

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 23rd April 2025

Cut off for items for next Newsletter is lunchtime on Thursday 1st May

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.

More details, and Registration, at alpinepresbytery.org/2025-autumn-gathering/

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

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)

Mission Discernment



Mission Plans are required in our life in a few situations - in a Ministry Settlement Board process, or when applying for larger capital projects, for e.g.

Beyond that, going through a discernment process to discover what God might be calling you into, can be (is always?!) highly useful - if it is well formed and kept alive!

I'm offering two options for attending a workshop where we'll go over Alpine's mission discernment tools. This will be an interactive time, and your questions are welcome! The aim is that you'll be able to use these tools effectively with your Church Council and Key Leaders. Or, if you're looking for someone to facilitate a process with you for your Mission Plan, or simply to explore the 'where are we?/what shall we do?' question, then we can chat about that too.

The workshops will be held over video call and will last for around an hour.

Please follow this link and fill out the form to register for your preferred workshop option: forms.gle/KwP5xETMQ8FHUKSc9

Dan Spragg - Kaihautū Whakatipu - Ministries Coordinator

Office email address

A reminder that emails for Office Support should go to office@alpinepresbytery.org

The gail@alpinepresbytery.org email address was discontinued at the end of last year.

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.

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/

Presbytery Council membership Vacancies

There are several vacancies on Presbytery Council and Presbytery is seeking suitable people to serve on Council (and on other teams if people would like to enquire).

Current Members:

Rev Jonathan Barb, Keith Christie, Rev Lyn Heine (via Zoom), Rev Jason King, Ann McMillan, Rev Brent Richardson, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga and Rev Phyll Harris (Moderator). The Executive Officer is an ex-officio member.

Recent changes:

Jon Parkes stood down in 2024.

Rev Rory Grant has taken up a call in Clevedon. Rory was on Council by virtue of being Resourcing Convener.

Jason King has indicated he will step down.

Also, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga is taking up the position of Moderator for two years.

The vacancies on Council are as follows:

a Minister from the Christchurch area,

a Minister or Elder from the Christchurch area,

an elder from Mid-Canterbury or South Canterbury,

a minister from Nelson/Marlborough

Suggestions of one or two young adult representatives would also be welcomed.

Process

Nominations or expressions of interest for the vacant Council positions can be made to the Executive Officer by Sunday 4 May, with a view to Council bringing names to the Gathering for election.

The ability to function well in a governance board with the ability to manage confidentiality is a must.

Council currently meets on the 4th Thursday of most months from 9.30am. Around half the meetings are held in person in Christchurch.

Martin Stewart (executiveofficer@alpinepresbytery.org)

A Dementia Workshop

for Ministers/Priests/Pastors/Pastoral Worker/Carer

Monday 5 May (*note change of date*) 9.15- 12.00 noon, at The Village

Presbyterian Church, Corner Ilam & 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 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 by 4 May.

From the last Newsletter

- Little Revolutions 2025
- Easter 2025 message from the Moderator
- Ministry Conference 2025

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

SOCIAL HOUSING

Where are we going with it?

Keynote Speaker: Jill Hawkey
Executive Director
Christchurch Methodist Mission
- Provider of Housing Services
across the Upper South Island

When: 6 pm
Thursday 1 May
(refreshments from 5.30 pm)
Koha please

Where: Knox Centre
cnr Bealey Ave & Victoria St

Organised by EcuAction

*Further info from: Marilyn, ph 021-0613940
Brian, ph 021 129 4305*

Sister Eveleen Retreat House

A Pilgrim's Soul – A Weekend Retreat

"A pilgrim is a person who prays with their feet." – Edward Hays

Pilgrimage is not only about distant journeys—it is also an inner movement of the heart.

You are invited to **Sister Eveleen Retreat House** for a weekend of reflection, creativity, and prayer, exploring what it means to walk as a pilgrim in daily life. Through contemplative practices and time in nature, we will attune ourselves to the Sacred presence within and around us

Date: 2–4 May 2025, Sister Eveleen Retreat House, Sumner

Here is the short clip for this: <https://youtube.com/shorts/uoJfYKOyG3w>

Reflect & Create: A Seasonal Creative Retreat

Join us from 9–11 May 2025 for a weekend retreat led by **Glenda Joy**.

Through gentle, user-friendly creative exercises—using pastels, paint, collage, clay, poetry, and music—you will explore personal themes in a nurturing space (no artistic experience needed).

Time for rest, walking, and reflection is woven throughout, offering a contemplative retreat rooted in Christian tradition.

Enjoy nutritious meals, breathtaking views, and a peaceful setting to pause, reflect, and refresh.

Sister Eveleen Retreat House, 9-11 May 2025

Link to a short clip: <https://youtube.com/shorts/TanJvHgWsZk>

More information and registration for both of these can be found at www.sistereretreat.com/retreats