

Making Tracks



Diocese of Dunedin *Faith Communities*

**Reading the Bible –
Tākina**

Praying – Inoia

**Living out the life
of Jesus Christ –
Arumia**



Anglican
Diocese of Dunedin

www.calledsouth.org.nz



Peter Mann House
1A Howden Street
Green Island
Dunedin 9054

Phone: 03 488 0821
Email: registrar@calledsouth.org.nz

**Guidance on the
Closure of Church Buildings
and Dissolution of
Parishes/Local Churches**

Making Tracks: Closure of Church Buildings and Dissolution

How do we go about making difficult decisions regarding the future?

Beginning the process

Find space to have a frank and open discussion about the building and/or faith community.

Find the best person to chair/facilitate this and try and look at all the options.

Contact the Bishop with your decision/request (via a vestry/committee motion and general meeting motion).

Find out more here:



Remembering and Moving On

Any process like this is hard: make sure you give space and time for people to reflect, remember and share their stories.

Make time to talk and decide “What happens next?”, what the options are for “making tracks”.

Ensure that people are cared for pastorally throughout this time.

Identify future options for continuing to pray, read the scriptures and live out Christ’s life in your communities.



Practical Matters

Check out what you need to do around closing a building and selling or making it available for new ministries.

If closure takes place, a building needs to be secularised (released for secular use) by the Bishop at an arranged worship service.

Make sure you think carefully about the contents of the building – how will you dispose of them? Is there anyone who gave items that you could give back? Can anything be passed onto another faith community to use? What about areas where ashes or human remains are interred? Where can our church records be archived so that our history is not lost?

Contact the Diocesan Office (Registrar) to help work through any practicalities.

<https://www.calledsouth.org.nz/making-tracks/>