sunday 10th November. Information and registration can be found here: forgeaotearoa.nz/haerenga-tapu/ This is for anyone interested in new expressions of church and missional initiatives and we will be telling a number of local stories. Would you be willing to help make this happen, either by helping host on the day, provide airport transport Friday afternoon and Sunday midday, or billeting people who are travelling to Christchurch? Please let us know, on info@forgeaotearoa.nz

Presbyterian Investment Fund

The interest rate paid on the PIF On Call Fund will decrease from 1 October 2024 from 5.50% p.a. to 5.25% p.a. The Trustees expect the PIF On Call rate will likely continue to decrease over the next period as the Reserve Bank of New Zealand lowers the Official Cash Rate in an effort to help the fragile economy.

The interest rate on the PIF Long-Term Fund remains at 3.0% pa plus inflation. Rates are subject to change.

Updated Earthquake Prone Building Policy

The 2023 General Assembly invited the Trustees to consider aligning the Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy with the requirements under the Building Act 2004. In doing so, the General Assembly noted that the Building Act only required strengthening to 34% NBS and typically provided longer timeframes for building owners to carry out any seismic strengthening required.

After due consideration, the Trustees resolved to align the Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy with the requirements of the Building Act 2004. This means that congregations (and presbyteries where appropriate) no longer need to strengthen buildings with a NBS between 34% and 66% (inclusive) or apply to the Trustees for an exemption. And those buildings with a NBS below 34% will only need to be strengthened in accordance with an earthquake prone building notice issued by a territorial authority (and the deadline associated with that notice).

The obligations for compliance with the Building Act 2004 (and the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015) rest with the church council. Whereas the earlier policy provided some protection for church councils (by virtue of the earlier deadlines and higher standards), this is no longer the case.

The updated Church Earthquake Prone Building Policy can be found on the PCANZ website (go to <https://tinyurl.com/2swecvs8>)

Property and Finance will be in touch with the parishes that have things in the pipeline that will be affected by this updated policy

From the last Newsletter

- Darfield Vintage Fashion Show
- Decade of Shared Ministry Celebrated
- Peace is Her Song
- Sister Eveleen Retreat House may need you!!

Coming Up

Plant4U Rakaia:
5 October

Trinity Temuka Church Fair
5 October

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

Items available

Ann McMillan has some things available following parish closures: 3 wooden chairs with padded seats ('front of church' style), a large display bookcase, wheelchair, metal tea trolley, larger wooden tea trolley, nice wooden table and 3 hessian noticeboards.

If you are interested in any of these things please contact her for details/photos/locations etc: phone 027 3250397, email property.finance@alpinepresbytery.org

PLANTS 4 U @ RAKAIA

When: 5th October 2024
Doors open from 9am to 1pm

Where: St. Andrew's Church Hall in Rakaia
(Across from Mobil)



LOTS OF PLANTS!
Fruit Trees, Natives, Vegetables, Flowers Succulents
Plus lots more to beautify the garden!
Terracotta & Ceramic pots on sale
Bargains For All
Supporting The Rakaia Community.
Helpful Advice Freely Given
Contact Dorothy - Dottsknights@gmail.com

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Temuka Church Fair

Saturday 5th October
from 9am

Plants, Jams, Baking, Books,
Children's Stall, Morning Tea.

PLANTARAMA

Cashmere Presbyterian Church
corner Dyers Pass Road & Macmillan Ave

SATURDAY 19TH OCTOBER
9AM TO 12 NOON




Plants for the vegetable garden,
plants for the flower garden,
and tools to help with the process!

Sausage Sizzle
Eftpos available on site

For more info. contact the Church office: 332 7129

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
- 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 convener. 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

Is God calling you to Hawera?

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

Part time Youth Worker Position

This 10 hour per week position is at Northwest Christchurch Anglican Parish and is focused on planning and leading the Friday night youth programme that is run during the school term. The flyer with more details can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/3rdexh4u>.

For a copy of the job description, or to discuss the position with their Vicar, Rev Victoria Askin, contact the parish office: admin@northwestchchparish.org.nz or phone 352 1366.

Applications will close on **Friday 18th October 2024**.

Notes from the meeting of Presbytery Council held Thursday 26 September

Present at the meeting were: Rev Phyll Harris (Moderator), Keith Christie (via video call), Rev Brent Richardson, Rev Jonathan Barb, Rev Rory Grant, Rev Lyn Heine (via video call), Ann McMillan, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga (via video call), and Rev Dan Spragg (Acting Executive Officer).

Welcome & Devotions: Phyll led us in a reflection on having an 'attitude with gratitude' focused on how there is more to this than just a catchy saying by linking this with scripture (give thanks in all things...), and scientific research showing gratitude has a positive impact on our brains. Gratitude is something we need to practise - like a lot of good things, and we can choose to see life through the lens of gratitude both in good and bad times. In good times it helps us not take life for granted. In bad times it helps us with our perspective - that there are still good things around us. Phyll invited us to share what we were grateful for and led us in a time of prayer.

Conflicts of Interest: J Barb noted that Linwood Avenue Union Church was mentioned three times in various reports. J Barb and P Harris noted the conflict of interest with the recommendation regarding the Nominating Committee (they are both current members). J Barb indicated he would not vote on this recommendation.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 22 August had been approved by email and were ratified at the meeting. An email decision on 16 September "That Alpine Presbytery support the Crossway Community Church application to the Methodist partner for a Green Grant of \$15,000 to assist with the installation of solar panels to reduce electricity consumption and power costs.", was ratified.

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

Moderator's Report: Phyll reported on a quieter month. Discussion was held on a few requests that Phyll had received. The Book of Order Committee are seeking a female representative - Phyll will follow up with some suggestions. CWS are looking for a nomination to join their board. It was noted that Presbyterians in Aotearoa, New Zealand are CWS highest donors. They are keen to visit a Presbytery Gathering at some stage. An offer of PA services as a fundraiser for mission. And, Te Raranga - combined churches leadership network in Christchurch are focused on developing support for multicultural congregations and are asking for funding. It was decided that the best approach was for congregations to make individual contributions if they wish. A follow on discussion was had around the question of how Presbytery might look to make allowance for ecumenical support in its annual budget.

The Acting Executive Officer Report: Dan reported on several aspects of his work as Acting EO.

Decisions:

That Brent Richardson provide Ben Hughes with a Training Needs Assessment.

That Alpine write to Kaimai and request that they proceed with Jono Lange's Licensing for Ordination.

Property & Finance: The majority of Ann's report was taken as read. One item was pulled out for discussion: A request from the Nominating Committee of Council of Assembly for Presbytery to fund its own representatives to attend an in person meeting prior to GA2025. The appropriateness of the costs for National Committees being pushed to the regional bodies was questioned, and it was agreed to communicate that this recommendation was agreed to somewhat under protest.

Decisions:

That as a one-off, Alpine Presbytery covers the travel costs of its representatives on the Nominating Committee to attend an in person meeting prior to GA 2025.

That Alpine Presbytery remove the following signatories from the Plains BNZ account for both the operating account and internet banking: Miranda Addis (Plains Administrator) and Elizabeth Depree (Co-Parish Clerk).

That Alpine Presbytery does not agree to a MEF deduction from the proceeds from the sales of the Staveley Church, Mayfield Church property and the Mayfield manse.

That Alpine Presbytery approve selling the previous Plains property at 59 Bridge Street Rakaia based on a market valuation; and does not agree to a 10% MEF deduction from the sale proceeds.

Human Resources: Lyn Heine shared key aspects of her report.

Decisions:

That Council approve Hakatere proceed to calling a minister at .50 standard terms of call.

That Council approve Rev Martin Stewart as MSB convenor for Akaroa Banks Peninsula.

That Ryan Feng be approved as IM for St Mark's, Avonhead.

That Council approves Hope Presbyterian Rolleston, proceed with filling the Site Pastor role up to 100% FTE and standard terms of call (pro rata).

Forge Aotearoa

A report to stakeholders was received which contained updates on its next hui and the formation of an online learning community.

Kairuruku Whanake - Formation & Development Coordinator

The updated terms of reference for the newly re-named 'Three Peaks Mission' (Ōpuke/Plains Development Unit) were discussed as well as the relationship between the various teams within the Three Peaks Mission and the Presbytery Property & Finance Committee. The Presbytery Council values the work of the Development Team members.

Decision:

That the Terms of Reference for 'Three Peaks Mission' be confirmed.

General Business

Various matters of general business were discussed.

Parish Wellbeing Pilot (new reviews system) - The report from John Knox, Rangiora had been received and follow up items were discussed.

The final determination from the Commission to St Kentigern's had been received. Discussion was held and the Council notes Presbytery's obligations under option 'c' from BOO 5.10, 6(c). The Council acknowledges this significant decision for the parish.

The Council held a discussion on its current process for nominations to Presbytery committees and roles. Anne Stewart had written to Council with a suggestion to encourage women into leadership. Rory agreed to look at the current process and will involve one or two others in re-looking at this and asking if it is fit for purpose. The importance of leadership development and that of encouraging women into leadership was acknowledged. The Council thanks Anne for her suggestion and will seek to incorporate the ideas into its wider processes.

Akaroa Banks Peninsula Community Church. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch and Alpine Presbytery was discussed. There are a couple of items needing clarification which Ann will follow up with. The Council will seek to agree to the MOU in principle via email soon.

Decisions:

That Presbytery confirms the decision of the Commission - that the parish of St Kentigern's Burwood United be dissolved as of 31 March 2025.

That Presbytery appoints a suitable person as an advisor to work alongside the Interim Moderator and the Congregation of St Kentigern's as it decides how best to manage the process of closure and ongoing pastoral care.

Correspondence: Presbytery Council had received a request from the Council of Assembly to share Presbytery's strategic plan and sense of priorities with the CoA (due October 7 2024). It was agreed to share the Alpine Culture and Strategic Framework (2020) and the following list:

1. Resourcing to strengthen our Bi-Cultural journey as a church
2. Continuation, investment into, and development of Presbyterian Youth Ministry & Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry
3. Compliance (Health & Safety, Financial, Child Protection, Privacy etc) and Complaints Support
4. Developing our practices of whānaungatanga as a national church (integrating interdependence between presbyteries (all 7) and the national church life)
5. Resourcing to strengthen our environmental action and creation care as a mission priority
6. Resourcing and training pathways development for vocational ministry
7. Collective bargaining on operational necessities such as but not limited to: Phone Plans, Vehicle Leasing/ Purchasing, IT lease/purchasing, Website Hosting...

The Meeting closed with a collective saying of The Grace.

The next meeting is Thursday 24 October 2024 online unless Council decides otherwise.