



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

1<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2021



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

**It is not about us. It is about Jesus the Christ, the bread of life.**

---

A MEETING OF PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN GOVERNANCE COUNCIL was held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July Rev. Johanna Warren led us in a discussion of Alpine Presbytery Reflections for Local Ministry Teams – Our Family Banner – looking at the kind of community we seek to be. Updating of Rolls a work in progress Membership Rolls will be kept separate from Households under Pastoral Care. When a vote is taken only Members and Associates may vote. Resignation of Denis Brown as Parish Clerk was received with regret and appreciation of the work Denis has done since the inception of Plains Parish.

Mayfield Manse: Work in progress – will be dealt with by Property Committee Regional Reports as per agenda received Mayfield reported that windows at Carew church are fixed following vandalism. Contact has been made with Johanna regarding restorative justice for perpetrator.

Finance & Property: G. James explained Financial Reports which are not audited yet. Position of Treasurer has been advertised in Bulletin and Snowfed in Methven but no responses so far.

Methven Manse – working on maintenance – may need Insulation Certificate before it can be rented out.

MSB will report to Parish via Governance Council and Congregations as they review The overall parish and type of Ministry for the future.

Communications: Survey results – poor response. Elsa would be happy to produce Plains Speaking and was grateful to Dorothy for her help with contributions. It was felt that the Plains Speaking in important as means of communicating with parish and an issue be produced sooner rather than later.

Annual Reports to be collated separately All reports to be sent to Joan or Elsa by 16<sup>th</sup> August please.

It was agreed that we adopt Draft Guidelines for meetings of Governance and Mission/Focus Groups and Guidelines for the Role of Elders during Ordained Vacancy

Worship Draft Service Schedule and date for Annual meeting to be 26<sup>th</sup> September

Ministry Settlement Board – awaiting confirmation from Alpine Presbytery

**ANNUAL REPORTS** Would those who are responsible for providing their group's Annual Report to the Parish please have this to Joan (jmacw5442@gmail.com) or Elsa esurya@hotmail.com by 16<sup>th</sup> August at the latest.

Thankyou

**St. John's Focus Group meets Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 7:30 pm in the Lounge**

---

## Promises

"Not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." Joshua 23:14, NIV

I wonder how many times you or I have said we would do something, such as make a phone call, write a letter, or invite someone for a meal, and we've failed to do it. It's easy to mean what we say when we make a promise, but not always so easy to remember and stick to it. Thankfully God's not like that. He's utterly faithful to every one of His promises. Joshua was able to remind the people of that before he died. What about you? Are there promises in your life that you're holding on to, waiting for them to be fulfilled – promises regarding your family, your future, your ministry, your livelihood? You can be completely certain that God won't let you down.

For each of us as believers there are general promises in the Bible regarding our inheritance as children of God, and we're told in 2 Corinthians 1:20 that all of those promises are 'Yes' in Christ. We therefore need to keep coming back to the Cross to appropriate different aspects of what Jesus accomplished for us when He said, 'It is finished'. Many of us will also have received personal promises from God – rhema words that we are holding on to. He will be utterly faithful to those promises too, but we often need to hold them before Him in prayer, showing Him that we remember and are trusting Him over them. It's a bit like a child who has been promised a treat from his Dad and keeps reminding him about it!

What promises are you holding on to today? Why not speak to God about them and show Him that you're continuing to trust Him for them.

- Jilly Lyon Taylor | *Seeds of the Kingdom*

Lectionary Reading; John 6; 24 - 35.

Encountering John. For the next three Sundays, we are reading from the gospel of John these "bread" discourses. Last Sunday, Jesus fed the multitudes with bread, and now he teaches them about bread, hoping to refocus and to expand their notions of what they need most.

A great crowd clamours after Jesus and he knows why. His fame at feeding the multitudes has spread. They are looking for bread. Jesus urges people to seek "the food that endures for eternal life" As usual in the Gospel of John, things have double meanings. Jesus says "bread" but he means much more than "mere" bread. The crowd asks. "What must we do to perform the works of God?" They ask for a sign that will make belief easier. Give us magical bread, like God gave our ancestors in the wilderness. Then Jesus majestically pronounces, " I am the bread of life" Once again, Jesus pulls us out of ourselves and our mundane concerns and lifts us toward himself. It is about Jesus the Christ, the bread of life.

Prayer; Lord Jesus, we suffer from many hungers. We come to you, seeking to be fed, hoping to be filled with all our hearts desire. give us, feed us, bless us, and heal us. Lord Jesus, come to us, not as we would have you to be, but as you are. Lift our desires above our mere bodily needs and toward your kingdom. Feed us, Lord; be for us that bread of life that satisfies always. Amen.

Tough Decision-- Author unknown.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a ten year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" "Fifty cents" replied the waitress. This little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he inquired. Some people were waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient. "Thirty five cents" she said brusquely. "I will have a plain ice cream please" he said after counting his money. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished his ice cream, paid the cashier, and departed. When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies - her tip.



**St. Andrew's Rakaia**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

10:30 am | Rakaia Fit Kids | 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..

Carew Sunday 8th August Service at the Carew Church at 3:00 pm with Rev. Johanna Warren. All Welcome!

**St. John's Methven**

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August St Johns Brick Club 3:15-5:00 pm on Fridays after school during the term 'Exploring God with Lego'. Contact Jayne 0274678105

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

7:30 pm | Focus Group in the lounge

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 7:30 pm | Family Quiz Night! At St. John's in Methven.

Teams of 5 or 6. Adults \$5 School children \$3 | Questions for all the family. No great prizes but great fun for all!!! Supper provided. For more info contact Joan Wright or Graham Marr.

**Contacts for the Parish**

**Parish Clerk;** Denis Brown  
039758200; [brown.dc@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:brown.dc@slingshot.co.nz)

**St. John's Methven;** Joan & Alex Wright  
3028668; [jmacw5442@gmail.com](mailto:jmacw5442@gmail.com)

**Mayfield & Staveley;** Annette Syme  
3030803; [annettesyme@icloud.com](mailto:annettesyme@icloud.com)

**St. Andrews Rakaia;** Dorothy Knight  
3027595; [dottsknights@gmail.com](mailto:dottsknights@gmail.com)

**Parish Bank Number;**  
Plains Presbyterian 02 0868 0091269 00

**Administrator;** Miranda Addis  
[plainsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plainsoffice@gmail.com)

This Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August at St. John's Methven will be a shared lunch following Worship.

Come along and taste a Fairlie Pie – Delicious!!

**August Worship Services**

1 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	St. John's Methven   Shared Lunch	Rev. John Titlow
8 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Worship Team
	3:00 pm	Carew	Rev. Johanna Warren
15 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia   Café Church	Worship Team
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Neville Burns
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Neville
	10:00 am	Trinity Mayfield	Pastor Paul Eden
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Silvia Purdie



Lord God, thank You that You are utterly faithful and that not one of Your promises to me will ever fail. Help me to hold on to You, trusting You for the promises You have given me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Jilly Lyon Taylor | *Seeds of the Kingdom*