

# Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

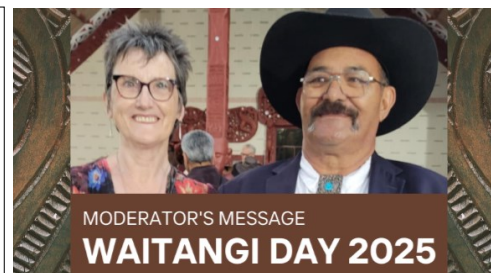
## Newsletter 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cut off for items for next Newsletter is **Wednesday 5th February**

### Ordination of Luke Blackbeard

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Luke was ordained and inducted at The Village Church, Christchurch

Rev David Coster stepped in as Moderator in Phyll Harris' absence.



Tēnā koutou katoa

As I look forward to being at Waitangi again this year I think back to last year and the privilege it was to participate in both the Waitangi Day services alongside the Moderator of Te Aka Puhou, the Rev Tamiana Thrupp. Tamiana and his wife, Honey, Executive Officer of Te Aka Puhou, were great companions to be there with. They guided me in terms of protocol on Waitangi Day, and the afternoon before we enjoyed the spirit of the place as we visited stalls, listened to different speakers, and partook of delicious kai. Many different cultures were there together and that felt very rich.

There is of course much talk at present about Te Tiriti, and I have just finished reading a book a colleague gave me titled, *Huia come home* by Jay Ruka, Dean of Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary. On the back cover of the book is the following: "Using the story of the untimely extinction of the huia, Jay Ruka offers a fresh perspective on the narrative of Aotearoa; a tale of two cultures, warring worldviews and the things we

### BUILDING AND LEADING healthy TEAMS

SATURDAY 22ND FEB 10.30AM - 2.30PM  
ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN, GERALDINE

This workshop is an opportunity to grow in our appreciation of what it means to lead and be part of teams. More precisely, what does it look like for me, as a disciple of Jesus, to join with others participating in God's mission and ministry? What are the challenges? What does a healthy team look like? How can we navigate theological differences? Come and wrestle with these key questions (and more!) in an encouraging and stimulating context.

The Facilitator will be Rev Dr Andrew Nicol

**Mid/South Canterbury - Saturday 22nd February 2025**

**Time:** 10.30am - 2.30pm **Cost:** \$10 koha

**Venue:** St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 10 Cox Street, Geraldine

A second session is planned for **Top of the South** on **Saturday 22nd March 2025**, venue TBC.

More details and Registration can be found at [alpinepresbytery.org/leading-together/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/leading-together/)

**Moderator: Rev Phyll Harris**  
[moderator@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:moderator@alpinepresbytery.org)  
 Phone 027 352 7886

**Executive Officer: Rev Martin Stewart**  
[executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org)  
 Phone: 021 308 519

**Kairuruku Whanake - Formation & Development Coordinator:**  
**Abi Trevathan**  
[abi@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:abi@alpinepresbytery.org)  
 Phone: 027 339 6006

**Youth & Young Adults Enabler:**  
**Rev Sage Harris**  
[youth@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:youth@alpinepresbytery.org)  
 Phone: 027 356 0740

**Ministries Coordinator - Kaihautū Whakatipu:**  
**Rev Dan Spragg**  
[minco@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:minco@alpinepresbytery.org)  
 Phone: 021 770 112

**Treasurer: Keith Christie**  
[treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto:treasurer@alpinepresbytery.org)

**Office Support: Gail Weaver**  
[office@alpinepresbytery.org](mailto: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.

lost in translation”.

One section of the book pays particular attention to the story of Te Tiriti and the church’s involvement which is very helpful. The knowledge of our history then leads into exploring our worldviews. Jay’s book is written mainly for a Christian audience, but it is hoped that others will also find it helpful. It is a fascinating read, and I commend it to you.

It is so interesting to reflect on the reality of having different cultural worldviews and how that impacts how we react to different happenings. Our cultural worldviews also intersect with our faith understanding and God’s ongoing work in the world. I have seen that throughout my ministry as different cultures seek to work together in parishes; in 2018 I undertook study leave in this area - “Moving from co-operation to community in multi-cultural congregations.”

I have been reminded again of the dynamic of different worldviews in my time in Samoa for the Council for World Mission gathering. The cultural lens through which we view life influences our values, actions and decision making. It is shaped by many things and also carries many assumptions. And so, it is really good to have conversations with people from other cultures; to seek to understand how each other see and live in the world. Our assumptions can be broken, our eyes opened to new possibilities, and we become enriched through the process.

As we approach Waitangi Day, let us take the opportunity to engage with others to explore the different worldviews and understandings of Te Tiriti that exist and seek to build our bicultural relationships. This occurs through our Christian worldview and experience – following Jesus who was able to step into different settings and find ways of engaging with a wide range of people with grace, wisdom and compassion. We can ask ourselves, “What is Jesus calling us to do in this space?” And the light of Christ goes before us to guide and illuminate us.

As we have heard so recently in our Christmas season, *“What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”* (John 1: 4-5)

Ma te wa

Rose

**Right Rev Rose Luxford**

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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## **Rev James (Jim) Soper**

We have been advised of the death of Rev James (Jim) Soper on 23 January in Palmerston North Hospital.

Jim married Alison in 1980, and was in clerical work before attending Theological Hall from 1984-85.

He was Minister at Oxford Union Church from 1986 to 1992, and then moved to St Paul’s Union, Pahiatua, Manawatu Presbytery, from where he retired and was granted the status of Minister Emeritus on 9 January 2001.

The service to farewell Jim was held yesterday. We give thanks for Jim’s life and ministry and pray for Alison and the family.

Messages can be sent to: PO Box 1014, Palmerston North.



### From the last Newsletter

- Ordination Service for Rev Luke Blackbeard
- Full time Minister: Community Church of Akaroa Banks Peninsula
- New Hospital Chaplaincy Vacancy
- Request from Gail for Supply for an Anglican Parish
- Retreats at Sister Eveleen Retreat House

### Coming Up

**Building & Leading Healthy Teams Workshop:** 22 February

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

**Presbytery Gathering:** 9-10 May 2025

**General Assembly:** 13—16 October

### 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

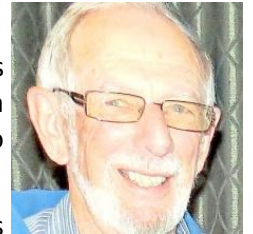
Visit the "Resources" page of our website to view the links from those of our churches offering this.

### Alpine Presbytery

**Culture & Strategic Framework**  
Click [here](#) to download this document, updated September 2020

## New Years Honour

**Congratulations to David Hodder**, a parishioner at St Martin's Presbyterian Church in Christchurch, who was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to outdoor recreation and conservation.



David has been involved with the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) in various capacities since the late 1960s.

He became a branch member in 1971, was Vice President of the Hawke's Bay branch from 1978 to 1981, and was a member of the National Executive for 24 years until 2005. He served as Vice President from 1984, then President from 1989 to 1992, and in 2011 was made a Life Member.

David was a member of the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Advisory Committee from 1993 to 2018 and a member of the Wapiti Crown Herd Management Committee. He became Chairperson of a heli-hunting sub-committee in 2010 when the Department of Conservation (DOC) allowed aerial access for hunting of chamois and tahr. He has been a committed volunteer over 50 years from the grass roots level to advising DOC and holding positions on conservation boards, research committees and implementation groups, and has been a keen advocate and negotiator for public access. He has helped organise and run hunter training programme HUNTS and conservation projects, and provided hands-on assistance with trap lines, hut and track maintenance, and formal animal control programmes. David has also helped with Search and Rescue operations and provided forecast and message relaying services with mountain radio.

**Peter Harris**  
A Rocha Co-Founder

**WHY DOES NATURE MATTER?**

South West Baptist Church  
Saturday, 15 Feb 2025  
7pm - 8:30pm

**A ROCHA**  
AOTEAROA NZ

South West Baptist Church

A Rocha Co-Founder, Peter Harris will examine the beliefs that underlie the conservation effort, which range from a conviction that we need nature to survive, to more mystical explanations about its intrinsic value. Find out how the Christian faith provides a beautifully coherent explanation of why nature matters, and explore potential reasons why despite that Christian communities have often been slow to engage with our current crises in the biosphere, if at all.

You can read more about Peter Harris here: [arocha.org/en/about/people/peter-harris/](http://arocha.org/en/about/people/peter-harris/)

### WHY DOES NATURE MATTER?

#### South West Baptist Church

244 Lyttelton Street, Spreydon, Christchurch

**Saturday, 15 February 2025, 7pm - 8:30pm**

Koha entry

RSVP here: [bit.ly/peter-harris-2025](http://bit.ly/peter-harris-2025)