

Kete Aroha o Waipounamu

Theology on the Edge

Sunday 28 to Tuesday 30 January 2024

**Aldersgate, 309 Durham Street North,
Ōtautahi Christchurch**

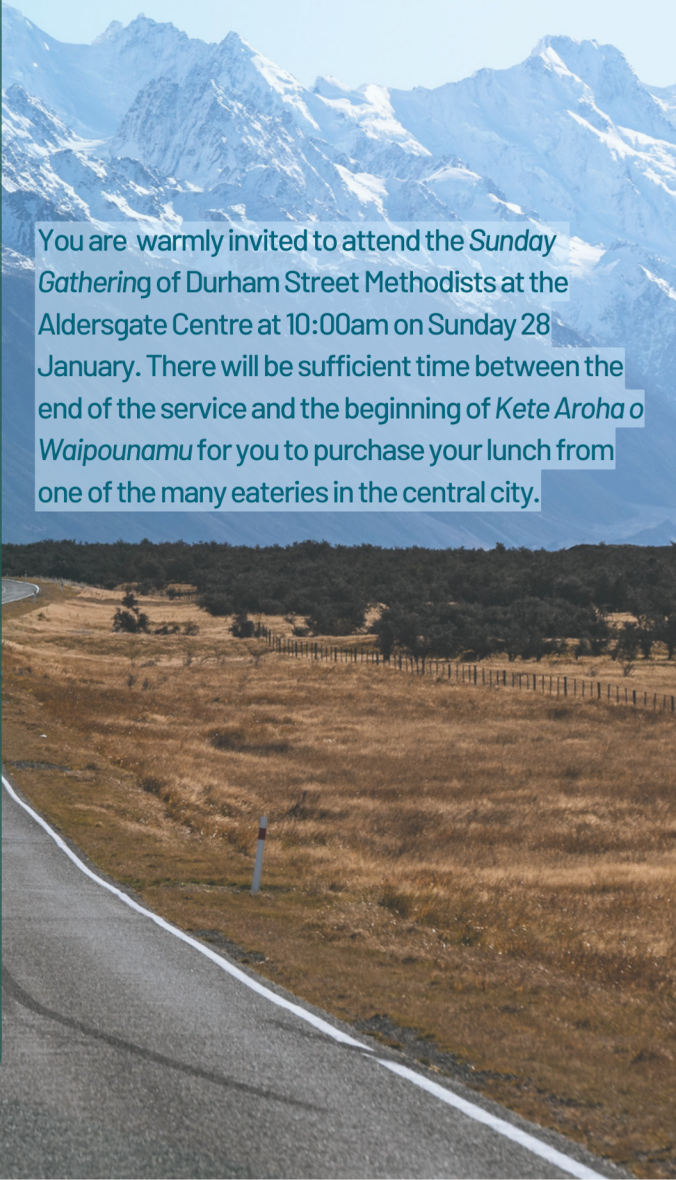


THE PROGRAMME

Sunday 28 January

- 2:00pm Gather for refreshments
- 2:30pm Welcome and Introduction
- 3:00pm **Keynote 1 - Dr Peter Lineham: Christianity on the Margins: globally & locally**
We live in a new and rapidly changing world. We need to understand and respond to that changing context. Doing church differently might also change how we approach the old questions.
Questions & small group discussions
- 4:15pm Refreshments
- 5:00pm **Keynote 2 - Rev Tara Tautari: Rekindling the Vā of Papatūānuku**
Who is Papatūānuku to you? Using this question as our starting point, we will begin to weave lived experience with our Church's vision for a decade on climate justice.
Questions & small group discussions
- 6:15pm Dinner
- 7:15pm **Keynote 3 - Dr Kathleen Rushton, RSM: Participating with Jesus in Completing the Works of God in an Unfinished, Evolving Universe I**
In this, the first of her sessions, Rushton promises to explore the cosmology, anthropology and Christology in the prologue of the Gospel according to John. Rushton will focus on John's Prologue as setting the tone, the language, introducing the characters, and giving clues for the gospel story that follows.
Questions & small group discussions
- 8:30pm Close of Day One Reflections

You are warmly invited to attend the *Sunday Gathering* of Durham Street Methodists at the Aldersgate Centre at 10:00am on Sunday 28 January. There will be sufficient time between the end of the service and the beginning of *Kete Aroha o Waipounamu* for you to purchase your lunch from one of the many eateries in the central city.



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Monday 29 January

9:00am Gather for refreshments

9:30am Morning Reflections

9:45am **Keynote 4 - Dr David Tombs: Jesus Experience of sexual abuse: Biblical Perspectives**

Drawing on recently published work, Tombs will examine the biblical basis to recognise Jesus' experience of stripping and forced nudity as a form of sexual abuse. He will also ask whether the texts allow for the possibility of other forms of sexual abuse which are not explicitly recorded. How could such an important part of Jesus' experience stay hidden in plain sight for so long, and what can the churches learn from this new awareness of this 'theology from the edges'.

Questions & small group discussions

11:00am Refreshments

11:30am Choice of 4 Workshops:

• **Looking at the Second/New Testament through a Jewish lens**

We sometimes forget that Jesus was born a Jew, lived as a Jew, and died a Jew. What is it like looking at some of his teachings through a Jewish lens? This workshop will be led by Rev Janet Marsh (most recently at St Andrews Motueka Uniting Church).

• **Theology at the Edge: Being Church – but differently**

An exploration – research-based, drawing upon knowledge and experience within Te Hari – into being/doing/creating Church and Mission in contemporary ways, shapes and forms. Also with a focus on 'the how', drawing upon the experience of Kiwi Church. This workshop will be led by Rev Darryn Hickling (Rangiora & Woodend Methodist Parish) and Heather Simpson (Kiwi Church).

• **Exploring Mental Health through pastoral and theological perspectives**

From their respective backgrounds in older person's psychiatry and population mental wellbeing, Dr Matthew Croucher and Dr Lucy D'Aeth will propose some models and theories which might be helpful for church communities looking to be inclusive and prophetic around issues related to mental health.

• **Liturgy at the Edge**

An explanation of the crafting of words and ritual in a changing and uncertain context – both environmental and social. This workshop will be led by Rev David Poultney (Dunedin Methodist Parish).

12:45pm Lunch

2:00pm **Keynote 5 - Dr David Tombs: Jesus Experience of sexual abuse: Pastoral Perspectives**

In the coming year, churches will need to confront the painful truths and disturbing lessons of the Royal Commission on Institutional Abuse. This session will build on the biblical foundations of Tombs' previous session to explore the pastoral significance of Jesus' experience and how it can support churches to make a better pastoral and theological response to sexual abuse.

Questions & small group discussions



Kete Aroha o Waipounamu

Theology on the Edge

Sunday 28 to Tuesday 30 January 2024

Monday 29 January (continued)

3:15pm Refreshments and Loitering-with-intent (free time to Walk & Talk)

4:15pm Repeat of 4 morning Workshops

5:30pm Drinks & Dinner

7:00pm **Keynote 3 - Dr Kathleen Rushton, RSM: Participating with Jesus in Completing the Works of God in an Unfinished, Evolving Universe II**
"And the Word became flesh and pitched his tent in us" (John 1:14). In this, the second of her sessions, Rushton seeks to uncover and discover how we are called to participate with Jesus in "finishing the works" of God by hearing both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor in God's evolving, unfinished universe. Her explorations will also have relevance in anticipating the lectionary readings from John's Gospel for Lent and Easter in 2024.

Questions & small group discussions

8:15pm Close of Day Two Reflections

Tuesday 30 January

9:00am Gather for refreshments

9:30am Morning Reflections

9:45am **Keynote 7 - Dr Peter Lineham: Life on the Edge: discipleship in a new world**

We live in a new and rapidly changing world. We need to understand and respond to that changing context. Doing church differently might also change how we approach the old questions.

Questions & small group discussions

11:00am Refreshments

11:30am Concluding session: Closing Reflections, Evaluations & Farewells

12:30pm Lunch



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Our Keynote Speakers:

Dr Peter Lineham, MNZM is a respected national commentator on religion and is Professor Emeritus of History at Massey University, based in Auckland. His research has focussed on religion in Aotearoa New Zealand life and history, and he has published extensively on the subject. Although his earliest work was on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British Protestant sects, his recent work has focussed on broader trends in contemporary religion, including his book *Destiny: The life and times of a self-made Apostle*. Through his active involvement in the Christian Research Association and the Church Life Survey, and drawing on the enormous data base he has compiled, he has greatly contributed to our sober understanding of religious trends and their implications in Aotearoa. He was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2019 for services to religious history and the community.



Dr Kathleen Rushton, RSM is a member of Nga Whaea Atawhai Sisters of Mercy (RSN) and lives in Ōtautahi Christchurch where she has spent most of her adult life. Following a period of work as a secondary school teacher and youth worker she studied at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and the Brisbane College of Theology. She was awarded a PhD on John's gospel by Griffith University in 2000. She was a lecturer at the Catholic Institute of Aotearoa New Zealand (now Te Kupenga - Catholic Theological College) and a tutor of the Ecumenical Institute of Distance Theological Studies. Currently, she is a Teaching Fellow of Trinity Methodist College, Auckland. Her 2020 book, *The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor: Hearing Justice in John's Gospel*, focuses on both the Roman and Revised Common Lectionaries as does her gospel reflections in *Tui Motu Interislands*. She is usually found in her garden, tramping, working with groups or researching to further her interest in making sound biblical scholarship accessible and linked to everyday faith and spirituality.



Dr David Tombs is Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues and the Howard Paterson Professor of Theology and Public Issues at Otago University since January 2015. He is a lay Anglican theologian and has a longstanding interest in contextual and liberation theologies, and is author of *Latin American Liberation Theologies* (Brill, 2002). His current research focusses on religion, violence, and public theology, and especially on Christian responses to gender-based violence, sexual abuse and torture. Previously David was a Lecturer in Theology at the University of Roehampton London (1992–2001). From 2001–2014 he lived and worked in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as Assistant Professor of Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation for the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin.



Rev Tara Tautari is Māori and comes from Te Taitokerau. She is Ngatihine on her father's side and Te Whakapiko on her mother's side. Tara serves the Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa as its General Secretary.



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Payment

If you **register and pay by Wednesday 17 January 2024**, the Early Bird fee is only \$150, which includes all meals except breakfasts. Anybody registering or paying after 17 January will need to pay \$175. Charges have been able to be kept low because of the generous support of the Methodist Prince Albert College Fund.

All payments need to be made to the - Central South Island Synod bank account: 02-0800-0765001-00 - including KAW and your name in the Reference fields. An enrolment form also needs to be completed which is automatically provided to you if you email kaw@aldersgate.org.nz.

Travel & Accommodation

You are responsible for making your own travel and accommodation options.

Airport buses #29 and #8 are the most economical way into the city from the airport and both routes have stops within a block or so of Aldersgate. Google maps or the MetroInfo.co.nz website can lead you to the best busstops. (If you do not have a Metrocard, you will need cash.) Airport shuttles, Ubers & taxis are also available.

Free parking is available on-site especially outside of business hours. There is plenty of paid (and some limited free) on-street parking, and in several parking sites within a block or so of Aldersgate. Most require you to sign up to a parking software, so leave extra time to do this the first time you use them.

Make your accommodation bookings now! There are a number of reasonably priced accommodation options in the central city but they will go fast, for example: *Hotel Give* (ex-YMCA) (9 mins walk to Aldersgate) - offers en-suite rooms as well as shared bunk accommodation; *Wyndham Garden* (2 mins walk); *Fino Hotel* (3 mins walk); *Focus Motel* (6 mins walk); *Carmore Hotel* (9 mins walk); *Ibis* (9 mins walk); *Christchurch City Hotel* (11 mins walk); *Admiral Motel* (16 mins walk); *The Bealey Quarter* (20 mins walk), etc. Booking sites can be helpful, but often the best rates are when booking directly with the accommodation. Also check out Airbnb options, these can be even more economical especially if you are sharing.

If you are interested in billeting with locals, please indicate on the Registration Form, and we will contact you. If you have not indicated on the Registration Form you can also contact kaw@aldersgate.org.nz or phone 0274 362 698.

Make sure you have registered and paid by Wednesday 17 January to get the lower earlybird rate. Registration or any enquiries about the programme to kaw@aldersgate.org.nz or phone 0274 362 69.