

Circle



Connecting Anglican Women



**AAW Triennial Conference 2024
Havelock North - Fijian Delegation**

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Bishop Reflects



From the President



In this Circle we are remembering our Triennial Conference back in April 19-21, 2024. It was held at Woodford House, the Anglican Girls' College in the Village of Havelock North where I live. I hope that this will be a record for the future for those unable to attend and memories for those who did. As the theme of the Conference was 'Peace' I would like to share with you some thoughts on the meaning of Peace as it applies to us as Christian women who belong to the Association of Anglican Women.

I began by getting a secular meaning of peace. According to my English Dictionary, Peace was described as: "tranquillity, stillness, freedom from contention, violence or war, a treaty that ends war." I will concentrate on the first two meanings.

My next step was to consult the internet and I entered Bible verses about peace. The information I received was compiled by *The Bible Study Tools 2023*. I hope the suggestions will highlight the importance of peace, providing comfort when you pray.

As a prelude to the Bible verses offered by the authors, they introduced them with the following: "The Bible contains verses that bring peace amid struggles, worries and fears. If we ask God, He promises us peace "that passes all understanding." When we take time to step back from the pressure of life and come into the presence of God, He can speak promises of hope and comfort over our circumstances.

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- **John 16:33** “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world.”
- **2 Thessalonians 3:16** “May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you.”
- **Isaiah 23:3** “You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts you.”
- **Matthew 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the Sons of God.”
- **John 14:27** “Peace I leave with you. Let not your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid.”
- **Romans 12:18** “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceable with all.”
- **Colossians 3:15** “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

“God wants you to have a life lived to the fullest and that includes being at peace. You experience the peace of God when you come to him in humility and accept the blessings He wants for you through Jesus Christ”.

In these final wise words offered by the Authors they emphasise the power of prayer. I thought that it was appropriate that it links with one of our themes for the three years. Therefore, this gives us the opportunity to reflect on the importance of prayer in our lives.

Cynthia Prince

Bishop Reflects

*Bishop Anashuya Fletcher
Assistant Bishop of Wellington*



It is inescapable that those who profess to know and follow God are called to tell others about what God has done and what God can do. Yet it's something that often makes me deeply uncomfortable because I carry a bunch of cultural hang-ups. It's often much easier not to talk about God.

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I've journeyed closely with many friends who've faced significant struggles. The words they might have used to describe their lives in the most challenging of times could be those from Ezekiel 37: "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off."

Ezekiel's response, in obedience to God, is to share about what God has done and what God can do. In response, these bones come back to life! I've frequently offered friendship and loving service to others, but too often I have failed to point people to the new, full, resurrected life that Jesus offers.

Then, four years ago, I was struck down by a chronic illness that caused me considerable pain, fatigue, difficulty walking and incontinence amongst other symptoms. I mobilised with a walking frame and then a crutch. As a young mother, in the middle of a great season of ministry it was devastating. I experienced partial healing a couple of years ago. Then last year a group of friends prayed for me, and I received miraculous healing throughout my body. It changed my world in the most spectacular way.

The news of my healing went viral in our neighbourhood. At preschool, at the school gate, on the street, among the young people staying with us, I had no choice but to tell of the wonders of God at work in my life because people could see the difference!

A complete transformation had taken place before their eyes. The openness with which people have received my outrageous story has blown my expectations and my hang-ups out of the water.

As I look across society as a whole right now, there are so many people who would echo that cry: "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone!" Each of us, through our own stories, has words of life and hope to share that speak to what God has done and what God can do. May we have the courage to do so.

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

Triennial Conference

April 19-21 at Woodford House, Havelock North

As this issue of Circle is focusing on our recent AAW Triennial Conference, I thought it would be helpful to give you an abridged programme. I hope it will give you an overview and will capture what happened over the three days.

Friday 19 April 2024

12.30 pm Lunch for NZ AAW Executive

1.30 pm AAW Executive Meeting

4.30 pm Registration

Welcome: Dr Cynthia Prince

Opening by Hastings Deputy Mayor, Tania Kerr

6.30 pm Dinner followed by Night Prayer

Saturday 20 April 2024

8.00 am Breakfast and Morning Prayer

9.30 am Keynote speaker: Growing through Grief

10.45 am Workshops

11.50 am Rwenzori Project: Dot Muir/Raewyn Dawson

12.30 pm Lunch

1.30 pm NZAAW AGM

3.30 pm Workshops

6.30 pm Conference dinner with guest speakers Fr John & Rev'd

Sue Matthews

Night Prayer

Sunday 22 2024

8.00 am Breakfast and Eucharist in the Chapel

11.00 am What's age got to do with it?

12.00 am lunch followed by Closing prayers

Cynthia Prince



President Cynthia welcome members to the Conference

Some reflections on the Conference

Conference for me was a chance to meet women from around the country and the Pacific. Chatting over meals, swapping ideas, hearing the problems we have over finding leaders. It is great to be encouraged and to be an encourager. Lovely worship, interesting workshops, and a good bed! Thanks to Cynthia and Sally, coping with their own difficulties.

Noeline Curtis Nelson Diocese.

I enjoyed the conference, especially catching up with AAW members from other parts of the country again. The conference was very well organised and I thought the workshops were excellent and that we were able to bring back to our own groups suggestions from these. It was a bonus for us all that the ladies came from Fiji. Getting to know them and listen to their music was an added bonus.

Kathy Cuthbert, Nelson Diocese

Opening Address

Tania Kerr, Deputy Mayor, Hastings District Council opened the Conference. This is an abridged version of her address.



It is special to be here today to open your conference, especially as I come from a family of Anglicans. Never fear, the strong Anglican attitude was well entrenched in my family! As a babe, I was baptised at St James Church in Hastings and my Godmother Laurie Hooper-Smith was very involved in this Parish. It was through her that my parents were asked if they would be interested in looking after children in a home supported by the Anglican Church. My mother said no and my father said yes. I had a sister who was only two, I was five. After lots of thought my family moved from Havelock North to Waipawa and started a new life at Abbotsford Children's, home looking after 20 children, overseen by the Waiapu Diocese. Abbotsford was unique because they took in whole family groups of children. This was a wonderful idea because then the family bond stayed strong.

The Church gave incredible support to the children of Abbotsford. Sadly, Abbotsford closed in 1986.

As you can see, my younger life was surrounded by the love of the broader Anglican family, showing me the way to live a life full of Christian values. I now work for my community seeking to serve not to be served. I try to view the many decisions we must make at the Council table through the eyes of those who are vulnerable or face difficulty; always trying to think of others. At all times I need guidance on what is the right decision, to do what is right. To be true to myself and my values and not to be led away from what I know is right. I need to have a North Star to guide me and it is reassuring to lean on my Christian values to keep me focussed.

What I have realised over the years is, if I make sure my aspirations, beliefs and dreams align, and my actions and decisions match with my faith, I do not feel conflicted. I sleep well, I have peace. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. It would be easy not to be in politics, to hide my 'light', to let 'someone else' do the job, to remain silent and not to call out the wrongs, not to demand better of other leaders. But I believe I wasn't given my skills to hide in the shadows, to let someone else do the mahi. But rather to shine my light as brightly as possible so others can shine as well. To show others what is possible, to be a role model, to let other women see all we can be. Just like others have done for me.

I am delighted that you have chosen to have your conference here in Heretaunga Hastings and District and to enjoy all it has to offer. Here as we sit underneath the great Te Mata Rongokako, offering views across the great Heretaunga plains, and on a clear day, glimpses of Ruapehu and Mahia peninsular.

I wish you a wonderful conference. May it be full of love laughter, and learning. No Reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa.

Bible Studies Can Be Fun

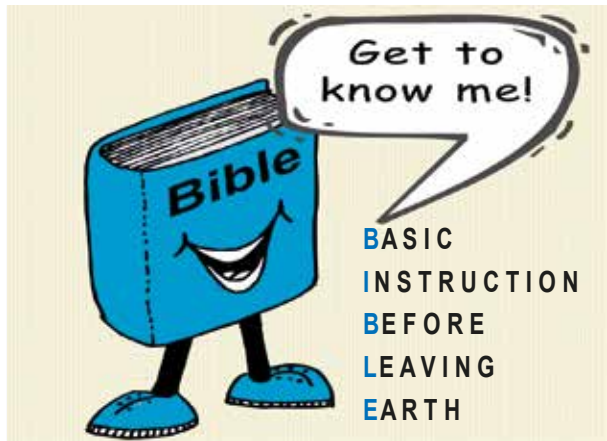
Anne Gover gave 2 workshops at the Conference



Anne Gover has been involved as a participant in a number of Bible studies, some of which have been incredibly interesting and some of which have been incredibly boring. She has also created a wide range of Bible studies and has led Bible studies and home groups, beginning when she was a Crusader at Nelson College 60 years ago.

She believes that studying the Bible should never be boring, as many parts of the Bible make Mills and Boon novels look tame in comparison. She still finds that she is learning new things and even passages that have been read many times still have the capacity to surprise her with new insights. Her Bible studies are on A4 pdf double-sided pages, with the study on one side and graphics which include pictures and maps, on the reverse. The range of topics include 88 Old Testament characters and 35 New Testament

characters as well as studies from Paul's Letters from prison, Jesus' parables and 'This and That' studies. A full list of studies is available from Anne and she is happy to email this list or any of the studies to you.



AAW Toolbox Resource Ideas

Over many years Anne Gover has gathered nearly 500 resources that can be used to make AAW meetings more interesting. These have been collated into various categories to make selecting easier, and they are available on a pen drive that you can purchase for \$15 [postage included].

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So, if you want resources you can use at Christmas, or fun activities, quizzes, jokes, skits, personality tests, talks, meditations, studies, movies, etc, then this toolbox will assist you for many years of meetings.

Anne's email is
annegover@xtra.co.nz

Bank Account: 030915-
0258384-00



Auckland delegates in the Woodford House Chapel

Missions Workshop 2024

Zena Moran ran a workshop on Missions. She is very experienced on this, and is Havelock North AAW's O & O representative.

Don't ever let anyone tell you missions isn't important. The generation that received books about missionaries as Sunday School prizes knows full well that it is.

George Augustus Selwyn, our founding bishop, believed this so much that he put aside factionalism to come to New Zealand, to live and work among Māori with the evangelical Church Missionary Society. He then founded the Mission to Melanesia, which to this day displays his true Anglo-Catholic leanings.

Likewise, Evangelicals and High Church people managed to co-exist, that is until 1910 when a mission including Anglican clergy from across the spectrum came from England to revitalise the Church. Among them were Anglo-Catholic clergy of a kind never seen before in New Zealand, which evoked Guy Fawkes Roman Catholicism in the more Protestant-minded. It took a long time to get over the cartoons of spiders in biretta caps coming to take us over.

Now our three mission groups work together to fulfil Christ's Great Commission to go out and make disciples of all nations. The directors of the Church Missionary Society (CMS) and Anglican Missions, which took over the Mission to Melanesia (and to Polynesia), are on each other's boards, and our homegrown justice and aid agency Christian World Service joins them in advocating for humanitarian causes worldwide.

AAW proudly prioritises Overseas and Outreach.

Zena Moran

Growing Through Grief



Kristen Swain, Growing Through Grief HB Coordinator, was the keynote speaker on Saturday morning

Growing Through Grief (GTG) is one of the services of Anglican Care Waiapu, the social service arm of the Anglican Diocese of Waiapu. GTG grew out of concern regarding the impact of loss and grief on children and young people more than 20 years ago. Today we promote grief education by providing MacKillop Seasons programmes, workshops and seminars for children, young people and adults in our communities

During our time together at conference we shared a story based on the passage of scripture from Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8: "To everything there is a season". We reflected on the range of changes (different seasons) and transitions we may experience in life which result in loss and grief. We looked at the history of GTG and how the programmes provided an increase in peoples' understanding, wellbeing and sense of connection.

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This is the link to our website for those that are interested in finding out more www.acw.org.nz. One of my wonderful volunteers shared her experience of volunteering and the impact she has seen that the programmes have on people's lives. Our time together finished with many questions and a yummy morning tea. Let us continue to have conversations and support each other as we navigate change, loss and grief.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa.
Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

Kristen Swain



Pictured: Dot Muir and Raewyn Dawson talking at Conference on the Rwenzori Overseas and Outreach fund-raising project.

A virtual pilgrimage to Malta?

Fr John Matthews is Vicar of St Luke's, Havelock North, and his wife Reverend Sue Matthews is Associate Priest.

Fr John was Saturday evening's guest speaker.

When did you fly out? Well, we didn't actually but the room where we walked alongside St Paul was very warm and comfortable.

Let us explain – seasoned Pilgrimage leaders Father John and Rev'd Sue Matthews had led an in-person Pilgrimage to Malta in 2018. Two years later, they discovered that physical Pilgrimage was impossible due to the Covid-19 lockdown and a worldwide ban on travel – all things had to become virtual So why not Pilgrimage? During this time, they remembered what they had told their initial Pilgrims: 'This is not for touristic sightseeing; rather your soul will drink deeply and stop in this place'. As we know, there is nothing worse than seeing other people's holiday snaps, and so we needed a change of mindset. Thus, began the idea of 'virtual pilgrimages', and thus Father John led our AAW conference on a virtual Pilgrimage of the journey of St Paul to convert the Maltese people to Christianity.

We began on the island where the boat ran aground. We prayed, sang and celebrated the Holy Eucharist in the open air at the base of the Statue that the Maltese people have placed there. We moved on to the place where Paul first encountered the Maltese people and was mistaken for a god by surviving a snake bite. A holy well marks this encounter as does a church a little way down the road. We went on to the place of Paul's encounter with Publius, the Roman governor, where Paul ended up curing Publius' mother-in-law. The whole household was baptised from the water of the well in the basement of that building. The house is still standing and the well is still running with water.

We gave thanks for the first people to be baptised in this place and for the ministry that took off as a result.

From there we went to where Paul was chained up in a cave on the edge of the city, right next to the rubbish dump, where he met so many locals – who came to see for themselves the madman they had heard about – who actually was not mad at all. It was possibly from here that a section of 1 Corinthians was written.

From there we went to the Roman Governor's palace, which he converted to be a place of worship when he began to lead the newly emerging, fledgling Christian community. Atop this site sits the Cathedral of St Paul M'Dina (*pictured*) where Publius mortal remains remain, speaking of the eternal testimony of the faithful.



Finally, we went on to the very ornate gilded national shrine of Saint Paul Shipwreck. Here we discovered the ulna of St Paul in an ornate case and

received a sense that what we might have always thought of dead bones, simply cannot be true. The presence of St Paul himself in this place was tangible. The case in which his arm bone was cased was merely a visual sign of it. It was here where we joined with the prayers of those who had gone before, and asked God to

show us how we had been changed by this journey in St Paul's own footsteps.

So, the biggest question that remains for those who journeyed with us on our virtual Pilgrimage: how have they been changed?

Where is God now leading?

Thank you AAW for inviting us to lead you on your journey.

In Christ, Father John and Reverend Sue

Overseas & Outreach

One experience I have rejoiced in this year is meeting and witnessing how many AAW groups around Aotearoa New Zealand are enthusiastic to send their gifts of money to our Overseas and Outreach Appeal for Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation in Uganda (See *page 32*), to save the lives and futures of the many hundreds of women and children. Growing hope.

I want to say thank you to those of who are saying 'yes' to God in this way. Your prayers, love and money are going where God has asked them to.

May the wondrous Trinity: God our heavenly Father, Jesus Christ our heavenly Lord, and the counselling Holy Spirit be patient with each one of us as we shuffle and stutter our way into simply saying like Thomas – 'My Lord and my God'.

We can model for other disciples our personal surrender: 'Yes, Lord Jesus. Here I am. Thank you for all you have done for me. Your will be done through me. Use me in your service, I pray.' May that prayer be ours.

Raewyn Dawson, Overseas & Outreach Co-Ordinator.
(*The ending of my sermon in Ashburton. See p.28*)

Wellington's Overseas and Outreach Diocesan Day



The Annual AAW/MU Wellington Diocese Overseas and Outreach Day, was held on Sat 6th July at St Luke's Church, Waikanae.

Despite the chilly winter weather, there was a good attendance of AAW members from throughout the Region. An invitation was also extended to the greater Waikanae Anglican Parish to take part in the day's activities. It was very pleasing to see the large number of people, including young people, who came along to hear the work that was being done within the community and overseas missions.

The day commenced with morning tea, followed by a welcome from our Diocesan AAW Executive President, Pat Vincent. Our guest speaker was Michael Hartfield, the National Director of Anglican Missions. (*Pictured above*). He gave a very interesting talk on the valuable work being done for the less privileged

throughout the Pacific and areas of Asia and Africa, including the Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation in Uganda.

This was followed by two Workshops that attendees could participate in. One was on the work of the Citizens Advice Bureau and the other on the issue of grandparents as parents.

After lunch, Rachel Hogan, working with MMM & NZCMS in Fiji, along with her husband and children, spoke of their life and work in that community. This was followed by Chris & Catherine Corin who had been working in Asia. We give thanks for these dedicated people who often work in difficult areas of the world.

The day came to a close with a Communion service lead by our Vicar Mark Harris.

Special thanks must go to Janet Jones, our Diocesan Overseas and Outreach Coordinator, for a wonderful job in organising the day's activities.

Diana Maunder

Obituary - Lois Harvey

Late last year Lois Harvey, a real AAW stalwart, died in Hastings where she was in care. Still as sharp as ever, but always frail physically, she'd been on executive in Wellington for many years, and only moved back to Hawke's Bay a few years ago. She was a real AAW stalwart.

Daniel Evans (Havelock North AAW)

Social Concerns

Social Concerns NCW update

AAW has been a member of the National Council of Women (NCW) over many years. They have the interests of women and children at their heart (as do AAW). They support the issues that can impact on both these groups. It is good to see that in this NCW update from our Social Concerns Representative Julie Walker, that she is taking part in the NCW Education Hub.

The NCW board has co-opted Marie Schmidt as a new Board member. Marie is a long-term member of the PACIFICA Inc Executive. She brings a wealth of governance and operational experience to the Board.

NCW has been working with three organizations - Alternative Jewish Voices, Federation of Islamic Associations and the Palestinian – led advocacy group Justice for Palestine – **to make a common statement for calling attention to the humanitarian crisis, supporting and raising money for the women and children who are affected by the conflict in Gaza.** Media statements will be made about this.

I recently took part in an NCW Zoom Education hub meeting. NCW is looking to report back to CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Feedback CEDAW is seeking from Government and Non-Government Organizations includes how well educational needs are being met for rural girls, how well we are doing in providing bullying-free education environments, how we are supporting pregnant girls to stay in the school system in New Zealand. *Julie Walker, Social Concerns*

Auckland



St James Ladies Fellowship, Mangere Bridge Auckland.

Our April Meeting this year was close to Anzac Day. We themed our meeting with our Anzac Wreath and flags. We also had the RSA Anzac biscuits for Morning Tea. This was followed by memories of past Anzac Services and Celebrations.

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Lest We Forget

Barbara Dixon



Commissioning of Julie Walker as Auckland's Diocesan President

Christchurch

Prayer: We are very blessed here to have three committed AAW members who now work to produce the creative two-monthly Diocesan Prayer Newsletter. The previous long-term editor, Anne Hopkins from Timaru, died suddenly. If any Diocese would like a copy of the Newsletters, please ask us.

Activities: Our Executive has eight hard working members who plan events as well as link with all groups and support them. Since NZAAW Conference the Diocese has met three times: for a Festival Eucharist in Ashburton, a Combined Overseas & Outreach and Social Concerns meeting, and a Midwinter party in Rangiora.
(Pictured)





The hall at the Ashburton Festival Eucharist

Future: In October we will have our annual Diocesan AAW Festival Eucharist, which had usually been held in the Cathedral, but last year was effectively moved to Holy Trinity Avonside, where parking is easier. The Christ Church Cathedral is needing a great deal of prayer as its re-build requires much more funding than expected. *(Pictured: Raewyn preaching at Ashburton)*



Raewyn Dawson (Canterbury AAW President)

Dunedin

Recently two longstanding members of St Luke's Mosgiel AAW were presented with certificates of appreciation signed by Bishop Steven Benford.

Ann Petty was a foundation member of NZ AAW, was treasurer of the St Luke's AAW for many years and also served a term as the Diocesan AAW treasurer.

She had been a very active member of the St Luke's congregation, especially the music group. Sadly, she died a few weeks after the certificate was presented.

Mary Lester had been the convenor of our St Luke's AAW group for many years. She is our long-serving sacristan and has done many of the essential jobs in the church, like cleaning and buying candles.

Lynne Hill

St Luke's Mosgiel AAW

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord my rock and my redeemer

PSALM 19: 14

Nelson

Holy Trinity, Richmond

Holy Trinity Richmond Afternoon Group, took their meeting on 26th June to Oakwoods Retirement Village in Richmond. This enabled an extra six AAW members, residents in the Retirement Village, to attend. Sara Clover spoke about her role and training as a Rest-Home Chaplain, a relatively new initiative, made possible by the funds bequeathed to the Diocese. *(Pictured)*



Holy Trinity Evening Group recently hosted Noelene Tomlinson. Noelene has many talents including genealogy, making scrapbooks to record her findings and photos, plus crafting, including embroidery, hardanger, cross stitch, sewing, and recently making fiddle cushions for dementia sufferers.



Noelene with a Fiddle Cushion

Diocesan AAW AGM

Our Diocesan AAW AGM was held on Saturday 13th April. This meeting set in place the new arrangements for a much smaller Diocesan Committee. Diocesan Committee members were commissioned by Rev Barbara Harford, as the Bishop was unable to attend.

Guest speaker Raewyn Dawson shared about the Rwenzori Children's project in Uganda, which aims to improve mothers' health to prevent issues like cleft palate and harelip amongst their babies.



Raewyn Dawson with map showing where Uganda is located;

Nelson AAW (incorporating All Saints AAW & Cathedral AAW)

In February members brought along an object to talk about - a treasure, a photo, a recipe. Many stories were shared, providing members with a good laugh, and even a tear or two. In March members enjoyed a lovely banquet at Tong Tara restaurant, and in May energetic guest speaker Angela Harding shared her faith journey and how she became a part of the Mission Aviation Foundation. In June the group held its annual high tea - a lovely festive event including fancy china and a gorgeous spread.

Blenheim

In July Members from Nativity AAW joined St Christophers for a light lunch followed by a "Pub Quiz" compiled by Jackie Hall. Groups of four were challenged in topics such as Music, Countries, Bible Verses, Baking ingredients and others.

Betsy Frizzell, a longtime member of Nativity AAW Group passed away in June aged 96. Betsy was a very skilled crafts woman. Betsy's service was a lovely tribute by her family and included songs and a beautifully painted casket.

Nativity Blenheim AAW have been holding meetings in the St Barnabas Chapel on the church grounds. On Saturday 20th July the new lounge and hall adjoining the Nativity Church was officially opened and Dedicated by Bishop Steve Maina.

Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation

Over 10% of babies born in the Rwenzori region, Uganda, suffer from cleft lip and palate. It's not easy for children born with stunted growth or cleft lip and palate to get medical treatment when they need it.

For these children and their families, life can be extremely difficult.

In 2010, a New Zealand special needs teacher called Dot Muir began RSNF in Uganda's Fort Portal. Since then, RSNF have supported hundreds of children with physical and/or mental disabilities, providing surgeries and transportation, post-surgery care, vocational and education packages, and home-based support.

Waiapu

Havelock North

St Luke's Havelock North AAW Fellowship Group has had a variety of meetings in 2024. Our February meeting was the first this year. An annual event, the committee all helped to cook and serve dinner while members paid \$5 to assist with costs. It was a very pleasant evening with delicious food and good company.

In March our speakers were Pip and Ruth from the Prisoner's Aid and Rehabilitation Society. They aim to reduce social isolation for people recently released from prison and to help them plan their future in a positive supportive environment. They are looking for volunteers to assist with this.

Our speaker in April was Marion Campbell who spoke to us about walking the Te Araroa Trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff. She walked it alone and carried food and water, her tent and sleeping bag. She said the mental strength was as important as physical fitness, and she thought of her father, who spent four years in a prisoner of war camp in Poland in the Second World War, for inspiration.

At our May Meeting Jenny Herbison from the Epilepsy Association spoke to us about how to help if someone has an epileptic seizure. Educational material was left in the foyer if anyone was interested in learning more.

In June Zena Davidson, one of our members, spoke to us about Missions. She was able to impart some of her deep knowledge to the group.

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In July our group had an afternoon meeting. This is always welcome in midwinter as the evenings close in and temperatures drop. We had afternoon tea at Serendipity Cafe in Hastings. It gave everyone who attended the opportunity to enjoy wonderful food and Christian fellowship.

In August we visited a local artist's studio in Havelock North. Lizzie Beere is an artist, potter and photographer. She is the daughter in law of one of our committee members Brenda Fine who has been for many years an AAW member. Lizzie showed us some of her work displayed in her studio. There are large paintings depicting the beauty of flowers highlighting her unique style. Her pottery is white, hand formed and ornamental. The afternoon concluded with a delicious afternoon tea of home-made cake. Our thanks to Lizzie and Brenda for a wonderful afternoon that concluded with members sharing Grace.

Cynthia



Havelock North President Miriam Sage making a presentation at the art studio

Wellington

St John's and St Michael's AAW Mid-Winter Lunch

On a suitably cold, winter's day on the 1st August our AAW group hosted 28 members and visitors to a Mid-Winter lunch of soup, rolls, cheeses and sweet slices, catered for by our members. The warmth created by the fellowship and food was appreciated by all.



Our Guest Speaker was the Rev. Rosie Newport (*pictured above, wearing her lovely cotton kanga*). Rosie is providing pastoral support to St John's while we're in a period of interregnum. Rosie spoke of her life and what led her to become a missionary in Africa

with her ordained husband Ted, as partners with CMS. They spent 15 years in Tanzania, with their family of two children. Rosie, a former primary school teacher from Tasmania, was involved in women's and bible ministry. While Ted, also a teacher, did maintenance work at the hospital they were attached to and then started a youth ministry, becoming Youth Secretary. Rosie brought along a number of brightly, coloured traditional cotton pieces called Kanga, the Swahili word for guinea fowl. They are worn by local women. She also brought along some lovely woven baskets.

Pat Vincent

Reminisces - A chat with the Archdeacon Emeritus, Judy Hardie

For our May meeting, AAW St James invited retired archdeacon, Judy Hardie to be our speaker. Few of the members knew what an archdeacon did, and although Rev'd Google provided a description that he/she was largely an administrative assistant to the bishop, there was obviously more to it than that!

Judy began by talking about how difficult it had been originally to become ordained as a priest. Although she had already passed her LTh, NZ's Anglican Church did not allow the ordination of women until 1977. But Judy persevered to become a curate, priest and finally, archdeacon. Compared with other professions, the clergy were slow to admit women. In comparison by 1935, there were female teachers, although they were forbidden to marry and rules about personal appearance were stipulated, "No bright colours, a dress no shorter than two inches above the ankle, at least two petticoats, and in no circumstances could a teacher dye her hair."

A highlight was the vestments Judy brought with her. There were brightly coloured stoles to mark the church seasons and a delicate salmon pink cope centrally embroidered with sprays of native flowers by the women of St James parish. The robes, decorated with New Zealand flowers are lovely, lasting and colourful.

By the end of the afternoon, we understood far more about the roles of an archdeacon, but for some of us, the question had changed from, "What does an archdeacon do?" to "What does it take to be an archdeacon?" Some private answers were suggested, "Faith and tolerance, in equal helpings."

Thank you, Archdeacon Emeritus Judy, for an impressive and inspiring chat.

Kapiti Women's Fellowship

Winter life has been very quiet in the Kapiti Women's Fellowship Group (with AAW and MU Members).

Even with a small number of members turning up to meetings, we find some interesting topics to mull over with lots of lively discussion ensuing, especially over afternoon tea. We have been fortunate to have two new members who have recently moved into the parish. We welcome Beverley Taylor and Sheila Heath.

At the start of winter, we asked for donations of children's pyjamas. From conversations between Rev'd Barbara Bonifant and Rev'd Fee Thomson (our Children and Families Minister), it was obvious that there was a great need locally. In her role as Chaplain for Paraparaumu School, Rev'd Fee supports students, families and staff. The initial response was good: about 40 pairs of pyjamas donated. The scope of the appeal was extended beyond our small group to the St Mark's congregation and then to include the whole Parish.

THE ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN WOMEN



Pictured: Reverends Fee Thompson and Barbara Bonifant

Over 80 pairs of pyjamas were donated. The majority filled a real need for the families at Paraparaumu School.

The pyjamas that were not used for the pupils and siblings of the local primary school were donated locally to families in need, including emergency housing.

The delight of new warm, cosy pyjamas to keep the kids warm at night brought moments of joy to everyone involved. There were some wonderful 'God moments' during the distribution of them – one little girl asked for a pink pair with unicorns – and there was a pair in the right size!

Ann Desmond (in joint Leadership with Rev Barbara Bonifant & Heather Dawson)

Submissions / Subscriptions

Deadline for next issue: 14 February 2025

Submissions: send to Sally Butler
Email: still_british_gurl@hotmail.com
Waiapu Circle Team Co-Ordinator.

- We are looking for high interest articles that inspire.
- If the 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 document
- 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 MA Word doc or in an email.

Circle Subscription: (for 2 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 packaging)

Please send orders to Anne Gover, NZAAW

Treasurer, Email: annegover@xtra.co.nz, 4 Lennox Street, Gore 9710.

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The Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

- Formed in 1969 for all Anglican Women to become members - married, divorced or single women.
- Prior to this New Zealand Anglican Women were part of Mothers' Union Branches.
- The Association of Anglican Women has more than 3,000 members - the largest organization within the Anglican Church giving a voice and representation to women.

Our Aims are....

1. To unite in prayer and participate in the mission of the Church.

2. To promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

Our focus

To grow and move forward as an organisation –

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.

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Circle Editorial Team: Cynthia Prince, Noel Hendery, Sally Butler, Gillian Postlewaight

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