



December 2023



Welcome to Connexions

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

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



Remember in your Prayers

Connexional Office

It is with much sadness we inform the Connexion of the death of Dorothy Drew, who died peacefully on November 23, 2023 at WesleyCare in Christchurch, in the 97th year. Dorothy was the acknowledged matriarch of Durham St Methodist Church.

Dorothy served on the Methodist Women's Fellowship (MWF) National North Canterbury Executive 1992-1994 and was Vice President and Liaison Officer. She visited 16 of the 18 MWF Districts with Ruth Bilverstone (President).

As a "word-smith" Dorothy wrote a number of playlets, devotional talks and prayers for use at District MWF gatherings around the country and for Conventions and it was with much delight that with the support of her Durham St Congregation, Dorothy was able to have a book of her many prayers published by Phillip Garside. The book was launched on August 28, 2022 and there was a further reprint early in 2023.

An ardent member of the Cornish Association, Dorothy was awarded the Paul Smales Medallion. This medallion is awarded annually at the Gorsedh to someone living outside Cornwall who has given notable service to the County. The Gorsedh of the Bards of Cornwall – exists to maintain the national Celtic spirit of Cornwall.

Messages can be addressed to the family of the late Dorothy Drew, c/- 19 London Street, Richmond, Christchurch 8013. A memorial Service will be celebrated for Dorothy at Durham Street Methodist Church, 309 Durham Street North, on Thursday, November 30, at 2.00pm.

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Please see the livestream link for Dorothy Drew's Memorial service <https://youtube.com/live/hg7BO-vjFLA>

Messages can be addressed to the family of the late Dorothy Drew, c/- 19 London Street, Richmond, Christchurch 8013.



The Rev David Balchin died suddenly on Saturday evening in Wellsford while walking with his wife Chris. He was ordained Presbyterian, and (after a stroke during a heart operation while stationed at Waihi) was serving part time as a Methodist Appointment to the Wellsford Co-operating Parish. David served in First Church Papakura and Districts, Waihi, Crossroads Mangatangi, and Wellsford.

A funeral service for him will be held this Friday 15th Dec @ 1pm @ St Andrews, Great South Rd, Manurewa, to celebrate his life, and give thanks to God for a life well lived.

Tēnā koe

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary

I regret to advise you that Anne Abernethy – wife of the Rev Gordon Abernethy – has died. There will be a Memorial Service in the New Year. Anyone wishing to send a message of condolence to Gordon can email him on aboseniors@kinect.co.nz or write to him at 14 Argyle Street, Mornington, Dunedin, 9011

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary

We sadly advise that Hilda Widdup, wife of the late Reverend Bob Widdup, died at WesleyCare Hospital in Christchurch on Saturday evening 17 December 2023, in her 102nd year. Hilda had a deeply compassionate, down-to-earth, practical faith and together with Bob made their indelible mark in ministry appointments in both the North and South Islands of Aotearoa New Zealand. After Bob's death in 2009, Hilda returned to Christchurch to reside in Wesley Village adjacent to the Papanui Methodist Church, where she and Bob had served for so many years; and about 4 years ago transferred into rest home and hospital care at WesleyCare.

A private family service has been held, followed by cremation. A memorial service of thanksgiving for Hilda's life will be held at the Westpark Chapel, Lamb & Hayward Ltd 467 Wairakei Road Christchurch, Saturday 20 January 2024 at 10.00 am. Communications may be sent to the family care of margaret.widdup@hotmail.com

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Connexional Office

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Connexional office will be closed from midday on Friday the 22nd of December and reopen at 8.30am on Monday the 8th of January 2024.





Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

The Insurance, Property, and Health and Safety Team
If you are travelling during the holidays have a safe journey.



"Rekindle the Vā of Papatūānuku - Stories and Perspectives"

Connexional Office
Get your copy now!!

Printed copies of the MCNZ Decade on Climate Justice Theme "Rekindle the Vā of Papatūānuku - Stories and Perspectives" are now available from the Church Office at 409 Great South Road, Ellerslie, Auckland and the Connexional office in 50 Langdons Rd, Papanui, Christchurch.

Copies are \$15 each.



Our Christmas Greetings and Office Hours

Christian World Service

The CWS office will close for the Christmas break at 12:00pm on Friday 22nd December and reopen on Monday 8th January. If you need to contact us, please email: cws@cws.org.nz.

If there is an international crisis or disaster over this period, check the [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to find out how we are responding.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion, for standing with people who need water, food and justice this year. May you find love this Christmas and the strength to face new challenges in the year ahead.

Meri Kirihimete

Tim, Fi, Italy, Nadine, Rob and Gillian



Gifted

Christian World Service

Choose the best Christmas gift at Gifted.

At this time of year [ecards](#) are perfect for last minute gifts. Every gift you buy will support a specific programme of a Christian World Service partner. If you buy the top-selling gift, [Baby and Mother Health](#) you will be supporting two health clinics run by the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees for refugee mothers and babies in Jordan. Every gift helps people!





Closing of St Matthew's Church, Manunui

Lesley Aitken

On Sunday the congregation of St Matthew's/St Paul's Co-operating Parish, Taumarunui held a meaningful service of thanksgiving and celebration to acknowledge the 114 years of ministry at Manunui.

The service was led by Rev. Alison Molineux, Joyce McCann and Rev. Mervyn Aitken. Among the memories shared, Don Tidswell mentioned that the church was

built in three months, back in 1909, and still stands strong and sturdy on foundations of river stones!

Blue, Huckleberry and Jed Donaldson are seen searching for their names on the Cradle Roll. They are the last of many babies to have been baptised in St Matthew's.

Aurelie Jones played the organ. She and Penny Cairns, also present, have played for worship there for 78 years between them!

At the end of the service, carrying church taonga to be taken to St Paul's, the congregation were piped from the church by Nelson Hughes. It was a very moving morning, followed with the warmth of refreshments and further memories at St Paul's.

A former resident of the area Billie Mariner, has bought the property and is slowly transforming it into her home. She was at the closing service, where many local folk remembered her.



COP28 results disappointing

Christian World Service

ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) expressed its disappointment at the final statement from the COP28 climate negotiations earlier this week.

While the agreement to establish the Loss and Damage Fund was a breakthrough, the results will not come close to delivering climate justice.



Share Food this Christmas

Christian World Service

The climate crisis is making life much harder for many people.

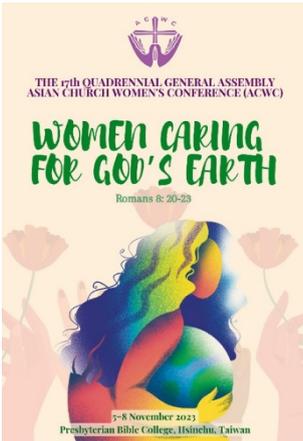
Your gift of love at Christmas is one way you can share God's love with the world – especially for small-scale farmers, workers, displaced people and those who cannot afford the essentials of life.

Somawathie talks about how she is trying to grow

food in an area of Sri Lanka visited by wild elephants. Please encourage your community to give generously to the 2023 Christmas Appeal.

We ask you to remember people without adequate food and living in places of conflict and violence on Christmas Day. There are prayers, slides and other resources available to download. Thanks to Rev Mark Gibson for writing liturgy for this important appeal.





World Day of Prayer 2024 - Service written by the WDP Palestine Committee.

Lynne Scott, National Secretary, World Day of Prayer Aotearoa NZ

The World Day of Prayer Aotearoa NZ National Committee is holding a workshop in Christchurch.

The World Day of Prayer Aotearoa NZ National Committee is holding a workshop in Christchurch on Saturday 27th January 2024, commencing at 10 am

Venue: Chapel Street Centre, Christchurch North Methodist Parish, Cnr Harewood Road and Chapel Street – which will be livestreamed.

The link will be available on our [website](#) – or [email](#) for details.

You are welcome to attend.

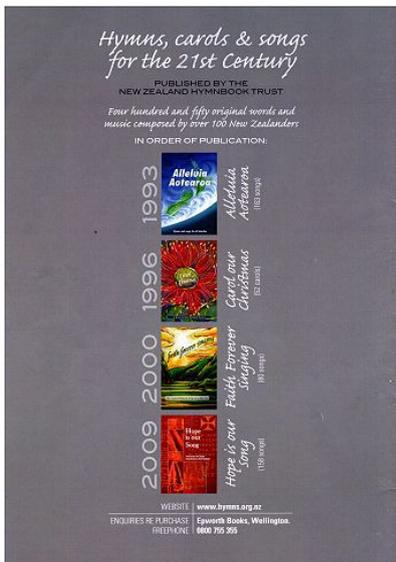


Gaza Palestine Appeal

Christian World Service

Please keep the people of Gaza and the West Bank in your prayers.

Each day brings more violence and increasingly rain and cold temperatures. Special thanks to the many people who have made a donation to the [Gaza Palestine Appeal](#). Read and share the latest [report](#) from the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees and watch the video from a psychosocial session in the Khan Youness Camp in South Gaza.



Wesley Broadway Community Radio in partnership with the Manawatu People's Radio/MPR

John Thornley

Six Carols by NZ Hymnswriters, compiled by Roy Tankersley and John Thornley. Halfhour radio programmes hosted by Gillian and John Thornley

This is the final in a 4-part series covering hymns/carols found in: Alleluia Aotearoa/Faith is our Song/Hope is our Song/Carol our Christmas

This carol programme airs live in the Manawatu area, 11 A.M. Tuesdays and Saturdays. Frequency AM999. Online: Station website: www.mpr.nz/show/wesley

For a free online copy of the Six Carol programme contact Hugh Dingwall at Manawatu Peoples Radio: hugh@mpr.nz

For a listing of Fifty hymns from With One Voice (WOV) and the four hymn collection of the NZ Hymnbook Trust linked to the worship order of service send an email to John Thornley: johngill@inspire.net.nz





Choice and Connection – Karen’s Story

Di MacDonald – Lifewise

The power of choice is a cornerstone in the lives of individuals like Karen, a dedicated mother navigating the world with a visual impairment.

Within disability support, Individualised Funding stands as a means to empowerment, granting individuals like Karen the autonomy to shape their support services according to their unique needs and preferences.

Earlier this year, Karen used her Individualised Funding to purchase audio transcription services so she could do something many of us take for granted. She 'watched' her daughter's dance performance.



With an earpiece in tow, an audio transcriber fed her descriptions of her daughter's performance in real-time. Partway through the performance, her daughter stopped and helped another girl on stage – something dancers are taught not to do. This moment was a proud one for Karen because, as a mother, she felt she had raised her daughter well.

The impact of being able to choose goes beyond financial gain. "Individualised funding eliminates barriers that might otherwise restrict life experiences. It liberates us from tasks that could consume valuable time and energy, allowing us to focus on what truly matters," says Karen.

Karen is an advocate for Individualised Funding and is a part of Lifewise’s Disability Team where she helps others get the most out of their funding.

You can learn more about Karen’s story and Individualised Funding here - <https://www.lifewise.org.nz/individualised-funding>.

Kete Aroha o Waipounamu
Theology on the Edge
2:00pm Sun 28th to 2:00pm Tues 30th January 2024 (including evening sessions) at the stunning new Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham Street, Christchurch

Start 2024 spiritually and mentally refreshed. Our inaugural South Island School of Theology is open to all interested in giving themselves space for challenging conversations, provocative ideas, and inspiring resources on theology from the edge. A great opportunity for all ministers, pastors, and lay preachers to invest in their gifts, but also incredibly enriching for all thoughtful lay leaders.

Keynote speakers:
Dr Paul Lambert, Professor Emeritus, Religious History, Massey University
Christianity on the Margins: globally & locally, and Life on the Edge: discipleship in a new world.
Rev Tara Tautari, Te Kaitiaki Māori Whakapapa: General Secretary, Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Kaitiaki Māori Whakapapa: Rebuilding the Yā of Papatūānuku: Faith & Climate Justice.
Dr Kathleen Rushton, 2023 Christchurch-based Sister of Mercy Nga Whānau Ora. Theologian and researcher of biblical subjects. *Using the Prologue of John's Gospel to uncover how we are called to participate with Jesus in "finishing the works" of God.*
Dr David Tombs, Lay Anglican theologian with a longstanding interest in Liberation Theology. Currently Centre Director & Howard Professor, Chair of Theology & Public Issues, University of Waikato
Witness Experience of Sexual Abuse: Biblical and Pastoral Perspectives

Workshops: (regardless as you have the opportunity to engage in two topics at some depth)
Exploring Mental Health and Theological Perspectives with Dr Matthew Crocker & Dr Lucy Clark
Theology at the Edge: Body Church and Difference with Rev Sarah Hocking & Heather Simpson
Looking at the Second / New Testament through a Jewish Lens (with Rev Janet Marsh) and Library at the Edge (with Rev David Douglas)

As well as stimulating keynote presentations, small group discussions, and engaging workshops to participate in, there will be plenty of relaxed time to reflect, to walk and talk, and to have engaging conversations over refreshments.

All meals are provided apart from breakfasts. Thanks to generous support from the Methodist Prince Albert College Fund, costs have been kept low - only \$150/person Early-bird registration if you pay by Wednesday 17th January (or the full fee of \$175 if you pay after that).

Inquiries or Registration forms available from kaw@aldersgate.org.nz. You will also be provided with a detailed programme and options for nearby accommodation, including billeting.

Theology on the Edge

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Keynote speakers: Dr Peter Lineham, Rev Tara Tautari, Dr Kathleen Rushton and Dr David Tombs

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Evolving Faith Conference watch party.

Kaurihohore / Kamo Co-operating Parish

In November we gathered with our sister church (St. John's Golden Church) and members of our wider community in Whangārei to participate in a watch party for the Evolving Faith Conference.

The conference, which is held annually in United States, is one of the preeminent conferences in the world for Christians who have been marginalised by the wider church and are seeking a safe space to cultivate their faith and connect with others on a similar journey.

Through streaming the conference sessions (the in-person conference was held in October), we were able to listen to and learn from a diverse range of speakers, including the Rev Nadia Bolz-Weber, Dr Wil Gafney, Sarah Bessey, Barbara Brown Taylor, and the Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort. Between each session we enjoyed getting to know each other and share the experience together over good food.

We had unanimously positive feedback from our attendees, with people finding it refreshing to hear people talking and preaching about topics that aren't often addressed at church, and having an opportunity to have challenging conversations about what we were learning. Everyone is hoping to attend again next year, and many are keen to invite friends along too.

Our Evolving Faith Conference watch party, along with running a series of community conversations early this year focused on key social issues (Building Better Communities), are what we hope to be the start of a series of more regular events to provide people in our community with an opportunity to explore their faith, and important social and environmental justice issues, in a safe and inviting way. This is one of the key actions from our recently refreshed Strategic Plan which we believe will help us become more visible in our communities we are seeking to serve, and as a result, help our communities become more aware of the distinctive characteristics and values our church holds.

If you would like to know more about the Evolving Faith conference, you could visit their website <https://evolvingfaith.com/> or search for their podcast in your favourite podcast app.



Methodist Mission Southern: Christmas in the House

Julie Roberts

Preparing for Christmas in the Mission's Youth Transition Houses is not for the faint-hearted, it is, however, a testament to resilience and community support.

For these young residents, previous Christmas times were perhaps not the kind any of us would want. Spending Christmas in the transition house, we hope will bring solidarity and a glimmer of joy. In a space where although a supportive, loving family is absent, there is connection and care in the houses.

Busy in the house, with Mothers and rangatahi working on their accommodation and wellness plans. This has included getting active and out in the fresh air, going to fitness programs, and walks, and getting out of the house more. There have been some lovely bonding times and good conversations had as well about the arrival of a new baby in the new year and how to prepare for this. We are also busy preparing for Santa's arrival.





While others revel in traditional family gatherings, these youths redefine the essence of the season by embracing the chance for personal growth and there is an underlying sense of gratitude for the support received.

The Mornington Women’s Fellowship has every year since we opened our first Transition House in 2018, given toiletries, sweet treats, stationery, and gifts for our resident’s Christmas presents. The spark of these humble gestures speaks volumes to the youth that they are included and considered. Through the graciousness of others, we are proud that the giving to our youths is given with mana.

The profound impact of simple acts of generosity on those striving for stability and dignity.

We wish all our supporters a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Please join The Methodist Mission Southern Supporters’ Club.

Be part of our story, our work, and our community.

Contact Julie julier@mmsouth.org.nz



Greetings from the Theology Programme at the University of Otago!

Paul Trebilco, Head of Theology Programme, Professor of New Testament Studies

The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers many opportunities for the study of Christian Theology, both on-campus and to many students across New Zealand through our successful distance study programme.

We are committed to serving Christian communities throughout New Zealand. Enrolments for Semester 1, 2024 are now open. For details of courses go to: www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study

The subjects on offer include Old Testament and New Testament Studies, Church History, Systematic Theology, Māori Theology, Ethics, Practical Theology and Ministry (including Chaplaincy Studies), and Biblical languages (Hebrew and New Testament Greek). The Theology Programme also has a Centre for Theology and Public Issues, offering papers with a strong social justice focus on contemporary issues.

- You can study toward a qualification, or you can take a single paper (or more) for interest, or as part of another degree. (Most University of Otago students can include up to 5 Theology papers in their degree.)
- We offer many qualification options: Diploma in Theology; Bachelor of Theology; Postgraduate degrees in Theology, Ministry, Chaplaincy, and Faith-Based Leadership and Management; MTheol; and PhD. If you've already got another degree, we offer a Diploma for Graduates, which is 7 papers, 4 at 300-level. (This is the equivalent of one full year’s study of Theology, but can be split up across several years.)

Papers on offer in 2024 are in the attached posters and brochures, and a power point.

Further information:

theology@otago.ac.nz, www.otago.ac.nz/theology, www.facebook.com/theologyotago

Ph 03 479 8639

And [here’s a video](#) about the Theology Programme at Otago:

Feel free to share it widely!





Climate Justice Calendar for 2024

Climate Justice Working Group

Calendars available now. Have you ordered yours yet?

Please note that queries about orders and deliveries after the Connexional office closes in Auckland may be made to Marion Hines on 021 053 2053 or marionhines@extra.co.nz. Similarly in Christchurch,

queries may be made to Mark Gibson on 022 322 8645 or watermark2022@gmail.com

Our previous calendar in 2020 proved very popular as Christmas presents. Each calendar costs \$15 - orders of 10 or more cost \$10 each. A digital copy costs \$5. Place your order now!

Orders

Email Cjwg.calendars@methodist.org.nz

Payment

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

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

USE THIS ORDER FORM

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

Tongan language _____ copies

Samoan language _____ copies

Fijian language _____ copies

English language _____ copies

Digital copy _____(specify language required)

Delivery method (select one)

- By post
- Collect from the Connexional Office at Auckland/Christchurch (specify which)
- Email for digital copy

Name/Parish

Email address

Postal address (NZ only)

Phone number

Payment method (select one)

- Payment in the sum of \$ _____ has been completed by internet banking with the Connexional Office.
- I require an invoice for my bulk order (10 or more copies)

SEND THIS ORDER TO: Cjwg.calendars@methodist.org.nz





Christmas time and Covid-19

Trudy Downes, Health and Safety Co-ordinator

There is another Covid-19 wave upon us, and I think it's time we had a quick word about it before we head off to celebrate our Christmas season. Covid-19 isn't just a wintertime flu, and we still need to take some care while we are out and about because it would be annoying to be sick when we should be relaxing in the sun!

However, I imagine you already have your new Covid-normal sorted!

As the year winds down you may be reflecting on the last 12 months so maybe now would be a good time to reflect on how we have done over the last four years. Even the Government is undertaking a Covid-19 review <https://www.covid19lessons.royalcommission.nz/have-your-say/>

Four years since this Covid journey started! Next year I will be seeking your reflection about what things we did well as a Connexion, what we could have improved on, and yes, that includes talking about things we should never do again!

I would also invite your parish, your synod, and your church entity to undertake your own review. What lessons have you learned, and how would those lessons assist everyone else?

If we were to experience another new virus, how well would we respond given what we know now? How well have we learned our Covid-19 lessons?

This is a complex exercise. It involves wrapping four years' experience into simple questions. There will be some interesting conversations to be had. In those four years, we had changeovers of presidential teams, General Secretaries, and Prime Ministers. We got a new website and grew into online meetings, including Conference, and we celebrated 200 years of Methodism in Aotearoa.

Here is one experience I personally don't want to repeat. There were so many documents created, and while they had their purpose at the time, it must have been hard to follow what was the latest advice and to be familiar with all of the documents to understand what had changed from one set of advice to the next. Then near the start of the document changes, our website crashed and was non-operational for a few weeks!

But that is all next year's job.

For this year, I wish you, your whānau and friends the very best for Christmas and New Year.

May your days be filled with light, love and laughter.

Ko te mea nunui, ko te aroha.

TRUDY DOWNES

I will be on leave from 22 December and back on 8 January 2024.

[Did you know you can still get a booster?](#)

It is recommended you wait 6 months after testing positive or having a previous Covid-19 vaccination before getting any or another COVID-19 vaccination.

The 6-month gap gives your immune system time to recover from the infection and get the most benefit from vaccination.

If you are at high risk of severe illness if you do catch COVID-19 again, talk to your doctor or specialist about when to get your next dose. You may be able to get it sooner than 6 months.





The 17th Quadrennial General Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

Lynne Scott, ACWC National Representative, Church Women United Aotearoa NZ

The 17th Quadrennial General Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) comprising of 60 women from 13 of the 18 ACWC member countries and 7 members from the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC), (which included representatives of World Day of Prayer (WDP), Christian Conference

of Asia (CCA) and Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC)), gathered at the Presbyterian Bible College, Hsinchu, Taiwan from 5-8 November 2023 with the Theme "Women Caring for God's Earth". (Romans 8:20-23)

I attended as Church Women United Aotearoa New Zealand (CWUANZ) representative. It was interesting to learn that the 10th ACWC General Assembly had been held at the College 3-8 November 1994, and chat with some of the women who had attended.

The opening worship was led by Dr Chiu Kai-Lu on the theme "Women Caring for God's Earth" drawing from Romans 8:20-23. Climate changes impacts climate related disasters. There is a purpose for nature. and we are not left without hope. We must work for eco-justice. The whole of creation has been groaning – can we hear the cry?

Country reports gave updates on ACWC projects, programmes and scholarships in their communities. We also reported on how we promote FLC in our communities. One of the major areas for discussion was the future of ACWC – how we provide for our young women, promote the ongoing and important work, and provide financial stability. Recommendations will be followed through by the new Executive Committee. In response to a suggestion by younger members, a Facebook page was immediately created.

During the Assembly final business session, a Statement of the 17th Quadrennial Assembly of ACWC was agreed. "God is not God only for human beings but of all creation, thus, broken relationships must be restored. We confess that humankind has not cared for the earth with the self-sacrificing and nurturing love that is expected of us. According to the homily of Dr. Kai-Li Chiu, "sin becomes the distortion of the cosmic balance which happens when human beings transgress the planetary boundaries set by God and place themselves at the center of the world."

We pray for a renewal of the spirit of God in us women, enabling us to draw from the wellsprings of our inner being, and learn from our Indigenous friends. We join women in the church, in educating our community, through Bible study and prayer to achieve the mandate given to us in balancing the world to life.

We sincerely seek the strength of the Holy Spirit to help us: **A**ccept **C**hallenges to be a **W**orthy Christian."

Meeting in Hsinchu, Taiwan, was a very special time especially with respect to WDP. Most recently, WDP Taiwan brought a powerful liturgy to the world, which was celebrated in March 2023 by approximately 150 countries in 100 languages around the world. It was lovely to meet Nancy Lin and acknowledge her leadership during the 4 years of preparing the material. Special mention was also made of Yin-ting Lai, a talented young woman, who wrote two amazing songs for the programme! ("I Have Heard about your faith..." and "Offering") Taiwan is our prayer partner for the next four years, and this networking was invaluable.

Katie Reimer, Executive Director of WDPIC, who is based in New York, updated the Assembly on the Palestinian Christian sisters who wrote the programme for 2024. Their theme is 'I Beg You ... Bear with one another in love' based on Ephesians 4:1-7, which will be celebrated



worldwide on 1st March 2024. One of the women from WDP Palestine lost three family members in the bombing of the Saint Porphyrios Greek Orthodox Church in Gaza. WDPIC asks that we join our hearts in prayer especially with our Palestinian Christian sisters during this time of war and devastation.

“God of Peace and Justice, we cry out to you with broken hearts and deep anguish for what has unfolded in Israel and Palestine. It is difficult to find the words to express the weight of this moment. We rest on your Spirit, who intercedes with sighs too deep for words. We ask that you heal every wound, and you give us wisdom for how to stop this cycle of violence. We pray especially for women and children, who are particularly vulnerable in times of war. Move our world quickly towards peace and justice. Amen”

A new WDP initiative, a Young Women’s pilgrimage to the Holy Land, had been planned. The trip was postponed because of the outbreak of violence in Israel and Palestine, however, the 14 young women chosen, which includes young women from Tonga and Australia, continue to communicate regularly.



Insurance Renewal 2024

Wendy Anderson, Insurance and Property Team
The global warming is increasingly affecting New Zealand weather and earlier this year we saw the devastation following the Auckland Floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. With over \$4B in claims, we expected this to impact on our insurance going forward.

Last week the Methodist Church received the renewal rates for 2023 Across the portfolio there is a 22.5 – 25% increase on our sum

insured premiums. We have always tried to deliver the best possible cover for our buildings, at the best possible premium rate. However this year, as many New Zealand homeowners have found, the insurance market is the toughest it has ever been.

A decision was made to reduce the impact of the cost increase to our insured, by providing a subsidy towards the 2024 premium cost. This will mean there will a 10% increase in the premium cost to the wider church for the Material Damage and Business Interruption (MDBI) portion of your invoice. We will still collect the EQC and FENZ levies, and apply the contents and alarm subsidy where applicable.

This decision did not come easily as we have been absorbing the majority of cost increases over the last 5 years, to reduce the impact on our members. It is now impossible to be able to provide insurance cover without a cost increase, this year. Another impact on the cost of insurance is the increase in property values, in some areas this has been a 50% increase.

In addition to the cost increase, there will be a cap of \$250,000 for flood claims in the binder. The binder is properties with their sum insured under \$8M. The excess will be 10% of the claim. Properties in the open market (over \$8M) will not have a cap.

Excesses

- General excess (including water claims) will increase to \$2,000
- Excess for fire, burglary and arson claims will increase to \$1,000

Parishes, committees and boards will need to think creatively about budgets for the 2025 renewal as we do not have the means to be able to keep subsidising the premium shortfall in the future. We may have to change the way we insure our properties, including an increase in the current self-insurance retention, or the possibility of indemnity cover for churches not used regularly.





We offer a comprehensive liability suite at no extra cost to the wider church. Cover is for all MCNZ members, on MCNZ business for the following liability cover:

<p>1 – Standard Liability</p>	<p>Public Liability</p>	<p>To cover claims from third parties for property damage or personal injury arising out of the business activities and/or products of the insured</p>
<p>1 – Standard Liability cont.</p>	<p>Statutory Liability</p>	<p>To cover fines or penalties imposed for unintentional breaches of certain statutes where insurable by law</p>
	<p>Employers Liability</p>	<p>To cover claims made by employees against employers for workplace injury or illness where cover falls outside the scope of ACC legislation</p>
	<p>Employment Disputes</p>	<p>To cover damages and costs arising out of certain employment related disputes such as wrongful termination, harassment and discrimination. Cover includes associated defence costs</p>
	<p>Directors Liability</p>	<p>To cover damages and costs arising out of certain employment related disputes such as wrongful termination, harassment and discrimination. Cover includes associated defence costs</p>
	<p>Professional Indemnity</p>	<p>To cover legal liability incurred by giving negligent advice or through a breach of professional duty. Cover includes associated defence costs</p>
	<p>Corporate Liability</p>	<p>To cover the loss arising from a violation of any laws, rules or regulations regulating securities</p>
	<p>Crime</p>	<p>To cover financial loss caused by fraudulent acts of third parties. This risk is commonly excluded from cover under Material Damage insurance</p>





<p>2 - IT Liability</p>	<p>Cyber</p>	<p>Specialised cover for protection of internet and network exposures, some of which are excluded from traditional Insurance policies. Also covers liability to third parties as a result of the use of your IT systems as well as damage or destruction of your own systems and records.</p>
<p>2 - IT Liability cont.</p>	<p>Social Engineering</p>	<p>To cover financial loss caused by social engineering attacks such as fraudulent impersonation and fake invoice fraud committed by third parties against the insured. Cover provided under your Crime policy for \$100,000 in the aggregate</p>
	<p>Internet</p>	<p>To cover claims made for errors or omission committed or omitted whilst using the internet. Cover under the Cyber policy</p>
<p>3 - Defence Cover</p>	<p>Defence Costs</p>	<p>Provides defence costs only in respect of those noted sections which are subject to a charge under Section 9 of the Law Reform Act 1936 where defence costs cannot be indemnified under those noted sections</p>

Remember to think about church security over the holidays. Make sure all windows are secured, doors locked and the alarms set. Ensure rubbish skips and equipment are kept well away from the building perimeter and where possible secured to a post, so they cannot be used to gain access into the building or set alight causing fire damage. Use of a key register will keep a track of keys.

Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and if you are travelling, have a safe journey.

Wendy Anderson
Insurance and Property Team

