



In this Southern Presbyterians Newsletter...

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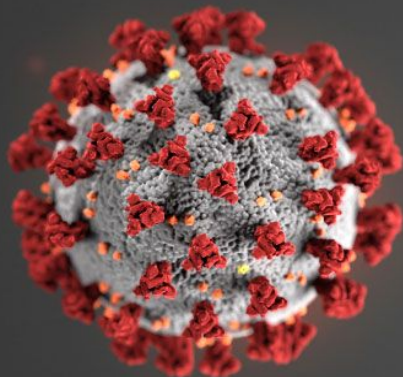
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COVID-19 Update

The Church Responds to the Challenge of the Covid 19 Virus Pandemic

COVID-19 is rapidly developing into a global health crisis and has recently been declared a pandemic. Its impact here in Aotearoa New Zealand, and across the globe, is changing daily.

The Presbytery and Synod (Southern Presbyterians) are committed to ensuring our ministries are shaped by pastoral concern for all our people and for those we engage with in mission. Let's all renew our efforts to keep everyone safe!

We have been told that the "Council of Assembly paused to express solidarity with, and offered prayers for, all those who have been infected with the deadly new coronavirus (COVID-19) and the families who have lost loved ones." The Council of Assembly is encouraging everyone to remain compliant with health and safety procedures, avoid unnecessary exposure, and act responsibly to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. It recommends we all follow the advice given by the Ministry of Health (see updates at <https://www.health.govt.nz/>). Should they issue instructions concerning public gatherings, we ask that we all follow these.

A number of Presbyterian gatherings have been cancelled including:

- The annual Connect Youth Ministry Gathering
- A weekend for Presbytery Te Reo Commissioners
- The May Executive Officers meeting
- Dunedin Easter Camp

There will be ongoing discussion about converting the May 2nd Presbytery Gathering into an email meeting.

We are aware that the symptoms for the Covid 19 virus are indistinguishable by non-medical people from those of the common flu and the government advice is for those with symptoms to self-isolate themselves. This will impact meetings and services at parish level over the winter months.

One thing the Presbytery is doing is compiling a list of church services our people in isolation can access. These are likely to include recordings of services on church websites and some live-streamed services.

We remind church leaders and ministers of the sick leave provisions which apply to those in ministry roles in the Conditions of Service Manual and encourage these people to take sick leave when unwell and keep Presbytery informed.

(page 22, 2.5.4.2 Sick leave)

https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/for_parishes/Conditions%20of%20Service%20Manual%20-%202019%20Mar.pdf

Church Councils are asked to discuss ways of providing pastoral care to your congregations during the pandemic. Particular care should be exercised around the use of a common cup in the celebration of Holy Communion; there may come a time when communion services should not occur until the worst of the pandemic passes.

Church leaders can seek further assistance through the Presbytery Office

alan@southernpresbyterians.nz

Grace and peace,

Alan Judge – Presbytery Executive Officer

What's Coming Up



Wakatipu Women's Weekend

March 20-22
St John's, Arrowtown

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

For more info, click [here](#)



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](#)



PCANZ General Assembly

Sep 30 - Oct 4
Lindisfarne College, Hastings

For more info, click [here](#)



Childrens Ministry

A Couple of at Home Ideas... (potentially useful during Covid-19 crisis)

Bible APP's

Apps can be helpful resources for parents as they face the idea of more time at home and can be used to encourage Biblical literacy and Bible engagement. For a list of 12 Bible apps for kids that will improve Biblical literacy, build a love of God and the Bible, appeal to kids and do heaps more (all apps with no annoying ads), click [here](#).

Illustrated Ministry

Illustrated Children's Ministry are supporting local congregations and families, as we all work to flatten the curve amid a COVID-19 pandemic, by providing free, weekly, faith formation resources for all ages.

These resources are free, downloadable, and easy to access. They are a simple but meaningful way to engage faith and they are quality materials from a trusted company used by thousands of churches from over 60+ denominations around the world.

Click [here](#).

Counting down to Easter

Now that Lent is about halfway through children's leaders and churches are thinking about how they will remember and recount all the events that happen in the final week known as Holy Week. In the last two Sundays, children go from 'Hosannas' and palm branches to 'Alleluias' and chocolate Easter eggs without necessarily hearing all the events of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death. Talking about these parts of the Easter story in age-appropriate ways can be difficult for parents and children's leaders. This **brief article** highlights some tips and guidelines. To read the article, click [here](#).

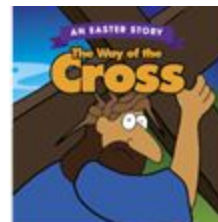


Also, no matter what approach and curriculum your church is using, it is good to share the **WHOLE** Easter story in some brief form **BEFORE** getting to Easter Sunday and don't think it is too late **AFTER** the holidays to recount the **WHOLE** story again. Below are a few resources that could be used in church with all ages together, or in children's group time.



Saddleback Kids videos are about 4-5 mins long. There are 3 on "The Story of Easter" – the Last Supper, Triumphal Entry and Jesus Sacrifice. Click [here](#).

Storytelling Kits (\$10 AUD) for the big screen and accompanying resources for children. The latest one 'the Way of the Cross' shares Jesus' journey of sadness, courage and love. This story is based on fourteen traditional Gospel readings that follow the events of Easter from the garden to the cross. 4 others depict other aspects of the Easter story - Dave the Donkey, Mary and the Gardener, Peter and the Rooster, Peter and the Big breakfast. To see this resource, click [here](#).



EASTER SUNDAY all-age service outlines using the idea of **COLOURS**

Created for NZ churches in 2019 "The Colours of Sunday" - Click [here](#).

Easter Alive 2020 from the UK includes "The Colourful Easter" p22-25 - Click [here](#).

For many **MORE** ideas, go to the Kids Friendly Lent and Easter resource.

Click [here](#).



Youth Ministry

Gathering Differently...If We Have To

So as of Wednesday 18th March, youth groups around our region are technically fine to keep on gathering together (with a few extra Covid-19 safety measures of course). But already in our region, a number of youth groups have decided to call off larger gatherings. Globally it's a different situation too and many youth groups have been forced to stop gathering. Whilst most of us are ok at the moment, we'd do well to look at what youth groups who have had to stop meeting are doing to keep their youth communities connected in these isolating times. Here is a link to some resources by Download Youth Ministry (the creators of the content we used at re:Gen). The resources are free and are designed to be used when your group can't meet together in person easily. Hopefully, that's not going to be us...but hey...who doesn't like free resources anytime right!

So check out what DYM has on offer [here](#).

Status of Up-Coming Youth Ministry Events...

Connect Conference - Cancelled

Dunedin Easter Camp - Cancelled

Christchurch Easter Camp - Cancelled

Pukerau Easter Camp - Still Going Ahead (as at 18/3/20)

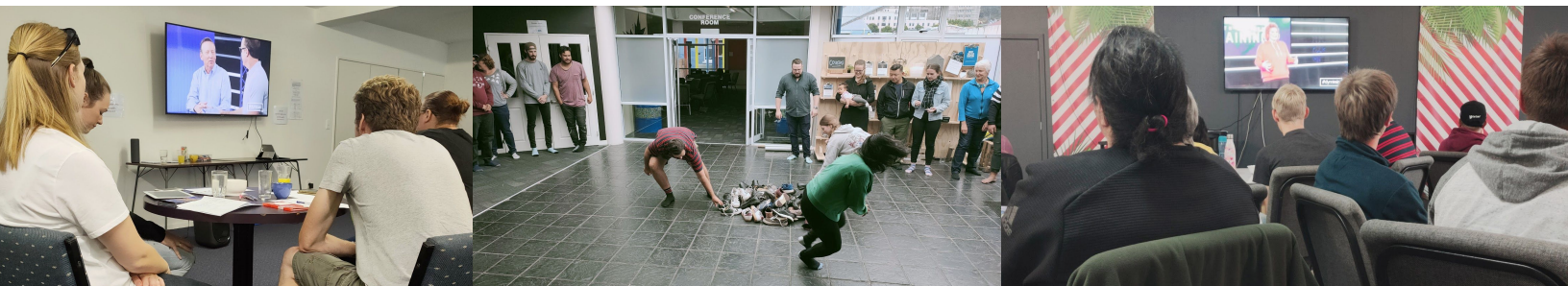


re:Gen...on tour!

For some time now, youth leaders have gathered at Calvin Church in Gore at the beginning of the year for an event called re:Gen. A time for youth leaders across Otago & Southland to come together and reconnect with each other and participate in a day of upskilling and resourcing. This year, however, we decided to mix things up a little bit. Instead of everyone coming to one place, we took re:Gen out to three different locations. Dunedin, Invercargill and Cromwell. Why? Well, the main reason was that we wanted to connect with a wider network of youth leaders and churches and by making reGen available in more locations we are able to make this training event more accessible to more youth leaders.

We were also trying a new style of content. We borrowed content created in the USA by Download Youth Ministry, who had produced a series of video talks to be used at youth ministry training events, just like re:Gen. By delivering training via video on the big screen, we were able to take our youth ministry training more easily to different locations. As well, it allowed us to provide content from some of the big names in youth ministry and still make the event free. The content was great! Fast-paced and with enough variety and depth to keep everyone engaged.

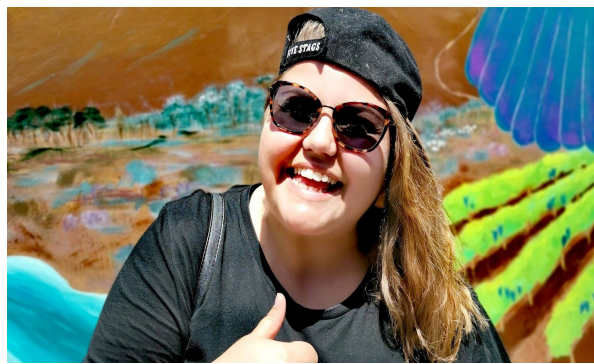
Time for connecting with each other was still high up on the priority list, and it was great seeing youth leaders make connections at the beginning of another year of youth ministry. re:Gen on tour was a huge success in our books. Will we do it like this again....Maybe. Probably. Who knows. But for now, we know we have found a model that easily enables youth leaders the chance to gather together in their regions for training and connecting. And that's a very good thing.



New Kids on the Block!



Dan Sim - Leith Valley Presbyterian



Phoebe Harrington - Cromwell Presbyterian

Tell us a little bit about yourself...

DAN: I'm the new Youth Pastor at Leith Valley Presbyterian Church. I was born while living in Riversdale, lived in Gore till I was 8, moved to Sudan till I was 15 and been in Dunedin ever since. I am a 4th year Accounting Student at the University of Otago but have been involved in the Leith Youth Group for 3 years previously. **PHOEBE:** I'm a PYM Youth Intern for the Pressy Church here in Cromwell. I am also studying full time via Laidlaw Bible College. I was born in West Africa where my parents were doing mission work and lived there till I was 6 before returning to Cromwell for schooling. Before this role, I studied for three years in Dunedin and then worked for two years in Gore.

What does your youth group currently look like?:

DAN: We are a close-knit community that meets Tuesday evenings to break up the stresses of school life with Games, Good food and Growing in God. **PHOEBE:** Building a youth group from scratch has been exciting and currently we have about 10 coming along on a Wednesday night.

What are your hopes and dreams for the next year of youth ministry?

DAN: My dream is to integrate our Youth into the church and help them find their place in worshipping, learning and serving God with the other generations at Leith Valley. I want Youth Group to be a chapter, not the whole book! **PHOEBE:** To see the youth come to know Jesus on a deep and personal level from which it pours out into other areas of their lives and the community!

Recent Inductions

Hayden Luke

B@tch



Annie-Kate Williams
Gabe Hawker

Mornington



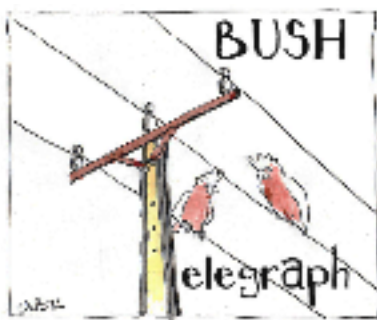
Tom Mephram

Student Soul



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

[March 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](#).