

Circle



A magazine for New Zealand women



Reaching out to the women of today...

- AAW offers Christian support, friendship, fun and social interaction.
- AAW is open to all women throughout New Zealand and Polynesia and has its own magazine 'Circle'.
- AAW takes an interest in Social Concerns and lobbies on its own behalf and through the National Council of Women New Zealand.
- AAW is active in Overseas and Outreach. Funds given by members support projects and mission partners in New Zealand and overseas. An emergency fund assists in natural disaster relief.

We have a three-year theme:

Growth through Gratitude, Grace and Guidance.

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.

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Cover: ***“The AAW Aim ‘to participate in the mission of the church’ returns us to the earliest, Jesus-inspired imperatives of service.”***

*Bishop Steven’s article:
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Editorial note

We continue with our two new sections:

- **Did you know**

Let us know something exciting or exceptional to tell everyone about.

- **Catalyst Corner**

A spotlight on organisations, events, and people who provide a catalyst for beneficial change. Ideas or submissions welcomed.

From the President...

What a different year this has been; having to manage as well as we could with the constraints of lockdown, isolation and lack of social interaction.

Our guest episcopal contributors:

Our Diocesan bishops continue to honour us with their thoughtful articles enabling deeper insight and meaning to the aims and work of the AAW. *(Contact us if you want back copies.)*

This issue features the Anglican Bishop of Dunedin, Rt Rev Dr Steven Benford, who gives us another perspective of the AAW aim - Mission of the Church. *(Full article on page 7.)*

AAW's strong connection with the National Council of Women New Zealand (NCWNZ)

The NCWNZ remits are usually included on our programme for discussion. This year the NCWNZ remits came out later than usual giving little time for discussion in AAW groups. The Diocese of Christchurch Executive committee were asked to come prepared

to discuss the four remits at the August meeting. Members had a useful discussion and supported all the remits.

Remit 1: Digital or online services: Access to online or digital services and support should be available for those who are not digitally enabled and investment made in increasing digital literacy.

Remit 2: Recognising and Supporting Intersectional Justice Approach.

That NCWNZ actively supports and advocates for an intersectional approach to gender equality.

Remit 3: Supporting safeguarding without guns.

That NCWNZ opposes the arming of Police with guns as the norm in our communities.

Remit 4: Women with Disabilities:

That NCWNZ includes the United Nations Convention on, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the framework for developing all NCWNZ strategy, policy, submissions and campaigns.

NZAAW Executive update

We met for two days at the end of August, at the Community of the Sacred Name Retreat House in Christchurch. Two members from Auckland and one from New Plymouth were unable to travel because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The AGM, chaired by the President, was held at 2pm Saturday 29 August. Several Constitutional changes were approved which had previously been circulated. Afterwards, we had a very interesting talk by Suzanne and Edward Sands about living and working in Kyrgyzstan for 10 years. *(See page 25 for full details of their talk.)*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Sunday morning, the Executives attended the Transitional Cathedral for the Eucharist service. Bishop Peter Carrell was the presider and preacher at the service which included commissioning of the NZAAW Executives.

On Saturday evening we all went out for dinner at Rogues on Rotherham in Riccarton.

Judith Mackenzie



L-R: Norma Benton, Christine Aitken, Cynthia Prince, Anne Gover, Jude Mackenzie, Nicky Lee, Pat Owen, Mary Driver, Diane Higgins, Pat Vincent

NZ AAW Conference 9-11 April 2021

22nd Triennial Conference

Venue: St Margaret's College, Winchester Street, Christchurch

Conference theme: Renewal

Speakers: Interesting speakers talking about current issues.

Workshops: Linked to the theme of Conference.

Registration: on-line shortly via Eventbrite.

All welcome. Come and visit the Garden City from 9-11 April 2021



Dublin Bay

Bishop Steven reflects

“For whatever reason, since humankind showed up, God does nothing without a human partner.”

(Bishop Desmond Tutu)

“Brother, sister, let me serve you;...”

(Richard Gillard)

At the heart of our faith is the relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ – something commenced, continued and completed by God for us.

And yet with the parable imagery of the Lost Sheep set alongside the conversations Jesus had with individuals as diverse as Martha or Zaccheus, it could be easy to imagine (or hope?) that God is calling us into an exclusively personal relationship. And while having “a personal Saviour” remains a helpful mantra for strands of the church, I wonder if there is a danger of “personal Saviour” morphing into “private Saviour” with less

than helpful connotations of a god contained, controlled or created in our image to serve us?

The AAW Aim to “participate in the mission of the church” immediately lifts us from a private, exclusive understanding of God, and returns us to the earliest, Jesus-inspired imperatives of service.

While we will always be the ones Jesus goes to seek out, rescue and restore, with that comes the joy of working with God to see creation, community and church living out the abundant life promised by Jesus.

- **Creation** – because what God made was good, very good, and not a mistake to be replaced having been exploited and ransacked.
- **Community** – because God sees that it is not good that we are alone, and in living for others we find ourselves completed.
- **Church** – the mystery that where two or three are gathered in his name somehow Jesus is also present.

Bishop Steven Benford is the tenth Bishop of Dunedin, ordained and installed 22 September 2017. “Steven is a very warm and engaging priest with a heart for mission,” said Archbishop Philip after meeting him in London.



The Milkmaid by Johannes Vermeer

‘....let me serve you....’

I suspect that the mission of the church, built on the foundation of God’s commitment to us, is completed as we sacrificially serve others.

Lord Jesus, teach us how to serve. Amen.

Bishop Steven's hymn choice:

Brother, Sister ...

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;

I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard

Increased impacts on women

Julie Walker, AAW National Social Concerns Convenor

As an organisation committed to the wellbeing of women and children in Aotearoa and the Pacific, it might be timely to examine the consequences of COVID-19 on women, children and families here.

These were the findings and overall view of the May governmental enquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on women:

- Women and girls are always disproportionately affected by emergencies and disasters, such as pandemics. This includes greater loss of income, increased family violence, and increased caring responsibilities. Existing inequalities for women and girls and discrimination of other marginalised groups are often made worse.
- The impacts of COVID-19 are

exacerbated for women and girls.

- Some groups of women will experience greater impacts than others. Women who fall into multiple groups experiencing existing inequalities may feel the combined effects of factors such as race, age, sexuality, and disability with gender.
- Wāhine Māori and Pacific women are already impacted by existing inequalities while being more likely to have additional financial and caring responsibilities for extended family members.
- Existing inequalities such as the gender pay gap and occupational segregation, as well as issues in non-standard work and unpaid care, mean that women are

more susceptible to economic hardship and less resilient against COVID-19's economic impacts.

- Women undertake more unpaid labour than men, including care for children and the elderly. This is likely to intensify while New Zealand is on level 4.
- The risk of gender-based violence, such as family and sexual violence which disproportionately affects women, rises during national emergencies and disasters. Home isolation means women and children are more exposed to their abusers and are unable to escape to relatively safer spaces like school and work.

As a group of Christian, caring women, we have always been alert to the needs of others around us - but perhaps even more so now we need to have our eyes open to the needs of our neighbours and wider community; we perhaps need to readjust our thinking on who might need care. Some of the need may actually be invisible

or be amongst people in our community that we previously assumed were managing their lives. The reported use of foodbank services by many in our population for the first time in their lives underlines this need.

There has also been reporting of the fact that proportionately more women lost their jobs than men during the peak of the pandemic.

For the elderly the social isolation caused by COVID-19 was heightened due to 'digital exclusion' which impacted severely on their ability to access care and support across a number of areas. ('Digital exclusion' is a focus of one of National Council of Women's November Conference remits.)

As always the challenge for AAW is to think and pray collectively and creatively for wisdom on how to meet the needs of those around us. The purpose of our organisation is more vital than ever.

Catalyst Corner

A spotlight on organisations, events and people who provide a catalyst for beneficial change.

This edition: **Still Water Scarves**

- a registered charitable trust set up by women; producing prayer scarves to raise funds to support organisations working to protect and rehabilitate the victims of human trafficking.

Wearing a prayer

Each scarf is designed by a New Zealand artist, with a quotation (or adapted quotation) from scripture.

The prayer scarf is designed to be a symbol of faith and an affirmation of your trust in the protection of God's love. You will be wrapped in aroha (the Māori word for love and grace).

“By buying our scarves you are helping to transform the lives of women who desperately need our help.”

The scarves are produced in a sustainable and ethical fashion in China and made with high

quality, durable materials which look and feel beautiful. All packaging is made through earth-friendly processes and is compostable.

To find out more visit:

<https://stillwaterscarves.org>



(text taken from their website – Ed)

Elections 20/20

Raewyn Dawson

So, my fellow worker bees,
it's all about what one sees.

Here was our time for clear vision,
for a crucial long-term decision.

We came to the waiting booth
without being able to future-proof
our choices, and left, not knowing
if we were right or just going
with our previous flight patterns
of prejudice and money matters.

For our Beehive we chose between
two strong bees, both able to be queen –
and now must pray one will lead our flight
through change and challenge aright.

Hope: The grandeur of God

Mary Houston

Tuesday morning. I put down the paper with a sigh. What is the world coming to?

Pandemic numbers rising in so many parts of the world, floods in France; plastic-filled oceans; the elections fiasco in the USA; Lake Ohau village razed by fire; the nit-picking politics of the NZ elections' protests; violence; hate... At best the news is bad, at worst horrific. No wonder there is so much negativity, so many loud protesting voices, so many warnings of gloom, economic failure and doom.

Lines from Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem 'God's Grandeur' come to mind. They sum it up so well.

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade;

bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod...

I rise slowly, get ready and leave. At least the nor-west wind has stilled, and the overnight rain has been replaced by a reluctant sun.

As I lock the front door I see with surprise that the tiny green buds on my well-staked dwarf mandarin tree are swelling and turning white – those bunches of flowers promise bunches of fruit. I pause to look more closely – yes – my lily-of-the-valley IS alive and I suddenly feel happy.

While walking the lane to the community centre I realise that there is so much colour.

The daffodils and narcissi are over, but the tulips make a brave show: standing tall and with huge blooms in unusual pastel shades. Daisies are shaped into balls of brilliant colours: deep pinks, yellow, white. The deciduous trees are gold-green with new leaves, the cherry blossom a soft pink. Everything looks so bright, so fresh, so...new.

I often think of spring as being the advent for summer.

Just as Advent prepares us for the joy of the Christmas Nativity, so does spring raise our spirits in anticipation of warmer days, the holiday season, maturing crops and the ultimate harvest.

The cycle of seasons illustrates that whatever the gloom, doom and despair, there is always Hope. Without Hope we die.

Yes, God knows what we are doing to his Creation but he never loses faith in us, no matter what havoc we wreak in

His world.

This, I believe, is the Grandeur of God. As Hopkins expresses it:

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

I find this image so warm, comforting, forgiving. I know that whatever happens in this world, Hope will always be there for us to cling on to.

Follow your dreams

In Spite of Everything

Shelley Vette, Overseas & Outreach Convenor

The massive eruption of the Manaro Voui volcano (Ambae, Vanuatu) in 2018 resulted in a total of 600,000 tons of sulphur dioxide being forced into the upper atmosphere. That is three times the amount released from all combined worldwide eruptions in 2017.

After a series of eruptions in 2018 volcanic ash buried homes, destroyed crops and made rainwater, the only source of drinking water “metallic, like sour lemon juice” according to NZ Volcanologist Brad Scott. Over the course of 2018, the entire population of 11,000 people in Ambae were forced to evacuate. During the 15 months people were away, the rain washed the ash into the soil and the plants began to grow again. Stock wandered

the island freely, feeding on the abundant flora. Although, at St Patrick’s College, evidence of the disaster was all around.

However there were signs of hope such as the poignant motto painted on the wall of one of the classrooms: ‘Follow Your Dreams’.

Over Christmas and New Year 2019-20 a few people remained at the school including the Principal, Mrs Kathleen Tahl. (Kathleen became the Principal just before the volcanic eruption in 2018). They gave a warm welcome to Robin Stanford, and his wife Joan, teachers who came from Inglewood, NZ, to help with preparing the school to open for 2020.

The school had not received its

funding for 2020 yet and didn't even know how many, if any, students they would be getting (school funding is based on school numbers).

Principal Kathleen reported on 18 June 2020: "We are all OK except that the scare from COVID-19 and tropical Cyclone Harold have added to our already challenging situation. Things have started to settle down but the condition of our buildings caused by the ash fall and Cyclone Harold still remains untouched. The Government had been talking about a Recovery Fund to help us but it never materialised, due to the arising disasters this year."

Robin Stanford adds on August 18, 2020: "Only three of the stoves that we rescued from the Home Economics Room were able to be fixed, which makes a class a challenge! There's a need for those big ticket items as well as all of the pots and pans and utensils to go with it...the dormitories and ablution blocks are also

in serious need of renovation and we mustn't forget that it's a residential facility with the students there 24/7."

What a remarkable woman Mrs Kathleen Tahl is: as Robin has said, "She only took over just before the eruption so she has had a volcano; complete evacuation; setting up and training the school in shared facilities in Luganville; returning to St Patrick's in Ambae and cleaning up; the Covid-19 pandemic and a Category 5 Cyclone to deal with – all in her first two years!!"

She has helped so many to "Follow Your Dreams" and we through the AAW St Patrick's College Project have played a part in that too!



Everything was covered in ash

The old and the new

The Rev'd Jill Keir, Vicar of Avonside

Avonside parish: then and now:

After ten years of waiting, a new church is to be built at Avonside, Christchurch.

The site was blessed at 9am, 10 August, and the work began shortly thereafter. The new church building will be built on the site of the original church, in the historic graveyard.

The original Anglican parish of Avonside once covered the whole of the north- east Christchurch as far as the Styx River and included within its boundaries what were to become the parishes of Aranui, Burwood, Parklands, New Brighton, North New Brighton and part of Phillipstown.

Some of these parishes have since amalgamated to become East Christchurch.

This parish started as a largely rural one situated in the middle of swampy ground which was somewhat treacherous to travel over in wintry wet conditions.

Now the parish covers a great deal smaller area and the church centre is situated in an inner-city area of Christchurch.

In 1857 the first church was consecrated here on the present site. It was the first Anglican church in Canterbury to be consecrated by Bishop Harper. However, services were held here in this area from 1855.

Through the generosity of parishioners and friends, the original cob church gave way to the historic stone church which was constructed in stages between 1874 and 1954.

FEATURE

The foundation of the stone structure was laid in 1874.

The architect Benjamin Mountfort, was an active member of the parish and had been responsible for the additions and alterations to the original building as well as designing the brick vicarage, sited where Harper Gardens stands today.

The church was given a category one listing by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Sadly, both the historic church and the hall were lost in the recent earthquakes.

However, this community has banded together and is, once again, a strong community of faith. Some major changes were made to St Francis Hall in 2014 which created more space for worship and the wide range of other activities.

Its AAW group joins with many others in looking forward to the new community-focused church building, due to be ready by February 2022.



HOLY TRINITY AVONSIDE - REDEVELOPMENT

Did you know...

St Mary's – a recurring pattern for Rosemary Edward

My association with many St Mary's started before I was born.

My mother was married in St Mary's on Hayling Island which is a small island in the South of England. I was baptised in the same church.

I worked at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth in Southern England.

I was married in St Mary's church, which was built on the site of an early monk's cell. My four grandparents are buried there.

And naturally, now I worship at St Mary's, Halswell, Christchurch.

Rosemary is the Christchurch AAW Diocesan Secretary

Rosemary Edward



Christmas 2020

Lynne Hill

A strange Christmas, you may say
Think of that unique baby in the hay
His family far from home
Facing a future long foretold.
No celebration food / The Magi's gifts yet to come.
Perhaps this Christmas we can
Focus on how it all began.

Instead of wondering if we should buy a tree
When there may be no one there to see
Coloured lights and the Christmas star.
Not rushing after special food and Christmas treats
Nor endless lists of gifts and jobs
which should be done.

Whatever December brings
May you have peace and goodwill to share
Time to reflect on the Christmas message.
As we learned at Easter this year
Christian joy comes from the main event
Not from the side-tracks we have added.

Christchurch

Pam Macfarlane, AAW Kaiapoi

Kaiapoi Food Forest: AAW members from Kaiapoi visited Brent Cairns at the Kaiapoi Food Forest which is right in Cass Street, opposite St Bartholomew Church. **Brent started the gardens in 2017 - a part developed from the Red Zone.** He talked about the plants and trees in the

area. Anyone with spare fruit or vegetables can donate them, **thus helping to provide someone with part of a meal for free.** He expressed it as a ‘foods’ forest’, saying “well-being is the experience of health, happiness and prosperity”.



Craft for Overseas Relief:

Our September speaker, Maureen Braun, told us about Craft for Overseas relief.

She started the organisation in 2001; one each in the South and North Island and quickly gained the support and help of many people who knit. They have been providing blankets, scarves, hats, gloves and jerseys ever since its inception.

The items are packed into containers - around two a year - and are sent off to countries in Eastern Europe, where they are distributed to those in need.

About twenty women meet weekly in Kaiapoi, Rangiora, and around the country, and they enjoy using their gifts in this way.

Missionary Society work in Togo - Ann Jelfs, Rangiora AAW

At our Rangiora September meeting, Miriam Tillman, who works for the Church

Missionary Society as a pharmacist in Togo, gave an inspirational talk. Togo is situated next to Ghana in West Africa.

To get there she had to fly from Christchurch to Auckland, then Singapore and on to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. Then to Lome the capital of Togo in the south of country. The final leg is by the only sealed road which runs south to north and takes 10 hours to the village of Mango where she works at the local hospital.

She lives there for 2 years at a time followed by 6 months here to work in pharmacies to keep her Pharmacy Certificate valid.

The population is nearly 8 million, the predominant language is French, and the climate is tropical. She is returning in October at the end of the rainy season. **The hospital was new when she first went there in 2015 so she was able to arrange the pharmacy herself.** She has a team of local trainees helping

her. We gave her a donation of \$120 to buy goods to assist in her work.

AAW North Canterbury Fellowship Report **Ann Jelfs**

In August, Rangiora AAW. hosted the North Canterbury Fellowship Day at St. John the Baptist, Rangiora. We were delighted with the response from Kaiapoi AAW, Kaiapoi B.A.T.A. and members from other Christchurch AAWs. We welcomed nearly 50 people, including Diocesan President, and four Past Diocesan Presidents: Ruth Harwood, Olive Gray, Jan Deavoll and Joanne Gumbrell. Following morning tea, the Rev Toby Behan took the communion service with a short sermon on the daily reading ‘Jesus walks on water’.

During a short break Judith Mackenzie presented seven ‘50 years in AAW’ badges.

Our guest speakers: **Edward and Suzanne Sands spent 10 years (1998 -2008) in**

Kyrgyzstan growing God’s Kingdom as part of the ‘Interservice’ programme.

Their talk, ‘Mountains, Markets and Missions’, informed us that the country is beautiful and the historically nomadic people are poor but very hospitable. Kyrgyzstan has lots of mountains, lakes and rivers and a population of six and a half million. The country’s highest mountain is twice the height of Mt Cook.

To help women provide an income for themselves Suzanne encouraged them to make felt nativity scenes to sell to the ex-pat community who took them back to their home countries and sold them on behalf of the women.

This proved to be a most successful enterprise.

Edward was Principal of the Bible College where local people were trained to help grow the Christian Church. They also organised Bible study groups and language courses along with practical assistance.



Felt craft: Nativity scene



Felt craft: Camels



Edward and Suzanne Sands

Dunedin

Christine Aitken, Dunedin AAW President

All Saints Invercargill: An inspection suggested that our Altar Cloths were reaching the end of their long and useful service. Our AAW group decided to replace one. We raised funds by raffles held during our meetings.

In the hope of buying a cloth, I visited the Community of the Sacred Name in Christchurch. Unfortunately, they no longer

make Church linen, so we decided to make it ourselves. Material was sourced locally, Elizabeth Lucy hemmed it and Barbara Wootton embroidered the crosses.

Our Vicar accepted and blessed the cloth while expressing his thanks and praising our work.



L-R: Barbara Wootton, Rev. Richard Aitken, Elizabeth Lucy

Nelson

Jan South, AAW Nelson

For the first time this year over 50 women from the Nelson Waimea region gathered at Richmond.

Jean McConachie, leader of the Afternoon AAW group, welcomed everyone and opened with a reading and prayer.

Regional Leader Anne Webb welcomed the new Diocesan President Kathy Cuthbert. Diane Higgins presented 50 year badges to members who had been in AAW since the beginning in 1969.

The bishop's wife, the Rev'd Watiri Maina, was introduced and spoke about her life. She was born in Kenya and lived in Nairobi. She spoke about her faith journey, which went through many changes, the difficulty of colonization and how she met Steve. After they married, they felt called back to the Anglican church.

Working with a faith-based organisation that promoted peace and reconciliation, she taught refugee and marginalised women to sew goods that were sold locally and globally so giving the women an income. She also studied psychology and counselling.

When she and Bishop Steve came to NZ with their family to work with CMS, they wondered where the people were and found it takes time to get to know people. She lectured at Laidlaw College for eight years, finished her studies and was ordained in Christchurch.

A fascinating address.

At the Nelson Executive meeting in Murchison, outgoing President Diane Higgins was presented with a gift, and two ladies from Cobden Runanga were presented with 50 Year badges.

As Nelson AAW didn't have an AGM this year the new President Kathy Cuthbert was commissioned at a service in her own church, All Saints, in Nelson and given her badge.

It was special to have her own group as well as members from Richmond and Waimea in attendance.



The Rev'd. Waitiri speaks

Polynesia

Litia Smith, Circle Correspondent, Polynesia

Greetings to all you AAW ladies in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope that all is well with you.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic we have been very restricted in our movement, and our chances of holding meetings have been limited. The churches were closed. Gatherings of fewer than twenty have been allowed during these hard times so we have little exciting news to pass on as we focus on caring for our families.

Here are some photos of our recent combined AAW Rally for the Suva Ovalau

Archdeaconry. St Mark's, St Bartholomew's and St John's all met at St John's, and St Luke's, Holy Trinity Cathedral and Church of the Holy Redeemer had their rally in Waidrada. There were testimonies, skits and hymns shared from the parishes.

We hope and pray that God will continue to protect us and guide us all.



Waikato & Taranaki

Pamela King, St Chads AAW New Plymouth Archdeaconry Link Day

The 6 October Link Gathering hosted by St Chads, West New Plymouth included members from Holy Trinity, St Mary's Cathedral, St John's, Waitara and Holy Trinity, Stratford.

The day commenced with a time of fellowship & lunch, provided by the hosts, for which we were joined also by our guests Shelley and Peter Vette.

We moved to the church, and Pam King introduced Shelly who is the present National Executive O&O Convenor, who presented '50 years in AAW' gold bar service awards, to Joan Honeyfield, Anne Francis, Norma Benton, Rosemary Bent and Pam King.

Then Shelley gave a very vivid account of life for the people of Ambae, Vanuatu, and particularly the folk at St Patrick's College, who have

experienced the Volcanic eruption, resulting in total evacuation of the island, and after beginning to restore building so the school could reopen in January 2020, suffered COVID-19, and more recently the level 5 Cyclone Harold.

A collection towards the Ambae restoration fund will be forwarded to the National treasurer. Shelley was thanked by Mary Needs with acclamation from all present.

Before departing Evelyn Froom, LLM, led a Taize service, which gave those present a feeling of Peace.

Wellington

Pat Vincent, President of St John's/St Michael's AAW Group

An Interesting Visitor called 'Spike' Our St John's/St Michael's AAW Group meet monthly at St John's Church Johnsonville. For our September meeting we were privileged to host Sue Keall, Senior Technical Officer - Conservation Ecology in the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington. One of Sue's roles in the School is a long term involvement in the tuatara research and conservation programme, which involves field work to islands with tuatara, as well as collaborations with other organisations such as the Department of Conservation, iwi, and Wellington Zoo on tuatara conservation programmes. The University incubates tuatara eggs as part of conservation programmes around the country.

Sue informed us that Tuatara

(name derived from Māori meaning 'peaks on the back') are the last surviving species of the reptile order Rhynchocephalia that thrived in the age of the dinosaurs. This makes them of huge interest to scientists here and overseas. Tuatara are unusual reptiles because they like cool weather. They do not survive well over 25 degrees centigrade but can live below 5 degrees, by sheltering in burrows. An interesting fact is that the sex of the Tuatara is determined by the temperature the eggs experience in the nest. Warmer temperatures produce males.

Undoubtedly the star of this presentation was 'Spike' a male Tuatara who came with Sue.

Because it was under COVID Level 2 we were unable to

touch him but we did get a close up view.

One of our other visitors was our Minister's wife Teri and daughter Breanna, whom they home school. Teri posted a lovely photo of Breanna and Spike on Facebook under the heading: 'Some days home-schooling is just plain awesome.' I think the latter part summed up all our feelings.



Recipes

Fruit cake – easy as!

Soak overnight: 1 kg mixed fruit/sultanas in 500mls blue milk or 2 cups black coffee or 2 cups orange juice

Mix in: 2 cups self-raising flour

Add: Spices/essences (your choice)

Bake: 150 degrees for 1 ¼ hrs in 8 inch (230mm approx.) square tin lined with baking paper. Turn off oven and leave in oven until cold.

Vanilla Crispies

Cream: 175g butter and ¾ cup sugar

Add: 1 egg, ½ teaspoon vanilla

Then add: 1½ cups self-raising flour, 1½ cups rice bubbles

Bake: 180 degrees, 12-15 mins. Makes 40.

Norma Benton, Waikato and Taranaki Diocese

Christmas (or not) Slice (not gluten free)

Melt: 125grams (4oz) butter, 1 cup brown soft sugar, ½ can condensed milk. Stir a few times and let cool (allow an hour at least). Give cooled mixture a good stir.

Add: 1 packet (250gm) wine biscuits (or similar) that have been crushed into small chunks, 1 cup finely chopped dried apricots, ¼ - ½ cup chocolate chips 3 or 4 pieces of finely chopped crystallized ginger (optional). Mix well.

Line rectangle or square tin with baking paper. Spread firm mixture evenly and press down.

Put tin in fridge to set (preferably three hours or more).

Put clean dry board on top and turn both over, remove baking paper - use sharp heavy knife, cut into lengths then cut to bitesize pieces. Keep in airtight container.

Patricia Owen, NZAAW Secretary, Diocese of Christchurch

Submissions/Subscriptions

deadline for next issue: 15 January 2021

**Submissions: please send to Pat Owen,
Circle Team Co-ordinator (details below)**

- We're 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 e-mailed to **Pat Owen** as a separate attachment
 - Please don't insert photos in a Word doc/email
 - No photoshop please
- If sending a number of images, please rank them in order of importance. (We may not be able to use them all.)
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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.

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