



IN TOUCH

Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter

November 2020 Website: www.cnmc.org.nz email: chapelfoc@gmail.com
Facebook : Nurses' Memorial Chapel

Hello to all our Members and Supporters,

Well what a year it has been. After spending 4 weeks in lock down it was lovely to be able to socialize a little more and enjoy what Canterbury has to offer. However, the uncertainty continues as parts of the country go up and down levels but thankfully for us, we have continued to stay at level one.

The Chapel was closed for a considerable length of time which was disappointing but necessary to ensure we looked after our volunteers and we all stayed safe.

So here we are into November, daylight saving is here the weather is lovely and Christmas cooking has started. Where did 2020 go to!!

Chapel Events

Another wedding was held recently in the Chapel. This wedding was one organized quickly as the groom was unwell in hospital. The couple were very well supported by ward staff and other members of the hospital to ensure their wedding day was a happy and special occasion.

Thanks to Nanette Ainge for agreeing to be the volunteer in attendance at very short notice. Also thank you to Kathryn Aldred from Medical Illustrations who sent us some photos. It is functions such as these that makes us feel honoured to be part of this very special and beautiful Chapel.



The 15th October saw the Chapel host a very special remembrance service for parents who had suffered

loss of a child of any age. The Chapel was full for this very moving service conducted by Alexa Evenden.

Whilst to date no decision has yet been made regarding capacity in the Chapel Covid19 has had an impact on the size of events particularly weddings.

Next year we have five weddings booked between January and March all with less than 50 guests.

Carpark Barrier Arm

For those of you who have visited the Chapel over the last 2 months you will have enjoyed not having to remove those extremely heavy bollards. Finally, the barrier arm arrived and was installed reasonably quickly. It is certainly much lighter and easier to manoeuvre using the same key as the bollards

Barrier Arm Keys

After some discussion it has been decided to hold both the keys for the barrier arm and the chapel door in the basement of the Chapel. The basement door is on the right-hand side of the chapel when facing the street. Using the code pad please use the same code numbers as the Chapel code except with a C in front of the numbers. The key is on the wall just inside the basement on the left. Please make sure you return the key to the basement, check the door is locked and the numbers on the code pad are scrambled. We hope this will mean less time is spent having to park your car and go to the orderly's lodge to collect the key. A set of keys will remain at the orderly's lodge as a backup.

News from the Museum Team

Heritage Festival: Florence meets Arts and Crafts

About 230 people visited the Chapel over five Open Days. They admired the beautifully restored interior, stained glass windows and the Arts and Crafts furniture. The Marquette story attracted much interest. Diana Francis -Casey worked with Alex Rutherford (Airforce Museum, Wigram). He made a "made to measure" mannequin and the bust was kindly lent by the Cotter Medical History Trust.



An excellent slide show by Beth Wynn Williams and Jude Turner's story about Florence portrayed fascinating details about her life. Sue Claridge's wonderful display of stamps and other ephemera was full of information.

The provenance of some instruments in the Chapel was verified. They were given by Florence Nightingale to Mary Ann Vousden in 1890 on the eve of her departure for New Zealand.

Special thanks to all who helped with the Heritage Festival event which was made possible with a generous Grant from the Christchurch City Council.



Trust Committee member Rick Acland, Trust Chair Robyn Bisset and Rick's daughter

TV Advertising

The Chapel is now advertised on the intranet at Christchurch Hospital in the foyer of the hospital and in the emergency department. Next time you are in the hospital foyer or in ED take a minute to watch the advertisement. It provides information such as days and times the chapel is open. Our thanks go to medical illustrations at the hospital for setting this up for us.

Remembering Janet Drury

Our condolences to the family of the late Janet Drury (née Williamson) who died recently.

Mrs Drury was the niece of Janet Wyse Mackie Williamson, the first New Zealand nurse to be awarded the Royal Red Cross (RRC).

Mrs Drury's interest in the Chapel is continued by her daughter, Julie Stewart. Julie sent a lovely photograph of her great aunt.

Janet Williamson is wearing her RRC, the Queen's South African medal, and a gold and red enamel gold medal given to her by the Otago and Southland Patriotic Committee for services in the South African War.

The gold medal and JWM Williamson's Nursing Registration medal, on loan from the family, are on display in the museum.

Website

The website is continuing to work well with the behind the scenes data showing a steady number of visitors to the site. We are approaching the web developers to look at adding a method to pay for yearly memberships. Once we have this developed, we will be sure to let you know.

On the website we have constructed a section for policies and procedures, and also for any forms and documents that may be helpful. As time goes by, this section will be added to so that we have all our documents in one easy to locate place.

New Video

A new video is in the process of being developed. This will replace the current video which has been circulating for some years.

Liz Grant who has helped us on numerous occasions will be drafting the script to go with the images. This will then be circulated to a number of people for approval. Filming in the Chapel and the garden will commence middle of November. The wisteria is out and the rhododendrons, roses and azaleas are looking superb.

Volunteers

A very heartfelt thank you to our volunteers who have enabled us to open the Nurses' Memorial chapel Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We have had many visitors who have expressed their appreciation at being able to view the chapel. The number of visitors is steadily increasing as word gets around that the chapel is open. A number of visitors have connections to the chapel either through relatives or having been married in the chapel previously. It is always a pleasure to talk to visitors and find out their experiences with the chapel in the past. Many visitors are nurses who have very fond memories of the chapel.

Volunteers are key to being able to open the chapel to the public. We have had a number of new volunteers over the past months and have run a volunteer training session just before the March lockdown, which meant the new

volunteers didn't get a chance to put their skills into action. We have now been open again since September and have run another volunteer training and refresher which was well attended. We appreciate the commitment of the volunteers and the roster enables a commitment from the volunteers of about once every 4-5 weeks.

We are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested please contact

Stephanie Cook, 0272509264,
stephcook@xtra.co.nz
Andrea Grieve, 0276944705,
andreagrieve@xtra.co.nz

Text from Kai Tiaki Nurses Journal 1 January 1919



Nurse Hilda Hooker, a pupil nurse at Christchurch Hospital in her second year, was another who lost her life at this time, cutting short a promise of great usefulness.



Nurse Grace Beswick, of the Christchurch Hospital, who had not long completed her training, was also a victim of influenza. This young nurse was a sister of Sister Beswick, A.R.R.R.C., who recently returned from active service, and had just been detailed to duty at the Chalmers Orthopedic Hospital, so that she was able to be with her sister at this sad time.

A thank you to family members for the photographs. Both nurses' graves can be found in Linwood Cemetery, Christchurch.

Membership

At the AGM in May the proposed new membership fees were ratified. When renewing your subscription please check your details are up to date to ensure our data base is current. We are still finding when sending out the newsletter or other information a number of emails bounce back.

As from June next year Westpac bank cheques will no longer be in circulation. This means the only option available will be internet banking.

Please do not send cash in the mail.

When using internet banking please include your name and subscription amount

Bank account number is 03 1707 0017417 000

Miss/Ms/Mrs/Mr

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Name(s) _____

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Membership Subscriptions

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

Donation _____

Total Amount _____

Please tick if you require a donation receipt

Well Xmas is nearly with us and this is the final newsletter for 2020.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with the Chapel this year especially to our volunteers for your support and being such a great group of people. A special thanks to Nanette Ainge and her museum team for all the wonderful work they have done in the museum, the displays they have put together for various events and their commitment to providing interesting historical information.

To the Friends Committee thank you so much for all your support during what has been at times a very difficult year.

I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Xmas with lots of fun with family and friends. I look forward to next year which I hope, will be a little more settled.

Pip Mason

Merchandise

Remember we have good supplies of cards \$5 a pack, including the popular Christmas one from the Mount Felix Tapestry.

There are still good supplies of Stand for All Time, by Anna Rogers published in 2018. \$35.00 – if you would like one posted to you add \$10.00 postage and packaging.

