

September 2022

SOUTHERN HEADLINES

Southern Presbyterians Newsletter

Kia ora and welcome to the Southern Presbyterians newsletter for September 2022. This month we have updates from the Moderator and EO of Synod, updates from Spiritual Renewal and Learn Local, as well as some other notices.

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From the Moderator and Executive Officer of the Synod of Otago and Southland

We are all deeply saddened to learn of, and now mourn, the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty has been a shining example of devoted service, steadfast duty, and unwavering faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. A true servant of God and of her people. Ma'am may you rest in peace.

On behalf of the Synod of Otago and Southland I would like to offer our heartfelt condolences with sympathy to The Royal Family at this very difficult time.

May our King of Peace pour out his blessings upon our new king, King Charles III.

God save the King.

Most of the allocations approved at the Synod AGM in April have been uplifted for the Educational Fund and Mission & Evangelism Fund. Some Ecclesiastical Fund allocations have been uplifted while others are part of larger projects that are still being worked on. Windsor Community Church in Invercargill, with one of the largest amounts of money to be uplifted, have uplifted part of their allocations as the alterations to their church buildings continue.

Recently the second round of Mission & Evangelism

allocations for the year were approved and uplift forms have gone out with a number already returned for payment. Much valuable new and continuing mission work is being supported.

We hope to be able to announce soon the dates for the Road Show that will come to your Presbytery Regional Group to discuss the Synod Regulations. We look forward to your contribution to this important work. Further details will come nearer the time.

Update on the premises: the Executive has received news that there is now in place, on a three monthly basis, a rental extension for the suite The Synod of Otago and Southland is currently residing in at Evan Parry house. This news is very reassuring to us, as we are continuing to wait on further updates on proposed plans for possible new premises.

Just as the seasons change so do some of our churches. Several more have or are in the process of dissolving as they believe that is the appropriate thing to do. It can be a difficult time as people let go of a church fellowship that has nurtured them and others often for many years. Some also find it difficult to let go of the church buildings they have worshipped in for many years. As I help people in this situation I am mindful that it is similar in some ways to the death of

a close relative or friend. Some people take and need more time to move on than others. Some struggle to find a new church fellowship while others move and settle in more easily. Please pray for these people in their time of transition.

On the brighter side of life I, Fergus, belong to the Wolseley Car Club NZ Inc. They have an Otago & Southland branch, which covers the same area as the Synod and Presbytery. The branch has increased its membership numbers quite significantly (about 40%) this last couple of years when church attendance numbers have tended to decrease. Club membership throughout the country has increased too. I have been wondering if we can learn anything from this that might help the church. What is attracting people to the club? The members are friendly and welcoming to new people. They enjoy meeting together to talk

about car things and life in general. There is a huge supply of spare parts members can buy to restore and maintain their cars. We have interesting drives to interesting places we visit. We put on displays about the club at some car shows to publicise ourselves. The new website and Facebook page are being visited by good numbers. Our monthly newsletter has interesting articles both technical and reports on branch and national activities. What principles might we learn from this secular club? I'm still pondering some of this so if you have any comments or thoughts please email me.

Blessings,

Debra Clark & Fergus Sime

Synod Moderator & Synod Executive Officer



Presbytery Updates

Parishes being dissolved

The **St Davids NEV Blue Lagoon** congregation of Dunedin is closing, ending more than 140 years of faithful and committed service to God and to community. The Presbytery service to dissolve the parish will be held on **Sunday October 2.30 pm at the Community Rooms**, 262 North Rd, North East Valley.

We recognise that not all people who wish to will be able to attend and so offer the opportunity for you to send us some memories or images and symbols of your association that we could share at the service. Please send to Margaret Garland, Interim Moderator at marg.garland@gmail.com by the 30 September

On September 4th Presbytery gathered for a service at **St Paul's Invercargill** a celebration of many years of work and ministry as the people of God in that place and the parish was dissolved the following day.

Te Whakakotahitanga One Conference

Church leaders are invited to Wellington for a national conference of Presbyterians. Details are included in this newsletter.

Te Whakakotahitanga – Gathering as one people under Christ

2pm Thursday 17th to 2.30pm Saturday 19th November

St. John's in the City Presbyterian Church, Wellington

Calling all PCANZ Church Leaders including Elders, Children's Leaders, Youth Leaders, Ministers, Pastors, Chaplains, Administrators and more

You are invited

Come for inspirational stories, great worship, practical breakout sessions, fantastic kai and the opportunity to connect and laugh together.

Next Presbytery – New Moderator

We meet next as Presbytery in **Cromwell on November 4th and 5th** (beginning at 7pm). On Friday evening we will gather to worship together and induct James Watt to be our new moderator.

The programme will be available soon.

The grief of endings

During the Friday afternoon Revs Silvia Purdie and John Daniel will lead a workshop on the theme **The grief of endings** – below is a description – the workshop is for Elders, Ministers and others in Church leadership.

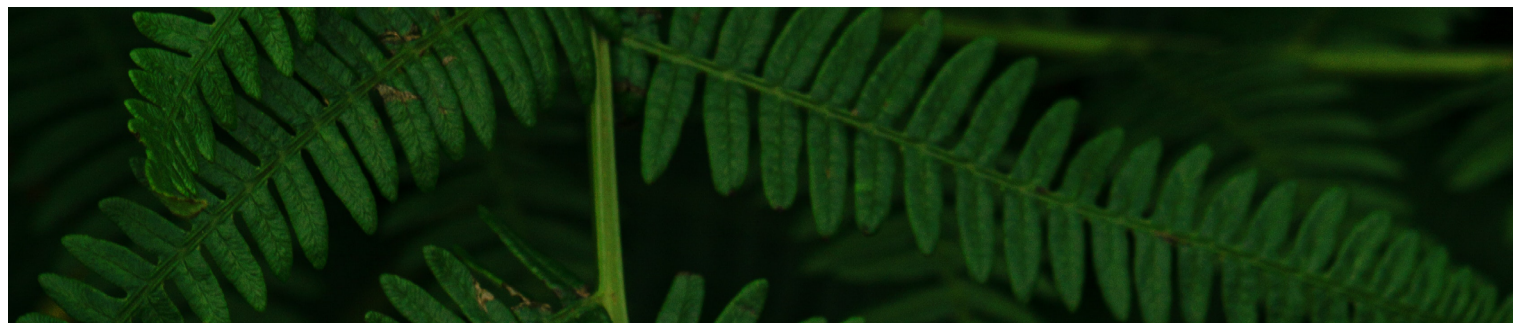
Ministry and church life involves endings as well as new beginnings, but we are not always good at dealing with them. Many of us in ministry carry past hurts, and many congregations are grappling with grief as churches shrink or close. Silvia Purdie has recently published a

book: **Moving On: grief in ministry transition**. She interviewed over 50 people, mostly in the Presbyterian church, from different cultures, discussing a breadth of topics, such as how change affects children and young people, together with biblical, theological and pastoral reflection. Her work includes recommendations for the church as well as liturgy for farewell and healing.

Silvia will lead a 2 hour session sharing her insights into this important topic, as well as discussion and prayer.

Presbytery Review

The June Presbytery meeting asked for an external Presbytery Review to be established. Review Team members have been approached and terms of reference prepared. It is expected the review will be completed around May 2023.



“God in place” tins as Learn Local mission resourcing

Resourcing local Presbyterian churches in mission takes many forms. For me, it currently involves checking out opportunity shops. I’m looking for metal tins: square or round, long or thin.

Inside each “God in place” tin, I place the following instructions:

- Walk your place each week (each place will vary from person to person).
- Collect signs and symbols that suggest God is in this place.
- Bring your tin to each gathering for show and tell.

“God in place” tins refer to Jacob’s encounter in Genesis 28:16. ‘Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!’ The tins are an invitation to the spiritual discipline of discernment. What does it mean to follow Jacob and look for God in our local places, streets, and neighbourhoods?

“God in place” tins are a further creative development of Learn Local, a Synod-funded learning initiative that began in October 2021. With the uncertainties

of COVID, I’ve paused Presbytery-wide gatherings. Instead I’ve focused real local, working with Student Soul.



I met weekly with students on campus. Over four weeks, we bring what we’ve collected in our tins into conversation with Scripture. Not only Genesis 28:16 but also Jesus’ promise to Nathanael in John 1:51: “You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” And the Emmaus Road encounter in Luke 24:31: “Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.”

We’re praying we catch up with what God is already doing in our place.

Let me know if you want me to run a “God in place” group for your local church. It’s all part of Learn Local mission resourcing among Southern Presbyterians.

Rev Dr Steve Taylor - kiwidrsteve@gmail.com

Spiritual Renewal And Growth

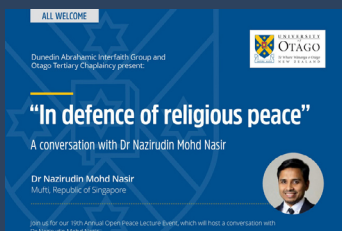
We have a small team of people who pray for spiritual renewal and growth in our region. Each month we send out some prayer suggestions including prayer requests from specific churches. We have been contacting one church from each region, asking for prayer requests. However, there is no need to wait until you are asked. If you have things – especially, but not only, things

related to spiritual renewal and growth – that you would like people to pray about, please let us know at sprag@southernpresbyterians.nz.

If you are willing to join the team of pray-ers, please subscribe using the **form on our website**.

Thank you very much indeed.

Upcoming Events



26th September
Peace Lecture



28th September
Advent Zoom



3rd October
SUPAKidz Camp



17th November
One Conference

Church Notices

Dunedin Local Body Election Meetings

You're invited to **Ōpoho Church, 50 Signal Hill Rd** for meetings with the candidates.

Sunday, September 18 and Monday, September 19 from 7pm to 9.10pm.

It's a 2 parter. Half the candidates on each evening will try to win your vote.

Philip Somerville will once again be chairing the meeting in his Dr Seuss hat. The wearing of masks is mandatory for everyone. There will be a cash koha opportunity, with the money going to the Dunedin Night Shelter Trust.

A Bug Day Out

Sunday, Sept 25, 3-5pm Opoho Church, Signal Hill Rd

Opoho Presbyterian Church is celebrating the season of creation. We are building a bug hotel in the Opoho Church garden; we are going on a bug hunt, and afterwards we are having a bit of grub.

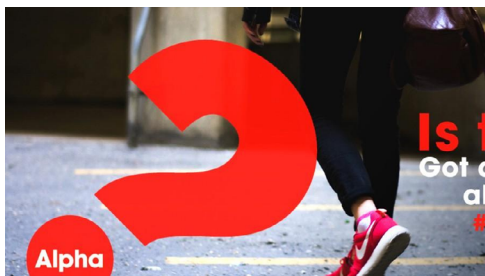
You are welcome to join us for some family fun at our Bug Day Out.

The event is suitable for primary aged children and their families. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. We will be outside much of the time, so dress for the weather.

RSVP opohominister@gmail.com if you are coming.



CWS Appeal



Vacancy - Alpha



Vacancy - Teach in Vanuatu



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