

# Arcady Hall 2025 Annual report for the Synod Yearbook.

## 'Acknowledging the Past, Preparing for the Future'

Work continued throughout 2024 on strengthening the 'Arcady' brand within the University of Canterbury (UC) student accommodation market. Integral to this brand is our continuing commitment to the vision and values of the Hall's founder, Bishop Churchill Julius. Arcady Hall's (formerly Bishop Julius Hall) mission is to foster an inclusive community that celebrates diversity, values academic success, and supports students to form meaningful and lasting relationships. To ensure the Hall remains an attractive – and relevant – destination for future students we have also continued to invest in our staff, our facilities, and our residential life programme.

In February 2024, we welcomed 170 new residents to the Hall, including our seven Residential Assistants (RAs). The RAs, who are senior UC students, are key members of the Arcady pastoral care team and help other staff to run Hall activities. Last year's residential life programme included a wide range of activities centred around four key pillars: Live (Life Skills), Learn (tutorial and study skills), Connect (social events) and Support (volunteering, community support). Key events throughout the year included Study Skills 101, academic tutorials, Master Chef competition, Budgeting 101, pancake evenings, karaoke and movie nights, chess and pool tournaments, Baking for Boomers (making and delivering cup-cakes to a nearby retirement home), as well as hardy annuals such as the Arcady Ball, and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Re-connecting and re-engaging with our alumni was a key focus for the Hall in 2024 as we are keen to rebuild a strong and supportive Bishop Julius/Arcady alumni network. To this end, we established an alumni CRM database, and introduced new, alumni scholarships for applicants seeking accommodation in 2025. We also hosted three alumni events, including a morning tea to celebrate Bishop Churchill Julius Day. The current Bishop of Christchurch, the Right Reverend, Dr Peter Carrell attended this event and spoke about Bishop Churchill Julius's significant contribution to the Hall and the wider community.

Ensuring our facilities are well-maintained is an ongoing challenge, given that most of our buildings are now fifty years old. Over the 2024-2025 summer break the Mabel Hendrie accommodation building was completely refurbished and redecorated and we hope to give the Cranmer building a similar makeover this summer.

Looking ahead, key issues for the Hall include ongoing cost pressures, notably high food and energy costs, the increasingly competitive nature of the UC accommodation market, and changing student expectations.

*Professor Sonia Mazey  
Principal, Arcady Hall*