

Postal Address:

C/O Plains Admin
139A Bowen Street
Rakaia 7710



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN PARISH 21ST APRIL 2024

God of every household, open our eyes and hearts to those who live among us.



We gratefully receive donations Can be sent to; Plains Presbyterian Account Number: 02 0868 0091269 00

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ONLINE WORSHIP Click the following links for worship at home;

Cashmere Presbyterian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQZPXN6kq2w>
<https://www.youtube.com/@cashmepresbyterianchurch/videos>

Hope Presbyterian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8jJxvvn9e4>

Click [HERE](#) to print services for Worship Service for 21st April—19 May



WORSHIP SERVICES

21 st April	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Pastor Paul Eden
28 th April	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Video Church
	10:00 am	Mayfield Trinity	Pastor Paul Eden
<i>Combined with Foothill Churches</i>			
5 th May	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. Laurence Ennor
<i>Parish Service. Shared Lunch</i>			
12 th May	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 am	St. John's AT ALL SAINTS	Rev. Annette Eggeston
19 th May	9:30 am	St. Andrew's Rakaia	Video Church
	10:30 am	St. John's Methven	Rev. John Titlow



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN NOTICES

Note * 2nd Page - An everyday prayer for all, Remembering Jane Jessep and Parish Council Report * Important Also can be found following this link: <https://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Parish-Council-Update-5.pdf>

PCANZ Moderator

ANZAC Day Message:

https://www.plainspresbyterian.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/PCANZ_Moderator_ANZAC-2024-message.pdf



St. Andrew's Rakaia

Sunday 21st April 9:30 am Service with Rev. John Titlow *Bible reading Acts 1; 1 - 11*

Tuesday 23rd April 10:00 am **Rakaia Fit Kidz** Welcome all ages! Holiday Time!

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

Thursday 25th April 10:00 am **ANZAC DAY** Assemble at the Rakaia

Cenotaph. *Service in the Hall.*

Thursday 2nd May 1:30 pm **Euchre with Norm and Fay.** *A diary booking.*

St. John's Methven

Sunday 21st April 10:30 am Service at St. John's with Pastor Paul Eden

Reflection

Life itself can offer us a great many choices of path, and sometimes it isn't easy to know if we've chosen the best one. Perhaps when it comes to gratitude, we should also include thanks for those people who appear in our lives when we most need them - either giving us gentle warning that we might be heading in the wrong direction, or reassurance that we are on the right track. After all, we would be lost without them!. Loving God help me to see the possibilities with a clear head and with love in my heart. Help me to wait until I'm ready to choose. Give me faith to trust you and myself.



Contributed by Dorothy Knight

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE FOR 21ST APRIL

In the past week, local “Reimagining Plains Parish” meetings have been held in Rakaia and Mayfield, with Methven holding theirs after church this Sunday.

These have been an opportunity to share the Reimagining document, listen to the voices of our communities, and discuss as a group: if this proposal were to go ahead to the next stage, what are the things about the mission of the church in Plains Parish that you value and would want to retain?

A vision of something different is being offered at Plains - that has not been the case in some of the other recent church closures where there simply is not any energy for trying something new. The fact that we are considering trying something new is to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Somebody has shared with us recently that “I recall an older minister saying one time when one of the churches in my first parish was being closed - 'A lot of people want a church in their community to stay away from.'”

The next step is to hold the parish-wide **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** on Sunday 5th May, after the 10.30 am service at St John's Methven. The discussions have happened, we now need to vote on the motion: “That Alpine Presbytery be asked to close Plains Presbyterian Parish in order to pursue new ventures in the region.” It will need 2/3rds of the members (including associates) **present at the Congregational Meeting** to be in favour to take this further. Under the PCANZ Book of Order proxy votes are not counted.

Rev Dan Spragg from Christchurch will be moderating the Congregational Meeting. Part of his work with Presbytery involves overseeing the pioneer ministries and working with churches as they develop appropriate ways to do and be church in their communities in these changing times. Dan served in The Village Church in Christchurch for over 10 years.

We are hoping for a great turn-out to this meeting – as one of our worship leaders, Paul Eden, reminded us recently: *This is a big step in faith; but we need to remember that our God is indeed faithful.*

Liz and Annette
Co-Parish Clerks.

Click the link following for a printable version of Rev. John Titlow's Prayer he composed for our Parish to pray daily:

<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.

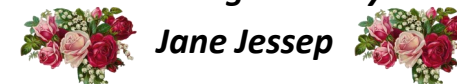
Thank You for Your promise that You will build Your church. We ask that You rebuild Your churches within Plains Presbyterian Parish. Strengthen us, guide us, and give us ways to share the burdens and privileges of being Your people, so that we may be able to live and grow in this place.

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.

A prayer to read Daily

In Loving Memory



Jane Jessep

Jane was a much loved and respected member of the St John's Congregation.

Her faith and enthusiasm were contagious and her contribution to the life of St John's was evident in her work with children, catering, women's groups, Lay preaching and Eldership to mention a few.

For many years, Jane led a Childrens Christmas Story, inviting the Primary School and pre- schoolers along to St. John's. She told the story of the baby Jesus with the help of Teddy Bears, usually having a real baby in the cradle.

The PWMU and APW were important to Jane, and she took an active part in keeping everyone up to date with social issues of concern. Catering was a big part of the women's group's work and Jane was always involved.

Jane was ordained as an Elder in 1977 and gave many valuable year's service to St John's as a member of the Session and later the Parish Council.

When Jane became a Lay Preacher, her talents were called upon around the Ashburton Presbytery as well as at St John's. We all enjoyed her thoughtful preaching with a practical side we could all relate to.

Thank you to Jane's family for sharing your lovely talented mum with everyone at St John's—
our thoughts are with you all.