

Circle



Connecting Anglican Women



'Unconditional love'

Refresh Renew Rejoice

This three-year theme was announced at the 2021 NZAAW Triennial Conference, Christchurch.

Refresh: ‘I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.’
Jeremiah 31:25

Renew: ‘Those who trust in the LORD will find new strength.’
Isaiah 40:3

Rejoice: ‘Rejoice in the LORD always, and again I say, rejoice.’
Philippians 4:4

These theme words were prayerfully chosen to help provide a focus. Please use them in any way you find helpful.

Judith Mackenzie

(The NZ President has the privilege of choosing the three-year theme for her term. - Ed)

Contents

FEATURES

- 6 Bishop David reflects
- 9 Pastoral Care
- 11 Poverty
- 13 Our City Missions

EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Editorial note
- 5 From the President
- 8 Did you know...
- 16 Social Concerns
- 17 AAW prayer
- 18 Overseas & Outreach
- 21 Catalyst Corner
- 35 Submissions/Subs

DIOCESAN UPDATES (A to Z)

- 22 Auckland
- 23 Christchurch
- 25 Dunedin
- 26 Nelson
- 28 Polynesia
- 29 Waiapu
- 31 Waikato & Taranaki
- 32 Wellington



Cover: Bishop David writes. **“...Rembrandt’s masterly painting of the prodigal son’s father expressing unconditional love.”** (Due to copyright issues we have used Rembrandt’s 1636 etching.)



Editorial note

The Prodigal son experienced poverty and abject hunger. Our guest writer, Anna Macdonald, gives us raw understanding about the realities of living with poverty. Special thanks to Stuff's Senior Editor for allowing Anna to condense for us, within contractual guidelines, her original article. (See p11)

This is complemented by Jo Cotton's Pastoral Care article (p9) and the Food Bank update/food poverty issues from our City Missions. (p13-15).

Anglican Family Care in Dunedin highlights the need for Caregivers in our community. (p10)

Raewyn Dawson, our Overseas and Outreach Convenor, reminds us of our own pledge to give financially for a canteen for Suva students (p18) and highlights Anglican Missions' three appeals that were launched in Lent and the Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal. (p18-20)

Julie Walker, our Social Concerns Co-ordinator, walks with fellow parishioners to raise funds for HomeGround. (p 16)

- **Did you know?** – A roadmap towards *agape* Love. (p8)
- **Catalyst Corner** – Fay Deam challenges us in her article (p21)

Tūngia te ururua kia tupu whakaritorito te tupu o te harakeke.

'Set the overgrown bush alight and the new flax shoots will spring up.'

(i.e. Dispose of whatever hinders progress in all that is done, so that what is desirable may indeed grow and bear fruit.)

From the President

Our guest episcopal contributors:

Our Diocesan bishops continue to honour us with their thoughtful articles.

We must congratulate Bishop David Coles, retired Bishop of Christchurch, on his recently celebrated 80th birthday. The article by Bishop David is about love, art galleries, the works of great artists and the connection with spirituality. (See p6)

Our country has been targeted by excessive rain causing flooding and landslides in Auckland, Northland and Hawkes Bay. Recently, a tornado caused a lot of destruction to homes in the Tasman area. We have been able to help in a small way giving money from our NZAAW Emergency Fund.

Please pray for people whose lives have been affected by these unusual weather conditions, that they may be given strength to rebuild their homes, which may take a long time.

This issue of Circle is the last one for the Christchurch team and I wish to thank especially, Roberta, Raewyn and Pat for their willingness, time, talents and working together as a team during the last three years. It has been greatly appreciated. Well done!

We send the incoming NZAAW President and her colleagues in the Waiapu Diocese, best wishes for the next three years.

Blessings
Judith Mackenzie

Bishop David reflects again

Unconditional love



We have a wonderful art gallery in Christchurch, and whenever I have a spare hour, I slip in and check

out the latest exhibitions. Some exhibitions provide seats where you can just sit and look at length at the art. Some exhibitions also provide cushions, but as a new Octogenarian, I think those are better for children! Sitting on the floor is a bit problematic these days!

Henri Nouwen is probably my favourite spiritual writer, and I have most of the many books he wrote. He was particularly interested in the works of the great artist

Rembrandt, who, like Nouwen, also came from Holland.

Nouwen wrote a book he called “The Return of the Prodigal Son” in which he describes how he spent long hours just gazing at this famous Rembrandt painting which is housed in The Hermitage in Russia’s St Petersburg.

For three years before seeing the original painting, Nouwen had meditated on the deep, Christlike compassion expressed in the face of prodigal’s father, and also the other figures in the huge painting – six feet wide and eight feet high! Nouwen describes the amusing encounters he had dealing with various art gallery staff during his

four-day visit to just sit and gaze at this great work of art, sitting on heaters and being moved on, then being given a comfortable chair, but chided for moving it to a better place to get the light, then hustled out by the cleaning lady at closing time! But in spite of all that, in his extended visit he just gazed for hours at Rembrandt's masterly painting of the prodigal son's father expressing unconditional love. **He said, "I also sensed the hope that through Rembrandt's masterpiece I would one day be able to express what I most wanted to say about love."**

And he did: "What makes us human is not our mind, but our heart, not our ability to think, but our ability to love."

(Henri J.M.Nouwen, "The Return of the Prodigal Son – a story of Homecoming" Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd, 1994)

Retired Bishop David Coles was Bishop of Christchurch 1990-2008.

He took up the position of parish priest in Whakatipu, Queenstown, for some years after that. Educated in Auckland, he was ordained in 1969, and worked in parishes in the North and South Islands of New Zealand as well as in Manchester, England. A very approachable person, Bishop David has been strongly supportive of women's ministry and the AAW.



*Rembrandt's 1636 etching.
Credit: Rawpixel*

Did you know...

Stations of the Cross - a roadmap towards *agape* Love

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion for many centuries because they offer a particularly vivid way of following in the steps of Jesus on the way to the Cross.

This devotional practice can allow a time of stillness, into which God's quiet voice might be heard.

Those who are attentive are delighted and surprised to find that frequently God does speak to them.

A set of notes might be provided which include a

Scripture reading appropriate to each station and a suggested prayer response.

Although the Stations of the Cross may have a particular role in Easter devotions, they can form part of a contemplative journey at any time.



Pastoral Care

**Jo Cotton, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
St Barnabas Church, Fendalton, Christchurch**

Pastoral Care is the loving response to people in need—whoever they are and whatever the need.

At St Barnabas we take Jesus' command to love one another seriously and seek to reach out to all people with the love of God. We try to do this in practical ways. We have developed a number of caring ministries designed to

support people in need and contribute to the wellbeing of the most vulnerable within our community. We have pastoral care initiatives for children, young people, young adults, migrants, the elderly, and men and women of all ages.

We think of it as a natural outworking of our faith in God.

A Pastoral Care Acrostic Poem (Author unknown)

Perceptiveness of people and the issues that they bear,
Attention to the trappings and the wrappings present there,
Sincerity in listening and reflecting what we hear,
Tenderness of presence to those hurting and in fear,
Openness in hearing what is different from our view,
Reverence for the treasure of a life which seems askew,
Affection for the beauty beneath the surface of the skin,
Love to dare and time to share for the soul alive within,
Compassion in the presence of a badly mangled life,
Acceptance of the anger, the depression born of strife,
Respect for all humanity and the baggage it must bear,
Enable us to share the journey as we offer **Pastoral Care.**

Anglican Family Care Dunedin



Jane Hutton
Practice Manager – Anglican Family Care

Anglican Family Care is a social services agency that has served vulnerable Otago tamariki and their whānau since 1970.

Our purpose is to provide social and therapeutic support to whānau from diverse backgrounds, to restore wellbeing and enhance their social resiliency. These services include parenting and therapeutic programmes to those living in challenging circumstances, including neglect, isolation, substance abuse, mental health issues, poverty and family violence across Otago.

For over fifty years, Anglican Family Care has supported Dunedin whānau through our Caregiver service, providing

respite care for tamariki.

We are at a critical point with this service as pool numbers are at their lowest point, which has meant that sometimes the service has been unable to meet the needs of whānau.

The caregiving relationship is very special, and really rewarding, you just need to be open to learning, and honest about how things are going. For further information about how you could become a Caregiver, visit AnglicanFamilyCare.org.nz

Poor people exist in reality

Anna Macdonald

Some of us are thrust into poverty and some of us are born into entrenched poverty.

Food scarcity is one of the greatest issues facing society. The idiom of living below the breadline comes from the Great Depression of the 1930s. Now included in the dictionary; “a breadline is a line of people waiting to receive food given by a charitable organisation or public agency.” It is a measure of poverty and it is embedded in our lives.

Those of us living on a benefit are advised by the Government to buy fruits and vegetables from a market rather than a supermarket but it is rare that any of us are

able to afford any fresh fruit or vegetables from anywhere.

Well-meaning people are unaware of their condescension when they recommend buying bulk staple foods.

We obsessively budget, accepting we often only have \$40 for a week’s worth of groceries because food money is our only flexible expense. People think they are teaching us baked beans are cheap, tinned tomatoes are useful and we are encouraged to use the leftovers found in our refrigerators. There are no leftovers. We know exactly what is in our fridges.

Inflation is the current price of sausages.

It is unrecognised we budget well and it is not unusual for our rent to be greater than 60% of our income. When we do secure employment, our benefit is cancelled from our first day of work and we are

expected to live off savings until our first pay cheque. What savings!

We remain poor and far too often hungry. This is our reality.

The original version of Anna's column was published on Stuff. It can be found here:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/opinion/131571438/some-of-us-will-never-regain-what-we-lost-we-live-with-a-soulcrushing-shame>

Suggested items for food parcels: Shelf stable ready meals (dried pasta complete meals, rice risotto etc.,) rice, soup, peanut butter, jam, marmite, tuna, corned beef, baked beans, tinned spaghetti, tinned vegetables i.e., creamed corn, Milo, coffee, sugar, milk powder, crackers, biscuits, cereals such as Weetbix and rolled oats, tinned fruit, fruit juice, muesli bars, creamed rice, chocolate/treats. Treats are great because they are rarely purchased and everyone deserves a treat!

Anything that does not require other ingredients in order to be consumed. Do not give tinned tomatoes.

Suggested non-food items: tampons, sanitary pads, shampoo and conditioner, razors, toothpaste, soap, cleaning products, washing powder, dishwashing liquid, dishwashing brushes, tin foil, gladwrap, dog/cat food.

Food parcels are much better if they are designed for recipients i.e., families, women/men.

Christchurch City Mission



**Christchurch
City Mission**
Te Whare Mihana Ki Ōtautahi

Zucchi Leonard, City Mission Social Service Manager

Hungry families and individuals turn to us most at Christmas but our Foodbank works very hard all year long trying to meet the demand.

Our staff and volunteers pack and hand out food parcels every weekday, but we also work hard trying to find the food to put in them.

Finding enough donated food is the biggest problem we are facing this year and our food bill is climbing to unsustainable levels as we try to meet the demand.

A global food crisis, compounded by a North Island natural disaster and fanned by a rising cost of living crisis, has brought multiple pressures on our ability to feed the people

because the donated surplus food we rely on is just not there.

We need every bit of help we can get with the basics of dry goods and non-perishables. If you can help us, it will make such a difference. Thank you.

The Food Bank wish list is here:

www.citymission.org.nz/food-bank



Wellington City Mission



Murray Edridge, Wellington City Missioner

Most of us can't even imagine what the experience of asking someone else for food must feel like.

Food is amongst the most basic of our needs and acknowledging the inability to provide for oneself and one's whānau takes a toll on well-being and self-esteem.

With the rise of the cost of living putting an even greater strain on people already struggling to meet their basic needs, we're seeing more people coming to our doors for help.

In 2021, the Wellington City Mission opened the first-of-its-kind Social Supermarket, where people can shop in an ordinary-looking supermarket with one main difference, no money is exchanged at the

checkout. We support people to shop for themselves and their Whānau with the dignity of choice, and the freedom of shopping for free.

We are grateful for all the support we've received over the years, however, in current circumstances our shelves have gaps and we have had to place limits on some items, just like in the supermarkets.

Demand is increasing. Supply of items has been strained.

And even though we know we will always find a way to provide for everybody who comes through our doors, we are feeling the pressure now. But tomorrow is another day, and we always rest in the comfort of our faith that we will be provided for.

Auckland City Mission



Towards zero hunger

One in five New Zealanders experience food insecurity.

We believe Aotearoa has enough food for everyone to be well fed and that nobody should experience food insecurity. Yet, this is what we have every day. Food security is about having access to enough good food. For many whānau, there simply is not enough food, or enough resources to access food on a weekly basis.

More than 40 years ago, we established one of the country's first foodbanks. And we've been supporting people when they need it most, ever since. Every year we help feed hundreds of thousands of people with food parcels, along with our network of food partners.

We also help people in communities outside Auckland. To do this we split bulk food donations and distribute the food to community foodbanks between Thames and Kaitaia.

We have long believed that while our support providing nutritious food for people experiencing food insecurity is crucial, there is more we can and must do.

We are part of the Kore Hiakai collective, with a goal that there's zero hunger in Aotearoa. Together, we work with other agencies towards meeting that goal.

Extract from:

www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz

Social Concerns

Julie Walker Social Concerns Convenor

Walking with a mission

Saturday 25 March saw me taking part in an Auckland-wide fundraising walk for HomeGround, the headquarters of the new Auckland City Mission.

It was a joy to walk alongside fellow St Stephen's members, including a group of young teenagers who for the most part led the way on the beautiful autumn morning.

A highlight of the walk itself was when we felt we were greeted by an orca near Thorne Bay, as we went along the coastal walk from Milford Beach to Devonport, and then caught the Devonport ferry before taking the walk through the city up to HomeGround. It was as if the orca had followed us from Whangaparaoa (Bay of Whales). The closeness of the



Julie and supporters at the end of the walk.

whale to the foreshore was incredible!

We were also greeted very warmly as we arrived at the public space just before the HomeGround building and after some refreshments, we were given a tour of the building by one of the residents.

We were very humbled to be taken by the resident to his actual unit, which he explained was his for as long as he needed it.

Everything is done to create a warm, communal space in which residents can grow so as to reach a point where they can hopefully re-join wider society, without pressure to do so being applied.

There is a communal garden and every Tuesday tenants cook and enjoy a shared meal together. A complete health service provides for all health needs alongside a team of trained counsellors.

A telling comment for me made by one of the staff at the Mission was how challenging it is for homeless people to move into the community and refocus their minds, away from constantly worrying about their personal safety and the safety of their possessions, and so move to a calmer mindset away from one of hypervigilance.

AAW Prayer

O God our Father, whose love for all people
is proclaimed in Jesus Christ,
we thank you for uniting us in prayer and fellowship.

Use us now in the mission of your Church.
Help us to realise that everything we do and say
reflects our love for you.

Bless homes and families throughout the world,
especially those who are suffering from natural
disasters, illness or deliberate human action.

Show us how, by our example and concern, we can take
your peace and love wherever your Spirit may lead us,
today and all our days. Amen

Overseas & Outreach

Raewyn Dawson, Overseas & Outreach Co-ordinator



Update: Anglican Missions - Cyclone Gabrielle Response:

Over \$350,000 has been raised for the Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal! As the initial response tapers off and short-term needs become less urgent, the focus will shift to identifying projects and initiatives that will support a recovery for those with the greatest needs, and will lift up and strengthen all affected communities and people.

The focus of the support is likely to be small rural communities where other agencies haven't reached, in Tairāwhiti and Te Tai Tokerau. Often the centres of these communities are marae, and those marae are often Anglican.

Funds will also be directed to long term recovery, focusing on resilience and preparation for future climate events. We will be posting stories about how the response is going on hapaitia.org.nz

Thank you from Anglican Missions to everyone who has supported this Appeal.

Olivia Hartfield, Anglican Missions



Cyclone devastation.

Extracts from O & O Newsletter:

Special Suva School Project Update:

We haven't quite reached our target. Can we raise our giving this month and fulfil our promise to Anglican Missions? By the end of March we had \$6,114.60 sent in. Over halfway!

Hopefully you have been raising funds for our One-Year Project to provide \$10,000 for a workable canteen at Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School near Suva, Fiji. We need it urgently, especially from Wellington and Dunedin if possible please. It is so understandable that Auckland, Waiapu and Waikato/Taranaki have not managed spare giving.

Please send the amounts you gather to your AAW Diocesan Treasurer, who can send them to NZAAW Treasurer Anne Gover, putting your Diocese, your AAW group name and your own name on the reference. It is very helpful if you also include your own email and postal address,

as well 'Suva School', in a separate, same day email.

"Thank you/ vinaka vakalevu", on behalf of over 700 hungry schoolchildren.

Anglican Missions launched three appeals in Lent:

**** Mud Bricks - Fiji**

When cyclones strike, homes in Fiji are the first to fall. Mud Bricks are an innovative solution to create resilient, cyclone-proof housing. This project empowers local villages through brick production, creating houses that can weather the devastating effects of climate change. It takes approx. 8000 bricks to build 1 house, and it costs about \$2NZD for 1 brick.





**** School Heating - Jordan**

All students deserve an environment to learn in that is safe, healthy and physically suited to help them thrive. Many classrooms around the world do not have adequate heating or cooling systems to achieve this. This Lent, help us make safe and healthy classrooms a reality for Saviour's School in Zarqa, Jordan.

**** Bricks For Life - Ethiopia**

Bricks for Life is an innovative project created by Manawatu's Ric Foxley alongside Amlaku Yaregal.

Ric and his friends funded Amlaku's tertiary studies in Plant Science, so that he could return to his village in Baregota, Northern Ethiopia to improve the lives of its nearly 500 inhabitants.

Since then, Bricks for Life has gone on to provide many incredible foundational services for the people and its community – like grain mills, water tanks, and irrigation. We're proud to support Bricks for Life this Lenten season.

To donate visit:

<https://anglicanmissions.org.nz/lent/>



Catalyst Corner

Being the Body of Christ today

There are several reasons why I really like *Call the Midwife TV* aside from the lovable characters and great costumes. It is wholesome, it is about a group of women working together towards a common goal, and it brings a sense of nostalgia. It takes me back to my childhood in the '70's when the Church was well respected by the whole community and was seen as a place that could provide help. Is this a rose-tinted view?

Over the years welfare agencies seem to have increased exponentially and it is good to see that they now better care for people's cultural needs. But where is the Church in all of this?

I think if you did a survey, the bigger Church agencies would still come up as well known, the City Mission and

the Sallies to name just two. But what about our own Parishes, are they recognised as offering help and care to the community?

In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul talks about us being the Church as part of the body of Christ. In Matthew 25 Jesus states that whatever we do for the least of these, is the equivalent of doing it for Jesus. Yes, a church can achieve so much by working together to help a need, but so can we, not necessarily by doing big things. Even a phone call to someone who is sick, bereaved or lonely can make a huge impact. Let's look for these God-given opportunities to serve Christ in those around us.

**Fay Deam, North West
Christchurch AAW**

Auckland

Diocesan President: Margaret Rocard



The front table decorated with coloured scarves.

St James Mangere Bridge:

We chose to follow the World Day of Prayer service at our March meeting in church as the Hall was being re-roofed.

This year the service was prepared by the women of Taiwan, the theme being ‘I have heard about your faith.’

The front table was decorated with coloured scarves: blue for the oceans, green for the mountains, yellow and white for the natural resources.

Barbara welcomed Maurice and Ruth Charman, who had been missionaries to Taiwan. Maurice started going to Taiwan as a single young man in the 1960. Ruth joined him when they married. They continued revisiting Taiwan until the early 2000s.

Barbara Dixon

St Mary by the Sea Torbay:

We support the work of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children in a very practical way. **We knit for prem babies and young children.**

Margaret Rocard



Christchurch

Diocesan President: Raewyn Dawson



Burwood/Harewood AAW

On 28 February 19 women experienced an afternoon with a difference. Late last year Merle Grayburn, an AAW member for more than 40 years, moved into rest home care. Her home was sold but she wanted her treasures to be re-loved. **So, she donated them to the AAW group, asking members to choose something they would like and make a donation, with the money given to Missions.** She gave a delightful talk of the stories behind some of her

treasures and linked it with the power of prayer in her life. It was a delightful afternoon, **\$300 was raised** and we all went home with treasures, memories and knowing God's love.

Averil Moyle



Our Diocesan Annual General Meeting was held on 25 February, chaired by our Vicar General, the venerable Mark Barlow. It was a well-attended and joyous occasion with some useful sharing and suggestions, followed by a lovely Service of re-dedication to God's service for the Executive and AAW members.

Holy Trinity Avonside Parish hosted this event with warm hospitality.

Raewyn Dawson

St Barnabas AAW groups

In February we had our popular annual AAW Service of Songs of Praise. Six members introduced their chosen hymn which had special meaning to them.

The AAW Day Group: enjoyed some light entertainment in February with Gill Atkins reciting poems written by Pam Ayers. At the March meeting the the Rev'd Alexa Evenden shared aspects of her faith journey – at the time of the Mosque shootings (March 2019) she was a Hospital Chaplain at the main Christchurch Hospital.

AAW In Betweens (the evening group): at the March meeting Pieta Valentine introduced her two books which contain advice and strategies for friends and families of those in care with dementia. (Available on-line)

Judith Mackenzie

Timaru AAW

Our ladies recently held their first meeting of the year by enjoying lunch in Geraldine. This was followed by a trip to Woodbury, to look at the very pretty church of St Thomas – set in a very peaceful part of South Canterbury. This wee church is certainly worth a visit.

Rosemary Case



Dunedin

Diocesan President: Dot Muir

From Dot's Annual Diocesan Report: (2022-2023)

Members have moved about in their communities, giving help to many in need, with such items as groceries and clothing, all part of our Social Concerns outreach.

They have donated financially to missions in New Zealand and overseas - especially our neighbours in the Pacific.

These Groups also enjoy outings and luncheons where they nurture one another, and the invitation is always to encourage new membership.

Our goals for this year—

Ways we can build on our membership and look out into our communities to those in need.

Dot Muir

Creator of the universe, infinite and glorious,
you give us laws to save us from our folly;
give us eyes to see your plan unfolding,
your purpose emerging as the world is made;
give us courage to follow the truth
courage to go wherever you lead;
then we shall know blessings beyond our dreams;
then will your will be done.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book 1989
He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa (p120)*

Nelson

Diocesan Representative: Noeline Curtis



Holy Trinity Richmond

When we were wearing cotton masks, I used to

look at them and think some of the fabric would make a quilt. When we shifted to artificial masks, I decided to collect cotton masks with two aims:

- * Recycling the fabric.
- * Giving the quilt to a good cause.

Most of the masks were from Holy Trinity Richmond, some came from my family, and some I picked up off the street.

After a thorough washing, I assembled a quilt which I gave to the Victory Community church, who then passed it on to a refugee family.

Barb Lash

Nativity Blenheim

When the weather in February proved unsuitable for a planned outdoor activity, members at short notice were asked to bring along an interesting tea-towel for a show and tell. Nearly everyone had one hidden away celebrating royal occasions or overseas places. We also had grandchildren's handprints and a recipe. A very worthwhile time of sharing.

As our March meeting occurred on St David's day, I realised how little I knew of him and his country. An online search revealed the history of their symbols and some short extracts from Dylan Thomas and David Lloyd George which I used. Members brought along Welsh souvenirs and I rendered the *Ancient Britons song* (tramp up Snowdon with your woad on) from my Girl

Guide campfire memories. Afternoon tea with delicious Welsh cakes rounded off a satisfying meeting. Why should St Patrick get all the March limelight?

Margaret Jarman



*L-R: Janet Smith, Jan South, Jill Van der Schaaf, Noeline Curtis, Heather Wadsworth, Margaret Jarman, Kathy Cuthbert, Suzanne Sampson.
Back row: Watiri & Bishop Steve Maina*

Nelson Diocesan AGM

Our AGM was held at Holy Trinity Richmond, Saturday 25 March, and chaired by Bishop Steve Maina. **The main item on the agenda was the restructuring of our Diocesan Executive.** With a reduced number of groups and no-one stepping forward to be Diocesan President or

Secretary, we instead elected Mrs Noeline Curtis as our Diocesan Representative to NZ meetings and a Diocesan Co-ordinator who will distribute information directly to the parish groups. Two full meetings will be held every year.

Following the AGM, we welcomed Ken Shelley who is the Chaplain for the Habitat for Humanity Hub in Nelson. He first brought us up to date with housing statistics in NZ. Then he focused on the two building developments the Nelson affiliate has in progress at Stoke and Richmond. He also described the Hub at Tahuna which houses a very large 'Restore' (this is the name Habitat uses for its Op shops around NZ as there is a team who repair items that need it). This provides a large part of the funding for the affiliate and the Hub also provides space for other counselling services, young people's activities, a church, and a cafe.

Jan South

Polynesia

Diocesan Representative: TBA

Archbishop Sione's vision

At his Ordination and Institution in March this year the eighth Bishop of Polynesia and therefore the third Primate of our Province, the Right Reverend Sione Uluilakepa, spoke of his call.

“What drove me into this role was allowing for the Spirit of God to speak – listening to the cries and the joys of our world, listening to the land, to the moana [ocean] and to those who are vulnerable and voiceless. There is a lot for the Church to do as we hear, and face the issues that arise. Our task is to help transform suffering into victory and hope.”

Archbishop Sione sees that despite the critical challenges people face in a world of increasing hardships, especially due to climate change, hope in Christ can make all things new.

“Our task is to enter into partnership with God and one another to allow something better to grow out of these crises we face: Covid, or cyclones or volcanic eruptions. **Our hope is in our prayer and our liturgy which offer proof of new life emerging out of devastation – and in our practical work that builds resilience through the work of the Church.”**

Extract from Anglican Taonga



Archbishops-Philip Richardson, Sione-Uluilakepa and Don-Tamihere, at Holy Trinity Cathedral Suva

© 2023 Anglican Taonga | Julianne Clarke-Morris.

Waiapu

Diocesan President: Cynthia Prince



St John's Anglican Church, Otumoetai, Tauranga *Meeting a fundraising need:*

Each year our AAW member, Deidre, opens her home for our AAW Christmas lunch, and provides a large bowl of delicious punch, creating a happy and relaxing get together. Committee members provide the food platters. We hold a raffle and there is a small charge for lunch.

Our 2022 fundraising enabled us to contribute \$300 towards the construction of an accessible toilet for our church hall.

Frances Ferrabee

Cyclone Gabrielle – AAW newsletter

From my home in Havelock North, I want to say that apart from the wild weather, loss of power for a day and the lack of cell phone coverage, my husband and I fared well – unlike many others. That said, I want to say that my thoughts and prayers are with all those people who have been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle in our Waiapu Diocese. This was and is, an unprecedented event made even worse by both the recent Cyclone in Auckland and the Covid crisis of the past few years. I particularly feel for those people in my East Coast region. The devastation has been widespread with cities, towns and communities isolated, due to road closures, loss of power, water and food supplies. Our agricultural community has been hard hit

with properties and livelihoods taken away. The aftermath will take people years to recover from. In a recent Newsletter I included a prayer from

Rosemary Atkins' Book, *A Grandmother Prays*.

I want to conclude with another prayer from that book entitled *For my Neighbours*.

*Gracious God, you accept all people
who make up your world.
I thank you for the diversity
of the folk who live around me.*

*Create in us a caring community
that delights in difference
and sees the best in all.*

*Bless us as we care for one another,
especially when there is a need.
Keep us tolerant of minor irritations,
and give us the skills of resolution
when there are disagreements.
Help us to be on the lookout for signs of distress
and be ready to help when the call comes.*

*Inspire us to be good neighbours to one another
like the Good Samaritan in the Gospel story.*

Our Lord commanded us to love our neighbours. I have experienced that love and care first hand from my neighbours.

Cynthia Prince

Waikato & Taranaki

Waikato & Taranaki Diocesan Representative: TBA

From Archbishop Philip Richardson's 27 March email to us re Norma Benton:

“A te Whanau a te Karaiti, Tena Koutou katoa,

I am saddened to have to let you know that Norma Benton died on Sunday morning. Norma served as Bishop's Warden at Holy Trinity Fitzroy over the last several years and before that as Vicar's Warden. There are few roles in the parish that Norma had not turned her hand to. She was deeply loved and respected among the people of Holy Trinity.

She was very committed to the Association of Anglican Women, having served as both Diocesan and Provincial President. She was a strong, insightful, thoughtful, careful leader who brought wisdom and compassion to everything

she did. Norma offered so much to the Diocese through, among other things, her membership of Synod, Standing Committee, Boards of Nomination, assisting with the discernment process for ordained ministry and her service as a Licensed Lay Minister.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.”

+Philip Richardson, Bishop



Wellington

Diocesan President: Pat Vincent



St James Church Restored

The current St James church in Lower Hutt, notable for its innovative modern design, was opened in 1953 by HM Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Because the interior featured a Formica altar and pulpit, Prince Philip famously quipped, 'It looks like a kitchen.' The Formica aside, congregations appreciate the building's clean lines and light, airy interior.

Last year the dingy white plaster exterior was cleaned,

the project generously funded by a local philanthropist. At our November AAW meeting there were workmen balancing on tiers of scaffolding outside and inside, the chapel was closed off for repainting, and the power point computer, requested by our guest speaker, was inoperable. It was our most disorganized meeting ever!

Now, however, the scaffolding has gone, the power point computer is back, and our sparkling white building is both our church and an icon in the city.

Susan Barlow

St Peter's, Palmerston North.

Being only 12 miles from the central city, our members appreciated being in the extensive garden of the Rev'd Barbara Coles. After



Some of the members who visited the gardens of the Rev'd Barbara Coles, to follow the Station of the Cross.

the Eucharist and morning tea accompanied with helpful notes and prayers, we went outside to follow the Stations of the Cross which are mounted on tree trunks. The pathways run through an area of regenerating native bush. And native birds that flourish in the trees often accompany those who walk the Way of The Cross.

We were encouraged to move at our own pace and even although rain threatened, we didn't have to shelter in the lush park-like environment.

Githa Warrington

St John's & St Michael's AAW Group's AGM

In early March our AAW group held its AGM, and we were privileged to have Dr Judith Mackenzie, our NZ President, chair our meeting and as our guest speaker. Judith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work of AAW, particularly our Overseas & Outreach commitments. She spoke of the AAW Special Project of providing a canteen for the students at Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School in Suva. Both Judith and I had the pleasure of visiting this school in 2019 when I was NZ President. It was also lovely to have Mary Driver, our Wellington Diocesan President attend.

Pat Vincent



**Margaret Frances Oxnam
1937-2022**

Margaret was a stalwart of Holy Trinity Church Avalon, Lower Hutt, for many many years. Widowed early, she found solace in working for our church family; indeed, we became her family. She participated in everything: Lay Reader, vestry, People's Warden, choir, Parish Care Committee, AAW Fellowship Group, study groups and Cursillo; she organised the parish Prayer Circle, fund-raising raffles and film evenings, and worked at annual bazaars and monthly garage sales; the pot-luck parish dinners grew into banquet dinners held at the local Chinese restaurant; and she even visited refugees, the lonely, the sick and the grieving. She generously gave of her time, her resources and herself, which earned her a Bishop's Medal.

She served the wider community too: a couple of Bridge Clubs, Probus,

Travel Club, the Old Girls' Associations of Nelson and Wanganui Colleges - and she wasn't afraid to take office either so was well known as a leader and a meticulous organiser, as someone you could depend upon.

To the end she retained her generosity, her sense of humour, her cheerfulness. We marvelled at her stoicism, her courage, and her Faith.

Margaret, we miss you; you have left a huge gap in our lives. Thank you for all that you did for us.

Mary Houston



Submissions/Subscriptions

deadline for next issue: 30 June 2023

**Submissions: send to Sally Butler.
Email: still_british_gurl@hotmail.com
Waiapu Circle Team Co-ordinator.**

- We are looking for high interest articles that inspire.
- If a group is elderly and the function is mainly a social one, with mutual support – that news is equally important.
- **We need high quality images**
 - Large jpeg files (usually at least 1MB in size)
 - Must be emailed as a separate attachment
 - Please don't insert photos in a Word doc/email
 - No photoshop please
 - If sending a number of images, send them one at a time with a clear description of the image.
- **Text:** 100-150 words (max) please, sent as a MS Word doc or in an email.

Circle Subscriptions: (for 4 copies per year)

*** AAW group orders: \$10 per person per year. Please send orders and payments to your Diocesan Treasurer.**

*** Individual Orders: \$20 (includes postage and package)**

Please send orders to, Anne Gover, NZAAW

Treasurer, Email: annegover@xtra.co.nz, 4 Lennox Street,

Gore 9710. Include your name, postal and email addresses.

Pay by Internet Banking to Westpac account: 03 0915 0026110 000

Ref: Circle, name, address

The Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

- Formed in 1969 for all Anglican Women to become members - married, divorced or single women.
- Prior to this New Zealand Anglican Women were part of Mothers' Union Branches.
- The Association of Anglican Women has more than 3,000 members - the largest organization within the Anglican Church giving a voice and representation to women.

Our Aims are....

1. To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church.
2. To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

Our focus

To grow and move forward as an organization. We are constantly moving forward, growing and doing all we can to get the message of God's love to others.

Spread the Word

There's no better way to make an impact than to become an active advocate yourself. Join now and enjoy the fellowship, fun and friendship.



Join us on Facebook
(Click  on www.nzaaw.org.nz)

NZAAW website: nzaaw.org.nz