



# **e-messenger**

*The Methodist Church of New Zealand ~ Te Hāhi Weteriana O Aotearoa*

*"Our Church's Mission in Aotearoa New Zealand is to reflect and proclaim the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the world. The Treaty of Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing relationship, and will guide how we undertake mission".*

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**July 2006**

# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

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As I sit to write this the fog has thickened yet again here in Hamilton. I send you good wishes from President John who is away in Australia, to attend the Uniting Church of Australia Assembly.

Since the June emessenger, many parts of the South Island have been experiencing severe cold weather. Those of us who were less affected were conscious of the discomfort you were experiencing.

Reading and watching the TV as it showed the icy roads in Dunedin, reminded me that I fell on black ice on Taeiri Road and broke my 'tail bone' many years ago!

President John visited the Manawatu Region in late June, and enjoyed the visit.

The Presidency Review Group met to consolidate the report that has to be available for all August Synods.

This document has been completed and will be distributed from the Connexional office. We ask that the August Synods allow plenty of time for discussion. It will be helpful if the President can receive the responses promptly, these will then be collated for the report to Conference 2006.

Thank you

What has Mary been spending her time doing in the past 4 weeks?

The Diakonate meeting at Papamoa was a good experience for me.

As I had a heavy cold I decided to go 1 day later than planned. My husband Peter then decided to accompany me, and he was made very welcome.

I shared 2 sessions with the participants. We really enjoyed the fellowship with the Deacons and those who support their work and interests. Everyone enjoyed a meal at a Chinese restaurant.

I chose to attend the Central South Island School of Theology in Christchurch. This was the day after the 'big snow'. There was still the remains of a snowman on the church grounds several days later.

I did not learn all I had anticipated to about the Muslim faith, so now I am following this up with some reading. BUT the positive part for me was the interacting with people, many of whom had only been names or were unknown to me previously.

With both the Diakonate and the School of Theology members I shared as Vice President, that I am enjoying writing letters to members with celebrations or bereavements or ill health.

This idea was well received and I have heard of several new concerns which have been actioned.

**Please** keep giving me information; again it comes back to Communication, so often a weak point for us. I often receive replies, each of which have appreciated care from the wider Church. Often it is the negative that people remark on, so please join with me as I try to touch the members in local parishes. I hope that Methodists can be seen as the people who do care.

As we try to keep warm, I ask you to remember and pray for the 18 women from NZMWF who will be at the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women's Assembly, to be held in Korea. WFM&UCW was the dream of Helen Kim of Korea, so this will be a very special time of celebration

They will be trying to keep cool!

Sincerely

MARY

# Congratulations

..to Mervyn Stanley Rosser in the Mt Albert Congregation who has been awarded the NZ Order of Merit for services to Tertiary Education and Community.

## Pitt Street Methodist Church 1866-2006

*Share with us in celebrating 140 years of worship  
and witness in Auckland*

**13-15 October 2006**

Please contact us if you would like an information sheet -

Pitt Street Celebration

PO Box 68 184

Newton

Auckland 1145

Telephone (09) 373 2869

[www.methodistcentral.org.nz](http://www.methodistcentral.org.nz)

Email: [info@methodistcentral.org.nz](mailto:info@methodistcentral.org.nz)

## the weekend

Camp Morely - 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> July  
Clarks Beach, South Auckland

Time to Retreat

Relax

Reflect

Reconnect

Re-energise

For Lay and Ordained

### “The Hope I Have Within Me”

Sponsored by the Evangelical Network of the Methodist church

#### Two events in one

Friday Afternoon: “Ministers Refresher”

Starting Friday Evening: “The Weekend”

**For a registration form and more information  
contact the Connexional Office –  
[info@methodist.org.nz](mailto:info@methodist.org.nz)**



**New on the website at**

[www.methodist.org.nz/index.cfm/Archives](http://www.methodist.org.nz/index.cfm/Archives)

Under the Archives section of the Methodist Church website, some new information has recently been added.

It is my intention to try and make indexes and information relating to the Archives Collection available on our website as they are transformed into electronic format.

This means anyone with access to a computer can get an idea of what we hold in the Collection (both in Christchurch and Auckland), how to contact us, research fees and charges, services we offer and our Archives policy.

Our most recent posting on the website is the list of New Zealand Ministers, probationers, deacons, deaconesses, overseas workers and home missionaries in memoriam. This list has been included in the printed Conference Minutes each year, but until now, has not been widely available to researchers looking for information about their Methodist ancestors.

*Jo Smith*

Archivist

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

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## Mt Albert Methodist Church 1866-2006 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations September 16<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 2006

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept:

**DINNER & DANCE EVENING**

at 'The Springs' Restaurant

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept

**OPENING SERVICE** - Rev Elizabeth Hopner  
(Theme: Hospitality)

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept

**DISPLAY DAY** - Embroidery,  
Floral Art, Visual Arts with musical  
Entertainment from a variety of  
groups

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept

**CONCLUDING SERVICE** - Rev Keith Rowe

**A warm invitation is extended to all past and present members and friends to attend these functions.**

The Dinner and Dance Evening requires pre-paid tickets - \$35 per head.  
For the remainder a donation will be acceptable.

For further information please phone Rev Liz Hopner @ (09) 849 5174  
or Mervyn Rosser @ (09) 627 9509.



## *"We are all in it together"*

*A message to Southland from the Lindisfarne Methodist Centre, Invercargill*

Iris Lankshear's funeral and the celebration of her life was at the Lindisfarne Methodist Centre on 19 July. She had died peacefully, as she would have wished, sitting quietly in her favourite chair as she waited for her husband Peter, to take her to a hair dressing appointment. She had continued her administration of stewardship records and her involvement in parish activities until the day of her death. For more than six years Iris had had sustained her determination to live life as fully as possible in spite of invasive bone cancer. Her heart finally failed her and she died suddenly.

Two years ago Iris was asked to write a short testimony to the paramount importance of her Christian faith. This was read during a morning service at Lindisfarne on 16 May, 2004. It was read again at her funeral as her personal affirmation to each person there.

This is her message of faith:

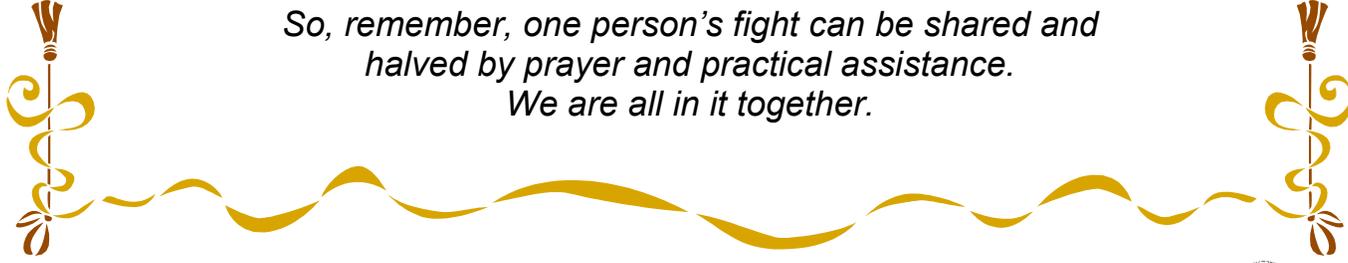
*I don't blame God for me being ill and nobody chooses to be ill. We are all born with genes that determine who we are— good genes and bad genes. There just needs to be something which triggers a bad gene and we suffer an illness – in my case it is cancer.*

*Help is available to me from modern medicine and there are doctors, specialists, hospice and community nurses and others using their skills to help me in my fight to be well.*

*It may be that I am not destined to be back where I was in health but we don't give up the effort.*

*Help comes from my husband first of all, and the good people in the church – the friends who pray for me here at Lindisfarne and bring practical gifts of food; the people on the prayer chain at our church; my sister's church in the North Island; my friend's church in Australia and in other places where individuals think about and pray for me. The strength this gives me to carry on fighting is such that I couldn't carry on without it*

*So, remember, one person's fight can be shared and halved by prayer and practical assistance. We are all in it together.*



REMEMBER

# In your Prayers

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It is with deep regret and sadness that Te Taha Maori informed the Connexion that former **Minita-a-lwi Tata John Keepa** passed away on Tuesday 13th June.

His funeral was held at Maketu Marae, Kawhia on Saturday 17th June at 11am.  
We extend our aroha and prayers to Marie and the family.

~

**Iris Lankshear** passed away suddenly on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June. She had been unwell and struggling for many years but has soldiered on very bravely and uncomplainingly.

Her funeral was held at 1.30pm, Monday 19th June at the Lindisfarne Methodist Centre, Invercargill. Messages can be sent to 292 Racecourse Road, Invercargill.

~

**Sister Olive Money**, who spent 3 years in the Solomon Islands as Secretary to the Chairman of the Mission from 1954 - 1957, died peacefully at Matamata Country Lodge on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately her service overseas had to end after 3 years because of ongoing health problems.

Olive's funeral service was held on Friday 23 June at 11am in the Morrinsville Methodist Church. Messages can be sent to Edna Money, 22 Willow Grove, Morrinsville.

~

It is with deep regret and sadness that Te Taha Maori informs the Connexion that **Minita-a-lwi Ripia Rountree** passed away on Sunday 2nd July 2006.

Her funeral was held on Wednesday 5th July 2006 at 10am.

We extend our aroha and prayers to Sarah, Gillian, Iriana, Rau, Te Aroha and Taura and her mokopuna.  
Any messages can be sent to Gillian Laird, 73 Opaheke Road, Papakura, Auckland.

~

The sad news was received on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of July of the death of **Prince Tuipelhake**, the nephew of the King of Tonga, and his wife the Princess Kaimana. The Prince and Princess were killed in a motor vehicle accident in San Francisco, USA.

Details of the funeral are not yet known.

President John Salmon and Vice President Mary extend their sympathy to all members of Vahefonua and all members of the Tongan community.

# Methodist Mission & Ecumenical

*Newsletter July 2006*

Secretary: John Roberts, 22a Penney Avenue, Mt Roskill, Auckland.

Phone 09-626-3771 Fax: 09-626-6137 E-mail [mm-e@clear.net.nz](mailto:mm-e@clear.net.nz)

## Solomons Church Women's assembly

More than fifty women gathered at Titiana, Tungavlu Region, in June for the Solomon Islands United Church Women's Fellowship (UCWF) third assembly. The meeting, which is held every three years, brought together the UCWF regional leaders and maramas (ministers wives) to consider issues concerning the fellowship. The theme of the conference was "Life's First Giving to God is a Blessing". In his opening message, United Church Moderator David Havea challenged the UCWF members on giving to God the best, the best of time, and opportunities. He urged the women to continue to carry out the decisions of the meeting when they returned to their regions and congregations. The week long conference also had speakers on programme planning and communication.

The conference concluded with the election of new office bearers: President Suzie Amon, Vice-president Kuria Hughes, Secretary Gloria Sibisopere, Treasurer Alison Simbe. Outgoing president Pose Talasasa said the commitment of the UCWF members was what kept the work of UCWF active in the regions. She urged members to continue the team spirit and continue to let God lead them in their work for UCWF as new office bearers take up their responsibilities. Mrs Suri, President of the Anglican Mothers Union, told the conference that she was there to strengthen the relationship of the United Church and the Anglican Church of the Solomon Islands by being with the women "Having women from different church women's groups join sisters of other churches not only fosters good ecumenism but enables empowerment when women share and learn from each other," Mrs Suri said.

*Solomon Star 14 June 2006*

## People in the life of the Solomon Islands church

**Hetty Bea** is a health education officer at Helena Goldie Hospital. In May 1958 in preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to the Solomon Islands, she travelled to Honiara to record the popular song 'Walk about long Chinatown'. The song was to be recorded and presented to the Duke during his visit. Hetty was a member of the well known band "Solomon Dakei and his Solomon Islanders" that first recorded and popularised the song. Visiting Honiara in June 2006 for medical attention after dislocating her shoulder, Hetty walked through the ruins of Chinatown, recalling the popular song. "I was in tears just walking through the ruins today because I recalled those days where we know just about everybody on this street. The original Chinatown is where I hang out a lot during my younger days and it was really sad now coming back to Honiara only to see Chinatown in ruins." (Chinatown was destroyed in the events of Black Tuesday 19 April 2006.) Recalling the recording of the song Hetty said, "There was only one microphone for us to sing into and the instruments used then were one steel guitar, one ukelele and one electric guitar. There were no drums or all these fancy instruments we now have today." Last year she was surprised when friends gave her a copy of the song on a CD. "I never knew that it can be done in a CD because those days our music was only produced on records. The only problem now is having a CD player so I can listen to it." Hetty was only 19 when the song was recorded. She now has four children, sixteen grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

United Church Minister **Mareta Tahu** and Youth and Sunday School coordinator **Caleb Saiqoro** attended a trainers workshop on adult learning in Samoa in May. Mareta has called for greater attention to be given to adult learning in the Solomon islands. She said training of adults is very important especially for those in leadership roles. "There are barriers to learning, different learning styles and also differences in adult and children's learning which adult educators should know about." Mareta said she and Caleb are prepared to conduct seminars on adult learning on request and are very interested and willing to share what they have gained from their recent training in Samoa.

Rev **Jansan Beti**, Chaplain at Helena Goldie Hospital, has applauded the recent initiative of inducting the newly elected members of parliament is at Wesley United Church in Honiara. However he was disappointed that not all 50 Members of Parliament attended the service. "They must justify their reasons for not attending to the people who mandated them to be their representatives in parliament." Rev Beti said "The first public statement of Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare after his election, when he handed the Solomon Islands to God, is well appreciated by all Christians and this was confirmed by his presence in the induction service. I personally appeal to all good Christians of Solomon Islands of whatever denomination to pray for Gods Guidance and wisdom upon our Leaders," he said.

Eye doctors **John Szetu**, **Mudi Qalo** and **John Hue** from the National Referral Hospital in Honiara recently visited the Helena Goldie with a team of nurses. It was the first such visit in eight years. They treated more than 300 patients.

*News items from "Solomon Star"*

## Rebuilding Rarongo

Work parties organised by the Uniting International Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia will return to Rarongo Theological College of the United Church in Papua New Guinea in 2007 to complete work begun in 2005. Mission and Ecumenical contributed \$16,000 to materials for that effort. The Mt Albert and Waitakere Parishes contributed \$2,000 of that amount. As a young man Ken Skinner was sponsored by Mt Albert Parish to join a work party that built the original structures of Rarongo Theological College. Now a member of Waitakere Parish, Ken is keen that a group of New Zealanders should join the Australian organised work parties in 2007. Ken can be contacted by phone at 09-8185520, or e-mail: [kenbren@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:kenbren@slingshot.co.nz)

The work carried out in 2005 has made a big difference, with a new optimism and hope apparent in students and staff. The work parties in 2007 will take place April to May when the focus will be on: the sewerage system, water engineering; electrical supply, painting of buildings, repairs to the library and administration buildings, building of a new dormitory block and a multi-purpose building. Members of the work party will need to be prepared to meet travel costs: Auckland to Brisbane, Brisbane to Port Moresby, and Port Moresby to Rabaul. Some accommodation and food costs will also have to be met.

## New programme directions for WCC

Following the World Council of Churches recent assembly in Porto Alegre, new programme directions together with a framework for activities have been agreed on. The Assembly had called on the WCC to work on a limited range of issues where the WCC could play a unique and global role. The WCC's activities have been grouped into six areas:

- WCC and the ecumenical movement in the 21st century;
- unity, mission and spirituality;
- public witness;
- justice and diakonia;
- ecumenical and faith formation;

- interreligious dialogue and cooperation.

Detailed plans for activities, staffing and budgets are now being worked on. Welcoming these decisions, WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia said that the programme framework "prepares the ground for a more integrated and pro-active style of work in the WCC as we prepare to confront the new challenges of the 21st century". A communication strategy to raise the public profile of the Council and to ensure that communication is a dimension of all programmatic activity is to be pursued. A permanent body on youth participation in the Council is being set up.

WCC Press release 24 May 2006

### Olive Money

Olive Money who served as secretary to John Metcalf, the Chairman of the Solomon Islands District of the Methodist Church 1954-56, died on 19 June at Matamata aged 93 years. Her service in the Solomons was cut short by ongoing health problems. MM&E gives thanks for Olive's life and work and extends sympathy to her sister Edna.

"Finally brothers,  
Whatever is *true*, **noble**, *right*,  
**PURE**, *lovely*, **ADMIRABLE**,  
if anything is *excellent* or  
**praiseworthy**, think on these  
things."

~Philippians 4:8~



30 July 2006 is "Media Prayer Day"  
throughout New Zealand

On **Sunday 30 July**, all NZ Christians have a unique opportunity to join together in prayer for their fellow-Christians in television, radio, film, electronic media and print.

Churches of every denomination are invited to take a few minutes of their Sunday service on 30 July to pray for the Christian message to be communicated through New Zealand's mass media.

Check out [www.mediaprayerday.org.nz](http://www.mediaprayerday.org.nz) for more details and for creative ideas for adding a 'media focus' to your Sunday service on Media Prayer Day.

To order resources, or if you have any questions, please email [info@mediaprayerday.org.nz](mailto:info@mediaprayerday.org.nz) or phone **0800 PRAYER**

The organisers of Media Prayer Day would greatly appreciate you letting them know if you plan to participate (regardless of whether or not you require printed materials). Please email [info@mediaprayerday.org.nz](mailto:info@mediaprayerday.org.nz) to let them know. Thanks!

Media Prayer Day has been organised by CBA (Christian Broadcasting Association) with the support of every Christian denomination in NZ.

## *World Council of Churches*

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### INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN BODIES WELCOME ADOPTION OF NEW HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

For many years WACC has supported the communication rights movement and, in particular, the strengthening and implementation of rights for indigenous people. WACC's members worldwide will be greatly encouraged by this positive and constructive move by the UN Human Rights Council and fully endorses both the new Convention and Declaration.

International church and ecumenical organizations have welcomed the adoption of a new International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, both of which were agreed at the inaugural session of the UN Human Rights Council which concluded in Geneva on 30 June 2006.

Five church-related organizations - the World Council of Churches (WCC), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Franciscans International, Dominicans for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International - had earlier submitted a joint statement to the UN Council urging the adoption of

these measures, and have been at the forefront of civil society advocacy on these issues in recent years.

The full text of the joint written submission is available at:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/index.php?id=2299&L=0>

Information on WCC work in the area of human rights is available on the WCC website at: <http://wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/international/humrts.html>

## *Christian World Service*

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### **Wipe Out Poverty Week 2006**

It's time to "Wipe out Poverty!" Start planning your youth group's activities for this year's Wipe Out Poverty Week, 4-10 September. Wipe Out Poverty Week, CWS's annual fundraising event for young people, is an opportunity to combine fun and service through fundraising art auctions, car washes, cake stalls, chocolate sales, mufti days, and much more. This year, funds raised will support people taking action against poverty in Nicaragua, where 80% of families earn less than \$3.50 a day. Contact Liz Whitehead ([youth@cws.org.nz](mailto:youth@cws.org.nz) or 0800 74 73 72) to register and receive a free kit to help plan your event.

### ***A Unique Voice from Palestine***

CWS is pleased to be hosting a short visit by Dr Bernard Sabella - Palestinian, Christian, Member of Palestinian Legislative Council. Bernard works with CWS partner, the Middle East Council of Churches' Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (who were recipients of the MWF special project last year). He will be in New Zealand for a few days following engagements in Australia and will address public meetings in Christchurch and Wellington. You are invited to:

- Christchurch meeting: Wednesday 26 July 7.30pm, Knox centre, Bealey Ave
- Wellington meeting: Thursday 27 July 12:15, St Andrew's on the Terrace

Contact CWS for more details, [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz)

### ***Timor Leste Update***

The CWS appeal for Timor Leste remains open. CWS's Timor partner, the Dominican Sisters, have been running a programme for children and young people that provides shelter, food production and vocational training. Since the violence broke out, they have been sheltering an additional 1,200 people fleeing from the fighting and destruction. Their youth training facility supported by CWS has been damaged. They are seeking funds for food, bedding, mosquito nets, clothing, household utensils, water containers, food and housing repairs. To donate ph 0800 74 73 72 or go to [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz)

# SITUATIONS VACANT

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THE INTERCHURCH COUNCIL FOR HOSPITAL  
CHAPLAINCY AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND  
*Te Kaunihera Whakawhanaunga  
o nga Minita Hohipera, Hauora*

## HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN AUCKLAND CITY HOSPITAL

Applications are sought from experienced chaplains and other suitably qualified ordained clergy for a full-time ecumenical position at **Auckland City Hospital** working primarily in the **Cardiovascular** and **Oncology Services** and on-call to the **Epsom Day Clinic**. The position is **funded by the Anglican Church** and is being offered on the basis of a 3 year term initially.

The Auckland District Health Board Hospitals have almost two million patient contacts annually and provide regional services for 30 per cent of New Zealand's population. Helping patients with their health needs is the priority of more than 7,500 staff who form the Board's clinical care community.

Applicants should have completed a minimum of one CPE Course and must have experience in hospital chaplaincy, parish or other relevant ministry positions. The ability to provide Christian ministry and spiritual health care to people with a range of health needs and from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds, and to participate in a multi-disciplinary health care team, consistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, is essential.

The successful applicant will become a member of a very busy ecumenical chaplaincy team of full and part-time chaplains, supporting patients, families and staff in the Auckland City Hospital.

An appointee who is not already an accredited healthcare chaplain will be required to work towards obtaining accreditation. Chaplains are now required to become accredited within 5 years of appointment.

**The closing date for the receipt of applications is Monday 7 August 2006.**

An information pack is available from:

The National Executive Officer  
Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy  
PO Box 6427  
WELLINGTON 6141

Phone: 04-801 8008  
Fax: 04-381 4842  
E-mail: [admin@ichc.org.nz](mailto:admin@ichc.org.nz)

JULY AMENDMENTS

TO THE YEARBOOK

Ministers Addresses

Page 48:

1971	2000	<b>West, Peter J L</b> 8 Sherwood Drive, Pukete, Hamilton 2001	[O/H] 07 850 5711 [Em] peter@west.net.nz	3110
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Ecumenical Boards & Committees

White Pages

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**UNITING CONGREGATIONS OF AOTEAROA NZ (Forum of Cooperative Ventures):**

**Executive Officer:** John Jones, PO Box 9049, Wellington, (75 Taranaki St), Ph 04 384 3587  
Fax: 04 384 3587, [Em] [office@ucanz.org.nz](mailto:office@ucanz.org.nz)

**If you have any articles, news or information for next month's e-Messenger,**  
you can send them in to Hannah Flinn at the Christchurch Connexional Office:

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

Postal: PO Box 931, Christchurch