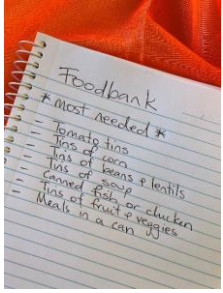


# Whānau Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church August 2025



## What's in this issue:

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |
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|  |  |  |  |
| <b>Season of Creation</b><br><b>1 September-4 October</b>                         | <b>Don't forget the Foodbank!</b>                                                 | <b>Children's Ministry</b>                                                         | <b>Opportunities to Serve</b>                                                       |



Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

The August Bush Telegraph is available online and has details on the upcoming General Assembly, KCML courses for Presbyteries, Children and Families Resources, Global Mission's latest newsletter and much more. To access click on links in text [August 2025 | Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand](#). Here are some of the articles that may be of interest to the Flagstaff whānau.

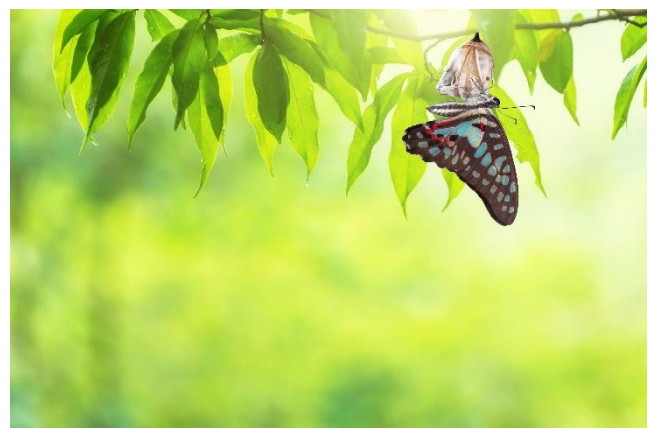
### GA Emissions Reductions Workgroup

*The General Assembly Emissions Reductions Workgroup was established in 2022 to promote initiatives to help our Church to partner with Eco Church Aotearoa, reduce carbon emissions, monitor progress, and report to the General Assembly on our efforts towards this goal.*

### Season of Creation 2025: Peace with Creation

This September, churches around the world will once again unite to celebrate the Season of Creation — a month-long opportunity, from **1 September to 4 October**, to renew our commitment to care for God's creation.

This year's theme is *Peace with Creation* drawing from the promise found in Isaiah 32:14–18. In this powerful passage, Isaiah offers a vision of deep restoration — not only between people, but also between humanity and the rest of creation. Across Aotearoa and around the world, ecosystems are groaning under pressure. Yet this scripture extends a hopeful invitation: to become active participants in God's healing work through justice, humility, and faithful action.



There are many ways to be intentional and active during the Season of Creation — as a church and in your local community. The international [Season of Creation 2025 Guide](#) is full of ideas and inspiration, and you'll also find a wide array of resources on the websites of [A Rocha Aotearoa](#) and [Eco Church](#) to equip your church for meaningful involvement.

Here are a few ways to get started:

- Host a Season of Creation service, speaker evening, or study group
- Invite a speaker - A Rocha and the Eco Church network have many people across the country available to speak at services or events
- Join the Eco Church network - or take the next step if you're already on the journey
- Plan a local action - such as tree planting, a rubbish clean-up, or a kai-sharing event

For more inspiration, A Rocha will host a free, online Eco Church kōrero on 4 August at 7pm which will explore this year's SOC theme and share practical ideas for how churches can be involved. More details on the eco church [facebook](#) and [website](#).

*Rev Dr Jordan Redding*

Convenor

General Assembly Emissions Reductions Workgroup

## MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Karo Wilson, PCANZ Direction of Children and Families Ministries, shares with you some of the literature she has been reading recently, focusing on intergenerational ministry. She has physical copies of most of these titles, which she is willing to lend out. However, almost all of them are available as E-Books, for a reasonable price.

### **Intergenerational Christian Formation by Holly Catterton Allen, Christine Lawton and Cory L. Seibel**

This book is a fantastic introduction into the 'why' of intergenerational ministry, and is a great starting point for anyone passionate about seeing all ages thrive and grow in faith together.

### **A Gospel for All Ages by David Csinos**

This book is a fantastic read for ministry leaders looking to be more intentionally intergenerational. It explores strategies for proclaiming the gospel in intergenerational faith communities, including conversation, vibrant worship and experiential education.

### **Intergenerate Series**

After each Intergenerate Conference, a book is released featuring many of the workshops and papers presented at the conference. We have copies of Intergenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry (2018); Engage All Generations: A Strategic Toolkit for Creating Intergenerational Faith Communities (2021); All Ages Becoming: Intergenerational Practice in the Formation of God's People (2023); and All Ages Imagining: A Renewed Vision for an Intergenerational Church (2025).

### **Intergenerate NZ**

Intergenerate NZ conference is coming up in October, with the theme "Living the Story".

- Auckland, Tuesday 7 October
- Christchurch, Thursday 9 October

For more information or to register, check out their [website](#).



## OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

### Just Stories: sharing stories from the Presbyterian whānau

Just Stories is a new platform sharing stories of justice in action from the Presbyterian whānau in Aotearoa and beyond. Just Stories is a collection of stories of 'justice in action' from the Presbyterian whānau; the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Presbyterian Support, and Presbyterian Church Schools. It also includes stories from beyond the Presbyterian whānau, reflecting the diversity and creativity of responses from individuals, groups and community organisations as together we stand alongside, work for transformation and foster hope in our communities. Read [more](#), and see [website](#) and [Facebook](#).



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



### Lawn Mowing Roster

The grass will be growing soon! We are currently putting together a Lawn mowing roster for our church grounds. We share the grounds with Youth Grow and have an agreement that we mow half the property each. We will be trimming the front lawns and Youth Grow the back section. We also envisage that this will only need to be done fortnightly. With a team of helpers sharing the job will mean it will not be an onerous task. We have access to a lawn mower, fuel, air muffs, compost bin and wheel-barrow (transport clippings on site). If

you are available and willing to go on a Roster and trim the lawns occasionally please email Neil Brown at [njbdunedin@gmail.com](mailto:njbdunedin@gmail.com); including with your contact phone number and information will be sent to you. Thank you

### Opportunity to serve in your community

Kia ora koutou,

I'm just letting you know that we are looking for **two new Directors on the Habitat Southern Board** on [Seek](#) and the [Institute of Directors NZ](#).

Should you like to circulate and tap some shoulders within your own networks, I'd invite you to **consider sharing our Seek advertisement:**

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/86049177?tracking=SHR-WEB-SharedJob-anz-2>

Position Descriptions are available upon request, so please don't hesitate to point prospective candidates in my direction, or to reach out if you'd like further information for yourself.

Kā mihi

Bonny Gray-Thompson

**Administrator**

Habitat for Humanity Southern



"It's not fair that other children in New Zealand are cold at night. Everyone should be warm."

Harvey





**Presbyterian Support**  
Otago

**Recyclable Bags:** Thanks to a DCC grant, church and community members' amazing talent, and donated material from the Curtain Bank we have launched our reusable Food bank shopping bags. We have over 600 in the "bank" but will need to keep them coming if you need to know more contact myself or [sarah.davis@psotago.org.nz](mailto:sarah.davis@psotago.org.nz)

**Money Month:** Our Family Works team help local people to get their money sorted through financial mentoring, EnergyMate coaching, advocacy and social work support.

For more information please visit <https://psotago.org.nz/energy>.

If you are reaching out for help, please be aware our services are in high demand, so please be kind to our team as they do their best to support our community.

If you are doing OK and would like to support our services please visit [psotago.org.nz/donate](https://psotago.org.nz/donate)

**Chaplaincy:** We are delighted that Chaplains have been appointed and are working with our Ross Home, St Andrew's and Taieri Court residents. Rev Karl Lamb ( Mornington) and pastoral visitor Candi Young are supporting Ross Home and Rev. Rachel Masterton ( Coastal Unity) is working with the team and residents of St Andrews. Pastoral visitor Mary Bennett ( supported by Rev. Anne Thompson) from Mosgiel Presbyterian is supporting the staff and residents of Taieri Court. We have had a celebratory catch up and heard so many lovely stories about the impact these folk are having; their contribution is invaluable.

**Foodbank needs:** Thanks to the many Dunedin Churches who donate regularly to us. I know those of you in other areas have local Food banks or support and trust that you are well supported also.

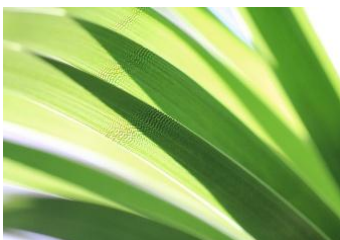
Currently our Dunedin Food bank would be grateful for any donations of fruit and veges. Flour, and sliced bread are also in short supply.

As always if you would like to know more about any of the above, or have other feedback, I would love to hear from you.

Stay Warm!

*Joy Davis, Community Relations Advisor*

## REGULAR MONTHLY NOTICES AND CONTACTS



**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 potter 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.

**Recycling @ Flagstaff:** Bring your plastic milk and cream bottle tops, Tetrapaks (rinsed, flattened, slit open on three sides) and clean glass or plastic jars (any size, must have lids and no need to remove labels) to church. There are collection containers at the back of the church under the resources table. If in doubt, bring them along! For a comprehensive and (relatively) up-to-date list of recyclable items and where to drop them off, refer to page 11 of the June Valley Voice, found here at <https://www.northeastvalley.org/your-community/valley-voice/july-2024>;

**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.

**Sunday Sermon:** If you would like a copy of the speaker's message from Sunday, then please email Brendon on [brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz) and a copy will be sent to you.

**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.

**Flagstaff Prayer Time:** Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone welcome. Every Tuesday 9 – 10 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](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology) or phone 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639.

**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.

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



**Community Facing Groups:** Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming and 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 027 356 9200.

**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 ensure your donation goes to that particular mission by writing the name of the appeal or special purpose when you make the internet payment or when you put your number or name and address on an envelope.

***Flagstaff Community Church Services 9.30am  
(Communion 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)***

**Contacts:**

**Prayer Chain:** Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Pastoral Care:** Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Envelope System:** Alison Jenkin 021 1052320

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

**Church Newsletter:** Lisa Wells [office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz);



**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)

Tim Mephram: [rautakiadvice@gmail.com](mailto:rautakiadvice@gmail.com)

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 [edlumi@icloud.com](mailto:edlumi@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)

**Parish Contact details:**

Administrator: Lisa Wells

[office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz)

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