



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

## 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021



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### Loving God, we thank You that You are here among us.



#### 23<sup>rd</sup> May Sunday Service; Farewell to Aarii & Family

Last Sunday it was great to welcome a crowd of approximately 60 to our service at Staveley to farewell Aarii and family. Paul Eden preached on being in awe of God, our calling and how awesome God is. He finished by playing his pan flute as we quietly sang a beautiful benediction.

Denis spoke on Aarii's work among us, thanking her for her faithfulness and presented her with a beautiful photo of our snowy mountains and a lovely basket of flowers.

Each of our church areas presented a painted stone with an appropriate bible verse on it. The service concluded with morning tea and lots of chat in the garden.



**We wish Aarii and family our very best wishes and love for their future in Christchurch.**

#### Report from Plains Parish Governance Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Rev. Johanna Warren read from 1 Peter:1: 3-9 & 22-23 & 2: 4-5. A letter written for encouragement in time of change. Johanna prayed for the meeting and thanked God for the gifts of generations and for further insight, grace, and wisdom.

**Pastoral:** A lovely farewell to Aarii last Sunday at Staveley – a special service led by Pastor Paul Eden. Denis presented Aarii with a picture of the mountains and a basket of flowers. Each area had painted a rock relevant to their community.

**Property:** Manse inspected following service on Sunday. It has been left very clean and tidy. There are some small maintenance jobs to do and chimneys to be cleaned. Property Committee will talk to a Property Broker regarding renting of the Manse on a temporary basis being aware of new Government regulations due in July.

**Minister's Report:** "We are expecting Presbytery Council during their meeting on 27 May to appoint Rev. Johanna Warren of Hakaterere Parish in Ashburton as our Interim Moderator. Therefore, we have arranged for Johanna to lead morning worship with communion at Methven on Sunday 6 June. Immediately after the service there will be a semi formal time to meet Johanna and ask questions, and plenty of time for informal conversation over lunch".

**Area Reports** were received from Rakaia and Methven & Mayfield

**Worship Committee** – met this week. Service schedule was confirmed until end of July. Policy needs to be set up regarding number of visiting preachers. Video could be used more.

**Communications:** Concerns over the best ways to move forward with our communications. Bringing suggestions to next meeting.

Johanna is willing to answer anyone's questions regarding the parish, protocols, and process

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Trinity Sunday | Selected Reading: John 3; 1 - 17

Theme: We know so much, or at least we think we know. Yet when the living God confronts us as Jesus Christ, then sometimes we are confused, mystified, and full of questions. We don't know. and in that lack of knowledge may be the path to true wisdom of the God who meets us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

One night, a man named Nicodemus comes to Jesus, inquiring about his message. In John's third chapter, we have the memorable encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus, the episode that is the gospel reading on Trinity Sunday. In Jesus' nocturnal encounter with Nicodemus, Nicodemus is presented to us as a knowledgeable and prominent leader of Israel. Nicodemus has entered into this conversation with Jesus at night. He is literally "in the dark" but perhaps in dialogue with Jesus, not only speaking but also listening, Nicodemus shall move towards the light. The dialogue with Jesus ends with the grand pronouncement by Jesus: God so loves the world. God has sent the Son to the world that by him, through him, and in him the world might be saved. - William W Willimon.

Prayer: Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, help us to be aware of your presence amongst us, to see you, hear you, and love you. And so may we offer you fitting worship and service. help us to understand you are with us not just here but everywhere, not just now but always. And so may every part of our lives reflect your grace and proclaim your goodness. Meet with us now, in all your glory and help us to meet with you. Amen.

Worship Report | The worship team met on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May and appreciated the opportunity to be able to have a good discussion on various topics relating to the worship and services throughout the Plains Parish. Now we are considered as a Vacant Parish, no resident minister; organizing services will be a little bit more difficult. We express our gratitude and thanks to our Supply ministers; Rev. John Titlow, Rev. Neville Burns, Pastor Paul Eden, and Rev. Jim Young who have indicated they will continue with their support. That will be a great help. Also, from time to time we will use local church worship teams. e.g., This Sunday at St Andrew's Rakaia. We are also looking at other options, so anyone out there in the Parish who feel that they can be supportive with either, sermons, bible reading, singing, children talks etc., you are most welcomed. Please contact Dorothy. Worship Convenor. Thank you.

### **St. Andrew's Rakaia**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | Welcome to all pre-school children. A time for friendships, fun & support.

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

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May 10.30 am | Cafe Church @ St Andrew's. Morning Tea 10.15am. Rakaia Supplying. Parish Service

Suggestion; Following the service at St Andrew's on Sunday, you may wish to dine at Salmon Tales or the Red Shed Cafe, excellent Food.

### **St. John's Methven**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June

7:30 pm | Focus Group in the lounge

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

St Johns Brick Club 3:15-5:00 pm on Fridays after school during the term 'Exploring God with Lego'. Contact Jayne 0274678105

NO SERVICE at St John's Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May

– 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Parish worship at Rakaia. Anyone requiring transport please phone Brian Blackwell

### **Contacts for the Parish**

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### Sunday Services

30 <sup>th</sup> May	10:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia   Parish Worship Team; Café Service, commencing with morning tea at 10:15 am (Rakaia Supplying)	Trinity Sunday
6 <sup>th</sup> June	10:30 am	St. John's Methven   Communion   Shared Lunch to follow	Rev. Johanna Warren Plains Parish Interim Moderator



Living God, creator of all, You have given us a special place in this world. Help us love your world, taking care that we don't destroy or litter it. When we are busy, help us to stop and look closely at the world around us and give thanks to You. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Life Plus