

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE 19TH MAY

Parish Council are currently working with Alpine Presbytery to organise the second Congregational Meeting as part of the steps we are taking to pursue new ventures in the region. Presbytery have almost completed the forming of a Commission team to moderate this meeting. Their role is to make sure parishioners are fully informed of the outcome from the decision voted on at the first congregational meeting, and to vote again – requiring 2/3rds majority of members and associate members present to proceed to the next step.

The tentative date for this second Congregational Meeting is **Sunday, 9th June, after the 10.30 am** service at St John's Methven. The setting of this date has required some flexibility from the Worship Team in rearranging the set schedule, and this is greatly appreciated. It is important that we again have a good attendance at this meeting.

Annette and Liz were recently invited by the Anglican Diocese to attend a workshop they were holding to look ahead at the future of the Mid Canterbury Anglican churches. This was held on a Saturday morning with a good attendance from Rakaia, Methven, Ashburton, Mt Somers parishes. It was a privilege to be there, listen to the similar challenges we have been facing over the past two years, and briefly share our journey. A working party of parish representatives was set up to consider some options for the future.

The facilitator of the workshop, Archdeacon Indrea Alexander, shared the Five Faces of Mission that are common to all Anglican Churches – these are:

To **tell** the Good News of the Kingdom

To **teach**, baptise and nurture new believers

To **tend** to human need by loving service

To **transform** unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation

To strive to **treasure** the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Those five words in bold are life-changing and easy to remember.

Did you know that the PCANZ have their own similar Five Faces of Mission?

Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand believes it is called by God to work with others in making Jesus Christ known through –

- Teaching and nurturing people in Christian faith
 - Loving service responding to human need
 - Proclaiming the gospel
 - Seeking to transform society
- Caring for God's creation

It feels affirming and encouraging that with these words in mind, Plains Parish are taking the focus off the nuts and bolts of running a parish, and planning ahead to realise many of the aspirations of the Five Faces of Mission. Let's look forward to moving ahead with Alpine Presbytery as we work to make a difference in the lives of those we serve in the name of Christ.

Liz and Annette