



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

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



Stay Connected with us! | [Facebook.com/PlainsPresbyterianParish](https://www.facebook.com/PlainsPresbyterianParish) | [PlainsPresbyterian.co.nz](http://PlainsPresbyterian.co.nz)

### Governance Council met on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

It was agreed that Annette Syme will chair the meetings

Devotions: Annette read from the Word for Today – Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech always be with grace and seasoned with salt” and led the meeting in prayer.

Pastoral Matters: Concern that parishioners need to know what is happening with the Parish. To ensure that parishioners are kept in touch with Council decisions, a precis of the minutes of Council meetings to be forwarded to Mission Groups following meetings. The following letter from Alpine Presbytery was read to the congregations at Rakaia and Methven on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April. This was also printed in the St. John’s Bulletin on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April.

#### Statement from Alpine Presbytery:

Alpine Presbytery has received a letter of resignation from Rev. Aarii Taimataora from her ministry at Plains Parish. Presbytery lets the *matter ‘lie on the table’* while it follows a clear process outlined in the Book of Order. This involves a Commission from Presbytery coming by to talk with Rev. Aarii and also the Parish Council. The Commission then makes recommendations that guide people about the next steps. In the meantime, Rev Aarii has been advised to take a period of stress leave by her GP, and she will not be able to carry out her ministry responsibilities for at least the next three weeks. Parish Council are working on making provision for worship while Aarii is on stress leave. This is a challenging time for everyone, especially Aarii and her family. I know that you will hold them in your thoughts and prayers.

I pray God’s blessing upon you all as you walk through this time and thank you for your understanding.

Rev Martin Stewart  
Executive Officer Alpine Presbytery

Services will continue as normal. Presbytery has a responsibility to the parish and the Clerk will liaise with Rev Martin Stewart, Presbytery Executive Officer.

It is with sadness that we record that Presbytery has accepted Aarii’s resignation. Aarii’s resignation takes effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Some concern regarding lack of action from Alpine Presbytery. Presbytery has a responsibility to the parish and the Clerk will liaise with Rev Martin Stewart, Presbytery Executive Officer.

Property & Finance: Graeme signaled that our financial position is not healthy and notes with some concern of the future viability of the Parish. Worship committee will meet to work out roster for June Services and maybe delay the Newsletter until more certainty of way forward.

Replies to Questionnaire regarding Newsletter to be collated.

Establishing Protocols – Liz offered to work out Draft Protocols for parish.

Farewell Service for Aarii and family. Aarii will attend Staveley Service on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Paul Eden to be asked to lead the Worship. No Service at St John’s.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30 p.m. at St. John’s Methven

Area contacts for each region of the Plains Parish are:

Methven: Alex Wright, Joan Wright.

Rakaia: Isobel Benny, Jenny Logan

Mayfield: Kay King, Kevin Taylor

Staveley: Annette Syme.

Plains Presbyterian Parish contact is Denis Brown, Parish Clerk, phone 021 016 5673.

One of the Lectionary readings for Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May; **Mother's Day.**

Selected Reading God's Choices; John 15: 9 - 17

Jesus, preparing to leave his disciples, intercedes for them, that they may be "sanctified in the truth"

We did not choose Jesus; Jesus chose us. God in Christ reached out to us, made us his disciples. This is not the way we think of our lives. We are taught to think of our lives as our creations, as the result of our savvy choices. Christians are those who are taught to construe their lives as creations of the choices of God.

Encountering John

Today's gospel is from the long farewell discourse that characterises the chapter of John's gospel before the crucifixion. Jesus teaches his disciples and comforts them. In John 15, we find an interesting statement by Jesus to his followers, "You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit.... 15;16 Most of us think our religion as something that we have chosen. No Jesus reminds his disciples that discipleship is his idea, not their idea. He reached out to them and declared them to be his followers before they reached out to him.

Why is this text, spoken by Jesus before his crucifixion, found here in Easterside? I think it may be because it is a good reminder that our God is a living God. Our God is not an abstract idea, a detached notion, or a set of beliefs. Our God is a living God who reaches, intrudes, comes to us, and chooses us.

Sunday is Mother's Day; it is regarded as a civic or secular celebration more than a religious event. But one reason why Mother's Day ought to be a religious celebration is that mother's remind us of a truth we too easily forget. Parents remind us of our indebtedness to others for most everything that is important to us: our lives, our looks, our values, and our tuition. Mothers keep teaching us a great truth; none of us is self made. Faith is a gift. We believe only because someone lived the faith before us and told us the story in a manner that was worthy of our imitation. Saints are our great-great-grandparents, and we are their children of faith.

Selected from resources from William H Willimon.

To You!; In Praise of God's Living Saints - Saints Alive!

This morning I was toasted by a two-year-old, who raised her orange juice glass to mine and said, "To you!". She brought the morning; she moved a mountain; She brought flowers out of the barren land and sunlight from darkness. What a way to start a day - affirmed and celebrated!

Remember to celebrate those across the breakfast table. When did you last tell them they are precious? You told them to take out the trash, to make their beds, But did you tell them they are cherished? You told them they were wrong; you told them to hurry up; But did you tell them they are beautiful. We celebrate events or days or heroes, But take for granted the joy of the familiar, So here's to you, familiar faces at my breakfast table!



## St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

11:30 am | Rakaia Friendship Gathering in the church hall. | Programme, Social time, stall, and raffle. Dinner with piano music by Marie. Testing your Knowledge, a fun Quiz with Karen, afternoon tea. A warm welcome to all.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

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..

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May

9:30 am | This Sunday we will have children's church with Miranda/ Mother's Day projects

9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	May Sunday Service	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville Burns
		St. John's Methven	

## *Mother's Day Prayer*

*Heavenly Father, We lift up all mothers today and  
thank them for their guidance and love.  
We ask You to bless them with Your own special love,  
today and always. Amen.*

