

**Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa
New Zealand
ST NINIAN'S PARISH NEWS
July 2026**



This magazine was delivered by

Phone number

PENTECOST

Moderator's message 2026

I sit and remember. In the middle of the night, I remember. I remember when I go for a walk.

The journey of learning and submitting to the Holy Spirit is never static or confined to theological or academic terms. When I recently asked a group of primary school children who the Holy Spirit is, one of the boys answered immediately: "The petrol that makes the Church go". A good start, I thought, from one so young, but knowing there will be some Trinitarian adjustments along the way. St Patrick described the Spirit as the "heat and power" accompanying the light of the Son.

Pentecost. When I was growing up, our Church didn't observe Pentecost Sunday. It was considered too inconvenient to break into the current preaching series. In my early 20s, I followed the crowd and attended a local Pentecostal Church, where attempts were made to replicate at least some of the Acts 2 Pentecost event. In one service, the pastor had a great idea, kind of like a new revelation, that the mark of a true Christian was speaking in tongues. Within moments, we were lined up at the front as dear pastor came down the row, one by one, doing his magic, and my contemporaries were slain in the Spirit.

I wasn't. The pastor returned to try again, and after the third attempt, with me still standing, I was told in no uncertain terms that I had a rebellious spirit, wasn't a Christian, and not to come again. I didn't even stay for the end of the service. It took me a long time to recover emotionally with all the mixed feelings of being rejected by God.

Eventually, I returned to a Presbyterian Church to find healing from the spiritual abuse I had received

The teaching and example in that Church was that some people may be blessed with a Pentecost experience with all the bells and whistles, but for most, the Holy Spirit comes gently with the laying of hands and prayer to begin the journey of transformation into the likeness of Christ.

I am still on that journey. I have glimpsed its end in the physical sense, and all is well with my soul, because the Holy Spirit is my Comforter.

Here is what I have learned. The Holy Spirit is the tangible, present third person of the Trinity, one we can speak to and receive from. Sometimes I'm concerned in church services, on Pentecost and other days, when the liturgy in its rhythm recites, "Come, Holy Spirit, come," and then carries on with the rhythm without a pause or second thought. The Holy Spirit has come. The Spirit is here and is the heat and power accompanying the light of the Son. At times, I sense a "fuel shortage" to use my young friend's analogy, and there is a sorrow in my heart. A form of religion is played out, rather than the Holy Spirit worshipped and acknowledged. Jesus makes a telling comment in his conversation with the Samaritan women when they are discussing what form of worship is correct, Samaritan or Jewish. "But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24)

Watch out. The Holy Spirit has come.

Rt Rev Peter Dunn

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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What's been happening: **Redevelopment Project Update**

The PSUSI new building was due to open at the end of April or early May. Landscaping has been completed and it is looking great on the section.



There has been a hold up with Church Property Trustees in Wellington in the settlement process, and waiting for the City Council to finalise the subdivision consent. The contractors have agreed to complete our carpark and we will pay for it once the subdivision process has been finalised and our payment comes through.



The concrete paths have been completed, and the carpark has been sealed and markings painted- as pictured on page 4!



We have not looked at the cost of the new building for some time, and we will need to get a new estimate of the costs. Concern was expressed that if we do this too soon we will need to repeat it nearer the time when we are ready to proceed with the building.

We will also need to get an updated valuation on the tennis court as the value that we can realize from the sale of this land will be a major contributing factor on what we can afford. The Valuation of this section has to be within 6 months of us selling for Church Property Services.





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The new carpark has now been finished and is fit for parking on- as demonstrated here!



Organ Restoration Fund:

The Organ Restoration Fund stands at \$3,400. The target is \$22,000 for a partial restoration or \$30,000 for a full restoration. The subject of restoring the organ will be discussed at the Parish Council Meeting in July.

Music:

Recently at two Worship services we trialled using the recorded hymn music. We struck a minor problem the first time but were successful the next time. Thanks again to Lois and Kelvin for their mammoth task.

Easter Services:

These were well attended. Thanks to Rev Dr Barbara Peddie and Rev Chris Elliot for leading the worship. It was pleasing to have a small group of St Teresa's people join us on Good Friday. This has been a regular happening for many years dating back to when St Teresa's did not hold a service on Good Friday.

Organ Recital:

A group of parishioners recently attended an enjoyable fundraising organ concert at All Saints church in Merivale. Martin Setchell was the organist. The proceeds went to the Methodist Mission for equipment in their aged persons facility.

Centenary of Church Building- September 2026

Recent investigation showed that the first service of worship in the St Ninian's church building was held in March 1927. We think this may have been Easter. The Standing Committee is suggesting that we celebrate the centenary of our church building in March 2027 with a Saturday afternoon concert and afternoon tea. An admission fee could go to the Organ Fund. We would hold a Worship Service on the Sunday. We will send out the invitations to people who attended the previous celebration.

We welcome suggestions for this celebration!

Property and Finance:

The state of the carpet in the lounges is disappointing. Emails have been sent to several users. We will have the carpets cleaned once again

The heat pumps in the lounges have been serviced; they are still slow to heat up.

Zoom:

It was agreed that we will discontinue the use of Zoom at the end of April 2026, but that the Order of Service will still be sent out every week.

Office update:

We have purchased a cell phone for the office. Callers can leave a message and it will be cleared when Meredith is in the office.

There is a suggestion to callers that they email the office for an urgent response. The number is 0226185212

New Hope's Mission Trip Fundraiser:

New Hope held a fundraiser on June 21st that was well supported by the St Ninian's Congregation

New Hope will be going on a mission trip to Thailand from 28 November to 4 December 2026 to support the ministry at Muang Phimai Church in Korat (Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand. This will be their first mission trip in over 20 years, and they feel called to support Gospel ministry in the region. Their goal was to raise \$3,000.



The church and mission centre in Thailand are currently facing several financial challenges. During heavy rain, water leaks through the church roof, causing damage to the worship hall ceiling and creating an urgent need for repairs. It is also under pressure from ongoing rental costs.

In addition, New Hope are supporting local children from financially difficult backgrounds and are hoping to sponsor 10 students with school supplies and tuition assistance so they can continue their education.

Thank you.

Pastor Daniel and Peter





Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu
National Volunteer Week

TŌU TAU KI TE TŪAO
Your Year to Volunteer

#NVW2026 | 14-20 June 2026

The 14th-20th of June marked national volunteer week.

National Volunteer Week (NVW) honours the collective energies and efforts of volunteers across Aotearoa New Zealand.

To every single person who keeps St Ninian's running- everything from being on a roster to mowing lawns or by bringing baking, thank you. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and acknowledged!

Correspondence:

We received a card from PSUSI.

"Dear Pam and all the kind Parishioners
Your consistent generosity is a foundation we rely on.
Because of you, lives are changing.
Thank you for being a force for good.
With deepest appreciation for your generous donation by all
the gift of hygiene products and more you share, bless you all.
-Rae and all at Presbyterian Support."



Congratulations

Were sent to Bonnie Cague who recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Bonnie now lives in Auckland in the Bert Sutcliffe Retirement Village. Her sister, Ailsa and family celebrated with Bonnie.



Organ Fund:

Please remember our Organ.

Our beloved organ needs a significant refurbishment. To celebrate the centenary of the church building we are seeking donations to finance this work. Please send your donation to St Ninian's, mentioning Organ in the code part of the payment and help us to complete this work. We are very grateful for all donations that have been received.

To contribute to the organ maintenance fund please use the following information:

St Ninian's Presbyterian Church 03-0855-0371202-01

-Kelvin Chapman



Deaths

We are deeply shocked to hear of the sudden death of Susan Thorpe, who died on Wednesday night 1st July. Our love and sympathy to Susan's husband Hugh and their families.

It is with sadness that we also acknowledge the death of Betty Deyell who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

St Ninians was a special place for Betty who was loved by all who knew her.

We met some forty years ago when I joined the Suva St group, I have memories of happy evenings when we met in her home in Glenburn Place.

Betty was also a member of A P W, later to become The Gathering.

Betty had been a physiotherapist. She was fiercely independent; recovering from a stroke and no longer able to drive, with son Andrew's assistance, she purchased a mobility scooter which enabled her to go to Avonhead Mall .

Time came for her to move and without too much fuss she transferred to Ilam Avida where she spent many happy years. She was a treasure to visit, always interested in St Ninians. Timing was critical, her days were filled with exercise classes & activities . Betty was an avid reader.

During Covid lockdown days, her studio unit facing Ilam Rd was in an ideal position for her family to chat to her from the footpath.

Betty's family had a special place in her life. Outings with Andrew occurred regularly and occasionally to a service at St Ninians. Andrew and Rob Ferguson became close friends. Attending last year's Sing A Long gave Betty such a thrill.

-Written by Jean Fryer.

Petersgate Counselling Centre

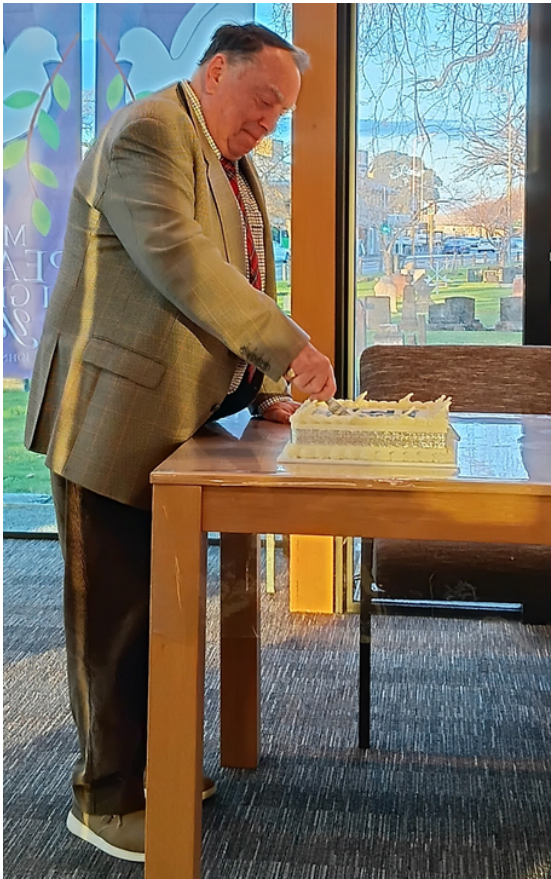
On Monday, 29th June, Pam and Lance McKeachie attended the 30th AGM of Petersgate Counselling Centre. The patron of the centre, Honorable Dr Megan Woods, greeted those present, congratulated the Centre on its achievements, and wished it well for the next 30 years.



The chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Dr Corin Murfitt, welcomed everyone: Friends of Petersgate, representatives of supportive churches, volunteers, counsellors and staff of the Centre. The new Clinical Manager, Yvonne Chow was introduced and spoke.

A stunning birthday cake was ceremonially cut and people then had a hot drink and a piece of cake.

The Annual General Meeting then convened and went through the usual business agenda with reports from the Chairperson, Clinical Manager, Business Manager, and Treasurer. Petersgate is in a strong financial position to continue in its work.



The guest speaker was Dr Mike Baker, who until the end of 2025, had been the Clinical Manager at Petersgate. His address was informative and entertaining.

St Ninians has been one of the local churches that has financially supported Petersgate since its inception, as part of our outreach program. Many of our members belong to the Friends of Petersgate and make personal donations. Kip Powell was our representative on the Board of Trustees for several years but we have not had anyone on the board for many years. If this is something you would be interested in doing please contact Pam McKeachie.

For more information about Petersgate and its counselling services visit its website www.petersgate.org.nz or phone 03 343 3391

Got an article or image you'd like to see in the next magazine?
Get in touch with the office.



Interim Moderator: Rev Stephanie Wells

Parish Clerk: Pam McKeachie

Organists: Glenys Graham
Lois Dalton

Office Staff: Meredith Wilson

Office hours: Thursdays 9am-12pm,
Fridays: 8:30am – 12.30pm

Email: stninians05@gmail.com

Parish Office Cellphone: 0226185212 -*Text outside of office hours*

Website: www.stninians.godzone.net.nz

St Ninian's Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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**St Ninian's is a Christian community focused on justice,
compassion and inclusiveness, and the exploration of a
spirituality relevant to the contemporary world.**