

November 2026



Join the Flagstaff Church whānau and our friends from St John's Presbyterian, Arrowtown, for a weekend of fun, worship and community at Camp Columba in Pukerau. Saturday 6th February to Monday, 8th February 2026.

More information and registration details are on their way and you will be able to register via our website https://churchatflagstaff.co.nz in December.

Whānau Camp Fundraising

We do not want anyone to miss out on camp due to finances, so we are fundraising to keep fees low and help any families who need help to attend. Our firewood raffles are already underway and we will have a cake stall. In addition to this we invite donations as in past years – these really have made a real difference to the success of camp.

Donations can be made to our account: Flagstaff Community Church, 0303-0903-0192517-03, clearly marked as a Camp Donation. Thank you.

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

PCANZ GLOBAL MISSION UPDATES

Vanuatu

Two groups from the PCANZ recently had positive involvement in Vanuatu. Members of Wanaka Presbyterian Church visited Talua Theological Training Institute, and teams from Saint Kentigern Presbyterian Boys and Girls Schools made great progress on their service programmes supporting Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu Schools. You can view photos of these projects, and also the visit of a PCANZ team to St. Thomas School in India, on the Global Mission Facebook page.

We received good news this week with our English teacher at Talua, Brianna Snowdon, confirming that she is willing to return for another year. The continuity will be beneficial to the college so I'm grateful to Brianna for her commitment to this role. This will give us plenty of time to plan ahead so if a teaching position in Vanuatu in 2028 might interest you, contact me to find out more.

Myanmar

In early October I received messages from church contacts in Myanmar describing an airstrike on a Presbyterian church and school in Mindat in the Chin State. PCANZ donors contributed significant funds to the construction of this church, and it was the location of a Presbyterian Church of Myanmar General Assembly that I attended in 2018. This is also where one of our young adults, Petra Malcolm, taught at the church's boarding school for several months. Mindat has been largely abandoned due to the civil war and there were no reports of casualties but the loss of the church and school are a devastating blow to the morale of church members. Please continue to uphold them in prayer. Information about this attack can be read online here.

In the past few months it has been encouraging to share about Global Mission in several PCANZ churches. Please contact me if you would like to arrange a date for me to visit your congregation.

Phil King

Global Mission Director

PYM (Presbyterian Youth Ministries)

Save the date: Connect 2027 Ōtautahi Christchurch, 15–17 July

Connect, the PCANZ's biennial national youth ministry conference, is coming back to Ōtautahi. Every time we run it participants tell us the best part is meeting others who love Jesus and love ministering to young people. With four main gatherings, over 20 breakout sessions and creative, passionate

worship, it fills leaders' tanks for the next season of ministry. Connect is ideal for youth leaders, young adults and junior leaders in Year 12 and up. This time it falls in the July school holidays, so it's the perfect year to bring your junior leaders. Please start planning now to send a team from your parish.

Rangatahi Noho Marae 2027
Over King's Birthday Weekend, 5–7 June 2027, Year 11–13 students will gather at Te Maungarongo Marae in Ōhope. Together they'll explore tikanga, faith and culture, the Treaty, and leadership from Te Ao Māori. The weekend is hosted with Te Aka Puahou. Each church or school can nominate up to 12 students, and travel subsidies are available. Please encourage your rangatahi and youth leaders to come.

Thank you for your prayer and support of the amazing young people in Aotearoa NZ.
Nāku noa, nā
Matt Chamberlin
PYM National Youth Director

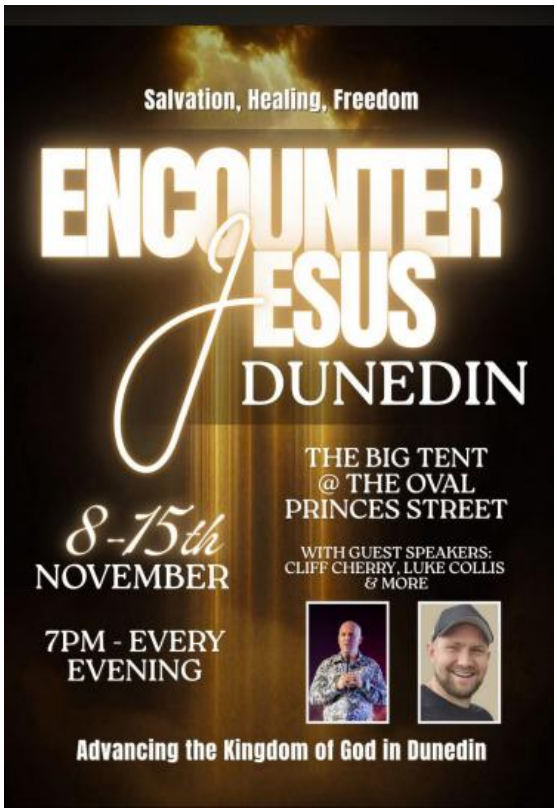


Kia ora e te whānau!

The countdown to summer adventure is on, and we didn't want you to miss out! **Our Summer Camps are filling up fast**, and we now have only **limited spaces remaining across four incredible camps**. If you've been thinking about joining us, now is the time to register and secure your place before it's too late.

Take the chance to explore your faith in the outdoors with friends! There are a range of activities offered – from surfing, sailing, tramping, biking and more… what better way to take hold of the opportunity summer brings! Make sure to register before they fill up.

Whether you're catching waves while surfing, setting sail on the water, hitting scenic biking trails, tramping through nature, or taking part in exciting camp activities, there's something for everyone.



>>>>>>>>Click here: Summer Youth Camps Archives - Scripture Union NZ for more information on Summer Camps

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Presbyterian Children and Families Ministries

Advent
We are very quickly heading toward the season of Advent. We often think of December as being utter chaos – the demands of end-of-year functions, the hectic final weeks of school, the stress of preparing for Christmas, and the overwhelming nature of the commercial season of Christmas. Yet, Advent



invites us to slow down – to contemplate and reflect on the whole story of Advent, and to remember the saving gift of Christ's birth.

To help people of all ages to do this well together, PCFM have a range of resources available. These can be found on the Advent section of our website. I will be updating some of the available resources over the next couple of weeks, so be sure to check them here.

Perhaps our most popular resource, The Little Book of Advent, is available for order for any church within the PCANZ. This is a fantastic resource for families to scripture, discuss questions and pray together throughout the advent season.

Please fill in the google form here to secure copies for your church. Numbers are limited, so please be sure to get in quick.

Advent also offers another challenge for churches: How do we create space for children to actively contribute to the life of the church in the season of Advent. How do we go beyond the Nativity Play, and authentically include children in aspects of church life in the weeks leading to Christmas? And how might we be surprised at what children bring to the table when we make space for them?

May you know God's blessing as you prepare for this very special season in the church calendar.

Karo Wilson
Director
Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry

Bible Society – free Christmas booklet for children



Make the Christmas story come alive with *The Christmas Poem*, a free children's booklet filled with fun, lively rhymes that tell the story of Jesus. Children can read along, listen, laugh and discover the incredible story of Jesus and the difference he can make in our lives. Thanks to generous supporters, 72,000 copies are available free for families, churches and schools across New Zealand! Order your free copies today here.





MISSION MATTERS

We can't help praising what we enjoy. Think how quickly we recommend a favourite show or describe a wonderful meal; sharing, as C.S. Lewis suggests, completes our joy. Worship is delighting in and adoring God, and it too is magnified when shared.

That delight reflects the very heart of all things: Father, Son and Spirit giving themselves to one another in love. That love overflows. The Father sends the Son, the Father and Son send the Spirit... and we are invited into this outpouring too as the Son sends us in the power of the Spirit. So worship isn't separate from mission; it may even be its source and goal. What if mission is inviting others into this enjoyment?

At our regional Presbytery gatherings in Gore and Invercargill, "not having the words" was named as an obstacle to sharing the good news. Yet just as with that favourite meal, when we're enjoying God, the words come more readily, and so does the courage (as in Acts 4).

Those regional meetings also named "connected community" as a way forward. A congregation that delights in God together becomes a place where others are drawn in and can taste that joy too. Not every season feels joyful, though. When we're weary or grieving, community makes a difference. John's vision reminded churches under pressure that Jesus is on the throne, not Caesar—whatever the circumstances suggest. Sometimes worship is the church declaring that truth on our behalf until we can do so again.

Here's my prompt this month: take a few minutes each day simply to enjoy God. Read a psalm slowly, sing, or sit in silence. Then ask: how might this joy spill over into the way I love and welcome others? If joy feels far away, let the church carry you in the truth you can't yet feel: Jesus, not your circumstances, is on the throne.

Charissa Nichol, Southern Presbytery Mission Catalyst



PressGo - Significant Conference Planned

Save the Date: Thursday April 29 -30 in Wellington. What is the Spirit saying to the Church? Keynote speaker: Dr Stefan Paas.

The PCANZ has tasked the PressGo board with taking a lead in moving the culture of the PCANZ towards "a missional imaginative future", looking at how PCANZ can create, contribute to and nurture a healthy ecosystem for new growth to emerge and flourish, monitoring international trends and learnings around "future church", and leading theological reflection on mission and future church, providing healthy disruption.

To this end we are planning a conference in Wellington where the keynote speaker, Dutch theologian and missiologist Stefan Paas, will interact with research that PressGo has commissioned Dr Kevin Ward to conduct. A summary of that research will be released towards the end of this year. It will also inform both the content of Stefan's theological reflections but also workshops relevant to the themes that are emerging from the research.

More details about the conference content and registration will be released later this month.

Very Rev Hamish Galloway

Chairperson
PressGo

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN



PUBLIC LECTURE



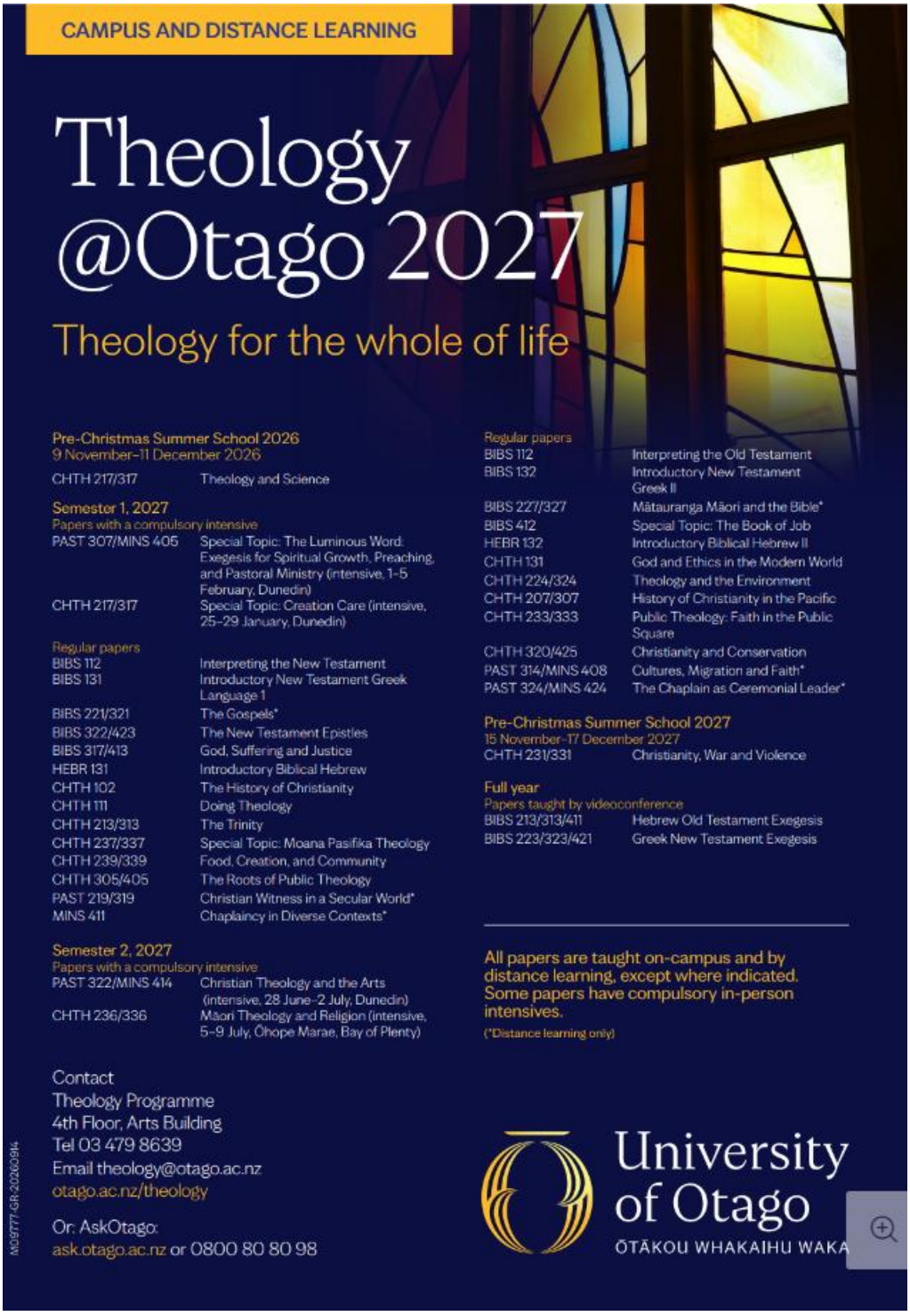
Confronting the Climate Crisis: Keeping Hope Alive in Challeging Times



Jonathan Boston
Emeritus Professor of Public Policy
School of Government, Victoria University

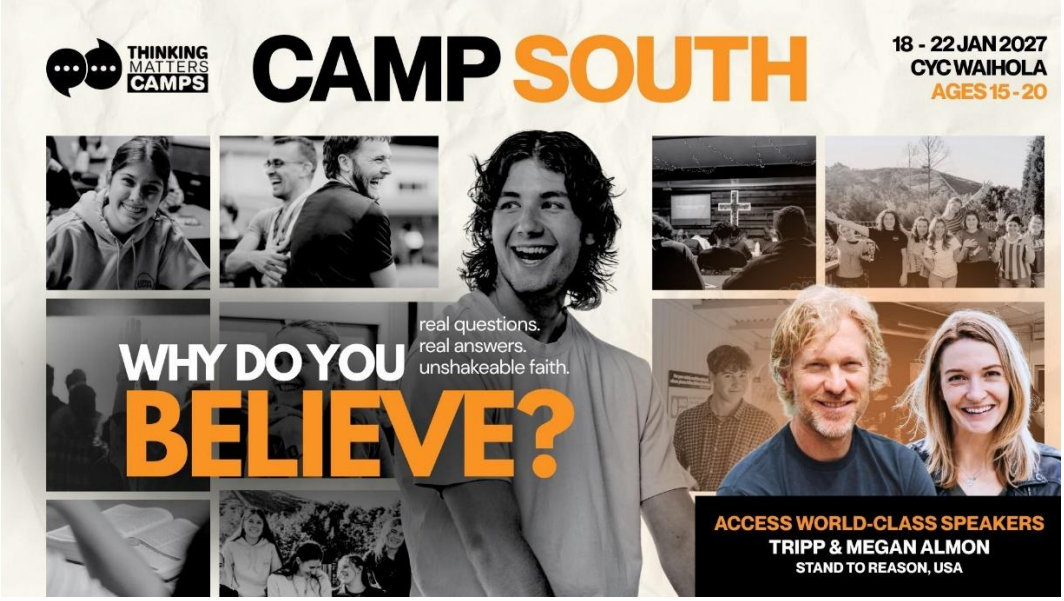
Thursday 19 November 2026
4pm–5:15pm
Burns 1

University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA



Summer School (1st – 5th February 2027)

Prof Ellen Davis: The Luminous Word – Exegesis for Spiritual Growth, Preaching, and Pastoral Ministry. Our 2026 summer school, in conjunction with the Theology Programme (University of Otago), will be taught by Ellen Davis (Duke Divinity School - Durham, North Carolina). Ellen is an outstanding Old Testament scholar and the author of twelve books and many articles. The course will be held in Dunedin from 1st to 5th February 2027. You can study for credit or audit. A generous 75% subsidy off fees as well as a travel subsidy is available for PCANZ ministers in good standing. Click here for course and subsidy details.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Stock the Bus brings in items that support our community during Christmas, and we need your help to sort them ready for the festive season!

WHEN: Wednesday 25 November 2026 between 10am-5pm
WHERE: PSO Support Centre, 407 Moray Place, Dunedin

HOW: email Ruth Harvey, Community Partnerships Coordinator, at ruth.harvey@psotago.org.nz with the hours you're available to help

NOTE: there may be some lifting of donated goods

Presbyterian Support Otago

RITCHIES

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

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.

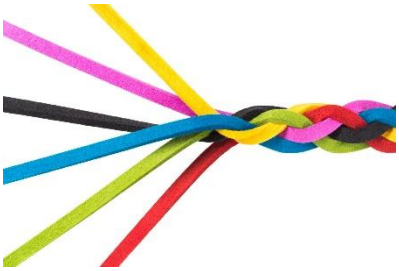
Flagstaff Prayer Time: Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone welcome. Every Tuesday 9 – 10 am in church foyer. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.



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 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 on 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

Kaimanaaki (Children & Family Leader): Charlotte Kareroa
Phone: 021 514 071
kaimanaaki@churchatflagstaff.co.nz
(Available Tues, Thurs and Fri mornings)

Parish Contact details:

Administrator: Lisa Wells
office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

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