

Postal Address:

C/O Plains Admin  
139A Bowen Street  
Rakaia 7710



# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

God bless the King who comes in the name of the Lord!



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## CONTACTS FOR THE PARISH



Liz Depree | 021 889 341 | [l.depree@interlead.co.nz](mailto:l.depree@interlead.co.nz)  
**Parish Clerks** Annette Syme | 3 03 0803 | [annettesyme@icloud.com](mailto:annettesyme@icloud.com)  
**Mayfield & Staveley** Annette Syme | 3030803 | [annettesyme@icloud.com](mailto:annettesyme@icloud.com)  
**St. Andrew's Rakaia** Dorothy Knight | 3027595 | [dottsknights@gmail.com](mailto:dottsknights@gmail.com)  
**St. John's Methven** Elsa Hydes | 0212655050 | [esurya@hotmail.com](mailto:esurya@hotmail.com)  
**Administrator** Miranda Addis | 02102414085 | [plainsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plainsoffice@gmail.com)

## ONLINE WORSHIP

Click the following links for worship at home;

Cashmere Presbyterian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVw8cnYnD4A>

Hope Presbyterian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zn-n7zLSZE>



## WORSHIP SERVICES

<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9:30 am 10:00 am	<b>St. Andrew's Rakaia</b> <b>Staveley</b>	Video Church Pastor Paul Eden
<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>			
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9:30 am	<b>St. Mark's Rakaia</b>	<i>Community Service</i>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>			
<b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	10:00 am	<b>St. Andrew's Rakaia</b>	Rev. John Titlow <i>Parish Service</i>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10:30 am	<b>St. John's Methven</b>	Rev. John Titlow
<b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	9:30 am 10:30 am	<b>St. Andrew's Rakaia</b> <b>St. John's at All Saints</b>	Rev. Laurence Ennor Rev. Annette Eggeston
<b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>	9:30 am 10:30 am	<b>St. Andrew's Rakaia</b> <b>St. John's Methven</b>	Rev. John Titlow Pastor Paul Eden

## PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN NOTICES

Note \* 2nd Page - An everyday prayer for all.

—Parish Council Report \* Important

Also can be found following this link:

<https://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NOTICE-FOR-PLAINS-PARISH.pdf>

**St. Andrew's Rakaia THIS SUNDAY** Video Service from Kilmarnock on Sunday 9.30am will reflect on Palm Sunday.

Tuesday 19th March

10:00 am **Rakaia Fit Kidz** Welcome all preschool children!

1:00 pm **Steady As You Go** Exercises with Dorothy

**St. John's Methven**

Sunday 7th April 10:30 am Service led by Rev. John Titlow

**Staveley** Sunday 24th March Service held at 10:00 am led by Pastor Paul



*Palm Sunday*

**Palm Sunday; Matthew 21; 1 - 11.**

The gospel story is now approaching the end of Jesus' journeying. He has come south from ministering in Galilee and is entering Jerusalem. He is on a donkey and his friends are accompanying him. Initially Jesus' entry into Jerusalem looks joyful, but this soon changes. The gospel narrative is now moving rapidly towards Jesus' death.

**Prayer.** In this Lenten season of love, we are more open to the needs of the world and the call of the spirit. That we use our imagination to grasp Jesus' vision of the kingdom to come of the world as it could be. That we act on the message of the scripture. And our lives are powered by

God's love for us. Amen. Philip Garside



**Parish Council met on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.** An item on the agenda was looking ahead at creating a positive future for our parish. A proposal had been circulated to all parish council members, asking them to reflect and pray on the proposal in order for wise decision-making to be undertaken. **Plains Reimagining – a Vision**

As a result, the following was agreed to unanimously:

“Parish Council agree to support the process of determining the minds of the wider congregation to closing Plains Presbyterian Parish in order for new growth possibilities to emerge”.

It is important to understand that we are not stopping worship opportunities - closing the current entity is what enables a future model to begin.

The proposal which has been discussed and agreed to by Parish Council is now available in all four churches to be shared with members – copies will be available from this Sunday. This also contains a possible time line for handing over to Alpine Presbytery the affairs of the parish.

While this may be seen as a bold move, it is also an opportunity for Alpine Presbytery to:

- Attend to the ‘too many buildings’ issues rather than us having to do this and carry the weight of having to do the inevitable closures.
- Provide sufficient money to work with the locals to provide an initial 5 years of half-time ministry to the remnant Plains congregants.
- This ministry leader would work with a team of elders and others in the area - not to simply be a chaplain but to look for opportunities to grow and prosper the church and serve the community.

*One possibility is that an effective full-time position could be achieved by linking this person with another half-time ministry position in Ashburton.*

- Follow through on the parallel dream that has emerged in our conversations, namely, **to actively pursue crafting a new mission seedling based in Methven.**

A copy of the full proposal is available at your church, or by contacting one of the Parish Councilors who represent your area. *A reminder that these are:* - **Methven** – Brian Blackwell, Janet Cuttle, Elsa Hyde

- **Mayfield/Staveley** – Annette Syme, Kay King, Kevin Taylor - **Rakaia** – Fay Cuttriss, Jenny Logan, Liz Depree.

Initial conversation opportunities will be held in the three areas on the following dates:

- **Rakaia** – 16<sup>th</sup> April - **Mayfield** – 18<sup>th</sup> April - **Methven** – 21<sup>st</sup> April.

- Next Parish Council meeting for reporting back from these conversations – 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

- Tentative date for our first Congregational Meeting – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May after the 10.30 am church service at Methven. (To be confirmed). Times and venues will be advertised in the weekly Bulletins leading up to those dates.

If members cannot attend a meeting, but would like to give feedback, just contact one of your local people.

*The prayer below Rev. John Titlow has composed based on what was felt is most important to pray as a parish. We are encouraging everyone to pray it each morning. Click the link following for a printable version:*

## **Heavenly Father,**

*Thank You for the privilege of calling You Father. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit so that we can be adopted into Your family. We ask that you send Your Holy Spirit today so that we will know You better through our Lord Jesus, Your true Son.*

*Thank You for Your promise that You will build Your church. We ask that You rebuild Your churches within Plains Presbyterian Parish. Strengthen us, guide us, and give us ways to share the burdens and privileges of being Your people, so that we may be able to live and grow in this place.*

*We ask that You free us from putting so much effort into maintaining our buildings that we lose sight of You, each other and Your call to take the Good News of Jesus to our community.*

*Thank You for hearing our prayers.*  
**We ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**