

# EVENTS

**23**  
JUNE

## **Matariki Remembrance Service**

**Flagstaff Community Church**  
**Sunday 9:30am**

The service will include waiata, hīmene, children's activities and stories, and a time of remembrance for our loved ones, including prayers for a hurting world. Haere mai tātou!

**28**  
JUNE

## **Matariki Public Holiday**

**Aotearoa New Zealand**

**29**  
JUNE

## **Puaka Matariki Festival Weekend**

On Saturday, we have a range of events across the day.

**10am-12pm**

### **School Creek Track Maintenance & Mahi Māra**

Matariki signifies our connection to Papatūānuku. Come along with your gardening clothes, gummies and gloves.

**2pm-3pm**

### **Presentation: "Star Gazing and Worship"**

Dr Mavis Duncanson will have a conversation with Rev Brendon McRae about his recent research project which responded to the question, How does observing the annual appearance of Matariki relate to and inform Christian worship? Tea and coffee provided.

**3:15pm -  
5:15pm**

### **Waiata & Whānau Fun**

Nau mai, haere mai whānau! Join Flagstaff Community Choir and Makayla & Wiremu Houppapa for a time of community singing, or come along and listen to our waiata and songs. Following this we will share some kai. This whānau time will conclude outside under the stars (and magical lights) with a waiata, bagpipes and a brief activity for the tamariki in the dark, weather permitting.

*A koha will be taken and gifted to Ārai Te Uru Marae Pātaka Ora community meals.*

**30**  
JUNE

## **Matariki Celebration Service**

**Flagstaff Community Church**  
**Sunday 9:30am**

Family Church Service. Come along for waiata (songs), hīmene (hymns), children's activities and stories. Featuring Wakari School Tikanga Kapa Haka. Followed by kai.



[churchatflagstaff.co.nz](http://churchatflagstaff.co.nz)





Christian worship on a Sunday is simply 'foreign worship' if it is not in constant conversation with life outside the church walls. While there are some points of tension and difference, there are a rich number of treasures within mātauranga Matariki that are in harmony with biblical wisdom.

I am increasingly becoming more appreciative of the gift of Matariki as I come to understand and embrace some of the relevant traditional meanings and themes which intersect so well with my life and faith. The three Matariki principles are framed as past, present, and future. Māori traditionally greeted the first sightings of Matariki in remembrance (past), followed by feasting and thanksgiving (present) while setting communal aspirations for the New Year (future). These three principles not only frame human existence and pivot neatly on the turning point of a New Year but underpin the Christian narrative providing rich biblical themes.

A number of key values are associated with Matariki celebrations. Of the 12 Matariki values six are located within the well-known biblical text 'fruits of the spirit'[1] which according to the author Paul, are evident of a life walking in step with God. The gift of Matariki is the invitation to come together regardless of cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds. This is part of our Christian DNA with the distinction of being called together 'in Christ' who both models and affirms ways of living and behaviour (values).

A growing number of people are taking an interest in the night skies. The Christian community need not be apprehensive about star gazing. The inclusion of the Southern Cross in liturgy is no more sacred than the Matariki star constellation simply because it is in the form of a cross (a form of violent execution). One Bible Concordance reveals a total of 87 references to the words star, stars and starry. When biblical reflection engages with the narrative of Matariki a variety of creative responses emerge that ultimately point to the star creator.

The Christian community is invited to listen deeply to both a Christian Māori perspective on Matariki and Scripture, not to re-colonise it, rather to inform a richer re-telling of Matariki and God's activity within it.

An excellent resource is the [Eco-Church A Rocha Aotearoa NZ website](#) which has a number of Christian resources (including those of the PCANZ). There are liturgies, sermons, videos, family and children's activities, educational resources and more. Ka Rawe!

*Rev Brendon McRae*  
Minister  
Flagstaff Community Church  
Ōtepoti / Dunedin

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Artwork page 1: "Matariki" by Grace Ockwell (2022). A Wall hanging gifted to Flagstaff Community Church for Matariki celebration. Grace is a member of the Flagstaff Community Choir associated with the church.

[1] Job 38:31.

[2] Genesis 1:14.

[3] Matariki, "Te Papa research reveals how New Zealanders mark Matariki." June 22, 2023. (Accessed 5 September, 2023). <https://www.matariki.com/stories/te-papa-research-reveals-how-new-zealanders-mark-matariki>;

[4] One News, "Matariki celebrations launched under Takapō stars." May 11, 2023. (Accessed 5 September, 2023). <https://www.1news.co.nz/2023/05/11/matariki-celebrations-launched-under-takapo-stars/>;

[5] Rangi Matamua, Matariki: The Star of the Year (Wellington: Huia, 2017). 89.

[6] Galatians 5:22-23.

# Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church June, 2024



## Global Mission – Mephams in Dakar, Senegal



In July of 2022, the family Mephams whānau; Sam, Yolanda and Nahla moved to live and work in Dakar, Senegal.

Since then, we have been kept up to date on their ministry and mahi through newsletters, video links and recently shared the exciting news of their new family member Huia Mephams, who was born beginning of the year.

Both Sam and Yolanda have a big heart for people particularly those who are on the fringe of society. They want to make a difference and are passionate about joining in with the mahi of God in the world.

Sam is teaching at Dakar Academy, a Christian boarding school for young people whose families work in West Africa and for Senegalese young people. Yolanda is managing a small non-profit/business which supports disadvantaged women. Both Sam and Yo are involved in a number of other missional projects within the community, choosing to live outside the school grounds and immersing themselves in the local neighbourhood.

Flagstaff Community Church Parish Council agreed to support the Mephams and invited the congregation to support them both prayerfully and financially. Financially, Dakar Academy provide them with housing and a monthly stipend (enough to cover some basic costs), and they required further support to be financially stable. With pledged support from individuals and a two-year commitment, Flagstaff Community Church provides a monthly payment of \$440.00 directly to the Mephams and agreed to a two-year review. That time is now.

With a growing young family, some significant developments in their work and community engagement and while acknowledging the volatile political context and financial challenges, they have prayerfully decided to commit to a further two years in Dakar. At a meeting in April 2024, the Parish Council agreed to continue to support the Mephams family for a further two years (June 2026) and invite the congregation to continue their support.

**Information has been provided over the past few weeks (Newsletter, Video link) highlighting both the ministry and mahi Sam and Yo are involved in. A Pledge form is made available on next page and a hard copy made available this Sunday at church for people wanting to either continue their financial support / or cease their support and people who may like to begin their support. A service of worship highlighting their ministry and mahi will be held this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Thank-you Parish Council.**

**Sam, Yolanda, Nahla & Huia Mepham in Dakar, Senegal**

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly

Annually

Please circle which one you would like to do.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No (Circle one)

I/We would like to be on Sam & Yolanda's mailing list for prayer updates and newsletters.

Contact Email \_\_\_\_\_

We/I no longer in a financial position to continue our financial support and have ceased regular payments of \_\_\_\_\_

Please either email Sarah Barton or leave your pledge in the kete / offering basket at the back of the church.

**Note:**

- Session Clerk Sarah Barton will collect the envelopes.
- Please make the adjustments to your regular giving (automatic payments/weekly giving) based on your pledge.
- Sam & Yolanda are committed to a further two years (2026) and this will be reviewed including our support from Flagstaff Community Church.
- Flagstaff will commit to a regularly monthly payment to Sam & Yolanda based on our pledged support.
- While Flagstaff Community Church are making a two-year commitment you may cease your payments if your financial situation changes.



**FLAGSTAFF -- HIGHGATE -- LEITH**

**FRIDAY  
FUN**

Years 7 - 10

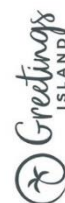
Friday nights 10/5, 24/5, 7/6, 21/6, 5/7

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

267 Malvern Street, Leith valley

For more info contact

George ph: 020 4156 0250.





Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand



**Rev Rose Luxford**  
**Moderator**

Email: [moderator@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:moderator@presbyterian.org.nz)  
Phone: +64 21 2752000

20 June 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

I write to update you on The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.

The Royal Commission will conclude its Inquiry and present its Report to the Governor General later this month. As the Presbyterian Church has participated and cooperated fully with this Inquiry we will be included in the Report.

We now await the Report and recommendations and anticipate that the Commission's Report will not be an easy read as the Commission Chair states, "The whole country must pay attention when our final report is released and take responsibility to ensure that it never happens again".

The Government will table the Report in Parliament soon after the delivery to the Governor-General, this is when the Report and recommendations will be released to the public.

Although the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care is coming to a close, I cannot stress strongly enough that we want to hear from anyone who has experienced abuse involving the Presbyterian Church. As a Church we take our duty of care and any allegations of abuse and sexual misconduct very seriously. Our Church policy provides that any allegations of a criminal nature are reported to the Police, and complainants are supported to do so.

Should you wish to report or discuss any matter concerning abuse and the Presbyterian Church, I encourage you to do so in whatever way is right for you. You can contact our Complaints and Disputes Manager, email [ComplaintsandDisputesManager@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:ComplaintsandDisputesManager@presbyterian.org.nz) and free phone 0800 244 357. There is information on the Church website [here](#) on how to report abuse in the PCANZ.

The Church also has its own complaint processes to give any person who has experienced, or has knowledge of, any form of harm in our Church an avenue to raise these matters and seek justice.

If you wish to make a complaint through the Church's processes regarding any acts of inappropriate or unethical behaviour by a Church office-bearer or member, please contact the Complaints Manager as above, and see more information about the Church's complaints process [here](#).

We are fully committed to keeping our children, churches, and communities safe; to supporting those who have been harmed; and to continuing to uphold our Christian values and principles. To this end all people representing or working for the PCANZ are required to abide by the Code of Ethics policy, and our Child Protection Policy must be applied when people in our Church have responsibility for children and young people. I encourage you to read both these policies if you have not done so. You can find these [here](#).



**Rev Rose Luxford**  
**Moderator**  
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We also have on our website a number of resources aimed at keeping people safe, these include our [preventing family violence](#) resource page, our [PCANZ White Ribbon NZ](#) resource page, and our [e-minister service](#) which provides a means to email with an ordained Presbyterian minister anonymously and confidentially.

Beneath our policies and processes lies our commitment to Jesus Christ who cares for and values all people and came so that all may have fullness of life.

Some of the most vulnerable people in our country have suffered enormously through abuse in their lives and this continues to impact them and have a ripple effect on society. It is heart-breaking and deeply distressing. At this time let us continue to pray and to work towards justice, healing and hope.

Yours in Christ

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

**Congregation Review:** Over the coming weeks Southern Presbytery will be undertaking a review of Flagstaff Community Church. The purpose of the congregational review is:

- to evaluate and assist in strengthening the ministry and mission of a congregation;
- to enable the congregation to express its views regarding ministry and mission;
- to assist the church council in setting priorities and direction;
- to enable neighbouring congregations to find opportunities for collaboration and mutual support including in prayer;
- to inform the Presbytery Council as it sets priorities and direction for resourcing of congregations and for developing mission in that area.

Congregational reviews are an essential part of the operation of our Presbytery. The Review Team will be working closely with the Parish Council. Members of Flagstaff Community Church will be invited to complete an online survey. Ministry leaders, Minister, Elders and Parish Council will have an opportunity to meet with the Review Team. Details will be communicated to wider congregation during the review process.

# Kai for Octacan

ANNUAL FOODBANK APPEAL 2024



We have seen an  
**29% increase**  
in the number of people  
accessing our foodbank



with a **8%** increase in the number of food parcels which are given out.

between 1 Jan 2024 - 30 April 2024 compared to the same time last year (excluding our Covid relief food parcels)

Financial mentoring

**46%**

of our clients are  
**NEW TO THE SERVICE**

Of the 590 clients that we have helped so far this year, 271 (46%) are new to the service.

WE HAVE SEEN A **9%** ↑

increase in ongoing case work

(1 January - 30 April 2024) when compared to the same time period from the year before.

**1,553**

Food parcels given out this year  
(1 January - 30 April 2024)

That is approx.

**65,226**  
Items of food

This means that on average  
our Foodbank gives out

**90.3**

Food parcels  
**EVERY WEEK!**

Containing

**3,793**  
Items of food!



[octacan.org.nz](https://octacan.org.nz)

[psotago.org.nz](https://psotago.org.nz)

Phone: 03 477 7115



**Octacan is our foodbank's big winter food drive!** Please bring along your cans or coins to help local people through the colder months. WHERE: Dunedin's Octagon. WHEN: Thursday, 20 June, 7.30am - 2pm. Please donate if you can. It's not too late to start collecting cans at home, work or school. Visit <https://psotago.org.nz/octacan> for more info and to see how you can get involved. #octacan #dunedinfoodbank



Kia ora friends, our first Winter planting at Tirohanga will begin at 11.00am on Saturday 22nd June. The camp is opening up a new planting field so there'll be plenty of space for us to start work on, and we also still have plant identification signage to put in place.

June 22nd is also the day of the World Vision 40 hour Challenge. This year there's a new interest in environmental care as World Vision recognises that many of the poverty issues it has addressed in the past have environmental causes and impacts. So we're hopeful that some 40 Hour Challenge participants will also be with us for some hands-on environmental care. If you have young people (or older ones) interested in the 40 Hour Challenge, bring them along and sponsor them for some creation-care work.

**WHEN:** Saturday June 22nd, 11.00am - mid-afternoon @ Tirohanga Camp, 214 Tirohanga Rd, North Taieri. **BRING:** Your lunch, layers of clothing, strong footwear, gardening gloves if you have them. **WE WILL PROVIDE** drinks, and soup for a mid-winter day! **IF YOU NEED, OR CAN PROVIDE TRANSPORT,** please contact Selwyn on 027 357 8459.

Between now and the 22nd our students are doing exams. Keep them in your prayers, and if you'd like to support the Chaplaincy in supporting students with heart-warming baking, contact Olivia Dawson – 021 195 3023 or [olivia.dawson@otago.ac.nz](mailto:olivia.dawson@otago.ac.nz).

On May 19th eighteen of us gathered for a good fun and very satisfying planting on a ridge above Smiths Creek, and once again I've had appreciative comment from Lala Frazer of STOP (Save The Otago Peninsula) for our contribution.

Looking ahead: we hope to be back at Smiths Creek on July 21st, and at Tirohanga on August 31st. This August date is later than earlier notified, but it fits with a visit from Kristel van Houte, the A Rocha National Director. During Kristel's visit we also plan a promotional event for the A Rocha Eco-church project.

Nga mihi nui

Every blessing

Selwyn Yeoman (for the A Rocha Dunedin Planning Group)

**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.

**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.

**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.

# CAMPS EVENTS

	<p><b>DUNEDIN EASTER CAMP</b></p> <p>Mar 29 - Apr 1 @Tirohanga Camp</p> <p>More Info Click <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>
	<p><b>PUKERAU EASTER CAMP</b></p> <p>Mar 28 - Apr 1 @Camp Columba</p> <p>More Info Click <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>
	<p><b>BOOST CAMPS</b></p> <p>Twice per year @Camp Columba Leadership training and formation for young leaders.</p> <p>More Info Click <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>
	<p><b>SPORTS CAMP</b></p> <p>Held over Kings Birthday long weekend @Camp Columba. Go as a youth group and compete against other groups.</p> <p>More Info Click <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p>



Art Joshua Bianford

## Building Bridges

Tangata whenua tangata tiriti

Becoming one in Christ

Are you challenged where Jesus leads us when we have different views of the world ?

Join us for a one-day conference with our speaker Phillip Larking, to explore a biblical approach and the tools to bridging the divide between Māori and Pākehā in our churches and communities.

Saturday 13th July 2024

9am-4pm

Register here

QR code



Web link

<https://tinyurl.com/BuildingBridges13July>



We are a ministry building bridges between Tangata whenua and Tangata Tiriti

at

Dunedin City Baptist Church  
19 Main South Road, Concord, Dunedin 9018

We welcome Phillip to our Building Bridges conference. He is an author, educator, and Professional Lead of Social Work at Bethlehem Tertiary Institute / Te Whare Tauira o Peterehema.

His book Vision & Vocation is an exploration of vocational calling in light of the Bible's grand narrative released in 2023. It provides perspective to how we view our worlds as Christians. Phillip is a member of Welcome Bay Baptist church in Tauranga.



Phillip Larking

**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.

**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@outlook.com](mailto:dandjneill@outlook.com);



### **Kaumātua - Elders**

**Parish Clerk:** Sarah Barton [parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

**Presbytery Elder:** Don Lind [donovan.lind@gmail.com](mailto:donovan.lind@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 Mepham: [tmepham@rautakiadvice.co.nz](mailto:tmepham@rautakiadvice.co.nz);

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

Andrew Sims: [andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com);

**Child Protection Officer:** Jane Davis [edlumeric@icloud.com](mailto:edlumeric@icloud.com);

**Health and Safety Officer:** Hamish Cartwright [cartwright012@gmail.com](mailto:cartwright012@gmail.com);

**Minister:** Rev. Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

[brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto: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

