



CENTRAL ROUNDUP

26 April
2023

Small harvests



As the end of the main harvest season is marked by the first frost on Anzac Day, we have been harvesting rock melons, feijoas and the last of the oranges. The three grand-daughters each have a favourite and happily pick their preferred fruit. I'm enjoying the fresh fruit salad while it lasts.

Research has shown that a church with only one 'flavour' has limited appeal beyond those who are already participants. A diverse ministry provides opportunities for people to engage in a 'flavour' that suits them. The recent decision to close Presbyterian Women recognised that the old structure no longer served a purpose—but there is an ongoing need to support ministry with women (and men) across the country.

If Sunday worship is the small group ministry then perhaps we need to ask how that fits into a bigger garden of the church. Are there better ways that we can structure our smaller congregations so that they maintain their autonomy but are also administered by a larger group. Research has shown that mergers are not effective tools but a shared administration can release energy for other missional activities—especially when our regulations require a minister to be present at meetings.

Pray that our churches may produce a variety of fruits that will appeal to a variety of people across our communities. Pray for courage in our leadership to see the opportunities before us and to see potential change as a new hope.



Peter MacKenzie

Executive Secretary

Presbytery Notes

Rev Alison Slater (Anglican minister) will be inducted to Brooklands' Cooperating Church in New Plymouth on 27 April 2023 at 7pm. She will be serving part-time in this role.

Rev Mike Coutts of Waipukurau has resigned from the parish and will be moving with his family to the United States in early May. We celebrate Mike's ministry in central Hawkes Bay and pray for his future.

Westmere Memorial Church in Whanganui celebrated the opening of the atrium and completion of their building project on Sunday 23 April (photo and story on page 2). This was a project over many years and is celebrated by a diverse and growing congregation.

Church Property folk from across the nation gathered in Wellington on Friday 21 April (Simon Shaw and Peter MacKenzie attended from Central). The challenges of our property portfolio were noted—but there is no intention to force any sales. The next steps for Earthquake compliance are being considered and the need for new models is apparent. It was noted that insurance costs are expected to rise sharply and a new approach is being considered—but not for a year or so.

A presbytery vote for a nomination as **Moderator Designate** will be sent out this week to voting members of presbytery—please respond in timely fashion.



Leaders Get Together

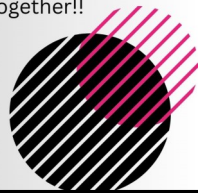
with Matt Chamberlin
from PYM

Tuesday 9th May, 6-8.30pm

St John's in the City, corner of Willis Street and Dixon Street
Central City

We will supply pizza and salad so let me know your numbers and dietary requirements so that I can organise Kai! Make sure you let your whole team of leaders know about this get together!!

nga.r@presbyterycentral.org.nz



A Grand Opening



The Westmere Memorial Church in Whanganui has undergone a significant transformation in the past 12 years, including the addition of a bell tower and a stunning memorial window. The Church also upgraded its hall and lounge, and then embarked on a project to build an atrium linking the Memorial Church and the hall. The atrium was completed in 2022 after overcoming hurdles including Covid-19, weather, and rising costs.

The atrium is a striking feature in the new facility. The large glass frontage of the atrium provides a great vista of the farmland opposite complete with sheep, and barley fields. The brick columns are also a lovely feature of the atrium. One of the columns contains a time capsule, but the bricks speak to the Spirit of the congregation. The bricks were collected from generous donors in the community, and the congregation young and old cleaned them up and stacked them for use. The bricks aren't perfect, they've been knocked about, but they've been built together as one to form a striking feature in the new facility.

To celebrate the completion of the facility, the Church held two events, including a night of music, singing, and a photo presentation, and an official opening service.

This last Sunday, the congregation gathered in the carpark out front of the atrium doors. The service began with a welcome prayer and the cutting of a ribbon across the steps of the atrium. After that, the congregation went into the Church to continue the service, with each person receiving an order of service as they entered through the atrium doors. A light lunch was served following the service. Later in the afternoon, the whole complex was open to the public for viewing from 2pm to 4pm.

The completion of the facility has been a huge undertaking, but the Westmere congregation has shown patience, generosity, support, and faith throughout the entire process.

Worship at Oban Presbyterian Church, Stewart Island

There is an urgent need for people to provide a service of worship at Oban, in the near future. The Sundays that need to be filled on the roster are:

May 14

June 11

July 16

September 10



and from October three weekly.

New arrangements for the service will be emailed to any inquiries.

Two nights free accommodation in the manse is provided. Make your own travel arrangements and pay for your own Workers Concession rate tickets for the ferry or plane.

Contact Rev. Heather Kennedy, Interim Moderator

Ph: 03 218 1952 or 027 436 4554

rev.heather.kennedy@gmail.com