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Christmas Greetings

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

Merry Christmas to all from the Southern Presbyterians team! May this Christmas season be one of joy, fun, relaxation, and most importantly, may it be a time of faithful reaffirmation to our call to serve the peaceable Kingdom of God.

Merry Christmas

What's Been Happening...



Key Youth Leaders Retreat

This past November 40 youth pastors from around the country gathered together in Queenstown for a three-day retreat. The event was held at Lakeland Christian Camp in Kelvin Heights. There were times when we gathered together for worship, topical discussions and input from our guest speaker, Jeannie Martin Blaker, a spiritual director and supervisor.

Read more [here](#).



KCML Graduation

On Wednesday Dec 4th, those of us in Dunedin were fortunate to be able to participate in the KCML graduation, where we celebrated with the interns and their families. It was a wonderful event and an exciting moment for the church as a group of young, fresh ministers are now ready to go out and serve God and his church in new and exciting ways.

Read more [here](#).



Reflections of an Intern

Five seconds ago, I was knee-deep in assignments. Suddenly I find myself here, having landed on the other side of the KCML internship, with not only the final block course wrapped up and notched into my belt but also having graduated with a Diploma of Ministry at a memorable First Church worship service. I probably wouldn't go as far as calling it a miracle, but... read more [here](#).

2020 Key Dates...



re:Gen (Yth Min Training)

Dunedin - Feb 22
Invercargill - Feb 29
Cromwell - Mar 7



Synod AGM

April
Calvin Church, Gore



Presbytery Gathering

May 2
Eveline Church, Oamaru



South Island Ministry Conference

May 12-14
East Taieri Church



Synod Funding Applications

June 15
Mission and Evangelism Fund



Connect Conference (PYM)

June 26-28
Wellington



General Assembly

Oct 7-11
Lindisfarne College, Hastings



Synod Funding Applications

Oct 15
Mission and Evangelism Fund
Ecclesiastical Fund



Presbytery Gathering

Nov 13-14

Resource Group Recaps

Dunedin North Otago

The Dunedin North Otago Resource Group has met every two months through 2019 in locations across the region. Insightful speakers enabled lively table conversations. Shared meals strengthened relationships and led into praying for each other. We marked significant transitions and affirmed the contributions of people to the life of the church in our region. We hosted events to support retired ministers and partners. There were several highlights. A well-attended evening devoted to mental health was timely given the government's initiatives. One of our members, the Rev'd David Clark, Minister of Health, spoke alongside mental health professionals and people with experience of services offered. This is an area to which we will continue to attend. We were also involved in the commissioning of the new Principal at Columba College, one of two schools we continue to support. As well, we heard from those involved in young adult ministry, including at the University of Otago in its 150th year. The University had its beginnings among people of the Presbyterian Church so it was fitting to host its 150th anniversary service. We hosted a service with the Moderator of the General Assembly. The Resource Group is supported by a planning team that continues to look for ways to strengthen our prayerful encouragement of each other in living the way of Jesus Christ.

Mataura Valley

Elder Training - this was held at Calvin Community Church in Gore on 21 June. Two sessions were facilitated by Graham Redding, with a meal and fellowship between. There were 37 present, and all agreed they appreciated the update, especially the historical background of our NZ Presbyterian roots and subsequent Eldership roles.

On the business side, Session Clerks were reminded of the need to register their current Elder representative for Presbytery Gatherings, and future Presbytery functions were advertised.

Clutha

The Clutha Regional Group began the year with a Gathering about Global Mission. Rev. Phil King shared what the PCANZ was supporting and the great work our people were carrying in places like Vanuatu and Myanmar. We were especially interested in the work of Wayne and Helen Harray as several churches are supporting their ministry at Tahan Theological College. In May we heard about Local Mission with speakers from Presbyterian Support programmes - Rest Homes, Community Support, Buddy Programme, and Budget Advice. We are looking forward to a Combined Worship Event at the new Kaitangata Worship Centre to finish the year off together.

re:GEN on tour

Youth & Young Adults

re:Gen Youth Ministry Training Day

We are running a half-day youth ministry training event called re:Gen in February and March. Three different locations across the Presbytery on three different days.

(Dunedin Feb 22nd; Invercargill Feb 29th; Cromwell March 7th)

It's free. It will be fun. And will be a great opportunity for networking and learning.

More info [here](#).

General Assembly - Young Adult Commissioner Programme

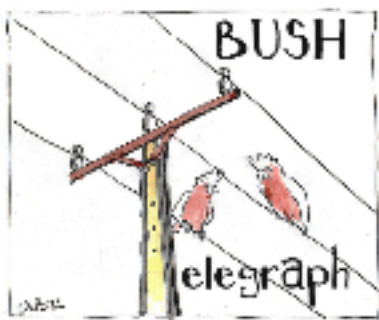
PCANZ has provisions for 6 young adults from each Presbytery to participate in each General Assembly with full voting rights. PYM has put together a Young Adult Commissioner Programme to help make this a positive and worthwhile experience for each person and the church. It includes orientation and an online community. It also includes participation in Presbytery Gatherings and Parish Council/Session meetings. If there is a young adult (18-30yrs old) in your church who you think would enjoy this experience, then please pass on a application form to them and encourage them to apply (everyone finds the experience valuable and enjoyable).

Applications close Feb 23rd 2020. For more info and an application form, click [here](#).

National Church Updates



Click on the following links to see the latest news updates from the various resourcing and ministry departments of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.



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PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH MINISTRY

[The Buzz](#)



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If you have news and stories of great things happening in your parish, don't be shy, others would love to hear and be inspired! Please feel free to send through any photos, videos and text and we will do our best to share it through our website with the rest of our parishes.

email to: office@southernpresbyterians.nz



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