

Bishop Julius Hall – 2020 update

Bishop Julius (BJH) is a Hall of Residence established in 1917 by Bishop Churchill Julius. He started it for young women wishing to train as teachers in the Church Schools. Since then, it evolved into a modern, co-ed facility, providing accommodation to students of the University of Canterbury.

Principal, Jo Addison has been in the position since November 2018 and comes from a background in tertiary education. With 15 years in the sector, she thrives on creating an unforgettable student experience.

This year BJH welcomed students to the Hall with a weeklong programme of events. There were opportunities for students to get to know each other and become familiar with the University and Canterbury. One of the formal events was a long-standing tradition, the First Service. Guest Speaker, Rev'd Spanky Moore, the University Chaplain, spoke about life in a busy world and challenged students to think beyond what they may be used to. Spanky's charisma and entertaining life stories engaged the students, leaving them with much to think about.

After Orientation, BJH had an incredible event's plan for the year. Unfortunately, Covid-19 interrupted the otherwise full semester and students returned home just 5 weeks after arriving.



Eight students remained at the Hall whom we got to know very well. To keep everyone busy, the team came up with a strict regime of daily fitness, social events and fun challenges. Who would have known, time flew! The small group of students and staff who shared this experience together all agreed that it was something they would cherish for a long time.

In Board news, after a long service on the BJH Board, Janet Baldwin retired. Christchurch Lawyer, Tim Trollope is now leading the Board with a focus on facilities. One of the recent changes that has been made, is the swap of the Common Room and Study Space. This has made a positive change in day-to-day activities for students and supports a new and exciting social programme.

Although 2020 has been a challenging year so far, the team are now excited to welcome students back for a fresh start in semester 2.

Tim Trollope *Board Chair*

Jo Addison *Principal*