



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

31ST JANUARY 2021



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Be Ready and prepare

The headlines say, we have been inundated with the “one” person who came out of the required quarantine after travelling abroad other countries with no Covid finding whatsoever. But a few days later the symptoms of not feeling well while engaging within the community and at public places, they did not keep to the rules and that is, to stay at home and call into a medical centre to be checked again. This person may have thought, “well, I just came out of quarantine and they have not detected anything positive, it might not be serious.”

How important it is to pay attention! If there are any signs of symptoms, big or small, and if you are not feeling well, please stay home. Please sign in wherever you go, do not forget to record travel details, and scan covid19 scanner wherever and whenever possible.

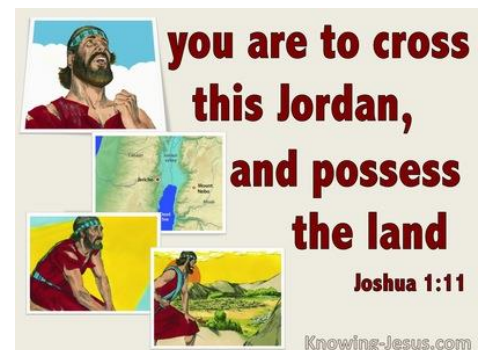
A new virus called South Africa Variant has emerged and has come into the country. It is said to be more contagious than covid-19. We are fortunate that the government is keeping a close eye and keeping restrictions in place. (We are currently on level 1 alert)

We might be slipping back into our old habits, continuing life as per normal which can sometimes mean being a little laid back and paying less attention to our surroundings and what is happening. We are reminded time and time again by the powers that be, to be vigilant, to be ready and prepared if another lockdown should take place. We have been here before so it should not be foreign to us and we should know what to expect.

Joshua 1: 11

“Pass through the camp and command the people: ‘Prepare your provisions; for in three days, you are to cross over the Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God gives you to possess.’”

God who spoke to his people through his servant like Joshua to prepare themselves for the arduous journey ahead, God speaks to us to be prepared for the journey ahead nationally and in our faith journey. The way ahead will not shy away from the challenges, struggles and opportunities that will rise to meet us. God walks with his people and prepares them to be ready.



Not only should we be ready just for ourselves but ready to help, to share, ready to say yes, ready to commit, ready to serve. That is God’s calling, “be ready...”

Be ready for we do not know when the “son of man” will return.

Rev Arii Taimataora



Information below from <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

At Alert Level 1 we all need to be ready in case COVID-19 reappears in our community.

Border restrictions; Health screening and testing for all arrivals including a mandatory 14 day managed isolation. *If you're sick*; Stay home if feeling unwell. The risk of spreading Covid-19 is much greater when there are no restrictions on gatherings or going out. If you have symptoms, stay home, and call your doctor. Maintain good hygiene; Keep up good handwashing, by using soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and drying thoroughly. Cough and sneeze into your elbow. Keep surfaces clean. Keep track of where you have been and who you have seen; Use the NZ Covid Tracer app, and/or sign in at the location. Keep your distance; At Alert Level 1, Covid-19 is contained but it is still a good idea to keep a safe distance from people you don't know while out and about. This is help minimize the spread if community transmission returns. While there are no restrictions on our church gatherings it is good to practice all above and be ready in case Covid-19 reappears in our community.

Harvest is now in Progress.

Harvest Anxiety.

Loving and bountiful God, like the parable of the sower of the seed who waits for germination, growth, and harvest, we also experience the patience needed, as well as anxiety, tension, and restlessness, as we prepare for the gathering of the harvest. In times of changeable weather, or poor growing conditions let us all appreciate how people are feeling. And, once the harvest is completed, let us rejoice and give thanks for all that has been achieved.

The Shepherd's Call by Bill Bennett.

Staveley

Sunday 31st January

10:00 am | Staveley Church – 10 Burgess Road, Staveley 7771 | Plains Parish Service followed by morning tea. At the church there are no toilets, but Staveley Hall toilets will be open before and after service. Suggestions for activities after service; • Picnic in church grounds or on Green. • Lunch or take a ways from Staveley Store. • Great coffee and ice creams. • Store also has lovely gift ware and Mount Somers Station blankets, honey, and meat. Wine from Kate's winery. • Walk in the Scenic Reserve followed by a dip in the river. • Staveley Museum open 1.00 to 3.00pm - See you there.

This Sunday's Bible Readings

The scriptures are: Numbers 6:22-27 & Mark 10:13-16. The old Testament passage is the instruction from God to Moses, to tell the priests to bless the people. The New Testament passage is the account of Jesus calling the children to him and blessing them. Blessing is God's big idea. Let us be thankful for God's blessings, and let them flow over to those around us. It is much more enjoyable to be people of blessing than to be critical and judgmental. Blessing others brings people closer to us. Criticising distances us from others. The biggest challenge of all is for us to bless ourselves instead of being self-critical. *May we see others and ourselves through God's eyes – with a desire to bless. – Paul.*

St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 2nd February

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | Welcome Back! First Fit Kids of 2021. New songs, but same support and fun for preschoolers, new mums, caregivers, dads, and grandparents.

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

Tuesday 9th February

11:30 am | Rakaia Friendship Gathering at St. Andrew's | Raffle, Stall, Dinner for All, entertainment with Rose and Irene. Welcome to All.

St Andrew's Belated Christmas Round Up.

Grateful thanks to some generous donations to St Andrew's, enabling the church to gift a Christmas grocery box to the Rakaia School, donate 4 meat and vegetable gifts and financial support to a family. Very much appreciated.

Plains Parish and St Paul's Church provided funds for a Christmas programme, led by Marty and Al at Rakaia, Chertsey, and Dorie Schools.

"Its Christmas" community programme, Friday 18th December at St Andrew's organized by Miranda and Dorothy, provided fun, food and fellowship. Thank you to all supporters and especially our Fijian Community Choir, entertaining us with a great selection of songs. Really enjoyable.

Christmas Eve Service led by Marty, attended by 60 people, gave us the opportunity to share in the Christmas Story. Children involvement and carol singing, plus wonderful Bagpipe music prior to the service made this a special time. Thank you to Paul Stewart.

CWS appeal "When I was Hungry" received \$151.00.

St. John's Methven

St John's Focus Group meets on Tuesday 2nd February in the Lounge. If there are any local issues that need to be dealt with please contact a group member and remember, anyone is welcome to attend.

Sunday Services

31st Jan 10:00 am

Staveley

Pastor Paul Eden

Please note * NO services on 31st at St. Andrew's or St. John's

7th Feb 10:30 am

St. John's Methven

Rev Arii; Parish Service



Go into the world as those who drink at the fountain of truth and life.

And may God be found standing on a rock in all the hard places, breaking open the streams of life before us and leading us on in faith. Amen

-Dorothy McRae-McMahon