



# First Church of Otago

The Quarterly Newsletter of First Church

February 2022



Enjoying the Christmas Carols at the Kids Carol Service

Kia Ora, Talofa Lava, Kia Orana, and greetings in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

As 2022 begins we are now used to continual change. We shifted to Red, and our fellowship is interrupted, our fair is once again postponed and other events will no doubt end up being postponed or cancelled. It is disappointing. In the face of it we can choose to become frustrated and angry or to ask how we can step forward in faith?

Faith in uncertain circumstances requires that we look beyond the immediate challenges we are facing to the truths which underpin our faith. Throughout the years, God's people have found different ways of worshipping, offering love and support and being faithful in the range of challenges. The Psalms often invite us to give voice to the present trials, whilst looking beyond to the truth of God's unfailing love.

Psalms 136 tells this story of God's people. It reminds us that God created the world because of a steadfast love that endures forever. This same steadfast love accompanied God's people in slavery, guided them in the wilderness, protected them in the storms and

## What's inside:

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- CHURCH FAIR
- CHURCH WALK
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continued to rescue, feed, and protect the people. Each part of the story of God's people is filled with the steadfast love of God.

The steadfast love of God enables us to continue stepping forward in faith. God's love has been put to work in Jesus Christ and continues to work as the Spirit is poured out on all creation. Our own experience of the pandemic is that God's love has endured through this season. The certainty of this love that we meet in Jesus Christ lets us live with a hopeful joy as we engage with one another and step forward in faith. Although there are challenges, the light of God's love reminds us that God's purposes are still unfolding around us. God's steadfast love frees us to step forward from the frustrations and challenges and to live with faith.

reminds us that God's purposes are still unfolding around us. God's steadfast love frees us to step forward from the frustrations and challenges and to live with faith. As 2022 unfolds we can be certain there will be challenges; and we can be even more certain that God will not leave us to face our perils alone. As we step forward this year let us take our lead from Jesus Christ – the love of God become flesh. Come what may, we will find ways to continue opening the Scriptures together, continuing to pray together and continuing to invite and help others meet with Jesus – the love of God who never fails!

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Ed

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## Church Fair

Due to the country now being in the RED traffic light setting, the Church Fair which was scheduled to be held on Saturday 12th March 2022, has been postponed until the Spring.

Items for sale, can still be left in the foyer of Burns Hall each Sunday, and these will be stored until the Fair takes place.

Enquiries to Pam Seaton, Phone 488 2285



## Church Walk

Our monthly walks are starting up again.

Our next walk is THIS SUNDAY, February 6th.

We're going to the North Cemetery, so meet at the church at 2.00pm to share rides, or at the cemetery entrance on Lovelock Avenue at 2.20pm (the Sexton's cottage.)

Contact Ruth Houghton, 467 5702 or [houghton.rm@extra.co.nz](mailto:houghton.rm@extra.co.nz)



*His steadfast love endures forever*

*Psalm 136*



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## Craft Group

Craft Group re-commences Thursday 10th February  
9.30/10.00am in the McLean Room.

During the August lockdown last year, 89-year old, Liz Knife knitted:-

- 13 Jerseys
- 5 scarves
- 4 Baby singlets
- 2 adult hats

... and not a scrap of wool was wasted! An impressive result and the knitting continues.

Most of these garments will be donated to the "Operation Cover Up" project.



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## Friends of First Church



The Friends of First Church is hosting a series of weekly lunch-hour concerts that will begin on Tuesday, 8th March, starting at 12.15pm. The concerts will be held in the Church and will take place on the following four consecutive Tuesdays at 12.15pm with the final concert on Tuesday, 5th April. Each concert will be approximately 45 minutes.

The first concert will feature two organists - Richard Brown, Organ Scholar at First Church, and David Burchell, Dunedin City Organist. The following four concerts will feature vocal and instrumental performers.

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## APW

APW will meet again on Tuesday  
15th February, 2.00pm in the  
McLean Room, Burns Hall.

Guest Speaker : Shelley Hawke, Finance  
and Administration Manager at First  
Church.

Welcome to all who would like to meet and  
hear some of Shelley's story.  
Usual sales table



## Office Hours

Office : Finance & Administration Manager  
Monday-Friday: 8.00am-1.00pm

Minister : Rev Ed Masters  
Tuesday-Friday

Associate Minister : Rev Alofa Lale  
Friday morning



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## Upcoming Services

### February

February 6th	
10am Combined Service	Rev Ed Masters
February 13th	
10am Morning Worship	Rev Ed Masters
12noon Cook Islands Service	Rev Ed Masters
2.00pm Samoan Service	Rev Alofa Lale
February 20th	
10am Morning Worship	Rev Ed Masters
12noon Cook Islands Service	Maria Rouvi
2.00pm Samoan Service	Rev Ed Masters
February 27th	
10am Morning Worship	Rev Alofa Lale
12noon Cook Islands Service	Rev Alofa Lale
2.00pm Samoan Service	Rev Alofa Lale

### March

March 6th	
10am Combined Service	Rev Ed Masters
March 13th	
10am Morning Worship	Rev Ed Masters
12noon Cook Islands Service	Elder
2.00pm Samoan Service	Rev Alofa Lale
March 20th	
10am Morning Worship	Rev Ed Masters
12noon Cook Islands Service	Rev Ed Masters
2.00pm Samoan Service	TBC
March 27th	
10am Morning Worship	Rev Alofa Lale
12noon Cook Islands Service	Rev Alofa Lale
2.00pm Samoan Service	Rev Alofa Lale

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Minister: Rev Ed Masters** (027 637 9818) email [ed@firstchurchotago.org](mailto:ed@firstchurchotago.org)

**Associate Minister: Rev Alofa Lale** (027 661 6478) email [alofa.lale@gmail.com](mailto:alofa.lale@gmail.com)

**Church Office:** phone 477 7150 or 477 7118

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[www.firstchurchotago.org](http://www.firstchurchotago.org)



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