

CIRCLE

The Association of Anglican Women
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*Theme for 2014-15:
Living Life in Faith, Fun and Fellowship.*

The Aims of AAW:

- *to unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church*
- *to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life*

CONTRIBUTIONS

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From our President

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that another year is almost over and this is our final Circle for 2014. I'm sad to say that our Circle Editor – Andrea – passed away on 30 September at 5am. She will be remembered by all those who knew her, for her work with AAW both at Group level and NZAAW level. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! Speaking with a fellow group member about Andrea she has volunteered to be our new editor so I thank Marjorie for her offer which has certainly been accepted.



We held our NZ AAW Executive meeting at the Home of Compassion, Wellington back in August followed by the AGM and commissioning at the Cathedral. These meetings are a good place to meet up with all Executive members and to get things sorted as well as offer advice to those Presidents who ask for it.

We are now on Face Book. It is hoped that many AAW members will join and use the page to let New Zealand know what is happening at their Diocesan and Group levels. You never know when someone is on holiday in your area and could come along and join you for the meeting. If you are already on Face Book just go to search for friends and type in NZ Assn of Anglican Women. I hope to see a lot of new members!

Back in September I represented the AAW at the Dunedin Synod. These meetings are always of interest and great for meeting and keeping up with friends and colleagues. In September I also travelled through to Timaru to speak at the AAW Hospitality Day at the Parish of Marchwiell. It was a pleasure to speak to about 50 women from all denominations. I spoke about my life and how I got to be the Provincial President. I have offered a prize – to be presented at Conference – to the group who increases their membership the most. Will this be you??

Conference 2015 – plans are progressing very well and it is hoped the Registration Forms will be out early 2015. It looks like being a very interesting, enjoyable time down here so we hope as many of you as possible will join us – October 2nd – 5th 2015.

Although it feels too early I would like to wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas with family and friends and all the very best for 2015.

With best wishes.

Margaret McLarackan

NZ AAW President

From the new Wellington City Missioner



Rev Tric Malcolm, City Missioner

Just over 6 months ago my family and I began a new part of our ministry journey as we moved out of parish ministry and joined the whanau at the Wellington City Mission.

Some have suggested that there is a huge jump between these two things, but with my back ground in youth work, my passion for social justice, a degree in history and politics to go alongside my unfinished theology degree, a deep commitment to best pastoral practice and the experiences my parents exposed me to growing up - it feels like home. The staff are amazing too: they strive to empower and equip those who find themselves with very little. It is a privilege to work alongside them.

The Wellington City Mission is a very broad organisation. It covers the whole greater Wellington area including Wellington City, the entire Hutt Valley and the Porirua basin as far as Pukerua Bay. We provide services across the whole age spectrum: work-

ing with families; running an Alternative High School; providing food bank and budgeting services; our St Thomas' Dining Room - which feeds around 60 - 70 people a day; our community based seniors' workers including Kemp Rest Home and Hospital.

The Wellington City Mission is different than other City Missions in Aotearoa New Zealand in that it still sets aside the role of City Missioner as a priestly role. This is recognition that we endeavour to keep Christ at the heart of our call to mission. Our day is shaped with karakia/prayer. We look to scripture and those people of faith who have come before us for inspiration and to shape our actions. Not all staff or guests of the Mission are Christian, their traditions are respected and honoured but it is recognised that Christ is held at the heart of who we are. And it is my role to hold that space well.

It has been my pleasure since arriving at the Wellington City Mission to be out and about connecting with community groups, parishes, AAW groups, schools etc. I am continually astounded at people's generosity and desire to reach out and help. One AAW group rallied around and put every child, the City Mission connects with, in a pair of winter pyjamas (we have around 65 families on our books each

month). Another group collected basic baby items, which went out almost as soon as I delivered them to HQ. Another group collected second hand towels for use by those who come to use our shower. Another group are currently collecting sanitary items to be included in assistance parcels. It is not only the big gestures that make a differ-

ence but the small ones.

I miss the richness of parish life, of living a spiritual life deeply together, but I have found a different level of richness and realness in the life and rhythm of the City Mission, one that confronts me daily with the presence of God in the most unlikely and unexpected ways.

*Revd Tric Malcolm
Wellington City Missioner*

Cover Photos

Cover photos (front and back) © Gwen McCullough

FRONT COVER:

Nativity: Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus.

BACK COVER:

Window 1

The Annunciation: The Angel Gabriel is sent by God to tell Mary she will conceive and bear a son, Jesus. The lily at the top of the window represents Mary's purity

Window 2:

The Magnificat: This is Mary's song of praise to God. Her son Jesus will be the light of the world, hence the picture of a Roman oil lamp.

Window 3:

The Visitation: Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, also with child. the traditional symbol of Mary, the rose, is also in the window.

GENERAL COMMENT:

The golden-coloured rimu timber of the Lady Chapel in the Cathedral of St Paul, Wellington has been offset by a predominance of rich blues. Blue is the colour associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary and was a logical choice for a chapel dedicated to her and for the ten glass windows focusing on her life, three of which feature on the front and back cover of this edition.

Beverley Shore Bennett, Lay Canon Emeritus, member of AAW and designer of the stain-glass windows says: *Stained glass is still a powerful means of communication and gives insight into the ways things looked. It has the ability to express the inexpressible in that it uses direct light as its main medium. I design with prayer and openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and do not approach the task of creating a work of art as such.*

Transitions

Jane's bit...

I wonder how Mary, the mother of Jesus, coped with her experience of transition. She always looks so deeply serene in paintings and sculptures, yet clearly she faced massive transitions. I wonder what resources she drew on to navigate all that stuff?

Writers on spirituality say that transitions are our times of greatest growth - when we're out of our known and familiar. Maybe in these unfamiliar landscapes, we are more receptive (or desperate!) for the felt presence of God.

This year, I've been navigating my own transitions. In my outer world these include a new city, denomination and church, as well as changes to our family unit. In my inner world of thoughts and feelings, I've felt unsure and confused at times, particularly around my identity and role in my new life.

Resources for navigating my transition include friends to tell it as it is, skillful spiritual direction, prayerfully letting go what has been, tentatively being open to new opportunities (scary though they may be), and fun (I'm learning the ukulele!).

The Advent story is a stunning transition story which lets me know that God comes into my vulnerable story with a promise of hope and redemption. I keep catching glimmers of this.

Jenny's bit...

Like Jane, I too have had an end of transitions as I head towards the end of our first year at Bishop's Court with new starts all over the show. I took the opportunity of the transition to take a sabbatical time in the first half of the year with the highlight being an opportunity to do a walking pilgrimage on the Camino del Norte in Spain. It was a chance to walk, breathe, pray and think in the beauty of the Spanish countryside. We visited many old churches and the ruins of hostels for faithful pilgrims of the middle ages. I became aware of the bigger Christian story that we belong to, following in the footsteps of the faithful over the generations.

Arriving back and engaging with responsibilities again in the family, our Christian community, our neighbourhood and the wider diocese, I easily become overwhelmed. I guess what stands out this year for me in the Christmas story is the reality that we are not alone. God with us!! God with us for guidance, for encouragement, for provision, for transformation and for hope. And not only "God with us" but others who God puts across our path are with us too.

I would have struggled to have coped this year without having close neighbours like Jane next door, the team we share life with at the Anglican

Center, the wonderful friends who share our home and community life with and a sense of the faithful across the diocese.

I wonder if this sense of the company of the faithful that surrounded Mary in that stable helped reassure her that first Christmas.

Overseas and Outreach

I have heard from several of our Mission Partners so will give you some excerpts from their letters.

Rosie:

“Greetings from Anafora Retreat Centre! This is one of my favourite places in Egypt, and among many things it means I have the headspace and time to write”

“St Frumentius Anglican Theological College Over the summer I finally finished a proposal for a new theological college in Gambella, named after St. Frumentius the first Bishop in Ethiopia. It’s a great project, and I’m hoping that some partners will agree and help us to start this college. Our wonderful designer helped us make a website (www.frumentiuscollege.dioceseofegypt.org), and the project introduction is copied below:

“The Anglican Church in Ethiopia

is growing. It is a great example of what God is doing throughout Africa. In 2000, we had 8 churches, now we have over 80. This growth is great news! However, much of this growth is numerical with little depth of the knowledge of the Word of God, and with few trained clergy. “

Jolene:

“The Middle East continues to be in the news, A few thousand refugees have arrived in this country to escape the fighting now - they flew into the capital. If they start coming over land then we might see them arriving in my town”.

Prayer needs from Jolene:

Peace for the region and wisdom for its

leaders.

There are people we visit who need healing.

Boulaq Centre:

Micro loans: a meeting was organized for women who are interested in starting a small business of their own. Around eight women attended this meeting. Lydia and Neama lead a discussion challenging the women to set a goal to work towards. Raising awareness of having a dream before you start a small business. “If you have a dream, you know what you are working for and even if circumstances are difficult you will focus on finding solutions so that you can fulfill your dream”.

Anne and Anthony McCormick:

“It was great to see you at the mini conference In Dunedin and to have the opportunity to share with the AAW ladies about the project I will be starting in Battambang.”

In my capacity as Activities Coordinator at the World Mate Emergency Hospital, I will be responsible for creating activities for hospital patients as they recover from their injuries. Most are landmine and serious motor accident victims with complex multiple injuries; many are amputees.

Hospital patients report they are bored and would welcome the introduction of activities into their day. Having their minds and hands occupied will assist their physical recovery, improve their morale and their ability to contemplate a future beyond the hospital in which they can be gainfully employed and contribute financially to their families. The initial activity I plan to introduce is making handmade paper, with the help of Mark Lander’s “Hollander Critter ” Using the paper produced by this machine, we will make greeting cards, lampshades, handmade books for journaling/photographs and other products as the project progresses.

Thank you for your efforts in helping to maintain our giving to our Mission Partners. Please be aware that this year we have had a substantial shortfall in the giving. This means that we may need to cut the number of partners we have in the future.



Social Concerns

by Pip Harrison

The Inequality Gap: No Worse Is Still Very Bad

After our last AAW conference you will remember that we wrote to the Government about concerns around inequality.

During the election campaign you may have heard the comment that inequality has got no worse over the last twenty years. This was a convenient time-frame to choose, as the big change came in the '80s, when inequality increased here faster than in any other OECD country.

Recently the Executive Office of the NZ Council of Christian Social Services wrote, "All (inequality not getting worse) means is that our present appalling level of inequality is being set in concrete. This is a very bad situation and one we shouldn't tolerate. "... Over the last 30 years the pre-tax income of 90% of New Zealanders has barely increased... In contrast, the average incomes of the top 1% have doubled, from \$158,000 a year to \$336,000.

"...The problem is that people are battling a system in which the fruits of economic growth are largely going to those who already have the most... (For instance) the economy is forecast to grow by about 2.8% a year over the next five years – but wages will only

rise by .8% a year... People on benefits are the most affected -hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities, people who are caring for ill or disabled family members and parents of young families... are falling further and further behind ... because benefits aren't adjusted to increase in line with the average wage."

Wealth is even more unevenly distributed than income with the top 1% getting 16% of the total wealth of the country and the bottom 50% owning only 5% of it.

Inequality matters because it has far-reaching effects. Equal societies are happier societies. Old Testament principles around the Year of Jubilee acknowledge this. Inequality has worsened the health, housing, education and opportunities of many New Zealanders. It affects everyone, even the wealthy. There are twice as many children living in poverty now than in 1984. We have seen the rise in diseases such as rheumatic fever. Our good education record is spoiled by the disparities between the best and worse, which are closely related to income. Twice as many New Zealanders have mental health problems than citizens of more equal countries. And stud-

ies have shown that unequal countries have an ‘empathy gap’, with the wealthy losing compassion for the less well-off.

This is a matter of social justice. How can one person’s time and effort be worth so much more than another’s? It makes no sense and it is spoiling our country. Let ‘s speak out for changes in policy to correct this and avoid assuming that people today are merely managing worse than those in earlier times.

Many thanks for all the work on the NCW remits. It looks as if we’ll be voting for all of them, though with reservations about some. The closest vote was about the Universal Child Allowance. The least controversial was Remit 11: Resourcing of Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services. It will be interesting to see if we are in line with women from other organisations at the conference.

Mothers’ Union

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby paid a flying visit to Auckland in August and, as a Mothers’ Union member himself, was delighted to be called into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre by the Mothers’ Union Provincial President, the Rev’d Iritana Hankins. Auckland Mothers’ Union members provided the lovely floral arrangements in the church.

by Rosemary Bent



St. Peter's MU group with Ruth Riddell and Rosemary Bent



*Photo : © Luci Harrison
The Rev'd Iritana Hankins with the
Archbishop of Canterbury*

The Rev'd Iritana Hankins' priesting on 24 August was a joyful occasion. She was ordained in Aperahama Church in Kaikohe, home to her family for 5 generations. Four Bishops were present: Bishop Kito, Bishop Ben Te Haara, Bishop George Connor and Bishop John Paterson, the MU Provincial Chaplain.

Iritana wore a red stole embroidered with a totara tree design gifted by the Auckland MU members.

Wellington member June Heyes features in the August/September issue of Families First magazine speaking of "What Mothers' Union means to me".

Unfortunately the article omitted to say although June joined MU in England she now lives in New Zealand.

Waikato and Taranaki:

Fathers' Day at St Peter's Cathedral in Hamilton was celebrated with a difference. At the Family Eucharist four women originally from Zimbabwe, were admitted to the Mothers' Union with the support of their husbands and children. The St Peter's Branch had been in recess for several years and there was great excitement as the women joined existing MU members to re-start it. The previous evening Dean Peter Rickman blessed the women's uniforms (made to the same pattern as those worn in Zimbabwe) which looked very attractive. Two Zimbabwean MU members from Auckland joined them as they made their promises. Family members and friends formed a choir which together with shakers and a drum, filled the Cathedral with a joyful sound.

In his introduction Dean Peter said MU worldwide has a membership of over 4.1 million and made special mention of the 3,200 members in the war torn city of Baghdad. We were delighted Ruth Riddell, Diocesan AAW President was able to be with us, together with her husband and daughter. Ruth and a MU member carried up the Elements for Communion.

Dunedin Diocese

'The Gospel begins with G O' at AAW Mini-Conference

Twenty seven women from Invercargill, Gore, Wanaka, Oamaru, Dunedin and Mosgiel gathered on Friday evening 18 and Saturday 19 July for a mini-conference at the Light and Hope Conference Centre in Mosgiel.

Rev'd Mike Hawke, Anglican Missions Board Church Support Officer and Bishop Kelvin challenged us to think about 'Going with the Gospel' and what that might mean.

Following evening prayer we shared supper together before either returning to homes or billets, for some of us, climbing the stairs to very comfortable beds at the conference centre.

Saturday morning saw us gathering together for morning worship at 9.30am before going to three workshops where we learnt about 'Going with the Gospel through telling our stories' with Bishop Kelvin, 'Going with the Gospel through creating special services

or devotions' with Chaplain Angela Dutton and 'Going with the Gospel through mission in our AAW groups' with Mary Estcourt.

Rev'd Mike Hawke spoke following morning tea about the work of the Anglican Missions Board and the need to give to missions overseas as well as at home.

We then walked next door to the



Function Room at the Hotel Motel Taieri where we enjoyed an Agape Meal with Bishop Kelvin and Chaplain Rev'd Angela celebrating the Eucharist and heard Anne McCormick speak about 'Going with the Gospel to Cambodia'. Having enjoyed a choice of five delicious lunch options and a slice with tea and coffee, we walked back to the Conference Centre and took part in the second workshop. These were a repeat of the morning's workshops.

Mary Estcourt, our New Zealand Overseas and Outreach Convenor, helped us to create personal prayer bookmarks showing the Mission Part-

ners we support through AAW which were laminated and will be really useful prayer tools.

Closing worship, thanks to Bishop Kelvin for his support in speaking and leading a workshop as well as celebrating at the Eucharist, Rev'd Mike Hawke for his enthusiasm about missions, Mary Estcourt for making the people we support overseas through AAW come alive to us, Anne McCormick for sharing about her work in Cambodia, and Chaplain Angela who had created our Worship Booklet followed by afternoon tea brought this mini-conference to an end and sent us on our way home 'GOing with the Gospel'.

Christchurch Diocese

For our Association of Anglican Women here, many significant ups and downs have happened in the last two months – fortunately, not of the ground beneath our feet, but yet almost as upsetting to our emotional equilibrium. Firstly, we mourn the loss and celebrate the life of our wonderful, bubbly Dean, Lynda Patterson. It was special that she was able to lead our first Diocesan Eucharist in the Transitional Cathedral, last year, but we had not realised, as we are saying, that 'Deans are also transitional' – may she rest in peace.

Other AAW leaders and senior members have recently passed on, and we send our loving prayers to those groups who are affected. It's both a great blessing and an occasional sadness, that so many of our members are over 80 years old – in fact, some truly special, 'switched-on' members are well over 90!

Diocesan AAW highlights have included a day out at Oxford-Cust, when we visited the fascinating local museum, and admired the surviving exquisite stained glass windows of St

James-on-the-Cust, which is a 149 year-old building! A large number of us drove out from Christchurch to be with our country sisters.

We have also enjoyed many great meetings around the Diocese, from Timaru to Kaiapoi. Often these involved giving to such places as our City Mission and its special women's centre, Walsh House.

Jude Mackenzie, Diocesan AAW Secretary/Treasurer, and President Raewyn Dawson attended our Synod in early September, and took part in the debates on new marriage recogni-

tion processes, whether we should invest as a Diocese in fossil fuels, our diocesan strategic direction and rooted in gratitude. We listened to the faith-filled feedback from General Synod. While being at Synod is both tiring and stimulating it is great that AAW is a participant in this process.

At present we are planning for our next Festival Eucharist in the Transitional Cathedral – on October 22. We plan to have dozens of Group banners and hundreds of AAW members bringing glory to God. We pray it will be even better than last year!

Obituary

Elizabeth Fahey

Members will be sorry to learn of the death of Elizabeth. She was a great supporter of both Mothers' Union and AAW. As Overseas and Outreach Convenor from 1989 to 1992 she was a member of the New Zealand Anglican Board of Missions and was also elected to its Executive. During this time a video was made showing projects NZAAW had an interest in. Called 'Reaching Out in Love' this was completed in time for the 1990 Conference in Christchurch.

Elizabeth enthused members to support various projects including supplying 152 pairs of sheets for Selwyn College in Honiara which she delivered personally.

In 1993 Elizabeth was part of a Working Party set up to prepare a revised Constitution for consideration before Conference 1994. She was Diocesan President of Waiapu from 2001 to 2003. In 1998 she represented the Wellington Diocesan Mothers' Union at the World-wide Conference in York. She will be greatly missed.

Nelson Diocese

The Marlborough Regional meeting

This was hosted by Holy Trinity, Picton. During the Holy Communion service Revd Richard Dyer spoke of the Transfiguration of Christ and encouraged everyone to step out in Faith. The guest speaker was the Diocesan Overseas and Outreach person Gillian Etherington who spoke of the latest news and tremendous work being done by the missionaries we support.



Marlborough Regional Day:

From Left: Guest speaker Gillian Etherington, Regional Leader Sheila Allcutt, Sec/Treasurer Kathy Peacock

Mawhera Regional Day

Mawhera Regional Day was held at St John's in Westport. The Holy Communion service was based on the service held at the last NZ Executive meeting. The guest speaker was the Revd Rona Halsall who took everyone on a most interesting journey to Italy where she had been on a musical tour. She was in Rome for Palm Sunday and was overwhelmed by the huge crowds. As she travelled north she attended concerts and singing events in various churches. During sight-seeing trips to historic buildings Rona was touched by the evidence of inhumane actions of the past.



Rev. Rona Halsall, Westport

All Saints Nelson Group

All Saints Nelson Group held a fashion parade to raise funds for the Solomon Islands. Models were AAW members and other parishioners. Over 70 attended and well over \$350 was raised.

St Barnabas Stoke AAW

St Barnabas Stoke AAW invited a representative from the Public Trust to speak to them. They received advice on retirement planning, finance, wills, powers of attorney and other matters which interested everyone. They learned a lot and had much to think about.

At another meeting they heard a pharmacist from Nelson Hospital speak about medications, prescribed or otherwise and how to manage them.

Waimea Women's Fellowship

Waimea Women's Fellowship visited the Gardens of Remembrance at Hope. Owner Francis Day spoke of the vision he had and the long process of building the peaceful chapel and crematorium. Many members asked questions and commented how the mystery of what happened at a cremation had been answered. The landscaping of the gardens is still a work in progress but it was obviously going to be beautiful and very peaceful which was Francis's aim. The members then roamed the nearby Gardens of the World and found a sheltered spot to have lunch.

NOW ON FACEBOOK !
NZ Assn of Anglican Women

Wellington Diocese



A Joint Effort a load shared is a load lighter!!!!

Does your Diocesan Executive sometimes have staffing problems? Wellington has decided to share the load, so when our President, Pat Vincent, was seeking a Vice President and one was not to be found, Rosemary Hurd and Noeleen Davies offered to share the position: Rosemary in the south of the diocese and Noeleen in the north.



St James Lower Hutt AAW, September 2014

PJ's at St James' Lower Hutt

At the St James, Lower Hutt, AAW meeting in June, the Wellington City Missioner, the Rev. Tric Malcolm spoke of the City Mission's work in Lower Hutt and Wellington. Their

June project, was whole heartedly supported, to provide a pair of pyjamas for every child (2-14 years) who currently had no pyjamas. Within two weeks 50 pairs were donated and by the end of the month 100 pairs arrived at the Mission, enabling these children to sleep warmly. A God-given opportunity to show God's love in action in the community.

Luca Duckworth Visits Kapiti AAW

During 2013 the Mothers Union in the Wellington Diocese prayed for Luka Duckworth as she left school & took a gap year before attending Victoria University.

For Luka it was a time to look at the world and find out where she fitted in. She visited three different communities:

Mozambique with the Iris Ministries in Pember, with 160 International students, experiencing, amongst the people, the contrasts of joy and desperation, Their spirituality was out in the open, leaders in Mosque, Church & community working side by side.

Then France and the Taize community for 5 weeks experiencing their rhythm of Prayer and hospitality.

Finally Thailand: (with limited Thai language), helping teachers of teenagers.

She thanked us for upholding her in our prayers. Despite not keeping good health she kept well all the time she was away.

Now Luca lives in an Urban Ministry flat in Newtown, Wellington, attending Victoria University, doing a B.Sc. in environmental studies. Here students/youth workers go out into the community sharing their faith: through community dinners, a kids club (8-12 year olds), and a girl's Intermediate group from the school up the road.

A Diocesan Mission and Training Day President Pat writes

At the Diocesan AAW Mission's Day (26th July) in Palmerston North. The Rev Mike Hawke from the Anglican Missions Board gave an inspiring



Luka Duckworth visits Kapiti AAW members



Dio Mission Day Palmerston Nth

address, with lots of singing and laughter. Rev Sandy Williams spoke on a proposed exciting diocesan plan for missions. Mary Estcourt, NZ Overseas and Outreach Convener, reminded us of the work and commitment we've made to our Mission Partners. After lunch a training session was held for Leaders, Treasurers, O and O, and Social Concerns. \$250 was given in offerings to the Anglican Missions Board. Well done Janice Viles and her team.

Mothers & babies at Kapiti

On September 11th The Rev Tric Malcolm, appointed Wellington City Missioner 6 months ago, visited Kapiti Fellowship. She outlined the work of the Mission, its changing faces and her part working within the city and north to Pukerua Bay. Group members were asked to donate items for babies which she took back to Wellington.

City Mission Collection for babies and Mums at Kapiti



Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

Judy Riddell, Circle Convenor.

ALL SAINTS AAW FELLOWSHIP, MATAMATA, (aka Hobbiton)

We began the year with a house meeting. Our programme has included a cross stitch display and a talk by a volunteer visitor to the local aged care complex.

Linda Carter spoke to us about Overseas and Outreach. We visited a couple's home who explained their counselling service for those who need help. A member told of her family reunion celebrating 100 years in New Zealand. As Matamata is the only rural town to have an NCW branch (their President,



Matamata AAW group

Secretary and Treasurer are members of All Saints) we discussed the remits in August.

Highlight of the year was entertaining Friendship Circle with songs, humorous readings and poems.

THE TARANAKI CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY

The AAW and Mother's Union groups at St. Mary's were delighted to welcome over 70 women from the Archdeaconry and other denominations at a festival to celebrate Saint Mary on August 20th. Julie Pilbrow spoke of the devastation

of Mary at the foot of the cross, and spoke of her own faith journey. She reminded us that when God calls we must be ready to respond to the small tasks as well as the large ones.

The speaker after lunch was Liz Winters

who told of her work with Freeset, north of Kolkata (Calcutta) with women who are being supported as they make new lives after their involvement in the sex industry. The collection was given to the Open Home Foundation in New Plymouth, and All Saints Primary School in Apia.

ST JOHN'S AAW, WAIHI

Members visited Agrisea, Paeroa, on September 18th and were joined by Paeroa Women's Fellowship members, a Paeroa AAW Lone Member and friends and husbands interested in gardening. The wonderful afternoon

tea was followed by a stimulating talk and tour of the family owned and operated Agrisea NZ Ltd. set up in 1996. The seaweed factory is a multi-award winning sustainable New Zealand company brewing quality products brewing seaweed Soil, Foliar, Turf, Pasture and Animal Health concentrates for Agriculture and Horticulture.

Significantly, their guiding principle is to look after God's creation and use its resources in a sustainable way.



Waiapu Diocese

Regional Meeting at Tauranga

On Wednesday 10th September Holy Trinity, Tauranga group hosted this meeting for AAW groups in the area. Around 50 members from as far away as Whakatane and Taupo joined with those from Rotorua and Tauranga to share fellowship and social interaction. The day began, after a welcome morning tea for travellers, with Holy Communion taken by the AAW Chaplain Rev. Wendy Showan –an appropriate beginning.

After the service the speaker, Mr Dan Allen-Gordon, director of “The Foundation for Youth Development” was introduced by Holy Trinity AAW President, Margaret Gundersen. He gave an in-depth insight into the beginnings of the organisation’s Kiwi Can and Project K programmes which operate in 12 school communities in the Western Bay of Plenty. These programmes are offered for 10 weeks in participating primary schools (not within school hours) on a weekly basis and give children the skills to learn respect and integrity for each other and

resilience to cope with disadvantages. Success in the recent campaign transforming “Bullies to Friends” has been enormous and truancy in these schools has dropped dramatically. Project K is the secondary school and gives selected students the opportunity to have time-out in a wilderness programme and also to give service to their community.

At the shared lunch, organised by a Holy Trinity Life Group, Dan Allen-Gordon spent time chatting with individuals about his work, a nice gesture. Following lunch we returned to the church to enjoy a delightful concert presented by the “Upbeat” singers, a group of women with lovely voices who began with a beautiful solo rendition of “Jerusalem” inviting all present to join in the chorus and continued with a variety of numbers secular and sacred. All present enjoyed this tremendously – a fitting end to a sharing of faith and fellowship. All joined hands to say the Grace before returning home.

Auckland Diocese

*North To Whangarei, Waitangi, Oihi Bay Of Islands, Kaitaia
4th –7th September 2014*

Thursday 4th -Two AAW Synod representatives, Lady Jansen and Mrs Marie Taylor, accompanied by Synod rep Mrs Natalie Taplin travelled to Waitangi where Synod was being held to celebrate 200 years of the Gospel in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our first stop was at Christ Church Whangarei where we were welcomed by the Revd Gwen-dolyn Needham and AAW members. We attended their service, followed by a delightful lunch and time to talk. Too soon we had to press on to Waitangi for the opening of Synod.

Friday 5th- The approximately 200 Synod people made the pilgrimage to Oihi Bay. The walk downhill and returning uphill on the clay track was a real test of one's fitness. But the experience of actually being there and seeing where, on Christmas Day 1814, the Revd Samuel Marsden preached the first Gospel message Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy with Nga Puhī Chief Ruatara acting as translator, is a memory to treasure. Marsden Cross is erected a little higher-up from the small bay where waves lap the stony beach – we could imagine the scene, Samuel Marsden sailing around the headland and dropping anchor. After several days of rain the sun shone –what a blessing.

Saturday 6th –After lunch on the last day of Synod goodbyes were said to the many friends met over the three days and we travelled north to Kaitaia for an overnight stay.

Sunday 7th – At St Saviour's Church Kaitaia we were met by the Revd Phyllis Tailby and a group of AAW members. We joined the congregation for the 9.30 am Praise and Worship service during which the Vicar, the Revd Dino Houtas, welcomed us and invited us to stand at the microphone and tell something of our AAW background. After a service with much joyful praise, the singing of Hallelujah Our God Reigns being the theme, we adjourned to enjoy another tasty lunch where members met and shared their stories amid much laughter over reminiscences - again experiencing true northern hospitality. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with two AAW groups of welcoming, Christian women and their congregations.

Natalie Taplin

Secretary Auckland Diocesan AAW

Thanksgiving for Light service at Takapuna Beach.

It was pitch dark as we made our way to the Takapuna beach for a midwinter service of Thanksgiving for Light.

Bishop John Paterson had arrived before us as we slowly made our way through the darkness of Pohutukawa trees.

In ones and twos we all arrived moving quietly through the silence of darkness as we gathered before day break.

Wrapped in winter weather gear and armed with a variety of torches we huddled in our group.

Bishop John began the service with John 8.12

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.”

We have all heard it so often, but never has it meant so much to me, as hearing his voice resounding in open space, over water.

I will never forget that moment.

Bishop John told us the story of the little boy watching a lamp-lighter and described the man’s actions as “punching holes in the dark”.

So we in turn punched our own holes in the dark as we lit candles for each of the gifts we celebrated.

Watching day break over Rangitoto was a silencing and moving moment as we warmed up with coffee and toasties.

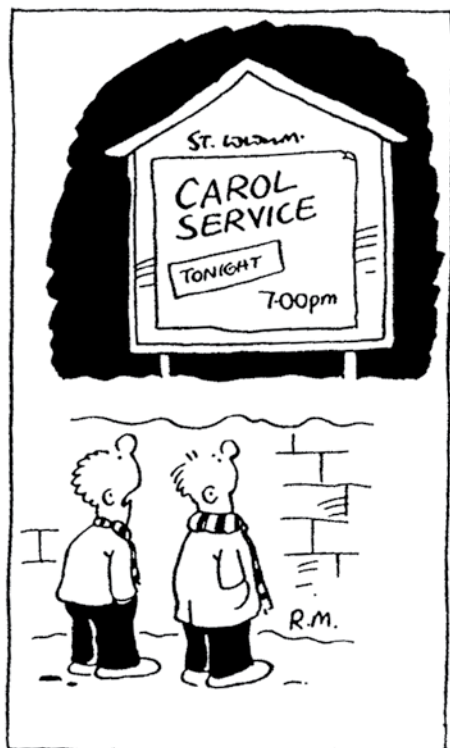
The remarkable effect of the first rays of sunshine making their way



Photos © Elizabeth Witton

across sea and sand was well worth our early morning start.

I drew in all the beauty and light to remember this morning for a very long time.



"I don't know who she is, but she certainly packs them in . . ."



*Season's
Greetings
from
All of Us
to
All of You*

Marshmallow Balls

1 pkt Marshmallows
1 pkt. Wine biscuits
½ tin Condensed Milk
½ cup Brown Sugar
100gms Butter
Vanilla or Sherry

Melt condensed milk, brown sugar, butter and vanilla (Sherry). Add crushed biscuits. Roll mixture around a marshmallow then roll in coconut and refrigerate.

Pip's Muesli Recipe

6 cups Rolled Oats	½ cup Sunflower Seeds
½ cup Pumpkin Seeds	½ cup Coconut
½ cup Almonds – roughly chopped	½ cup Raisins
¼ cup Rice oil or equivalent	¼ cup Honey

Heat oven 160

Put Rice oil and Honey in large glass bowl and microwave 10seconds.

Add Rolled Oats, Sunflower and Pumpkin seeds and Almonds.

Spread into a roasting tray.

Cook 5 mins, stir, cook another 5 mins (I use fan bake)

Remove from oven and mix in Raisins and any other dried fruit.

Optional – crumble 2 Weetbix and add.

Store in airtight container when cold.

Serving – 1/3-1/2 cup Museli

Yoghurt

Enjoy!

Kensie Sutton, St John's, Roslyn

Being Old

by Carolyn Hooper

Yes, my body is old
But it's not the real me.
The real me
Is as young as you are.
In fact, the real me
never changes.

Yes, I'm trapped in a body
That won't obey me.
But don't let it fool you.
I'm aware of everything
around me
And I want to be included.

So don't look at me with pity
Or talk to me as you would a
child.
Please don't make me feel
useless
Or ignore me.

I have not changed
-Not really.
Time has taken its toll.
The real me is just like you,
With a need to be recognised
And accepted.

So be patient with me
If I am a little muddled
Or deaf,
Or need a strong arm to lean
on.
For inside I'm flying –
Free and young and mobile.
Please
Try to see me
As I really am.

Poems for Advent

CONTEMPLATION

by Fr. Bill Modystack

Advent – a new beginning!
In your goodness Lord,
We ask your help as we begin the
Church's New Year.
Give us the strength to do good.
We need openness to be understanding
of your plan.
What we do in preparation for your
coming at Christmas
will show dedication to you.
Advent is our opportunity to prepare
for earthly celebration.
Still, we must remember it is also a
preparation for the time
when we will meet you face to face.

ADVENT IN THE SOUTH

by Lynne Hill

Flowers bloom in spring
responding to stronger sun.
So should we react
To increasing daylight
Flowering in Your grace
Spreading the fragrance of faith
Opening ourselves to the Light of the
World
Sharing our gladness with those around
us.

Here on the underside of the world
Advent comes as darkness is shortest.
We delight in the Christ Child's coming
In warmth and colour.
We greet the Saviour of the world.
May we all take his light
To shine on those who do not know it
This Advent season.



Grandchildren's pages

SONG OF THE MESSENGER

To the Tune of: Frere Jaques

*Follow me, follow me,
Sings the star, sings the
star.*

*Jesus will be born soon
Jesus will be born soon,
Hear my song, hear my
song.*

*Hear the Good News,
hear the Good News,
Angels call, angels call.
Jesus will show God's
love,
Jesus will show God's
love
This I know, this I know.*

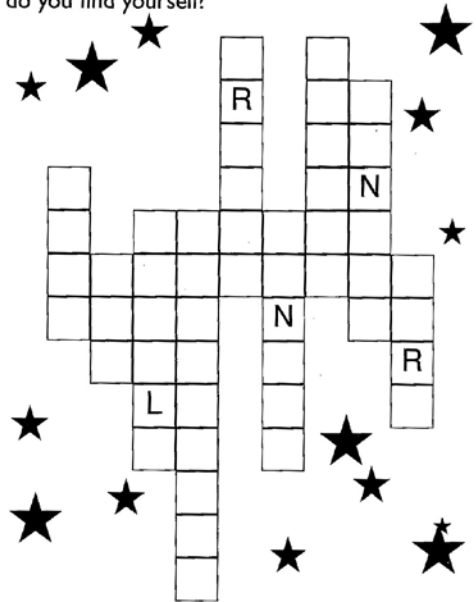
Word Search

Nine words to fit into the Christmas Eve grid, reading downwards

CHRISTMAS
EVE
CENSUS
TRAVEL
DONKEY

STABLE
JOSEPH
MARY
BABY

Now read across one line of the grid, and where do you find yourself?





Happy Birthday,
Jesus!

Colour me in!

