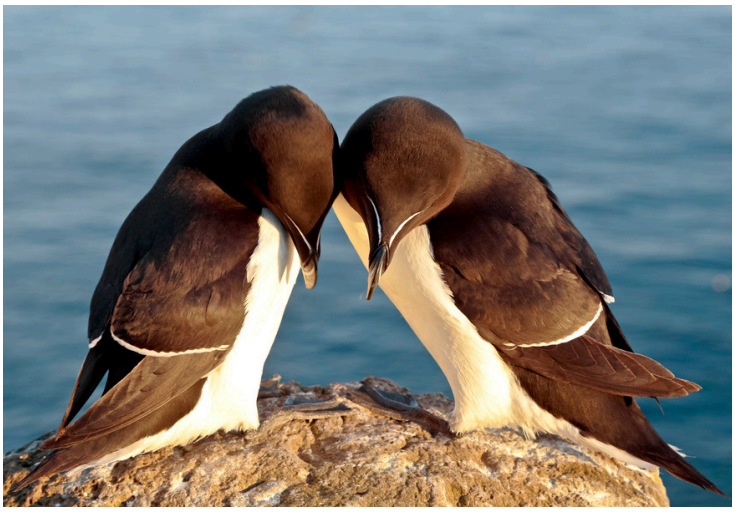
EFM Matters

September 2025



What's happening at EfM

I have spent a large chunk of the last two months working on the new curriculum for EfM to make it more meaningful to participants in New Zealand. The biggest change has been to the year 3 Church History programme. In the past this has looked at the history of the wider church and New Zealand participants have then done an additional 10 to 12 weeks on the history of the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Next year the NZ material will be incorporated in the year 3 programme.

The new thirty-six week year 3 programme has:

- 9 weeks looking at the church in Aotearoa
- 18 weeks looking at the wider church
- 9 weeks of material shared with all years.

Some New Zealand material has also been added to weeks looking at the wider church.

The *Church in Aotearoa New Zealand* will still be offered as a stand-alone course

Michael Crawford-Butler

In this Newsletter:

Call for photos

2026 Course fees

Book List for 2026

Mentor Training

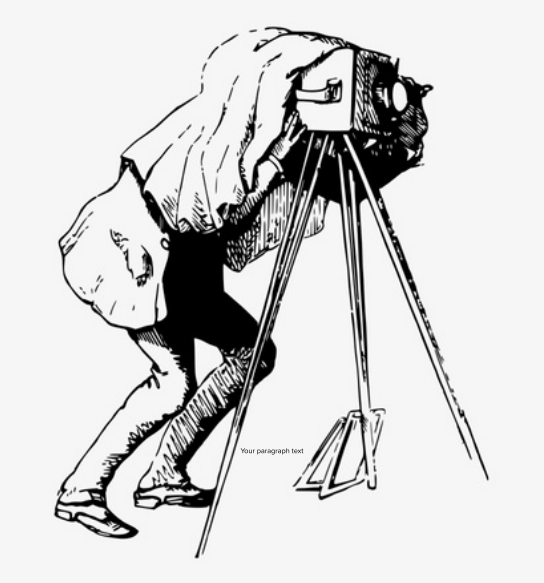
EfM 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Trainer's Corner

February Forums

Sacred spaces of Wellington

A Call for Photos Please



Do you have photos of people, events, things related to EfM?

When I took over as administrator of EfM I received a car load of boxes with books and forms, packaging material, but not one single photos. There were copies of all the material, except the first version from the late seventies/early eighties. But no photos.

I would love to make the newsletter more visual. I am also planning a newsletter dedicated to telling our story. I have quite a lot of text. But no photos.

So if you have photos of anything EfM related that you are willing to share, can you please contact me,
Michael Crawford-Butler educationforministrynz@outlook.com

2026 Course Fees

The fess for EfM courses for 2026 will be:

Full Year Course (years 1 to 4 and Wide Angle)	$200
The Church in Aotearoa New Zealand (11 or 12 weeks)	$90
Faith Grounded in the Whenua	$40

Faith Grounded in the Whenua is available for use by parishes without an accredited EfM Mentor. If your church is interested in running this course, please contact the Administrator.

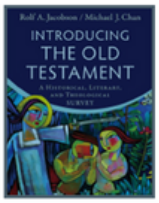
In 2026 Education for Ministry full year courses move to an online learning platform. This means there will be no printed Reading and Reflection Guide but material is provided through a browser that works on all computers, and most tablets and smart phones.

Please distribute this newsletter amongst your networks in the community.

2026 Book List

Next year we have a new curriculum. Only 1 book (Powell's New Testament) has been retained. Also Years 1 to 4 have been given different titles but the focus is still the same. For New Zealand Year 3 has been substantially amended from what is offered in other countries to make it more focused on the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

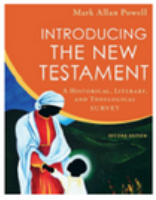
Year 1: Who Is Israel?



Introducing the Old Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey by Rolf A. Jacobson & Michael J. Chan

Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter, Expanded Second Edition by Lindsay Hardin Freeman.

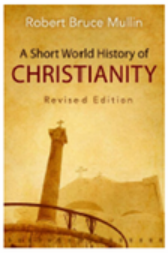
Year 2: Who Is Jesus?



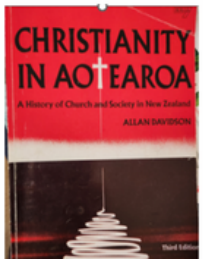
Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey by Mark Allan Powell

Mind the Gap: How the Jewish Writings between the Old and New Testament Help Us Understand Jesus by Matthias Henze

Year 3: Who or What Is the Church in the World?

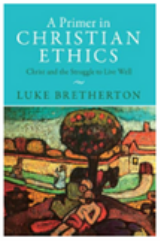


A Short World History of Christianity by Robert Bruce Mullin

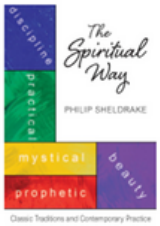


Christianity in Aotearoa
Third Edition
by Allan Davidson
Available from
EFM for $50 plus
postage

Year 4: Who Are We to Be in the World?



A Primer in Christian Ethics by Luke Bretherton



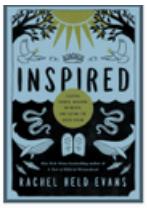
The Spiritual Way: Classical Traditions and Contemporary Practice by Philip Sheldrake

See next page for all year and wide angle books

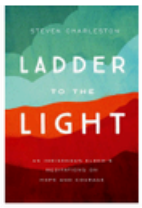
Please distribute this newsletter amongst your networks in the community.

2026 Book List (contiuned)

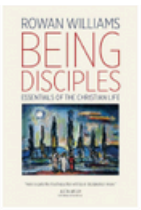
Wide Angle



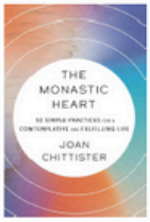
Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again by Rachel Held Evans (2018)



Ladder to the Light by Bishop Stephen Charleston (2021)



Being Disciples: The Essentials of the Christian Life by Rowan Williams (2016)

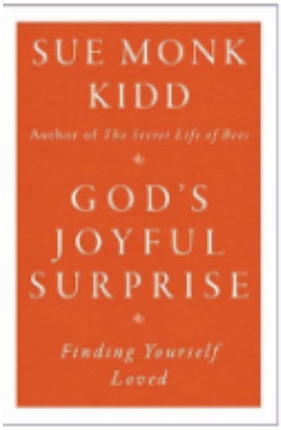


The Monastic Heart: 50 Simple Practices for a Contemplative and Fulfilling Life by Joan Chittister (2022)

Church Meets World by Winnie Varghese (2016)

All Years

This book is used in weeks 26 and 27 by all years. Groups are encouraged to invite former members of their group to join them for this book and also for week 18 which uses video material.



Sue Monk Kidd. 1989. *God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved.* Harper San Francisco.

Mentor Training -
1pm Friday 28 November to 5 pm 29 November 2025
143 Lincoln Rd, Carteron

EfM (Education for Ministry) is a programme of study devised primarily for lay people (though ordained folks benefit from participating too!). It provides four years of study material at a tertiary level, in a learning environment where the reading and reflection undertaken by the individual members of the group is then reflected on together at weekly group meetings and applied to everyday life and ministry.

EfM is a way to continually deepen the journey with God in the company of a group which provides challenge and support and co-learning opportunities. It has both academic rigour and a holistic, grounded way of applying that rigour to the realities of 21st century life, living into what it means to be disciples of Christ in our particular time and context.

To support the life of EfM groups and provide for the possibility of new groups forming, we need to have mentors who are trained in the skills needed to facilitate these co-learning groups.

A mentor is not an expert, or a tutor, but a co-learner with group members who has the added group skills to ensure that a safe, honest, non-judgmental learning environment is fostered.

If you think that you might have what it takes to be a mentor, and/or are interested in stepping into the adventure that is EfM, fill in the registration form on page 12 and come along to the training event in Carterton. There is a link to the form on the EfM Website at efm.org.nz/events.

Those attending the training will be asked to complete a 2-hour online training module. This gives basic information about EfM and asks about your skills in group leading so that training can be focused. Registrations close on 1 August 2025.

Coming to the training does not commit you to being a mentor! Come, taste, and see!

If you have questions or want more information, email Educationforministrynz@outlook.com

EfM 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Leanne Munro and Jean Malcolm represented New Zealand at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Sewanee. Here is Leanne's report on her trip.

What are the memories of a conference I attended 2 months ago? The people Jean and I met. Christopher Halliday and Helena Thornton from the UK, David from Canada, singer Lilli Lewis and her powerful voice, Rev Canon Dr Stephanie Spellers, Chris our driver studying to be an Episcopal priest – who witnessed the January 6 attacks on the US Congress from his office there – the amazing staff of the School of Theology and EFM, and each person I shared a meal or conversation with.

There were the Eucharists at the Chapel of the Apostles to open and close our time together. The opening one with Right Rev Phoebe Roaf, bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee presiding, was even more memorable thanks to Very Rev Joy Rogers' most engaging sermon connecting Baptism and EFM to rabbit holes and Wonderland (priceless) - beginning our theological reflection!

The plenary sessions – the first, Rev Canon Dr Stephanie Spellers of The Crossing in Boston and author of *The Church Cracked Open*, used recently as an interlude book, who had us standing to sing :

"Arise and shine
for your light has come
And the glory of the lord
Has dawned upon you." (Jean has transcribed this!)

before sharing her research among the 'nones' and 'dones', where she asked Millenials "What do you want churches to know?" Their response can be encapsulated: "Will the real Christians please stand up?" This will be released as a book in November *Church Tomorrow? What the 'Nones' and 'Dones' Teach Us About The Future of Faith*. Amongst it all, her question to us: what scripture most inspires you to follow Jesus – which after a short break had us into small groups theologically reflecting!

Other sessions were on the 5th Revised Curriculum; a chance to hear from the group that worked on it (trainers from across the US as well as staff); The History and Practice of the Daily Office, from Rev Hilary Bogert-Winkler (School of Theology Historian) and Sister Hannah Winkler (prioress of the Community of St Mary and no relation to each other!).

There were breakout workshops on a variety of topics – how to use the new curriculum using Pathwright; sharing our short course resource *Faith Grounded*

(continued next page)

in he Whenua; a session on Paul and the Gospels by Prof Paul Holloway, professor of Classics and Ancient Christianity at The University of the South, where he explored the interaction between Paul's writings and the gospels as presented by Mark and Matthew.

Then there was the chance to engage in theological reflection.

The privilege of helping Jean present a workshop on Faith Grounded in the Whenua (which was in every persons "Swag Bag"!) was another highlight. It was profoundly humbling to observe its effect on a group of people from the USA as they shared first who their people were, and then how they related to the land – there was at the end of each of those rounds a powerful sense of 'grounding' by the Holy Spirit. I experienced, in a very different way, the power of claiming who we are as people in a way that respects each one. A real gift. Many of the folks at the workshop came up afterwards and thanked us.

Frequently spoken of was the importance of the small-group model that is the core of EfM. EfM groups know, as Stephanie Spellers put it, what it is to love and know others, to keep a covenant. To grow to love people you did not choose.

Plenty to share, to listen to, to be inspired by. This report doesn't do it justice. If possible it would be good to have both Joy's sermon, and Stephanie's address on our website and encourage EfMers to visit it. (Note - Joy's sermon is at https://educationforministry.substack.com/p/sealed-by-spirit-and-marked-as-christs)

On the Sunday morning at 8am, the overseas contingent of Christopher Halliday (UK) and Jean and I were able to meet with Kevin Goodman and work through some of our concerns. I will be joining Mike in a cohort using the new curriculum, beginning in September. At the suggestion of the mentor, I'll sit with the new year 4 material to get a handle on it.

The value of being there was being on the spot in person, able to sit and share easily concerns and questions about the new curriculum. To listen and understand why the changes were made; to be refreshed and re-enthused and to discover shared concerns and challenges around numbers and personnel.

Ven. Rev Tricia Carter begins her essay in the Collected Essays publication with the whakataukī "He aha te mea nui o te ao? Māku e kī atu, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata!"
Sharing in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations in person reinforced this.

See the photo on the next page

Rev Leanne Munro(chair, EfM NZ), Rev Kevin M. Goodman (Executive Director, EfM)
Dr Helena Thornton (UK), Rev Jean Malcolm (board and trainer EfM NZ)
and Fr Christopher Halliday (UK)

Please distribute this newsletter amongst your networks in the community.

Trainer's Corner

Community Building

Here is an idea for a 'starter' for the Community Building section of the meeting when you are running a zoom group.

1. The week before, invite people to find a graphic (a photo, an image, a symbol, a piece of art) which captures something that has interested them from their reading and learning for the week.

2. Ask them to put their chosen image up as their zoom background for the next meeting.

3. As the Community Building activitity for the next meeting, using "mutual invitation", have people share something brief about why they chose that image.

Please distribute this newsletter amongst your networks in the community.

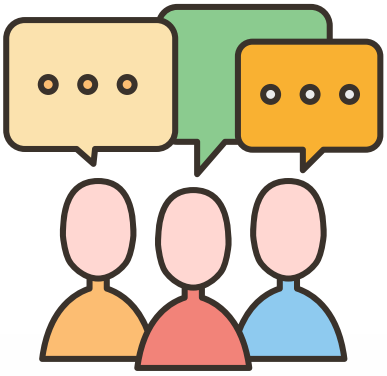
February Forums

On Sunday evenings 1 February and 15 February, EfM are hosting Zoom forums. Each forum will begin with a presentation and then there will be a time of discussion and reflection around the questions raised.

Presenters:
1 February - Sir David Moxon

15 February - Rev Jean Malcolm & Rev Leanne Munro. Jean and Leanne were EfM New Zealand,s representatives at the 50th anniversary celebrations in Sewanee Tennessee.

More information will be in the December Newsletter.



E.F.M

Exploring Faith Matters

Education for Ministry
Administrator: Michael Crawford-Butler
62 Herewini St, Titahi Bay, Porirua 5022
Phone 021 246 0672
educationforministrynz@outlook.com

SACRED SPACES
of Wellington

Guided visits through Wellington's spiritual history...

Experience sacred spaces of Wellington which draw on centuries of faith and tradition. Choose one or a small number or take a European style pilgrimage.

TOUR SCHEDULE & FULL DETAILS

Thursday October 30

12 noon
Old St Paul's 24 Mulgrave Street.
"ESTABLISHMENT & EXOTIC CHURCHES IN WELLINGTON"
A Talk by Peter Lineham, emeritus professor, Massey University.

1.30pm **WELLINGTON CATHEDRAL OF ST PAUL** 2 Hill Street.Built:

3pm **CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART** 40 Hill Street

4.30pm **ST ANDREWS ON THE TERRACE**, 30 The Terrace

Friday October 31

9.45am **CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH**
46 Boulcott Street

11am **ST MARY OF THE ANGELS**
17 Boulcott Street

12.15-12.45pm
Unity Books 57 Willis Street.
WHY DOES WELLINGTON HAVE A REPUTATION AS GODLESS? talk by Peter Lineham. No charge.

1.30pm **BETH AL ORTHODOX JEWISH SYNAGOGUE & HOLOCAUST CENTRE**
80 Webb Street

3pm **THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**
19 Marion Street

4.30pm **ST PETER'S CHURCH**
211 Willis Street

5pm
'WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT RELIGION IN WELLINGTON? A talk by Peter Lineham.

6.15pm St Peter's Garden Room, 211 Willis Street. **A PIE AND A PINT** (and other refreshments)

Saturday November 1

9am **ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
170 Willis Street

10.15am **CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM** 197 Willis Street. Morning Tea available.

11.15am **WESLEY CHURCH**
Taranaki Street

1.30pm **ST JOSEPH'S**
152 Brougham Street

2.45pm **GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**
3 Hania Street, Mt Victoria.

4pm **SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**
7 Moncrieff Street, Mt Victoria

PRICES:
$15 for each visit
(*to assist with organising and the costs of host venues*)
Book 5 and more visits at $12 each.
Book more than 10 and all visits @ $10 each.
Book by September 30 for Early Bird discount
20% off your total booking fee.

WELLINGTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL
18 OCT - 9 NOV 2025

Architecture • Art • Music • Inspiration • Stillness

Education for Ministry NZ

Exploring Faith Matters

Registration Form

Basic and Inservice Mentor Training

Friday: 1pm, 28 November - Saturday: 5pm, 29 November, 2025

143 Lincoln Rd, Carterton

Purpose of Training

- To offer training in the EFM curriculum both for those attending Basic Training and for Inservice mentors
- To provide guidance in using Volume D of the latest Reading and Reflection Guide (RRG), particularly Unit 1 (Spiritual Autobiography and Listening) and Unit 2 (Theological Reflection as a Life Skill)
- To provide an opportunity for mentors to develop group skills and to share resources

Name	
EFM Group and Year/s (if currently mentoring)	
Previous EFM involvement	☐ (**If yes**, please outline previous involvement eg as mentor or group member, graduate, group mentored, year/s completed, etc.
Email address	
Postal Address	
Phone numbers (home and cell)	
Dietary restrictions / requirements	
Transport	☐ I do require help with transport
Accommodation	☐ I will arrange my own accommodation overnight **Friday** ☐ I need EfM to arrange accommodation overnight **Friday**

- The training will be led by EFM Trainers: Raewyn Berkahn and Ailsa Cornell.
- New trainees, and mentors fulfilling the regular in-service component will all be expected to attend for the **entire event.**
- The training will begin at 1pm on Friday 28th November, and finish at 5pm on Saturday the 29th.
- Dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday will be provided free of charge. Accommodation will found for particiapants if necessary but please make your own arrangements if you can.
- EfM may be able to provide grants to cover the travel costs if that is an issue.
- All participants will be required to do some **reading** and **preparation before** the Training Event.

The resources for this reading and preparation will be provided when you have registered.

Preparation for the training

All participants will be required to do two hours of online study to be completed by Sunday 23 November. The online study will be available from about 12 November. Details will be sent to you once it is set up.

Basic Training

Mentor training prepares a mentor for the task of starting work with an EFM group. Since the beginning of a group is a very important time, basic training covers the initial stages of a group's life together. The mentor is trained to handle the administrative work connected with an EFM group, to present the first few sessions to a new group prior to doing theological reflection, and to understand better the process of theological reflection. This training will also include familiarisation with the EFM curriculum.

Participants are given feedback before the close of the training event regarding their readiness to begin an EFM group without further training.

Once trained and accredited to begin a group the mentor receives a start-up kit for use in forming a group.

The Start Kit contains:

- Mentor registration form and letter of agreement
- Group Enrolment Form
- Participant enrolment forms and letters of understanding
- Information about the new EFM curriculum and resources
- Posters and information brochures

All participants in this training event will be required to prepare a short presentation of a portion of their Spiritual Autobiography, which will have been prepared before the event based on the resources provided by email.

Inservice Training

Inservice training is normally a requirement for all active mentors each six months after Basic training for the first year, and annually thereafter.

Current mentors/inservice training – the preparation is the same as the above. In addition, participants please bring:

- a short session of worship (5-10 minutes) that you have led with your EFM group. Please bring 15 copies. (We will use one or two of these at the training, and talk about worship, sharing our offerings amongst us as a take-home resource)
- questions or issues relating to your current groups.

Questions?

Contact Michael Crawford-Butler
021 246 0672

Please return registration by email by Friday 7 November, 2025 to:

EfM NZ Administrator (Michael Crawford-Butler)
educationforministrynz@outlook.com