

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 12th December 2024

Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 19th December**



Coming Home

At this time of year, I have quite evocative memories of my years in Auckland where I would drive around the city and the pōhutukawas would be blooming brilliantly, the summer breeze through my window, listening to Christmas songs on the radio. One that is synonymous with this season is, "Driving Home for Christmas". There is that dynamic for many about 'going home' at this

time of year. Being with family. Back to familiar places of our childhood perhaps. Feeling 'at home' with our family and friends.

And in our church life, as the season of Advent unfolds into Christmas, again there is a sense of the familiar, the sense of home as we hear once more the familiar stories of long ago. "This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered". Going home. "And the word became flesh and lived among us..." God at home with us. "And Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart". The family that was home to Jesus as a child.

Christmas is a time for us to 'come home' to the One who gives us life. To reflect once more on the wonder of the incarnation, the light of the world, the one who made his home with humanity and through doing so, drew us into closer connection with the divine. A time to celebrate 'being at home' with the one who gives us love, life, purpose, direction and hope. A time of renewal. A time of gratitude.

At this time, we are also very aware that there are many who have no physical or spiritual home to go to. Those who are not welcome at home, where there is 'no room in the inn'. Those who search in the darkness for life and light. We hold them in our prayers and also seek practical ways in which we can help.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas with family and friends, a sense of 'being home' with God, and the knowledge and assurance that God goes before us, leading us into the New Year that lies ahead.

Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year. I appreciate it very much.

Holy God, as we celebrate the Incarnation, help us to know in a deep way that we find our home in you. Thank you for the gift of the Christ child, the light of the world, for the ongoing work of your Holy Spirit, for the promise of life in all of its fullness. All praise to you O God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Meri Kirihimete,

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

Dates to Note

Newsletters: Next week will be the last Newsletter for the year. The first one for 2025 will be on 16th January.

Staff Leave:

Dan Spragg will be on leave 21 December to 19 January

Abi Trevathan is on leave 21 December to 21 January

Gail is taking the public holidays and the first week of January, so will be back doing Presbytery work on 15 January

Presbytery Gathering: 9 –10 May 2025

(Venue tbc, but most likely at John Knox Church, Rangiora)

It would be really good if Ministers and Presbytery Elders could note these dates and aim to be there next year. It has been a while since we had a good turnout at a Gathering.

The big topics for discussion and decision at the Gathering are working on the Presbytery Strategy (we update these every 3-4 years), formally establishing the Enterprise Fund, adopting the Budget, electing several new members of Presbytery Council, reflecting on options for the future at Hanmer Springs after a season of seedling ministry, and inducting a new Presbytery Moderator (nominations are now open). Material about the major decision streams will be circulated well-before we gather.

Our **guest speaker** is Dr Andrew Root from the United States – he is an engaging speaker and writer with a particular focus on how to do and be church in this season of decline. There will be room for any interested people to come along to the sessions when he is speaking.

VACANCIES

Exciting Opportunity:

Ministry Team Leader for a Restart Mission in Rural Mid-Canterbury

Alpine Presbytery is seeking a **Team Leader** to spearhead an inspiring new ministry initiative in the Methven-Rakaia-Mayfield areas of Mid-Canterbury.

This **half-time ministry position** (initially for five years) is rooted in the vibrant communities that were part of the recently closed Plains Presbyterian parish. The closure marks a bold step toward reimagining what church can look like in this new season. With a renewed vision and a willingness to explore fresh approaches, we're "casting the net on the other side of the boat."

We are looking for someone who is:

- Energetic and organised,
- Thoughtful and faithful,
- Pastoral at heart, and
- Passionate about finding creative ways to "be church" in a changing world.

Key Details:

- You will work closely with the Presbytery-led Development Team.
- The role is based in Mid-Canterbury.
- A related half-time, Methven-based seedling ministry is also being planned, providing additional opportunities for collaboration and growth.

If this sounds like a calling for you, we would love to hear from you! Note that there is an additional half time ministry role in Ashburton that this role could be paired with.

For more information contact **Abi Trevathan** (resourcing@alpinepresbytery.org)

To express your interest, send your application to **Executive Officer Martin Stewart** (executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org) by **20th January 2025**

Ministry Opportunity – Alpine Presbytery Youth Enabler

Alpine Presbytery is seeking a **Youth Enabler** to play a pivotal role in fostering vibrant and collaborative youth ministries across the Presbytery. This position focuses on building connections, providing strategic support, and empowering local churches to develop and sustain effective youth ministry programs.

Moderator: Rev Phyll Harris

moderator@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone 027 352 7886

Executive Officer: Rev Martin Stewart

executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 021 308 519

Kairuruku Whanake - Formation & Development Coordinator:

Abi Trevathan

abi@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 027 339 6006

Youth & Young Adults Enabler:

Rev Sage Harris

youth@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 027 356 0740

Ministries Coordinator - Kaihautū

Whakatipu:

Rev Dan Spragg

minco@alpinepresbytery.org

Phone: 021 770 112

Treasurer: Keith Christie

treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org

Office Support: Gail Weaver

office@alpinepresbytery.org

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.

From the last Newsletter

- Licensing of Luke Blackbeard
- Presbyterian Newsletters:
Church Property Trustees
Bush Telegraph
- Women's Retreat in Central Otago
- Notes from Presbytery Council meeting

Coming Up

Induction of Rev Craig Allan to Mackenzie Cooperating Parish: 16th December, 7pm at St. Columba Church, Fairlie

Ordination of Luke Blackbeard: 26 January, 2.30pm, at The Village, Bryndwr

Closing Service for St Kentigern's Burwood Uniting Parish: 23 March

Presbytery Gathering: 9-10 May 2025

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

About the Role:

This part-time position (15 hours per week) is based in Christchurch, with regular travel across the Presbytery region for meetings and events. Flexible working arrangements, including some evening and weekend commitments, may be required.

We Are Looking For Someone With:

- Strong relational skills and the ability to foster connections and collaboration.
- Experience in youth ministry leadership or support.
- Strategic thinking and planning capabilities.
- Effective communication and representation skills.
- Pastoral care abilities and a heart for supporting ministry leaders.
- Strong organizational and budgeting skills.
- Familiarity with the Presbyterian Church context, or a willingness to learn.

How to Apply: For more information or to apply, please contact **Abi Trevathan** at resourcing@alpinepresbytery.org.

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

You can watch the Vacancy video here: <https://youtu.be/DhOPLokGa18>

Is God calling you to Hawera?

Office Administrator Community—St Paul's Trinity Pacific, Christchurch

The key areas of accountability for this position are in Leadership Support, Leadership in Mission, Pastoral Care, Spiritual Nurture, and Health & Safety

This position will support Property and Finance, Rev Makesi Alatimu and the Church Council to:

- Work in harmony with our Ministry Teams, to support Reverend Makesi Alatimu and have a firm grasp on the purpose, values and strategy of St Paul's Trinity Pacific Presbyterian Church and align key leadership teams with its mission: "Connecting Christian faith with everyday life in the heart of the city"
- Seeks to provide support to Ministry groups in church such as youth leaders and youth ministry.
- Communicate effectively with our young people.
- St Paul's will support you with professional development and training in line with our church purpose, values and mission.

For more information or to apply, contact maa.trinitypacific@xtra.co.nz

To download the Position Description, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ykjmw58d>

Inductions & Ordinations

Induction of Rev Craig Allan to Mackenzie Cooperating Parish: 16th December, 7pm at St. Columba Church, Fairlie

Ordination of Luke Blackbeard: 26 January, 2.30pm, at The Village, Bryndwr.

St Kentigern's Burwood United Parish, Christchurch

The St Kentigern's Burwood United Parish in Christchurch will be closing on 31 March, 2025.

The parish are planning to hold a Closing Service on Sunday 23 March at 10.00am in the St Kentigern's church at 43 Rookwood Avenue. If any former parishioners or others with past contacts with the parish would like to attend this service and the gathering to follow they would be most welcome.

There will be a catered lunch to follow the service. We would therefore appreciate some notification if you would like to join us for this occasion.

To indicate your interest or for further information please contact: Shona Fretwell, 22 Donnington Street, Parklands, Christchurch 8033. Email shona@iceandrock.com or text 022 409 1421.

St Andrew's Ashburton 150th celebrations

On Sunday 1st December, approximately 140 people gathered to celebrate 150 years of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Ashburton.

We were joined by the Ashburton Pipe Band (it was also a celebration of St Andrew's Day).

The highlight of morning tea was the cutting of the cake by the two eldest members of the congregation, Alyth Melrose and Mervyn Jones (see photo at right).

There was also a wonderful display of photos portraying the life of St Andrew's, as well as newspaper clippings, and a display of a wedding dress and christening gown (worn by people who were married and baptised in St Andrew's church).



A short history of the Presbyterian church in Ashburton:

In the early days of European settlement at Ashburton church services were infrequent. When a minister visited people of all denominations would gather - on the riverbank, at the hotel, in the wool shed at Coniston or, later, in a schoolroom or the library.

In July 1874 a meeting was held in order to establish a Presbyterian parish in the town. A suitable residence, along with 10 acres of land, was purchased for use as a manse. The Rev. H. B. Burnett was inducted as minister of St Andrew's, Ashburton, on the 15th September 1875. Work began on the construction of a church on Havelock Street (now the "white church") which was opened in October 1876.

The Rev. Burnett had a busy preaching circuit. His parish covered the area between the Rakaia and Rangitata Rivers, from the hills to the sea. He would ride his horse to Mt. Somers on Saturday afternoon, hold a service there at 11am, Greenstreet at 3pm, and Ashburton at 6.30pm. Ashburton had a service every Sunday except the last Sunday of the month when he preached at Rakaia at 11am, Rokeby Station at 3pm and Winterslow Station in the evening. Another Sunday the sequence would be Ashburton, Wakanui, Longbeach.

Finances were tight and Rev. Burnett frequently had to remind the committee that quarterly payments of his 250 pounds per annum stipend were in arrears.

Over the next 30 years the town of Ashburton grew and, even though some of the outlying areas now had their own parishes, the St Andrew's church building had become too small. Our present church was dedicated on the 23rd June 1907.

A Bible was presented to the congregation by members of the Sunday School, and this is the Bible that is carried into church today.

Information supplied by Rita Wright and Adrienne Moodie, and from the 1974 Centennial Souvenir Booklet.

Sister Eveleen Retreat House welcomes you for overnight stays at the house, for refreshment, for a pause or your own individual retreat time. You have a choice of 4 rooms in the main house or 4 rooms in our Annex. For all our guests the use of our kitchen, dining room, lounge and chapel is included. (Overnight stays are self-catered and self-guided) Please book via our website (www.sistereretreat.com/book-a-room) We would love to welcome you and to enjoy the peace of Sister Eveleen Retreat House.