



**St Andrew's Trust  
for the study of  
Religion and Society**

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# **Human Flourishing**



**St Andrew's on The Terrace  
Wellington, New Zealand**

**Thursday April 6, 12:30 - 2pm**

## **Human Flourishing:- A group of younger people answering the question ‘what needs to happen to create a flourishing NZ?’**

### **Speakers are:**

**Morgan Godfery** is a writer and political commentator. He is based in Wellington and specialises in Māori politics. Morgan has worked for the Hon. Parekura Horomia and Rino Tirikatene MP and he edited the Bridget Williams Books set of essays titled *The Interregnum* which was published last year. The book gathered ten of New Zealand’s sharpest emerging thinkers to debate ‘morbid symptoms’ of the current moment, “when the old is dying but the new cannot be born”. Essays address issues from precarious work to climate change, and to discuss what shape change might take, from ‘the politics of love’ to post-capitalism. Although about New Zealand the book anticipated the Trump and Brexit phenomena by discussing whether we are also approaching “that ambiguous moment between society-wide discontent and political change” in New Zealand.

Morgan will talk about *The Interregnum* - how did we get here, what can we expect - and then focus on what a progressive program looks like under these conditions.

The *Interregnum* is available from Bridget Williams Books  
<http://bwb.co.nz/books/interregnum>

**Laura O'Connell Rapira** is Action Station’s Director of Campaigns. She is also the Co-Founder of RockEnrol - a volunteer-run organisation dedicated to building and activating political power for young people. In her work with ActionStation she is dedicated to taking people on a journey that takes them from small beginnings to increasing confidence in citizenship working with political advocacy and campaigning. ActionStation’s current campaigns include building support for improving mental health services, including in Christchurch, and against sexual violence. Often ActionStation works alongside other advocacy

organisations to develop and run a campaign. The People's Commission on Public Broadcasting is an example. ActionStation is working with the Coalition for Better Broadcasting on a crowdfunded and people-powered investigation to make New Zealand's public broadcasting and media work better for New Zealanders. The Commission is accepting submissions and is holding public meetings in centres across New Zealand.

Laura will discuss this journey and how ActionStation's 2017 campaigns will build towards a vision of a flourishing and fair New Zealand, with courage and compassion at its core. ActionStation believes in putting everyday people and our precious planet first, and building a society and economy that truly serves us. This involves seeing flourishing through the lens of citizenship - a robust democracy powered by informed and connected citizens and guided by accountable leaders.

You can find out more about ActionStation and the current campaigns on the website [www.actionstation.org.nz](http://www.actionstation.org.nz)

People's Commission on Public Broadcasting  
<http://www.makeourmediabetter.org.nz/>

## **Christina Curley, Social Entrepreneur**

Upwards' Founder Christina has an extensive background in digital marketing, online education, and website creation across New Zealand, San Francisco and the UK. However, her biggest interest is in helping young people: from childhood grew an enormous sense of care for others and the seeds for social enterprises Upwards and Savvy Up were sown.

From July - September 2015 Christina was part of the [Lifhack Flourishing Fellowship](#), a cohort of people working in Aotearoa New Zealand to encourage youth wellbeing. Upwards' development was further strengthened by this work, and in November 2015 Upwards was one of three projects through Lifhack's four-week startup accelerator, [Te Kōanga](#).

Lifehack works at the intersection of wellbeing science, design, technology and social entrepreneurship to improve the wellbeing of young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. Lifehack is an initiative from the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project

More information about Lifehack and Christina's work on Upwards

<http://lifehackhq.co/flourishing-fellowship/>

<http://lifehackhq.co/te-koanga-begins/>

<https://www.upwards.co.nz/>

### **Thursday 28 April 12.30 – 2.00 Winton Higgins and the Politics of Decency**



The tide of xenophobia, misogyny, prejudice and callousness towards 'the Other' is rising. This is the politics of indecency, so how do we create a sea wall that will turn it back? How do we respond forcefully with a politics of decency? What sort of communities and civil society do we want to build? How can we flourish as humans, living in harmony with each other and with nature?

Winton has been a Buddhist practitioner since 1987, and a teacher of insight meditation since 1995. He has contributed to the development of a secular Buddhism internationally, and is a senior teacher for Sydney Insight Meditators and Secular Buddhism in Aotearoa New Zealand. He also teaches an annual course at the Aquinas Academy in Sydney on various ethical, social and political topics.

Born in 1941, Winton grew up on a sheep and cattle station in outback NSW, and then in Tennant Creek in central Australia. He was an

academic at Macquarie University, Sydney, and the University of Technology Sydney. Cultivating a wide range of intellectual interests, three came to dominate: social-democratic theory and practice, especially the Swedish experience 1928–76; genocide studies, with special reference to the Holocaust; and standardisation.

His most recent book is the novel Rule of Law. His website is at [wintonhiggins.org](http://wintonhiggins.org), and much of his dharma writing can be found at [secularbuddhism.org.nz/resources/documents/#wh](http://secularbuddhism.org.nz/resources/documents/#wh).

– This meeting has been organised jointly by [St Andrew's Trust for the Study of Religion and Society](http://satrs.org.nz) [satrs.org.nz] and Wellington's secular Buddhist community, [One Mindful Breath](http://onemindfulbreath.org.nz) [onemindfulbreath.org.nz]

### **Friday evening and Saturday May 5/6 – Human flourishing Seminar**

The seminar will be part presentation and part workshop with a series of keynote speakers on the Friday evening.

The STEM focus of the current tertiary education focus (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) needs to be converted into STEAM by ensuring the arts subjects retain their legitimacy and reach in the tertiary sector. Dr Heidi Thompson, Associate Professor School of English, Film, Theatre and Media will discuss the role of the humanities as a legitimate, necessary subject for study as part of Human Flourishing.

**Thursday June 8 12.30- 14.00 – Seminar follow up.**

**Speakers to be confirmed.**

**The Courage to Act: July to November 2017**

This theme was inspired by the 50 anniversary of Lloyd Geering's Heresy Trial in 1967 and his courage and the consequences for him in speaking about faith in a new and different way. We seem to be moving rapidly into a world that is darker and more threatening than any time since the Second World War and believe the time is ripe for a new discussion about the meaning of the courage to act in 2017. (Incidentally October 31 is the 500 anniversary of the day on which Martin Luther posted 95 "theses" on Wittenberg church which precipitated the Protestant Reformation another time of courage and change.)

## **Other events on in Wellington**

**"Keeping Faith in Politics" Election 2017 Series, which begins next Friday, 31 March at the Wellington Cathedral of St. Paul.**



### ***Seeking the Common Good in a World of Self-Interest***

**31 March, 6:00pm** Refreshments, **6:30pm** Lecture

Revd Dr Eleanor Sanderson, (Canon Theologian, Diocese of Wellington)

Venue: Wellington Cathedral of St. Paul's (Thorndon)

[Find out more information about this event.](#)

### ***The Least and the Last in a World of Growing Inequality***

A Public Issues Conversation with RNZ Journalist Megan Whelan

**27 April, 6:30pm**

Venue: JJ Murphy's Pub (Cuba Mall)

- Max Rashbrooke (author of *Wealth and New Zealand*)

- Eric Crampton (The New Zealand Institute)
- Jon Hartley (World Vision)

[Find out more information about this event.](#)

### ***Protecting the Planet in a World of Ecological Crisis***

**25 May, 7:00pm** Refreshments, **7:30pm** Roundtable discussion

Venue: The St John's Centre, (Corner of Willis and Dixon Streets - CBD)

- Jonathan Boston (Victoria University of Wellington, IGPS)
- Catherine Iorns (Victoria University of Wellington Law and 365 Aotearoa)

[Find out more information about this event.](#)

### ***Liberation and Restoration in a World of Mass Incarceration***

**29 June, 7:00pm** Refreshments, **7:30pm** Panel discussion

Venue: Central Baptist Church (Boulcott Street - CBD)

- Chris Marshall (Victoria University of Wellington, Restorative Justice Programme)
- Tom Noakes-Duncan (Victoria University of Wellington, Restorative Justice Programme)

[Find out more information about this event.](#)

### ***Welcoming Strangers in a World of Global Migration***

**27 July**, more details soon

### ***Honest Leadership in a Post-Truth World***

A Hustings Event with MP's from the Major Parties

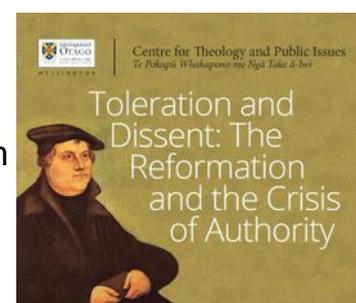
**31 August, 6:00pm** Panel discussion

Venue: St. Andrews on the Terrace (30 The Terrace - CBD)

Members and Ministers of Parliament TBA

[Find out more information about this.](#)

There is a free public lecture with **Amy Burnett** on the **5<sup>th</sup> April, 7 pm St John's in The City**. It is part of marking the **500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation** and is a collaboration with the University of Otago. The lecture title is: **Toleration and Dissent: The Reformation and the Crisis of Authority** 7.00pm at St John's in the City, in the Church building.



Professor Amy Burnett  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
William Evans Fellow, University of Otago

Wednesday 5 April 2017 | 7pm,  
St John's in the City Presbyterian Church



# NOTICES

**Fire Drill:** In the event of fire please exit by the doors marked and gather in the car-park on the south side of the Church.

**Earthquake:** In the event of an earthquake please follow the advertised procedure “Drop, Cover and hold.”

Once the Earthquake is over exit by the marked doors and gather in the car-park on the south side of the Church.

**Toilets:** These can be found on the ground floor of the adjacent Conference Centre. The entrance is up the ramp on the north side of the church. An accessible toilet is available.

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## Hearing Loop

The Church **is fitted** with a hearing loop.

## Donations

There is no charge for the lecture but we would greatly appreciate a donation to assist us with costs.

Thank you and enjoy the lecture.

Visit our **website** at [satrs.org.nz](http://satrs.org.nz)  
for **enquiries** or to be added to the email list [admin@satrs.org.nz](mailto:admin@satrs.org.nz)

