



Marlborough: Mission & Ministry

By Kaye Dyer—Nelson AWSC Link Representative



Ministry Mentoring Session—from left are Revd Deborah Paton, Revd Susan Howarth, Nelson AWSC Link Representative Kaye Dyer

A Decade of Mission₁ (2015—2025)

We have 10 years to place mission as the central theme of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

The vision is “to mobilise the whole of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia to take the whole Gospel to the whole world”.

It recognises that mission is the work of all Christians, that its content is God’s Good News in Jesus Christ and that “God’s mission is for the whole world—indeed God’s whole creation”.

(Christopher Wright)

<http://decadeofmission.org/about/#vision>

What a huge vision, but an exciting one. (I am reminded of the riddle - how do you eat an elephant? The answer - one bite at a time and with friends, lots of them!)

However, unless we have a plan for our part of the mission field the decade will pass with nothing changed. So where do we start?

God has placed within each of us a unique calling and the gifts we need to fulfil it. For many of

us that gift needs to be called into being and released. Do you have a

God sized dream that is yet to be awakened? Let us listen for one another’s heart and pray that dream into life. Many of us have never realised our true identity in Christ and the authority we

have as beloved daughters of God. You might have worked out that one of my passions is to see every believer equipped and released into their unique calling.

In 2000 I dreamed of a safe place where women could gather and be nurtured in their relationship with God; a place where the Word and Spirit were both honoured. I sensed God wanted to raise up an army of women to serve his mission. Women in Focus weekends were born as that vehicle. Our annual camps grew to 100 as women from many denominations and many places gathered together to encourage one another in our walk with Jesus and to learn practical skills for ministry and mission. Many women had difficulty verbalising their faith, even some



Gateway to the South; Picton in the winter

of those with good bible knowledge. Have we become so accustomed to listening to sermons and collecting head knowledge that we have failed to put our learning into practice, allowing Jesus to transform our lives and pass on our faith to others?

In 2010 when my husband was appointed vicar of Picton I relinquished my teaching job in Nelson and shifted house. Currently my time is focused on my final research paper for a MMin through Otago University. My topic focuses on the Eph 4 equipping gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor/shepherd and teacher and especially on how the first three can be utilised to help transition the church from an institutional model to a missional model in an Anglican context.

In our church we have been working at increasing our gospel fluency. Last year we challenged everyone to practise telling

the most powerful story they knew, their testimony of how God has changed their life. No matter how ordinary we think our story is, there are people who need to hear it and who will be encouraged by it.

We learned the discovery bible study method that begins by telling the stories about Jesus. Storytelling is a powerful means of communication; the stories come alive and engage with people in a way that reading the story does not. What a great way to engage with grandchildren! There was a challenge: What does the story tell us about Jesus? What is God saying to me? How will I respond?

Later some of us embraced the one minute challenge; to give a testimony and a simple gospel presentation in one minute without using jargon but ensuring the message of the cross is not diluted! Try it. It really made us think and was a lot of fun. We are exhorted to give an account of the hope that is within us and sometimes one minute is all we get. We are grateful to Church Army for sponsoring this training as part of their Church Planting initiative.

So back to the Decade of Mission challenge to share God's Good News in Jesus Christ. How do we do that? We began asking very basic questions such as; what exactly is God's Good News in Jesus Christ? What does this Good News mean in my life? What might Good News be for my neighbour? In a world that struggles to relate to sin maybe we need to start with the issues of shame and guilt or alternatively deal with the issue of identity

and significance.

What is the gospel? Is it the gospel of forgiveness of sins and entry to heaven or is it the gospel of the kingdom that Jesus spoke about, a gospel of words that was demonstrated with power, a gospel that transforms hearts and communities. We now pray "may your kingdom come on Earth as it is in heaven" with a new perspective. Are we living in the reality of being much loved daughters of the Father or are we still trying to earn his acceptance?

I am convinced of the need to get back to the simplicity of the gospel, trusting the Spirit to do his work. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Let us be watchful of those around us and call each other into the purposes of God. Let us encourage one another to follow Jesus' example to be still and hear the voice of the Spirit so that we are moving in step with the Father.

The Lord announces the word, and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng: (Psalm 68:11)

God is raising up and releasing a great team of women, both lay and ordained, to work in the mission field of Marlborough and beyond. The Marlborough Regional Deanery extends from Kai-koura to Picton to Havelock and includes the Awatere, Spring Creek, Renwick and the Wairau Valley as well as the two Blenheim parishes of Nativity and St Christopher's. I have invited some of our women to introduce themselves and share something of their heart and calling in the Mission of God.

Kaye Dyer

Deborah Paton

St Christopher's, Blenheim

I heard my call to ordination at the Women in Focus weekend in 2004. During a session on "Listening to God", Kaye prayed that God would reveal what He would have us do for Him in the years to come. I heard the word 'pastor' clearly, to the point that I looked around to see who had spoken. It was followed with the direction to begin training for full time ministry.

Brian and I were not in a financial position for me to study at the time so I left it in Jesus' hands to organise a way forward. A year later I received an anonymous cheque in the mail for \$1,000 with a note saying it was to help with my ongoing studies and the bible verse, 1 John 5:10a. I began part-time study at BCNZ (Nelson) in 2006, completing ½ a degree but settled for a DipBS in 2011 to put family first. I have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

I was ordained in 2015 as a non-stipendiary assistant at St. Christopher's in Blenheim. I am attracted to wounded and broken people and I receive such joy watching them come to un-

derstand who they are in Christ. I know Jesus smiles over me when I put others first. Serving God through ministering to people is deeply satisfying.

Revd Deborah Paton

Wendy Reynolds

Elder Care - St Christopher's, Blenheim

I am in my 5th year as the Community Elder Care Coordinator based at St Christopher's, Blenheim. As this role was a new position I developed the programme to meet the community's needs. Currently we have three programmes. Keeping U Moving is a twice monthly music, walk and cuppa. Three times a month we run a fellowship group where people can make new friendships and help each other with technology etc. On the fourth week we have Older Person Seminars on a range of topics. These have been very well supported.

Wendy Reynolds

Dawn Daunauda

Vicar—Awatere Christian Joint Venture

I'm a rural girl. Six generations ago, early November 1841, my people arrived in Nelson on the *Will Watch*. Despite growing up surrounded by relatives and neighbours of German / British descent, I have always had an interest in other nationalities and cultures.

At age 18 the opportunity came to spend a gap year teaching at St Andrew's in Tonga. I leapt at the chance. Thirty five years later I live and work in Seddon, 25 minutes south of Blenheim, as the Minister of the Awatere Christian Joint Venture. I still pinch myself to make sure I'm not just having a wonderful dream.



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Revd Dawn Daunauda & Rachel Westenra—Ministering together in the Awatere

While raising our two sons, I turned my hand to a variety of occupations and volunteered in the church. I began distance study through BCNZ (now Laidlaw College) - just one paper you understand – no one would willingly subject themselves to unnecessary exams! After completing a DipBS I was encouraged to 'finish the degree', BMin, and was ordained in 2009, a pretty special year.

The Awatere Parish is a wonderful fit for Sana and me as the vineyards employ seasonal workers from the Pacific, East Asia and Europe. Sana works as the Pacific Health Manager through MPH. Year after year we welcome the itinerant workers 'home'. They enrich our sung worship and challenge us with their passion and testimony. They hear and learn spoken English (requires careful and clear sermon composition and simple, sound theology). When Sana and I travelled to Kiribati in 2013 to meet our men at their homes we realized how vulnerable our Pacific neighbours are to over-population and climate change. This journey inspired me to research the impact of seasonal work on Pacific families through a Master of Applied Theology from Carey.

In 2002 at my first synod, a talk by Dr Janet Cornwall hooked me on Anglican Missions. I now chair the Tikanga Pakeha Mission Council, and am on the Anglican Missions Board and Executive. That wasn't planned, though I know it was a calling.

I love the stories of people who 'taste and see' during short-term missions, and return home changed. Our younger son has a heart to serve after spending a year as an intern at Nairobi Chapel, Kenya through NZCMS. Anglican Missions have made me aware of the complex and rapidly changing New Zealand

culture. I am thoroughly enjoying the work across the Tikanga, with plans afoot to meet with Tikanga Maori and Pasifika in their space.

I may be a rural girl, but family support, the privilege of study, and the Church have already taken me on a wonderful journey in His service.

Revd Dawn Daunauda

Rachael Westenra Parish Nurse— Awatere

Having been raised in a very medical-ly orientated Christian family environment I now can appreciate how it

has influenced and impacted upon my life. My father was a rural GP, a gentle, kind man with a deep Catholic faith who gave tirelessly to the community. I feel proud recognizing the immense work that he did, a true testimony of dedication to his profession, his faith and his community.

I completed my nursing training in the mid-eighties and worked as a surgical nurse, a role that I loved. After marrying an Awatere farmer my life turned from organized chaos to chaos! With juggling farm life, raising four young boys and continuing my nursing career part time, life was very busy.

When the boys grew up I was ready for a new challenge. I wanted to make a difference using the skills and knowledge I had. Dawn approached me about a new part-time role, a Parish Nurse to support the elderly within our rural and isolated area. I felt my skills were in the clinical setting but I could not get this opportunity out of my head. I felt that I was being called back to my faith, back to my community, and back to the example that my father had shown me.

Nearly four years later I can reflect on the immense joy, peace and satisfaction that this role has given me. It is my opportunity to minister. I am blessed.

Rachael Westenra

Susan Howarth Families Pastor—Nativity

For 30 years I have had the privilege of working as a Families'/ Children's Pastor. I now cheerlead great teams who do that

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work. It is a joy watching families grow in confidence about the reality of Jesus' love for them, becoming Disciples of Christ, and, as they realise the uniqueness of being in a community of faith, find their own expressions of worship and response to God. I particularly enjoy helping create specific opportunities for them to shine and explore. Seeing those 'aha' insights and celebrating with them the creative expressions that keep them engaged in their God-journey are the greatest of joys. Many of these young people are now parents and an inspiration for me. They have become my friends. I am humbled to see God's kindness as many of them are in turn passing the baton on to their

own children and church families.

My husband Graeme and I have always been inspired by the passage in 2 Corinthians which calls us to the message of reconciliation, we see ourselves as Christ's ambassadors, longing that no one would receive God's grace in vain. We have tried with the Holy Spirit's help to be good examples of lay leadership, seeking to model a Christ-like lifestyle and attitude, and making it our goal to please the Lord so that others would be drawn to trust in Him also. I believe the gifts of the Spirit make way for you and that if you are faithful in the small things you are given larger things to be faithful in.

*Let love and faithfulness never leave you,
bind them around your neck, tie them close to your heart
for they will give you honour and a good reputation
with God and people. (Prov 3:3-4)*

God is so faithful! A couple of years ago we were invited to team lead a new ministry initiative called 'The Mission Order of St Paul' and so I also have the privilege of working alongside and encouraging missional leaders as they seek to reach out to various communities in diverse ways.

Last year I was ordained and again new opportunities, to serve the families through all the key milestones of their lives (I baptised my God-daughter this year!), and to open doors of possibility for up and coming youth and leaders is all a part of the ongoing adventure of following Jesus.

Revd Susan Howarth

Helen Neame

Awatere



Helen Neame—Serving church and community in administration and management

I live on a farm near Seddon with my husband, Malcolm and family. I worship at the Awatere Christian Joint Venture where I also serve as the Parish Treasurer. My training as a registered nurse and midwife has given me a passion for accessible health services. Presently I am a trustee on the Kimi Hauora o Wairau (Marlborough Primary Health Organisation) as well as a director on the Wairau Community Clinic, a GP Clinic set up in 2012 to help people without access to GP services.

On the diocesan front I am on Standing Committee and chair ACCT, Anglican Care Charitable Trust, which allocates money

from diocesan trust funds and on behalf of the Tindall Trust to people in need. Our responsibility is to allocate assistance in accordance with each trust deed.

For several years I have been studying Te Reo and Tikanga Maori at the Wananga o Aotearoa. I enjoy serving our parishes and the wider community and see my ministry as an outworking of my desire to follow Christ and to help others.

Helen Neame

Raewyn Parkes

Parish Nurse - Nativity, Spring Creek, Picton



Raewyn Parkes—checking blood pressure

In the early days of my life as a parish nurse I was having a seaside picnic with a group of 80 and 90 year olds ladies, who hadn't been to the sea for years. It occurred to me these women who had walked with God for a long time were a rich source of information. So I asked them, "What is the most important thing you have learnt in your walk with God?" Knowing it would be worthwhile, I waited as they pondered my question in a prolonged silence.

Then the eldest responded, "To trust God, yes, to trust God." Her companions all agreed. It's my privilege to care for those 65 years and over who are living at home in the three best parishes in Marlborough. When I look back I can see how my previous nursing experience and theological study has all come together in this role. As I visit I give health advice, liaise between out-of-the-district family and health care providers, advocate, give health education and physical, mental and spiritual care. One day a new believer of 80+ years needed a large print Bible. This brings me to the question, what would you say to a new

believer of that age who in looking back at their life says they have wasted so much time?

Trust God, nothing is wasted in God's big picture, trust God.

Raewyn Parkes RN

of church and community paid for its transportation from NZ to Gaua Is.

I give thanks for these wonderful opportunities I have been given to share, and receive God's love.

Revd Miriam Taylor

Miriam Taylor

Nativity and Vanuatu Missions

The arrival of seasonal vineyard workers from Vanuatu into the Awatere in 2008, when I was the vicar, opened up a whole new world of mission for me. These men immediately became part of our church community. Relationships were built up and I was invited to undertake short term missions to the islands of Gaua, Ambae, Pentecost, and Santo. There I have had the privilege of meeting with the women and children for worship, prayer, Bible study and crafts. It has been an honour to be invited to

Gerrie Mead

Social Service Enabler—Nativity, Anglican Diocese of Nelson

When something goes wrong and you know it is time to turn the page, who do you turn to, where do you go? I was in such a position a little over seven years ago. I was employed in a professional social work role which I loved but because of circumstances beyond my control, I knew I had to leave. What to do? God works in mysterious ways – we all know this but the

opportunity to work at the frontline directly for Him had never crossed my mind. So it was that I experienced the amazing 'God-incidence' of my current position becoming available. The diocesan role had, in fact, been vacant for more than a year. Why was it that it was advertised just at the right time and that I even got to hear about it? I was so nervous – would they know how "unspiritual" I was, how unqualified for anything to do with ministry? But God enables! It has been a total privilege to serve our parish-based social outreach projects and programmes – to be part of a wonderful ministry to individuals and families and especially to seniors. Praise God for his grace and mercy.



Miriam Taylor lost without her glasses having a fun moment with women in Vanuatu

preach in the churches because, as at 2015 the Anglican Church in Vanuatu has not agreed to the ordination of women. Over the eight years I have been travelling to Vanuatu eleven other people have travelled with me, so the mission has grown and widened.

The church family of Nativity in Blenheim, where I am now part time assistant, have generously supported these missions. Recently the seasonal workers purchased a tractor and members

Gerrie Mead

*Praise the LORD!
Oh give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good;
For His loving kindness is everlasting.
(Ps 106:1)*

Introducing the new Te Manawa o te Wheke AWSC Link Representative

Revd Bettina Maxwell

Bettina Taumau Maxwell was born in Opotiki to Grace Kerehi Taka and Te Wharehau Maxwell in 1953. Just one of 11 children born to this loving couple. Educated at Torere Maori School and later at Opotiki College leaving in 1971. After College she went into business administration in Wellington under the Maori Affairs scheme. Bettina then relocated to Auckland but in the course of time returned home to her ukaipo. She has two beautiful children and four mokopuna.

Currently, Bettina is the chaplain at the Peria Village Rest Home and she also provides services to Thornton Park Rest Home residents. Both of these Rest Homes are in Opotiki. Bettina is also a caregiver to a 13 year old autistic boy.

As Bettina says, "Education for me started from my early years growing up in Torere with my many nannies, koros, aunts, uncles and cousins. I am who I am today, because of them. My mother was a Teacher all her life and when she retired from her profession she went back to University to seek further skills to help her people. My aspiration for our women, is to be the best that they can be as a woman, no matter the cultural background from whence we came. Mahia i runga i te pono, i te tika, ko te Atua hoki to tatou whakaruruhau, to tatou tuara i nga wa o te pai, i nga wa o te kino hoki. Learning is a life long experience".



Revd Bettina Maxwell graduation photo taken at Raukawa Wananga where she graduated with her Masters paper Tahuu Matauranga Aotearoa, T.Ao on 14 December 2013. It was very humbling experience for Bettina to receive the taiaha which the Wananga presented to each of their Masters graduates.

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The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Anglican Women's Studies Centre** was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.



The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Anglican Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.



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EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: The Anglican Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general the AWSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.