



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

## 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021



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### *We Praise and Thank You, O Lord*

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#### Overcoming Challenge!

As I write this note I'm looking out at an almost cloudless blue sky and it's hard to believe our region has been hit in these past few days by a 1-in-100 year flood event! It seems a bit surreal. However especially for our rural friends it will still be a very challenging and in cases heartbreaking time as properties are checked and stock are located. The flooding has hit our region hard, and it will take many months for everyone to recover.

I must say we are very grateful for the support of regional authorities, civil defense, emergency services, military support, Federated Farmers and all other support agencies in these past few days. At the core have been family, friends and neighbours who have immediately pitched in and helped one another across our region. It's often in those desperate moments that people snap into gear to help. God bless them!

As our region faces ongoing repair and rebuilding work I do want us all to pray for this time ahead especially for people's mental well-being. If there are practical ways to help then please do so. Perhaps a good start would be to contact the Minister/Key Leaders of our affected (especially rural) church communities and ask how they are going and whether they need any support. People reaching out to people is the key. It's what the Gospel is all about - we need each other!

We never want to see these events happening, however we acknowledge that from time to time they will occur. And when they do we need to look out for each other and touch base to share what we have and what may be needed. There is always a gift in the darkest of times. God will help us see that.

Take care! Kia kaha | Barry (Moderator) | Alpine Presbytery

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#### A Prayer of Thanksgiving during a Time of Flood.

Loving God, we give thanks for the people of Canterbury, who have shared, supported, and worked together as one family in the midst of disaster, for all of them, we thank you, O Lord.

For the careful planning, quick thinking and courageous actions that preserved life and animals, and for the gift of life itself.

For the variety of skills and services that were given and employed to bring order in the midst of flooded chaos, for all Emergency workers, the Council, the Police, Hospital and Media, for the gifts and skills of these people.

For the warmth and generosity of townspeople and fellow New Zealanders in country and city centres who have supported Canterbury with their resources to re-establish homes and business.

For the gift of love and generosity. For the Government, Local councils, Mayors and Emergency Response teams, - who have not forgotten to care for people in need.

For our Army marshalled in Canterbury in response to the needs of the people of the land . For the helicopter operators who responded to the crisis.

For the goodwill, the cheerfulness and thoughtfulness in service.

For technology and communications which warned the town and country and prevented a greater disaster.

Most of all, we give thanks for the safety and care of our children and families in this perilous time.

For love and peace in our homes, our towns and in our nation, we thank you, God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



A historic church which has stood steadfast at Pleasant Valley for more than 160 years came close to being engulfed by rising floodwaters. “The water was right up to the door, but we don’t think it was inside the church,” Reverend Tony Kippax said of St Anne's Church. The heritage-listed church, which was built in 1863, is one of the oldest churches in Canterbury. That history counted for nothing when the nearby Temuka River flooded. Kippax said it was one of a number of close calls around Geraldine.

### St. Andrew’s Rakaia

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

11:30 am – 2:30 pm | Rakaia Friendship Gathering | Bring and Buy Stall, Social Time, Dinner, Jane with a presentation on the Ashburton Library and Stepping up Programme coming to Rakaia, 11 June., Afternoon tea. Welcome to all.

#### Wednesday 9<sup>th</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..

### St. John’s Methven

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

7:30 pm | Focus Group in the lounge | Last week the focus group postponed due to weather conditions.

Thinking of everyone affected by the flooding throughout our district.

#### Friday 11<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

Sunday Service at St. John’s Methven led by Rev. Johanna Warren. Parish worship, shared finger food lunch and fellowship to follow.

### Contacts for the Parish

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## June Sunday Services

6 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	St. John’s Methven	Rev. Johanna Warren Plains Parish Interim Moderator
13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am 10:30 am	St. Andrew’s Rakaia St. John’s Methven	Rev. John Titlow Rev. Neville Burns

### Flood.

Creator God. The floods have changed lives, just as we see the courses of streams and rivers changed. We are defenseless against nature's excesses.

We pray for all whose homes and land, stock, crops and fences, have been damaged or destroyed.

We pray for all involved in the tough work of cleaning up, re-sowing, mending, rebuilding, replacing what has been lost.

We pray that insurance companies and government agencies will act fairly,  
Restore our faith in our loving God

