

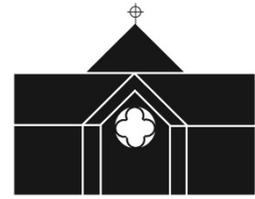
IN TOUCH

Nurses' Memorial Chapel Newsletter

November 2023

Website: www.cnmc.org.nz email: chapelfoc@gmail.com

Facebook : Nurses' Memorial Chapel



Welcome everyone to the end of year newsletter. With our wet cold winter now behind us we can look forward to the hot sunny summer that all the met service officials have been promising us.

It has been a relatively busy year for the chapel with several different events held and many continuing to visit our little gem on a regular basis.

Events at the Chapel

On the 28th of April the Holy Mass was celebrated in Latin by Fr. Anthony Mary, Priest from the "Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer". This is the first time the Mass has been held since Covid and was attended by approximately 45 people.

The baby loss service was held on Wednesday 11th October. This has become a yearly event and is well attended by families and staff. Once again families were given the opportunity to light a battery-operated candle, write a message in the book and all families were given a flower to take home. As always this was a very moving service organised by members of Christchurch Women's' Hospital staff.

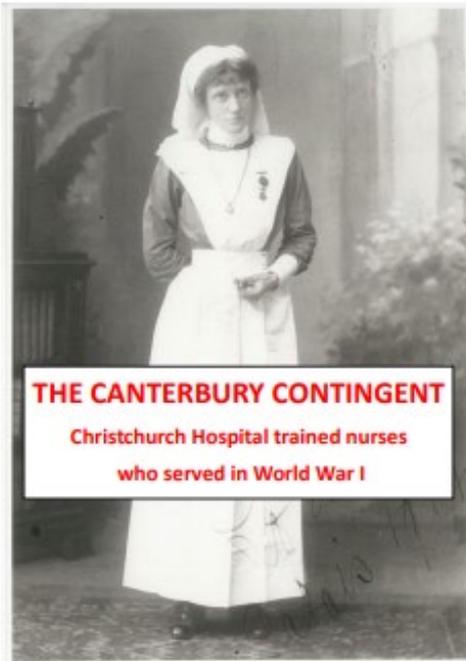
International Nurses Day was held on the 12th of May. This year we were very fortunate to have Dr Wendy Maddocks Senior Lecturer Canterbury University speak on "Rising to the Challenge" telling the story of Blanche Huddleston a New Zealand Nurse Anaesthetist who in 1918, along with five other NZ nurses was selected for training as a Nurse Anaesthetist. The Americans trained the Nurse Anaesthetists at No 13 GH, Boulogne, France.

This was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our thanks to Nanette Ainge for all her great work to bring this session together.

The Heritage Festival was held from the 6th-23rd October this year. Nanette Ainge and her team spent endless hours preparing the Chapel to tell the story of Nurses Education 1923-2023 "A Century of Change". The focus was on celebrating 100 years since the Christchurch Preliminary School of Nursing started.

The displays showed a timeline outlining significant milestones and several pamphlets, articles, and other delightful memorabilia. A doll made by Pauline Forrester who trained in 1950 perfectly reflected the wonderful nurse's uniform that we all came to love with a little Christchurch Hospital medal specially made of silver was a popular attraction, as was the doll's head with a sister's cap (part of the museum collection) and wearing a red cape made by Lauren Harcourt.





Andrea Grieve and Michele Keddell researched the lives of 74 nurses who served in WW1 and produced a wonderful resource showing a beautiful photo of Louise Bennett on the front cover. The index enables visitors to quickly locate their relative. Louise was awarded the Medaille de la Reine Elisabeth from the Kingdom of Belgium.

This was a brilliant well organised and well advertised event with fantastic exhibits showcasing the chapel and the history of nursing education in a wonderful light.

On Saturday the 14th of October Victoria Cullen presented a fascinating insight from her thesis on the post war nursing shortage and reflected on contemporary issues. This presentation was extremely interesting and attended by a small albeit very appreciative audience. We were able to live stream the presentation to those who expressed an interest but not able to attend.

A special thanks goes to Nanette Ainge and her committee for their hard work to make this such a successful event.

AGM

The AGM was held on May 6th at Manawa in Antigua Street and was attended by 20 people. This is a great venue to hold our AGM and we are very grateful to Manawa for providing this space for us. The AGM in 2024 will be held on Saturday 11th May at 10am at Manawa on the corner of Antigua Street.



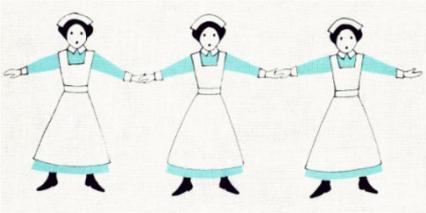
One funeral a baptism and two nurses' reunions were also held during the year.

ANZAC DAY

Discussions are under way to hold an ANZAC service in the Chapel in 2024. With the restrictions on numbers this is going to create a dilemma to ensure there is good representation from the forces and members. There will be further information about the service as discussions progress.

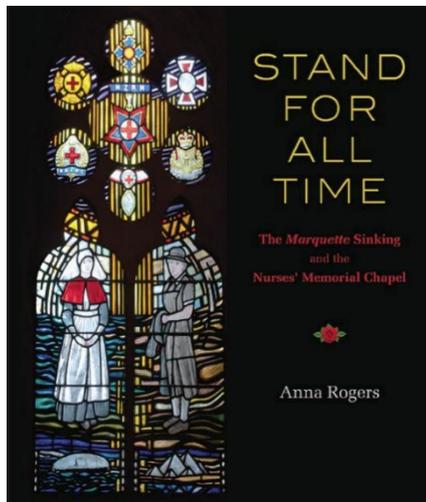
Website

The website has now been extended to provide the opportunity for ordering resources on line. This will enable the Friends to promote the variety of resources we have available and hopefully make it easier for people visiting the site to purchase our products.



Resources

We have a good supply of cards, garden maps and Anna Rogers book "Stand for All Time" available. A new stock of tote bags has just arrived, and we are now waiting for a new stock of tea towels to be delivered. The tea towels have the three nurses across the front with the wording "A Memorial to those who lost their lives on the Marquette in WW 1" and have a little baggage tag attached with the Memorial Chapel logo on one side and the names of the 3 Christchurch Nurses on the reverse side. These will make wonderful Xmas presents so come and have a look. It is hoped they will be available from 1st December.



Live Streaming

Whilst we have live streamed several events in the chapel, those that we have organised with our camera and sound system have not been very successful resulting in viewers finding it difficult to hear. We are currently investigating a variety of options to improve this facility for future events.

Volunteers

As always thank you so much to our wonderful volunteers. Without you the chapel would not be able to open to the public. We appreciate that it can be very quiet with few visitors at times, but those who do call in are always in awe of the chapel and its wonderful architecture and history, so thank you once again for your wonderful help and support.

Membership

Thank you to all our members for your continued support. When renewing your subscription please ensure all your details are up to date for us to accurately maintain the data base. All membership fees can be paid through the internet banking. Please include your name and subscription amount.

The Friends Bank account number is 03 1707 0017417 000

Miss/Ms/Mrs/Mr

First Name(s) _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Membership Subscriptions

Single: \$20

Double/Family \$30

Group \$45

Life member \$150

Donation _____

Total Amount _____

Please tick if you require a donation

I hope you all have a wonderful festive season, enjoy your friends and family, the warm weather and hopefully a safe relaxing and peaceful holiday.

Pip Mason

President

Panel 30, Mt Felix Tapestry



A Christmas Party 1916, inspired by a photograph of ward 5, Mt Felix Hospital, Walton-on-Thames