



*Read: Ephesians 1:18-23*

At the end of the first chapter of his letter to the Ephesians Paul pauses and prays for the church. He asks God that the church might have a spirit of wisdom and revelation that would lead to hope, promise and the knowledge of the power of the resurrection.

This knowledge is more than just a set of facts, it is more than rituals, and it is more than knowing the tunes and words to the songs. It is something that is revealed and something that becomes known as we engage in relationship with Jesus. Paul prayer is for a group of people who are reading the teachings of God, praying, worshipping and seeking to serve. Paul prays with faith, because he is confident that God will respond and give us all – individually and collectively – this spirit of wisdom and revelation.

We live out our faith in the midst of a created world, filled with humans, sins and a range of problems. We face health challenges, family and social dynamics, political questions, financial decisions and challenges about how to live in the world. Paul's prayer is that we would be able to navigate all of life with the wisdom and insight that comes from walking with Jesus.

As your life unfolds, how do you ensure that you are drawing near to Jesus and engaging in relationship? Are there simple things you can add to life – a morning prayer, a lunch time bible reading, an evening reflection on where God has been present throughout your day.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 1:2)

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## Notes from Session and Deacons

- We have started using non-alcoholic juice for communion; and making gluten-free options available to make sure that everyone can share in the central act of worship.
- Both Session and Deacons Court have reviewed their terms of reference in light of changes to the Book of Order
- Session is grateful the work done by the pastoral care team at the 10am congregation; and the elders and participants in our 12pm and 2pm congregations in caring for and looking after our community.
- Deacons has been engaging with Heritage NZ regarding the proposed upgrade of the electrical and heating systems in the church
- Quotations for long-term maintenance plans are being received.
- The 2021-2 First Church of Otago AGM will be held following the combined service on November 6.

## Trip to Maple Glen

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**November 2022:**

A trip to Maple Glen in Wyndham is being planned. Maple Glen is a private garden, which includes a



nursery, and an aviary with some unusual birds. The garden was created from a bare paddock which has been extended to now encompass 90 acres; it is a most beautiful garden.

We will be travelling by mini bus from First Church to Maple Glen.

To make this trip viable we need to have 19 people.

If you are interested could you please contact:- Pam Seaton or Heather McFarlane.

## Foodbank Support

From Presbyterian Support ...

"Thank you for your generous contributions to Presbyterian Support Otago over recent months.



With your support we provided assistance for those who are facing extra burdens at this time of the year.

Over the last year more people have come to us for support than ever before—people who never imagined they would one day have to ask for help. Because of the generous support of people like you we can respond positively, knowing that we can provide the assistance people need.

We are very grateful for your donations. Thank you!"

*I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?  
Psalm 121:1*



## Rev Alofa Lale

### 60 years of the Treaty of Friendship between NZ and Samoa

It was a huge privilege and honour for me to be invited to join The Rt Hon. Jacinda Ardern as a part of the New Zealand delegation to Samoa to



*NZ and Western Samoa sign Treaty of Friendship*

celebrate 60 years since the signing of the Treaty of Friendship between New Zealand and Samoa. When I got the phone call from the Minister of Pacific Peoples, the Hon. Aupito William Sio inviting me I was in shock. I asked him, "Are you sure there isn't someone else who you should invite?" He said, "No, we are asking you as a Samoan church minister as well as a Samoan community leader and we hope that you will accept the invitation." So I accepted the invitation, all the while expecting that they would ring me up any moment to say that unfortunately, I had been taken off the list. The phone call never came and before I knew it we were flying out on an RNZAF plane from Auckland at 10.00am on Monday, August 1st.

On August 1st 1962, the Treaty of Friendship was signed between the Samoan and New Zealand governments by the Prime Minister of Samoa, HRH Fiamē Mataafa F.M.II and the Chief Justice of New Zealand, Mr J.B. Wright on the grounds of the home of Robert Louis Stevenson, affectionately known by the people of Samoa as Tusitala (Storyteller). New Zealand has not signed a Treaty of Friendship with any other country and this Treaty signed between the two countries signals 60 years of a relationship founded on respect and goodwill. The invitation extended to the New Zealand government by the current Prime Minister of Samoa, (who happens to be the daughter of the first Prime Minister of Samoa who signed the Treaty of Friendship those many years ago) was a sign of that respect and goodwill that has stood the test of time.

A delegation of about 50 people from New Zealand flew across to Samoa to be the first international flight to touch down in Samoa signaling the end of lockdown and the opening of the borders of Samoa. New Zealand was well represented by the respective leaders of the National Party, ACT Party, Greens Party and the Maori Party as well as

members of the Pacific caucus. The rest of the delegation was made up of local iwi representatives from across the country, as well as media representatives and Samoan community leaders. There were only three of us from the South Island. I found out just how small the world is when another delegate

from the Waikato was someone who attended the same high school as me in Porirua.

When we landed in Samoa I was overcome by emotion seeing the lush green landscape of Samoa. There was a very deafening silence as the sense of occasion washed over us and

especially those of us who were of Samoan descent. Here we were to celebrate the signing of a historical document between the country of my birth and the country of my ancestors. My parents had left the shores of Samoa and in 1962 were already in Aotearoa, New Zealand, the land of milk and honey. The Treaty of Friendship was the forever inking of a relationship that would hold meaning for us, the people of Samoa, for as long as the Treaty was in existence. To us, as Samoans we have a friend in New Zealand and being a part of the New Zealand delegation to Samoa meant a lot to us, the diaspora living in New Zealand. We were



*Delegation Group*

going home to where it all started and it felt good.

This is when things started to get crazy. We were met on the tarmac by media representatives who were interviewing the Prime Minister and government

officials. And then we were whisked away to get ready for the welcome Ava ceremony and reception hosted by the Samoan Government and the Head of State.

*(continued over)*



*Alofa with NZ PM Jacinda Ardern and Samoan PM Fiamē Naomi Mataafa*

It was a great occasion with much pomp and ceremony. The two Prime Ministers cut the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday cake and we all drank toasts to both countries.

That night my family came to visit me at our accommodation and it was so good to see them again after not seeing them since 2018.

Tuesday morning we were whisked off in another motorcade to Apia for the Guard of Honour and flag raising. The two government representatives met and discussed the future and especially the effects of Climate Change on Samoa and other opportunities for collaboration.



*Alofa and other delegates with the Minister of Pacific Peoples, the Hon. Aupito William Sio.*

Then it was lunch back at our accommodation. Farewells from both sides with our delegation supporting our Prime Minister with a waiata after her speech. Tutira mai nga iwi was the waiata of choice for the Prime Minister. Apparently we were the best ever singers of any previous New Zealand delegation. I was not surprised at all. I was honoured to be the chosen to pray the closing prayer at the end of the official part of the programme and to bless our return journey home, as well the people of Samoa. It was very emotional. I felt a surge of power as I asked everyone to stand for the final prayer and they all did. The respective Prime Ministers, Members of Parliament, different political party leaders, dignitaries and everyone stood at my command. Oh the power. After the Amen, we all

began to say our farewells and then just like that we were off again. Sirens blaring, heralding our Prime Minister and her delegation through the tiny villages of Samoa to the Faleolo International Airport to catch our plane home.

It was an experience I do not ever think I will have again in my lifetime. I am humbled and blessed to have been given this opportunity. I was there representing my family, Mercy Hospital, my Pacific community and the many circles I intersect with. I find I am still pinching myself to make sure it



## Friends of First Church

The Friends of First Church recently held their Annual meeting. During the meeting Rev Ed Masters thanked the Rev Brian Williscroft for the many years he had given to the Friends. Following the formal part of the meeting Mrs Ann Barsby gave a talk on her childhood and then the founding of the Southern Heritage Trust. The meeting was followed by afternoon tea.

Also, a reminder that the annual subscription is now due. Please pay to Jean Kirk, or online. New members are most welcome. Further information from Jean - via email ([kirkhome@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kirkhome@xtra.co.nz)) or phone 454 5708.





## Induction of Rev Malcolm Gordon

How wonderful to gather with the Southern Presbytery on September 1st to celebrate the induction of Rev Malcolm Gordon.



## Our People



Congratulations to Orlando Tuhega-Vaitupu on being awarded the annual *Otago Daily Times* Class Act award. This award is given to high school pupils in the region who have been recognised for excellence.

Mum Gemma also received the award 22 years ago as a student at Bayfield High School. Together they are the first parent-child duo to have received this award.

Photo credit: Otago Daily Times



Ron and Lyn had the honour of being pallbearers at Pepe Henry's funeral last week. Here they are relaxing having a cuppa afterwards. Don't they look nice in their blue shirts!

## First Church Walkers

We have started our Sunday afternoon walks again now that spring has arrived. In September we explored the Southern Cemetery where many early Dunedin leaders are buried.



*Thomas Burns' headstone*



*It was a pretty chilly day, but 10 of us had a great outing.*

For our next walk on 9th October we'll be heading out to Port Chalmers.

Meet **2.30pm** at the Church. We will explore the centre where our early church leaders first landed. It is now a busy port exporting logs as well as dairy products and other goods.

If you need a ride, contact Allan Woodhead 455 7834 or 027 432 9656

## APW

### August Meeting Report

As APW is no longer affiliated to the National Association of Presbyterian Women of Aotearoa New Zealand our group is now more of a Fellowship gathering to which we are pleased to welcome members of First Church congregation. Therefore it was a pleasure to welcome a good attendance to the August meeting.

Guest speakers Jan Adams and grandson Pablo, who was visiting his grandparents, gave an informal and interesting insight into life as an Ambassador's family. Jan and Howard's daughter Megan is married to a Spanish Ambassador. The time Jan and Pablo gave to share something of Megan and her family's experiences was indeed appreciated.

The next meeting is 18 October, 2pm at Burns Hall.

### Fellowship meeting

#### Tuesday 18 October, 2pm

Our guest speaker is Sarah Barton speaking about owning a home in Burgundy, France – before and after Covid. Sarah and Fraser Barton have recently returned from a stay at their residence situated in the village of Noyers Sar Serein.

Welcome to all interested in hearing about Sarah and Fraser's experiences.

## Garage and Plant Sale

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Burns Hall, 11.00am-1.00pm

Items for Garage Sale, and potted plants would be most appreciated, please. Enquiries to Pam Seaton.

We have a need for small gardening pots. If you have any to spare please contact Pam Seaton.

## Heritage Centre Re-opening

We are excited to inform you that the Heritage Centre will re-open on Tuesday 25th October. The Centre will be open Monday to Fridays from 10.30am-2.30pm. A big thank you to those staff who have offered their time to make the re-opening possible. This is an important part of our mission to the wider community.

In preparation for our opening a meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th October, 1.30pm in Burns Hall. Time for a get-together and afternoon tea.



## October Services & Rosters

### October 2nd

10am Combined Service—Rev Ed Masters and  
Rev Malcolm Gordon  
Door Stewards—Foalima Lemalu's team  
Reader—Heather McFarlane  
TV Remote—Kau Brydon  
Morning Tea—Sue & Robert McLintock

### October 9th

**12pm White Sunday**  
One Service only

### October 16th

10am Morning Worship—Rev Alofa Lale  
Door Stewards—Heather McFarlane's team  
Reader—Charlotte Merriman  
TV Remote—Jean Kirk  
Morning Tea—Carol & Morris Brown  
12noon Cook Islands Service—Opara Richard  
2.00pm Samoan Service—Satele Faatoese

### October 23rd

10am Morning Worship—Rev Malcolm Gordon  
Door Stewards—Jean Kirk's team  
Reader—Lorna Ruffell  
TV Remote—Chitra Kumarasinghe  
Morning Tea—Pam Seaton & Lorna Ruffell  
12noon Cook Islands Service—Opara Richard  
2.00pm Samoan Service—Rev Malcolm Gordon

### October 30th

10am Combined Service  
Door Stewards—Foalima Lemalu's team  
Reader—Lyn Murray  
TV Remote—Natalie Masters  
Morning Tea—Heather McFarlane & Andrew Rouvi

## October Meetings

Session 12th October

Deacons 19th October

## Ecumenical Memorial Service

for Her Late Majesty the Queen  
Sunday 2nd October at 4pm,  
St Paul's Cathedral, The Octagon

## November Services

### November 6th

10am Combined Service  
The Church AGM will follow the service

### November 13th

10am Morning Worship  
12noon Cook Islands Service  
2.00pm Samoan Service

### November 20th

10am Morning Worship  
12noon Cook Islands Service  
2.00pm Samoan Service

### November 27th

10am Morning Worship  
12noon Cook Islands Service  
2.00pm Samoan Service

## 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

**Associate Minister: Rev Malcolm Gordon**  
Tuesday; and Wednesday & Thursday Morning

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Minister: Rev Ed Masters**

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**Associate Minister: Rev Malcolm Gordon**

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