

# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Cut off for items for next Newsletter is lunchtime on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

### 2025 Autumn Gathering

**9th - 10th May 2025, John Knox Rangiora, Corner High Street and King Street, Rangiora**

**Costs:** Friday to Saturday \$80; Friday or Saturday only \$50; Saturday Andrew Root Sessions \$25 (includes lunch)

This year's Autumn Gathering will be held at John Knox in Rangiora. Joining us will be Dr Andrew Root and his wife, Rev Kara Root from the USA. Andrew is currently the Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in Minnesota and lectures on the theology of ministry, youth ministry and culture. He is the author of a number of books including **When Church Stops Working** and **The End of Youth Ministry**. His wife Kara will be joining him. Kara is a Presbyterian minister with the PCUSA and is a spiritual director and author. We're really excited about having Andrew and Kara join us.

We want to make it easy for people to come along and hear what Andrew has to say and would encourage you to invite members from your wider leadership and volunteer teams to come along to hear him and to assist them with the registration costs for this.

As always, the registration cost covers meals and refreshments for the time that you are with us.

Registrations will be open soon (hopefully by Thursday 17th April), and will be accessible from the Presbytery website.

### Little Revolutions 2025

Little Revolutions is a conference for leaders, church-planters, and those who still believe the local church can be a force for good in the world. This is a national event happening across two locations and drawing together a wide coalition of denominations and independent movements that share a common heart for renewal of the local church and the neighbourhoods we serve.

**Te Whanganui-a-tara (Wellington):** Monday 23 - Tuesday 24 June, Prefab Hall

**Ōtautahi (Christchurch):** Friday 27 - Saturday 28 June, Tūranga Library

This year's conference has a particular emphasis on young leaders. With this in mind, we will be offering 30 places at each event to those 30 or under at half-price. We think it's important that young leaders are in the room to shape the conversation for the church they are inheriting.

For more information and to Register go to: [www.littlerevolutions.co.nz](http://www.littlerevolutions.co.nz)

### Youth Workers Hui with Andrew Root

An opportunity to come and hear from the author of "The End of Youth Ministry".

**Monday 13th May, 10.30am - 1pm (Lunch provided), 75 Hansons Lane, Christchurch**

RSVPs to Sage ([sage@whakatupres.co.nz](mailto:sage@whakatupres.co.nz))



## Easter 2025 message from the Moderator

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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/)

Tēnā koutou katoa

Throughout my ministry I have either participated in, or led, an Easter sunrise service, firstly at Mt Albert in Auckland, and more latterly at the Lookout in Oamaru. It is very uplifting to stand in the quiet darkness and then see the sun come up over the city/town and hear the words proclaimed, 'Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed!'.

The other Easter tradition of my ministry is to have the dressing of the cross at the Easter Sunday service. As part of the service everyone comes forward with a flower to place on the cross, which gives a visual sign of the change from death, darkness and despair, to life, light and hope. And the hymn is sung, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia". Such a joyous day.

With the lockdown that occurred in 2020, Easter Sunday saw me hurrying through the darkened, empty streets of Oamaru to find a vantage point on a hill to see the sunrise over the sea – and there it was, glorious! And members of our parish decorated their letterboxes with flowers to proclaim the Easter message in our town. A different dynamic that year – yet the Risen Christ was honoured and known and celebrated.

Easter is such a significant time in the life of the Church, and in our individual lives. Something to truly celebrate in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

I have always loved John's account of resurrection morning. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb". It is so familiar and yet every year it brings to us afresh the beginning of a chapter in the Christian faith that continues to shape and inform us, here and now. A little later Mary encounters the Risen Christ in the garden. Galvanizing, truth-telling, revolutionary. After a short conversation Mary goes and tells the disciples "I have seen the Lord". The first witness to the Risen Christ.

That Christ rose from the dead opens up the world for those who follow him. Through his death on the cross, Jesus brings us into deeper relationship with the living God. A relationship that is covenantal in its nature, that has an expansiveness about it that takes us into eternity. The empty cross speaks to us of resurrection life. It talks to us of the outstretched arms of Jesus who gathers us to himself through his sacrificial love.

The cross also speaks back to the perceived power and status of the world. The structures and posturing of those who believe they are in control, that they call the shots. Against unimaginable odds, faith wins out. And as followers of Christ, we can live with the posture of hope, love, goodness, for we believe in the power of the Risen Christ, that all things are possible in Christ.

I pray in whatever circumstance you find yourself, that Easter will be a time of renewal and nurture for you, and also a time that re-energises us all in the Church. A time we proclaim with conviction, "Christ is risen – he is risen indeed!".

**Right Rev Rose Luxford**

*Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

## **A Dementia Workshop for Ministers/Priests/Pastors/ Pastoral Worker/Carer**

**Thursday 8 May 2025, 9.15- 12.00 noon, at The Village Presbyterian Church  
Corner Ilam and Aorangi Road, Bryndwr, Christchurch.**

As a Chaplain at Burwood Hospital, Sandra Wright-Taylor is often asked by clergy and parish pastoral workers/visitors about how they might work more effectively

### From the last Newsletter

- Bush Telegraph April 2025
- Forge Aotearoa - The Practice of Wayfinding
- Building & Leading Healthy Teams
- Vacancy: Tapanui Presbyterian Church—Church on the Way
- Notes from Presbytery Council Meeting

### Coming Up

Pre-Gathering Kōrero and Dinner: 8 May

Presbytery Gathering: 9-10 May

Presbytery Retreat: 17—19 July

Coracle: 12—14 September

General Assembly: 20—23 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)

with people with dementia and their carers. After several conversations with specialist staff at Burwood Hospital, who like her work closely with dementia patients, there is to be a workshop on dementia for church and pastoral leaders.

### Programme:

***Dementia and Delirium 101:*** Dr Susan Gee is the Lead Researcher for Psychiatry of Old Age, Te Whatu Ora, Waitaha/Canterbury. Susan has PhD in Psychology from the University of Otago, and a Masters of Gerontology from Kings College, London.

***Dementia and Spiritual Care:*** Rev Sandra Wright-Taylor is Chaplain to Older Persons Mental Health, Burwood Hospital and Regional Manager, Te Waipounamu, Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa. Sandra's thesis for her Master of Chaplaincy (Otago) will focus on Spiritual Care and Dementia.

*Tea and Coffee will be served.*

RSVP: [Sandra.wright-taylor@hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz](mailto:Sandra.wright-taylor@hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz) by 4 May.

## Ministry Conference 2025:

**13 & 14 May, East Taieri Church**

This year's theme, ***AGAINST ALL ODDS: Lessons from the past... hope for the future***, promises to inspire and equip you with profound insights and practical tools for ministry.

### Keynote Speaker: Chris Marshall

A renowned scholar and captivating speaker, Chris Marshall brings decades of expertise in New Testament studies, Christian theology, and restorative justice. His talks will:

- Unpack the origins of the church as a kingdom community in the New Testament.
- Explore the remarkable growth of the early church and its lessons for today.
- Illuminate a biblical vision of hope in a world grappling with despair.

### Engaging Workshops:

Tailored to address real-world challenges, you'll have two opportunities to attend workshops led by local people, with local knowledge:

- *Ministry of Presence: Service Out in the Community* with Sarah Auld
- *Daniel's Faithfulness in a Foreign Land Against All Odds* with Peter Dunn
- *How Can We Bring Hope to an Anxious Culture* with Inge de Kruif
- *Excited About Evangelism* with Peter Cheyne
- *Christ, the Gospel, and Care of Creation* with Selwyn Yeoman

### Connection and Worship:

Enjoy an evening of drinks, nibbles, and extended worship on Tuesday night—a perfect time to connect with others and/or recharge spiritually.

This conference is more than an event; it's an opportunity to learn, grow, and be inspired to bring hope and transformation into your ministry, with plenty of time to network and connect with others who share your passion for ministry.

Mark your calendar and join us as we explore how God's faithfulness empowers us to thrive *against all odds*.

Please click this link for more information: [etchurch.co.nz/ministry-conference/](https://etchurch.co.nz/ministry-conference/)

If you don't need anymore information and would just like to register, click this link: [forms.gle/JjMtD152XMgQgrSq7](https://forms.gle/JjMtD152XMgQgrSq7)

**Early bird registrations for close this Thursday, 17th April, at 5pm**