

# A Warm Invitation to **CBC 125**

~ a celebration of 'Past, Present and Future'

at Central Baptist Church, Palmerston North, October 25 – 27, 2019

8 August 2019

Tēnā koutou

This year marks 125 years since fifteen people gathered together in a Palmerston North home to form a local Baptist church. While the actual anniversary was in late February, our official celebrations will take place at Labour Weekend, October 25 -27, 2019.

## **Past, Present & Future**

**CBC 125** is a hui to collectively celebrate:

- God for his grace, faithfulness and provision down through the decades;
- the rich inheritance which we have received from the efforts and answered prayers of the various Palmerston North Baptists over many generations;
- the service of our ministers / pastors and missionaries over 125 years; and
- the original heart and spirit which God has for our community, and get glimpses of the future at Central Baptist.

The weekend will inspire all past and present members of our community at Central Baptist.

The semi-formal and informal sessions are interspersed with free time to catch up with old and new friends.

There will be an opportunity to visit the old church, and other places connected with the early days of our church.

## **Guest Preacher**

Grant Harris, Senior Pastor of Windsor Park Baptist Church, chaplain to the Sky Sports New Zealand Breakers Basketball team and son of Noel & Noeline Harris, will preach at the Sunday worship service. Grant and his wife Joanne (nee Cleland) grew up in Central Baptist.

## **Registration**

There is one flat registration rate of \$35 per person to cover catering and other costs. The registration **deadline is Thursday 10 October**.

## **Accommodation**

Labour Weekend is a very busy time in the city, so any offers of single and double beds for billeted accommodation would be appreciated.

## **Facebook Page: **CBC 125****

See us on Facebook where various updates will be posted. <https://www.facebook.com/CBC-125-Palmerston-North-Central-Baptist-Church-125th-Anniversary-105096114170715>

Please **like and share** the **CBC 125** page to help spread the word about our event.

## **Where Are They Now?**

The biggest challenge with organising a gathering for a significant anniversary is collating the names of people who formerly worshipped at Central Baptist, and obtaining their contact details, particularly their email addresses. Please contact Elizabeth Shearer ([shearer@inspire.net.nz](mailto:shearer@inspire.net.nz), 06 354 1951 or 027 626 6111) as soon as possible with names and any details.

## **What God has done through time?**

While there will be a number of people sharing memories etc during the Saturday sessions, we would like to capture as many written memories and recollections as possible for visual displays and a potential publication in the future. Likewise for printed or digital images of people and "historical" church activities at Central Baptist. The images are needed by mid September at the latest, rather than at Labour weekend, so that we can prepare the visual displays beforehand. Details of what to do with any images and/or written memories are on the registration form.

## **Saturday Night Entertainment**

Over the years, Central Baptist has been well known for its wealth of talented musicians, singers and other performers. If you would like to perform an item during our Saturday night show, please make a note of it on your registration form. The array of performers will be followed by reflections and humorous anecdotes from a former Senior Pastor, Digby Wilkinson.

## **Waste-Free Event**

Like the Baptist Hui which we hosted last November, we are aiming for a zero waste occasion.

## **A Legacy For The Future**

For 125 years, Central Baptist Church has had a proud history of connecting and supporting our local community. This has been done in big ways like the formation of Te Aroha Noa, and more recently the Agapanthus Trust providing accommodation for refugees. And in many smaller ways such as visiting the elderly, tutoring refugees, lunches for schools, supporting people with budgeting and financial advice.

Two years ago, we purchased the neighbouring property at 200 Church Street (the old Woolworths or Dress for Less building) so that we can increase the community contribution which we make. In 1944, the proceeds from our 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee cleared the remaining debt on our previous church building. We will use any donations (tax deductible) and proceeds on the occasion of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary towards reducing the debt on the 200 Church Street property.

## **"Market Place"**

During the weekend, there will be preserves and hand crafts for sale. Proceeds will go to the debt repayment of the 200 Church Street property and mission funds in Thailand.

## **Spread the Word**

Please give serious prayer and thought to setting aside Labour Weekend for this time of celebration, reflection and inspiration. Please also spread the word about our celebration. A copy of this document can be obtained from [cbc125@pncbc.org.nz](mailto:cbc125@pncbc.org.nz) and at [www.pncbc.org.nz/cbc125](http://www.pncbc.org.nz/cbc125).

If your circumstances mean that you will not be able to attend but would like to send a message of greetings, images and/or some memories, please email them to:

Elizabeth Shearer at [shearer@inspire.net.nz](mailto:shearer@inspire.net.nz) or 69 Schnell Drive, Palmerston North 4414.

We are looking forward to this event and sincerely hope that you will join us as we celebrate together.

Blessings,

Bill Dewar, Senior Pastor

Peter Blyde, Chair of Elders

Elizabeth Shearer, *CBC 125* Convenor



Our church logo represents:  
the three parts of the Trinity; three congregations coming together as one; and community coming together.



## Palmerston North Central Baptist Church

### Quasquicentennial Celebration Programme for October 25-27, 2019

All are warmly invited to attend the following events. **Please register by Thursday 10 October, 2019.**

#### Friday 25 October

- 6.30 – 7.15pm Collect name tag from Info / Registration desk and assemble.
- 7.15 – 7.45pm Mihi whakatau - call to gather, welcome, introductions & event opening.
- 7.45pm onwards Time to view the visual displays & greet each other.
- 8.00 – 9.00pm **Dessert and coffee / tea.**

#### Saturday 26 October

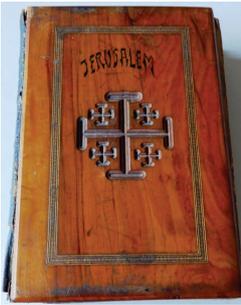
- 9.30 – 10.10am Informal gathering in the hall, meet & greet, viewing of the visual displays.  
**Morning tea.**
- 10.15am – 12.00noon Welcome.  
Morning session of stories, testimonies, reflections and waiata of praise.
- 12.00 – 12.30pm Cutting of the cake marking the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.  
Large and smaller group photos.
- 12.30 – 1.30pm **Lunch (provided for registrants).**
- 1.30 – approx 3.00pm Afternoon session of stories, testimonies, reflections and waiata of praise.
- 3.00 – 3.30pm **Afternoon tea** and conclusion of the afternoon session.  
**Your own arrangements for dinner.**
- 7.00 – 9.30pm Variety show of entertainers.  
Reflections and humorous anecdotes from Digby Wilkinson.  
**Light supper.**

#### Sunday 27 October

- 10.00 – 11.30am Worship service.  
Speaker: Grant Harris, Senior Pastor, Windsor Park Baptist Church
- 12.00 – 1.00pm **Pot-luck lunch** provided by the members of the congregations.
- Approx 1.30pm Conclusion of the lunch function.
- 2.00pm A visit to the old church building in Church St, our former Baptist Sunday School sites within the city, etc.

7 August 2019

## AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR RESTORATION OF A BIBLE DONATED TO PNBC IN 1928



In preparation for our *CBC 125* celebrations, we've been getting treasures or taonga out from our archives, including a Bible which was gifted just over 90 years ago to our Palmerston North Baptist Church (PNBC). There is quite a story behind this Bible.

In the front of this Bible, there is an inscription in beautiful calligraphy:

Sent by Miss M Moore for the (Palmerston North Baptist) Church on the occasion of the opening of the new church building. The cover is of olive wood from Mt Hermon and has the Crusader's Cross carved in the front. Miss Moore joined the Church in 1926 and left in 1928 as a missionary to the Jews in Palestine.

### Who was Miss M Moore?

Marion Moore was born in 1872 in Central Otago during the height of the gold rush days. After training as a teacher, she taught as an infant mistress at several schools in the North Island, including at Feilding and Central School in Palmerston North. With an intense interest in the welfare of her pupils and an expert knowledge of specialised aspects of teaching, Marion had an outstanding reputation in her profession. She did not marry.

Marion suffered from ill health in her later years and as a result, she retired from teaching in her mid-50s when in Palmerston North. While her family was Anglican, Marion formally joined our church in 1926 when she was baptised at the age of 54. Two years later and at her own expense, she attended the World Missionary Conference in Jerusalem. For the next three years, Marion engaged in fearless and strenuous missionary work including during the 1929 riots between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem. She also worked in Cairo and at the Soldier's Canteen at Ismailia (Suez Canal). In spite of declining health, Marion subsequently returned to the same region in 1936.

In Palmerston North, Marion held positions of leadership within several professional and Christian organisations, such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the British & Foreign Bible Society. She was also involved in the early days of the Bible in Schools League in the city.

At PNBC, Marion was a Sunday School teacher and at the annual Easter Camps held at the Showgrounds for members of the Baptist Young Women's Bible Classes, she was an extremely popular Camp Mother.

Widely known throughout New Zealand as a delegate and a speaker at conferences, Marion was held in very high esteem for her missionary and other work. She never spared herself in her strenuous service of others and using her talents and gifts for her Lord. Here at our PNBC, she was a much loved and devoted member and when she died in 1937, there was an exceptionally large attendance at her funeral. Her death was widely reported in newspapers around the whole country.

Marion inspired a next generation of missionaries, including Alyson Shearer who served in Lebanon and Syria. In turn, decades later at our church's centenary celebrations, Alyson connected with the next generation, Steph C, prior to her departure to the same mission field.

### Why is this Bible significant and why should it be restored?

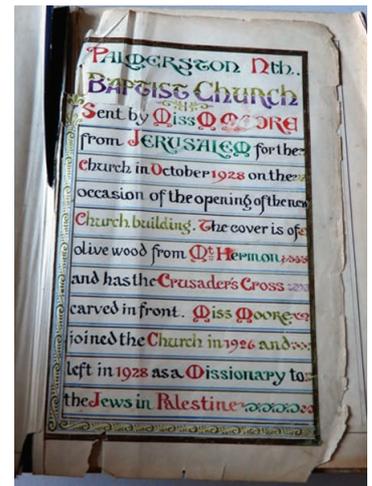
Due to water damage to our early church archives when in storage at our previous church site, this Bible is one of a few remaining items from our first few decades. It speaks of our early days and our church's story; people and connections; and of one of our early missionaries and the impact which she had.

Unfortunately, the Bible is in bad condition and a large amount of time would be involved if it was to be professionally restored. A leading book restoration expert has given us a quote of \$2,350 for the work. In his experience, it is a unique Bible and one which needs to be "saved". This one-off expense is not covered in this year's annual budget.

The book restorer has offered to put aside other work in order to restore our Bible in time for our Labour weekend celebrations. He has also generously extended to us the option of a 6 month payment, provided that we go back to him **by Sunday 25 August with a decision on whether to proceed with the work.**

Without wanting to take away any funds from our Missions Month appeal, **if you can help with a donation now or a pledge of money during the next few months, please email [cbc125@pnbc.org.nz](mailto:cbc125@pnbc.org.nz) or sign up on the 'CBC Give A Little' sheet at the Information Desk by Sunday 25 August.**

On behalf of the *CBC 125* team, thank you for your interest and any support in preserving our church's story for future generations.



**'CBC 125' Registration Form**  
**Palmerston North Central Baptist Church 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**  
**25 – 27 October 2019**

Please complete this form and return with payment by **Thursday 10 October** to:

- Palmerston North Central Baptist Church (Office hours: Mon – Thurs, 9.00am – 12noon, 1.00 – 4.15pm)  
190 Church Street (PO Box 7058), Palmerston North 4412; or
- scan (or save as a separate Word document) then email with *CBC 125* in the subject line to Barbara Allen at [barbross@inspire.net.nz](mailto:barbross@inspire.net.nz) and make payment by internet banking (see details below).

**My/Our Details:**

**PERSON 1**

Surname:  
 First Name:  
 Address Line 1:  
 Line 2:  
 Line 3:  
 Phone:  
 Mobile:  
 Email:

**PERSON 2:**

Surname:  
 First Name:

**My / Our connection and years of association with Palmerston North Central Baptist Church is/are:**

**My / Our Choices**

Please note that there is just **one flat registration charge of \$35 per person** for the weekend but for catering purposes, please tick the session/period which each person wishes to attend.

| FUNCTION   | PERSON 1  | PERSON 2 |
|--|-----------|----------|
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> evening welcome & social gathering   |           |          |
| Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> morning session, including morning tea (9.30 – 10.10am)  |           |          |
| Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> afternoon, including lunch @ 12.30pm & afternoon tea @3.00pm                                       |           |          |
| Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> evening (7.00 - 9.00pm) – entertainment & a light supper   |           |          |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> church service (10 – 11.30am) & luncheon (12noon – 1.15pm)   |           |          |
| <b>Registration cost</b> (one flat charge for the whole weekend)   | \$35      | \$35     |
| <b>Payment Method:</b> Cash / EFT-POS / Internet Banking /<br>Cheque (made out to 'Palmerston North Central Baptist Church') | Total: \$ |          |

Internet banking to: Palmerston North Central Baptist Church or PNCBC  
 Bank Account: **03-0726-0487399-090**  
**Particulars:** Your surname & initial(s)  
**Code / Reference:** CBC 125

... PTO

If you have special dietary requirements, please tick the appropriate box:

- Gluten free       Vegetarian       Vegan       Dairy free  
 Allergies (please specify):

**Billet Accommodation** – limited single and double offers are available. Please tick your request:

- Single       Double  
 Friday 25/10     Saturday 26/10     Sunday 27/10

Yes / No    Do you need transport from the airport or bus / railway station?

**Recollections**

- I / we would like to contribute a written memory or recollections from the (*please specify*) ..... time period at Central Baptist.

For further details of what is sought, please contact Elizabeth Shearer, [shearer@inspire.net.nz](mailto:shearer@inspire.net.nz), 69 Schnell Drive, Palmerston North 4412, 06 354 1951 or 027 626 6111

**Visual Images**

- I / we have printed or digital images of "historical" church activities at PNCBC – to be used within visual displays and possibly uploaded to the 'CBC 125' Facebook page or for a publication in the future.

Please email hi-resolution scans of printed images or digital files to Elizabeth Shearer (*as above*). Alternatively, photos can be posted to Elizabeth and they will then be returned after scanning.

**Deadline for images: September 13.**

**Old Church Visit, Etc - Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm**

- I / we would be interested in visiting the old church building, former Sunday School sites, etc.

**Donation Opportunities**

\$..... To mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I/we would like to make a donation (tax deductible) towards clearing the debt on the 200 Church Street building.

If paying by internet banking, please make a separate transfer from your registration and use the code of **200 CHURCH**.

\$..... I/we would like to make a donation towards restoration of the old church Bible. See attached story.

If paying by internet banking, please make a separate transfer from your registration and use the code of **BIBLE**.

**Other Former CB Folk**

We would be pleased to know of any other people who were formerly at Central Baptist. Please list their names and contact details (preferably email address) here:

We will acknowledge receipt of your posted or emailed registration by text or email.