



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN 5TH MARCH 2023

"Jesus put his trust in scriptures to anchor him at a time when it was easy to lose perspective."



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This Sunday 5 March at St. John's Methven is a Parish Service
with Rev. Laurence Ennor followed by a shared lunch.

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

5 th	10:30 AM	St. John's Methven Parish Service <i>Communion</i>	Rev. Laurence Ennor
12 th	9:30 AM	St. Andrew's Rakaia <i>Communion</i>	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 AM	St. John's Methven	Worship Team
19 th	9:30 AM	St. Andrew's Rakaia Harvest Thanksgiving	Rev. Laurence Ennor
	10:30 AM	St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow
26 th	9:30 AM	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Worship Team
	10:00 AM	Staveley combined with St. John's	Pastor Paul Eden

PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN NOTICES

Online Worship

Here is a link for online worship with Cashmere Presbyterian
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9hJp07pSC8>



St. Andrew's Rakaia

Tuesday 7th March 10:00 AM | **Rakaia Fit Kids** Preschool children Welcome
1:00 PM | **Steady As You Go** exercises

Sunday 19th March **Harvest Thanksgiving.** Welcome lots of goods for
Presbyterian Support Ashburton & Sharing Shed Rakaia.

St. John's Methven

Tuesday 7th March 3:15 PM | **St. John's Brick Club**
Find some photos on our Facebook page of their latest builds
and a video of a Lego pipe organ.

Summer Retreats 2023 Methven March 10-12

Click the following link for more information:

<http://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/?p=2362>

Staveley Campsite 50th Anniversary

Click the following link for more information:

<http://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/?p=2333>

St Andrews Church in Hastings has set up a service to bring equipment like generators, water pumps, water blasters and small diggers from around the country into Hawke's Bay as part of the disaster response. Called genLend, the service is a tangible way for people across the country to help power the recovery of Hawke's Bay communities ravaged by Cyclone Gabrielle. *We in the South Island can help by making a financial donation towards the fuel, transport and insurance etc. costs associated with this initiative.* **Donations can be made to: St Andrews Church Bank Acc: 03 0642 0034245 000 Ref: Cyclone. Each congregation in Plains Parish could consider a 'retiring offering' after worship for the next few services which could then be sent to St Andrews Hastings from our district.**

Governance Council sharing....

We had our last meeting with Rev Johanna near the end of January and wished her well on her retirement to Whangarei. We have indeed been fortunate to have had her support over the past 18 months as we look to the future of our parish.

Council met on 28th February and this meeting was moderated by our new Interim Moderator, Rev Eric Mattock, from St. Andrews Parish, Ashburton.

We are grateful for Rev Eric taking on this role, on top of an already busy work load in Ashburton.

The minutes and financial reports from these meetings are posted on the noticeboards across the different areas of our parish but below is a brief summary of things that have been progressed:

- We have approval to progress the sale of the Carew Church and land and a small group of local church members has been formed, under the guidance of Annette Syme and Kay King, to progress this.
 - Structural and Fire assessments have been undertaken on the buildings at Rakaia Church, Methven Church and Hall, Staveley Church and Mayfield Church. This will give us a realistic picture of any work required to bring these buildings up to the New Building Standard. We expect to receive detailed reports from the Structural and Fire Engineers by the end of May.
 - Our Parish has representatives on a Steering Group which comprises of the five parishes in the Ashburton District who are looking at ways they can work together.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8th March.**
- Plains Presbyterian Governance Council.

Moderator's 2023 Season Lent Message

"Jesus put his trust in scripture to anchor him at a time when it was easy to lose perspective."

Sorely Tested

Jesus was sorely tested through 40 days of mounting pressure brought on by hunger, thirst, and demonic taunting. We too, in these last few years, have experienced the cumulative impact of one test after another. Add up the Global Financial Crisis, Christchurch earthquakes, mosque attack, COVID pandemic, housing crisis, war in Ukraine, impending recession, flooding and now Cyclone Gabrielle, and feel the toll it has taken on us.

How are you feeling this Lenten season?

All that has happened in recent years, and right now, leaves me feeling weary and wondering what will be next. It makes me feel sorely tested, in a nation that has been sorely tested. It causes me to wonder about where we put our trust and what will sustain us in this time of repeated trial.

Jesus was sustained by the leading and comforting presence of the Holy Spirit in his time of testing.

Jesus put his trust in scripture to anchor him at a time when it was easy to lose perspective. And then, when the rush of testing began to subside, there were angels who helped pick up the pieces! And haven't we seen our share of angels personified in the aftermath of the latest crisis, Cyclone Gabrielle.

I witnessed this phenomenon in Christchurch after the earthquakes and mosque attack. Lovely acts of 'random' kindness from complete strangers. And we see it again and again in the aftermath of this latest storm, these angels in disguise.

We find ourselves as churches incarnated in our communities, bearers of the Spirit, guided by the scriptures and with our fair share of angelic readiness for action. In this way we can take a leaf out of the Lenten story of Jesus, in a nation hungering for hope!

Right Rev Hamish Galloway Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
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PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for this new day you have given me. Today, please help me to focus more on what is right, instead of all that is wrong. Help me change what I can and leave everything else in your hands. May your joy be my strength and your peace fill my heart. Help me remember that any burdens I face are meant to rest on your shoulders, not mine. What is too much for me to bear is not too much for you. You will handle all that I am given. Thank you, Lord! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

