

# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 27<sup>th</sup> February

*Cut off for items for next Newsletter is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March*



### Children's Day message 2025 from PCANZ Moderator & the Director Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry

Every year, the first Sunday in March marks Children's Day, a time for intentionally celebrating and cherishing our tamariki.

When I reflect on the nature of children, I see the image of God expressed in joy, wonder and curiosity. I see excitement, energy and authenticity. All these characteristics, wrapped up in a small human capable of creating chaos, noise and delight wherever they go. They are a gift, a taonga, that we must cherish and nurture.

As the people of God, we are called to have a child-like faith. To find joy in the most unexpected places, and to be filled with wonder at the glory of God. To have a child-like faith also means to be curious-to ask questions and ponder over things that we may not have thought important to pay attention to. To be excited and delighted in our worship to God, and authentic in the outliving of our faith in everyday life.

As we take the time to intentionally celebrate our tamariki, we are invited to be reminded by our children of what it means to have a child-like faith. That we would realise that we have much to learn from the smallest among us of the nature of God, and that in turn, we are called to love, nurture and care for the children in our midst.

I would also like to invite you to pray for our tamariki and their whānau. In a time when there are many pressures on families, we pray for God's provision and protection over our children, for resilience and confidence as they discover who they are, and their place in this world. But most of all, we pray that the children we know would discover for themselves how big and wide and deep is God's love.

*On behalf of the PCANZ Moderator*

**Karo Wilson**

*Director, Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry*

#### **Moderator's Prayer**

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for our tamariki. For their energy, joy and zest for life. For the way that we can learn from them in seeing the world through their eyes. To experience wonder at the beauty of the world, to find excitement in learning new things, to see the world in a simple yet profound way. Help us to nurture and encourage our young people in our churches and communities, so that they feel valued and a vital part of our shared life. We pray for whanau who are struggling in any way and that you will show us how we may help. May our young people grow in their faith understanding, know deep in their hearts your abundant love for them and come to know their full potential in you. This we pray in the name of the one who welcomed and cared for the children, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Rose*

**Right Rev Rose Luxford**

*Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

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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.

*The Alpine Newsletter is a weekly email update of activities in and around the Presbytery. It is intended to inform, connect, and encourage, and its content does not necessarily represent the views of Presbytery Council or staff, and the inclusion of articles, advertisements, and other content does not imply endorsement or agreement.*

#### Resources

A selection of resources and links to resources to assist you with your work and outreach—including Online Worship Options— can be found on our website here: [alpinepresbytery.org/resources/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/resources/)

## Opening of Pā Whakaoranga

The opening of Pā Whakaoranga the new/refurbished building within the ministry and mission in Aranui, Ōtautahi- Christchurch is on Saturday 15th March, 336 Breezes Road, Christchurch, starting at 1pm. People from within the Presbytery are very welcome.

The name Pā Whakaoranga has recently been approved by Ngai Tahu. Zenn Rarere, one of the Iona mission leaders, shaped up the new name

Pā Whakaoranga:

*Pā* = means a village;

*Whakaoranga* = to heal, revival

Pā Whakaoranga is a place that has many programmes or activities that contribute to a person's /healing/restoration of their faith, or life, and well being.

Healing or revival through:

- Maara kai with Manawa (gardening)
- Whakairo with Raph (carving)
- Worship & prayer gatherings
- Out the Mudd with Zarn (working with young men finding their way into a different way of life)
- Fellowship with brothers through monthly bbqs
- Bible studies with Kev and Zenn
- Mentoring with rangatahi for whanau struggling with their teens

**Pā whakaoranga to us means a 'place of healing and revival'**

This is a great opportunity to see around the facilities and enjoy kai together!



### "Woven" Presbyterian Children and Families

PCANZ Children & Families provide regular Newsletters with news and resources. You can sign up on their website here: [pcfm.org.nz/news/](http://pcfm.org.nz/news/)

The Term 1 Newsletter has resources for Lent and Easter ([pcfm.org.nz/lent-and-easter/](http://pcfm.org.nz/lent-and-easter/))



### Safety Warrant of Fitness Online Training 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March

This interactive and informative training is mandatory for anyone working with children and young people in ministries of PCANZ churches. If you have yet to complete the training, we recommend you sign up to participate in the next cycle of training happening in March.

For more information, or to register, head to the Safety WOF website: [www.safetywof.org.nz](http://www.safetywof.org.nz)

**Bush Telegraph** is the monthly newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. The March issue can be viewed here: [www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2025/march-2025](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2025/march-2025)

### From the last Newsletter

- Commissioning of Jess Dreardon
- Alpine Presbytery Youth Enabler
- Presbytery Moderator Nominations
- Caravan parking at Hanmer
- Neighbours Aotearoa message from the Moderator
- Te Waiora Re-Dedication
- Sister Eveleen House
- School of Emotionally Healthy Leadership

### Coming Up

Opening of Pā Whakaoranga:  
Saturday 15th March

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

Building & Leading Healthy Teams  
Workshop (Blenheim): 5 April

Presbytery Gathering: 9-10 May 2025

General Assembly: 13—16 October

### 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.

### Alpine Presbytery

**Culture & Strategic Framework**

To download this document, updated September 2020, go to: [alpinepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/culture-and-strategic-framework-september-2020.pdf](https://alpinepresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/culture-and-strategic-framework-september-2020.pdf)



### **Autumnal Letting-Go**

After a late burst of summer weather, we are beginning to feel the turn of the season. Mornings have begun to feel quite autumnal. I

love that word! And I have to say that autumn is my favourite season. There is something about the softer days, the sense of gathering in, the changing colours of the trees (brilliant in the South), the feeling of a different season with its own uniqueness and vibe.

Autumn also coincides with our season of Lent. The time of the year where we journey towards Good Friday. A time for reflection, repentance and spiritual preparation. A time where many Christians engage in practices such as fasting, prayer, penance, and self-denial to grow closer to God and reflect on the significance of Jesus's sacrificial giving and death on the cross.

So, we have these two seasons of autumn and Lent occurring in parallel. We often hear of people giving something up for Lent; a bit like a shortened (or maybe elongated) New Year's resolution – that for six weeks they will give up, say, chocolate, or social media, or a habit that is not helpful. And we reflect on how the trees 'give up' their leaves in this season. How might we respond, how might we take this seasonal opportunity to reflect more deeply on our faith commitment?

Perhaps we need to think about what our motivation is. If we give up something just to prove that we can, or that we 'should', it may well be an undertaking that brings a hollow sense of victory at the end. So what, we've proved we've got will power! Rather, if we give up something as a way of helping us grow closer to God, how much more meaningful and satisfying our 'letting go' will be.

I have found that with much travelling and a very different routine to my life as I carry out my role as Moderator, and also as parish minister, it has been more difficult for me to maintain a sense of a regular rhythm in my devotional life. For me, this season of Lent is going to provide an opportunity to 'let go' of that sense of dislocation, to claim new ways of incorporating that rhythm into my life.

For those of us who attend Ash Wednesday services and have the sign of the cross in ash placed on our foreheads, hear the words 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return' and 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel', this is both sobering and resonates deeply. This Lenten time offers an opportunity to grow in our Christian faith.

At a time when there is so much uncertainty, prejudice, violence and hatred in our world, it may seem counter-intuitive to turn inwards and reflect in this way. And yet growing in our faith, knowing to whom we belong, reflecting on his self-giving and loving ways, enables us to live more fully in this world that is crying out for hope and justice.

Just as the trees let go of their leaves and stand bare for a season, we too can let go of the things that may distract or mis-shape us, so that we too, like the trees, can be renewed and refreshed for the next season.

"From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised". [Matthew 16: 21]

**Right Rev Rose Luxford**

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand