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Presbytery Update

Presbytery Office Closed for 6 Weeks

Alan Judge is taking 4 weeks' study leave and then 2 weeks' annual leave and so the office will be closed from August 31st until 12th of October. During this time general enquiries and urgent matters should be sent to the Moderator and matters relating to workgroups directly to a workgroup convener.

Contact details are as follows: (click on the name)

- Moderator

[Rev Andrew Scott](#)

- Southern Presbytery Workgroup Conveners

Ministry Workgroup

[Rev Rose Luxford](#)

Finance Workgroup

[Rev Ken Harray](#)

Property Workgroup

[Rev Andrew Howley](#)

Parish Reviews Workgroup

[Rev Lee Kearon](#)

Candidates Workgroup

[Rev John Cromarty](#)

Nominating Committee

Rev Anne Thomson

e.anne.thomson@gmail.com

Covid Alert Levels

The Presbytery area has now moved to **Alert level 2**. We ask each parish to refresh their Pandemic Safety Plan for the developing situation and ensure those in church leadership, especially members of Sessions and Parish Councils know they are responsible for the health and safety of people attending church events. If you make significant changes to your safety plans, please lodge these with the Presbytery office. For general advice if needed please contact Rev Andrew Howley, Property Workgroup Convener: andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com. For specific legal advice contact the churches Compliance Director Matthew Hague: matthew@presbyterian.org.nz.



Please refer to the PCANZ Guidance: [Churches and Coronavirus](#)

Presbytery Council recently asked all parishes to display the **Covid Tracer Poster** at their entrances and have supplies and an alternative worship plan on hand for when or if a second wave materializes in NZ. The process for the QR code is very easy and requires a drivers licence.

[Click here](#) to create a code.

Mark Your Calendars!



Our 2020 full Presbytery meeting will start **at 7pm on Friday November 13th at St Enoch's, Alexandra**. It will finish mid afternoon on Saturday. The meeting will include times of worship and inspiration, the induction of our next Presbytery Moderator Rev Anne Thomson, receiving of reports of Workgroups and Camps and a range of workshops. All Presbytery members are asked to plan to attend. A Friday afternoon workshop may be arranged for ministers addressing a range of issues concerning ministers retiring.

What's Coming Up



Panel Discussion: The Cannabis Legalisation and Control Referendum

Monday 31st Aug. 5:15pm

Upcoming panel on 2020 referenda organised by the Centre for Theology and Public Issues and the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy, University of Otago.

For more information [click here](#).



Panel Discussion: The End of Life Choice Act 2019 Referendum.

Tuesday 8th Sept. 5:15pm

Upcoming panel on 2020 referenda organised by the Centre for Theology and Public Issues and the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy, University of Otago.

For more information [click here](#).



The Promise of Spring

Saturday 19th Sept. 9:30am - 4:30pm

A Day Retreat with the Rev. Dr. Hilary Oxford Smith and harpist & singer, Julie Dee

For more information [click here](#).



Service of Closing and Deconsecration - Ohai Presbyterian Church

Sunday 20th Sept. 9:30am - 4:30pm

For more information [click here](#).



Childrens Ministry

It's Always a Good Time to PRAY!

Praying for Children

Karakia Mo Nga Tamariki

2 - 8 AUGUST '20



At the beginning of August, there was a national focus on 'Praying for Children-Karakia Mo Nga Tamariki' across our churches. This is an annual initiative of PresCare, which is a collaboration between the PCANZ, Presbyterian Support and Presbyterian Church schools.

A number of resources were produced which could be used in a variety of ways. Many churches found the PowerPoint and stories or one of the videos helpful for introducing prayer during the service. Others linked the blog on their church social media, and bookmarks were printed for everyone to take home with the challenge to pray every day using the 7 simple phrases and dily action prayer.

Did you miss it? Well, it is always a GOOD time to PRAY for children and "Plant the Seed of Love in our Children" So if your church would still like to use these resources, they are all available on the Presbyterian Children and Families [website](#).

Bookmarks can be printed. (5 per A4 page- ignore or remove the August date) The stories and PowerPoint are relevant for any time of the year as is the brief and inspiring [daily blog](#) by Rev Roxy Gahegan.

There has been positive feedback from churches and schools that did use the resources during 2- 8th August. One North Island church crafted the whole service around the 7 phrases, using the videos and the script of the blog to 'flesh out' the content. After the service several people commented how different parts had connected with them especially the 'Empathy vs Sympathy video (Day 4 blog)' "I was reminded not to judge and to pray for the children in our community who are not connected with our, or any church."

In Palmerston, Carolyn Sims from Presbyterian Support introduced the theme by inviting a range of ages to make a line in order of importance. There were lots of opinions about who was the MOST important! When she asked how Jesus would have organised it, one of the young teens said: "We would be in a circle- no one is more important than the other" – pure gold wisdom! And a church school chaplain used the resources in her JAM (Jesus and Me) classes where the class spent time in prayer and also made a display of written prayers on 'window' shaped card.

An example of one prayer: "Let us welcome all children into the world-wide web of God's love." AMEN!



It's always a good time to pray! Please keep praying for children in your communities and churches.

If you want to chat about ways to use these resources, please contact me!

Cheryl Harray
Childrens and Family Advisor
cheryl@southernpresbyterians.nz



Youth Ministry

Coming Events & Camps



Origin

Edgar Center, Dunedin, September 26

For Year 9-13. 3:30pm - 9:30pm. \$20-\$25

“ORIGIN is a wild, crazy night of fun for youth, full of loads of activities where teenagers can go free-for-all and choose how they want to pack their night! But so much more than that, it is an exciting opportunity for them to be impacted by the Gospel!”

More Info, click [here](#).



Labour Weekend Camp

Camp Columba, Pukerau. 23 Oct - 26 Oct

For Year 7-9. \$90.

Three day camp for year 7-9's. Always lots of fun activities and great teaching. A great opportunity to meet other young people from around Otago & Southland and grow in faith. More Info, click [here](#).



Scripture Union Camps

Queenstown Spring Caper - October 5-9

For Year 7-10. \$255

Combining solid bible teaching with the wonders of Queenstown to begin and sustain friendships and build on our relationship with God. Activities include hiking, biking, overnight campout, swimming (indoor pool), cooking out. More Info, click [here](#).

Resources

Youth Alpha Film Series



WHAT: The Alpha Youth Series includes 13 episodes, each around 20-25 minutes long. Each episode includes discussion breaks for conversation, and personal testimonies related to the theme of every episode.

WHO: 13-18yr olds

COST: Free

CONTENT:

Episode 1 – Life: Is This It?

Episode 2 – Jesus: Who is He?

Episode 3 – Cross: Why Did Jesus Die?

Episode 4 – Faith: How Can I Have Faith?

Episode 5 – Prayer: Why and How Do I Pray?

Episode 6 – Bible: Why and How Do I Read the Bible?

Episode 7 – Spirit: Who is the Holy Spirit and What Does He Do?

Episode 8 – Fill: How Can I Be Filled With the Holy Spirit?

Episode 9 – New Life: How Can I Make The Most Of The Rest Of My Life?

Episode 10 – Evil: How Can I Resist Evil?

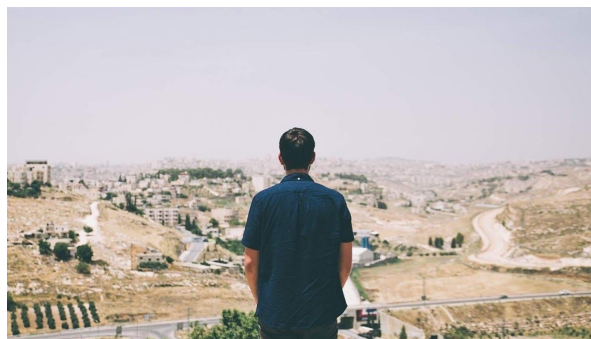
Episode 11 – Telling Others: Why and How Should I Tell Others?

Episode 12 – Healing: Does God Heal Today?

Episode 13 – Church: What About The Church?

More Info, click [here](#).

NUA



WHAT: NUA is a series of eight short films (approx 15mins each) intended to be watched over time. NUA is all about exploration: it's a film series that encourages questions, acknowledges doubt, and offers an engaging perspective on the Christian faith.

WHO: NUA is for everyone and is ideal in an educational setting, church/parish, youth group, university or with friends.

COST: \$36

CONTENT:

Episode 1 - How did we get here?

Episode 2 - Jesus: fact or fiction?

Episode 3 - What about the resurrection?

Episode 4 - What was Jesus really like?

Episode 5 - Why do I like Jesus, but struggle with Christians?

Episode 6 - How can you say that god is good?

Episode 7 - Has the church caused more harm than good?

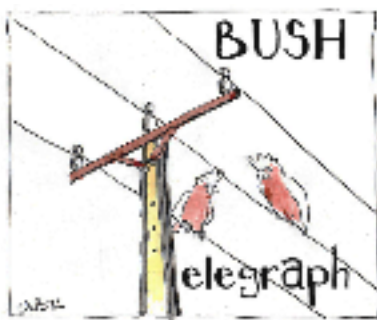
Episode 8 - What's Jesus got to do with me?

More Info, click [here](#).

To order in NZ, 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

[August Edition](#)



PRESBYTERIAN YTH MINISTRY

[The Buzz](#)



TREASURERS NEWSLETTER

[July 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!

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