



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN JANUARY 2022



*We bring you our grateful praise.*

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**ON REFLECTION** | At the start of the new year, the first service of the year, I occasionally have a discussion with the congregation. This is a guessing game. "Guess what I have in mind" "It's part of a car - very important part - not mechanical, like a gearbox, or engine or the clutch...However it is vital for safe driving. *A few clues;* You must always use it - in fact, usually there are more than one, main one inside a car and often the extra two attached to the two front doors. *On reflection, what extra clues do you require?* The rear view mirror.

In terms of driving a car, it's important that we look ahead, too, as well as glancing in our mirrors at regular intervals. We know the purpose of these mirrors. As in all cases, it's a matter of getting things in perspective... And we all tend to do that more especially at the start of a new year. But sometimes we need to look back in order to remind us of lessons learned, and also to remember the people who so kindly taught us these things. *It's good to call to mind those who have set us in the right direction, our parents, wise teachers, church connections, good and faithful friends.* We need to remember to thank these people, from time to time as we journey on. We need to "look in the rear view mirror" occasionally in order to remember some of the mistakes we've made in the past so as we don't repeat them. *Learn from the past, by glancing in your rear view mirror but never forget where you are heading.* Never forget that the most important direction in which to move is forward... forward to greater goals, greater achievements, forward to even a fuller life and to a fuller love for one another - and for God who, let us never forget, has given us all our days, year in and year out. *Let us move forward into 2022 with positive thoughts and objectives in mind and hopefully the best is yet to be.* Reflect on these things, safe driving and have a very happy and peaceful 2022. {Adapted from a reflection by Rev Ian Hamilton, by Dorothy}

We thank you that you are God of past, present, and future, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and in faith we welcome this new day, receiving it as a gift, and consecrating it to your service. For this and every moment, we bring our grateful praise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

 *Happy New Year*

*Next Newsletter.... Will be sent out on 31<sup>st</sup> January for the first week of February 2022.*

\*Please Note; Vaccine Passes needed to attend Services

## **January Worship Services**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	St. John's Methven <i>Combined with All Saints</i>	<b>Rev. John Titlow</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St. Andrew's Rakaia	<b>Rev. John Titlow</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	St. John's Methven	<b>Rev. Silvia Purdie</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St. Andrew's Rakaia	<b>Rev. Silvia Purdie</b>
	<b>10:00 am</b>	All Saints Methven	<b>Rev. Michael &amp; Mary- Jo Holdaway</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St. Andrew's Rakaia <i>Café Church in the Hall</i>	<b>Rev. Silvia Purdie</b>
	<b>10:00 am</b>	All Saints Methven	<b>Rev. Michael &amp; Mary- Jo Holdaway</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	Staveley   <i>Parish Service, Shared Morning Tea</i>	<b>Pastor Paul Eden</b>

## **February Worship Services**

<b>6<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	St. John's Methven	<b>Rev. John Titlow</b>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St. Andrew's Rakaia	<b>Rev. John Titlow</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	St. John's Methven	<b>Rev. Silvia Purdie</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St. Andrew's Rakaia	<b>Rev. Silvia Purdie</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	St. John's Methven	<b>Rev. John Titlow</b>
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	St. Andrew's Rakaia	<b>Garth Cant</b>
	<b>10:00 am</b>	Trinity Mayfield	<b>Pastor Paul Eden</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	St. John's Methven	<b>Rev. Silvia Purdie</b>

## THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE

By: John Sainsbury | *Seeds of the Kingdom*

Over the years our family has established several traditions to accompany Christmas and New Year. One of these is the New Year 'time travel' letter. The idea is that each New Year we write a letter to ourselves. We open last year's letter and reflect on the months just gone. Then we set out our hopes for the year to come. We look back at what God has done in our lives and dream a bit about what He might choose to do in the year ahead.

Over the many years that we've been doing this, we've found it amazing to see the hopes, dreams and prayers we've expressed answered in extraordinary ways. And we have witnessed many completely unexpected detours that God has brought about, often things that we could simply never have anticipated.

We call it a 'time travel' letter because the pattern of doing this every New Year seems to shrink time somehow. Practically, the beginning of a New Year is just another day in the calendar but, by doing this exercise, it has become a regular milestone to reflect, before God, on the journey of our lives, and to seek His leading in the paths lying before us. I guess this isn't so dissimilar to what the Israelites did when they built their piles of stones as memorials for future generations to remind them of God's interactions with them in the past and give them hope for what they could anticipate He would do for them in the future (see Joshua 4:20-24).

In one sense, New Year's Day is simply another day that the LORD has made and given to us to rejoice and be glad in. But, in another, it's a useful and significant milestone that we can reflect upon, and be glad for, as we journey forth through life.

Whatever the New Year has in store for you and yours, may the LORD of time lead you into it with hope, thanksgiving, and gladness.

Happy New Year!

## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY CHEER HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021



From 10 am- 12 pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of Dec. we held a Christmas Cheer Activity for. This included crafts, tree decoration creations. About eight Christmas Carols singalong performed by Bernard. Followed by Biscuit decorating and sandwich making.



## CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE 2021 AT ST. ANDREW'S RAKAIA

