

# PRESBYTERIAN LINK

*February-March 2025 No 168*

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Timaru Presbyterian Parish



## New Year, wonderful progress



Further progress being made on the wooden slat fencing at Wai-iti Road. Still some work to be done to complete the job but quite an improvement in the appearance of our boundaries.

Elaine.

# Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the Link and welcome to a new year. We often face the new year with hope and **optimism, don't we? After all, it is summer, everyone is relaxed, we don't rush about so much and it gives** us time and space to dream about what might be possible in the year ahead.



But this year feels a little different. The summer **hasn't exactly been great weather! Lots of cloudy days and cooler than** average temperatures (at least in Timaru). There is a new president in the White House whose unpredictability has many on edge. And for me, I am **coming to terms with being a 'sole charge' minister, without the collegial** support of Rory and Luke.

Add to that the inconclusive way we finished last year in relation to our decision to adopt our Long-Term Vision (LTV) proposal to move our regular Sunday morning worship to St Stephens, restructure our ministry team and begin new forms of outreach. You may recall this proposal received 63% support from the congregational meeting held on 24 Nov which was lower than parish council wanted to go ahead with this plan and so the decision was deferred until the new year.

With the departure of Rory and Luke, the ministry team has effectively restructured itself much sooner than expected and so the time has come for council to make the bold decision to press on with the LTV proposal. With only one minister keeping the two Sunday morning services becomes even more difficult and there will be further pressure put on our volunteers to keep everything running.

Many in our parish agree to the need for moving to one location for worship, and our combined services over the summer have been wonderful occasions, but there is disagreement over which location is best. The parish council are still of the view that St Stephens offers the best facilities for our life together going forward and the site improvements needed are more achievable and cost effective than they are at the Trinity site.

Further to the LTV proposal is an undertaking to provide a monthly afternoon service at Trinity in the style that is loved and appreciated by

many in our parish. Brigade parades and high services like Easter and Christmas will also be at Trinity.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and clarify any issues you may have at a combined service at **St Stephens at 10am on 16 Feb.**

Some of you will be feeling excited by this; yay we are finally moving forward! Some may be ambivalent- 'meh'. **Others maybe saddened or even outraged!** Whatever you are feeling I hope you will see the hand of God in all of this. We have sought the Lord for direction and believe he is leading us into a new season. I sincerely hope you will join us as we move forward together.

**In Christ's name and for his glory.**

Brent

## **Parish Council Report.**

### **Devotions:**

Janie spoke about some key learnings she has had from her participation in the Forge Way-finding course this year. The course is run in collaboration with Alpine Presbytery and looks to equip people for new mission and outreach. Janie spoke of significant personal growth she has experienced through her interactions with other participants. This course has also helped her to re-evaluate her existing beliefs and adjust or discard these as necessary. It has also helped her face some insecurities and turn these into strengths. She noted that self-reflection can help us show our biases and prevent these from becoming prejudices.

### **Health and safety:**

Preparations are underway for a refresher course for our Brigade leaders in health and safety and child protection policies. This will be held on Monday 3 Feb.

### **Matters arising:**

Steph Holland has been working on the photograph for the Grant family and will present this to them before they leave Timaru on Friday 7 Feb. Council decided to also print a copy for the Blackbeard's as well.

### **Correspondence:**

We received notification of a workshop hosted by the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership on building effective teams. This will be held at St Andrews, Geraldine , 22 Feb, 10:30-2:30. If you are interested you can register here: <https://alpinepresbytery.org/leading-together/> . Registrations close 19 Feb.

Alpine Presbytery are seeking nominations for a new moderator.

We were advised of a generous donation from the Littler family.

There was a request from Catherine Richardson and Sue McCoy to hold a **regular (monthly) contemplative prayer service in the St Stephen's chapel.**

These will be at an early evening time slot to suit working people.

### **Order of the day:**

The date for the 2024 AGM was set for 30 March. This was delayed by the busyness of the end of year with ministry team changes and our Long-Term Vision discernment process. The deadline for reports, which cover the period July 2023- June 2024 is 3 March.

Pastoral elder Lois Shipley gave an update on our roll noting several folks on the pastoral roll who need to be invited onto the membership roll. It was **noted that we haven't welcomed new members in some time and this is overdue.**

We also discussed the need to ordain new elders and there are 2 possible candidates for this who will be brought to the congregation in due time for election.

Along with new elders we are also in need of new Parish council members, ideally at least three. We are calling for nominations ahead of the AGM and forms for this can be obtained through the office.

It was decided to extend our summer series by one week to cover Waitangi weekend. With a number of folks away over that weekend running two services is challenging.

### **Where to next discussion:**

We spent significant time in discussion around our Long-Term Vision proposal of moving our Sunday morning service to St Stephens. This proposal received 63% support when voted on last November which was a lower threshold than council would have liked for such a significant decision. It was agreed that council would ponder this response over the summer. Then came the news that Rory was moving, and we would suddenly have only one minister to manage both services. In light of this new reality, council are keen to move ahead with the LTV proposal as soon as practical. A combined service will be held at St Stephens, 10 am on 16 Feb. where the decision will be presented.

# Mission Group Update.

Our little group met recently to plan some of our activities for the months ahead, and here are some of the decisions that were made.

Our Harvest Tables raised \$375.40 over the holidays period for our local hospice - which was a really great effort. For the next 4 weeks, starting this Sunday, our Harvest Table will be raising funds **for the Alzheimer's Society, (and this will run for 4 weeks) to be** followed by another 4 week collection for the Red Cross. The April collection will be the last for the season, and will end on Sunday 23rd. April.

Our Bucket Mission Collections will start a little later this year, with the first one for Radio Rhema.

March 2nd. - Radio Rhema  
April 6th. Christian World Service  
May 4th. - Presbyterian Support  
June 1st. - Meat Supplies or Current Emergency  
July 6th. - Bible Society  
August, September, November - to be decided  
December 1 st. **Women's Refuge**

As the days get cooler and shorter we start to think of our annual knitting project again. We have been extremely fortunate in that **we've been given a lot of lovely knitting wool, and this will be** available next month. It was decided to pack up the wool in designated and clearly labelled packs eg.(jersey to fit a 5 year old boy with stripes).

There will be more details next month.

Elaine

# Luke Blackbeard Ordination

On a warm Sunday afternoon in Christchurch our ministry intern Luke Blackbeard was officially ordained by Alpine Presbytery and inducted as minister at The Village Church. The service was attended by around 80 folks including about 15 from our own parish who made the journey to support Luke and his family.

The service was led by former Presbytery moderator Rev David Coster (standing in for Rev Phyll Harris) and this was his final official function as an active senior minister. In the tradition of our presbytery the sermon is delivered by the last person ordained in the presbytery and **in this case that was Rev Josh Olds, who also happens to be Luke's** colleague at The Village. His sermon was pre-recorded and played on the screens as his wife recently gave birth to their fourth child.





The service included a wonderful rendition of *This little light of mine* performed by the Village singing group. Luke was presented with a stole made by a long serving member of the congregation with vine imagery on it as well as a cross made with the words Amazing Grace from repurposed furniture from a chapel.

Brent

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future".

Jeremiah 29:11

# WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

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

## TIMARU PARISH EVENTS

### 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 Community Centre Hall, College Rd.

Contact: Helen 021 768 973

#### **Girls' Brigade**

5.00pm - 6.30pm Tuesdays at 22 College Rd

Contact : Fiona 688 0375 or 021 170 2930

#### **TP Kids Playgroup:**

Trinity Community Centre 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

#### **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 021 768 973 or Robyn 027 251 8474

### Coming Up:

**The Community Club:** Tuesdays, 1.30-3.30pm at St Stephens for Cards 500.

New members welcome. Contact: Marian Sawers ph 684 4351

Dorothy Richardson ph 686 2265

**Journey 21:** Meets at C-Bay carpark. 9am Sunday 16 February.

Topic: Love your Neighbour

All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

# TIMARU PARISH EVENTS

**Jam session** No Jam Session in February.

**Quiet Time**– Contemplative Prayer, St Stephens Chapel 6.30-7.30pm on Wednesday 19 March.

**Presbyterian Women Lunch Group**– Welcome ladies to the beginning of another year of fellowship, food and learning of new projects in and around our region.

The monthly meeting of the Lunch Group will be held on Wednesday 19 February at St Stephens, Wai-iti Road starting at 12.30pm with a shared lunch. Sales Table provided. There will be no Guest Speaker as it is hoped we can share some special moments which occurred during the Christmas/New Year break.

Apologies or rides please contact Dianne 686 0440, Dawn 686 0595 or Robyn 688 1948.



At Enliven we believe you can have fun and a sense of purpose in your life, whatever your age.

That's why we offer a variety of choices for older people in our community.

Our Enliven Services include:

- Residential Aged Care
- Retirement Village Options
- Supported Living Options
- Community Services
- Homebased Care & Support
- Te Pokapu Day Centre



Come and take a look around one of our Four Homes:

- The Croft - Timaru
- Margaret Wilson - Timaru
- Strathallan - Timaru
- Wallingford - Temuka

Let our family take care of yours

Call our Enliven Team (Alison and Caro) on 687-1120 or email [Caro.Sexton-Phillips@pssc.co.nz](mailto:Caro.Sexton-Phillips@pssc.co.nz)

Enliven is a service of Presbyterian Support South Canterbury  
<http://www.pssc.org.nz/enliven>

# 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*

### *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 7 March.

# In Memoriam

Susan Harris  
Margaret Perry



**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”**  
Matthew 5:8

**‘Faith tells me that whatever  
lies ahead of me, God is  
already there.’**



Tuesday Mornings 10 to 11am  
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



10am-11am  
Thursdays

See you  
there

**TP  
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.bimanipress.org.nz](http://www.bimanipress.org.nz)

Gold Coin Donation  
**PLAYGROUP**  
play & learn for preschoolers

# New Year with God

U F Q A M K E O W B E M W P Q Y M U G R U W E H  
F U S U N D A Y S C H O O L M R G A U X E Q Q Q  
P P R A I S E H X L K G H O M A C Y B U P C R H  
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L D F K F W T R F I T N O I T A G E R G N O C V  
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R T I C H N O W C H B C J L T X N T W Z T Q R Q

Sunday School

Holy Spirit

Hebrews

Church

Prayer

Congregation

Sanctuary

Respect

Pastor

Jesus

Holy Bible

Offering

Worship

Praise

God

This issue of "PRESBYTERIAN LINK" is delivered to you

by.....

Phone.....