

# PRESBYTERIAN LINK

November-December 2025 No 176

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Timaru Presbyterian Parish



## Happy Birthday Lois!



Go to  
page 6  
to read  
about

the  
birthday  
celebrations!

Hermann's  
GA report  
Is on  
Page 7

**Stir Up**  
*Sunday*

23 Nov @ St Stephens

**Sunday  
30th  
November**  
at St Stephens

**A  
G  
M**

# Church Life

## PLANT SALE

Thank you to all who helped in so many ways with our Plant/Bake Sale! The Growers, Bakers, Shop Assistants!, Donors, Customers, Helpers, to everyone that made it possible.  
Our total is \$5545.00  
Again, Many thanks.

Murray

### WOMENS LUNCH GROUP

Our Women's Lunch Group were treated to a delightful talk recently about various aspects of and uses of wool - "the amazing fibre", from Michelle Fitzsimmons and Deanne Milne - members of the Timaru Creative Fibre Group. During the talk it was quite fascinating to see a spindle being used. In recent times if you heard the word spindle you would instantly think of something being centuries old, and it being a very slow, tedious technique. It's quite the opposite, and to our surprise even young children can manage a



spindle. Did you know that an old discarded CD can also be used as spindle? We were also very impressed how one member of the group wove her own linen tea towels. They were in brightly coloured checks, and apparently lovely to use. It was great to see a spinning wheel in action, and the wool used in a myriad of lovely colours that help to make a garment so special. The talk concluded with a vote of thanks and the presentation of fruit trays.

Elaine.

# Editorial.



In the August –September edition of the Link I commented on the budget that was to be presented at the end of August and hinted that we were considering employing someone to lead our outreach initiatives with the hope of creating a new faith community, supported by TPP.

Two key terms we are using are Wayfinder and New Mission Seedling. Wayfinder describes the role of discerning the way the Spirit is leading into new outreach, and New Mission Seedlings describes the gathering of new communities focussed on mission and outreach, often leading to the establishment of a new congregation.

Trinity Temuka is on a similar journey in this space and have funding approved to proceed with seeking to employ someone for this. Alpine Presbytery are also keen to see this happen and have advised us to partner with Temuka so that a full-time role can be created serving both communities. Our parish council have been working on this exciting proposal which has 3 key objectives aligned to our Long-Term Vision document:

- To spearhead outreach initiatives of TPP with a view to making committed followers of Jesus
- To build a core team of leaders who will support the establishment of a new faith community
- To establish a New Mission Seedling that nurtures faith and discipleship in those who are outside the existing church.

To fund this, we are proposing to use \$290,000 of our Property Investment Funds which will cover our share of this role over 5 years (\$58,000 per year for a 60% share). The full proposal will be presented at the AGM on 30 November for the required congregational approval before sending the application to Presbytery and Church Property Trustees who are responsible for granting permission to use the funds in this way.

If successful, this will be a significant investment in the future of our church and positions us to do something unique in Timaru and Temuka. We believe there is scope in our district for something new and imaginative, to plant the sort of church that will connect with those under 40 and their families. A **church that invites them to the table of God's feast and is an expression of the shalom of God.** We dream of offering a safe harbour for the seekers of God and those needing a safe place to explore, ask questions, wrestle with doubts and be held by a faithful community. We have a unique opportunity to invest in this exciting future; all we need is the courage to do so!

As reported last month we are looking for a new treasurer as Rose Hill will be

stepping down from that position in December after 5 years in the role. She will continue her office admin role. By the time this is published we expect to fill this vacancy having had a good number of suitable candidates.

Nga mihi nui, Brent

## **Parish Council Report.**

The meeting opened with devotions led by Rev Brent. This was based on a reading from Haggai 2: 1-9

The reading was set in the time when the Jewish people returned from exile in Babylon. There were people who remembered the former magnificent temple, which had been destroyed. A new temple was being built in its place which was very plain. The Lord assured them not to worry about that. He encouraged them to work and be strong. He promised that he was with them, he would fill the new temple with glory and grant peace. This reading is an encouragement to us to trust God, as he goes before us and he is with us.

Other things discussed:

There have been a number of applicants for the part time role of treasurer, and the appointments committee is in the process of appointing a suitable person.

The Parish council has gone through the discernment process and presents Judith Begg, Lois Shipley and Stephanie Holland for re-election to the council. The term is for three years. These nominations will be brought to the congregation for voting at the AGM on 30 November.

The council spent some time discussing employing a person in a part time Wayfinder position. An application to Church Property Trustees for funding this position is proposed. The proposal has been approved by the parish council and will be brought to the congregation for their decision at a congregational meeting on Nov 30 Further details about this position and the funding application will be available soon.

Stir Up Sunday will be on 23 November at St Stephens

Herman attended General Assembly which was held at **St Paul's Trinity** Pacific Presbyterian Church in Christchurch in October.

Read his report on page 7 - 9.

The Parish Council meeting closed with the grace.

Steph Holland

# Resourcing for Others. (Formerly the Mission Group)

At our October meeting arrangements were made for our annual Stir-Up Sunday service. This enjoyable service will be held at St. Stephen's on Sunday 23rd November. Think of it as an introduction to Advent!

As we have mentioned previously our Harvest Table recipients change monthly. The Timaru Community Christmas Lunch event (to be held at the Caroline Bay Hall) will benefit from the November sales, and Family Works' food bank will be the recipient over the Christmas break. The previous collection raised \$117.00 for the Fred Hollows Foundation.

It is really encouraging to see some really colourful beanies coming in, for the Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. The last Sunday in November will be the final day for the collection of beanies. If you decide to knit a beanie please use WOOL and old size no. 9 knitting needles, and please don't forget the 50c "postage".

- patterns still available.

November's Bucket Mission was for Family Works - Grandparents raising Grandchildren - and this was held on 9th November (second Sunday).

The final Bucket Mission will be held on December 14th and this will be for the Leprosy Mission.

Right through the month of December there will be a decorated carton in the St. Stephen's foyer for the Women's Refuge. Toiletries for both men and women could be left in this box. Maybe you would prefer to give something to the affected children, such as a colouring book and pencils.

Elaine



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



## Birthday celebration

A special morning tea was held following the 12<sup>th</sup> October service at St. Stephens. This was to recognize and celebrate a significant Birthday for Lois Shipley (80).

In addition, it was to honour and give thanks **for Lois's tireless work** as Pastoral Elder for Timaru Parish.

And last, but certainly not least, to also recognize the quality lay preaching Lois has given to TPP and Pleasant Point Parish over the years. Her positive support has been a



major factor in strengthening Pleasant Point's worship and attendance.

Thank you Lois!

Ken

Jean Lord lighting the candles.



## Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ– General Assembly 2025 under the motto ‘We believe’

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church happens every two years. GA 25 was held in Christchurch at St Paul’s Trinity Pacific Presbyterian Church from 20 Oct – 23 Oct under the motto ‘We believe’. The Timaru Parish sent Hermann Frank as their Commissioner.

From a reflection by the Moderator of the Alpine Presbytery ‘Aunty Lyn’: “The cornerstone of the entire event was the incredible generosity shown by St Paul’s Trinity Pacific Presbyterian Church. They didn’t just facilitate the Assembly; they nurtured it. Their gracious hospitality flowed

from every corner, their Praise and Worship team inspired us deeply, and their cultural performances—a beautiful journey through the islands—were a pure delight. We owe a debt of gratitude to every volunteer, from the kitchen to the tech booth, who worked so hard to make it seamless.”

The assembly started and closed with a worship service lead by the worship music team which really set the tone for the assembly, both through the incredible singing and the messages. Each day also started with half an hour of devotions and singing. On Monday, the new Moderator Rt Rev Peter Dunn was inducted and the previous Moderator Rt Rev Rose Luxford farewelled. Peter made the motto ‘We believe’ come alive. He certainly is a worthy leader with deep theological reflection, good leadership skills and a dry sense of humour.

Many procedural motions were passed, usually all agreed, during the time of the assembly. Also, throughout the Assembly video clips were shown about the work of all

Presbyteries and some overseas mission partners, also greetings to Assembly. Three Dialogue sessions allowed time to discuss topics in smaller groups. There was no key note speaker this time. Instead Peter



Dunn had asked six members of the Presbyterian Church to share their testimony, spread over the days. This was well received.

**A longer discussion happened about the process and findings of the 'Royal Commission into Abuse in Care' and the Church's responses. A public apology had been given by the Rt Rev Rose Luxford in an event both in Dunedin and Auckland. A redress plan is in place, but might take many years to conclude. Congregations and presbyteries are urged to ensure the Church's redress process is understood and effectively communicated at all levels of church life. This clearly is a painful chapter in the life of the Church.**

A PressGo review concluded and acknowledged there is still a valuable role for PressGo to work with presbyteries and congregations in mission. However, a review of the Mission Enterprise Fund recommended that the Mission Enterprise Fund be wound up.

A report on the Dialogue on Sexuality, Biblical Morality & Leadership was presented, but no further action was recommended. This dialogue had been suggested by the previous assembly and discussions had been followed throughout the Church, lead by Presbyteries.

A substantial part of Wednesday dealt with a review of the General Assembly. Decisions were:

- That the next General Assembly will be a hybrid assembly and that up to a quarter of attendees might do so online. The cost of attending Assembly in person was seen prohibiting for many congregations.
- That reports to General Assembly be made available to the wider Church prior to Assembly. Up to now, reports were only accessible by Commissioners.
- That General Assembly is made freely available for viewing via livestream from 2027 onwards, This year, only the opening and closing sessions were livestreamed, though other sessions were available on the website later.

The name of the Moderator designate was revealed. The Church elected Rev Dr Murray Rae as the next leader of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. He will take up the role of Moderator at the 2027 General Assembly. After Rev Wayne Matheson had announced his retirement as Assembly Executive Secretary, a new AES was appointed. It is the Rev Erin Pendreigh from Otago, effective from 1 February 2026. The work of Wayne Matheson was widely acknowledged.

A lengthy discussion was held about a possible successor organisation to Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand and it was resolved that a task group be established to facilitate the formation of such a successor group. The background to this is that Presbyterian Women had and still have a

consultative status with the United Nations and this would be lost otherwise.

I enjoyed the General Assembly very much and was particularly impressed by the worship services which were both uplifting and intentional. Worshiping with and meeting other people from different backgrounds and nationalities also was enriching. And the food was very good!

More information about GA 25 can be found on the website of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. God bless, Hermann

## The Library Corner

The hardest part of finishing A book is choosing the next one to read.

Take a look in the Library at the Devotional Section, there are a good number of books there including some Christmas devotions.



### Book review

Ajax the Kea dog.

By Corey Mosen

An interesting and informative story of Conservation heroes, dog Ajax, and his handler.

Corey who travelled to remote parts of the South Island High Country tracking Kea nests.

Corey is a wildlife biologist working for the Dept of Conservation and specialising in helping to save the endangered Kea.

He is also a skilled photographer as shown in the many lovely photos in the book.

The book tells how Corey trained Ajax (a border collie cross) from a pup to become one of the very few Kea detection dogs in the world.

The Kea is the only true Alpine parrot and despite being intelligent and resourceful birds, they are under threat. Predators, possums, cats, rats and stoats can attack them or their eggs and steal their food supply.

This book is a great read, it is a simply written true story that tells of Corey a passionate Conservationist and the adventures he had with his truly remarkable dog Ajax.

Carol

Dear people of Timaru Presbyterian:

Thank you so much for the cards, greetings and gifts generously given on the occasion of my special birthday.

I acknowledge all the work that went into my morning tea to make it a memorable occasion, to the people who prepared the food, the birthday cake, the people who worked in the kitchen on the day and all those who attended thank you very much. It was much appreciated and has left lovely memories for me to cherish.

Blessings to you all.  
Lois

# @HOME WITH PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT

@Home is a new user-pays service designed for those who need a little extra help and/or companionship. @Home has no age limitations.

Our new service offers a great opportunity to help ageing parents or someone close to you who could use a little extra support @Home. Care that comes to you - because everyone deserves a little extra @Home.

- ☑ DAILY TASKS
- ☑ HOUSE-KEEPING
- ☑ COMPANIONSHIP
- ☑ OUTINGS
- ☑ EXERCISE
- ☑ SHOPPING

**NEW SERVICE**

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES COMING SOON!**

*Let our Family Take Care of Yours*

**Contact Us**

Phone: 03 687 7945

Email: [AtHome@pssc.co.nz](mailto:AtHome@pssc.co.nz)

Location: 23 North St, Timaru

Website: [www.pssc.co.nz/at-home](http://www.pssc.co.nz/at-home)

**Presbyterian Support**  
South Canterbury



03/11/2025

Timaru Presbyterian Parish  
349 Wai-Iti Rd  
Glenwood Timaru 7910  
New Zealand

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift for Operation Christmas Child. Each gift-filled shoebox brings joy and hope to a child in need. The power of a simple gift makes the child realise that someone cares and loves enough to reach out in this very special way.

Thank you for helping us to reach out to so many financially disadvantaged children and communities with a practical demonstration of God's unconditional love. The aid and assistance we provide is given without regard to the race, creed, gender, religion or ethnicity of the beneficiaries.

May God bless you,

Arne Olander  
Senior Relationships Director  
Samaritan's Purse Australia/New Zealand

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**Samaritan's Purse Australasia – Operation Christmas Child Ltd**

THIS DONATION IS NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE

<b>Official Receipt:</b>	589350	<b>Date:</b>	03/11/2025
<b>Gift received from:</b>	Timaru Presbyterian Parish		
<b>The amount of:</b>	\$382.50	<b>Reference No:</b>	NZ20823

**At your request, your gift has been allocated as shown below:**

28/10/2025	\$382.50	NZ Shoe Boxes
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**AUSTRALIA**

Samaritan's Purse Australasia-Operation Christmas Child Ltd ABN 80 162 895 623  
PO Box 964, Kings Langley NSW 2147 • Ph: 1300 884 458  
Web: [operationchristmaschild.org.au](http://operationchristmaschild.org.au)

**NEW ZEALAND**

Samaritan's Purse Australia Limited NZ CCRN: CC36649  
PO Box 870, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140 • Ph: 0800 726 274  
Web: [operationchristmaschild.org.nz](http://operationchristmaschild.org.nz)

# WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

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

<i>16 November</i>	9.00am 10.00am	Journey 21 C-Bay carpark Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
<i>23 November</i>	10.00am	Worship & Communion & Stir-up Sunday St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
<i>30 November</i>	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens plus <b>AGM &amp; Wayfinder</b> , 349 Wai-iti Road
<i>7 December</i>	10.00am	Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Road

## 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 Hall, College Rd.  
Contact: Helen 021 768 973

#### **Girls' Brigade**

5.30pm - 7.00pm 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

# TIMARU PARISH EVENTS

## Regular Events:

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

Community Club: Tuesdays, 1.00-3.30pm 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, 1.00-3.30pm 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 16 November  
All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

**Timaru Presbyterian Women Lunch Group:** The Christmas Luncheon will be held on Wednesday 19 November 2025 at Bennys Again at Noon. This is as usual the last meeting for the year.

Please confirm your attendance to one of the ladies below by Monday 17 November.

Dianne 686 0440, Dawn 686 0595 or Robyn 688 1948.



## In Memoriam

Bruce Mitchell

**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”**

Matthew 5:8

## **Important note on services:**

First Sunday in the month is a Worship Service at 10am at Trinity Church.

# 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 November-December LINK should be emailed to [link@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:link@timarupres.org.nz) or sent to the Church Office by Friday 7 December.

Namaskar Friends!  
Thank you for starting this journey with me!



Hello Friends, I'm Nusbaid  
I'm a 5-year-old girl,  
and my birthday is on 7 November 2019,  
I have 1 sibling, I live in Sarankhola community,  
and I speak Bengali.  
My favourite thing to do is play games.

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 023768973 for more info  
[www.tinarupres.org.nz](http://www.tinarupres.org.nz)

Gold Coin Donation  
**PLAYGROUP**  
play & Learn for preschoolers.

Thank you!



Naem

Here's an update on the amazing difference you're making for me and my community.

Thank you  
for sponsoring me

I'm now seven years old.

Currently, I'm in primary school studying grade two.

School grading systems differ globally. For example, sometimes children might say in the same grade or skip a grade.

World Vision staff are monitoring my well-being. Currently my health is good.

This year me and my family participated in and benefitted from:

- Mosquito net**  
I am safer from diseases spread by mosquitoes, now that I have a new mosquito net.
- School supplies**  
I received school supplies to help me with my education and personal development.
- Arts and crafts workshop**  
I had the chance to explore my creative skills and have fun with my friends.
- Family income support**  
My family received livestock to help us produce more food and increase our income.
- Children's camp**  
I learned about my rights, responsibilities and different skills to help me in my life.

# Boys Brigade

This last month, at a Trinity Sunday service one of the Boys Brigade members, Eamon Carson was presented the Boys Brigade King's Award.



The photos show Eamon with past Kings and Queens Award recipients.



This issue of "PRESBYTERIAN LINK" is delivered to you  
by..... Phone.....