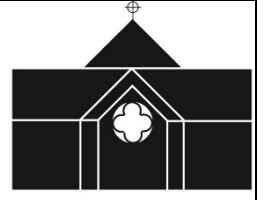


IN TOUCH



Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter December 2022

May 2022 Website: www.cnmc.org.nz email: chapelfoc@gmail.com
Facebook : Nurses' Memorial Chapel

Hello All Members

AGM
May 6th 2023
Manawa (Ground floor-The Commons)
276 Antigua Street

With Christmas only 3 weeks away and 2022 drawing to an end we can look back on a year where Covid has continued to haunt us, a world of unrest and a very wet winter all contributing to a very up and down year. This year the friends have focused on promoting the chapel as a venue for not only weddings, funerals, and other such gatherings but to also encourage other events of which we have had several this year.

Our AGM was held in May of this year and was attended by 15 people. This year the AGM was held at Manawa on the ground floor and was a great venue for this meeting.

Our Committee

President	Pip Mason
Vice President	Stephanie Cook
Secretary	Cheryl English
Treasurer	Ann Morrison

Management committee

Neil Hellewell, Sharon Minchington, Andrea Grieve, Robyn Bisset, Kirsty Donaldson.

The committee is committed and hard working to ensure the chapel is a heritage icon for visitors to enjoy.

Chapel Events

In May our sculpture arrived. A large contingent arrived at the chapel and with careful handling to protect the sculpture and the chapel lawn from damage this beautiful piece of work was placed in its final resting place. It was an extremely cold morning and coffee served on the lawn was very welcome

On May 25th a small celebration was held at the chapel to hear Sam Mahon tell a very emotional story of the sculpture journey. The sculpture has been named "Caring Hands" which encapsulates the spirit of the nursing profession.

A plaque has been made to acknowledge the generosity of Sister McDonald and this will soon be placed in front of the sculpture by Sam Mahon and Louise Young the chapel gardener.





A Crisis call Community Poetry project was held in May and attended by 18 people spread over 2 days. Nurses were given the opportunity to examine their memories of the chapel and to express what the chapel meant to them. On completion Josiah collated the information and delivered a physical copy of the project to the chapel. A donation of \$283.80 was received as an appreciation.

Once again, we were able to take part in the Christchurch City Council Heritage week from the 7th to 24th October. The theme this year was Memories and Moments and our focus was on the story of the perilous journey the chapel travelled to escape the threat of the wrecker's ball, the impact of the earthquakes and the rebuild.

This year we had a good response from our advertisement and the Christchurch City Council promotion material and many phone calls. A small resource showcasing the chapel and the garden with information about volunteers on the back was popular and elicited plenty of interest.

The baby loss service was held in the chapel on the 14th October. This was an emotional service for the 40 people in attendance who had all experienced the loss of a child. Angela McCormick the Roman Catholic Chaplain conducted the service and candles were lit by the families in attendance.

The chapel has been the venue for two memorial services this year and a funeral. Whilst there is often no direct connection with the chapel for the families, it is always pleasing to be able to provide a special place on these very sad occasions.

A memorial service will be held on the 1st April next year for an ex-Christchurch nurse who spent most of his career at Burwood Hospital in Orthopaedics before leaving for the UK in 2017

We are delighted that the first wedding for 2023 will be held at the chapel on the 3rd February next year.

"Broken Nurses" On Wednesday 2nd November Dr Wendy Maddocks senior Lecturer, University of Canterbury presented her research: Interrogating the effects of World War 1 on NZ nurses -A comparison pilot study.

This presentation was attended by 10 interested parties and provided an interesting, albeit disturbing insight into the effects of world war 1 on NZ nurses. We have asked Wendy Maddock if she would present this research again on International Nurses Day next year.

This will be advertised on our website and members will be notified by email of this presentation.

Earlier this year we were approached by Shirley Smallbone who wished to donate the medals of her great aunt Blanche Marion Huddleston.

On the 19th of September the medal presentation took place at the chapel.

Blanche joined the NZANS and sailed from Wellington in May 1916 and served in England and France. In 1918, along with five other NZ nurses, Blanche was selected for training as a **Nurse Anaesthetist**. The Americans trained the Nurse Anaesthetists at No 13 GH, Boulogne, France. She commenced training on 14 Jan 1918 and was transferred to a Casualty Clearing Station attached to 39th Stationary Hospital on 25 March 1918. She must have been very capable and is included in R. E. Rawstron's small book "A Unique Nursing Group. New Zealand Army Nurses Anaesthetists of WW1". As well as the WWI service medals, she was awarded the RRC, ARRC, and the Medaille de la Reine Elisabeth (Belgium). While we have other RRC and ARRC medals in our collection, we do not have the Medaille de la Reine Elisabeth (Belgium).

In August this year Kirsty Cameron, Director and producer of Apple Box New Zealand asked if the Nurses' Memorial Chapel could be the venue for filming a documentary. This documentary followed a kiwi couple and their family through the faith struggle they were having due to losing their son stillborn at full term last year. Kirsty interviewed one of the nurses on camera to get her medical perspective on the topic of stillbirth. This interview was filmed on the 21st of September, with the chapel providing an excellent setting for the documentary. Once completed it is hoped with permission to have the opportunity to view the documentary.



Horotane Valley School students will be visiting the chapel on the 29th of November this year. There will be 28 small children who have recently been learning about the history of the chapel. We are delighted to be hosting this group of small children and as part of the visit will provide them with the quiz developed by Jude Turner.

Photographs

The photograph of Margaret Rogers and her medals has recently been reframed and is now back hanging in the large cabinet in the museum. There are three nurses' photographs in this cabinet, and we will now be having these photos realigned so they are lined up perfectly.

On 10th May Beth Wynn -Williams and I presented the newly framed photo of Marie Cameron to the Director of Midwifery Norma Campbell Christchurch Hospital. Marie Cameron was Matron of St Helen's Hospital, now Christchurch Women's Hospital. Go to our website and read Matron Cameron's fascinating story.

Chapel Furniture

On the 29th of November the remaining pews and other pieces of furniture will be returned to the chapel. These have been in storage since the chapel re-opened. Whilst we are still at stale mate regarding the numbers of people allowed in the chapel, it was decided to bring the extra pews back as they have plaques on them which are not able to be removed easily. Any chairs etc not required will be kept in the basement.

Website & Facebook

Remember our Website and Facebook pages are updated frequently. Take a look to check what's new or coming up.

Membership

Membership subscriptions for 2022 are due by the 31st of December.

Your continued support of the chapel is very much appreciated by the Nurses' Memorial Chapel Committee. When you are renewing your subscription, please ensure all details are correct so our membership database remains up to date.

Internet Banking:

Bank deposit: [03 1707 0017417 000](#)

Please include your name and type of sub payment

Volunteers

This year we have put a focus on enticing more volunteers to grow our database. We are looking for people who may be interested in being part of the roster at the chapel during its opening hours. Open hours to the public are every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday 1pm -3pm during winter and 1pm-3.30pm during summer and is also available for weddings, christenings, and other events. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please let either of the following committee members know.

Stephanie Cook stephcook@xtra.co.nz or 0272509264

OR

Andrea Grieve andreagrieve@xtra.co.nz or 0276944705

Thankyou

On behalf of the friends committee, I would especially like to thank our volunteers. Over the last 2-3 years it has been a time of unknown with Covid causing havoc and having the chapel closed over a period of months. We thank you sincerely for your patience and understanding and hope that you will be available to attend the Christmas get together on the 10th of December, 12-1.30pm as a thank you for your help.

To our members thank you for your support. We value your membership and invite you to communicate any ideas, concerns, or topics you would like us to address through any of our committee members.

Thank you to the friends committee and Nanette Ainge and her museum subcommittee whose commitment and continued hard work is so very much appreciated. To Louise Young thank you so much for keeping the chapel gardens looking stunning. We are very grateful to you for your skills, knowledge and expertise that makes the garden so special. Our chapel is a heritage icon and I am sure you would agree with me in saying we are so proud to be part of its history.

I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to working with you next year.

Merry Christmas

Pip Mason President

