

Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church

April, 2022



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE ANZAC DAY 2022



Where does the church stand?

The war in Ukraine is a chilling backdrop to ANZAC Day this year. As we remember the sacrifices made by New Zealanders and Australians who died at Gallipoli, we also think of all those who have served their country in times of war to ensure the freedoms we experience today, and we lament the brutal suffering of the Ukrainian people.

The place of the church in this space was heightened for me in the contrasting stances taken by church leaders in Russia. The WCC wrote a strong letter to Patriarch Kirill (Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church) encouraging him to use his influence to pressure Putin to end the war. His reply was disturbing; on the one hand a prayer for peace, on the other, justifying the Russian actions! Compare this with the response of 300 or so Orthodox priests who have come out in opposition to the war. They launched an open petition calling for an immediate ceasefire to the war with Ukraine and criticized the suppression of non-violent protests demanding peace. In the petition the priests and archpriests said they are each appealing personally "to everyone on whom the cessation of the fratricidal war in Ukraine depends, with a call for reconciliation and an immediate ceasefire."

Two responses, one disturbing and the other courageous! I think of other courageous responses from Christians over the centuries.

The lists of names of those who lost their lives in wars that are memorialised in churches around the country also represent the unnamed from these districts who served in wars,

and those who fretfully kept the home fires burning. And we remember the courage of chaplains; I think of previous Church Moderator George Falloon, awarded the Military Cross for exceptional bravery including one instance when he repeatedly went out alone some 400 metres over a reef in the Solomons in the presence of the enemy to recover the bodies of those killed.

Then there were the pacifists who were often influenced by Christian sentiment; I think of the New Zealand poet Basil Dowling, a man of good Christchurch Presbyterian stock, and the huge sacrifices he made to hold his pacifist views in the face of war. And there is the inspiration we draw from the actions of Christian leaders like Dietrich Bonhoeffer in standing against Hitler.

And so as we remember our hard fought freedoms this ANZAC day, we will also reach out to Ukrainians with our love and prayers. Let us give money to support those in need on the ground (Christian World Service has an appeal the PCANZ supports and endorses). Let us cheer on people like the 300 Orthodox priests who are showing Christian courage close to the action, the Ukrainian priests and ministers who have remained in Ukraine to minister to their people, and the churches of the surrounding countries who are involved in giving aid to refugees. And in our churches up and down this land we will pray!

We will pray for peace, for the conversion of those who make war - from hate to love, and that the harsh lessons learnt in our wars will not be forgotten so we stop this terrible cycle repeating.

Blessings

Hamish

Right Rev Hamish Galloway

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

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COVID-19 Protection Framework & Worship @ Flagstaff Community Church

In these challenging days, Flagstaff Community Church will continue to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ, provide support to each other, worship, pray and reach out in aroha.

He waka eke noa – We are all in this together: We are gathering for Sunday Worship. You are welcome to come and go at any time. We will continue meeting safely and follow advice from Ministry of Health (see (<https://covid19.govt.nz/activities/faith-based-gatherings>;) and our National Church (PCANZ). Your health and safety is our top priority.

The Parish Council thanks you for your own going support as we navigate through the Pandemic.

In relation to our face to face worship at Flagstaff Community Church

- Please stay home if you are unwell.
- Vaccine Passes are no longer required.
- We encourage the wearing of a face covering.
- QR Codes remain for those tracking their own movements.
- Physical distancing with those you don't know well is encouraged.
- We are practising good air ventilation so dress accordingly and if cold bring a rug or extra warm top.
- We will refrain from serving morning tea until we're back at Green Light.
- Please put any koha/offering in the kete/basket when you arrive.
- If you have any concerns or queries, please phone Brendon 027 356 9200

For whānau who are not gathering face to face for Sunday worship. If you would like a written reflection including a prayer, please email brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz; If you would like a direct link to a recorded version of the service email gary.dent7@gmail.com;

Please ring the Minister or Kāumatua/Elder if you require any support. This could be practical help or needs, you are unsure how to make sense of all these new rules and information or simply you would like someone to pray with.

School Creek Restoration

Project: Big thanks to Tim Mephram, Robert Morey, Jenny Wilson, John Fitzgerald, Gary Dent and Neil Brown. A very successful day pulling willow branches from School Creek area in preparation for planting native trees come Matariki. Rawe! Ngā mihi mahana.



Presbyterian Support Otago: Op Shop retail volunteers needed at Presbyterian Support Otago. We are looking for reliable and dependable volunteers to help in the shops on Saturdays. Give back to the community and have fun at the same time. 100% of shop profits contribute to the work we do in the community There is never a dull moment working alongside other volunteers and staff. Help keep the shop tidy, assist with displays and help customers find what they need. By volunteering, you are contributing to Presbyterian Support Otago's Family Works programmes and our foodbank; supporting families and young people throughout Otago. For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator on PH 027 700 1551 or volunteer@psotago.org.nz.

Community Mission Liaison: Presbyterian Support Otago Vacancy. Are you passionate about strengthening Presbyterian relationships across parishes and PSO in a role that is a true expression of faith? Applications close 17 April 2022. For queries about the position, please contact Carolyn Sims on 03 470 0836.

Membership Mission Membership: There are a number of people who have moved from the original place where they were baptised and made a confession of faith, and who now make Flagstaff Community Church the place they live out their faith. To arrange an appointment to explore fully the implications of becoming a committed member of our congregation please contact Brendon McRae 027 356 9200.

South Island Ministry Conference: We are very excited to be able to open the registrations for Ministry Conference 2022. We are really looking forward to being able to meet together to be refreshed, encouraged, inspired and challenged. To register online go to <http://www.etchurch.co.nz/conference/registrations>; or just send me an email with your details – manager@etchurch.co.nz

Interested in studying Theology? The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers a wide range of papers and qualifications, all available via distance learning. Some papers are taught via videoconferences, others include teaching days in Wellington, while a few involve week-long intensives. For further information go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639.

Pastoral Visit: If you would like a pastoral visit from someone from within the pastoral team or the minister please ring elder Sarah Barton 021 385905.

Flagstaff Prayer Time: Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Tocher Lounge. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.

Green Fingers: We are currently restoring our awa next to the church. This little creek is showing signs of life and is breathing again and some native birds are showing up. There are a few folks who meet for a couple of hours on a Monday and pot away at planting, trapping pests, removing, weeding, etc. Occasionally we have a project in which everyone is invited including our local school. If you want to join us ring Neil Brown 027 435 4672.

Life Groups: Life Groups @Flagstaff are a vital part of who we are as a community of faith as we seek to grow in Jesus. Not only do we explore the messages God has for us from the Bible but we also have the opportunity to connect with others and experience a place where no-one stands alone.

Discipleship Groups: which focus on study and prayer. Wednesday 1.30 p.m. Contact Sarah 021385905.

Community Facing Groups: Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming which may centre on an activity, a hobby, a talent, a life stage, a project or service. Groups include, Steady as you Go, Hire a Helper, Community Garden, Women's Coffee Group @ Coffee Culture (Held 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm), Green Fingers, Walking Groups and more! If you would like to join a group, start a group or find out more information then please contact Brendon on 0273569200.

Tithing/Giving: There are many ways we can support the activity of God in our church, community and world. Two ways of making your church offerings.

1. Use internet banking to make direct credits or automatic payments to the Flagstaff Community Church. Westpac bank # 03-0903-0192517-03. Please include your name for reference or if you use Envelopes use your Envelope reference/number.
2. Join the envelope system by contacting Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052 320. You will receive a set of personally numbered envelopes. This can be placed in the kete/ basket at the foyer entrance anytime during Sunday Worship.

If you give to special appeals or missions, you can claim on these donations by identifying the appeal by naming it when you make the internet payment or by putting your number or name and address on an envelope.

Contacts:

Prayer Chain: Sue Yule 476 7655, or Sarah Barton 021 385905

Pastoral Care: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Envelope System: Alison Jenkin 021 1052320

Hall Bookings: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Technical Equipment: Gary Dent 027 4763155

Church Newsletter: Jenny Neill 467 5813 dandjneill@xtra.co.nz



Kaumātua - Elders

Presbytery Elder: Sarah Barton

Phone: 021 385 905

sarahbarton629@gmail.com

Vanessa Gordon: ness.gordon@gmail.com;

Alastair & Sue Yule: yules@xtra.co.nz;

Tim Mepham: tmepham@rautakiadvice.co.nz;

Gary Dent: gary.dent7@gmail.com;

Andrew Sims: andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com;

Minister: Rev. Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Flagstaff Community Church Services 9:30am (Communion 3rd Sunday of each month)

Parish contact details: PO Box 10074,
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Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff;

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