

**Postal Address:**

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# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023

**Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the great message of Easter.**



We gratefully receive donations Can be sent to; Plains Presbyterian  
Account Number: 02 0868 0091269 00  
Thank you very much.

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**GOOD FRIDAY 7th April**  
**Methven**—Easter Friday Methven Walk Of Witness Starts at **St. John's Methven at 9:30 am** and progresses to All Saints, then Elim and finishes at the Catholic Church for 10am service.  
**Rakaia**—'Walking the Cross' Starting at **Rakaia Library at 9:00 am** walking to St. Ita's for 9:30 am service

**EASTER SUNDAY 9th April**



**St. John's Methven** Easter Sunday Service at **St. John's with Rev. Laurence Ennor at 10:30 am**  
**St. Andrew's Rakaia** Easter Sunday Service at **St. Andrew's with Rev. John Titlow at 9:30 am**

## PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN NOTICES

**Online Worship** Here is a link with Cromwell Presbyterian:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvNmUlknWQ>

**St. Andrew's Rakaia** Tuesday 11th April 11.30am **Rakaia Friendship Group**  
 Enjoyable meal, Fellowship. Karen's Quiz, testing time for all.  
 Sales Table and afternoon tea. Welcome.

**Wednesday 12th April** 10:00 AM | **Rakaia Fit Kids** Holiday Fit Kidz  
 1:00 PM | **Steady As You Go** exercises

**St. John's Methven St. John's Brick Club** Back on during school term

**Staveley Campsite 50th Anniversary** Click the following link for more information:  
<http://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/?p=2333>

### WORSHIP SERVICES

<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Laurence Ennor
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. Laurence Ennor
	10:00 am	Trinity Mayfield	Pastor Paul Eden
Staveley Campsite St. John's Welcome. Starting at Noon/ Picnic (BYO) – Forest Tour - Service at 2:30 pm – Afternoon tea to follow service.			
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10:15 am	<b>ANZAC Day at Rakaia</b>	

**Lord Jesus Christ.** We thank you that the women arriving at the tomb found their tears turned to laughter, that disciples on the Emmaus Road found confusion turned to faith, that Apostles trembling behind locked doors found despair turned to confidence, that your people across the centuries have found sorrow turned to joy. Time and again you have repeated the Easter miracle supremely demonstrating your purpose in the face of events which seem to contradict it. In the valley of sorrow and suffering, in the shadow of death, you have demonstrated that God is present, working out his eternal purpose. For the glorious truth, we thank you.  
 - Nick Fawcett. *Contributed by D. Knight*



### CONTACTS FOR THE PARISH

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# PLAINS GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

## Updates

We met on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March and the following is a summary of discussions:

- We welcomed Brian Blackwell from Methven to our group – it's great to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> person representing Methven St John's.
- The sale of Carew Church and land is on track – we are getting a current valuation so that indications of interest can be sought.
- The Methven Manse has needed some \$ spent on it – a new stove, range hood and extractor fans in the bathroom have been purchased and installed. It is thought the stove was the original one when the manse was built.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 4 pm, St John's Methven.
- Services over the last month have had a retiring offering for donations to the Hawkes Bay Region to deal with the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. This was spearheaded by St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Hastings. Money from around the parish has been banked and Governance agreed to 'top it up' and have sent \$500. Our thanks to everyone who supported this.

*A letter of appreciation from St. Andrew's Hastings has been received which we'd like to share across the parish:*

"Dear Plains Presbyterian Church.

We are so humbled and amazed by the generosity of our New Zealand whanau. In the midst of such destruction, the generosity of churches and individuals like yourselves makes this easier to bear. Thank you. There have already been so many ways that genLend is making a practical difference to people's lives in Hawke's Bay. We have been lending out generators, diggers, bobcats, and caravans. You can learn about the details of some of these stories by checking the website <https://www.genlend.co.nz/>. Any donations not used by genLend will be used in other ways to support those affected by the cyclone. Thank you again for your generous donation.

Blessings, Lynn Smith Finance and Property Committee St Andrew's Church, Hasting

# MODERATOR'S EASTER MESSAGE 2023

## RESURRECTION & RESTORATION

The Easter message of death and resurrection is powerful on so many levels. Much is made in our contemporary Christian culture of the individual impact of this on our lives but there is also a powerful collective community impact that can be easily overlooked. I was struck by this when I was in the Hawke's Bay to preach at a combined service held in the wake of the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle. The lectionary text for the day was Ezekiel's Valley of Dry Bones, a vision received while he languished in exile in Babylon lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem. As I worked with the text it came to life for me as a message about the resurrection and restoration of ravaged communities.

In my research, I came across the comment that the passage is 'a quintessential vision of human disaster'. And then the Sunday Star Times newspaper on the morning of the service stated that the 'cyclone caused a horticultural apocalypse in the Hawke's Bay', Ezekiel's vision in real time!



The Lord asks Ezekiel if the dry bones can live again, and he correctly throws it back on the Lord! To Ezekiel the scale of the devastation looked beyond human intervention. Some in the storm ravaged regions of the North Island express similar human hopelessness. The same newspaper article reports that, 'Federated Farmer says some families will call it quits after generations of working the land. This Cyclone may prove to be the last straw for some farmers'.

A beautiful thing about Ezekiel's vision is the way the Lord uses human agency to speak and breathe the bones back to life. As I listen to the stories of our Christian communities reaching out to their neighbours in places like Hawke's Bay, Gisborne and Wairoa, I see the same thing happening – God inspired hope-filled human agency, or should I say 'angel-cy', at work helping to bring communities back to life.

In the Hawke's Bay, the Art Deco restoration of Napier following the devastating 1931 earthquake stands today as a beacon of hope, just as does the eventual return of the faithful remnant of the Jewish people to Jerusalem in 538BC!

And I have watched community resurrection and restoration here in my home of Ōtautahi Christchurch in the wake of the devastation of our earthquakes. First, it was the springing up of street art, then the rehousing of the displaced, and then rebuilding of the CBD ... increasing signs of hope and resurrection everywhere I look.

We Jesus people are Easter people. We are resurrection people, carrying with us a message of hope to the most devastated of our communities, cities, and circumstances.

Hamish

Right Hamish Galloway

Moderator

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand