



Eco-Church New Zealand: We joined the Eco Church NZ movement in early 2023, making us the 40th congregation across Aotearoa New Zealand to do so. Among other aspects of our shared life, the Flagstaff congregation has had a longstanding commitment to caring for creation as one of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's five faces of mission.

Several years ago, a church working bee tidying the property identified a possible restoration project across church and adjacent city council land. In time it adopted School Creek (which runs alongside the church) and has been working since mid-2017 on a public track alongside the creek, so that the local community can explore and enjoy the beauty of creek and bush environments in the heart of the city. The project has involved extensive clearing and planting efforts, with natives replacing pine trees that we felled with permission from the Dunedin City Council.



Members of the congregation meet regularly to plan ongoing work, make funding applications and do the mahi. We have an Agreed Working Arrangement with the Dunedin City Council and are linked into City Sanctuary Predator Free Dunedin. The local primary school environmental group also assists with stream care, rubbish removal and pest control. Native plants are planted during Matariki celebrations each year.

A great opportunity came up before Christmas 2022 with 2500 native seedlings carefully prepared by the men at the Otago Corrections Facility needing a new home. In a collaborative effort with the Dunedin City Council and Downer Transport these were made available to community groups. We secured 200 free native plants, and these are waiting patiently to be planted during the Matariki 2023 festival.

There's plenty still to do but there have been encouraging signs of life as the creek is given the opportunity to breathe again.

Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church April, 2023



Eco-Church: Don Lind on behalf of Eco Church team will speak on Sunday 30th April about our favourite topic FOOD.



Reducing our carbon footprints - food

- ▶ Each of us has a carbon footprint
- ▶ Represents how we live and choices we make
 - ▶ Food
 - ▶ Transport
 - ▶ Housing/household
 - ▶ Shopping

Food

- ▶ 25% of global emissions come from food
- ▶ More than half of food emissions come from animal products
- ▶ Half of all farmed animal emissions come from beef and lamb
- ▶ Based on the typical Kiwi diet we could reduce emissions 7% if we ate vegetables instead of meat one night per week
 - ▶ Meatless Mondays
 - ▶ Swap half the meat for beans, veggies or lentils
 - ▶ Eat vegetarian when eating out
- ▶ Replacing beef with chicken cuts our dietary carbon footprint by over 50%
 - ▶ www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2475299123155387?via%3Dihub

Food - continued

- ▶ Don't waste it (Kiwis average 32kg each yearly) - it wastes the carbon used to produce it and produces greenhouse gases rotting in landfills
 - ▶ Plan meals
 - ▶ Store appropriately to keep it fresh
 - ▶ Don't cook too much
 - ▶ Compost veggie waste
 - ▶ Check out www.lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/
- ▶ Grow your own, eat in season
 - ▶ Check out www.5aday.co.nz/whatsavailable/
- ▶ Look at the carbon footprint of your diet and consider substitutes
 - ▶ Check out www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46459711

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.

Presbyterian Support Otago: Due to unprecedented demand, Presbyterian Support Food Bank stocks are very low. Any & All donations, would be very welcome, but in particular: Muesli Bars, Spreads (vegemite, Peanut Butter), Canned foods (Spaghetti/Beans), Canned fish. If anyone has any spare ice-cream containers, our food bank would be most grateful as they replace plastic bags which have been phased out. Drop off to PSO Reception Moray Place Dunedin.

COMBINED DUNEDIN CHURCHES

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Resurrection Service

Guest Ministry
Pastor Tak Bhana
Church Unlimited

Dunedin Town Hall
Sunday 30 April
Doors open 6.30
7pm Start

AN OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN UP DURING THE SERVICE

Parish Council Notes

- Parihaka: The visit from Tonga Karena on behalf of Parihaka was well received.
- Brendon and Tim Mepham attended AGM of Synod. Murray Rae is the new Moderator.
- Dunedin North Otago regional group had its monthly meeting at Flagstaff, we provided the meal.
- South Island Ministry Conference is at East Taieri Church 16/17 May, 4 people are going from Flagstaff.
- Eco Church-we have completed 2 sections of self-assessment with key people. Rachel Grant led us through a property/green spaces assessment with some action goals to work on.
- Covid-continue with ventilation, spacing pews, sanitizer and masks if people wish to use them.
- Gate/barrier being looked into from the door out into the big carpark. Work in progress
- Andrew Sims is working with BC systems to sort out computer issues. The Sound desk is old and has faults, he is looking to replace this.

Garage Sale: A Massive thank you to Carolyn and Ele for the clearing of rooms, organising everything to do with the garage sale. It was impressive to watch. 🙌 Thank you to all who helped clearing out various rooms in the hall complex and helping on the day of the garage sale. It was a big job and you all did very well. Chocolates all round next Sunday 7th of May. People buying items were very generous and we banked \$1500. God bless you all. Sarah

Journey to New Edinburgh: For all people associated with the Presbyterian Church. In commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the Province, Toitu has produced an excellent film about early Pākehā settlement in Otago. Much is filmed in Scotland and describes hopes for a Free Church community here and the struggles that followed. The story helps us understand Presbyterian origins in the region. It is a helpful resource for the training of new elders and is informative for all in our Church. Watch | Toitū Otago Settlers Museum Official Website (toituosm.com).

Coffee Get Together for Women: We are meeting this Tuesday 2nd May. If you would like to come meet at Coffee Culture at Roslyn 730pm. All welcome.



More Info Here: <https://www.campcolumba.org.nz/tirohanga-boost>;

South Island Ministry Conference: We are very excited to be able to open registrations for the 2023 South Island Ministry Conference. The title of the conference is: Heart Matters: Ministry in a Secular World. The dates are: Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th May 2023. It feels to many of us that ministry in a secular world is tough. Everywhere we go, church leaders are talking about the church being in a state of crisis. But is the church really in the kind of crisis we often think it is? And what do we really mean when we talk about the secular or even ministry? At the heart of the gospel is the God who graciously ministers to us. The church is called to reflect and imitate this ministry of God. The ministry conference talks are an invitation to engage in these questions and to wonder what joyful and hopeful ministry could look like today.

- Session 1: Orienting ourselves in a brave new world: defining the secular
- Session 2: Losing our heart: how our secular world is shaping the church
- Session 3: The God who ministers to us: developing a theology of ministry

- Session 4: Living for Shalom: ministering in a secular world

Sebastian Murrphy will be the keynote speaker and we are really looking forward to hearing what Seb has to say about these matters. If you register before 13th April, you will be able to get the early bird discount. Remember that the conference is suitable to bring your teams of paid staff and volunteers. Everyone is welcome. To find out more, and to register, please go to <http://www.etchurch.co.nz/conference>;

DNO REGIONAL GROUP 2023

Conversations that Matter

TUESDAY 9TH MAY

ST JAMES CHURCH,
80 TIVERTON ST, PALMERSTON

MEAL: 6 PM MEETING: 7-8.30 PM
Cost: \$12

♦ **Malcolm Gordon** will talk about his Ph.D. journey exploring worship and the use of lament.

♦ **Presbytery Council** will give an update about the Strategic Direction document.

➡ **These events are not restricted** to ministers/elders but are for all church members who want to meet with others across our region, discover what is happening in other parishes, and engage in opportunities to learn and grow in their faith.

Please **RSVP** to dnoregionalgroup@gmail.com by Sunday May 7th (earlier is very helpful 😊)

We will assist with carpooling. Be in touch if you need a ride or have spare seats in a vehicle.

Flagstaff Prayer Time: Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Church foyer. 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.

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.

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

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;

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