

SYNOD SALT

'Because everyone needs salt in their life.'

The newsletter of the Methodist Lower North Island Synod

June/July 2021

WELCOME

Synod News

Celebrations!

Wesley Church Wellington Seismic strengthening project

This project actually started 10 years ago, back in 2011 with a seismic assessment of less than 33% and the national requirement to bring Methodist church buildings up to a minimum of 67%. Work began on detailed design in January 2018, in August 2019 LT McGuinness were appointed as lead contractor and work started that November. The church was closed, fences went up and the Parish moved into the hall for services. There is little visual evidence of the seismic strengthening work as most of it is either underground in foundation work, or encased in the walls which were removed, lined with ply and reinstated. The external wooden buttresses were opened, and steel plates encased the original wooden studs. The only bit you can see is the large steel beam at the back of the church. The deferred maintenance is much more visual. A new roof, exterior paint job, new LED lights. Heritage features were repaired and reinstated, for example leadlight windows, which were previously covered with timber panelling, were exposed. The only remaining original door at the front of the church previously covered with tongue and groove wood panelling, was repaired and exposed.

The hall was not big enough for full Parish gatherings, church and community groups had to juggle activities, a lot of compromise was needed to ensure all users got to have activities that were important to them. Then the unexpected - COVID 19 hit and put a stop to church gatherings and work on site, product shortages impacted on the project and limits on gatherings put restrictions in our activities. Everyone faced tough times. On Sunday 23 May, 142 years after the foundation stone was laid, 10 years after a seismic assessment and 18 months after it was closed for strengthening, Wellington Methodist Parish came together for a service of Thanksgiving. The day was one to give thanks, to our forefathers, our church, the workers, our funders, and our Parish members. The service celebrated our cultural diversity, rejoicing that we could once again come together. It was a day of renewal, energy and enthusiasm. We look forward to using the church as a cornerstone of our mission and ministry for many years to come.



Photos from Wellington celebrations

Rededication of Trinity Methodist Church Napier

On Sunday May 30th the congregation at Trinity Methodist Church Napier were joined by Church President Rev Andrew Doubleday, Vice president 'Etuini Talakai, LNIS Superintendent Rob Ferguson and other invited guests from across the Connexion and local community 'to celebrate the completion of strengthening and refurbishing of Trinity Church and to officially open and name the new office, meeting spaces and kitchen as the Wesley Centre and to re-dedicate it to the glory of God for all who gather there for worship, prayer or fellowship'. The service lead by Rev Dr Lynne Frith and the presidential team brought together the three congregations that worship at Trinity, past members of Trinity as well as members of the Napier Inner City Churches and was followed up with a shared lunch served in the new Wesley Centre lounge.

The process of redeveloping began at Trinity many decades ago with talk around how to repurpose the Sunday School Hall and bring the buildings up to date for modern usage. Along the way small areas were added to give greater use to the buildings but it was still very much a 'rabbit warren' of awkward rooms. More visionary discussions continued until the Christchurch Earthquake in 2011 and the subsequent seismic assessment that left the Hall well below the acceptable standard and the Church Building itself requiring some stabilising work to be carried out on the buttresses.

As part one of the strengthening programme the Hall was demolished in 2015 and the serious business of strengthening the Church and repurposing the facilities began. Check out our website for more details on this work <https://www.trinitynapier.org.nz/changes-in-2020>



Photos from Napier celebration



Notices

Reminder that Parish Statistics are due 12/08/21.

What do I do on Sunday?

A day for Taranaki worship leaders to get together to support and learn from each other.
With Rev Rob Ferguson.

July 17

10am-2pm

Hawera Methodist Church

Bring any of your favourite worship resources.
Bring your lunch too!

The late Elva Sulzberger

It is with sadness that we advise the Connexion of the death of Deacon Elva Sulzberger on 9 June. Her funeral was held on 19 June 2021. Elva was ordained a Deacon in 1991 and served in the greater Taranaki area. She was involved in Lifeline for 25 years, retiring in 1997. Known affectionately as Solly, she was a genuine caregiver, serving in the field of nursing as a Public Health Nurse and Plunket nurse. As a deacon Elva achieved her inner quest to relate what she was doing in the workplace to the spiritual dimension of her life. Elva served the Church in the New Plymouth Parish and was a regular attendee at Whiteley. We extend our sympathy and care to Elva's family and friends. Tara Tautari, General Secretary

A lesson in learning how to accept help.

As my father has told me many times, I am a fiercely independent human being, who is stubbornly so (I would argue only occasionally). Well 6 weeks ago, the universe very abruptly informed me that I needed to slow down and learn the life lesson of accepting help from other. I broke my arm. I suddenly went from cooking, cleaning, working full time, dealing with the daily life responsibilities that come with three children, living on a farm, driving a manual car, and renovating our home, to not being able to do anything. I hated the feeling of having to step back and admit that I couldn't do all the things that I thought I needed to do. So, after attempting anyway and failing, I was forced to ask. I was forced to ask my family to cook, and them happily doing so, with supervision (I did have the odd occasion where I was told off for interfering). My children picked up more of the chores around the house, albeit begrudgingly. My dad lent me his little automatic hybrid, so that I could drive, and I just had to let go of some things.

Now as I am about to have my cast removed, I reflect on the lessons that I was taught. That being independent, does not mean that you cannot ask for help, and that often when you do, there are people there, more than willing to assist you. That not everything has to be done. The world won't fall apart if you don't fold that basket of washing. That my children can do more, I just need to ask, and that I don't need to do everything.

Isn't it interesting how it is not until something happens that takes us out of our normal routine, that we take stock of what is going on around us? For many, COVID 19 would have been their "broken wrist", where they took time to reflect. For several of our parishes the "broken wrist", has been about the future of buildings, earthquake strengthening, finances, congregations, and ministerial supply. So, I guess the life lessons that I want to share with you all are: don't be afraid to ask for help (Synod and Connexion are here), accept help where offered, change is a good thing, and don't be so fiercely independent, it becomes a negative.

Rosie Greening, Synod Secretary

Play-Reading about the Marriage of a Monk and a Nun: The Wesley Broadway Radio programme recently aired a 3-part dialogue on the marriage of Martin Luther, founder of the Reformation, and Sister Katharina Von Bora, a Cistercian nun and wife of Martin. The script lasts for 20 minutes and would make an interesting discussion starter in any church group gathering. The themes of partnership in marriage, women's place within the church, lay and presbyteral workers in the church, are just three issues that are explored in the playreading. While the place of Martin Luther is well-known, the part played by his remarkable wife is largely unknown. She deserves to be known and celebrated.

An online copy of the script can be sent by Gillian/John Thornley: johnngill@inspire.net.nz. To hear the playreading; www.mpr.nz/show/wesley.

Synod Diary Dates 2021

6th, 7th August 2021 at St Mark's in Feilding. 6th will be a ministerial workshop.

If you have any items/ events/ celebrations that you would like included in the SALT, please email them through to Rosie for inclusion.

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