



What's in this issue:

Season of Creation Naumai haere mai!	Future-focussed projects	Opportunities to Learn



The Season of Creation, from 1 September to 4 October, is an annual, ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for creation that Christians on six continents have commemorated for many years.

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

This year, the theme is **Peace with Creation**, rooted in **Isaiah 32:14-18**:

- 14** *Because the palaces will be forsaken,
The bustling city will be deserted.
The forts and towers will become lairs forever,
A joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks—*
- 15** *Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high,
And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.*
- 16** *Then justice will dwell in the wilderness,*

And righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

17 *The work of righteousness will be peace,
And the effect of righteousness,
quietness and assurance forever.*

18 *My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation,
In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*

Isaiah paints a stark image of a world wounded by human injustice, a creation crying out for peace. This vision resonates deeply with us: our planet is suffering, and yet, we believe in the promise of renewal and restoration.

Our call is to be active agents of change—praying, acting, and transforming our way of living in communion with creation and the Creator.

Two exciting new projects are in development for Flagstaff whānau.



With more and more children and families joining our congregation we feel the time is right to start talking about a **Tamatiki Whanau Worker**. Initial thoughts were presented to the congregation on 31 October, but there will be more information coming through in the weekly newsletters, or get in touch with brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz.

We are also talking about ways of making our church buildings more accessible and welcoming, so a team is looking at possible redevelopment options. This is aimed at **future-proofing our buildings**.

Some of the things we will be looking at are:

1. New Entrance
2. New Car Parking Plan
3. Foyer Area Revamp
4. Breakout Space
5. Additional Meeting Space
6. Servery space and Kitchenette
7. Sunlight Considerations
8. Stained-glass window installation
9. Hall stage removal and new storage
10. Solar power investment option
11. External social garden area
12. Integration with the School Creek conservation work
13. Worship space refreshment

Gary Dent is leading this planning process, so if you'd like more information or input please contact gary.dent7@gmail.com.

**WADDELL CHAPEL
AT SALMOND COLLEGE**

Night Chapel

**CONTEMPLATIVE
PRACTICES**

**NEW MUSIC
BASED ON
SCRIPTURE**

**ALL AGE
FRIENDLY**

**HOSTED BY
MALCOLM GORDON
AN INITIATIVE OF
FIRST CHURCH**

**FRIDAY 8PM
SEPT 26TH
OCT 24TH
NOV 21ST**



**Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand**

General Assembly

The Assembly will commence with an opening service at St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church at 1pm on Monday 20 October. Assembly will meet at St Paul's until its conclusion at 1pm on Thursday 23 October. If you are not going to be at Assembly, then sign up here to receive updates from GA25 during Assembly.

Please pray for Assembly. For our incoming Moderator the Rev Peter Dunn; for the Assembly Business Work Group; the Assembly Co-Ordinator Hayley Payne; Deputy Clerk Heather McKenzie; the many volunteers from St Paul's Trinity Pacific Church who are hosting us and our out-going Moderator Rt Rev Rose Luxford. Also please remember the Finance team processing registrations; the Comms team preparing material; our other Assembly staff also in preparations; and our Assembly Commissioners and observers. Any Assembly requires many people working behind the scenes, working to ensure the smooth running of each day.

Assembly is an opportunity for us to gather and provides the opportunity for thanksgiving and mutual encouragement. It is also a time of discernment for how God may be calling us to mission at this time and in this place. In all that, may we be found as people who say, "Speak Lord, your servants are listening".

Global Mission

Global Mission recently hosted four youth leaders from the Presbyterian Church of **Vanuatu** (PCV) to attend Presbyterian Youth Ministry's national youth leader training event, Connect, in Auckland. Prior to Connect, the team enjoyed a week of exposure visits which gave them a good overview of the mission context of the PCANZ. I am grateful to all those who supported this programme and offered generous hospitality to the team. Two team members were hosted by Rev Lorraine Francis and her husband Ian Dittmer. Lorraine was born in Port Vila when her parents Bill and Mary Francis served in mission in Vanuatu (then known as the New Hebrides). The team was able to meet Mary Francis, and this was a highlight for them as they shared stories together. Catch all the latest news regarding our mission partnership with the PCV in the latest edition of the [Nambawan newsletter](#).

Myanmar

In August I chaired a Zoom meeting with the group of ecumenical partners supporting the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM). The meeting received the latest reports from Myanmar and covered earthquake relief efforts and the wide range of ways in which the multi-layered crisis in Myanmar is affecting the church and its members.

The report included these topics for prayer that you are invited to share with your congregations:

- For peace and reconciliation in the Chin State and across Myanmar.
- For protection of young people from forced conscription and trauma.
- For relief from economic hardship and the lifting of blockades.
- For education programmes run by the church and community in the absence of formal education.
- For strength and courage for the church to take peace initiatives, even when the task seems overwhelming.
- For God's sustaining grace for all PCM members as they continue to serve in faith and hope.

PCM General Secretary Rev Pek Muan Cuang concluded, "We sincerely thank you for your unwavering support and prayers. Your solidarity strengthens us as we continue to live out our calling in one of the most difficult times in our nation's history".

Phil King

Global Mission Director

From Silence to Action: PCANZ's 2025 White Ribbon Campaign



Wherever violence exists, something sacred is being violated. Powerful words! The 2025 PCANZ White Ribbon campaign challenges us to turn private convictions into public witness, honouring both the spiritual foundations of our faith and the practical demands of justice. Our campaign launches with a bold and compassionate call to action: to transform silence into meaningful steps against all forms of violence.

Anchored by White Ribbon Day (25 November) and the 16 Days of Activism leading up to Human Rights Day (10 December), our campaign invites every parish, presbytery, school, cultural group,

church organisation to become active agents of change within their communities. While these dates offer a powerful platform for collective action, I encourage you to carry the kaupapa forward throughout the coming year, embedding the values of safety, dignity and respect into worship, education, and community outreach as part of ongoing mission.

Our 2025 theme connects faith with justice: *Sacred Spaces*: Every environment - churches, homes, schools, communities - is meant to be a sanctuary of safety and respect. *Sacred Lives*: Every person is created in God's image and deserves dignity, protection, and love. *From Silence to Action*: The Church is called to move beyond passive witnessing and take active steps to prevent violence and abuse. More on our campaign will be on the [Church website here](#) and resources will be sent to churches.

[White Ribbon NZ](#) focuses on ending violence against women, our [PCANZ White Ribbon](#) expands this commitment to address all forms of violence - to people, animals, nature - as we know they are connected.

Rev Hana Popea

[PCANZ Ambassador White Ribbon](#)

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 LEARN

Theology Programme Otago University and KCML Summer School 2026

From **26-30 January 2026**, [Professor Lynn Cohick](#) will teach an intensive course in Dunedin entitled ***Women in the New Testament and Early Church***. Lynn is Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Director of the Houston Theological Seminary at Houston Christian University. This course will explore women's participation in and contributions to the Christian story in the first five centuries and discuss women's participation in the church today. Fees and travel subsidies are available to PCANZ ministers in good standing. The course can be taken for credit or audit. To enrol for credit see [here](#) and click on 'Apply to Enrol'. To register your interest for audit please [email the KCML registrar](#). Ministers studying for credit can apply for a subsidy for fees/travel. Those ministers auditing the course can access a subsidy for audit fees and travel, [email the KCML registrar](#).



It's the perfect time to stock up on gifts, books, and resources at Manna! We are making room for all of our new stock that is arriving daily so from now until 30 September 2025, enjoy a massive 50% off all clearance stock. That's 50% off the already reduced clearance price — while stocks last! Products are marked down to end in .97c and stock will vary between stores and online, so be quick. And that's not all — check out our [Manna Super Savers](#), with special pricing on selected items available until 16 September 2025 or while stocks last. Whether you shop in-store or online, don't wait — get shopping now!

The Manna Christian Stores Team

WES HUFF

CAN I TRUST THE BIBLE?

THINKING MATTERS | TRUTH MATTERS TOUR

DUNEDIN TOWNHALL | 22 SEPTEMBER 2025 | 7-9 PM

Register at shop.thinkingmatters.org.nz

THINKING MATTERS
 Elim Church Dunedin
 Combined Dunedin Churches
 Child Rescue
FREEDOM FROM EXPLOITATION

INTERGENERATE
AUSTRALIA
and NEW ZEALAND

LIVING THE STORY

Being Intergenerational

We are all connected
by Anja Rozen
Slovenia
Age 13

www.intergenerate.com.au/events

**What happens
when all ages truly
connect in
community?**

Join us for a
transformative day
exploring the power of
hearing and living the
story of God's people
together.

Thursday 9th October 2025
9.00am-4.30pm
Riccarton Baptist,
Christchurch

Cost: \$80 (incl food)

**Your story matters.
Join us.**

**MULTI-DAY
WILDERNESS
EXPEDITIONS**

E3 BAY OF ISLANDS
E3 CANTERBURY
E3 OTAGO
E3 YOUNG ADULTS

**TAG 3
FRIENDS**

FOR THE CHANCE TO
WIN **50% OFF**
YOUR E3 CAMP
REGISTRATION FEE*

FIND OUT MORE
sunz.org.nz/camps/e3

*COMPETITION CLOSSES 29TH SEPTEMBER 2025. TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



PSO Support Centre Moray Place (next to First Church)

Thanks to all of you for your generous donations, we deeply appreciate each one – especially as we are all struggling with the cost of food and other mainstays.

Items we are short of this week are:

Cereals

Teabags

Fresh Fruit & Veg

And of course, the Food Bank is here for anyone who needs support. We are open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Volunteer with us!

Here at PSO we have a fabulous team of dedicated volunteers serving in our Food Bank – you could be one of them!

With several folk “retiring” we have vacancies for some new volunteers.

Here’s what you need to know:

- *Being physically fit and active is a plus as at times there can be heavy lifting*
- *This is a varied role and over the course of a shift you would be responsible for counting donations as they come in, recording, and uploading stock, breaking down bulk food items and making up food parcels.*
- *There will never be a dull moment as whilst you will be following instructions, you will work independently, and alongside others in a fun team environment.*
- *If you can commit to at least one 2–4-hour shift per week for at least 12 months, what are you waiting for? Get in touch!*

We greatly value this role and so Police vetting, and reference checks are required, which we will sort for you.

Contact Jollene Warrington 03 4777116 for an application pack

Come join us!

Seam Team



Thanks to all the amazing “Seam Team” sewers, who have produced hundreds of recyclable shopping bags for our Food Bank, PSO was nominated for an award at the Keep Dunedin Beautiful awards. Social Worker Sarah Davis was delighted to receive the Certificate (see attached) on behalf of the large team behind this very successful operation.

Bags are being returned, but all of them, so we do need to keep a good supply in stock.

To join the “Seam Team”

contact sarah.davis@psotago.org.nz, pattern and material supplied. 😊

(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 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. 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 3rd 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 andrewcarolynsim@gmail.com;

Church Newsletter: Lisa Wells office@churchatflagstaff.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

Tim Mephram: rautakiadvice@gmail.com

Gary Dent: gary.dent7@gmail.com

Andrew Sims: andrewcarolynsim@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

Parish Contact details:

Administrator: Lisa Wells

office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

P O Box 10074

Halfway Bush, 9042, Dunedin

Office and Church: 9 Centennial Avenue,

Wakari, Dunedin

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff