



February 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](mailto:reception@methodist.org.nz)



## Remember in your Prayers

The Connexion has learnt of the passing, on Christmas Eve, of Richard John Fraser, a stalwart member of the Mt Albert Parish for many decades before the onset of dementia and a move into fulltime care.

John was a very significant presence in the investment and property areas of the Connexion having been a member of the Investment Advisory Board and Methodist Trust Association virtually from their

foundation. He was a leading Trustee of the Prince Albert College Trust at the time of the lease of the Queen Street land and was the first Chair of PACT 2086 Trust.

This period saw the growth of the MTA from formation to a Fund of almost of \$74 million including the redevelopment of several Church owned properties into valuable assets providing a very satisfactory return to the Church.

In his book on the history of the Management of Methodist Church assets "Held in Trust" Reverend Donald Phillipps noted "In 1976 John Fraser had come on to the two Boards (Inv Advisory and MTA) within a year of their establishment and had been Chairman since 1984.

As a company director he had wide experience of the Auckland business world. He was a committed and practical churchman and gave generously of his wisdom, time and skills. He facilitated the discussion and the decision making of the Association and the Board with a real sense of purpose."

John served on the Investment Advisory Board and MTA from 1976 -2002 and as Chair from 1984-2001. He was a member of the PACT Trust from 1979 until its dissolution in March 1989 and Chair of the Board of PACT 2086 from 1986 until his retirement in 2001.

His funeral will be held at the Mt Albert Methodist Church on 10th January at 2 pm.

Peter van Hout  
Financial Services Manager  
Board of Administration of the Methodist Church of New Zealand



It is with sadness that I advise you that Rev Don Biggs died on Wednesday 27th December. Don was ordained in 1980 and his first stationed appointment was to the Blenheim Methodist Circuit. He also had appointments at St David's Union Parish, Carterton, Landsowne Presbyterian Church, Masterton, and Lynfield Community Church in Auckland. For many years he was also a member of the Board of Administration. After moving to Marton Don provided supply ministry at Trinity Methodist Church, Whanganui, which led to his being stationed there. Don served the church in many ways including as a Synod assessor of candidates, Interim Moderator; Secretary of Methodist AFFIRM, Chair of the Wairarapa UDC and Moderator of the Presbytery of the Wairarapa. He was also Chair of the Travel and Study Committee and Chair of the Board of Administration.

Don's knowledge, wisdom and unflappable manner, quiet sense of humour and ability to recognise and encourage others will be greatly missed. We offer our support and love to his family, particularly his two children Elizabeth and Andrew and their families.

A private family service was held for Don on Friday 29th December. There will be a Memorial Service for Don on the 5th February, at Whanganui Methodist Church. Details will be circulated closer to the time. Messages of condolence can be sent to Don's daughter Elizabeth at [ej.biggs@gmail.com](mailto:ej.biggs@gmail.com).

Peter van Hout  
Financial Services Manager  
Board of Administration of the Methodist Church of New Zealand

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It is with sadness that we notify the Connexion of the death of Frank Claridge, on 4 January 2024. Loved husband of Janette and father of Megan, Jennifer, Paul, and Andrew and families. Funeral to be held at 1.30pm on Wednesday 10 January at Davis Funeral Home, Pakuranga, Auckland. Communications to the family may be sent to: ['fclaridge@xtra.co.nz'](mailto:fclaridge@xtra.co.nz)

Frank held significant leadership positions within the Methodist Church at national level, beginning in the 1950's in Wellington and continuing up until 2005 when he relinquished his tasks to become one of the first Charities Commissioners, after the passing of the Charities Act.

Some of the significant tasks he undertook were: in the 1970's he worked with the Education Division to assist them build an office building in Wellington.

After a move to Whanganui In the 1970's Frank became involved as Treasurer with the establishment of the Whanganui City Methodist Parish working in the parish team of parish stewards and ministers.

From 1984 Frank was Treasurer to Trinity College Council. During which time he secured \$1,000,000 for student housing and worked with the College administrator to find, inspect and purchase houses. During this time he was made a Fellow of Trinity College.

Frank held many governance roles within the Church including being a member of the Board of Administration, General Purposes Trust Board, Board of Ministry, Stipends Committee, Financial Review Committee and others.

Frank was instrumental in mentoring lay people to assist them undertake financial responsibility in their parishes giving his time generously and freely.

His gift and legacy to the Church is having helped the Church see that just because they are a charity and not for profit, this is not an excuse for unprofessional and sloppy financial practice. He provided robust critique, and was never afraid to ask the hard questions. He gave his time unstintingly to anyone who asked for his help.





Frank's generosity of time and skill has been greatly influential in shaping the now very business-like and professional administrative and financial systems of the Methodist Church.

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary

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It is with sadness we inform the Connexion of the death of Diane Paterson.

Diane died on Friday 5th of January at Kawakawa Hospital aged eighty-four. Diane Paterson began her involvement with church life at Trinity Methodist Church in Napier, where she attended Sunday School and Girls Brigade. In her early twenty's she went to Auckland and became a Sunday school teacher at Epsom Methodist Church. She was involved with the bible class and Christian Youth Movement Methodist, where she learned about the Order of St Stephen and as a result in 1964, she volunteered for the Order of St Stephen, joining the staff team in 1965 as secretary to Rev. Ron O'Grady. Diane was a committed ecumenist and attended the World Council of Churches 7th Assembly in Canberra, Australia, in 1991, describing it as a "Mountain Top Experience".

Diane was for some years a member of the Methodist General Purposes Trust Board, and the Northland Methodist Synod, and many subcommittees. She was also a trustee of the Marsden Cross Trust Board until ill health forced her to resign, but she never lost her interest in the Marsden Cross, and many past presidents and others have been hosted by Diane as they visited that site. With some difficulty, she was at the last annual ecumenical commemoration service.

Her involvement in her local church will be sadly missed. She was an avid reader and attended Bible study groups as health allowed. The onset of MS in the last few years curtailed her activities, somewhat, but she fought hard to overcome that obstacle to be involved in church affairs, managing to attend the Bi-Centenary conference in Kerikeri in 2022 and help at the reception desk, and also to attend the Northland Synod end of year function in December 2023.

The celebration of Diane's life will be held at Cornerstone, Kerikeri (144 Kerikeri Road), on Thursday 11th of January 2024 at 12.00PM. The funeral service will be live from the Scott Funeral website (<https://www.scottsfunerals.co.nz/>).

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari General Secretary

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We are sad to advise the Connexion of the death of Barbara Allan, wife of Rev Robert Allan. Barbara offered support and care to many people, particularly in the parishes that Robert was stationed to. We send our love and sympathy to Robert, their 10 children, 38 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Messages can be sent to Rev. Robert Allan, c/- PO Box 5191, Palmerston North 4441. A funeral service for Barbara was held at Milson Combined Church, Palmerston North, on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary





It is with sorrow, we note the death of Audrey Jarvis on Monday 22nd January. Audrey was a member of Manawatu Rangitikei Methodist Parish, worshipping in Palmerston North. She held many roles in the Parish including representing the parish at Conference. She represented the Methodist church on the NZ Inter-Church Bio-Ethics Committee for many years. Audrey's two daughters, Sharon and Mukti were able to spend the last week of her life with her. Her funeral will be held on Friday 26th January in Palmerston North. Messages can be sent to [jarvis.ab@extra.co.nz](mailto:jarvis.ab@extra.co.nz)

Ngā manaakitanga

Nicola Teague Grundy

Superintendent Lower North Island Synod



### Christmas Appeal Reminder

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

Thank you for your prayers and gifts at Christmas. Please make your [Christmas Appeal](#) donation today so families have food and dignity. Read the [latest](#) update on human elephant conflict in Sri Lanka.

Treasurers are reminded to please send parish offerings and donations for processing.



### Speaker Available

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

If you would like CWS or Tim, our National Director to speak in your church, please contact: [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)



### Gaza Palestine Appeal

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

Thank you for supporting the Gaza Palestine Appeal.

CWS has sent an initial \$59,000 to our partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees [providing practical support](#) in Gaza. Please pray for the war to end and support justice for all

people. [Donate today.](#)



### Jules Riding Concert

Mercury Bay Co-operating Parish

Distinguished writer and singer of Christian songs will perform in concert at St Andrew's at 7pm. 82 Albert Street, Whitianga.

This will be his only performance in Whitianga and we are privileged to welcome Jules to St Andrew's.

Admission is by koha, please spread the word.

For more information: [www.julesriding.com](http://www.julesriding.com)





### Türkiye Syria Earthquake One Year

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

Thank you for supporting the Türkiye Syria Earthquake Appeal.

February 6 marked the one year anniversary of the magnitude 7.8 earthquake. CWS has sent more than \$140,000 to help people affected in Türkiye and Syria. The situation remains challenging in both countries. Read the [report](#).



### "Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi."

Lifewise

"With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive."

This year's Koutu Community day was held on Saturday 27th January at Karenga reserve in Rotorua. It was more than just an event organised by Lifewise, but was also an opportunity to come together and celebrate the vibrant community that Lifewise Ki Te Arawa serves. The Koutu Community Day was about bringing the community together to connect with whanau, rangatahi and tamariki. Everyone was treated with free kai, entertainment, along with free barber cuts, Harley rides and games. It was used as an opportunity to highlight the work Lifewise does in the community - indigenous well-being, mental health and addictions, Māori Hauora, and homelessness.



### Kōrero Mai: Earth, Our Parish.

Te Aroha Rountree and George Zachariah (editors)

We will be launching our recent publication Kōrero Mai: Earth Our Parish, which is a congregational resource for the church, addressing climate justice.

It will be officially launched at the Service of Beginnings on Sunday 25 February 2024, at Trinity College.

For any further information or enquiries please contact:

**Te Aroha Rountree**

Email: [trountree@trinitycollege.ac.nz](mailto:trountree@trinitycollege.ac.nz)



### Rekindle the Va 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.

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





### Tell us what you think

Ady Shannon

Last year when we transitioned from a printed version of Touchstone to an online version, we promised to undertake a review in 2024.

If you haven't already responded, we invite you now to spend just a couple of minutes answering five questions regarding the relevance, format and content of Touchstone. Your feedback will be helpful as we consider how we communicate as a Connexion and as a church community. To access the survey online, [CLICK HERE](#).



### Methodist Lay Preachers Network

Viv Whimster

A warm invitation to all Lay Preachers, interested, in training or experienced, to join us for a zoom conversation and catch up.

#### Waikato Waiariki Methodist Synod is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Methodist Lay Preachers Network zoom

Time: Mar 13, 2024 07:00 PM Auckland, Wellington

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83881664530?pwd=eG1zRjdaMGFRdER4S0tOdi9KUGNoQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 8166 4530

Passcode: 374659

Please pass this on to any Lay Preachers who do not have email. They may be able to join up with someone on zoom locally for the evening.

More information from Viv Whimster [vjwhimster@gmail.com](mailto:vjwhimster@gmail.com), 07 578 6056 Or Ngaire Southon [ngaire@southon.net](mailto:ngaire@southon.net), 07 578 7119.



### Waitoki Community Church Centennial celebrations

Waitoki Community Church

The Methodist church in Waitoki (now part of the Whangaparaoa Parish) will celebrate its centenary over the weekend of 13-14 April 2024.

It will be celebrated with dinner and a special service. For details contact: Rev Andrew Gamman email: [gamman.am@gmail.com](mailto:gamman.am@gmail.com).

On 27 April 1924 the Waitoki Church opened using a building that had been transported by horse and wagon from the neighbouring gum-diggers settlement of Horseshoe Bush. Three days earlier the Waitoki School had been established in the same multi-use building.

Church services were held fortnightly on a Sunday afternoon. When a more spacious school room was added in 1939 the church used that until the growing congregation moved into the newly built Waitoki Hall in 1944. Twenty years later the church moved into its own building, a converted butcher's shop, and in 1975 the present church building (pictured) was erected.





## The New Zealand Hymnbook Trust has been collecting and publishing New Zealand hymns and songs for the last thirty years.

The New Zealand Hymnbook Trust

The New Zealand Hymnbook Trust has been collecting and publishing New Zealand hymns and songs for the last thirty years.

Beginning with "Alleluia Aotearoa" in 1993. The most recent collection, "Hope is our Song", was produced in 2009.

New Zealand has a great reputation by now as a fresh, interesting voice in the world of Christian music, with a considerable body of hymns sung and appreciated all over the world. Shirley Erena Murray and Colin Gibson have been huge contributors to this work.

No doubt there is a whole new generation of poets and musicians out there, giving glory to God with their music for worship!

This is a preliminary call to that generation of new writers. We are keen to know what's out there nowadays, with a view to compiling another collection. If you write hymns and songs, please make contact with us, so we can discuss further when the time comes.

Please contact [marnienzht@gmail.com](mailto:marnienzht@gmail.com).



## Nau mai Haere mai, Welcome Auckland Ecumenical Lay Preachers to our first gathering of 2024!!

Auckland Ecumenical Lay Preachers Association

Rev Lynne Wall's talk is on Year B : St Mark "Preaching the Gospel of Saint Mark. Why do we have four gospels? Why does Jesus keep asking people not to tell anyone about him? What are the main themes of Mark's gospel?"

**Date:** Saturday 6th April, 2024, 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Venue:** Wesley Roskill Methodist Church, 276 Mt Albert Road, Sandringham, 1041

Come along with your own questions as you prepare to preach from Mark, the lectionary gospel for 2024!

Lynne Wall has been a Methodist minister for over forty years. Some of her ministry has been in parishes, some in police chaplaincy and some teaching biblical studies at Trinity College and the University of Auckland. She holds a BA from Canterbury, a BD from Otago and a PhD from Birmingham University.

She is passionate about helping people to read the Bible with an understanding of the historical and literary contexts in which the various books were written. Lynne is married to Terry and they have three daughters and nine grandchildren. Now retired, they live in Tuakau and are actively involved in the Tuakau Union Parish.

Lynne's interests include family history, gardening, reading novels and biographies, music and film.

**Cost :** \$10 pay on the day. Please bring a plate for a shared Morning Tea. 9am cup of tea for a 9:30am start. Parking at the back of the church.

To RSVP email: [judy.mcfall@gmail.com](mailto:judy.mcfall@gmail.com)





## Covid-19 Lessons Learned – Let's share our stories

Trudy Downes

Four years. That is how long we have been living with Covid-19 and everybody has been affected by it.

It has been a journey of ups and downs. Remember the afternoons watching Aunt Cindy and Dr Bloomfield? The scary wait for test results before RATs became available?

The Government has its Covid-19 Royal Commission of Inquiry and it is time that we look at our own lessons. When another pandemic occurs, what can we do better? How can we look after each other better? How well did we perform as a Church?

Ideal feedback would be from a parish, rohe, group or whānau so that we can respond as a strong Connexion in the future. But all stories and feedback are welcome.

Below are links to an online submission form, pandemic timelines, MCNZ COVID-19 articles, and a link to live feedback sessions at the end of March.

The live feedback sessions will be recorded, but only for the purposes of ensuring that all feedback is captured, after which the recordings will be deleted.

All submitters' details will be treated confidentially.

I hope you can find the time to share your story.

Mauri ora!

TRUDY DOWNES

0800 266 639

[healthandsafety@methodist.org.nz](mailto:healthandsafety@methodist.org.nz)

### Resources

- [Online Submissions](#)
- [Our Timeline](#)
- [Government Timeline](#)
- [MCNZ Covid-19 Articles](#)
- Live feedback Zoom sessions over four days, Tuesday 19 March to Friday 22 March

[Click here on the day](#) 11.30am – 12.30pm



## Organ Recital by Hans Hielscher

Brian Ellis

World famous visiting organist from Wiesbaden Cathedral – Germany

At [Takapuna Methodist Church](#), 429 Lake Road, Takapuna.

4.00pm Sunday 18th February 2024

Entry by programme: Suggested donation of \$30

<https://takapuna.methodist.org.nz/category/events>







## Royal Commission of Inquiry into Covid-19 Lessons Learned | Te Tira Ārai Urutā

Trudy Downes

The COVID-19 pandemic affected all of us, and we were all – here or overseas – asked to undertake extraordinary actions during this time. There is a Royal Commission of Inquiry who want to hear about the wide range of experiences people had, and their observations of the pandemic, whatever they might be.

It is really important that those stories are heard. We need to take this opportunity to learn the lessons, both from our own experiences and from those overseas, so that we're as prepared as possible when another pandemic happens.

You can share your COVID-19 story with the Royal Commission and provide feedback on our terms of reference at <http://www.covid19inquiry.nz/>.

By sharing your COVID-19 story, you can contribute to the Inquiry's work to help Aotearoa prepare for future pandemics.

By providing feedback on the terms of reference, you can tell the Government if you think the Inquiry's terms of reference should be broadened.

You can take part in both consultations, or just one.

Submission forms and information about both consultations are available in English, New Zealand Sign Language, te reo Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Hindi, and Chinese. There is also accessible information about the process available in New Zealand Sign Language, Braille, Audio, Easy Read, and Large Print. Please note that some resources may not yet be available.

[Share your story.](#)

[Feedback on Terms of Reference](#)

[Royal Commission Website](#)



## Trusting the Voice Within

Megan Blakie

Thursday 14 March, 9.30am to 2.30pm, cost: \$70 includes morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea.

How has our faith been shaped by the lived-in experience of a female body?

Is God more than 'He'?

What is nurturing your faith now?

This day-time retreat gives voice to the diversity and similarities of women's faith experiences, which haven't always been honoured or acknowledged by our various faith communities/traditions. Bring along your experiences and a heart of discovery.

Register and details: <https://www.sistereretreat.com/event-details/trusting-the-voice-within>





## World Day of Prayer 2024

Gillian Southey

Women are preparing for this year's World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1. All are welcome to join local services throughout the country or use the materials for informed prayer. Local women's groups in more than 170 countries will use these resources to lead services and Bible studies in their communities.

This year's theme is taken from Ephesians 4, "I beg you... bear with one another in love". Palestinian women share their stories and perspectives in these resources. Throughout the liturgy, the olive tree provides a powerful symbol of hope.

A group of Palestinian Christian women spent four years crafting this year's materials - through the Covid pandemic but before the current hostilities. The women share their experience of writing, and talk about the current situation through a Global Conversation [recorded](#) on December 2, As one woman says in the video, our stories are sad, but their message is one of encouragement – no matter what happens, we need to bear with each other in love.

"Each year these resources are a gift, offering rare insights into women's lives. This year is no exception. The courage and strength of these women whose ancestors have lived in Palestine since the time of Jesus are a powerful source of hope. Please join us in prayerful action on March 1," says Pauline McKay, National Chairperson.

The World Day of Prayer is a global movement of Christian women who come together to celebrate in prayer and action on the first Friday in March. Begun in the USA and Canada in the nineteenth century, it became a global movement in 1927. The movement brings together women of many ages and ethnicities for prayer and action. National committees take turns at preparing the resources, building understanding and concern for women in many places.

Offerings at this year's services will support women's cooperatives on the West Bank set up with the assistance of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches, a local partner of Christian World Service, the Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy and a Bible Society programme for children and young people in Gaza and the West Bank as well as costs.

For more information on this year's services, contact your local World Day of Prayer organising group or Zella at [wdpnz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wdpnz@xtra.co.nz).

The resources including music, children's materials, a Bible Study on Ephesians 4: 1-3 and background are available [here](#).

Halima Aziz, a young Palestinian living in Germany, painted this year's artwork featuring three Palestinian women praying together in nature, a place of peace. The olive tree is a sign of everlasting and abundant life. The golden roots symbolise the Palestinian people who will always exist and stand up for their rights and freedom. The women wear traditional dress and hold keys as a symbol of their hope.

For more information, please contact: Pauline McKay, National Chairperson, [pauline\\_mckay@hotmail.com](mailto:pauline_mckay@hotmail.com) Mobile: 021 289 1225

**You are invited to participate in the World Day of Prayer on Friday, 1 March.**

The [resources](#) have been written by Palestinian women on the theme, "I beg you... bear with one another in love". Services are organised by local committees throughout the country and can be used in other services as part of this event. The [World Day of Prayer](#) is a longstanding global movement of Christian women committed to prayer and action.





### **A New Beginning in Ministry for Hawkes Bay Methodists.**

Joanne Gaudin, Parish Steward, Trinity Methodist Church Napier

25 years ago, Rev Epeli Taungapeau was the minister in the English speaking congregation. This was the only congregation who met at Trinity Methodist, Napier.

With his presence, a small Tongan congregation formed who became the Tongan Language Congregation with regular services sharing the Napier site.

Two then became three with the Korean Language Congregation & now we are four with the Fijian language congregation meeting at the Trinity Napier site.

Over time the congregations have shared Holy Communion services and special events with each other.

Now we are growing that connection more with the Tongan & English language Congregations welcoming Rev 'Ofa Taukolo into joint partnership of Ministry in the Hawkes Bay.

This is a new beginning for all. A shared ministry for the English congregation, a minister for the Tongan congregation and Rev 'Ofa Taukolo'a first church (& she gets two for the price of one.)

Even though Rev 'Ofa Taukolo's induction was on a very wet Sunday 29th January afternoon, the singing and meal shared together was not dampened at all. Rev 'Ofa's gift to us of the vaka is a fitting symbol of the journey ahead. In friendship.



### **Lifewise Chief Executive, Haehaetu Barrett, Makes Top 10 for New Zealander of the Year.**

Di MacDonald, Lifewise

Haehaetu Barrett, a finalist in the prestigious New Zealander of the Year awards, has earned recognition for her relentless commitment to combating social injustices and advocating for marginalised communities in Aotearoa.

Her journey began as a midnight worker at a hospital, where she witnessed the healthcare challenges faced by vulnerable individuals, inspiring her passion for making a difference. With a background in social work, she quickly rose to become a general manager by the age of 29.

Haehaetu's dedication to addressing social inequalities, particularly for Māori, led her to pursue a Business Management degree. Her advocacy for families caught the Ministry of Health's attention, propelling her into a leadership role for Māori Mental Health. Her upbringing in a Māori community in Rotorua, with a strong emphasis on fairness and support, shaped her passion for ensuring equity across communities.

Haehaetu's goal is to transform Lifewise into an informed, expert-led entity that partners with communities rather than merely providing services. Her commitment lies in holding government and local agencies accountable and not just applying for contracts but delivering tailored services.

Being a semi-finalist for New Zealander of The Year is a testament to her dedication, yet she remains humble, focusing on the impact she and her teams have had on people's lives. She values the pride of her parents, her children, grandchildren, and friends but, most importantly, the privilege of working with like-minded individuals who share her passion for the cause.

You can learn more about Haehaetu here: <https://www.lifewise.org.nz/new-zealander-of-the-year/>





## Methodist Mission Southern: Mental Health priority for 2024

Laura Black

The journey from adolescence to adulthood has always been complex. It's a time of growing independence, mad hormonal and body changes and the expression of sexuality, huge way-finding, considerable risk-taking, and burdened by the demand to make "rest of your life" choices.

Today's young people, however, are less likely than their parents to have had unmonitored independent time with peers, less likely to have spent recreational time outdoors, and much more likely to have been exposed to the considerable risks of unregulated social media. All of which are known to negatively impact the development of good mental health.

It is also a time for those who will experience them, when the first signs of major mood, anxiety, personality, trauma, eating, substance abuse, and psychotic disorders make their first appearances; sometimes in combination – young people will sometimes use of substances and alcohol to self-soothe the anxiety, low mood, and general jitters that they're already experiencing.

Methodist Mission Southern's three Youth Transition Houses (one of which is for Young Mums) provide accommodation and support for up to 17 rakatahi (young people) and in the case of Young Mums, up to 6 pēpi (babies) at any one time. For the 14 rakatahi without bubs, our expectation is that they will be in education while they stay with us – we are happy to help arrange that! – with our experience being that over a third are still in school when they move in.

Some arrive with mental health professionals already engaged. More arrive with undiagnosed mental health problems that they are at least partly aware of.

This is not surprising: homelessness is often an expression of a bunch of things going wrong. Poor mental health – outside of organic mental health disorders like schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder – frequently has a functional cause: something(s) significant has gone wrong. With the early stages of organic mental health disorders including behaviours that families find intolerable; it is likely that poor mental health can both contribute and be a response to the causes of youth homelessness.

Unfortunately, the early signs can be confused with just being a bit different, and there are good social reasons for young people to deny or pass off any sense they have of poor mental health.

And, for reasons surpassing belief, getting good professional support to rakatahi in a timely way when the wheels are starting to wobble, relies far too much on luck. Are the adults in your life attentive, available, and able? Are you lucky enough to live in a community that has support services with spaces available when you need them? Are those services visible to you? And are those resources skilled in your culture, focussed on your needs, willing to treat you as a whole person, and skilled at the work? Failing all of that, do you, by accident of birth, have access to the financial resources that may be needed to get good help?

Because without that, the risk for rakatahi is that their issue will snowball until services like our Youth Transition Houses are needed.

Laura Black  
Kaihautū Director

Please join The Methodist Mission Southern Supporters' Club.  
Be part of our story, our work, and our community.

Contact Julie [julier@mmsouth.org.nz](mailto:julier@mmsouth.org.nz)





## The inaugural service of the newly formed South Island Synod and the induction of Rev Dale Peach

Lyn Heine

On Saturday 27 January the inaugural service of the newly formed South Island Synod and the induction of Rev Dale Peach as Superintendent was held at Aldersgate, Durham Street, Christchurch.

With a wonderful musical beginning, hymns reflecting the various parts and hopes of the Synod, and finishing with the unaccompanied 'Ma te marie a te Atua' the service was filled with words and actions of meaning. President Peter performed the induction of Dale and then delivered the sermon speaking to the call and demands of

leadership and then having us sing 'When You Lead Us' that he wrote.

Synod was followed by the first School of Theology for the Synod, Te Kete Aroha o Waipounamu, and what a challenging, inspiring, stretching time that was. Our theme was Theology on the Edge and our four keynote speakers presented into this topic.

Dr Peter Lineham's presentations were titled Christianity on the Margins: Globally and Locally, and Life on the Edge: Discipleship in a New World.

Rev Tara Tautari spoke into the current decade theme of Te Haari Weteriana of Rekindling the Vā of Papatuanuku: Faith and Climate Justice.

Dr Kathleen Rushton pushed at the edges of our thinking and understanding with her presentation Using the Prologue of John's Gospel to uncover how we are called to participate with Jesus in "finishing the works" of God.

Dr David Tombs took us into the dark space of Jesus' suffering speaking to Jesus Experience of Sexual Abuse: Biblical and Pastoral Perspectives.

In addition to the keynote speakers there were also four workshop presentations: Exploring Mental Health Through Pastoral and Theological Perspectives with Dr Matthew Croucher and Dr Lucy D'Aeth; Theology at the Edges: Being Church But Differently with Rev Darryn Hickling and Heather Simpson; Looking at the Second Testament Through a Jewish Lens with Rev Janet Marsh; and Liturgy at the Edge with Rev David Poultney.

Generous support from the Methodist Prince Albert College fund ensured that costs were kept low and the setting at Aldersgate with its amazing catering was appreciated by all. Feedback overwhelmingly supports the continuation of Te Kete Aroha o Waipounamu and the organising committee have a desire to do this.

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## The James and Martha Trounson Benevolent Trust

Mary West, Trust Convener

The James and Martha Trounson Benevolent Trust reminds applicants that the 2024 guidelines and application form are available on the [MCNZ website](#) or from the Trust convener Mary West [maryw@west.net.nz](mailto:maryw@west.net.nz)

PLEASE read the guidelines when you consider making an application.





## Climate Justice Working Group Calendar for 2024

Climate Justice Working Group

Thank you to all members of Te Haahi who have purchased our 2024 Climate Justice calendar. There are still a few English copies available. It is not too late to have this informative and attractive addition for your wall.

Each calendar costs \$15 - orders of 10 or more cost \$10 each. A digital copy costs \$5. Place your order now!

### Orders

Email [Cjwg.calendars@methodist.org.nz](mailto:Cjwg.calendars@methodist.org.nz)

### Payment

Internet banking. Credit the Connexional office account 02-0800-0766004-03 and use "calendar" as the reference and your name as the code.

Invoices can be arranged for bulk orders only. Please advise when placing your order if an invoice is needed.

### USE THIS ORDER FORM

Please supply me/us with the Climate Justice Calendar for 2024. (Indicate the number of copies and complete details below)

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Digital copy \_\_\_\_\_ (specify language required)

### Delivery method (select one)

- By post
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### Payment method (select one)

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