



**PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN**  
28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021



**May the Christmas candles remind you of Him who is "Light of the World"**

**Hope** Advent One (28 November)



The Cry for Climate Justice

The Pacific Ocean links us with many people and lands who are facing the immediate effects of rising global temperatures. Already people have had to move from their traditional whenua or land. Others are trying to cope with salty water and the lack of drinking water. The Pacific Conference of churches has been relentless in voicing the cry of their people for climate justice. Like a canary in a mine, they have warned all people of the dangerous level of global warming to protect our common home for the unborn and future generations. **Together we seek climate justice.**

Donate now – [christmasappeal.org.nz](http://christmasappeal.org.nz)



The First Candle reminds us of the prophets who believed in God during dark and anxious times. They looked forward with hope to the coming of the Messiah. As we light the first candle, we remember what God has already given us and we look forward in hope to that fuller life and light which Christ brings at his Birth.

**Stay Connected With Us!**

[Facebook.com/PlainsPresbyterianParish](https://www.facebook.com/PlainsPresbyterianParish)  
[PlainsPresbyterian.co.nz](http://PlainsPresbyterian.co.nz)

**Contacts for the Parish**

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**Plains Presbyterian Notices**

**St. Andrew's Rakaia**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10:30 am | **Rakaia Fit Kids** |  
Welcome to all preschool children.

1:00 pm | **Steady As You Go**

**St. John's Methven** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

3:15 pm – 5:00 pm | **St. John's Brick Club**

**St John's are having a Fairlie Bakehouse Pies fundraiser.**

Very Yummy!! \$6.50 each. Flavours are: Vegetarian, Crème of Chicken, Mince, Mince & Cheese, Bacon and Salmon, Steak, Silverside, Pork Belly- Orders to Elsa 0212655050.

**MAYFIELD XMAS EVE SERVICE** 24th Dec. at 7pm.

We would like to get a choir again. **If anyone or you know of someone who would be keen to sing in this can you let Janet Hood know on 033088257 or Denis Brown on 0210615673.** There will be a couple of practices before when times can suit.

**Worship Services**

28 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Silvia Purdie
	10:00 am	With St. John's <u>AT STAVELEY</u>	Pastor Paul
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia / Communion	Rev. Silvia
	10:30 am	St. John's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Rakaia	Rev. Silvia Purdie
	7:00 pm	Staveley Community Carol Service	
	7:00 pm	Methven Community Carol Service	

## Welcome to Advent!

And what better place to start Advent than with Mary. Read again the story of Mary's encounter with the angel in Luke 1, and her amazing Song of Praise (traditionally called the Magnificat). This is one of the most painted scenes from the Bible - Mary and the angel, called the Annunciation. My favourite is by Fra Angelico, who was a brother of the St Mark's monastery in Florence. He was commissioned to paint a different painting in each of the brother's rooms, and in the hallway at the top of the stairs leading to their rooms he painted the Annunciation. It is large, almost life size, and shows the actual arches of the monastery courtyard. Mary sits humbly on her stool and the angel leans in to tell her the amazing news that she will give birth to the Son of God. The angel is respectful, almost bowing to her. Both of them seem calm, deeply listening to each other, eye to eye.

If you look up St Marks Angelico Annunciation on Google you can watch a 3 minute video (by the Khan Academy) which describes the painting and its impact.

For us, like for the monks in Florence, artwork can help us be still and open to God. The start of Advent is a good time to be still and expectant: God is here, Christ is coming. I love the intimacy of this painting, which invites us into a closeness with God, even in our homes and bedrooms, wherever we sit, God is there. Look up and see in your mind's eye the brilliance of angel wings. Hear in your inner heart God saying to you: "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you!" Mary heard in that moment how treasured she was to God. I think that God has this same message for each of us.

- Silvia Purdie

## PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH GOVERNANCE COUNCIL met this week.

The meeting was Chaired by Rev Johanna Warren who opened with an Advent poem by Anne Weems and prayed for the meeting.

A number of Pastoral matters were discussed including possibility of visiting some of our parishioners who are living in Care in Ashburton.

*Parish Clerk position* was discussed at length. Members to give thought.

**MSB** – Colin Price, Convenor, reported. Membership of the Board and hopes they will start meeting before end of the year.

**PCANZ Covid response update.** Traffic Light system – we are awaiting PCANZ & Alpine response.

**Finance and Property:** Graeme distributed financial updates and Bank balances. Methven Manse has been rented and Healthy Homes deposit paid for Insulation update.

**Mayfield** – Staveley Church- Insurance quote received . Church wiring needs to be updated. It was agreed we accept the insurance.

*The Covid Traffic Light System* was discussed along with Vaccine Certificates. The general feeling of the meeting was that it was that we welcome everyone to Services of Worship but also must obey the law of the land. We will need to encourage mask wearing as folk enter church building. In the meantime, awaiting further guidelines from National Church.

Johanna invited us to a Service of Remembrance at St James on Thomson Street. Thursday 9th December at 7 p.m.

**Next Meeting will be Wednesday 19th January at 3:30 p.m. at St John's. Methven**