

PRESBYTERIAN LINK

May-June 2026 No 181

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Timaru Presbyterian Parish



ANZAC Day



Church life



Elaine and Ken were in Christchurch recently and went to the Sunday service at The Village Church, Bryndwr, where Luke, Teresa and family are now installed.

They have obviously slotted in very effectively and were happily revelling, justifiably so, on the very successful hosting of the Alpine Presbytery conference which was a great effort by the whole Parish.

This was Teresa's, first day out of a moon boot following a mishap in Oamaru. Luke gave his usual thoughtful and entertaining message,'

and joined us in a 'selfie' at the end of the service. It was great to meet up again!

Ken

Lyn cutting the cake at a morning tea celebrating birthday as mentioned on page 5.



Editorial



Do things ever go according to plan? In the last Link I mentioned we were close to appointing a Wayfinder to help us reach out beyond our four walls and seek to engage with people on the edges of faith with the hope of building and growing fresh expressions of church both here and in Temuka, with whom we will share this appointment. Unfortunately, the preferred candidate turned us down and so we found ourselves back at square one needing to re-advertise the position. This has been done with applications closing at the end of May. We continue to believe that God will have the right person in mind for this and our task is to keep praying and seeking.

Something that did go to plan was the arrival of the 60 new chairs for the Trinity centre which look very smart. As I write we are waiting for a third trolley to stack them on as we discovered having them 30 high makes it very difficult to get the top ones off the pile!

In other exciting news, the admin team are working on improvements to the St Stephens carpark, which has been in the pipeline for a very long time. We have received a favourable quote from Fulton Hogan to reform the space to allow for entry from the existing point but exiting from the east end of the carpark. This will require reshaping the eastern end to allow easy drive off and out via the eastern exit. They will also paint parking lines to create angle parking and two mobility spaces. This will be a great improvement to the safety and efficiency of the parking area.

Our Parish Clerk, Judith Begg, pastoral elder, Lois Shipley and I attended the Alpine Presbytery annual gathering in Christchurch over the weekend of 1-2 May. This was a wonderful time of connecting with others, sharing stories and encouraging each other in our respective places. As noted in the parish council report, Seb Murrhly from the Knox Centre of Ministry and Leadership brought some encouraging keynote addresses focussed on leading in anxious times- very timely indeed! I was once again struck by the number of younger ministers in our Presbytery and the high calibre of this group. It gives me hope for the future of our Church and makes me realise I am no longer one of the young ones!

Nga mihi nui, Brent

Parish Council Report.

Lois led devotions, reflecting on the recent Aline Presbytery gathering in ChCh (on the site of her old parish, St Giles). Seb Murrhly, a lecturer at KCML was the keynote speaker focusing on how we lead churches during anxious times. He reminded us that the church belongs to Christ, not us and its continuation-or otherwise- **is dependent upon God's will. But in our anxiety we take on the burden and responsibility for growth and the 'success' of our church. Instead of this we should focus on our values** and what we are really all about. Rather than grieving for what we once had we can shift our focus to what we have and what God is doing. The modern world is all about speed and growth but this comes at the cost of authentic relationships. The Church has endured 2000 years because we are a resurrection people and God renews and restores. Death can become a prelude to something surprising and beautiful.

Parishes have been asked to undertake reviews of their governance systems and practices to ensure we comply with Charity Services policies. A questionnaire will be provided to aid this work which will be led by our clerk, Judith Begg. This will be completed by October 2026.

We have been informed that our building assets will need an updated valuation to ensure our insurance cover is at an appropriate level.

There is an ongoing issue with water seeping in through the foundation of the Trinity Centre which is being addressed. Due to the complexity of the issue our preferred contractors (Menziess) requested an engineering consultation which has been undertaken by Milward Finlay Lobb. We are waiting for their report before pressing go on this work. Hopefully the remediation proposed by Menziess (and the price) will be unaffected.

Plans are underway to address the inadequate carpark at St Stephens. With no space markings and a single entry and exit point this car park is both inefficient and unsafe. The new plan is to make angle parking and one way direction in and out and we have been given a very reasonable quote of \$5,560 for this. Council have some questions about the proposed design and once these are cleared we expect approval to be given so work can commence.

Rev Brent reported he will be away in Auckland to attend the National Assessment Weekend, assessing 3 candidates for nationally ordained ministry. Rev Martin Stewart will be preaching that Sunday (17th May).

Resourcing for Others.

Hospital Chaplaincy was the recipient of April's Bucket Mission (\$238.00) along with that of the Harvest Table (\$133.00). This resulted in a grand total of \$371.60 which is very commendable. Many thanks for your generous support.

Next month's Bucket Mission recipient is Christian's against Poverty, also known by its abbreviation - CAP.

A little about CAP :

CAP offers free comprehensive debt counselling and budgeting services to assist those struggling with unmanageable debt. Through partnership with over 100 New Zealand churches (such as Hope Presbyterian in Christ-church), they offer in-home support and advocacy to help families become debt free.

The flow on effect of all this, is saved lives and marriages.

Our annual Winter Knitting Programme is up and running again. Our first delivery of cosy woollen slippers and a lovely blue two/tone jersey to Family Works has been made. If you are keen to help with this worthwhile project could you please use pure wool for garments for the under fives, and save the acrylic wool for slippers and soft toys.

As mentioned previously the planned Pizza Lunch to be held on Mother's Day (May 10th.) has had to be postponed. We found that a number of our helpers already had plans for private Mother's Day celebrations, so it was decided to change the date, and this will be announced soon.

A few weeks back we had a special morning tea after the Sunday service to celebrate Lyn Kirkland's birthday. A thoughtful member of our congregation supplied a massive birthday cake which was enjoyed by all.

Elaine.





On April 23, 2015, at about 10.00 am, my wife Helen and I stepped onto the sands of Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula. With our Turkish guide, we had driven about three hours from our hotel in Istanbul. We had decided not to go on ANZAC Day because it was the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings right where we were standing, with a day of commemorations planned, starting with a dawn service, evidenced by the temporary seating for the multitudes just up from the beach.

We were in Türkiye for one reason: to connect with the land and atmosphere of the place. Why? Because my Great Uncle Peter John McKay was killed there. I was named Peter John after him. For me, a personal family pilgrimage. There is no grave for him among the thousands of ANZAC graves in manicured cemeteries with white crosses in perfect rows. He was just "killed in action". Uncle Peter was a farming lad from Otama in Southland. The farm is still in the McKay family. Peter was with the Otago Mounted Rifles, who were part of the push to capture Chunuk Bair, with the Wellington Mounted Rifles taking the lead. He was killed on August 7 during the assault on Bauchops Hill. He was 25 years old. Great Grandmother Jane received a letter from his friend and companion in the attack, James Hargest, indicating that Peter died from a direct hit from a Turkish artillery shell, and that was his life over with no body to bury.

It was a wet and windy day as we made our way along the frontline positions towards Chunuk Bair. I stood where the ridge Peter was killed on became part of Chunuk Bair hill. It was like looking down on a tragedy.

There was no joy there, no sense of my heroic great uncle, just a deep disbelief over what happened along the hilltops and ridges down to the beach 1km away, over and over again. Eventually, I walked to the Chunuk Bair Memorial to the Missing, and there was his name. Inserted at some later date at the bottom of the Wellington Mounted Rifles list of the "killed in action". 2nd Lieutenant Peter McKay, Otago Mounted Rifles. Tears filled my eyes. Over

the whole battlefield, there was a blanket of grief. An oppressive presence. It went soul deep. After a while, I reached into my jacket pocket and pulled out a rounded quartz river stone. I had chosen it months before from the Mataura River, not far from the McKay farm near Otama. I pressed the stone into the soil beneath his name at the bottom of the list. Rest in peace, Great Uncle.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,

We will remember them.

We will remember them.

This ANZAC Day, we are free to honour the fallen and remember them. We are honouring family members and their comrades who, despite being part of unjust wars, acted with courage in difficult circumstances. But let us be careful to recognise that there is no such thing as "Just War". This is the exact opposite of Jesus' **teaching. "Love your neighbour as yourself". "You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. 'But I say, do not resist an evil person!** If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also" (Matthew 5:38-39). Micah writes "The LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

War starts in one human heart that rejects God and diminishes human worth to nothing. War spreads when influencers with peace in their hearts remain silent in the face of the powerful. War exists when the voice of wrong power proclaims invincibility and the right to wage war. Lord, this ANZAC Day, help us to honour the fallen as we recognise the evil of war and the pain and damage of its aftermath.

Right Rev Peter Dunn

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
moderator@presbyterian.org.nz





Pentecost Prayer Initiative

ACTS 1:14
THEY ALL JOINED TOGETHER
CONSTANTLY IN PRAYER.

14 MAY — 23 MAY 2026
12 DAYS OF NON-STOP PRAYER
ACROSS AOTEAROA.

VIRTUAL PRAYER ROOM

Register for a timeslot
<https://tinyurl.com/PentecostPrayer2026>

PRAYER ROOM @ GLENITI BAPTIST

58 Gleniti Road, Timaru

May 14/15/18/19/20/21/22

**7AM –
12PM**

**12PM
– 7PM**

PRAYER ROOM @ WILSON BAPTIST

17 Wilson Street, Timaru

May 14/15/18/19/20/21/22

PRAYER ROOM @ CONNECT CHURCH

44/46a Rothwell Street, Timaru

Friday May 22

**6AM –
9PM**

@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





Thank you so much !

On behalf of the babies, parents and staff of Jean Todd Maternity Unit, we express our grateful thanks, for the wonderful knitting that you made and sent to us.

As you know, newborn babies sometimes struggle to maintain their temperature. Your lovely knitting will ensure they stay warm.

Parents are always super grateful for these precious knitted items and send their gratitude to you.

Thank you

Dear Ladies of the
Strathallen Ladies Friendship Group
and the Timaru Presbyterian Church,
I am writing to thank those who
very kindly items, and donated
them to Jean Todd Maternity Unit.
We are most grateful to you.
Warmest Regards
Linda Merritees.



The new chairs in the hall at Trinity Church.



In Memoriam

Phil Hyndman



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

Matthew 5:8

WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

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

17 May	9.00am 10.00am	Journey 21 C-Bay car park Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
24 May	10.00am	Worship & Communion @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
31 May	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
7 June	10.00am	Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Road
14 June	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

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 '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. 17 May
All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

Timaru Presbyterian Women Lunch Group:

Meet Wednesday 20 May at the Wai-iti Road Worship Centre at 12.30pm. Shared Lunch. Sales Table. Guest Speaker - Mary Stocker, owner operator of 'Pampered pets' Boarding Kennels/Cattery/Grooming having been in business for 24 years.

All ladies of the Parish welcome.

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

Cheese-rolls: It is cheese-roll time again. We will make them at St John's Anglican church kitchen on Saturday 13 June and Saturday 27 June from 9 am. Prices are like last year: White or brown bread \$8.00 a doz and \$ 30.00 for 4 doz; Molenberg \$8.00 a doz and \$35.00 for 4 doz. Please order through Evi Frank at 684 5399 or email to mama@newfrankland.org
Payment can be made to Evi directly or to:
Bible Society of N Z 03 0887 0245788 00

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

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 June-July LINK should be emailed to link@timarupres.org.nz or sent to the Church Office by Friday 5 June.

Call for Volunteers

We are looking for warm, friendly people to help former refugee families feel welcome and settled in Timaru



**We need
Volunteers**

Volunteers help newcomers navigate their neighbourhoods and new ways of doing things in New Zealand with things such as: schooling, shopping, access to public transport

Who can be a volunteer?

- Anyone with a passion for helping people
- No previous experience is required
- Volunteers choose either a 3 month or 6 month placement
- Training is given along with mentoring and support
- Volunteers work in small teams



We would love to hear from you:

Phone: 687-1140

E: Michelle.Bunt@pssc.co.nz

www.pssc.org.nz/refugee-settlement-services

Thursday
10-11am

See you
there



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

Gold Coin Donation
PLAYGROUP
play & learn for preschoolers

A Prayer for Our Global Community



Creative Spirit

We remember the diverse communities scattered across our earth—from bustling cities to quiet villages, from coastal shores to mountain tops. We give thanks for the tapestry of humanity, woven together by love.

We pray for unity in a world often divided. Break down the barriers of prejudice, fear, and misunderstanding that separate us. Grant us the grace to see our neighbours as our brothers and sisters, and to treat every person with the dignity and respect they deserve as we are all children of creation.

We pray for the vulnerable and those experiencing hardship. May the refugee be protected, the lonely comforted, and those suffering in body, mind or spirit healed. Move our hearts toward compassion, that we may not simply feel for them, but actively reach out with support and generosity.

We pray for peace in places ravaged by conflict and instability. We pray that the storms of violence be calmed, that the hearts of leaders be guided towards justice, and help us all to be instruments of your peace, working together to turn swords into plowshares.

We pray for our shared home, the Earth. Give us the wisdom to be good stewards of the land, sea, and air. Inspire us to adopt practices that protect and restore the environment, ensuring all communities all around us flourish.

We pray for our local communities, that they may be places of hope, safety, and welcome. Strengthen the bonds of love within our neighbourhoods, that we might support each other in times of joy and sorrow.

We pray this, to ensure the resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity to bring about wholeness for all living things.

Amen



Journey 21 offers an alternative way of worship
and is part of the Timaru Presbyterian Parish
www.timarupres.org.nz

This issue of "PRESBYTERIAN LINK" is delivered to you

by.....

Phone.....