

In memory of
Those who have died



Conference 2022

Contents

David Malcolm Bryant.....	1
Margaret Inez Bryant.....	2
Margaret Joan Drake.....	3
Rodney (Rod) Clive Fleury	4
Jeanette Gibson	6
June Lois Gibson.....	7
Joyce Hilda Humphrey	9
Graham Andrew Kane	10
Keith Henry Knox	11
Helen Barbara Laurenson	12
Ronald (Ron) William Malpass	14
Valerie Laura Marshall.....	16
Graeme Maxwell McIver.....	17
Bruce McKeage.....	19
John David Meredith.....	20
Amelia Viena Moala (nee: Leha'uli)	22
Kenneth (Ken) Harry Russell.....	24
Terrance (Terry) John Ryan MBE.....	26
Leonard (Len) Peter Schroeder	28
Donald (Don) Shirley	29
Paul Frederick Sinclair.....	30
Susau Etika Jane Strickland QSM.....	32
Ausage (Fa'aoso) Fa'aoso Tugia.....	34
Ilaitia Sevati Tuwera	36
Piula Alisa Unasa Su	38
Elizabeth (Betty) Jean Watson	40
Derrick White.....	41

David Malcolm Bryant

1934 - 2022

David died peacefully on 27 September 2022, aged 88 years, in Te Omanga Hospice, Lower Hutt – only 8 months after the death of Margaret, his wife. Their life together was a partnership, as was also their Diaconate ministry for the Methodist Church and the community in which they expressed their faith.

David was the son of Ethel and Rev. William James Bryant, the latter being a Methodist minister in the Home Mission Department, serving in Otautau, Te Kuiti, and Waipawa. In 1950 David moved to Wellington to begin an engineering apprenticeship, and in 1952 he joined the Waiwhetu Methodist Church in the Lower Hutt Parish. He soon became very involved in leadership, becoming Sunday School Superintendent, Bible Class leader, Youth Counsellor and Trust member. He later became Leader's Meeting Secretary and Coordinator. He was also involved in parish life and was the Parish Property Convenor.

David and Margaret (also from Waiwhetu) married in 1957 and the expression of their faith became a partnership. They were both involved in the negotiations that formed the Waiwhetu Uniting Church within the parish of the Hutt City Uniting Congregations.

David was ordained as a Deacon at the 1991 Conference. As part of his covenant, he was attached to the Waiwhetu Community Friendship Centre (CFC) as a Community Worker and Associate Coordinator. This position enabled him to facilitate outreach of the congregation on the community development model. He has supported people with genuine concern, careful listening, and skilled counselling and advocacy. He often turned up on the doorstep to do some small maintenance task.

In 1999 the Hutt City Council showed their respect for David's work with a Civic Honour Award. In his speech, the mayor said, "David's innate humility, kindness and compassion, and his warm sense of humour enable him to relate with understanding to people of all types, ages, and ethnic groups. We are indebted for the contribution (he) has made to the wellbeing of Hutt City."

The children of David and Margaret reflect the love and priority they received from their parents. David was a very keen runner with the Wellington Methodist Harrier Club, their 3 children followed him, and it is no accident that a granddaughter completed the London marathon on 2 October 2022.

As a Hāhi, we give thanks for David's contribution to all our lives.

Margaret Inez Bryant

1934 - 2022

Margaret died peacefully in Hutt Hospital on 23 January 2022. Following her Memorial Service, her ashes were to be returned to the earth, there to re-enter the great cycle of nature. But her spirit lives on in those she has most influenced throughout her life.

We remember her, not just for her life's important events and for what she accomplished, but also as a person of compassion, of integrity, of deep and personal caring, of strong Christian faith and practice. Her qualities will be remembered for generations to come.

Margaret (nee Ford) was born and lived her whole life in Lower Hutt. Her mother died when she was young and she was raised by her father and grandmother. She started training to be a nurse, but due to illness had to withdraw. She was very involved in Waiwhetu Methodist Church (later Waiwhetu Uniting Church within the Hutt City Uniting Congregations) especially in Christian Education and Pastoral Care, and on Congregational Councils. She was a very pastoral person, always ready to help people, to listen and to care.

Margaret married David in 1957, and together they found many opportunities for ministry together. She became a Lay Preacher. After training, Margaret was ordained as Deacon at the 1990 Conference in Dunedin – and David at the 1991 Conference. Whilst expressing their commitment to the church, foremost in their affection and priority were always their three children, John, Chris, and Helen, and the grandchildren.

Margaret's covenant recognised her work at Te Omanga Hospice – a life commitment that challenged her to explore beliefs and spirituality – especially in the pastoral care for those not able or not willing to participate in the life of a gathered congregation.

Margaret's favourite Blessing comes from Ireland:

*“Give yourself to those in need: a cooked meal, a hand held, a laugh shared, a shoulder to hug, to greet, to comfort. Give what is precious: your time, your compassion, your strength.
For in giving we heal.”*

As an Hāhi, we release Margaret – and commend her spirit to those who choose to be keepers of her memory.

Margaret Joan Drake

Died July 2022

Margaret Drake (Boniface) died in her 98th year. She was from a family with a long and historic involvement in the Methodist Church of New Zealand, beginning in Palmerston North and living with her family in Gisborne, Hastings and finally New Plymouth where she worked for the New Zealand Schools Library Service and was diligent in her work within the New Plymouth Parish, so much so that she was appointed to the synod of Taranaki and Whanganui as a Lay representative.

She spent many years supporting the work of the Methodist Women's Fellowship. Her ability to quietly and thoughtfully lead did not go unnoticed, and she became the co-superintendent of the synod and therefore on the church's Stationing Committee and the General Purposes Committee. She listened carefully and spoke wisely on issues of concern to the synod and its parishes. She was a very special person, and other committee members enjoyed the years they worked with her on various connexional committees.

Margaret would eventually be appointed as Vice President to the Conference along with Mervyn Dine as President, Mervyn noted that, "I have fond memories of the time we worked together as President and Vice President of the Church". The presidency requires trust and confidence in your colleague if it is to work well, and for Mervyn and Margaret it did. In this capacity she spent three years on the Pastoral Committee, the Presidents Committee of Advice, and Church Council. During her time she would also lead the Conference Arrangements Committee, and played a key role in ensuring the smooth running of Conference when it was held in New Plymouth. The connexion is indebted to her sacrifice of time and energy to all the tasks she carried on behalf of the church.

She loved music and was a very competent pianist and organist in her own right. Not only had she spent a lifetime as a librarian, she had also read extensively – from A A Milne to Marcus Borg, the theologian and she enjoyed Lloyd Geering – and loved being surrounded with books for children to those written as research and social commentary.

We remember her as a kind, gracious, and loving person. She knew what she believed and either through silence or a cryptic statement you knew as well. In her love of the Methodist Church, she was compassionate about the worship of God, social justice, and order of church activities – she could be annoyingly particular and meticulous in the way things were done. Yet through her sense of humour and careful and thorough planning she had the ability to keep all things in perspective.

A gracious leader who will be missed by her church and her family.

Rodney (Rod) Clive Fleury

1936 - 2022

Rodney Clive Fleury's long life was characterised by costly service for his church, his community and his family. While some of the roles he took on for the church were suitable to both his natural inclinations and made good use of his abilities and training, other things required learning and fortitude.

Rod was always learning new things. Although he had recently trained for years to be a carpenter, he was ready when asked to do something new. While still a young man, he trained as a plantation manager, because the church needed him to make its plantations in the Solomons succeed. Late in life he learned to use a computer effectively and learned to email because that was what was needed, and it facilitated his work for the wider church. He started as a worker in construction – but for nearly 30 years he assisted with the retailing of building products to others who built. Also for many years, he recorded the minutes at meetings of the regional church – and convened parish meetings, though his greater love was always for working bees, for visiting people, for listening and sharing, and reaching out from the pulpit with wisdom, a story and a smile.

Rod related easily to people – whether they believed a lot or a little. He was a welcomed preacher, in part because he included illustrative good humour, and he was well prepared. He organised the preaching plan for many years, and regularly rostered himself to fill any gaps. Rod “helped” the national and regional Presbyterian and Methodist churches work together in particular a Union parish and a Presbyterian parish - sharing a minister, a parish council and parish finances - without themselves becoming a single entity. Many had said it couldn't be done. He and they just did it.

He supported the work of many other organisations - including a Friendship Club and an Alzheimer's Support group. He was a long-serving Cub Scouts leader and an accredited visitor with Age Concern. He belonged to a Writers Club and composed short stories.

In 1958, when he was just 22, Rod arrived in the Solomon Islands with one suitcase and one toolbox. He was there to rebuild schools, homes and health clinics that had been destroyed in WW2. When he came back home to New Zealand in 1968 to live, he came with a wife (Audrey Roberts, had been working for the MCNZ in the Solomons as a nurse), and with 2 children and 14 boxes. In March 2022, Audrey and Rod celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. When he was farewelled from Crossways church, Masterton on the 14th of July 2022, Rod had served 63 years as an Accredited Lay Preacher.

Born and raised into Wesley Methodist in Cargill Rd Dunedin, he was the second child of 9, living in a state house in Dunedin. When he was 22, he moved to the Solomon Islands for 10 years working on contract for MCNZ. His next move was to Wainuiomata - for 19 years at St Stephens Union, another 19 years in Kapiti Uniting while living at Waikanae, and then his final 16 years in Masterton.

Rod Fleury was a load carrier. He recognised what was needed and offered to help. He accepted the invitations of other leaders. In all the ways he could, to all the people he could, for as long as he ever could, Rod did what was needed.

He was a man with a hammer who lived and breathed church. Rod Fleury walked humbly with God's people everywhere. Everywhere, he sang, he served and he brought smiles.

From the Wairarapa Times.

FLEURY, Rodney Clive (Rod). 13.3.1936 – 4.7.2022.

Peacefully at Wairarapa Hospital, Masterton. Dearly loved husband and best friend of Audrey (née Roberts) for 60 years. Cherished father and father-in-law of Jenny, Lynda and Wayne, Mike and Jodie. Loving Grandad to Emily, Justin and Jaki, and Lauren and Sam. Great Grandad of Willow, and Dallas. Sincere thanks to the staff at Masterton Medical, and the staff at the Medical Surgical Ward for their care and support of Rod. Donations to Alzheimer's Wairarapa would be appreciated and may be left at the service. Messages can be posted C/- PO Box 460, Masterton.

A memorial service to celebrate Rod's life will be held at Crossway Church, Cnr of Queen Street and Worksop Road, Masterton, on Thursday 14 July 2022 at 1.30pm. The service will be live streamed <http://opencast.anet.com.au:8080>

Jeanette Gibson

1932 - 2022

Born in Invercargill, Veda Jeanette Gibson spent the greater part of her life in Dunedin. She was educated at Otago Girl's High School, the University of Otago and the Dunedin Teachers' College and became a dedicated and successful teacher of the deaf. Raised in the Presbyterian Church, she became a Methodist when she married Colin Gibson in 1956 and joined the Mornington Methodist Church. There, as the young mother of three children, she was a notable laywoman, active in the Women's Fellowship and Choir.

Jeanette pursued a life-long interest in church embroidery and stitchwork of all kind. She was an active member of the Otago Embroiderers' Guild, of which she was later made a Life Member. She enriched her Mornington Church and others with large-scale banners and finely-embroidered altar cloths, but was particularly famous for her 27 sets of stoles made for Methodist and Presbyterian ministers, including the Presidents of the New Zealand and Samoan Methodist Churches. The Mornington Church presently holds as one of its *taonga* a set of five stoles based on New Zealand hymn themes.

June Lois Gibson

1927 - 2022

June Rossiter was born in Oxford, rural Canterbury, in 1927 with diverse Christian family roots that included Primitive Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, and Salvation Army. A great, great grandfather Rev William Potts was one of the most influential Baptist ministers in early Christchurch. Her Rossiter line was steeped in the Salvation Army. Early life was in the Oxford district and remote South Island public works camps during the Great Depression. She was baptised in the Oxford Methodist Church.

When the family moved to Christchurch, they became immersed in their local Methodist church at Redcliffs. June was an enthusiastic Sunday School scholar in the examination system, loved Sunday School anniversaries, informal Sunday night singsongs and the many congregational social events. She graduated to being SS teacher at age of 11. Then in her teenage years the Woolston Methodist Bible Class became a vital involvement. Easter camps held around rural Canterbury were an annual highlight for her. It was in local Bible Class activities that she met Loyal Gibson in South-East Christchurch.

On leaving school she trained at Christchurch Teachers College, and then taught for four years in Greymouth and Christchurch schools.

In 1952 she married Loyal Gibson and made a commitment to support his ministry by giving home and family priority. The family became five with the arrival of Dawn, Mark and Ross. Many years later Bronwen was added to the family as a foster daughter. The family lived in circuits and parishes from Central Otago to Auckland. An important part of her support role was offering hospitality and their home to troubled young people or mature single people needing accommodation. She served the churches they were appointed to through Christian Education work across the ages, small group leadership, pastoral care, MWF, Choir, and as a social service volunteer especially in Highbury House, and the Purple Patch opportunity shops.

When the children were young adults, she played an important support role alongside Loyal in the revival of the Methodist Youth Conferences and movement in the late 1970's and early 80's. She participated fully in the first of these Connexional youth events, usually in the background offering a listening ear and encouraging young people. Youth leadership training events began to be held and June was the chief cook for at least one.

June was asked to lead the morning prayers at the 1983 Conference in Takapuna over three days. She offered a series of guided meditations she had written. The lunchtime sessions for minister's wives led by Doreen Hill focused on "loneliness". June spent a huge amount of time at Conference listening to women and their experiences. By then the seed of a new ministry had been sown. June called it "an awakening".

And so, after 37 years of parsonage life, June's seven-year journey of discovery, growth and service in diaconal ministry began. Her calling was to offer a pioneering Connexional ministry to married partners of Presbyter's and deacon's. Conference 1984 accepted her as a Deacon in Training for self-supporting ministry.

She trained at Trinity/St Johns 1985-86 while living near to Wellspring, the Connexional lay training centre, where Loyal was serving as the Director. June consistently described these time of training as "the most exciting years in my life". She loved attending lectures and participating in class conversations, finding the whole experience rich and stimulating.

Joyce Hilda Humphrey

1924 - 2022

Joyce Humphrey died on Saturday April 9th, 2022, aged 98 years.

Joyce was a member of the Wanganui Methodist Church and Parish. She served through many, many decades as Parish Steward, Parish Representative to Conference, and Synod Committees. She was active in her local parish in Parish meetings and committees, choir, and Women's Fellowship, as well as informal activities.

She welcomed and supported the establishment and growth of the local Fijian Methodist Congregation.

She was a familiar and welcoming face at the door of both the suburban Aramoho Methodist Church and after its closure, the Wicksteed Street Trinity Church. Joyce was part of the original congregation at the building's opening in 1965 and sang in the choir that was put together for the occasion.

A faithful member of the church choir, her voice helped congregational singing, even long after the choir disbanded.

She was incredibly knowledgeable on local church and city history, in part due to her working life with the Whanganui Chronicle daily newspaper. She worked for the Chronicle from 1941 – 1984. Joyce took on the role of parish historian, researching the church's history and producing informative pictorial booklets at each anniversary.

She had a creative approach to all she did and more recently in 2015 came up with innovative ideas on how to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building of the present church. This included screening a film made during the building of the present church in 1965 - a priceless documentary of the time with scenes that Joyce thought would horrify OSH officers.

Joyce will be missed by her family (the last of her generation), all those who knew her well, and by members and friends of the Parish. She is survived by her nieces and nephews, Barbara and Ian Brougham, Gail and Trevor Denman, and Chris and Rachel Humphrey to whom we express our love and prayers.

We give thanks for her faith, all she accomplished, and her friendship and care.

Graham Andrew Kane

1937 - 2022

Graham is known to all of us for his great sense of humour.

Graham was born in Dunedin and attended Otago Boys' High School and then Southland Boys' High School after his family moved to Invercargill. There he was a member and leader of the Boys' Brigade and Youth Group. Later he attended Teachers' College back in Dunedin.

Graham married Alison at St Peter's Church in Invercargill in 1961. He was a teacher and a lay preacher when they lived in Western Southland for 17 years.

In 1978, he was contacted by the Methodist Church asking if he was willing to move to Gore as a lay preacher, to which he agreed. Here he encouraged the congregation to take part in this lay ministry.

In 1982, Graham was ordained, and the family made a huge decision to move to Auckland, so that Graham could work as a Chaplain at Wesley College. This was headline news in the local newspaper. It was literally on the front page, as it was big news at the time. This shows just how much impact his ministry had on the local community. His ministry was with the community, for the community.

In 1990, Graham was approached again by the Methodist Church. This time, he chose to move to Nelson and lead the Stoke Methodist Church ministry. His heart was still in the South Island. During his time as minister of the Stoke Methodist Church, he served not only the church but also the wider community, for 11 whole years. One of the many wonderful things he did was starting a monthly Saturday market at the church. The income from it supported Nelson hospital chaplaincy and Life Linc. It's his legacy that is still going on even after his passing.

In 2001, Graham's last appointment as a minister was in Timaru at Woodlands Road and Temuka churches. At the end of it, Graham came back to the Stoke Methodist church, but this time he was retired and a member of the church family. He didn't waste any of his gifts though, as he became a loyal member of the Stoke Methodist church choir, and also lead services at St Luke's, Stoke, and Richmond, whenever he was needed.

The Methodist church is truly blessed to have had Graham, and thank you Alison, for sharing your husband with our church community.

Keith Henry Knox

1941 - 2022

Keith was born in Dunedin in 1941 and attended the local Methodist church Bible class where he enjoyed discussions on all matter of topics. After leaving school he became apprenticed to a carpenter in parallel with his studies to become a Lay Preacher. His certificate, number 347, was issued by the NZ Methodist Lay Preachers Association in 1964. After completing his apprenticeship in the mid 60s Keith was accepted by the Methodist Mission in Papua New Guinea as its carpenter. Over the course of the next five years he built a school and other public works before moving into vocational training.

Returning to New Zealand in 1971 he joined the police force as a trainee and was posted to Christchurch where he met his wife Gill and where they remained until his promotion to Superintendent resulted in a move to Wellington in 1984. He was much in demand as a Lay Preacher during his time in Christchurch leading up to three services on a Sunday often involving considerable travel with a young family and only small (or no congregation) at the destination! He was meticulous in his service preparation, exploring the lectionary readings for that week.

Keith's promotion was to the Police College in Porirua, so they brought a house locally and since 1985 Keith and Gill have been strong and dedicated members of Tawa Union Church, involved in all aspects of parish life.

Keith continued to offer his services as a Lay Preacher in the Wellington area including active participation in the Wellington District Methodist Lay Preaches' Association. This was part of a movement in 2000 to formally disband the *New Zealand Methodist Lay Preachers Association* and form a new organisation called the *New Zealand Lay Preachers Association* that would be open to recognised lay preachers in the other denominations of the Cooperative Venture movement. At the inaugural meeting of the new association, Ron Malpass accepted the role of President with Keith as Vice President who continued in this role until the Wellington branch's term ended in 2004. This ecumenical association was able to provide an upgraded national magazine edited by Professor Colin Gibson while Registrar Hugh Williams designed and produced certificates as requested by the Cooperative Venture Partners. But the Methodist Lay Preachers missed the collegiality of their own organisation. Later Keith joined Rosalie Sugrue and Dorothy Willis as co-facilitators of an informal email-based group, the *Methodist LP Network*.

Keith was one of the two Lay Preacher representatives on the Wellington and later the Lower North Island Synod and was a regular attender and contributor at Synod meetings and Schools of Theology.

Keith was absolutely dedicated to serving Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa as a parish leader, Synod member and as an active Lay Preacher for over 56 years; his last worship leadership – fittingly at Tawa Union – was the Sunday of the week he became unwell.

Give thanks to God for the life of service given so fully by Keith Knox.

*With contributions from Gill Knox, Rosalie Sugrue, Ian Harris
Kapiti Lay Preacher*

Helen Barbara Laurenson

1937 – 2021

Helen was born on the 2nd of January 1937 in Hamilton to Lyndall and Eric Crabtree. She was their third child, born after Ian and Jocelyn. Helen was a much-loved child and spent her early years in Morrinsville before moving with the family to Mt Eden, where they settled into a large old villa on Pencarrow Avenue with its glorious view north to Maungawhau. So started her long association with the suburb.

Helen attended primary school at Model Country school, moving to Epsom Primary, Normal Intermediate, and on to Secondary school at Epsom Girls Grammar.

Helen's family attended Mount Eden Methodist Church, where she and Eric were part of a large youth group. Eric recalls being so in awe of Helen that he took his best friend Barrie along for moral support to ask her out on their first date and for the date itself (to the movies). Barrie remained a close friend to both and was Eric's Best Man at their wedding.

After finishing her secondary schooling, Helen started a BA at Auckland University College in 1955. She left after one year to start work and care for her growing family after her marriage to Eric in 1959 at the Mt Eden Methodist Church.

After living with her parents in Pencarrow Avenue for a year, they moved into their newly completed house at James Tyler Crescent in Lynfield. Sarah was born two years later, followed by Matthew and Anna.

The Methodist Church was an important and integral part of Helen's life. Helen and Eric were members of the Tyler Crescent and the Marion Avenue Methodist congregations. They were also the founding members of the Lynfield Community Church, where they had a long and active involvement and where Helen was the organist for sixteen years.

The Lynfield Community Church was the first cooperating parish in NZ that saw Anglicans in communion with other negotiating Churches.

In 1970, Helen returned to work as a Librarian. She worked for 27 years at Auckland Teachers College Library, which later became the Auckland College of Education. She initially worked as a Library Assistant and was subsequently promoted to Reference Assistant.

On retirement, Helen returned to the University of Auckland and, in 2001, was awarded a BA, majoring in English and History. Helen wrote and produced numerous publications. She developed her 2003 first-class honours master's thesis into the book "Going up-going down" The Rise and Fall of Auckland Department Stores 1920-1960, published by the Auckland University Press in 2005.

In 2010, Helen was awarded a PhD by the University of Auckland for her thesis, *Myths and the City: A Social and Cultural History of Auckland 1890-1990* and was nominated by the University's Department of History for a Vice-Chancellor's award.

With a move to Epsom in 1983, Helen and Eric transferred their Church membership to Pitt Street Methodist Church, where Helen held various positions within that congregation, including Convenor of the Pastoral Committee and, for over ten years, Parish Steward. Helen was a member of the Pitt Street Trust for about thirty years and Chairperson for the past twenty-two years. Formerly a member of 'Friends of Take-a Break', which supported the work of outreach for women in Pitt Street, Auckland, she became a member of the mentor group for its successor, 'Te Manawa o Hine.' She was involved in organising the annual World Day of Prayer services for some years.

In 2000, Helen was elected President of the Wesley Historical Society, where she served for twenty years and was also a member of the Society's Publications Committee. She was also on numerous committees of the wider Church. She was involved in the review of Methodist Archives and was a member of the Board of Studies and the Churches Disciplinary Tribunal.

Nominated as Vice President of the Church, she ultimately declined the role out of concern about issues surrounding the Presidential nomination process at that time.

In 2000 Helen became the Founding President of the Epsom & Eden District Historical Society and held that role for several terms. During that time, she contributed significantly to their two major publications: "The History of Epsom", published in 2006, which along with editor Dr. Graham Bush, she helped to research and write, and "The History of Mt Eden - The District and its People" published in 2019, which she edited.

In her rare free moments, Helen's enjoyment of handcrafted work, be it embroidery, sewing, knitting, or crochet, meant that she always had numerous projects on the go. A voracious reader, Helen always had a pile of books and magazines beside her bed that she intended to get to. This passion for the written word instilled a love of reading in her children and grandchildren.

Helen was married to Eric for 62 cherished years. She was a beloved and loving Mum, Mother-in-law, and Granny to her eight grandchildren, Hugh, Eva, Isaac, George, Tabitha, Toto, Albertine, and Henry. She was exceptionally loved and warmly regarded by her extended whanau.

Helen passed away bravely and peacefully in her sleep at home in Epsom, Auckland, on the 7th December 2021, with Eric, her constant, at her side.

Ronald (Ron) William Malpass

Died May 2022

Ron was born in Hamilton. He grew up in Woolston in Christchurch and moved to Wellington in 1967 with his employment in the Public Service and joined Wesley, Taranaki Street. Following military service and his marriage to Kay in 1969 they became involved in Sunday School and youth work at Ward Memorial, Northland, Wellington before they moved to Upper Hutt in 1971.

His public service experience spanned 25 years including service in three NZ High Commissions, Apia, Samoa for 3 years also covering Tonga, where he opened the first NZ High Commission office in Nuku'alofa in 1974; and London 1980-82. He worked with the UN High Commission for Refugees in refugee camps in South-East Asia over an 11 year period. During this time he suffered a stress related illness after working in camps on the Thailand / Cambodia border. Ron wrote: "on return to Bangkok my composure was finally lost when the boy at Montien Hotel took my bags. What was reality – what I had witnessed at the border or the hustle and bustle of the "civilised hotel" 5 hours drive away? I cried myself to sleep – not from sadness but in emotional release. I was committed to our refugee programme as never before!"

He spent 12 months as a Private Secretary to a Minister of Health and Immigration. He was appointed Assistant Director of Immigration in 1983 and Manager for Permanent Migration and Refugee Services in a restructured NZ Immigration Service from 1987-1990.

From 1990 to 2000 Ron was Director of the Wellington branch of the Open Home Foundation of NZ Inc a Christian Child and Family Support service. He served on an Advisory committee chaired by the Commissioner for Children. A foundation member of the Wellington Refugees as Survivors Trust Board, he was the Methodist Church representative on the Board and Executive of the Refugee and Migrant Service from 1998-2001. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1997.

Ron served as President, Methodist Church of NZ in 2004. He was the fourth lay person to be elected as President of the Church. He is perhaps best known from his 13 years as the CEO of InterChurch Hospital Chaplaincy (IHC), making a valuable contribution to the life of New Zealand Churches and those who spent time in hospital.

Ron was involved in the ministry of Lay Preaching from early adulthood. His inclusive and ecumenical approach found expression through being the first President in 2000 of the inter-denominational New Zealand Lay Preachers' Association, taking over from the Methodist Lay Preachers Association.

Ron perhaps embodied best John Wesley's "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Ron played cricket and played and refereed rugby. He enjoyed tramping.

Ron is survived by his wife Kay, their daughters Tanya and Rochelle, their sons-in-law and their grandchildren, to whom we extend our love and prayers.

We celebrate Ron's contribution to wider church life in Aotearoa. We remember Ron Malpass as a wonderful Christian man, a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother, and a great friend to so many people.

Valerie Laura Marshall

1948 – 2022

Valerie was born in Christchurch on 11 September 1948, the older daughter of Frank and Olive Marshall. She attended Avonside Girls' High School and worked in the eldercare sector both in Christchurch and Australia. Valerie returned to New Zealand and qualified as a librarian.

Valerie joined the Durham St congregation in 2006 after some time in the Metropolitan Community Church. She enjoyed the walking group, the Wednesday evening parish study group, convened a theology study group, and was a key member of the "Vic's", an after-church lunch group, joining with friends who meant a lot to Valerie. After the 2011 earthquakes, Valerie used her research skills to augment the Parish history very productively. She served as a member of Parish Council for 12 years and on occasions represented the parish at the Methodist Conference. She served the parish well as treasurer for many years. Valerie had input into the development of the new Aldersgate, particularly the sanctuary. She was an active member of the Parish Worship committee and led worship regularly.

Valerie was accredited as a lay preacher in August 2015. She was a thoughtful and challenging worship leader. To ensure she did this to the very best of her ability she was studying for a degree in Theology from Otago University only withdrawing this year when study became impossible. Valerie was a loyal member of the Canterbury Lay Preachers Association from 2015 until its closure in December 2021. By December 2015 Valerie had been seconded to the NZ Lay Preachers Assn which at that time was based in Christchurch. Valerie put significant effort into reshaping the website. At the end of 2016 Valerie stood for and was elected to the position of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. She filled both these roles in her usual efficient way. At the AGM in November 2019 Valerie took over the role as Registrar. Early in 2022 Valerie found that she was ill with cancer of the liver. In typical fashion she acted quickly to hand over her responsibilities while continuing to be part of the NZLPA executive. Valerie found a place in CLPA and NZLPA where she made good friends and her undoubted ability was appreciated.

Valerie joined the Touchstone Board on 11 October 2018. She faithfully attended meetings, offering information, support and assistance in a cheerful and informed manner. At her last Board meeting in August this year, Valerie shared news of her terminal diagnosis. It came as a shock but she delivered the news with her usual cheerful and optimistic spirit. None of the Board members could have imagined she would pass away within a month from that last visit to the Connexional Office. She will be sadly missed.

Valerie's health deteriorated very quickly and she died in Wesleycare on 10 September 2022.

Graeme Maxwell McIver

1940 – 2022

Graeme's journey of faith began in the Papanui Methodist Church where he was baptised as a child and to which he returned as an adult to train as a Local Preacher, followed sometime later as a candidate for the ministry. Having died in Wellington on October 24, Christchurch North Methodist Church in Papanui will also be the venue for Graeme's Memorial Service on Nov 25.

As a teenager, Graeme lived in Sumner to which his family had relocated. It was within the Methodist Church community there and in the wider district youth work that Graeme's faith was nurtured.

He entered Trinity Methodist College with a strong evangelical faith which gave him confidence as he pursued theological as well as university studies.

Towards the end of 1966 Graeme and Beatrice Baigent married and they were blessed with two daughters, Jennifer & Linda. Graeme was ordained at Durham St Church in 1970 and gained his BA through the University of Canterbury in 1972.

In NZ Graeme undertook ministry in Wairoa (1968-71), Marchwiell Union Timaru (1972-78), Upper Hutt Cooperating (1979-85), Durham Street (1991-96), Sumner Redcliffs Lyttleton Union (2003-2008) and post retirement supply appointments in Napier and at Wesley Wellington.

During his Upper Hutt Ministry, Graeme was convener of the church's International Affairs Committee for 5 years and Acting District Superintendent of the Wellington District for two years.

After Graeme and Beatrice separated in 1987, Graeme became a real estate agent for 4 years and qualified MREINZ. However the call to church based ministry was too strong to ignore and with a growing interest in creation spirituality, Graeme spent sixteen months at Holy Names College in Oakland, California where he gained a Masters Degree in Creation-Centred Spirituality and met his future wife of 6 years, Katherine Parker.

Interspersed with ministries in NZ, Graeme undertook USA ministry appointments in Portland Oregon, Minneapolis and Santa Cruz, California. During his time in California Graeme also completed Hakomi Psychotherapy training.

Graeme recalled how in the early years of ministry he sought to live by a faith that he later came to see as too narrow and restricting, and how in the 1970s he began a more expansive faith journey which was influenced by the 'human potential' movement in the church and which eventually led him to explore creation centred spirituality.

Whilst in California, Graeme attended a biennial forum of 'The Centre for Progressive Christianity' and continued to explore with parishioners and others what he called 'Open Christianity'. That led on to Graeme running a series of community based groups using the 'Living the Questions' material of renown

theologian and writer Marcus Borg. In recent years Graeme also co-convened a monthly theological network in Christchurch which explores many different aspects of contemporary spirituality.

Graeme's faith journey as a whole illustrates the importance of taking seriously a changing world and the need for ministry to adapt accordingly. Graeme did this superbly and carried countless people with him on his own faith journey. In that journey he was a warm people friendly person and a great fellow traveller in ministry and service.

Graeme was also quietly courageous as exemplified in his decision with the onset of seriously declining health, to proceed with the assisted dying option. This he accepted in the company of his two greatly loved daughters, grandchildren and other family members.

As mentioned above, we will further remember Graeme's very significant life and ministry in a memorial service in Christchurch on November 25.

Thanks indeed be to God for the life and witness of Graeme McIver.

Bruce McKeage

1930 - 2022

Between getting married and establishing a farm it was September 1961 before Bruce completed his Lay Preacher exams, preached a Trial Service and was accepted as a Fully Accredited Lay Preacher. Bruce's commitment to serve the Church as a Lay Preacher was to proclaim the Gospel of the 'Risen Christ' through the Wesley theology.

Bruce and Bethlee were both very involved in their church in North Canterbury. In 1988 Bruce retired from farming and moved to Blenheim in the hope that one would be seen and not heard. But that was not the case for the role of leading worship at the churches and many retirement homes in Marlborough was calling for Lay Ministry to help.

Over the years Bruce was privileged to lead worship in many churches from Te Pirita and Dunsandel in South Canterbury to Hawarden in the north, from New Brighton in the east to Russells Flat and Springfield in the west. After moving to Blenheim Bruce led many services locally and he also went to Murchison, Picton, Okaramio, Rapaura and Tua Marina. In 2011 Bruce was awarded his 50 years Long Service Certificate as a Lay Preacher.

He was also responsible for services in several Rest Homes. Here among the elderly and frail was a Ministry that he could bring to these people, with the assurance of grace in their time of need.

Bruce was a great Pastoral visitor. He attended Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast Synod meetings for many years.

He acknowledged that his life journey would not have been possible without the support of his late wife, Bethlee.

He supported Bethlee joining in with the Methodist Women's Fellowship activities, picnics, lunches out, quiz and games evening. When the bi-annual Relay for Life event came round, Bruce was an early riser to get the MWF tent pitched with our big sign on the side, where our team met and others could see who we were. Bruce also walked with Bethlee round the track.

For many years Bruce was the Convenor of P.A.M.S. (Methodist Op Shop) Management committee.

Early in 2010 it was deemed that the Wesley Gym was past its use by date and needed to be replaced. Bruce was Convenor of the Rebuilding committee. We now have The Foundry.

Thank you Bruce for all your years of service to the Church.

Rest in Peace dear friend, you have earned your rest. Hear your "Well done, good and faithful servant.

John David Meredith

1941 - 2022

John was born in Invercargill in July 1941 and after leaving school was employed as a clerk-in-courts with the Justice Department. He spent 1965-67 as a student at Trinity Methodist Theological College, Auckland.

His New Zealand parish appointments were Upper Hutt, Ashburton, Balclutha, St David's Marchwiell Union Parish (Timaru). While in Timaru John established an Ephesus group to explore new ways of understanding Christian faith. From 1973 he was Secretary of Synod in the Otago-Southland and South Canterbury Methodist Districts for a total of 17 years.

In 2000 Jill and John moved to Perth, Western Australia, where John was inducted as Minister of the Word at Scarborough and Waterman's Bay Uniting Church in Australia. The Perth years were richly productive with Jill and John working together as a team. An extended tribute received from the two churches indicates that John brought a refreshing reminder of a shared Methodist heritage. PowerPoint was used extensively and creatively in services from 2005 on.

Jill and John were key to extensions added to the Scarborough Church which transformed the building as a worship centre. John furthered his commitment to ecumenism by becoming involved with Churches Together in Stirling and arranging many ecumenical events, including a 4-part study every year on biblical and social themes. A highlight for John was receiving the Lund Award from The Council of Churches of WA in recognition of his support for sustained ecumenical activity.

After leaving Perth in 2007 John continued his association by continuing to write studies every year and acting as a mentor for the two congregations in the absence of a presbyter.

On his return to New Zealand, John retired formally in March 2007 before taking up a half time supply ministry at Wainoni Methodist Church for eight years. During the Wainoni years John became involved with the Rolleston Community Church and when this church re-formed as an Anglican church John led non-Anglican services twice a month until just a few weeks before his death on 21 May 2022.

John was a life-long student, completing diplomas and degrees in social work and social policy. Most recently, in the Perth years, he completed a Masters degree in Applied Theology through Spurgeon's College, London and conferred by the University of Wales. He had considerable writing skills and became the editor of Word & Worship, the quarterly publication of the NZ Lay Preachers Association, from Spring 2013 with the Winter issue 2022 completed in the last weeks of his life. Readers know very well John's book reviews for Touchstone, Tui Motu and Revive in Perth.

John will be remembered for impatience with shoddy outdated theology and his advocacy of bold, new future-thinking. He knew he was living in a time that demanded thinking, courageous action and a deepening sensitivity to the divine presence. He was compassionately impatient with a church still held within static thinking. He was gentle and thoughtful, a creative thinker and writer, looking for ways to share truth and living values, believing in what he said with conviction and supporting this with a great ability to explore the diversity of life and faith with insight. John brought a breath of fresh air to his theological perspectives. Theologically, he was a progressive thinker with a liberal and social justice heart.

John will be remembered by so many people as a writer and editor providing greatly valued resources. In his ministry John was self-disciplined, kind, pastorally sensitive and diligent in attention to detail. He is deeply missed by Jill, daughters Lucy and Penny, three grandchildren and his extended family. We give thanks for John's gifts shared so freely.

Amelia Viena Moala (nee: Leha'uli)

1939 – 2022

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

'Amelia Viena Moala (nee Leha'uli) known as Viena was born in Tonga on 17 January 1939. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Saturday 12 March 2022 in Balmoral, Auckland, N.Z.

Viena was the beloved wife and best friend of the Late Reverend Taniela Moala for 56 years. She was a humble servant of the Lord and peaceful mother of the Dominion Road Tongan Methodist church and churches in Tonga.

Viena was the beloved mother of 9 children: 'Afe, Nehasi, 'Iunisi, Siueni, Tulaki, Vaiolupe, Taniela Savelio, Audrey and Taniela Kata. She was the grandmother to 26 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Viena was raised in Tatakamotonga, Tongatapu by her late mother Pasimati Kumateti Leha'uli as her father passed away while she was young. She has one sibling, Sita Leha'uli who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Viena attended Queen Salote College in Nuku'alofa for girls where she achieved the highest qualification of 'Ma'amaloa Loumaile' equivalent to an NCEA excellence endorsement. Her name is scribed on the wooden honours board in the school hall, to this day. She was an avid learner and enjoyed school. She was a school prefect. These skills supported her in her leadership role later in life.

Viena received a nursing scholarship to travel to N.Z. however she met the love of her life, our handsome father, Taniela Takapautolo and her dreams of being a nurse was set aside to build a family and support her husband's career as a teacher. This allowed them to travel widely within the Tongan Islands, like to Niuatoputapu (most northern islands of Tonga). Later, a career change would see our parents being called to Church Ministry. While our father trained at Siatoutai Theological College, Viena contributed a piece to the college newsletter sharing about college life and how \$1.00 per week bought your family kerosene for lamp light and other necessities. A humble experience taught her how to budget on limited funds.

In 1972, Rev.Taniela Moala travelled to N.Z. and attended Laidlaw Theological College in Henderson training for his Diploma in Divinity and he was stationed as the first Tongan Methodist Minister in Aotearoa. It was a time of establishment for their family. In 1975, Viena with the 3 youngest children travelled to NZ to join Taniela. Viena was a constant supporter of Taniela's work as a church minister and Tongan/Pacific community leader. They were pioneers in the establishment of the Tongan Methodist churches, now Vahefonua Tonga o Aotearoa contributing 30+ Tongan churches to Te Hāhi o te Weteriana.

Viena was heavily involved in the Tongan Methodist Women's fellowships and New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship as she was the first president of the Tongan Methodist Women's group. She travelled to Conferences across the world as part of the NZMWF representatives.

Taniela retired in 2001 as a church minister in Aotearoa after 24+ years of service to the church, at 65 years old and he returned back to Tonga with Viena to support the Tongan Methodist church. This allowed them to work a little longer for the church, as the retirement age in Tonga is 70. Taniela passed away in 2016 and Viena remained in Aotearoa as she became unwell and was cared for by her daughter's rostering care for her in her home with the help of a Tongan caregiver.

On behalf of the late Rev. Taniela and Viena Moala's family, we would like to take this opportunity to humbly thank 'Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa' and the 'Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga' for the opportunities of servanthood to the Lord that was provided for our parents and our family. We also thank every one of you for your 'Ofa/Aroha' Alofa/love, for the loss of our dear mother 'Amelia Viena Moala.

Folau ā si 'emau Fa'e fakatokilalo mo 'ofa ki he famili, kainga, komiuniti moe Siasi. Haere ra our humble loving mother to family, whanau, community and church.

'Ofa lahi atu moe faka'apa'apa kiamoutolu moe loto hounga 'aupito,
(With love, respect and deep gratitude)

*'Amelia Viena Moala's family,
'Api ko 'Onehaka, Balmoral, Auckland, N.Z.*

Kenneth (Ken) Harry Russell

1934 - 2022

Ken's ministry has been a vital people centred one, marked by strong community building, attention to inclusiveness in the life of the church, and to social justice dimensions in worship and preaching.

A strong and consistent advocate of church union, the failure of the churches to unite was a major disappointment to Ken. However he considered it a privilege to have served 14 years in a cooperative venture in Whangarei and to have served the wider church in a number of significant ecumenical roles.

Ken warmly acknowledged the influence of his parents and childhood church in his early formation. Born April 20, 1934 to Stan & Ailsa Russell, both active members of St Johns, Nelson, Ken suffered from polio in his infancy but never allowed that to limit him unduly.

In his young adult years Ken was greatly influenced by the ministries of Ashley Petch and Charlie Hailwood who instilled in him the relevance of the Gospel to social and political issues.

Judy Andrews came out of the same community of faith and the two shared many of the same influences leading to their courtship and marriage.

Ken candidated in 1953 from the Nelson district, and after 3 years at Trinity College and marriage to Judy in January 1957, they began parish ministry that has taken them widely throughout the country.

Hokitika 1957-59, Waitara 1960-65, Levin 1966-70, Invercargill Central 1971-80 & St Johns Uniting Parish in Whangarei 1981-94 during which they undertook in 1988 a 12 month Exchange Ministry in the USA.

In 1995 Ken was asked to undertake a 6 month supply ministry at Wesley Wellington which was extended to 2 years and provided Ken with a greater exposure to the cross-culturalism of a church in which he had been ordained 40 years earlier (Nov. 1959)

Further supply ministries followed at Pitt Street Auckland (2002-03) and Mornington Dunedin (2004-05) following which Ken and Judy retired in Dunedin.

Within deeply committed pastoral ministries, Ken also served 8 years as District Superintendent in Otago-Southland (1972-79) and 10 years in Northland (1982-91). He was also President of the Northland District Council for 2 years and Moderator of the Northland Presbytery. Ken was also in high demand as a funeral celebrant in Whangarei, illustrating his strong commitment to people beyond as well as within the church. He was also an accomplished wordsmith and contributed many fine articles to parish and district publications.

Ken and Judy had 5 children and 9 grandchildren, but beyond their immediate family they were very open and generous in their hospitality. In addition to her formidable culinary skills, Judy is also an accomplished wood turner, artist and gardener and shared with Ken an interest in antiques.

We give thanks to God for the dedicated service that Ken and Judy offered not only to the church but also to the wider community.

Terrance (Terry) John Ryan MBE

1942 - 2022

E te tohunga whakapapa, tangata hūmarie, pononga o te Atua, takoto marie koe i ngā ringa atawhai o te matua nui i te rangi. Takoto mārika koe i a papatuanuku i te taha o ō mātua, i tōu whānau i Waipū.

Nā reira, ka tangi hotuhotu te ngākau, ka rere tonu ngā roimata. Takoto, e moe, e moe, moe mai rā!

Maoridom, Te Taha Māori o te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa and in particular Ngāi/Kai Tahu have lost a true gentleman, scholar and much revered and respected kaumātua.

Terry Ryan's parents were of Scottish extraction whose whānau settled within the strongly traditional Scots community in Waipu, Northland. He had two brothers and one sister and is survived by his older sister Margaret and youngest brother David, several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews, all who knew him as 'Uncle Tenny'.

As a boy Terry was whāngai'd by the local Toka whānau, Henry Toka and his wife Mary. He became just one of the whānau and it was through this association that his love of te reo and whakapapa was nurtured. His father passed away when he was quite young, but he was always very close to his mother.

As a young man he worked in the Whangarei Māori Affairs Dept. and then the Māori Land Court. His astute acumen for detail and history was recognised early and when a position arose, his ability with te reo and whakapapa made him the ideal candidate for working with the Māori Land Court in Christchurch. He was transferred to Christchurch where he remained for the rest of his life. He started his genealogy mission for the Ngāi Tahu Trust Board in 1974 as a researcher helping with the iwi's Treaty claim. Terry worked for 45 years for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu where he retired in 2020 and is recognised as the longest-serving staff member of the organisation.

In 1995 for his service to Te Waipounamu community, Terry was made a Member of the British Empire and received an honorary doctorate in 2001 for his contributions to genealogy, from Lincoln University. "Whānau from across the motu reached out for his knowledge and he was always happy to give of his time" (Reo Hau).

Terry became very close with the Rapaki and Weteriana whānau and one of his main concerns regarding his engagement with writing the book *Te Pou Herenga Waka 2021*, was to ensure that the story of Rehua's close links with Te Hāh Weteriana was never forgotten. His whāngai parents Mary and Henry Toka were also hugely influential in the design of the marae carvings and tukutuku panels.

He was the kaumātua for the Central South Island Synod and Christchurch Methodist Mission and was close confidante to the missions and their work. Post-earthquake Terry helped with advice and in the opening of many of our church buildings and new housing complexes in the area.

For Te Taha Māori, Terry was the backbone of Otautahi Rohe. He was ever present, but much preferred to remain in the background. His was the quiet measured voice that reminded folk of important matters of tikanga and process when things might have strayed.

Terry spent months at a time in the warmer climate of Waipū each year, and when he needed respite while work was carried out on his home in Christchurch, he was our guest in the Wesleycare Whare Tiaki. His presence in the whare was hugely uplifting for the other residents who valued his quiet unassuming ways. The kaumātua there considered Terry their friend.

Terry was a deeply private man, who cared for people, no matter who they were.

The tangi for Terry Ryan was held at Rehua Marae in Christchurch where he served as its secretary for many years. He lay in state there for 3 nights where he received accolades from far and wide. His body was then accompanied by a large contingent from Ngai Tahu, who returned him to his Kaipara whānau at Otamatea Marae, for one night. The next day he was taken to lie in the family homestead in Waipū and following the whānau wishes his funeral service was held in the Presbyterian Church, Waipū and he was interred beside his parents and brother in the Waipū cemetery.

Mā te Atua koe e manaaki Terry, māna e tiaho mai i tōna atawhai ki runga i a koe e hoa, moe marie!

Leonard (Len) Peter Schroeder

1926 - 2022

Born on 24 February 1926 at Waitati, Dunedin, Len was educated at Waimate, Templeton and Christchurch West High School. He trained as a pharmacist and worked as a chemist in Christchurch. Sensing a call to ministry, he served for a year in the Dunedin Central Mission before entering Trinity College in 1947.

Len had vivid memories of college, recalling that his lecturers were gracious men who gave students a liberal treatment of biblical themes. He valued beyond measure the personal friends he made who enriched him through his years of ministry.

In 1951 Len married Hilda Dickie from a Methodist family in Dunedin. A registered nurse, Hilda was a warm, strong and loving partner. Together they created a life that enriched the churches in which they served and that nurtured family and friends for over seventy years. They had three children: Peter, David and Pauline.

Len had a varied and distinguished ministry serving in Upper Hutt, Dunedin, Remuera, New Plymouth, Palmerston North and the Lynfield Community Church. Always innovative, he sought to make the gospel fresh and relevant. He read widely and thoughtfully but presented his scholarship in an easy and often whimsical fashion.

Deeply musical, Len's gifts as a pianist were obvious from his days as a student. He loved playing the chapel organ and noted that it was often a more spiritual encounter than traditional prayers. In the 1970s he wrote and produced the musicals "The Healer" and "Jacob" enlisting the help of family and parishioners to stage these. Written at the request of the Church, "Jacob" was later presented at Methodist Conference, a highlight of Len's ministry.

In 1982 Len and Hilda embraced a new adventure spending four years in Botswana working with the indigenous Hambukushu people. This meant learning a new language and being separated from family. It was a challenging but ultimately rewarding time which drew on their combined talents: teaching, pastoral care, nursing, leadership training, evangelism and home management.

On their return to New Zealand Len was appointed to Kingsland before retiring in Auckland at the end of 1987. In 1993 he and Hilda moved to Hamilton becoming active members of the Melville Methodist Church. Len continued to offer his gifts, playing the organ, leading the choir, preaching and mentoring a succession of young presbyters. He organised regular musical events for the community.

In 2008 Len and Hilda made their final move to Tamahere Eventide and quickly became loved members of that community. Len died peacefully on 14 February 2022.

As an Hāhi we give thanks to God for the gifts and graces of Len Schroeder. We are grateful for his personal warmth and acceptance of all people, his intelligence, his creativity, his wisdom and his generosity. We offer our aroha to Hilda, Peter, David and Pauline and all of their and Len's wider whānau. Haere rā e te rangatira.

Donald (Don) Shirley

1935 - 2022

Don worked as a carpenter and cabinetmaker. On moving to Nelson from Wellington around 1970 he and his brother for a time ran the Shone and Shirley funeral directors' business.

His knowledge of the building trade made Don a great property secretary for the Nelson Marlborough West Coast Synod – a position he held for some 25-30 years! He retired during 2016 leaving a long and dedicated time of meticulous service to the Methodist Church, both to Synod and to local Methodist parishes, especially after 2012 concerning their dealing with their buildings' earthquake strengthening issues.

Don and his wife Lorraine had many friends, not least amongst parishioners at St John's Methodist Parish, which they joined when they moved to Nelson. Parishioners greatly appreciated all that Don did in the upkeep of St John's and Selwyn Place. Though staunch parishioners, they recognised the need for change and readily supported St John's amalgamation with Stoke Parish in 2018 where they regularly attended Sunday worship and the social activities of the parish.

Don spent his last few years in care at The Wood Retirement Home. Suffering from a stroke, Don died peacefully surrounded by his loving family a mere week later on the 15th July 2022 in his 87th year.

The Nelson Marlborough West Coast Synod along with the Connexion, give thanks for the life of Don, for his faithful service and generosity of spirit.

Paul Frederick Sinclair

1948 - 2022

Paul Frederick Sinclair was born in 1948, spending most of his childhood in Waterview, Auckland. Waterview was an exciting place to grow-up, given that the lions at nearby Auckland Zoo could often be heard roaring. A champion sprinter, Paul started playing rugby league on the wing. Speedway at Western Springs was another interest. He attended Waterview Primary and Avondale College, but school wasn't really his thing. Proud of having made it to the fifth form, he promptly dropped out after a week.

Paul had a variety of jobs - his first was culling chickens for the Swanson poultry factory; then as a postie delivering mail around Auckland; and later working at the Farmers Trading Company. Through these times Paul was an increasingly active member of the Waterview Methodist Church, and eventually he received a call to ministry.

After completing a pre-training course at Trinity College's School for Christian Workers in Grafton, Paul was part of the inaugural intake (1972-74) of Methodist theological students studying at the combined Methodist and Anglican colleges on the St. John's Anglican (Meadowbank) site. Around this time, he was one of seventeen New Zealanders invited to Russia as a guest of the Russian Orthodox Church. A cherished life-long memory, the trip opened Paul's eyes to the world with two significant life lessons about church and life. The first is that a church is a place of pride and devotion for the community and parish, and the second was not to "judge a book by its cover".

In 1975 Paul was ordained in a televised service at Ngaaruawaahia's Tuurangawaewae Marae and had his first appointment confirmed to the Ashhurst Methodist Church, Pohangina Valley Church, and Bunnythorpe. Paul was still playing rugby league, but quickly retired after being concussed one Saturday, waking up Sunday seeing two sets of Tararua Ranges and needing to read his sermon with one eye closed.

Paul was about to perform Lynne Edwards niece's baptism when they first met, and within nine months they married at Bunnythorpe in July 1976. Paul and Lynne started their love of travel at this time with a trip through Europe, then leading a youth group delegation to the Methodist Tongan Youth Convention in Tonga.

In September 1979 Steffan was born, and four months later in 1980 the family moved to Kilbernie, Wellington where Paul ministered at Lyall Bay Methodist Church, Mirimar Uniting Church and Haitaitai All Saints Anglican Church. In July 1981 Fiona was born, completing the family of four.

In 1984 Paul and family moved to Dunedin to minister at St Kilda Methodist Church and Dunedin South Church, where he was sacramental minister for the Tongan community. This continued a wonderful ongoing relationship with the Tongan people.

In 1991 Paul moved to the Morrinsville Methodist Church, and was a founding member of 'Brewersgate', a fellowship and support group for Waikato clergy and

their families, which included colleagues Paul had trained with at Trinity/St. John's.

After twelve years Paul moved in 2003 to St Clare's in Dinsdale, Hamilton where he was also Chaplain to the Trevellyn (Presbyterian) Retirement Home and Hospital. Paul and Lynne brought with them traditions from previous parishes, like Paul's masterful pancake-making skills for Shrove Tuesdays, frequent parsonage barbeques and church Christmas dinners.

Prior to retiring, Paul had a year (2013) working with the United Reform Church in several small parishes in and around Dunfermline, in Scotland. Returning home Paul and Lynne retired to Whangamata. However, Paul couldn't sit still for too long, quickly joining the Whangamata Community Church, leading services, joining the church council and working on local issues.

Given his pastoral heart, the church as a 'community of faith' where unconditional love was truly experienced was always critical to Paul. His favourite book in the bible was Job, and no question or conversation was too big or small. He welcomed everybody equally and along with his huge sense of humour, his love was deep and abiding for family, friends, colleagues and the Church.

Sadly, Paul died suddenly while visiting family on the Sunshine Coast in Australia on 4 August 2022. He was farewelled from Morrinsville Methodist Church on 20 August 2022.

We extend our aroha and best wishes to Lynne; Steffan and Cynthia and Luca; and Fiona and Jarrod and Hayden, and Andrew and Sarah; and the wider Sinclair and Edwards families.

We thank God for Paul's loyal and faith-filled service to Te Hāhi o Weteriana o Aotearoa and the wider Christian Church over nearly five decades. A popular pastor, preacher and leader, Paul will be greatly missed.

Susau Etika Jane Strickland QSM

1935 – 2022

Born on the island of Rotuma in 1935, Susau's father was Timote Pene of Vaitoka and Nohiva, in Oinafa and her mother was Tipo Jieni of Maragte'u, in Noa'tau and Farsau, in Itu'ti'u. Susau was also the younger sister of her only sibling, her dearest brother, Mamao Konousi.

From the age of six, Susau was sent from Rotuma to Suva (Fiji) for her education at Annesley Methodist School and then Ballantine Memorial Secondary School. In addition to excelling in achieving the expected curriculum learning outcomes of the time, it was during these formative years at school that Susau also learnt to speak fluently in Fijian, Hindi and English. She then chose to follow in the footsteps of her mother, training and serving in the demanding but fulfilling field of nursing -a career that she was dedicated to for over five decades.

Upon commencing her nursing career in Fiji, Susau met and then married Dr Mata Strickland of Aitutaki (Cook Islands), and after the birth of their eldest daughter in Rotuma, the young family migrated to the Cook Islands, where they had their remaining four children, whilst serving as a medical doctor and nurse team, stationed all over the Cook Islands for the next decade and a half of their medical careers.

In the early 1970s, the family migrated from the Cook Islands to New Zealand, where alongside her passion for nursing, she devoted much of her life to service and leadership in different parts of the Rotuman, Fijian and Cook Islands communities in Auckland.

After a couple of years in New Zealand, Mata was ready to pursue further studies and new medical adventures abroad; But having spent most of the first part of her career being stationed to different outer islands of the Cook Islands, Susau was ready to settle and base herself, and her children in Auckland. Unfortunately, this led to the end of Susau and Mata's marriage, and while her then ex-husband travelled to study and work in a range of different places around the world, Susau raised her then teenage children as a single, professional, working, solo mother. Although they were not easy years, Susau always acknowledged her first decade of living in New Zealand as "the beginning of the most liberating time of my life".

In addition to ensuring that her children were enrolled at good secondary schools, it was also important for Susau that her family were a part of their local Methodist church, which was the Pitt Street Methodist Church in Newton. By the beginning of the 1980s, in addition to being an active member of the Morning Congregation at Pitt Street, Susau was also an active member of the Mt Eden Fijian Congregation that used to meet for worship on Sunday afternoons. For her, the mix of cultural, linguistic, social and even theological variety was something that she was comfortable being a part of, and she was only ever too happy to use the skills and insight that she had gained from one side to also enhance the work of the other, and vice versa.

Serving in various roles of responsibility within the life of both congregations eventually led her to take up lay preaching and lay leadership training, all while still working full time as a nurse, and tending to the needs of her children and by then, her grandchildren as well. For the average person, this would have probably been too much already, but for Susau, things were only just getting started.

By the late 1980s and early 1990s, on a national church level, Susau helped initiate the Fiji Advisory Committee, where she served as the convenor for many years. This committee set the foundations for what is now known as Wasewase ko Viti kei Rotuma e Niu Siladi. On a local level, Susau worked with a number of Rotuman migrant families, to set up a Rotuman cultural fellowship as well as an Auckland Rotuman Methodist prayer group.

These groups went on to become the New Zealand Rotuman Fellowship Incorporated Society, and the Kingsland Rotuman Methodist Congregation, the latter of which, fondly enough continues to belong to the same parish as her first two home congregations, Auckland Central Methodist Parish.

In 1997 Susau served as Vice President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, with the Reverend Norman Brookes as President. Together they sought to provide a gentle and calm but firm leadership of the church during what was a turbulent and for many, a difficult time in the church's history.

In the early 2000s, amidst continuing to hold various positions of responsibility at parish, district and national levels of the church, Susau also served as the President of the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship. Over the decades, the NZMWF had always held a special place in Susau's heart, so to be able to lead alongside an executive committee, and wider fellowship made up of so many of her lifelong friends, who continued to be just as vivacious and committed to the cause as she was, was indeed the "pièce de résistance" of her service in the church.

In 2006 Susau was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for her services in the community.

As a Lay Presbyter, she continued to actively lead the Kingsland Rotuman Methodist Congregation up until 2016.

Susau was the devoted Mother of Patricia, Edwina, Ben, Teina and Naomi, and the very proud and equally doting "Nana" of TeRito, Alfred, Romulus, Jane, Mikhaela, Puna, Ben Jnr, Denis, Henry and Teina Jnr.

Susau is survived by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, all of her extended family, as well as the members of her beloved Kingsland Rotuman Methodist Congregation.

Ausage (Fa'aoso) Fa'aoso Tugia

1929 - 2022

Ausage Faaoso Tugia, was born on the 30th of November 1929 in the village of Luatuanu'u in Samoa, where he spent his childhood.

He did his education at George Brown School, Agricultural School and Piula Theological College. He married his late wife La'amauga in 1957 at Pitt Street Methodist Church, Auckland. They had five children, Misileti Webster, Helen Tugia, Fagaloa Tugia, Ruth Laban and Wesley Tugia.

One of his first employment jobs was working at the Laundry Press, the Blind Foundation Mt Eden, Sleepy Head Factory on St James Street Auckland, CBD and Alert Taxis. He was a hard working family man.

Rev Faaoso Tugia was a self-supporting presbyter of the Methodist Church of New Zealand. He was one of the gospel warriors who helped establish and develop the Samoan ministry within Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa.

In 1977 when the late Rev Siauala Amituanai seconded from the Samoan Methodist church to help with the Samoan ministry here in New Zealand, eight lay men offered to train as self-supporting presbyters: Faaoso was one of them.

St Johns Ponsonby was the centre of the Samoan ministry at its beginning. The work was growing and saw an increase in numbers; thus, some were asked to establish new parishes at Panmure and Henderson. These ministries were looked after by Lay Preachers under the supervision of Faaoso Tugia and another presbyter.

From 1983 to 1992 Rev Faaoso and his late wife La'amauga were stationed in Henderson. At the start of 1993 he was stationed in Hastings and remained there until 1995, when they were moved and stationed in Papakura for two years.

He was a presbyter who contributed a lot to the establishment of the Samoan ministry and set the groundwork for what we have now in Sinoti Samoa. He had a great sense of humour and was well respected by our Samoan people.

Faaoso retired from the Ministry and later left the Methodist Church. He went on to establish the Wesleyan Evangelical Church with some other Presbyters and although he had left, his membership with the Methodist Church of New Zealand was not removed.

He later returned and worshipped at Mt Albert Methodist Church, and sometimes at Ponsonby Samoan Parish until he passed away in February 2022.

Sinoti Samoa is grateful to God for the gift of Rev Ausage Faaoso Tugia's life and his tremendous contribution to the establishment of the Samoan Ministry in the MCNZ.

O Faaoso o le faifeau faau'u a le Ekalesia Metotisi Niu Sila. O ia ose tasi o TOA o le Talalelei. O se tasi o tama na fesoasoani malosi I le atinaeina o le galuega Samoa I totonu o le Ekalesia Metotisi Niu Sila.

Ina ua tupu le galuega Samoa I le tausaga 1977, ua susu mai foi le susuga ia Siauala Amituanai mai le Koneferenisi a Samoa e fesoasoani I le galuega iinei, na ofoina mai ai le soifua o tamā e toavalu e a'o'oga ina ia avea ma faifeau mo le galuega. O Faaoso le tasi o le toavalu lenei.

Na tapuvae tasi le galuega I le falesa I Ponsonby, peitai na vaaia le tuputupu pea o le galuega, ma ua mafai ai ona o nisi e amata se galuega I Panmure, ae o isi e galulue mai Henderson, sa vaaia nei galuega e failauga o le Talalelei, I lalo o le vaaiga a le susuga ia Faaoso Tugia ma le tasi o faifeau.

1983 I le 1992 o tausaga ia na avea ai Faaoso ma Laamauga ma faifeau I Henderson.

Amataga o le tausaga 1993 na siitia atu ai I la'ua I Hastings ma galulue ai e vaaia le aulotu Samoa seia oo I le 1995.

Na toe siitia I le faaiuga o le tausaga lava lea ma faanofo I le matagaluega I Papakura mo le isi lua tausaga.

O se faifeau na tele lona sao I le galuega Samoa ma lona tauatinaeina. O se auauna agamalie tele, ae tumu foi I le tusaafia.

E loloto lana tofa faale Atua. O se tasi o le afaigaluega na faalagolago iai le galuega Samoa I lana faatofalaiga mo le manuia o ona tagata Samoa.

Na malolo manumalo Faaoso mai le galuega, ona faapena lea ona le toe galue e vaaia se aulotu ae ua fai le faiva o le tapuaia o le galuega.

E iai taimi I le galuega e lukaluka ai le gataifale, ma ua soua le vasa ini mataupu a le Ekalesia. Ina ua alia'e lea tulaga I le Ekalesia na faapena ona o ese ai nisi o le afaigaluega a le Sinoti Samoa, faatasi ma nisi o tagata, ma latou faavaeina ai le Ekalesia Evagelia Uesiliana.

Na susu ai Faaoso I le vaega lea ma ia vaaia foi se tasi o aulotu I NorthShore, peitai, na alu ese le tino, ao faamaumauga a le Ekalesia na iai pea le suafa o Faaoso e o'o mai I le aso na valaauina ai o ia e lona Matai. Na avea pea o ia ma faifeau malolo manumalo a le Ekalesia Metotisi Niu Sila.

Ae lei umi na alu ai Faaoso I e na o ese, ae toe foi mai ma lotu loa I le tasi o matagaluega a le Ekalesia I Mt Albert. O nisi foi Aso Sa e lotu ai I le matagaluega Samoa I Ponsonby.

Faafetai tele I le Atua mo le soifua o lana auauna ia Faaoso Tugia faapea foi le faletua ia La'amauga, ae tainane o lo la'ua sao I le galuega paia a le Atua I le Sinoti Samoa. Folau ia I lagi ma, ae tapuai lou aiga Sinoti, ma le paia o le afaigaluega ma faletua ma alii.

Ilaitia Sevati Tuwere

1940-2022

Rev. Dr. I. S. Tuwere was born on March 8th 1940 to Jese Ulacake and Ekari Balenamatau in his village of Bagata, Wailevu, Fiji. As customary, he was named after elders of his village, a father and a son who served as Catechists. He is the youngest of four siblings and was raised by his mother and his maternal uncles in her village of Vunivesi, Wailevu, Fiji.

He was an outstanding student from his early primary school days till his later accomplishments of attaining his Diploma of Theology, Bachelor of Divinity, Masters of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. In 1970, he married Nina Taiviu Waqavakatoga and they have three children – Josua Wainigasau, Pita Vakarewakinamara and Lois Ciryawa.

He taught at the Fiji Methodist Theological College, Davuilevu becoming the principal for the years of 1974 – 1975. He took up the post of being Principal of Pacific Theological College (PTC) in 1981. He was tasked with the creation of the Masters of Theology course at PTC, which was first offered in 1987, and the first graduates graduating in 1988. He taught many students through these years at Davuilevu and PTC who have become ministers and church leaders in Fiji and the Pacific.

Rev. Tuwere was voted and appointed to be the President of the Methodist Church of Fiji & Rotuma for the years of 1996 to 1998. He was then appointed to be the General Secretary of the Methodist Church. While serving as General Secretary a Macedonian call came through the invitation to join as a Lecturer of Systematic Theology at the School of Theology, Auckland University based at St. John's College of the Diocese of Polynesia, Remuera, Auckland.

With the facilitation of the Diocese of Polynesia Rev. Tuwere moved from Fiji to New Zealand in the year 2000 working full time as lecturer at the St John's College. He was also the Chairperson for the Fiji Bible Society for some years giving input into the writing and publishing of a new modern version of the Fijian Bible. He was instrumental in helping to bring together the Fijian Methodist Congregations in New Zealand to be a Synod in the New Zealand Methodist Church. This synod named 'Wasewase ko Viti e Aotearoa' is now a vibrant and growing church. Another big accomplishment is his leadership in helping to secure a church property in Auckland that the Fijian Methodist congregation could call their own.

In October of 2002, he lost his beloved wife Nina. He remarried Jese Lewabobo from Nadroga, Fiji in January 2004. For a number of years, he served as the Superintendent-Minister for the Wasewase ko Viti Synod in New Zealand before giving the leadership to Rev. Peni Tikoinaka.

He has written books, speeches, papers, presentations and many sermons both in Fijian and in English. He was a leader in the Ecumenical Movement, a mentor and a Shepherd for ministers and lay pastors. Wherever he served he had a garden especially his 'rourou' patch (taro leaves) cultivated as a hobby and to supplement what he earned for the family. His other hobby was watching rugby and cricket. His

biggest hero was his mother whose teaching and example he carried through all his life emulating that life of simplicity, discipline and service. When asked by the iLalakai newspaper about what advice he would give to young people, he responded by quoting his mother's instructions, which is; "Listen well. Be obedient. Don't think that you know everything about what you should do. Be a learner till the day you die."

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Piula Alisa Unasa Su

1934 – 2021

Piula arrived to NZ from Safotu, Savai'i Samoa in 1952 and went straight to live in Gisborne, where she cared for the unwell son of Mr Leo Fowler. She attended the Wesley Methodist church when she was able and became part of that church family, attending bible Class and playing tennis. When the son passed away, she moved to Auckland to train as a nurse. It was in Auckland where she met and later married her husband John Unasa Faalafua Su at the Methodist Church in Pitt Street.

Their first child was born in 1961 in Gisborne. The family continued to be part of the Wesley Methodist Church on Gladstone Road and eventually the family increased to 7 children.

In 1972 Unasa & Piula began the Samoan services at Wesley Methodist at 3.00 pm and in 1983 John/Unasa became an ordained minister in the Methodist church, in the Samoan Advisory, at the time.

Piula was a community stalwart and was recognised for her Pacific community involvement with a QSM. She became a JP in 1989 and was instrumental in supporting Pacific Island families settling in Gisborne and through the church, many came to seek assistance for immigration issues. She began the first P I language Nest in Gisborne in 1987 which began with Tongan and Samoan languages, later becoming a Samoan Aoga Amata. Piula continued to work in the community and the church alongside Rev Unasa in the Sinoti Samoa.

Some of the many difficulties in her life were the loss of her two daughters Beulah Felicity 20 yrs and Fiasili Piula 18 yrs in a car accident in 1985 and not being ordained as a Presbyter, however her strong faith enabled her to carry on with life and to proclaim God's goodness to her, her aiga and to the world.

Piula was ordained a deacon in 1991 at the same conference that her husband Rev Unasa sadly passed. The Book "*NO small Margin of Error*" 2011 edited by Rev Ali'itasi Aoina-Salesa and Rev Sylvia 'Akau'ola- Tongtongo outlines the stories of some pacific women, who are now ordained in the Methodist Church of Aotearoa. This book was dedicated to Piula as the first Pacific Island Woman ordained to the Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Piula capably led the Samoan congregation in Gisborne until she contracted Meningitis in 1996 and was there when Rev Falaniko Mann Taito and Marlene arrived in Gisborne. Her humour and social vibrancy was contagious to all who met her despite her deafness, which was the end result of Meningitis.

She enjoyed the friendship and collegiality of all her Deacon friends and experienced fun times with the mafutaga Tamaitai and Sinoti Samoa.

Her final 7 years were spent in Auckland with her children, due to ill health and then Catherine Lodge in Royal Oak. She was able to attend services at Mt Roskill Methodist, Water View Methodist and Avondale Union Parish and one Sinoti

Samoa Synod in her earlier years when her health allowed.

Her 22 grandchildren were the joy of her life and she was their special “Nana”, who fed them pies and chips, gave them money and always said:” God is Love “(doing sign language)

The last 2 weeks of her life were spent in Gisborne where she had longed to return, while away. She was surrounded by her family, including her only surviving sister, Pauna Tui, friends, her Wesley Samoan Congregation led by Rev Oka leti and the Pacific Island community of Gisborne. She is survived by 5 children, 22 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

The Agape love of God was what Piula willingly showed to all, especially to those in need, until she departed to be with her Lord and Saviour.

Elizabeth (Betty) Jean Watson

Died October 2022

Betty had a life-long association within Methodism - Ashburton Methodist Parish, South Canterbury Synod District now included in Central South Island District which extended her representation within the Connexion.

Local

Sunday School Teacher, Bible Class Leader, Life Boys Officer, Choir Member and an accredited Lay Preacher from 1973. Betty researched and wrote "Centenary of Methodism in Ashburton" With this kind of involvement Betty was almost always on Parish Committees, led Worship (not limited to Methodist Parishes) throughout the Central South Island and including Community Services

District

A Synod parish representative for 23 years led to Betty becoming a South Canterbury Synod Co-superintendent for 12 years and later an assistant Superintendent of Central South Island. Betty represented the Synod on JRC and conducted several Parish reviews.

Connexion

Inevitably from Synod involvement Betty was for 6 years a member of Tauwiwi Strategy and Stationing attending Church Conference for 12 years.

Methodist Women's Fellowship (MWF) played a large part in Betty's life – she gave continuous leadership in the Parish from 1963 holding several terms in most of the offices. At both Parish and District leadership level her skills were sustained up to a few weeks prior to her death.

In 1992 Betty became a Civil Celebrant and has conducted Funerals, Marriages, "Naming Ceremonies" and "Renewal of Vows"

Betty passed away on Sunday 16 October 2022 just 7 days short of her 87th birthday.

We extend our love and support to Ainsley, Rolene, Chris, Kerry and all members of their families. Thank you for sharing Betty with us in all aspects of her contribution within the Methodist Church.

Derrick White

Died April 2022

Derrick died in his 99th year on 6 April 2022, and is survived by four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was raised in the Anglican church, and when he married Laurel, his much loved, late wife, he joined her in the Methodist church.

A man of deep Christian faith, he was for many years a key leader in the St Johns Addington Methodist church, in south Christchurch, where he served as a Sunday School Superintendent, and treasurer, and became an accredited lay preacher in 1958. For many years, he led a regular service at the nearby Bishop Selwyn Lifecare retirement home on behalf of the parish. It was a vital part of their community outreach.

With the formation of the Christchurch South Methodist Parish in the 1990's he became the parish treasurer. After the closure of St Johns Addington, he carried on as the treasurer at St Marks Somerfield, and was a member of the Parish Council. He also assisted with pastoral care of older members.

Professionally a Chartered Accountant he worked for Mace Engineering in Christchurch for 34 years. On his retirement in June 1985, he assisted the Connexional office for three years with wages. It was an easy system for him to use because it was the same computer programme he had used at work.

He also handled GST returns during his time in the Connexional office. It was a whole new, challenging area of work that was introduced by the Fourth Labour Government in 1986 and needed skilled and knowledgeable oversight to establish in the Connexion.

Derrick will be deeply missed at St Marks Somerfield where he had contributed much to parish life during the last twenty years of his life. Even since going into care in his later years, he was still a regular participant in worship.

At times he seemed quite conservative in his thinking but then would strongly support progressive views and initiatives. This came from his deep thinking and caring nature.

We remember him with gratitude for his devotion to family and church.

Rest in Peace Derrick.