



PLAINS
PRESBYTERIAN
22ND MARCH 2020



After much consideration the Presbytery Council has concluded that due to increasing concerns around the coronavirus pandemic, the wise thing is to postpone the Presbytery Gathering planned for later this month.

This decision is not reached easily; a great deal of work has already gone into the planning for this weekend and we are not unaware of the benefits of being together whenever we can. However, we came to this decision because we felt the potential risks outweigh the current need to meet. We don't want to be adding to an already tense time without very good cause.

In the near future you, and all Presbytery members, will receive the papers that would have been presented at the Gathering, by email, for your perusal, and attention where necessary.

These are very testing times and there is a lot to consider when we are faced with the possibility that we cannot continue to be meeting in person, during the week, but especially on Sundays. I imagine that you, like me, will be caught up in thinking of ways to help keep your people connected; ways we might not have previously been invited to consider. Who knows, we might all come out of this with new and improved methods of communication. Can I take this opportunity too, to encourage your church leadership to look for ways in which you can connect with your surrounding community; who may be feeling unsupported or fearful of possible isolation.

I am sorry we won't be together later this month and I am sure you will join me in keeping everyone in the Presbytery and beyond in your prayers, as we do what we can, to manage and to thrive in the days ahead.

Rev Anne Stewart
Alpine Presbytery Moderator

As our Moderator mentions, we are disappointed to have postponed the coming Presbytery Gathering (27th - 29th) however in light of the increasing concerns around the developing pandemic in NZ our Presbytery Council discerned that this was a wise move.

In making this decision, however, we realise that for some of you it is a 'disruptive' decision i.e. some of you will have already made travel and accommodation arrangements. We trust that you are able to cancel these and, in the case of flights, possibly negotiate an open ticket for future use or voucher if possible if refunds are not available. Please contact Presbytery if you have any concerns around this matter.

Those that have already made payment for the Gathering can request a refund by emailing Presbytery Treasurer Christine Arnold on christine.arnold@xtra.co.nz

At this time we have no definite date for a rescheduled Presbytery Gathering. We, along with everyone else, will need to monitor the situation as time goes by. When we are more certain on a return to a safer environment we will make plans for the event. It may be in the second half of 2020 but we will see how things develop.

Please Note:

No Carew Service for the month of March.

No service at St John's next Sunday 22nd.

* If anyone would like a ride to Staveley the 22nd please phone Brian Blackwell for further information.

No service at St. Andrew's and St. David's Ashburton on 29th March.

Four-week Lent Study

Lent Study will be commencing from the week of the 22nd of March. This will take place in your respective areas a day/s during the week. I realize that this may not suit all and will endeavour to cater for all who desire to grow in personal faith. Lent is a time of reflection and preparation. It is part of the fundamentals of the Christian faith a period of pondering on Jesus death and resurrection. I hope you will join in this study to have a spiritual awakening as we journey to the season of Easter. We will be focusing on 'Gratitude and Grace' Through Lent with the Gospel of John. If you would like to join a study group, please contact Aarii to receive a copy of the study.

St. John's Methven

Tuesday 24th March

4:00 pm | Governance Council Meeting

~ Next month indoor bowls will be starting at St. John's for the winter season.

Contact Martin Nordquist at 3028717 for details.

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 24th March

10:30 am Fit Kids | Music and movement for preschoolers, friendship for adults.

1:00 pm Steady as You Go | Exercises for seniors.

Enjoy the benefits of a range of gentle exercises for strength, balance, walking and co-ordination.

Trinity Mayfield

Friday, 3rd April

10:00 am | COMMUNITY CUPPA MORNING

You are invited to a cuppa in the Mayfield Church Lounge on Friday 20th March.

Come and meet some other young mums or older residents.

It is a safe environment for children to play. This will be held again Friday, 17th April

Sunday Services

March 22 nd	9:30 am 10:00 am	St. Andrew's Staveley	Rev. Neville Burns Combined with St. John's Communion Alpine Presbytery
March 29 th	9:30 am	St. David's Ashburton (There is now NO Service)	
April 5 th	10:30 am 10:30 am	St. John Worship Team St. John's	Music Service Rev. Aarii Taimataora Shared Lunch

From PCANZ Moderator, Rt Rev Fakafo Kaio for our Presbytery:

Greetings to our Alpine Presbytery Family. In the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I greet you. You had prepared and planned for a full and a meaningful Gathering for your Region. There was so much expected, tabled, anticipated and news to share. The cancellation of our Presbytery Gathering is both right and proper, due to Covid-19. But you will meet again soon. You will share a meal, a story, catch up, spend time in prayer, see vision, dream dreams. Together you will praise and worship our God, real soon. You have been through a lot in your region. And you have shown courage and resilience, strength and character. You have picked yourselves up, time and time again. Your example for the nation is commendable.

Please look after yourselves. Take care of our people. Assure and reassure each other. Keep everyone in your prayers. Pray for a cure, an answer. Remember the doctors and nurses, the hospitals, chaplains, all those facing this onslaught head on, day by day. Be calm and be at peace, others around you will find strength and resolve through you. Stand firm in the Lord Jesus Christ, in words and in deeds and in thoughts.

We, Ruth and I, love you all and we keep you in our prayers. We will meet real soon, so much to share.

Blessings

Fakafo.

