

April 2022

# SOUTHERN HEADLINES

## Southern Presbyterians Newsletter

Kia ora and welcome to the Southern Presbyterians newsletter for April 2022. This month we have updates from the Southern Presbytery moderator Rev Anne Thomson, Learn Local, and others. If you have a story, article, or advertisement you would like to share, please contact Gabe at [office@southernpresbyterians.co.nz](mailto:office@southernpresbyterians.co.nz).



## From the Moderator of the Southern Presbytery

Rev. Anne Thomson

What does a Moderator do? This role involves a variety of activities across the Presbytery. In the past month I have been at St Mark's Pine Hill to lead the final service for that congregation, which has been worshipping God and serving the people of Pine Hill for over 150 years. I was able to travel to Oamaru to the commissioning service for Karo Wilson, whom many of you know, now exercising her gifts as part of the national Presbytery Children and Families Ministry team. I went to Cromwell to hear the Moderator of General Assembly, Hamish Galloway, share his theme of "Empowering Generations" with Equip Central, who were meeting both in person and on line. (Hamish will be at the Southern Presbytery Gathering on 11 June.) In Pukerau I officially closed the Pukerau church on behalf of the Presbytery, acknowledging the witness of that building and the people who worshiped there over the past 127 years, but also looking forward to what the parish will be doing next, centred on the Waikaka Valley buildings.

What else does a Moderator do? The Moderator is part of the care that Presbytery has for the parishes of the Presbytery. A wise and experienced elder said, "If a parish doesn't know what Presbytery can do for them, they should be grateful, because it means they haven't been in a situation where they have needed the sort of help that Presbytery can give." I have learned that when there is a need for wisdom and pastoral care, God provides people who will consider carefully and prayerfully how to address the issue that has arisen and how to support the people who are caught up in it. This is part of who we are in the church, bearing one another's burdens and sharing one another's joys, so that together we build up the body of Christ.

Please pray for the Presbytery – because Presbytery is us. Pray for your neighbouring parishes (and if you don't know what to pray for, ask them); pray for the Presbytery Council (and if you don't know who is on Council from your area, check out the website); pray for the workgroups of Presbytery who do so much of the work that needs to be done (and if you're not sure who those people are, have a look in the Southern Directory); pray for Alan Judge as he shares information and deals with requests and gives wise advice and maintains records, in his role as Executive Officer.

**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**Presbytery Gathering– in person**  
**JUNE 11: 10am – 4pm**  
**First Church of Otgo, Dunedin**

We are planning to gather in person (God willing!) as the Southern Presbytery for the first time since May 2021. We will meet at First Church in Dunedin on Saturday 11 June, a full day meeting.

The Right Rev. Hamish Galloway, Moderator of General Assembly, will be with us, sharing his theme “Empowering Generations”. Hamish is an engaging speaker and has wide experience across

the generations, from his time as a school chaplain and a parish minister. There will also be a range of seminars led by members of the national team.

This is an initial ‘Save the Date’ announcement. All ministers and Presbytery elders are expected to be there, but please invite others in your congregations to come to hear Hamish and to meet up with others across the Presbytery.

## Presbytery updates from the EO

### Mornington Induction of the Rev Karl Lamb

Sunday May 22nd 2022

Presbytery meeting at 1.45pm

Induction Service at 2pm

All Presbytery members, the Lamb family, Mornington Session and MSB members and visiting ministers of all denominations are invited to attend the Presbytery meeting at 1.45pm.

Church address: 16 Maryhill Terrace, Mornington, Dunedin



### Parish dissolved

Dunedin's Pine Hill congregation has been dissolved.

Its closing service was held on March 6th, and the effective date of their dissolution was March 25th. This dissolution was initiated by the congregation itself and assisted by a Presbytery



### Other Ministry movements:

**Please also note that the following have received calls to North Island congregations**

Rev George Kopa (Tapanui) to Manurewa, Northern Presbytery

Rev Douglas Bradley (Cromwell) to St Andrews – Tauranga, Kaimai Presbytery

**In addition, these pastoral ties have been dissolved**

Rev Geoffrey Skelton - concluding ministry with the Highgate Church

**The following local ministry team**

(St Paul's Invercargill) were recently dissolved:

Una Cardno, Lindsay Jordan, Debra Clark, Bronwyn Beker

Please hold all these leaders and congregations in prayer over coming weeks

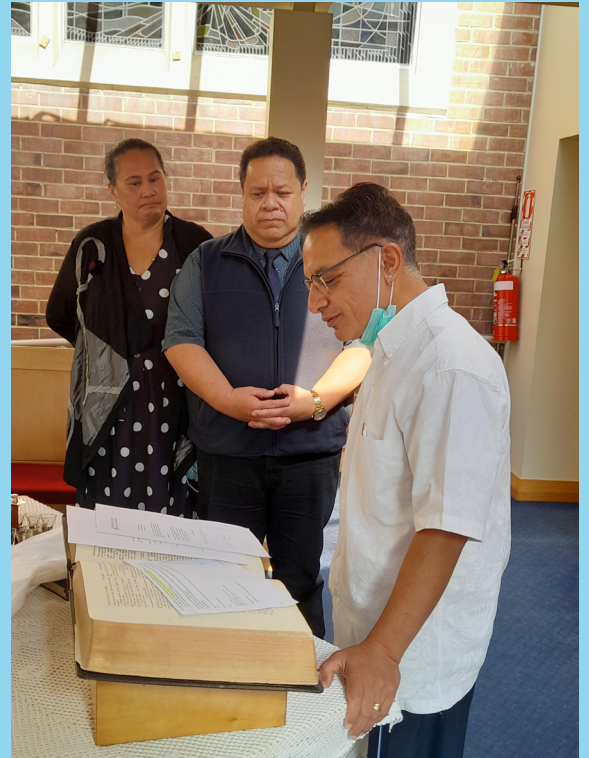


Julie Fern has been appointed to lead our Dunedin North Otago Regional Group. She was co-leader with Rachel Judge until the beginning of this year. This Regional Group's email address is DNO Regional [dnoREGIONALgroup@gmail.com](mailto:dnoREGIONALgroup@gmail.com)

EquipCentral Regional Group have appointed Aaron Johnstone to be their representative on Presbytery Council. This vacancy arose with Douglas Bradley moving soon to Tauranga. Aaron's email is [aaron@wpccc.org.nz](mailto:aaron@wpccc.org.nz)

The Mataura Regional Group farewelled Rev George Kopa and Lusia at a gathering in St Andrew's Church, Gore, on Friday 25 March 2022. George and Lusia Kopa have ministered in Tapanui at Church On The Way for the last 18 years. The meeting presented 'the Call' from Manurewa Parish.

Rev Robert Robati-Mani officiated and spoke of his association with George, both growing up in the Cook Islands then attending the same parish in Auckland before entering Knox College. Corporate prayers were said, followed by a blessing for the Kopa's ministry in Manurewa. George was invited to sing and he followed through [minus accompaniment] with a special song he had written recently. Fellowship and informal goodbyes took place over a cuppa. George's final service was Sunday 27 March.



## Learn Local as a uniquely Southern resource

**Rev Dr Steve Taylor**

Cheese rolls, Bluff oysters and tītī (muttonbird) are local delicacies. They remind us of the unique richness of this southern land. While often we look elsewhere for inspiration, there is plenty to savour in local churches across the Southern Presbytery.

The first Learn Local happened in October 2021. Amid the uncertainty of COVID, people from seven Southern Presbytery churches gathered in a community hall in South Dunedin on a wet Saturday morning. An outdoor community walk was paused. Instead, members of the Seedling Presbyterian ministry shared stories of what it meant to establish a missional community in South Dunedin.

Local immersion continued with lunch at Dunedin's longest-standing traditional Chinese restaurant. In



the afternoon, Student Soul led cafe worship in ways that demonstrated new approaches to technology. The spring weather had improved, so a walk around the University encouraged prayer for local mission among student communities.

Learn Local participants left stimulated by a day packed full of new ideas. There was excitement about different ways of being church, encouragement to work in individual giftings and affirmation of the value of small things with love.

So what? It is easy for resourcing to remain in the “good-day-out” basket.

In the four weeks following, Learn Local participants gathered online. They reflected on what they were learning as they walked their local communities. The questions asked by Learn Local Saturday generated further learning:

- getting started
- who else in our communities can help us provide

service for God

- creating cultures of openness
- discerning paths forward
- staying anchored in Christ and motivated in mission
- discipleship and worship in forming faith
- ways to remain connected in mission

Learn Local offers a unique way of learning.

Rather than learning from books, the community is the classroom, and the speakers are Southern Presbyterians involved in community mission.

Generous funding from the Synod makes Learn Local possible.

A second Learn Local is planned for October 2022.

Teams and individuals from Southern Presbytery looking for resourcing in local mission are strongly encouraged. To go on the mailing list for information regarding dates and details, contact Steve Taylor at [kiwidrsteve@gmail.com](mailto:kiwidrsteve@gmail.com).

## The Whānau Friendly Process

Through this process your church will reflect on your congregation's current ministry and discern in which way God may be leading you in the upcoming years. The resource includes a 6-episode film series, intergenerational teaching curriculum, community surveys and resources to create actions and priorities for ministry.

The Whānau Friendly Process is rooted in the strengths of the Kids Friendly Self-Review while also serving the church in this new season of a broader

## Whānau Friendly

focus, answering to the needs of children, young people, and their families.

Our dream is that the local church will be a place where all generations are present, thriving, encouraging one another and growing in faith together.

For full information, and access to all the resources, visit the Whānau Friendly website.

[whanaufriendly.org.nz](http://whanaufriendly.org.nz)



**Vacancies -  
Hospital Chaplaincy**



**Special Assembly  
Website**



**Faith Thinking  
on Zoom**



**Vacancy - PSO Community  
Mission Liaison**



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