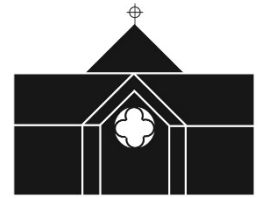


IN TOUCH

Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter



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

AGM Saturday 21st May 10am
Manawa (Ground floor-The Commons)
276 Antigua Street

Welcome

Dear Members,

Here we are in the 5th month of the year already. I hope you all had a good break over the summer and were able to enjoy some of the beautiful weather we experienced. The year started once again with Covid uppermost in our minds. Relaxing the mandates resulted in a surge of cases particularly in Auckland followed closely by Christchurch. As a result, the decision was made to close the Chapel from 1st March for review once cases started to decline and volunteers felt more comfortable about re-opening to the public. The Chapel will re-open on Saturday 28th May. Thank you to the volunteers for their understanding and patience on this matter.

Chapel Events

With Covid still in full swing events at the Chapel remain low, however we hope as the year goes by that will change and we will once again be able to showcase this special place to the public.



In January the Chapel was host to a wedding between Matthew Leigh and Kerri Dewhurst. It was a momentous occasion for the 35 guests on a beautiful sunny Friday afternoon. The Chapel gardens looked a picture thanks to Louise Young from the Christchurch City

Council Botanic Gardens.

In February we had a request from a young lady who wished to have a burial service for her stillborn baby. Whilst she did not have any direct contact with the Chapel it had always been a special place for her. The service was a very sad occasion and was attended by approximately 30 mourners. Thanks to Robyn Bisset for being the volunteer for this service.

Crisis Call, a Community Arts Project

This project is being run by Josiah Morgan with support from the Christchurch City Council and is taking place at the Nurses' Memorial Chapel on May 6 and May 13 10.30am-4.30pm. Nurses are encouraged to take part in this project to enter a space of reflection and examine their own relationship with the history of the Chapel and Ōtautahi, and to share their stories. Work is to be included in an online publication at the close of the project. There is no criteria to participate in this project, just open to having a kōrero and exploring the history of the Memorial Chapel.

ANZAC DAY

We had thought that we might be able to hold an ANZAC service in the Chapel this year. However once again due to Covid this was not possible. Our white crosses were placed on the grass remembering the Christchurch nurses who died in the first world war.



Matron Marie Cameron

Beth Wynn Williams has been remembering fellow nurse and midwife, Marie Cameron. Australian born Marie McNaughton Cameron was Matron of St Helen's Hospital, now Christchurch Women's Hospital, from 1910 until 1915.

In 1915 she was appointed Matron of a contingent of 31 nurses in the New Zealand (NZ) Army Nursing Service who left in May for Port Said, Egypt. They were attached to the No. 1 NZ Stationary Hospital. In October, Marie and 35 NZ nurses sailed from Alexandria to Salonika in Greece when the *Marquette* was torpedoed. During the abandonment of the sinking ship, Matron Cameron was severely injured. She did survive despite extensive injuries, but her health was severely compromised, and her nursing and midwifery career was over.

She was awarded the Royal Red Cross for her work during World War 1. Her medals are on display in the Chapel.

Beth Wynn Williams has recently had the photo of Matron Marie Cameron framed and there is a date yet to be confirmed to present this photo to the Director of Midwifery Norma Campbell at Christchurch Women's Hospital

Please visit our website and read this fascinating and truly inspiring ANZAC story of. Thank you to Beth Wynn-Williams for her wonderful work on this project.

From 2023, schools will teach more about New Zealand history. The curriculum for the new Aotearoa NZ Histories will have a supporting website with tasks that the students will work

through. We are delighted that the designers will include the Nurses' Memorial Chapel in the local content.



Parquet Floor Polisher

Recently our 20-year-old polisher died a very noisy and smoky death. As a result, we are now the proud owners of a new polisher, one that meets the requirements of the beautiful parquet floor. We also have a new person polishing the floor every three months who has experience with parquet floors and under the watchful eye of Michael Pepper. There are one or two of the tiles that need attention but apart from this it remains in excellent condition.

Sam Mahon Sculpture for Chapel Garden

After several meetings with Sam Mahon the sculpture for the garden is close to being finished. We are thrilled with the design and feel it beautifully encapsulates the spirit of the nursing profession by way of an older person's hand just touching the younger person's hand. Louise Young has spent some time preparing the space in the garden where the sculpture will be

placed Some of you may have noticed the beautiful magnolia tree no longer stands in the garden. Unfortunately, a large part of this beautiful tree had passed its use by date and as a result had to be removed. Another will be planted in its place, and it is in this vicinity that the sculpture will reside. The plinth and base have now been cast. All plants in the vicinity of where the sculpture will have been lifted. The plan now is to dig the foundation ready for lifting the sculpture into place which we expect to be around the end of May. We hope you will take the opportunity to visit the Chapel garden to view this beautiful bronze sculpture. A plaque will be placed to acknowledge the generosity of Sister McDonald.

Museum News

The Museum group has been busy. Andrea Grieve is delving into the lives of World War 1 nurses. Jude Turner and Jennie Hamilton have sorted out the archives related to the 1989 campaign to save the Chapel.

Lauren Harcourt and Wendy Maddocks bring new energy to our work, and have transcribed, indexed and photographed the Burial Register. Lauren's article for the NZ Society of Genealogists has generated interest.

The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Museum Instagram page

Wendy Maddocks Museum Committee and chapel volunteer.

Instagram is a popular social media platform where images and a short amount are shared. People follow an **Instagram** page and see the latest images in their 'feed'. People can then like and comment on images. Instagram is a good way to tell a visual story and support other inline presences such as the Facebook page and the website.

People find the page either by seeing it on a related topic using a hashtag (#), however the bulk of followers either come organically by people knowing about it, or by the page following like-minded pages, found by searching hashtags (e.g., #nursinghistory). Every post I use the **#nursesmemorialchapel** and eventually this can be used to help find us.

The page is called **nurses.memorial.chapel.museum** and this is what you see when you come across the profile. Underneath that there is space for a short bio and a web address. Whilst the chapel has been closed, I have been able to keep people engaged with the page. I decided to spell it out with dots, so each word stands out. Abbreviations don't work as a name as it is hard to find. At the moment there are 46 followers, and once we get to 100 there is a lot more functionality in the app. The more that people engage with it, the more likely the page will come up with more followers. I am trying to get a consistent look across each line and starting to put in text images as well to break things up visually. These all help keep the museum and chapel alive, especially in these uncertain times. If you are interested Wendy would very much like to have more followers

Membership

Please remember to renew your membership ensuring all details are up to date to ensure our database is current. All membership fees are to be paid through internet banking. Please include your name and subscription amount

The Friends bank account number is: 03 1707 0017417 000

Miss/Ms/Mrs/Mr First
Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

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Membership Subscriptions

Single:	\$20
Double/Family	\$30
Group	\$45
Life member	\$150 (a once only pymt)

Donation _____

Total Amount _____

Please tick if you require a donation ☐
Pip Mason

