



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

31ST MAY 2020



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The weekend!

On the weekend gone we had our two grandsons with us. On arrival picking them up, one was already to go, packed bag and waiting patiently by the living room window for his grandparents. Upon picking up the other brother he too was waiting patiently, but not quite ready, when asked if his bag were sorted, the answer would be, “ummmm yes” and 5mins later he was ready to go. They have not seen each other since the lockdown began. For us, it may have been 7 weeks since we last saw them, but it felt like 7months as they seem to look a lot older. They were excited to meet and play again! “Finally!” they said, “yes! out of home.” It was such a humorous sight to see, watching and observing their communion. They made their own pizza for dinner and played at the park.

It has only been a couple of hours and it did not take long before their competitive streak kicked in. The challenge begins, the competition re-started where they last left off 7weeks ago! and the debate of who was better and the eldest returned. One would say, “I can ride my bike without training wheels.” And the other would say, “I have a bike too.” If one had it, the other has it too. One would do work like make their bed but the other, would do anything to get out of work!

But there was something different, it seemed that somewhere, along the way they lost a link of their connection. One brother asked the other, “who is your dad?” in which he responded, “your dad is my dad too!” At times, they had differences in their understanding. One brother could not understand why his brother would not play with him! And the other, could not understand why his brother was so annoying! Oh goodness! We just laughed.

It must have been a long time! As one brother pronounce his brother’s name differently where the other would always correct him. Its not its!

Oh... the joy of seeing the mokos (grandchildren).
After dropping them home. We were absolutely knackered!
Sigh.... the joy of reconnecting once again.



Rev. Arii Taimataora

Update on Church Happenings

Tuesday 26th April a Parish Governance meeting was held at Methven. Discussion took place on finance [Gill our treasurer] grateful for \$15,000 wage subsidy. Church giving over the past 2 months very low, but hopefully a boost will come when services commence. As always thanks and appreciation extended to our parishioners.

Covid-19 Health Policy - Level 2 needs to be discussed by local church groups and policy plan relating to each worshipping church to be completed, before services recommence. Commencement of services, now that Level 2 has been expanded, allowing up to 100 to attend church services, still observing the health policy.

Commencement St John's Methven 7th June 10:30AM with Rev. Arii Taimataora TBC
St Andrew's Rakaia 14th June 9.30AM with Rev John Titlow. Confirmed

A discussion paper written by Mo Morgan was presented by Arii.

DISCERNING OUR PRIORITIES AS WE MOVE FORWARD

The world has changed. We are changed. how will we respond.

Responding to the Covid - 19 pandemic has changed us. It has changed people individually. It has changed communities. It has changed our world. God is with us - this hasn't changed. But the way we are able to worship and be the church has. Things will continue to evolve for some time, and we need to be ready for continual adjustments. This is nothing new for God's people - for generations, Christians have been confronted with situations where they have needed to change the way to enable people to express their love for God and love for people.

Walter Brueggemann's three categories for Psalm's as a way of organizing our priorities. Through Psalms, across generations, God's people have continually heard God's voice in times of thanksgiving and in times of despair.

Let us focus on the Psalms of new orientation. Songs of surprising new life. Songs of coherence, new creation, new understanding.

In this Parish are we still disorientated, waiting to go back to normal or are we ready to move forward into a new normal, a new orientation of what it means to be ourselves and be a community.

We welcome feedback on the following questions, perhaps some guidelines for moving forward. How do we approach organizing our priorities.

Key Areas. WORSHIP/ DISCIPLESHIP
PASTORAL CARE
ADMINISTRATION
CHILDREN / YOUTH
HEALTH AND SAFETY / PROPERTY
GROUPS
COMMUNITY

St. John's Methven

Tuesday 2nd June

7:30 pm | St John's Focus Group Meeting

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 2nd June

10:30 am Rakaia Fit Kids | Welcome Back! All the usual music and movement activities with some Health and Safety adjustments. A time for friendship for mums, grandparents, and preschool children. Donations .50c welcome. Church protocol, everyone must register. Come and join us for that hour. - Dorothy and Miranda



PLANTS 4 U @ RAKAIA booked for Saturday 3rd October has been cancelled for this year. This is disappointing but not unexpected, because of the large number of people attending, social distancing would have been impossible. What do we do now? is the question. Last year \$5500 approx. was raised, so how do we replace that amount? Welcome ideas.

As this is an ongoing project, potting takes place during the whole year. At this stage Jan [our plant grower] and I would have at least 1000 plants potted up. Rather than throw them out, we will look at other opportunities on "How we can Sell". certainly, do not want to hold them over until next year. In the meantime, we will look after what we have growing and hope for the best. - Dorothy.



Psalm 138 A prayer of Thanksgiving.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I sing praise to you before the gods.

I face your holy Temple, bow down, and praise your name because of your constant love and faithfulness because you have shown that your name and your commands are supreme.

You answered me when I called to you; with your strength you strengthened me.

All the kings of the world will praise you, Lord, because they have heard your promises.

They will sing about what you have done and about your great glory.

Even though you are so high above, you care for the lowly, and the proud cannot hide from you.

When I am surrounded by troubles, you keep me safe. You oppose my angry enemies and save me by your power.

You will do everything you have promised; Lord, your love is eternal.

Complete the work that you have begun. Good News Bible

Alpine Presbytery

The Garage Series

Here are this weeks episodes of "The Garage Series." This is where we go out and about and find out what questions people are asking.

#5 - Lyn from Greymouth, <https://youtu.be/SJcRMQwcou8> - Apologies for the audio issues near the end of this clip, keep listening and do not adjust your sets!

#6 - Phyllis from Lincoln, <https://youtu.be/g92krMRO9J4>

You may want to subscribe to the Alpine Presbytery YouTube channel while you are there. Maybe you have the same questions? Maybe you can talk about them in your congregation leadership meetings? Please share with us what solutions and ideas, and maybe further questions you come up with.

Last week: Episode 3 <https://youtu.be/2Wvt7TMsQEM>

Episode 4 <https://youtu.be/TMSKdN1h90>

Please Note Parishioners:

There is no physical worship gathering as yet until further notice from Parish council.

We are in the process of updating health and safety guidelines and policies.

This is a requirement of our head office in Wellington before any activities can take place.

Thank you for your patience and kindness.

- Parish Council

Keeping Connected

Sunday 9.00 am with the Moderator Right Rev Fakaofa Kaio.

A time of Devotion reflecting the Lectionary reading for the day

<https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/>

Sunday 10:00 am with Dr Rev Tokerau Joseph, Mairangi, Castor Bay Parish

A 30-minute responsive service with singing. <https://youtu.be/BKXvwTAWDro>

Video service, podcast, and Zoom with Rev Arii and Tai

Timaru Presbyterian Parish with Brent and Rory can be sourced through Dorothy.

PRAYER

Numbers 6:24-26-

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Lord, bless our families and children. Give them hearts that follow after you.

