



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

27TH SEPTEMBER 2020



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Who Are We?

In the last couple of years, Alpine Presbytery has been on a journey of listening and engaging with parishes right across the top of the South Island through to the Waitaki River. Some years ago, the Alpine team did a road trip to listen to our stories and hopes of what we would like to happen in our communities of faith. Through this, a more updated strategic framework was formulated from the road trip.

Last Weekend I, along with others, attended the Alpine Gathering. It has been such a long time since meeting with colleagues and the wider church folks. There was a good 'vibe' and a sense of camaraderie and encouragement to meet once again in fellowship.

One of the things that really came to the fore during this 'gathering' was the 'Strategic Framework'. How do we understand it? And how best could we implement or adhere to the framework that has our best interest in mind?

I will put these frameworks out periodically for us to ponder and perhaps give feedback to.

Alpine Presbytery Whanau

"Together we... Have meaningful connection (with God and each other). Practice deep listening. Discern the Holy Spirit's leading. Have the freedom to try. Nurture faith. Have intentional love and acceptance. Have trust. Care for creation. Offer hospitality. Walk humbly with God"

How do we do all that is mentioned above? Let's begin with this that is written in our *"Framework"*

Hold a posture of "with" not "at" each other, and use the word "we" not "they"

We are reminded to put aside our differences and work together, but it is hard sometimes when we have done things the way we have always done it. We are conditioned in certain ways to fit within the boxes that have already been shaped by years of past down important teachings and lessons and they are important to us! We are asked to look at our situations with new lenses and insight.

What does it mean to be *"with"* rather than *"at"* each other?

Everything that happens within our ministry regardless if it is in Rakaia, St John, Mayfield or other, is under the posture of *"we"*. I recall one of my first articles in the Plains Speaking was titled, *"OUR DNA"*

Below is an insert of part of the article that reminds us of the posture we aim to be.

"St Andrews 'DNA' is no different to St Johns or to Trinity Mayfields 'DNA' Yes, we are all different and yes, we function differently, but if we look hard enough, we are of the same 'DNA'! one in God and one with God. Gods veins runs through us, Gods blood runs in us, Gods Spirit is in all of us, so we are more one than we are separated.

Let our roots and our heritage speak forth from us by us uniting. By embracing each other's differences and using it to compliment not tear down, to speak positive of each other rather than holding grudges and negative tensions. Support and attend each other's events after all, we have shared our 'DNA'. Let us allow Christ to show the way even when we feel this isn't working. Maybe, it is part of God's greater plan not to work but to live! and thrive in him! Our 'DNA' has brought us together for a reason. God has brought us together for a reason.

We must continue to pray for one another. We must seek Gods wisdom as we forge forward in mingling what will become of this new 'DNA'. We must find Christ peace and light as a Plains Presbyterian looking to make a mark in our communities for Christ sake."

Romans 12: 3-9

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

Reflections for the season.

Tending the Soil and Planting Time.

The sower went out to sow. Some seed fell on good soil, some on poor soil.

Jesus of the paddocks and rolling hills, be with those who sit for long hours on tractors, hauling ploughs, discs, harrows, and rollers, working with the earth till it is ready for the planting of crops.

Guard those who fly topdressing aircraft or pilot helicopters.

Help us be responsible in the tilling of the earth and the use of fertilisers.

And then, with faith in nature's bounty, help us look forward to a prosperous harvest, and praise the vast generosity of God.

The Whitebait Season.

God, the source of all things, we pray for all who enjoy the patient pleasures of the whitebait season;

for the finding of good river locations,

the setting of nets,

and the hope of a catch,

that will end in whitebait fritters,

Enable all whitebaiters to act with courtesy and safety,

For it is hope and much skill that we depend on the expected running of inanga and kókopu, of kóaro and bullies.

We thank you for this seasonal delicacy, and pray that our stewardship of all waterways will ensure a reliable catch each season.

From the Shepherd's Call by Bill Bennett

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 29th September

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.

Saturday 3rd October

Plants 4 U @ Rakaia | All morning fair starting at 9 am. This year there will be lots of bargains throughout the morning.

Plants galore, white elephant, produce, jams and baking.

Preparation for the "Selling Day" Tuesday 29th September at 2pm, helpers are welcomed to set up tables.

*Please Note. Plains Speaking mistake Service at St Andrew's 11 October listed as 9.30am, should be 10.30am.

Parish Service at St Andrews Sunday 11th October at 10.30am followed by AGM. With a shared lunch.

St. John's Methven

Monday 28th September

10:00 am – 11:30 am | Lego themed Holiday activity for kids all ages. Please book with Jayne Clark 0274678105

Friday 16th October

7:30 pm | Family Quiz Night | Questions for all the family with supper provided. Teams 5 or 6 | Adults \$5, School Children \$3. Come along, great fun for all. For more info contact Joan Wright 30286668 or Graham Marr 3028682

Note that there is NO Service at St John's this week.

Staveley Service with Aarii and Communion at 10 a.m. For transport please contact Brian Blackwell – 3028476

Sunday Services

Sept. 27 th	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
	10:00 am	Staveley, combined with St. John's (Communion)	Rev. Aarii
Oct. 4 th	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow; Parish Service

PRAYER

AH – VEE - noo (Father in Hebrew),

We need your eyes and your heart to see what you see in us. We need your light and your truth to show us the way. We need your love and care to serve others. We need your grace and mercy to forgive others. We need your Holy Presence to keep us humble and mindful of our thoughts and actions.

Amen.