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Greetings

So I had a conversation recently with a friend that I am sure many of us are having at this time of year, and it goes something along the lines of “so what are you going to give up for Lent?” And of course we carried on the conversation by listing a bunch of luxury items or high calorie foods or technological devices...things which actually we would do well to give up for a season or two or three... And so in my mind I wondered about what the point of Lent even is, because surely Jesus doesn’t care about my one piece or... half a block... of chocolate at night. But then I reflected on how busy the start of the year has been for myself and so many others. And how it was only a short while ago we were in the season of Advent which was a time to focus on Christ.

And now here we are again...busy again...but the season is one to focus on Christ as we move from Christmas towards Easter. As you turn over the page, or scroll down through this newsletter, you will see there is a lot going on. Lots of good stuff actually. Events and gatherings that I hope make it onto our calendars. But amongst it all...remember...tis the season. Christ should always be our focus, but, well, life... so make the most of Lent to reorient yourself and look to Christ amongst all the happenings around us.

Brad

What's Coming Up



re:Gen (Yth Min Training)
Invercargill - Feb 29
Cromwell - Mar 7

For more info, click [here](#)



Preaching Workshop (Geoff New)
March 14
Calvin Church, Gore

For more info, click [here](#)



Wakatipu Womens Weekend
March 20-22
St John's, Arrowton

For more info, click [here](#)



AFFIRM Regional Conference
March 27-28
Calvin Church, Gore

For more info, click [here](#)



Synod AGM
April 17 - 18
Calvin Church, Gore

For more info, click [here](#)



Presbytery Gathering
May 2
Eveline Church, Oamaru

More Info Soon



South Island Ministry Conference
May 12-14
East Taieri Church

For more info, click [here](#)



WAY2Go Conference
May 23
Mosgiel Presbyterian Church

For more info, click [here](#)



Synod Funding Applications
June 15
Mission and Evangelism Fund

For more info, click [here](#)



Childrens Ministry

Lent Resources

Our Kids Friendly Lent resources continue to be available on our Kids Friendly website. We would like to particularly highlight the resource for creating a Lenten Wreath, which could be created either at home or within the wider gathered family of faith.

[Lent Wreath Resource](#)

Way2Go

Scripture Union are running their annual Way2Go children's ministry training event on Saturday, May 23rd, in Dunedin. These days are always jam-packed with information, resources and great opportunities for networking.

You can get more information [here](#).

Operation Samuel - Young Persons Discipleship Camp

When Riversdale-Waikaia Presbyterian state that they are “fully committed to helping people become wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ” they have no age limit! At the end of January, 10 young people took part in the church’s fourth “Operation Samuel” camp. This is a 6-day discipleship camp for 9-13 year olds, modelled on the 3D training that the Riversdale-Waikaia Parish became known for under John Gullick. The camp is the initiative of Children and Families worker Sarah Cowan, which she trialled first in 2016 and has adapted each year since.



Sarah was assisted by three other leaders, who stayed on-site, and by a large group of church volunteers who helped with food, transport, teaching sessions and most importantly prayer. Four of the participants this year were 13 and 14 year olds who signed on as “Interns” with extra responsibilities and leadership training sessions during the week. All participants received a personalized course book with Bible verses and words of encouragement on the cover, chosen especially for them by church members who had been praying in advance of camp starting.



Sarah notes as one of her highlights being the four evening sessions where the young people practised *hearing from God*. The children received words of encouragement for each other and were keen to spend extended time waiting and listening for God. Sarah sees this as an important aspect of the week as it helps the young people to “stretch their faith and deepen their relationship with God”

The final day included a day of outdoor adventures at Camp Columba including the challenging zip line where it was ‘awesome to see them all conquering fears and cheering each other on.’

Camp culminated in leading the Sunday service where the young people shared significant growth they had experienced: “God took away my shy and quietness. My favourite session was worship, dancing, love languages, and Holy Spirit.” “This week God has communicated with me in many ways, not just directly, but also through the lovely people who gave up their time to speak to us, and also through the other kids.” “I honestly think I’m changed forever. All this week I’ve learned how to really listen to God”



The genuine faith of these ten young Southlanders who devoted a week of their summer to learning how to follow Jesus more fully and the committed leaders from the wider church community who offered support are an encouragement and a challenge to us all.



Youth Ministry

Training

This year re:Gen is on tour! re:Gen is our annual youth ministry training event. We just had a great gathering of leaders in Dunedin. This weekend we are gathering in Invercargill and next weekend we will be gathering in Cromwell. Make sure you and your team get along to the nearest event to you.

For more info and to register [click here](#).

Resources

There are so many resources out there to help us in youth ministry. We have sifted through them all and put together a page on our website to help you easily find what you are looking for.

For youth ministry resources, click [here](#).

Easter Camps

Pukerau Easter Camp

April 9-13

\$100

[Website](#)

Dunedin Easter Camp

April 10-13

\$160

[website](#)



PCANZ CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LEADERS **SAFETY WARRANT OF FITNESS**

Child Protection Policy Reminder!

There was a great response in 2019 from churches to get up to speed with the new requirements of the PCANZ Child Protection Policy. A friendly reminder for those who haven't responded yet:

- each church leadership appoints a Church Child Protection Officer
- police vetting and WOF safety training is now compulsory for ALL children and youth leaders and helpers (paid and unpaid)
- www.safetywof.org.nz is the place to find all the information and training materials you need.

Brad and Cheryl are happy to answer questions about your church context and to support your CPP officer in their role. If you haven't already done so, please add your church's CPP officer details via this google link <https://forms.gle/iz83MXoBx2pz2odEA> and we will be in touch with them directly.

Blessings

Cheryl Harray and Brad Kelderman

Southern Presbytery Child Protection Officers

Contact info, click [here](#).



Caring for God's Creation

Do you have a keen interest in caring for God's creation? Have you heard about the PCANZ policy 'Responsible Stewardship of God's Creation?' If you answered yes, then we want you!

At the 2016 General Assembly the proposal 'Responsible Stewardship of God's Creation' was passed. This proposal set out 10 practical steps for churches to put into practice that would help to reduce their environmental impact. This goes alongside the PCANZ mission statement of Caring for God's Creation.

Unfortunately very little action is being made in regard to this. Many parishes lack the tools, suitable people and time to engage with the issue fully.

But we want to change this. We want to make it easy for churches to put their best foot forward in helping care for God's creation. A workgroup is being put together to address the issues that churches face and will aim to provide an easy pathway for churches to follow to put this proposal into action.

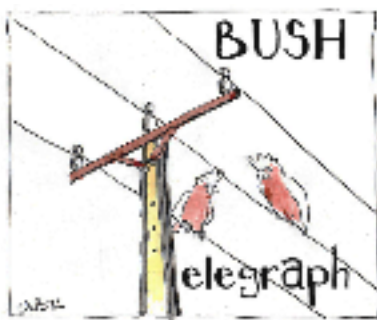
If you are interested in being part of this workgroup we would love to hear from you.

Please email Marissa Kelderman

marissakelderman@gmail.com

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.



BUSH TELEGRAPH

[February Edition](#)



PRESBYTERIAN YTH MINISTRY

[The Buzz](#)



KIDS FRIENDLY

[Kids Friendly E-News](#)

The Southern Presbyterians Newsletter is released monthly.

Any comments or concerns about the newsletter or the website, or to unsubscribe,
please email office@southernpresbyterians.nz

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



We are also on Facebook. Make sure you 'LIKE' us!

To go to our Facebook Page, click [here](#).