



**AGAINST
ALL
ODDS**

**lessons from the past...
hope for the future**

SOUTH ISLAND MINISTRY CONFERENCE
13 & 14 May 2025

East Taieri Church, Mosgiel—www.etchurch.co.nz

Keynote Speaker: Chris Marshall



Chris was NT lecturer at Laidlaw College before teaching in the Religious Studies Dept at Victoria University. He is now an emeritus professor at Victoria University, where he taught for almost 20 years. He held the St John's lectureship in Christian theology in the Religious Studies Department for 10 years before being appointed as inaugural holder of a professorial Chair in Restorative Justice in 2014. Prior to joining the University, he taught New Testament studies at Laidlaw College for 19 years.

This is a difficult time for the church but God has not changed. The church has faced tough times before and God has done remarkable things. The first three centuries of the church were not easy but it grew phenomenally, from a tiny minority in a backwater of the Empire to 'conquering' that Empire. What does it mean to remain faithful, when things are tough, knowing that the Almighty God will have the last word?

Chris' three talks will focus, first, on the origins and character of the church as the community of the kingdom in the New Testament period. He will then examine some of the counter-intuitive developments in church life and practice that help account for the almost inexplicable growth the church enjoyed over the next 250 years, and what can be learned from that for today. His third talk will explore the nature and basis of Christian hope and the church's role in articulating a fully-orbed biblical conception of hope in an increasingly hopeless world.

Tuesday evening is set aside as a special time with good food, networking and extended worship. Feel free to invite your hosts, friends and family members along.



Drinks and nibbles from 5pm—6.30pm
Extended Worship from 6.30pm

This year's conference is offering two workshop times—Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning.

The workshops will be repeated, so you can choose which workshop you wish to attend on the day

Tuesday 13th May 2025

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| 9.00am | Registration & Morning Tea |
| 10.00am | <p>Session 1</p> <p>Keynote Address:</p> <p><i>Community of the Kingdom:</i> <i>the origins and meaning of the church in the New Testament</i></p> |
| 12noon | Lunch |
| 1.15pm | <p><i>Workshops</i></p> <p><i>See next page for details</i></p> |
| 2.45pm | Afternoon Tea |
| 3.30pm | <p>Session 2</p> <p>Keynote Address:</p> <p>In the Twilight of Christendom: lessons for the church today from the pre-Christendom era</p> |
| 5.00pm | Networking Drinks, Nibbles (if you attend you won't need dinner afterwards) |
| 6.30pm | Worship Evening for those who would like some extended praise and worship time |

Wednesday 14th May 2025

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| 9am | Workshops |
| 10.20am | Morning tea |
| 11.00am | <p>Session 3</p> <p>Keynote Address:</p> <p>Here's Hoping: reflections on the character of Christian hope</p> |
| 1pm | Light lunch |

WORKSHOP OPTIONS:

Please note that these options will be held on Tuesday afternoon and REPEATED on Wednesday morning, so you can attend 2 workshops.



Ministry of Presence : Serving Out in the Community

How do we bridge the gap between our church and community? We'll discuss barriers preventing people from entering the church, and Christians from reaching out. We'll also explore how ministries of presence, such as chaplaincy, can build meaningful connections.

Sarah Auld has always loved God, people and sport, and subsequently, her life has often been filled with all three. For the last eight years she has been serving in Sports Chaplaincy both as a chaplain to sports teams and as a Regional Leader for Otago and Southland. Sarah has deep a desire to be intentional about allowing her faith to be seen by the wider community through connection and relationship.



Daniel's Faithfulness in a Foreign Land Against all Odds

This workshop delves into Daniel Chapter 1, exploring the experience of Jewish exiles forced into a foreign culture. We'll draw parallels to the Church's current challenges, examining how Daniel and his friends maintained their faith and became leaders in a pagan society. Discover how to cultivate powerful hope in a changing world, even when immediate results are unseen.

Peter Dunn is the senior minister at Windsor Community Church in Invercargill, with 35 years of ministry experience. He previously served in Waipu, and has held numerous regional and national leadership roles. In 2024, he was elected Moderator Designate of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Peter is married to Helen, and they have five children.



How can we bring hope to an anxious culture?

Our culture has become more individualistic, and the gap between the world's culture and church culture is growing. Can we bridge the gap and connect with everyone? Can we connect with those people whom God loved so much that he gave his son Jesus.

Inge de Kruijf

Inge de Kruijf, originally from the Netherlands, moved to New Zealand in 1998 with her husband Lars. After 17 years of dairy farming, they now own a dairy service business. Inge served as a pastor to seniors at Windsor Community Church for eight years and holds diplomas in family support and ministry. She is currently pursuing a theology degree and is passionate about the Gospel and pastoral care.



Excited About Evangelism

With declining respect for Christianity and diminishing concern for sin and eternity, is evangelism still relevant? This workshop addresses the question of why the church has struggled with it and explores how to resuscitate it. We'll delve into Jesus' message and methods, seeking to rediscover a powerful and faithful approach to evangelism today.

Peter Cheyne

Peter has been in ministry for 41 years including in Kaikoura, Gore and Dunedin. He was, once-upon-a-time, Moderator of the PCANZ and is currently working part-time at East Taieri. He believes making disciples is the mission of the church and evangelism is a major part of that. He is not, by any means, a gifted evangelist, but he is committed to evangelism that actually works. He believes that Jesus is our best model.



Christ, the gospel, and the care of creation.

Discover how Christ's role as creator and redeemer connects to creation care. We'll introduce the A Rocha Eco Church project as a practical way to live out this Gospel truth.

Selwyn Yeoman

Selwyn has been in pastoral ministry with the Presbyterian Church since 1979. In 2005, with his late wife Natalie, he worked in Tibetan China in community development and conservation. Upon returning to New Zealand he pursued doctoral study exploring the Biblical doctrine of human dominion over creation in the light of Christ and the resurrection.

Registration details:

Conference to be held at East Taieri Church, 12a Cemetery Rd, Mosgiel

Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 May 2025

Cost: \$160 for a single (or \$140 early bird)

Team discount (2 or more people from the same church, organisation or family)
\$140 each (or \$120 early bird)

KCML Interns are half price

Early bird registrations close on Wednesday 17th April. Registrations close Friday 2nd May 2025.

To register click on link:

<https://forms.gle/JjMtD152XMgQgrSq7>

Or email your details to: manager@etchurch.co.nz, or phone 489 6308