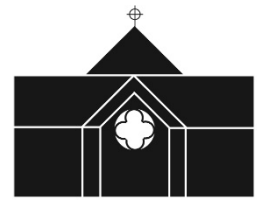


IN TOUCH

Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter



November 2021 Website: www.cnmc.org.nz email: chapelfoc@gmail.com

Facebook : Nurses' Memorial Chapel

AGM – Saturday 21 May 2022

Welcome

Dear members,

Well summer is almost here, and Xmas will be upon us before we realize. It has been a very different year once again with Covid being uppermost in our minds and continuing to have a significant effect on our lives. We, in Christchurch seem to have dodged the bullet to date but I rather suspect all that is going to change very shortly.

Apart from the ten-day lock down, we have managed to keep the chapel open to the public three days a week. Whilst numbers have not been high, each open day has attracted visitors who have spent time learning about the history of the chapel and the story of the Marquette. The new video has attracted a lot of interest and triggers further questions in particular the sinking of the Marquette.

The albums featuring each group of finalist nurses continues to be a great attraction.

There is still no progress on the capacity of the chapel, and it appears any increase in numbers is not likely to happen. Therefore, in the future we will be promoting the chapel as a boutique venue for small events. Two weddings are scheduled for 2022. The first on the 28th January and the second on the 27th March.

Chapel Events

Several events have been held at the chapel during the winter months.

In March this year a nurse's reunion for the class of '71 was held. The chapel became the focus on Saturday as Cheryl English took 30 nurses on a guided tour. This generated a lot of interest as the nurses knew little of the history of the chapel and its significance. A service on the Sunday conducted by Cannon David Morrell with Lauren Harcourt (one of our Volunteers) playing the organ. A wonderful event enjoyed by all.

Earlier in the year A Holy Mass was celebrated in Latin by Fr Anthony Mary, a priest from the Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer. Approximately 40 people (some past Nurses from Christchurch Hospital) attended this mass service.

Short prayer services continue on a regular basis organised by Angela McCormick the hospital Catholic Chaplain. These services are well attended, the majority being hospital staff.

Baby Loss Commemoration

The baby loss service was held on Friday the October 15th in the memorial garden. Nineteen people participated (approximately 8 families) in the service. Emotional for those attending, families and staff were given the opportunity to light battery-operated candles sing and share time together.

The garden looked beautiful and those who attended appreciated the availability of the chapel and memorial garden.

The chapel has been booked for 14th December 11.30am-1.30pm for a Xmas service on the lawn which has been organised by Angela McCormick. This service will be held in the chapel if the weather is cold and/or wet.

New Resource

We are currently working with Liz Grant developing a new resource to promote the chapel as a boutique venue for weddings, civil unions, baptisms, funerals, and such events. The first draft is almost ready to go to the printers for design and layout. It is hoped this DLE promotion resource will be ready for use by the end of the year.

Museum Report

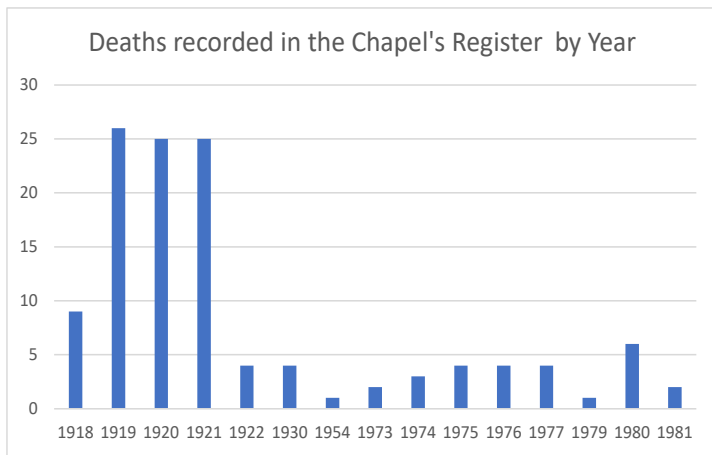
There is a Register in the Chapel which reminds us of the 1918 flu epidemic. This poignant entry in November 1918 reads:

During the month of November 1918, Christchurch was visited by pestilence and hundreds of deaths occurred. The Hospital Chaplain was ill for five weeks and the great number of burials were performed by a Rota of clergy acting at the various cemeteries and churchyards.

Between 1918 and 1981, chaplains intermittently recorded 129 deaths and 12 baptisms, all of which have been transcribed by Lauren Harcourt. Wendy Maddocks has photographed each page of the "Burial" Register. As it is indexed, we can look up entries.

My thanks to the museum committee who have been sorting and organizing archives this year. Their efforts to make information retrieval easier are much appreciated.

Nanette Ainge, Convenor, NMC Museum Sub-committee.



Christchurch Hospital nurses Hilda Hooker and Grace Beswick died while on duty in November 1918 as a result of influenza. They are buried at Linwood cemetery.

Nativity Play at the Chapel

Remember how the chapel used to be such a central part of hospital life? Alison Whitelaw, née Craw, shared this delightful photograph. Alison was in the nursing intake which started in January 1957 so we think the play dated from the late 1950s.



Can you identify any more of the cast??

Barby Barclay (née Rix-Trott) is a shepherd on the left - with staff and bare shoulder. Jenny P. Smith is below Barby. Alison Whitelaw (née Craw) is below Jenny. Robin Cormack (Latter) is a Wise Man standing nearest the Altar on the left. Teresa Donald (O'Donnell) is Mary. Lynette Weir (Brown) is the Angel on the left, back row.

Volunteers

As always, we are very grateful to our volunteers who enable us to open the chapel to the public three days a week. Having the barrier arm in place and a chapel key in the basement has certainly made access easier for our volunteers.

The number of visitors continues to be steady. Many nurses who have very fond memories of the chapel spend some time looking at the photo albums and reminiscing as they wander around delighted with the fact that the chapel has been restored to its former beauty.

Volunteers are absolutely paramount to the chapel being open to the public. We have welcomed new volunteers during the year, but we are always looking for new people. If you would like to become a volunteer or know someone who would like to join this wonderful group of people, please contact either

Stephanie Cook 0272509624 stephcook@xtra.co.nz

Or

Andrea Grieve, 0276944705 andregrieve@xtra.co.nz

ANZAC Poppy Bowl

Hokitika carver Jimmy Gordon has donated a poppy bowl made from recycled native wood and pounamu. Taken on as a lockdown project, he has been distributing them to RSAs, churches and maraes around the country.



ANZAC Day 2022

We would like to be able to hold an ANZAC service in the chapel on ANZAC day in 2022. The logistics of this will need to be considered and is likely to take some organising with a capacity of only 50 people. Watch this space for further information.

Christchurch Heritage Festival.

This annual Christchurch City Council Heritage Festival was held from the 9th-25th October providing us with the opportunity to showcase our chapel.

Honouring Our Nurses -The Unsung Heroes attracted steady numbers of visitors during the three days the Chapel was open. We were very lucky to have Anna Rogers speak in the Chapel on Saturday 23rd October focusing on the history of the Chapel and the sinking of the Marquette. This presentation was enjoyed by those who attended, and the book "Stand for All Time" was on sale at a special price during the Heritage Festival week.

Sculpture for Chapel Garden

The Friends of the Nurses' Memorial Chapel committee was very fortunate to receive a significant bequest from the late Dorothy McDonald. As many of you will know, Sister McDonald was a well-known nurse who worked at Christchurch Hospital for many years particularly in her later years as a supervisor. The Friend's committee has decided that it would be appropriate to acknowledge Sister McDonald for her wonderful service to nursing and her long-standing connection with Christchurch Hospital. After some discussion the decision was made to commission Sam Mahon, a well recognized North Canterbury Sculptor, to design a sculpture for the memorial garden that would reflect the nursing profession. A design is expected from Sam in early December and the sculpture will be completed and in place early 2022.

New Camera

A new camera has been installed in the Chapel and is located on the top of the large TV screen. It is very easy to use and provides a great picture when filming events.

Zoom Meetings

This facility is now available and can be used for meetings and other events held in the Chapel. The cost for the zoom facility is \$50 per event.

Covid19

Currently Canterbury is at level 2 enabling the chapel to be open with QR coding and mask wearing. We will be watching closely over the festive season any changes that may be announced to our status and will communicate any changes to all members by email.

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with the chapel over the last year. A special thanks to our fantastic volunteers who provide a wonderful opportunity to showcase the chapel, answer questions and discuss the history that surrounds the chapel. To the

museum committee ably led by Nanette Ainge, thank you so much for your hard work keeping our boutique museum a special place of interest.

Last but not least thank you to the Friend's committee. A wonderful group of hard working and committed people who continue to juggle their fulltime work with chapel activities.

I wish you all a very happy Xmas and hope you are able to have a relaxing holiday with family and friends. I look forward to next year and facing the challenges it is likely to bring.

Pip Mason



Remember we have good stocks of cards for \$5.00 pack and copies of the book by Anna Rogers "Stand for all Time" \$35.00.

Membership

Thank you to all our members for your continued support of the memorial chapel. When renewing your subscription please ensure all your details are up to date in order for us to accurately maintain the data base. Remember bank cheques are no longer in circulation. All membership fees are to be paid through the 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 _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Membership Subscriptions

Single: \$20

Double/Family \$30

Group \$45

Life member \$150

Donation _____

Total Amount _____

Please tick if you require a donation