

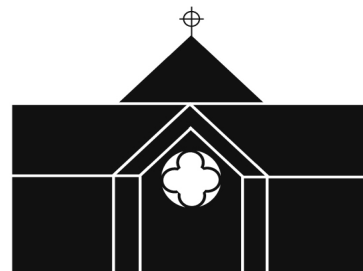
IN TOUCH

The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter

April 2019

www.cnmc.org.nz

Friends of the Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter



AGM 11th May 2019 Poppy Room RSA Armagh Street 10am

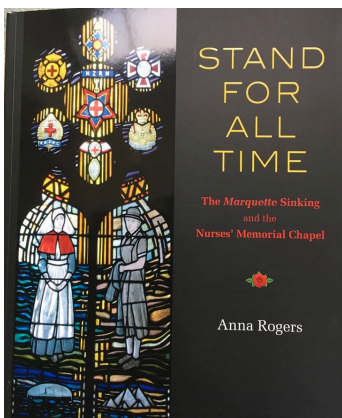
Hello to all our Supporters,

Well here we are into April and our beautiful summer has come to an end as we note the darker mornings and the autumnal feeling in the air, not to mention the now obvious change in the leaves on the trees.

The events of Friday 15th March have left us all shocked and asking how this could happen in New Zealand. If there can ever be any good to come out of an event such as this, it is that once again Christchurch has shown its resilience, strength support and compassion as we faced this unprecedented event and the country as a whole has shown the respect, love and support for the Muslim community.

During the last two weeks the CDHB has made the Christchurch Hospital chapel available to the Muslim community for prayer and solitude and we in turn have been privileged to be able to open the Chapel 11.30-1.30pm each day providing a peaceful environment for hospital staff and emergency services to take time out, reflect and pray. This opportunity has been taken up by a number of staff members and I thank Angela McCormick one of the hospital Chaplains and all those committee members who have made themselves available to make this happen. *Kia Kaha Christchurch*

The Memorial Chapel:



As from the end of May the Chapel aims to be open on Saturdays and Sundays 1.00–4.00pm summer hours and 1.00–3.30pm winter hours and for special events such as weddings and baptisms.

The Chapel is alarmed and monitored by a security company. This gives us great peace of mind that if

anything untoward happens, we will be contacted by Triton promptly.

The parquet floor is being looked after by Michael Pepper. Michael was one of the Project Managers overseeing the restoration of the Chapel and has a particular interest in the floor. Michael will be treating the floor every 2-3 months and has reassured us that as time goes by it will return to its highly polished state.

The open days have been particularly popular with many visitors from Christchurch, overseas, and a large number of ex nurses who have come to spend some time taking in the beauty and learning the history of this beautiful heritage building.

There have been a number of requests for events including two weddings and a baptism. Currently we are only able to have 50 people in the Chapel at any one time. We are working very hard with fire and the CCC to see if we can increase the occupancy to 80, but to date we have not been successful. However, watch this space as we continue to “hound” all parties to come to a mutual agreement.

Mount Felix Tapestry

The Mount Felix tapestry is currently on display at the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum in Dunedin until the end of April. An article in the Otago Daily Times on March 14th highlighted the history of the tapestry which brought many visitors to the Museum.

The Clutha Mackenzie Panel 45 was handed over to Claire Orbell, the Registrar of the Museum for the embroiderers to continue stitching during the tapestry display. Some of the Mackenzie family were hoping to do some stitching on panel 45 during this time. Every day 10am to 12pm from the 3rd April members of the Otago Embroiders Guild will be working on the tapestry panels. Cheryl Jenkins will give a talk on the three panels connected to the *Marquette* story on Wednesday 24 April, in the Toitū OSM – Auditorium, Dunedin at 2pm. Sixty tapestry books were sent down from the printers to the Dunedin Museum and have sold well. Copies of “Stand for all Time” by Anna Rogers will be available from the Museum shop from 23 April.

*Two of the Mount Felix Tapestry panels tell
"Poppy's story"*



Sister Edith Popplewell A.R.R.C survived the Marquette sinking. Pictured above Edith continued her WW1 service where she was in charge of the 24 bed ward at Walton-on-Thames Hospital – the No.2 New Zealand General Hospital.

Would you like to be a Volunteer?

We continue to seek more people who may be interested in doing an afternoon once every 4-5 weeks as a volunteer at the Memorial Chapel. Currently the Chapel is not open on regular days. We have approximately 30 Volunteers on our list that will cover two days a week Saturday and Sunday 1-4pm, but not enough to have the Chapel open every day. As from May the winter hours will be 1-3.30pm.

We are very grateful to the volunteers who have put their names forward, and are looking to have a training session in May in order to get the roster underway. At this session an orientation folder will be available for participants to assist them in this role. All volunteers who have put their name forward will be contacted in the next couple of weeks to check their availability. If you wish to become a volunteer please contact either Stephanie Cook;

stephanie.cook@cdhb.health.nz or 0272509264 or Andrea Grieve; andregrieve@xtra.co.nz or 0276944705

Museum Update:

In the museum displays we aim to tell coherent and interesting stories around our main themes of the Marquette, influenza epidemic and the story of the

Chapel. The museum subgroup is fortunate to have the expertise of Liz Grant to guide us in preparing the cabinets, assisted by Jude Turner and Diana Francis-Casey. We hope to complete this work soon.

There are many more objects than can be displayed at any one time. Those not on display are cared for in storage, awaiting their turn when a new display or exhibition is set up. Please ask us if you would like to enquire about an item which is not on display. Special displays can be mounted for events such as nurses' reunions, featuring nursing at Christchurch Hospital. Exhibitions featuring famous nurses such as Florence Nightingale or Nurse Maude can be arranged.

Each Newsletter we want to highlight a part of the collection. This month we have chosen the Albums of finalists from the Christchurch School of Nursing. So many visitors are interested in the albums of Christchurch School of Nursing. Some are looking for their mothers or grandmothers; others find themselves in the finalist classes. We are grateful to Alice Silverson and others who had the foresight to compile these albums and name the photographs.

In three volumes, the albums cover the years from 1895 to the closing of the School in 1987:

- 1895 – 1939 (some of the early years are incomplete)
- 1940 – 1964
- 1965 – 1987

The Chapel's Museum's Collection Policy assists us with the task of what to accept and what to decline. Without a defined policy, the museum could well become an assortment of curiosities with no common linkage of historic significance. We recently accepted two photographs.

Remembering Janet Williamson, RRC (Boer War nurse leader). Our special thanks to Julie Stewart who has donated a lovely photo of her great aunt, courtesy of the Hocken library, Dunedin. This will accompany two of Janet Wyse Mackie Williamson's medals on loan from her family. There's more about Janet's life at <http://www.nzans.org/Honours/1stRRC%20to%20NZ%20Nurse.html>

Recently Rannerdale Veterans' Care decommissioned its WW1 Commemorative Centre, and kindly donated a photo of Eva Brooke.

The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Website

The new Nurses' Memorial Chapel website has now gone live. After some time in redevelopment with local web design firm Activate, the www.cnmc.org.nz website has been relaunched. The key features of the site are a section where people can make booking requests for events at the chapel, an online form for enquiries and a

donations form. Information about the chapel, gardens and Marquette are especially highlighted. An online shop was considered, however it is important to learn to “walk before we can run”, so this was put aside to look at the core basics of what information. On the website – there is a resources section, which will gradually be added to as time and information allows. This gives us the ability to have a wide range of articles, pictures and links that the general public will be able to access and use. Once we build up a range of high-quality images, we will be adding in a few photo galleries as well. We also intend for the information from the restoration updates to be reformatted and added to the Chapel information, as it was such a significant event.

Of particular note is a video in the Marquette section, which features a Greek dive team exploring the HMT Marquette as it rests 87 metres below the waters in Thermaikos Bay. As you will all appreciate, creating an on-line resource does take quite a few people hours, so the format and layout of the new site will assist in a clearer and more structured transfer of information from our records to the web. We are looking for a range of good quality images, so if anyone has any that they believe would be valuable for the website, please let us know. Neil, one of the board members assisting with the redevelopment, noted that “while browsing through the available images, there were some very interesting photos that peaked some strong curiosity. As the information on the site increases, it will indeed become a fantastic resource for the Nurses’ Chapel and Christchurch”

Membership

The Friends subscription year is a calendar year therefore, subscriptions for 2019 are due by 31 December 2019. Your support of the Chapel is much appreciated by The Friends of the Nurses’ Memorial Chapel Committee. Members receive a bi-annual newsletter to keep them informed of chapel activities. Unfortunately, at the time of the Chapel reopening quite a number of email addresses bounced back. Therefore, when renewing your subscription please ensure all details are up to date so our membership database remains current.

Miss/Ms/Mrs/Mr/Dr

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

- Single: \$10
- Double/Family: \$15
- \$100 Life member

Donation _____

Please tick if you require a receipt

Total _____

Please make cheques out to Friends of the Nurses’ Memorial Chapel. Do not mail cash
 Internet banking:
 Please include your name and type of sub payment.
 Bank Deposit: **03 1707 0017417 000**

This is the first newsletter for 2019. Last year was very busy with preparing for the opening of the Chapel and development of new resources. Thank you to all those who contributed to the many facets that led to a very successful Chapel opening. It was a mammoth effort from a large number of people particularly the Friends and Trust committees. We look forward to seeing the benefits of our hard work and a great year ahead.

Pip Mason, President

Open ANZAC Day 10am – 11am



2019 AGM
 Saturday 11 May, 10.00am
 Poppy Room
 Christchurch RSA, Armagh Street

Available to purchase
 Cards \$5 pack and our
 Book Stand for all Time by Anna Rogers \$45