

# MODERATOR'S 2023 SEASON OF LENT MESSAGE



*"Jesus put his trust in scripture to anchor him at a time when it was easy to lose perspective."*

## *Sorely Tested*

Jesus was sorely tested through 40 days of mounting pressure brought on by hunger, thirst, and demonic taunting. We too, in these last few years, have experienced the cumulative impact of one test after another. Add up the Global Financial Crisis, Christchurch earthquakes, mosque attack, COVID pandemic, housing crisis, war in Ukraine, impending recession, flooding and now Cyclone Gabrielle, and feel the toll it has taken on us.

How are you feeling this Lenten season?

All that has happened in recent years, and right now, leaves me feeling weary and wondering what will be next. It makes me feel sorely tested, in a nation that has been sorely tested. It causes me to wonder about where we put our trust and what will sustain us in this time of repeated trial.

Jesus was sustained by the leading and comforting presence of the Holy Spirit in his time of testing.

Jesus put his trust in scripture to anchor him at a time when it was easy to lose perspective. And then, when the rush of testing began to subside, there were angels who helped pick up the pieces! And haven't we seen our share of angels personified in the aftermath of the latest crisis, Cyclone Gabrielle.

I witnessed this phenomenon in Christchurch after the earthquakes and mosque attack. Lovely acts of 'random' kindness from complete strangers. And we see it again and again in the aftermath of this latest storm, these angels in disguise.

We find ourselves as churches incarnated in our communities, bearers of the Spirit, guided by the scriptures and with our fair share of angelic readiness for action. In this way we can take a leaf out of the Lenten story of Jesus, in a nation hungering for hope!

*Right Rev Hamish Galloway*  
Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand  
[moderator@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:moderator@presbyterian.org.nz)



# Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church February, 2023



**Cyclone Gabrielle:** Help needed! St Andrews Presbyterian Church located in the centre of Hastings is establishing a lending library for generators to help support folk who are going to be without power for the next few weeks. They are joining with Rotary to help coordinate this initiative. The wider Presbyterian Church have been invited to respond with donations. This will help them with either the purchase or the transport of the generators, into homes that really need them - urgently. The donations will also go towards other needs that arise, yet to be obvious, as these are very early days. St Andrews has power and has already been in the thick of action allowing people to access their church kitchen to cook food and charge cell phones. Because St Andrews Church is close to Hastings central Police Station, they will soon be accommodating Police Officers brought in to assist from around NZ. The Flagstaff Community Church Parish Council has agreed to action this quickly and has donated an initial \$500.00 into their account already. We are inviting our church whānau to consider making a donation towards this urgent need. Please make donations to...

## **Westpac Bank**

**Account Name: Flagstaff Community Church**

**Account Number: 03-0903-0192517-03**

**Please include the word 'cyclone' for reference**

This is one way we can practically show some aroha to a community devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle.

**Student Soul in 2023:** Launch Team: At Student Soul we have got our heads and hearts well into 2023, and are looking forward to O-Week and beyond. We are looking to strengthen our ministry by developing a launch team - people who can form an energising social core of our student facing congregation which meets on Sunday nights. Are you interested in this, you or someone you know? Please see this website to get a thorough sense of it and learn more. <https://studentsoul.org.nz/launch-2023/>; Thank you for your prayers and support. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or want to know more about this!

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

**Halfway Bush Church Project Update:** The government department would like to support Habitat for Humanity's proposal but want greater certainty around matters such as designs, costings and timeline of development, they are also nervous regarding the construction cost increases. Our next step is to set a timeline for a draft sale proposal, there will be continued discussions between Flagstaff, Synod and Habitat for Humanity, and of course on going consultation with the church family. Thank you to Gary and the Oversight team for all your hard work.

**Eco Church:** Our Eco Church Certificate has been received.

**Finance:** YTD: Income: \$97290 Expenses: \$111,484. Deficit: \$14193. We have had 2 large expenses, Insurance \$7,500 and Church Levies \$9,000. January Income: \$13995. Expenses: \$10,764. Profit \$3230. We are living within our means.

**General Assembly:** 27 Sept-1 October in Auckland. Brendon will be going, maybe an Elder as well.

**Death:** Acknowledging death of Rev Ewing Stevens-Minister at Wakari Church from 1964-1974.

**Synod AGM:** Araiteuru Marae 14-15 April-Brendon and Tim Mephram will be going from our church family

If anyone would like an electronic version of the full minutes please let Sarah know.  
[sarahbarton629@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbarton629@gmail.com)



## ***WORLD DAY OF PRAYER***

***Date:*** Friday 3rd March

***Where:*** St Johns Church: 373 Highgate.

***Time:*** 10:00 Cup of tea & gathering

***1030:*** Service starts

***Website:*** [www.worlddayofprayer.org.nz](http://www.worlddayofprayer.org.nz)

**HELP:** We are a bit on the skinny side with our Tech Team Volunteers. We have a fantastic team of volunteers led by Andrew Sims who wires our Sunday worship team up for sound each week and makes sure our PowerPoint is in sync with our singing. We currently require some volunteers who would be available to control the sound desk and operate the PowerPoint. Training will be provided. You will be rostered on the number of Sundays you are available and with flexibility if needing to swap. Time involves a Saturday 5 pm practise for 45min and an early 8:45 am Sunday morning start. A PowerPoint template is provided each week requiring songs from the PowerPoint library to be inserted. Thanks for considering. Please talk to Andrew if you are interested!



FLAGSTAFF -- HIGHGATE -- LEITH

FRIDAY  
FUN

Years 7 - 10

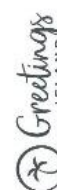
Fortnightly Friday nights 10/2, 24/2, 10/3 & 24/3

6 - 8 pm for dinner & games - - \$5

267 Malvern Street, Leith valley

See your youth pastor for more details

Or call Jono (022 399 6824).



**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.

**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](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology). or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639

CAMPUS AND DISTANCE LEARNING



# Theology@Otago 2023

Explore faith, yourself and the world...

**Pre-Christmas Summer School**  
14 November – 17 December 2022

CHTH 235/335 Special Topic: Theology and Science  
CHTH 237/337\* Moana Pasifika Theology (with intensive, 13–17 November, Mangere, Auckland)

**Summer School**  
9 January – 24 February 2023

PAST 323/MINS 415\* Christian Ministry in Te Ao Māori (The Māori World) (with intensive 16–20 January 2023, Te Rau College, Gisborne)

**Semester 1 2023**

PAST322/MINS414\* Christian Theology and the Arts (with intensive 13–17 February, 2023, Dunedin)  
BIBS 112 Interpreting the Old Testament  
BIBS 131 Introductory New Testament Greek Language 1  
BIBS 221/321 The Gospels  
BIBS 227/327\* Mātauranga Māori and the Bible  
CHTH 102 History of Christianity  
CHTH 111 Doing Theology  
CHTH 235/335 Special Topic: Theology, Money and Markets  
CHTH 305/405 Roots of Public Theology  
HEBR 131 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 1  
PAST 321/MINS 413\* Missional God, Missional People  
MINS 406\* Theological Perspectives on Leadership

**Contact**  
Theology Programme  
4th Floor, Arts Building  
Tel 03 479 8639 | Email [theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:theology@otago.ac.nz)  
[otago.ac.nz/theology](http://otago.ac.nz/theology)  
Or AskOtago: [ask.otago.ac.nz](http://ask.otago.ac.nz) or 0800 80 80 98

**Semester 2 2023**

CHTH 236/336\* Māori Theology & Religion (with intensive 3–7 July, Ohope Marae, Bay of Plenty)  
BIBS 121 Interpreting the New Testament  
BIBS 132 Introductory New Testament Greek Language 2  
BIBS 218/318 Judaism in the Time of Jesus  
BIBS 322/423 The Epistles  
CHTH 131 God and Ethics in the Modern World  
CHTH 212/312 Spirit, Church and Sacraments  
CHTH 319/415 Reconciliation, Christian Ethics and Public Theology  
CHTH 323/423 Theology and Human Wellbeing  
HEBR 132 Introductory Biblical Hebrew 2  
PAST 219/319\* Christian Witness in a Secular World  
MINS 411\* Chaplaincy in Diverse Contexts

**Pre-Christmas Summer School 2023**  
13 November – 16 December 2023

CHTH 224/324 Special Topic: Theology and the Environment

**Full year**

BIBS 213/313/411 Hebrew OT Exegesis  
BIBS 223/323/421 Greek NT Exegesis

All papers are taught on campus and by distance learning, except where indicated (\*distance only)



**Dunedin North Otago Regional Group 2023** – Conversations that matter: Greetings to the Dunedin North Otago Regional Group - to all congregations, ministers including retired ministers, elders, retired elders, chaplains, members and ministries in our region from Omarama to Maungatua. You are the Dunedin North Otago Regional Group. Unless advised otherwise, a meal will be provided at a cost of \$12 to be paid on arrival at the event. Please RSVP (with accept - or apologise) by the Sunday before the event to [dno regionalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:dno regionalgroup@gmail.com). If you wish to attend the event and not the meal, please also advise. The presentations will begin around 6.45 pm. First event:

**Tuesday 14 March – 6 pm to 8.30pm Opoho Presbyterian Church Dunedin** - Helping congregations feel safe for people to ask questions, express doubts, explore ideas and be open to experiencing the mystery of God. Stephanie Pettigrew, the incoming chair of Presbyterian Support Otago, and Alisha Jefferis, an elder, will speak about their faith journeys. The Reverend Peg Pfab, a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ (USA) with over forty years of ministerial experience in university and congregational settings, will share her approach, with examples and resources. We will explore together what steps we can each take. And we will also acknowledge the retirement of the Reverend Anne Thomson. Please RSVP by Sunday 12 March 2023 to [dnoregionalgroup@gmail.com](mailto:dnoregionalgroup@gmail.com).

To: Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand



## **NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 25 February 2023**  
**St John's in the City Presbyterian Church**  
**(corner Willis and Dixon Streets, Wellington)**  
**10 am to 12 noon**  
**Zoom details to come**

### ***Reason for meeting***

In September 2022, at the PWANZ Annual General Meeting, a recommendation was received from the Futures Review Group (which had been set up at the March 2022 AGM).

**That Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand (PWANZ) be closed down. In liaison with the National Executive all Parishes to be notified that their support for our continuing mission in Aotearoa are welcome but the current model of the organisation is unsustainable. The Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council will lapse.**

At the September 2022 AGM, it was agreed that the original motion outlined above be left lying on the table and that a Special General Meeting be held in February 2023 to discuss that PWANZ be closed down.

For further information, please contact:

Ruth Steven [pwanz2016@gmail.com](mailto:pwanz2016@gmail.com) or phone 022 0962 8811  
Mary Gibbs [mary@mrgibbs.co.nz](mailto:mary@mrgibbs.co.nz) or phone 04 383 8446 / 027 314 3188



**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.

**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. If you would like to join one of our weekly groups please contact Sarah Barton 021 385905.

**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.

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

**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](mailto:dandjneill@xtra.co.nz)



**Kaumātua - Elders**

**Presbytery Elder:** Sarah Barton

Phone: 021 385 905

[sarahbarton629@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbarton629@gmail.com)

Vanessa Gordon: [ness.gordon@gmail.com](mailto:ness.gordon@gmail.com);

Alastair & Sue Yule: [yules@xtra.co.nz](mailto:yules@xtra.co.nz);

Tim Mephram: [tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz](mailto:tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz);

Gary Dent: [gary.dent7@gmail.com](mailto:gary.dent7@gmail.com);

Andrew Sims: [andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

[www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff](https://www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff);

**Office** 9 Centennial Avenue Wakari  
Dunedin, 9010

