



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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June 2008



Official Communications

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT

Are the wheels falling off?

Someone recently asked whether the wheels are falling off the Methodist Church of New Zealand?

Some places definitely need different sets of wheels for changing conditions: like wet weather treads and snow chains in extreme conditions. Others need retreads to get a better grip in the same situation.

But the wheels falling off the whole Church vehicle? Not in our book!

Commissioner John Hinchcliff is suggesting some different ways of organising ourselves as a Church and particularly in regard to Ministry Education and Formation, and Mission Resourcing.

Responses to these proposals should be made to the Commissioner by the end of June at the latest so that his revisions can be considered by Synods and Boards etc in early August. No proposed changes will be brought to Conference in November without prior consultation with those affected.

We do live in tougher times to build and sustain groups and congregations. Many people appear more interested in browsing than joining; more interested in “*me first*” than the “*common good*”. This means that many Parishes and parts of the Church have to consider travelling lighter in terms of people, property and expenses.

Ministers have to become more team enablers than do it all oneself and the Church as a whole has to take far more seriously the ministry of all believers. But the challenge is being taken up and the Church is adapting amazingly quickly in some places.

On adaption, the recent annual orientation course for Ministers on transfer to our Church or those undertaking new responsibilities, went particularly well. Whilst Barbara was helping input at the course, Brian and Terry Wall (*Faith & Order Convenor*), were attending (*and speaking*) at the Anglican General Synod during the reception and acceptance of a Covenant between the Anglican and Methodist Churches. Now it's our turn at Conference in November to consider the same proposal. Other ecumenical possibilities will be explored at a meeting in Wellington on 13 June of Church Leaders from Communion historically committed to working together. The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, the Rev. Dr Sam Kobia, has written strongly

endorsing this conversation and offering an international inter-church “*living letters*” team visit to Aotearoa – New Zealand in the near future.

Meanwhile, over the winter and into the spring, the six Churches that comprise the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services are working hard at ensuring the future of the poor and vulnerable in our communities is on the election agenda. Entitled “*Aroha Tetahi Ki Tetahi – Let Us Look After Each Other*”, the programme is presently highlighting the need to help families and communities to nurture and protect our children.

As a separate but related activity, 30 May was “*Hoodie Day*”, an occasion to support youth by wearing a hoodie, which Brian, along with other community leaders, did most of the day! (See the photo below!).

As a distinctly Methodist activity, both of us attended the annual Wesley Dinner & Lecture at Trinity St Johns College in Auckland. Rev. Donald Phillipps delivered the lecture and the evening was also an occasion to thank and farewell the Rev. Dr Lynne Wall following her nine years of dedicated teaching as the Ranston Lecturer in Biblical Studies.

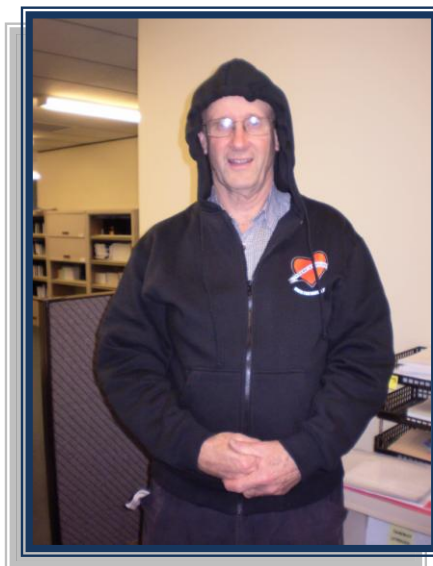
Brian went on to Wesley Sunday Services at Tauranga and Hamilton and Barbara to services in Papakura (*marking brother Bill’s 50 years as a Lay Preacher*) and Christchurch.

With over 50% of the membership of the New Zealand Methodist Church in Co-operative Ventures/Union Parishes, it’s a continuing challenge to maintain the distinctiveness of the Methodist heritage (*alongside other traditions*), in Co-operating Ventures. Withdrawal and going it alone is not a real option despite some loose talk to this effect in some regions.

We remain committed to journeying together with partner Churches in every possible area of work and witness. Dual wheel bases usually result in far better traction than single ones!

Grace and Peace,

Brian and Barbara



Last week many of us from Christchurch attended the funeral of the late Mabel Grocott. Mabel died peacefully aged 100 years having celebrated her birthday in January. This was a wonderful event with family and friends gathering to celebrate a life lived to the full.

Listening to the tributes for Mabel led me to reflect on the hundreds of people who quietly go about ministry on behalf of our Church touching the lives of many in our Church and communities. These people do not seek recognition or thanks, but are in fact living out in their daily lives our belief as Te Haahi that "*every member is a minister*". I hope that local Churches take time occasionally in a more formal setting to acknowledge and thank those whose contributions are essential to our ongoing life and mission in the world.

Presbyters On The Move

Two of our presbyters are on the move. The Rev Jacquie Cavit from South Kaipara Cooperating Parish has been appointed to the North Shore Hospital Chaplaincy Team commencing 14 July. Jacqui also returns to the care of the Presbyterian Church. The Methodist Church thanks her for the years she has given to our Church.

The Rev Ian MacLeod from Rangiora has been appointed chaplain at Timaru Hospital beginning in July.

We extend our best wishes to Jacqui and Ian as they begin their new ministries.

Charities Act Registration

Thanks to all those in the Church who have prepared registrations on behalf of the many parts of the Church who are required to register. There are some small details to be finalized between the Commission and the Church so don't panic if registration has not yet been confirmed. This applies particularly to Parishes and Synods. The Connexional Office Staff, the Legal Adviser and the Commission Staff are working to resolve any outstanding details in the next week.

Connexional Budget

Thanks to the efforts of many Parishes and Synods giving an additional grant towards the Connexional Budget 2007/8. We are delighted to report that a full 100% payment will be made to all asking groups.

~Jill



conference update

**2008 Methodist Church Conference, from 12.30pm Saturday 8th to 3.00pm
Wednesday 12th November 2008**

***When making bookings remember to take into account the 9.00am start for
the Friday meetings***

The Conference Arrangements Committee is looking forward to welcoming you to Conference 2008 in Manukau.

Stationing Committee will meet at the Mangere Church Bader Drive on Thursday 6th November from 10.00am until 5.00pm.

Te Taha Maori/Tauivi meetings will be held at Lotofaleia Tongan Methodist Church, 34 Orly Ave, Mangere from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The Introduction to Conference will be held on Saturday 8th November at 10.00am in the Mangere Church Bader Drive. Transport from hotels will be provided.

The weekend activities will be held at Wesley College Paerata (transport will be provided from hotels to the College for out of town Conference members) and include:

Saturday 8th November (*Once the Powhiri commences, events will flow on so the times given are approximate*).

- 12.30pm The Powhiri including the induction of the new General Secretary and acknowledgement of those who have died. It is suggested that people have lunch before they come or bring a picnic lunch to Wesley College.
- 1.45pm Induction of the President and Vice President followed by afternoon tea.
- 4.30pm Acknowledgement of those retiring.
- 6.00pm Conference dinner (bookings required).
- 7.30pm Concert finishing 10.00pm approx (*open to everyone who would like to come*).

Sunday 9th November (*Once the Ordination commences, events will flow on so the times given are approximate*).

- 2.00pm Ordination followed by afternoon tea.
- 4.15pm Interest groups.
- 5.30pm to 6.30pm Business Committees.
- The Evangelical Network and the Liberal Society will be planning an evening activity details to come.

You will need to make your own accommodation arrangements, well in advance. We have received an excellent deal from the Venturer Hotel which is included below. **There will be other options notified by separate email.** Please follow the booking instructions as printed. When you make your reservation, please advise that you will be attending the Methodist Conference.

The Ventura Hotel has offered the following deal to Conference delegates, we have held 50 rooms so get in quickly if you wish to secure your booking.

Accommodation Booking for Conference

The following accommodation is being held at:

Ventura Inn

*Mangere
Auckland*

Rooms	Beds	Price
12 x Deluxe Studio Rooms	1 x King Bed	\$109 for 2 persons
16 x Standard Studio Rooms	1 x Queen Bed & 1 x Single Bed	\$99 for 2 persons, \$10 for 1 additional person, (max 3 sharing existing bedding)
16 x Standard Studio Rooms	2 x Queen Beds	\$99 for 2 persons, \$10 per additional person (max 4 sharing existing bedding)
6 x Standard Suite	1 x King Bed & 1 x Double Sofa Bed	\$125 for use of King Bed only, \$20 if using Sofa Bed

The above rates include Continental Buffet Breakfast & Airport Transfers if necessary.

A maximum of 11 people per ½ hour can be transported at any one time. Please advise at the time of booking if you require a transfer.

Please note: All bookings are on a pay on departure basis. You may be required to provide a credit card number at the time of booking as a guarantee.

Group Reference: 100464 (must be quoted when booking).

All bookings are to be made with Raewyn by email aklairport.conferences@venturainns.co.nz, Phone 09 275 4540 or Fax 09 275 4546. Please ensure any faxes are marked to the attention of Raewyn.

**Please note General Reception cannot handle these bookings
and must be done via Raewyn.**

Conference Registration Forms

This year Conference Registration Forms are going to be emailed out in early July and will also be available for download on the website. We will advise closer to the time of the exact date of distribution. This is to save on the cost of postage and make use of the technology that we have. Those eligible to attend Conference who do not have an email address may request a form by mail.

Please contact Amy at the Connexional Office amys@methodist.org.nz if you have any registration queries.



News from Around the Connexion

SUMMER OR WINTER---IT'S A HEAVENLY SPOT!

Nestled between the trees, shrubs and flower gardens near the end of Kings Road in Paihia is the Bay of Islands Co-operating Parish Centre for Re-Creation. Close to the beach, shops, wharf and tourist attractions.

This inspired vision of a partnership between Parish and community began in 1997 and after 18 months of hard work, passion and commitment the Centre was officiously opened in November, 1998.

There are three components to the Centre: worship, social outreach and education. These components provide the Parish and community with spiritual, social, physical, mental and, intellectual RE-CREATION.

Worship is held each Sunday at 9/15am in the modern building which is also available to hire for meetings, workshops, retreats etc. There are kitchen and toilet facilities and seating for up to 100 people. A small library/office on site is also available for hire.

Serenity Cottage and Totara House are fully self contained with two bedrooms each, washing machine, television, and microwave. Food and personal items are all guests need to bring.

Serenity Cottage is dedicated to provide Time Out for those in need and referred to the Centre Manager by a recognized sponsoring organization. The bathroom area has been designed, along with external access, for those confined to a wheelchair.

Totara House provides accommodation for those with special skills who wish to stay at the Centre to lead retreats, workshops or conduct Sunday services.

Both cottages may also be available to the general public when holidaying or attending an event in Paihia. The accommodation rates paid help to subsidize the Time Out component.

In April this year Gail Robinson took over as the Centre Manager when the Manager of five years, Dawn Hatchard, retired. Gail lives on site and is available and delighted to answer any enquiries face to face, by phone or email.

“THE CENTRE FOR RE-CREATION IS A TRULY BEAUTIFUL SPOT TO UNWIND, RELAX, REVITALISE AND TO RE-CREATE ONESELF SPIRITUALLY, EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY”

35 Kings Road, Paihia

Phone 094028125 or 0211207861

Email Paihia-cfrc@igrin.co.nz

Investing in the Future



PAC Distribution Group Applications 2008

The PAC Distribution Group invites Rohe, Districts, Sinoti Samoa, Vahefonua Tonga, Wasewase Ko Viti, Missions, Parishes, and other groups within the life of the Church, and groups outside the Church, to submit stories and applications for this year's distribution.

Any group's application or story should set out the group's vision for the project as well as how it fits with this year's theme. Particularly, applications and stories should address what the group is doing that is about investing in the future, and how their project is going to contribute to securing the future.

For a copy of the 2008 Distribution Theme or more information visit the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.nz or contact the Connexional Office – info@methodist.org.nz or (03) 366 6049.

Stories must be submitted to the General Secretary, Methodist Church of New Zealand, P.O. Box 931, Christchurch 8140, by **30 June 2008**.

PAC Media & Communications Funds

Applications for the PAC Media & Communications Endowment Fund need to be received by the Convenor by 30 June 2008.

For a copy of the application form and information leaflet 106, visit the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.nz.

Applications should be addressed to:

Convenor
Trish Moseley
Methodist Communications Fund
PO Box 125 194
St Heliers
Auckland 1740
Ph: (09) 575 2236
Email: pmoseley@paradise.net.nz

A MESSAGE FROM TRINITY COLLEGE

Appointment – Rev Nasili Vaka'uta

Lecturer in Biblical Studies – 1st July to 31st December 2008

I am pleased to advise the connexion that Trinity College has employed on a fixed term agreement Rev Nasili Vaka'uta to the position of Lecturer in Biblical Studies.

Nasili is an ordained minister of the Wesleyan Church of Tonga and until beginning his PhD studies in Auckland just over 3 years ago, was Head of Biblical Studies Department at Siatoutai Methodist Theological College Tonga. He is an extraordinary scholar and his expertise in the Biblical area is well recognised throughout the Pacific and Australia.

Rev Norman Brookes
Acting Prinicipal



MWF SMETHURST TRUST FUND

Applications close 20 June for financial assistance for women undertaking short or long term study courses, home setting or attending university or polytech. Women must be involved within Methodist or Uniting/Co-operative Parish. More information and current Application Forms available on www.methodist.org.nz under MWF.

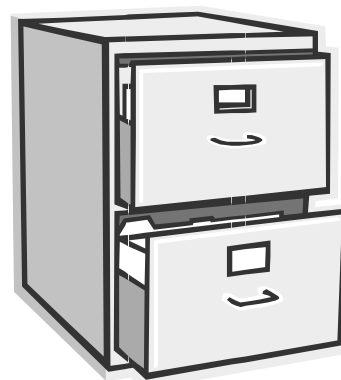
Methodist Archives

Reminder to Parishes from Archives regarding baptism and marriage registers

When books are finished they should be sent to the Methodist Archives for preservation (PO Box 931, Christchurch 8140).

The Methodist Archives in Christchurch is where all registers for the Methodist Church are held.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Archivist, Jo Smith, email: archives@methodist.org.nz or phone: 03 366 6049.





REMEMBER

In your Prayers

With regret we inform the Connexion that Frank Walters, father and father-in-law of Rev Kathryn Walters and Vivienne Patterson died peacefully at his home at Mt. Maunganui in the early hours of Tuesday 27 May.

The funeral was held at Otorohanga Presbyterian Church on Friday 30 May, at 11am, with the Rev. Gloria Zanders presiding.

~

We advise the Connexion of the peaceful death of Mabel Grocott on Saturday morning 31 May, 2008. Mabel celebrated a wonderful 100th birthday in January and it was great that so many family members and friends were able to be present. Mabel was the widow of the late Rev John Grocott.

The funeral service was held at Shirley Methodist Church, 6 New Brighton Rd, Christchurch at 2pm on Wednesday 4th June.

*Messages can be sent to John Grocott 105 Kingsford St, Christchurch 8061
grocottjw@xtra.co.nz*



Methodist Mission & Ecumenical

Newsletter June 2008

Secretary: John Roberts, 22a Penney Avenue, Mt Roskill, Auckland.
Phone 09-626-3771 Fax: 09-626-6137 E-mail mm-e@clear.net.nz

Tutu highlights social justice issues

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is known for speaking out about injustice and for his charismatic preaching peppered with heart-wrenching anecdotes. At the World Council of Churches (WCC) on 20 May the former leader of the Anglican Church in South Africa paid tribute to this grouping of 550 million Christians in 349 churches for taking a "moral and courageous" stand in supporting liberation movements that fought against his country's rulers during the apartheid era.

"I want you to know that in many ways we would not be free in South Africa today had it not been for the steadfast support we got from the World Council of Churches. You stood by what you believed was true," Tutu told cheering staff members as well as school students from France, who had gathered at the Geneva-based WCC. Tutu, who worked for the WCC back in the 1970s, noted that many Western governments had reviled the WCC for its support of African liberation movements that were accused then of being terrorists.

Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 at a time when black South Africans were rising up in revolt against his country's apartheid racist system of white domination, and he was a vociferous opponent of the regime. Yet, he also famously intervened to stop militants who were trying to kill a local member of a black community by setting fire to a gasoline soaked tyre and placing it around his neck, because he was suspected of being an informer.

The Nobel peace laureate said that people who were suffering under tyranny these days were in Zimbabwe, Burma and Tibet. The archbishop has condemned the totalitarian actions of the government of Zimbabwe led by President Robert Mugabe, and did so long before other church leaders dared to. He also fights his government over what he has labelled as their heartless policies for those living with HIV and AIDS.

When he visited the United Nations World Health Organisation, Tutu stressed the link between "faith and health". At the outset of his WHO appearance Tutu held up a T-shirt proclaiming, "HIV Positive Kids Need Treatment." In a speech to the 61st World Health Assembly, the archbishop highlighted what he said was the need to address the challenges faced in relation to HIV positive children.

"Children are dying of easily preventable diseases," Tutu stated. Around the world, almost 800 children die of AIDS-related illnesses every day. According to latest figures from UNAIDS, approximately 2.1 million children under 15 are living with HIV; nearly 90 percent of them live in sub-Saharan Africa.

"It is a Godly coincidence that nearby the World Council of Churches is also celebrating its 60th anniversary," Tutu, told his WHO hearers. "Together, the WHO and WCC share a common mission to the world, protecting and restoring body, mind, and spirit." "You see, we – faith and health – have been together a very long time. Health is not only freedom from suffering and illness but, according to your Constitution, 'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.' These words enshrine the fundamental reason you are here, and suggest something of what we share in our commitment to the world together," asserted Tutu.

He added, "Perhaps it would be good for us to include the recognition that there is an intrinsic relationship between God and humankind, which can be acknowledged as 'spiritual well being'? Perhaps one day this notion of well being can be included in the WHO definition of health?"

Peter Kenny Ecumenical News International 21 May 2008 www.eni.ch

‘Green Patriarch’ on ‘Time 100 list’

Bartholomeos I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, has been named on the "Time 100" list, the people deemed by Time magazine to be the world's most influential people. In a tribute to the 68-year-old Bartholomeos, appearing in the 12 May issue of the US-based news weekly, Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion, praised the Eastern Orthodox Patriarch by noting Bartholomeos' commitment to addressing issues related to the environment.

"In a way that is profoundly loyal to the traditions of worship and reflection in the Eastern Orthodox Church, he has insisted that ecological questions are essentially spiritual ones," Williams wrote about Bartholomeos, who is sometimes called the "Green Patriarch", because of his public support for the environmental cause.

"He has stressed that a world in which God the Creator uses the material stuff of the universe to communicate who he is and what he wants is one that demands reverence from human beings," Williams wrote. "Probably more than any other religious leader from any faith, Patriarch Bartholomeos has kept open this spiritual dimension of environmentalism."

Istanbul-based Bartholomeos is not a well known figure in the West, a fact noted by Williams, who wrote: "The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople enjoys a resonant historical title but, unlike the Pope in the Roman Catholic context, has little direct executive power in the world of Eastern Orthodoxy. Patriarchs have had to earn their authority on the world stage, and, in fact, not many Patriarchs in recent centuries have done much more than maintain the form of their historic dignities."

But, Williams said, Bartholomeos has broken with that tradition, taking seriously the Ecumenical Patriarch's "pastoral responsibility for 'the whole inhabited world'". He noted, "This brave and visionary pastor has given a completely new sense to the ancient honorific."

Chris Herlinger Ecumenical News International 6 May 2008 www.eni.ch

Fire at Goldie College

In the early hours of the morning 9 May a fire at the United Church Solomon Islands Goldie College destroyed the administration block and staff room. The college awoke to students shouting and running towards the scene of the fire, by which time most of the building had already been consumed by the fire. College principal, Levi Davo says "there was nothing anyone could do but watch helplessly as the flames raged on to the end." Following the fire the roof collapsed. Only the shell of the building remained standing.

Nearly all the college's important documents and records, office equipment, telephone, radio wireless, solar panel, typewriter, duplicating Machine, resource materials and furniture were lost to the fire. The principal says, "Despite all this, the school programme will continue as usual. However, we require immediate assistance if we are to continue to effectively implement the school curriculum.

Methodist Mission and Ecumenical is already assisting the science department of Goldie College with the provision of equipment. We have been asked to further help by providing two new computers. These will be sent soon along with a shipment of science equipment. Any donations to assist the school should be sent to the Mission and Ecumenical secretary.

RAMSI questioned

A report by the independent Australian organisation, AID/Watch, says resentment is growing in the Solomon Islands over the Regional Assistance Mission or RAMSI. The report says many of the aid workers, soldiers, police and contracted companies involved have a strong interest in keeping the operation going. While local people appreciate the improvement in security provided by the Australian and other regional military personnel and police, that support is being undermined by a growing feeling that Solomon Islanders are economically deprived, compared to enclaves of long-term and relatively wealthy aid workers. A senior lecturer in political economy at Sydney University, Dr Tim Anderson, who prepared the AID/Watch report, recommended that the mission should be wound down gradually. *PF Net 1 May 2008*



JUNE AMENDMENTS

TO THE YEARBOOK

Connexional Offices - Directory (pg 5)

HAMILTON METHODIST SOCIAL SERVICES

PO Box 1388, Hamilton 3240

Chairperson [O] 07 839 3917 [F] 07 839 3950

Rev Susan Thompson [DD] 07 839 3951 [F] 07 839 3950 [Em] susan@hamiltonmethparish.org.nz

Director

Rev Lindsay Cumberland [DD] 07 839 3917 [F] 07 839 3950 [Em] Lindsay@hmss.org.nz

the above is a new entry

Connexional Boards & Committees Membership (pg 8)

WESLEYCOM

Convenor:

Ruth Bilverstone "Westering", 23 Tarbottons Road, Ashburton [Em] bilverst@xtra.co.nz
7700
[P] 03 307 1116

Tauiwi (pg 13)

WASEWASE KO VITI KEI ROTUMA E NIU SILADI

Rotuman

Susau Strickland P O Box 15692, New Lynn, Waitakere 0640
[H] 09 376 0633 [F] 09 376 0635

Ministers Names & Addresses (pg 26)

1962	2003	Bilverstone, John "Westering" 23 Tarbottons Road, Ashburton 7700	[H] 03 307 1116 [Em] bilverst@xtra.co.nz	8380
1980	CHP20	Cumberpatch, Lindsay E; 60 Malcolm Street, Hamilton 3216	[O] 07 839 3917 [F] 07 839 3950 [H] 07 858 3977 [Em] lcumberpatch@hotmail.com	3330
1984	4	Elphick, Doris J; 117/11 Manuka Street Matamata 3400	[H] 07 888 7804 [O][F] 07 884 8673 [M] 021 231 0700 [Em] doris.e@paradise.net.nz	3050
1965	1995	Herbert, C Brice, Currently Overseas		1090

1962	2004	Jones, Barry E, 23 Widdison Way, Albany	[H] 09 448 5224 [Em] jandbjones@clear.net.nz	
1995	2007	Kerr, Jessie S 5 Lindsay Heights R.D.1 Wakefield 7095	[H] 03 541 8187	
1982	3	Samoa Saleupolu, Aso T 24 Redoubt Road Manukau Auckland 2105	[H] 09 263 4484 [Em] asonvatane@slingshot.co.nz	2600
2004	2007	Stephens, Barbara (supply) PO Box 70 Oxford 7443	[H] 03 312 4547 [M] 025 284 7929 [Em] barbarastephens@xtra.co.nz	8210
1985	WA1	Watkin, Gillian M 313 Karaitiana Street Firmley, Hastings 4120	[H][F] 06 873 4222 [Em] agwatkin@ihug.co.nz	2010

Parish Listing (Pg 49)

Kaitaia Union Parish:

PO Box 642, Kaitaia, 0441
Business Phone: (09) 408 2323 Email: kupchurch@xtra.co.nz

Pendreigh, (Rob) Robert, Rev
Ramsey, Olwyn, Mrs

Morrinsville Parish:

C/- 22 Oak Street, Morrinsville 3300
Business Phone: (07) 889 7623 Fax: +64 (07) 889 7623

Whitehead, Nancy Jean M, Rev

Oxford District Union Parish:

3 Park Avenue, Oxford, 7430
(PO Box 70, Oxford 7443)
Business Phone: (03) 312 4547

Stephens, Barbara J, Rev

Widows & Widowers (Pg 92)

Watson, Stella F, Mrs | 241A Port Hills Road, Heathcote Valley, Christchurch 8022

If you have any amendments or updates to the yearbook please feel free to email Amy at amys@methodist.org.nz with the updates and they can be published here for the information of the Connexion.