

PRESBYTERIAN LINK

April-May 2026 No 180

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Timaru Presbyterian Parish



Easter Dawn Service



“The celebrated Dawn Service on Caroline Bay was a very damp affair this year.

Nevertheless, a good number of hardy souls braved the elements. It was great as usual, although a few were heard to say, “Can’t wait to get home for a hot shower!”. Here are

a couple of pics of folk huddled under the shelter of a small gazebo. The fish and buns were so good!”

Ken

Church Notices



Holiday photo winners

In Memoriam

Jack Manson

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

Matthew 5:8



- Jack was an Elder.
- Originally at Temuka Presbyterian.
- Wife, Bev was a Lay Preacher
- Shifted to Timaru
- Jack came to Afternoon Communion and was on Duty as a Server.
- Loyal member of the Parish

Editorial



Welcome to this edition of the Link. As I write, I am in the midst of a rather busy Holy Week. While many are looking forward to the last extended holiday weekend with (hopefully) good weather, we ministers are gearing up to celebrate the most significant historical event ever; the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I found our weekly gatherings for Lent reflections particularly helpful in preparing me for this Easter season, drawing me into the story and providing space to reflect with others, ask questions and explore the themes **of Christ's life and sacrifice. Thanks to Catherine Richardson and Sue McCoy** for facilitating these events.

Our dedicated property team continue to work on keeping our facilities in good order. To that end, it has come to light that the Trinity Centre at College Road has a long-term issue of water seeping in through the foundations at the east end that requires some major work to rectify. The cost estimate for this is around \$16,000 but it is essential work if this building is to be maintained in good order. We are also looking into replacing the rather shabby forms in the hall with seating that is easily stacked and moved. The plan is to gradually make improvements to this vital community facility, ultimately creating a modern, appealing space to be in.

To help with this we have been very blessed with a recent bequest of a significant sum from the estate of Elizabeth Stevenson. Elizabeth died in August 2024 leaving no descendants. She was a great friend of Rev Russell Rolfe and his wife Catherine who supported her through many years. A gift like this will go a long way towards sprucing up the centre for our anticipated new mission and outreach initiatives which will be generated by our Wayfinder.

The process for finding a Wayfinder has gone very well so far. We have conducted interviews with 2 quality candidates and have decided on a preferred one. We are awaiting the candidate's acceptance. This candidate is considering another option, so we must wait and see. But, as they say, if God is in it, it will happen!

I hope you have enjoyed a lovely Easter Weekend being reminded of the great love of God for each of us. A love expressed in sacrifice and new life given through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Nga mihi nui, Brent.

Parish Council Report.

The meeting opened with devotions led by Max based on Psalm 139, 15 to 16. God knew each one of us from the beginning. He gave everybody **special gifts to serve and do God's work. We are here for a purpose.**

On 10 May will be a congregational meeting to accept the recommendation of Catherine Richardson as an elder. Following this will be a shared pizza lunch. If the recommendation is passed, the service of ordination will be on 7 June.

The Parish has received a very generous donation from the estate of the former member Elizabeth Stevenson. This was accepted with gratitude. The gift is for general purposes at the Trinity complex.

The order of the day was about the Memorandum of Understanding for employment of the Wayfinder. A draft of the MOU was discussed. The MOU is between the Alpine Presbytery, the Temuka Parish and the Timaru Parish. The process of employing somebody is progressing and interviews of applicants have happened. Hopefully a decision can be made soon. The person will have an office at College Road.

Members of the Admin group have undertaken maintenance work at both complexes. Dampness at a corner of the College Road Community Centre is concerning and advice is sought how to deal with this. The Admin group recommended to install a security system i.e. cameras and lights at the Trinity complex. This should help to hopefully prevent some issues like boy racers using the site. And if necessary to do some follow-up actions. After some discussion, it was agreed to accept the quote by Allied Alarms.

Rhythm Kids has been continuing without Helen Carter's presence, but she is greatly missed. We wish her well with her treatment. There is a small group of committed families attending, similarly at Playgroup.

The worship schedule was approved.

Hermann

Resourcing for Others.

Thank you for your support of our recent holiday photo competition, and congratulations to all the winners. We had a lovely selection of photos, especially in the “action and scenic “ categories. I found it really interesting to see what some of you got up to over the holiday break.

The total from March’s Bucket Mission was \$299.30 and added to this the money from the Harvest Table sales was \$232.90 a total of \$532.20. Quite a tidy sum for last month’s recipient - Water Safety NZ. The recipient for April’s Bucket Mission will be “Hospital Chaplaincy” - a caring service found in 39 hospitals throughout the country supporting patients and staff with their spiritual and emotional wellbeing regardless of their religious faith. There are also approximately 200 volunteer chaplain assistants also doing this supportive work.

May’s Bucket Mission will be “Christians against Poverty”
- a service helping vulnerable people out of debt.

Our annual Winter Knitting Project is now underway. As usual we will be supporting Family Works and the Hanan Kindergarten with knitted garments for the under 5s. Take a look at the lovely display of knitted slippers and mittens at St.Stephens at present. In a few weeks these cute items will be our first delivery of knitting to Family Works. They really appreciate an early delivery before the weather gets really cold.

As mentioned in last month’s article we are planning a pizza lunch on May 10th - a Mother’s Day special - cost by donation.



Elaine

Edmonds ANZAC Biscuits

Ingredients:

- ½ cup Edmonds standard grade flour
- ⅓ cup Chelsea white sugar
- ⅔ cup finely desiccated coconut
- ¾ cup rolled oats
- 50g butter (or Olivani Spread)
- 1 Tbsp Chelsea golden syrup
- ½ tsp Edmonds baking soda
- 2 Tbsp boiling water

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180 °C. Line a baking tray with baking paper.
2. Mix together flour, sugar, coconut and rolled oats.
3. Melt butter and golden syrup. Dissolve baking soda in the boiling water and add to butter and golden syrup. Stir butter mixture into the dry ingredients.
4. Place level tablespoonfuls of mixture onto cold greased trays and flatten with a fork. These don't spread as they bake so you can place them close together.
5. Bake for about 15 minutes or until golden. Leave on the tray for 5 minutes then place on a wire rack to cool.

Thursday
10-11am

See you
there

TP
KIDS

Trinity Community Centre
22 College Road

Bring a healthy snack for your child
Morning tea for carers supplied
Contact Heien 021768973 for more info
www.timarupres.org.nz

Gold Coin Donation

PLAYGROUP
play & Learn for preschoolers

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

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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



WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

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

12 April	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
19 April	9.00am 10.00am	Journey 21 C-Bay car park Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
26 April	10.00am	Worship & Communion @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
3 May	10.00am	Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Road
10 May	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road Congregational Meeting and Pizza Lunch

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 the Trinity Community Centre. This is a 'not on the floor' exercise programme for men and women. \$3 per session. Would you like to attend these classes? Or for more information, please contact Robyn 027 251 8474 or Helen 021 768 973

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. **19 April.** Theme: 'Walk of Prayer for the Earth'.

All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

Timaru Presbyterian Women Lunch Group:

Meet Wednesday 15 April 2026 at Wai-iti Road Worship Centre at 12.30pm. Shared Lunch. Sales Table. Guest Speaker - Helen McKeown from Food Rescue Aoraki. This group of volunteers have an arrangement with Supermarkets etc and collect from them soon to expire items, - sorted, then redistributed to those in immediate need.

All ladies of the Parish welcome.

Apologies or rides please contact Dianne 686 0440, Dawn 686 0595 or

Source: Please Don't Pray With Your Mouth Full, by Bob Swanson



TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Worship Centres

349 Wai-iti Rd, Glenwood, Timaru

22 College Rd, Timaru South

www.timarupres.org.nz

Parish Office

349 Wai-iti Rd Phone: 686-0981

email: oneoffice@timarupres.org.nz

Financial matters: finance@timarupres.org.nz

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 3pm

Closed 12-1pm

PARISH CONTACTS

Ministry Team Leader

Brent Richardson 686-1382, 0274221892 brent@timarupres.org.nz

Not available Fridays

Parish Clerk

Judith Begg 688-6004, parishclerk@timarupres.org.nz

LINK DEADLINE

Copy for the May-June LINK should be emailed to link@timarupres.org.nz or sent to the Church Office by Friday 8 May.

The Upper Room

Hidden away in the Trinity Church is an unusual work of art not many of our parishioners know about. Behind the front of the church (looking south) is the Stinson Lounge and a small kitchen. Up a stairwell and above these two rooms is another large space called 'The Upper Room'. In the past, this area was used for youth groups mostly, but in recent years all sorts of items were stored up there. At the moment it is used by the English Language Partners.

On one of the walls is a large mural depicting the last supper. Nobody knows who the artist was of this painting. Molly Thompson was sure, it was Jock Clifton, who with his wife Margaret was a long-time member of the Trinity Church. Jock was well known in art circles locally. Two of their daughters still live in Timaru and they did not know about this painting. In addition, they think that the style is not like their father's at all.

It seems that the origin will remain a mystery. The painting certainly is a unique piece of art at the Trinity Church. Currently it can be viewed after the worship service on Sundays.



Hermann



Maundy Thursday

Our four-part Lenten reflections, jointly led by Catherine Richardson and Sue McCoy concluded with a Maundy Thursday 'Passover meal' using traditional elements of the Jewish Sedar meal and the gospel narratives of the Last Supper. Around 20 people enjoyed a meal featuring roast lamb and hearing the story of the significance of this.

Brent



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by..... Phone.....