

# CIRCLE

The Association of Anglican Women  
Volume 45, No 3, August 2013

*“For when I drink with you  
I may share your love  
with others.”*

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 unhappy or in need.

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

O' how your tears come down on me!  
Like rain from burdened clouds  
your tears come rolling down.

You O' Lord created all things  
and it is no wonder you share the tears,  
tears of sorrow on us sinners.

May the rain, your rain, cleanse us  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name.

Rain on me O' Lord  
and let your love be poured into the ground.

For when I walk upon your creation,  
I may feel your sorrow.

For when I walk upon your creation,  
I may embrace your love.

Rain on me O' Lord  
and fill my cup with joy.

For when I drink with you  
I may share your love with others.

For when I drink with you  
I know that you O' Lord  
are the very reason I am alive today!!

O' Lord!

*Leanne Edwards, Lautoka, Fiji.*



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# From Our President

*Elizabeth Crawley with Jennifer Eyles*

Dear Members of the Association of Anglican Women,

Where have the last three years gone? This is my last letter that I am writing for our great Circle magazine. Over these three years it has been a great privilege to have met so many members of the AAW family throughout all the New Zealand dioceses and in Polynesia. I would like to thank you all for your welcome and friendliness. I wish you all well for the future.



Since my last letter I have visited both the Auckland, Waikato and Taranaki Dioceses and my own, Waiapu. Some meetings were small in number, but lots seem to be happening, even the talk of a possible new group.

One of the things I did discover as I have met you, are the many gifts that each one of you have offered to your Church and AAW groups. Being creative and recognising the Christ that lives within us, relates to how we share our ministry.

My Diocese has as its mission statement "To Know Jesus and make Jesus Known" What does that mean? It is not just about preaching Jesus; it is about talking and meeting Jesus in each person we meet.

As I finish my term I would like to leave you with a challenge - 'recognise the gifts each one of you has, and be prepared to always share them.' We are all called to love and work with God.

I would like to thank my Waiapu team members who have been a real rock for me and worked so hard to make the last three years as successful as they have been.

I wish Margaret McLanachan and her team in Dunedin very best wishes for the next three years.

Blessings to you all,

*Elizabeth*



AAW - our aims

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

# 'A call to love'

By Archbishop David Moxon

This theme of the Circle magazine sums up also the theme that is driving the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the new Pope, Francis.

I know this because I saw them meet for the first time, face to face at the apostolic palace in the Vatican just over a week ago. They obviously took great pleasure in sharing each other's faith and vision and enjoyed each others company. After a one to one private meeting, there was a public audience, followed by prayer, followed by a long two hour lunch. All through this time I heard them say, one way or another, we must walk together.



## Walking together

They are thinking of a pilgrimage towards those who have been tossed aside by the modern world and its preoccupations. They are searching for an economy that serves people, rather than the drive to make people serve an economy. They want to uphold the cause of those who have been abducted into human trafficking in many parts of the world, including Australia and New Zealand, and to back those Christians who put themselves on the line for restoration to freedom and dignity. They want to focus on evangelism and a deeper spirituality.

All these words are but the crucial details of being called to love by God in our day and in our contexts. There will be many others also, and you will know what this means for you in your place as you read these words.

I also noticed that the two leaders were really ordinary people, who are now being asked to do extraordinary things for the call to love from God. They are no different to you and me really, and are just trying to help the world find its way home - home to the love of God, home to their peace and home to their true destiny.

That is why we are called to love, to help us all find love. That is why we are called, and to what we are called, and in what we are called.

The Anglican Centre in Rome where I work now, and from where I saw Justin and Francis meet, tries to play a small but vital part in the call to love.

Our theme is "Promoting Christian unity in a divided world". Unless the divided world sees how these Christians love each other we will not be believed. So the call to love is also a call for us to love each other in and

across the diverse churches and denominations to which we belong, a call to love the members of the Body of Christ. If we can't do this for ourselves, we can't speak of it to others in the world.

The meeting of Justin and Francis was an extraordinary witness of the power of this call between them. May it be between us also and ripple outwards like 'ever increasing circles.'

*Archbishop David Moxon is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See, and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome.*

## Introducing our President Elect

Hi! I am Margaret McLanachan, married to Craig for 38 years. We have four adult sons.

I work in the mornings as Parish Administrator at St John's, Roslyn, a position I have now held for 12 years. I have been a member of AAW for twenty-something years at St John's, firstly of the afternoon group and now of the evening group. In that time I have served my time as Secretary/Treasurer of the afternoon group for many years and am now in my 4th year as Treasurer of the evening group.



Not long after joining AAW, I found myself on the Dunedin Diocesan Executive, at first just as a member and then as Treasurer, after saying, "I could do that" at an AGM.

Following that I was the O&O Representative for a year. In 2005 I was invited to be our Diocesan Secretary for three years. I have also served three years as the NZAAW Treasurer. Most recently I have been Diocesan President for four years, finishing in March 2013.

I really enjoy all aspects of AAW including the wonderful people I have met to date and those I will meet over the next three years.

I am also involved with the Cursillo movement at both diocesan level and New Zealand level. I can be found on Vestry at St John's and the Diocesan Council down here in Dunedin. In my spare time I enjoy doing embroidery and craft items.

I look forward to meeting many of you and assure you of my prayers, as I also ask you to keep me in your prayers as I prepare to become the Provincial President.





*Virginia Wells, Linda Rountree and Marie Medhurst pose with their creations.*

They were absolutely delighted to leave the meeting with bags full of beautifully knitted garments - all made with love. This level of care and support is something that truly touches people's hearts.

Meanwhile, we have just sold the last jar of homemade orange marmalade to a grateful buyer.

"There's nothing like home-made," she said. "Delicious!" Thanks be to God for the joy that this simple ministry has bought, and the fund-raising happening to support our vital causes - ministry overseas, and on our doorstep.

The call to express the love of Christ is alive and embodied by the work and presence of our AAW groups. I rejoice at the new beginnings, and am filled with thanksgiving for long-established ministries.

May we ask God that these ministries be blessed and multiplied, to the benefit of our communities; pray for initiatives which are expressive of God's grace - and smile with God at the love which he has for us.

*Lovingly, from Jamie*



## 'Earthing the call to love'

*By Dean Jamie Allen of Taranaki Cathedral.*

Realising anew that we already have all we need - it is just a question of 'what to do with what we have'.

Those who have decided to take on the challenge to express love in this way, have received an envelope containing an undisclosed amount of cash! The funds have been spent on resources for expressions of selfless love. One AAW member writes, 'I will be knitting squares to make knee rugs, also using the money to get food for catering.' Still others have opted to support the scheme by daily focussed prayer on the projects that are underway.

The fruits are beginning to emerge. At a recent meeting of the Mothers' Union, we were joined by the coordinator of the local 'Teen Mums' students group, accompanied by two of their members.



On the day of my induction as vicar of St Mary's Church, New Plymouth - now Taranaki Cathedral, I said very little during the service . . . but I did mention that I had been called to love; called to love the community of Christ, whether they liked it or not!

It was during a seemingly 'ordinary' Family Service during 2012, whilst I was sharing the Peace with the congregation, that God spoke to me and showed me that the church family to which I had been blessed to be called, was a people by whom that same vocation was being richly embodied. I looked around at the faces and the signs of peace that were being shared; and I knew with all my heart that the wairua of the cathedral was of agapeistic - selfless - love.

For the year 2013, we have moved to put this love into action in a not-particularly-original but nonetheless beautiful way; through an expression of the Parable of the Talents. Together with our Mothers' Union, our cathedral AAW group is unleashing afresh the gifts that are in our midst.

*My Lord is my carer,  
He is all I need;  
He gives me comfort and rest,  
He leads me by the sea, in bush, over paddock and road.  
He heals my spirit and directs my path.  
As I walk through the valley of loss and grieving  
I need not falter for I know he is with me,  
His word and strength comfort my soul.  
He provides me with food in a hungry and threatening world,  
I am truly blessed beyond my deserving,  
My cup of joy overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy will be with me all my life  
And I will trust in his indwelling presence forever.*

*A NZ 21st Century paraphrase of the 23rd Psalm by Beverley Bennett*

# Some learnings about God's Call

By Jenny Dawson, Bishop's Chaplain for Hawkes Bay, Diocese of Waiapu.

As a child, I was very conscious of expecting God's call to me. Our Bible in Schools teacher had told us the story of the boy Samuel hearing God's voice and how, eventually, the third time, he was told by the old priest Eli to reply "Speak Lord for thy servant heareth" (as the King James Bible puts it). I remember for nights after that, lying in my bed, in the room with the green spotted wall paper, with my similar reply all ready. But the voice never came.

Yet God *has* called me, again and again. As a young adult it was hugely through AAW, and specifically through Young Wives. At 24 I said, "Yes," to some diocesan responsibilities in AAW which led to provincial involvement and lots of opportunities at parish and diocesan level. I found myself taking leadership in a way I never would have expected. God was calling me, through invitations from women who saw potential in me even when I didn't.

Reading the last Circle magazine, I was touched by Bishop John Bluck's comment: "I've long believed the AAW is the Anglican organisation that is willing to lead our church into the areas where most angels fear to tread." AAW took me to a Women's Convention in the mid-80s that led me right out of my comfort zone.

About the same time *Circle* magazine had an article about inclusive language that as a member of the Prayer Book Revision Commission, I was able to distribute to my Commission colleagues, to encourage discussion about the kind of language that would be used of people and God in our Prayer Book. Now, in current discussions I look forward to AAW's commitment to "promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life" helping us all hold on to what's important, while continuing to explore inclusivity. AAW is called by God, just as individuals are.

My thinking about call led me, eventually after years of resistance, into ordination. But God calls everyone, to love recklessly and to live fully, wherever they are. Lately I have been reflecting on some words in Isaiah 49, "The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb God named me."



Above: Jenny Dawson (top row) seen at a Rural Ministry Conference at Atherton, Australia. Left: Jenny Dawson flanked by NZAAW President Liz Crawley and Colleen Kay, Waiapu Diocesan Registrar.

The invitation of God to me has been there since before I can remember. I am only now learning to know God's voice as it comes to me, both through others and in the stillness of my own heart.

I am also hearing God in karanga, that wonderful women's call on the marae as we visitors are welcomed into warmth and hospitality. As we walk on, remembering those who have gone before us, and move towards the whareniui where people are waiting to greet us, there is always more to discover of the safety of the heart of God. It is a lifelong journey, and in Aotearoa it is truly a bicultural journey.



## Preteen

I am a sword that has not tasted blood  
I am an ore that has not been mined  
I am a tree neither small nor tall

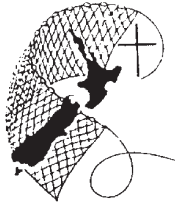
I am a sapling that has not been planted  
I am a cow that has not been milked  
I am a shop that has not been opened  
I am neither at the start nor the finish  
I am a bullet that has not been fired

I am a cloud that has not cried  
I am in the middle  
I am in-between  
I am not big nor am I small  
I am I am a preteen

By Max Johns







# Social Concerns

By Pip Harrison, Convenor

## Big Issues

Remit time is here again and I do hope there are some lively discussions going on round the country!

The five topics for this year mainly underline AAW's own concerns around poverty:

- The living wage
- Extending free doctor visits to more children
- Increasing subsidies to rest homes specifically so they can pay carers more
- The removal of GST on fruit, vegetables and milk with a view to making healthy food more affordable.

The final remit looks out for the wellbeing of very young women, usually immigrants, who may be forced into marriages. (Things move in circles: the ages of consent and of marriage were some of the first concerns of the National Council of Women at the end of the nineteenth century and the marriage age was not set until the 1930s.)

Let's add the wisdom of our groups, informed by life, thought and faith, to these discussions. Please prime your representatives (me at the national meeting and other diocesan and group reps at local NCW meetings) with comments to contribute.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said: **'Sow a thought; reap an act; Sow an act; reap a habit; Sow a habit; reap a character. Sow a character; reap a destiny.'**

It is this chain from thoughts and beliefs about life and community, through to on the one hand our practical contributions, and on the other hand, to policies and laws that shape the destiny of our society and our country. This is why it is important not to leave the shaping to everyone else!

Another topic vital to the shape of New Zealand life is coming to the fore again next month. In July the 'End of Life Choice Bill' is to be debated. It provides for people to choose their own medically assisted death and forms part of a wider debate on euthanasia. The last time such a Bill was presented to parliament it was defeated by just two votes on the first reading.

We would like to be able to raise our voice as AAW on this issue, so need to know what our members think. Where does our responsibility lie as a society in preserving life? Does what the person thinks make a difference? What effect would changing our current practice have on our society?

There are many questions to consider and I'll send a selection out to Diocesan Social Concerns Convenors soon. Perhaps this is something on which we can take a lead - have a panel discussion and invite others too; listen to what others in our communities are thinking; discuss what we have seen and heard and thought with our young ones. And - sow some thoughts of our own . . .

## On Life, Death and Gum Trees

Filaments of red brush flowers  
carpet the ground  
beneath the gum tree,  
lending a tinge to the earth below.

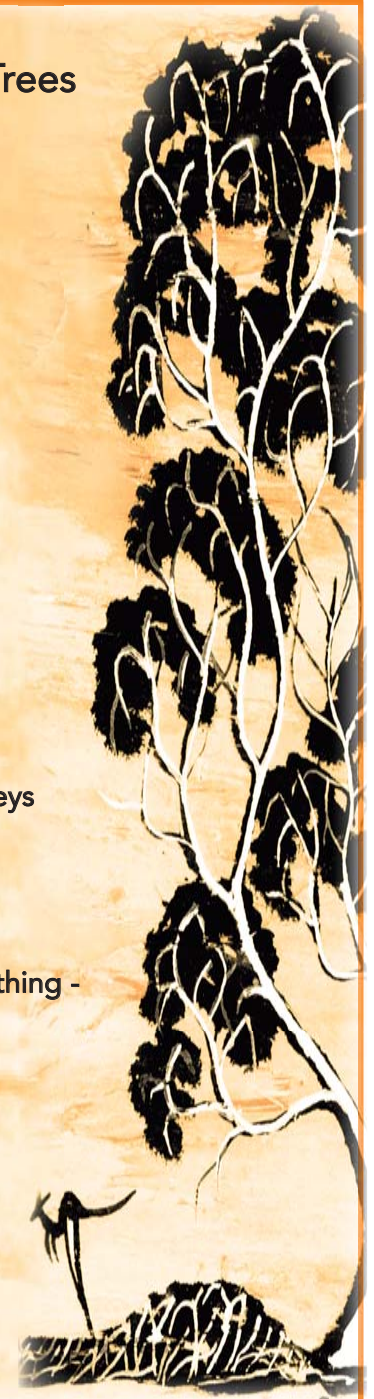
Like some rearing snake  
it sheds outgrown skin.  
Sloughs hang from its trunk,  
curling into tubes,  
messy – like umbilical cords;  
messy – like birth  
And death  
And so much in between.

Yet the revealed trunk  
displays a pristine set of  
paint-by-number lines.  
Take your palette of browns and greys  
and you too  
can have a perfect gum tree  
painting.

It will stay tidy longer than the real thing -  
especially if you varnish it  
and put it in a frame  
hung straight.

But  
it will spread no crimson carpet,  
no seedlings, no change –  
no life.

Pip Harrison, 2013 ©



# Mothers' Union

By Rosemary Bent

Lynne Tembey, MU Worldwide President says membership is a gift to be shared. She said "wherever you are in the world members are reaching out to their communities in truly amazing ways". Lynne encouraged us to grow in faith, hope and love as we move Mothers' Union forward into the future. Certainly these gifts have been to the fore in recent weeks:

St Jude's Avondale MU celebrated its Centenary on 5 June. Special guests included the recently elected Diocesan President, Joan Neild, and Provincial President, the Revd Iritana Hankins.

St Mary's New Plymouth link branch in West Cairns has been helping the recently appointed vicar to establish new ministries with *mainly music* and Prayers and Squares plus getting a primary school children's group under way. As a fund-raiser members knitted lots of Easter Chicks placing a small chocolate egg inside each one. They proved very popular both at the church and in the various groups and organisations to which members are connected.



In Tonga St Matthias Mothers' Union hosted the quarterly combined women's service which included women from St Paul's, All Saints, and St Barnabas.

The service started at 3.00 pm and finished at 6.00 pm. St Matthias ladies performed drama and action songs and the choir sang in place of a sermon. Archdeacon Joe Leota mentioned the old members who were dedicated to the work of MU and encouraged members to follow in the footsteps of those who had started MU in Tonga.

The service was described as full of emotion and joy with everyone touched by the Holy Spirit. Amelia Tu'inakaufe, St Matthias MU leader, said the service left her with a strong feeling that we should focus on our work wherever we may be.

Morogoro, Tanzania MU obtained a grant from Mary Sumner House to buy food relief for 51 people including widows of pastors, retired clergy and elderly without family support. They also ran an Entrepreneur Workshop for 21 participants, men and women, from 9 villages. Topics included designing different fashions for dressmakers, making liquid soap and how to find markets for their products.

Looking ahead: The next Mary Sumner Lecture will be held in Auckland on Friday 3 September at St Mary's in Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. The guest speaker will be Sir Owen Glen whose Glen Family Foundation is investigating the cause and effects of the adverse conditions under which some of our children are living, and what we can do about it. He will be speaking on "The role of motherhood in protecting and nurturing our children".

All are welcome to attend the lecture commencing at 11.00 am followed by lunch in the Selwyn Library.

Christchurch Mothers' Union is planning an Admission Service for its August meeting when another member will be joining the group. Members continue to support one another in these still unsettled times.

Other groups are working with the theme "The Seeds we Grow". Waikato/Taranaki lone members are keeping in touch with a bi-monthly newsletter.

## Surging Tides

Grief is as the tide  
surging in and draining out  
nature and eternity bonded as one.

A rock is a safe harbour from incoming tide  
for a moment no other place to hide  
as now it comes – catching me unawares  
surging, swirling around the snares.  
If I keep very still the depths subside  
as waves do – to return in time.

It is those unexpected moments

- people we both knew
- a letter addressed to you
- a stubborn jar needing a twist
- that early morning cup of tea  
with a sleepy thanks from me.

Now your anniversary has come and gone  
life as this 'new normal' can be embraced.  
I know there is nothing in God's grace  
which together cannot now be faced.

So when that threatening tide of unshed tears  
when smiles and memories ebb and flow.  
I know it is God's way of healing love  
in the tides that come and go.

Chris Parkes – June 2013





# Overseas and Outreach

By Convenor, Mary Estcourt

The last time I wrote to you all we were experiencing a drought, but as I write this many regions are suffering from a little too much rain and now a snowy blast is forecast. This is a time to do a little outreach in our communities, checking on our neighbours, sharing a meal, making sure everyone is warm and safe.

It is with sadness that I read the following in an email from Rosie:

The Episcopal / Anglican Diocese of Egypt, Diocesan Newsletter, April & May 2013: In Memorial: Madam Ansaf.

**Madam Ansaf**, the founder of the Boulaq Community Development Centre, passed away in March 2013. We thank God for her 40 years of service to the widows in Boulaq, a disadvantaged area in central Cairo. She had a vision to help women by providing them with economic opportunities, start income generating projects and be self-reliant.



The Diocese hosted a memorial service for her, which was a great celebration of her life and her heart for the poor. Many people shared their experiences and testimonies about her life and the effect she had on them. Please pray for those who will carry on this legacy to women.

I have recently started communicating with . . .

## **Anne and Anthony McCormack in Cambodia.**

This extract is from their last newsletter written in May: 'New life in Battambang: We have been living in Battambang, since the 6th February. Once we were reasonably settled in our new house, we continued with our full time language lessons up until mid April.'



We chose to live in an area which does not have many expatriates living, as we wanted to develop a sense of community among the Khmer folk and we are slowly making connections with our neighbours.'

**Marion McChesney** is in Tanzania, where she works at Msalato College, and in May wrote about a student from the college:

'The Deacon from St Matthew's also has St Luke's and the "Tree" developing church under his care. He only graduated last year from Msalato Theological College. It is one year after becoming a deacon that you become a full priest and can then give Communion. This man is a visionary.'



He is the one who birthed the 'Under the tree' church, and made it happen. From such a small beginning it is now completed.'

*Finally a prayer for your use:*

Lord, life is never smooth sailing. You, God, are in the midst. Like a shelter belt of certainty you lessen the impact of the storm. Help us and all people to have faith that believes that you are constantly present in times of chaos or peace, in times of pain or celebration, for you are the God of promise and hope.



## Msalato Mamas

*Left: At Belita Chiwaga's home, with her children and classmates - other pastors' wives.*

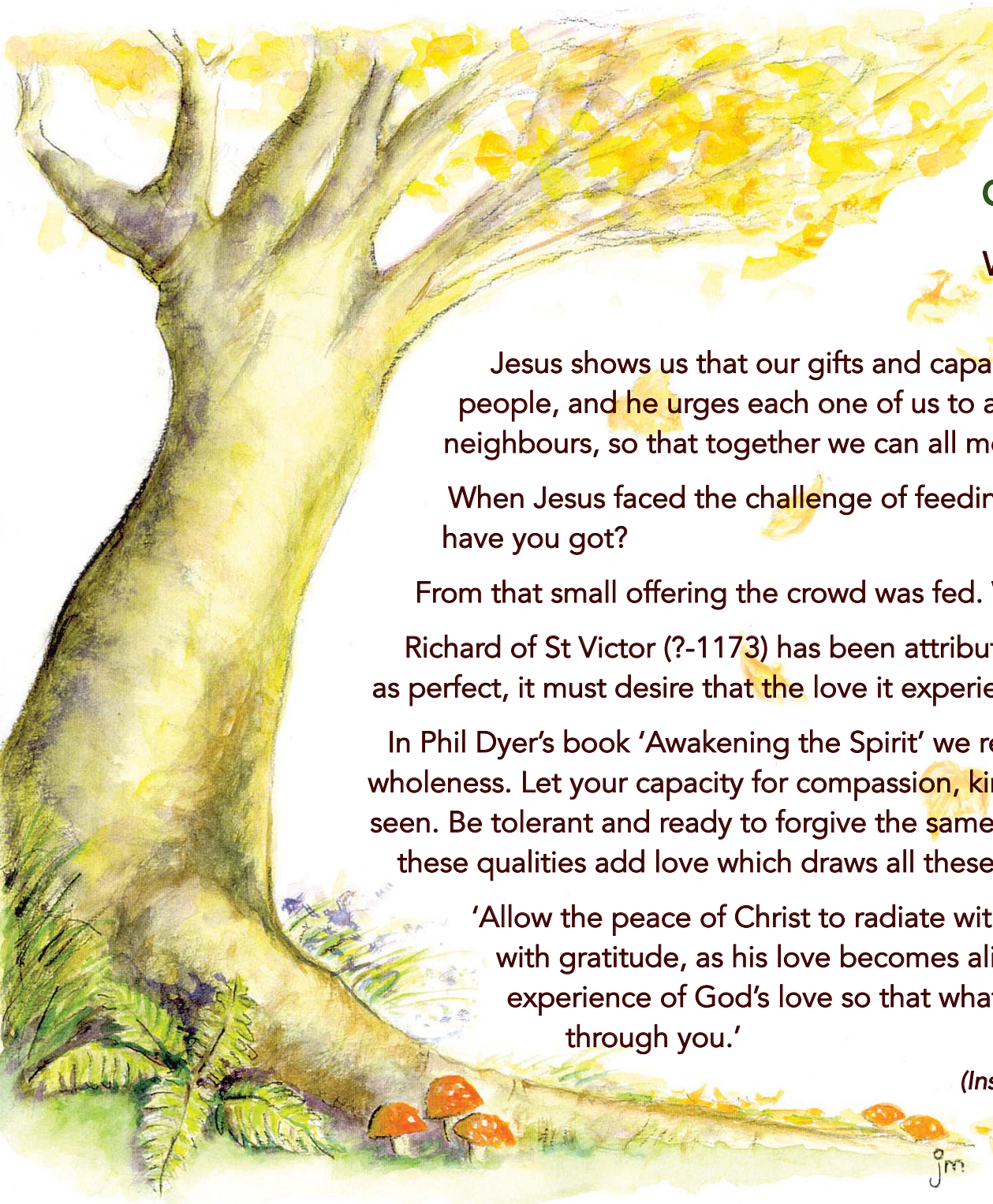
*Grace, Dorothy, Mariam, Rehema, little Nehemiah, Belita, Agnes, Mariam with Alpha, and Belita's oldest son Festo.*

Marion McChesney has produced a book, '**Msalato Mamas**', the very personal stories of fourteen of her students. Marion has copyrighted the book, and wishes to use it as a fund-raiser to finance classes for Pastors' wives at the Msalato Theological College of St John's University in Tanzania.

Marion says of her students, "I have been blessed to have the honour of leading these women from their very first day of class when they could not even say 'hello', to their final English presentation of song, speeches and dramas before the entire College Staff and Students."

The book is supplied via email as a pdf file and stationery shops can turn this format into an A5 printed book, with the first page being the front cover and the end page being the back cover. Marion suggests each book be sold for under \$10, remembering that sales need to make a profit. Proceeds to **BNZ Kaikoura** 02.0856.0049549.000, named M.Mamas. A great group project!





## What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

What gifts and talents can you discover in yourself and others?

Jesus shows us that our gifts and capabilities are abundant even in the least likely of people, and he urges each one of us to appreciate these so we can connect with our neighbours, so that together we can all move forward.

When Jesus faced the challenge of feeding the 5000, his first question is what have you got?

From that small offering the crowd was fed. We see Love in action.

Richard of St Victor (?-1173) has been attributed as saying 'For charity to be excellent, as well as perfect, it must desire that the love it experiences be a love shared with another.'

In Phil Dyer's book 'Awakening the Spirit' we read . . . 'Beloved of God, we were created for wholeness. Let your capacity for compassion, kindness, meekness, patience and humility be seen. Be tolerant and ready to forgive the same way that God treats and forgives you. To all these qualities add love which draws all these things together into a single purpose.

'Allow the peace of Christ to radiate within your hearts and minds so you overflow with gratitude, as his love becomes alive in you. Use all your wisdom to share your experience of God's love so that whatever you do or say Christ's word may speak through you.'

*(Inspired by Colossians 3 - used with permission)*

# Four reasons to celebrate

*'Another AAW Celebration', by Mary Houston*

I love celebrations – don't you? And this morning we have another AAW Celebration - four reasons to celebrate!

Firstly, it is Mother's Day, an American commercialised event I know, but one that was conceived in all sincerity by Anna Jarvis in 1908 as a memorial to her mother. Unfortunately, our Church's Mothering Sunday on the 4th Sunday in Lent often slips by without being observed, so it is good that today is set aside to honour our mothers and the concept of motherhood.

Secondly, Florence Nightingale, the English social reformer and statistician, was born on this day in 1820. We remember her best as 'The Lady with the Lamp' making her nightly rounds as a nurse behind the battlefield in the Crimean War; and she was the founder of modern nursing. The well-educated daughter of a wealthy upper class family, she was moved by Unitarian religious inspiration to devote her life and talents to serving others.

It is ironic that a woman brought up in a time when England was divided by social prejudices and religious exclusiveness, should publish much of her work in simple, or plain English language, so that everyone might understand.

Today's readings focus on the Ascension of Jesus, celebrating his being taken up into heaven, witnessed by Peter and the apostles, to whom Jesus had entrusted the task of developing what was then little more than a Jewish sect, into what we now recognize as the Christian religion. As Luke records in our reading from Acts: "Jesus said: 'But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"

And last but not least, the St James's, Lower Hutt group of the Association of Anglican Women has chosen this day to celebrate the foundation of this organization in 1969.

Prior to 1969, Anglican Women had two organizations to which they might belong. The first was known as Young Wives. For this you had to be married and relatively young. If you and your husband split up, you could no longer belong. If you were unmarried, you were also excluded.

The second group was the Mothers' Union, still extant today, but in those days, even more exclusive. Entry could be gained only when a married woman became a mother... all other women were barred.

The strict views of these groups perpetuated Victorian principles and double standards. In 1969, the AAW reversed this trend, by taking up the challenge of inclusiveness that Jesus had preached about and worked towards, and opened itself up to all women, no matter their race or marital status.

The AAW is now challenged with the issue of women who work: if meetings and events are held on a workday, when they cannot attend, then they are seen as being excluded. In order to maintain its integrity, AAW now needs to look to a balance that is all inclusive.

Through all four causes being celebrated this morning, runs the thread of inclusiveness. Now this concept of inclusiveness is not new; it is one of the recurring themes of the Bible. We are continually being exhorted to praise

God for his being inclusive of everyone and everything – remember today's psalm, number 47, which is a call for the whole universe to praise God for his name is greater than all others.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, puts it this way. 'The church is Christ's body, the completion of him, who himself completes all things everywhere.' In order to understand what Paul means, we need to remember that at that time, the known world was in complete disunity, Jew and Gentile, within and between nations.

There was within each person a disunity as good struggled with evil. And above all there was disunity between the people and God. Today's world is no different. Paul believed that Jesus died to reconcile us to one another and to reconcile us with God. Jesus was therefore God's instrument of reconciliation. Thus the challenge to us is to practise reconciliation, to reach out to our neighbour and say with real sincerity, 'Everyone is equal, everyone is clean, in the eyes of God.'

Whether we are involved at a national level or in individual works, whether we are celebrating the work of a group or a sacred event, if we could but instil the practice of inclusiveness in all actions and interactions of our lives, what a wonderful world we would have!

And why? Because inclusiveness is the essential element of unqualified love, that engenders grace, empathy with others, nurturing, and good and clean living. Remember – we are today's apostles, living out a modern Book of Acts.

Let us remember too, that though we are many, we are one in the body of Christ. Though the world stands divided, Christ draws all things together, both in heaven and earth. So, let us go today in the peace of Christ, to bless and be blessed, through one God: Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*For Sunday 12 May 2013,  
Mary Houston was asked to  
preach at St James' Church  
Lower Hutt as their AAW  
group was celebrating AAW  
Sunday on Mothers' Day.*





# Relating and Rejoicing

News from Pasefika and from N through Z



## Diocese of Christchurch



As a diocese with a lot of experience of weather extremes, we are in the throes of winter with a vengeance. Nearly everyone has at least had a bad cold or the flu, and with many of our homes currently being repaired, it's a bit distracting from the joyful Christian journey!

Nevertheless, some events and Groups have been enormously effective. All of Canterbury was invited to a huge Mission Festival on May 25 – held at St Christopher's Church as the transitional Cathedral is not yet completed. The Bishop of Wellington, as the inspirational speaker at this Festival, has now built up his fan club with many who have added him to their list of favourite bishops.

Our **Autumn Festival** in April was a wonderful, joyous time, with Sisters from the Community singing for us, and the Social Concerns meeting on 1 July, discussing the NCW remits, to inform and prepare as many as possible for later parish group debate, was very lively and well-attended.

A Special Day of Prayer is planned for November, as 'to unite in prayer' is our first aim. We are also planning a new Student Branch of the Association at a local Anglican College – really exciting!



Pictured on the left are Trish Blunden, Group President, Raewyn Dawson, Diocesan President and husband Lawrence at AAW Timaru. The Dawsons had entertained with song.

So far this year has been notable for its hard work and growing unity. There is a lovely enthusiasm and willingness to go the extra mile – the Diocesan Committee and all the dozens of Group leaders are making exceptional efforts to grow the kingdom of God. *Raewyn Dawson*



## Diocese of Dunedin

**News from the Deep South.** For our Executive meeting, instead of travelling to one centre we "skyped" – we are now in the 21st century! Our groups are meeting though, despite the cold and frosty weather. Some have watched movies.

The **Riverton** Group held a meeting entitled 'If you had 5 minutes to evacuate, what treasure would you take?' This was certainly a challenge for most of us!

Other groups have dined out for mid-winter dinners, and all groups have had interesting speakers ranging from travel talks, keeping ourselves safe, decorating churches for weddings, games evenings. The **Fiordland** group planted a kowhai in memory of one of their members who has recently died.

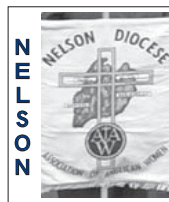
Some evening groups have changed to day meetings during winter – it does get cold once the sun goes down in this neck of the woods! However, all groups are flourishing and looking forward to spring! *Verna Rutherford*

**Mrs Peg Richardson**, a Life Member of Dunedin Mothers' Union and AAW has died at 98 years of age. She was still an active member of AAW until earlier this year. Here are some of her memories . . .

'Mrs Paul was the instigator of MU in St Martin's. If you were 'anyone' in those days, you joined Mothers' Union. Mrs Paul would be on your back to join. You had to believe certain things to belong. I was a member for several years, eventually becoming secretary then treasurer and finally leader before I became treasurer for Otago/Southland area.

'However, it became clear to me and others that Mothers' Union was not supplying the needs of all the parish women. Except for nurses, if you were unmarried or divorced or anything to do with divorced person you weren't allowed to join. We had two families that I was concerned about - one woman was married to a divorced man and the other had her husband walk out. According to the rules they shouldn't have been part of MU.

'But I stuck up for them. We proposed that MU should cater for all. Our representative at the next international conference unsuccessfully proposed this change. In the end, 40 years ago (1970), NZ ceded from the international Mothers' Union and became AAW. I was involved with the beginnings of AAW, going to Wellington and all around the Diocese talking to groups about the change. There was a lot of sentiment though, and many were sorry to leave MU.'



## Diocese of Nelson

**Waimea Women's Fellowship** heard about Jani Trask's trip to Cambodia with 'Habitat for Humanity' to build three houses and two community centres. There were 100 in the group, 38 of whom came from New Zealand. Although the Cambodian people have very little material possessions, they seem to be very happy and treated their visitors like royalty. There are a lot of orphans in large orphanages since the children's parents went to Thailand to find work and were either killed or died.



*Helen Simkin (centre) thanks Jude Benton and Luke Shaw.*

**The Nelson Executive** and members from nearby groups met overnight at Teapot Valley Christian Camp. On Thursday afternoon over 35 women joined in a discussion about outreach to the young, led by the Revd Jude Benton, our Diocesan Children's Coordinator, and Diocesan Youth Coordinator Luke Shaw. They shared comparisons between the culture of twenty years ago and how families now see church.

“Crafty” women then shared their beautiful work. Gorgeous quilts, lovely embroidery, cosy knitting and other crafts were displayed. A fun evening followed before the locals went home and the Executive prepared for their meeting next day following an inspirational communion service taken by the Revd Martin Harrison.

**The Cobden Runanga Group** had their February meeting based on the service in the AAW book entitled ‘In the Garden’. In a session called ‘Parks, Beaches and Sunshine’, Jenny Taylor supplied beach wood shapes and members were able to relate to them. ‘Sayings’ on this theme were quoted before members had a Devonshire afternoon tea outside in the sunshine.

**St Christopher's, Blenheim** heard Vicki Baker (a local land agent) speak of her trip to Rwanda as a volunteer helping build a house for a family of thirteen on behalf of the David Rundle Trust. She also travelled into the mountains to see the gorillas.

**St Barnabas' Stoke** had a visit from Sue Tilby, the Manager of Age Concern Nelson, who spoke of the many areas in which they are involved. Elder Abuse is prevalent and they are working hard to make older people aware of protecting themselves.

**Motueka AAW Fellowship** was entertained by Pamela Soult talking about her tour to Jordan. She visited many historical sites including the place where Jesus was baptised in the Jordan River. She had been overwhelmed by the age of some structures there.

**The Nelson Executive** and members from nearby groups met overnight at Teapot Valley Christian Camp. On Thursday afternoon over 35 women joined in a discussion about outreach to the young, led by the Revd Jude Benton, our Diocesan Children's Coordinator, and Diocesan Youth Coordinator Luke Shaw. They shared comparisons between the culture of twenty years ago and how families now see church.

Many questions were asked and answered comprehensively. The group gave her one of their knitted prayer shawls in thanks and also donated one to be held in the station to be given to anyone who arrives in a distressed state, offering to ensure there is always one available.



Our very own action officer, none other than Auckland's Diocesan President Lady Rhyl Jansen, appeared in her uniform and spoke of her voluntary work - always in a paired situation - patrolling by car the streets in a wide area of Rodney from 9-30 pm to 1-00 am next morning. She also had a tale or two to tell of

some scary experiences. Rhyl's grandson thinks she is doing a great job - a word of warning to those she meets on the job!!

In June, **St John's Women's Fellowship, Campbell's Bay** welcomed visitors from St Stephen's Whangaparaoa, St Aidan's Remuera, St Peter's Takapuna and a lone member. Guest **Nadine Vickers** spoke of plans to return shortly to Bangladesh to work in an administration capacity at the Kailakuri Health Care Project, the medical centre founded some years ago by New Zealander Dr Edric Baker, catering for outpatients (general, diabetes, etc.); in-patients at the 35-40 bed hospital; ‘Mother-Child’ village health programmes; a diabetes programme with five sub-centres and general nutrition and health education - all on a very limited budget.



Because of their distance from main centres, places like Kailakuri have limited access to normal health facilities. Consequently, one of the aims of the Project is to train local residents to care for each other, carrying out simple medical procedures such as injections, etc.

Nadine made a preliminary visit to Kailakuri and has now made a commitment to return for 18 months, taking on such duties as fund-raising, external English communication, financial oversight and training local staff in other administration support (e.g. using PowerPoint etc.).

Before leaving New Zealand, she has been fund-raising to cover her return flight; living costs there (NZ\$2.50 per day!); health insurance and the costs of two months at language school in Dhaka. Nadine asks us to pray for her, particularly for a peaceful resolution to the current political instability in Bangladesh; to help her adapt quickly to the Bangla language and culture and to develop close friendships with locals. All present unanimously resolved to keep her in our hearts and prayers and seek to support her financially through Diocesan O&O giving.



## Diocese of Auckland

At its June meeting, **St Stephen's AAW, Whangaparaoa**, welcomed guest speaker Constable Liz McDonald from the Police Station which is located at next-but-one to the church. She joined us for fellowship at our evening meal.

Liz has been in the police force for seven years and spoke enthusiastically about her present work in crime prevention. The scariest part of her work is when there are firearms known to be involved, but she does not currently carry any form of weapon on her in this work.





An **Area Day for the Northern Region** was held in June, representatives of all the groups north of the Harbour Bridge joining together for a day of fellowship. The theme was Changing Family Life over three periods of thirty years. The day began with a service at **St. Peter's Church, Takapuna** with a parade of banners. AAW Chaplain Hilary Leith welcomed Bishop John Paterson who preached about Mary and Elizabeth's new understanding of the nature of the family. Jayson Rhodes, Vicar of St Peters, led the Eucharistic Prayers.

The seventy members enjoyed a welcome morning tea on this very cold wintery day. Table displays in the hall depicted different ways of life, photos, clothing, utensils, toys and many other items over the years from 1900-1939, 1940-1979 and 1980-2013. Each era's speaker related her impressions of life at that time. There was much laughter at memories such as putting the 1lb butter on a brick standing in a bowl of cold water instead of popping it in the fridge as we do today! We all joined in a sing-a-long of songs of the times.

Lunch was hosted by the St Peters AAW Group, along with plenty of chatter and laughter. In the afternoon we welcomed Auckland Diocesan AAW President Lady Rhyl Jansen. Social Concerns Convener Marie Taylor and O&O Convener Jenny Willis, spoke on their roles in the Executive Committee.



To mark her retirement, Nan Woods was thanked for her long service for the region, serving on the Auckland executive for 20 years as Stationery Convenor and 15 as Link/Area Regional person for those living 'over the bridge'. A very happy day concluded with the singing of the Grace.

*Maggie Batten. Margaret Rocard, Nan Woods and Libby Lewis*

began early with members travelling from the four corners of the Diocese to enjoy a social time before the AGM. Elizabeth Crawley spoke on her visit to Fiji and the wonderful outcome of the "Water Tanks Project" made possible with funds raised by members throughout New Zealand.

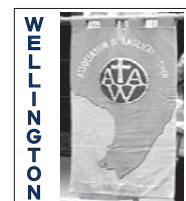


The highlight of the afternoon was a much appreciated polished performance by the Waitomo Caves Choir performing to members and guests in the Church. Following a catered dinner, the peace of a candlelit 'Night Service' drew the day to a close. Banners carried representing the groups, made for a joyous and colourful entrance to the Eucharist Service on the Sunday. *Elizabeth Hayes*

The Waikato and Taranaki Executive gathered, along with members, friends and parishioners of **St. Andrew's, Cambridge** to support parishioner, **Ruth Riddell's Commissioning as Diocesan President** and the commissioning of the Executive members at noon on Sunday, 7 July. Archbishop Philip Richardson with St. Andrew's Vicar, the Revd Canon Andrew Hedge, officiated at the service, where the St Andrew's choir sang the anthem 'Lead us Lord' - so appropriate for the occasion.



## Diocese of Wellington



The **St Peter's, Palmerston North** AAW Women's Fellowship began the year when a total of thirty visitors including Women's Fellowship members, friends and four Fellowship husbands visited the home of Janice and Don Viles on the Pahiatua Track.

Don and Janice gave us a most interesting talk about how they came to build their home in such a scenic location and then how the plantings around the property and the gardens had developed.

This was followed by a garden ramble. The weather was kind and the gardens and their blossoms in the sunshine



## The Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki



NZ AAW President Elizabeth Crawley spent an afternoon with some Executive members (right) of

the Waikato and Taranaki Diocese visiting the Waitomo Village and the Glow-worm Cave followed by coffee together at a cafe near the cave entrance.

The AGM Weekend Event the next day, held at **St Bride's Otorohanga**,



with the surrounding trees gave us all a very pleasant afternoon together finishing with a delicious shared afternoon tea. Our thanks to Janice and Don for opening their home and garden to us for such an enjoyable day.

The women of the three parishes of **Palmerston North** also attended a dinner at All Saints also in March, at which Jenny Duckworth was the guest speaker. All those who have heard her will know how inspiring she is.

The Wellington Diocesan Executive met in May at **Ngatiawa** receiving a warm welcome from the team leaders for the day. We shared morning tea in the warm kitchen before retiring to the lounge. At 12.00 noon we attended a short Service in the lovely little wood and stone chapel with large windows looking out on to the bush. Fifteen members, staff and Jenny Duckworth shared lunch and fellowship round a well-scrubbed farm house kitchen table. Jenny shared the life and rhythms of the Commune which was very interesting. The afternoon session concluded with farewells - we will be back!

**The Gospel was first preached at Oihi.** Bishop Richard Randerson was the guest speaker, when 50 members from the Kapiti Region met together at **St Christopher's Tawa** to learn of the establishment of the ecumenical Marsden Cross Trust Board in 2005, and heard that the project at Oihi is moving along well. This will see a simple welcome centre, gathering place and chapel, and a pilgrimage path with way-stations telling the story down the valley to the Marsden Cross. 2014: The Bicentenary of the proclamation of the Christian Gospel in Aotearoa/New Zealand will be celebrated by establishing a network of regional groups throughout the country to plan events throughout 2014. (More information may be found at [www.gospel2014.org](http://www.gospel2014.org))



**Unveiled or Veiled?** 'Living in Saudi Arabia as a Christian', was the topic of Barbara Bonnifant's enlightening talk to the combined women's groups of the **Waikanae Parish**. The fifty women present shared worship, were entertained and informed by Barbara and lunched together. Barbara's stories and experiences of living in a compound, learning to move, speak and dress appropriately, gave us an insight into the Islamic culture and religious practices.

It was interesting to note that gatherings of more than four people is against the law in this place, and since Christianity is most decidedly unlawful, opportunities to worship in community need to be carefully and safely initiated.

All those gathered there would have happily spent the entire afternoon listening and learning more about a culture so different to our own, where our concept of



friendship has no place and relationships are kept in the family or tribe. As for the heat, it was 50°+.

Lady Day, held a little later this year was at **St Mary's Levin**. The Guest Preacher was the Revd Geneth Davies of St Peter's, Palmerston North. This was a well attended Service and sincere thanks to Mothers' Union for a splendid morning tea and hosting this special day.

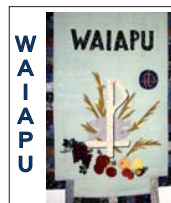
**From Janice Viles, outgoing Diocesan President.** After an amazing, if very dry summer, we are now having a protracted autumn and don't the trees look beautiful! In March, there was the **NZ Executive AAW Weekend in Wellington**. The small blue and gold stickers are to be purchased for stationery and bookmarks are being priced. Sunday morning was spent on the Constitution; changes being made are cosmetic and will be ratified at the next Triennial Conference in 2016 in Dunedin. Margaret McLanachan is to be the NZ President.

The Governor General and Lady Janine Mataparae celebrated Matariki and also the Women of New Zealand on Monday, 10 June. Mary McKenna and I represented you on this occasion.

**Our Wellington AGM** will be held on Sunday 1 September at the 'Loaves and Fishes' at 3.00 pm, and then we can attend Evensong at 5.00 pm. Canon Jenny Wilkins will conduct the AGM, Service, and Commissioning of the new Executive. The meeting in March was my last and - I am very sorry to be retiring.

I have attended two Triennial Conferences, the New Zealand Executive of AAW, said goodbye to Dean Frank and Bishop Tom and now have the opportunity to walk with Bishop Justin. I have met many wonderful people and gained a huge amount of knowledge about AAW and the Anglican Church. It has been a privilege. *Janice Viles.*

## Diocese of Waipapu



**Te Hapara Family Fellowship, Gisborne.** Although only 8 in number, members are strong in Christian beliefs and love and concern for each other. Leadership duties are shared. Services in the church are special. Meetings are in the lounge, where we sit around a round table, are informal and full of friendship, with excellent speakers or sometimes just chat, discussing varied topics.

We support the 'Least Coin' and fill service positions on AAW Sunday and provide morning tea. Mid-year we have a special programme together with Holy Trinity AAW. Enjoyed by all in August is 'Birthday Month' when we share in Holy Communion. At the end-of-year, we join the Thursday morning communicants, providing lunch for everyone. Donations are accepted for the Salvation Army Food bank. Te Hapara Parish is part of the Gisborne Anglican Parish and, small as we are, we have been happy to keep our Family Fellowship identity. *Jean Gardiner and Faye Candy*



Members gathered at **All Saints, Maungatapu**, and a sister church within the Holy Trinity Tauranga Parish, to welcome our speaker, Sandra King. The old, well loved hymn, 'I love to tell the story of Jesus and his love' was an appropriate introduction to Sandra's eloquent kaleidoscope of stories depicting her interesting and spiritual journey to China to set up an orphanage for abandoned babies and unwanted children. She learnt the Chinese languages and dialects, conversing with both children and adults.

God's provision was soon revealed through her being given ownership of a suitable building for the first of three orphanages in different regions through similar 'miracle gifts'. The winters are extremely cold there, and donations of warm clothing for the children are gratefully accepted.

Chinese Government officials routinely checked her treatment of the orphans, through cameras installed in all the orphanages' rooms. Eventually they observed the positive improvements in the behaviour of those in her care, especially as none of the three orphanages received government funding towards expenses incurred. In time the cameras were removed once the authorities were satisfied of the care being given. *Anne Tjaberings*

Each Easter and Christmas, **St John's Dannevirke** invites the Anglican residents of the Rest Homes to come to the Church to celebrate Holy Eucharist. These folk enjoy these visits to the church and after communion they are treated to a very nice afternoon tea which is provided by St Johns Family Fellowship. We try to have the 'old favourites', and cakes etc available for them. It is growing in popularity and this Easter about 35 people were in attendance.

**The Book of the Moment.** This book is the one I reach for most, when I need to refresh my memory of times and places. It contains so many well-documented facts and figures, set out with precision. A multitude of characters fill the pages, each character with a special story to tell, stories of life and death, tragedy and trauma, hardships and disasters as well as joy, love and friendship, meetings and partings, and shared reminiscences well worth recording.

Almost every human emotion and experience has been covered by the characters in this book and these have been shared during the many years this book has been in preparation and production many, many incidents told and retold, facts confirmed and events and places re-visited. This is, of course, my Visitors Book. It cannot be completed yet . . . I know there is still much to be written. *Barbara Falconer, St John the Baptist AAW Te Puke*

**Waiapu Memories.** AAW members in the Waiapu Diocese were saddened to learn of the death of Wilma, wife of the late Revd Don Ferguson. Wilma spent most of her life in the Bay of Plenty, assisting Don in all aspects of what

was truly a partnership in ministry. Born in Tauranga, after Don's ordination they served in Rotorua and Opotiki before spending five years in the Solomon Islands, where Don was Dean of the Cathedral.

Returning to New Zealand, Don became Vicar of St George's, Gate Pa, Tauranga. A real venture in faith was their establishing the Titoki Healing Centre near Whakatane where they remained for twelve years before retiring to live in Tauranga.

She was always active in women's groups, whether Young Wives, Mothers' Union or Fellowships, and supporting Overseas and Outreach and the mission work of AAW, was always a very important part of Wilma's life. Wilma served as President for the Bay of Plenty region, leading by her example of deep concern and support for people less fortunate than herself. Her home operated with an "open door" policy. She will be remembered for her simplicity, serenity, sympathy and sincerity.



## Diocese of Polynesia

**The Revd Ema Hala'api'api**, wife of the late Bishop Viliami Hala'api'api, died recently at Suva Hospital. Members may

recall seeing Ema on the right in this picture, 'active in ministry' as recently as in the June issue of Circle. We give thanks to God for her life and the many years of faithful contribution and engagement in God's Mission.



AAW members **Leanne Edwards and Ulamila Fong Toy** respectively from Lautoka on the western coast of Viti Levu and Suva in Fiji, participated attended a gathering of women leaders at a recent three tikanga women's retreat at Vaughan Park in Auckland, an occasion which was full of creativity, prayer, conversations, laughter and inspirational sharing with one another.

"My experience at the Vaughan Park Retreat Centre was one that I would never forget," Leanne says. "The heavenly atmosphere itself played a big part as I journeyed with other sisters in Christ. The "word weaving" workshop I attended, helped to bring out a gift I never thought I had. It was through this workshop that I learnt to allow the Holy Spirit to take control, thus the inspiration to write my piece as I looked at the window and saw the rain drops."

The song Leanne composed is featured on our front cover, and in Auckland, she led its singing by the women gathered there at Vaughan Park.





## AAW Now and Then

Pictures from the  
'Changing of the Guard'  
at Cambridge.

Left: Immediate past president  
Elizabeth Hayes and the new  
president Ruth Riddell.

Right: Jeannie Parr - the very first  
NZ AAW president, with Ruth  
Riddell and husband Peter Parr.

Below: Supporters and banners from  
Waikato, Taranaki and Waipapu.

