

March 2023

SOUTHERN HEADLINES

Southern Presbyterians Newsletter

Kia ora and welcome to the March newsletter from the Southern Presbyterians for 2023. This month we have updates from Alan Judge, the Spiritual Renewal group and Mandi and the Children and Families ministry. If you

have any design related questions, don't hesitate to ask, or if you have a story, article, or advertisement you would like to share, please contact Gabe at office@southernpresbyterians.nz

From the Presbytery EO

Next Presbytery

We meet next as Presbytery in Balclutha on May 20th (beginning at 10am and ending by 4pm). This is one of our twice yearly gathers as a Presbytery.

Presbytery Review

The June 22 Presbytery meeting asked for an external Presbytery Review to be established. It is expected the Presbytery review report will be presented to our 20th May meeting along with recommendations.

Quorum for Council meetings

Recent Council meetings have been affected by the 66% quorum requirements for meetings. It has not always been known this was a book of order requirement. Some decisions have needed to be postponed when a quorum was not achieved. The next meeting of Presbytery Council is on zoom on 16th March with an in person on April 14th. We also are planning a combined meeting with Synod Executive early in April.

Presbytery Office

Our office is moving from Princes Street to First Church around the beginning of April. Synod staff and the Otago Foundation Trust are also moving then.

Presbytery Clerk's study leave

Alan was planning 3 weeks study leave in March. One week is still proceeding, but 2 more weeks are delayed until April – May. This is to allow time for pack up the Presbytery Office for the move the First Church.

Moderator of Assembly

Church Council's have been invited to send in nominations for Assembly Moderator to the Presbytery. These will be considered at the May 20th Presbytery meeting. The Presbytery must nominate two people from those put forward by Church Council's.

Assembly Commissions

Each parish has been invited to commission an elder for the Assembly and send these in by Mid March. Ministers who did not attend the last Assembly have also been invited to accept a commission to GA23. This year we can commission 40 and will aim for half to be elders. Only 10 Southern elders were commissioned to the last Assembly and we are hoping for more this year. We can also commission young adults in addition to this. A highlight of the Assembly will be Rev Rose Luxford's induction as Assembly Moderator.



Upcoming Events



Dunedin North
Otago Regional
Group 2023

14 March



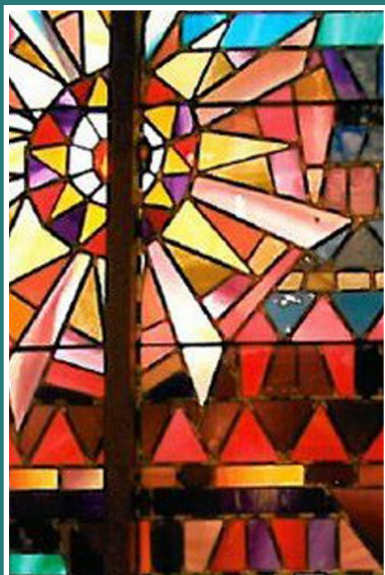
First Church
of Otago
175 Birthday Party

18 March



Induction Service
for 'Rev Dr
Geoff New'

23 March



Chaplaincy
at Dunedin
Hospital.

24 March



Seminar -
Biblical Justice
in an Unjust World

1 April

Spiritual Renewal Group

The SPRAG Team

The new SPRAG team has met once and will again this month. We are keen to do what we can to encourage spiritual renewal as well as growth in our churches. Please do pray for us. We need discernment about what will be helpful and what might bear fruit.

Lent Resources

We are, of course now well into Lent. However, if you are still interested in resources, some are **listed on our website**.

Other resources

We intentionally do not have a lot of resources on our website. That focuses on our own role and on this region. However, we do link to resources on other websites. But, for example, we do have some resources on **church revitalisation** and we will add more.

Available to serve

We do have people willing to lead workshops, retreats etc. Some are our team members; others are not. We would also like to grow the list of offerings. The **current list** is on our website.

In particular, the SPRAG team members would love an opportunity to come your regional group to both serve you in some helpful way and to raise the profile of our work. Please contact **Peter Cheyne**.

If you have ideas, questions, resource suggestions, or feedback, we would love to hear from you. **Contact Peter**.

Vacancies



Pastoral Visitor
Mosgiel Presbyterian Church



Synod Moderator

Debra Clark - synod.otago.southland@xtra.co.nz

Presbytery Moderator

James Watt - presbytery.moderator@southernpresbyterians.nz

Synod EO

Fergus Sime - synod.otago.southland@xtra.co.nz

Presbytery EO

Alan Judge - Alan@southernpresbyterians.nz

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIANS

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MARCH – APRIL 2023

FEATURING ARTICLE

Meet Ollie and Oscar, the Messy Church Kiwi's

Published by Jocelyn Czerwonka on 13 July, 2019

Why Messy Church Kiwi's you might ask?

I've had times when I have despaired about our ability to nurture children and families in the Christian faith. It's not just me, there have been many books written, many seminars and workshops held, many discussions, much prayer and anguish! Some things work, some don't. But what is unquestionable is the dedication, desire and faithful commitment of many who want to see our faith passed on.

Ollie the Messy Church Kiwi joined us for our overseas travel to the Messy Church International Conference in the United Kingdom and is a constant reminder to me that with God's help and the dedication of faithful Christians, anything is possible. On our return, his brother 'Oscar' popped up in Wellington and asked to be a Messy Church ambassador too.

Did you know that only 5% of kiwi chicks survive in the wild? Our most common kiwi species, the brown kiwi is declining by about 2-3% per year. Kiwi conservation experts believe that without ongoing support the brown kiwi will be extinct in the wild within 2 generations.

As a response kiwi hatchery's and creches have been set up in some parts of New Zealand. Kiwi eggs are rescued from the wild and brought to the hatchery's where they are incubated and hatched. The young kiwi chicks are then nurtured and cared for until they reach a certain weight and are strong enough to survive in the wild.



It can be a 'messy' business as one of our young people discovered when she volunteered at the Rainbow Springs Kiwi Hatchery as part of her "Care of Creation" module for the Faith Project. Squashing worms for food and cleaning up kiwi poo were all part of the job. While Messy Church may not be so extreme in its 'mess', the mere mention of the words 'messy church' have some people squirming in their seats.

After visiting a Kiwi Creche in Hawkes Bay with a group of young people a couple of years ago, we learned just how tough and messy it is to save our endangered birds. Rangers and volunteers monitor the tracking devices attached to the male kiwis (the dad's that sit on the eggs) and respond to the alarms when the kiwi eggs are close to hatching. These hardy kiwi volunteers will set off any time of the day and night, scaling steep hills, pushing through bush and wild blackberry in order to collect the eggs at the appropriate time and carefully transport them to the nearest hatchery. Their hard work and dedication is paying off. The National Kiwi Hatchery at Rainbow Springs have now hatched over 1800 kiwis and most have been successfully returned to the wild. That is a wonderful success story. Thanks to the care and dedication of these wonderful Kiwi conservationists our national bird may survive.

Likewise, it is the hard work and dedication of many faithful Christians involved in ministry to children, youth and families in many ways, that have seen us continue to pass on the gospel. Sometimes we need to think outside the square, outside of our comfort zones and be prepared for the scratches and bruises of finding our way through the unmapped path ahead to find successful ways to develop the 'creches and hatchery's' to successfully nurture others in faith. It can be messy, it can be tough, it can be very different to what we have known before, but praise God that we have people prepared to tough it out, to get messy, to try something new and go the extra mile to grow new congregations to plant Messy Churches, and to pass on the taonga (treasure) of the Gospel of Christ.

From the research (Playfully Serious) we know that Messy Church works! New disciples are being formed, lay leadership is growing and the seeds of the Gospel are being planted and nurtured.

So, from time to time you will see Ollie and Oscar, the Messy Church Kiwis pop up around the country, on our website and on Facebook. May they be a reminder to us all that the work of serving Christ is what we are called to do, despite the messy-ness and challenges we may face.



Then Jesus declared,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never go hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

ZOOM CONNECT

**Thursday
March 9th,
7:30-9:00**

Join us for a time of
networking and sharing
together, with a special focus
on resources and ideas for
Lent, Holy Week and Easter



Whānau Friendly



Our dream is for the local church to be a place where all generations are present: thriving, encouraging one another and growing in faith, together. It is our prayer that the Whānau Friendly Process will help.

For more information:

[CLICK HERE](#)

**FOR ALL OUR RESOURCES,
VISIT:**

RESOURCE HUB

www.mandi383.wixsite.com/spcm

ONLINE LIBRARY

www.librarycat.org/lib/SPCM-Library

ANCHORED



2023

WATCH THIS SPACE...

*Dates and venue
to be confirmed*



**What Messy Church IS
and ISN'T**

[Click here to read more](#)

Start a Messy Church

For more information, contact Mandi Geustyn
mandi@southernpresbyterians.nz

Church... but not as you know it.



**PCANZ CHILDREN AND YOUTH LEADERS'
SAFETY WARRANT OF FITNESS**

All leaders who work with children and young people must go through the PCANZ Safety Warrant of Fitness (WOF) once every three years.

Time for a refresher course?
www.safetywof.org.nz

Or contact Brad or Mandi:
brad@southernpresbyterians.nz
mandi@southernpresbyterians.nz



INVERCARGILL

17TH JUNE

VENUE : ROSEDALE BIBLE CHAPEL
CNR BOURKE ST & EXMOUTH ST,
INVERCARGILL 9810

TIME: 9AM-4PM

COST: \$95

REGISTRATIONS OPEN SOON



DUNEDIN

20TH JUNE

VENUE : MOSGIEL PRESBYTERIAN
11 CHURCH STREET, MOSGIEL 9024

TIME: 9AM-4PM

COST: \$95

REGISTRATIONS OPEN SOON

