

# ACLAIM

# ACCLAIM



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 2022



### A resurrection Mindset

As we look toward Easter it reminds us of how fragile life is. Our world seems to be full of sadness, fear and lack of hope in these times of advancement in technology. We are fearful of what might happen next. Most people throughout the world know, through social media, what is happening in other countries almost as soon as it occurs.

It is also a time of turmoil for the planet earth with global warming, weather at the extreme end of the scale, and the war that has terrorised the people of Ukraine.

Many families in New Zealand have loved ones in other countries, whom they have not seen in person for some time. The expectation for reunions is slowly being realised and commercial enterprises are holding onto hope that this will rescue their businesses.

How can we cope as Christians? Praying to God is something that is from you and you alone. Even in a group the act of praying can only come from each individual; being present in the moment. There are many times in the bible that illustrate this. It is a personal journey with God.

Jesus showed his love of his heavenly father through prayer.

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8th May 2022



Jesus knew that the sequence of the events leading up to his ultimate sacrifice would be overwhelming for his human body. He had been sharing, with his disciples, the sequence of events that would unfold over his last few days on earth. All that had been predicted in the Old Testament would come true.

At the **Last Supper** in the Upper Room Jesus said. (Luke 22: 15-16) *"I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."*

As a mother, **MARY** must have been full of deep sadness and grief when her son Jesus was arrested, charged, beaten and crucified. She must have felt overwhelmed and bereft. There are many paintings of Mary and her companions at the grave site of Jesus and finding the tomb empty, apart from the burial clothes. Had someone taken him away before they could prepare him? Maybe it was a robber, after some treasure? Then there was the Angel saying, "He is not here, he has risen!"



Jesus does reappear to his followers on the way to Emmaus. They do not recognise him but he says. "Peace be with you." That is something that we share during our services in our Parish.

*"The resurrection story can enter into our own lives if we live with a "Resurrection mindset", says the Rev Ray Coster in his Study entitled "Reviving the Flame written for The Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand General Assembly 2012. There can be 3 resurrection mindsets.*

1. A pre-cross mind-set – unaware or unsure of what the work of Jesus has done for us.
2. A crucifixion mind-set – not moving from the cross because of on-going feelings of guilt and shame.
3. A resurrection mind set – living in the joy and freedom of the Kingdom now.

*A number of years ago I attended a counselling school in England. In discussing relationships one lecturer made this comment:*

*I am not who I think I am  
I am not who you think I am  
I am who I think you think I am.*



*Think about someone special to you and your relationship with them. Insert your name and their name in the above statement. Then focus on your feelings.*

Now do the same with God in the equation.

*I am not who I think I am  
I am not who God thinks I am  
I am who I think God thinks I am.*

*Many of us have grown up with the view that God is very stern and out to judge us. Some think that God is more concerned about our sin, than our salvation.”*

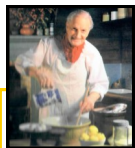
*If I am living in the resurrection of Jesus, should I not sing about my worthiness rather than my worthlessness?”*

**“i. Congregational Song (from Presbyterian of Aotearoa New Zealand website)**

Song is a response which engages the whole self in prayer. Song unites the faithful in common prayer wherever they gather for worship whether in church, home, or other special place. The covenant people have always used the gift of song to offer prayer. Psalms were created to be sung by the faithful as their response to God. In addition to psalms the Church in the New Testament sang hymns and spiritual songs. Through the ages and from varied cultures, the Church has developed additional musical forms for congregational prayer. Congregations are encouraged to use these diverse musical forms for prayer.”

So at this Easter time build wonderful memories and pray wonderful prayers to God and be thankful for all your blessings.

**Gay Gordon**



**RECIPE'S PROVIDED BY Ewing Stevens from his Book “Ewing’s Phone People IX” included with permission from Ewing Stevens**

**HOT CROSS BUNS**

*Sent in by Val of Papakura*

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <i>2 tbsp granulated yeast</i>            | <i>2tbsp sugar</i>           |
| <i>1 cup tepid water</i>                  | <i>2 tbsp melted butter</i>  |
| <i>6 tbsp fruit (sultanas peel etc..)</i> | <i>1 tsp ground cinnamon</i> |
| <i>½ tsp ground nutmeg</i>                | <i>1 cup tepid milk</i>      |
| <i>1 tsp salt</i>                         | <i>5 cups flour</i>          |

*In a large bowl dissolve yeast, sugar and liquids together. Leave 10 minutes and mix together flour, spices and salt. Add melted butter and fruit to liquid fruit mix. Then add dry ingredients and mix together well. Leave in a warm place to double in size.*

*Turn dough onto floured board. Knead well, by taking sides into middle, and gently pressing. When nice and smooth break off golf ball sized pieces and roll before placing on greased trays. Leave room for rising and when twice original size press back of knife into buns to make crosses.*

*Can be glazed by brushing with honey melted with milk.*

*Place in a pre-heated oven 450°F and bake for 10 to 15 minutes.*

*Makes 20 – 24 buns*



**MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS as told by Liz Kanoy—Crosswalk.com.**

Joseph took Mary to be his wife, but they did not consummate the marriage until after she had given birth. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem for a census, where she gave birth in the humblest of environments.

Mary treasured up many things in her heart as she raised Jesus, but she also had to endure the greatest sacrifice of all time—her son was the Son of God and He had come to give Himself up as a sacrifice, the one and only sacrifice that could be made for mankind. She had to watch Him suffer, be tortured and mocked, and die a cruel death on a cross by crucifixion.

[John 19](#) tells us,

“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, ‘Woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”

Even while He was dying, Jesus cared for His mother and gave her a new son to love her. Mary was blessed among women, for she was chosen by God to bear His Son and raise Him. Though there was death there was yet joy for Mary, as her son did not stay dead. He rose again from the grave, securing eternity for her and all who would believe.



Happy Mother's Day !

**MOTHERS DAY**



Happy Mother's Day !

Early Christians celebrated a Mother's Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honour of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. In England the holiday was expanded to include all mothers. It was then called Mothering Sunday.

The more recent history of Mothers Day dates back to 1600s in England. Here a Mothering Sunday was celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter) to honour mothers. After a prayer service in church to honour Virgin Mary, children brought gifts and flowers to pay tribute to their own mothers.

On the occasion, servants, apprentices and other employees staying away from their homes were encouraged by their employers to visit their mothers and honour them. Traditionally children brought with them gifts and a special fruit cake or fruit-filled pastry called a Simnel. Yugoslavs and people in other nations have observed similar days.

Custom of celebrating Mothering Sunday died out almost completely by the 19th century. However, the day came to be celebrated again after World War II, when American servicemen brought back the custom and commercial enterprises used it as an occasion for sales.



Happy Mother's Day !



Happy Mother's Day !

## Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand



### Annual Meeting - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Once more Presbyterian Women gather through the Internet and conducted their Annual Meeting through Zoom. This was a very interesting meeting in that there were only 12 on line. We sat and listened to the general trappings of the Annual Meeting knowing that this organisation is once more asking where to? Our numbers are dwindling, but for those who are still passionate about this organisation, they want to continue to find a way of being relevant in this day and age. The question to be asked is, who are we keeping this organisation going for? There are certainly not a large number of younger women who want to participate, and yet we know how valuable the women of yesteryears input has been.

What has been the value of the National Board and what has the average women gained from being a member of the organisation you would ask? For me I believe the National Board has widened our horizons and we have become a global village caring about our sisters overseas and well as New Zealand. If we do not have a wider group feeding us information we become so insular we forget that Presbyterian Women all over the world have sometimes greater needs than our own. That has been the ongoing Mission for Presbyterian Women where we gathered Mission money for Overseas countries as well as our own. In doing this we were informed about the many trials and tribulations other countries face. And so this was a learning curve for us.

For those of us who have attended a National Meeting, we have all come away enhanced by the experience, and pleased to have connected with other women with like minds throughout New Zealand.

In finishing this report I would like to remind our members of the value of being part of the United Nations group called the Commission on the Status of Women. We are very privileged to be one of the international non-governmental organisations invited to attend these sessions. This group gathers to talk about the problems of women throughout the world. Yes, we are so lucky to have a voice on that council. For as Mary McIntyre said - one voice added to many soon makes a difference.

And so we will continue to talk and search for a relevant way to continue to be of service to our Presbyterian Women of New Zealand. In what shape or form only God knows, but we will continue to pray and leave it in his hands for the answers.

**Valerie Anderson**

## Past & Upcoming Events



We celebrated, as a Parish, the **BAPTISM of Emily Rata Yeoman** in a family service down by Mata au awa (The Clutha River) At Poplar Grove, Alexandra on the 20th February 2022.

Rev Andrew Howley welcomed all to participate in the outdoor service.

It was a beautiful blue sky Central Otago day with the blue green of the river glittering in the sunshine beside us. This was followed by us all enjoying a picnic Lunch.





# GARAGE SALE

**Garage Sale April 16th 2022 10am**

**If you have items to donate for the sale note there will be a baking stall as well. please contact Kay Pringle  
phone : 448 5929  
Email: kpringlenz@gmail.com**

**BBQ** **BAKING**

**Also St Mungo's will be open on Thursday April 14th from 2.30-3.30pm to drop off items.**

### **BREATH PRAYER**

**God, I breathe in your calm, I breathe out my worries.  
O God, your steadfast love; endures in my life forever.  
(Psalm 136)**

**Holy Spirit, fill my life; Holy Spirit fill my world. AMEN**



## REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

### Weekly

<b>House Group</b>	Restart - To be confirmed	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>

**Please note:** Rev Andrew Howley will be keeping regular office hours at:-

The Alexandra Community House.

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>9.30am - 12.30 noon</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>1.30pm - 4.30 pm</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>9.00am - 12.00 noon</b>

Rev Andrew Howley can be contacted on 448 8511 or 021 518 053

### A CHILDREN'S PRAYER

*For all that I am, for all that I do, be with me throughout the tough and the smooth.*

*Be near me today and tomorrow be there, for I'm always praying and hoping you care.*

*It's great to be wanted and great to be here, my heart is so grateful and so is my head. **AMEN***



**EDITORS NOTE:** The next ACLaim will be June/July please have any articles to me by **Monday 23rd May 2022**. Written articles can be dropped off 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 Valerie for helping me with proof reading the ACLaim.

### Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

## Upcoming Worship Services 2022

<b>April 10th</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	
	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	

**April 11th -April 14th** Holy Week: The NZ Bible Society has produced a free devotional for Holy Week entitled Woven.  
<https://biblesociety.org.nz/woven-2022/>

<b>April 15th</b>	<b>Alexandra Baptist Church</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>All Welcome</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>		<b>6 Gregg Street Alexandra</b>	

<b>April 17th</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>7.00am</b>	<b>Easter Sunrise</b>
<b>Alexandra Lookout Point—Little Valley Road</b>			

<b>April 17th</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	
<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	

<b>April 24th</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Easter 2</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>

<b>May 1st</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>Easter 3</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Communion</b>

<b>May 8th</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	
<b>Easter 4</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	

<b>May 15th</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Easter 5</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>

<b>May 22nd</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>
<b>Easter 6</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>

<b>May 29th</b>	<b>Clyde</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b>
<b>Easter 7</b>	<b>Alexandra</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b>

## Contact Us

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**Rev. Andrew Howley**

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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**