

FROM A LOFT



AUGUST 2007



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Earlier this year I received a letter that advised me that “your business has beaten the odds.” The letter went on to explain that of the 6,000 businesses that were registered at the same time as EIDTS (in 1993) almost 4,000 have not survived.

Now in fact the LTh can be traced back much further than the founding of EIDTS. In 1874 the Anglican Board of Theological Studies was formed, and in 1910 the Anglican General Synod authorised the Board to issue certificates and diplomas. That was really the beginning of the LTh in New Zealand.

EIDTS, of course, has a more recent history, going back to 1992 when the Joint Board of Theological Studies which previously offered the LTh, was dissolved and in 1993 when the Ecumenical Board of Theological Studies was formed to offer the LTh by distance study.

EIDTS has therefore been in existence for some 14 years --- and has “beaten the odds.”

As I look back over that time I am impressed by how many of our staff and administration have been a part of our organisation for all of that time. Sue Haley, our Academic Registrar is one of those, and many of our students who have had Sue as their first point of contact, and their continuing “adviser”, will be grateful for those years of service.

Others who have been “with us” from the beginning include the immediate past chairperson of the Board, the Rev Jill van de Geer, and our present chairperson Major Kingsley Sampson. Jill has represented the Methodist Church on our Board over that whole time and Kingsley has likewise been a Salvation Army representative. Gillian Watkin is another who was one of the “founders” of EIDTS and has continued with us as a tutor and course writer.

John Latham who retired as chairperson of the Academic Committee at our AGM this year is another of the “originals”. You will find mention of John’s work in this newsletter, and we thank him for his lengthy and notable service.

This is a remarkable record. We have not only survived as a business. We have built on the vision of a small group of committed people who saw the possibility of developing a theological education that would be accessible and affordable and available to people throughout the country.

I remain grateful, and impressed, by the loyal and willing service given by so many people over such a long period of time. The vision of 1993 still burns strongly within EIDTS.

Bruce Hansen

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS 2008

Each year EIDTS offers several Residential Schools. In some cases the schools are a required part of the course. The cost of the school, including accommodation and catering, are met by EIDTS with the student required only to meet the cost of travel to and from the school. Numbers may be limited in some of these courses and entry will be determined on a “first come first served” basis. All LTh students are required to attend at least one Residential School as part of their diploma.

Our 2008 Residential Schools will be as follows:

Introduction to Biblical Studies

Thursday 24 January - Saturday 26 January
Stella Maris Centre, Wellington

Tutors: Kathleen Rushton & Margaret Eaton

This school is offered for students studying NT101 “Introduction to the New Testament” and/or HS101 “Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures”. The school is not a compulsory part of the course but is highly recommended. For students commencing their studies with EIDTS this will be an opportunity to meet your tutors, find out what is required of students studying with EIDTS, and meet other students in these courses.

MM205 Preaching-Homiletics

Tuesday 22 January - Friday 25 January
Adcroft, Christchurch

Tutor: Rt Rev John Bluck

This school is a compulsory part of the course and will form part of the assessment. Numbers will be limited.

MM204 Worship and Liturgy

Saturday 26 January - Wednesday 30 January
Adcroft, Christchurch

Tutor: Revd Dr Ken Booth

This school is a compulsory part of the course and will form part of the assessment.
Numbers will be limited

MM102 Introduction to Pastoral Theology

Wednesday 9 July - Friday 11 July
Bishop Julius Hall, Christchurch

Tutor: Rev Dr Mary Caygill

This school is a compulsory part of the course and will form part of the assessment.
Numbers will be limited

GRADUATES



Margaret Donald grew up in the Waikato where her father was a sharemilker. During those years the family moved around a number of communities where Margaret experienced life as part of a wide and extended family. That “family” also extended to Margaret’s life within the Methodist Church in the Waikato.

Margaret trained as a nurse and spent seven years at Middlemore Hospital. In Auckland Margaret met and married Bruce McKerras and together they spent three years in the Solomon Islands. Bruce worked as a carpenter but because she was a married woman Margaret was not allowed to work in her chosen profession as a nurse.

After returning to New Zealand, Margaret and Bruce raised a family of five and farmed dairy goats for some 26 years. She supported the children at school and sports, and after a further seven years study she gained an Advanced Diploma in Classical Homoeopathy.

Following the dissolution of her marriage Margaret found the time and freedom to deconstruct and then reconstruct her faith. In 1995 Margaret commenced her study with EIDTS and in 1998 she candidated for Presbyterian Ministry within the Methodist Church. She was ordained in 2004. Margaret’s wider work within the Methodist Church includes her role on the Mission and Ecumenical Committee, supporting mission work in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, where her heart has been all these years. She works as a Registered Nurse four days a week and has a ministry covenant with the Pukekohe Methodist parish.

Margaret’s ministry covenant commits her to ten hours ministry each week outside the church. As part of this Margaret has regular contact with over 100 women, and lesbian women in particular.

In the course of her studies Margaret took a three-year break from her LTh studies to study at the Ministry Training Unit of the Trinity Methodist Theological College in Auckland. There she completed her Diploma in Practical Theology.

Of her studies with EIDTS Margaret says “I began my study with EIDTS as a way into the study of women in the Biblical tradition and then into feminist theology. What began as a few papers then became a desire to continue study and to broaden my focus. I have travelled the road of de-constructing my taught patriarchal based faith, to long years of struggle with the rebuilding process, and now the construction of a practical ministry with women outside the Church. My study will continue as it surely is soul food. My thanks to everyone in EIDTS for your time, patience and encouragement over these many years.



Lorraine Berry grew up in Kaiapoi and attended the Methodist Church there with her family. She also taught Sunday School and sang in the choir.

After attending Rangiora High School Lorraine worked in the Post Office.

Lorraine married a schoolteacher and they moved to Auckland, Northland, Tuatapere and Murchison.

On returning to Christchurch in the 1990’s Lorraine attended the Holy Trinity Anglican church in Avonside. There she participated in the 36 week Discipleship Course. On completion of the course the parish priest suggested that anyone wanting to continue on with study might consider taking courses with EIDTS.

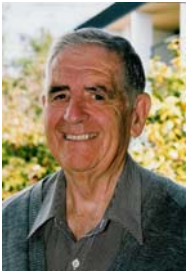
Lorraine took that advice and took her first course in 2002.

Lorraine now lives in Opawa and attends the Opawa Community Church. She also works as a volunteer at the Diocesan Anglican Archives.

Lorraine’s study has been interrupted from time to time by ill-health but she has persevered and has now completed completed her LTh.

Of her studies with EIDTS Lorraine says “I have enjoyed doing the EIDTS papers for my LTh. When I first started an LTh seemed a long way away. The first year took a lot of discipline. It was a long time since I had done any study and essay writing was a challenge. EIDTS was suggested for ‘one paper’ but after that I ‘had the bug’ and wanted to continue. Two of the papers that I have done have stood out – the Diaconate in the Church and the Trinity course. The Trinity paper really made me think. It meant a lot of soul-searching but I came out the other side with an even stronger belief and more certain of why I believed as I did. These studies have helped me to grow stronger as a person and in my belief. Thank you to EIDTS.”

GAVIN MUNRO



At the end of 2006 Gavin Munro retired as a tutor and moderator for EIDTS.

Gavin grew up and undertook his schooling in Wanganui. He attended Christchurch Teachers College before returning to Wanganui for his probationary teaching year. He then spent three years on "country service" as a sole teacher in schools in the Wanganui district.

Gavin moved to Dunedin to undertake his theological studies within the Associated Churches of Christ. He graduated with a BA and MA from Otago University.

Gavin was ordained in 1954 and served in parish ministry for eight years. It was during his time in the Ponsonby-Grey Lynn parish that he met and married Merle. In 1956 they moved back to Dunedin.

In 1958 Gavin completed his BD from Otago and in 1960-61 studied at the Yale Divinity School in the USA where he graduated with a Master of Sacred Theology degree.

In 1962 Gavin was appointed Principal of the Glen Leith Churches of Christ College in Dunedin and in 1971 when that College closed he was appointed to the staff at the Knox Theological Hall. In 1972 he became a full member of the staff at the Faculty of Theology at Otago University where he subsequently served for two three-year terms as Dean.

Over the years Gavin has been active in to the ecumenical movement and from the 1960s through to the 1980s was part of the study commissions for the Church Union negotiations in New Zealand. He was also on the Joint Working Committee of the Roman Catholic Church and the National Council of Churches.

At the end of 1990 Gavin "retired" and spent two years teaching at the Pacific Theological College in Suva.

Since 1997 Gavin has been a tutor and moderator for EIDTS. Gavin has been a diligent, careful and supportive tutor and many students will have benefited from his wisdom, encouragement and astute and perceptive comments. His retirement from EIDTS leaves a large gap and takes away one of our "pillars". We will miss Gavin from our tutors' training weekends and from our staff and we wish him and Merle a long and healthy retirement.

FEE INCREASE

At the beginning of this year EIDTS fees were raised from \$300.00 to \$350.00 per course. This decision was made on the basis that our fees had not risen for some ten years and over that time our costs had increased substantially. However as our students will know we were then advised that that increase was inadmissible as, by regulation, providers are not permitted to raise their fees by more than 5% in any one year.

As a result of that decision we refunded each student \$35.00 per course.

We were grateful for the positive feedback that we received from students, including the offer to return the refund to EIDTS as a donation. This response was usually made on the basis that students felt (a) that the increase was a justified one, and (b) that even at \$350.00 students felt that they were getting value for money.

EIDTS has now decided that we will make the 5% increase each year over three years (instead of the one increase of \$50.00). The fees for 2008 will therefore be \$330.00 per course.

We regret the need to raise fees in this way but in order to maintain our financial viability we believe that this increase is necessary.

GRADUATION ADDRESS

The speaker at the EIDTS Graduation in April 2007 was the Revd Dr Ken Booth. His address "The Focus of Worship" is an interesting reflection on what worship is about and how from the time of the Reformation we have moved to an emphasis and focus on the word as an objective truth and have lost the essence of corporate worship and its transforming nature. The full text of the address can be found on the EIDTS website www.eidts.ac.nz.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to the Rev Dr Laurie Barber who has completed the requirements for the Scholar in Theology with a dissertation entitled "The Godchildren: a History and Assessment of Co-operating Ventures amongst Five New Zealand Churches". This work, which reviews the negotiations for Church Union in the 1970s and the parishes that have grown from that, has now been sustained by the Academic Committee and Board and the conferment of the STh will take place at the Graduation Ceremony in March next year.

ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE THEOLOGICAL STUDIES AUGUST 2007



Back Row (l to r) Rev Dr Murray Rae, Rev Dr John Roxborough, Revd Dr Douglas Pratt, Ven Dr Ken Booth, Revd Bill Bennett, Revd Dr Howard Pilgrim, Dr Raeburn Lange, Rev John Daniel, Sr Catherine Jones

Middle Row (l to r) Very Rev Bruce Hansen, Dr Margaret Eaton, Rev Jill van de Geer, Rev Dr Judith McKinlay, Dr Peter Donovan, Rev Dr Keith Carley, Dr Kathleen Rushton, Ms Gillian Townsley, Rev Chris Honore, Miss Prue Neild, Rev Dr David Bell, Revd Anne Russell-Brighty, Professor Colin Gibson, Rev Dr Robyn McPhail, Rev Dr Harry Swadling, Mrs Barbara Bancroft, Rev Dr Terry Wall, Major Kingsley Sampson, Revd John Latham.

Front Row (l to r) Rev Janet Marsh, Revd Jill Keir, Ms Lorraine Berry, Revd Doreen Adamson,
Rev Margaret Donald, Rev Gavin Munro



Jill Keir has spent all of her life in Christchurch. She grew up in Merivale and attended St Mary's Anglican parish where she taught Sunday School and sang in the choir. Jill attended St Margaret's College and then studied at the Christchurch Teachers College where she graduated as a primary school teacher. Jill taught at Bishopdale School and then at Sumner where she had a class adjacent to

a class of deaf children. Jill decided to return for a year at Teachers College in order to qualify as a teacher of the deaf. She graduated with a post graduate diploma in teaching English as a second language and has also graduated with a Bachelor of Teaching and Learning from Canterbury University.

Following her marriage to Peter and the arrival of her three children Jill returned to teaching as an itinerant teacher of the deaf and later spent a term in the deaf unit at Linwood High School.

In 1990 Jill accepted a position at Middleton Grange School and has taught since then in various positions at that school. She is currently Dean of Year 8 with 99 children under her oversight.

For some years after their marriage Jill and Peter lived in Papanui where Jill led the AAW group in the St Paul's parish and was involved in a number of other parish activities.

Twenty years ago the family moved to Avonhead. There in the St Christopher's parish Jill led a house group for some 18 years and became involved in a number of leadership roles including being People's Warden and Chair of the Vestry.

In addition to her teaching, parenting and parish activities Jill undertook her LTh studies with EIDTS. This has meant studying in her holidays and fitting in her reading and assignments on top of all her other activities. Her husband Peter was always supportive of this work and encouraged Jill in her studies.

Jill was ordained as a deacon in 2004 and as a priest in March 2005. Just a few weeks after that her husband Peter died after a very short illness. Jill has carried on and completed her studies for the LTh.

Jill says of her studies with EIDTS "I joined EIDTS in 2000 because I wanted to deepen my understanding of my faith. I had always wanted to study theology and this seemed a convenient way of achieving that goal without having to be away from home to attend lectures. It was a year or so later that I felt called to ordained ministry so my studies took on a whole new meaning and purpose. I have appreciated the wide range of tutors and those who accommodated my studies to fit in with my teaching. I have also appreciated the tutors who have supported me so willingly during the difficult times I have encountered while on this LTh journey."



Doreen Adamson was born and grew up in Christchurch at North Beach – what is now called North New Brighton. There she attended the local Anglican Sunday School of St Andrew's in Marriotts Road. Doreen attended the North Beach Primary School and was a first day pupil at Aranui High.

Doreen met her husband John at a dance in Christchurch and after a quick romance they married and moved to Huntly. They have now lived in Huntly for 42 years and there they have raised their two daughters.

In Huntly Doreen has been involved with a number of organisations on a voluntary basis including the local kindergarten. She has held office in the Country Women's Institute and has been a Girl Guide Commissioner.

When she left school Doreen drifted away from the church and "went her own way." However after a number of difficult events in her life and in despair she again reached out to God. Twenty two years ago she had an experience that changed her life. Today she is the Priest-in-Charge of St Paul's Anglican Church in Huntly and the surrounding districts and is Co-ordinator of the parish's Friendship House Community Centre.

In 1997 Doreen attended the EIDTS Homiletics Residential School with a friend who had moved from Huntly to Ashburton. That friend became her mentor and encourager as she has made the journey to the completion of her LTh

Doreen took two years out from her EIDTS studies to attend the Trinity Methodist Ministry Training Unit in Auckland where she completed her Diploma in Practical Theology in 2003.

Of her study with EIDTS Doreen says: "In 1997 a friend encouraged me to accompany her to a Residential School in Christchurch. I found the paper to be so interesting and helpful that I decided to continue working my way through the rest of the fifteen papers. It was while working my way through "Introduction to the New Testament" that I was challenged by the inner voice of God to 'Go do it full time.' After some discernment that is what I did. The greatest challenge for me was the discipline of returning to study. That was something that I had not done since leaving school at 15. Thankfully, all the tutors I have had the privilege to be in contact with have given me the encouragement that I needed to complete the course. I also want to acknowledge the support and encouragement of my family who have often gone to social occasions without me as I have stayed at home to complete my work."

CHANGING THE CHAIR

The Annual Meeting of the Board in April saw the conclusion of the Rev Jill van de Geer's term as chair. The role of chairperson of the Ecumenical Board of Theological Studies is taken in turn by a member of each church represented on the Board. We thank Jill for the work that she has done as chairperson. She has seen us through a period when we have developed a new Quality Management System and reviewed and renewed many of our processes and documentation within EIDTS. The new chairperson is Major Kingsley Sampson of the Salvation Army. This will be Kingsley's second term as chairperson and we thank him for his willingness to serve in this role.

GEOFF HAWORTH

Welcome



With the retirement of the Revd John Latham as chairperson of the EIDTS Academic Committee the Board have appointed the Revd Dr Geoff Haworth as the new chair of the Academic Committee.

Geoff is an Anglican priest who is Associate Ministry Adviser in the Diocese of Christchurch and a Canon at the ChristChurch Cathedral. Geoff is also Ministry Enabler to three Total Ministry parishes within the Diocese. He took up these positions at the beginning of 2007. More recently Geoff has been appointed as the Archdeacon for Mid-Canterbury. He will be installed into this position at a service at the ChristChurch Cathedral on 6 September.

Geoff was a secondary school teacher before undertaking his ordination training at St John's College in Auckland. He holds an MA and an MPhil from Waikato University and a BTheol from the Melbourne College of Divinity.

Geoff served as Priest Assistant in the Takapuna parish and as Vicar at St Andrews, Pukekohe before taking up the position of Vicar of Papanui in 2004. In 2004 he completed his PhD from Auckland University with a thesis on the impact of the Second World War on the Anglican Church in New Zealand. This work will be published in November under the title "Marching as to War? The Story of the Anglican Church in New Zealand during the Second World War". He has previously published a booklet on the Anglican attempt during the 1960s to revive the Order of Deaconesses in "Anglican Deaconesses in NZ: The 1960's Revival" (1997) and the centennial history of the St Paul's Anglican Church at Buckland near Pukekohe (2000).

We are pleased that Geoff has agreed to take up this position with EIDTS and we look forward to sharing with him and benefiting from his wisdom and guidance.

JOHN LATHAM



At the Annual Meeting of the EIDTS Academic Committee in April this year John Latham tendered his resignation from the Committee after fourteen years as the chairperson.

John was born in Wanganui. He completed a BA in French and Mathematics from the University of New Zealand before heading overseas in 1960, travelling to Westcott House, Cambridge, via China and Russia and six months as ADC to the Revd Tubby Clayton, founder of Toc H. John undertook his theological studies at Westcott House and was ordained in the Southwark Cathedral in 1962. He served in the parish of Camberwell before being appointed as chaplain to Trinity College, Cambridge. John was awarded an MA from Cambridge and completed his teaching qualifications.

In England John married Jill and together they set up a children's holiday programme in his old parish using Cambridge undergraduates and local teenagers to provide a programme for 8-12 year old children. That programme is still continuing.

John and Jill returned to New Zealand with their five children and John returned as chaplain to his old school, Wanganui Collegiate. There he and Jill adopted two more children. Again they set up programmes involving children in the community, particularly from within the local Maori community.

In 1997 John took up a position at Hagley High School in Christchurch. This gave a wider variety of students after a solely boys' boarding school. Hagley attracted a wide range of students who varied in age, gender, gender orientation, and ethnic and socio-economic background. In his twenty years at Hagley John taught mathematics and developed a 6th form "World Faiths" course and also held various administrative posts. In addition he completed an M.Ed by part-time study and also undertook non-stipendiary clerical work in the Little River and St Luke's, Kilmore Street, parishes.

In his "retirement" John has undertaken interim ministries at Rangiora and Holy Trinity Avonside, parishes. Now he and Jill are education advisors with the Non-Enrolled Truancy Service which traces and works with young people who are not on a school roll.

Along with all his other commitments John has made the time to chair the EIDTS Academic Committee. We have appreciated the commitment and the insight that John has brought to that position. For himself John says that he has felt privileged to have worked with such an interesting and committed group of people who have produced the results that EIDTS has achieved over the past 14 years.