

16 November 2022



# CENTRAL ROUNDUP

## A new season

For those churches that follow the lectionary calendar the coming Sunday is the last Sunday of the cycle of readings in Year C—Luke. The 27th of November is the first day of Advent and I would love to have a law that stops Christmas advertising and carols in shops before then!



I haven't done formal statistics but I would guess that around 60% of our churches use the lectionary for Sunday readings. I'm confident that 100% will be celebrating Christmas and the season of Advent that comes before. Within the diversity of our congregations there is also a lot in common, in fact there are more connections between us than divisions. Even when churches use a lectionary there is a wide interpretation of what God is saying to the church each Sunday.

So we approach the end of one season in the church and the beginning of another. That is what the church has done for two millennia. We have faced the changing of seasons supported by the Word of God and our Gospel of Hope. The season ends with a celebration of Christ as King and begins with the promise of new life overcoming the system.

Pray for the Christmas preparations of all our churches that we might proclaim a message of hope into the darkness of our world. Pray for energy and enthusiasm after a busy, tiring year. And pray for holiday plans that we all may recharge for the new season ahead.



*Peter Mackenzie*

Executive Secretary



## Presbytery and you

World Children's Day is this coming Sunday and I'm sure your congregation is thinking about what they will do to mark this occasion. Your national church has been thinking, too, and an inspiring message from our National Moderator, the Right Reverend Hamish Galloway is available to read [HERE](#)

If your parish had some inspiring ideas that you'd like to tell us about, or photos of what you did to celebrate this day, be sure to let us know so we can share these with the Presbytery.

Presbytery welcome Rev Ian Croft into our region, a minister emeritus from Kaimai Presbytery. Ian is now living in Levin.

### LICENSING SERVICES

Our three interns will complete their studies soon and will celebrate their internship, completion of studies and licensing on **Sunday 4 December** at 10am at three different churches.

Adair Oosterbroek      St Paul's, Napier

Eric Oosterbroek      St John's, Hastings

Brett Reid              Levin Uniting

[presbyterycentral.org.nz](http://presbyterycentral.org.nz)

## Around the Presbytery

Last week I shared a story concerning St David's Presbyterian Church in Gisborne and the important relationship they have with the Eastern Knights Chess Club. This week I want to share another story concerning the Gisborne Presbyterian Parish, in particular the congregation of St Andrew's in central Gisborne.



One of the things that St Andrew's has been trying to do, like so many churches, is to connect with children and families. There is a recognition all around Presbytery that there are less families attending church on Sunday. It could be because church worship is no longer relevant for so many people in New Zealand or because families are exhausted and the only day they have to rest and enjoy each other's company is Sunday morning. Of course, there are many reasons as to why less families are attending Sunday worship or going to church, which I'm not going to unpack here, however it is an issue that so many of us are trying to address.

St Andrew's response to this issue was to explore the need for a Christian based after school programme for tamariki and their whanau in the Gisborne area. This programme would be called the Kid's Café, primarily because the programme would be based around food. It's main points of difference were:

- It would be Christian based
- No other programmes were being offered in the city area
- The programme would fit very well with their mission statement and provide an alternative way of supporting children/tamariki to an understanding of Christianity in a loving and safe environment
- Gisborne Presbyterian Parish is the right organisation to provide such a programme because of their strong desire to have more children learning about faith, Jesus and what it means to be Christian

What I loved about this idea is the creativity of connecting with the wider community, recognising a need of after school care, but not shying away from being Christian based. Although this was new to St Andrew's it was a great way to build bridges, to provide opportunities for the Gospel to be lived out and a helpful service to the Gisborne community.

What possibilities might God be calling you explore?

Stay tuned for another story next week

Yours in Christ

*Stuart* (Mission Catalyst)



### MINISTERS

It is important to remember to keep your Certificate of Good Standing up to date with a Ministry Development Plan every three years, attendance at an Ethics Workshop and a police check. A call cannot be processed if your CoGS is not current and if it lapses before you retire you may be removed from the marriage celebrant list.

Study Leave is part of the terms of service and can be used in a variety of ways—it is intended as a time of refreshment and learning. If you are thinking of taking leave next year please consult your church council and presbytery.