

# PRESBYTERIAN LINK

*February-March 2024 No 158*

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Timaru Presbyterian Parish



## Waitangi Day



Johnny (Right) Blackbeard and his family (above) at Arowhenua Marae on Waitangi Day

### What's coming up:

14 Feb- 27 March - Page 8  
Lent studies 11am Wednesdays at St Stephens.

1 March - World Day of Prayer - St Johns Church,  
Wai-iti Road at 2pm

23 Feb- 9 March - Page 10 & 11  
Seasonal series 2024



# Church Life



**Above:** At Yoga for seniors on chairs there were 31 people, men and women all of differing abilities, all helping their own mind and bodies . Robyn.



**Left:** Christmas play.

# Editorial



I wonder how you respond to a crisis? Say, a dreaded diagnosis, a relationship ending, unemployment or some forced change outside of your control. Like our natural responses to danger- fight or flight- a crisis can cause us to respond by fighting tooth and nail with determination to stand and hold our ground, resist any change and preserve what we have. Or we might run like mad away from the danger, avoiding any confrontation and hopefully any uncomfortable circumstances. There is a third option we can take in a crisis; we can get creative, adaptive, inventive and seek solutions to the crisis before us. This can save us from direct harm (that comes from fighting) and avoidance (that comes from fleeing) and lead us into positive new ways of living free of fear and filled with hope.

Over the summer I read *Same as Ever: A guide to what never changes* by Morgan Housel. One thing that never changes is that we will always face crisis and challenges; no one is immune to this! The next disaster is always just around the corner. But something else that never changes is the way these regular crisis spur innovation and development. The **1930's was the decade of the worldwide Great Depression. In America** the unemployment rate was 25%, people were starving and homeless. And yet this became the most productive and inventive decade in American history. It was the decade of the New Deal which saw the largest infrastructure programme ever seen, the introduction of labour laws and the welfare state.

Our church is facing its own crisis with ageing congregations, dwindling membership and limited resources as well as uncertainty about how to reach folk who seem disinterested in the gospel message we preach. **As you will read in Rory's report from the parish council we have been** praying into this situation and seeking to discern what God is leading us to. What do we need to do to ensure our church will live on beyond us, so that a new generation can be sustained in the faith we have inherited? We do not know fully the answers to these challenges but we are confident God will lead us and speak to us as this is His church and His mission. As Hebrews says: ***"But Christ is faithful as Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory"*** (Heb 3:6).

Nga manaakitanga ki a koutou katoa (Blessings to all)  
Brent

# February Parish Council Report

Over the summer our parish council have been engaged in prayer and discernment for the future of our parish. We are aware that there are some big challenges on the horizon. We do not want to rush into "quick fixes" that do not produce lasting change. Neither are we willing to give in, to procrastination that leaves our problems to loom ever larger in our lives.

We set aside this month's Council meeting to prayerful listening. Each Council member shared what had been on their hearts and minds, what God had been saying to them and through them over the summer break. As each person shared, we offered up their thoughts to God in prayer: "Lord, may we hear what your Spirit is saying to the church": through Margaret, and Murraray, through Janie, and Judith, all of our council separately and together.

While it is too early to have a clear picture of our future, there are some common threads that are already emerging:

- In God's Kingdom, people are more important than buildings.
- "Business as usual" will not change our circumstances, only a willingness to follow God's lead.
- Personal connections are more important than events and programmes.
- We are not in this on our own. The prophet Joel promised that we will see visions and dream dreams. Our role as a council is to lean into God and rely on the moving of the Spirit of love and mission.

It has been deeply encouraging to see the Holy Spirit at work in our midst as we lean into prayer in our council meetings. As our clerk said at the end of our meeting "This is the way our meetings should be".

There is a long journey ahead, but we are confident that God is walking alongside us, calling us forward as a council, forward as a church together.

So please keep us in your prayers. May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Rory

# SNIPPETS from the Mission Group Meeting

Our first meeting for the 2024 started with a discussion about the Christmas Angel initiative that we ran at the beginning of December. Family Works had forwarded us a questionnaire regarding this scheme and asked us about any suggestions, recommendations and any problems we may have experienced.

**The first Sunday in March (3rd.) is to be a special Children's Day, and this is to be celebrated by a Family Works ' "Children on the Bay" event. For the next 5 weeks our Harvest Table (Buy and Supply) will go to helping with expenses for this event (providing face paint etc.). The money from last Sunday's Harvest Table (\$62) will also go to this cause.**

Since the beginning of December our two Harvest Tables have raised the amazing amount of \$435.40 for Riding for the Disabled. This was a longer than usual collection period over the holidays, but from now on we will be back to our usual 6 week cycle.

On our first Sunday after the holiday period we had our first Bucket Mission for 2024 - \$213.70 was raised for the Red Cross Humanitarian Aid in Gaza Appeal. (This appeal is endeavouring to help children with food, water, medical supplies etc. Our grateful thanks for your assistance.

Note these items in your diary:

- 3rd. March - Bucket Mission. - Child Rescue
- 7th. April. - Bucket Mission - CWS - Gifts of Love
- Date to be confirmed in March. - Inside/Outside Pizza Lunch  
Cost - a donation  
More info to follow

Elaine.

## **Christmas Angel, 16 December 2023**

Hi,

Yesterday, after a very busy two weeks, we saw the last of the Christmas Angel family gifts collected from Todd Mudie's. I would like to say a huge thank you to the team at Todd Mudie - your offices will be a lot quieter next week! The assistance given by so many of the staff was very much appreciated - especially getting some of the heavier gifts up and down the stairs! Thank you.

This year we were able to support **140 families** due to your amazing efforts. Of these, 138 will have had their gifts delivered by their case workers. With two very late family referrals and two amazing sponsors who picked up these families at the last minute - these final two will be delivered next week. In total, there were **114 sponsors**. There are no words that can adequately express our gratitude - so it will just have to be thank you, thank you, thank you!

I would like to acknowledge the amazing work that the case workers do in supporting families through Family Works, Plunket, Arowhenua Whanau Services and Multicultural Aoraki. You are meeting such an important need in our community. It is nice for us to know that you can refer families for sponsoring - who are doing all they can to overcome challenges in their lives and to create a better life for their children.

There is a real sense of satisfaction each year when I get to the end of this project. To know that we have all contributed to ensuring that these families get to celebrate Christmas is both rewarding and humbling. I never cease to be amazed at the generosity, kindness, thoughtfulness and care shown by you all. Without your sponsorship, this project would not exist and for so many, Christmas would be a non-event. For me personally, to be with my family on Christmas Day is made all the more enjoyable, knowing that there is also joy to be celebrated by these sponsored families. I hope you all reflect on this also, as you share Christmas with your own families and friends.

I would like to wish you all a safe, happy and fun filled time in the weeks ahead and may 2024 be all that you wish for.

Kindest regards,

Jan

Christmas Angel Co-ordinator



Following the winding up last year of the local “Meals on Wheels Christmas Basket Initiative” the remaining funds were distributed to TPP, the Anglican Churches and Family Works with the proviso the funds be spent on services to assist the elderly. It was decided that some of TPP’s funds received would be spent on additional safety rails in both St Stephen’s and Trinity, as both have sets of steps to the front that can be tricky to negotiate. Trinity’s rail has now been installed, after a delay, giving a safer track to the communion table and lectern.

Ken

## Crossroads

Sometimes we come to life’s crossroads  
And view what we think is the end  
But God has a much wider vision  
And he knows that it’s only a bend.  
The road will go on and get smoother  
And after we’ve stopped for a rest  
The path that lies hidden beyond us  
Is often the path that is best.  
So rest, relax and grow stronger  
Let go and let God share your load  
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow  
You’ve just come to a bend in the road.

# LENT STUDIES

**11am Wednesdays in the  
Church at St Stephens. Start  
14 February till 27 March.  
All Welcome**

As we approach the season of Lent leading into Easter we will be drawing inspiration for our Sunday services from Tear Fund's Seeds of hope lenten study, beginning on Sunday 18th Feb. Each service will include a video introduction followed by reflection from Rev's Brent, Rory and intern Luke. Remember, if you can't be there in person at Trinity or St Stephens you can access the live stream from YouTube (search for Timaru Presbyterian) or from our church website. The live stream is available to watch anytime from Sunday 10:30 am.

**Week 1** Living in the kingdom now, but not yet. Hope is fundamental in navigating tough times.

**Week 2** A future worth hoping for. What does our Kingdom hope look like? Visualising hope.

**Week 3** Holding hope and grief together. Hope can move us forward while we express our honest feelings to God.

**Week 4** Keeping hope alive. Things we do to build our hope: prayer, community and action.

**Week 5** A People of calling. God invites partnership so we are agents of Hope

**Week 6** A hope embodied. A practical way to live out our calling.



*Timaru Presbyterian Parish*  
**Living & Sharing God's love**  
[www.timarupres.org.nz](http://www.timarupres.org.nz) 686-0981



## Changes to kerbside collection

As of February 1, kerbside collection will be standardised nationally. The standardisation means some minor changes to what is allowed in the YELLOW (recycling) and GREEN (food and organics).

The main changes affecting Timaru District are:

- No paper or cardboard in the GREEN bin. This includes:
  - Pizza boxes and egg cartons – if clean can go in the YELLOW bin.
  - Tea bags and coffee filters – go in RED bin.
  - Paper towels, serviettes or tissues – go in RED bin.
  - 'Compostable' marked paper packaging such as coffee cups – go in Red bin.
  - Pet Poo - goes on the RED bin.
- No aluminium foil or aerosol cans in the YELLOW bin – they now go in the RED bin.
- No plant pots in the YELLOW bin - they go in the RED bin.

For more information check <https://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/enviroment/wasteminimisation>



## Community Garden

Vegetables available at present include cabbages, silverbeet, courgettes, lettuces, beans, cauliflower, and covolo nero, with tomatoes, capsicum, celery, beetroot and potatoes still to come.



# SISTER EVELEEN

RETREAT HOUSE



Scan me!

"A HOUSE OF PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL HELP  
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD"  
Sister Eveleen Barkle 1939



## A warm invitation to our upcoming retreats.

We would love to welcome you here at Sister Eveleen to experience this special atmosphere. (Our annual - *continually updated*- programme can be found here: [www.sistereretreat.com/news](http://www.sistereretreat.com/news))

## Creative Joy - Summer -Seasonal Series 2024

**Date:** Fri 23 February (7pm) -Sun 25 February (7pm) 2024.

Join us for a seasonal series of Creative Retreat's led by Glenda Joy. We'll be using various mediums of texture, colour, writing & music to reflect and envision the seasons of life and how our stories inform and shape our world. Through simple contemplative exercises we can digest life, find meaning, clarity and celebration.

**More Info and register:** Please [follow this link](#) or visit our website [www.sistereretreat.com](http://www.sistereretreat.com)

## Open Retreat Day at Sister Ev

**Date:** Wed, 28 February, 9:30 – 2:30pm

Join us at Sister Eveleen Retreat House for a quiet day of reflection, prayer, silence and sharing. (every last Thursday of the month from March) - inspired by the earth and church seasons. - Theme for February - *Lent* -

**More Info and register:** [Follow this link](#) or visit our website [www.sistereretreat.com](http://www.sistereretreat.com)

## S/he God - Exploring God images

**Date:** 29 February 2024, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Immerse ourselves in, and connect with, the Biblical tradition of feminine God-images. What impact might they have on our lives and faith? An evening taster retreat reflecting, pondering, enjoying and maybe being surprised...

**More Info and register –** [follow this link](#) or visit our website [www.sistereretreat.com](http://www.sistereretreat.com)

## 7 Day Silent Directed Retreat *"In God we live and move and have our being."* Acts 17:28

**Date:** Sunday, 3 (5pm) -Sat 9 March (2pm) 2024

7 days of silence as an opportunity to realign our lives to that of God and to come to an inner quiet which allows us to hear God afresh.

Daily individual spiritual direction will be available.

**More Info and register:** Please [follow this link](#) or visit our website [www.sistereretreat.com](http://www.sistereretreat.com)



*We invite you to come and visit us ...  
for a guided or private retreat,  
an individual stay, day stay  
or with your church group*

## Enliven HomeShare Pilot Project

Presbyterian Support South Canterbury are looking for **Homeshare hosts** and **Volunteers to support the host** in facilitating a weekly social group for those living with Dementia in the **Waimate and Geraldine** areas.

Training will be provided to help you support the needs of older people, in particular those who have needs relating to memory loss/early on-set Dementia. You will also receive regular support from a HomeShare Co-ordinator.

The Enliven HomeShare service brings older people with shared interests together in the comfort of a host's private home or suitable community facility.

Small groups get together for 4-6 hours at a time to share a home-cooked meal and conversation, and to undertake activities decided on by the group. The service enables older people, who may be lonely and/or isolated, to socialise within their own communities.

Earn money whilst working from home and making a positive impact for families in your local area.

Contact **Dean** or **Josie** at Presbyterian Support Community Services on (03) 887-1117 for more information.

Presbyterian Support South Canterbury  
*People Helping People*

**enliven**  
THE NATIONAL  
SOUTH CANTEBURY

Community Support



FamilyWorks

# WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

Type **Timaru Presbyterian Parish** in the Search bar.

<i>18 February</i>	9.00am Journey 21 C-Bay carpark 9.30am Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Rd 10.30am Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Rd
<i>25 February</i>	9.30am Worship & Communion @ Trinity, 22 College Rd 10.30am Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Rd
<i>03 March</i>	9.30am Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Rd 10.30am Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Rd
<i>10 March</i>	9.30am Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Rd 10.30am Worship & Communion @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Rd

## Youth & Children's Events:

**Boys' Brigade** 6.00pm - 7.30pm Mondays at 22 College Rd  
Contact : Fiona 688-0375 or 021-1702930

**Rhythm Kids:** Trinity Hall, College Rd.  
Contact: Helen 021 768 973 or Robyn 027 251 8474

**Girls' Brigade**  
6.00pm - 7.30pm Tuesdays at 22 College Rd  
Contact : Fiona 688 0375 or 021 170 2930  
**TP Kids Playgroup:** Trinity Hall, College Rd.  
Contact: Helen 021 768 973 or Robyn 027 251 8474

## Regular Events:

**Nosh & Natter:** Monday 6.30pm, 349 Wai-iti Road, bring your own meal.  
Janie 021 0279 3076 (text is better than phone message)

**Prayer Group:** Tuesday 9.00am, College Rd, Brent **686-1382**

**Community Club:** Tuesdays, 1.30-3.30pm at Wai-iti Rd

**Eat Well Co-op Packing:** Tues, 10.30am, Wai-iti Rd.

**Eat Well Co-op Pickups:** Tues, 3-4 pm at College Rd & Wai-iti Rd

# TIMARU PARISH EVENTS

Yoga for Seniors on chairs: 2pm on Thurs in the hall at Trinity. Leigh Marsden takes this 'not on the floor' exercise programme. This is for men and women. \$3 per session. Would you like to attend these classes? Or for more information, please contact Helen ph 021 768 973 or Robyn 027 251 8474

## Coming Up:

**Eatwell** - Bags \$15 large and \$10 small. Place your order Thursdays by 8pm, pick up Tuesdays 3-4pm from Trinity Community Centre, 22 College Road or St Stephens Church, 349 Wai-iti Road.  
Ph 022 123 3663 .

**The Community Club:** Tuesdays, 1.30-3.30pm at St Stephens for Cards 500.  
New members welcome. Contact: Marian ph 684 4351  
Dorothy ph 686 2265

**Journey 21:** Meets at C-Bay carpark. 9am, Sunday 18 February 2024  
All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCH GROUP:**

The monthly meeting of the Lunch Group will be held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at St Stephens Worship Centre, 349 Wai-iti Road at 12.30pm commencing with a shared lunch. Sales Table.

**Guest Speaker:** Jared Pratt, Youth Worker for Oceanview Heights and Mountainview High. Members will remember listening to the Regional Co-ordinator Ruby Bowman of Ashburton telling of Jared's work locally. It is one of the Groups wishes that a donation be given to Jared to go towards any pupil/s that need a little extra to start the school year off.  
Apologies or rides please contact Dianne 686 0440, Dawn 686 0595 or Robyn 688 1948

**Jam Session** Meets Wednesday 21 February, 7pm at St Stephens.

**World Day of Prayer** - St Johns Church, Wai-iti Road at 2pm on 1 March.

## **I've Learned**

**I've learned...** that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

**I've learned...** that just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

**I've learned...** that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

# TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

## Worship Centres

349 Wai-iti Rd, Glenwood, Timaru

22 College Rd, Timaru South

[www.timarupres.org.nz](http://www.timarupres.org.nz)

### Parish Office

349 Wai-iti Rd Phone: 686-0981

email: [oneoffice@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:oneoffice@timarupres.org.nz)

Financial matters: [finance@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:finance@timarupres.org.nz)

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am - 3pm

Closed 12-1pm Tuesday & Wednesday

## PARISH CONTACTS

### ***Ministry Team Leader***

Brent Richardson 686-1382, 0274221892 [brent@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:brent@timarupres.org.nz)

*Not available Fridays*

### ***Minister***

Rory Grant 686-1575, 0275705156 [rory@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:rory@timarupres.org.nz)

*Not available Fridays*

### ***Parish Clerk***

Judith Begg 688-6004, [parishclerk@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:parishclerk@timarupres.org.nz)

## LINK DEADLINE

Copy for the March-April LINK should be emailed to [link@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:link@timarupres.org.nz) or sent to the Church Office by Friday 8 March.

# Eat Well Fruit & Vege Co-op

22 College Rd & 349 Wai-iti Road



Family pack  
\$15

Small pack  
\$10

Orders  
022-123-3663



or **Email:** [eatwell@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:eatwell@timarupres.org.nz)



Tuesday Mornings 10 to 11am  
During School term  
Trinity Community Centre,  
22 College Road  
Gold Coin Donation  
Morning Tea supplied for Adults.  
Bring your own morning tea for  
your children  
Come along for a fun time!



Contact:  
Helen Carter  
Ph 021 768 973

Thursday  
10-11am

See you  
there

**TOP  
KIDS**

Trinity Community Centre  
22 College Road

Bring a healthy snack for your child  
Morning tea for carers supplied  
Contact Helen 021768973 for more info  
[www.timarupres.org.nz](http://www.timarupres.org.nz)

Gold Coin Donation

**PLAYGROUP**  
play & Learn for preschoolers

# Girls and Boys Brigade

**Top right:** Our company was gifted a banner flag from Christchurch Boys Brigade for us to use at Boys Brigade and if we are out and about.

**Below:** Recently I took 3 young ladies from Girls Brigade to our national camp in Wellington. Our badges were made by a very talented local lady (Cindy) and our area shirts had our badge printed on them. We were very blessed to have Rory work on our power point presentation which we used as our item to share with everyone. The song we used behind our photos was 'Today Tomorrow Timaru' by Jordon Luck and it was very popular with lots of claps and noise. This made our girls very proud of where we came from and what Timaru has to offer. The girls enjoyed the worship and devotions time as well as the activities. The camp was called Facing our Giants and the girls were definitely pushed, over the week to face their giants.

Fiona



This issue of "PRESBYTERIAN LINK" is delivered to you

by.....

Phone.....