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Greetings

Dear Southern Presbyterians,

Experiencing the Grace of God in the Season of Winter

I'm starting to feel like winter is approaching as temperatures drop, snowfalls begin and bare branches appear on some trees. A few months ago the thought of winter temperatures seemed hard to imagine, now they are on their way.

Our church life in the winter provides different opportunities to the summertime, so this might be a good time to consider how we offer “woolly jumper grace” to our people and communities. How do we connect and reconnect when life is chilly and health not so good.

Perhaps a pot of hot soup and warm buns after church services is a good start. Alongside this ensuring our elder visiting and other pastoral care networks keep in close touch with those more vulnerable. Perhaps a plan to make direct contact with our people if there is a civil emergency like flooding, extended freezing conditions etc etc

Let's not forget winter 'ministry self-care' so we pace ourselves well, take time off to recover when we get sick and make time to sit by our own firesides. In a former parish we would cancel all church meetings in July whenever possible.

For the next newsletter I'd like to share your 'better than these' ideas for winter woolley ministry in southern churches, so send in your ideas to office@southernpresbyterians.nz

Alan – Presbytery Executive Officer

Coming Events



Teviot Union 150th Celebration

Sunday 13th May
Teviot Union Church, Roxburgh
9:30am - 3:00pm



South Island Ministry Conference

15th - 16th May
For Everyone in Ministry
East Taieri Presbyterian Church



Leading Healthy Churches Seminar

Thursday 17th May
With Carey Nieuwhof
Mosgiel Presbyterian Church



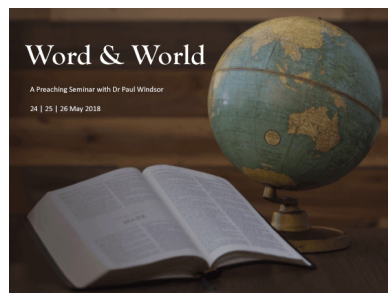
Clutha & Mataura Resource Group

Tuesday 22nd May
Indian Evening
Balclutha Presbyterian Church



Way2Go

Saturday 26th May
Childrens Ministry Training
Mosgiel Presbyterian Church



Word & World

Saturday 26th May
Preaching Seminar
East Taieri Presbyterian Church

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR MORE EVENTS - click [here](#)

Latest News



South Americans Bring Life to Wakatipu Parish

The Wakatipu Parish has embraced the rapidly changing landscape in Queenstown and has been ministering to the growing South American population in their town for a number of years now. With a South American congregation emerging they are seeing growth and new life amongst internationals in their parish.



Arrowtown Seeing Growth in Childrens Ministry

Two years ago there were no children at St John's Presbyterian Church in Arrowtown. Now, through some intentional work in the community and their new program "Church at Play" they regularly see 10-15 children at church each Sunday. With no intentions of becoming complacent, they are looking to grow further.



Balclutha & Owaka Working Together

The Balclutha Parish and the Owaka Parish have recently begun working together by sharing resources and at times joining together for worship. Birthed out of sharing practical resources, the two parishes continue to build relationships with each other.



ESOL ESOL In Invercargill

ESOL is an English-speaking tutorial group for migrants in Invercargill that First Church host. After a number of years the church is now starting to see the fruit of this exciting ministry with relationships formed, decisions made and baptisms! Praise the Lord!

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO READ MORE NEWS STORIES - click [here](#)



Childrens Ministry

Love Reaches Out

Over \$900 worth of cool prizes to be won! Whether it is a painting, drawing, sculpture, poem or story – we want to see your artwork. Competition closes Friday 27th July, 2018

This year's Love Reaches Out competition is based on the theme "Caring for our World." Through art or writing, entries should demonstrate how we can show love for our world by: Caring for the environment (physical) or Caring for the people of the world (geographical, near and far). The competition is open to children and young people connected with the Presbyterian Church, Family Works or Presbyterian Schools of New Zealand. For lots of planning and presentation TIPS, ideas for ART DAYS and INSPIRATION go to the Love Reaches Out page on the Kids Friendly website: click [here](#).

Childrens Ministry Review

In November 2017 a review group was commissioned by Synod and the Southern Presbytery to review the children and families ministries in the churches of the Southern Presbytery. The purpose was to find out what is currently happening in the churches, gather current data and stories, suggest next steps and guidelines for the future. The review team consisted of Christine Harrex and John Schoneveld (co-convenors), Cheryl Harray, Margaret Larsen, Rose Luxford and Nancy Parker.

Over the page you will find a ver brief snapshot of the review as well as a link to go and download a full copy of he review.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY CHILDRENS MINISTRY REVIEW 2018

62 parishes completed a survey in February/March 2018 (88.6% response). A snapshot of what was learned can be summarised through the following five V's...

VARIETY. OUR MINISTRIES TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOW HUGE VARIETY.

The programmes provided for children in our Southern churches are many and varied. No two churches are doing exactly the same thing but many churches are doing something. It is clear that each church is doing its best to respond to the needs of the children they are in contact with.

VALUE. CHILDREN ARE VALUED IN OUR CHURCHES.

The general tone of responses to the survey questions indicated that children are highly valued. Churches want children, they provide for children and they work hard to nurture children. There is significant evidence that the message of Kids Friendly has been getting through over the last 8 years.

VISION. OUR CHURCHES HAVE A VISION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Many individual churches have a very real sense of mission to children and these churches are making considerable investment in terms of time, finance and support.

VULNERABILITY. OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES ARE VULNERABLE.

We cannot be complacent with the current statistics of children in our churches and the contact we have with children in our communities. 40.7% of Southern churches have less than 5 children attending Sunday morning services. 27.4% do not run a Sunday morning programme for children. 23% do not have children involved in wider church life.

VIBRANCY. NUMEROUS VIBRANT STORIES EMERGED OF GOOD THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING

The children and families survey generated an amazing response. 62 out of 70 churches (88.6%) completed the survey and many people took the time to write detailed comments in response to the questions. Many wonderful snippets have been recorded which speak of life and health in our churches as children and youth are welcomed and included.

You can download the full review [here](#).



Youth Ministry

WANTED - Youth Commissioners for General Assembly

For a number of years Presbyteries have sent a small number of young adult commissioners to General Assembly. Over the years these young adults have had much to contribute in the decision making process as our Church as it moved forward. Many of these young adults have gone on to being major leaders within the Church. We are looking for six young adults aged 18-30, who are self-assured and have a mature Christian faith. If you or someone you know of might be interested please follow the link and read more about this great opportunity. If you have questions please contact [Brad Kelderman](#). For more information, click [here](#).

Continuum Conference

Five years on and the momentum continues to build! Continuum Conference which was birthed out of Windsor Church Invercargill and has been held in Queenstown for the last 4 years is moving back to Invercargill. With a home ground advantage, you can expect bigger and better things in 2018! If you have youth in your church then follow the link to read up more about Continuum Conference.

At Continuum you can expect a quality worship band and speakers, exciting entertainment and a well organised event catering for all youth groups. To read up more about Continuum, click [here](#).



Mission & Evangelism Fund

Applications due June 15

This fund supports projects that further and promote the extension of the Kingdom of God within the Synod's region.

Priority will be given to projects with a clear support base and a focus on a wider community – doing the most good for the most people. E.g. Otago and Southland-wide [Though applications for individual parishes can be accepted]. They're interested in supporting innovative projects with well-researched, clearly defined goals rather than equipment.

Mission & Evangelism Fund applications for the second funding round of 2018, allocated in September, need to be received by the Synod Executive Officer by June 15.

For more information and to download an application form, please click [here](#).

Alternatively you can contact Fergus Sime: 03 477 7365; executiveofficer@synod.org.nz

Presbytery Gatherings

2018 Presbytery Gatherings

There will be two full meeting of Southern Presbytery in 2018.

Last month we met in Invercargill on April 27th and thanks so much for amazing hospitality from the Knox church family. We did some important things like:

- ✓ Appointing Rev Andrew Scott as our Moderator Designate – Andrew will be inducted as our Moderator on September 7th and serve us for two years.
- ✓ Wonderful worship led by Rev Jordan Redding and friends
- ✓ Welcoming Karo Wilson as our first youth member of Presbytery Council
- ✓ Nominating Rev Rose Luxford as our Presbytery's nomination for Assembly Moderator Designate.
- ✓ Hearing of Rev Helen and Wayne Harray's plans for mission work in Myanmar
- ✓ Adopting two proposals for this year's General Assembly:
 1. That the Assembly commend the Accra Confession to congregations and presbyteries for study
 2. That the Council of Assembly in association with Te Aka Puaho appoint a Te Reo Maori Commissioner to promote and extend the use of Te Reo Maori in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand especially by facilitating the provision of liturgical resources. Redding
- ✓ Memorial minutes were approved for 5 ministers who had passed away: George Clark, Robin Smith, Jennifer Robertson, Numiaifaleupoluotofigautasi Aiono, and Geoffrey Vine
- ✓ Reports were received and discussed from a number of workgroup and other groups of the presbytery
- ✓ A review of ministry to children and families described their findings.

Spring Presbytery Gathering

The next Presbytery Gathering begins on Friday September 7th (at 4pm) and continues to Saturday September 8th (closing about 3pm). The venue will be the parish chosen by the incoming moderator (Andrew Scott)

For more information, please contact Alan Judge, southernpresbytery@xtra.co.nz

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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