



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

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Newsletter 24th June 2021

From the Executive Officer:

Covid-19 is still with us

As you receive this newsletter, all eyes are on the testing centres in Wellington to see if the dreaded Delta variant of Covid-19 has found a foothold here.

We are not out of this yet, not by a long stretch!

We have a lot to be grateful for in Aotearoa-New Zealand, given our relative isolation in the world and what has proven to be an excellent pandemic response. Perfection eludes everyone anywhere who has been involved in trying to prevent the coronavirus from gaining a foothold among their people. But, thus far, in NZ the health and well-being outcome has been amazing. What a privilege it has been to be able to have enjoyed the summer season at Level 1 with barely any restrictions! There is a lot to be thankful for!

As the Health & Safety Officer for Alpine Presbytery, I want to offer some pre-emptive words of encouragement and caution to our church membership.

If further restrictions are on the horizon for us, can we give some thought to how we might handle ourselves now as well as then. I recall some pretty sad incidents in the lockdown of 2020, where church communities openly flouted the rules. It proved to be good fodder for the media, and an incredibly poor witness. I imagine, given the long period of calm we have had, that complacency and some carelessness has crept into our church communities as much as it has in wider society. It is understandable. We've been in a long bubble of relative contentment and extraordinary freedom compared to almost all other countries! I wonder if our church communities could be talking about how they might offer leadership should things get tougher. So many of our great church systems kicked in during the lockdown. Pastoral care of the isolated, people helping out their elderly neighbours by doing the shopping, church leaders organising ways to communicate and encourage, and so on. It was terrific! Have we reflected on that and looked for ways we could improve on what we did? What could we do better? I am mostly thinking about how we provide a non-anxious presence in our communities while also being caring and committed to the well-being of others. It could even start with a simple message to our people to scan or sign-in when they walk into any premises. The contact tracing element in the prevention of Covid-19 gaining a foothold in our communities is critical. Could our communities be leading by example? It is a simple enough way to demonstrate loving our neighbours!

But I am particularly concerned about potential carelessness. Carelessness with our words, where we join the chorus of those people who seem to complain about everything rather than be a disciplined, loving, and positive presence in our communities. Carelessness with our actions, where we don't take the Covid restrictions seriously. It came to light in one of our churches that during the

COMING UP

**Preaching the Parables Workshop
with Geoff New: 24 July**

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 emailed to gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Cut off for items for next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 1st July**



lockdown a group of people, almost all in their 80s, had gathered together each week in someone's home for a morning tea or lunch. Just imagine how that story would have gone in the media! And, imagine if they had inadvertently passed the virus on to each other and others because of that carelessness! Just imagine Dr Ashley Bloomfield and the Prime Minister talking about one of our churches as 'the _____ church cluster' at the 1pm briefings. I have no idea what those people were thinking, but I know a few things that are true: the lockdown was set up to protect people their ages in particular, thus they let their peers down horribly, and, the credibility of the witness of all of our churches would have been severely affected if they had been caught openly flouting the rules.

So, I want to encourage the leadership in our churches to talk about these things and encourage the people they serve to give thought to the way they handle themselves and others. We are in testing times and I hope, as a community of believers, that we can stand up and stand out by offering great leadership in our communities.

Best wishes

Martin Stewart

Preaching the Parables

Saturday 24th July, 9am – 3.30pm, at New Brighton Union Church, 24 Union Street, New Brighton

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea)

A one day workshop for emerging and experienced preachers with Rev Dr Geoff New (Dean of Studies at the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership).

Explore the power of Jesus's parables, how they work and how to understand them. The focus will be how to preach so people engage with the parables as if hearing them for the first time. This workshop involves practical exercises and a comprehensive handbook is included.

[Register here](#) or via the Presbytery website: alpinepresbytery.org/preaching-the-parables/

Vacancies:

The Hanmer Springs New Mission Seedling is looking for a new team member to be part of the oversight team with special responsibility for Finances.

This role includes:

- Supporting our leaders, Ben and Philippa, in managing the budgets
- Liaising with the Presbytery Treasurer as and when required
- Working with the team to develop stewardship and sustainability of funds in support of the long term success of this new mission

The team meets once per month usually via video conference with one or two face to face meetings per year.

This is a volunteer position!

Expressions of Interest with a summary of relevant experience to the convenor, Dan Spragg - dan@villagechurch.nz, 021770112

Christian Families Coordinator—John Knox Rangiora

John Knox Rangiora is seeking a Christian Families Coordinator to lead our Children and Youth ministries and provide pastoral support for our church families and wider community.

We are looking for someone with a strong Christian faith who knows the challenges and blessings associated with young families in a local Church community.

The Families Coordinator will work with our current Children and Youth ministries and pre-school music group to support and resource those involved. Their primary role will be pastoral care for Children, Youth and Families while providing leadership and guidance where needed.

We are looking for someone who can:

- **Dream:** discern the heart of God for families at John Knox and wider communities
- **Lead:** teams of volunteers in the Children and Youth Ministries
- **Be Hands-on:** in activities and services that bless our current and new families.

The position is for 20 hours per week which can be managed around both set and flexible times.

For a Job Description, Application Pack or if for any further questions, contact Jason: jason@johnknoxrangiora.co.nz, phone 027 452 7546

Applications Close 21st July 2021

Ministry Opportunity (Lay or Ordained)

St David's Marchwiel Union Church, Timaru

We would welcome someone to lead us in a part time capacity. This would involve 2 worship services a month and other pastoral work as negotiated. The position may suit a recently retired person or perhaps someone who exploring a call to Ministry. We are open to explore all options.

St David's is a vibrant congregation of around 35 people who engage with the community mostly through our support of a local primary school. We gather on Sundays for worship at Woodland's Rd Methodist church having no buildings of our own.

We would also welcome the offer of a Lay Preacher who could take one service every quarter.

If reading this has sparked your interest, or if you know someone who might be, we would love to hear from you. Contact Phil 022 1261353 revphilipbettany@gmail.com or Margaret 027 7132925 marjohn35@kinect.co.nz

Associate Children & Families Director: Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

The Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry exists to see communities of faith inspired to share God's big story by engaging authentically with children and families. We are currently advertising for an Associate Children and Families Director (0.5FTE) who will join the team in:

- Leading the PCANZ into authentic engagement with children and families.
- Advocating for children and families so that they are woven into the fabric/DNA of the church and have authentic participation.
- Encouraging, equipping and supporting church leaders and those who work with children and families.

Role Responsibilities

- Lead, develop and maintain the ministry that reaches children and families in the PCANZ.
- Collaborate and help lead relevant national special projects as determined by the PCANZ.
- Support regional children and families enablers.
- Advocate for churches to be engaging and discipling children and families.
- Encourage, equip and support children of the PCANZ in their faith and to use their gifts to minister to others.
- Encourage, equip and support parents and caregivers of the PCANZ to role model faith, to teach faith at home, engage in faith forming activities and take responsibility for the discipleship of their children.
- Ensure there is adequate training and resourcing for families as well as church members to support the discipleship of children and young people.
- Provide advice to children's and family leaders, parishes, presbyteries and PCANZ team members on children's and families' ministry.

The Candidate

The successful candidate will have:

- A theological degree or similar qualification
- Work history preferably within a religious context
- Membership in a Christian Church and would naturally be supportive and identify with the mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church.
- A demonstrable work history in children and families ministry, preferably including experience in ministry resourcing and leadership development.
- Experience working across cultural diversity.
- Professional credibility to inspire confidence, together with a proven ability to provide high quality work within deadlines and timeframes; a strong calibre of leadership, a focus on collaboration, support and communication.

Location

Be based in a major city in New Zealand; preferably based in Christchurch or Wellington.

Applications close: 19 July 2021

Click here for a complete [job description](#).

For further information and to apply, contact Robin Humphreys, robin@presbyterian.org.nz

Pews for sale

Hakaterere Presbyterian Parish has some pews they would like to sell. There are 24 knotty pine pews with rimu clashings and legs and a solid back, 4.25m long. There are also some older style rimu pews with rail backing, 2m long.

The price is negotiable depending on how many you would like to purchase. For photos and further details please contact Ann Allott aallott@ashburton.co.nz or phone 03 3080333.

Knox Singers concert

Saturday 26 June 7:30pm and Sunday 27 June, 2:30pm, at Knox Church, 28 Bealey Avenue, Ōtautahi Christchurch. The programme includes Haydn Missa Brevis, Cantique de Jean Racine, plus works by Bruckner and others. Entry \$20.00.

Notices & News from other organisation

Lunchtime seminar on Climate Change and Mental Health

Wednesday 30 June, 12.30-2pm, Victory Community Centre, 2 Totara St, Nelson

Climate change is the most critical issue of our time, impacting global but also inner ecosystems. Increasingly, climate crisis affects the hearts and minds of people in our communities. It can inspire us to change or it can immobilise us with anxiety. This lunchtime seminar will explore the mental health implications of climate change and help you explore ways to promote wellbeing.

Speakers: Silvia Purdie and Rod Oram

Koha entry and BYO lunch.

Download the flyer here: [Lunchtime Seminar](#)

A Faith-based Approach to Climate Change

The Nelson Tasman Climate Forum invites you to this presentation by Rod Oram.

Wednesday 30 June, 5.30 -7pm, at Nelson Cathedral, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Entry: Koha for the Cathedral. All are welcome.

RSVP: carolynhughes@foulis.nz

New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library

Here are the contents pages from the most recent issue of:

[Art & Christianity, Issue 106, Summer 2021](#)

[Australian Journal of Liturgy, Vol 17 No 3, 2021](#)

[Christianity Today, Vol 65 No 3, April 2021](#)

Email hewitson@prcknox.org.nz if you would like copies of any of the articles scanned and sent to you.

Other Newsletters

[Connect](#)—newsletter from Presbyterian Support Upper South Island

From the last Newsletter

[The Buzz](#)—Newsletter from PYM

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Presbytery Directory

If you need to obtain information from the Presbytery Directory, please initially ask your Parish Office, as most of these have been given a log-on to Infoodle.

If you do need for your own logon access, send your request to Gail at gail@alpinepresbytery.org.

Please do bear in mind, though, that we need to be aware of our obligations under the Privacy Act.

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/

Alpine Presbytery

Culture & Strategic Framework

[Click here](#) to download this document, updated September 2020

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter can be accessed via this link: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4niqhgq/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>