



PBC NEWS

We're here to see lives changed by Jesus ... meeting Him and becoming like Him.

PBC meetings on Zoom

- Sunday Service 10.00am 19th April (click [here](#) to join)
- Home Group - Tuesday 7.00pm (click [here](#) to join)
- Prayer Meeting - Wednesday 10.30am (click [here](#) to join)
- Home Group - Thursday 7.00pm (click [here](#) to join)

Encouragement from God's Word

- "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (1 Peter 5.10)
- "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6.2)
- "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (James 1.12)



Dear Church Family

Welcome to the fourth issue of this lockdown newsletter! I trust you are continually safe and sound in your bubble as we all keep supporting and encouraging one another as a church family.

From Tuesday the 28th we will enter Covid-19 Alert Level 3. This however does not bring any change to the current regulations on people's gatherings. As the Baptist Union explains, "*No small groups are allowed at Level 3. Level 3 is the 'waiting room' – continuing to operate as at Level 4 for most people.*" So we will have to carry on with our online gatherings for the next several weeks.

Our Sunday services via Zoom continue to be well attended – more than 40 last Sunday and again included a visiting family from Blenheim. The home groups and mid-week prayer meeting are well attended, too.

Communion. Just a reminder that we will have Communion this Sunday during our service on Zoom. Please have a small piece of bread and a small glass of juice (or wine) prepared for every participant in your family.

Do you need prayer?

If you are aware of special needs that the Prayer Team can pray for please contact Lynn Whitlock on 573 8858 or 027 733 9558.

Praying for the church

"There is no fear in love, but love casts out fear." (1 John 4.18)

- That in response to the challenges we face the Church would act out of faith, not fear
- That Christians would be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us
- That Christians would be discerning and wise in how they can best help and serve during difficult times - being salt and light to a world in darkness
- That we would be willing to be examples of Christ's love by sacrificially serving our brothers, sisters and neighbours according to their needs
- Thanksgiving that churches have found ways to continue to fellowship through technology
- That churches would find effective ways to reach non-Christians with the gospel of peace during these times.
- That Christian parents would make the most of the time home-educating their children to give them a clear Christian perspective on their learning

Newsletter items to Deo on 573 6315 or email pictonbaptist@gmail.com

Mike and Kathi Hill. It gives me great joy to welcome Mike and Kathi back to membership of Picton Baptist Church. Thank you for committing yourselves again to our church family. I pray you experience great blessing and joy as you share your lives with us all.

Rachel Barratt is still in hospital; she has received treatment for her fractured wrist. Pray for her complete recovery, and that she may be able to come home sooner.

Lindens Support Services: Please continue to pray for the Lindens family: Gerald, Kay, Donald, Jo, Philippa and the staff.

End-of-the-year giving receipts: A big thank you to Garry and Lynette for preparing and posting the end-of-year giving receipts. I hope you have received your receipts this week.

Thank you: I want to say thank you to everyone who is doing anything to help folk during this time from working in essential services to grocery shopping for the vulnerable and making a friendly call. Thank you to our Care Team and Prayer Team for their caring and prayer for our church family. And thank you to our Elders for their love, prayers and support.

Testimonies:

- Many have shared how much they appreciate the Zoom gatherings every week and the opportunity and ability to "see" each other and worship together. Someone has sent this note: "Thank you for setting up Zoom to help keep our church in touch with each other."
- It's also been very encouraging to hear positive feedback about the Memorial Service for Michael Prendergast held last Thursday on Zoom. Many of Michael's siblings (some from Australia) tuned in to the service, and they have expressed thanks and appreciation for our church family's care and support for Michael over the years he was with us. On Thursday evening someone sent in this note: "[The Memorial Service] was a lovely tribute to Michael and the Lindens folk."
- Do send through your testimonies, answers to prayers, thank yous and I will try and include a few each week.

With love and blessings,

Deo