

FIRST CHURCH OF OTAGO - WHAT'S ON DURING NOVEMBER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7

10.00am - Morning Worship The Reverend Tokerau Joseph
DUTIES: Stan Catchpole (471 0633) Ian and Margaret Mitchell,
 June Evans Finance **Stan Catchpole**

TEA/COFFEE Selina Mulder

12noon - Cook Islands ` The Reverend Tokerau Joseph
 2.00pm - Samoan Service - The Reverend Anne Thomson

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14

10.00am - Morning Worship The Reverend Tokerau Joseph
10am DUTIES: Ian Robertson (454 4513) Jenni Elmes, Vicki
 Penny, Julie Savage, Maara Williams.

TEA/COFFEE: Isobel Napper and John Takacs

12noon - Cook Islands ` (Baptism) The Reverend Anne Thomson
 2.00pm - Samoan Service - The Reverend Tokerau Joseph

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21

10.00am - Morning Worship The Reverend Tokerau Joseph
10am DUTIES: Russell Duff (476 3494) Selina Mulder and Sina
 Muliau Finance **Russell Duff**

TEA/COFFEE: Patricia and Marion Wylie

12noon - Cook Islands ` The Reverend Tokerau Joseph
 2.00pm - Samoan Service The Reverend Anne Thomson

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28 - Advent 1

10.00am - Morning Worship The Reverend Anne Thomson
10am DUTIES: Nineva Vaitupu (455 3375) Les and Maureen
 Green Finance: **Les Green**

TEA/COFFEE: Isobel Napper and Jean Kirk

12noon - Cook Islands ` - Kopu Rouvi
 2.00pm - Samoan Service - Satele Faatoese

With Love to the World - daily Bible reading notes

These notes follow the Revised Common Lectionary, the readings used in the 10 am and 2 pm services. They provide a way to link weekday prayer and Bible study with what happens at church on Sunday, so that minds and hearts are better prepared to hear God's Word through the Bible readings.

With the beginning of Advent the lectionary moves into Year A, when most of the Gospel readings come from Matthew. From Advent through to Epiphany, these Gospel readings tell of the coming of Christ and his manifestation, especially through his preaching. Most of the first readings, from the Hebrew Scriptures, are from the prophet Isaiah. The second readings are mainly from Romans and 1 Corinthians.

The current issue of *With Love to the World* covers a three month period, including Advent and Christmas: 15 November 2010 – 13 February 2011. It costs \$5.00. Copies are available in the book rack in the church foyer or from Anne Thomson.

Crime and Justice social issues study guide The Church's eighth [social issues](#) study guide, *Crime and Justice*, has been sent to all parishes and is also available on our website. It was produced to encourage congregations to reflect about issues impacting our communities. It explores the Biblical mandate for justice, punishment and forgiveness. The study guide examines if we are in a crime wave or if crime rates are falling, how crime and our responses to it impact us all and what actions we can take individually and collectively to reduce crime. - If you would like to see the study guide, please talk to Nan Rickard, or access it on the PCANZ website - www.presbyterian.org.nz/speaking-out

If there is interest in the congregation, a study group could be arranged for the new year.

SENIOR MINISTER: The Reverend Tokerau Joseph, phone 477 7792 cell 027 371 4733
PART TIME ASSISTANT MINISTER: The Reverend Anne Thomson 477 7150 cell 027 467 5488
PART TIME PASTORAL ASSISTANT MINISTER : The Rev John Sinclair (473 9950 or 027 436 9204)
FIRST CHURCH BELL RINGERS - Practice 7.30pm Thursday nights;

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays 1.30pm Mah Jong - McLean Room
Tuesdays 12.15-12.30 Quiet Space in Church
Thursdays 12.15- 12.30 Quiet Space in Church
Thursdays 7.30pm Bells Practice
Friday 6pm Youth Group Burns Hall

WHAT'S ON DURING NOVEMBER

TUES 9 4.30pm Property Committee
Wed 10 7.30pm SESSION
Sun 14 Cook Islands Ekalesia
Mon 15 4.00pm Finance Committee
WED 17 7.30pm DEACONS COURT
Sunday 28 12 noon Cafe Lunch **RSA Mosgiel**

ELDERLY EXERCISE WEDNESDAY
 (no class the first Wednesday of each month)
 10.30am-11.30am BURNS HALL

An Oasis in the City: First Church of Otago
Midweek services on Tuesday and Thursday,
12.15-12.30



A quiet meditative time of prayer held in the St Andrews aisle.
Do come and join us .

LECTIONARY READINGS

During November, these are the readings that we will use in our services: the Revised Common Lectionary at the 10 am and 2 pm service, and Te Tia at the 12 noon service.

	Revised Common Lectionary	Te Tia (12 noon service)
7 November	Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	Salamo 104
14 November	Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	Salamo 22
21 November <i>Reign of Christ</i>	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	Salamo 61
28 November <i>Advent 1</i>	Isaiah 2: 1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Salamo 131

FIRST CHURCH OF OTAGO

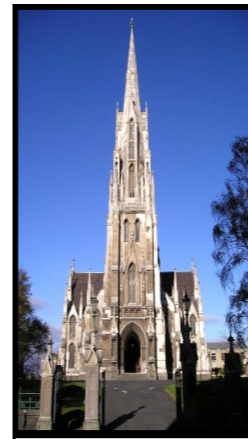
415 Moray Place, Dunedin

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2010

FIRST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

"We are striving to become a truly multi-cultural community, providing a warm, creative and affirming home base, enabling us to reach out with the Good News to those working and living in the inner-city and beyond."

Message from The Reverend Tokerau Joseph



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The last month has seen me involved in various events. One of them was going to Christchurch to support my son Tokerau Jr. who represented Otago rugby in the under 13's 65kg weight group and the other was for the General Assembly of the PCANZ held at St. Andrew's College. I was very proud to watch Tokerau Jr. develop as a player and team person. It was also a time to get to know the other parents who made up the strong contingent of Otago supporters. Despite having to overcome the Canterbury heat in terms of weather and rugby performance (as well as a few aftershocks), our boys gave it their best shot and came 4th in the tournament that involved eight teams

Attending General Assembly was also a wonderful experience. It was great to catch up with friends I trained within for the ministry as well as meeting new people whose friendship I appreciated. Although the meeting each day was long and tiring, there were inspirational speakers, interesting workshops and encouraging reports that made my time there very worthwhile. I facilitated a discussion group that ranged from topics such as the dissolving of a congregation to reviewing the core areas of our mission as PCANZ. I need to mention with deep gratitude the hospitality of Rev Arii Taimataora and her family for hosting me for the time I was at Assembly. She and Tai and the children extend their greeting to you all.

Just recently, I attended a Putokotoko camp at En Hakkore (former Sanatorium) near Ranfurly in support of our Cook Islander members who got involved. This is an annual camp but held for the first time at En Hakkore. The theme for this year was "Lord, teach us to pray". It was well attended by just over 90 people (many of them new) and it was great seeing a growing number of young ones joining in. I enjoyed very much the sense of peace and inspiration from the fresh air and amazing views of beautiful countryside including the spiritual and cultural gifts that people shared to enrich our experience there.

Finally, after a very cold and miserable start to spring the glorious sunny days of the last couple of weeks has really people hope and confidence that summer is on its way. Hope brings about a sense of positiveness. But if you've read my report for our last AGM and heard my sermon on Sunday 17th October, you would understand that I haven't some concerns about membership decline in both PCANZ and First Church of Otago. The lack of discussion about it at our AGM was also a concern. Yet, I'm still hopeful about our future together. I'm hopeful because I believe the good news of Jesus Christ can still make a difference in our life as individuals and as a faith community. Good news is something to look forward to; to get excited about. Like Zacchaeus who looked forward to seeing Jesus that he climbed a Sycamore tree, the story presents a challenge to us of where our focus is. Do we see Jesus and what he represents as something to be excited about? How do you feel about your Christian faith? Is your thinking about Christ such that you what to do something about it? Does it motivate you to climb up or to remain unseen and diminishing as was Zacchaeus? Deciding to climb up provided Zacchaeus an opportunity to here Jesus say to him, "Today, salvation has come to this house" (Lk. 19:9). I want to encourage you to see your faith in Christ as something to motivate you into action so that our place, here at First Church, is house where people might experience that "salvation has come."

DUNEDIN NIGHT SHELTER TRUST OVERNIGHT VOLNUTEERS NEEDED

The Night Shelter at 87 Manor Place is open every night and offers free, overnight accommodation for homeless people as required.

Help is needed from committed, kindly, reliable men and women volunteers willing to go on a roster to share the overnight supervision of the shelter with another person from 7pm - 8am, one night a month, particularly on Saturday and Sunday nights. Training is provided. Phone 477 0546 or email dunedinnight-shelter@gmail.com to arrange an interview

The Reverend Anne Thomson



Dear First Church folk,

Signs of new life are easy to spot in the spring: blossoms and new shoots and lambs - and the increased pollen count, which isn't so comfortable for many people. Some days rain, hail and wind can make us feel like it's winter again, but the flourishing continues even in adverse conditions.

It was great to worship with the Samoan community on White Sunday, and to see the growth that is occurring there, children growing up and developing skills and confidence, but also the growth in numbers as other people have come to join them. The Sunday School which began meeting monthly this year has grown in strength and commitment through the year. White Sunday gives the children and young people, with their leaders, a time to share their enthusiasm with us all. It was

fantastic to see many from the wider First Church community (and beyond First Church) sharing the occasion.

The Annual Meeting the following Sunday was also an encouraging meeting – and the afternoon tea provided by the Samoan community gave us an opportunity to share food and fellowship together before we attended to the business of the meeting. "Table fellowship" has always been a marker of the Christian community – the church is formed around the table where we share bread and wine together, and Jesus was known to his disciples "in the breaking of the bread". The challenges that face First Church in the coming year are considerable, but if we continue to build our fellowship with each other, we will be better able to meet those challenges.

With spring, ship visits start again and the number of visitors in our services, particularly at 10 am will increase. I have heard a number of people who have worshipped with us saying that they appreciate the welcome that is extended to them by the congregation, sharing the peace with one another, giving visitors a postcard, inviting them to morning tea. A young overseas visitor, who is living temporarily in Dunedin, told me she wasn't 'religious', not a regular church-goer, but she enjoyed the interaction in our services, and was keen to come back, even rearranging her work schedule to make that possible.

Signs of new life abound in spring time. Even through adverse conditions, life can flourish and grow. Feeding and encouraging that growth is something we can all attend to, but the growing is God's life working among us. *God bless you all. Anne*

NEWS FROM THE SESSION CLERK



In November we celebrate Armistice Day - (also known as Remembrance Day) - 11 November – marks the anniversary of the Armistice that ended hostilities on the Western Front of the First World War. The eleventh hour of the eleventh month marks the moment, and is observed by one minute's silence.

In Australia they sell the poppies to wear on Armistice Day.

An item of correspondence at a recent APW meeting was the receipt of a beautiful Certificate of Appreciation from the Returned Servicemen's Association "for our generous support of the Annual Poppy Day Appeal for the Dunedin RSA Welfare Trust. " On behalf of the APW, Lily McDonald has for many years, arranged the roster for First Church members to be Poppy day collectors. On the Certificate are

the words of the poem 'In Flanders Fields' which when I was at school was compulsory learning, and I can still remember the words off by heart. It made me think of a letter sent to my mother from her uncle, who was in the army 'somewhere in France' and dated May 1917. It read, 'The weather here is quite good. We are enjoying eating fresh vegetables which taste all the sweeter knowing that the Hun planted them. I hope you are keeping up your studies to become a lady clerk. (signed) Uncle Jack.'

In First Church we have our beautiful stained glass window to commemorate the end of the war and those who lost their lives fighting it. Do you know what words are written under the panels? Well they read "Put on the whole armour of God. Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life. They shall beat their swords into ploughshares. Glory to God in the Highest and on earth Peace"

Let us pray

May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease

When a great peace will embrace the whole world.

God grant us your Peace.

Nan Rickard, Session Clerk.

First Church Operating Budget for Year ending June 2011

	BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL 2010	BUDGET 2010
INCOME			
Direct Giving	\$	\$	\$
Offerings			
Envelope System Offerings	52,000	50,107	48,000
Cook Island Offerings	30,000	30,000	30,000
Samoan Offerings	5,000	4,741	4,500
Cash Offerings	10,000	8,156	12,000
	<u>97,000</u>	<u>93,004</u>	<u>94,500</u>
Endowment Funds Income			
Endowment	65,000	63,302	61,000
St Andrews Trus	14,000	14,502	13,600
	<u>79,000</u>	<u>77,804</u>	<u>74,600</u>
Donations and Bequests			
Donations	10,000	10,100	10,000
Bequests	-	25,213	-
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>35,313</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Property Income	<u>56,400</u>	<u>55,988</u>	<u>54,390</u>
Parish Activities			
Fundraising	6,000	6,722	8,000
Heritage Centre	9,000	8,486	10,000
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,208</u>	<u>18,000</u>
Missions			
Grants - Youth Ministry	10,000	11,164	10,000
Carr Bequest	6,000	5,200	7,000
Mission Birthday Gifts	1,000	973	1,100
	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,337</u>	<u>18,100</u>
Total Ordinary Parish Income	\$274,400	\$294,654	\$269,590

FIRST CHURCH OPERATING BUDGET

The First Church operating budget was approved at the First Church AGM. (*The budget is printed in this newsletter for the information of anyone who was not at the meeting.*)

At the meeting Mr Tony Stevely explained the operating Budget 2010 – 2011. He stated that this was a real challenge for First Church as we would again be operating on a deficit budget.

Mr Stevely went on to explain that we although we did not operate a Capital Budget, there were many capital items that would need to be funded in the future, e.g. fire protection for Burns Hall, and the immediate problem of the Link Building roof replacement.

He read an extract from a letter from the Friends of First Church which promised a donation of \$1500.00 towards the replacement of the Link Building Roof, and the suggestion that the Convenor of the Property Committee, Mr I Mitchell, meet with the Friends of First Church with a view to discussing future projects.

Mr Stevely also thanked the volunteers at the Heritage Centre, with a special thank you to Shirley Farquhar who liaises with Tour Companies for tours of First Church which generate additional income.

	BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL 2010	BUDGET 2010
EXPENDITURE			
Ministry	\$	\$	\$
Ministry - Full Time	62,200	61,175	60,812
Ministry - Part Time	32,500	32,693	31,321
Pastoral Assistant	11,900	11,751	12,473
Ministry - Youth	6,000	10,396	16,000
Supply	1,500	1,571	1,000
Organists	6,000	6117	5,935
ACC	1,000	857	1,000
	<u>121,100</u>	<u>124,560</u>	<u>128,541</u>
Administration			
Secretarial	26,300	25,520	25,488
Copying, Printing & Postage	6,100	5,958	6,000
Telephones	3,800	3,716	3,200
General	6,500	5,653	4,400
Computer	1,000	248	1,000
	<u>43,700</u>	<u>41,095</u>	<u>40,088</u>
Property Expenditure	<u>111,000</u>	<u>105,020</u>	<u>107,519</u>
Parish Life			
Christian Education	1,000	572	1,000
Fellowship	1,500	1,054	1,000
Sundry	6,000	4,283	7,000
Youth	2,500	380	2,500
	<u>11,000</u>	<u>6,289</u>	<u>11,500</u>
Outreach			
Assembly Assessment	21,300	22,059	23,652
Presbytery Levy	-	3,500	3,500
Advertising	3,500	3,352	4,000
	<u>24,800</u>	<u>28,911</u>	<u>31,152</u>
Total Ordinary Parish Expenditure	\$311,600	\$305,875	\$318,800
Budgeted Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$37,200)	(\$11,221)	(\$49,210)

	BUDGET 2011	ACTUAL 2010	BUDGET 2010
PROPERTY ACCOUNT			
INCOME	\$	\$	\$
Rent - Buildings	15,600	15,625	15,000
Rent - Car Park	26,500	25,250	25,000
Rent - Manse and Flat	9,500	9,453	9,390
Rent - Church Weddings	800	1,734	1,500
Donations	4,000	3,926	3,500
Total Income	56,400	55,988	54,390
LESS EXPENDITURE			
Security, Alarms, Professional Fees	10,500	10,540	9,000
Consumables	1,800	1,747	1,500
Heat, Light and Power	27,000	24,110	24,000
Insurance	16,400	15,701	17,663
Repairs and Maintenance	18,000	17,398	18,000
Salary and Expenses	18,600	18,376	18,056
Grounds	2,000	1,784	3,000
Cleaning	12,000	10,965	12,000
Rates	4,700	4,399	4,300
Total Expenditure	111,000	105,020	107,519
Net Property Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$54,600)	(\$49,032)	(\$53,129)

The Season of ADVENT

The Christian Season of Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas. It is a season recognised and celebrated by most Christian denominations, a time of preparation for the Incarnation of God in Christ.

The Sundays are traditionally identified as Hope: Peace: Joy. Love. In many congregations a Christmas wreath with five candles is prepared as a focus for the worship. Each Sunday another candle is lit with an appropriate reading and a prayer for the worshippers. Finally on Christmas Eve at the close of the late evening service the Christ Candle is lit to celebrate the birth of the infant Jesus.



In many congregations special decorations - a manger, a Christmas tree, bright stars and other innovative references to the Christmas Story are used to focus attention on the season.

In First Church the Children's Carols for Kids service, held in the late afternoon-evening of Christmas Eve has become a special occasion of joyful participation and the Carols by Candlelight service is celebrated as midnight approaches. Many people beyond our regular congregation join us for these services.

CHRISTIAN WORLD SERVICE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

For the past 65 Years Christian World Service has conducted an appeal to compassionate New Zealanders each Christmas inviting them to share the care for the most needy in the world. This year they have targeted four different areas of concern and linked them with the Sundays of Advent.



The **First Sunday - November 28th** [which is also St Andrew's Day] the funds raised will be for the support of the Church in Uganda where the battle against the spread and dread of HIV Aids infection faces an estimated 940,000 cases.

The **Second Sunday - December 5th** The focus is on the dietary crisis in Tonga. The cultural changes that have invaded Tongan society have led to a crisis of obesity, diabetes and heart disease. The Tongan Community Development Trust has undertaken the task of restoring healthy diet to 'at risk' Tongan families. Simple projects like composting have already assisted more than 2,000 women to recover a healthy diet, cheaper food and a minor revolution on nutrition.

The **Third Sunday - December 12th** Looks again at the devastated Haitian community and their ongoing needs. With thousands of families without adequate housing, unemployment a chronic disaster and the ever-present threat of cholera on a community without clean water Christian World Service is working with 20 partner organisations helping more than 340,000 desperate people.

The **Fourth Sunday - December 19th** -Aid for Gaza has taken the form of three maternal and child health clinics. Since their establishment more than 19,000 women have attended these clinics and last year alone 650 mothers gave birth and received after care visits from staff to ensure the health of mothers and babies.

Your donation makes these projects possible. A single donation or four weekly donations- you choose. Gifts over \$5 are tax deductible.

AN ATHEIST IN THE WOODS

An atheist was walking through the woods, What majestic trees? What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals? He said to himself. Suddenly he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him He turned to look...and saw a 7ft grizzly bear charging towards him He ran as fast as he could along the path, He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing on him..He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was even closer., .and then ...he tripped and fell.

Rolling over to pick himself up, he found the bear was right on top of him., reaching towards him with its left paw. and raising the right paw to strike.... At that instant the Atheist cried out '**OH MY GOD!!!**'Time stopped.. The bear froze..The forest was silent. A light shone upon the man .and a voice came out of the sky.. "You deny my existence for all these years, you teach others I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident! Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light..."It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now....But perhaps you could make the BEAR a Christian?"

A pause...

.. "Very well" said the voice.

The light went out..The sounds of the forest resumed.....

And the bear dropped his right arm..brought both paws together..bowed his head and spoke..."*Lord, bless this food, which I am about to receive*"



FIRST CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

August 29th – youth service theme was "My redeemer Lives" Rev T Joseph did the reflection

September 3 – no youth due to Polyfest practices and a big 80th Birthday in the Cook Island community.

September 5th – 7th – Ron, tara Fala travelled to Auckland for Sina Muliau's 70th birthday.

September 10th Polyfest was held on the 9th and 10th which a lot of the youth were involved and were treated to a movie evening . we watched "the freedom Writers".

September 17th – the youth attended a concert at the Dunedin Town Hall to watch the Waitoto Children's Choir from Uganda. A group of 15 met at the Church and walked to the Town Hall meeting with Ioaba and Miro Dean and grandson Matafala Muliau. A great night enjoyed by all.

September 24- the youth have been fundraising over the last month with cheese rolls. We had a competition of who could sell the most orders. Julianna Faatoese, a new member of the youth group won the competition with 25 orders. As the prize she won a new bag. We were overwhelmed with the amount of orders we had and the money basically went to buying more bread and cheese. We made over \$900 but after all the expenses we made a profit of \$202.40. Our next fundraiser will be an Island plate of food consisting of chicken, potato salad, chop suey and rice for \$10 which will be held in November.

September 4th- 1 October- the school holidays sports teams were held and First church had 4 teams competing, Primary, Intermediate, High School and 2 adult teams. First church adult team lost in the netball pool A Semi finals with only 6 players all day. First Church adult social, were runners up for netball Pool B. All the other teams did well and enjoyed the 2 days of sport.

October 10th – the youth sang a Samoan song and the youth band played a few songs for the White Sunday service.

Coming Up – Thursday 14th – 15th October youth practices for Pacific Trust sports culture night 16th October at the university of Otago and also practices for a performance at St James church on Sunday 17th October at 6.30pm requested by a member of their church who attended the May youth service.

- Ron and Tala Muliau

FIRST CHURCH APW



APW REPORT October meeting

We were pleased to welcome a number of visitors to this meeting Howard Adams our guest speaker entertained us with an interesting and humorous account of a recent trip he and his wife Jan took to the Middle East, visiting extensively there, especially Kuwait, Jordan and the Dead Sea. This was only part of an extensive journey and we hope to invite Howard back to continue the story of their trip into the Balkans sometime in the new year.

Our **November "outing" will take place on Tuesday 16th November.** A drive to Port Chalmers is planned with a visit to the Seafarers Centre then to the Iona Presbyterian Church. Afternoon tea will be in the Church Hall. Invitations will be issued but you can contact Nan or Dorothy if you would like to join this outing.

A **very big thank you** to all who provided food for the catering event APW undertook for the Jim Wallis Seminar. Your generosity and willingness to help was greatly appreciated and your wonderful baking enjoyed by all the visitors attending this Seminar. Money raised should clear \$1000.



First Church APW are responsible for **Devotions at the next Presbytery Meeting November 2nd in the McLean Room** at 1.30pm. Speaker for this meeting is John Watson "Habitat for Humanity"

APW/MWF Special Project 2010/2011 is supporting **Haiti Earthquake– Building for the Future** And in New Zealand supporting **Habitat for Humanity**. This is timely following the Christchurch earthquake where many people have lost their homes

Sales Table \$50 Offering \$31.40 **Next meeting 15th February 2011**

COOK ISLANDS COMMUNITY NEWS

Kia orana akaou tatou e te iti tangata ote atua i roto ite aua First Church. It's just about that time where we celebrate Jesus Christ's birthday and spoil each other at Christmas time.

Congratulations to Mrs Ngatoko Paia who celebrated her 70th birthday in style, held at the Green Island Civic Hall on October 16th. Lots of relatives and friends turned up from Mangaia and the Cook Islands, Australia Auckland and other places in New Zealand.

The Putokotoko Camp was held this Labour Weekend and there was quite a turnout of people and families who attended from outside of Dunedin. Rev Tokerau Joseph also attended with a few of our Cook Island members.

Last Sunday Oct 24th we had a farewell lunch for Mr Ngatamariki Paia who is the son of Mr and Mrs Takake Paia. Ngatamariki is an elder from CICC Church in Inverua, Mangaia. He is believed to be the youngest elder in their church. Mr Ngatamariki is also the father of Ebenezer Paia. We had a good turnout at church that Sunday, considering some of our members went to the Putokotoko Camp.

The Mangaia Cook Islands Culture Group had their social night on October 30th. The cost was \$10 and the band is the ever popular Southern String Band. Light supper was provided.

- ◆ A friendly reminder that the last elders meeting for the Cook Islands is on November 13th.
- ◆ Also on November 14th the last Ekalesia meeting for the Cook Islands will be held for this year.
- ◆ The First Church Youth will also have their last service on October 31st for the Cook Islands and 10am services. There is no Samoan Service that day.
- ◆ Cook Islands Sunday School will hold their last service for the year 2010 on December 12th.

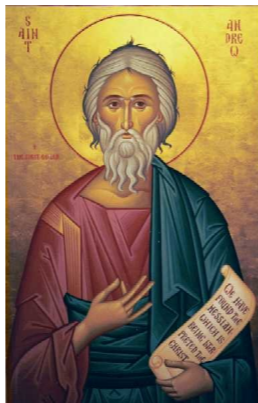
Lastly our prayers go out to these people who have been hospitalised in Dunedin Hospital. They are Mr Toka Taana, Agatha (Sukore) Johnson and Mii Taiera. May God bring you all speedy recovery, strength and courage during your recuperating days. *Hebrews 4: 16 so let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious god. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. God Bless you all, Tere Taana*

The Saints of Scotland -Saint Andrew

Andrew, the apostle, brother of Simon Peter, holds a unique place in the New Testament record as the one who having begun as a follower of John the Baptist joined his brother as a disciple of Jesus (Mark 1:16). He is associated with directing enquirers to Jesus (John 12: 2) and locating the boy with the loaves and fishes (John 6:18)

There is no evidence that he ever visited Scotland but he is linked there from about the year 750. Tradition has it that he was executed at Patras by crucifixion on a diagonal cross. It may be that relics, reputed to be of the saint, were carried to Scotland in the Middle Ages when such items were venerated and regarded as having magical healing powers.

An ancient claim is that King Angus of Scotland with his Pict supporters faced the Anglian King Athelstane in battle. Overnight Angus, weary and anxious, fell asleep and dreamed that St Andrew appeared to him promising victory. When he awoke with fresh confidence a cloud, in the shape of a diagonal cross, appeared in the sky. The vision so terrified the English that they were unable to resist the army of Angus.



From that time the diagonal cross (the Saltire) became the essential flag of Scotland. The white cross on the blue background is maintained today..

SAMOAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Theme - HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

White Sunday for 2010 has already come and gone, although preparation was both a stressful and busy time for all involved it can definitely be said that the White Sunday was a huge success. Those who attended enjoyed an amazing performance by the children and a delicious lunch afterward. The attendees were large in numbers and spirit and we would like to thank our European and our Cook Island congregations for the support to make this White Sunday a memorable one.

God Bless the contribution from the children from North East Valley Parish as well as the student from the Otago University who added more sparkle to the White Sunday Service. It was great to see the number who attended increased as well as the number of performers. We acknowledge the attendance of the Youth, and the Ministers Rev T Joseph and Rev A. Thomson and also Rev N Aiono and the Session Clerk. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and all those who helped put together the White Sunday program - **Well done White Sunday was undoubtedly a huge success.**

Christmas is just around the corner, and to kick start the festive season the Sunday School will be celebrating with a swim at Moana Pool and 1am on 6th November and then returning to church for a Barbeque lunch and a date with Santa.

