

**Intro for Sexual Abuse in the Church Seminar
Friday 10th June 2022**

Tena koutou katoa

Tēnā koutou ngā rau rangatira mā e nohonoho mai nā i roto i te āhuatanga o te rā. Tēnei te mihi ki a koutou katoa.

Nau mai, haere mai, e hoa ma, ki te Kareti o Hoani Tapu me te Kareti o Weteriana o Aotearoa. Nau mai.

Welcome everybody to St. John's Theological College, and to this public seminar, which is jointly hosted by Trinity Methodist Theological College and St. John's.

I would first like to invite Te Aroha Rountree to open our hui in karakia. Tena koe Te Aroha.

Karakia

Thank you Te Aroha for opening our hui.

Tena koutou katoa. My name is Paul Reynolds and I work at the college as a kaiako/lecturer and also a Research Fellow for Te Piri Poho, which is our 3-Tikanga Research Centre.

I bring apologies from Katene, and he also wants to assure everyone of his and the Colleges prayer and support for this hui and kaupapa.

This seminar is an important space for an honest conversation about sexual abuse in our Church. This is a time where our state and our church institutions are being scrutinised as to the care they have provided over time to people throughout Aotearoa, New Zealand. These state and church institutions are now being made to account for this care, or lack of care. There has been much trauma that has resulted for many people who have been through state or church institutions. This trauma can also be intergenerational.

This seminar came about after discussions between the speakers and myself about the need for us as a community to have open and honest conversations about sexual abuse. This is the start of those open and honest conversations. We intend to have other hui around this important kaupapa later this year, and next year.

I recognise that people in this room may have experienced sexual harm. Sexual harm is difficult to talk about. It might be distressing or triggering for some, or uncomfortable and threatening for others.

I acknowledge that for some of us within this room, some of this content may trigger something within us. Please do feel free to leave the room at any time if you need to. There is a lovely grassed area to walk on just past the carpark, otherwise the chapel is also open and available for you if you wish to have a quiet space. Additionally, for anyone who is experiencing distress, we have our College Chaplain here, who will be able to talk to you in private if you wish.

Can I introduce Rev Shona Pink-Martin to you all, our College Chaplain. Shona will be available for you at the back of the room if you wish to go and talk to her

privately. Additionally, we have made available copies of a sheet with a list of support services that are available to you if you need this.

I want to turn now to the artwork that is in front of the room. I made a call to some of my colleagues to help set this room up to ensure that it feels warm, welcoming, open and safe. Matua Tom Ihaka came back soon after with a truck load of beautiful artwork that he created, and he gathered from his house and his garden to bring along. All of this artwork is made with aroha and wairua. The warmth and spirit embodied in this artwork gives us a moment to pause, and to appreciate, and to feel the aroha and wairua that have been the inspiration and building blocks of these beautiful creations. There have been others who have also come to ensure that our space is safe and warm.

I also want to let you know that there are a number of people who were not able to be here today but would like to hear the presenters speak. We are recording the presentations today for this reason – we will be recording the presenters only. Any of the discussion and questions that we have today will not be made available for viewing. Those who want to see the recording of the speakers will need to make a request to do so.

At the end of the seminar, if people still have questions or would like to speak to the presenters, they will be happy to speak with you afterwards.

In terms of health and safety while we are here onsite at the College, if there happens to be an emergency where we are required to leave the building, the gathering place is in the carpark just outside the main doors. The bathrooms are just in the foyer which you entered.

Our speakers will each be speaking for 20 minutes, with 5 minutes for questions straight after. If you do not get time to ask your question, please bring them up at the end, or speak directly to the speakers afterwards. The order of speakers today will be:

2.00 – 2.15pm Paul will open with karakia & facilitate, with resource list provided on entry, & Rev Shona Pink-Marton available to talk to if reqd.

2.15 – 2.40pm Professor David Tombs

2.40 – 3.05pm Rev Dr Miryam Clough

3.05 – 3.25pm Break / afternoon tea

3.25 – 3.50pm Dr George Zachariah

3.50 – 4.15pm Dr Emily Colgan

4.15 – 4.30pm Questions & close

Finally, can I please ask that if you haven't already, could you put your phones on silent.

I would now like to invite to speak:

Prof David Tombs, Director of Centre for Theology and Public Issues, the University of Otago

Rev Dr Miryam Clough, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, St. John's Theological College

Dr George Zachariah, Wesley Lecturer in Theological Studies, Trinity Methodist
Theological College
Dr Emily Colgan, Senior Lecturer, Trinity Methodist Theological College & Co-
Director of the Shiloh Project