

Whānau Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church - April 2026



Kawea mai anō te kūao kau, te mea whāngai, patua, kia kai tātou, kia koa te ngākau. Ko tēnei tama hoki āku i mate, ā, kua ora; i ngaro, ā, kua kitea.' Ā, ka anga rātou ka koa.

— Ruka 15:23-24

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

— Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)



"Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." — Luke 15:6

As we move out of the season of Jesus' death and resurrection and continue to celebrate the risen Christ, we're excited to begin preparing for something special for this July's Bible Month. This is a time when, together, we lift up the place of the Bible in our lives, our churches, and across our nation.

Before Jesus returned to heaven, He called His followers to continue His work of sharing the Good News. This call sits at the centre of our theme for 2026, *Leave No One Behind*. As we celebrate 180 years of Bible mission in New Zealand this year, we are focusing on the Gospel of Luke to help bring this vision to life.

During Bible Month in July, we'll be exploring five powerful parables from Luke:

The Sower, The Lost Coin, The Lost Sheep, The Prodigal Son, and The Good Samaritan.

Each week, we'll guide you through free downloadable resources to help you and your community engage deeply with God's Word, including:

• *Adult Devotional Bible Study* – individuals & group leaders

- *Teen Devotional Bible Study* – individuals & youth leaders
- *7-Day Challenge Plan* – adults & youth
- *Kid's Lesson Plan* – parents & teachers

These resources are created to help people of all ages receive God's Word and share it with others, so that together, we leave no one behind.

Next month, we'll invite you to join our early access list, so you can be among the first to receive these resources and plan how to use them in your church or community.

We expect everything to be ready by early June, giving you plenty of time to prepare.

Until then, we invite you to join us in prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your Word, which brings life, hope, and truth.

As we prepare for Bible Month, stir a hunger in our hearts and in our nation to know You more.

Help us to share Your Word with those around us, so that no one is left behind.

Prepare every heart to receive Your truth, and guide us as we sow the seed of Your Word with faith and love.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Global Mission

RSE workers

Congregations in rural areas of New Zealand sometimes have interaction with Recognised Seasonal Employment (RSE) workers who are living and working temporarily in their regions. Some of these congregations work hard to welcome and include them in their church life but logistical factors mean it isn't easy. A Methodist congregation in the Bay of Plenty has gone a step further and employed a full-time pastoral worker to offer pastoral care and support to RSE workers. This was a response to what they believed to be an important missional need. Perhaps there is scope for this ministry to grow within some of our congregations? You can read a report about this [here](#).

Vanuatu

As mentioned last month, preparations are being made for projects that will take place this year. Saint Kentigern Schools and College sent a leadership team to Vanuatu in March to prepare for service programmes with Vanuatu schools in July and September; plans to lead a chaplains' training programme in Vanuatu in August are moving forward, and congregations are exploring options for Global Mission projects. The outbreak of war in the Middle East has caused uncertainty for international travel and had an impact on costs and is therefore causing concerns for anyone planning international events. These are challenges to be faced, but do not compare to the suffering being visited on so many innocent victims of war. Let us be mindful of those affected by these circumstances here in New Zealand, where inflation and raised anxiety levels have an impact; and pray for the victims of the violence we are reading and hearing about in our daily news.

Phil King

[Global Mission Director](#)

Artificial Intelligence and Faith – save the date

From Wednesday 13th May, we will be holding four online sessions each following Wednesday at 7pm on AI. We have convened theologians and an industry expert to engage with us. Sessions include Dr Stephen Garner ("AI and the Spiritual Life" and "Is there a place for AI in the worshipping life of the

church?”, Dr Andrew Shepherd (“How technology shapes us”), and Matt Ensor (“Practical questions about AI and Christian Life and FAQ”). Registration details for these webinars will be on our website soon.

KCML Quarterly Pānui

You are invited to subscribe to the new KCML Quarterly Pānui (newsletter) which will feature reflections, training opportunities, and events. Subscribe [here](#).

Te Rangatahi Noho Marae: Bicultural Discipleship 30 May – 1 June (King’s Birthday Weekend) Ōhope Marae

An immersive experience for Year 11–13 students exploring faith, leadership, and bicultural partnership. View full details & register [here](#).

Presbyterian Youth Ministry - New Resources for Tough Conversations

We’ve added two helpful pages to the PYM website:

- [Helping Young People Through Grief](#)
- [Support Around Suicide](#)

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

This Mother’s Day, we’ve carefully gathered a range of meaningful gifts to help you celebrate the special women in your life – the mums, grandmas, spiritual mums, and those who have lovingly nurtured and guided you. From thoughtful journals, books, and devotionals for quiet reflection, to beautifully chosen gifts she’ll treasure, there are gifts to suit every kind of Mum. With

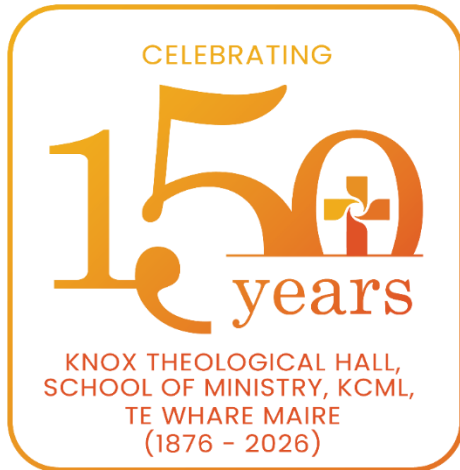
options at \$10, \$20, \$30, and \$50 and under, you can find something personal and heartfelt no matter your budget. Each gift has been chosen to show love, appreciation, and faith, helping you make this Mother’s Day truly memorable.

Blessings

The Manna Christian Stores Team



OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN



New events and resources added to 150th Anniversary of Knox Theological Hall/Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (2nd-3rd May)

Explore our [150th webpage](#).

[[<https://knoxcentre.ac.nz>]]<https://knoxcentre.ac.nz> then click on the 150th banner] We have added two new events: a Saturday morning colloquium with three standout speakers and a Sunday sit-down lunch at a local restaurant (numbers limited). Also, you can now scroll through a timeline outlining 150 years of developments in training and formation. We also invite you to upload your own story and reflections, and read other people's experiences [here](#).

[[<https://knoxcentre.ac.nz>]]<https://knoxcentre.ac.nz> then click on the 150th banner]

2026 Christian Savings Governance Conference July/Aug

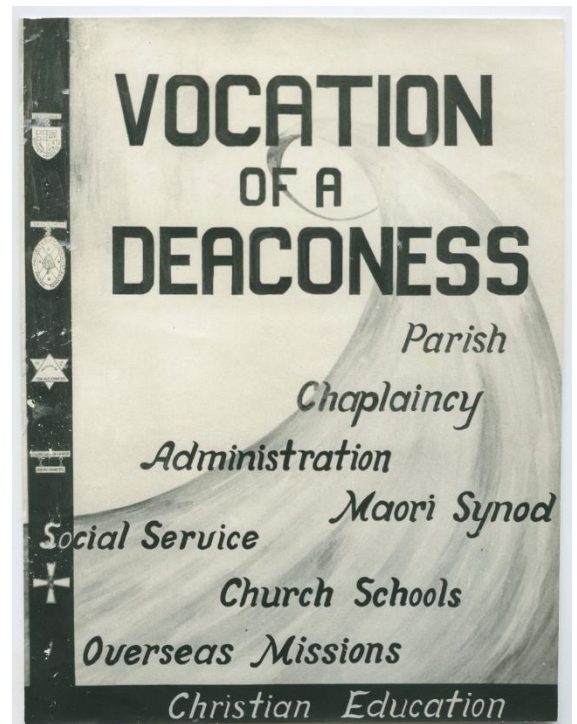
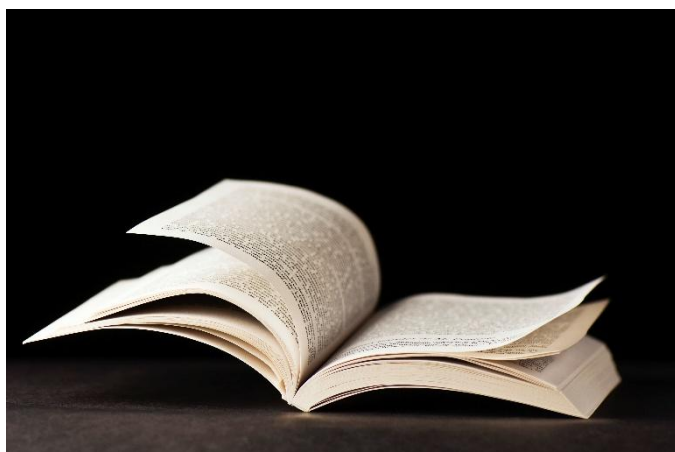
Those serving in governance roles need to be ready for the challenges ahead. This year's speaker line-up is designed to inspire and equip for both the joys and the complexities of church and charity leadership. You'll hear from keynote speakers who are in touch with the realities of Christian governance, engage in interviews and interactive discussions and connect with a wide range of people who share your commitment to leading well. Three venues - 22 July Christchurch, 29 July Auckland, 5 August Wellington. See [more](#).

Rachel Tombs

will give a talk about her work on the Deaconess Collection at Presbyterian Archives, at 5:30 pm Thursday 14 May in the KCML Seminar Room at Knox College in Dunedin. (Note date change)

The Deaconess Collection is world-renowned and has been designated as a UNESCO Memory of the World collection. For more information, click [here](#).

This is an event of the Presbyterian Research Centre



A COLLOQUIUM



ON THE THEME

"Unity in a polarising age"

Living the gospel at a time people are dividing into siloed camps

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THEOLOGICAL HALL
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

&

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

THE KNOX CENTRE FOR MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

10am to 12.30 pm

Saturday 2 May 2026

Burns Hall, First Church of Otago, Moray Place, Dunedin

PRESENTERS

Rev'd Tara Tautari, General Secretary, Methodist Church of New Zealand, Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa, member of the World Council of Churches Commission on World Mission and Evangelism.

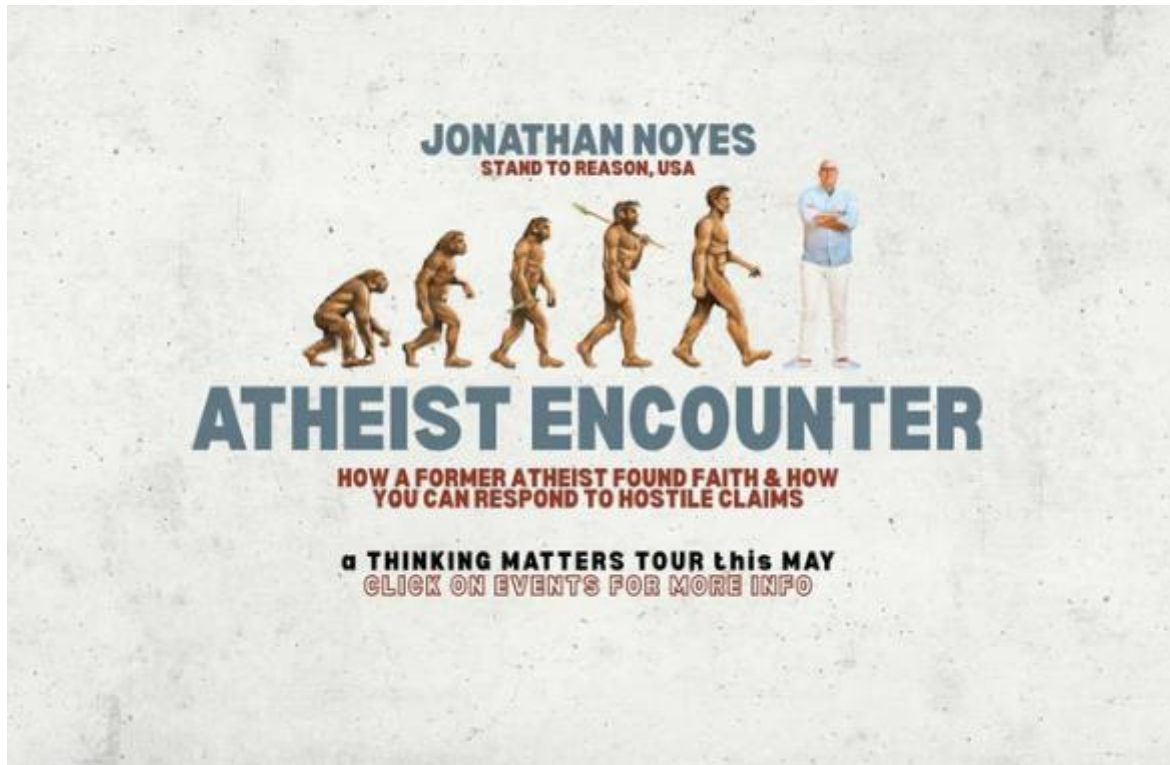
Rev'd Dr Jordan Redding, minister St Helier's Presbyterian Church, Auckland, delegate to 2025 WCC Faith and Order conference in Egypt *"Where now for visible unity?"*

Rev'd Dr Rebecca Dudley, Presbyterian, trainer of international diplomats in negotiation skills, member Corrymeela Community Northern Ireland.



RSVP to Kerry Enright kerryenright@xtra.co.nz by 24 April 2026

Cost: \$10 at door



Thinking Matters is hosting a one-of-a-kind interactive event this May 2026, featuring Jonathan Noyes and his powerful journey from atheism to Christianity.

Many Christians today feel unsure how to respond when their faith is challenged—especially in conversations with confident skeptics or atheists. This event is designed to meet that need in a practical and engaging way.

During the evening, Jonathan takes a unique approach:

- First, he steps into the role of an atheist, presenting compelling arguments against Christianity
- Then, he responds as a Christian, unpacking clear and thoughtful answers to those objections

It's an honest, eye-opening format that helps people build confidence in their faith and engage others with clarity and grace.

This is a free event, with gatherings happening nationwide throughout May 2026.

DUNEDIN

Elim Dunedin

67 Harrow St, Dunedin, 9016

7-9 pm - May 21st, 2026

Free event but grateful for donations Register through our website to secure a seat

www.facebook.com/events/2195190111219568/

<https://shop.thinkingmatters.org.nz/products/atheist-encounter-tour-jonathan-noyes>

Join Jonathan Noyes, speaker with Stand to Reason, as he shares his powerful journey from atheism to Christianity. Once convinced that belief in God was irrational, Jonathan set out to examine the evidence—and what he discovered changed everything.

In this compelling and practical event, you'll hear his story and be equipped with clear, thoughtful strategies for responding to tough questions and hostile objections to the Christian faith. Whether you're exploring faith yourself or want to engage others with confidence and grace, this tour will challenge and encourage you.

Giving in Aotearoa New Zealand Survey

You are invited to participate in a national survey to understand how people across NZ give and what makes giving easier - or more difficult. Whether you tithe, donate, volunteer, give koha, support whānau, or don't currently give at all, your experience matters. Findings will support Community Foundations, charities, community organisations, and local leaders to help build a clearer picture of our generosity and help strengthen support for communities in the years ahead. See survey [here](#).

Reading Group



Join a group of peers engaging with Dr Christa McKirland's important book, *A Theology of Authority: Rethinking Leadership in the Church*.

Is authority reserved for those with a specific calling to leadership? Who holds power in the church? *A Theology of Authority* expands our understanding of authority, recognizing the Spirit's enablement of each member to fulfil their calling to spiritual maturity.

Who is this for? Anyone in the PCANZ

- This will run for about six weeks (we'll negotiate options around the beginning of Easter).
- Please be prepared to commit to the whole time so that the group can benefit from this continuity.

Christa is currently dean of faculty and lecturer in systematic theology at Carey Baptist College. A **book grant of 50% off** the book price is available (please purchase from competitive price-points e.g. Amazon.au or Blackwells), or \$50, whichever is least.

Please respond to [Andrew Nicol](#) to register your interest.

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



Mission Catalyst opportunity

Southern Presbytery is looking for a Mission Catalyst to support our vision to promote “Vibrant Communities of Faith in the South”, primarily through facilitating conversations and planning with congregational leadership teams, and through encouraging an openness to God in congregational thinking about mission agency. The applicant should be a mature Christian with excellent communication, organisational and people skills, able to work prayerfully and humbly in an independent and strategic manner. Key attributes for the role are imagination, innovation, adaptability, and confidence.

The Job Description and application pack can be found by contacting Richard McLean at presbyteryeo@southernpresbyterians.nz or 022 1099 352. Applications close on 19 April, 2026.

the
transformation
your church
is waiting for

**SOUTH ISLAND
MINISTRY
CONFERENCE**



**EAST TAIERI CHURCH
12A CEMETERY ROAD
MOSGIEL**



**12-13 MAY
2026**

cultivating creating flourishing

Glow Up



COMMUNITY NOTICES

The Dunedin Community Transport Trust would like to tell you about a service we operate around Dunedin City and make contact with people in their community that could benefit from our service.

We were established in 2003 by a group of Presbyterian ministers, a lawyer and a social worker to help people living in their own homes, but who find it difficult to access the supermarket.

We collect people from their homes and transport them to the supermarket on a prearranged day and time. We are able to offer assistance in the store if required. Once a client is returned home, we carry the shopping into the home.

The big difference between us and other services, is the social interaction travelling with others gives. Many of our current clients have been using the service for more than ten years and have made friendships. The van can be very chatty, and for some it is the only outing they have per week.

We often see people waiting at the supermarket for a taxi to pick them up, then have to put the shopping into the vehicle themselves.

We charge a small fare which is currently between \$10 and \$14 which is calculated by the distance from the home and the supermarket.

We operate with a wonderful group of volunteers who have all been Police Vetted, and a paid part-time Coordinator. New volunteers are always welcome!

We are currently operating three shopping runs per week, but would be able to expand if the demand increases.

Jennie Archer, Coordinator, Plus Bus - Dunedin Community Transport Trust

2 Playfair Street, Caversham, Dunedin 9012

Phone 03-455-4050

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9am-2.30pm



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



PSO Support Centre Moray Place (next to First Church)

Kia ora,

My name is Milla-Rose Byron and I have recently joined Presbyterian Support Otago as the Community Partnership Coordinator. It's great to be involved, and I look forward to working together with you. I wanted to reach out to introduce myself, and also to connect with you in your church community.

I'd like to highlight three areas that are particularly important for the work we do and where you could make a real difference:

Runway Revival 2026

A charity fashion show raising funds for the local foodbank and other vital support programmes across Otago. If possible, we would be very grateful if you could help share and promote this upcoming event within your congregation and wider networks. Runway Revival is Presbyterian Support Otago's premier fundraising event for 2026, so your support in helping us spread the word is truly appreciated.

We would be very grateful if you could help share and promote this upcoming event within your congregation and wider networks. Runway Revival is Presbyterian Support Otago's premier fundraising event for 2026, so your support in helping us spread the word is truly appreciated. I have attached a PDF flyer with more information for your parish and congregation. Please feel free to share it with anyone who might be interested.

Event details:

Date: Thursday, 30 April 2026, 7pm

Venue: Erricks, Dunedin

Tickets: <https://moshtix.co.nz/v2/event/runway-revival-show-2026/192837?skin=RRS26>

Every ticket directly supports Presbyterian Support Otago's Familyworks and Enliven services — including social work support, foodbank services, and programmes for tamariki, rangatahi, adults, and older people.

Full event details: <https://psotago.org.nz/runway>

Foodbank support

Alongside this, our foodbank continues to see high demand, and we are always grateful for support from our wider community. Donations of non-perishable food items are especially helpful at the moment, including pantry staples such as pasta, rice, canned food, long-life milk, cereal, and spreads. If your congregation or community groups are in a position to contribute, it would make a real difference to the families we support.

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.

Together Otago

We also have a number of Together Otago gatherings coming up - gentle spaces for listening, sharing, and learning alongside our parish and community partners. If attending feels right for you, we'd really value having you there, as your insight helps shape and ground our work.

Together Otago Dates 2026

- 3 June – Milton
- 5 August – Oamaru
- 7 October – Dunedin

All events will be held on Wednesdays 3pm - 4.30pm.

Whether you bring your heart, your experience, your care for community – or all three – we invite you to join us. Together, we'll workshop ideas, share updates, and build partnerships that make a real difference.

Email us at team@psotago.org.nz if you would like to register for any upcoming events.

APRIL

30

THURSDAY

7pm-9pm

ERRICKS

218 CRAWFORD ST

PRESBYTERIAN SUPPORT OTAGO PRESENTS

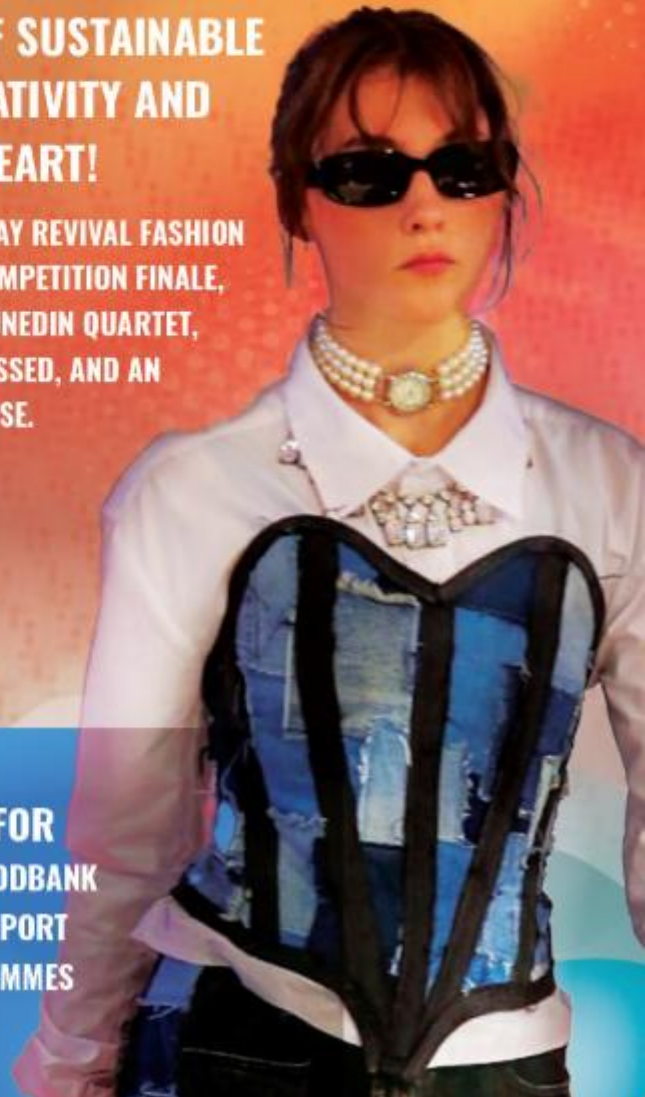
RUNWAY REVIVAL SHOW 2026



Tickets and event details
psotago.org.nz/runway

**AN EVENING OF SUSTAINABLE
FASHION, CREATIVITY AND
COMMUNITY HEART!**

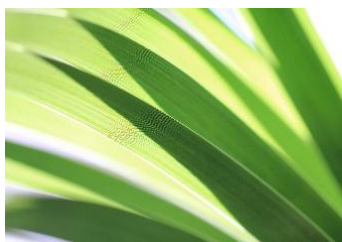
**FEATURING THE RUNWAY REVIVAL FASHION
SHOW AND DESIGN COMPETITION FINALE,
LIVE MUSIC BY THE DUNEDIN QUARTET,
PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED, AND AN
AUCTION WITH PURPOSE.**



RAISING FUNDS FOR

- + FAMILY WORKS FOODBANK
- + SOCIAL WORK SUPPORT
- + SUPPORT PROGRAMMES FOR ALL AGES.

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 Mepham: 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: Joe Carpenter josephcarpenter3000@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

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Wakari, Dunedin

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff