

## BULLETIN NOTICE – No. 3

### PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL.....

Parish Council realise the importance of sharing information with the wider parish for prayerful and wise decisions to be made about our future. The opportunity to do this is at a regional meeting near you during the month of April. These meetings are open to members and non-members alike to listen to our local community. These are scheduled for:

Mayfield – 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1.30pm in the Church Lounge

Methven – 21<sup>st</sup> April, after the 10.30 am Church Service.

Rakaia – 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7.30 pm in the Church Lounge.

One of the questions you may have is ‘just who decides whether a parish will close or not?’ While Parish Council have taken the first step to “determine the minds of the wider congregation to closing Plains Presbyterian Parish in order for new growth possibilities to emerge” the decision to step further in this direction is up to the members of the parish. Like any organisation you may belong to, the Church clearly explains who are its members.

The PCANZ Book of Order defines both members and associate members as someone who has/will:

- received baptism as a child or as an adult
- publicly professed his or her faith in Jesus Christ
- sought to lead a life consistent with his or her profession of faith
- united in the worship, life and mission of the congregation
- support the life, worship, and mission of the congregation
- accept the spiritual oversight of the church council, and
- accept the discipline of the Church.

A person may apply or be recognised as an associate member when either

- that person fulfils the conditions for membership set out in section 2 but does not wish to be a member, or
- that person expresses an intention to associate himself or herself with the congregation, is active in the worship, life, and mission of the congregation, and seeks to lead a life consistent with the Christian faith.

Currently Plains Parish has 84 members and associate members who will be eligible to vote. Of this total, 70% are over the age of 65. These are the facts we need to face.

This is our second week of sharing a different perspective leading up to the parish-wide **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30 am at St John’s Methven. The reason for this meeting is to ratify PCs decision to investigate closure and it will be important to have as many members and associates present as possible.

At the end of a recent Parish Council meeting Rev Eric, our Interim Moderator, reminded us that Jesus needed to die on the cross in order for the Resurrection to happen. As we come out of the Easter period of both grief and joy, it is a good reminder to us all that sometimes this is the right order.