



ANZAC DAY 2024 MESSAGE

Anzac Day is a significant occasion in the life of our country and many will be attending services next week on 25 April.

I have asked two of our Defence Force Chaplains, Rev Chris Purdie and Rev Paula Levy, to share their thoughts on Anzac Day with us.

We are grateful for the valuable work they do as chaplains, and pray that God will continue to bless, strengthen and equip them as they serve in this capacity.

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz



Anzac Day message from Defence Force Chaplain Rev Chris Purdie

Reflecting on ANZAC Day after 17 years of ministry as a chaplain to the forces has been an interesting exercise for me, and one which raises issues of memory.

We in New Zealand do remember and pay tribute to all those people who have sacrificed their lives in the cause of war against tyranny, and for our freedoms, and it's right and important that we do so. So, we remember the people and the families of those people, and yet, by contrast we have lost sight of things closer to that time - the importance of war memorials.

I think we have forgotten why memorial stones in the town square, on the wall of the church, at the memorial gate at the school, the rugby ground, or at the municipal gardens, are important.

These memorials are important because for many years after the significant wars in our country's history -

Anzac Day message from Defence Force Chaplain Rev Paula Levy

This year it will be my privilege to lead the dawn ANZAC Service for several hundred soldiers, families and guests at Linton Military Camp, Aotearoa's largest military base.

Being only my second year as a uniformed chaplain I have much to learn but I know this service will be of deep meaning to those who attend.

Reflecting on the specific events of WWI and the ANZAC landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula is one thing; such immense sacrifice and loss of life on both sides by those who gave all for a cause they believed in or were asked to fight for. Thinking about all those since, who have committed themselves to protect and defend our country is another.

For those serving, all know or know the stories of those who have died in service. They also know the sacrifice of those who have survived but have been forever changed and affected by what they have seen and experienced.



ANZAC DAY 2024 MESSAGE

WW1, WW2 and Korea - they were the only place where the name of the deceased was publicly remembered in the community from which they came.

Why? Because there was no grave for them in New Zealand.

In those wars, military personnel were buried where they died, a whole world away in Belgium, in France, in Turkey or in the North Sea, or on an Island in the Pacific. From those wars no caskets came home. No remains, no casket, no grave, no headstone, and therefore no place to mourn or to remember them by.

All that the families would have received back then was a telegram, which informed them of the death of their loved one. Later, the family might have received a letter from the unit commander or the unit chaplain explaining some of the circumstances of their death and possibly some words about their actions or their character. Maybe sent with it some personal items - their dog tag, a watch, a ring, some letters - mere bric-a-brac of their existence.

In the hard times of these wars, and in the following years, ANZAC Day wasn't just a day of remembering, it was a funeral procession to the local memorial for family and veterans alike - to the only place where the existence of these people was recognised and visible.

I am honored as a Presbyterian Military Chaplain to participate in services at memorials on ANZAC Day, and to bring dignity and mana to those occasions in order that we are able to remember the fallen with their due respect.

As time goes on it's important to remind ourselves that not so long ago these carved names were people who were known personally to those who stood here.

Lest we forget.

Rev Chris Purdie

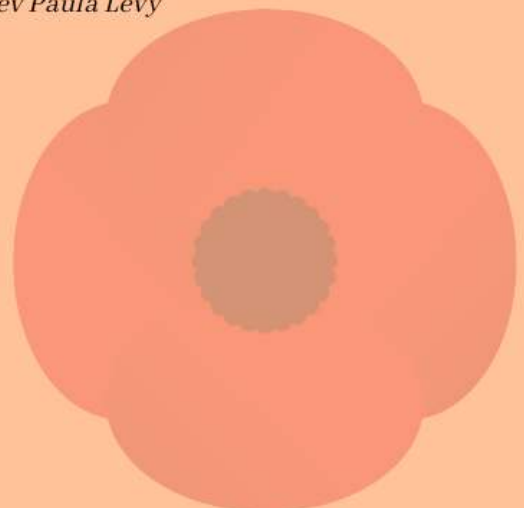
As someone passionate about God's heart for mission it reminds me also of those who have answered a call to go and serve in another culture and context, not all came back home. Our early missionaries who left by ship with all their belongings, including a coffin. Our more recent ones who continue to go to the hardest places, including war zones and places of persecution and immense danger.

As I stand before dawn, and lead others in prayer and reflection, my heart is we would remember. Remember those who died, those who served, those who are forever affected. Remember those not just in military service but in many other fields who give themselves with the hope and commitment to making the world a better place and to ease the suffering of others.

As we remember, give thanks, pray for those who grieve and prayerfully long for peace in our broken world.

May we commit ourselves again to following the example of Jesus who gave himself for the world he loved. Even if it costs us everything.

Rev Paula Levy



Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church April, 2024



Parish Council News

- Our love and Sympathy go to Alastair Yule and his family after the recent death of his sister-in-law Christine.
- Council has approved the draft Individual Employment Agreement and Job description for the Administrators Role. There will be a small workgroup that will meet to continue the process.
- Synod approved our application for \$14,000 for the exterior painting of the church and hall. We will receive some funding to go towards the expenses from the engineering firm regarding the seismic report for the hall.
- Council has agreed to continue to support the Mephram family in Senegal. There will be more information in May as we prayerfully commit for another 2 years.
- We had a good discussion with our Health and Safety Officer Hamish as we continue to update our policies and procedures. Jane Davis and Hamish have also been working together to strengthen our Tamariki ministry policies.
- It is a year since Youth Grow moved in, at our quarterly hui with PSO there was a lot of positive feedback and the students enjoy the space and environment.
- We are due for a congregational review, Brendon and I will be meeting with the team leader as we start this process, more information will come in due course.
- David from Youth and Brendon were invited to share about community gardens on Eco church podcast that was attended by participants and was recorded for use as an example of a church and community group working together.
- One of NZ's top Christian communicators said publicly on a recent podcast that Flagstaff Community Church website was one of the best church websites he had come across.
- Finances for March: Income \$9610. Expenses \$18942. Deficit \$9332. Bank Balance \$27,972.34

God bless you all as we serve God in our church and community.

Session Clerk: Sarah Barton

**COMBINED DUNEDIN
CHURCHES**

RESURRECTION SERVICE

**DUNEDIN TOWN HALL
SUNDAY 5TH MAY**

Doors Open 4.30pm

5PM START

GUEST SPEAKER:

COLIN DYE

Former leader of Elim Church
Kensington Temple, London

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 people 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 – thank you!



FLAGSTAFF -- HIGHGATE -- LEITH

FRIDAY
FUN

Years 7 - 10

Friday nights 10/5, 24/5, 7/6, 21/6, 5/7

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

267 Malvern Street, Leith valley

For more info contact

George ph: 020 4156 0250.





Presbyterian Support Otago

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Adult Buddies needed in Oamaru and Dunedin!

Family Works have a training session coming up in Dunedin on the 25th May, so now is a great time to get in touch about becoming an Adult Buddy!

The Presbyterian Support Otago Family Works Buddy Programme connects adult volunteers, known as Adult Buddies, with a child aged 5-12.

Adult Buddies are carefully selected and trained and then matched to children, helping contribute to their emotional and social wellbeing. We urgently need more Adult Buddies in Oamaru, Dunedin, and the Clutha region.

Here's what one of our Adult Buddies and their young Buddies said. "I don't have children of my own but really love kids," says Evelyn. "I was delighted to become an Adult Buddy, as I wanted to give back. The wonderful Buddy Coordinator matched me perfectly with Harper*." Harper says, "I like having a Buddy because it's fun and we do fun stuff together."

If you want to make a difference to a child in your community, then being an Adult Buddy is for you!

Find out more by contacting one of our Buddy Coordinators on 0508 396 678 or visit our website for more information <https://psotago.org.nz/buddies>

* Names have been changed to protect privacy.



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.

CAMPS EVENTS



DUNEDIN EASTER CAMP

Mar 29 - Apr 1
@Tirohanga Camp

More Info Click [HERE](#).



PUKERAU EASTER CAMP

Mar 28 - Apr 1
@Camp Columba

More Info Click [HERE](#).



BOOST CAMPS

Twice per year @Camp Columba
Leadership training and formation for
young leaders.

More Info Click [HERE](#).



SPORTS CAMP

Held over Kings Birthday long weekend
@Camp Columba. Go as a youth group
and compete against other groups.

More Info Click [HERE](#).

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

Hall Bookings: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Technical Equipment: Gary Dent 027 4763155

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



Kaumātua - Elders

Parish Clerk: Sarah Barton parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

Presbytery Elder: Don Lind donovan.lind@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;

Child Protection Officer: Jane Davis edlumic@icloud.com;

Health and Safety Officer: Hamish Cartwright cartwright012@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
Dunedin, 9010

