

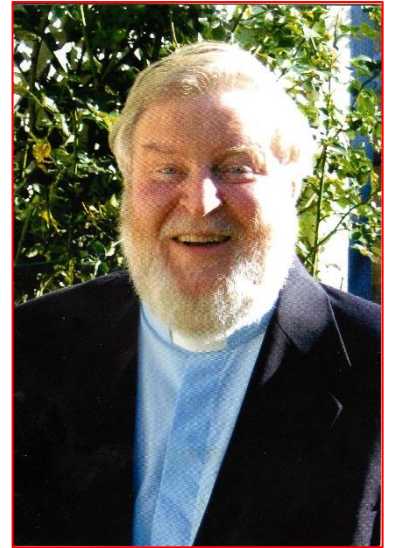
Reverend Canon Colin George Wright 1939 - 2021

Chaplain of Wellesley 1991 - 2000



Colin was born at Mataura, Southland in 1939 and educated at Mataura Primary School, Invercargill Technical College, Glen Leith Bible College, and the University of Otago.

Due to his father's ill health, Colin left school when he was 15 and served an apprenticeship as a carpet layer and worked for local farmers. At aged 20, he began his theology studies and became a minister, working first for the Associated Churches of Christ in Invercargill, then moving to become an Anglican Priest at the Dunedin Cathedral. Colin did more studies over the years (including a couple of years in London) and qualified as a Hospital Chaplain and a Counsellor. He worked as a chaplain in several hospitals in Otago, the Bethlem Royal and the Maudsley Hospitals in London, and the Porirua Psychiatric Hospital.



His general interests included reading, listening to musical performances (highlights were concerts from the Royal Albert Hall, or the organ in St Paul's Cathedral in London), gardening, fishing (nowhere else was as good as Southland!), Meccano, stamp collecting and travelling. Colin was a very friendly person and able to touch people in a genuine way. He could have a good conversation with nearly anybody; he was very concerned for vulnerable people; health care issues in hospitals and the community; insufficient housing, unemployment, bullying and racism. He served on various committees in the community and worked hard looking for ways to help New Zealand become a responsible and caring society.

Colin was a much-loved member of the Wellesley and Eastbourne Community and served as the Anglican Vicar of Eastbourne from 1989-2001 and the Chaplain at Wellesley College from 1991-2000. Whilst in his role as Wellesley Chaplain, he also served on the School's Board of Trustees. He was very proud of his association with Wellesley and always liked the opportunity to boast about what a great school it was! He was quite an orator and liked to perform, not only from the pulpit but in appearances with the Eastbourne Butterfly Theatre Group. He had a wonderful presence, but what really stood out was the warmth and the humour he brought to any occasion.

He was appointed a Canon of the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul in 1990 and Canon Emeritus in 2000. After retiring from his roles in Eastbourne, he moved to Nelson with his wife Joy. Sadly, Colin passed away on December 25, 2021, peacefully at The Wood Retirement Village, Nelson, aged 82 years. Colin was the dearly loved husband of Joy, loved father of Chris and Sally, Sukhita and Will Hutchison, Celia and Lachlan. Loved Grandad of Sam, Hannah, Jacob, Amber, Luke, and James. His funeral was held in early January 2022 at the Nelson Cathedral.

'Amat Victoria Curam' – Victory Through Care.
Colin - you will always be a cherished part of Wellesley.