



What's in this issue:

<p>Waitangi Reflection</p>	<p>Lent Resources</p>	<p>Welcome to Summer</p>

The Moderator of the PCANZ, the Rt Rev Peter Dunn and the Moderator of Te Aka Puahou, Rev Tamiana Thrupp represented the Presbyterian Church at Waitangi this year and although the day has passed, the message Peter sent to the Church as he prepared for the day is worth reflecting on.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi no Māngere Maunga

On Auckland Anniversary day just past, I went for a walk from where I was staying to the top of Māngere Maunga. I sat for about two hours on the highest point to chill out, think about some things and pray. The immediate emotion - for those who lost their lives in the most tragic of circumstances in the landslip at Mt Maunganui in Tauranga a few days before - came like a lament. A terrible tragedy felt across the nation. Until all the bodies are recovered that lament will continue to be followed by coming to terms with the tragedy and why it happened. Pray with me for the grieving families.



The pre-colonial history of Māngere Mountain and the area around it is worth researching. It has been a rich and bountiful place since being first settled by Māori as early as the 1200s. From the time of European arrival its history has a similar script to many places in Auckland and the Waikato. Despite the Treaty of Waitangi, Māori land was invaded, war was raged and great tracts of land were taken or confiscated by the colonial government of the time.

I well remember from far away in Southland being disturbed and angry with what happened at Bastion Point, about 20kms from Māngere Mountain. Following the Waikato Wars the mountain and surrounding fertile land was confiscated because its strategic location with its Pa was seen as a threat. The land became settler farms and the mountain itself was made into a public reserve. Through a treaty settlement in 2014, Māngere Maunga is owned by the Crown and administered through the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority. The public have access.

Sitting at the summit presents a stunning scene. As far as you can see, you see city in every direction with the interludes of harbours and waterways.

Then there is the portent of the present debates over the relevancy and meaning of the Treaty in 2026. In the scene I set before you is the Maunga itself, a centre for a living culture going back at least 45 generations. Then literally butted up against the base of the mountain where the extensive kumara gardens were for centuries, the modern houses of Māngere. Roll a rock down and it would go through a back fence. I looked at the scene for a long time with this taunga of a place. Today 186 years after Te Tiriti o Waitangi was first signed, the city, a rock roll away, whose founding and expansion largely, if not completely, ignored the Treaty.

Sitting on the highest point of Māngere Mountain the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand remembered in brief what the Church has said and enacted in response the Treaty of Waitangi. PCANZ interprets the Treaty not just as a legal document, but as a "covenant" or sacred promise between the Crown and Māori. We formally recognise a bicultural partnership between Te Aka Puahou and the members of the Church and its courts. The

Presbyterian Church actively observes Waitangi Day, with representatives participating in events at Waitangi. As an ongoing response to the Treaty, anti-racism and equal justice for all has become a mark of our Christian witness. Kia tai mai tou rangatira-tanga. Kia meatia tau e pai ai ki runga ki te whenua, kia rite ano ki to te rangi. Praying for a present and future where Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti live together in peace and mutual respect.

However, the recent diatribes and debates about the Treaty through academic, political and particular ideologies on both sides of the Treaty debate are not conducive to a transformed society happening soon. Some say it is all helpful debate. Some say it is ultimately destructive as wrong power flexes itself. From a Pākehā perspective Tino Rangatiratunga lights a fire of mistrust that smolders hot in many. How can self-governance by Māori exist in a democratic society? That is one of the undercurrents of these times.

Thinking about the Treaty from Māngere Maunga, invited my grandchildren/mokopuna to be with me, figuratively speaking of course. There are quite a few of them. They haven't really experienced the full force of a broken and mistrusting secular world yet. Still "innocent" in many respects. I can see them all together on occasions, as happens, in real time. Doing things together, playing, laughing and talking as close families do. They share multiple lineages. As a group they are familiar with a number of languages. All have European descent, somewhere it is possible that great, great, great grandfathers fought against each other in world wars. A Jewish lineage with an ancient surname that was changed after World War 2 that takes them back to the time of Solomon's Temple. And in that mix Tangata Whenua, carrying the Māori lineage of this land. When they are together and apart, none of that matters. Looking to their future I loath anything that makes their differences in ethnicity the basis of New Zealand society.

As a Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand member, be praying and be vigilant that we will never be seduced by the words of an ideology that does not come from the teaching of Jesus and the Spirit he bestows on us all. Pray earnestly that as a Church we will not participate in the use of wrong power against anyone, through the right understanding of justice in action through word and deed. And the last word; the covenant aspect of Tiriti o Waitangi will only be fulfilled with the spiritual transformation of New Zealand. Pray for the Good News of the Gospel to change hearts and minds of every New Zealander.

Nā, tēnei te mau nei te whakapono, te tūmanako, te aroha, ēnei e toru; ko te mea nui rawa ia o ēnei ko te aroha.

Peter

Right Rev Peter Dunn

Moderator

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

SHARED SILENCE in Lent 2026

What?
For centuries, Christians have shared in silence. During Lent 2026, times of shared silence will be offered in the Flagstaff Community Church Foyer. This is part of continued research by Rev Dr Steve Taylor into spiritual practices. Participants 18+ will be invited into silence and reflect on the experience as part of University of Otago research

How, when?

- 4 Thursdays - February 26; March 5, 19; 26. 7:45-8:30 pm
- shared silence for 10, 20, 30 minutes
- conversation about joys and struggles
- optional reflection on the experience in small surveys, writing short responses and a focus group

Why?

- enrich faith during Lent
- receive a journal and support research in Christian practices

TO ENQUIRE

Brendon McRae or
steve.taylor@otago.ac.nz
tinyurl.com/STaylorResearch
Centre for Theology and Public
Issues, University of Otago

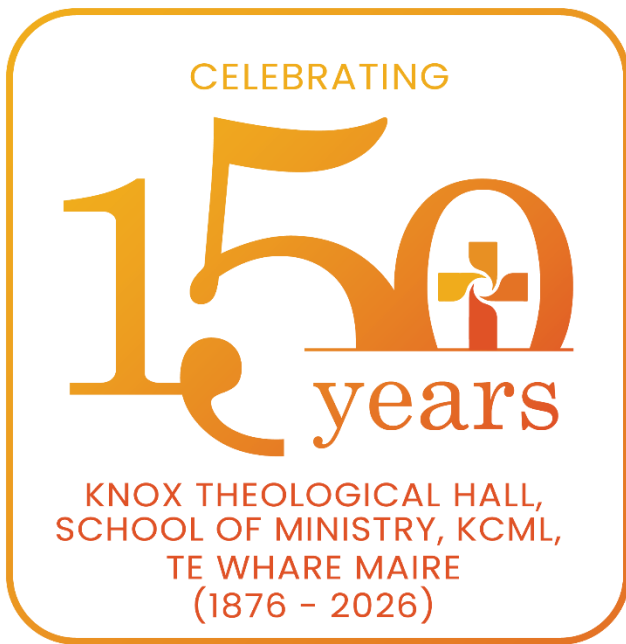
Shared silence as a Lenten spiritual practice

For centuries, Christians have shared in silence as a spiritual practice, to enhance well-being and connect with God. As part of our Lenten journey at Flagstaff Community Church, there will be a time to explore shared silence in the Foyer.

Thursdays 7:45-8:30 pm; February 26, March 5, March 19, March 26.

The Shared Silence gatherings will offer shared silence for 10, 20, 30 minute periods, along with conversation about the joys and struggles of silence. These gatherings are part of research into spiritual practices by Rev Dr Steve Taylor, who encouraged shared spiritual practices among us in 2025. Participants aged 18 and over will be offered University of Otago ethics information and invited to reflect on the experience through sharing silence, a short survey, reflecting in writing short paragraphs and a concluding focus group. A spiritual research journal will be provided. For more information or to confirm your

place, see either Rev Brendon McRae or email Steve.taylor@otago.ac.nz.



150th Anniversary of Knox Theological Hall/Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (Dunedin)

Saturday 2nd – Sunday 3rd May 2026

This year is the 150th Anniversary of theological and ministry training at Knox. There are two main events in Dunedin over the weekend of 2nd-3rd May:

Saturday – 2nd May, 2pm-4:30pm

You are invited to come to the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership/Knox College. There will be guided tours of KCML and Knox College (2pm onwards), afternoon tea (3pm), and a curated time (3:30pm-4:30pm) for people to reminisce about their experiences here.

Sunday – 3rd May, 7pm

An evening worship service of gratitude and celebration will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church Dunedin followed by a catered supper. The service will be led by Rev Dr Graham Redding and Rev Margaret Garland. Rev Dr Murray Rae will be preaching. The 3rd May is 150 years to the day that the first theology professor, William Salmond, was inducted to Knox Theological Hall.

If you have any questions about the weekend events, please contact Rev Dr Geoff New (principal): geoff@knoxcentre.ac.nz

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH LEADER'S TRAINING DAY

📅 Saturday, 28 February 2026

🕒 9am - 4pm

📍 DCBC - 19 Main South Road
Concord, Dunedin

💰 \$35 - lunch included

www.sunz.org.nz/youth/anamata

EASTER ACTIVITY SHEETS

Explore the Gospel of Luke

Help children discover the Easter story through Scripture-based activities that are fun, interactive, and easy to use. Explore Luke 22–24 through activity sheets including matching Scriptures, Who Am I, word scrambles, fill in the blanks and crosswords.

[Download Now](#)

Lent Resources for all ages are also now available FREE from [Free Easter Resources | Bible Society New Zealand](#)

Kia Tipu – Scripture Union’s Children’s Ministry Conferences 2026.



Leith ~ Highgate ~ Flagstaff

JUNIOR YOUTH FRIDAY FUN

Years 7 - 10 Fortnightly Friday nights
(Term 1: 13/2, 27/2, 13/3, 27/3)
From 6 - 8 pm for dinner & games
Cost \$5

267 Malvern Street, Leith valley
See your youth pastor for more details
Or Lucy (022 074 5491).
Scan the QR code to join the parent
WhatsApp group



Greelings ISLANDS

Our vision is to see thriving Children’s Ministry across Aotearoa New Zealand and Children’s Ministry Leaders who feel nourished and equipped to help children and families grow in their faith.

This is a great opportunity for you to connect with other Children’s and Families Ministry leaders from across a range of churches —sharing ideas, being encouraged, and learning together. Come along and be inspired by people who are just as passionate about growing children’s faith as you are. Don’t miss this opportunity!

SAVE THE DATE

Christchurch – Saturday 23 May, 2026 – St Alban’s Baptist Church

Auckland – Saturday 6 June, 2026 – Mt Albert

Baptist Church

Wellington – Saturday 20 June, 2026 – St Ninian’s Uniting Church, Karori

Taupō – Saturday 8 August, 2026 – Taupō Baptist Church

Whanganui - Saturday 12 September - Whanganui Central Baptist Church



For more information check out sunz.org.nz

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN



1 Chronicles **1 Ngā Whakapapa**

LET THE WORD OF GOD THRIVE

Tukuna kia puāwai te Kupu a te Atua

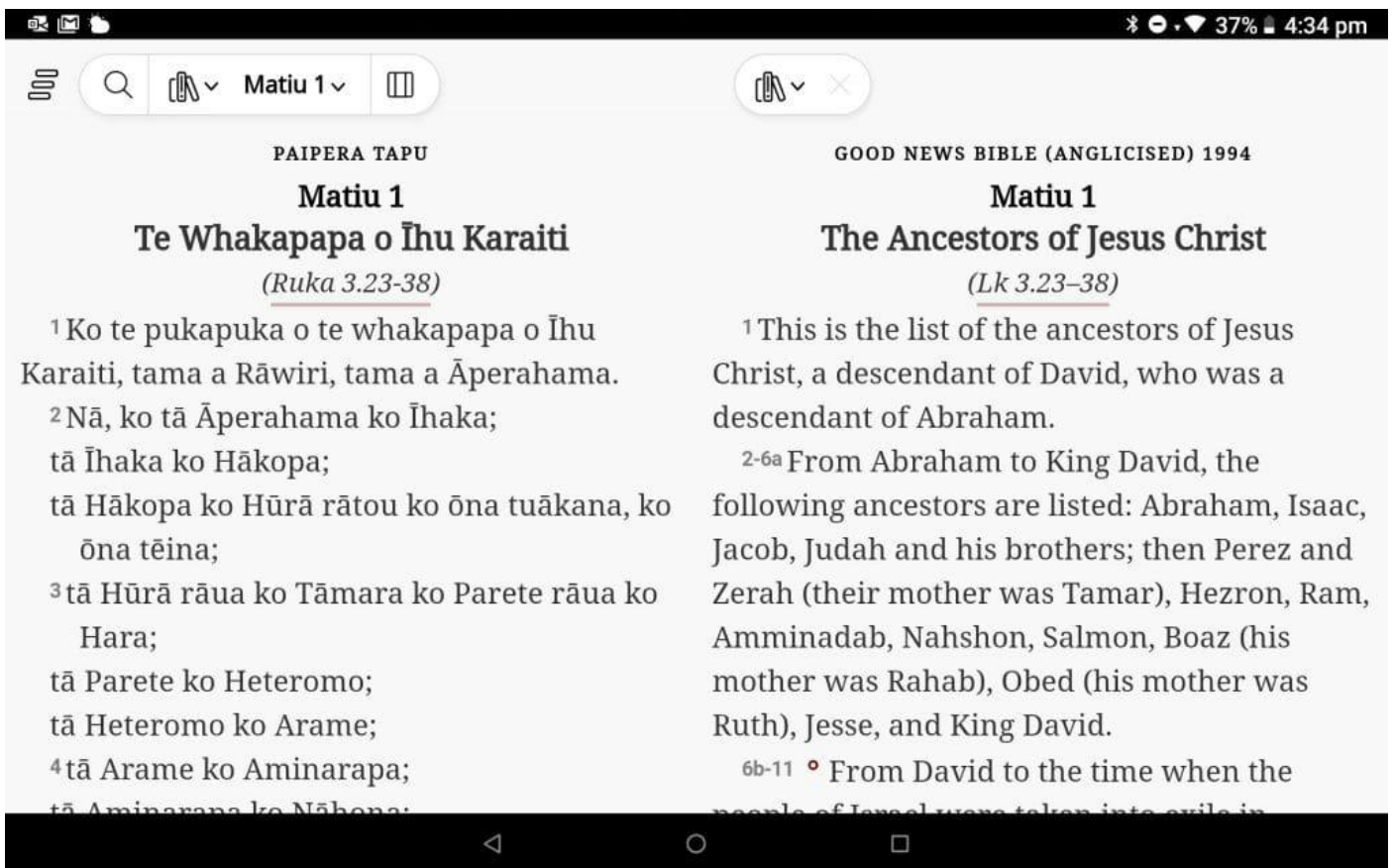
Connect with God through this inspiring Māori/English bilingual Bible

BUY NOW

Te Paipera Tapu has come a long way since the very first publication of the full Bible in Māori in 1868. Now, you can read it on the move with Bible Society's mobile app. The app features the **very latest edition** of Te Paipera Tapu which was reformatted to include macrons in 2012.

The app also features two English translations – the *Good News Bible* and the *Contemporary English Version*. This makes it great for second language learners of Māori, who can compare the same passage in Māori and English. You can also have the Māori Bible alongside an English Bible!

Download from Google Play, or the Apple App Store



PAIPERA TAPU **Matiu 1** **Te Whakapapa o Īhu Karaiti** *(Ruka 3.23-38)*

1 Ko te pukapuka o te whakapapa o Īhu Karaiti, tama a Rāwiri, tama a Āperahama.
2 Nā, ko tā Āperahama ko Īhaka;
tā Īhaka ko Hākopa;
tā Hākopa ko Hūrā rātou ko ōna tuākana, ko ōna tēina;
3 tā Hūrā rāua ko Tāmara ko Parete rāua ko Hara;
tā Parete ko Heteromo;
tā Heteromo ko Arame;
4 tā Arame ko Aminarapa;
tā Aminarapa ko Nāhona;

GOOD NEWS BIBLE (ANGLICISED) 1994 **Matiu 1** **The Ancestors of Jesus Christ** *(Lk 3.23-38)*

1 This is the list of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, who was a descendant of Abraham.
2-6a From Abraham to King David, the following ancestors are listed: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah and his brothers; then Perez and Zerah (their mother was Tamar), Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Salmon, Boaz (his mother was Rahab), Obed (his mother was Ruth), Jesse, and King David.
6b-11 From David to the time when the people of Israel were taken into exile in



You are hereby invited to attend a **combined Synod AGM and Presbytery Gathering on 17-18 April 2025** at the Wanaka Presbyterian Church (94 Tenby Street, Wanaka) from 12 noon - 9.00pm on Friday and 9.00am to 3.00pm on Saturday. This promises to be a fantastic weekend in the life of Southern Presbyterians, including afternoon workshops, dinner, worship, teaching, a Communion Service, business sessions, morning tea, and lunch - as we follow the theme **“Equipping the whole people of God for Mission and Ministry”**.

The **online registration form** can be accessed here: <https://forms.gle/kRdP6WHmty4smnov5>

Registrations close on Tuesday, 31 March 2026.

Ramadhan
FRIENDSHIP EVENING- DUNEDIN

Pearl of the Islands Foundation Inc. (PIF), in collaboration with the **Dunedin Methodist Parish** and the **Dunedin Interfaith Council**, warmly invites you to an evening of dialogue, connection, cultural appreciation and a special musical performance

Wednesday, 4th March 2026
7.00-9.30 pm

Mornington Methodist Church,
1 Galloway St, Mornington, Dunedin

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Douglas Pratt
Theme: Dignity, Justice and Kindness
Shared cultural and religious Values for Peace

 Please confirm your attendance by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below and completing the form.
<https://events.humanitix.com/pif-ramadan-friendship-evening-dunedin>

Dinner/ light supper will be served at 8.26 pm, coinciding with the breaking of the fast.

In the spirit of Ramadan, PIF will also be running a food parcel donation campaign. Contributions toward the event and food parcels are warmly welcomed.

We look forward to welcoming you to this special evening of dialogue and connection.

PEARL OF THE ISLANDS
FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



PSO Support Centre Moray Place (next to First Church)

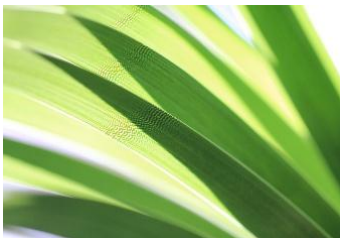


NOTE: our Food bank is now located on Level 3 , come up the driveway nearest the Support Centre and there are 3 visitors parks - one is only for 5 minutes. There is sign directing people with drop offs to the area behind the building.

The foodbank is very grateful for donations of school lunch ingredients, toiletries and fruit and vege surplus from home gardens. Thank you!

Check out our website for current volunteering opportunities! [Volunteering | Tūao » Presbyterian Support Otago](#)

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 this link <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 021 385905.



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 andrewcarolynsims@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

Beth Scarlet raybethscarlet@yahoo.com

Vanessa Gordon: ness.gordon@gmail.com

Tim Mephram: rautakiadvice@gmail.com

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

Parish Contact details:

Administrator: Lisa Wells

office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

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Wakari, Dunedin

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff