



Methodist Church of New Zealand

Connexions - March 2022



From Tara's Desk

Lenten greetings to you all.

Today I experienced the kindness of strangers.

My car had broken down on the way to Whananaki, Northland, and I had pulled over to the side of the road. Two people working in the yard next to where I was, came over to check if I was ok and were able to identify the problem. They then took some time out of their working day to fix the car.

Thanks were given, best wishes shared, and on I went. As I continued to drive, I found myself buoyed by a feeling of quiet joy and appreciation, that in these COVID times, amidst mask wearing and rapid antigen tests, and the persistent 'worry' of how to best keep ourselves and our loved ones safe - when I needed help, I was not alone.

And that such help in this instance, came from strangers.

As you read this edition of Connexions, you will find stories of help given and help received. Simple acts of kindness and solidarity that leave lasting impressions on all.

In this Lenten time of contemplation and prayer, of fasting and sharing of resources, as we are blessed, so too may we be blessings to others.



2022 Webinars have begun!

Join Wendy Anderson and Trudy Downes as they take you through Insurance, Property and Safety considerations for your parish, rohe and work.

Tuesday 08 Mar 2022, 6pm

All sorts of compliance:

- Building compliance - Wof
- Code of compliance
- PS4s
- Asbestos sign offs
- Contract Works Insurance vs Public Liability

[Registration Link](#)

Tuesday 12 Apr 2022, 6pm

Uniting Parishes – Insurance and Property, Wellness and Safety

[Registration Link](#)



Covid-19 Zui discussions

I am finding these Covid-19 times strange even though we have spent two years preparing for this moment.

While my thoughts are for those people going through the trials of isolation and possible illness, I also have concern for those that are trying to keep the wheels turning our parishes and other church entities.

This is part of the reason for the [Covid-19 Zui series](#). To help us keep the wheels turning, rather than churning.

Topics include:

- **Buildings - Cleaning, Signage, Use, Recap**
- **Covid-safe Holy Communion**
- **The Omicron Phases and series recap to date**
- **Business Continuity - what the Connexional Office is doing**
- **Rapid Antigen Testing (RATs)**
- **2 scenarios of Covid-19 at your place and what to do.**

and each session has a video recording of the Zui, the powerpoint presentation I used (which include notes on each powerpoint slide) and any other relevant information source that I have used.

If there is one Zui in particular that I would recommend, than that is the building Zui which includes how to clean after there has been a Covid-19 case, with a recap of the contact tracing and signs to post telling people.

One Zui that I particularly enjoyed was the Holy Communion Zui. I am always in awe when the power of the Connexion comes through, of the strength that the Methodist Church has of sharing stories and ideas from across the country.

Thank you.

Zui = Zoom hui, hui = gathering

Nā Trudy Downes Mobile 027 457 4196 trudyd@methodist.org.nz



Ukraine Crisis Appeal

Thank you for supporting the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. CWS has been amazed by your generosity to the many people facing disaster and conflict across Ukraine.

Please also continue to remember in your thoughts and prayers the people of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Tonga and the Rohingya also living enormous challenges. CWS is appealing for donations to assist people displaced by the war

in Ukraine. ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) is providing water, food, shelter, blankets and more to families who have left their homes, jobs and loved ones. It is cold outside and many people are traumatised and afraid.

With food running out inside the country, ACT Alliance members are rushing relief supplies to people in Ukraine as well as supporting local church and community efforts to assist the many people on the move.

"We have opened our first strategic warehouse today [Monday] in Lviv. We are seeing first of all that the needs are enormous and secondly, it is going to be impossible to buy things in country. We are seeing huge difficulties for people wanting to buy supplies. There are reports from the east of the country with empty shelves," reported a staff member from Hungarian Interchurcaid (HIA), part of ACT Alliance. HIA distributed the first hygiene kits in Lviv this week. More than 1.7 million people have fled into neighbouring countries – the United Nations is predicting this will increase to 4 million. People who are older or sick with restricted mobility cannot move out of the way of the war. ACT Alliance members will make sure that the most vulnerable

people will get help first and are calling for the protection of civilians as agreed under international humanitarian law.

In Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine, ACT members are offering food, shelter and comfort to people seeking safety 24/7. Please share news of our appeal with your community and if you can, [make a donation today](#).



Devonport Methodist Childcare Centre

Where Caterpillars learn to crawl, where Chrysalis build their wings and where Butterflies learn to fly.

Devonport Parish is the newest Methodist Alliance member. This Parish established a Childcare Centre in 1991 which

provides quality education and care for tamariki and whānau. The Centre loves celebrating the ongoing relationships with their whānau and seeing their “DMCC” children out and about in the community.

The Devonport Methodist Childcare Centre encourages children to be competent and confident learners and communicators, healthy in mind, body and spirit, secure in their sense of belonging and in the knowledge that they make a valued contribution to society. Morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a late snack are supplied and cooked on site.

The philosophy of the centre is captured in the following three W’s:

Whakauru – Participation. The centre’s ‘home away from home’ is for all tamariki, whānau and community.

Whakahoā – Partnership. Building relationships, working together in open, welcoming ways for all tamariki.

Whakahaumarū – Protection. Kaiako build learning experiences and routines that are the right fit for all tamariki.

The centre has rooms dedicated and designed for the needs of different age groups. The Caterpillar room is dedicated to the under two age group where tamariki can play and explore with a separate sleep room and outdoor play space from the older children.

The Chrysalis room is for two to three year olds with a dedicated indoor play space and they share the outdoor play area with the Butterflies – tamariki who are three to five years old. The Butterfly room provides a large inside space for the older children which gives plenty of room for a wide range of different interests. The different rooms have programmes designed to meet the needs of the children.

The centre is open from 7.30am – 6pm, Mondays to Fridays and has a licence for 60 children and often has a waiting list. They have a stable staff and the Board consists of Parish members and community members. The Board Chairperson is Rev Peter Norman, Parish Superintendent, and member of the Methodist Alliance Steering Group.

During term time the Centre offers extracurricular experiences including Mainly Music which is offered by the Devonport Methodist Church, and visits to St Leo’s Primary School, where the older children get to experience what school is like.

Robert F. Kennedy said in his speech in 1968 at the University of Kansas,

“The gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play... It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.”¹

Kennedy also spoke about poverty, unemployment, suicide, the lack of hope and how we need to change and do better. Kennedy could have been talking about Aotearoa, as the issues he identified in America are similar here.

At Devonport Methodist Childcare Centre, they provide quality early childhood education, and provide an environment where tamariki can enjoy play while they experience the world around them. They instill a sense of belonging and community that we all need.

It is over fifty years since Kennedy's speech and first world countries like America and Aotearoa New Zealand have not solved issues of poverty, suicide, equity and justice in our countries. We can and should do better. We need to keep advocating for change, to make a reality the vision of a just and inclusive society in which all people flourish.

Carol Barron, National Coordinator 03 375 0512 | 027 561 9164 | Carol@MethodistAlliance.org.nz



Thanks Trish Murray

CWS recently acknowledged the dedicated service of Trish Murray.

Trish Murray (pictured above in Gaza), was the International Programmes Coordinator. She enjoyed working with Methodist and Presbyterian women on the Special Project for many years and at her farewell commended CWS international partners to the churches.

You can [read the full article here](#).



Ukraine

World-wide ecumenical prayer and concern

We urge all member churches and all people of good will around the world to join us in prayer for peace for the people of Ukraine and the region.

– Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca, Acting General Secretary of the World Council of Churches.

An international and ecumenical call has been made for prayer and assistance following the arising of war in Ukraine.

The resulting in a significant refugee crisis. CWS have launched an appeal, to support the work of partners in the ACT Alliance.

An international service of prayer was held on Ash Wednesday. The service of prayers and chants, Lenten reflections and personal testimonies was jointly organized by various Christian world communions including the Lutheran World Federation, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the World Methodist Council, the Mennonite World Conference, the Conference of European Churches and the Anglican Communion.

A pall of ashes covers Ukraine. The claim of God calls humanity into responsibility: Where is your brother, Cain? We want to shout this claim into the hearts and minds of those responsible for all this violence.

— Rev. Anne Burghardt, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation

An edited video of excerpts for the service can be watched through this link:

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/pall-ashes-covers-ukraine-christians-join-prayer-peace>

Despite what is happening in Ukraine, I still believe that the international community can make a difference as we collectively work for peace in the region.

– Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council.

United Methodist Bishop Eduard Khegay, who is responsible for Eurasia, recently posted this reflection:

PRESENCE

Imagine an infant born in the Kiev subway and his exhausted mother seeking shelter from grenades. Christ weeps next to them.

Imagine a lonely grandmother and her grandson in Luhansk who can't sleep because of explosions and sirens.

Christ weeps at their side.

Imagine a Russian and a Ukrainian soldier looking at each other through the sight of a machine gun. Christ weeps at their side.

Imagine the drivers queuing up at the Ukrainian-Polish border for three nights.
Christ weeps next to them.

Imagine that friends on Facebook are willing to "denazify" each other with their comments.
Christ weeps at their side.

Imagine the explosions near your house and the wounded in the east and west, in the south and north of Ukraine.
Christ weeps at their side.

Imagine hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ukraine in Europe and Russia.
Christ weeps at their side.

Imagine the coffins with 18-year-old boys who have just started life and their grieving others.
Christ weeps at their side.

Imagine if you were hugging all these people.
Christ embraces them with You.

Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, both in terms of preventing bloodshed, and building constructive links with God, ourselves, and other people. The British Methodist and United Reformed Churches produced a report titled *Peacemaking: A Christian Vocation* which explores a Christian perspective on peace and conflict in the context of new challenges.

MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD

Methodist Church of New Zealand
Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa
[Acting] Director: Rev. Tony Franklin-Ross
Postal: 20a Georgina Street, Freemans Bay, Auckland 1011
Phone: 021-481 816 (Mobile)
E-mail: mm-e@methodist.org.nz
www.methodist.org.nz/mission_and_ecumenical

An electronic copy can be accessed here: <https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Peacemaking-Report.pdf>

by Tony Franklin-Ross

Solomon Islands

The COVID pandemic deepens its impact

The Covid situation in the Solomon Islands arising from an outbreak in January has caused serious concern. The NZ Herald reports there are now cases in the thousands, and more than 100 deaths (that are recorded); with Honiara's hospital overwhelmed.

Vaccination rates are very low (various reports indicate less than 1-in-5 are fully vaccinated). At the current rate of vaccination, it is estimated that 80% coverage would not be achieved until 2027. There is a low number of trained vaccinators in more remote regions.

A late-January article from The Guardian (UK) provides a perspective on the impact of COVID in the Islands: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/22/people-are-dying-on-the-floor-healthcare-workers-tell-of-covid-devastation-in-solomon-islands>

MME is working with CWS to explore a partnership in the Solomon Islands to provide specific assistance for supporting the vaccination programme. Already the donations offered through MME to Sasamuqa Hospital, with the cost of fuel for the hospital boat, has supported the work of the vaccination programme. There are about 300 positive cases in Choiseul but no deaths so far.

by Tony Franklin-Ross



Methodist Mission Southern Youth Transition Houses: Standing in the Gap.

Lent is a 'check-in' time for our spirituality, time to question our own assumptions, and to challenge our perceptions.

Are we connected and active or have we become complacent in thought and word and deed? To quote Aldous Huxley "Words form the threads on which we string our experiences".

Too often we are reminded of how different others' lives are by accident or happenstance. In this time of reflection, (re) turning towards God in prayer, fasting and giving, Methodist Mission Southern offers you some words about those who are not living like so many of us.

MMS has Youth Transition Houses (YTHs) in Ōtepoti (Dunedin) and Waihōpai (Invercargill), and in April a new Young Mum's House will be launched in Waihōpai, catering for 16–19-year-olds that have not been given the foundation of a stable home and who have nowhere to live.

Research undertaken during the establishment of the YTHs, showed that out of 300 young people surveyed in Dunedin by youth providers: only 45% were living at home. 39% (117) were "couch-surfing", 7% (21) were sleeping rough or in cars, 5% (15) were living in boarding houses, and 5% (15) were selling their bodies to have somewhere to sleep.

The YTHs seek to strengthen our rangatahi's resilience and optimism. These youth are given wraparound support to set and achieve goals which they regularly exceed far beyond the easy assumptions too often made about them. Our only requirement: that they enrol in some form of education.

The YTHs are a haven for marginalised youth where they are not judged, categorised, or labelled.

Over the last three years we have been running the YTHs, more than 50 young people have stayed with us. Roughly two-thirds are female, and a not insignificant number identify as genderqueer or transgender. Just under half are Māori and Pasifika, which is very high as in this part of the world Pākehā are more than 85% of the population.

On average these wonderful young people stay with us for just on 5 months, and while we can go up to 19 years of age, it is 17- and 18-year-olds that most use our service.

One in seven of our rangatahi are still in school when they come to us.

Our Ōtepoti Coordinator tells of a recent resident: "The resident that left the house was quite exceptional in that everything she said she wanted to achieve when she first moved in. She has accomplished NCEA level 2, gained her driver's licence, and organised counselling for past trauma. She has a place to live despite being turned down over 100 times. Even with some of the hurdles she has had to navigate especially for someone so young she has achieved so much. It was a real joy watching her progress during her brief time at the house and has shown how someone who is determined can achieve what they put their mind to. It is rare in my experience to find adults with such focus let alone someone who came into the house at 16 and left at 17. I can't but wonder what the future holds in store for her."

Contact Julie julier@mmsouth.org.nz to hear more stories of these impressive rangatahi and our work via our e-news or sign up [Methodist Mission Southern | Facebook](#)

by Julie Roberts



Sharing Online Worship Resources Online

Rev Trevor Hoggard is now posting his weekly sermons on YouTube.

His sermons can be viewed by [clicking on this link](#).

Did you know that the Connexional website has created a page of [Online Worship Links](#)? The purpose is to share these types of resources across the Connexion.

We are constantly looking for links to more resources across the Connexion. If you have, or know of more resources to share, please click on this link to [Share Your Resources Online](#).

WESLEY METHODIST



Easter Music Focus for Wesley Broadway Community Radio

The following 3 programmes are included for the March offerings from Wesley Broadway:

March 1: Six Easter Hymns from contemporary sources – fronted by Gillian and John Thornley;

March 15: Four Jazz instrumentals for Easter – fronted by John Thornley;

March 29: Traditional Easter Hymns – Wesley Watts, Cowper and others.

These can be heard live, in the Manawatu area, at 11 A.M. each Tuesday and Saturday, on Frequency AM999. After their live airing, all programmes are saved by Manawatu People's Radio:

www.mpr.nz/show/wesley.

Recent programmes stay on the 'On Demand' files for 2 months. Any enquiries can be emailed to johnngill@inspirenet.nz

by John Thornley

Yearbook Updates

Details that have changed *are in italics*.

Addresses Widows and Widowers (pg 93)

Mrs M **Mabon**, Marilyn
4 Woodland Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037

Methodist Church of New Zealand Parish Listing (pg 55)

Bucklands Beach Co-Operating Parish:
245 Bucklands Beach Road, Bucklands Beach, Auckland, 2012
Business Phone: (09) 534 2305

Names & Addresses (pg 45)

Williams, Sandra
5 Royal Place, Levin 5510
[M] 027 296 8849 6220
[E] minister@levinuniting.org.nz

Yeazel, Daniel
3 Carver Place, Lynmouth, New Plymouth 4310
[M] 027 352 5478 4010
[E] danyeazel@gmail.com
