



Steve McCoy commissioned

by Presbytery.



On Sunday 30th August, Steve McCoy was formally commissioned to be the Mission Wayfinder for Timaru and Temuka parishes. The special service was held at the Enliven centre in the Botanic gardens and was well attended by around 60 people. Alpine Presbytery ministries coordinator, Rev Dan Spragg, led the service which included sung worship, prayers and a message from Rev Martin Stewart on the significance of the Wayfinder role. Various others also shared best wishes and supportive messages for Steve, who commences this role from the 1 Sept.

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Church notes

New World sticker promotion

Thank you to all who have been contributing to this year's project. I am endeavouring to make packs like this for Family Works to distribute. There is still one month to go so please keep any stickers coming in to enable us to achieve an amazing outcome.

Dawn



Thank you.

Estelle wrote asking to have her thanks conveyed to everyone who wrote messages to her on the 'BIG THANK YOU CARD.'

Estelle sent her best wishes to all she has worked with or known and has learned so much from. "Many of those are no longer here but the memories are rich.

Since we arrived in Timaru in 1968 I really enjoyed working with many groups and ministers, forming good friendships through diverse learning with banner making, attending worship, managers, gardening, winter lunches, Children's Holiday Programmes, The Otupua Wetland Group, Plant Sale, Study groups and the newsletter to name a few.

The opportunities at St Stephens were endless and broadened by TPP; all achieving helpful things in God's world."

Thank you David for sharing Estelle's message with us.

Important dates to remember:

Weekly Prayer Meetings in September (for about 30 minutes)

Sundays 9am in the Chapel

Tuesdays 9am Trinity Centre

For other important information of what's happening including Church services and the Bible Society Quiz see pages 12 & 13

Editorial

Welcome to this edition of the Link highlighting the goings on in our parish over the last month. We had some fun in church over the last month diving into the topic of sport and reflecting theologically on its impact in our lives. Each week I included a sports skill challenge.

My favourite was badminton. Grant Holland and I had a small game at the front of the church which generated some mirth among the congregation! The main challenge was not hitting the shuttle into the audience!



Following on from this series, we will be exploring the Season of Creation theme Living Water. Included in this Link is the article from Rev Dr Jordan Redding explaining this theme which is being taken up ecumenically around the world. Over the course of our lifetimes, we have seen our local rivers degrade significantly to the point of being un-swimmable and dangerous for dogs if algae is present. The season of creation invites us to consider our role as steward of God's creation and the responsibility we have to take care of our environment, so that it will take care of and sustain us.

We are delighted to have Steve McCoy commissioned into the Wayfinder position and he is underway in this exciting mission endeavour. Steve brings imagination, passion and enthusiasm to this role and I look forward to working with him and seeing what the Lord will do among us.

Nga mihi nui, Brent

Parish Council Report.

Lois Shipley led us in devotions using Ecclesiastes Chapter 3:1-8– A Time for Everything. She reflected on that in relation to the new Wayfinder role. We are at end of plateau but ready to spring forward with the Wayfinder. To complete the devotions, she led us in prayer.

The 2027 budget was approved at the Congregation meeting on 16 August 2026.

Alpine Presbytery led an excellent service for the Commissioning of Steve McCoy as the Wayfinder for our Parish and Temuka Parish. It was well supported by parishioners from both parishes and his family.

We spent time working on updating the Mission Plan. The council has approved it in principle. It will be present to the congregation for acceptance sometime soon.

Lois Shipley, our Pastoral Elder, will not be available from 5 to 15 October 2026 as she is having a well-earned break.

Girls Brigade parade postponed till 4 October 2026

Administration group

- The car parking system at St Stephen's is working well. There is still some work to be done on the bollard.
- Parish Council approved the recommendation to appointment a named new member to the group. Name will be advised later.
- The actual Insurance cost is a little less than budgeted for.
- New windows for the office will be installed on 21 September 2026.
- Work will be starting soon at the Community Centre in relation to the dampness and drainage issues.
- A screen will be placed above the St Stephen's west double doors to improve viewing from the front. The screen has been donated.
- Janie will continue to co-ordinate the Operation Christmas Child boxes scheme.
- The installation of solar panels on our buildings is still under consideration.

Judith

Resourcing for Others.

I'm writing this from the lovely Golden Bay, so I hope my memory doesn't let me down, and the info. is accurate!

We recently received a thank you letter from Christian World Service thanking us for our donation of \$177.10. In this letter they explained they sometimes work through ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) if they don't have a partner in the affected disaster zone. That was the case with Venezuelan relief effort.

A detailed receipt was also received from the Bible Society.

To assist Dawn Ussher with her New World collection, we decided to help, and instigated a knitted dish cloth collection. These will go to Family Works Refugee Programme, along with the accumulated knives and chopping boards. We were given a very large hank of knitting cotton, which at first glance appeared to be 5 skeins. Actually it turned out to be one continuous skein, which slowly but surely developed onto an enormous tangle which took a couple of days to undo. There are now several balls of this prepared cotton on the St.Stephen's foyer awaiting knitters. If you decided to knit a cloth please use garter, moss or basket stitch to keep it flat. It can also be knitted diamond wise, starting with 3 stitches, then increasing stitch at the beginning of every row till there is 25 stitches on each side of the central purl stitch. (Approximately 40grams of cotton is sufficient for a 20cms. cloth).

Our next Bucket Mission will be for the Cancer Society - an amazing society doing incredible work throughout the country providing a comprehensive range of services . I'm sure you have all seen that chilling advertisement on TV recently that highlights the fact that 1 in 3 of us will be affected by the disease on our lifetime.

Here are few interesting facts about the Cancer Society:

- 1,125 volunteer drivers

- 7,8561 accomodation nights

- In the past year \$7,200,000 was directed to Cancer Research

Elaine



Kia Ora my name is Stephen McCoy and I am the Ministry and Mission Wayfinder for the Timaru and Temuka Presbyterian Parishes. You may be asking what a Wayfinder is, that's a good question.

In the ancient world, Polynesian navigators crossed vast oceans without maps or instruments, attending closely to the currents, the winds, the birds, and the shifting patterns of cloud and light. Through patience and humility, they read the signs of the world around them, trusting that careful listening would reveal the way forward.

This same posture shapes missional work in the modern context. Ministry today requires attentive discernment — reading the cultural currents, recognising emerging patterns in community life, and noticing where the Spirit is quietly at work. Rather than relying solely on established maps or inherited models, missional leaders listen to local stories, observe shifts in neighbourhood rhythms, and respond with thoughtful, grounded action. In this way, the Wayfinder's discipline becomes a contemporary missional practice: listening deeply, interpreting wisely, and joining God's unfolding work in the places we are called to serve.

In Acts 16:6-10 The Spirit prevents, redirects, and then invites Paul into a new place. This is a clear picture of missional wayfinding in the New Testament and is relevant to the situation we find ourselves in today.

"Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this Wayfinder role. I'm grateful for the call of God in this appointment, and I want to acknowledge the trust and investment that Alpine Presbytery and the congregations have made in establishing this position.

My hope is that, together, we will follow Jesus into the neighbourhood – listening deeply, proclaiming the good news with clarity and compassion, and joining the Spirit’s work of renewal in Timaru and Temuka. The gospel is always moving outward, always calling us to cross boundaries, always inviting us to trust Christ as we step into unfamiliar waters. As Paul discovered in Acts 16, mission is not simply our initiative; it is our response to the living God who leads, redirects, and opens doors for the sake of the Kingdom.”

Ngā manaakitanga o te Atua ki a koutou katoa, i roto i tēnei haerenga hou.

The blessings of God be with us all in this new journey.

Nga Mihi nui

Stephen McCoy





Season of Creation 2026

1 September - 4 October

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

The 2026 theme for the Season of Creation, “Immersion in Living Water”, refers to the living waters that flow from the temple in Ezekiel’s vision of the new Jerusalem (Ezekiel 47:1-12).

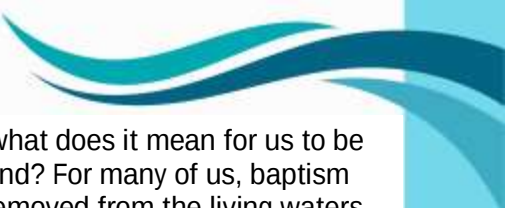
As the river goes out from the city, it gathers strength until it becomes a mighty river, teeming with fish, lined with abundant plantlife, and home to people and animals alike. The prophet describes a thriving and biodiverse ecosystem.

Ezekiel’s vision of a renewed creation is picked up in the New Testament too. It’s so significant that the River of Life is the final image in the whole Bible (Rev 22:1-5).

It is easy to imagine these prophetic visions as metaphor of God’s life flowing into the world. But what if they are not just metaphor, but quite a literal description of God’s salvation? What if Ezekiel and John of Patmos thought there was no better image for God’s future than a thriving ecosystem sustained by living waters? The human and the more-than-human worlds living in harmony.

What if God has in mind the restoration of real rivers and ecosystems? The people of Israel entered the Promised Land by crossing the Jordan. Naaman found healing in its living waters. When Jesus was baptised in the same river he was immersing himself in this history. It was a sign of his identification, not just with God, but with a particular people and a particular place, where the drama of God’s salvation would play out.





If Jesus was baptised in the Jordan, what does it mean for us to be baptised here in Aotearoa New Zealand? For many of us, baptism takes place in a church with a font, removed from the living waters that give us life.

Meanwhile those living waters are dying. This year, the Ministry for the Environment released a report on the state of our water. The results are not good. Many of our waterways are contaminated by intensive farming and polluted by urban runoff. Human health, economic productivity, and whole ecosystems suffer when our water is not well.

This Season of Creation, I encourage you to consider what it means to be immersed in the living waters where you live: the streams, rivers, lakes, and seas. Baptism is an immersion into the living waters of a place: to learn its history, invest in its flourishing, and imagine God's future there.

With our election coming up, the Interchurch Bioethics Council has just released information sheets on several bioethical and environmental issues, including fresh water. I warmly commend it to you as we immerse ourselves together in the living waters of Aotearoa.

On behalf of Moderator Rt Rev Peter Dunn
Rev Dr Jordan Redding
Convenor of the Emissions Reductions Workgroup

SEASON OF CREATION RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4) is a time for Christians to come together in prayer and action for Creation. You can find resources for churches and groups on the PCANZ website here. Included are the Season of Creation 2026 Celebration Guide; Presbyterian Research Centre newly added ecotheology and care of creation books and ebooks; and Eco Church resources.





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WORSHIP @ TIMARU PRESBYTERIAN PARISH

Live streaming every Sunday

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

13 September	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road Bucket Mission
20 September	9.00am	Journey 21 C-Bay car park
	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Rd
27 September	10.00am	Worship & Communion@ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road
4 October	10.00am	Worship @ Trinity, 22 College Road Brigade Parade
11 October	10.00am	Worship @ St Stephens, 349 Wai-iti Road Bucket Mission

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

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 Community Centre. This 'not on the floor' exercise programme 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

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

Weekly Prayer Meetings in September

Tuesdays 9am, Room 2, Trinity Community Centre

Sundays 9am, The Chapel, St Stephens

Journey 21: Meets at C-Bay carpark. 9am. 20 September

All welcome. Contact: Ellen ph 027 7723 146

Timaru Presbyterian Women Lunch Group: Meet at the Wai-iti Rd Worship Centre on Wed 16 September at 12.30pm. Shared lunch. Sales Table. Please support this Table as it enables our Group to help others in the community. Guest Speaker: Haidee Woods Manager Multicultural Aoraki. Learn of what help is available to new Residents Services provided and Events and Programmes organized.

Apologies/rides Ph Dianne 686 0440 or Dawn 686 0595

Plant and Baking Sale - Saturday 19 September 2026 at St Stephens.

Convenors are: Max Ph: 021 133 2486 and Jim Ph: 0274 367 700

Bible Society Quiz: It will take place on Saturday 17 October 2026. We will start at St Mary's Catholic Church in Pleasant Point at 2 pm, then go to St David's in Raincliff and finish at St Alban's at Pleasant Point with afternoon tea. Cost will be \$ 10.00 pp and \$ 20.00 per family. Money raised will be for Venezuela.

Important note on services:

4 October service is at Trinity

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 October-November LINK should be emailed to link@timarupres.org.nz or sent to the Church Office by Friday 9 October.



credit: Easy-Peasy-AI

Plant & Baking Sale

St Stephen's Church
149 Wai-iti Road
Saturday 19 September

Wide variety of plants.

(Please bring a bag for your purchases)

Any questions about the plant sale please contact:

Max ph 021 133 2486 or

Jim ph 027 436 7700

**Alongside our Annual Plant
sale, we also have an amazing
Baking/preserves table
supplied with
delicious goodies.**



Chat directly to
myself if you have any questions.

Thank you, Sandra

ph: 027 688 3619

Rhythm Kids



Rhythm Kids Story Time with Joy.



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



This issue of “PRESBYTERIAN LINK” is delivered to you

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