

We Start With...

A two minute period of silence - a moment of peace.

From the Chair

I so enjoyed our February meeting, run by Alan Jackson, in which he gently and rapidly reviewed the changes in religion and faith since Victorian times, then asked the big question *What do you believe now?*

Members of my discussion group had many and varied answers, as is usual for Sea of Faith. I found myself talking about the things that grounded me – some of which I'd never realised before. I so enjoy being with folks who are open and accepting, it renews and challenges your thinking.

Our March meeting will start with our AGM, which will be very short, then there will be more opportunity to renew and challenge thinking as we talk about 'whither and how' for Dunedin Sea of Faith's future. Do come along, you will be very welcome.

Gretchen

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Our Next Meeting

Unlike many AGMs, this one will not be asking for volunteers to do things (but no-one will refuse offers either).

Our local active group is now around a dozen good folk and our finances are such that we cover the cost of the meetings and draw on a little of the reserve for the refreshments.

The financial details are attached to this mail.

Faith Thinking

When the church was a socially influential part of lives we were told what the ethical positions were on issues such as marriage, divorce, adultery etc.

With the secularisation of society here and elsewhere the individuals in the society have to work out those positions from an ethical point of view.

It means that we have to stay well-informed by reading, discussing, listening to expert opinion and then weighing up all the evidence to reach our opinion.

Sea of Faith is a good place to hold many of those discussions.

Annual General Meeting

REMEMBER THIRD THURSDAY

Thursday, 15th MARCH

St John's Church Hall,
Cnr Wright Street
& Highgate

Tea and Coffee
will be available from 5.30pm

**The programme will start at
6.00pm**

Contribution - \$5

Happy birthday Sir Lloyd Geering

Otago Daily Times
Saturday, February 24, 2018
Theologian regards century of change

By KAY SINCLAIR

As he approaches his 100th birthday, former Dunedin Presbyterian minister and controversial theologian Sir Lloyd Geering is writing another book.

But this one is not a theological treatise.

“Rather, it's a small volume about how so many things changed during the 20th century,” the 99-year-old told the Otago Daily Times from his Wellington home yesterday.

He thinks he will call the book “How Times Have Changed”.

Because, as Sir Lloyd says, the past 100 years have certainly seen “such a lot of change”, including the way we communicate and the way we travel.

For example, today's cell- phones and the internet are a far cry from the limitations of 100 years ago.

“My parents never really came to grips with the ordinary old telephone,” Sir Lloyd says.

As a child living in Southland, he saw electricity reticulated through much of the province. And for the first 25 years of his life, his family did not have electricity.

But today's technology seems to pose few problems for the almost 100-year-old who spends a lot of time using his computer, communicates regularly with family members by Skype and also uses Skype to play Scrabble with nine other people in various parts of the world.

Writing about the extent of changes in the past 100 years or so recalls how the former Knox Theological Hall principal's radical thinking so shocked and outraged conservative Christians 50 years ago, he was accused of heresy, although ultimately acquitted.

Now, he says, the matters raised at that time had all become very familiar and seemed “old hat”.

Through most of the 20th century, almost everyone believed in an afterlife.

“But by 2000, very few did.”

That was why funerals had changed so much. Rather than a ritual to celebrate someone's passing from this world to a better life in the next, funeral services were now more a celebration of a person's life and achievements and what the person meant to family and friends.

Sir Lloyd has very strong links to Dunedin and Otago, with two years at St Clair Primary School, five years at Otago Boys' High School and seven at Otago University and Knox Theological College. And, after his ordination, he served in parishes in Kurow and Dunedin and was also Knox College principal for some time.

“I spent almost half of my life in Dunedin and enjoyed it,” he said.

While he is not 100 years old until Monday, Sir Lloyd has already received greetings from the Queen, the Governor General and the Prime Minister.

And he is looking forward to a celebration tomorrow with 80 family members and friends, some coming from Australia, Germany and Singapore.

His son and two daughters and their families, including a great grandson, will be there — “the first time all of the family will have been together”.

Sir Lloyd says his health is good, he is “pretty fit”, keeps his brain active with puzzles and games, and walks for 30 minutes every day.

And he has good genes. His father lived to be 100.

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