

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 5th December 2024

Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is **Thursday 12th December**

Save the date!

Our **Gathering 2025** is **9-10 May**, most likely at John Knox Church, Rangiora (the new church building is opening this week!)

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.

A little bit about Andy:

Andrew Root is the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary, USA. He writes and researches in areas of theology, ministry, culture and younger generations. His most recent books are Churches and the Crisis of Decline (Baker, 2022), The Congregation in a Secular Age (Baker, 2021), The End of Youth Ministry? (Baker, 2020), The Pastor in a Secular

Age: Ministry to People Who No Longer Need God (Baker, 2019), Faith Formation in a Secular Age (Baker, 2017), and Exploding Stars, Dead Dinosaurs, and Zombies: Youth Ministry in the Age of Science (Fortress Press, 2018).

There will be some other opportunities the week following the Gathering to connect with Andrew and his wife Kara in Christchurch. We will have more information to come soon.



Licensing of Luke Blackbeard

Luke has been training as a National Ordained Minister as an intern at Timaru Presbyterian Parish. He will be Licensed at St Stephen's Timaru on **8 December at a service starting at 1.30pm** and we encourage anyone who can make it to come along to that service.

He has accepted a call to be the next Minister at The Village Church, Christchurch. It is envisaged that his Ordination and Induction service will be held in late January

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.

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.

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**

Presbyterian Newsletters

View the **Church Property Trustees** Newsletter at: tinyurl.com/37azk9d2.

It includes articles on: PIF On Call Interest Rates falling; GST on property transactions; Trustees' Annual Report 2024; Presbyterian Investment Fund Annual Newsletter

Bush Telegraph can be viewed on the PCANZ website: www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2024/december-2024

It includes this information:

The interest rate paid on the PIF On Call Fund reduced to 5.0% p.a. from 1 December 2024. The Trustees expect the PIF On Call rate will continue to fall more or less in line with any Official Cash Rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand as it attempts to revive the fragile economy. A reminder to please provide advance notice (of at least 3 days) for major (>\$100,000) withdrawals. The interest rate on the PIF Long-Term Fund remains at 3.0% pa plus inflation. Rates are subject to change.

Upcoming Women's Retreat in Central Otago

Thursday 20th February 2025 at 4pm to Monday 24th February 2025 at 2pm

Honouring the Sacred Rhythm of Our Days: A four-day guided residential Women's Retreat at Bethesda Lodge, En Hakkore Christian Retreat Centre, Waipiata, near Ranfurly, Aotearoa, New Zealand

Hilary Oxford Smith and Anneloes de Groot invite you on a guided retreat in Central Otago, a beautiful land of vast skies, rugged mountains and green valleys. Bethesda Lodge offers breathtaking panoramic views of the landscape.

The retreat is limited to 12 people; Cost: \$550 per person

For further information go to www.spiritofbradan.com/retreats-and-workshops/honouring-the-sacred-rhythm-of-our-days-a-four-day-guided-residential-womens-retreat

Notes from the meeting of Presbytery Council

held on Thursday 28 November 2024 at 75 Hanson's Lane, Christchurch

Highlights

- Phyll Harris abuse in care reflection
- Iona (Breezes Road) building upgrade is finished
- sale of the St James Tinwald site in the Hakatere parish
- Approval for Iona New Mission Seedling new part time staffing – admin and carving

Notices

- Rev Nancy-Jean Whitehead has concluded her ministry with St Albans, Christchurch and is now a Senior Active Minister

From the last Newsletter

- Mayfield Trust
- Animals in church
- Ministry Conference 2025
- John Knox Rangiora Open Day
- Full-Time Minister: Brooklands Church, New Plymouth

Coming Up

John Knox Presbyterian Church,
Rangiora, Open Day: 7 December

Licensing of Luke Blackbeard:
8 December, in Timaru

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

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

- We note the death of Heather Mace in August. Heather was a key person in coordinating the work of the former Joint Regional Forum for many years and a friend to many in the Cooperative Venture community
- Luke Blackbeard's Licensing Service will be at St Stephen's Timaru early afternoon on Sunday 8 December
- Craig Allan's induction at the Mackenzie Cooperating Parish will be at St Columba, Fairlie, 7pm on Monday 16 December

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

Welcome & Devotions

Phyll welcomed everyone and shared a reading from The God Story book and co-creating with God a culture of Eden in all of our life and this meeting! Phyll led the meeting in prayer.

Conflicts of Interest

Keith and Ann identified a conflict with a PnF matter re honorarium changes. The same conflict was not there re the Moderator role given Phyll will not be in that position once changes come into effect.

Minutes

The email approval given to the Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting held on Thursday 24 October 2024 were ratified, and the Minutes of Extra Meeting of Presbytery Council held via Zoom on 12 November to process the call of Luke Blackbeard (NOM Intern) to The Village Church, Christchurch were approved.

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

Moderator's Report

Phyll reported on

- attending the Presbytery Wananga hosted by Whakatu Presbyterian in Nelson, noting the feedback from a few attending was that it was one of the best they had attended as the content and time allowed for each area of focus was good
- contacting Rev Nancy-Jean Whitehead to thank her for her time serving in ministry on her finishing at St. Albans
- writing to Christine Leighton to thank her for her great work as Rector of St. Andrews and wish her well for her upcoming retirement. Hamish Galloway will attend St. Andrew's prize giving for Christine's last time as Rector
- Luke Blackbeard's licensing and the opening of Rangiora's new building are happening on the same day. Two exciting new things within the life of the Presbytery to give God thanks for.

The Executive Officer Report

Martin reported on several aspects of his work, including:

- Submitting his Study Leave report
- Three Elder Communion Celebrants coached by Rev Dr Michael Reid
- A visit to Amuri parish and a helpful discussion with the parish leaders. They are in very good heart
- A conversation with the Chairperson and CEO of Presbyterian Support South Canterbury (PSSC) about proposed changes to the constitution lessening Presbytery involvement.
- Attending the PSSC Annual Meeting, noting that PSSC is employing 570+ people, they spend \$23m+ on wages each year, there are 8964+ volunteer hours a year, \$54m+ on capital projects (incl. \$30m acquisition of a retirement village), 1100+ older people in care, 4 care facilities, 252 residential care rooms, 122 village homes, 910 home-based care clients and over 1338 people supported by Family Works. Funding sources are 68% from government contracts, 21% from fees for services, 2% investments, donations etc 3%, meal services 6%.

- Initiating the process for electing a new Presbytery Moderator
- Work on the timeline ahead of Strategic Directions Review 2025
- Abi Trevathan LOM Training Agreement sign off
- Involved with Mayfield Church Decommissioning
- The final processes for Luke Blackbeard & Jono Lange completing their ministry formation

Key Decisions

- the Executive Officer's Study Leave Report was received
- Mary Harrison (*Hakatere*), Chris Leathers & Tom Kerr (*Waimate*) approved as elders authorised to lead Holy Communion
- the Readiness for Ministry Reports and Final Integrative Exercise Review Reports for the NOM interns Luke Blackbeard and Jono Lange have been received and they are declared ready to be Licensed by Alpine Presbytery and Kaimai Presbytery respectively
- Abi Trevathan's LOM Training Agreement be approved and signed

Property & Finance

Ann McMillan shared key aspects of the report, including,

- the payment of accounts of \$103,149.86 for November 2024. This included Iona Building work costs of more than \$36,979.12
- GST Treatment of property sales: memo received from CPT that from 1st November 2024, parishes/Presbytery will need to account for the GST on property sales if applicable rather than it being done by CPT. The link to the memo was in the November Bush Telegraph
- Fit for Purpose Property Plans: this was initiated by General Assembly and we are due to make a report by June 2025 as to progress on our Presbytery plan. PnF will formulate the base information into a questionnaire to send to parishes to complete for each of their sites and return to us. Once collated the information will be presented to Council as a basis for a plan
- Hope Church have submitted a proposal to lease another house to Hope Funerals Limited and for the lessee to undertake significant renovations to the house
- Dan has been working on standardising the information for employees regarding claiming work-related expenses and PnF have provided some input
- The EO raised this while preparing the Moderator nomination information; and then it was expanded to cover all the honoraria. Keith Christie and Ann McMillan declared a conflict of interest and abstained from the vote.

Key decisions

- Approval of an additional allocation of up to \$18,000 for the Alpine Presbytery Ministries Coordinator role, from the Discretionary Fund to cover study leave expenses for Dan Spragg when the Study Leave is approved by resbytery
- Approval of the Alpine Presbytery Employee Expense Policy dated November 2024, covering staff employed by Presbytery
- Approval in principle of the applications from Hope Presbyterian Church in relation to the lease of the property to Hope Funerals Limited subject to CPT and other approvals
- Approval the following levels of honoraria from the 2025/2026 financial year onwards: a. Moderator: \$5,000 per annum; b. Treasurer: \$5,000 per annum; c. Property and Finance Convenor: \$5,000 per annum; d. Human Resources Convenor: \$3,000 per annum

Human Resources

Lyn Heine shared key aspects of her report.

- St Albans Uniting. Rev Alan Missen has agreed to be supply and IM and MSB Convenor with Judith Souness (The Village) and Rev Jill van de Geer (Methodist Church) as MSB reps
- Mark Ambundo (NOM intern) will be based at Cashmere Presbyterian over 2025/26
- A Review Team recommended that Rev Anne Stewart be re-appointed to the St David's Marchwiell Union Parish for up to the next five years, subject to finances
- Pukaki Co-operating Parish have indicated a willingness to continue with Rev Aaron Johnstone as their Enabler Minister

General Business

Dan Spragg/Kaihautū Whakatipu, and Abi Trevathan/Kairuruku Whanake, joined the meeting for several matters Dan's key points:

- New Mission Seedling support and development

- Pilot of Parish Health & Wellbeing Check Ins—two parishes have participated so far
- Creating a wider sense of team within the 'staff' of Alpine (13 people on the wide list for Christmas Lunch)
- Developing systems for employee reflection and development conversations
- Input into thoughts around future and strategic direction of 'Us being Us together'
- Preparation of a draft mission planning guide that will be available online
- Gratitude for the opportunity and the need to support churches

Abi's key points:

- Positive reflection on the Presbytery Wanangā
- Forge Aotearoa hui with 20 people in attendance (including oversight team members)
- Ongoing work with coordinating the Three Peaks Development Unit (formerly Plains)
- Key Dates for 2025
- Presbytery Youth Enabler position needing to be developed and filled
- PYM noho marae at Ōhope over King's Birthday Weekend
- Need for a Website Content Manager
- Dr Andrew Root availability as key speaker at the 2025 Gathering

Key decisions:

- Prioritizing the Youth Enabler role as an ongoing resource for the Presbytery; funded from the Youth Fund
- Providing funding for up to 15 hours per week for a Youth Enabler and that the current job description be reviewed and redeveloped for a 3 year period
- Providing funding for up to three people to attend the Rangitahi Noho Marae at Ōhope in May 2025 up to a total cost of \$1000 funded from the Youth Fund.
- Offering a fixed term contract for 6 months be offered for Website Content up to 15 hours per month at the hourly rate of \$45 per hour funded from the Resourcing Fund
- Approval of Dr Andrew Root as the keynote speaker for the 2025 May Presbytery Gathering with costs also sourced from outside funding streams
- The EO writing to the Mayfield Trust Board expressing its thanks for the donation to the Three Peaks Mission

Alpine Presbytery Enterprise Fund Terms of reference group

Hamish Galloway joined the meeting via Zoom and outlined the progress, issues and intention of the group to bring recommendations to the May 2025 Gathering.

Hanmer New Mission Seedling Review Report

Dan outlined progress on various scenarios

A suggested timeline for engagement with the wider Presbytery was agreed to and will implemented in the new year with a decision time at the May Gathering.

St Andrew's Blenheim Review Update

Dan outlined the work of the Review group and the report being with the Parish Council

The review team is to be thanked and discharged.

Treaty Principles Bill submissions

Knox Church Christchurch asked if Presbytery was going to make a submission.

It was agreed that details of how to make submissions will be offered to the churches and they/people be encouraged to make submissions. There is a very short window of opportunity!

The Knox submission is available from the Executive Officer

Common Grace are a NZ-wide social justice group who have guidelines for submissions: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#search/common+grace/FMfcgzQXKNHdbvKNkCCPJRnxRHLVnvzh>

The Methodist Church Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa have also made a public statement <https://www.methodist.org.nz/assets/Tangata/UCANZ/Treaty-Principles-Bill-Public-Issues-Statement.pdf>

Written submissions are open now until 07 January 2025

Call to Rev Rory Grant

It was noted that this would be the last in-person meeting for Rory Grant as he has accepted a call to Clevedon, Northern Presbytery. Presbytery Council will formally process this in the next few weeks.

Kind words were spoken of Rory's long engagement in Alpine (since its inception), his ministry in Timaru, and his excellent service on Presbytery Council as Resourcing Convener. Phyll and others prayed for Rory, Andrea and Timaru Presbyterian Church.

The next meeting of Council is on Thursday 27th February at 75 Hanson's Lane in Christchurch