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Greetings

Last weekend a bunch of youth group leaders from across the region, gathered together to connect with one another and to upskill in the area of youth ministry. What stood out for me at this gathering, and at this same gathering over the past few years, has been the incredible sense of peace and gentleness during the worship. We intentionally keep the worship music simple, just a guitar or two and a singer or two. And during the sung worship a large group of youth leaders pause and turn their attention to God and proclaim his awesomeness and wonder and in return they experience the restoring and life giving presence of God. For some of these youth leaders, the worship at this training day, where they stand shoulder to shoulder with fellow youth leaders and don't have to worry about the behaviour of 14 year old boys, is a highlight in their year. They simply need moments away from the busyness of life and ministry where they can refocus on Jesus and feel his presence in a fresh and new way.

As we draw closer to Easter, we enter into this season of Lent, where many of us will give something up in order to re-center Jesus in our life and in our ministries. So may this season be not just about surviving the sugar withdrawals as we commit to giving up certain pleasures for lent, but in this busy season as we approach Easter, let's set aside time and energy to connect with Jesus in a fresh, new way, and keep him at the center of our lives and ministry.

Brad

What's Been Happening...



February Presbytery Gathering

This was an enjoyable and encouraging experience with the Maitland people hosting us very warmly. The major discussion was around the review of the way Presbytery works. We also enjoyed a lively address by the CEO of Presbyterian Support Southland John Prendergast as well as interesting reports were presented from the 5 Resource Groups noting lots of energy and inspiration.

Read more [here](#).



We Welcomed Rachel Bates!

Rachel will be working alongside both Cheryl and Brad with a focus on the inbetweeners - the young people around 10-13 years. Rachel will be exploring what is important in developing deep and lasting faith. A two year project, which will see Rachel delve into research and resources to investigate what the 'experts' have to say as well as also doing lots of listening to leaders, parents and young people in our region.

Read more [here](#).



Updated Child Protection Policy

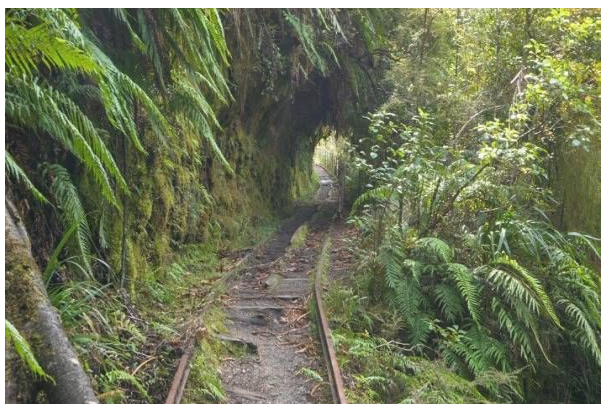
PCANZ has taken some good steps to ensure all Presbyterian churches are operating at the highest standards when it comes to ensuring the safety of the young people in our care. For many churches who already do this well, the changes will be easy to adopt. For those churches that need to do some work in this area, the support and assistance you need is available through Southern Presbyterians staff and national PCANZ staff. You can read more [here](#).

What's Been Happening...



Youth Leaders Gather at re:Gen

On the 9th March, approximately 80 youth leaders gathered at Calvin Church in Gore for a 1-day youth ministry training event called re:Gen. There were a large number of youth leaders from Presbyterian churches, as well as Anglican, Baptist, Brethren and Pentecostal churches. There was input from the national youth ministry leaders from the Presbyterian, Baptist, Anglican, Brethren and Scripture Union youth ministries. Read more [here](#).



KCML Lent-Inars

We are in the season of Lent and we are fortunate to have KCML offer their Lent-Inar series again this year. They start THIS WEEK! Brought together by KCML and published as Snapshots in Mission - a collection of writings reaching back and across cultures in order to think forward about being church tomorrow. The Lent-Inars are offered as a free webinar each Thursday, throughout the rest of March. Read more [here](#).



New Alpha Resource Staff for Otago & Southland

Alpha has a new resource person in Otago & Southland. Matt Stevenson has recently taken on the part-time role working for Alpha, supporting, encouraging and enabling churches across the region to use Alpha resources in their context. Alpha has a wide range of resources, so be sure to connect with Matt and see how these resources could be used in your church. Matt is also the camp manager at Tirohanga Camp. Read more [here](#).

What's Coming Up...



Combined Invercargill Service

March 17

Ascott Park, Invercargill

The seven Presbyterian Churches in Invercargill plus Oteramika-Kennington Parish are gathering for a combined Presbyterian Church worship service at the Ascot Park Hotel.

Read more [here](#)



Aaron Johnstone Induction +more

March 21

St Ninians, Hawea Flat

Southern Presbytery is excited to be able to licence, ordain and induct recent ministry graduate Aaron Johnstone into the Upper Clutha Parish, working specifically in Hawea.

Read more [here](#)



Dunedin Yth Leaders Gathering

March 28

Elim Church, Dunedin

A monthly gathering of youth leaders from across Dunedin. This month we are joined by Ben Woodman who works for Alpha International and is the guy on the Youth Alpha videos.

Read more [here](#)



Knapdale Decommissioning

March 31

Knapdale Church

A decommissioning service, followed by a shared lunch. Everyone is welcome to come celebrate the blessings received from attending services in this lovely old Church.



Equip South

April 2

First Church, Invercargill

The April gathering of Equip South will be held at First Church Invercargill. Contact Nyalle Paris for more information.



Synod AGM

April 13

Camp Columba

The Synods annual AGM will be a 1-day event this year, happening at Camp Columba. It won't be all business as the camp will be inspiring us through words and activities.

Read more [here](#)

Read more [here](#)

What's Coming Up...



Pukerau Easter Camp

April 18 -22
Camp Columba

A youth camp for high school aged youth, held at Camp Columba. The camp has great speakers, worship & activities. Send your young people!

Read more [here](#)



Dunedin Easter Camp

April 19 - 22
Mosgiel A&P Showgrounds

A youth camp for high school aged youth, held at the A&P Showgrounds in Mosgiel. Great speakers, worship & activities. Come as a youth group!

Read more [here](#)



South Island Ministry Conference

May 14th -15th
East Taieri Presbyterian Church

A conference for everyone and anyone in ministry. An opportunity to grow and be challenged and to connect with other folk in ministry.

Read more [here](#)



Faith & Adolescence Workshop

May 16
Ascott Park, Invercargill

Churches are struggling to keep their teens connected to faith. This workshop will speak into this challenge with hope and encouragement for parents, pastors and youth workers.

Read more [here](#)



Way2Go

May 25
Mosgiel Presbyterian Church

A mix of inspirational speakers, practical workshops, and networking opportunities, which will equip you for your work with children and young people.

Read more [here](#)



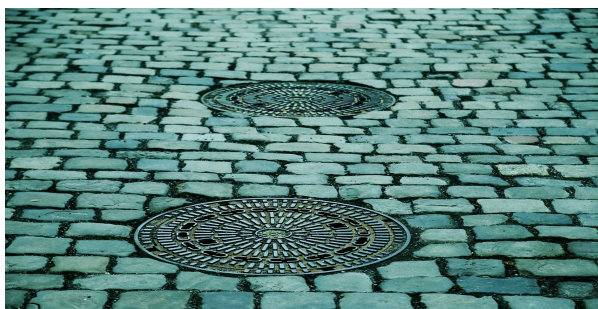
STAY UP TO DATE

To see the Synod & Presbytery calendar online, click [here](#)



Lent Resources

Songs by Malcolm Gordon



“ATTEND TO THE GROUND”

A meditative piece on the inescapability of grace, the pervasiveness of love, and the need for us to ‘take off our shoes’ and pay attention to the holy ground we walk upon.

Listen [here](#).



“THE PHILIPPIAN’S HYMN”

A congregational song based on the ancient Christian hymn, embedded in Paul’s Epistle to the Philippian Church (Phil 2:5-11).

Listen [here](#).

Childrens Ministry Resources

Cheryl Harray recommends the following resources to use in your congregation...

- ["A Pilgrimage of Grace"](#) from STRANDZ (Anglican) with their whanau based activities.
- [Lent \(Flame Creative\)](#) lots of great ideas for Lent- to do at home and church
- [The Illustrated Children's Ministry](#) have new colouring posters and pages, curriculum and devotional material.
- And of course, so many Lent and Easter resources to explore on the [Kids Friendly website](#)



Vacancies

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SCHOOLS' RESOURCE OFFICE DIRECTOR

The Presbyterian Church Schools' Resource Office Director is to resource and support the Presbyterian Church Schools in New Zealand and to serve and strengthen the relationship between the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and those church schools which are associated with it.

For more information on the role [Click Here](#)

The role is 0.6FTE (24 hours a week) but would consider 0.5FTE.

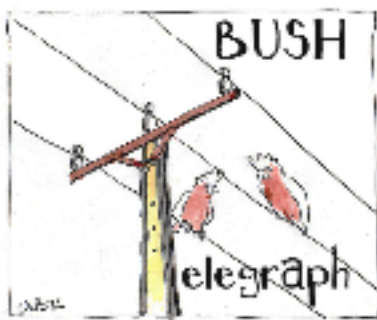
Applications close: 15 March 2019

For a complete job description, further information or to apply, contact Gordon Fitch,
gordon@presbyterian.org.nz,

National Church Updates



Click on the following links to go the latest news updates from the various resourcing and ministry departments of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.



BUSH TELEGRAPH

[March Edition](#)



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH MINISTRY

[The Buzz](#)



GOING GLOBAL

[Myanmar Newsletter](#)

[Vanuatu Newsletter](#)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

[Bush Fire Newsletter](#)



SPANZ

[Latest SPANZ Magazine](#)



KIDS FRIENDLY

[Kids Friendly E-News](#)

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!

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