



# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

*No Newsletter next week as Gail will be on leave.*

Cut off for items for next Newsletter is lunchtime on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

### 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.

A couple of us from Alpine attended last year's event and can say it was worthwhile attending. Martin and Dan have interacted and met with one of the contributors, Bree Mills, whose experiences and thoughts on missional communities are very good.

#### **Te Whanganui-a-tara (Wellington)**

Monday 23 - Tuesday 24 June  
Prefab Hall

#### **Ōtautahi (Christchurch)**

Friday 27 - Saturday 28 June  
Tūranga Library

**Contributors:** [JR Woodward](#) will be with us this year from Seattle. JR's book, '[The Church as Movement](#)', has been an enormous help to many of us. JR has been involvement nimble and creative expressions of church for over 30 years, as is currently the National Director of the [V3 Church Planting Movement](#).

Also returning will be our friend from across the ditch, [Bree Mills](#). Bree is an ordained Anglican minister, and a doctoral student in Missional Leadership. Bree is a seasoned church-planter and network leader. She is passionate about raising up women leading missional churches.

Alongside our international visitors, a wide range of leaders and communicators from throughout Aotearoa New Zealand will be coming to join us again.

**Young Leaders:** 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.

**Register:** Last year sold out quickly, and with only 150 spots available at each site we encourage you to register quickly. You can sign-up now at [www.littlerevolutions.co.nz](http://www.littlerevolutions.co.nz)

#### **Bush Telegraph April 2025**

Read the monthly newsletter of the PCANZ, at: [www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2025/april-2025](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/publications/bush-telegraph/2025/april-2025)

#### **Forge Aotearoa - The Practice of Wayfinding.**

The 3rd Tuesday of the month we gather for a practical conversation to help us find our way in ministry and mission.

This month, 15th April 7.30pm - 8.45pm, our guest is Dr Shireen Chua from Third Culture Solutions, who was our guest at our last Presbytery gathering. Shireen says:

There is so much to the word "culture". For some it means diversity and ethnicity... for others it is the way of doing things. It's that and so much more. Culture is dynamic and ever-changing. The Third Culture is the meeting place where different cultures and ways of seeing, doing and behave comes together. It is a place where there is empathy, curiosity and brave conversations - where we go away unchanged.

Shireen has spent her time researching and learning about understanding culture and its complexity. In this korero, we talk about what it means to build a "third culture" in our communities and organisations.

Register your interest at: [forgeaotearoa.nz/the-practice-of-wayfinding/](http://forgeaotearoa.nz/the-practice-of-wayfinding/)

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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/)

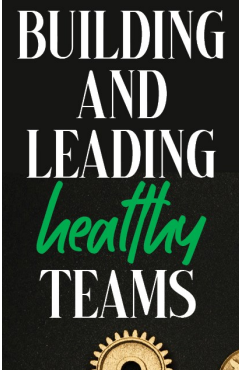
**Top of the South - Saturday 5th April 2025**  
**Venue: St Ninians, 14 Alabama Road, Blenheim**

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 Ivan Martinez, Dean of Studies at KCML

More details and Registration can be found at

[alpinepresbytery.org/leading-together/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/leading-together/)



### **Vacancy: Tapanui Presbyterian Church—Church on the Way**

Church on the Way, Tapanui, is searching for the Minister God calls to lead us on the next stage of our journey.

In the heart of West Otago, it's not a big church, but it is special, with a strong evangelical and charismatic heritage.

We seek a Nationally Ordained minister for a full time position. Someone who can prayerfully and passionately encourage and challenge our faith community with God's word, while also engaging the wider West Otago community as an ambassador of the Gospel.

#### **This leader will:**

- love Jesus Christ and put God first
- open the Word for us and show us how to apply it
- love people and enjoy all generations
- be a 'connector' and 'bridge builder'
- be comfortable in a rural, small town setting (or willing to learn to be)
- empower others as a team builder, enabler and lead with humility
- laugh with us, cry with us, and roll up their sleeves with us
- be part of a leadership that discerns God's vision for Church on the Way, while helping others to connect with it.

#### **Is it you?**

If you would like to know more or make an expression of interest please contact Ministry Settlement Board Convenor, Rev. Rob Pendreigh on 027 485 9893 or [clutharev@gmail.com](mailto:clutharev@gmail.com)

### **Notes from the meeting of Presbytery Council held Thursday 27 March 2025 in Christchurch**

**Present at the meeting were:** Rev Phyll Harris (Moderator), Rev Jonathan Barb, Keith Christie, Rev Lyn Heine, Rev Jason King, Rev Brent Richardson, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga, and Rev Martin Stewart (Executive Officer). Christine Arnold attended the last part of the meeting on behalf of the Property & Finance Team.

An apology was received from Ann McMillan.

#### **Welcome & Devotions**

Phyll shared of an experience meeting a woman who was studying the power of poetry as part of the healing process for domestic abuse survivors. The woman, who had lost her son and almost her own life to a domestic violence attack had identified how important a retreat and counselling space had been in her

#### From the last Newsletter

- Ministry Conference 2025: 13 & 14 May, East Taieri Church
- Sister Eveleen Retreat House

#### Coming Up

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

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)

recovery. Phyll shared a reading from Isaiah 53 – ‘the suffering servant’ noting that God calls us to return and return again in times of dysfunction.

Phyll led the meeting in prayer.

No conflicts of interest were identified.

#### Minutes

The email approval given to the Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting the Minutes of the Presbytery Council held on 27 February 2025 were ratified

#### Risk Management

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

#### Moderator's Report

Phyll reported on

- love and sympathy go to Martin and Anne on the loss of Martin's mum
- met with Dan Spragg at the end of last month to connect with the work he is up to in fulfilling his call to Kaihautu Whakatipu - Ministries Coordinator a year down the track
- met with Abi Trevathan to talk through ideas around the upcoming sexuality korero on the evening before the May Gathering
- missed the opening of Pā Whakaoranga due to being sick
- the honour of attending the closing church service for St. Kentigern's (Burwood Uniting), a poignant occasion led by Rev Bob Reid. The service brought together individuals from both the past and present, symbolizing the enduring connections formed over the years. Chris Gee (Parish Clerk) played a pivotal role in bringing this together.

#### The Executive Officer Report

Martin reported on several aspects of his work including reports from Abi (Kairuruku Whanake), and Dan (Kaihautū Whakatipu)

- gratitude for the room given to attend to the death of his mum Aileen
- his intention to attend the UCANZ Forum 'Our Future Together' at Kings Birthday
- attending the wonderful opening of Pā Whakaoranga in Aranui
- Revs Rose Luxford and Wayne Matheson will be attending the Gathering. We will have the opportunity to acknowledge Wayne is in his last year as AES and Rose in the last 6 months of her leadership as PCANZ Moderator
- the intention to have the key papers for the Gathering out by 21 April including Mission Framework draft, Budget, key reports & Enterprise Fund structure
- working on guidelines around the culture and tone of the Gathering that we invite people to honour and respect including asking questions ahead of time as much as possible
- the idea of starting a little tradition at the Autumn Gatherings where a small number of our elders or key leaders are recognised for their service
- arranging the voting process to enable the Presbytery members to vote on the nominated person as Moderator-elect of Alpine Presbytery, Rev Aunty Lyn Sopoaga
- Dan Spragg prepared a short report one year into his role

Abi Trevathan reported

- on the opportunity to seek Forge funding from PressGo to be pursued (see recommendation)
- exploring a 'Third Culture' seedling possibility in Christchurch (the children of expatriates tend to develop a culture that was a blend of both their parents' culture and the culture that they were growing up in)

#### Key Decision

- That Presbytery applies for funding from PressGo on behalf of Forge Aotearoa

## Property & Finance

- approving the payment of accounts of \$112,559.21 for February to March 2025 (this included Iona Building costs of \$38,000)
- final settlement of Staveley Church sale
- preparing for the marketing of the Mayfield and Rakaia churches
- update on Hope Hornby planned development.

Council gave two approvals to matters that are sensitive at this stage

## Human Resources

Lyn Heine shared key aspects of her report. Noting that

- St Martins is requiring an IM as Rev Dan Yeazel has now finished his supply ministry
- Rev Phyll Harris has indicated she will retire as minister at Lincoln Union at the end of May
- Rev Barry Ayers is working with Takaka and a Memorandum of Understanding has been crafted for his ongoing 'enabler' role

## Order of the Day:

### Community Church of Akaroa Banks Peninsula MSB Report & Call to Rev Pauline Hampshire

Members of the MSB Simon Lints, Sue Church, and Annette Moore joined the meeting via Zoom along with Pauline Hampshire.

An MSB Report had been prepared and circulated by the convener Martin Stewart. Sue, Annette and Simon spoke very warmly of the process, giftings of Pauline and unanimous congregational vote to call Pauline.

Pauline also shared her positive feelings about the opportunity and the sense of God's call.

Key Decision:

**That Rev Pauline Hampshire be called to be the minister at the Community Church of Akaroa Banks Peninsula.**

The Moderator asked Pauline if she would be willing to accept the call. Pauline replied affirmatively.

## Correspondence

A discussion was held on a letter from Rev Steve Talbot

## General Business

### a) Presbytery Council membership

Discussion was held on filling vacancies on Presbytery Council and seeking nominations of suitable people to serve on other teams.

Current Members: Rev Jonathan Barb, Keith Christie, Rev Lyn Heine, Rev Jason King, Ann McMillan, Rev Brent Richardson, Rev Lynmaree Sopoaga,

Rev Jon Parkes resigned in 2024.

Rev Rory Grant has recently departed. Rory was on Council by virtue of being Resourcing Convener.

Jason King has indicated he will step down.

Phyll Harris is finishing as Moderator.

Auntie Lyn is the nomination for Moderator-elect.

It was agreed that there be a general call for nominations or expressions of interest for the vacant Council positions with a view to Council bringing names to the Gathering for election. Noting that the ability to function well in a governance board with the ability to manage confidentiality is a must.

**Vacancies:** Minister from Nelson/Marlborough, Minister from Christchurch area, Elder from Mid-Sth Canterbury, and the possibility of a young-adult representative. Martin will initiate a nomination process.

### b) Pleasant Point Report

It is two years since the closure of the parish and the support arrangement managed by Timaru Presbyterian continues. It was agreed that a grant for future oversight at Pleasant Point be made to Timaru Presbyterian Church.

[Rev Brent Richardson did not participate in the vote]

### c) University Chaplaincy Support

Jonathan Barb & Martin Stewart will take the idea of various local parishes supporting the chaplaincy to the May Gathering

The next meeting of Council is on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April in Christchurch.