

ACLAIM

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Alexandria, Clyde, Lauder
Union Parish

"We aim to be a reflection of God to the community"

GOD'S PLAN FOR US

As we draw nearer to spring we may be looking forward to digging in the garden or going out for a walk or sitting out in the sunshine, chatting with a friend or walking the dog. If we think about it there will be many more people in the world unable to do any of the above.



It is a fact of life that when you are young you run around outside not worrying at all about anything but the moment you are in. Planning does not have any meaning, Planning is what your parents do.



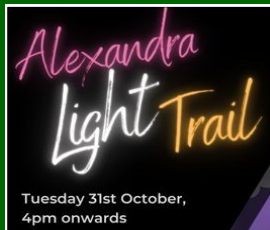
"We can all remember a time of childhood when a bird's nest or a seashell filled us with awe and delight. This is because young children are not very reflective: they don't live in their minds. Their senses are alive and alert to every experience." says Joy Cowley

Do you keep a diary? If you read my diary it would be a bit boring as I am down to making lists, writing about all the mundane things in my life like remembering to pay this and pay that on a certain day.

I also have a calendar that I write appointments and meetings I have to attend on a specific day. That is thought of as a bit old fashioned these days. Some things on my list are must do's. The calendar hangs in the kitchen so that I can look at it when I am preparing meals or cleaning. It also helps in my planning for the month.

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Erin Pendreigh
representing
Synod pg 4



In Jesus day there was no such luxury as a diary or a calendar. You had to remember everything and even though Jesus was a learned scholar he must have had an amazing memory for times, places and people. Jesus also prayed to his heavenly father when he needed help and he encouraged those who gathered around him to do the same.

Mathew 7: 7- 117 *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.9 "Which of you, if your children ask for bread, will give them a stone? 10 Or if they ask for a fish, will give them a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?"*

Joy Cowley says *"but prayers of the senses are not confined to church."*

"Haven't we all experienced something sacred in the taste of a freshly picked strawberry warm with the sun? A cold beer on a hot day, or hot soup on a cold night, can bring us to the same place."



We have so many distractions these days and it is hard to take time to have a real conversation with God. Being alone and over-thinking things; brings its own pressures. We need to take time to have a quiet time with no distractions. No TV, no Phone just listening to our own breath and inviting the spirit of God to fill us.

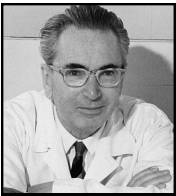
A morning prayer of gratitude can set us up for the day ahead. It is an exercise for our own wellbeing and for that of others who are finding life difficult.

A forgiveness prayer can also release a tension and as Jesus says we have to keep on forgiving again and again. You can't experience the goodness of God's forgiveness unless you also forgive others. We receive from God the generosity of his forgiveness – like breathing in. We are to pass that forgiveness on to others – like breathing out. In that process there is life and relationships are restored. It does not always happen straight away but it will happen.



"How many times, after I had sinned, you comforted me, as a good father, and you kissed me warmly as a son or a daughter, and you stretched out your arms to me and cried out: rise up, fear not, stand up, come! Amen."

Excerpt from a prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ, St John of Damascus, 7th-8th century.



Viktor Frankl, an Austrian psychiatrist, In his work, Viktor Frankl advocates for the use of the Socratic dialogue or "self-discovery discourse" to be used with clients to get in touch with their "Noetic" (or spiritual) unconscious. Human religiousness is a deeply individual decision, and aligns with the process of discovering meaning in even the most difficult of situations.

In comparing Protestant ministers and parishioners, Frankl contends that a mature involvement with a religious group increases the sense of purpose in life.[4] Wikipedia." Viktor Frankl was an Auschwitz survivor.

**God the creator births and nurtures you;
God the companion calls you by name and leads you out;
God the life-giver sustains you on life's journey
and will never abandon you.**

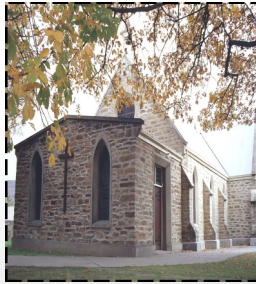
God has a plan for us all.

Gay Gordon—Editor

Our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of...

Ian Hicks Wilson - Service held - 21st July 2023
at St Enoch's Church, Alexandra

David John Roy Dittmer - Service Held 22nd July 2023
at St Enoch's Church Alexandra



Please note: Rev Andrew Howley has set up his office in the St Enoch's vestry. He will be there 9.30am—12.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday. He can be contacted on 448 8511 or 021 518 053 (please leave a message if phone unanswered)

A Prayer for Christian Fathers



Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience. Support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them,

as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. **AMEN** (author unknown)

Clyde Property Working Group Parish Update - August 2023

Currently the Clyde property working group are on standby while we allow the Clyde congregation time to refocus on where and how they do worship. That aside, a number of the working group are busy working behind the scenes sourcing relevant information/options for discussion at forthcoming parish meetings.



Our meeting with Rev Erin Pendreigh from Presbytery in early July was both helpful and informative - a brief overview follows:

Erin explained how the landscape for Otago/Southland Presbyterian Churches has changed post Covid. Many churches have experienced a downturn in attendance with a good number needing to close or downsize their operations. Many are also finding themselves without ministers or not being able to afford or source paid ministry.

The availability of funding from Synod has also changed post Covid and if applying for funding it may be necessary to wait due to demand and availability of funds. She also clarified that a congregation the size of Clyde would not receive funding from Synod for a building project on a stand alone basis. Consequently, this narrows our options significantly, leaving us needing to either sell and invest the funds or seek a business partner to develop the site.

Erin also emphasised the importance of both the Clyde congregation and the larger parish having a clear understanding of their "purpose and vision" both for the immediate future and at least the medium term.

She also spoke about the importance of church property and church mission going hand in hand; however emphasised church purpose and mission should always take priority over church property. Church can function without a building!

As a consequence Andrew has met with the congregation and I understand that meeting produced some creative ideas and fresh thinking.

We plan to hold another Clyde/parish meeting in the near future providing the wider parish the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas regarding the St Mungo's property/site.

Obviously, this process needs to be managed with wisdom and realism as we consolidate our parish operation given declining numbers and limited funds.

Ultimately, whether we sell the site and invest the funds or find a suitable partner to redevelop the site, the end goal is to generate revenue in order to prolong the sustainability of the parish.

We will keep you informed regarding parish meetings etc as matters develop.

Blessings and keep warm!

Peter Griffioen **Clyde Property Working Group**



Fathers Day



The bond between a father and his kids is a special one. as he helps them reach quintessential life milestones like learning to ride a bike, throw a ball, and catch a fish—but he can show an abundance of strength and wisdom that is constantly poured into the family. That's why we need to celebrate Father's Day so we can celebrate him.

Because at the end of the day, no matter your age, you'll always reach out to your father (or father figure) for much needed support and guidance. Whether it's about your career or your car, you know he'll have an answer.

Here are some quotes about fathers from a number of famous people/ personalities.

Barack Obama "Someone once said that every man is trying to live up to his father's expectations or make up for their father's mistakes."

Margaret Truman "It's only when you grow up and step back from him — or leave him for your own home — it's only then that you can measure his greatness and fully appreciate it."

Nelson Mandela "To be the father of a nation is a great honour, but to be the father of a family is a greater joy."

C.S. Lewis An almost perfect relationship with his father was the earthly root of all his wisdom.

Charles Wadsworth By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong.

Dads' Brains React Differently to Sons and Daughters By [Cari Nierenberg](#) published 27/05/2017

Dads with [toddler-age daughters](#) interact differently with their kids than fathers with toddler-age sons, a new study suggests.

Researchers found that [fathers with daughters](#) use different language and show different levels of attentiveness to their daughters' needs, compared to fathers with sons. In addition, their brains' responses to their tots' pictures differed from those of dads with sons, according to the findings, which were published May 22 in the journal Behavioural Neuroscience.

The findings indicate that [gender-based differences](#) in fathers' behaviours appear to show up while children are very young, said lead study author Jennifer Mascaro, an assistant professor of family and preventive medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. The fathers in the study had kids between ages 1 and 3.

Previous research has shown that when parents complete questionnaires, they rarely report treating their sons and daughters differently. And psychology studies that observe how a parent and child interact in a laboratory setting may not always be representative of typical care giving behaviour.

HOW TO MAKE A FATHERS DAY GREETING CARD

You will need some coloured cardboard or you could recycle a cereal packet to make this concertina card.

1. Trace around your own hand and then cut it out like it is in the picture.
2. Cut a strip of card or paper to write your message on,
3. Write your message on the strip of paper.
4. FOLD THE LONG STRIP SO THAT IT BECOMES LIKE A FAN.
5. Write a message on one side of your hand shape. **I LOVE YOU DAD**
6. Glue or tape the strip to the middle of each hand shape.



Past & Upcoming Events



SOUP & BUNS / SWEET TREATS

Thanks to the Social Action Team of Sue, Glenis & Linda and to all those who supplied a variety of Soups & sweet treats. It was a time of fellowship and Friendship and a warm place to gather during the cold & foggy winter.

Alexandra Light Trail

An interactive light trail around Alexandra with fun activities like Bouncy Castles, Obstacle Courses, Treats and Hot Food

Tuesday 31st October,
4pm onwards

Aimed at children aged 5-12 and their families.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CHURCHES OF ALEXANDRA

We are all about celebrating the light and this free family event will ensure a fun, safe place for your whanau. Take out the awkwardness of door knocking for lollies, our doors are open at six venues around alexandra and your kids will come away with lollies and much more! We love dress-ups, but no scary costumes please. For more details, visit our facebook page: facebook.com/alexchristianevents

Volunteers Needed
Speak with Chris or
phone Her on :021 449 296

REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Weekly

House Study Group	Tuesdays 10am—11.00am	3A Mayfair Grove Alexandra
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Monthly

Afternoon Fellowship	4th Thursday of the month 1.30pm Contact: Various	June Sinclair 448 8281
St Mungo's Fellowship	3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm Contact: Sheryll Hanning	Various 449 2703
Parish Council	4th Wednesday of the month Contact: Kathy Milligan	St Enoch's 3pm 021 0261 5866

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

This will be held in the St ENOCH'S Church in September date to be confirmed.

Could you PLEASE send any reports to Kathy sheeba398@gmail.com
As soon as possible.

Prayer for Hope and Strength (for those in despair or in great need)

Almighty God, You reach into the darkness with hope, truth and light. Stretch out your strong hand in this situation, hold and rescue those who have suffered. Let your almighty love move mountains, cross seas and breathe life into the darkest places. Light that redeems. Light that restores. Light that heals. Light that protects. Light that saves. There is nothing higher, stronger or greater than your love. We trust in you. AMEN

Read more at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/prayers_before/prayers_for_hope.html

EDITORS NOTE: The next ACLaim will be Oct/Nov please have any articles to me by **Monday 18th September 2023**. Phone 448 8486 *Gay Gordon*.

Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

Upcoming Worship Services 2022

Aug 20th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 12	Alexandra	10.30am	
Aug 27th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 13	Alexandra	10.30am	
Sept 3rd	Clyde	9.00am	Communion
Pentecost 14	Fathers Day	10.30am	Communion
Sept 10th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 15	Alexandra	10.30am	
Sept 17th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 16	Alexandra	10.30am	
Sept 20th	<i>Castlewood</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	
	<i>Ranui</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	
Sept 24th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 17	Alexandra	10.30am	
Oct 1st	Clyde	9.00am	Communion
Pentecost 18	Alexandra	10.30am	Communion
Oct 8th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 19	Alexandra	10.30am	
Oct 15th	Clyde	9.00am	
Pentecost 20	Alexandra	10.30am	
Oct 18th	<i>Castlewood</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	
	<i>Ranui</i>	<i>11.00am</i>	

Contact Us

Minister:
Rev. Andrew Howley

Phone: 03 448 8511
021 518 053

Email:
Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com

Andrew is generally available in The Alexandra Community House Tuesday & Wednesday mornings. Other times by appointment.

Parish Clerk:
Kathy Milligan

Phone: 021 0261 5866

Email:
sheeba398@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
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**
or Don & Sue Melville **448 9233**

