

Circle



Connecting Anglican Women



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'...a world which is marked with beauty and joy...'

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)

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Cover: **'...a world which is marked with beauty and joy...'** Bishop Justin's article is on page 7.



Editorial note

Julie Walker, our Social Concerns Convenor, has provided a thought-provoking article. She writes: “As women of God, we need to actively address the social concerns issues that confront us.” (See p9)

Raewyn Dawson, our Overseas and Outreach Convenor, has researched and provided us with a who’s who in the New Zealand Church Missionary Society (NZCMS). This suitably complements her statement: “It is wonderful how Anglican Missions is growing their vision, part of which is to support NZCMS and all our country’s giving, and yet they also support us in our AAW mission.” (p11)

Our speciality sections:

- **Catalyst Corner – AAW groups need to think outside the square!**
A selection of helpful resource material made available from Anne Hopkins (Timaru AAW). (p17)
- **Did you know?** – *In this section we highlight the importance of AGMs and honour a Kiwi Award recipient. (p19)*

From the President

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 AAW. *(Contact us if you want back copies).*

This issue features another article by Bishop Justin Duckworth, Bishop of Wellington. While acknowledging that the NZAAW and its Diocesan groups are involved in ‘amazing projects’, he also invites AAW groups to do a New Year ‘health check’:

- As part of the Church, how does your AAW group fare?
- What can you celebrate that you are doing well?
- What invitation might be present from God to refine or reinvigorate us towards transformative justice?

I encourage our groups to take up Bishop Justin’s invitation and also to include his beautiful prayer, on page 8, in some of your meetings.

In November 2022, I visited the Waikato and Taranaki Diocese, hosting lunch in the Board Room at Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter for a small group of AAW members, Dean Julian Perkins, and Cathedral Administrator, Vivienne Thorpe. I spoke briefly about NZAAW and our mission project for the Canteen at Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School in Suva, Fiji.

At the beginning of December, I spent a few days in New Plymouth, and attended an Archdeaconry Link Gathering of 35 AAW members.

Several times last year, AAW members asked me if there were any AAW Coffee Mugs left over from the Golden Jubilee in 2019. As we’d sold all the mugs, I decided to have new AAW mugs made, and we are selling them for \$20 plus postage. This is a fund-raising project for NZAAW as we have a goal of \$10,000 by the end of May 2023 to give towards the Canteen project in Suva, Fiji.
Contact: judith@jmacwebdesign.nz



Anne Hopkins from Timaru, who compiles the Prayer Letters every two months for the Diocese of Christchurch AAW, has written two helpful handouts for AAW group leaders:

1. *Think outside the square*
2. *AAW Small Group Activities*

Please email judith@jmacwebdesign.nz if you would like copies of one or both articles.

To close, let us remember and pray for all those seriously affected by flooding. The NZAAW Executive have sent a donation from the Emergency Fund of \$1,000 to Auckland City Mission, to be followed by a further \$1,000 in a month's time

Judith Mackenzie

Over cups of tea and coffee
the sacred becomes gathered warmth.
In low-fenced backyards and playgrounds,
the sacred chatters and laughs
On black sand beaches and stretching seas,
the sacred shines.
Under cool ferns and green puriri
the sacred is uncovered.
In conflicts and misunderstandings
the sacred waits to be revealed.
On barefoot journey of pilgrims walks the sacred.
The pot of the world simmers with the sacred.
Take off the lid!

Anne Powell from *Firesong*

Bishop Justin reflects again for us...

An AAW health check



In 2022, and I know into 2023, AAW groups across

Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia will be involved in some amazing projects which seek to create fairer communities in a world which is marked with beauty and joy but also with brokenness and pain.

But what does it mean to be part of a Church that takes up the call of the prophet Amos to ‘do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God’?

Here are some of my thoughts:

A just church:

- Has Jesus at its centre – believing and sharing that that is where transformation ultimately lies
- Makes disciples in the self-emptying way of Jesus whilst pursuing justice
- Always looks at who is not in the room, and why that might be
- Is more interested in what’s ‘out there’ than ‘in here’
- Is deeply involved in its local community and therefore understands what its needs are
- Knows the big issues that face society – nationally and internationally

- Thinks about its impact holistically – what it buys, how it uses its resources.

The start of a new year, and holiday quiet spaces, are a good time to have a bit of a health check.

As part of the Church, how does your AAW group fare? What can you celebrate that you are doing well? What invitation might be present from God to refine or reinvigorate us towards transformative justice?

And because each of our individual actions really matters to the whole, in our own lives what are the changes, big or small, that each of us can work on with God to bring about Jesus-centred justice?

Praying God's richest blessing on your year ahead; blessing that is received with gratitude; shared, multiplied, and brings forth more blessing in turn, as is the way of our generous God.

Amine, amine, amine

Bishop Justin has been Bishop of Wellington since 2012, and now lives in Whanganui, in the northern part of the Diocese.

He is married to Jenny and they have three adult children.

Bishop Justin has a number of university advanced degrees, was ordained as a priest in 2005, and has pioneered intentional community living most of his life. He is a dynamic and motivational speaker for Christ.



Bishop Justin writes: 'a world which is marked with beauty and joy...'

Credit: Rawpixel

Below the surface

Julie Walker, Social Concerns Convenor

An on-line search shows that the current social concerns in New Zealand are the same as those that have been at the forefront for the last few years. **Continuing to dominate us are: lack of adequate and affordable housing; inflation and the cost of living; healthcare, crime and the economy.**

These concerns to varying degrees impact upon the members of our congregations and the wider communities that we individually interact with.

As we move through 2023 how do we support each other in overcoming these major life obstacles? How do we recognise where those problems exist and the level of impact that they are having on individuals and families with whom we interact?

Sometimes the impact of people's circumstances is clearly visible but increasingly, many families' problems lie just below the surface and may involve heightened levels of emotional and mental anguish that have not been experienced before.

Perhaps more than ever we need to be actively involved in meaningful conversations with people and asking questions like: "How are you really?" with a sincerity that conveys that we honestly do want to know how they are.

As women of God, we need to actively address the social concerns that confront us.

Can we ourselves address and support a particular person's need, or do we need to engage alongside

social services connected with or beyond our church environment?

Being in a church community, we do not act in isolation, and with prayer and practical application we can make a difference in the lives of those around us.

Our local city missions, food rescue organisations, foodbanks and citizen's advice bureaux are all part of our network of care.

Welcoming newcomers, including members of refugee groups to our church and to our AAW groups with open arms, sends a clear message to people that here is safe space - a nurturing space where they can have a sense of belonging, and a platform from which they can navigate the increasing depth of social concerns in our society from which no one is immune.

Outreach programmes such as Mainly Music, therefore, provide an important way to meet with families and support them where they are at in any given time.



Credit: Rawpixel

It is through their children that many adults first have contact with their local church.

As we embark on the challenges and excitement of a new year, let us be ever alert to the deeper needs of those around us in a way that is timely and relevant to each person or family's unique circumstances.

Kia kaha



While in Melbourne this eye-catching banner inspired Julie's article.

©St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

Overseas & Outreach

Raewyn Dawson, Overseas & Outreach Convenor

In my January newsletter I wrote, “It is wonderful how **Anglican Missions is growing their vision, part of which is to support NZCMS** and all our country’s giving, and yet they also support us in our AAW mission.” (*Anglican Missions have a saying about the AAW – that ‘we punch above our weight’*)

Who Does What at NZCMS?



Rosie Fyfe, National Director

Rosie’s term as National Director of NZCMS began

in 2019. Previously, she served as an NZCMS Mission Partner in Egypt for five years before completing a Master’s degree in Church History and Theology at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. She currently lives in Christchurch.



Mike & Ruth Robb, Personnel Managers

Mike and Ruth’s role is to support,

equip and encourage our Mission Partners. They spent many years in Papua New Guinea and Cambodia, and bring a range of skills and experiences to their work with us. Mike has a Bachelor of Ministry from Laidlaw Bible College and is an ordained Acts Churches minister. Ruth is a nurse and a trained Spiritual Director. They have five married adult children, and a growing number of grandchildren.



Paula Masterton, Office Manager

Paula comes from a corporate background and

is based in the Christchurch office. She looks after the

incoming donations, builds partnerships with churches (called Link Churches) who support our Mission Partners in their ministry, and assists with various administrative duties.



**Alice Kinyua,
Intercultural
Communities
Enabler**

A little under six years ago, Alice moved from Nairobi, Kenya, to the lovely city of Whanganui, NZ, with her husband Kinyua Kathuri and children Kara and Kega. They now live in sunny Nelson where Alice's husband is the Vicar at St. Stephens Community Church, Tahunanui.



**Jairus Robb,
Communications
Officer**

Jairus is responsible for NZCMS Communications. Having lived in Papua New

Guinea as a toddler, and in Cambodia as a teenager, Jairus has had many experiences living in global missions. Before joining NZCMS in 2017, he was a youth worker for 8 years and received a Bachelor of Ministries from Laidlaw Bible College. He is married to Jasmine and helps to lead the young adults' ministry at their church.



**Yvonne Styles,
Finance Manager**

Yvonne works for CMS part time. She has prior commercial finance experience and has also worked in various missional roles for her church. Yvonne is passionate about people connecting with God through scripture and loves to hear about how God is working among people both locally and internationally. She lives in Christchurch with her husband Mark.



**Guy & Summer
Benton, Volunteer
Mission Enablers**

Guy and Summer have an emphasis on engaging with youth and young adults. Guy is a New Zealander and Summer is from America. They served as missionaries in Cambodia for five and eight years

respectively. Guy worked with the Anglican Church of Cambodia to strengthen their youth programme and Summer worked as a trainer and supervisor for Cambodian mental health professionals working with survivors of human trafficking. They have four children: Isaac, Quinn, Norah and Addison.

Note: Should anyone want to use this data or photos online, specific permission must first be granted by NZCMS:

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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

Lent: ‘Taking on’ or ‘Taking off’?

So often we might see the season of Lent as a call to ‘take on’ something, to join a Lent study group, to be more disciplined in our prayer life or use of our time or resources. But sometimes the call to take on something just leaves me feeling tired before Lent even begins, although that doesn’t mean I won’t be joining a Lent study group.

I’ve just been browsing through our Christchurch Diocese Lent Study: ‘A Holy Church: becoming the communities we are called to be’ and I relish the challenge of wrestling with how we can be church communities that are inclusive and accepting, without allowing abuse, violence and bullying to fester in our midst.

But for some of us the call might be to ‘take off’ something, to resist the urge to add more things into each day, to deliberately give up or fast from something so that we have time to just be with God.

Some find it helpful to have a special chair, perhaps in the garden, or to set up a little Lent table or corner where you can light a candle and just rest in God’s love and healing peace. Some of us may be able to take off literally to an oasis of calm, others to create it at home. Ask yourself the question: What shall I take on or take off this Lent?

The Rev’d Jenny Wilkens, St Barnabas, Christchurch

Elder Concerns



Eldernet:
The Eldernet Group is

New Zealand's highly trusted provider of information for older people and their whānau. They provide timely, relevant, and comprehensive information via www.eldernet.co.nz to help older kiwis make decisions that are right for them.



Where from here *He ara whakamua* – this regionally-specific handbook

helps older people, and those supporting them, navigate the ageing journey – which is why it's commonly referred to as the 'older person's Bible'. Its pages are full of essential information about staying well and at home, as well as comprehensive indexes on home support services, day programmes, Kaumātua

services, retirement villages, and aged residential care options (like rest homes).

The book is available free of charge and may be found at your local library, Age Concern, Grey Power, or Citizens Advice Bureau. Books can also be ordered online at www.wherefromhere.co.nz or by phoning 0800 162 706.

Mason Head, Eldernet Group

My two friends' story:

* "I am fit, reasonably healthy, but want to be closer to my family. I need to downsize before I move or die.

Although not too worried about my circumstances, I realise anything can happen unexpectedly and I need to redistribute artefacts and treasures.

I looked at a couple of villages, one where friends are already living and was quite impressed with facilities

provided. I decided it would be right for me when I saw them building locally, as my family is close. When I move in April, although there will be no facilities that a fully developed site would provide, I can take my cat with me (most important). It has been hard, as my late husband and I designed this home and it has a lot of memories.”

♦ “I needed to move because of my health and living on a hill. It was very hard indeed, but once I visited two retirement villages and found one was near my son and daughter-in-law, and suited my needs, there was no going back, only forward. I do miss the view of the sea, but meeting new people and making new friends has really helped.”

Patricia Owen, Christchurch



Eldercare Groups

Eldercare is a social group for people over 65. Our 2½ hour afternoon program includes crafts, word puzzles, quizzes, gentle exercises designed for balance and stretching, card and table games, speakers or a musical item, occasional outings and always a beautiful afternoon tea.

I adore working with Eldercare guests and volunteers - seeing people expand their social network, learn new things and enjoy their afternoon. Guests have great fun and enjoyable socialising with the benefit of exercises improving their health and brain activity. They gain knowledge and the ability to cope in an ever-changing world.

Maria Light, Eldercare

Maria Light, B.Th. majoring in Pastoral Care. She coordinates two Eldercare sessions in Christchurch.

Look for a group near you. Ed

Catalyst Corner

AAW Group, don't fold! Think outside the square.

Anne Hopkins

Some groups are deciding to opt out of AAW and become 'Fellowship' groups.

Why not stay in AAW and become a fellowship group? Didn't most of us join AAW for the fellowship in a Christian context?

There is usually a way around most problems – if you think 'Outside the square'.

When AAW started over 50 years ago, most churches had three women's groups that were very formally structured with business-like meetings. Those days are gone!

To run a group successfully you need a contact person – call her a leader, chairperson, co-coordinator, or whatever you like – someone whom other groups, Parish staff and members can contact to find

out about what is happening. If you have subs or handle money you need a Treasurer. If no one wants to do this, talk to your vicar and see if the Parish Secretary could do this for your group – or even one of your family!

If you are not having formal meetings (perhaps a short service followed by notices concerning the group and what you are doing for the month) – then all you need is a report of what happened, and everyone could take turns at this – perhaps using a simple form to fill in each month, with the relevant details of the meeting.

Some groups are complaining about money. They are doing a lot for their own Church already. But when we put it

into perspective, the AAW annual NZAAW sub of \$5 is the same as one cup of coffee.

The O&O is a suggested donation of \$8 so how about sending a tin around at each meeting and members put in some small change – you'd be surprised how much you have by the end of the year to send in.

Solutions abound if you put your thinking caps on and share commitment.

Some lovely fun activities

* During Lent – find out about the Passover meal and the rituals involved and try a Seder Plate

* Learn different ways to fold napkins for the dinner table

* Find out all you can about a topical/controversial subject and have a discussion.

* Book club night

* Hobby and Collector's session

* Scrapbooking Class

* Art Appreciation night

* Cultural Night – Have everyone bring food or items from their own culture (or one they choose)

* Respecting the Flag – Learn how to fold and take care of the flag. Learn both Maori and English words and NZSL to our national anthem.

Contact Judith Mackenzie for Anne's complete resource. Ed

Did you know...

...how important you are? Do go to every AGM you can, because it has the power to change the world for the better. When is your own 2023 AAW Diocesan AGM?

NZAAW AGM: Saturday, 13 May, 1.30pm-3pm at Taradale Anglican Church, Napier.

Auckland Diocese AAW AGM: Sunday 26 March in the Selwyn Library. Time TBA.

Christchurch Diocese AAW AGM and Commissioning Service: Saturday 25 February, 10.30am-1pm at Holy Trinity Avonside, 168 Stanmore Road.

Dunedin Diocese AAW AGM: Saturday 11 March 10am at St John's, Roslyn, Dunedin.

Nelson Diocese AAW AGM and Commissioning: Saturday 25 March, 9.30am at Holy Trinity Church, Richmond. Nelson.

Waiapu Diocese AAW AGM: Saturday 29 April, 10am by Zoom. (Available from 9.30am)

Wellington Diocese AAW AGM: Saturday 29 April, 10am St Mary's Anglican Church, Levin.

Kiwi Awards

The Rev'd Dr. Pauline Stewart is one of Kiwibank's top 100 inspirational Kiwis. Pauline



started Family Drug Support Aotearoa as around 40% of people in NZ are impacted by the alcohol and other drug use of loved ones. All ages can apply for confidential counselling programme. Visit: www.fds.org.nz

Jo Cotton, St Barnabas, Christchurch

*Please let us know of others who have been recognised.
Ed*

Fond memories...

Molly Fulton:

6 Nov 1940-16 Oct 2022

Molly was a very practical, organised person with a gift of unflappable leadership, which stemmed from complete faith in her Creator, and her love of all those around her.

As an AAW member Molly was involved in Social Concerns at parish and Diocesan levels. She served as St Luke's (Taieri, Mosgiel) Women's Fellowship Leader, followed by Dunedin Diocesan AAW President, 1992-1994 and was NZAAW National President from 1995-1998. AAW Sunday came into being during her term.

Numerous other positions included parish Vestry member, Pastoral Visiting, then in 2007, Dunedin Diocese Cursillo Lay Director.

When Molly and Jim moved to Nelson in 2018 to be near their daughters, Molly was involved in both AAW groups.

During her last year she was an inspiration to us all as she continued to be involved as much as her health would allow, attending our church's 150th celebration dinner just the week before she died.

**Chota Moore, Dunedin and
Jan South, Nelson**

*Molly and Jim at the 150th
Celebration Dinner.*



Auckland

Diocesan President: Margaret Rocard



News about our disastrous flooding has had a wonderful response from everyone, and it is moving that Anglican Missions has launched an appeal to help those who are now homeless. Thank you to NZAAW also for sending us some fast relief.

AAW Auckland Diocese Christmas Lunch

Anglican Retreat Lunch
Vaughan Park, Saturday 3
December in better weather.



Christchurch

Diocesan President: Raewyn Dawson



Halswell AAW's Annual Carol Service:

Our leader, Ellen Loader, wrote the

service focusing on Joseph and his role in the birth of our Lord. This new approach was much admired. A lovely supper provided by AAW volunteers was enjoyed by 35 members.

Judy Palmer, Halswell AAW

Fendalton Retirement Village, Playing the Piano: As my friend's husband was very fond of Country and Western music, and a lady from the Country and Western group was to sing at his funeral with me, accompanying on the piano, I went to the Fendalton Retirement Village for rehearsals.

I found the staff there very friendly. I asked if they would be interested in my playing the piano to the residents and now I play on Wednesday afternoons, getting to know a lot of the people there. They often ask me if I can play a certain song (my music bag is very heavy). I make a note so I have their 'special song' next time I visit. It gives me great satisfaction when I see a smile on all their faces. I also tell them what is happening in my life, when I join them for afternoon tea.

I have been widowed for 18 months, but it gives me joy that I now have a 'Volunteer' badge to wear.



Suzanne Stewart Heathcote-Mt Pleasant AAW Group organist/pianist.

Burnside/Harewood AAW:

Men's Shed is an official group which functions throughout New Zealand and Australia. There is a Men's Shed opposite St Timothy's Church in Kendal Ave, and Richard Rendle, one of our parishioners, is the present leader. In September he gave a very interesting and informative talk about their constructing tables, seats, planter boxes and more.

Although it is a meeting place for men where they can use their individual skills, some women belong. One woman makes coffins for 'little ones'. These are made and lined with love. What an amazing gift to families at such a sad time. This local group is big, with some just belonging for the social contact, which is very important.

Averil Moyle

St Chad's Linwood: For more than 20 years this group has followed a Shared Leadership policy and this has worked well. One member accepts the role of Co-ordinator which ensures that a roster is developed, giving members opportunity to decide which meeting(s) they will lead during the year. They are then responsible for planning the service and arranging the speaker or entertainment.

Meetings vary: a speaker, entertainment, sharing treasures or personal memories, or just taking the challenge of a simple quiz.

The important fact is that we value our AAW membership and it is important for us to keep our group going.

If your group is finding it hard to find a member who will accept full Leadership, develop Shared Leadership, it shares the load and it works.

Elizabeth Risk

Dunedin

Diocesan President: Dot Muir



Memorial afternoon tea:
On Saturday 12 November I organised an afternoon tea at Croque-O-dile Cafe at the Botanic Gardens for members of Dunedin groups, as our late friend, Margaret Tegg, organised afternoon teas there for many years. Many members attended in Margaret's memory, for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Margaret McLanachan

Southland AAW Christmas

lunch: On Saturday 3

December I took two people from Dunedin down to the Gore Racecourse for a very delicious Christmas lunch organised once again by Anne Gover. In between courses we listened to the Rev'd Gary Griffith-Smith talk about lesser known Biblical figures, such as Hur, Jethro, Jabez, and Jehoshaphat, and also women of the Bible including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna. Food for the Spirit!

Margaret McLanachan



Southland Christmas Lunch.

Nelson

Diocesan President: Kathy Cuthbert

Waimea Area Day: About 40 ladies met at Holy Trinity Church, Richmond on 26 October. Jean McConachie, leader of their afternoon group, led the short A.A.W. service and Area leader, Noelene Curtis, read Isaiah 40:28-31 and spoke about our theme, Renew. We get tired but God never gets tired and we can show our faith in God's goodness by believing that he can keep renewing us, just as our creation shows renewal all around us in the springtime.



Richmond Vicar's wife, Karen Elliot, then shared some of their experiences as they returned to Indonesia for 3 weeks in September. Zane and Karen were

going to be mission partners in Indonesia and had completed their training in England, but

after having a short time in Indonesia Covid struck. They had to return home, but at that stage, believing it would be only for a few months, they left a large part of their belongings in storage. As time went on it became apparent it was going to be a long time so they decided to remain in N.Z and Zane took up a position as Richmond Vicar. But the question of the belongings remained, so in September they returned to Indonesia to tie up the loose ends. We struggled with lockdown in NZ but the people they returned to had just come out of a two-year lockdown. Churches had struggled and children had missed schooling. It will be a long recovery time for them, but their friendliness and hospitality remained strong.

Karen finished her talk by sharing some of the sights

they had seen on their few days holiday before they returned home.

Afternoon tea and fellowship completed a lovely afternoon.

Jan South

All Saints Women Together

The group held their AGM in October with 19 members present. The Dean of Nelson Cathedral, the Very Rev'd Graham O'Brien, was our speaker and the chairperson. Graham was very interesting – speaking on his journey from science degrees to theology degrees and the places he and his wife had been together. It was a very special journey,

to lead now to his being the Dean of Nelson Cathedral.

December meant Advent! We

had a short service with the theme – 'Are we ready?' We had several readings, carols, and a couple of brief dramas: One asking how prepared Mary and Elizabeth were for their babies, and the other asking how prepared we are for Jesus' second coming!

Our offertory was sent for the Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School project.

A delicious supper with Christmas food followed the service.

Jan South



A delicious supper with Christmas food.



Polynesia

Litia Smith Circle Correspondent



Day 1, BGM 15 Nov 2022 Wailoaloa Beach Resort Nadi



Visiting the orphanage, Treasure House, Nadi



A Wonderful Achievement Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Carmel Sepuloni is a mother, wife, daughter of a migrant, a Government Minister and the Labour MP for Kelston.

Born in Waitara, Carmel is of Samoan, Tongan and New Zealand European descent.

In the current Labour Government, Carmel serves as the Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Associate Minister of Foreign

Affairs (Pacific Region). She also serves as the 20th Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, the first Pacific and third female in the role.

Carmel is committed to transforming the welfare system so that it's fairer and treats people with dignity, and to providing opportunities to get into meaningful and sustainable employment. She's also committed to building a sustainable, diverse, inclusive and resilient arts and culture sector, and strengthening Aotearoa New Zealand's ties with the Pacific region.

From www.labour.govt.nz

Waiapu

Diocesan President: Cynthia Prince

St Luke's Havelock North AAW Evening Fellowship

At our October meeting we had Anna Lorck as our guest speaker. She is our local Labour MP for the Tuki Tuki Electorate. With an election happening in 2023 it was a timely opportunity to clarify issues. We opened up the meeting to other members of the Parish. Anna spoke on the changes to the Health System in New Zealand. The transition from District Health Boards to Te Whatu Ora was a focus. The audience were invited to ask questions. Waiting lists and Emergency Department overcrowding were amongst issues raised. Anna also outlined her commitment to her Government role and the time spent on Parliamentary duties. AAW members and invited guests found the evening informative. Our AGM was held in

November and elected a committee for 2023.

In December we had an afternoon excursion to Mangakuri, located in the country about 1½ hours' drive from Havelock North. We travelled in convoy by car. Bryan Carey (who had been a past Vicar of St Luke's) and Rosemary Carey (a past member of our AAW group) invited us to visit their recently purchased property. On arrival, Bryan was there to meet us



At Mangakuri Church.

and guide us in. We were then given a tour of the homestead. It had previously been owned by The Leonard Williams family. Located on the grounds of the historic homestead is



Janet Williams.

the Mangakuri Church. Janet Williams, a member of our group, spoke to us on the history of the Church (including photographs) when we visited.

She said it was still being used by the community today. Members took afternoon tea and Rosemary provided the refreshments. A visit to the Church followed and then Rosemary spoke to us on a family history book she had recently written. It was an enjoyable and memorable visit.

Cynthia Prince

St Luke's, Rotorua

Fourteen members and two guests enjoyed a scrumptious lunch at Parksyde, our Seniors' Community Centre, in early December to celebrate Christmas.

As is our custom, we began our celebration with Eucharist at church, then carpoled to the luncheon venue.



Pauline Christie.

Very sadly, a few weeks later, one of our oldest members, Pauline Christie died.

She was so alive and vital at our luncheon – it was a surprise. The AAW, led by Jenny Weaver, offered a special eulogy at her funeral on 4 January.

Helen D'Ath

Waikato & Taranaki

Norma Benton, Waikato & Taranaki Diocesan Representative

Archdeaconry Link Gathering:

This was held on Tuesday 5 December and hosted by AAW members from St Chad's Church, New Plymouth.

35 members were welcomed to a lunch during which great fellowship was enjoyed. It was an absolute joy to be able to welcome Judith Mackenzie,

NZ AAW President to our gathering. Judith shared some wise words with us.

Our time together concluded with a Service prepared by Evelyn Froom LLM and delivered by Evelyn and our Leader, Pam King.

Mary Needs, St Chad's AAW



Back row from L-R:
Rosemary Bent (ex NZ O&O Convenor); Joan Honeyfield (ex NZAAW Treasurer); Pam King (St Chad's AAW, NP); Judith Mackenzie (NZAAW President); Pip Harrison (ex NZ SC Convenor)

Front row: Norma Benton (ex NZAAW President); Virginia Wells (exNZ AAW Circle Team); Mary Needs (St Chad's AAW, NP)

Wellington

Diocesan President: Mary Driver

AAW/MU Diocesan Advent

Service: St Mark's Church, Raumati Beach, beginning at 11.00 am. The Reading and lighting of the Advent Candles were all carried out by members from various groups.

A different Affirmation of Faith was used, which uses some wonderful imagery. The Offertory, on behalf of the National AAW Project to provide funds for a canteen at Bishop Kempthorne Memorial School near Suva, Fiji, raised in excess of \$300.

The service was followed by a finger-food lunch, which was enjoyed by the 25 or so who were present.

Ann Desmond, (Co-Leader Kapiti Women's Fellowship & MU Wellington President)



Ann Parnell and Anne Carpenter, who recently turned 90, with the Mary Sumner rose at St Mark's.

Kapiti Women's Fellowship

Pet Blessing Service: We may be a small (and shrinking) group but we all firmly believe in the aims of both AAW and MU, by supporting local, national and international projects or causes.



One such local event was centred on a Pet Blessing Service. In addition to the service, there was a visiting Petting Zoo with a variety of animals, all of them available for stroking or brushing by visitors of any age. There were rabbits, hens, sheep, goats, a donkey, a Shetland pony and even an exotic lizard. Children (and adults) were encouraged to get up close. Afternoon tea was served in the hall. Many of the visitors had no connection with the church. Local AAW / MU members contributed a large sum towards the cost of hiring the petting zoo.

Ann Desmond

Te Wao Nui Child Health Service – New Wellington Regional Children’s Hospital

At our October meeting of St John’s and St Michael’s AAW Group, our Guest Speaker was Bill Day, Chairperson of the Wellington Hospitals Foundation, speaking about the New Wellington Regional Children’s Hospital – ‘Te Wao Nui (The Great Forest of Tane) Child Health Service’. Two levels of this new hospital started taking their first patients on Monday 17 October. The upper medical ward on the third level will open to patients in mid-2023.

The hospital came about from a wonderful donation from two Wellingtonians, Mark Dunajtschik and Dorothy Spotswood, who together gifted \$50 million in 2017 to build and donate a new world-class children’s hospital for our region. The new hospital building will be known as the Mark Dunajtschik and Dorothy Spotswood Building, in honour of their tremendous gift.

Many community groups, including our group have donated money for the equipping of the interior of this new hospital, which has a very colourful and attractive design.

**Pat Vincent, Past President
NZAAW**

Your own archives may be fascinating!

The family of Margaret Oxnam, who was a dedicated AAW member and leader (Holy Trinity Church, Avalon) gave us a box of Holy Trinity Mothers' Union and AAW records.

The Wellington Cathedral of St Paul has a catalogued archive, as do most cathedrals. I was directed to the Wellington Diocesan Office where there are people skilled at reviewing such records and deciding what to keep and what to give; for example, to the Turnbull Library which already holds a collection of Anglican Archives.

In Margaret's collection, there are Minute Books which would be useful to anyone in the future, researching the development of women's groups. And of special note, there is a history of Mothers' Union from 1881 to the present. The first New Zealand meeting took place in Christchurch, and some of the objectives make us realise how much society has changed since then:

- * Children should be gentle, pure and holy.
- * Children should not be fed beer, wine, or spirits unless under doctors' orders.

Some of their other objectives are much like ours, although there is now more focused attention given to mission and community issues.

**Susan Barlow, St James AAW,
Lower Hutt**

Benedicite Aotearoa

O give thanks to our God who is good:

whose love endures forever.

You sun and moon, you stars of the southern sky:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Sunrise and sunset, night and day:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

All mountains and valleys, grassland and scree,

glacier, avalanche, mist and snow:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

You kauri and pine, rata and kōwhai, mosses and ferns:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Dolphins and kahawai, sealion and crab,

coral, anemone, pipi and shrimp:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs

kiwi and sparrow and tūī and hawk:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

You Māori and Pakeha, women and men,

all who inhabit the long white cloud:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

All you saints and martyrs of the South Pacific:

give to our God your thanks and praise.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book 1989
He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa (p457)*

Submissions/Subscriptions

deadline for next issue: 3 April 2023

**Submissions: please email to Pat Owen, buxtons7@xtra.co.nz
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