



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

16TH AUGUST 2020



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A Home

Ephesians 3:17

“Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.

Your roots *will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.*”

Last weekend one of our sons and his whanau shifted from Hornby to Parkland. What was the reason? Well, two reasons. 1. A much bigger house to cater for their needs and 2. It was much more affordable. It was a difficult decision because it required changes to routines and will affect the kids living and schooling arrangements. We popped in to see them as we have not seen our moko’s for some time and to see how they were settling in. It is a big house! with spacious rooms and a good size back yard. When we arrived, we were greeted by the children who were so excited telling us how happy they are about their new home. Settled in a middle-class urban location I wondered if they will establish their permanent roots here. Will they be happy? Will this be their forever home?

It is becoming more difficult and challenging for young families facing uncertain times ahead when there is loss of wages, rising of market prices and the list goes on. These are unprecedented times as we lock into level 2 for most part of the country the stress and struggle level is high as some families may have to uproot and move to another home that they can afford.

We stayed for a bit and observed the children playing. For them, it is a new adventure! a new place to explore! Children adjust so easily to change of house or school and routine. Children do not know the struggles of life, the risk and difficulties that sometimes awaits us, but they jump right in because they fully put their trust in their parents or guardian with whom they have already established roots with.

The Apostle Paul writes to the folk of Ephesians “because of Christ and our faith in him, we can come boldly and confidently in God’s presence” Just like the children who walked boldly and confidently into their new home because of the trust they have in their parents. We are reminded to let Jesus make his home in our hearts keep us rooted in God’s love even though we face uncertain times ahead. We walk boldly into that place knowing and believing that Christ has made his home in us. We as believers should be one who will also share that confidence and boldness with other folks who need establishing their spiritual roots and home.

The move of our son and his family for Tai and me, means we get to see them less frequently now as they were always on our normal route in and out of Christchurch. I am saddened that they are now on the other side of the city! But I know they need to find their place in the world by establishing their forever home or roots to care and provide.

~ Arii Taimataora

Message from Alpine Presbytery Greetings! Sadly, we are having to attend to the possibility of community transmission after over 100 days of it being absent apart from at our borders. At this stage, as you will have heard, we will be at Level 2 in our part of the world from noon Wednesday until midnight on Friday. Hopefully, that will be sufficient, but I think it is more accurate to say that we are at Level 2 while assessments of the scale of the community infection are being carried out. There is always the possibility of an extension or even an elevation of levels.

I do advise people to plan ahead and begin factoring in what would happen if there was an extension of this level beyond Friday evening. What might it mean for your Sunday gathering? Have you the capacity to maintain appropriate physical distancing? What appropriate hand-washing facilities can you offer in your facilities? Can you ensure there are no more than 100 people at any of your activities?

What will be your mechanism to decide whether or not your church activities will go ahead?

How can you convey that information and how and when you will make decisions in a timely manner?

I think that it is better to be prepared than unprepared, and I wish you God’s blessing and deep peace as you make your plans, and as we hold our Auckland whanau and friends in our prayers. ~ Martin | Rev Martin Stewart | Executive Officer, Alpine Presbytery

● COVID-19 UPDATE

11 AUGUST 2020

Rest of NZ: COVID Alert Level 2

The rest of New Zealand, outside of Auckland, will move to Alert Level 2 from midday Wednesday 12 August until midnight Friday.

Maintain physical distancing of two metres in public, or one metre in controlled environments like workplaces.

Gatherings are limited to 100 people.

Schools will remain open.

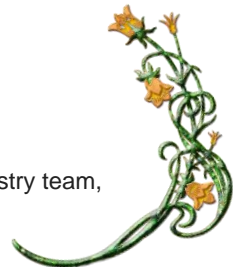
UPDATE SHARED FROM PRIME MINISTER’S FACEBOOK PAGE

Refreshment - Physical and Spiritual

There are times when we are flat out when we cannot afford to take time off. We get back home, physically exhausted, but glad we have achieved a good day's work. Other times, a mental and spiritual weariness overtakes us and we feel empty, restless, incomplete. Jesus, you felt like this at times - with crowds swirling around you, demanding your attention and compassion, or challenging everything you did. You grabbed moments of peace and refreshment by rising early to pray and reflect, in the healing stillness of the hilltops. Help us find deep pools of refreshment. Guide us to the shades of stillness, like the calm under a copse of native bush, or behind a shelter - belt.

Enable us to make time for recreation with our family and friends, so that they do not become second best in our order of priorities. May your living presence surround us, both in times of rest, and when life is busy.
From the Seasons of the Land by Bill Bennett.

Deepest sympathy and prayers extended to Jenny, David, and Philip Logan at the sad passing of their son in law Tony. Our love goes out to Janine, Liam, and Carley Prayers for the family of the Rev Johanna van der Kley, who passed away 10th August Rev Johanna was with us at St Andrews in the early 1990's and encouraged us to form our own ministry team, which we decided to do so with the support of Rev Robyn Mcphail from St John's.



St. Andrew's Rakaia Goodwill Box in the Foyer, support for the community and Rakaia school.

Tuesday 18th August

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | with Miranda A time for friendship, fun, and support. Welcome to all pre-school children.

1:00 pm | Steady As You Go | Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being.

2:00 pm | St. Andrew's Mission Meeting

Saturday 3rd October

Plants 4 U @ Rakaia | Lots of bargains throughout the morning. Plants, white elephant, produce, jams plus baking. Donations of all goods welcome. All morning fair starting at 9 am Welcome unwanted plants (Don't throw any out!)

St. John's Methven

Friday 21st August

2:30 pm | Group Study | Anyone is welcome to participate

5:30 pm | Zoom Study | If there are insufficient numbers, this will be cancelled.

Sunday 6th September | Thanksgiving Service | As we missed Harvest Thanksgiving this year we have decided to have a "Thanksgiving" Service as a way of supporting Presbyterian Support in Ashburton. Donations of nonperishable goods are welcome. These can also be left at Graeme Mangins prior to the Service.

Carew

Wednesday 19th August

7:00 pm | Carew Service is back on | Look forward to seeing you there.

Trinity Mayfield

Thursday 20th August

1:30 PM | Mayfield Mission Group | Held at Mayfield Supperoom. All welcome come for a chat, coffee, tea & cake.

Services for August

16 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Aarii
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Neville Burns
19 th	7:00 pm	Carew	Rev. Aarii
23 rd	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:00 am	Trinity Mayfield	Rev. Aarii (Carew & Stavely)
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Tai Taimataora

Heavenly Father, We pray for families who are struggling to stand on solid ground because of all that is happening around them. Help us to meet those in need and extend hope in practical ways. Help us to pray for those we hear in our communities that have lost jobs and wages whose lives have drastically changed because of COVID19. Hear their prayers and send aid. We pray for those who are unwell or sick. We ask your ongoing healing upon their lives. We pray for our churches in our region may we stay true to your goodness and love. May we reflect your light and love where there is darkness. May we reflect your hope and peace where there is hopeless. Hear our prayers we pray, Amen.

