

# ACLAIM

# WCFWIM



Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder

Union Parish

*“We aim to be a reflection of God to the community”*

Bi-monthly Newsletter of The Alexandra, Clyde Lauder Union Parish ~ Apr /May 2023

### Ministers Musings

As we draw to a close of our Lenten and Easter journey and look towards Pentecost and the gift of the holy spirit to the church it is good to remind ourselves that we are people of the resurrection we are an Easter people. John Paul 11 visited Australia in 1986 and shared these words:

*“We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery – the mystery of his Death and Resurrection.”*

### “We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!”

It is believed that pope John Paul may well have been quoting church father Augustine not directly but very much the meaning of his Exposition on Psalm 148.

But what does it mean for us to be an Easter people. People who live in the shadow or perhaps more correctly the light of the resurrection? Following lectionary scripture readings in the weeks to come we are told through the gospels that Jesus will appear to many people. Those who believe in him will come to understand that he has conquered death. Jesus will tell them that he’s leaving again but will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

So those who love and follow him live in tension still; of course, they want him to stay, forever. What will happen when the Holy Spirit comes? They do not yet know the day it will happen. All they can do is stay together and pray and hope that Jesus’ leaving will not be soon.

Much like the disciples living in tension as they awaited the gifting of Holy Spirit we too live in tension. The greatest stories currently about Easter is will people successfully get over the Cook Strait to see loved ones this Easter or what is the best flavour of Hot Cross buns. (For your information I don’t believe the existence of Chocolate Hot Cross buns are heretical). The tension that we live in though is that we are still living in the in-between space of the resurrection and the full expression of the coming kingdom of God. And that kingdom in most parts of the western world seems to be getting weaker as the days go on. Personally, we struggle with the tension as well. Our lives and the lives of those we love continue and we and other people suffer, and the answers we want don’t come, and Jesus the one who promises to be Emmanuel God with us is hard to find or seemingly absent from our plight.

Those of us who follow Jesus have to stick together. We need to pray and worship together, remind one another of the reality we call the Christian life. It makes sense only if we take Jesus at his word—if we believe that his life merges with ours and that we are forever transformed.

And in the absence of Jesus who walked this earth centuries ago, what do we do? We allow him to live through our bodies and voices, our thoughts and dreams, our arms and faces. We are the Body of Christ. This is not merely a nice metaphor; it speaks a reality by which we live as Easter people. Jesus now is with us, within us. He is also outside us, in others—we meet him especially in those who need our love, those we can feed, clothe, visit, heal, forgive, and love.

*Barbara Brown Taylor writes:*

*“May the news of Christ’s riseness touch the dead spots in your heart and bring them back to life, so that you become part of the good news that flows forth from this place today. May you be springs of living water in all the dry places on this sweet, parched earth. May the fresh life that God has given you spill over to freshen all the lives that touch yours — in your homes, in your work, in your schools, and in your cities. May you be Easter people.”*

Easter is transcendent. Jesus is not somewhere else. Christ is everywhere—through him all creation holds together. He lives and breathes through his body, the Church.

So, what does it mean to live as Easter people? It means we live as a people, all parts of Christ’s Body working together toward a single purpose: **love**.



**Rev Andrew Howley**  
Parish Minister Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder Union Parish

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14th May 2023  
Mothers Day





**Right Rev Hamish Galloway Moderator  
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand**

**Resurrection and Restoration**

The Easter message of death and resurrection is powerful on so many levels. Much is made in our contemporary Christian culture of the individual impact of this on our lives but there is also a powerful collective community impact that can be easily overlooked. I was struck by this when I was in the Hawke's Bay to preach at a combined service held in the wake of the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle. The lectionary text for the day was Ezekiel's Valley of Dry Bones, a vision received while he languished in exile in Babylon lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem. As I worked with the text it came to life for me as a message about the resurrection and restoration of ravaged communities.

In my research, I came across the comment that the passage is 'a quintessential vision of human disaster'. And then the Sunday Star Times newspaper on the morning of the service stated that the 'cyclone caused a horticultural apocalypse in the Hawke's Bay', Ezekiel's vision in real time!

The Lord asks Ezekiel if the dry bones can live again, and he correctly throws it back on the Lord! To Ezekiel the scale of the devastation looked beyond human intervention. Some in the storm ravaged regions of the North Island express similar human hopelessness. The same newspaper article reports that, 'Federated Farmer says some families will call it quits after generations of working the land. This Cyclone may prove to be the last straw for some farmers'.

A beautiful thing about Ezekiel's vision is the way the Lord uses human agency to speak and breathe the bones back to life. As I listen to the stories of our Christian communities reaching out to their neighbours in places like Hawke's Bay, Gisborne and Wairoa, I see the same thing happening – God inspired hope-filled human agency, or should I say 'angel-cy', at work helping to bring communities back to life.

In the Hawke's Bay, the Art Deco restoration of Napier following the devastating 1931 earthquake stands today as a beacon of hope, just as does the eventual return of the faithful remnant of the Jewish people to Jerusalem in 538BC!

And I have watched community resurrection and restoration here in my home of Ōtautahi Christchurch in the wake of the devastation of our earthquakes. First, it was the springing up of street art, then the rehousing of the displaced, and then rebuilding of the CBD ... increasing signs of hope and resurrection everywhere I look.

We Jesus people are Easter people. We are resurrection people, carrying with us a message of hope to the most devastated of our communities, cities, and circumstances.

*Image: Detail from painting 'The Resurrection of Christ' by Andrea Mantegna, c. 1492-1493*



To: Members of Presbyterian Women  
Aotearoa New Zealand  
20 March 2023

Would you please pass on this Notice for Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) of a General Meeting to be held on Saturday 22 April 2023 to members in your regular newsletters and communications in your region. At this General Meeting we will confirm the resolution made on 25 February 2023:

**\* That Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) be wound up.**

This second meeting is required to confirm the above decision, set the date and begin the necessary processes of winding up our organisation as per our Terms of Reference.

The General Meeting is to be held at St John's in the City Presbyterian Church, Wellington on Saturday 22 April 2023 from 10am to noon. Zoom facilities will be available.

This meeting is open to all Presbyterian women. However only financial members (as at 22 September 2022) of PWANZ are eligible to vote.

For further information, please contact:

Ruth Steven [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) or phone 022 0962 8811  
Mary Gibbs [mary@mrgibbs.co.nz](mailto:mary@mrgibbs.co.nz) or phone 04 383 8446 / 027 314 3188

"I recently came across the comments of an American pastor objecting to new trends in worship music:"

*"There are several reasons for opposing it. One, it's too new. Two, it's often worldly... The new Christian music is not as pleasant as the more established style. Because there are so many new songs you can't learn them all. It puts too much emphasis on instrumental music rather than godly lyrics. This new music creates disturbances making people act indecently and disorderly. The preceding generation got along without it. It's a money making scheme, and some of these new music upstarts are lewd and loose."*



If you can guess what year they are talking about please talk to The Rev Andrew.



# MOTHERS DAY

*Sunday, May 14th 2023*  
**Handprint butterfly**



Here are some easy crafts to make for your mum this mothers day.

1. You will need card in different colours, Scissors, glue and a pen for drawing around your hand to make the handprint butterfly.
2. You will need cardboard and some ripped up greeting paper, tissue paper, glue, ribbon & hole punch for the Bookmark.



Tear Art Bookmarks

## MOTHER.

Mother earth, with sun and rain,  
Gives us water, warmth and grain,  
Shows us beauty at our birth;  
Let's thank God for mother earth.

Mother church, within her fold  
Love and friends in Christ behold;  
Through the world where-e'er you search  
You can find the mother church.

Mothers Dear to everyone,  
Love us, feed us, make life fun,  
Always there in case we fall;  
Let's praise God for mothers, all.

**Anonymous**

### A Prayer for our Mothers

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you  
to thank the Lord above  
for blessing me with a lifetime  
of your tender hearted love.  
I thanked God for the caring  
you've shown me through the years,  
for the closeness we've enjoyed  
in time of laughter and of tears.

**Easter Goodies for St Mungo's Easter Day Service and also gift bags with eggs & a Simnel Cake for those who are unable to attend a church service.**

**Thanks to Kay Pringle.**



## Treasurers Report



By the time you receive your ACLAIM, the financial year will have finished. Your receipts for your annual giving will be completed and distributed soon. Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported our Parish both financially and in the giving of your time.

### February - March

Income  
**16331.86**

Expenses  
**18964.84**

Deficit  
**2632.98**

**While keeping spending as low as possible, running costs continue to rise, so we are reliant on your offerings, fundraising events and the hire of our facilities which have been slow to recover after Covid.**

Please consider claiming a rebate from I.R.D. for donations. An easy way of increasing your giving is to claim the Government rebate on your donations and donate it to the Church.

**N.B. Non-wage earners can apply for this rebate.**

**For help with your claim, please contact Don Melville, 448 9233 or Linda Armstrong, 9767528**

# Past & Upcoming Events



Over the past 6 weeks Rev Andrew Howley has led us on a journey through Lent using the material from Sanctified Art.

He has held these study groups at both St Mungo's and St Enoch's. The material is written and illustrated by a team of ministers and artists.  
**The opening prayer:** "God of the Way, give us willing hearts for the Lenten quest that lies ahead. Remind us that you honour our questions and can be trusted with our longings. Help us remember that you are seeking us, and we can rest in being found, even as we venture into the unknown. Guide our steps and bring clarity and love more fully into our hearts. May our way be the Jesus way, whatever steps we take. **AMEN.**"

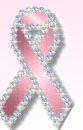
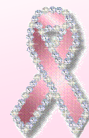
**This years Breast Cancer Pink Ribbon Scrumptious Luncheon will be held on Saturday 20th May St Enoch's lounge.**

**Cost :- \$20 per person.**

**Dress in your pink outfits.**

**Merchandise and Raffles.**

**Everyone welcome**



## REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

### Weekly

<b>House Group</b>	Starts 10am /18th April 2023	3A Mayfair Grove Alexandra
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### Monthly

<b>Afternoon Fellowship</b>	4th Thursday of the month 1.30pm <b>Contact: Various</b>	June Sinclair <b>448 8281</b>
<b>St Mungo's Fellowship</b>	3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm <b>Contact: Sheryll Hanning</b>	Various <b>021 173 0412</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	4th Wednesday of the month <b>Contact: Kathy Milligan</b>	St Enoch's 4.30pm <b>021 0261 5866</b>

**Please note:** Rev Andrew Howley has set up his office in St Enoch's vestry. He will be there

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9.30am - 12.30 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9.30am - 12.30 pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9.30am - 12.30 pm</b>

Rev Andrew Howley can be contacted on 448 8511 or 021 518 053  
*(please leave a message if phone unanswered)*



#### UCANZ under new direction.

The Reverend Andrew Doubleday was inducted as the new Ministry Facilitator of United Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand on 21st January 2023.

We have been lucky enough to have him visit us at St Mungo's and St Enoch's this year and talk to us about his new role as Ministry Facilitator for UCANZ. and deliver a thought provoking Sermon.

**EDITORS NOTE:** The next ACLaim will be June/July please have any articles to me by **Monday 22nd May 2023**. Written articles can be dropped off in my letter box at 38 Aronui Road or sent to me via email [ggordon@actrix.co.nz](mailto:ggordon@actrix.co.nz) ***Gay Gordon***. Thanks to Jackie Roy for helping me with proof reading the ACLaim.

#### Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

## Upcoming Worship Services 2023

April 9th	<b>Dawn Service 7am</b> Alexandra Lookout - Little Valley Road		
<b>Easter day</b>	Clyde	9.00am	
	Alexandra	10.30am	
<b>April 16th</b>	Clyde	9.00am	
<b>Easter 2</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	
<b>April 19th</b>	<b>Castlewood</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	
	<b>Ranui</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	
<b>April 23rd</b>	Clyde	9.00am	
<b>Easter 3</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	
<b>April 30th</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	<b>Combined Service</b>
<b>Easter 4</b>			
<b>May 7th</b>	Clyde	9.00am	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Easter 5</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	<b>Communion</b>
<b>May 14th</b>	Clyde	9.00am	
	Alexandra	10.30am	
<b>Easter 6</b>			
<b>May 17th</b>	<b>Castlewood</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	
	<b>Ranui</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	
<b>May 21st</b>	Clyde	9.00am	<b>Ascension Day</b>
<b>Easter 7</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	<b>Ascension Day</b>
<b>May 28th</b>	Clyde	9.00am	
<b>Pentecost</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	
<b>June 4th</b>	Clyde	9.00am	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Trinity</b>	Alexandra	10.30am	<b>Communion</b>

## Contact Us

**Minister:**  
Rev. Andrew Howley  
  
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021 518 053  
Email:  
[Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com)

**Parish Clerk:**  
Kathy Milligan  
  
Phone: 021 0261 5866

Email:  
[sheeba398@gmail.com](mailto:sheeba398@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.alexchurch.org.nz](http://www.alexchurch.org.nz)

Like us on FaceBook

[Facebook.com/alexchurch](https://www.facebook.com/alexchurch)

### Worship Times

#### Sunday:

Clyde: 9.00am

Alexandra: 10.30am

**If you require transportation to church please ask!**

Telephone Jennifer Bowie: 448 7369

Sue & Don Melville  
448 9233