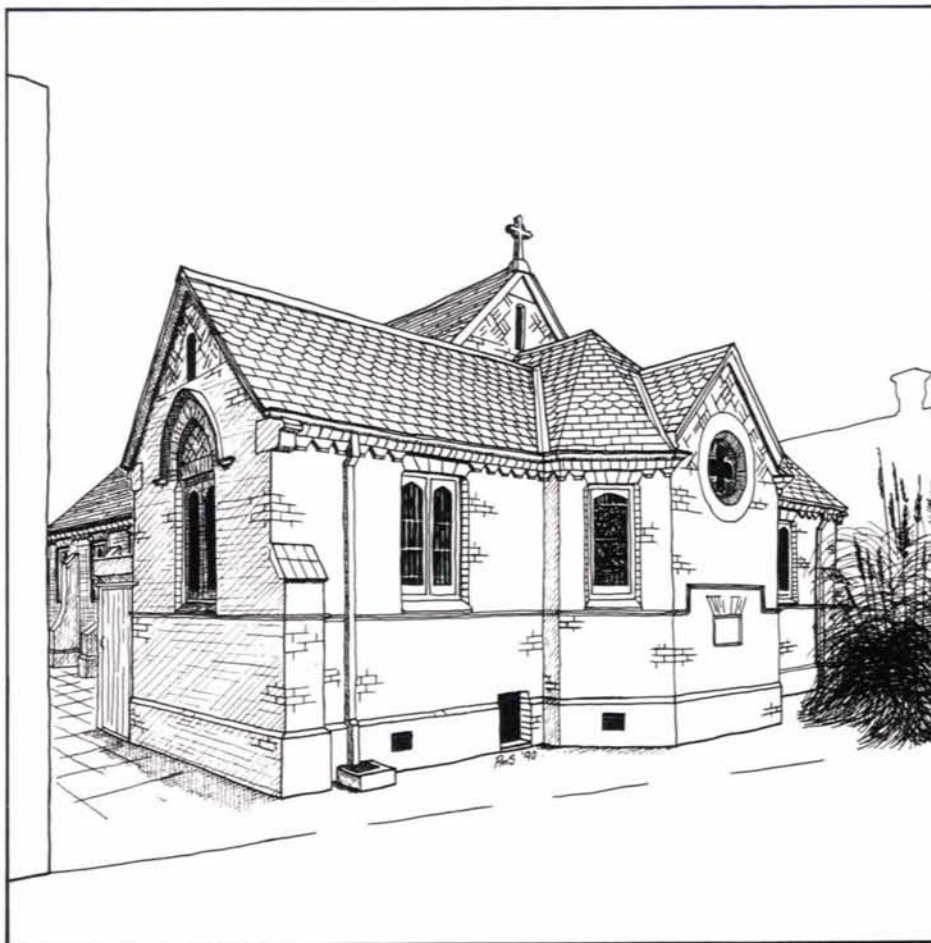
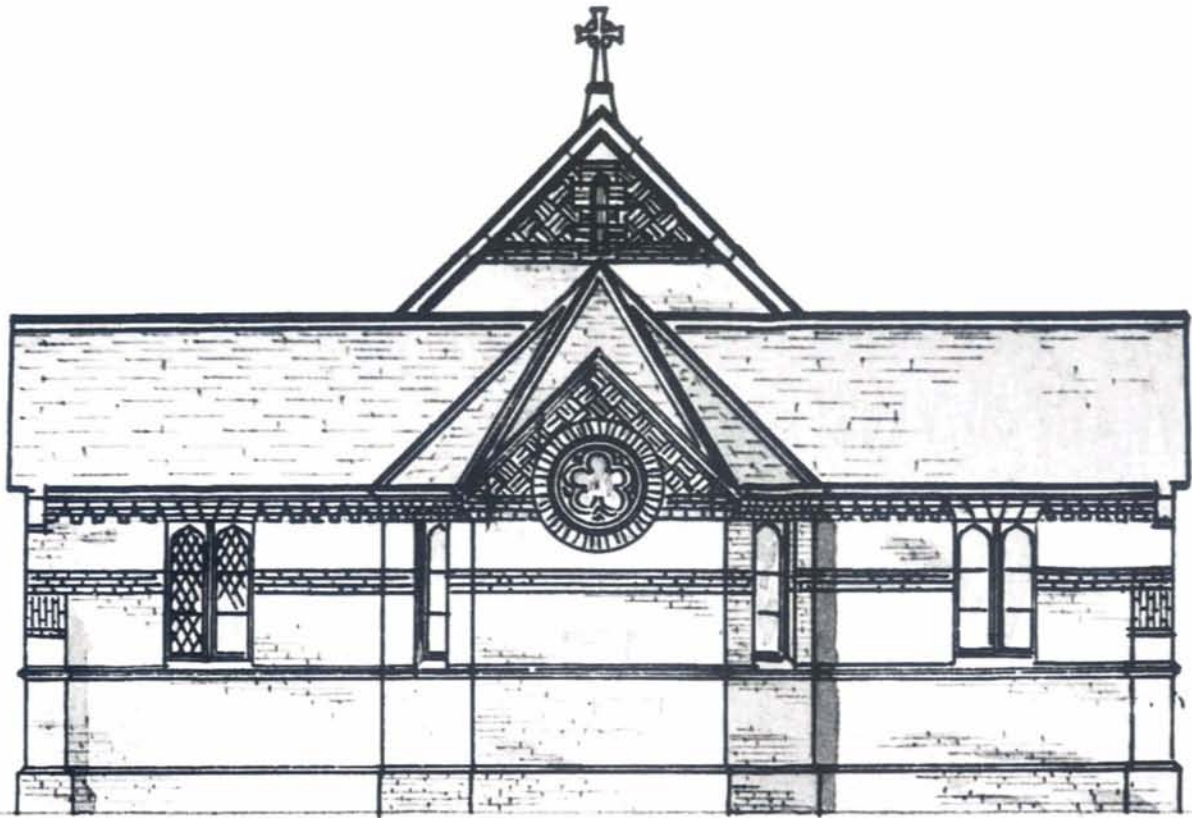


THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF CHRISTCHURCH

7. Nurses' Memorial Chapel



CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
PLANNING POLICY UNIT



South elevation 1927, Canterbury Museum

Preface

Christchurch has a charm that depends to a large extent on features built or planned by people. The quiet dignity of the city owes much to its early buildings. It is still possible to trace the history of Christchurch in the many fine examples of colonial architecture that remain. Action by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (Canterbury Regional Committee) and other public interest groups has saved several important city buildings including the Provincial Government Buildings, Trinity Church, the Theatre Royal and the old university (now the Christchurch Arts Centre).

As the city grows and changes, there is a danger that historically or environmentally valuable buildings may be thoughtlessly or needlessly destroyed. The Christchurch City Council District Planning Scheme lists 190 historic buildings and objects. Although the scheme encourages their preservation, in the end only the determination of the community can effectively protect or revitalise buildings it considers important.

One of the major aims of the present series of booklets is the identification and description of the city's most valuable historic buildings, in the hope that greater public awareness of their importance will increase their chances of survival. Even if preservation should prove impossible in some cases, this series will gather information, illustrations and analyses of each building to provide a published record of the city's rich architectural heritage.

If these booklets encourage you to think about the historic significance of this city's architecture, and help you to recognise the special value of Christchurch's historic buildings, then they will have served their purpose.

List of Abbreviations

ARRC	Associate of the Royal Red Cross.
CBE	Companion of (the Order of) the British Empire.
DStJ	Dame of (Justice of Grace of the Order of) St John.
CMG	Companion of (the Order of) St Michael & St George.
MBE	Member (of the Order) of the British Empire.
MC	Military Cross.
MSM	Meritorious Service Medal.
OBE	Officer of the (Order of the) British Empire.
RRC	(Member of the) Royal Red Cross.
ChB	Bachelor of Surgery.
FRCS	Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.
MB	Bachelor of Medicine.
MD	Doctor of Medicine.
NZANS	New Zealand Army Nursing Service.
NZEF	New Zealand Expeditionary Forces.
NZMC	New Zealand Medical Corps.
QAIMNS	Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.
RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps.
RNA	Registered Nurses' Association.
RNZNC	Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps.
VAD	Voluntary Aid Detachment.

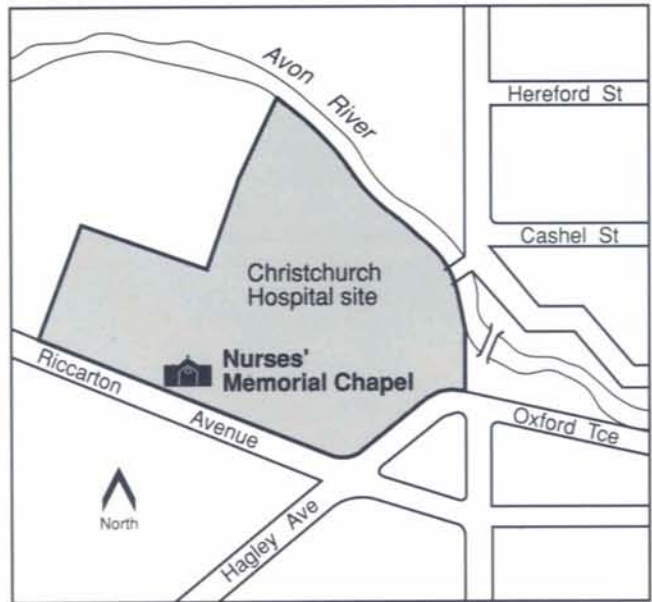
Nurses' Memorial Chapel

Introduction

The Christchurch Hospital Nurses' Memorial Chapel was built during 1927 and 1928 and is located on the Christchurch Hospital site, fronting Riccarton Avenue. Although twice threatened with demolition, the building's future has been secured.

The chapel is of vital cultural importance. It is:

- As far as can be ascertained, the only purpose-built, hospital chapel which commemorates nurses who died in the Great War, in the world;
- New Zealand's only memorial chapel to women who died in any war or the 1918 influenza epidemic;
- New Zealand's first hospital chapel;
- A repository of memorials to local, national and internationally known medical men and women;
- An architecturally significant building with a late Gothic Revival structure and Arts & Crafts Movement-inspired interior that incorporates significant works of art, including stained glass windows by Veronica Whall.



The need for a hospital chapel

Matron Mabel Thurston¹ is said to have promoted the need for a hospital chapel for some time.² The impetus was to be provided by a war tragedy.

The Marquette disaster

The *Marquette* was built in Glasgow in 1898 and known formerly as the *Boadicea*. She was a large steamer of 7057 tons used as a cargo vessel before being converted to a transport at the beginning of the war. The *Marquette* was **not** a hospital ship.

On 19 October 1915 the *Marquette* sailed on the Aegean from Alexandria for Salonika at 7 pm. On board was the No. 1 New Zealand Stationary Hospital which included 36 nurses of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service and staff from the New Zealand Medical Corps. Also on board were the 500 officers and troops comprising the British 29th Divisional Ammunition Column complete with equipment and mules. The total number of people was 741.

For part of the journey the *Marquette* was escorted by a French destroyer but this left on the night before the attack. The ship was torpedoed at approximately 9 am on 23 October. There was an explosion and the ship listed to port. The survivors moved quickly to put on life-belts and abandon ship. They had been drilled on the voyage and knew the risk.

The lowering of the life-boats proved difficult. On the port side one of the boats fell on another in the water killing and injuring people. Many of the eighteen nurses on the starboard side were tipped out as the boats were lowered. Of the eighteen nurses on the port side one wrote:



Matron Mabel Thurston in World War I nursing uniform

Christchurch Hospital



No. 1 NZ Stationary Hospital, Port Said 1915.

Weekly Press, Canterbury Public Library

¹ Throughout, the designation 'Matron' has been given to the chief nurse to avoid confusion. It is recognised that the official title has varied.

² Bennett 1962, 244.

'While standing on the deck, I saw a boat load of men in uniform getting away. I wondered why we nurses were left on deck, without a chance of getting into a boat...perhaps on the starboard side the nurses may have all got into boats; but not on the port side.'³

One boat with nurses (and that was waterlogged) left the *Marquette*.⁴ The command was finally given: 'Every man for himself.'⁵ Several men and four nurses were seen on the deck as the ship went down. Two of these women survived in spite of being sucked under water initially.⁶ The *Marquette* sank in approximately ten minutes.

The water was cold because it was autumn and many died from eight to nine hours of exposure and exhaustion. It was a day of 'endurance, anguish, sacrifice, cowardice and courage.'⁷ Numerous people gave their lives helping others.

One group in boats reached Greece but most of the survivors were picked up by the British destroyer *Lynn* and the French destroyers *Mortier* and *Tirailleur*. They were treated with great care. On 29 October all surviving nurses and some of the medical officers sailed from Salonika back to Alexandria on the hospital ship *Grantully Castle*.

In total 167 people died. The ten nursing sisters were: Marion S. Brown, Isabel Clark, Catherine A. Fox, Mary Gorman, Nona M. Hildyard, Helena K. Isdell, Mabel E. Jamieson, Mary H. Rae, Lorna A. Rattray and Margaret Rogers.

Some of the survivors were extremely ill. Acting Matron Marie Cameron never fully recovered. Many served for the rest of the war overseas while others returned to New Zealand to work. At least one nurse, Hilda Hooker, retired on a war pension (as a result of pleurisy and typhoid following the disaster), after working for a brief period as acting matron at Trentham.⁸

Extensive lists and photographs of people were printed in New Zealand.⁹ A story circulated the international press that the nurses had cried that the 'fighting men' be rescued first when they were found. The nurses later refuted this but the story had great public appeal.

An enquiry was held on the *Talbot* at Salonika on 26 October and sisters Edith Popplewell and Edith Wilkin gave evidence. They also received a lot of flattery.¹⁰

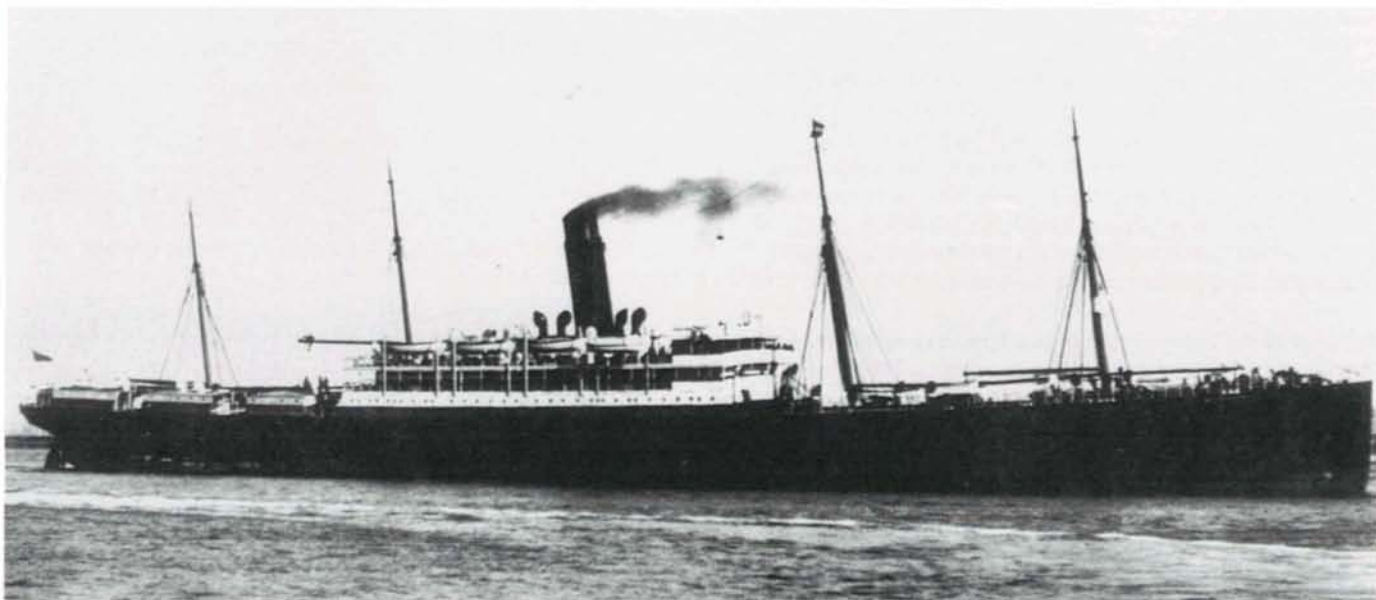
A report promised by British authorities in 1916 to the New Zealand Government was allegedly never sent and no in-depth findings were published in New Zealand.¹¹

Many questions pertain to this disaster the main one being why was an entire stationary hospital with equipment and staff placed on a transport and not a hospital ship? The presence of an ammunition column made the *Marquette* a legitimate target and a plum one. Hospital ships sailed frequently from Alexandria and indeed the *Grantully Castle* travelled empty for Salonika on the same day as the *Marquette*.¹²

Nurse Jean Sinclair claimed that news of the sinking was circulating Salonika hours before the event took place, the implication being that the *Marquette* was a planned, rather than random target.¹³

The survivors' reports published in New Zealand were subject to military censorship. Even so there is a sense of anguish over a blunder expressed by some. Others state that they had more to say.

Many British hospital ships were sunk after 1915, but the full story of the *Marquette* disaster has yet to be told. One of the earliest, major, medical disasters at sea of World War I has been ignored virtually in histories published outside New Zealand.



The Marquette.

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

³ *Kai Tiaki*, 9, no. 2 (April 1916), 70.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 9, no. 1 (Jan. 1916), 9.

⁵ *Press*, 23 Oct. 1965, 5.

⁶ *Kai Tiaki*, 9, no. 2 (April 1916), 70.

⁷ Murray 1968, 56.

⁸ *Kai Tiaki*, 10, no. 4 (Oct. 1917), 197; Rattray 1961, 53-54. This nurse was not the Hilda Hooker who died in the flu epidemic and almost certainly not the Hilda Hooker who pioneered industrial nursing in Australasia.

⁹ For example see: *Weekly Press*, 3 Nov. 1915, 47; *Otago Witness*, 17 Nov. 1915, 26-28, 39; *Press*, 3 Nov. 1915, 6.

¹⁰ *Kai Tiaki*, 9, no. 1 (Jan 1916), 12.

¹¹ Letter, 4 Dec. 1989, John M. Smith to Fiona Ciaran. John Smith is writing a book on the *Marquette* and has clarified details about the disaster.

¹² *Press*, 23 Oct. 1965, 5.

¹³ Rattray 1961, 138.

The three *Marquette* victims who trained at Christchurch Hospital

Nona Hildyard of Lyttelton was 26.¹⁴ She was a noted swimmer but died apparently after being hit by an overturning life-boat several hours after the sinking. A portrait of her by Richard Wallwork, unveiled by the Countess of Liverpool on 8 March 1917, is in the former Lyttelton Borough Council Building.¹⁵

Lorna Rattray came from a prominent Dunedin family. She left New Zealand on the *Maheno* and was nursing at Port

Said, Egypt. Edith Popplewell supported her in the water until she died.¹⁶

Margaret Rogers came from Banks Peninsula. Her body was found in a boat with those of Helena Isdell from Kumara and four unidentified men. There were strong rumours that they had been shot but there appears to be no official record of this. The six victims were buried with naval honours at Safora.¹⁷



Nona Hildyard portrait c. 1916-17

Lyttelton Borough Council



Margaret Rogers

Canterbury Times, Canterbury Museum



Lorna Rattray

Canterbury Times, Canterbury Museum

The call for a memorial

News of the disaster appeared in New Zealand newspapers in early November 1915. A memorial service was held at St Michael and All Angels' Anglican Church, Christchurch, on 9 November. A collection was taken with the express intention of erecting a memorial chapel at Christchurch Hospital. This became the nucleus of a fund.¹⁸

Enthusiasm for the chapel was immediate, and the editor of *Kai Tiaki* indicated that it would be a memorial to all ten nurses.¹⁹

Dr P. Clennell Fenwick wrote from Zeitoun, Egypt to the North Canterbury Hospital Board²⁰ asking if they had done anything to commemorate the *Marquette* nurses.²¹ At their meeting of 16 February 1916 they considered the letter. Dr Walter Fox was asked to report to the board on what had been done about 'the erection of a Memorial Chapel proposed sometime since.'²²

In the board meeting on 23 February 1916, W.W. Tanner suggested the memorial should have a wide scope and embrace 'the name of any Nurse who loses her life in the Hospital service.'²³ Matron Thurston's report included strong support for a memorial chapel in the grounds of the hospital which would fill 'a long felt want'.²⁴ Letters of condolence were sent to relatives by the board.

Nurse Maude lent her voice to the proposal and wrote about a memorial for nurses who died at the Front. She suggested 'a chapel attached to each hospital, which could be at the disposal of all denominations'.²⁵

The idea of a chapel at Christchurch Hospital which was to be built as a memorial to *Marquette* nurses had been adopted.

Dr Walter Fox.
c. 1932-35.



Norris MS, Canterbury Museum

¹⁴ Her name has taken different spellings in publications and on memorials after the disaster, but is spelt 'Nona Hildyard' in her hand, in the Christchurch Hospital staff roll book.

¹⁵ *Press*, 9 March 1917, 7. The portrait's appended inscription reads 'Hilliard' and could be changed.

¹⁶ Murray 1968, 56.

¹⁷ *Kai Tiaki*, 9, no. 1 (Jan. 1916), 30; *Ibid.*, 9, no. 2 (April 1916), 71; Smith.

¹⁸ *Kai Tiaki*, 9, no. 1 (Jan. 1916), 13.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ The NCHB is now the Canterbury Area Health Board (CAHB).

²¹ NCHB 9/30 file, 13 Dec. 1915.

²² Hospital Committee Minute Book 4.

²³ NCHB Minute Book 7, 46.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 56.

²⁵ *Kai Tiaki*, 9, no. 4 (Oct. 1916), 205.

The influenza epidemic

As if the war had not been enough New Zealand was devastated in the latter months of 1918 by an influenza epidemic that claimed approximately 8500 lives nationally. Fourteen doctors and at least thirty nurses died after duty.²⁶

At Christchurch Hospital, Dr Aubrey V. Short died from influenza on 15 November 1918, aged 28 years. He received his medical diploma in 1914, just as war broke out. Dr Short left as NZMC surgeon-captain with the First



Hilda Hooker c. 1917



Grace Beswick c. 1917

Hooker family

Norris MS, Canterbury Museum

Contingent and landed at Gallipoli on the first day of the attack. He later went to France and served until November, 1917, having been promoted to major and appointed Deputy-Assistant Director of Medical Services. Dr Short also received the Military Cross, not an easy decoration to win. He had returned to New Zealand in January of 1918 and joined the staff of Christchurch Hospital in March as a senior house-surgeon.²⁷

Two nurses on duty at Christchurch Hospital succumbed to influenza. Hilda Hooker died on 21 November 1918 aged 22 as a 'probationer' nurse in her second year.²⁸ Grace C. Beswick died on 25 November 1918 aged 25. She had just completed her training and was the sister of Mary Beswick, a *Marquette* survivor.²⁹

Grace and Hilda would be commemorated specifically in the building of the chapel.

One other Christchurch Hospital-trained nurse, Margaret H. Thompson, was a World War I victim. Two graduates, Ina G. Leech and Agnes E. Widdowson, died in the epidemic after duty in other hospitals. All seven people have plaques in the chapel.

Moves to build the Memorial Chapel

Revd Harry W. Smith was licensed to the Christchurch Hospital chaplaincy on 18 September 1923 and took up the cause of the proposed chapel. Through his efforts and those of Matron Rose Muir, Nurse Maude, the Hospital Lady Visitors' Association (HLVA) and The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Fox, the building came into material existence.

In July of 1924 Matron Rose Muir wrote to the board stressing the urgent need for a chapel.³⁰ Staff had donated more funds and the HLVA had been collecting but public subscriptions could not be asked for, nor an estimate of the cost of a chapel be obtained, until the board gave permission to build. It was decided that the chapel should be interdenominational.

In January 1925 the board sanctioned the building of a chapel in the hospital grounds. A site was approved in a letter of 2 July 1925 after much discussion with the Ministry of Health.³¹ The Board would pay for the foundations and have the use of the basement.³²

The land on which the chapel stands is in 1990 owned by the CAHB in fee simple. The site occupied by the hospital (including the chapel) was taken out of Hagley Park and given to the original hospital authority in 1887 under the Christchurch Hospital Act of the same year.

Revd Harry W. Smith c. 1930



Muriel Smith



Matron Rose Muir

Norris MS, Canterbury Museum



Nurse Sybilla Maude

Norris MS, Canterbury Museum

²⁶ The latter figure is probably greater because some former nurses who volunteered and died would be described on death-certificates as 'housewives' if married. Letter, 2 Feb. 1990, Dr Geoffrey Rice to Fiona Ciaran.

²⁷ *Press*, 18 Nov. 1918, 8.

²⁸ *Kai Tiaki*, 12, no. 1 (Jan. 1919), 47.

²⁹ *Ibid.* 45.

³⁰ NCHB 9/30 file.

³¹ NCHB 9/30 file.

³² Muriel Smith, the widow of Chaplain Harry Smith, in 1990 is adamant that the board gave the land on which the chapel stands in perpetuity in exchange for use of the basement. It must be assumed that this was a gentlemen's agreement.

The appeal

The churches gave their full support to the proposal. Revd Smith's letter which sought donations was published with commentary that the chapel would be 'a memorial to the *Marquette* nurses and to all nurses who died on military service during the war.'³³

The NCHB was declined permission by the Ministry of Health to make a grant and the Government decided not to give funds towards the chapel.³⁴ Hospital staff and the public would have to fund it, and they did.

The foundation stone

The foundation stone was laid on 15 March 1927 by the Duke of York, later, His Majesty King George VI.³⁵ The stone records the name of the Duchess of York (now Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother), because the ceremony was to have been performed by her, but she was ill.

An appeal was launched in earnest in November 1925 with street collections and a Hospital Sunday was held in churches. A total of £3000 was required and already £800 had been collected.

The response was good and the bulk of the donations came from the public.³⁵ The chapel cost £3486. There was a surplus of £148 for chapel furnishings.

The speech given by Dr Fox on the day, in the form of an illuminated manuscript, is framed on the back of the south vestry door. In it the chapel is designated as a memorial to nurses Hildyard, Rattray and Rogers of the *Marquette* and influenza victims, nurses Beswick and Hooker. The chapel takes its name from these five women.



The Duke of York addressing guests at the site 15 March 1927



After the ceremony

The architect

John Goddard Collins (1886-1973) was born in Christchurch and joined the practice of Collins & Harman in 1903. He was a foundation member of the New Zealand Institute of Architects and designed many buildings in Christchurch including the Sign of the Takahe and Nazareth House Chapel.

The plans dated 10 January 1927 and specification of 1926 for the chapel reveal his great attention to detail.³⁷ He designed the chapel, and supervised its construction, free of charge.³⁸ Collins retired in 1955.



J.G. Collins



Sign of the Takahe

³³ *Church News*, 55, no. 3 (Sept. 1925), 19; *Press*, 7 Sept. 1925, 3.

³⁴ NCHB 9/30 file, 7 Nov. 1925; NCHB 9/30 file, 6 May 1926.

³⁵ NCHB 9/30 file, 3 July 1928.

³⁶ *Press*, 16 March 1927, 9.

³⁷ Canterbury Museum, Pictorial Archives.

³⁸ NCHB 9/30 file, Letter, 14 July 1928, Dr Fox to NCHB.

The building

The chapel was built in 1927-28 by William H. Williamson of Williamson Construction Company. He described this as the 'finest building he ever built.'³⁹ The contract was agreed to on 10 January 1927 between Williamson and The Nurses' Memorial Chapel Committee.

The floor. There is a reinforced concrete floor, with a basement. This is entered from the liturgical south side by stairs to the outside. On the original plan these were to have been on the north side.⁴⁰

The parquette floor by the Wanganui Sash and Door Co. is of blackwood and oak tinted yellow, set in mastic on the concrete floor.

Oamaru stone. The chancel arch, walls above the panelling at each end of the nave and chancel, corbels, bedmoulds and the crosses on the gables are of Oamaru stone.

Brickwork. The chapel displays a varied use of brick. The walls are of cavity brick construction. On the exterior splayed terracotta blocks can be seen over the window heads. Herringbone (diagonal pattern) brickwork, is a feature of the gables and two window heads. The decorative cornice running under the eaves is of moulded brick and a moulded brick string course (continuous horizontal band), runs below the windows. The window jambs are of scotia (concave) brick. The arches are of gauged scotia. The solid buttresses have a circular weathering (slope) of gauged brick.

Woodwork. Window frames, sills and door frames are of black pine. Other timber is predominantly oregon including the Tudor-headed wall and door panels.

The roof. There is an open, stained timber roof. This is covered with purple slates with green slate bands.

Windows. The nave windows have Tudor arches. The gables behind the vestries and larger windows are a departure from Collins' original plan.



William H. Williamson

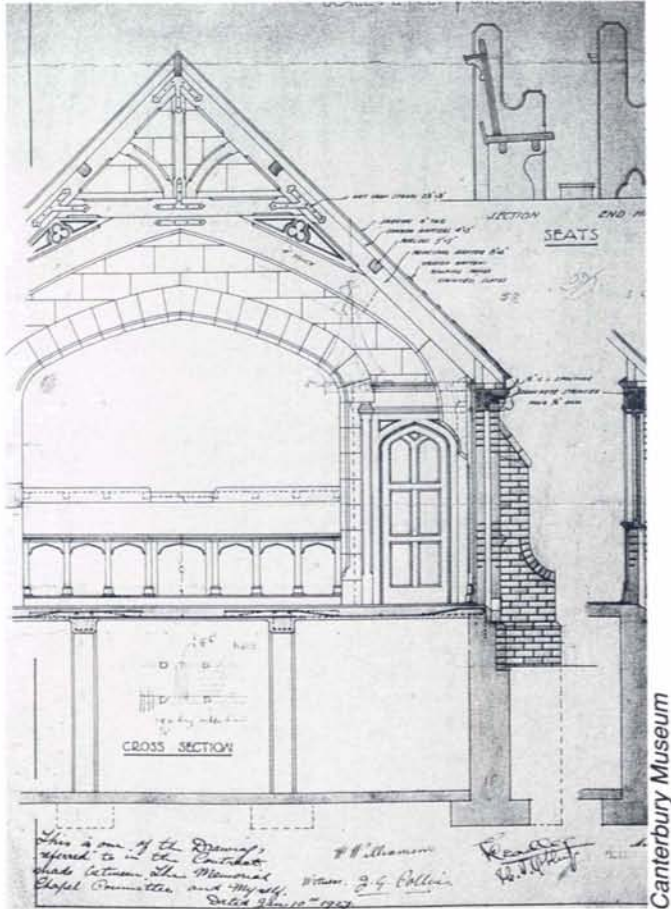


Williamson family



³⁹Interview 9 March 1989, Peter Williamson.

⁴⁰In 1942 a plan for an air-raid shelter in the basement was drawn up by S. W. Minson. Canterbury Museum, Pictorial Archives.



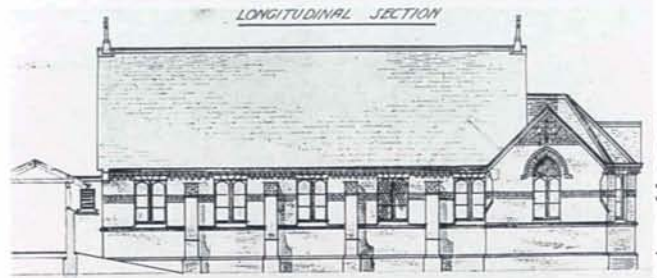
Canterbury Museum

Cross section 1927

Measurements

- Nave 13.72m x 7.32 m (45ft x 24 ft).
- Chancel 4.27m x 3.93m (14 ft x 12 ft 9ins).
- Vestries 3.66m x 3.05m (12ft x 10ft).
- Floor to roof apex 6.71m (22ft).

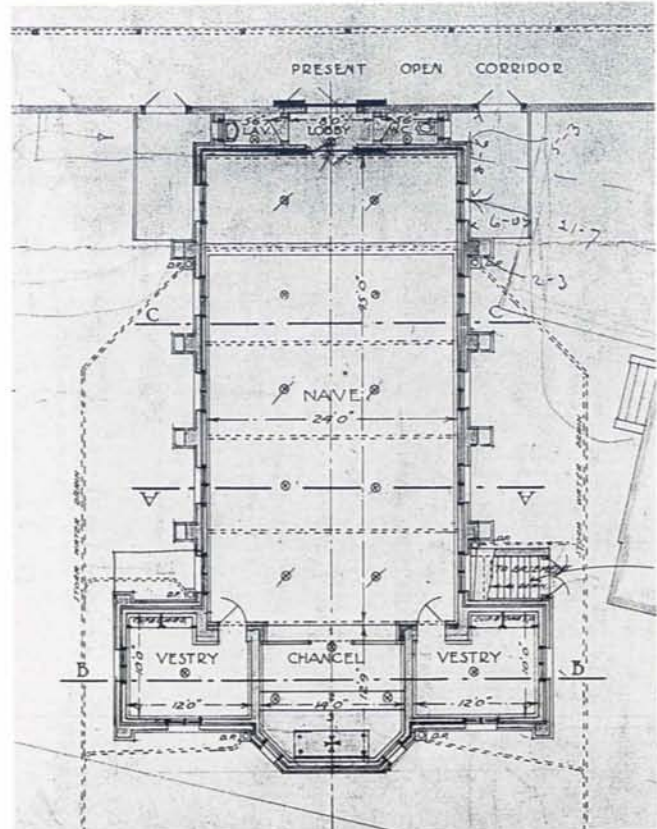
Aesthetically the interior presents a well-crafted, well-proportioned and warm environment that invites and soothes.



Canterbury Museum

West elevation 1927

This is one of the related to the...



Canterbury Museum

The ground plan 1927



Interior just after completion 1928

Weekly Press, Photographer G. Weigel. Canterbury Public Library

The chapel's life

The first service was held at 5.15 am on Christmas Day, 1927. The chapel was handed over to the NCHB on 25 July 1928. Of the building Dr Fox wrote: 'we are parting with a child for your adoption...knowing that you will bestow and endow it with every reasonable consideration realising the high purpose for which the Chapel has been built.'⁴¹

Since opening this chapel has never been closed or locked. Although sited at one end of the hospital it was conveniently on the route of nurses travelling to and from the Nurses' Home. The chapel doors are wide enough to accommodate people in wheelchairs and beds.

Regular worship has been conducted along with confirmations, baptisms, carols, remembrance and reunion services and Sunday School. Nativity Plays and missions have also taken place in the chapel. A Florence Nightingale (later Nurses' Day), service has been held in May. In the

1930s a special *Marquette* service was held in October. The tradition of the latter is to be reinstated in 1990, the 75th anniversary of Gallipoli, and the *Marquette* sinking.

Eight funerals are known to have been held in the chapel. The first was probably that of George Bell on 29 October 1928.⁴²

There have been at least eighteen weddings and what is said to be the first took place on 17 December 1929, between Nurse Rae McKay and a Dr Shand.⁴³

A much-loved building, the chapel has become an important repository of memorials to men and women at some point associated with Christchurch Hospital. Many of these people have given heroic, medical service in war; some under fire.



Original arrangement of the reredos and altar c.1935

Christchurch Hospital



A nurse taking Sunday School in 1959

Star



Revd Samuel Woods taking a service in 1959

Star



Staff Nurse Anna Stedman married James McGiffin in the chapel on 7 April 1933

McGiffin family

⁴¹ NCHB 9/30 file, 14 July 1928.

⁴² Chapel Service Register I.

⁴³ Hospital Truth, 24 Dec. 1929.

The stained glass windows

There are nine stained glass windows. Four are by Veronica Whall (1887-1967) a prominent, English, stained glass artist. Her father, Christopher Whall, was the leader of the Arts & Crafts Movement in stained glass. By the age of 13 Veronica Whall had drawn part of a window for Gloucester Cathedral. She went on to a successful career and became a co-director of Whall & Whall Ltd, London. Most of her windows outside Great Britain are in New Zealand. She was an expert in the use of Prior's Slab glass which has an uneven texture and often a variety of colours in one piece. Her chapel windows use this material to great effect and are richly coloured.



Veronica Whall c. 1930



Matron Mary Ewart

William Morris Gallery

Norris MS, Canterbury Museum

The Angel of Charity and a Waif, 1932-33.



The Angel of Charity and a Waif (1932-33) commemorates Mary Ewart who was matron from 1898-1908. Trained in Belfast, Ewart came to New Zealand in 1885 and in 1887 became the first qualified nurse to join Christchurch Hospital where she worked for 43 years. She died on 22 July 1930. Nurses who had trained under her donated this memorial which was dedicated by Bishop West-Watson on 16 April 1933.⁴⁴

The angel is enthroned on the world and the waif, symbolic of the soul, is protected by the cloak of charity.⁴⁵ This work has suffered vandalism from inside the chapel and the child's arm and hand holding the angel's hand are all replacements. The William Morris Gallery, London, holds the cartoons for this work and the following window.

Faith and a Sick Child (1936) is a memorial to Sybilla Maude OBE. Known to all as Nurse Maude she was the pioneer of district nursing in New Zealand. Her organisation, established with the assistance of Jessie, Lady Rhodes DStJ, flourishes today. In 1892, after training in London, Nurse Maude worked as matron at Christchurch Hospital from 1893-96 before starting district nursing.

In 1904 Nurse Maude established an open-air camp at New Brighton for TB victims which led to the Government introducing sanatoria. She died on 12 July 1935.

The window was dedicated on 15 November 1936 by the retired Archbishop Julius.⁴⁶ The hour-glass and circle represent time and eternity. The symbolic figure has the cross of Faith on her dress and the child, with a head-bandage, has his hands clasped in prayer.

Faith and a Sick Child, 1936.



⁴⁴ *Press*, 17 April 1933, 8.

⁴⁵ From a framed description in the north vestry, signed by Whall.

⁴⁶ *Chapel Service Register II*.

Christ and Children (1938-39) commemorates Annie Patrick. After training at Christchurch Hospital Patrick studied Sir Truby King's system of child-care. During World War I she served in the hospital ship *Marama*. Patrick assisted in the introduction of Plunket ideals to England and established the Mothercraft Training Centre in London. When she returned to New Zealand in 1920 she was appointed Director of Plunket Nursing. She lectured internationally and her influence was profound. Patrick died on 19 September 1937.

The window was dedicated on 25 June 1939 by Chaplain Henry Williams.⁴⁷ Plunket nurses, staff, and many others contributed to the cost. The NCHB gave £5 after it was put to them that Patrick had brought 'world fame' to the hospital.⁴⁸ The children in the window are shown as healthy and happy as a tribute to her work.

The Angel of Hope (1952-53) is in memory of pioneer nurses. This was donated by Christchurch Hospital-trained nurses who attended the 1951 reunion and symbolises the steadfastness of hope amid the challenges of life. The angel, on a rock lashed by the ever-changing sea, holds an anchor which is the emblem of hope. The sea is also a reminder of the *Marquette* nurses.

This is probably Whall's last window and was designed to match the Ewart memorial. Part of the cartoon for this window is in the William Morris Gallery. The dedication by Bishop Warren was on 2 August 1953.⁴⁹

The following three windows were designed probably by Francis Spear and executed at Lowndes & Drury's studio, The Glass House, in London. This was built in 1906 and operated by stained glass artist Mary Lowndes and Alf Drury, who liaised with the Whalls.

The Conversion of St Paul (1964) was chosen as a suitable subject to commemorate Mabel Thurston CBE, RRC, because of her outstanding service to military nursing. The



Annie Patrick c. 1930



Mary Christmas c. 1915

saint is shown as a soldier on the road to Damascus dedicating his sword to God.

Thurston was matron from 1908 to 1916 and worked hard to see that a children's ward at Christchurch Hospital was built. During World War I she was matron-in-chief to the NZEF. She worked later as matron at hospitals in Hanmer and Waipukurau. During World War II she gave voluntary service in English hospitals.

Thurston died on 23 July 1960 in England. She left in her will £75 to adorn the chapel and presumably this paid partially for the window.⁵⁰

The window was commissioned by former nurses who trained under her and many former patients and friends contributed. Bishop Warren dedicated the window at the Florence Nightingale service on 10 May 1964.⁵¹

St Agatha (1967-68), a patron saint of nurses, is in memory of Mary Christmas ARRC⁵² who died on 17 April 1964. After training at Christchurch Hospital she served in the Mediterranean (where she survived the *Marquette* sinking),



Cartoon for *The Angel of Hope* 1952



Lowndes & Drury c. 1906

⁴⁷ *New Zealand Nursing Journal*, 32, no. 8 (Aug. 1939), 292.

⁴⁸ NCHB 9/30 file, Letter, 31 May 1939, Marjory Astley to NCHB.

⁴⁹ *Press*, 6 August 1953, 2, 10.

⁵⁰ NCHB 9/30 file, 6 Oct. 1960. Notice of the bequest.

⁵¹ *Press*, 5 May 1964, 2.

⁵² The Royal Red Cross is shown in the base of this window. The award was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1883 and was the first British military order

solely for women. In 1915 it was enlarged and divided into first and second-class sections. Mary Christmas held the latter, the Associate of the Royal Red Cross. This award differs from that in the window by being silver with a smaller, red, Maltese cross on it. Several of the surviving *Marquette* nurses received the associate decoration after further war service. Since December 1976 the award has been open to men.



Christ and Children, 1938-39

and later in England. In 1923 she became the first tutor sister at the Christchurch Preliminary School of Nursing and retired in 1937.

Members of the Rose Muir Association and servicemen and women gave this window. The association had difficulty obtaining an import licence due to new Government policy. Eventually they were able to prove that a window which harmonised with the existing works should be obtained from the original studio. On 21 April 1968 it was unveiled by Jean Erwin and Emily Hodges, both *Marquette* survivors, and dedicated by the chaplains.⁵³

St Faith (1971) commemorates Rose Muir MBE, who joined



The Angel of Hope, 1952-53

the staff in 1910 and was matron from 1916 to 1936. She died on 12 May 1970. The window was commissioned by the Christchurch School of Nursing Association and unveiled on 14 October 1971 by Grace Widdowson who trained under Muir and was herself matron from 1936 to 1952.⁵⁴ Muir was aunt to Frank Muir the comedian.

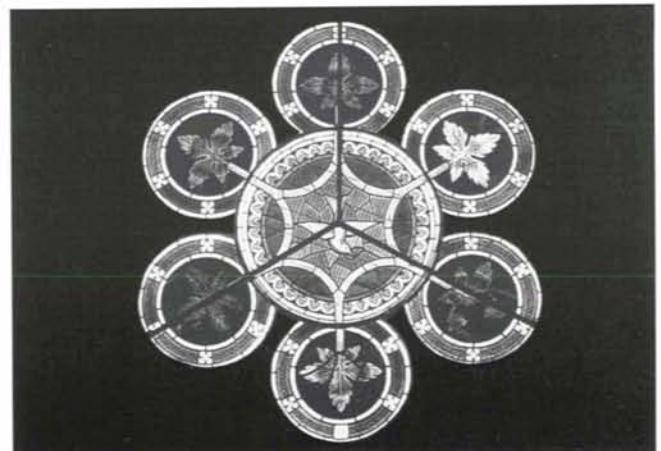
The Lamb of God in the sanctuary and the west end rose depicting *The Dove of Peace* came from the former St Mary's Anglican Church in Merivale. These date from the 1880s.⁵⁵ The suggestion to give these to the chapel was made by Adeline Turner, a Merivale parishioner and Hon. Sec. of the HLVA.⁵⁶ There were leadlights with red borders, from St Mary's, filling the windows by the vestries.⁵⁷



St Agatha, 1967



The Lamb of God, c. 1888



The Dove of Peace, c. 1888

⁵³ *Press*, 22 April 1968, 2.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.* 12 Oct. 1971, 2.

⁵⁵ *New Zealand Church News*, 17, no. 1 (Jan. 1888), 4.

⁵⁶ *Brathwaite* 1966, 43.

⁵⁷ These are stored safely in the CAHB Works Dept.

The carving

All sanctuary carving is in oak. The majority was done by Frederick Gurnsey (1863-1953). Later carving for the chapel was executed in conjunction with Jake Vivian (Gurnsey's sole, articulated apprentice who joined him in 1926), or by Vivian alone. The Gurnsey studio was at 180 Fendalton Road and he was a most influential and gifted carver and sculptor. Many of his works grace ecclesiastical and public buildings and monuments, including the Christchurch Anglican Cathedral and the Bridge of Remembrance.

The altar, reredos and four riddel posts with angels (which hold candlesticks) were carved in 1930-31.⁵⁸ The Bishop's chair was probably executed shortly after. Underneath the canopy-work the reredos incorporates the gilded figure of The Risen Christ. In niches are St Mary BV and St John the Evangelist with the chalice and Host. These two figures were originally in reversed places with Mary looking at Christ.



The outer frame of the reredos depicts entwined thistle, rose and shamrock plants with a grape-vine above. The bas-relief panels show Christ healing the sick and the Samaritan aiding the wounded man on his donkey. This latter panel has a symbolic link with the icon of Gallipoli, *The Man With the Donkey*, painted by Horace Moore-Jones.

The central altar panel shows the pelican 'in its piety'. It feeds its young in the nest with blood from its breast, a symbol of Christ, self-sacrifice and by extension, nursing. This and the two bas-relief panels and two attendant figures of the reredos were taken out in the early 1930s and lightened so as to be more visible.

The riddel posts were connected in pairs originally by curtains and placed at the ends of the altar, when it was joined to the reredos. The joinery firm responsible for the altar, reredos and riddel posts, was Geo. Rich & Sons. It is likely that all of this carving was paid for out of chapel funds.

In 1963 a wish of the chapel management committee to remove the reredos was not acted on. However the altar has become free-standing to suit modern liturgy. Formerly there was a sanctuary lamp above the altar and this may have been removed at this time.



Frederick Gurnsey 1953



Jake Vivian 1989

Faith Gurnsey

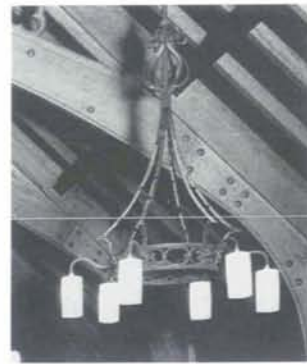
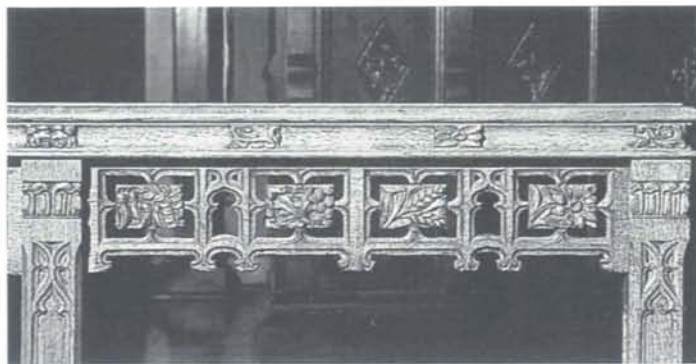
Photo by Julian Clothier. Jake Vivian



The lectern, executed between 1946 and 1950 by Gurnsey and Vivian, is in memory of Dr Walter Fox MB, CM, who was Medical Superintendent in 1896-99 and 1915-36, and Honorary Surgeon. He died in April of 1945. The cherubs at the base of the lectern are a particular feature of Gurnsey's work. Beneath the book-rest are the emblems of the Four Evangelists.

Vivian designed and executed the altar rails in May of 1956 and hymn-book cupboard and prayer desk in October of 1952. Both British and New Zealand flowers are shown in the rails. The cupboard has a traditional linen-fold ornament and Gothic tracery on it. The joinery work on these was by Bert Sherwood.

⁵⁸ A receipt and estimate are in the chapel casket. Jake Vivian clarified dates and attribution.



Other art works and furnishings

The font was given by Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes in 1927 in memory of Jessie, Lady Rhodes and 'A.M.T.' Its alabaster bowl was subsequently broken. This was replaced in kauri by R.R. Beauchamp for the Christchurch School of Nursing Association commemorative service in 1977. The bowl and cover feature the only Maori motifs in the chapel.

The silver-plated casket containing a few records connected with the building of the chapel was deposited in the sanctuary wall on 30 June 1936 and has been opened and added to since. The casket was given by Dr Fox on his retirement. It holds:

- An invitation to, and programme and photograph of, the foundation stone ceremony;

- A receipt from Frederick Gurnsey of 1 July 1931 for £100 for carving the reredos and angels and an estimate of 15 July 1931 of £100 for panels and figures;
- A receipt from the HLVA;
- Notes about the chapel by Adeline Turner, 31 October 1930 and by Grace Widdowson, 22 October 1976.

Plate and communion vessels are held securely in the vestries. Two, large, altar candlesticks given by Sir Hugh and Evelyn, Lady Acland were reportedly stolen in the mid-1980s. Towards the back of the chapel there is a table in memory of Kassie Turner who died on 26 July, 1922. The interior also features fine, wrought iron lamps.

Memorial Plaques

There are plaques in this order on the liturgical west wall. Some biographical details given are additional to those on the plaques.⁵⁹

- Katherine T. Compigne.** Matron Burwood Hospital 1940-49. Died 9 Feb. 1956.
- William H. Harrop.** Clerk of Works NCHB 1912-37. Died 1937.
- Mary B. Beswick ARRC, NZANS.** Trained 1912. *Marquette* survivor. Died 1964.
- David N. Eppstein MB, ChB, FRCS.** Died 19 Dec. 1937.
- James F. Duncan MD, MB, FRCS.** World War I: NZMC surgeon-captain, *Maheno*. Staff 1906-43. Died 1943.
- Noel Whitton MC, MB, ChB.** World War I: RAMC England, France and Middle East. Staff 1923-24. Died 28 Nov. 1924.
- Aileen M. Mulcock.** Graduated 1936. Died 1951.
- William S. Wharton MBE.** Sec. NCHB 1912-37. Died 18 Oct. 1937.
- Percival C. Fenwick CMG, MD, FRCSE.** Staff 1894-1944. Boer War: surgeon-captain 1899-1902. World War I: NZMC surgeon-lt.-colonel commanding two NZ general hospitals. NCHB member. Died 6 July 1958.
- Robert A. Ferguson.** Senior dental surgeon 1926-38. Died 10 April 1938.
- Sandra M. Webb** 1960-64. Killed in a car accident in Spain.
- Jean C. Walker and Rosalind M. Webb.** Killed in a car accident 11 Nov. 1965 in Turkey.

- Thomas L. Crooke MD.** Medical Superintendent 1899-1910. Died 1 Nov. 1943.
- Sir Hugh D.A. Acland CMG, CBE, FRCS.** Boer War: RAMC civil surgeon. Staff 1904-1929. World War I: NZMC *Marquette* survivor, NZEF lt.-colonel in France and England. NCHB member. Knighted 1933. World War II: Asst Dir. Medical Services, Southern Military District. Died 15 April 1956.
- John Guthrie MB, ChB, FRCS, FRACS.** World War I: NZMC surgeon-captain. Staff 1915-36. Died June 1942.
- Mary Ewart.** Matron 1898-1908. Died 22 July 1930.
- Sybilla Maude OBE.** Matron 1893-96. Died 12 July 1935.
- Margaret Jones.** Sec. Cantb. RNA 1923-44. Died 12 Nov. 1956.
- Anne Fuldseth.** Sec. Cantb. RNA 1944-59. Died 6 April 1959.
- Beverley K. Franklin.** Occ. Therapist-in-Chief 1956-1963.
- Louisa M. Green.** Died 8 Dec. 1937.
- Mary J. Irwin.** Died 29 June 1929 as a result of duty.
- Gertrude A. Richards.** Staff 1915-19, 1922. Died 15 Oct. 1926.
- Colina M. Howden.** Died 22 June 1927.
- Betty M. Williams.** Died Jan. 1947.
- June I. Prescott.** Staff 1944-47. Died April 1947.
- Doreen R. Barrell.** Staff 1945-47. Died 15 June 1947.
- Annie Pattrick NZANS.** Trained 1911-14. Director Plunket Nursing 1920-34. Died 19 Sept. 1937.

⁵⁹ All nurses hold the qualification of State Registered Nurse (SRN) or Registered Maternity Nurse (RMN) or equivalents. Space prevents fuller treatment of the plaques.

Nona Hildyard, Lorna Rattray, Margaret Rogers (all NZANS), *Marquette* victims.

Margaret H. Thompson NZANS. Died in Christchurch 28 Feb. 1921 as a result of war service.

Alice Taylor (Keyte) NZANS. Staff 1911-23. Died 7 March 1939.

Kate E. Benjamin NZANS. Matron of Cashmere Sanatorium. World War I: QAIMNS, Egypt and England. Matron of Cook Hospital, Gisborne. Died 23 Dec. 1938.

Louie A. Buchanan (McNie) RRC, NZANS. Staff 1905-15. World War I: Samoa, *Maheno* and *Marama*. Died 9 May 1941.

Alma S. Crampton NZANS. Died 20 May 1944 of illness on active service in Italy in World War II.



Gwen Montgomery

Emily Hodges 1917

The Book of Remembrance

In 1967 it was decided that for lack of space no further plaques were to be placed. Exceptions were made for the *Marquette* reunion and Williams plaques. The names of deceased nurses connected with Christchurch Hospital continue to be entered instead in the Book of Remembrance housed in the niche designed by Collins Architects and built in 1968. This was given by the Rose Muir and Christchurch Hospital Nurses' Association in memory of thirteen sisters

The Hospital Chapel Movement

This was the first hospital chapel in New Zealand. Jubilee Home acquired one in 1948 and three hospitals had chapels before a campaign opened in Christchurch in May 1959, the 'Year of the Chapels'. Alex Prentice led a team of more than 2000 volunteers to collect money for chapels in Burwood, Cashmere and Sunnyside hospitals.⁶¹ In six months the target of more than \$70,000 was oversubscribed by \$3000. Many throughout New Zealand wrote to Christchurch Hospital chaplains for advice on the building of their chapels.

Twice escaped demolition

The chapel withstood a demolition threat from the Hospital Board in the mid-1970s for temporary operating theatres and a demolition order in early 1989 from the Hospital Board for parking and access. In both cases reaction was strong and an alternative solution was found.⁶² A community group, the Friends of the Chapel, was formed in 1989.

Grace C. Beswick, Hilda Hooker and Dr Aubrey V. Short. Staff who died after duty in the influenza epidemic November 1918.

Ina G. Leech. Died at Hastings Emergency Hospital as a result of duty in the influenza epidemic, 26 Nov. 1918.

Agnes E. Widdowson (Smythe). Died at Auckland Hospital as a result of duty in the influenza epidemic 20 Nov. 1918.

Clarisse Bennett (Leslie) NZANS. World War II: Egypt, Syria and Italy. Died 2 Nov. 1951.

Jessie E. Randall. Staff 1917-43. Died 17 Nov. 1963.

Frederick V. Bevan-Brown MD, MRCP. World War I: NZMC France and Middle East. Staff 1920-34. Died 5 Oct. 1934.

Plaques on the liturgical north nave wall.

Alexander Prentice MBE, MSM. World War I: NZMC *Marquette* survivor. Sec. NCHB 1937-56. Died 8 May 1981.

Emily Hodges ARRC, NZANS. World War I: *Marquette* survivor, Egypt and Greece. Matron of the *Malta*. Matron Hanmer Springs, Wigram and Harewood. Died 19 July 1983.

Christchurch Hospital staff on the *Marquette*. Unveiled at the last reunion service of survivors on 26 Oct. 1975.

Plaques in the sanctuary.

Revd Harry W. Smith, chaplain 1923-30. Died 29 Aug. 1932.

Revd Henry Williams OBE, chaplain 1930-54. Died 4 Jan. 1962.

who had died since 1961. It was dedicated on 27 April 1969 by chaplain William Harding.⁶⁰

There are other men and women from the hospital who served in war who do not have a *specific* memorial in the chapel. Their names are among those on honour boards in the hospital.

Alex Prentice 1965



Press, Canterbury Public Library

⁶⁰ *Christchurch Star*, 29 April 1969, 13.

⁶¹ *Christchurch Star*, 1 May 1959, 7.

⁶² The debates are well documented in NCHB and CAHB files, *Friends of the Chapel* records and local newspapers.

The chaplains since the chapel was built.

Anglican.

Harry W. Smith 1923-30.
Henry Williams 1930-54.
I. Lionel Richards 1954-58.
Samuel E. Woods 1959-60.
Roydon P. Andrews 1960-65.
William D. Harding 1959-65. *Assistant.* 1965-82.
E. Glenys Lewis 1960-63. *Assistant.*
Melva K. Finney 1961. *Assistant.* 1963-72.
Lew Barnes 1965-66. *Assistant.*
Bruce W. Don 1968-69. *Assistant.*
Tom Johnston 1970-71, 1977. *Assistant.*
W. David Morrell 1972-77. *Assistant.*
E. Glenys Lewis 1978.
John Fisher 1978. *Assistant.*
E. (Ted) A. Johnston 1979-81.
Peter Ritchie 1981-90.
Sylvia P. Aldridge 1988. *Assistant.*
Earle Williams. *Appointed* 1990.

Methodist.

David W. Edmonds 1959.
Ian K. Hopper 1960-63.
Hubert G. Brown 1964-71.
(No appointments made after this date).

Presbyterian.

Ian B. Wilson 1954-59.
C. Arthur Mitchell 1959-1960.
Dr G. W. Slade. *Acting chaplain* 1964.
Horace J. Crawford 1964-75.
J. W. Olliver and D. M. Taylor. *Acting chaplains* 1975-76.
Roger F. Millichamp 1976-86.
Helen Wallis 1987.
Donald Malloch 1988 *to the present.*

Roman Catholic.

J. Monagle 1927-34.
G. O'Meeghan 1935-39.
T. Cahill 1939-44.
William O'Mahoney 1945-46.
Thomas J. Liddy 1946-48.

J. Murphy 1949.
J. Galvin 1950.
S. Clenaghan 1951-52.
Gerard M. Kane 1953.
J. Kelly 1954-56.
Gerard Fahey 1957.
J. Owens 1958.
Basil Meeking 1959-63 (*present Bishop of Christchurch*).
Denis W. Hanrahan 1963-66 (*former Bishop of Christchurch*).
William Middleton 1967-69.
Kevin O'Grady 1969-72.
Barry Jones 1973-1974.
Noel Consedine 1975-77.
Sister Theresa Higginston 1976-77. *Assistant.*
Kevin O'Grady 1978 *to the present.*
Sister Judith Murray 1982-83. *Assistant.*
Sister Patricia Clark 1983 *to the present.* *Assistant.*

Some chaplains had duties at several local hospitals. In addition representatives from other denominations have been appointed as part of their duties to visit the sick in Christchurch hospitals and contribute to chaplains' councils and conferences. Individual ministers also visit their own parishioners in hospital.

Related memorials in New Zealand and overseas.

There are other local memorials to *Marquette* nurses such as the twenty-bed ward named after the ship and a plaque in Waimate Hospital for sisters Clark, Fox and Gorman.

The New Zealand Nurses' Memorial Fund, to aid nurses in need, was raised as a national memorial to the sixteen New Zealand nurses who died on, or as a result of, active service in World War I. There is a collection box (disused), at the entry to the chapel for this fund with the State Medal on it. This was carved by chaplain Henry Williams.⁶³ The Nurses' Bell in the Wellington Carillon is the other national memorial to these women.

In York Minster a plaque by the medieval 'Five Sisters' stained glass window also records the names of the New Zealand nurses. This window was restored to commemorate

the 1465 nurses, VADs, munition and other women workers of the Empire who died in World War I.

Six nurses and five VADs from New Zealand died on active service in World War II. Over 3000 Commonwealth and Empire nurses and midwives died. They are commemorated in the upper chapel of Bishop Islip's Chantry in Westminster Abbey. This chapel is thought to be the only one dedicated to nurses and midwives in a 'national shrine' in the world.⁶⁴



Revd Henry Williams

Opawa Anglican Parish History

⁶³ Chapel casket. Notes by Grace Widdowson.

⁶⁴ *New Zealand Nursing Journal*, 43, no. 7 (Dec. 1950), 202-4.

Conclusion

In June 1990 the Friends of the Chapel co-ordinated the preservation glazing of the chapel's stained glass windows. The materials and labour were generously donated by local businesses.

On 26 June 1990, the Christchurch City Council decided to allocate \$50,000 from its Planning Policy sub-budget for restoration of the chapel. It is expected that most of these funds will be used to build a new porch for the chapel to a design by Tony Ussher of Skews, Hey, Ussher Architects.

If possible bricks and slates from the demolition of buildings of similar vintage and construction will be used for the

porch. When the present corridor leading into the chapel is demolished with surrounding buildings, (possibly in late 1990), the chapel will be free-standing.

The future maintenance of the chapel will be administered by a trust formed out of the Friends of the Chapel and other groups. It is proposed that a land swap will take place between the city council and the hospital board, with the land around the chapel landscaped and kept as an historic reserve to be used and appreciated by patients, staff and the wider public.



Archives⁶⁵

Casket records. **The chapel.**

The Book of Remembrance. **The chapel.**

Burial Register 5 May 1918 to the present. **The chapel.**

Baptism Register 10 March 1961 to the present.

Christchurch Hospital.

Marriage Register [I], 9 Feb. 1932 to 14 Jan. 1984.

Anglican Church House.

Marriage Register [II], 21 Jan. 1984 to the present.

Christchurch Hospital.

Service Register [I], 25 Dec. 1927 to 11 Sept. 1932.

Anglican Church House.

Service Register [II], 18 Sept. 1932 to 22 Aug. 1962.

Anglican Church House.

Service Register [III], 26 Aug. 1962 to the present.

Christchurch Hospital.

Plans 3702 and 3703. Collins & Harman Registered Architects. 10 Jan. 1927. *Ink and watercolour on paper on linen.* **Canterbury Museum, Pictorial Archives.**

Chapel specification and contract. 1926. **Canterbury Museum, Pictorial Archives.**

Records of Emily Hodges' war service, **Private collection, Christchurch.**

Bishops' registers and chaplains' records. **Anglican Diocesan Archives, Church House.**

Chaplains' and Chapel 9/30 file 1916 to the present. **CAHB.**

Christchurch Hospital correspondence on the Thurston and the pioneer nurses' windows. **Canterbury Museum**

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Hospital Lady Visitors' Association records. **Canterbury Museum Archives.**

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Rose Muir Association and Christchurch School of Nursing Association records 1938-1972. **Canterbury Museum Archives.**

Parish records of St Mary's Anglican Church, Merivale.

Preliminary elevations for a proposed chapel by Elizabeth Gregory of Cutter Douglas Partnership Ltd, c. 1987. *Pastel coloured dye-line prints,* **CAHB.**

Site Plans for Christchurch Hospital Stage III Redevelopment, Cutter Douglas Partnership Ltd / Cutter Douglas Architects Ltd, 1980s, **CAHB.**

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Christchurch Memorial Chapel [sic] Interior Relocation Proposal. CAHB. Christchurch, July, 1989.

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⁶⁵ During research for this book much archival material has been uncovered and arrangement made for this to be deposited in public archives. Still missing are records of The Nurses' Memorial Chapel

Committee, correspondence from Whall on the Ewart and Maude windows and correspondence from Drury on the Thurston window.

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The Weekly Press.

Acknowledgements

Particular thanks go to:

Canterbury Area Health Board.
Canterbury Museum.
Canterbury Medical Library.
Canterbury Public Library.
Chaplains, former and present.
Christchurch Hospital.
Collins Architects.
David Corbett.
Denominational archivists.
Friends of the Chapel.
Faith Gurnsey.
Imperial War Museum, London.
Mary Lambie Nursing Library.
Spencer Meikle Associates.
New Zealand Nurses' Association.
Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps.
Alice Silverson, CAHB.
John M. Smith.
Muriel Smith.
Jake Vivian.
William Morris Gallery, London.

Produced, designed and published by:

**Planning Policy Unit, Christchurch City Council,
P.O. Box 237, Christchurch, New Zealand.**

October, 1990

Copies can be purchased from the above address.

Production Team:

Fiona Ciaran. Author, pictorial research.
Richard Johnson. CCC liaison.
Peter Shapcott. Graphic design, cover illustration.
Duncan Shaw-Brown. Photographer.

Printed by Bascands Commercial Print Ltd.

ISBN 0-9597973-0-0



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