

IN TOUCH

The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter
April 2020 www.cnmc.org.nz

Friends of the Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter



AGM 16th May 2020 Papanui RSA 55 Bellvue Avenue 10am

Subject to government advice and physical distancing requirements

Hello to all our Supporters,

I cannot believe we are into April already and as winter approaches and our summer has come to an end the warmer clothes are seeing the light of day and the firewood is stacked.

The last few weeks have put us all into a state of uncertainty as we face the unprecedented rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19. As a result, we decided at our Friends meeting on Thursday 19 March to take the precaution and close the Nurses' Memorial Chapel to the public until further notice. This will be reviewed in line with government and Christchurch City Council (as the building owner) advice.

The Memorial Chapel:

The Chapel continues to attract visitors on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons 1.30-3.30pm. There is considerable interest in the history of the chapel, the restoration and the interesting stories related to the Chapel's stormy history.

A number of Nurses' reunion groups have visited the chapel as part of their reunion celebrations and have enjoyed looking at the photo albums trying to recognize friends let alone themselves.

The parquet floor continues to be looked after superbly by Michael Pepper, and those of you who have visited will note the polished look of old is starting to return. Michael treats the floor every 2-3 months and recently detected a small number of tiles lifting. An inspection was carried out by Michael and Richie Moyle from Christchurch City Council and it was determined that these tiles had not been applied correctly. This has now been remedied and the tiles repositioned

Capacity in Chapel:

Unfortunately, there is no update at this stage. We are still waiting for a response from the Christchurch City Council Assets Manager.

Carpark Bollards:

We are still waiting for these to be replaced by a barrier arm. In consultation with the Christchurch City Council the timeline is about 6months as the barrier arm has to

come from overseas. We understand the barrier arm is due in the middle of the year.

Two weddings have been held in the Chapel this year. First our very own Cheryl Jenkins married Dean English on Friday 3rd January. This was a very happy occasion with family members participating in the celebrations. Particularly delightful was Cheryl's 10-year-old cousin who played the ukulele to Cheryl entering and leaving the Chapel.



Cheryl & Dean English wedding on 3 January 2020. Marriage Celebrant, Neil Hellewell

The Chapel hosted the second wedding on Friday February the 14th between Anna Van der Loo and her partner Kurt Stephenson. The weather was kind and numerous lovely photos were able to be taken in the both the Chapel and the Memorial garden.





The New Zealand Poppy Places Trust was established in 2014 to develop, promote, and oversee a nation-wide project to commemorate and recognize as part of the heritage of New Zealanders, the participation of New Zealand in military conflicts and military operational services overseas. Throughout New Zealand there are numerous places named after ordinary New Zealanders and others. Many made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Our thanks to Lynne Lochhead for her support to have The Nurses' Memorial Chapel recognized as the first Poppy's Place located in Christchurch.

Next time you visit the Chapel look for the "Poppy's Place" signs.

Mount Felix Tapestry

Just prior to Christmas Rosemary Burnby took the opportunity to take the two newly completed panels to members of the RSA Choir and others in Dunedin. Rosemary also took the panels to the Embroiderers' in the Auckland region in late January, and to Bridget Cameron, the granddaughter of Clutha Mackenzie, before they were posted off to Emily and the team in the U.K. at the beginning of February.

Once the two newly completed panels have been stretched and mounted, photos will be sent to us. It is planned that the tapestry will be exhibited at the Riverhouse Barn Arts Centre, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 2PF, with the proposed dates being 27th July – 30th August.

If anyone is going to be in the UK at this time you may wish to visit the website www.riverhousebarn.co.uk to ensure the dates remain as above.

The Visitors Books are to be bound for presentation in a special bag being made from the same linen used for the tapestry panels. This linen fabric from the Scottish Linen Company in Kirkcaldy has been purchased and there is to be a meeting with the Embroiderers' in Auckland shortly to finalize the design of the bag. It will have a stitched panel on the front. Rosemary Burnby who has been our contact for the Felix Tapestry journey will send us photos when it is completed.

Our thanks to Rosemary for doing a wonderful job ensuring the tapestry journey was so successful.

Resources

The new brochure on the history and restoration of the Chapel is now available. The brochure follows a similar format to the previous document and has been popular with visitors. We appreciate that not all the information on the history and restoration is in this brochure. It is a

brief overview only. Should visitors want further information "Stand for All Time" by Anna Rogers covers the fascinating story of the history, the restoration, and the perilous situation on two occasions whereby the Chapel was close to being demolished.

Currently we have a good selection of books and cards so if you are visiting the Chapel please take a look at the selection available for purchase.

Volunteer Update

Whilst the Memorial Chapel is currently closed, we are still searching for volunteers. Currently we have over 30, but in order to continue to have two volunteers each day the Chapel is open we do need to boost our numbers. Steph Cook and Andrea Grieve have done a marvelous job with the roster and keeping people up to date.

A function was held at the end of the year to thank the volunteers for their support. This was attended by a small group whom I think enjoyed the opportunity to mix with those who attended and provide feedback. If you are thinking of becoming a volunteer for the Chapel please contact Stephanie Cook; 0272509264 or stephanie.cook@cdhb.health.nz or

Andrea Grieve; 0276944705 andreagrieve@xtra.co.nz

News from the Museum Team:

A display for the Bicentenary of Florence Nightingale's Birth was planned for the week beginning 11th May.

The display, which was made possible by a generous donation from the HLVA was to have been set up in the area behind the pews and in front of the organ and volunteers' area. The main components included banners or poster about Florence Nightingale,

A display of instruments associated with Florence Nightingale and a number of items including Mannequin dressed in her uniform, panels of stamps and a list of her medals.

With the Chapel now closed this display will no longer take place. Information to celebrate Florence Nightingales' birth will be on our website and also on line. It is hoped we may be able to have this display later in the year.

New Acquisitions:

A copy of Percival Fenwick's typed *History of Christchurch Hospital*

Postcard from William Smart (New Zealand Medical Corps 3/927; Marquette victim) to his girlfriend posted from Egypt before the sinking of the Marquette.

We are aware that the iPad in the museum is not behaving if you try to run the video clips. This is being investigated and hopefully will be remedied soon.

The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Website

The new Nurses' Memorial Chapel website is proving popular. The website has now been up and running for over a year. Remember there is 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 is kept current and new articles and pictures appear regularly. This wonderful resource is proving to be very popular so if you have not yet visited our site please think about it at www.cnmc.org.nz There is information there for everyone.

Membership

As requested by a number of people at the 2019 AGM our membership fees have been reviewed and will be presented for adoption at the next AGM. As a result, it is proposed that the group membership is returned, and all fees have been revisited.

The proposed new fees have been set out in the membership form at the end of this newsletter.

The Friends of the Nurses' Memorial Chapel value your support and feedback. Unfortunately, when emailing documents such as this newsletter we are experiencing a number of emails bouncing back. Therefore, when renewing your subscription please ensure all details are up to date so our membership database remains current.



With the cancellation of the ANZAC parade we will not be laying a wreath this year. However, the white crosses will be placed in the Memorial garden and Poppys will be placed in the Chapel. *(subject to the level 4 lockdown requirements).*

Our AGM meeting will be addressed closer to the date. Currently planned for May.

2020 AGM

Saturday 16 May, 10.00am
Papanui RSA
55 Bellvue Avenue
Papanui
Christchurch

Proposed subscriptions 2020 to be ratified at AGM

- Single: \$20
- Double/Family: \$30
- Group: \$45
- Life membership: \$150

Miss/Mrs/Mr/Dr _____

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

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**

Our email address is **chapelfoc@gmail.com**

President's Message

This is the first newsletter for 2020. We look forward to the year ahead albeit with some degree of uncertainty.

Updates relating to the reopening of the Chapel will be communicated to members by email and on our website. Take care everyone and stay safe and well.

Pip Mason
President