

Memorial Minutes

Angus, Rev George Colville (Col) Menpes

10 April 1916 – 17 June 2010

We give thanks to God for Col's long life and his service to the Church and to his parishioners wherever he ministered.

Col was born in Dunedin and grew up in Andersons Bay, where he became an active member of the Andersons Bay Presbyterian Church. He was educated at Musselburgh School, Otago Boys' High School and then the University of Otago where he graduated BSc in chemistry.

As a conscientious objector during World War II, Col was manpowered to work for the Ministry of Works on the West Coast and in Wellington. After the war he returned to Dunedin, was denied entry to Medical School and then was accepted as a student for the ministry. He completed his training at the Theological Hall in 1947. Col married Janet (Jen) Cowan in 1948, the same year in which he was ordained at Fortrose. They moved to Palmerston with a young family in 1955. A major redevelopment of St James Presbyterian Church was undertaken during his time there. The interior was redesigned and rebuilt to a high standard. He also oversaw the amalgamation of the Palmerston and Dunback parishes.

Col served at Grants Braes in Dunedin from 1966 and then at Strath Taieri (Middlemarch) from 1975, before retiring in 1979 to live at Waikouaiti where he and Jen played an active and much appreciated part in the life of the local Church and community for many more years. Being ecumenically-minded, they also enjoyed regular attendance at a mid-week service at St John's Anglican Church just a short distance down the road. Col and Jen had 4 children (John, Hugh, Cathryn and Tim) and a wonderfully rich and loving marriage. His children testify that he was a good father and subsequently a good grandfather.

Col was a keen gardener who always left behind him a fine, improved and productive garden. Even in his final years as his physical strength deserted him, he would still struggle to do some weeding and planting until that became quite impossible. As an eager seeker of knowledge of all sorts, Col was an avid reader, mainly of non-fiction. He gained a reputation of being able to talk knowledgeably to anyone about anything. He had a liberal approach to theology and knew his own mind, yet was tolerant of those who disagreed with him. He was prepared to explore new more radical possibilities, as he and Jen often attended Dunedin Sea of Faith meetings without fearing any threat to their basic faith.

Col loved people and had the knack of making real contact with those he met so that very soon they were on friendly terms and able to chat and share confidences freely. This made him a wonderful pastor to his parishioners. For instance, one practice he adopted during his ministry was to send a card to all those he'd married on the anniversary of their wedding day. This became a highly organised on-going task requiring (a) a card file of names and addresses kept up to date, and with notes about children, separations and deaths; (b) a standard set of envelopes and pre-printed cards; and then (c) the timely, appropriate, personal message for each couple each year written in his own clear hand along with the address on the envelope and the instruction on the

back about when to open it. He must have disciplined himself to ensure that each card was posted in good time to get there before its opening date. Some couples who lived far away responded warmly to his genuine kindness and concern for them by calling in for a visit when they were travelling nearby. Likewise, Col and Jen would catch up with some couples when they went on trips about New Zealand themselves. This card practice is just one example of Col's remarkable links with all sorts of people. He had a great ability to see the good in them, to draw it out and to enjoy the relationships that followed.

By the time old age really began to take its toll on both Col and Jen, the local folk at Waikouaiti showed how much they had come to love these two by their willing care and support as needed. This was especially so after Jen died in 2006, and Col was left on his own, becoming frailer and frailer with a very bent back and a walker frame to help him get around. Through all these trials Col's spirit was not broken. His faith remained strong. The same keen mind was still as active as ever to the end. Nothing could stop his refreshing sense of humour from bubbling out every now and again, and his genuine interest in the people around him never faded away.

In mid May 2010 he became ill and needed hospital attention for a week or two until he was moved to Ross Home where he died on 17 June 2010. His family led the celebration of his long rich life at the funeral, conducted by Tim, the youngest son who followed his father into the ministry. The other children and one granddaughter shared in a combined eulogy. The whole service reflected so clearly the many aspects of Col's character that endeared him to those who knew him.

The whole Church shares in the family's sense of loss. Col was a loyal servant of God who did not seek the limelight for himself, but nevertheless shone with Jesus-inspired love wherever he went.

Brame, Rev Leslie Alfred

26 October 1914 – 14 April 2009

Leslie Brame was born in Stowupland in the County of East Suffolk, England. He was brought up in the harsh conditions of World War I and suffered from double scoliosis, a condition which he endured to the end of his days. In spite of his condition he had a great childhood which prepared him to become a very worthy scholar.

Leslie loved all things pertaining to the country. He writes of his father "I learned about all aspects of nature, plants and animals, domesticated animals, all growing things... my father was a jobbing carpenter, skilled in building, cabinet-making, wheelwright, wainwright, painter, and paper-hanger. He was also a first-class gardener." This background set the stage for a son whose life was remarkable, whose dedication to the spread of the Gospel was quite astounding and whose practical approach to life was manifold. All of this in spite of his physical condition about which he seldom complained.

Leslie grew up in a busy Congregational Church setting which gave him the flexibility and warm ecumenism that was to serve him well in the life ahead.

Leslie was accepted as a candidate for Ministry in 1934 and became a student of Cambridge University, Fitzwilliam Hall, resident at Cheshunt College. He was a brilliant student who gained BA (Hons) and was awarded a scholarship for researching overseas mission work, language and philology. He qualified for an MA (Hons)

In 1939 Leslie was appointed a missionary under the auspices of the London Missionary Society (LMS) to work in North China which was under Japanese occupation. At midnight, on the 29 December 1939 Leslie embarked in strictest secrecy on a blacked out ocean-liner (later he discovered it was the Viceroy of India) which took a zig-zag course through the Mediterranean to Hong Kong. He took a coastal boat to Shanghai and Tientsin, then the train to Peking where he telephoned the Mission and made the last part of his journey in a rickshaw. So began a remarkable ministry.

In June 1941 Leslie married Judy (Gladys) Worthington a young missionary from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (Anglican). Judy was born in 1910 in the United Kingdom. Leslie and Judy were married in Beijing Cathedral. After their marriage the LMS advised them to flee from the Japanese invasion. Their surviving daughter Gillian was born in China in 1942. The story of their journey through China is the stuff of movies. They ended up in Jiading where they stayed for five years.

Leslie and Judy established a very strong relationship with Wuhan University. A portion of the following letter (which was read at the funeral) from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries dated 14 October 2008 says "Your choice to stay in China through the most difficult years during the World War II is the best example to show what true courage is. Against the social chaos and white terror, you put aside your personal safety and fight against the unjust force with all you have. Your great courage has inspired people around you and still remains an inspiration for our generation in the peace time. Your excellent work at the Wuhan University is absolutely impressive. Your knowledge and humanitarianism have passed to the students.....your great love has marched across the border and will pass on from generation to generation." (Li Xiaolin)

In 1945, Leslie Brame was on furlough in the UK, recovering from the ordeals of the years spent in China. It gave him time with family and was an opportunity to refresh his studies. He worked in the Selly Oak Missions' Library in Birmingham in the Mingana Collection of Arabic Scripts and cuneiform tablets. Whilst in Eltham, the Brame's second child was born but the privations of the journey out of China had taken their toll and Margaret only lived for 24 hours.

In 1946 the LMS appointed Leslie to serve the Samoan Church as Principal of Leulumoega Fou High School – Malua where he exercised a ministry that ranged from fixing the generator to instilling theological insight in students who remember him with great affection.

After their time in Samoa, Leslie moved to New Zealand in 1959 and was first called to set up a new Congregational Church in Papatoetoe (St Phillip's). After that he was called to be minister of the Mount Eden Congregational Church. Whilst there he was appointed Lecturer in the Old Testament to the Congregational College of New Zealand and in 1966 he was acting Principal for the year. Then, in 1968 when the Mt Eden Congregational Church joined with the St James Congregational/Presbyterian Church Beresford Street he became part of the joint ministry team. In 1969 the Congregational Churches joined with the Presbyterians at a national level and Leslie became a Presbyterian minister with a Congregational heart. The ecumenical spirit was strong within him.

In his latter years Leslie remained strongly associated with the life and work of St James' Church and Community in Auckland City CBD. He was a gracious man who entered into the life of the congregation with great enthusiasm especially enjoying the hospitality outings. He was always a wise encourager and enabler. Whenever he rose to take the readings for the day the congregation held their breath (not only because he was so frail) but because they knew that they were in for a treat. Leslie always read the Word as though it was truly living and active.

Leslie's wife Judy died quite suddenly in 2004 and so ended a partnership that had brought colour and vitality and love into so many lives. After Judy's death Leslie began to concentrate in earnest on his memoirs which ran to three volumes and over 600 pages. "As I remember it" is a superbly written story and will be published in due course.

In his last months Leslie remained cheerful and determined to finish his story. His love for the Gospel was never diminished and he died on 14 April 2009, after Easter Sunday, sure of the hope of the resurrection. His funeral took place in the View Road Church and was an outstanding tribute to his life and work.

The General Assembly gives thanks for the life of Leslie Alfred Brame and extends its sympathy to his daughter, Gillian.

Burgess, Rev. Dr Nancy Joan

Nan Burgess was born and grew up in rural Waikato, receiving her secondary education at Hamilton Technical College where she excelled academically and at sport. In pursuit of her life-long ambition to become a teacher Nan trained as a primary teacher at Auckland Teachers' College where she was also able to study English at university, a subject that soon became an absorbing interest for her.

As a recently graduated teacher, the experience of teaching at primary schools in London and Middlesex during her two-year OE, made Nan realise that traditional teaching methods were condemning some children to a life of illiteracy. On her return to New Zealand she taught English and organised the sports programme at her former school, Hamilton Technical College, for two years. Belonging once again to the Bible Class of First Church, Frankton, Nan became aware of the need to deepen her spiritual understanding so applied and was accepted for training as a Deaconess.

Nan's years at Deaconess College, 1956-58, were especially challenging and stimulating as she was permitted to do the non-language Theological Hall Course alongside the trainee ministers, a background that was to prove invaluable in future years. On completion of her training, Nan was invited to become the Deaconess of Knox Church, Christchurch, in partnership with minister, the Very Rev Mac Wilson, a position which gave her a wide variety of opportunities to live out the motto of the Deaconess Order, "By Love Serve". After six years, Nan felt the need for further university study so returned to Dunedin and completed her MA, living during this time in Deaconess College once again and becoming its gardener in lieu of board.

An invitation to become Principal of St Oran's Girls' College in Lower Hutt in 1969 was accepted and Nan remained there for thirteen and a half years of wise and mind-opening leadership which shaped the futures of all who came under her care. She delighted in encouraging the girls' to explore the unfamiliar and organised many educational and sporting trips, including taking senior girls to different parts of Australia. During this time

Nan was also involved in several General Assembly committees, wrote 'Except a Grain of Wheat', the story of the last fifteen years of the Deaconess Order of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, was ordained as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in 1972, and represented New Zealand deaconesses at Diakonia Conferences in Germany and the Philippines.

After leaving St Oran's in 1982 Nan was appointed Parish Development and Mission Co-ordinator to the Presbytery of Dunedin and a half-time lecturer in Christian Education at Knox Theological Hall. The following year, the retirement of the Professor of Pastoral Theology required Nan to become a full-time lecturer at the Hall until the appointment of a new professor, after which she assumed responsibility for the organisation of fieldwork for the students along with her lecturing. During her 13 years at the Theological Hall Nan was Acting Principal on three occasions, enjoyed Study leave in Israel, became the facilitator of the Dominican Community at Teschemakers, and completed studies for her PhD.

Retirement in 1996 saw Nan move to Waikanae where she bought a house overlooking the beach and estuary and quickly turned her very sandy section into a colourful all-year-round garden. She became fully involved in the life of the Otaki-Waikanae Presbyterian Church and the local community, and her interest in the Association of Presbyterian Women (APW), which stemmed from her time in Christchurch and the amalgamation of the former Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union and Women's Fellowship, saw her involved at parish, presbytery and national levels, serving on the National Executive for three years as Programme, Prayer and Study Convener. She also gathered together women's faith stories, many originally written at the time of the centenary of women's suffrage in 1993, and acted as editor for the publication of three volumes of 'A Braided River of Faith'. At the time of her death she was editing stories for a fourth volume. Nan's many skills saw her much in demand as a supply preacher, interim minister, leader of workshops, inspirational speaker, and as a facilitator for groups or parishes needing to find new ways of remaining relevant, where her ability to 'think outside the square' proved invaluable. Retirement also gave Nan the opportunity to indulge in her favourite pastimes – golf, visiting, reading, gardening, travel and photography.

Nan died peacefully in her Waikanae home on 18 February 2010 following a period of illness. Her funeral, held in a packed Waikanae Presbyterian Church, and attended by many of her former pupils and students, as well as ministry colleagues and members of the parish, was tribute to the lasting influence she had on the countless lives she touched in the course of her varied ministry, in all of which she remained true to the motto of the Deaconess Order, "By Love Serve".

Churcher, Very Rev Neil Gordon

Neil was accepted as a student for the ministry by the Presbytery of Christchurch and attended the Theological Hall from 1958-960. He was ordained and inducted in 1960 to the parish of Te Kuiti where both the parish session he worked with and his colleagues in the presbytery of Waikato contributed to his rapid growth from a recently ordained student minister to one widely regarded as a wise and thoughtful mature servant of the church. The same respect and gratitude was given Neil by his neighbours and parishioners in Greymouth, Khandallah and Knox Church Dunedin.

Especially during his time in Wellington and Dunedin Neil was used by the national Church in committees and as one who could contribute support and advice both to

senior and junior colleagues. This advice and help was sought because Neil always was seeking the good of the Church and not simply his own. It was for this reason that his contribution to presbytery debates were always listened to carefully. They were wise and not ambitious for himself.

Neil's last official parish in Lower Hutt exemplified this reputation. The Lower Hutt parishes of St Stephen and St Aidan were looking for guidance into co-operation and this would have been impossible if the primary guide had been seeking status for himself.

Neil is remembered for two particular interests. As a young man he was interested in drama and the actor's use of the voice. He earned a fellowship in voice from the Trinity College London. His reading of scripture, preaching, and public speech was always memorable.

In later years his interest in prayer and spirituality developed both his own devotional practice and his acting as a spiritual director in co-operation with those with similar commitment in our own and in sister denominations. Many who have attended spiritual growth groups highly valued Neil's humble and perceptive guidance.

Neil was elected moderator at the General Assembly in 1988 and his conduct of the Assembly and of himself in the following year as he visited presbyteries and represented the Church on public occasions was typical of his not seeking anything for himself but insistent on the worth of the God he served and represented.

Neil himself would have given much credit for the person he was and the work he was able to do to his wife Muriel. Muriel is an able, perceptive and gracious person but so gentle and unselfish she may not have been recognized by many as having the value that Neil himself gave her.

We give thanks for the distinctive service to the church given by Neil and we commend both Muriel and her sons to the comfort of the God he helped many of us better to understand and follow.

Corkill, Very Rev Tom M

We give thanks to God for Tom Corkill who has exercised a 59-year ministry within the Presbyterian Church. He has given the best of his mind and a sterling graciousness of manner to parish ministry and wider church leadership including Moderator of the General Assembly.

Tom was first and foremost a parish minister: He ministered to the parishes of Westport, Maori Hill, Dunedin, Trinity Timaru, Napier West, and Moutere Hills Co-operating. He was especially proud to be part of the Ministry Team of Ngaio in early retirement years. The stand-out features of his parish ministry have been his preaching, his collaboration with parishioners, his focus on courageous decision-making and his capacity to himself practice what he preached.

Tom Corkill was an understated Pastor. He was emphatic that pastoral care was a necessary and essential component of ordained ministry. For him the very essence of ministry was direct engagement with people when significant things were occurring in their lives. Tom has practiced the cliché: he sat where they sat, bringing to those

situations a remarkable touch of benediction. Tom placed himself as minister in the Presbyterian Church that was reformed and reforming. He was proud to call himself liberal and evangelical together – meaning love of scripture, thirst for new knowledge, and a passion for infecting others with a desire for Christian discipleship.

Tom Corkill was given national leadership responsibility as Convener of the Theological Education Committee 1963-69, and the Church Union Committee 1975-80, and then was elected as Moderator of the General Assembly in 1980. He convened the Commission on Theological Hall & Education for Ministry 1992-1993. Throughout these onerous responsibilities he practised the classic Presbyterian virtues, insisting that dignity, respect and careful attention be attached to people and also to Church procedures. They were demanding times where the Church not only had deep differences within itself, but was also very much in the public eye. Issues of theology, race-based rugby tours and church union were occupying the hearts and minds of New Zealand citizens as well as church. Tom Corkill gave outstanding leadership to Church and society during those times.

Tom was a modest man, a person who has been first and foremost – humble – together with a patent warmth about him. We salute him as a minister who has left us a legacy of wise, compassionate and committed service, and we give prayerful greeting to his wife Mary and family Bruce, Sue, Gill, Ruth, and Alison.

Farmer, Rev Mark Alexander Colthurst Farmer

An enduring memory of Mark from the very earliest stages of our friendship was of a big, tall presence, advancing on you with his welcoming arms open wide inviting a hug that was such a sign of his innate hospitality.

Mark trained at the Theological Hall 1984-1986. As a student Mark and Martha already had a large family of boys and not long after one more baby was on the way. Martha (and Mark) hoped for a girl, but the odds were against them and it was another boy – he was showered with love like the rest of the family.

Even back then, Martha was a tower of strength for Mark, and with Mark a significant part of the Theological Hall community. Mark came to the Theological Hall after a career in the merchant shipping, with life-shaping experience of serving with Doulos and Logos.

Mark was ordained at St James' Union Church in Masterton from February 1987 serving until January 1996; moving from there to take up his successful ministry in Warkworth at the Mahurangi Presbyterian Church; whence he retired in 2009. Mark is remembered for his humility, his strength of character and his genuine love for people, even for those he disagreed with on theological issues. His was an irenic style in presbytery, especially as Moderator (2001), without ever yielding ground on issues he felt to be important. He was a gracious person, never one to blow his own trumpet. Mark grew theologically during his time at the hall, but he never departed from his evangelical roots and his huge heart for mission. Nonetheless Mark willingly took his part in presbytery life even though aspects of it drove him crazy. He convened committees, assessed candidates for ministry, and lent his quiet strength to encouraging and inspiring those who knew him well.

The way Mark developed the mission to Uganda testifies to his huge heart for mission and his enthusiasm was infectious often drawing others into the work alongside him (he

did with trips to Fiji in earlier years). Mark was someone who did what his convictions made him believe was the right thing to do – this wasn't always what church protocol expected – but in so acting he did so without any malice, even if it did leave him open to criticism from time to time. Mark was not one to hold grudges – he had more important things to do.

Mark had a very real passion for reaching the lost whether they were citizens of the Mahurangi district or the poor and vulnerable people of Uganda. The secret of the vitality of the congregations at Warkworth is at least in part due to those being added to Kingdom of God because of Mark's passion to see many saved. This vitality is also due to a theology of the Holy Spirit that believed in a living and active presence who addressed as persons deeply loved and treasured by God. Mark ardently believed in the validity of the gifts of the Spirit for the church today and was used in those gifts with a Christ-like grace and confidence. This was witnessed as he took time in his own illness to visit and pray for the wives of two of his colleagues in their respective illnesses. Visitations to the Mahurangi parish revealed that Mark would be one of the few ministers who had the ability and grace to embrace fools and critics "gladly" even though he was often puzzled that people seemed not to grasp the vision that drove and empowered his ministry in the Lord's name.

When Mark retired in Warkworth a huge turn out came from both church and community as a living testimony to the respect with which was held by those both in and beyond the church. Further testimony to this arose at Mark's funeral when the College Gym overflowed with people many of whom had travelled some distance to pay their respects to Mark and to Martha. Mark died on Saturday 23 January 2010 after a hard fought battle with cancer, and his life was celebrated in a funeral service in the Mahurangi College gym in Warkworth attended by around 4,000 people on Friday 29 January. For many of us he still had a lot to offer at the time of his untimely death – he wanted to give his retirement to mission work and to encouraging church communities to become more outward thinking and to embrace the work of the Holy Spirit in their communal life.

The following is a quote from the announcement of his death to the wider church: *"He was a very popular minister and leader in the Warkworth community, with his energy and commitment to Christian mission and ministry evident, even during his illness, with his leadership of a mission to Uganda last year. Though a person of strong conviction, he had a gentleness of spirit and a human warmth that many others greatly appreciated."*

Fatialofa, Rev Tu'i Alofa

The Rev Tu'i Alofa Fatialofa died on 3 June 2010. Tu'i was a widow with seven grown children.

Tu'i Fatialofa responded to her sense of call to enter the ordained ministry. She was a mother and grandmother and a woman who had the heart of Christ as her mission and life purpose. Tu'i entered the ministry after a long tradition of ministers in her family. Her father and grandfather were ministers in the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa. However, this was not the reason behind her drive and passion to venture out into this pioneering ministry. At age 51 she was told she was too old to train for the ministry and that Pacific Island tradition did not accept women into the ordained ministry. *"People struggled with my age initially and the fact that I was a widow and a woman. My children were all grown up and were able to look after themselves"*. According to Tu'i, she believed that *"all things work together for good to them that love the Lord"*.

Tu'i was a lay preacher in Auckland Presbytery and was licensed in 1980. One time when she attended lay preachers class in Auckland Presbytery one of the lecturers recommended to her that she should consider entering the ministry. He was impressed with her preaching ability. They believed her talent was to preach. She was a shy person and they told her that when she preached she was strong and confident. Because she was so quiet they thought that perhaps she could not speak English. After hearing her, they said to her that this was her gift to be a minister.

Tu'i first felt the call to enter the ministry when her youngest daughter Rita went to training college. All her children were now independent which meant that she could begin her training. She felt that entering the ministry was her response to God for His love and for looking after her in the bringing up of her seven children.

Living at Knox was quite an experience. She was the first woman to live in residence at Knox College. Prior to Tu'i's arrival women students traditionally stayed at Salmond Hall but by the time Tu'i left Knox College it consisted of about 50 percent men and 50 percent women. She was fortunate to live in the senior common room and was known throughout the college as 'mum'. But for Tu'i, even this status of seniority didn't exclude her from being water bombed while walking through the quad.

Tu'i completed her training in 1984 and was ordained on 30 May 1985 as a part-time hospital chaplain at Greenlane and National Women's hospital, and as an honorary minister at Newton PIPC with special ministry for the youth. In 1989 she became an Ecumenical chaplain at the same hospitals. She offered a wealth of experience in visiting patients, offering pastoral care and love to mothers, babies and all age groups as well as their families in times of celebration, uncertainty and grief. Sadly, due to overwork Tu'i suffered a stroke in April 1992.

Even amidst opposition to her following her call into ordained ministry Tu'i believed that humility and faith in God was what helped her as one of the pioneer women in ordained ministry. For her, being single in ministry gave her much freedom to do her work and carry out her ministry. She retired in 1996 aged 65.

At an interview in 2000 for "Pacific Women in Ministry", when asked for some concluding words of encouragement she said *"having faith in God gives us strength and all things work together for those who love the Lord. If God is for us who can be against us?"* We thank God for her humility and ministry of love.

Fink, Rev Newton M.

Newton retired from full-time parish ministry and came to live in Waikanae in 1985, but one could be excused for not being aware that he was retired because he continued to be so active and busy. He was always willing to take services when the parish minister was away and during periods of vacancy Newton was regularly rostered to lead morning worship at both Waikanae and Otaki, the most recent vacancy being just three years ago. When he was not taking the service Newton was a faithful and regular attender at the Waikanae services, always sitting in the same pew at the front of the congregation, contrary to the normal Presbyterian trend of sitting at the back of the church. Newton was also a great encouragement to others who led worship, giving them an affirming word as he shook their hand at the church door.

When evening services began at Waikanae, during the ministry of the Rev Paul McGregor, both Newton and Jean assumed leadership roles and Newton conducted the monthly evening Communion services, a task he relinquished only 18 months ago. He has also been active, until recently, in our Rest Home Ministry. In December 2006 the parish honoured Newton's 60 years of preaching the Gospel - first as a lay preacher in South Africa, then as an ordained minister in South Africa, the United States and New Zealand – a record of service not many achieve.

However, we remember Newton not only as a preacher but also as a teacher. He delighted in encouraging others to read and understand scripture and, almost from the moment he set foot in Waikanae, leading a Bible Study Group has been part of his weekly routine. As recently as the day before he was admitted to hospital, he led the Monday morning prayer and study group at Waikanae. He was widely read and continued to study and keep abreast of modern theological thinking.

On one occasion, as part of a celebration of Pentecost, it was decided to have the words "Come, Holy Spirit" said in a variety of languages. Newton was asked if he would say it in Greek, and his response was "I could say it in seven different languages if you like!" As well as being a fluent speaker of seven languages he was also able to read several more, and right up to his death he kept his brain agile by reading scripture in a language other than English every day, or by listening to tapes of other languages.

The Ministry of Healing through the Order of St Luke the Physician was very dear to the hearts of Newton and Jean, and for four years Newton was Chaplain to the Order of St Luke in Waikanae. Many of our members can testify to the ministry of prayer which they exercised among us. One year Newton gave our annual Winter Lecture series on the subject of 'Healing'.

Lest you get the impression that Newton's pursuits were all intellectual, he was also actively involved in the running of our annual fund-raising effort, the Church Fair. Not surprisingly, given Newton's love of scholarship and gardening, he was to be found behind either the Book Stall or the Plant Stall, and he was a convincing salesman.

Another of his interests was our Men's Fellowship, and for many years he never missed a meeting unless he was away on holiday.

Newton's passing has left a huge gap in the life of the Otaki Waikanae Presbyterian Church, but rather than dwell on what we have lost, we give thanks to God for everything he has done for our church, and for us individually. Newton will be missed, but we are all the better for having known him and shared in the ministry he exercised here in so many ways.

The opening verse of a hymn that used to be sung at the Ordination of Presbyterian ministers comes to mind at this time.

*Pour out your spirit from on high:
Lord your ordained servants bless;
Graces and gifts to each supply,
And clothe your priests with righteousness.*

Newton was the embodiment of everything those words express. "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into your eternal rest."

Grosse, Rev Lawrence Albert (Larry)

19 Feb 1925 to 11 June 2010

Larry began life as an abandoned baby, but grew to become a man of passion and compassion. Larry's early life was ecumenical, attending as a young boy both the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches each Sunday. Then as a young man he came under the influence of Cyril Roberts, in Hawera. Cyril was one of several men who had a profound influence on Larry's life.

Throughout his life Larry continued to read the scriptures and to explore new challenges in matters theological and ecumenical. He moved to Melbourne in the early 1950s and boarded at Glen Iris College. The minister of Glen Iris Presbyterian Church had a major influence on young Larry. It was from here that Larry moved into Home Missionary work in Burney, Tasmania.

After three years at Burney, Larry moved to New Zealand in 1956 and served as a Home Missionary at Te Atatu for three years. This move was quite significant for several reasons:

1. Worship was held in the Manse lounge while he lived in two rooms. The smell of roast dinner often accompanied worship.
2. He saw the building of the first of two churches built during his ministry. The completion of the hall enabled Valerie and Larry to get married and live in the manse.
3. The most significant event was the marriage to Valerie, his life's partner and help-mate.

In 1959 Larry and Val moved to Titoki where he served several preaching places. At both Te Atatu and Titoki Larry continued his studies; mostly by correspondence. Titoki saw the arrival of Valerie and Larry's two daughters, Susan and Janet. In 1964 Larry entered the Theological Hall in Dunedin to begin three years of study, and was ordained at Otaki - Waikanae in February 1967.

The two centres of Waikanae and Otaki were quite different in character but were part of one parish. Otaki was the market gardens and farming centre, while Waikanae was a popular retirement place for Government officials and public servants. In his twenty years at Otaki-Waikanae, Larry extended a church, and sold one. He enjoyed a very fruitful ministry:

- He was a founding member of Birthright in that district
- He became advocate for the patients of Kimberley Psychopedic home at Levin for which he was awarded the QSM in 1987
- He was Moderator of Wellington Presbytery
- For a period he was chairman of the Wellington Council of Churches
- He enjoyed the company of people such as Ormond Burton, Jack McKenzie, George McLeod of Iona, the Rt Hon Sir John Marshall, among others and the challenge of their thinking
- Larry developed excellent relationships with the Maori folk of Ngati Raukawa, at Otaki
- He enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow ministers of all denominations.

Three months short of 20 years at Otaki-Waikanae Larry was called to Devonport. In Dec 1986, he was inducted into St Paul's where he served for 5 years before retiring in

1991. At St Paul's Larry again took his full part in the life of the Presbytery while faithfully serving the people of Devonport. He was known as a people person. In a Presbytery visitation report the following comments were made:

"Acknowledgement must be made of the ministry of the Rev Larry Grosse, and his wife Valerie. Larry describes himself as a 'people person', an aptitude which his QSM eloquently underlines... The Session spoke enthusiastically of Larry's personality and abilities. They appreciate his ability to communicate, his clarity of expression and forthrightness, the stimulation he provides, and his leadership style whereby he involves people and opens the way for individuals to grow spiritually. However, let no one imagine everyone agrees with Larry! At times he provokes people to respond rather warmly! Sometimes of course, stimulation of this nature produces antagonism, but no evidence of this came to light. Instead the team found office-bearers at one in their appreciation of their minister. As one elder put it, there was a "very high level of satisfaction" among office-bearers and congregation alike. For her part Valerie not only supports Larry but has also had a ministry of her own. Her quiet, but nonetheless effective contribution is highly appreciated by the Congregation." Visitation Report 11 November 1988 by Presbytery of North Shore

In retirement, Larry continued his ministry of providing pastoral care where it was needed. He gave support for the bereaved, supply to vacant parishes, ministerial support to St James, Auckland, and was Interim Moderator for parishes a number of times. He enjoyed his association with the Mission to Seafarers, and twice went to Norfolk Island to provide supply. Even while his own health was deteriorating he cared for those who cared for him.

After nearly 60 years Larry's ministry is now complete. Many were touched by his humanity, pastoral sensitivity and deep spirituality. He kept the faith, he fought the fight and he has run his race. May he rest in peace.

Larry, we are richer for having known you and the poorer for your departure.

Gunn, Rev James (Jim) Thomas

Jim's father was due to take a funeral. It was mid-1919 and the Rev Jim Gunn senior was ministering at Pleasant Point, Canterbury. On the way to the service he stopped to help a motorist and happily saw him on his way. However Jim senior never arrived to take the funeral. He was later discovered beside the road, having suffered a heart attack. His widowed wife Anne was expecting at the time and four months later James Thomas Gunn was safely delivered.

The family moved from Pleasant Point to Wellington where Jim attended school. Jim found success in the academic environment becoming Dux of Wellington High School. After high school Jim trained as a teacher before being interrupted by the Second World War.

Jim's military record was unique in that he held the position of commissioned officer in the Army, Navy and the Air Force at one time or another. While serving with the Fleet Air Arm he flew fighter planes off English Aircraft carriers supporting Russian convoys. The equipment was basic and the North Atlantic conditions were atrocious. It is a reflection of Jim's character that he acquitted himself so well under such circumstances.

After the war Jim married Margaret and settled into a teaching career, until a sense of call led him to train for the ministry in Dunedin (1951-53). Jim was subsequently called to Titirangi where he was ordained and inducted in 1953.

Jim was the first minister of the new Titirangi parish which had until his induction been attached to New Lynn and Glen Eden. Consequently there were many areas of service to develop and Jim applied himself with dedication and vigour. Jim is remembered not only for his preaching and teaching but for the community involvement which he shared with Margaret – notably their establishment of the Titirangi repertory society.

In 1966, after thirteen years in Titirangi, Jim was called to Mornington, Dunedin. Under his care the congregation grew in numbers and energy. During this nine year period Jim also oversaw the establishment of a new church and served a term as moderator of Dunedin Presbytery.

In the mid seventies Jim was approached by Orakei Presbyterian Church. He turned them down at first but their persistence paid off and in 1975 Jim and the family arrived to take up parish work in the Eastern Bays. He found this transition a challenge and wrote how homesick he was for Mornington. But the people at Orakei were faithful and he settled in to a season of steady and faithful ministry. During this time he also served as Moderator of Auckland Presbytery and as Presbytery Clerk. Jim continued his long time Bible in Schools involvement and in 1980 began taking services at Waiheke Island in addition to his Orakei commitments.

Jim retired in 1985, but this did not slow him down. Bible in Schools was still a keen focus and he became Chaplain at St Andrew's Retirement Village, Glendowie. Early in the morning he would catch a train and then bus across to St Andrews from Titirangi. On the return journey Jim needed to keep sharp because, after a long day, he might doze off and miss his station.

Once this became too much and as age continued to slow Jim down he became a resident at St Andrew's. As well as attending the weekly St Andrew's Chapel services Jim attended the adjacent Glendowie Presbyterian Church on a regular basis.

Jim passed away on 20 September 2008. His funeral was conducted in the Oratia Combined Church where he had often led worship. Situated amongst the striking native bush of the Waitakeres, Jim was laid to rest in historic Oratia Cemetery – a place close to his heart and his family.

Highet, Rev Joseph Malcolm Henry

Prior to his death Malcolm Highet, reflecting on his long life, commented to one of his family members *"I have had a fabulous life and have done more than I dreamed of. I have a great family, great friends, and have had great health. I am so thankful."*

Malcolm was one of six children and was born in Dunedin on 22 September 1917. Malcolm went to Otago Boys High School and then onto university to complete a law degree. Throughout his life Malcolm valued the importance of good education. Following a brief stint in law Malcolm went off to serve in the Second World War. He volunteered and went away with the First Echelon of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and was exposed to active service whereas his brilliant neurosurgeon brother, Bremner, in his post in Oxford was in complete safety. Bremner was however asked by

the New Zealand Government if he would take over the post at the New Zealand armed forces hospital in the Middle East and agreed. He was sent in convoy to Africa, only to have his ship torpedoed and all hands were lost. Malcolm had a mate in camp with him who asked if he would swap the day leave that each was due. When Malcolm went off on his leave the friend who took his place was killed, bizarrely, by a single stray shell fired out of the blue into the camp. He began to think as he returned to New Zealand that he just could not go back to a life on a Government law department but must offer himself for a life of service to God and to others. When home on furlough in 1943 Malcolm married Margaret.

Malcolm entered the Theological Hall in 1949 and was ordained at St Paul's Oamaru in 1952 then serving at Eveline from 1953, Trinity Timaru from 1955, St Paul's Invercargill from 1961, Knox Gonville from 1969, Johnsonville Union from 1974 and then at Maheno-Incholme from 1978 until his retirement in 1981. Malcolm was a reader and thinker who had strong pastoral ministries. He undertook his ministry seriously and competently and worked hard. He was a much loved minister in the parishes where he served.

Malcolm and Margaret retired to Geraldine and were both actively involved in church and community. Malcolm enjoyed involvement with the Friday morning golfers, the Probus Club and the RSA. In fact Malcolm was a member of the Geraldine RSA for 28 years and a life member for 14 years. The hospitality that Malcolm and Margaret shared with others during their years of ministry continued through into retirement with an open home being shared openly and warmly with others. Malcolm also exercised a remarkable pastoral ministry with many people in the Geraldine community. During the retirement years there was more time for family and a number of overseas trips which were enjoyed by Malcolm and Margaret.

With the death of Margaret in 2005, failing eyesight and other medical issues, life had not been easy for Malcolm in recent years but he remained courageous, bright and caring toward others. In recent years Malcolm has been in the care of the Geraldine Retirement Home. Malcolm died on 14 March 2010 and is survived by his six children and 11 grandchildren.

Malcolm was a true gentleman and a faithful minister of the Gospel. He embodied many of the best Presbyterian qualities, including a breadth of thinking, a pastoral heart and a genuine concern for others. Our church give thanks for his life and example. In the words of older Paul to younger Timothy it can be said of Malcolm Highet – he has *“fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith-now there is in store him the crown of righteousness...”*. Well done good and faithful servant – enter into the joy of the Lord.

Inch, Mrs Margaret Lorraine

We acknowledge the death of Margaret Inch in Johnsonville, Wellington, on 18 November 2008. Margaret was the immediate past moderator of Wellington Presbytery and had an active involvement with the wider church.

Margaret Elms was raised in Southland - and maintained a strong connection with her *alma mater* through the Southland Girl's High School Old Girl's Association. When Margaret met and married Doug Inch a long-lasting and highly productive partnership was formed.

Margaret completed a degree at Otago University and teacher training. She took teaching posts throughout New Zealand as Doug moved positions within the Ministry of Works. On coming to Wellington Margaret took leadership roles in schools there, culminating in her position as Principal at St Oran's College (1982-1989). Margaret was a teacher - she loved learning, children and challenges - attributes that were gifts of her personality.

When the Inch's came to Johnsonville in the early 1970's they joined the local church - Johnsonville Union. Margaret became involved in the local parish as organist, singer, parish councillor, finance convenor, white elephant stall runner and wider church advocate. She was most widely known for her involvement with the catering project of the parish (Unicat) that provided food for funerals and weddings, along with the Council of Assembly, church committees and community groups.

Margaret served the Presbyterian Church on the Church Property Trustees, the Glen Innes Farm committee, the Beneficiary Fund workgroup, the Council of Assembly and the Business Committee. She was also the person who took a large part in local arrangements when Assembly met in Wellington over the last ten years. Her knowledge of the church was broad and her service was great.

Margaret was also involved with Altrusa from 1974, being elected as the International President in 1995 (the first New Zealander). She was also a keen handbell player and attended national and international symposiums. She taught handbell playing at schools and churches, and taught international players about New Zealand.

At home Margaret busied herself with craftwork, cooking, and jigsaws. She was a Justice of the Peace and willingly gave her time to serve the community. Margaret and Doug also welcomed a number of international exchange students or visitors - and often returned visits during their retirement travels overseas.

The Southland Girl's motto is "*Non scholae sed vitae discimus*" (we learn, not for school, but for life). Margaret understood that life is ever changing, and we are therefore ever learning. Her funeral service celebrated the fullness of her life and the commitment that she gave to her church and community. We thank God for the life of Margaret Inch, and continue to offer our prayers for Doug.

Kerr, Rev Dr Alan Richard

Alan Kerr was born in Matura in 1942. He grew up in Gore, attending Gore Main Primary School and Gore High School. Alan met Marion Ann at University where Marion was studying chemistry and they married on 9 December 1967. Alan was a mathematics and science teacher at Mairehau High School in Christchurch for three years and then at Owaka District High School for four years before leaving to study for the ministry.

Alan studied at the Theological Hall in Dunedin 1973-75 where he received a Begg Travel Scholarship which he put towards his masters degree in Theology (rather than travel overseas). Alan was ordained at Woodlands Parish on 5 February 1976 where he remained until 31 January 1982. From there, he went to Lumsden-Balfour-Kingston Parish and Otago Peninsula Parish where he ministered for 14 years – where for eight of those years he studied part-time towards his Doctorate in Theology which he attained in 1999. After completing his Doctorate, Alan took study leave and went to Ethiopia to

teach and share the fruits of his study with others at the Evangelical Theological College of Kale Heywet Church in Addis Ababa for two months.

Alan was moderator of Dunedin Presbytery 2000-01, leaving to serve at Knapdale/Waikaka Parish in Maitua Presbytery until his retirement as a minister emeritus in 2004. Alan moved back to Dunedin Presbytery, to Allanton, where he later became moderator of the Synod of Otago and Southland (2006-07) and was a founding member of the Christian Youth Camps at Waiholo.

Alan had a caring eye for everybody, whether they were a church member or not, everyone from all walks of life was unconditionally accepted. A lot of his pastoral work was carried out with his wife and he made a point of visiting everybody in his country parishes and would spend days travelling around farms. It was not just books and studying that Dr Kerr loved, he was also an active sportsman who enjoyed running, tramping and cycling – he ran the Kepler Challenge Mountain Race 10 times. Alan died 30 June 2009, aged 66 years, as the result of a cycling accident near Mosgiel.

Linklater (nee Wilson), Rev Reita Jessep

Rev Reita Linklater was born in 1927 and trained at Deaconess College, Dunedin, during 1953-59. Reita was ordained a deaconess at St David's Palmerston North on 23 November 1955 before resigning on 15 March 1959 to marry Jock Linklater.

Reita later became a librarian at Cherry Farm Psychiatric Hospital and it was while there that Reita rejoined the ministry, this time as a minister when she was inducted as honorary assistant minister at Waikouaiti Presbyterian Church in 1977. Reita served the parish faithfully for 16 years, most of this being alongside the Revs RG McKenzie and EA Hildreth. During this time Reita was an instructor in the Bible in Schools programme, conducted services of worship with a sincerity and clarity greatly appreciated by the congregation, assisted with youth work and gave valuable guidance to the women of the parish, while her visits to homes were warmly welcomed.

In the last three and a quarter years of Reita's term at Waikouaiti Presbyterian Church the senior minister role was vacant leading Reita to take on the role of chairing session meetings on behalf of the Interim Moderator. On her retirement, Waikouaiti Presbyterian Parish noted she had done this with ability and wisdom and that she conducted funeral services with a sympathy and expression of understanding and comfort that belied the fact that she found this aspect of ministry difficult.

Reita's husband, Jock, supported Reita in all of her activities so that she was able to attend various conferences, seminars and retreats – some Presbyterian, others interdenominational – keeping up with trends, in the Christian church and being able to advise on all sorts of situations, whether simple or difficult.

Reita died in a nursing home in Palmerston on 9 April 2009.

Mansell, Rev Graham P.

Graham was born in 1955 and grew up in Karaka, near Pukekohe, and attended the Methodist Church there with his family. Graham attended Papakura High School and graduated as Dux. He completed a Bachelor of Science in 1976 and a Diploma in Agricultural Science at Massey University in 1977. Graham went on to work as a Soil Scientist for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Palmerston North for six years.

Graham Mansell came to faith at St Alban's Presbyterian Church under the ministry of Rev John Niven. It was as a musician, playing the piano for the worship team at St Alban's, that he grew in his faith and received a call to go to Bible College. He met Janet (nee McKenzie) there and they married in 1987, Graham was aged 31.

Having left Palmerston North after eight years, Graham was surprised to find himself being asked by David Stewart - the principal of Bible College and another significant mentor - to consider returning to Palmerston North to take up the role of lay pastor for Milson Combined Church. It was very much a sense of falling on to his feet there with a group of people from across three denominations who had decided to work together instead of competing against one another. Their strong team ethos suited Graham who had a strong belief in body ministry and the importance of harnessing the gifts that people had. Graham's gifts in music and youth were well used there – and helped provide additional leadership for the Boy's Brigade and Youth Group. The church grew over this time including two additions to Graham's own family.

While there, Graham received a strong sense of call to work as an ordained minister within the Presbyterian Church and went to Knox for further theological training.

In 1994 the family of now five moved to St Andrew's, Stratford, where Graham ministered for seven years, ably supported by Janet and their three children. Leading worship and preaching were key ministries. A key Stratford parishioner had this to say: "It wouldn't be the whole truth to say that Graham's very genuine preaching and inviting manner were solely responsible for hooking us in, but we were indeed hooked – right from the start. You see, for us, Graham was always part of an attractive package. He was a family man. In his team were Janet, Scott, Lachlan and Erin. For us, they were very much a part of his strength in ministry, because his work always included them and was influenced by them and their needs and relationship with God."

Both here, and subsequently at Ellesmere, Graham greatly valued the Scripture Union material which allowed for a children's programme that moved in tandem with the main worship service. His skills in drama were useful for children's talks, all age worship services and some more dramatised sermons.

Graham taught Bible in Schools at two schools for most of his time at Stratford, facilitated Alpha, chaired the Stratford Ministers' Association for several years and was the moderator of the Taranaki Presbytery for one year. His friendly, laid back style was appreciated by many, especially the younger newer members of the congregation.

Graham moved with his family to the Ellesmere Cooperating Church in 2001. Key involvements: Boy's Brigade at Dunsandel, running Alpha and other such courses, working with other Ellesmere churches in Youth work, taking three classes of Bible in Schools each week as well as two services most Sundays.

Graham's involvement with grieving families was always greatly appreciated (he had special empathy for those suffering from grief as both his parents died while he was in his 20's). Graham was also an active member of Presbytery, being a member of the Presbytery ministry committee and assisting the congregations at Halkett, and Akaroa.

In 2005 Graham left Ellesmere suffering from exhaustion. He spent the next year working on a strawberry farm, landscaping and labouring before becoming employed as

a Funeral Director. He was developing a vocation as a Funeral Celebrant. To keep himself fit Graham would bike for 30kms three times a week. It was during one of these bike rides on 11 February that Graham suffered a heart attack from which he never recovered. He is survived by Janet and their three children.

We give thanks to God for a faithful, caring, and nurturing Pastor, for whom Sunday worship was the central part of his ministry, with the effect of drawing people near to God.

McDougall, Rev John Norman

John McDougall died on 21 February 2009 aged 98 years. He was born in Auckland, graduated from Auckland University at a young age; felt called to the ministry, but did his theological training in Glasgow. After graduation and a short period of post-graduate work in Germany, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Glasgow on 23 June 1935.

Although a New Zealander and a Presbyterian who later served in some New Zealand parishes, he was not regarded as our longest surviving minister since he was ordained by the Church of Scotland and served under the Church of Scotland Board of Missions.

He was sent to a small mission station in the Punjab in Northern India and later transferred to a larger one where he met Betty, also on the staff. They married and had three sons. The eldest was born in New Zealand when they were on furlough, the second in India. In 1947 Partition took place and the part of the Punjab where John was serving became Pakistan. The third son was born in Pakistan. Three sons, three countries!

John said their work after Partition was not very different. The effort was to have Hindus travel to India from Pakistan and Muslims to travel from India to Pakistan.

Many very poor Hindus could not afford to travel. Many would have been classed as outcasts. Christian missionaries in the Punjab had always served outcasts in particular and this continued in Pakistan. Apparently not too much notice was taken of the Christian minority and their work. After 24 years of missionary service John resigned and settled in New Zealand serving for about five years in the parish of Pokeno and about three in Greytown until it became a Union parish.

While a missionary, John had become interested and skilful in accounting and auditing, learning from another missionary. These skills enabled him to obtain a position with the Auckland Regional Council where he worked until retirement age.

He became a member of the Mt Albert Presbyterian Church about 40 years ago and served for many years on the Session. He was a very fine pastoral elder, took part in discussions with good information and wise counsel and put his financial skills to good service in the church and in the Opportunity Shop.

A very restricting stroke deprived him of active participation for about five years, but his brain stayed interested and alert. The chaplain at the Rest Home hospital, who cared for him, said he gave her as much care as she gave him.

A very long life, well lived and leaving many good memories.

McKenzie, Rev Alastair Seaforth

As a child and young man, Alastair grew up in Christchurch. His early career was as an educational officer in the Air Force. A keen organist and pianist, he met Janet (herself a violinist) at a music school at Craighead in Timaru. Subsequently they embarked on a married life which was to take them many places before finally settling back in Christchurch.

Alastair studied for ministry at Knox Theological College in Dunedin. At the completion of his studies he was ordained and inducted into the Knapdale parish in the Mataura Presbytery where they served for four years and where their son, David was born – a much loved addition to their family. Alastair then took up chaplaincy with the Ministry of Defence. From 1962 to 1977 he served as padre at Waiouru, Papakura and Burnham (including a nine month tour in Vietnam) and, along with Janet and David, a two-year stint in Singapore with the Australian, British and New Zealand forces. The itinerant life of a chaplain is not always an easy life but Alastair thrived on the challenge and scope of this calling, offering services, care, comfort and guidance to many soldiers and families.

Alastair retired from the Army in 1977. He continued to maintain close links with the Army, either as an officiating chaplain at Waiouru, or as an instructor for officer courses and the training of chaplains. Alastair had always been well prepared when he took services. He contributed lesson plans for chaplains and provided technology training as he believed strongly that all chaplains should be well trained and take great care with their services and public duties. He had very much enjoyed broadcasting Christmas and Easter services whilst he was in Singapore.

Even with his post-retirement Army activities, Alastair had time to complete his science degree at Canterbury, update his teaching qualifications and teach in the Transition to Work field at Pitcaithly House.

The Rev Alastair McKenzie was inducted as Rangi Ruru's first fulltime teaching chaplain on 16 April 1981 and served the school until his retirement in 1984. He then served as part-time chaplain at Craighead Diocesan School in Timaru before returning to help out at Rangi Ruru for a period of time from 1988.

During his time at Rangi Ruru, he was known for his boundless energy and enthusiasm. He lived every moment to the full, modelling "a world of opportunities" long before it became the school catchphrase. As a teacher he had an ability to engage students, especially the more difficult ones. Whether it was teaching thinking skills before it became regular teaching practice, demonstrating how to drive in a skid by bringing in a baby walker and a pile of gravel, building the Rangi aeroplane (now housed in the Air Force museum at Wanaka), preparing highly creative family services, teaching photography, painting backdrops for the school productions, going on tramps, introducing his own extended lyrics for the hymn *Jubilate*, or caring for the sorrowing or hurting, Alastair McKenzie gave of himself over and beyond the call of duty. His enthusiasm and energy were contagious.

Colleague, the Rev Lynne Russell, has this to say of Alastair -

"It was a joy to work with someone with the breadth of knowledge that Alastair had. He was a theologian, a psychologist, a sociologist, a musician, an artist, an engineer. Alastair was at his best with the senior students and he provided innovative programmes in which students were encouraged to look at their lives in ways that were outside the

square. Many students are indebted to Alastair for the way he helped them with their study skills. We all enjoyed his enthusiasm for the pipe organ and some of the music we shared in this church was wonderful. And, of course, there was the building of the aeroplane. Not many girls in New Zealand can say that they helped to build a plane and that it flew successfully. Alastair cared about people - he was a pastor. He stood with people in their tough times. It was a challenge working with him in that he was always challenging us to move outside our comfort zone. We found ourselves considering ways of living our lives that we may rather have ignored. He challenged us to know ourselves better than we may have wanted to."

Finally Alastair did retire! He spent his retirement building and flying his own single-seater plane, keeping up with theology and, in recent years, facing the challenge of ill health.

A scientist, organist, photographer, teacher, chaplain, pilot, husband and father, lifelong learner, avid and wide reader, Alastair McKenzie was all these and more. He was a man of faith who modelled an openness and willingness to journey alongside people from all walks of life, with joy and laughter, wise counsel and comfort.

Presbytery extends its sympathy and warm concern to his wife, Janet and son, David.

Moore, Rev Dr Albert C

Albert C Moore, minister, historian, theologian and religious studies pioneer, is remembered for his curiosity, empathy and encouraging ways. The Rev Dr Moore (or Albie as he was known to friends), was born in Wellington on 26 February 1926 and died in Dunedin on 23 January 2009. He studied at the Theological Hall, Knox College from 1949 to 1951 and completed his doctorate at Manchester University on a Begg Travelling Scholarship before ministering in Tapanui, South Otago, from 1955 to 1964. There, alongside his warm friendly concern for individuals, he brought a sharp and wide ranging perception of the gospel. It was at Tapanui that he met his wife Alexa Hancox and where their two children, Rachel and Jonathan, were born.

After further study in Chicago and teaching at Indiana University, Dr Moore was appointed as the first lecturer in Phenomenology at the University of Otago in 1966. He retired 25 years later as the associate professor of a thriving area of intellectual endeavour. His interest in religious iconography, where he became a world authority, grew from his passion for art and its role in religious expression and experience. He particularly enjoyed the religious art of Marc Chagall, Sidney Smith and Sadao Watanabe – a Japanese printmaker. Albie also believed life was enriched by music, in his case jazz. Albie was a loyal, involved member of the Opoho Parish from 1967, notably leading a weekly adult study group for more than 30 years. We extend our sympathy to Albie's wife, Alexa, and their family and we give thanks for his life and ministry.

More, Rev Lawrence

The son of home missionary Jimmy More, Lawrence More (known to most of his friends as Lawrie), was born on 30 October 1921 and raised in the Eastern Bay Plenty. Following the death of his mother, Lawrence's family moved to West Auckland.

Lawrence attended Auckland Grammar School and after leaving school at the age of fifteen, he undertook a variety of jobs. Towards the end of World War II he undertook a

period of service in the army. He met and married Adrienne, before responding to a call to follow in his father's footsteps as a minister. Because he lacked the required academic qualifications to commence full ministry training for the Presbyterian Church, Lawrie served as a home missionary and helped to establish two parishes, Waitara and Central King Country. Six years later, he commenced the full three year course of theological education at the Theological Hall, Knox College, even though the regulations only required him to complete one year.

At the end of his time at the Theological Hall, Lawrie received a call to the Waihi Parish. During these years, his ministry was marked by a practical "hands on," "can do" approach which regularly recognized and sought to address the needs of people who were marginalized by mainstream society.

In 1964, Lawrie was appointed as National Council of Churches' chaplain to Mount Eden Prison. His ministry in that institution was marked by attempts to provide effective pastoral care for prisoners and their families, both while they were serving their sentences and after their release from prison. Lawrie didn't just talk to others about doing these things. He set the example himself and the More household frequently became a place where prisoners and their families in need of accommodation could find a bed until such time as a more permanent solution could be provided for them. Following the devastation that resulted from the Mount Eden Prison riots in 1965, many of his flock were shifted to other institutions throughout New Zealand. Although chaplains were also appointed to these prisons, there was still something about the sheep knowing the voice of the shepherd. Lawrie's solution was simple: hire a caravan and go and visit. While he keenly felt his responsibilities during this period, Lawrie also experienced loneliness and a lack of sympathy from ministry colleagues in parish appointments towards the predicament that he faced as a prison chaplain. On a number of occasions he noted that only one Presbyterian minister, Tawhio Tioki, ever visited him to provide pastoral care and support.

In 1969, Lawrie was appointed as the first National Council of Churches' chaplain to the new maximum security prison at Paremoremo, a position he held for the next eight years. Again there was involvement in a number of critical incidents, including an occasion when together with Father Leo Downie, Lawrie played a key role in defusing a hostage situation and securing the release of a prison officer who was being held captive. Lawrie's time at Paremoremo was marked by attempts to involve church representatives in the pastoral care of prisoners, a continued willingness to invite released prisoners and their families as guests into the More household, repeated attempts to humanise the harshness of the prison environment and passionate and direct advocacy for men who were regarded as outcasts by the wider community. His ability to recognize the unique God-given talents, abilities and potential of all people irrespective of who they were or where they came from, continued to be a hall-mark of his ministry and a source of inspiration to those who came under his pastoral care.

After eight years service at Auckland Maximum Security Prison, Lawrie was awarded a Winston Churchill travelling scholarship which he used to study prison chaplaincy provision in the United Kingdom, Europe and America. Upon his return he presented a report which advocated the need for churches to become more actively engaged with the pastoral care for prisoners and their families and which again was largely ignored by the mainstream churches. Lawrie's time as Senior National Council of Churches' Chaplain was marked by attempts to foster closer relationships with his Roman Catholic

Colleagues, - *"prisoners didn't make these distinctions so why should we?"* a continued drive to reinforce the position of prison chaplains within the Department of Justice, and yet another attempt to engage the wider Church in the welfare of prisoners and their families in the programme of "throughcare." But again, this latter initiative came to nothing, because by and large, churches were still not interested in the well being of prisoners and their families. Nevertheless, upon Lawrie's retirement from the position of National Council of Churches' Senior Chaplain, Angus Mcleod, National Council of Churches' General Secretary observed: *"You have been a great battler for the chaplaincy. At times it has not been easy, but you have steered the chaplaincy through a time when the winds of change were blowing fiercely."*

Following his retirement as Senior Chaplain, Lawrie returned to chaplaincy duties at the newly opened Auckland Medium Security Prison at Paremoremo, a position from which he retired in 1982. In 1983, his dedicated service to prison chaplaincy was recognised through the award of a Queen's Service Medal. Retirement for Lawrie, however, became a change in lifestyle rather than the end to his ministry. His concern for the wellbeing of prisoners, their families and the men and women who were engaging in their pastoral care continued to occupy his attention. In 2000, he became involved with the Mahi Tahi Trust and under the auspices of this organisation he continued to provide mentoring and pastoral support for prisoners and their families. A week before his tragic death in a motor accident, he was actively trying to arrange accommodation for a long term prisoner who was about to re-enter the community.

Lawrie More's ministry was unique. He regarded all human beings as being of immense value and he had a keen perception that God's grace that was more interested in unlocking people's God-given potential rather than dwelling on past faults or omissions. He frequently cited the traditions of his Biblical forbears including Moses, the killer who was sent to redeem the captive Hebrews, Rahab the prostitute who saved the Hebrew spies, David the adulterer and murderer who was used by God to lead his people, Peter the betrayer of Christ who became one of the spearheads of the Church's missionary movement and Paul the apostle, who was on his way to harass the early church before his conversion on the Damascus Road. If God could act through these people in this way in the past, why could this action not continue in the present? He frequently spoke in the language of those under his pastoral care by describing Jesus as the one who breaks into our lives so that we can break out of the walls that imprison us.

During his ministry, Lawrie was strongly supported by Adrienne and his children Iona, Malcolm, Steven who were either wittingly or unwittingly involved with in a variety of ways such as assisting with leading worship in prisons or welcoming the many needy guests who became part of the More household. Lawrie was his own man. He could be terse with those who placed institutional priorities above human need. His witness, however, was a living reminder that Gospel imperatives are focused on the wellbeing of all human beings irrespective of their socio-economic, ethnic or gender background and that the implementation of Christian pastoral care provides radical alternatives to those who see harsh treatment of prisoners as a solution to criminal offending. While this memorial minute provides some recognition of his unique ministry, the real memorial to his years of faithful service is found in the changed lives of the many men and women who experienced his work for justice, his enactment of mercy and his humility that recognised the intrinsic value of all human beings. The Prison Chaplaincy Service of Aotearoa New Zealand uses the concept of pononga or servant to describe the ministry of prison chaplains. In a practical and down to earth manner, Lawrie epitomised this term

throughout many years of dedicated and loyal service to Jesus Christ and to the men and women who came under his pastoral care.

Thanks be to God for his life, witness and example among us.

Rogers, Rev Rowlatt M.

1914 – 2009

Ro (as he was known) was born in Palmerston North on 23 November 1914. Fifth in the family of Ted, a primary school teacher, and Mary, who had roots on the Isle of Skye, Ro attended New Plymouth Boys' High School. He began work as an office boy and was then offered a Public Service Cadetship with The Treasury in Wellington and he completed a Bachelor of Commerce.

In 1936 he was accepted as a student for the ministry and continued study part-time for his Bachelor of Arts. In 1939 he began study at the Theological Hall, living in Knox College, Dunedin. In 1940 he enlisted for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, finally serving three years as Regimental Sergeant Major of his unit on the Hospital Ship 'Maunganui' bringing home wounded soldiers from the Middle East.

He married Marjorie in 1943 and had her support through his life and ministry thereafter. Ro is to be acknowledged as a respected and much loved minister. He served with devotion in Taihape, Huntly, St Andrew's Christchurch and at Lincoln.

When he was at Huntly there was a miner's strike. Ro had both miners and mine managers in his congregation and there was a law forbidding support to striking miners. With Ro's leadership, the church became a depot for food parcels which he and Marjorie would deliver under the cover of darkness. Ro proclaimed God's love for all parties. Mine managers themselves secretly left food at the church.

Ro was a significant churchman. He took Presbytery and Assembly responsibilities. He served as Christchurch Presbytery Clerk for two terms, firstly from 1966 – 1971 and then again in 1976 – 1982. He was on the PSSA Board as chairman for a time and he gave of himself generously on the Board of St Andrew's College for thirty-six years.

I quote from the St Andrew's College Rector, Ian Galloway's Valedictory to Ro.....'fine personal qualities,...kind, with a deep humanity... able to see value in a person without being uncritical...a fair-minded person, tolerant, sympathetic, balanced... Sir Walter Scott wrote of a man 'sage counsel in cumber' a wise man of perception who never 'loses his cool'...' Ian concluded. 'His chuckles well up from deep within him.'

On the occasion of the fifty-fifth anniversary of Ro's ordination, Bruce Hansen as Moderator of the General Assembly wrote, 'Ro has been a major figure in the life of our Church.'

He died on 28 October 2009 (at the age of 94) and is survived by his daughter Margery Anne, son John and four grandchildren. We give thanks to God for Ro's distinguished life and ministry.

Sheat, Rev Norman Roy

The Rev Norman Sheat was born in Invercargill on 15 July 1926 and was brought up as an only child on a dairy farm near Invercargill. He was educated at Southland Technical College where he was influenced by Christian teachers, one of whom introduced Norman to a Presbyterian Church, even though his mother was Brethren and his father Methodist.

Norman was further educated at Dunedin Training College and the University of Otago and gained the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He attended St Stephen's Church and was influenced by the biblical preaching of the Rev Thomas Miller. Norman taught in four South Island schools but came to the conclusion that teaching was not his vocation. He also worked for a time in the Invercargill branch of the Inland Revenue Department.

Before entering the Theological Hall (1954-56), Norman met Vetia Stewart at a conference. They were married on 20 December 1952 and had three daughters – two of whom sadly predeceased them.

Norman was ordained to the parish of Tuatapere on 5 December 1956 and subsequently ministered to the parishes of Halkett (Kirwee), St James' (South Dunedin) and Palmerston-Dunback. Members of his parishes particularly remember the biblical teaching in his preaching and that the services were interspersed with Bible Class, Youth Group or communicant classes and occasions for spiritual growth. Many of Norman's parishioners have literally marked out their lives (sometimes through three generations) by his baptismal, marriage and funeral services, which left a deep imprint on their imaginations. Both Norman and Vetia are remembered for the friendships they made and kept through pastoral care. It was one of Norman's aims to bring people to work together in the parish.

While in his Dunedin parish Norman, want to learn Hebrew and Greek, also studied part-time for the Bachelor of Divinity degree. One of his teachers remembers that he took note of Norman's judgement with regard to the nature of the courses and Norman himself was later invited to tutor Hebrew exegesis courses.

Norman is also remembered for his music. He joined church choirs himself, taught congregations new hymns and organised musical dramatic performances. In Dunedin he was a long-term member of the Royal Dunedin Male Choir. His ministry did not cease during his retirement in Opoho. He continued to lead services in that parish and others, as well as in Rest Homes. He wrote the Opoho parish history as he had others in the past. Norman continued to take an interest in and encourage young people until his very last days.

Simpson, Rev Ronald William

1916-2009

The Rev Ron Simpson died on 17 January 2009 – his 93rd birthday. The Simpson family were early settlers from Scotland who located in the country at Southbridge where they were active Presbyterians.

His mother's side, the Crowes from England, settled in Christchurch and were active in the Associated Churches of Christ. Both family strands were interwoven into Ron's

experience. He was brought up at Southbridge where he was active in the Presbyterian Church and later a member of the Church of Christ in the city.

Feeling he was called to ministry, he trained at the Theological College of the Churches of Christ in Dunedin and Otago University. He was ordained in 1936 at Christchurch.

After his marriage to May Lowe (from a well known Church of Christ family) in 1939, they moved to the Church of Christ in Lower Hutt. Next he was appointed General Secretary of the Churches of Christ in New Zealand (with an office in Wellington). This was a position involving travel around New Zealand and representing his Church on 12 inter-Church committees, consulting with heads of Churches and Government on aspects of the Second World War and the placing of chaplains with the forces. For the last year of the war he was General Secretary of the Wellington YMCA following which he returned to his parish in Lower Hutt.

His next move was to Christchurch to a three-year appointment as Director of Religious Education. This again involved travel, plus running youth camps, courses for Sunday School teachers and writing Religious Education literature.

After much thought, Ron decided to apply to join the Presbyterian ministry – a move which was welcomed. In 1955 he attended the Theological Hall in Dunedin joining the third-year students in their final year before being called to Eveline Church in Oamaru North. This church had previously been a semi-rural parish, a preaching place of St Paul's in the town, but because rapid housing development had come, similar to that in many areas of New Zealand at that time, a new church building was urgently needed. Ron encouraged the people to venture into a stewardship plan adapted from the Wells Organisation in the United States. Direct weekly giving replaced fundraising fairs and the energies of the church people were released to concentrate on evangelism, talents, friendship-making – the total programme. The Sunday School increased to 250, the Bible Class topped 200 and the parish membership increased steadily. Before long the new modern church was built, fully equipped, and filled to capacity for Sunday morning services and with strong evening congregations who were predominantly youthful.

After nine happy years in ministry there, Ron accepted a call to St Giles', Papanui, Christchurch, where he served for 15 and a half years until his retirement in 1980. At St Giles' he introduced the stewardship method of giving – thus putting the church on a sound financial footing which freed up people for other aspects of church life and allowed several essential improvements to be made to the buildings.

Ron's ecumenical interest extended to writing. He wrote a religious column for the Oamaru Mail for 24 and a half years – a total of 1274 articles, and he never missed a weekly deadline through that whole period.

In his retirement years he ministered for five years at the St Andrew's Church, then opposite the Christchurch Public Hospital. A convenor of the Consultative Committee of St Andrew's Church and Rangi Ruru Girls' School, he played a major part in achieving the various consents that culminated in the transfer of the church to the school site, allowing the building to be both a parish church and a school chapel.

As always, he was supported by his wife May, who unfortunately died during this stage of his ministry. He later preached at Hoon Hay parish where he met and married Betty

Lanyon, a widely known member in the parishes of southern Christchurch. They were both widowed and this union greatly enhanced their retirement years. For some years they lived at Hoon Hay and then at Selwyn Life Care Village. Betty died in February 2004.

Ron is survived by son Robin and daughters Marilyn, Ainslee, Sandra and their spouses, 12 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Ron believed in the Scottish motto of the Simpson clan "I am ready". All his life he endeavoured to serve Christ with total energy and commitment, to share with others his absolute faith in the Lord, and always to be Christ-centred in his preaching. He looked forward to dying as the great adventure of living. His favourite text was Matthew 28:20 – the words of Jesus "I am with you always".

Stevenson, Rev Aubrey John William

18 April 1939 - 6 September 2008

Aubrey John William Stevenson was born in 1939, the eldest son of Norrie and Sybil. Norrie was one of twelve ministers or Presbyterian lay preachers in the family. As an adolescent he participated in Bible class activities at the Columba Church in Oamaru and played soccer, joined the Sea Scouts and learned to play the cornet which he later played in the Waitaki Boys High School Brass Band. In 1963 Aubrey married Janice Knox Lockie and by 1967 they had three girls, two of which were twins.

His first career was as a teacher and held positions at Heddon Bush and Oreti Port Levy, on Banks Peninsula, at Blackball on the West Coast and latterly in Christchurch at Rowley School, Aranui Primary, Park View and St Martin's. His specialist interests were country schooling, open plan teaching, bilingual and bi-cultural education and early literacy.

While he and his family lived at North Beach he was a staunch member and elder at Burwood United—St Kentigern's where his teaching background was put to good use organising the Sunday School, leading adult Bible study, preaching and leading worship. He also developed an interest in amateur photography and contributed his organising ability and commitment to those he shared this interest with in the New Brighton Photographic Society. It was while at North Beach that Janice was diagnosed with cancer and Aubrey took a break from teaching at Saint Martin's School to care for her until she died.

Moving on to new beginnings Aubrey took an interest in lay preaching. He was Secretary of the NZ Lay Preachers Association in 1997/1998 and President of the North Canterbury Lay Preachers Association from 1996 to 1999. During this time he began studying theology and married Sue Swadell and began his journey into ordained ministry and became a locally ordained minister at Akaroa. This was a time of growth and change for Aubrey and, as he and Sue grew differently they ended up going their separate ways.

For Aubrey however his ministry at Akaroa was a new beginning filled with challenge and opportunity and he gave himself totally to this calling. Perhaps not totally because he also managed to meet Sarah Geddes whom he married in 2000 and Sarah was a support to his ministry and beside him in his illness and death.

Aubrey was a loyal and faithful servant of our Church. He filled a vital role in a unique parish in the Presbytery giving his love and commitment to the Banks Peninsula parish, providing ministry to the local congregation and the many visitors to Akaroa. This ministry cared for the older members of the parish and also reached out to children and youth. Aubrey was an enthusiastic supporter of Mainly Music and established a Youth Trust and Youth Group which have provided vital new support for parents, children and young people on the Peninsula.

Ministry for Aubrey was not simply caring for an inward focused parish group and his activities seamlessly merged into the wider community in ways that made the church visible in a positive light and brought Christ into the community with no strings attached. His support of the Toy Library, relief teaching, driving the school bus, playing in the brass band, and helping to organize the French Fest and the craft market gained him many friends across the community.

Aubrey was always conscious of the changing world around him and his Christian calling to be part of that change in a positive and caring way. He facilitated the changes in the parish structure and buildings he saw as necessary and challenged the elders and members to plan a destiny for the parish's future. He also involved himself in the community and played his part as a true Christ filled citizen of Akaroa.

The overflowing attendance at his funeral and community leaders and young people who gave tribute testified to a ministry that truly was Christ centered and community facing.

Swadling, Rev Dr Harry Campbell

Harry was born in 1935, educated at Wellington College, grew up in the Island Bay Church youth group and the Island Bay Surf Life Saving Club. Trained in pharmacy, Harry ran his own business, the Karori West Pharmacy. He and his wife Irene were active in St Ninian's Church, Karori, and from there he offered himself as a candidate for the ministry. Harry graduated with a BA from Victoria University in Greek and English in 1970 and proceeded to the Theological Hall where he graduated with a BD in 1972 and was awarded the Begg Travelling Scholarship.

After his Licensing by the Presbytery of Wellington, Harry was ordained in 1972 to the ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Dunedin and inducted as stated supply to St Magnus Church, Duntroon.

The family headed for France in mid 1973. Harry studied at the University of Strasbourg, where he graduated with the Doctorate of the Science of Religion 1975, with the thesis: 'Sin and Sinlessness in the First Letter of John.'

Harry's parishes included: 1976 St Luke's Union, Victory Square, Nelson; 1981 Mt Albert exchanging in 1987 with the Protestant Campus Minister from Bloomsburg University, Pennsylvania; 1991 Khandallah, until his retirement in December 2000. Harry was Moderator of the Presbytery of Wellington 1998-99.

In retirement Harry continued to serve the Church with short term ministries at St Andrew's Hasting and St Andrew's Gisborne, and a return ministry to the Amabel Sauble Church, Ontario in 1996-97.

Harry's concern for the witness of the Church in the community involved his work as a Marriage Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Mt Albert (1980's), along with terms as visiting lecturer at the Theological Hall and St John's College, Auckland. Harry's keen appreciation of Celtic spirituality drew Irene and him to serve eight weeks in as volunteer workers with the Iona Community in 2001. For seven years until his death in 2008 Harry was Senior Defence Chaplain - Presbyterian to the armed forces where his personal insights and wise judgement were held in high regard by the military authorities, as well as the service personnel themselves.

Harry's preaching with its central theological emphases happily melded faith and life for his parishioners. For several years he was valued member of the Assembly's Church Union Committee, the National Assessment Work Group and the Personnel Work Group. Harry's concern for visible unity of the church arose from his conviction as to the New Testament church imperative, rather than simply an economic strategy.

Harry was a keen member of the Wellington North Rotary Club, serving as convener of the scholarship committee. He continued to revel in tramping and skiing with Irene, fostering their love of the environment.

Harry's continuing zest for teaching found scope in latter years through teaching a paper on Luke with the Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies. He moderated a final assignment for a student when in the hospice. In this he exemplified the insight of the 17th century Scottish Covenanter, Samuel Rutherford, writing from prison to a distinguished lady who lamented to him she was but a poor scholar of Christ: *'Madam, you must go in at heaven's gates, your book in hand, still learning.'*

Harry's wife, Irene, was his constant comrade and partner in faith and life. He is survived by Irene and his children Kirsty, Andrew and Jonathan and seven grandchildren.

Thawley, Very Rev Michael David
1939-2009

The death of Michael Thawley on 3 June 2009 after a short time of illness brought sadness and grief throughout the Church and to Michael and Dorothy's extensive and world-wide circle of friends.

Michael was born in Nelson and grew up in Havelock North. Following the completion of his schooling at Hastings High School Michael studied for and qualified as a pharmacist. In 1962 he began his studies for a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Sociology from the University of Canterbury and from 1965 to 1967 was a student in the Theological Hall, Knox College Dunedin. At that time he also completed a Bachelor of Divinity from the University of Otago.

Michael had a life-long involvement in the Presbyterian Church. He took a leading part in the Bible Class Movement at a local, regional and national level. In 1963-64 he was the Vice President of the New Zealand Presbyterian Bible Class Dominion Council. It was through the Bible Class movement that Michael combined his pharmaceutical experience with the missionary outreach of the Church. From 1960 to 1964 he organised and led a project to send medical and pharmaceutical supplies to missionaries

working overseas and in 1964-65 he worked as a volunteer pharmacist with Dr David Gray at the Immanuel Hospital in Bandung, Indonesia.

Michael had a strong commitment to the ecumenical work of the Church. In 1964 he was a member of the New Zealand delegation to the Asian Christian Youth Assembly in Dumaguete City in the Philippines where speakers such as Dr D T Niles, Masao Takenaka, General T B Simatupang and Dr Soritua Nababan made an impact upon him. Michael went on to serve on the national executives of the National Council of Churches and the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa New Zealand. He also represented our Church at assemblies of the World Council of Churches and was an elected member of a Council for World Mission registered charity in England and Wales. Other international commitments included serving on a five-person Ecumenical Church Leaders' Team to visit inter-church bodies and governments in Japan, Hong Kong, the UK, France, Switzerland and North America to share in conversations on New Zealand's bi-cultural and nuclear-free policies. In 1991 he travelled to meet with our Church's partners in Asia, the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and the Caribbean.

Most of us will, however, remember Michael for his work here in New Zealand. Michael served in ministry in the parishes of North Invercargill (1968-1971), Stokes Valley (1971-1978), Havelock North (1978-1986) and Cashmere Hills (1998-2004). He has also served with distinction as the Assembly Executive Secretary from 1986 to 1996 and more recently as Moderator of the General Assembly from 2002 to 2004. In 1998-1999 Michael was part of the four-member Commission on Diversity that travelled throughout the country meeting with people and seeking a way forward in the debate on the role of homosexual people in leadership within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Michael faithfully served our Church at a local, national and international level. He led our Church in some of its most difficult and demanding moments and he brought his extensive pastoral and administrative skills to each of the positions that he occupied in nearly 37 years of ordained ministry.

Throughout his ministry Michael enjoyed the strong and unstinting support of his wife Dorothy.

We record our gratitude to God for the life and ministry of Michael Thawley and we extend our prayers and condolences to Dorothy, Jane, Sarah and Stephen and their partners and families in their time of loss.

Todd, Mr Ian Arthur

A call for assistance had gone out to Christchurch Presbytery to help arrange seating for the General Assembly in the gymnasium at St Andrew's College. Ian, as convenor of the Local Arrangements Committee, was in the thick of things. Row upon row of chairs had to be sorted and assembled. They duly were; those who had come to help went home and the Local Arrangements Committee, with Ian at the helm, kept working.

Ian helped tremendously with many General Assemblies in Christchurch and his expertise, his links with the College and organisational skills will be sadly missed.

Prior to this work at St Andrew's at Rangi Ruru Parish, Ian was involved for 35 years as an ordained elder and leader of the St Paul's Presbyterian Church in Christchurch and

was active in the church for over 50 years. He was a strong leader in St Paul's when it merged with Trinity Pacific and was instrumental in helping when an Act of Parliament had to be repealed to change the name of the church to St Paul's Trinity Pacific. Loved by Pacific people and Europeans alike, Ian served on numerous committees as convenor and supported many ministers throughout the years.

Ian brought to his service to the Presbytery what he brought to his service to St Andrew's – organisational ability, people skills and a deep understanding of the Presbyterian ethos and polity. He kept before him and before us all the particular ecclesiology on which our Church is built – the Church of elders. The root word of Presbyterian – Presbuteros – means elder. For Ian, he deeply respected the role of the elders in the parish and, in a quietly determined way, ensured that this was enshrined in parish life.

He also kept before us the traditions that have been built on top of those origins. In many ways, the way he lovingly cared for St Andrew's at Rangi Ruru was a reflection of the way he cared for the Church at large. When undertaking custodial duties at the church, often on his own, he would walk around thinking of the custodian who had gone before him. Always with Ian, he saw before him the Burning Bush of our origins and kept that before us in small and larger ways at parish, presbytery and Assembly level. In many ways, the Church has lost one of its servant leaders. Certainly at St Andrew's at Rangi Ruru we are grieving the loss of our guide and mentor. Ian was the custodian not only of this parish church but its special relationship with Rangi Ruru Girls' School. Many in the school are saddened at Ian's loss. He was the magic glue between parish and school. Ian understood how the ethos of both could work together, due to his background in education.

We give thanks to God for the life and service of Ian Todd, whose funeral service was held in St Andrew's Rangi Ruru parish on Friday 5 June 2009. Ian is survived by his wife Elma, parish clerk of St Andrew's, and their son Fraser and his wife Nicola and their son Alexander – all of whom Ian adored. *Nec Tamen Consumebatur* – it was burning yet was not consumed.

Turnbull, Rev Desmond H.

On 5 September 2008, Rev Des Turnbull died in New Plymouth at 87 years of age. He grew up in Taranaki, attending church and youth group at St Andrew's, Stratford. During the years of World War II he served in both the Army (Victorian mounted rifles) and the Air Force (flying F4U Corsair fighters in the Pacific). Returning to civilian life he served as an elder at St Paul's Wanganui and as Sunday School Superintendent at Durie Hill. Following a call to the ministry of word and sacrament he attended Knox Theological Hall in 1958/59. Upon completion of his studies he entered parish ministry at Matawhero in Gisborne where he served from December 1959 till July 1963, then St James' in Bulls from August 1963 till May 1969. From there he received and accepted a call to St James' New Plymouth and began his ministry there on 22 May 1969 until retirement on 31 January 1987.

His ministry was characterised as a strong pastoral ministry, where time with people was readily given, visiting in homes, and hospital, seeking every opportunity to share with people about the Lord. Even to the last in hospital, sharing with nurses and other patients about God's grace and love despite his own illness and frailty. His love of singing and music, both serious and humorous, filled his life and home, and would often be part of his ministry. His humour and openness to people meant he was much loved

in the parishes and communities in which he ministered and where some of his greatest joys were from seeing others coming to a saving knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ, whom he served to the best of his abilities. He also oversaw building projects in all three parishes in which he served, from renewal of a manse in Gisborne, a hall in Bulls and church and hall at St James' in New Plymouth – a feature of which was one of the first churches in the Presbyterian Church to have a permanent baptismal pool.

His service to the church was primarily parish based. At his funeral it was suggested that the majority of those present had been either married, baptised or had a family funeral conducted by Des. This contact and service for people was his driving motivation. This however did not prevent him from service to the Presbyterian Church through the presbyteries in which he was involved.

Des was a devoted family man, being interested in both his children and grandchildren's activities and lives. Married to Gwladys, who passed away in 2004, and who was a loyal, loving and practical support to him in his ministry. Des was a faithful minister of the gospel of Christ within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, always to the glory of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Wilkinson, Rev Margaret Stewart

1927 to 2009

Margaret Wilkinson, nee Nicol, was born in Dargaville and was educated at Dargaville Primary and Secondary Schools, then at Auckland Girls Grammar School when her family moved to Auckland. She left school during the war years, and worked for the telegraph service, then trained as a nurse.

Margaret met Ross Wilkinson and married in 1948 – the beginning of 61 years of marriage. They lived first in Auckland, then from 1950 to 1958 in Northern Rhodesia. The family, including four children, returned to New Zealand and lived on the North Shore.

Always a committed church member, in her mid-forties Margaret (then at Mairangi Bay Parish) became the Lady Visitor at St George's Presbyterian Church, Takapuna. During this time she became a telephone counsellor at Lifeline, then a Face to Face counsellor and a supervisor.

Margaret candidated for ministry in 1981 at the age of 54. Because of her remarkable qualities she was accepted and trained at Knox College in 1982. She was ordained and inducted to Knox Parnell in 1983, where she served until her retirement in 1988. During this time she was chair of the Parnell Community Centre.

Retired on the North Shore, Margaret served the Presbytery in many capacities. She was Clerk for more than ten years and convened committees and visitations numerous times. She often preached and led worship in parishes. The Presbytery benefited for over 20 years from her wisdom, steadiness, common sense and commitment to her God and her church.

Margaret was indeed a good and faithful servant, and she is missed.