



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023
1 September - 4 October

FROM DOOM TO BLOOM

As the *Season of Creation* rolls around, our initial reaction may be a mix of indifference and malaise. Bombarded by apocalyptic headlines of global heating, extreme weather events, and collapsing biodiversity, it's easy to shut it all out and put it in the "too-hard basket".

This hopelessness or apathy to the possibility of change has a name: doomerism. I owe the title of this message to Jenny Sahng from [Climate Club NZ](#), who talks about the urgent need to get out of the doomer rutt. Why? Because when we lose hope, we become apathetic and stop pushing for change.

Communication is everything. We can frame things within a narrative of fear. We can also frame things within a narrative of hope. Climate campaigners are increasingly aware that the narrative makes all the difference between apathy and action. It's never too late. It's never hopeless.

As followers of the risen Christ, we have a distinct advantage. That's because, the gospel is fundamentally a narrative of hope. As a resurrection people being renewed in the Spirit, we are hardwired for hope, learning to see the world as a place that God is healing, transforming and renewing.

The *Season of Creation* is an opportunity for us to join with Christians all over the world in giving voice to this hope. Through prophetic prayer and preaching, we can draw the focus away from doomerist headlines to the countless possibilities of change in us, around us, and beneath us.

We may not be able to do it all ourselves. But no one has asked us to. In the church, we are part of the body of Christ all over the world. A trickle of change here and a trickle of change there can become a mighty torrent of justice and peace.

The theme for *Season of Creation* this year is "let justice and peace flow", a quote from the prophet Amos. [The Season of Creation website](#) has links to many fantastic sources and ideas for worship and action. I warmly commend it to you.

I finish with a story of Flagstaff Community Church in Dunedin, who are quietly getting to work [restoring the awa \(river\) in their backyard](#). A few years ago, School Creek was uncared for. The water was polluted and full of rubbish. Rats and possums haunted its banks. Through cleaning the creek, pest control, and native tree planting, the creek has gradually been restored. The water quality has improved. Kōura (freshwater crayfish), Tūi, and Piwakawaka (Fantails) have returned. Not only that, other community groups, including the school, have also gotten on board, fostering friendships and community that weren't there before.

This is a local story of "justice and peace flowing" – quite literally, in the case of the restored waters of School Creek. This *Season of Creation*, may we find our prophetic voice to celebrate stories like this as we move together from doom to bloom.

- You can download the [Season of Creation 2023 Celebration Guide](#) and other resources [here](#).

On behalf of the PCANZ Moderator

Rev Dr Jordan Redding

Minister of St Heliers Presbyterian Church

Convener of the Emissions Reductions Workgroup

minister@sthelierscentre.org.nz



**SEASON OF
CREATION**



Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church August, 2023



Flagstaff Community Church News:

Death of Sue Morey

Our love and sympathy go to Robert Morey and his family after the death of Sue, peacefully at Dunedin Hospital with family by her side.

Congregational Meeting: Halfway Bush Property Sale Agreement Decision

An invitation to Flagstaff Community Church members and associate members. Thank you for your engagement and the questions raised with the draft Sale Agreement at our recent Halfway Bush Property Sale Proposal meeting.

The following motion will be put to the vote after discussion at the meeting:

"The Sale and Purchase Agreement between Habitat for Humanity (Dunedin) Limited (Purchaser) and the Otago Foundation Board as trustee for the Flagstaff Community Parish (Vendor) for the property at 28 Balmain Street, Halfway Bush for the construction of six new three-bedroom residential units and for the amount of \$570,000 (inclusive of GST) be accepted."

If the motion is passed by the meeting, the Otago Foundation Trust Board will be requested by the Parish Council to approve the sale of the Halfway Bush church property to Habitat for Humanity under the terms of the proposed agreement.

The Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday after church on **Sunday 17th September 11 am.**

Note: The day and date for the special vote has changed from the recently advertised meeting which was set for our AGM Wednesday 20th September. A majority of people indicated Sunday after church was a preferred option rather than an evening during the week. You are still welcome to attend our AGM of course. 😊

AGM Hui: Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 20th September at 7 pm.

Annual Reports: Could these please be sent to Jenny Neill by the 4th September to dandineill@xtra.co.nz

NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL 2023

I wish to nominate:

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Nominated by:

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Please send nomination forms to Sarah Barton-292 Helensburgh Road or by email to parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz by 5th of September. Nominee profiles will be on the notice board and emailed on 10th & 17th September. Any objections need to be in writing and received by Brendon McRae by 18th Sept. Our AGM is on Wednesday 20th September at 7 pm.

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Eco-Church: Don Lind on behalf of Eco Church team will speak on Sunday 27th September about Water – the gift of life.



Water, the gift of life

- ▶ Water is essential to life
- ▶ Adult human body weight is 60% water
- ▶ We use it for drinking, cooking, washing, irrigation, recreation and rituals
- ▶ We cannot survive more than 3-5 days without it
- ▶ Although 72% of Earth is covered in water, only 2.5% is fresh water

- ▶ Freshwater
 - ▶ 70% is locked (for now) in ice caps
 - ▶ 30% ground water
 - ▶ 0.3% surface water - visible, accessible
- ▶ Worldwide, we use
 - ▶ 70% agriculture
 - ▶ 22% industry
 - ▶ 8% domestic

- ▶ During the 20th century water use increased six-fold per person
- ▶ Human water withdrawals were more than in all previous history
- ▶ Demand for water increases by 64m m³ yearly

What role and responsibility as followers of Christ do we have to ensure the poor and needy have access to water?



The poor and needy search for water,
but there is none;
their tongues are parched with thirst.
But I the LORD will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.
I will make rivers flow on barren heights,
and springs within the valleys.
I will turn the desert into pools of water,
and the parched ground into springs.

Isaiah 41:17-18

Facilities Officer (Part-time): Are you an active person with general maintenance skills and looking for part-time work?

Knox Church, 449 George Street, Dunedin, is seeking a person to clean, maintain and care for its property which includes an imposing listed Category 1 heritage building, associated buildings and grounds. The position is part-time (15 hours per week Monday to Friday) with additional extra hours relating to specific events.

For more information and/or to submit applications apply to the Minister Knox Church, Dunedin: minister@knoxchurch.org.nz. Applications close Friday 18th August 2023.

BAGS WANTED: Our Presbyterian Support Foodbank is looking for reusable brown paper bags with handles. They must be strong enough for Food Parcels. Any donations would be most welcome and may be left at the Food Bank Level 1 Moray Place Dunedin. Thank you!



September 2nd is the first Saturday in Spring. Come and celebrate that with us in a fun day at Tirohanga. Our conservation planting work is not always family friendly but on this day we hope to provide something for everybody. Tirohanga means 'place of far vision' and we want to help you to celebrate some of the wonders of God's world, to see the restoration that's

going on at Tirohanga, to connect with others, Tirohanga, and with God...and to have fun - which is perhaps part of celebration!

Find critters in the creek...make music with the birds...discover the secrets of the stones...seek signs among the trees...nature drawing...flax flowers...pot your own seeds...plant some trees...take your own tree home...finding the beasts of the forest...world's greatest scavenger hunt...and more!

Bring yourselves and a friend, Lunch, Gumboots (Gummies) or other strong footwear, layers of clothing and a rain jacket and Gardening gloves optional.

We will provide a range of drinks and hot soup. There is a good hall and kitchen and a great fireplace. Whatever the weather we will do this!

A Rocha at Tirohanga Camp 11.00am Saturday September 2nd 2023. If you need transport, or can provide it, contact Phil Scadden 027 3463 185. This link should show you the way <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZHt1S4CD283iQUUX6>;

Nga mihi nui Every blessing: Selwyn Yeoman (for the A Rocha Dunedin planning group)

A poster for 'Flagstaff Leith Highgate Friday Fun'. The top half features a colorful watercolor background with vertical streaks of blue, green, yellow, orange, and red, and scattered circular dots in various colors. The text 'FLAGSTAFF LEITH HIGHGATE' is centered in a black, sans-serif font. Below it, 'FRIDAY FUN' is written in a large, bold, pink, sans-serif font. The bottom half of the poster has a white background with black text. It lists 'Years 7 - 10', 'Term 3: 28/7, 11/8, 25/8 & 22/9', 'From 6 - 8 pm for dinner & games', and 'Cost is \$5'. It also mentions '267 Malvern Street, Leith valley' and 'PLUS: 18/8 - laser tag with Leith Youth Group AND 8-10 Sept - camp'. At the bottom, it says 'See your youth pastor for more details' and 'Or call Jono (022 399 6824)'. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'Greetings ISLANDS' with a circular arrow icon.

School Creek Restoration Project: 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.

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. For further information go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639. See <https://tinyurl.com/theologyotagovideo> for a brief video or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/theologyotago. Details about our Semester 2 papers are available here: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/index.html#second-semester>

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: Andrew Sims andrewcarolynsim@gmail.com;

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



Kaumātua - Elders

Presbytery Elder: Sarah Barton
parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

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: andrewcarolynsim@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
office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz;
www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff;

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