



Flagstaff Community Church

Whānau Newsletter

August 2026

In a few weeks we will be launching a **Fundraising Appeal** to sustainably fund the new role of **Kai Manaaki** (Children and Families Leader) for Flagstaff Community Church. We will be seeking pledges over three years (or other period of the donor's choosing) to add to grants already received from the Presbyterian Synod of Otago & Southland, the Presbyterian Foundation and the Mercy Trust.



Alongside this we are in the final stages of recruiting the right person for this role. There will be more news later but in the meantime please hold the process both of appointment and of fundraising in your prayers.

Thank you!



PCANZ GLOBAL MISSION UPDATES

Read the latest Global Mission newsletters highlighting our working alongside our partners in the Pacific, and around the world.

Nambawan! Newsletter - Vanuatu

[Download the Nambawan newsletter](#) which is dedicated to our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. This includes up-to-date information about our partnership, and opportunities to get involved. For previous newsletters, please click [here](#).

Mingalaba Newsletter - Myanmar



[Read the latest version of Mingalaba](#), the newsletter dedicated to our Ricebowl Mission partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. For previous newsletters please click [here](#)

Every day, the media helps shape the stories we hear, the conversations we have, and the culture we live in.

On **Sunday 20 September**, join hundreds of churches in taking a moment to pray for the people behind those stories, the content creators, and influencers.

AI & Humanity Conference, Christchurch 28-29 August 2026

A one-and-a-half-day public gathering designed to inform, equip and inspire about Artificial Intelligence — its rapid developments, its practical applications, and its deeper implications for our lives, communities and humanity itself. Hosted by Cashmere Presbyterian Church, Christchurch. Guest Speakers are Dr Stephen Garner, Dr Matthew Galloway, Emma Humphrey & Prof Kathryn MacCallum. They will lead open sessions and workshops during the conference. Contact [Cashmere Presbyterian](#) and see more and register [here](#).

Watch KCML 'AI and Christianity' webinar recordings

Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership offer a series of AI and Christianity webinar recordings that can be accessed in the resource section of the KCML website or directly on their YouTube channel [here](#).

IRCA 2026 gathering online/in-person - Christchurch 7-9 October 2026

The International Rural Churches Association gathered in Romania in late July, using these resources the Oceania people have decided to have our own gathering. All interested are invited to attend in-person or on ZOOM the IRCA 2026 Sequel event at The Village Church, Bryndwr, Christchurch. All interested are welcome, see more and register [here](#).

Thriving in This Land free resource for churches

Common Grace Aotearoa offer a free workshop resource for churches and faith communities to follow Jesus in the big questions facing NZ in an election year. Three 90 min workshops on economic, climate and Treaty justice with video, guided discussion, and printed resources. See more at [Common Grace](#) and the [PCANZ website](#).

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



This Summer we have four awesome expeditions around Aotearoa!
3x expeditions in December for rangatahi (teenagers in school years 12 & 13)
1x young adult expedition in February (for people aged 18-25)
Each expedition brings together a small group of 10–12 participants, led by 2–3 highly experienced outdoor instructors/facilitators. [Learn More About E3](#)
[Download E3 Brochure](#)



ANCHORED

Retreat 2026

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION COURSE



**YOUNG PEOPLE
YR 7 - 10
11-13 SEP 2026
CAMP COLUMBA**

SUPAKidZ

scripture union camps for kids

LandLubbers

CAMP

28 SEPT - 1 OCT 2026

EARLYBIRD - \$185

IF PAID BEFORE 14 SEPTEMBER

CAMP COLUMBA - PUKERAU SOUTHLAND.
AGE: PRIMARY SCHOOL YEARS 4-6 (IN 2026)
COST: \$200

JOIN SOME REFORMED PIRATES USING PUZZLING CLUES TO UNEARTH TIMELESS TREASURES ABOUT GOD FROM THE LIFE AND JOURNEYS OF THE FEARLESS TRAVELLER & MISSIONARY - PAUL. ENJOY AN ASSORTMENT OF GAMES, CHALLENGES, CRAFTS AND BIBLE STORIES. THERE WILL BE HEARTY RATIONS FOR ALL FROM THE GALLEY.

REGISTER NOW

SCAN ME

CONTACT: NIGEL WINDER
NIGEL.W@SUNZ.ORG.NZ OR 027 346 2099

WWW.SUNZ.ORG.NZ

Leith - Batch - Flagstaff

Fun Friday Term 3

Years 7 - 10 Fortnightly Friday Nights
Dates: 31/7, 14/8, 28/8, 11/9, 25/9
6 - 8 PM for dinner and games
Cost \$5
267 Malvern Street, Leith Valley

Message Lucy (022 074 5491)
To join the parent whatsapp group

RSVP will be taken (for dinner orders)
by thursday lunchtime before each date



OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN



JOIN US FOR THE 23RD ANNUAL OTAGO PEACE LECTURE

"LOVE, COURAGE AND HOPE IN AN AGE OF GLOBAL TURBULENCE: RESPONDING TO POWER POLITICS AND FORCE FROM THE BOTTOM UP"

WITH PROF KEVIN CLEMENTS,
FOUNDER PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
OTAGO UNIVERSITY



GIVE peace a chance

ST DAVIDS LECTURE THEATRE
MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER
6:45 - 8:45pm
(REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW)
EVERYBODY WELCOME

FOR MORE INFO,
SCAN THE CODE FOR THE FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE
OR EMAIL DUNEDINABRAHAMIC@GMAIL.COM



BROUGHT TO YOU BY CAMPUS CHAPLAINS AND THE DUNEDIN ABRAHAMIC INTERFAITH GROUP, PEOPLE OF JEWISH, MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN FAITHS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP US ALL GET ALONG

DUNEDIN ABRAHAMIC INTERFAITH GROUP

SACRAMENTAL REALITY

4 Talks on Art by Judith Brown



(Don Driver Yellow Tentacle Pram 1980)

August 25th, September 1st, 8th and 15th
Tuesdays, 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Stevley Room, Church Office Block, First Church of Otago, Moray Place

Sacramental Reality is a series of four talks that explores what it means to partake of sacramental reality in the forms of culture. The unifying idea is that art is a primary vehicle for moving beyond the mindset that reduces truth to the factual. For the sake of manageability the content is limited to the visual arts. In exploring this the talks will consider the self-portrait, what a work of art is formed of, and the experience of belonging and connection. The art works will include both representational and abstract examples and there is substantial NZ content.

People may attend individual talks, or all four.
Free Admission



SOUTHERN MARRIAGE RETREAT

SOUTHERN MARRIAGE Retreat WĀNAKA

FRIDAY OCT 16 7PM - SUNDAY 18 12:30PM 2026



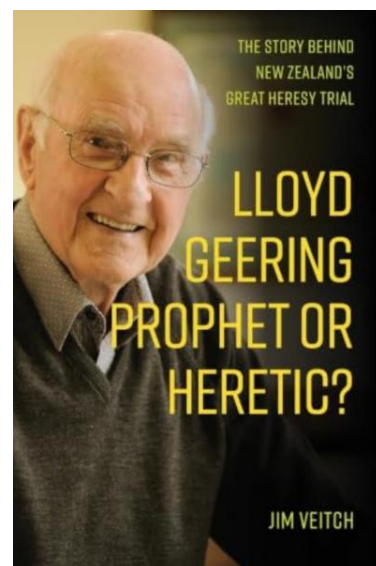
Keynote speakers
MATT AND BELINDA STOTT

Workshop topics:
Conflict and Communication
A Faith Filled Marriage
Restoring your Marriage
Intimate Allies
From Cashflow to Connection
Preparing for the Empty Nest

COST:
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION BEFORE AUGUST 31.
\$239 PER COUPLE
FROM SEPTEMBER 1ST
\$265 PER COUPLE



FOR MORE INFO, AND TO REGISTER, USE THE CODE HERE
OR GO TO THE SOUTHERN MARRIAGE RETREAT FACEBOOK PAGE



Saturday 29 August, 10 am to 3 pm

Frank Nichol Room, Knox College, Dunedin

Jim Veitch and **Niki Francis** are keynote speakers, with the Dunedin launch of Jim's book, *Lloyd Geering: Prophet or Heretic?* **Martin George Holmes**, **Mike Grimshaw**, and **Terry Pouono** will also be speaking, and **Alofa Lale** and **Yvonne Wilkie** will be contributing to the panel discussion. A plattered lunch will be provided. Morning tea starts from 9:15 am. A \$10 koha on the day is suggested. Zoom livestreaming will be available for each of the day's sessions. The Forum is organised and presented by Presbyterian Research Network (PRN), and it is cosponsored and hosted by Presbyterian Research Centre (PRC). For a detailed flyer with talk descriptions or to get Zoom links for the sessions, please contact: jay.robinson@prcknox.org.nz

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

OUR STORY

Four thousand years ago, a young woman named Hagar fled into the Egyptian desert. Heavily pregnant, she was escaping abuse and exploitation. Broken and alone, Hagar longed for freedom and cried out for help. That was where God met her. There in her darkest moment, God gave Hagar a promise – that her suffering would not be the end of her story. Hagar's pain ultimately became a pathway to restoration and dignity, and her legacy carries on to this day.

In 1994, inspired by Hagar's story in the Bible, a Swiss expatriate and his wife met a woman in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She was physically and emotionally shattered by domestic violence and the trauma of the Khmer Rouge genocide. Moved by her plight, they began walking the long road of restoration alongside her, providing holistic support that helped her rebuild her life.

Today, Hagar's mission is rooted in this journey of transformation.

We believe in seeing each survivor, walking with them, and doing whatever it takes to bring healing. Since our founding, Hagar alongside our supporters, has empowered over 30,000 survivors of human trafficking, slavery, and abuse to rebuild their lives and create a positive impact in their communities.

THE NEED FOR HAGAR

Every day, in every corner of the world, the devastating impact of trauma plays out in the lives of individuals – trauma caused by slavery, trafficking, and abuse.

An estimated 50 million people — one in every 150 — are trapped in modern slavery. Another 70% of women and girls globally will experience sexual abuse or violence in their lifetime. Behind every statistic is a person: a child exploited for labour, a woman sold across borders, a family shattered by violence.

These experiences leave deep physical, emotional, and psychological scars. Survivors often live with overwhelming fear, shame, and isolation. Many are trapped in a cycle of trauma that can persist long after their exploitation ends. Without access to specialised care and long-term support, recovery can feel impossible.

This problem is immense — but it is not insurmountable. **Change happens one person at a time.** And that is where Hagar steps in: to walk the journey of healing with survivors, empowering them to overcome trauma and reclaim their lives.

60% OF ALL SLAVERY

originates in Asia Pacific

24% OF VICTIMS

of slavery are children

71% OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

are women and girls

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

are most vulnerable to re-exploitation immediately after rescue

TRAUMA UNADDRESSED

creates generational cycles of harm

THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA

on survivors is far-reaching and long-term

Hagar is committed to changing this story.



Dear Pastor and Church Leadership Team,

I hope this message finds you well.

Every day at Hagar we see the transforming power of hope.

Across Asia and Afghanistan, women, children and men who have experienced human trafficking, exploitation and abuse begin new lives because people choose to walk alongside them with compassion, practical support and unwavering belief in their God-given worth.

Hagar International has been working in the fight against Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery for 32 years, offering restoration of the lives of women and children who have suffered trauma and working alongside authorities, communities and governments to improve the systems that allow trafficking to happen.

As we've reflected on Hagar's future, one conviction has become increasingly clear. This mission does not belong to Hagar. It belongs to God. And because it belongs to God, it also belongs to His Church.

That conviction has led us to think differently about how we engage with churches.

Rather than asking, "How can churches support Hagar?" we're increasingly asking, "How can Hagar and the Church serve God's mission together?"

Every congregation has different gifts. Some may feel called to pray faithfully for survivors and staff. Others may educate their members about modern slavery. Some may have professionals whose skills can strengthen the response. Others may become advocates or generous financial partners. Each expression of partnership is valuable because every church reflects a different part of Christ's Body.

I'd love the opportunity to meet with you, hear more about your church's vision for your community and explore whether there may be opportunities for us to serve together.

Thank you for your ministry and for the hope you bring to so many.

Sincerely



Kate Russell ONZM, FFIA
Executive Director
Hagar New Zealand



Foodbank

Our foodbank is currently in need of the following items to support local individuals and families in our community:

- Milo
- Baking supplies (especially sugar)
- Canned ready-to-eat meals
- Simmer sauces
- Lunchbox snacks
- Breakfast spreads (jam & honey)
- Cooking oil (500ml bottles)

Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference for someone doing it tough right now.

If you're able to help, donations can be dropped off at **407 Moray Place, Dunedin 9016**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support ♥



Together Otago: our commitment to community wellbeing

Together Otago brings people together in gentle, welcoming spaces for listening, sharing, and learning alongside our parish and community partners. These gatherings are an opportunity to connect, share insights, hear updates from Presbyterian Support Otago, and explore how we can continue to work together to support our communities. Whether you bring your heart, your experience, your care for community – or all three – you are warmly invited to join us.

Upcoming dates:

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

All gatherings take place on Wednesdays from 3.00–4.30pm.



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.

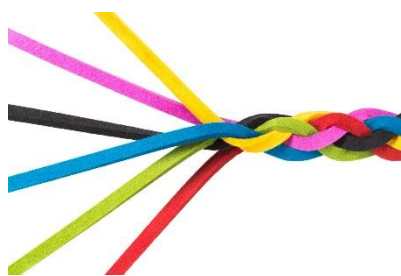
Flagstaff Prayer Time: Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone welcome. Every Tuesday 9 – 10 am in church foyer. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.



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 2.30 pm at Coffee Culture in Roslyn), 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 edlumi@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

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Wakari, Dunedin

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