

# PRESBYTERIAN LINK

*February – March 2026 No 178*

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Timaru Presbyterian Parish

Timaru  
Presbyterian  
PARISH



Woman  
washing  
Jesus feet  
banner  
created  
by Estelle  
Cormack

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# Church Notices

## Pancakes and prayer!



**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb @ 6:45pm**

**St Stephens Foyer.**

**Everyone welcome.**

**If you require transport, please let the  
office know.**



## **Te Tiriti o Waitangi no Māngere Maunga**

On Auckland Anniversary Day just past, I went for a walk from where I was **staying to the top of Māngere Maunga**. I **sat for about two hours on the** highest point to chill out, think about some things and pray. The immediate emotion - for those who lost their lives in the most tragic of circumstances in the landslide at Mt Maunganui in Tauranga a few days before - came like a lament. A terrible tragedy felt across the nation. Until all the bodies are recovered that lament will continue to be followed by coming to terms with the tragedy and why it happened. Pray with me for the grieving families.

The pre-colonial history of **Māngere Mountain and the area around it is worth** researching. It has been a rich and bountiful place since being first settled by **Māori as early as the 1200s**.

From the time of European arrival its history has a similar script to many **places in Auckland and the Waikato**. **Despite the Treaty of Waitangi, Māori** land was invaded, war was waged and great tracts of land were taken or confiscated by the colonial government of the time.

I well remember from far away in Southland being disturbed and angry with **what happened at Bastion Point, about 20kms from Māngere Mountain**. Following the Waikato Wars the mountain and surrounding fertile land was confiscated because its strategic location with its Pa was seen as a threat. The land became settler farms and the mountain itself was made into a **public reserve**. Through a **treaty settlement in 2014, Māngere Maunga is owned by the Crown and administered through the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority**. The public have access.

Sitting at the summit presents a stunning scene. As far as you can see, you see city in every direction with the interludes of harbours and waterways.

Then there is the portent of the present debates over the relevancy and meaning of the Treaty in 2026. In the scene I set before you is the Maunga itself, a centre for a living culture going back at least 45 generations. Then literally butted up against the base of the mountain where the extensive **kumara gardens were for centuries, the modern houses of Māngere**. Roll a

rock down and it would go through a back fence. I looked at the scene for a long time with this taunga of a place. Today 186 years after Te Tiriti o Waitangi was first signed, the city, a rock roll away, whose founding and expansion largely, if not completely, ignored the Treaty.

**Sitting on the highest point of Māngere Mountain the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand** remembered in brief what the Church has said and enacted in response the Treaty of Waitangi. PCANZ interprets the Treaty not just as a legal document, but as a covenant" **or sacred promise between the Crown and Māori. We formally recognise a** bicultural partnership between Te Aka Puahou and the members of the Church and its courts. The Presbyterian Church actively observes Waitangi Day, with representatives participating in events at Waitangi. As an ongoing response to the Treaty, anti-racism and equal justice for all has become a mark of our Christian witness. Kia tae mai tou rangatira-tanga. Kia meatia tau e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite ano ki to te rangi. Praying for a present and future where Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti live together in peace and mutual respect.

However, the recent diatribes and debates about the Treaty through academic, political and particular ideologies on both sides of the Treaty debate are not conducive to a transformed society happening soon. Some say it is all helpful debate. Some say it is ultimately destructive as wrong power flexes itself. From a **Pākehā perspective Tino Rangatirunga lights a fire of mistrust that smolders** hot in many. How can self-**governance by Māori exist in a democratic society?** That is one of the undercurrents of these times.

**Thinking about the Treaty from Māngere Maunga, invited my grandchildren /mokopuna** to be with me, figuratively speaking of course. There are quite a few of them. They haven't really experienced the full force of a broken and mistrusting secular world yet. Still "innocent" in many respects. I can see them all together on occasions, as happens, in real time. Doing things together, playing, laughing and talking as close families do. They share multiple lineages. As a group they are familiar with a number of languages. All have European descent, somewhere it is possible that great, great, great grandfathers fought against each other in world wars. A Jewish lineage with an ancient surname that was changed after World War 2 that takes them **back to the time of Solomon's Temple. And in that mix Tangata Whenua, carrying the Māori lineage of this land. When they are together and apart,** none of that matters. Looking to their future I loath anything that makes their differences in ethnicity the basis of New Zealand society.

As a Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand member, be praying and be vigilant that we will never be seduced by the words of an ideology that does not come from the teaching of Jesus and the Spirit he bestows

on us all. Pray earnestly that as a Church we will not participate in the use of wrong power against anyone, through the right understanding of justice in action through word and deed. And the last word; the covenant aspect of Tiriti o Waitangi will only be fulfilled with the spiritual transformation of New Zealand. Pray for the Good News of the Gospel to change hearts and minds of every New Zealander.

**Nā, tēnei te mau nei te whakapono, te tūmanako, te aroha, ēnei e toru; ko te mea nui rawa ia o ēnei ko te aroha.**

*Peter*

**Right Rev Peter Dunn**

*Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

[moderator@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:moderator@presbyterian.org.nz)

\* A note for those who switch off when they see Te Reo Māori in a piece of writing without an English translation provided... I suggest instead of feeling hard done by that you use a Māori to English translator, such as Google, for yourself. Learn a new skill. Repent of lazy!

## **Parish Council Report.**

Hermann Frank led the devotion focussing on a passage from Revelation 19: 6-9 which describes the praise going on in heaven. This rich imagery reminds us of 3 ways we can connect with God: firstly by listening and obeying God, discerning his word to us and acting on it; secondly practicing gratitude for all God has done and will do and thirdly offering our praises through song-singing is a common expression of worship and is found all over the Bible. We concluded by singing How Great Thou Art.

Under Health and Safety it was noted that the door mat at St Stephens needs attention as this is potentially a trip hazard.

Matters arising from minutes:

The application for funding of the Wayfinder position is being processed and an advertisement seeking suitable applicants for this role has gone out. We expect to have the funding confirmed soon. Update: Funding was approved 5 February 2026.

Council passed motions formalising the appointment of our new treasurer, Janessa McCallum and authorising access to the relevant systems (banking, IRD and Xero) to enable her to undertake this work. Janessa is settling in well to this role.

We discussed the potential to ordain a new elder. This is in the context of the number of our faithful elders who have reduced capacity due to age and health issues. Catherine Richardson is to be approached to consider eldership at TPP and if she is agreeable her name will be brought to a congregational meeting for approval.

The property team has been busy lately dealing with some urgent maintenance issues. The flooded basement at the Trinity Centre has been dried out and the Refugee Settlement goods have been returned; a leaking water main into the centre has also been attended to by the Timaru District Council. Painting and fence repairs at the manse have been done and the lounge has had a fresh coat of paint. There has been a change in tenants over January so a short vacancy provided a good opportunity to do this work.

The finance reports were presented which show for the first 6 months of the year a deficit of \$10,000. This includes our insurance which is a large annual expense and we expect our income to catch up over the second half of the year to bring us closer to a balanced result.

Catherine Richardson and Sure McCoy are planning Lenten studies/reflections which will begin with a Shrove Tuesday pancake service (Pancakes, Prayer and Praise). The series will conclude on Maundy Thursday (2 April) with a passover meal. (details will be notified nearer the time).

We discussed the situation with Live streaming the monthly Trinity service. Feedback has been that the sound quality is poor. We will look into possible solutions to improve this. People are reminded that an audio only option is available from our website [timarupres.org.nz](http://timarupres.org.nz) under the Sermons tab.

Rev Brent in his report reflected on the Christmas services and was especially pleased with the very full Heiligabend service led by the Frank family. The time of 7pm plus the lack of a later service may have contributed to the good turn out. We also hosted the Carols in the Gardens at Trinity due to the wet and cold day; this was also well attended.

We finished our meeting discussing the potential Trinity centre upgrades. Last year Council and Admin explored the scope of works needed to bring this facility up to date and make it a more pleasant space to occupy.

Admin will do more work on the priority items of this work. It is important to note that establishing our Wayfinder is our top priority (investing in people and mission rather than brick and mortar) and so any proposal will need to fit with that priority.

Brent Richardson

## Resourcing for Others.(Formerly the Mission Group)

At our first meeting for the year a slight change was made to the Bucket Mission/ Harvest Table format. Previously these activities had separate recipients, now they will be combined, and the changeover to a new recipient will happen on Bucket Mission Sunday. Hopefully this will result in a more generous donation to our various charities.

BUCKET MISSION. topics for the next few months

- Heart Foundation
- Water Safety
- Hospital Chaplaincy

Something NEW will start on February 15th.

A holiday photo competition. There will be 4 categories. - ACTIVITIES, SCENE, FLORAL, and PEOPLE.

Put your name on the back of the photo, and if you wish a title on the front.

Four display boards will be put up in St.Stephen's soon. The winners will be chosen, and prizes given out at morning tea in approximately a months time. (Plenty of time for you to hunt out favourite snaps!!)



7 January 2026

Timaru Presbyterian Parish  
349 Wai-iti Road  
Glenwood  
Timaru 7910

Dear Carol,

Thank you for your contribution of \$221.00 to improve the lives of people affected by leprosy. Your kindness is helping bring healing and hope to people affected by leprosy like Babulal and Phul, their families and communities.

Through your compassion, the light of Christ reaches into places of darkness, restoring lives and transforming communities. Babulal sums up the difference you make very simply, "Life is better now."

God's blessings,



**Gillian Whitley**  
Executive Director

# Special event

A rather special event took place at the St Stephens Sunday service of 16 November 2025.

It was an event that took the interest of the congregation and created a feeling of joy and involvement on that day.

This took the form of a full immersion baptism: Mum - Jaspreet Grewal, son Rocco, daughter Zaya with Dad - Navi giving fatherly support.

There was some short-term consternation when the request was made, but someone remembered there was a large bath stored in the basement at Trinity and this was cleaned up and transported to St. Stephens.

This was a very moving happening, with the whole family enthusiastically involved. Rocco popped up like a cork out of a bottle. Hilarious!

So, all in all, with Rev. Brent officiating, it was a lovely event.

Shortly after, the family moved to Ashburton. We are sorry to lose them!

Ken





# **Christmas Eve Event**

The Trinity Chapel was fuller that we've seen it for a while, on Christmas Eve at 7.00pm. The attraction was, what has become an annual event, presented to us by the Frank extended family.

This was a Heiligabend, (Heilig meaning holy, and abend meaning evening). It is wonderful to have a taste of a traditional part of the German Christmas celebrations! Those attending were richly rewarded with bible readings from the family, much loved German hymns, (some attempted in that language), an explanatory and seasonal message from Hermann, and an amazing four-piece brass band.

The band members were Agnes (Hermann and Evie's daughter) and grandkids Isaiah, Jonah and Boaz, all combining to play the stirring backup to the hymns.

The 'whirly thing' needs a mention! It is a long-standing heirloom of the family, that they graciously share with us, the German name (wait for it) is Weihnachtspyramide). Practice the word so you can remember it this Christmas, and maybe in the interim bring it up in general conversation. Thank you so much Hermann and family for giving us an insight and reminder of the true spirit of Christmas!

Ken





SIR / 3962621 / AGN  
 Timaru Presbyterian Parish  
 Parish Office  
 349 Wai-iti Road  
 Glenwood  
 Timaru 7910



National Office  
 Private Bag 14902  
 Panmure  
 Auckland 1741  
 New Zealand  
 Telephone 0800 785 646  
 IRD Number 10-571-065

13 November 2025

## Receipt

Thank you for your support

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you so much for your lifesaving gift of \$250.00. The thousands of people who call Hato Hone St John every day in need of urgent medical attention don't know how to thank you, but I'm sure they're as grateful as we are for your kind support.

Your gift ensures we have ambulances, equipment and people ready to answer calls for help, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. An extraordinary gift for your community - thank you.

Of course, your gift doesn't only support your Emergency Ambulance Service. You are also supporting the many vital community health services Hato Hone St John provides - including the Waka Ora Health Shuttle service and our Youth programmes.

We can't provide these important community services without you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to visit [www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz) or call 0800 ST JOHN (0800 785 646). We'd love to hear from you. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Tiscornia  
 General Manager, Fundraising  
 Hato Hone St John

### Receipt details

Timaru Presbyterian Parish  
 Parish Office, 349 Wai-iti Road,  
 Glenwood, Timaru 7910



	Customer no.	Receipt no.	Payment date	Campaign code reference
	3962621	R4006615	31 October 2025	AGN
Donation Received				\$250.00
Payment received				\$0.00
<b>Total received</b>				<b>\$250.00</b>

PS: Your details are securely stored and used only for purposes related to your support of Hato Hone St John. If you wish to update your contact details or mailing preferences, please call 0800 ST JOHN (0800 785 646) and quote your customer number, or email [fundraising@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:fundraising@stjohn.org.nz)

Michelle Teirney  
 Deputy Chief Executive - Finance &  
 Business Insights

St John is registered with the Charities Commission  
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[stjohn.org.nz](http://stjohn.org.nz)

Kia ora koutou,

Greetings from Clevedon. We wanted to send a message to say thank you. There is so much that the people of Timaru Presbyterian have given us over our time there. In the thirteen years we have all grown; Jono from 4 to 17 years and Oliver from 6 to 19 years, Rory in Ministry life, experience and wisdom and for myself I feel that Timaru has been a place I found my voice. Singing and playing music in worship has been a highlight (being encouraged to sing properly into the microphone!). As a public health worker, health promoter, analyst I learned to be a voice for equity in our systems. And finally in learning te reo Maori more in depth and having the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of our region's history.

Thank you for your support and encouragement, in life, in mission, in living and sharing God's love in Timaru.

Blessings,  
Andrea & Rory



Photo of the beautiful Oamaru Stone sculpture by our front door.

# WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

15 February	9.00am 10.00am	Journey 21 C-Bay car park Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
22 February	10.00am	Worship & Communion @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
1 March	10.00am	Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Road
8 March	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti 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

### 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.

# TIMARU PARISH EVENTS

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 15 February  
All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

## **Timaru Presbyterian Women Lunch Group:**

The first meeting for the 2026 year will be held on Wed 18 Feb at St Stephens, Wai-iti Road starting at 12.30pm with a shared lunch. Sales Table. There will be no Guest Speaker as it will be a chatty catch up meeting with a little bit of future planning included e.g suggestions for future speakers, activities etc. Apologies or rides please contact Dianne 686 0440, Dawn 686 0595, or Robyn 688 1948.



## In Memoriam

Ella Mckerchar

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

Matthew 5:8

Ella had been a parishioner at Chalmers church. She was a dedicated volunteer for Senior Citizens Friday Club where she cooked a midday meal every Friday for the senior citizens members.

Before retiring, Ella and her husband farmed at Cannington.

## **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 March–April LINK should be emailed to [link@timarupres.org.nz](mailto:link@timarupres.org.nz) or sent to the Church Office by Friday 6 March.

# @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

**ADDITIONAL  
SERVICES  
COMING  
SOON!**

**NEW  
SERVICE**

*Let our Family Take Care of Yours*

Contact Us ▶

Phone  
03 687 7945

Email  
AtHome@pssc.co.nz

Location  
23 North St, Timaru

Website  
www.pssc.co.nz/at-home



Presbyterian Support  
South Canterbury



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



# Estelle Cormack – Snippets on her life

Family and church were her life.  
Her cup overflowed with the Gifts of the Spirit.  
Elder.

Always positive. Saw good in everyone.  
Maintained church flower gardens with June  
Mitchell for years.

Cut the lawn edges up the drive.  
Always picked up the fallen leaves.  
Ran resource evenings.

Stitched the beautiful Church banners designed by  
Rev Richard Gray.

Bread making and hot cross bun making classes.  
Marriage seminars with Rev Hamish Galloway.

A very creative person. Her ideas put into action.  
Did practical things – pretty things.

Caring.  
Enriched the lives of many – especially those in the House Group.  
Part of Church group at the Wetlands on Saturday morning.

‘Nature Lover’



This issue of "PRESBYTERIAN LINK" is delivered to you

by.....

Phone.....