



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

7TH FEBRUARY 2021



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Waitangi Day 6th February is regarded by many as our national day. It commemorates the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi/e Tiriti o Waitangi between the Tangata Whenua (Māori) and the Crown (British Empire), at the marae in Paihia in 1840 - 181 years ago. It was an incredible achievement by all concerned. No treaty is without faults and blemishes. With both parties involved, it was signed with hope for a fruitful future.

Our history, in the nearly two centuries since the signing of the Treaty, records stories of deception, distortion, abuse and manipulation. Grief and pain will never pass. This is always the case in treaties with land and control of people at the core of such an arrangement. How do we face this? We must learn the Treaty of Waitangi story, remember and honour the Treaty, with respect for one another. We must move forward as a nation, united in love, honour, and respect. The Treaty of Waitangi is our story - look back, learn, remember, be gracious and resolutely move on.

What of today? As a nation, we are making progress. Treaty settlements continue, much has been completed. Our Pakeha/Palagi population still leads in the majority in all areas of our society. The Māori economy has improved. The study of the history of this land is now a reality from the earliest stages of schooling. Māori, Pacifica and Asian peoples are progressing slowly but surely in academic qualifications, management roles, and owning their own businesses. Representing us in the NZ Parliament are an increasing number of Māori, Pacifica and other ethnicities, more than ever before in our short history.

As a nation, we are young. We are one of a handful of nations leading the world in the battle with Covid-19. In the sporting arenas, we compete "above our weight" and our lack of resources (isolation, people, and the latest technology) does not hinder us. This attitude and demeanour is very much the reflection of who we are in the global landscape. We are a warrior nation of men and women influenced and nurtured by our heritage - Māori, English, Scottish, Pacific, Asian, European, plus many other origins.

Today, we the Tangata Whenua, the Crown, and the Manuhiri (late comers), stand on the shoulders of giants. We owe it to them to build up this land, to grow our potentials, to live in peace and harmony, be involved and participate in every level of our society.

Let us honour a bicultural treaty signed in 1840. We, a multicultural society, 5 million strong. We flourish and grow as a cross-cultural nation, emphasising building families, communities, and ourselves, on Godly values and principles.

Kia kaha, i te aroha o te Atua ia Ihu Karaiti. Be strong in the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Ke manuia/Blessings
Fakaofa

Right Reverend Fakaofa Kaio
Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
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Last Sunday at the Staveley church Pastor Paul Eden reflected on the bible reading from Mark 10 verses 13-16 Jesus Blesses Little Children and also some profound words about blessing people, especially ourselves. Next Tuesday 9th February at St Andrews we will host our Friendship Gathering, the first for the year. A reading for our senior folk.

Beatitudes For The Friends Of The Aged.

Blessed are they who understand My faltering step and shaky hand.
Blessed are they who know my ears today Must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know My eyes are dim and my thinking slow.
Blessed are they who look away When coffee was spilled on the table today.
Blessed are they who never say "You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they with a cheery smile Who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who know the ways To bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are those who make it known I'm loved, respected, and not alone.
Blessed are they who ease the days To my journeys, and in loving ways.



* Apology to the Carew folk for the error in February roster - no service at Carew 24 Feb.

St. Andrew's Rakaia

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.

Wednesday 10th February

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | 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..

In Case You Were Wondering... Last Saturday late afternoon St Andrew's was rented out to a visiting church, a booking for the last Saturday of the month. Unfortunately, there was an accident to the front door of the church, the glass was broken. I was called around 9.15pm and everything was under control. Constable Trevor was there, and our local builder Ross Moore was boarding up the door. The glass was cleaned up and taken away by our visitors They also cleaned up the foyer. Everyone was on their way by 10.30pm. Isobell was on the case and the door now repaired, no cost to the Parish. We give thanks and blessings to all concerned and grateful that no one was injured. - Dorothy

St Andrew's Grocery Box will be back in action from Sunday 14th February.

Welcome contributions for our Outreach programme to the community.

St. John's Methven

Friday 12th February

10.00 am | Worship Meeting at St John's Church Methven | Welcome suggestions or new ideas.

St John's Focus Group met this week. We discussed visiting and keeping in our prayers a number of our members who are unwell, in hospital or in care. Our prayers are also with bereaved families in the district.

Parish Service at St John's on Sunday 7th will be followed by shared Lunch.

Thanks to everyone who helped with furniture and organising the church before and after Morris Molloy's funeral. This service was a fitting tribute to a much loved husband and family man who had been very involved with the life and the building of St John's church.

Jayne reported on the preparation for the Lego Club which will start later this month.

The Royal Commission of enquiry into Historical abuse in Care is requiring us to advise of any cases in our area. If anyone thinks they could be able to help with our report the guidelines are

at <https://www.abuseincare.org.nz/library/v/3/terms-of-reference>

There has been questions over publication of Plains Speaking, our quarterly Parish newsletter. We would be interested in any feedback concerning this communication.

Gill is hoping to run another children's holiday programme in April – more details later.

Sunday Services

7th Feb 10:30 am St. John's Methven Rev Arii; Parish Service Shared Lunch



Mark 10:14

"Let the little children come to me,
and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of God
belongs to such as these."