



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

### Giving Thanks – from The Editor

In God's world there is wonderful diversity. The world is made up of people from north, south, east and west. In God's family **all are to be loved and accepted**. The earth is the Lord's and everything in it and above and below, and all things that live within it. We live in God's world, we are not alone. We share this life with the heavens and the earth, with the waters and the land, with trees and grasses, with fish, birds, and animals, with creatures of every form, and with all our brothers and sisters. Together we form strands in the weaving of creation woven and held together by God our creator. Together with all creation we join in praising God.



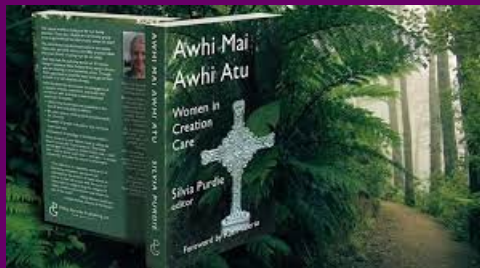
Creation continues and with it everything becomes new again. I am reading a book at the moment written by Ewing Stevens. He has written an astounding life story and has managed to put **a new and loyal spirit** into his life which has had many challenges at times and as a consequence he has had to reinvent himself again and again. Ewing has given me permission to share some of his life story with you.



Ewing was born in Southland with a great grandfather who had been a pioneer Presbyterian minister. As a young boy he realised that his childhood spiritual beliefs were set by the place that he was born into. He states that if he had been born of Indian parents his beliefs could have been shaped by a belief system of Hindu or Muslim religion or even Sikh, Buddhist or Jain.

### In This Issue

- Life's Blessings/Editor
- In memoriam
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- Past & Upcoming events
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**The book**  
Stories of 30 women living in Aotearoa New Zealand from many cultures, who are leading environmental action  
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Ewing attended Sunday school along with his brother and he recalls one day they did not go to Sunday school that day but at midday they had a visit from the Sunday school superintendant, who had come to visit; to wish them well because she understood that they were very sick. He says; that was the beginning of knowing what guilt felt like. He cannot remember either of his parents attending church.



In the 1940's Tuberculosis was ravaging the lives of many people. His Doctor at the time said he had pneumonia, at the end of the Rugby season and so he was unable to play. Ewing was being pro active when he asked his Doctor if he might have contracted Tuberculosis!

When Ewing left school he had a pharmacy apprenticeship in Pollok's, the Chemist in Tay Street Invercargill. He developed an excessive cough and had lost a lot of weight and when he was getting ready, before playing in a tennis tournament, he had a haemorrhage. He was rushed to Kew hospital and that was a 6 year adjournment to his normal life.



It was at this time of total bed-rest that his faith meant very much to him. He was convinced that God would be working with him.

After 9 months in Kew hospital he was transferred to Waipiata Sanatorium in Central Otago. This place was reserved for those believed to have some chance of recovery. He was advised that he could only be accepted if he could bring someone who could work in the hospital because of a shortage of staff. His cousin Mervyn volunteered and Ewing has been forever grateful to him for that. Ewing was on complete bed-rest & partaking of a surgical technique known as pneumothorax, which collapsed the infected lung allowing it to rest! After a time recovery seemed within his grasp and he trained as a part time nurse aid at The Waipiata Sanatorium and it allowed him to institute a religious study group as well. It was, he said an exciting time for their walk in faith.



Despite all the hopes and prayers; he had developed fresh infections in both lungs & went back to complete bed rest. This was before the discovery of Streptomycin which could attack the tuberculosis bacillus.



Ewing related the following story about The Medical Superintendent Dr Kidd & his assistant Dr Anderson. (And we can read in **Acts 19:11-12** about the disciples blessing handkerchiefs; and the recipients covering their heads and then being healed.) Doctor Kidd knew that Ewing and the patient in the next bed to him were interested in spiritual

healing so he delivered them some Pisgah Newspapers that he had received from the United States.

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Ewing, and the patient beside him, who was also a Christian convert decided that they too would cover themselves in the newspapers after praying over them. They lay on the bed with the Pigsaw Newspapers underneath them, covering their heads & upper torso's, (prior to receiving the streptomycin) And wallah The X-rays they both received were greeted with good news delivered by Dr Anderson.



"I have looked at your X-rays and the healing is quite outstanding."  
You can start getting up and you will be able to be discharged shortly."

Ewing thought, from a Christian point of view, was that what had healed them both? Was it due to the streptomycin injections or to the Pigsaw Papers? But however it had happened, he said, "I was healed and have remained so for the ensuing sixty years!" He was so filled with gratitude that he went on to study theology at Otago University becoming a Presbyterian minister, then talk back host, author and has retired from his radio talk a number of years ago. He now resides in Alexandra.



**The act of giving thanks** — of being profoundly grateful for life's blessings — isn't just about tradition: Science says it's good for us too.

The ability to experience gratitude and remain connected as we age can lead to a more positive sense... of well-being.

Getty says "What is most surprising to me is that, in some respects, I feel more fulfilled, more my true self than I've ever felt in my life," my mother says. "I understand myself and others in ways I would not have been able to when I was younger."

*As Bette Davis famously quipped, "Old age ain't no place for sissies."*

(This is a reflection given at Ranui & Castlewood rest homes)



**Please note: Rev Andrew Howley**

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

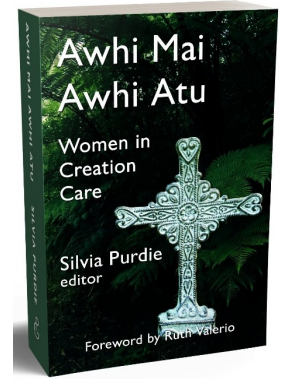
**Our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of...  
Runa Wilson Service held 20th July 2022 at St Enoch's**



**Our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of...  
Molly Miles - Memorial Service to be held at St Mungo's church in Clyde on Saturday 17th of September 2022 at 2pm**

## ECO-INSPIRATION

Silvia Purdie has a passionate faith and a gift for bringing to light inspiring people of faith. Eco Church is her focus, in particular, how churches can turn mission statements about caring for creation into regular and effective practice. She has found that people's stories are the best way to communicate this kaupapa, this mission, to put the eco-theology of our faith into action. Yes, Christian faith is ecological at heart. The Bible is steeped in eco-theology: once we strip away the layers of narrowed interpretation inherited from Europe and Christendom, what we see is God's story with land together with people. Atua, whenua, tangata.



Silvia envisaged creating a resource for faith communities by compiling a collection of stories of people working on eco-projects. Her decision to focus on women's stories was to narrow the field but even so she found herself connecting with more and more material than a slim volume could contain. What we have is a substantial, and still affordable, volume (thanks to Philip Garside Publications) containing material to inspire and encourage all kinds of people who have a heart for God's future for all creation.

My connection with the book is as contributor and proof-reader. The latter meant I got an early taste of the delights of the lives and activities of truly amazing people. I read and re-read the stories and found myself thinking how insignificant my contribution through rural ministry has been. But I also felt great encouragement, pride even, in being counted among them. Which points to the fact that it is not about comparing ourselves with others but doing our bit in our own place with our own life experience.

The title of my chapter was "I relate therefore I am". Silvia used a set of questions for her interviews, and for those of us who wrote our own chapters, to draw out the personal as well as the practical, faith and values feeding action. We started with personal history and ended with thankfulness, and in between told of passion and pursuits in creation care. Awhi means to care or embrace: "Awhi Mai Awhi Atu" is being embraced and embracing, receiving and giving – what I grew up with as the Jesus ethic. This thread wove its way through my ministry with rural communities and it keeps hope alive for the future, even when things feel overwhelmingly negative.

This is a resource for churches like ours. With stories to encourage and – a distinctive feature of this publication – action points with every chapter, I'm imagining groups of us, men and women together, meeting and chapter by chapter chewing the Eco Church fat. Chewing the fat and finding practical ways to live the care and concern for our world that is basic to our faith.

**Robyn McPhail**

## FATHERS DAY

Thank you for the laughter,  
 For the good times that we share,  
 Thanks for always listening,  
 For trying to be fair.  
 Thank you for your comfort,  
 When things are going bad,  
 Thank you for the shoulder,  
 To cry on when I'm sad.  
 This poem's a reminder that  
 All my life through,  
 I'll be thanking heaven  
 For a special dad like you.

Anonymous



**Psalm 103:13:** "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him."  
**Proverbs 22:6:** "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."  
**2 Samuel 7:14-15:** "I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me."



# Past & Upcoming Events

## SOUP & BUNS / SWEET TREATS



Thanks to the Social Action Team of Ruth, Sue & Glenis and to all those who supplied a variety of Soups & sweet treats.

It was only for a few weeks but it was a time of fellowship and Friendship and a warm place to gather during the cold winter.

## AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting will be on the 25th August. After a few months off there will be plenty to talk about.

Look in the Parish News to find out when and where it will be held.



## Women's Fellowship



Saturday

29th October 2022

Venue and time to be confirmed.

Follow progress on FaceBook

<https://ne-np.facebook.com/alexandralightparty>

## Mini Fair



stall .....

**To be held on**  
**Saturday 8th October 2022 9.30am start.**  
 We are looking for Convenors for the following stalls.  
 Baking, Books, Cheese Rolls, Plants, Produce & a Children's

## PARISH MINI FAIR UPDATE: -Things to remember for the fair.

- ▶ Keep potting up plants so they root well. Can some folk please propagate some succulents and have them potted up for the fair? We can arrange transport of these should this pose a problem for our growers.
- ▶ Church and Lounge will be open from 10am - 6pm on Friday 7th October for drop off.
- ▶ People needed to set up tables etc., on the day of the Fair at 8am please.

Leave your name on list in Church foyers if you can help as a convener or help on the Fair day . Contact Kay Pringle 448 5001

## Special PCANZ Assembly 2022 .....



supported the proposal that the **PCANZ** (Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand) becoming a denominational partner of Eco Church New Zealand and that individual presbyteries and parishes be encouraged to join Eco Church.

Eco Church New Zealand includes churches across Aotearoa New Zealand actively caring for God's earth as an integral part of their Mission.

**ECO CHURCH** have several upcoming events available online and Zoom, click on the link <https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/events> for more information and to register for events.

## REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

### Weekly

<b>House Study Group</b>	Tuesdays 10am—11.00am Excluding the first Tuesday of each month. All Welcome	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>449 2703</b>
<b>Parish Council</b>	3rd Wednesday of the month <b>Contact: Kathy Milligan</b>	St Enoch's 4.30pm <b>021 0261 5866</b>



Alexandria, Clyde, Lauder  
Union Parish

## PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

This will be held in the **St MUNGO'S Church** after the Service on **Sunday September the 4th 2022** following the service.

**Nomination forms** to elect Parish Councillors will be available both at Clyde and Alexandra worship places within the next few weeks.



### A PRAYER FOR CREATION

Loving God, Lord of heaven and earth, this earth, our home belongs to you. Give us grace to love it as you do. Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do, for the good of all people and all of your creation. Strengthen us

to stand, as you do, with the vulnerable poor. **AMEN** [google.com](http://google.com)

**EDITORS NOTE:** The next ACLaim will be Oct/Nov please have any articles to me by **Monday 19th September 2020**. sent to me via email [ggordon@actrix.co.nz](mailto:ggordon@actrix.co.nz) or Phone 448 8486 **Gay Gordon**. Thanks to Jackie Roy for helping me with proof reading the ACLaim.

### Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

## Upcoming Worship Services 2022

<b>Aug 14th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 10</b>	Alexandra	10.30am
<b>Aug 21st</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 11</b>	Alexandra	10.30am
<b>Aug 28th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 12</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

**Sept 4th** Clyde 9.00am **Communion**  
**Pentecost 13** **Fathers Day**  **AGM After Service**

<b>Sept 11th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 14</b>	Alexandra	10.30am
<b>Sept 18th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 15</b>	Alexandra	10.30am
<b>Sept 25th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 16</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

**Oct 2nd** Clyde 9.00am **Communion**  
**Pentecost 17** Alexandra 10.30am **Communion**

<b>Oct 9th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 18</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

<b>Oct 16th</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 19</b>	Alexandra	10.30am

<b>Oct 23rd</b>	Clyde	9.00am
<b>Pentecost 20</b>	Alexandra	10.30am



If you require transportation to church please ask! Telephone Jennifer Bowie: 448 7369 or Don & Sue Melville 448 9233

## Contact Us

**Minister:**  
Rev. Andrew Howley

**Phone:** 03 448 8511  
021 518 053

**Email:**  
[Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com](mailto: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](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