



April 2024



Welcome to Connexions!

A place to share special stories, events, achievements and celebrations from around the Connexion.

Please send photos and descriptions to reception@methodist.org.nz



Remember in your Prayers

Connexional Office

Tū noa ana ngā maunga whakahī i te riu o te whenua
i a koutou ra ka ngaro i te ao. Aue!

Ko koe tērā e te whaea Te Aurere Anne Peri, ka
ngaro atu i te tirohanga kanohi!

Nā reira, e moe, e moe, moe mārie i ngā ringa
atawhai o tō tātou mātua nui i te rangi.

Moe mārie 'Pononga ngākau pono o te Atua!'

It is with deep sadness that I pass to the connexion news of the sad and sudden loss of Minitā-ā-Iwi Te Aurere Anne Peri.

Anne has been a loyal supporter of Te Taha Māori all her life and has served as "Elder of the Conference" as well as her work in her ministry role.

She was known throughout the Hokianga region not only for her ministry, but also for her roles undertaken in the Māori Community.

Anne was for many years, kaitiaki o te marae o Tuhirangi, Waima only relinquishing that role this last week.

She proudly and diligently upheld ngā tikanga o te kāinga and could always be called upon as Minitā-ā-Iwi, and all roles as kuia o ngā marae maha o Te Hokianganui a Kupe ki te Tonga.

Formerly a Justice of the Peace, and a proud Māori Warden, she and her husband Joe spent many years serving the community overseeing events around the north including Waitangi celebrations.

Anne leaves behind two sons, one daughter, 4 granddaughters, two grandsons and 3 mokopuna tuarua (great grandchildren). They are her enduring legacy.





Anne will be greatly missed by her whānau, her community, her hapū, Ngaitūteauru, Te Māhurehure and Ngāti Hine as well as te whānau o Te Taha Māori.

We leave her now to rest, faithful servant of the Lord.

Anne is being returned to her home marae, Pukerata in Otatau today (Sunday March 10) where she will lay in state until interment in the whānau urupā o Kawekaroa.

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary

It is with deep sorrow that I inform the Connexion of the passing of Reverend David Ansell. David devoted himself to ordained ministry with the Methodist Church in 1963, profoundly impacting numerous lives through his pastoral guidance.

In 1960, David commenced his journey as a Home Missionary supply at Kamo. He later relocated to Whakatane/Kawerau in 1965 to serve a small congregation there. From 1969 to 1977, he ministered in Te Awamutu, where he played a pivotal role in establishing the Community Advisory Bureau. Transitioning to Chartwell Co-operating Parish and Wesley, Fairfield, David shifted his ministry focus from rural to urban settings, encountering diverse and enriching experiences through cooperative efforts. His final tenure in Tauranga, spanning 11 years at Wesley, marked a culmination of his successful and fulfilling ministry. Throughout his service, David remained committed to the connexion, contributing to various committees and assuming roles such as District Superintendent for the last 8 years of his ministry.

We kindly request that you mark your calendars for his memorial service, to be held at Wesley Methodist Church, 100 Thirteenth Avenue, Tauranga, at 1 pm on Wednesday, 3rd April 2024. For any communications, please address them to the Ansell family C/- PO Box 650 Tauranga 3144.

It is with great sadness that we learn that Cliff Couch passed away on Monday evening (8 April). This came after a heart attack earlier that day, after which he went downhill very rapidly. Thankfully, he died very peacefully, and his suffering was minimal and very short-lived.

Cliff was well-liked and known nationally for his 10 years of service from 1961 to the Methodist Church as Associate Director (Youth) in the Christian Education Division. He also served as Secretary of the Wellington District Synod for many years.

Cliff offered to work voluntarily for the Methodist Education Department from August 1984 following his retirement as a Resource and Research Assistant.

His funeral will be at 2pm on Tuesday, 16 April, at Kapiti Uniting Church, Raumati.

Te Hāhi extends sympathy to his son Warrick (living in Melbourne) and family, and gives thanks for the service Cliff has given to the church.

Messages for "The Couch Family" may be sent to PO Box 119, Paraparaumu, 5254

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari General Secretary





Digital Archivist Position Available

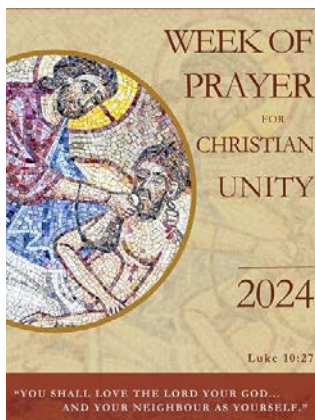
Connexional Office

Kei Muri Māpara - The Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives in Christchurch is looking for a Digital Archivist to help the National Archivist to manage and care for our collection holdings, and to make these more readily available online.

This role requires someone with excellent organisational and interpersonal skills, exceptionally high-level digital competence across platforms, and a meticulous eye for fine detail. Ideally, the successful candidate will also have a passion for, and experience with, caring for digital collections, and a strong research background in a relevant discipline.

In return we offer a supportive and positive working environment, and the chance to work hands-on with some of Aotearoa's most interesting and precious documentary taonga.

For more information please email Reception@methodist.org.nz or apply via [Seek](#).



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – 2024

Rev. Tony Franklin-Ross Secretary – National Dialogue for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is offered to take time to listen and hear from sister churches and fellow Christians in diverse parts of the world that take turn in preparing the theme and material.

The Week of Prayer is an opportunity to make particular opportunities to link with neighbouring churches for ecumenical worship.

The international materials for 2024 were prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community. It takes as its text "You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27). Attached is a version

for Aotearoa New Zealand. Based on the international liturgy, it has been adapted by a Wellington-based ecumenical workgroup co-ordinated through the National Dialogue for Christian Unity for Aotearoa New Zealand. Further local adaptation may be made to the text, add or substitute prayers or litanies, choosing your own hymns and songs, or incorporating actions and expressions in the worship; so as to add local relevance to the international theme.

The traditional observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Aotearoa New Zealand is between Ascension and Pentecost (12-19 May 2024), or at some other date appropriate for the local context. Maybe consider organising a local observance, maybe through a combined service, or other shared activities and prayer:

- A combined ecumenical service of neighbouring churches held one evening during the week.
- A combined social event or meal
- A combined initiative for a local issue (such as a beach clean or community garden planting)
- Commit with local churches to incorporate a prayer within respective Sunday services; praying for each other's churches, and praying for ecumenical unity.
- Commit to a prayer relay – where for each day during the week, a different church community commits to joining the prayer for Christian unity, for each other's ministries, and the communities in your town/city/region are served.





Wesley Community Action's Just Change: A new way of giving

Wesley Community Action

After three years of trialling and refining its innovative giving programme, Just Change, Wesley Community Action is inviting more donors to come onboard as Just Change enters its next phase.

[Just Change](#) is unique because the people donating the money and the people doing the mahi on projects in the community work together to allocate the funds and learn how to be more effective. These two groups are called 'doers' and 'donors'.

Just Change is based on the understanding that tackling poverty isn't simple and that real change happens when it is led by the people seeking the change. That means Just Change values open and honest reflecting and continual learning to inform and refine what happens.

It brings together people from different ends of the wealth spectrum and builds relationships by sharing ... money, time, ideas and food.

"We're bringing together groups of people who have additional resources with people who are active in communities trying to create things that are more effective to help people have a better life," says Wesley's director David Hanna.

Just Change was initially set up at the end of 2020. During its first two years, donors provided \$155,000 of funding and they worked alongside 'doers' at regular hui to decide how to allocate that money. Among the initiatives supported were several Wesley Community Action programmes, such as the [Ageing Well](#) programme, the [Good Cents](#) financial wellbeing programme and [Hauora Kai](#), the Wellington Region Fruit and Vege Coop.

Several non-Wesley initiatives also came into the Just Change fold, including [EndoWarriors](#) which supports women and girls with the debilitating condition of endometriosis and Racks which supports young Pacific women to grow confidence.

For the donors, meeting 'doers' at the regular hui and sometimes visiting them on the ground has been an interesting and worthwhile experience.

"If you're shoulder to shoulder with people then barriers breakdown and it's good for everybody –something happens," said one donor. "Just Change gave an excuse for different worlds to come together."

Just Change hui are held in Porirua three times a year; remote attendance can be organised if necessary.

Find our more

[Visit our website](#) to find out more, or contact our Director, David Hanna dhanna@wesleyca.org.nz



SEASON OF CREATION

Resources for the Season of Creation

Climate Justice Working Group

Work is underway to provide the Connexion with liturgical resources for the five Sundays in September, the Season of Creation.

These resources will be a rich kete that will fit formal and informal settings. Detailed information on the resources available will be provided in the July edition of Touchstone.





Kōrero Mai: Earth Our Parish (edited by Te Aroha Rountree and George Zachariah)

Climate Justice Working Group

This is a congregational resource book on climate justice. It is an open-access ebook that can be downloaded from the Trinity College website now.

Here is a short excerpt from the foreword of Tara Tautari. "Climate change is a global crisis that is inextricably interwoven with our moral and ethical obligations. Within these pages, we discover a collective knowledge and wisdom for understanding and participating in the conversations surrounding climate justice. This book stands as a testament to our commitment to creating a more equitable and sustainable world for future generations."

The May edition of Touchstone will include an overview of the mahi behind the production of this valuable resource.



Methodist Mission Southern: Holy Spirit, the promised gift.

Julie Roberts

Drawing from Philippians 4:6-7, we embrace a 'peace that surpasses understanding'. We bring our requests without reservation to our God not only for ourselves but for the rangatahi residents of the Methodist Mission Southern's Youth Transition Houses.

Our Youth Transition Houses and Young Mums' Transition House are bustling, vibrant centers of community, where our young people are encouraged to find the strength to (re)engage and connect to their education, and to be empowered to pursue their dreams. Our deepest aspiration is for these youth to experience days filled not with anxiety, but with hopes, ambitions, and a vision for a brighter future.

We invite you to join us on this journey by following our social media channels and subscribing to our newsletters. Through your interest and support, you become a vital part of their story, contributing to their growth and well-being.

After months of searching for a job one of our rangatahi has successfully landed employment. The timing couldn't be better as it aligns with their graduation from their education program. Alongside their job search and coursework, they remained engaged with work experience, enabling them to acquire valuable references for their CV.

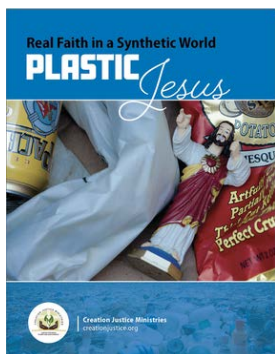
We had one resident move out and successfully obtain long term accommodation. They have moved into their new whare and with our support to set it up with items we have been donated they are settled in well and continuing with their education successfully. We had a farewell with pizzas to wish them well on their new chapter.

Two of our Mums are currently in education and the third is looking to enrol as soon as there is an opening. We have been busy looking at housing in the community, but the increasing cost of rent seems to be a huge roadblock for our whānau and there is a shortage of social housing options currently. We have been looking at healthy eating and making sure our Mums are eating enough to fuel them and their growing pēpi and this has included purchasing a smoothie maker, rice cooker and sandwich press because in late-stage pregnancy and with newborns arriving, easy is good.

Please join The Methodist Mission Southern Supporters' Club.

Be part of our story, our work, and our community.
Contact Julie julier@mmsouth.org.nz

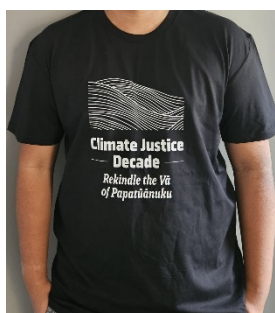




Recommended reading

Climate Justice Working Group
Plastic Jesus: Real Faith in a Synthetic World, published by Creation Justice Ministries, USA.

This is an excellent resource for our Climate Justice Decade initiatives.. A PDF version can be forwarded upon request. Please email marionhines@extra.co.nz



Join the movement and make a statement with our exclusive Hāhi Climate Justice Decade – Rekindle the Vā of Papatūānuku t-shirts!

Connexional Office

NOW AVAILABLE IN BLACK AND WHITE

These shirts go beyond fashion – they're symbols of solidarity and support for a cause that affects us all. Crafted with care and passion, our design embodies the essence of whenua and moana, reflecting their dynamic interplay and reminding us of the interconnectedness of all living beings and the urgent need for climate justice. Printed with environmentally friendly, water-based inks, each shirt is a testament to our commitment to both the planet and the people fighting for climate justice here in Aotearoa and globally.

Wear your values proudly and spark conversations wherever you go. Whether you're attending Church, a march, hanging out with friends, or simply going about your day, our Climate Justice t-shirts are the perfect way to amplify your voice and raise awareness about the urgent need for environmental action.

Priced at just \$35.00, our Climate Justice t-shirts are an affordable way to support our Hāhi and make a difference.

Don't miss your chance to be part of something bigger. Get your Climate Justice t-shirt today by emailing info@methodist.org.nz and join us in rekindling the sacred Vā of Papatūānuku – because together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

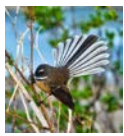


Plastic Free July

Climate Justice Working Group
A half day event in Auckland is being planned to raise awareness about the hazard of plastic waste.

Lydia Chai, an environmental lawyer will be the keynote speaker. The date is Saturday 13 July. A zooming link is planned. For further information, contact Peter Lane at peter.lane@sdcs.co.nz





Rekindle the Vā of Papatuanuku – Stories and Perspectives

Climate Justice Working Group

This is an inspirational resource written by members from around the motu.

It explains the overall theme of our decade for climate justice and explains the five focus areas on which we will concentrate during the decade. These are:

2023/24 – Zero Waste

2025/26 – Climate Migration

2027/28 – Water

2029/30 – Improving energy efficiency

2031/32 – Poverty, food sharing and production

Copies of this booklet are available for \$15 from the Connexional office in Auckland or Christchurch.



Prayers for the Middle East

Christian World Service

The situation in the Middle East is alarming. CWS encourages prayer and advocacy. Please continue to encourage support for the [Gaza Palestine Emergency Appeal](#).

Last week the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon wrote to thank donors and provide an update on the situation. DSPR focuses on education for all ages in Lebanon.

“There are three Palestinian refugee camps in the South of Lebanon with a population of around 60,000 persons. There are also more than 3 informal settlements which is home to a big number of Non-ID Palestinian refugees. In the midst of these camps namely on the periphery of the city of Tyre and serving them all through its different programmes, lies the DSPR Lebanon farm [which offers a variety of training programmes to Palestinian and Syrian refugees]. Up to the present, these camps have not been hit [by the bombing] but hundreds from the villages on the borders have taken refuge with friends or relatives.

“As most people are poor, there is the need to help the hosting camps support the people who have taken refuge amongst them. In addition, everyone is afraid of the escalation of the aggression. We are very happy that we are still able to plant and sell our organic vegetables, but no one has signed up for any classes as all are apprehensive of what might happen. All schools in the villages which were hit have closed rendering a wasted year for students. We are grateful that the UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees] schools are still functioning, but for how long with the impending danger and the drastic cuts that UNRWA is sustaining from the international community!!

...Although we pray fervently that the genocide in Gaza stops immediately and Lebanon will be spared from all this destructive aggression, we felt we should get ready to respond... **Our life seems to be always full of wars and all we really want is peace.**”





Methodist mission Northern hosts the Methodist Alliance Housing forum in Auckland

Elizabeth Elliott

It was an honor to attend the recent Methodist Alliance Housing Forum alongside representatives from all over Aotearoa. The forum took place from Friday, 8th March to Saturday, 9th March at Vaughan Park in Long Bay, Auckland and was hosted by Methodist Mission Northern (MMN). The aim was to address the pressing issue of the housing crisis in our community.

The forum was structured to achieve several key objectives:

- Understanding the new political landscape related to housing and how to address this
- Developing the Methodist Social Housing action plan
- Learning from experts and each other
- Strengthening our connexional approach

After a warm welcome from Rev Peter Taylor, president of Te Hāhi Weteriana, Jill Hawkey (executive director Christchurch Methodist Mission) gave the group an overview of Methodist engagement in housing (social housing plan). This was followed by David Hanna (director Community Action in Wellington) introducing and facilitating the conversations with our keynote speakers.

We were privileged to hear from esteemed speakers such as Andrew Crisp, CE from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Paul Gilberd, CEO from Community Housing Aotearoa, and Ali Hamlin-Paenga, chairperson from Te Matapihi he tirohanga mō te Iwi Trust. Their insights provided valuable perspectives on government strategies, community housing opportunities, and Māori housing initiatives.

Another highlight of the forum was the engaging session with Sam Stubbs, CEO of Simplicity, who shared his thoughts on addressing the housing crisis, leaving us all inspired and motivated.

Rev Tara Tautari, the general secretary for the Methodist Church of Aotearoa, led a thought-provoking discussion on how our church can respond effectively to the housing crisis as a connexional community.

Throughout the forum, participants engaged in group discussions on topics such as improving services for those in housing need, implementing Housing First initiatives, and increasing the supply of housing. The conversations focused on setting achievable goals, enhancing collaboration, identifying opportunities, and driving necessary changes.

We extend our gratitude to Head of Mission-MMN, Shirley Rivers and her team for their excellent coordination of the forum, which provided a platform for us to connect, learn, and explore new possibilities in addressing the housing challenge.



WesleyCare Open Day

WesleyCare

WesleyCare is hosting an Open Day on Sunday 5th May from 2:30pm. Come along to meet WesleyCare's Manager Donna Coxshall, take a tour around the home, and ask any questions you may have about the services and care provided at WesleyCare for residents and their families.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Please complete the form to register your intention to attend this year's event at wesleycare.nz/Open-Day or contact Glenda at glendam@mmsi.org.nz or 375-1464





Mother's Day Gifts

Christian World Service

On May 12, we will celebrate Mother's Day, a special time to celebrate the important women in our lives.

Gifted is a great way to share their love and concern or to remember your mother in a practical way. Choose something small like [seeds](#) or life-changing like [School for Girls](#) and [Baby and Mother Health](#).

Each purchase acts as a donation to a programme run by a CWS partner. You choose your [gift](#) and decide whether you want a printed card or ecard.

We give thanks for our mothers and the women who care for others. On this special day, we pray especially for those women who are raising families in places of violence and poverty. Always we pray for peace.



Tax Credits

Christian World Service

CWS reminds you that you can claim a tax credit for your donations over the last year. Information on how to do this is available on the [IRD website](#).

Receipts have been emailed or are in the mail.

The beginning of the new tax year is a great time to consider how easy it is to give a regular donation. Find out how to become a [Partner for Life](#).

If you have lost a receipt, please contact Italy at cws@cws.org.nz or 03 366 9274 who will send a duplicate. Thank you for working together to make sure more people have water, food and justice.



Messy Church Training Roadtrip

Jocelyn Czerwonka

In May 2024 the MC National Team are doing a Training Road-trip from Auckland to Cromwell bringing guests **Rev Dr Dave Gregory** and **Rev Gregory Ross** from the UK and Western Australia to somewhere in NZ near you. We will be visiting 8 different locations and offering training for those running Messy Church or interested in finding out what Messy Church is all about.

Dr Dave Gregory is a Baptist Minister from the UK who is now the Baptist Missioner on Science and the Environment. He is also the editor of Messy Church Does Science and co-editor for Messy Adventures plus many other publications. Rev Greg Ross is a Uniting

Church Minister in Bunbury and Regional Coordinator for Messy Church in Western Australia and a writer of many articles for Messy Church publications.

Come and be prepared to be surprised as you discover how to share aspects of Gods story through science experiments and more. Workshops will help resource your Messy Church leaders to include projects on Care of Creation, science, and the environment, hope facing disaster, in your next Messy Church event. We will also go deeper into the basics such as MC values and process, supporting your teams, going beyond Messy. To register your interest contact us at www.messychurch.nz/contact

