

Postal Address:

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# PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 EASTER SUNDAY

*Strengthen us to walk in the mighty grace and tell your good news to the world.*



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## Online Worship Click the following links for worship at home;

Cashmere Presbyterian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7AWe4QCh-I>

Hope Presbyterian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-k7xtLkMKU>

Cromwell Presbyterian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hww1Too1Njk>

## WORSHIP SERVICES



### GOOD FRIDAY

**29<sup>th</sup> March Rakaia** - 9:00 am **Walking with the cross** starting at St. Ita's, service at St. Mark's Rakaia at 9:30 am following.

**Methven** - 9:30 Am **Walk of Witness** Starting at Elim Church Main St. Methven Ending with Service Around 10:00 Am at All Saints Methven

### EASTER SUNDAY

**31<sup>st</sup> March** 10:00 am **St. Andrew's Rakaia** Rev. John Titlow  
*Parish Service*

**7<sup>th</sup> April** 10:30 am **St. John's Methven** Rev. John Titlow

**14<sup>th</sup> April** 9:30 am **St. Andrew's Rakaia** Rev. Laurence Ennor  
10:30 am **St. John's at All Saints** Rev. Annette Eggelston

**21<sup>st</sup> April** 9:30 am **St. Andrew's Rakaia** Rev. John Titlow  
10:30 am **St. John's Methven** Pastor Paul Eden

## PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN NOTICES

**Note \* 2nd Page - An everyday prayer for all. —Parish Council Update**

Also can be found following this link: <https://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Parish-Council-Update.pdf>

### St. Andrew's Rakaia GOOD FRIDAY

March 29th at 9.15am St Marks, Community Service. "Walking with the Cross" at 9.00am St Ita's.

**EASTER SUNDAY** Parish Service at 10:00 am

Tuesday 2nd April

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

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



### St. John's Methven

**GOOD FRIDAY** March 29th starting at 9:30 am Walk of Witness around

Methven Churches at Elim Church Main St Methven progressing to Catholic then to Presbyterian and finishing at Anglican Church with a service around 10:00 am followed by morning tea.

**EASTER SUNDAY** Parish Service at 10:00 am at St. Andrew's Rakaia

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



*Dear Lord,* this Eastertide help me to realize your death and resurrection mean for me - forgiveness, freedom, and the ability to walk with you through this fallen world into eternity. Help me to walk in your resurrection power every day until we meet in person.

In Jesus' name.

*Amen.*

Adapted; Rachel Olsen.



## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE..... [Plains Reimagining Proposal to Parish Council March 2024](#)

Parish Council realise the importance of sharing information with the wider parish in order for prayerful and wise decisions to be made about our future. Over the next few weeks leading up to a parish-wide **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** on Sunday 5th May, 10.30 am at St John's Methven, we will be expanding on some key phrases we used in our initial Bulletin notice last week.

One of the reasons we have decided to “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” is because of the ‘too many building issues’ to be dealt with by a small group of people with limited expertise let alone the finances to do so!

So – what are these building issues? In May 2023 we received a Plains Presbyterian Parish Building Strengthening and Compliance Report from RangzenPro. This set out very clearly the ‘too many building issues’ that need attention. Not only do we need to strengthen buildings to the required level, to do so means most of the buildings we currently occupy need major maintenance to meet Ashburton District Council consent processes. (and Consents are required before any strengthening work can be started).

A summary of costs are:

- Mayfield Church - \$585,000
- Methven Hall - \$807,000
- Rakaia Church and Hall - \$422,000 (all exclusive of GST).

In total, to bring our current buildings up to code requires an investment of \$1,814,000.00 – and this is assuming costs have not increased since May 2023.

Extra to this is the fact we also own two manses – Mayfield and Methven. Both properties require updating and maintenance work, inside and out, to ensure we are good landlords.

These are the facts that can't be ignored – we are in some way asset rich, but cash poor - and our assets are deteriorating. As well, many of these buildings are being infrequently used, some as little as once every two months.

We need to keep remembering – the Church is not the buildings; it is the people. If you have questions you want answers to, please take the opportunity to attend one of the meetings we are holding during April in all three regions:

- Mayfield – 18th April
- Methven – 21st April.
- Rakaia—23rd April

Venue and times will be advertised in the Bulletins leading up to these dates.

*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:*

<https://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Parish-Prayer.pdf>

### **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.**

*Are you on our Newsletter email list? If you're not and would like to be or know someone that would, email [plainsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plainsoffice@gmail.com) today!*