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Greetings

Well done churches of Southern Presbytery we have survived the 2020 church service closedown and emerged vibrant and filled with the Spirit. You have found ways to be pastoral to one another, been constant in prayer, experienced the good news of Jesus, grown in faith, hope and love.

We have discovered new ways of being the church shaped by social distancing, hand cleaning and enduring hope. Church leaders have gently reshaped their congregations in the face of sudden and unexpected changes. We have discovered afresh the power of God to work through us in this time of national emergency.

And now to a new challenge, being the post Covid church in continuity with our previous church life, but also reimagining church life in a new environment.

These are days of newness and refreshed hope. Stand tall in the strength of our merciful God.

Alan Judge

Presbytery Executive Officer



Presbytery Updates

Ministry Appointments Concluding

There will be two ministries concluding in June and July.

Rev Cameron Sinclair who has been minister at NEV Blue lagoon congregation for 15 years is finishing in June. Cameron continues his ministry as Hospital Chaplain in Dunedin.

Rev Wayne Te Kaawa has been minister of Pine Hill Presbyterian and is concluding this ministry in July to assume a teaching role at the University.

Presbytery thanks both Cameron and Wayne for their ministry and guidance and is grateful both will continue to be part of the life of the wider Presbytery.

Several other short term ordained ministries have recently been extended.

Covid Safety Plans

The Presbytery thanks the parishes who submitted Covid Safety plans during alert levels 2 and 3 . These plans showed that each congregation was working through at our significant level how to keep their people safe as buildings began to open again.

Safety plans are no longer needing to be lodged with Presbytery, but church leaders do need to keep ensuring the safety of people who attend church servings and activities.

We are grateful for the support, advice and wisdom offered through Assembly staff during the time that Covid was a threat to our churches and the wider community.

Financial Training Seminars

To Church Treasurers:

The PCANZ in conjunction with Laurensons Chartered Accountants will be running a free 1 hour training session on the financial year-end close. This will be available to all parishes that use XERO (including those parishes that may not be on the PCANZ client list). The session will be run online through the Zoom application, enabling you to participate in an interactive session that will allow you to ask questions. If you are not using XERO please join a session, the year-end processes discussed, and helpful tips may well apply to you.

Laurenson Chartered Accountants will present the sessions and will use their experiences gained over the years when working with XERO clients. They will provide their observations on pitfalls and common errors made by XERO and non XERO users. The lessons you will learn will make the year-end close easier, for example helping treasurers to be aware of incorrect coding of entries, if GST has been claimed correctly, and many other helpful tips.

The sessions are aimed at all treasurers whatever your skill level, and is open to both solely Presbyterian and UCANZ parishes.

There are 9 sessions starting from Monday 15th June 2020 over three weeks.

Monday 3pm – 4pm

Monday 7pm – 8pm

Tuesday 7pm – 8pm

There will be a maximum participants of 10 per session, so if your first choice is not available select your next option, please do not put your name down for more than one session. Once a session is up to the maximum of 10, no more participants can be added. Laurensons Chartered accountants will send out a Zoom link to your session.

Note that if you do not use XERO you are still welcome to join, you will get some helpful tips that will apply to non XERO parishes.

Please complete the following [Doodle Poll](#) registration. To join this Doodle Poll enter your name and select a session that you wish to join in on, the next screen will then ask for your email addresses and contact phone number

You will need a computer, iPad, smartphone or a similar device with a camera and a microphone to join the Zoom session. Even if you are confident that you have the year-end accounts sorted, we are sure that you will benefit from the presentation.

Theological Education and Lay Training Work Group Report

The Presbytery has received the Theological Education and Lay Training work group report along with a covering letter from the Council of Assembly.

Each Presbytery is invited to constructively frame its response in three ways:

- Comments about the five streams identified in the executive summary and the direction outlined
- Note any areas where the report is missing key information or omitted important material
- Detailed comments about the report



We need to do this by September 10th at the latest. Your Presbytery Council has talked about how to do this. Our plan is to arrange a few video conferences in the week of July 20th - 25th and invite anyone in the South who wishes to participate to join these discussions. A member of the Theological Education and Lay Training task group will also be invited to join each group. Each group will be asked to make time to frame its collective response bearing in mind the three ways of responding outlined above. The Presbytery Council will consider these at its meeting on August 12th and finalise the Presbytery's response to the report and recommendations.

We will set up the dialogue groups using the Presbytery Zoom account and forward the links to you. Participation is not limited to Presbytery members. Presbytery is aware of at least one group which is discussing their suggestions for how we respond to the proposal. It would be helpful if these could be sent to Presbytery by July 15th so we can distribute these before the dialogue groups meet.

In the meantime, please feel free to copy and discuss the proposals with those in your church or ministry setting.

Synod Dialogue over the report: The Synod reps to Presbytery Council (Fergus Sime and Peter Dunn) asked if Synod could be granted a section of each dialogue group to explore some specific issues which the Synod Executive is seeking feedback on prior to framing a separate Synod response to the Theological Education and Leadership Training Task Group recommendations. Council agreed to this request and will add a section to each meeting to allow for these conversations.

This is a major piece of work for the wider church and I encourage you to make time to read and reflect on the proposals before us.

To read the TELT report and to sign up for dialogue groups, click [here](#).

New Staff at the Assembly Office

Assembly is pleased to introduce two new staff members: Matthew Hague Matthew@presbyterian.org.nz and Kate Wilson kate@presbyterian.org.nz started in May.

Matthew will be taking on the role of Director of Compliance and Human Resources. Matthew comes to us from the New Zealand Defence Force where he held the role of Deputy Chief Legal Advisor. As a qualified lawyer, we are looking forward to the input and knowledge Matthew will be able to provide.

Kate has recently shifted to Wellington from Dunedin, where she worked for Highgate Presbyterian Church. Kate will be working four days a week - Monday to Thursday - from 9am to 2pm in the Compliance Support Role both assisting Matthew and working directly with parishes and ministers.

Looking for Group Accommodation?

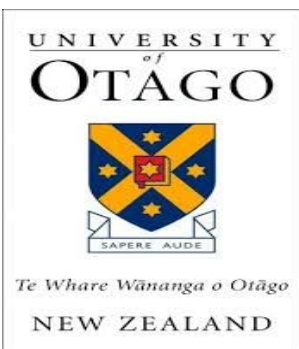
Zula Lodge, located in Albert Town Wanaka, is now available for group bookings.

“Zula” is a Hebrew word meaning “a place where you are happy, relaxed and comfortable; a space where you gather with your friends.” The Zula Lodge is an outreach centre where thousands of young Israelis stay at no charge and hear the Good News of the Messiah, Jesus. By hiring the Zula for your group, you fuel this powerful witness that is touching Israel from the ends of the earth!

For more information check out their [website](#).



What's Coming Up



Faith Thinking on Zoom

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago is offering another series of “Faith Thinking on Zoom” - one hour FREE sessions on Zoom.

Tuesday 23 June, 7.30-8.30pm

Lynne Taylor: Pastoral care: our stories matter

Tuesday 30 June, 7.30-8.30pm

David Tombs: James Cone, the Cross and the Lynching Tree

To join in on one of these sessions you need to register by going [here](#).



Induction of Rev Jordan Redding

The service will induct the Rev Jordan Redding to two roles – as minister of Knox Church Dunedin and Tertiary Chaplain

Thursday 9th July - 6:40pm

For more information [click here](#).



OCTACAN 2020

Due to Covid-19 our foodbank has experienced demand like never before. With financial stress due to job losses and pay cuts, we are seeing many families who suddenly find there’s a gap where the food money should be. OCTACAN is here to fill that gap, and with your support we CAN help! Please join us for the annual can collection for Dunedin's busiest foodbank.

Thursday 30th July - Click [here](#) for more information.



Childrens Ministry

Reading is Like Chocolate!

During lockdown many of us read more books (and ate more chocolate!) It was great to hear from families where story time took on an even more important part in the rhythm of each day: parents reading picture books to young children on their laps, tucked up on the couch, in bed or at the table, everyone expectantly listening to the next chapter of longer stories, older siblings reading to younger or on their own for hours at a time. All this is music to my ears as an ex-teacher so please don't stop! Encourage your families to make it a lifetime habit and joy.

Or as the well-known Australian author Mem Fox says: *"When I say to a parent, "Read to a child" I don't want it to sound like medicine. I want it to sound like chocolate.*

So what are some GOOD BOOKS to read?

During lockdown, Sally Lloyd Jones, the author of the well-known Jesus Storybook Bible suggested a list of [Top Ten Read Aloud Book Picks](#) (and 10 helpful reading aloud tips too)

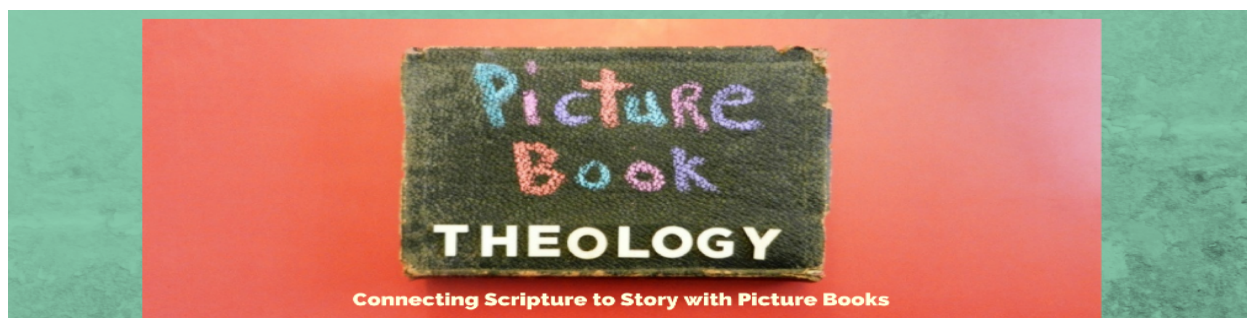
She also suggested [10 Great Family Read Alouds](#) (and 10 great reading quotes)

How many of these have you read? In your childhood? Or more recently with the next generation or two of children? Check them out.

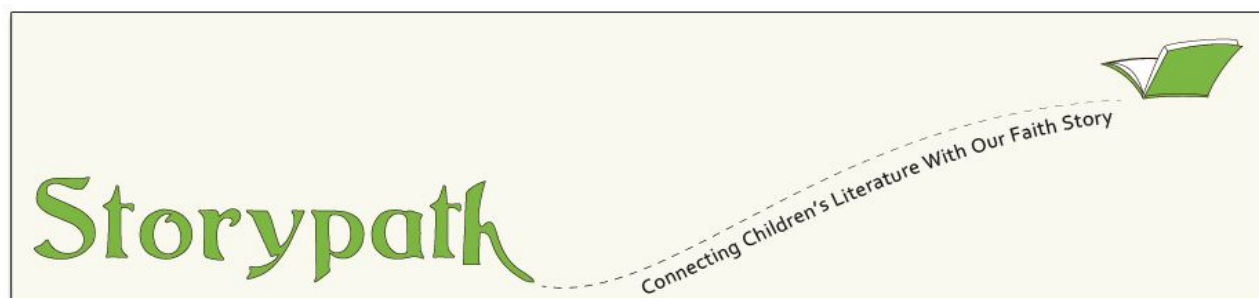


AND CHURCH LEADERS.... Have you ever read a favourite picture book in church and noticed how adults enjoy the experience as much as the children?

A well-chosen picture book can be a wonderful resource for all ages as we explore faith together, making connections between important themes and theological ideas. But what do you do when you have used your handful of favourites? How do you find more 'good' ones? Here are a couple of favourite places I go.



[Picture Book Theology](#) website has more than 500 picture books with more added each month. Each is reviewed with a summary and notes if there is a youtube or kindle version available (good for the big screen) Books can be searched by theme via a comprehensive alphabetical list at the bottom of the page. Here is the link to one of the latest topically relevant ones ['Who is my Neighbour Mr Rogers'](#)



[Storypath](#) offers a similar resource with picture books through to youth fiction. Books are accessed easily on the toolbar tabs of Theme, Scripture and Lectionary links. The book's information and review includes a set of faith talk questions which could be very helpful for all age reflection after the story time.

Cheryl



Living the Good Life - A Reflection

I've been contemplating the spectrum of lockdown experiences. For some life was better, calmer, more grounded. At the other end of this continuum, life was busier, more stressful, mentally draining, perhaps even traumatic or unsafe. Articles, books, songs, films were produced, many of us received more free ministry resources than we could use in a lifetime. Teachers taught well, teachers taught badly, some people were exhausted by innumerable zoom meetings, some people loved meeting online.

A friend of mine thrived in the forced holiday from her stressful job. Her skin and digestive problems cleared up completely only to return when work resumed. For my friend at least, lockdown was six weeks of *the good life*. This phrase has caught my attention recently, appearing in both my study (an essay on the ethics of economic activity) and in my reading about faith formation for 10-14 year olds. In getting to grips with the free market economy, I found that this system is essentially based on two assumptions about life.

Individual freedom is paramount.

More (wealth) is always better.

These beliefs are never questioned by proponents of capitalism nor by the majority of citizens in our country. Andrew Root, a professor of family ministry at a Lutheran Seminary in the States, also examines the concept of a good life in his latest book; "The End Of Youth Ministry? Why parents don't really care about youth groups and what youth workers can do about it." Root notes that today's parents are typically engaged in helping their offspring to *discover their identities*, usually by providing them with access to numerous extra-curricular opportunities to help them find their "thing."

Having attended several school open nights and prize-givings, it seems to me that a key selling point for any school is the breadth of opportunities that it offers in terms of sport, culture, music, adventure and

personal development. Andrew Root has noticed the way that youth group attendance often drops off once these activities get underway for the year and that they often take precedence in busy schedules. He asks, *“Why do youth ministry at all?”* - when it is so hard to compete with all these meaningful and beneficial activities.

In the 80’s and 90’s, Root argues, a parent provided their teenager with plenty of free space and time to flourish. There were no cell phones to keep tabs on them, there may have been a curfew or agreements about being home for dinner, but essentially spending time ‘mucking about’ with friends was a major part of adolescence. According to [Root](#), *‘There has been a radical shift since then. Today, a good parent is considered to be one who helps his or her child to flourish, who no longer stays out of the child’s life, but organises and directs it. Parents now see it as their responsibility to help their adolescent children to flourish by giving them every opportunity to find themselves by finding their thing (cheerleading, singing, dance, chess) in the world.*



What is the place of youth ministry in the 2020 family’s life? What is the place of Sunday worship or of home groups? Do we wish this situation was different? How do we minister to the needs of our people while also challenging them to re-evaluate their assumptions about what constitutes living the ‘good life?’ How do we do this here and now, with these particular people? Like Andrew Root, I would suggest that what worked thirty, twenty, even ten years ago, needs to be examined and re-imagined for today.

This is already happening in part as churches move back to meeting in person and reflect on what they have learned during lockdown. I think this process is essential and that it is never finished, in this life at least. We are being transformed both individually and corporately into Christ’s body, a group of people who are clothed in compassion, kindness, gentleness, humility and patience, (Col 3:10). A group of people who are devoted to each other in love, (Romans 12:10) even when (especially when), it is really hard. People who are willing to listen to each other, wrestle with the hard issues and continually seek God for his wisdom and direction. Don’t forget that Erin, Brad and Cheryl are all ready and willing to get alongside our churches as we work through planning, visioning and re-thinking how to define and live out the good life in our communities.

Rachel Bates
Kids Friendly Faith Development Project Coordinator



Youth Ministry



Scripture Union Snow Camp

Queenstown, 5-9 July 2020

School Year 9-13 in 2020, Co-ed

Base yourself in Queenstown for 4 days skiing/snowboarding and more! Experience full-on days in the snow, spending time in an awesome piece of God's creation. At night relax with great company while discussing God's Word, and seeking to know God better. Get ready for a bunch of off-mountain activities too!

To view, click [here](#).



Connect 2020 is coming to you!

PYMS's Connect...in your region...late August...watch this space!



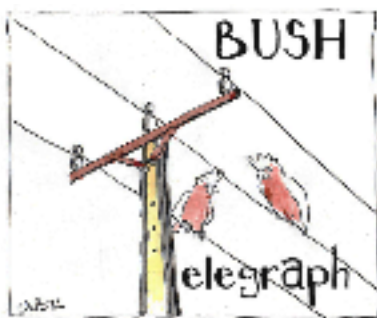
Sustainable Practices

If you have youth ministry leaders in your church, whether they be volunteer, paid or both, then we can't recommend enough that your church adopts the principles and practices in the Sustainable Practices guide. Healthy youth ministries have healthy leaders and Sustainable Practices is a tool to help churches support and grow your key leaders.

For more info and to download, 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.



BUSH TELEGRAPH

[June Edition](#)



PRESBYTERIAN YTH MINISTRY

[The Buzz](#)



KIDS FRIENDLY

[Kids Friendly E-News](#)



TREASURERS NEWSLETTER

[May Edition](#)



BUSH FIRE NEWSLETTER

[May Edition](#)

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!

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