

Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church

May, 2022



En Route to Dakar, Senegal

On July 22nd family Mepham; Sam, Yolanda and Nahla, are moving to live and work in Dakar, Senegal.

Sam has been offered a teaching position at Dakar Academy (<https://www.dakar-academy.org/>), a Christian boarding school for young people whose families work in West Africa and for Senegalese young people.



He will be the middle school class teacher. Yolanda will initially focus on settling in and looking after our wee champion Nahla, before looking to find work in her field, with marginalised young women.

For a while now we have both felt excited and driven to live and work in this part of the world and have been actively looking for opportunities. As a family our prayer has been that we would be people willing to go wherever God would lead us and use us, so when a position at Dakar Academy was offered to Sam we felt peaceful that this was our next step and jumped at the opportunity!

We plan for Sam's work at the school to be our anchor point for serving and building community but also hope for this to be just one part of our purpose in Dakar.

Sam's past work experience has been in the Community Development sector supporting marginalised young men through running and overseeing sport and empowerment programmes. He hopes to continue this in Dakar and will look for opportunities outside of work to connect with young men in the community, through sports programmes or by joining a football team himself.

Yolanda's work background has been supporting women who have experienced a form of Modern Day Slavery or a Forced Marriage. Most recently, Yolanda was managing a therapeutic programme in Melbourne that housed and supported these young women. We are aware there is a lot of work in this area in Dakar, so once we arrive Yolanda will network and look for opportunities. We are not sure exactly what this will look like - but are excited to find out!

Come on the journey with us! If this is something you would like to support, we would be so appreciative! If you would like to be on our mailing list, support us in prayer or financially, please flick an e-mail to sam.yo.meph@gmail.com; Financially, Dakar Academy provide us with housing and a monthly stipend (enough to cover some basic costs), but we need some support to be financially stable. PS. We would love you to come visit us in Dakar!

There will be an opportunity over the next coming Sunday's to hear Sam and Yolanda's story of their upcoming mission adventure to Senegal and pray with them. There will be an opportunity to pledge financial support for those who are interested. Pledge forms will be available with some information about their mission trip. Sam and Yo leave Dunedin on the 11th July.

Parish Council

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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 audio 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.



Matariki Mid-Winter Season: 'Under the Southern Stars'

24th June to 3rd July, Matariki: Celebrating Aotearoa New Year!

Native Planting and Mahi Day: Saturday 2nd July, 10am to 1pm. Matariki signifies our connection to Papatūānuku. Come along with your gardening clothes, gummies and gloves. Planting native plants, removing cut willow & spreading woodchip on the track. Barbeque and refreshments.

Pepeha Workshop: 1.00- 3.00 pm, Saturday July 2nd, Flagstaff Community Church Kaiako: Rauhina Scott-Fyfe. Pepeha is a way of introducing yourself in Māori, by naming the people and places that are important to you. During this workshop there will be input and guidance from Rauhina and the opportunity to write and share your own pepeha.

Matariki Remembrance Service: Sunday 26th June, 9.30am. The service will include waiata, hīmene, children's activities stories, and a time of remembrance for our loved ones, including prayers for a hurting world. Haere mai tatou!

Matariki Celebration Service: Sunday 3rd July, 9.30am. Family Church Service. Come along for waiata (song), hīmene (hymn), children activities and stories.

Matariki Winter Knitting Project

Knit-A-Square

During our Matariki celebrations 26th June – 3rd July and beyond...

- ❖ We are hoping to make some child's sized blankets for children and gift them to Women's Refuge

What do we need?

- ❖ Donated wool please. Double knitting wool if possible.

Where can you leave or take the wool

Or take it from?

- ❖ There will be a basket for the donated wool in the church foyer



And then?

- ❖ We would love it if you could join a small group of us during the Matariki weekend and beyond to knit some lovely colourful squares which we can then stitch together to make some cosy blankets.

OR If you'd rather

- ❖ Take some wool home and knit at your leisure 😊 We'd happily pick up your squares when completed.
- ❖ Or you can contact Trudy [\[email:trudy.dent1@gmail.com\]](mailto:trudy.dent1@gmail.com) or chat to me at church and I'd be happy to bring you some wool and pick up your finished squares 😊

Instructions

- ❖ Cast on enough stitches to make 8" (20cm), which should be anywhere from 35 to 40 stitches. Try to make your stitches neither too loose nor too tight to help ensure uniform squares. This may vary slightly depending on your tension.
- ❖ **Note:** Check your gauge (tension) after 3 or 4 rows. This will save you some frustration if the square is too wide or not wide enough. Adjust accordingly by starting with more-or-less stitches.
 - **Row 1: Knit**
 - **Row 2: Knit**
- ❖ Continue knitting rows 1&2 until your square is as long as it is wide OR: Be creative use a stitch pattern that you like and make a lovely pattern!!
- ❖ To ensure your square is 20cm, either use a tape measure or fold to form a triangle-if all sides are equal then you have a square Yay!!
- ❖ Cast off. Leave a 50cm tail for sewing the squares together.

Acknowledgement: Information taken from: (Knit-a-Square: Create Care Global <https://knit-a-square.com>)

NB: This link is to a great website - well worth a wee look. Inspiring!

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.

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: Lam LeCong 021 2607288

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 Mephram: tmephram@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,
Halfway Bush, 9042, Dunedin

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff/;

Office 9 Centennial Avenue Wakari
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