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# Greetings

Dear Southern Presbyterians,

## **The Path, the Truth, and the Energy of Life**

I was sitting in church recently reading these words from John 14 on the screen...

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

Like you I've read those words many times before. But this time I was struck by the contrast between Thomas' question and Jesus response. Thomas is talking about going somewhere and plans to get there, at one level he is asking for directions. In response Jesus reshapes the conversation making it less about finding the way to somewhere and more about being fully present with Jesus in every place we find ourselves. "I am the way, the truth and the life". The Message translates this as **"I am the road, also the truth, also the life"** and a recent translation THE VOICE as **"I am the path, the truth, and the energy of life."**

During my life I've been to a lot of church seminars which are 'futuristic'. The focus is on moving on into a different space in Church life. We have in a sense been looking for the new way to be the Church. In these 40 years there has been a lot of experimenting, a lot of change. But I'm not sure we have gone anywhere. Perhaps these verses are calling us back to Jesus who has been with us all the way through. Is Jesus saying he is the path into God's truth and life?

How do you think of your calling, as individual and churches – is it to go somewhere else or be a different church; maybe it is to stay – to stay with the church as it is – and dwell in the presence of Jesus who is our life, who is our truth, who is our roadside. What would it be like for you to be more fully present with Jesus in every place we find ourselves.

Grace and peace  
Alan

# Coming Events



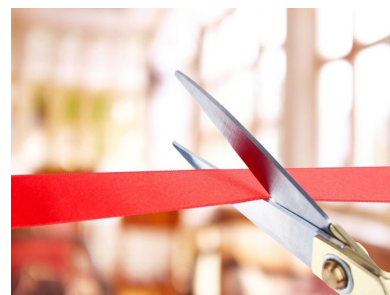
## General Assembly

October 3-7  
St Andrews College, CHCH  
[ga2018.nz](http://ga2018.nz)



## W.O.F Training

Saturday 13 October  
9am - 3pm.  
Leith Valley Church, Dunedin



## Lawrence - New Church Opening

Sunday 14 October  
Lawrence Presbyterian Church



## Induction Service Mosgiel Pres.

Thursday 18 October  
Mosgiel Presbyterian Church  
Inducting Rev Rachel Judge



## Presbytery Council Retreat

October 24-25  
More information to come.



## Commissioning Service Kurow

Saturday 27 October  
Kurow Presbyterian Church  
Commissioning of Lee Kearon

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SEE MORE EVENTS - CLICK [HERE](#)**



# 2018 Spring Presbytery Gathering

On September 7th and 8th Southern Presbytery met for our Spring Gathering. We had 82 Presbytery members and another 17 associates and a varied programme.

A highlight was the induction of our new Moderator Rev Andrew Scott who inspired and challenged us as we live together as a Presbytery of 70 parishes. This was a very happy and grace filled Presbytery where we were able to affirm many who live and work as part of the Presbytery.

We were meeting at John McGlashan College and took the opportunity to hear some of the vision of that College as a Christian and Presbyterian School. We also took time to greet Ministry Interns and LOM probationers beginning ministry in our parishes.

An update was provided on the work of the Presbytery Review and Development Group and we heard plans to consult further with the Presbytery as recommendations are developed. This group is asking some deep questions about how we shape our life as a Presbytery.

Financial discussions took place on Saturday as the challenges were outlined and ways to address them were considered in small groups and with the whole Presbytery. A balanced budget was approved and levies increased to allow this to happen. In addition the following notice of motion was approved: *That in order to support the financial viability and health of the Southern Presbytery, parishes and church members be invited to prayerfully consider giving more than their stated levy if they are able.*

Plans were made for the dates of next year's Presbytery Gatherings which will be held on Saturday 23rd February 2019 with the Spring Presbytery Gathering on Friday and Saturday August 23rd and 24th 2019. Please note these dates in diaries now. We accepted nominations made by our Nominations Workgroup for people to serve on Presbytery Council and our workgroups.

It was noted that this September is the 125th anniversary of women gaining the vote in our Parliamentary elections and we encouraged one another to reflect on this occasion and women's place in church and society in our worship services during September.



Alan Judge



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

# W.O.F Training

**Ethics + Health & Safety Training for all paid & volunteer leaders involved in childrens and youth ministry.**

We acknowledge the tremendous responsibility churches have for the safety and well-being of children and young people attending their churches and programmes. We are strongly recommending that every church puts their leaders who work with children and young people through the PCANZ Safety Warrant of Fitness (WOF) once every three years.

For more information about the W.O.F training, click [here](#).

Please register online by October 11th.

**[Register Online Here](#)**

**SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER**

**9AM - 3PM**

**LEITH VALLEY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**267 MALVERN ST  
LEITH VALLEY**

**NO COST. LUNCH AND RESOURCES PROVIDED**



# GA18 - a few pics

General Assembly 2018, held at St Andrews College, Christchurch







# Childrens Ministry



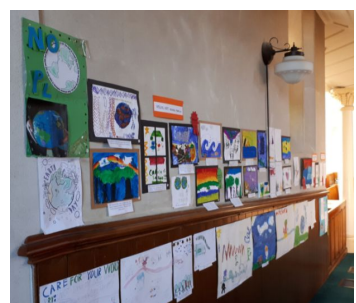
## Halloween Alternative

Are you thinking of organising an alternative event for Halloween? An All Saints Party or something similar is a great way to engage the children in your children's ministry and possibly wider community. Our resource Organising an Alternative to Halloween has some ideas that can assist you with your planning. Click [here](#).



## Advent Preparation

Ho ho ho! Christmas is coming, there is no denying it :) Now is the time to start making plans and gathering and ordering resources. You can go to the Kids Friendly [website](#) and find a wealth of ideas. Additional resource ideas can be found in the recent Kids Friendly [e-news](#).



## Love Reaches Out a HUGE Success

Kids Friendly and Presbyterian Support Family Works would like to thank ALL the children who entered the Love Reaches Out – Caring for our World Art and Writing Competition 2018. There were 151 entries across the 5 categories and on Wednesday 15th August the judges spent 3 enjoyable hours viewing, discussing and choosing winners and runners-up. You can see pictures and read more [here](#).



# Youth Ministry

re:Gen

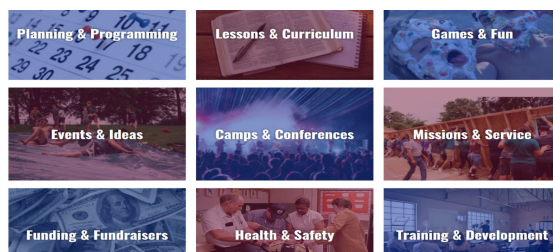
Mark it in your diaries... Saturday March 9th, 2019 is re:Gen. What is re:Gen? re:Gen is an ecumenical gathering of youth ministry leaders from across Otago & Southland. We gather to worship together, share ideas, encourage one another, to learn and grow and make connections with other youth ministry leaders from our part of the world. It would be great to see you and your team there! So mark the date in your diary and get it onto your church calendar before they book your church camp or church garage sale on the same day!

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## Youth Ministry Resources

The Southern Presbyterians website has a page dedicated to helping you find your way to helpful resources. There are loads of resources all over the internet and in that cupboard in your church, but we have identified tried and tested resources (curriculum, events, training etc) to help you find what you need to help you better and more easily disciple our young people.

Click [here](#) to go to our Youth Ministry Resources page. If you need help, can't find what you are looking for, want to share a resource with others, need to bounce ideas off someone... contact our Youth Advisor, [Brad Kelderman](#).





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# MAKING GOOD YOUTH MINISTRIES GREAT

## Youth Ministry Consultancy/Review

We are blessed across the Southern Presbytery with a rich history of great youth ministry of all shapes and sizes. This great work continues in many different ways across our region. We want to honour that good work as well as find ways to further support and grow these ministries. Through our Southern Presbyterians Youth Advisor, Brad Kelderman, we are able to offer all congregations a youth ministry consultancy service. This service, which was developed by the PYM national team, includes reviewing your church's ministry to young people, celebrating what is going well, seeking God's direction for the future, and highlighting some areas to work on. The youth ministry consultancy is underpinned by seven principles for youth ministry. By reflecting on all seven principles we ensure we are taking a holistic approach to the consultancy.

For more information about the Youth Ministry Consultancy/Review, click [here](#).

If you want to find out what this could look like in your context, contact [Brad Kelderman](#).



# The Seedling

## Presbyterian Community in South Dunedin

### **What is The Seedling?**

The Seedling is a new Presbyterian ministry in South Dunedin. Our vision is to establish a new missional community that:

- is embedded in the South Dunedin neighbourhood
- bears witness to the good news of Jesus through a shared life of prayer, worship, hospitality, and service
- creates welcoming spaces where community relationships can grow
- is attentive to the gifts and needs of the South Dunedin neighbourhood and its residents
- supports and advocates for South Dunedin residents around social issues, in collaboration with other local ministries and organisations
- provides a missional context where young adults can explore discipleship

The Seedling is an initiative of the Southern Presbytery, Presbyterian Support Otago, and the Knox Centre of Ministry and Leadership, and is generously resourced by the Synod of Otago and Southland, local parishes, and individual giving.

The ministry of The Seedling began earlier this year. In August, the Presbytery inducted Jono Ryan as minister for this new initiative. He is joined by Gabe Hawker, who has a role with The Seedling as part of his KCML internship. Our focus in these initial months has been on discernment: considering the shape of missional community in South Dunedin, meeting and learning from others in the neighbourhood, and exploring opportunities to serve. We have also begun gathering for a reflective worship service on Sundays, 4.30–5.30pm, meeting in the Family Works office in South Dunedin (details below). You are welcome to visit!

### **We Need Your Help!**

The image of a seedling expresses both the life and potential of this new ministry, and also its fragility in these early stages. To grow and establish strong roots, we need the support of the wider church. Can you help us? An immediate need is for a few more people to come alongside us in this work. Specifically, we are hoping for:

- some people to join our missional community: ideally this involves being based in South Dunedin, and sharing in our activities of prayer, hospitality etc. during the week



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- some people to provide a supportive presence over a fixed-term (e.g. 1-2 years), by joining us for worship on Sundays at 4.30pm, and participating in some of our activities in South Dunedin

Additionally, we'd like to encourage more students/young adults to join us in South Dunedin, either by living here as part of our missional community, or by sharing in some of our other activities.

Are interested in being involved? Or can you think of someone else who might be? We'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to find out more first, we would be happy to have a "no strings attached" chat over coffee. We would also be grateful for your prayers, especially for the needs outlined above. If you'd like to learn more about our ministry, and opportunities to support it, do get in contact, and we would be happy to meet with you or your church community.

Yours in Christ,  
Jono Ryan and Gabe Hawker, on behalf of The Seedling

email: [info@southdseedling.nz](mailto:info@southdseedling.nz)

phone: (03) 926 9529

location: Family Works office, Elliot House, 278 King Edward Street, South Dunedin

The Southern Presbyterians Newsletter is released bi-monthly.

Any comments or concerns about the newsletter or the website, or to unsubscribe,  
please email [office@southernpresbyterians.nz](mailto: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](mailto:office@southernpresbyterians.nz)**



We are also on Facebook. Make sure you 'LIKE' us!

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