



May 2024



## Welcome to the monthly newsletter of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana Aotearoa

The Connexional Office

Please send your articles to [reception@methodist.org.nz](mailto:reception@methodist.org.nz)



## Remember in your Prayers

The Connexional Office

With sadness, we inform the Connexion of the passing of Rev. John Nesbit on Sunday, April 21, 2024. John was ordained at the Wellington Conference in 1989. He served at Huntly Cooperating Parish before being stationed in Invercargill in 1992. Due to health reasons, John retired to Christchurch in 1995, where he and his wife Dot established

a home for themselves in Somerfield and attended St. Mark's.

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary

It is with sadness that I would like to inform the Connexion of the passing of Rev Mataika Mikaele Kolinio Yasa (Mike Yasa) who passed away peacefully at his residence in Tuakau, Pukekohe surrounded by his wife Sereana, his kids and grandkids on Saturday 4th May. Rev Mike Yasa devoted himself to ordained ministry with the Methodist Church, profoundly impacting the Fijian Advisory since 1990 and its community through his pastoral guidance in its early stages of leadership. His steadfast commitment to his faith journey at Motueka, Christchurch, and Pahiatua has left an enduring legacy within the community he served.

Following training at Trinity – St. Johns Colleges in 1990 Mike was appointed in 1991 to St. Andrews Uniting Parish, Motueka, where he served 5 years, then to Hornby/Riccarton (St Stephens and Clarence Street) for a further 5 years. In 2001 he was appointed to Pahiatua and Woodville Union Parishes. He was the first ethnic Fijian to be trained and ordained by the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

Alongside of his Parish ministry Mike has exercised a significant and dedicated ministry to fellow Fijian residents in New Zealand. From 1999 – 2003 he was Superintendent of Bose ko Viti kei Rotuma e Niusiladi (formerly the Fijian Advisory Committee). Other Connexional involvements have been as a member of the Council for Mission, the Council of Elders, the CCANZ National Forum, the Bicultural Workgroup and the Church Welfare Committee. Mike's community involvement has had a particular emphasis on the welfare of the Pacific Island community.





He was also involved in the Evangelical Network of the Church.

Rev Mike Yasa 's funeral service will be held on Friday 10th of May at 10.30am at the Pukekohe Methodist Church corner of Wesley Street & Queens Street and then laid to rest at the Heights Park Cemetery Pukekohe.

Messages of condolences to the family can be sent to his daughter's email:

[salote@hotmail.com](mailto:salote@hotmail.com)

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary

It is with sadness that I inform the connexion of the death of Muriel Mavis McCormack. Muriel, who celebrated her 98th birthday on May 1st, peacefully departed on May 3rd, 2024. Her funeral service took place at St. James Union Church in Masterton on May 8th, 2024.

Muriel began deaconess training in 1954. From 1963 to 1971, she dedicated herself to nursing in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Initially stationed in Choiseul, she later assumed the role of matron at Kihili Girls' School.

Muriel's life was a full commitment to the God whom she served.

Ngā manaakitanga

Rev Tara Tautari | General Secretary



### Join the movement and make a statement with our exclusive Hāhi Climate Justice Decade – Rekindle the Vā of Papatūānuku t-shirts!

The Connexional Office

#### NOW AVAILABLE IN BLACK AND WHITE

These shirts go beyond fashion – they're symbols of solidarity and support for a cause that affects us all. Crafted with care and passion, our design embodies the essence of whenua and moana, reflecting their dynamic interplay and reminding us of the interconnectedness of all living beings and the urgent need for climate justice. Printed with environmentally friendly, water-based inks, each shirt is a

testament to our commitment to both the planet and the people fighting for climate justice here in Aotearoa and globally.

Wear your values proudly and spark conversations wherever you go. Whether you're attending Church, a march, hanging out with friends, or simply going about your day, our Climate Justice t-shirts are the perfect way to amplify your voice and raise awareness about the urgent need for environmental action.

Priced at just \$35.00, our Climate Justice t-shirts are an affordable way to support our Hāhi and make a difference.

Don't miss your chance to be part of something bigger. Get your Climate Justice t-shirt today by emailing [info@methodist.org.nz](mailto:info@methodist.org.nz) and join us in rekindling the sacred Vā of Papatūānuku – because together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future for all.





## Canterbury Tertiary Education Chaplaincy Committee

Lynda Alexander

Senior Ecumenical Chaplain at Lincoln University

**About:** The Canterbury Tertiary Education Chaplaincy Committee (CTECC) is an ecumenical Christian entity responsible for providing chaplaincy services at Lincoln University and University of Canterbury.

We are looking for applicants for appointment as Senior Ecumenical Chaplain based at Lincoln University. Lincoln University is located in the Lincoln township on the outskirts of Christchurch and is a specialist land-based university. It has around 3,400 students and provides degrees in Agriculture, Business, Environment, Landscape Architecture, Property Valuation, Science, Sport and Recreation and Tourism.

This rewarding and varied role is a half time stipendiary position which may be held in conjunction with other commitments. The role is to promote and nurture the well-being of students in cooperation with Lincoln University and encompasses pastoral care and spiritual support.

You may also be asked to officiate at events, help with education and resourcing of others on campus and will be expected to actively promote understanding and dialogue in a diverse and multi-faith community. This role may involve irregular hours including some evening and weekend work.

If you are a person who thrives on:

- Nurturing spiritual well-being
- Relating well to people within a diverse community
- Leading and growing a team of volunteers
- Facilitating pastoral care for all students and staff
- Building a caring community
- Innovating on ways to share the gospel
- Advocating for the work of chaplaincy inside and outside of the University
- Being a self-starter

then we would welcome an application from you that indicates your skills and suitability for this role.

Your role would involve maintaining relationships with:

1. Canterbury Tertiary Education Chaplaincy Committee (CTECC)
2. Lincoln University management and student services
3. Students and staff
4. Faith-based groups on campus
5. Local church and faith leaders

### Overall Purpose

1. Primary purpose is the pastoral care and nurturing of spiritual life of students to enhance their overall personal and communal wellbeing.
2. Open to spiritual support and pastoral care of staff where requested.
3. To develop and lead the team of volunteer and/or paid associate chaplains.
4. To promote dialogue, understanding, respect and care in a diverse community.

In your application, please indicate your availability to take up this position. Your role would be to report to the Chair of CTECC.



This position is open to men and women of Christian faith. There is a preference for those with theological qualifications and/or experience working in a University context but we invite people of faith with a heart for university students. Applicants must have a good standing within their Christian denomination.

Applicants will be required to sign the Tertiary Chaplaincy Code of Ethics.

**Closing Date: 14 June 2024.**

Please send your CV and a covering letter with two references to [canterburychaplaincynz@gmail.com](mailto:canterburychaplaincynz@gmail.com)

**Vicky Reid**, Chair, Canterbury Tertiary Education Chaplaincy Committee (CTECC).

If you have any general questions about the job description, please send your enquiries to [canterburychaplaincynz@gmail.com](mailto:canterburychaplaincynz@gmail.com).



## Save the Date: Plastic-Free July Event - Join Us for a Sustainable Future!

Climate Justice Working Group

CJWG are thrilled to announce an upcoming event that promises to inspire and empower you to have influence in our world.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 13th July 2024, as we host a half-day hybrid event focused on Plastic-Free July and Zero-Waste practices.

Featuring both in-person and online options, this event will bring together individuals passionate about sustainability from all corners of the motu. We are excited to confirm our esteemed speakers, **Lydia Chai** and **Nicola Hoggard Creegan**, who will share their insights and expertise on environmental advocacy and faith-based approaches to caring for creation. We are continuing to search for exciting and innovative presenters and facilitators to add to the program.

While we finish program details and venue arrangements, we encourage you to save the date and stay tuned for further updates. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [cjwg.feedback@methodist.org.nz](mailto:cjwg.feedback@methodist.org.nz).

For those outside Auckland, we invite you to consider organizing a local viewing event at your community venue, where you can join with local groups to take part in the livestream. Let's come together to learn, connect, and take meaningful action towards a more sustainable future.

### Liturgical Resources for the Season of Creation 2024

The CJWG, under the leadership of Mark Gibson is working on liturgical resources for the Season of Creation 2024. The resource will be based on the lectionary with a focus on the following themes:

- 1 September – Earth
- 8 September – Humanity
- 15 September - Mountains
- 22 September – Sky
- 29 September – Blessing of the animals/ Green (kakariki) Sunday

A kete of resources will be provided to fit formal and less formal settings.







## Methodist Mission Southern: Transformative Journeys of Nurturing Hope.

Julie Roberts

Our Young Mums’ House and Youth Transition Houses are not just houses, but a home where the rakatahi residents are empowered to rewrite their life course, break generational cycles, and embrace start on the journey of self-determination.

The support offered within our Young Mums’ House and Youth Transition Houses is more than just practical assistance; it’s a testament to our staff, funders, and donors/supporters of the power of uplifting rakatahi through generosity, kindness, and thoughtfulness, which permeates every interaction, creating an environment where growth and healing flourish.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of daily life—juggling work, education, and wellbeing goals—residents find moments of triumph in the normal. Cooking meals for the household can be an experience of nurturing, while completing laundry requires responsibility and independence. For one recent resident, buying their own car unlocked a newfound sense of freedom and of the choices that are the rewards for longer-term efforts in life, like saving.

Recognizing the profound benefit of simple collective experiences; for mutual support and growth, for normalisation, for the nourishment of laughter and shared experiences; life in the houses includes Lego challenges and movie days, and well-being activities including trips to the gym. These are not only distractions as the season changes, daylight wanes, and the weather turns colder, but opportunities for connection and solidarity. Through shared experiences and conversations, residents are able to practice building mutual support.

The poem by the Saint Lucian poet and playwright Derek Walcott resonates with a canvas of hope that we wish our rakatahi residents to have.

### LOVE AFTER LOVE

The time will come  
when, with elation,  
you will greet yourself arriving  
at your own door, in your own mirror,  
and each will smile at the other’s welcome,  
and say, sit here. Eat.  
You will love again the stranger who was your self.  
Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart  
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you

all your life, whom you ignored  
for another, who knows you by heart.  
Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,

the photographs, the desperate notes,  
peel your own image from the mirror.  
Sit. Feast on your life.

Our rakatahi continue to thrive and are paving the way for a brighter, more hopeful future—for themselves, our Young Mums’ and their children, and generations to come.

This transformative journey is made possible through the generous support of our donors, both through physical donations and monetary contributions. Their kindness and generosity empower our residents to rewrite their stories and embrace self-worth, creating a nurturing environment where growth and healing flourish.

Please join The Methodist Mission Southern Supporters’ Club.

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

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





## 'Christ is Alive' – a NZ hymn for the Pentecost church season

John Thornley

Words by Shirley Erena Murray and music by Jillian Bray

**What a word change can make!** This hymn is No. 15 in Alleluia Aotearoa, the first publication by the NZ Hymnbook Trust. Colin Gibson writes in his Companion to the Trust hymns,

Knowing the Song: 'Jillian Bray, the composer of the tune HEARTBEAT, explains the circumstances of the writing of the hymn text: 'I sent this tune to Shirley on 11 July 1988. By 21 July she had responded with her text, titled 'Easter Song'. This wonderful text, given an equally wonderful tune, need not be confined to the Easter season. With one word in line two of verse one, it becomes a hymn for the Pentecost season. Gillian and John Thornley came up with the word change. They say, 'This gives the hymn 15 more Sundays on which it can be sung!'

### The original opening lines:

Christ is alive, and the universe must celebrate, and the stars and the suns shout on this Easter Day!

### Here's the full text of this hymn for the Pentecost season:

Christ is alive and the universe must celebrate,  
and the stars and the suns shout ev'ry Easter Day!  
Christ is alive, and his family must celebrate  
in a great alleluia,  
a great alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.  
Here is our hope: in the mystery of suffering  
is the heartbeat of Love, Love that will not let go,  
here is our hope, that in God we are not separate,  
and we sing alleluia,  
we sing alleluia  
to praise the power that made the stone roll away.  
Christ Spirit, dance through the dullness of humanity  
to the music of God, God who has set us free!  
You are the pulse of the new creation's energy;  
with a great alleluia,  
a great alleluia  
we praise the power that made the stone roll away.

To find the music, it can be sourced online or through a purchase of Alleluia Aotearoa. Contact Philip and Heather Garside at: [books@pg.pl.co.nz](mailto:books@pg.pl.co.nz). They stock the four books and CDs compiled by the NZ Hymnbook Trust: Alleluia Aotearoa, Carol our Christmas, Faith Forever Singing and Hope is our Song.

A radio programme on Manawatu People's Radio (MPR) celebrates May as NZ Music Month, with a selection of hymns with texts by Shirley Erena Murray and music by Jillian Bray, a creative duo from the Kapiti Coast! Tune in for live sessions, 11 o'clock on Tuesdays 21 and 28 May, on AM999

Or listen online, under recent programmes at [www.mpr.nz/show/wesley](http://www.mpr.nz/show/wesley)

Gillian and John Thornley ([Johngill@inspire.net.nz](mailto:Johngill@inspire.net.nz))  
Wesley Broadway Church, Palmerston North.





## Resources Available to Celebrate the Birth of Methodism

Rosalie Sugrue

May is traditionally the month we celebrate the birth of Methodism and the Wesley family. Readers may be interested to know there is a range of Wesley Family resources available to encourage discussion and celebrate the occasion. Created and compiled by Rosalie Sugrue and available to parishes in a variety of formats, a play, quizzes and puzzles are designed to entertain and educate congregations, individuals and audiences of all ages.

Resources can be used in a variety of ways; puzzles are suitable for printing in parish bulletins or can be used in fellowship and study groups. A rhyming play entitled *The Wesley Saga* can be presented during devotions or in a church service with very little preparation. Volunteers from the congregation are assigned a role and simply read from the script, using placards to identify the name of their character.

Contact Rosalie Sugrue directly for a range of Wesley puzzles and posters, quiz ideas, and *The Wesley Saga* play script. Email [sugrue.ro@gmail.com](mailto:sugrue.ro@gmail.com)

The *Wesley Saga* is also published by Philip Garside Printing Ltd in hardcopy and ebook form in a book entitled *Ten Plays + short easy dramas for churches* published 2021. Email [books@pgpl.co.nz](mailto:books@pgpl.co.nz).



## Gaza Appeal

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

Thank you to everyone who has supported the people of Gaza with prayers, actions and gifts. At the time of writing Israel has launched an attack on Rafah in the south and we are waiting to hear what this means for the Primary Health Clinic, the psychosocial programmes for children and mothers and the staff and community around the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees.

CWS signed the joint [Open Letter](#) to grant visas to Palestinians with family members. You might like to meet with your MP to explore ways they can help end this war.

You may missed the [Easter Alert](#) from Kairos Palestine, an ecumenical grouping of Palestinian Christians. [The CWS Gaza Palestine Appeal](#) is supporting humanitarian support for Gaza and for people affected by the increasing violence in the West Bank. [Donate today](#).



## Partners for Life

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the letter from CWS Board chairperson, Jill Hawkey. We are grateful for the many kind messages, the people who have chosen to sign up to give monthly and to those who have increased their donations to our regular giving programme, [Partners for Life](#).

Giving monthly is an amazingly effective way to donate. Like you, if we know how much money is coming in each month, we can plan how we spend it. We can give certainty to our partners, and they are able to make longer-term plans to improve life in their community.

It is easy to set up a [monthly donation](#) by bank transfer, direct debit or [online](#). Please phone Italy on 0800 74 73 72 if you need help.







### A Story of Hope

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

**“We vehemently thank you for this wonderful water tank gift,” says Mbabazi.**

For the people of Isingiro in southwest Uganda, the climate crisis is a water crisis. When there is no water, families spend many hours of the day collecting dirty water for their daily needs. The daily drudgery under hot sun carries huge risks to the children who must collect the water. Without it they will not be able to grow the food they need to survive or the bananas which are their cash crop.

In Uganda, Mbabazi and Doreen worked hard to complete school last year. They had to make up for time lost because they had to collect water for their families. With you help their families got their own rainwater tanks early last year, giving them water and enough time to go to school and study. They topped their classes and won scholarships to High School and University respectively. [Hope begins with Water](#) tells their story.

If you can, please share the story with your people and pass on their thanks. Printed copies are available from Italy: 0800 74 73 72 or [cws@Cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@Cws.org.nz)

The Centre for Community Solidarity has started the third phase of the programme in 16 more villages. With our help, CCS plans to build 286 new rainwater tanks benefitting 1,183 more children in the next four years. The tanks are in high demand, especially with the warming climate.

Please support the [CWS Water Appeal](#) to help some of the many families who need water.



### Refugee Sunday and Operation Refugee

Gillian Southey, Christian World Service

We invite you to join with us in praying for people displaced by war, conflict and persecution on Refugee Sunday, June 21.

CWS is preparing a slide and some resources that can be used on June 21 or in the Anglican calendar on July 7. They will include an invitation to organise a morning tea or other fundraising activity after church for [Operation Refugee](#). We uphold refugees and displaced people in our work and prayers.

CWS is delighted to introduce you to Dori Lloyd who is running this year’s Operation Refugee which will be launched on June 20, World Refugee. She is promoting the education and fundraising programme in schools and youth groups. If you can help, please contact her: [operation.refugee@cws.org.nz](mailto:operation.refugee@cws.org.nz).



### Messy Church Training Roadtrip

Jocelyn Czerwonka

In May 2024 the MC National Team are doing a Training Road-trip from Auckland to Cromwell bringing guests Rev Dr Dave Gregory and Rev Gregory Ross from the UK and Western Australia to somewhere in NZ near you. We will be visiting 8 different locations and offering training for those running Messy Church or interested in finding out what Messy Church is all about.

Come and be prepared to be surprised as you discover how to share aspects of Gods story through science experiments and more. Workshops will help resource your Messy Church leaders to include projects on Care of Creation, science, and the environment, hope facing disaster, in your next Messy Church event. We will also go deeper into the basics such as MC values and process, supporting your teams, going beyond Messy. To register your interest contact us at [www.messychurch.nz/contact](http://www.messychurch.nz/contact)

