

CIRCLE



St Mary's Cathedral, New Plymouth

The Association of Anglican Women

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May, 2015

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

Diocesan AAW Group & Members' Items:

Please help the CIRCLE editorial team by **sending your contributions and reports, email or hand-written, to your Diocesan Circle Publicity Representative** so that she can collate, edit, proof and select what to send from each diocese to keep to the approximate Word Allowance of about 360 words per diocese. This allows for around two pictures.

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PHOTOS: Email (*attached as a "FILE", not as a "picture"*) original digital photos (high resolution jpg files) to marilynjsim@gmail.com or post commercially produced glossy prints for scanning (not photo-copied - nor produced by desk-jets or home laser printers).

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Please help us by adhering to this deadline!

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear All,

I do hope you have all had a blessed Easter and a memorial Anzac day remembering all those who have fought for their country.

Our NZ AAW Meeting in a conference room at Wellington Airport was such a success that we have booked in again for March 2016.

I had a wonderful week away in March travelling from Wellington to Taupo, Rotorua, Cambridge and onto New Plymouth before returning home. It was a real privilege to meet AAW members in all these places as well as being reacquainted with

ladies I had met 15 years ago. I was also treated to some sightseeing too. I had the pleasure of meeting the first NZ AAW President Jeannie Parr and her husband Peter in Cambridge. Thank you to all those Presidents - and the Treasurer - who hosted me.

Conference Registration forms are out and we have received our first registration. If you would like to register please see your Diocesan President or contact me on cramar@slingshot.co.nz for a copy of the form.

Have you enrolled new members in your group this year? Remember there will be a prize presented at

Conference to the Group/Diocese who has the most new members for the year.

Please be aware that we have a Facebook page that any members can join and share AAW news to all in this country.

*Blessings
Margaret*



Margaret with Jeannie Parr in Cambridge

COVER PHOTO



Taranaki Cathedral - from small beginnings

The vision for St Mary's parish church began in 1842 by New Zealand's first Anglican Bishop, George Selwyn, who bought the land ready for a church to be built. A year later, he appointed the first Vicar, William Bollard. Rev. Bollard insisted that the church should be a stone building, not wood, that would stand the test of time and be "good enough for God".

After a long and varied history, St Mary's, the oldest stone church in New Zealand, was chosen to become Taranaki's Cathedral and was dedicated to that purpose on March 6th 2010 by the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, the Bishop of Taranaki, Philip Richardson and the then Bishop of Waikato, David Moxon; Jamie Allen was appointed as the first Dean. The Cathedral is now a well established part of the life of Taranaki. It is a majestic space, with beautiful windows and a wonderful sense of peace.

The Cathedral is open to everyone and welcomes visitors and those wishing to find tranquillity and a sense of God's presence.



Interior of Cathedral

There is no actual date on which St. Paul's, Hairini was completed or opened, but it was in use by late 1854. Maoris supplied the timber and most of the labour, working under the supervision of English carpenters, Edwards and Chitham. It was first built without a spire, this being added by 1859. The stained glass windows were installed in 1856, with the central panel featuring St. Paul after whom the church was named. Following the 1864 Land Wars, St. Paul's came under the care of the Maoris, before falling into disrepair and by April 1875 was in a ruinous condition. Funds were raised for its repair, completed by

November 1875. The porch was added in 1901. The exposed position of St. Paul's on the Rangiaowhia ridge caused problems and damage by high winds when gales occurred. During the early 20th century a gale caused the East end of the church to move off its foundations. The church was re-blocked and moved to a slightly different position. In 1925 damage to the spire was also noticed and this was taken down, repaired and replaced. Major renovations took place in 1926, including new flooring, sarking and repairs to the iron roof. Further repairs and renovations were carried out in 1954. In 1973 it was noticed that the West wall was bulging and the Historic Places Trust was called in to assist, with a plan for remedial action put in place; the work being paid for by the Historic Places Trust. Further movement of the church continued to take place and in 1984 the foundations had deteriorated sufficiently to need replacing. Following this work the church was repainted, the furniture removed, cleaned and re-varnished by the parishioners. The church was re-opened in 1986 and a sprinkler system installed in 2002, necessitating the installation of a rainwater tank to collect from the roof, supplemented by supply from a neighbouring farmer. St. Paul's is one of the oldest churches in New Zealand, still

on its original site, largely unaltered or unmodified, so very much a national treasure.

Mary Sumner Window

This is one of two windows that were put into All Saints' during the mid 60's at a cost of 188 pounds and we now have a total of 14 Stained glass windows



Close-up of Mary Sumner window

in our historic church in a complementary style. The windows were made in England in the traditional manner and the glass is hand painted and fired so they are irreplaceable and works of art in themselves.



Gallipoli window

SOCIAL CONCERNS



Looking at the Aims of AAW, I am struck once again how much social concerns lie at the heart of our association. Not only do we aim to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life but we also unite in prayer and participate in the Mission of the Church. The Mission statement of our Church is

To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom;

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;

To respond to human needs by loving service;

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation;

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

(<http://www.anglican.org.nz/About/Mission-Statement>)

Isn't it great to belong to a group that has such a solid core of Kingdom intent? Each is responsible but we can also tackle these things together.

In March I went to an interesting talk given by a visiting scholar from Illinois, USA. The Reverend Lillian Daniels was speaking about answering the big group of people in our society who say they are 'spiritual but not religious'. She made the case for being part

of a worshipping community, where we help each other on our journey. We, too, are spiritual and reach out to experience the Divine. We, too, are helped to do this in ways other than Church (in nature, for example) but we have the added benefit of sharing in the life and patterns of our Church.

Lillian suggested that we stand up more for what being Church offers us in our life with God. We may be embarrassed about some of the extreme things Christians have said and done over the years (and still do today). Or we may not always be sure of our beliefs and how they 'stack up' in church. Even so, we are part of a believing community that is used to mystery, ambiguity and metaphor and we can learn from each other. We do not have to explain everything or be apologetic – we can proclaim the positive!

She pointed out that those outside the Church are not necessarily hostile to it. Some will have been hurt by past experiences or drifted away but many will never have experienced the benefits of a religious life and may be quite open to it, especially if what we do is explained a little.

Lillian spoke of Church as a growing flower the Life Force runs through. What we see in action is the flower. The tradition is the bulb

or root that feeds it. The Life Force is what we worship. She encouraged us to put into words, both inside and outside the Church, what the Church life and tradition that root us does for our spiritual life. She called on us to have religious lives that are reasonable – able to face questions, rigorous – call on us to put some effort in, and real – able to

face the issues of the day.

I think this is all true of AAW also. We are not just a nice group of women. We do great things together. We get benefit out of being AAW – it has been a useful root for a long time. Let's make sure others know they might benefit too!

Pip Harrison

MOTHERS' UNION

Members were sorry to learn that the Chief Executive of Mothers' Union, Reg Bailey, CBE is to retire in July. Reg has been CEO for the past 16 years and has brought a wealth of experience to the job. Following the Bye Buy Childhood Campaign started in response to MU members' concerns the British Prime Minister David Cameron asked Reg to conduct an independent review into the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. The Report Letting Children be Children was published in 2011 and included 14 recommendations. His production of

the Bailey Report earned him his CBE. For many of us who have attended MU Provincial meetings he will be fondly remembered for his examples of people in the Bible whom we would do well to emulate including Esther 'who knows perhaps you are called for such a time as this', and Barnabas, originally Joseph of Cyprus, but renamed Barnabas the Encourager by the disciples in recog-



*Lynne Tembey, MU
Worldwide President*



dition of his ministry among them. The search is now on to find another CEO. Our thanks are also due to his wife, Alison, who has happily shared her husband with us at conferences in different parts of the world. We wish them both a fulfilling retirement.

A Taster Evening outlining the Parent Encouragement Programme was held in New Plymouth in February. The 11 women present enjoyed the evening and plans are under way for the running of a course after Easter. The Wellington Diocesan PEP committee held a meeting on 27 March to review progress and look at the way ahead for the Programme.

Mothering Sunday on 15 March was a great opportunity for Mothers' Union members to remind the congregations of the value of mothers and to share the traditional simnel cake and rosemary. St Mary's New Plymouth members had a busy Friday afternoon preparing rosemary and cutting up 11 cakes to be handed out on Sunday after being blessed by Dean Jamie Allen.

St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton MU have been making plans for their meetings and hope to encourage others to join them.

Auckland Mothers' Union held its AGM on 22 March at Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Mary Sumner Lecture is to be held on 17 May at 3.00 with MU Worldwide President Lynne Tembey as the guest speaker. Much of Lynne's visit will be over by the time this edition of Circle is distributed but AAW and MU members are looking forward to meeting Lynne in various places including Tonga, Northland, Auckland, Hamilton, New Plymouth, Levin, Wellington and Christchurch. She begins her tour in Auckland on Friday 15 May and departs from Christchurch on Friday 29.

Christchurch members continue with their 2-monthly meetings and are looking forward to admitting two new members when Lynne visits.

We are looking forward to starting our new Wave of Prayer links this year and learning more about other dioceses and different countries.

Mothers' Union members in Vanuatu are very much in our thoughts and prayers as they rebuild their lives following the devastating cyclone in March.

Rosemary Bent

OVERSEAS AND OUTREACH

Another year started and a time to remember our Overseas partners and the support that we give them. What they receive from us does make a difference. Thank you for your on going contributions.

Excerpts from our partners letters:

From the **Boulaq Centre** after our November donation.

Last week we received a donation of 2700LE which is 500dollar from AWW through Rosy Fyfe.

Thank you very much for your donation, we appreciate it very much.

We will use it where it is needed most at this moment, which most probably will be for educational support for children of the beneficiaries.

In about a week you will receive a newsletter that will tell you a bit more about what keeps us busy at this moment.

From **Anne in Cambodia**:I started in my role of Activities Coordinator on 6 October last year. My first few encounters with patients involved taking games and activities into the wards to help occupy some very bored children. This became the main activity every afternoon and I was received with enthusiasm.....

Read more on their Blog <https://anne-andanthony.wordpress.com/2015/03/02/thank-you/>

From our February 2015 Executive meeting:

Emergency fund::\$2000 to the Christchurch Hospital Chaplaincy Project as outlined by The Senior Chaplain, Anglican priest Hilary Barlow, when she was interviewed about the needs, shortfalls and plans of the Chaplains' Office at the hospital, with particular reference to the post-earthquake effects

Seeding grant: Seeding grant \$600 Hawera Youth Project The Hawera Youth space (naming competition among the youth currently underway!) is being set up by a Trust set up largely by the local churches with the aim of providing a great venue for youth activities and projects and to work together to see young people thrive.

Aroha Circle:

A project of the Auckland Diocese of AAW Rhyl outlined the aims and objectives of this project.

The project is in its initial stages and Auckland will report back at the conference in October. \$500 has been given for resources

Cyclone Pam report from Fe'i Tevi Tevi - who is a member of our



General Synod Standing Committee - tells how it was to live through Cyclone Pam when it hit Vanuatu. And what he thinks needs to happen now. Find out more by reading about this in Taonga or at this link

<http://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/>

News/Tikanga-Pasifika/Pam

“As of Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning, they were already rebuilding their houses.

“People in the Pacific are used to cyclones – though not as severe as this one.

“We will rebuild.

“If the help comes, good. Wonderful. We are thankful for that.

“But if the assistance doesn’t come – our lives will not stop as a result.” Fe’i Tevi

The Anglican Missions Board has launched a Cyclone Pam Emergency Appeal, NZ AAW are responding to this from our emergency fund.

*Mary Estcourt,
NZAAW*

Overseas and Outreach Convenor

EDITOR’S LETTER

First, thank you to all who managed to get their articles in on time. As you know, articles come to me and photos to Marilyn. However it is very difficult if photos arrive without information about them so we suggest that you send photos and articles together to both Marilyn and me. It would be helpful if your article had the diocese on it as something, e.g. from St Paul’s, does not tell us if it comes from Wellington or Invercargill. If an article or photo does not arrive by the due date it will not go into the magazine. We will hold it for the next issue if the information is still relevant.



Marjorie Brown

“IT’S YOUR MOVE”

Guide To Moving To High School

This book is designed to be given to children going from Intermediate Level to High School. It is a colourful and interesting book with tips on how to survive the move. Bullying, peer pressure, keeping safe, who to go to for advice, loneliness and friendships are discussed. This is a handy book for students to have in their possession to refer to when needed. It also has Christian content and tells the story of Tarore by Barbara Lambie.

Some of our AAW Groups have fund raised so that they can provide these books to their local Intermediate Schools where they have been gratefully received and School Principals have

requested that we continue doing this. You need the permission of the School Principal before proceeding. It would be a good idea to take a book along to show them how good they are.

If you feel that you and your group would like to do this you can purchase these books from Scripture Union. You may be able to negotiate a good price when buying in bulk.

Some of our members have purchased them to give to their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They are only \$3 each.

Patchwork Sacrament

*Outward signs and inward blessing
Make a corkboard something fine.
Things of love and things of beauty
Jostle on this wall of mine.*

*Vivid words and vivid colours
Harmonise, conveying more.
Each a sign of something other,
Love and memory at their core.*

*Postcards, photos, art and quotes
Speak of links with many friends.
Greetings, blessings, jokes and gifts,
Each its own fine flavour lends.*

*Camels – from Arabia;
Blithe daffodils – UK;
From Australia and Europe
Old friends add their say.*

*Here a photo – me at five
Near a photo of my child;
There a quote in my mother’s hand;
Evocative, unique and wild.*

*Threads are weaving back and forth
Through time and space, below, above.
To form a quilt with many a square
That anchors me in love.*

A THOUGHT



GOD WITH US

God is never offline
He needs no batteries charged
His systems do not crash
Nor have long outages

Sick or fearful
We can confide in Him
Knowing He will understand
Not offer us automated responses

He is ready to listen always
Even in the dark hours of a sleepless
 night
When we need to talk
But will not wake the sleepers

Ready to lead us where He wants us to
 go
Wanting us to hear His words
When our batteries are low
Let us remember – God is always
 connected

Lynne Hill

OBITUARY

Lorna Strange, 1.7.1932- 3.2.2015

Lorna Strange from Greymouth was a dedicated AAW member and an efficient Nelson Diocesan Treasurer for over 13 years, travelling regularly to Nelson for meetings. In her own group, Holy Trinity Evening, she held the positions of Leader, Secretary and Treasurer at various times. She was a hard worker within the Church especially when it came to catering. She worked as a highly skilled and respected midwife in charge of Grey Base Hospital McBrearty Ward for many years. She was an active member of the local arts council, school boards and committees. Lorna and her late husband Brian were supporters of World Vision and the 40 hour famine. In 2002 she was named West Coast Woman of the Year. In her later years she moved to Christchurch and will be remembered in the words of Nelson Diocesan President Evelyn Nixon, as “a peaceful, faithful and joyful servant of God”.



DIOCESAN NEWS

Dunedin Diocese

Diocesan AGM

The 2015 Diocesan AGM was held at Holy Trinity, Invercargill and we were thrilled that Margaret McLachan, our Provincial President, and Marjorie Brown, our Circle Editor, were able to join us.

Because it was the day before Mothering Sunday our Chaplain, Rev'd Angela Dutton, used this as the theme for the Commissioning Eucharist and this was followed up in the afternoon by President Anne Gover who shared a powerpoint about 'Mothers in the Bible' and then had us participating in a quiz to see how many mothers in the bible we knew something about. The highlight, though, was hearing from Kristy Ferguson, who shared her experiences at Oihi Bay celebrating the 200 years since Samuel Marsden first preached there on Christmas Day 1814.



Kristy Ferguson at AAW AGM March 2015



Lunch at AAW AGM, Ann Petty, Mary Lester and Rev'd Angela

Southland Dinner

Once again Gore AAW hosted this annual dinner in February at the Gore Racecourse Restaurant for 24 women from the Southland AAW groups. Much laughter and merriment was heard as Anne shared a number of jokes with those present. She challenged members to think of places in Southland that began with each letter of the alphabet and it was amazing how many different places the women came up with - some rather obscure but nevertheless correct.



President Anne thanks Susan Slaughter and Josephine Dodd for their work on Dunedin Executive



Southland AAW AGM dinner, working on 'Southland A-Z' activity

DUNEDIN FIRSTS

Have you been to Dunedin? If not, now is the time to come to the AAW Conference at the end of October to see the first city to be formed in New Zealand, in 1865.

Dunedin sits at the head of a natural harbour protected by the Otago Peninsula and it spreads from inlet to open sea and rambles across the valleys and hills of an extinct volcano. It has a reputation as being New Zealand's wildlife capital. Dunedin is also a city of 'firsts'. I have collated some for you:

1863: First Botanic Gardens established.

1869: First University in New Zealand and first medical and dental schools.

1863: First gas works in New Zealand and first place to have gas street lighting.

1867: Ross Creek Reservoir – New Zealand's first urban water supply opened with its earth dam.

1884: First art gallery opened

1861: New Zealand's oldest surviving daily newspaper The Otago Daily Times was published.

1871: New Zealand's first public high school for girls opened – Otago Girls High.

1882: First shipment of frozen meat from Port Chalmers.

1881: First cable tramway line to operate outside USA opened and ran till early 1950's.

1889: New Zealand's first free kindergarten opened.

1897: New Zealand's first woman lawyer, Ethel Benjamin, graduated.

1871: New Zealand's first co-operative cheese factory, the Otago Peninsula Cheese Factory, was formed.

1889: First polytechnic opened as Dunedin Technical School offering night classes.

1907: First meeting of the Plunket Society (The Royal Society for the Health of Women and Children)

1907: First Karitane Hospital opened.

1910: First Plunket Rooms opened (hours 2-3p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays)

1922: 4XD or now Radio Dunedin is the oldest radio station, outside North America, in the world.

1926: First Scout Jamboree in New Zealand.

1990: First female Anglican Diocesan bishop in the world, Penny Jamieson, was ordained.

2011: First permanent roofed, turf-based stadium was opened.

I am sure I have missed out a few and I haven't mentioned our famous early businesses or people. Maybe next issue! Anyway, book your flights now or bus tickets, and come to the AAW Conference in Dunedin In October!!

Anne Stratford



20th Triennial Conference
of the
New Zealand Association of Anglican Women

Grow in:

Discipleship Dreams Dedication

2-5 October 2015

Registration forms are out now. Please ask your Diocesan President for a copy or email cramar@slingshot.co.nz We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible down here in Dunedin to enjoy all the great speakers, workshops, food and companionship.

Six months to go!!!

Christchurch Diocese

Easter and autumn greetings to all our sisters in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific. Doesn't the year 'start with a hiss and a roar' for AAW? In Christchurch, we have been involved in AAW Sunday, planned our Group programmes, attended the Diocesan AAW AGM, and attended the Leaders' Training Day which we combined with an Overseas and Outreach Event which, this year, starred Mary Estcourt,

our NZAAW O & O Convenor. Many Anglicans also attend the March World Day of Prayer Services which were joyful ecumenical occasions.

We include with this issue of 'Circle' three photos of some typical activities: first, the Marchwiel Daytime Group displaying the colourful blankets they knitted for the Hamlin Fistula Hospital. We hope to encourage more knitters this year as we start our Christchurch

Women's Hospital Chaplains' Support Project for children and families in need. We thank NZAAW for funds to help supply clothes and other urgent needs.

Left top: AAW Leaders' Day

Left Bottom : Marchwiel Group with blankets for the Fistula Hospital

Below right: AAW chaplains and Bishop Victoria





Second, Bishop Victoria at the AGM Service of the commissioning of Rev Stephanie Robson as our new AAW Chaplain; outgoing Chaplain the Rev Helen Roud is smiling in the background. Bishop Victoria's support of our Association has been a significant factor in our effectiveness – we do indeed feel united in the mission of the church.

This year we held our Leaders' Training Day at the Community of the Sacred Name's Retreat House on Tuam Street, in the city centre. We were just a block away from the Transitional

Cathedral and the tragic Empty Chairs display which is a memorial to those lost in our earthquakes.

We are looking forward to the New Zealand visit of Mrs Lynne Temby, the Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, in May, and warmly invite any members of AAW who live south of Christchurch to travel up to St Mary's Church, Addington, for the 10.30 Service on May 28. If you can, please tell me soon so I can reserve you a \$10.00 lunch after the Service. Bishop Victoria will be presiding.

*Blessings to you all
Raewyn Dawson*

Nelson Diocese

Waimea Women's Fellowship member Pam Petherbridge told the group about her short mission trip to Fiji with the Golden Oldies. She visited St Christopher's Orphanage, The House of Sarah and the water tanks all AAW projects. The warm hospitality of Kava ceremonies and feasts along with worship services were overwhelming. The group took school supplies with them and as a retired teacher Pam was interested in the lunch box sized computers that were sent home with the children at night. They had been looking to sponsor children but the Government

subsequently made all education free. A wonderful week.

The following month the group were fascinated by a talk from Pip Etherington, home on furlough with her husband Paul from West Papua in Indonesia where Paul is translating the Bible into the local language. With a power point presentation Pip talked about her life in Kobakma where she cooks on a wood stove, has a bucket with a watering rose on for a shower and treasures a generator which she uses for sewing and ironing. Over the years as she homeschooled her children

her back porch was always busy with people with injuries or who were sick. Realising she needed more skills she



The Etherington Family



L to R: Rev. Pam Holdgate, Rev. Canon Don Moses, Elizabeth Saville Smith, Rev. Dawn Daunauda at St Christopher's AAW Service

trained as a nurse studying on line and with block courses in Darwin. She now holds regular clinics in a little thatched roofed shelter teaching hygiene and nutrition and with the introduction of vaccinations and more trained personnel the child mortality rate has dropped dramatically from the 50% when they first went there. The most common diseases are TB, HIV/AIDs and meningitis.

St Christopher's AAW Blenheim celebrated AAW Sunday with group members participating in all areas of the service, The banner was processed into the church and Revd Pam Holdgate led the service and later celebrated Holy Communion. A candle was lit in remembrance of those who have passed away. Revd Dawn Daunauda preached the sermon on "Standing under the Shower". The Leader and committee were commissioned by the Vicar Revd Canon Don Moses.

Mawhera held an area Day at St Thomas' Runanga on Lady Day. The guest speaker was the Ven Tim Mora who took the members on a pilgrimage to Oihi to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Gospel in New Zealand. He spoke of the various historical sites he had visited and the graves of the missionaries. He attended the Christmas Eve service in the oldest church in New Zealand at Russell. The service at Oihi was a very emotional and humbling service of thanksgiving with about 1500 like minded people. A direct

descendent of Samuel Marsden also called Samuel Marsden came from England to preach at the service. A young man called Ryan had walked from Bluff to Cape Reinga with a Cross to go to this service. It was a wonderful time with overwhelming power that we must be proud of our history and in the work of our early missionaries.



Wellington Diocese

Medals at Masterton

On 4 January 2015, two members of the Mothers' Union in the Parish of the Epiphany, Masterton, were awarded Bishop's Medals. Both women, Marjorie Nevin and Bernice Olsen have contributed faithfully to parish life – Bernice over many years in this parish and Marjorie who came to us from the parish of All Saints' Brench Ley, Kent in England but had also been very involved in church life there. We are very proud of this achievement and their medals are a fine way to honour their Christian witness in the world.



World Day of Prayer

St Mary's Levin Women's Fellowship, dressed in the bright colours of the Bahamas, hosted the World Day of Prayer Service.

A centre-piece giving the effect of a waterfall beginning at the cross was beautifully created using shells, flowers, petals and draped fabric over three levels forming a cascade and focal point to the service.

Included in the arrangement was The Bible, (opened at John 13), a gift to the Fellowship from one of the members.

From the back page of the service booklet it says World Day of Prayer is unique as a global movement that finds

Below: World Day Of Prayer, Levin





Regional AGM Kilian de Lacey

Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. The nave was turned into a 'market place', with a 'banquet table'. Around the edges of the space were stalls from different Diocesan Groups. Photos and visual displays lined the walls. The Wellington AAW had a stall in conjunction with the Mother's Union, which drew considerable interest [see photo].

expression under the leadership of laywomen.

We were proud to recognise the women of the Bahamas who prepared the service and thank those who adapted it for use in New Zealand.

Waikanae women also gathered for World Day of Prayer. Anglican members led the mime reflection.

Wellington Diocesan Hui

On Saturday 7 March, from 10am to 2pm a Diocesan Hui was held in the

Below: World Day Of Prayer, Waikanae

The programme was focused on the 'Lost, the Last and the Least.' There were guest speakers, times of worship and singing, and a plethora of workshops: something for everyone, whether cleric or lay.



Regional AGM's

All Regional AGM's in the diocese were done and dusted by the end of March. Many had very interesting speakers and activities. The Kapiti Region held their meeting at St Andrew's Plimmerton, where the guest speaker was Kilian de Lacy who had everyone on the edge of their seats, for an hour, as she shared her life story of growing up in a strong catholic family, becoming a nun, spending over 30 years in an order and then leaving the order, marrying and leading a very full life as a budgeting advisor. Lilian is shown speaking to an AAW member.

AAW Provincial President ... Margaret McLanachan

The Wellington Diocese was delighted to have Margaret visit us



in March. An occasion was held at St Paul's Paraparaumu, where diocesan AAW members heard Margaret speak about her background and her life thus far. This was followed by a midday communion, lunch and a then a session of sharing about activities and happenings in our AAW groups. Thank you for visiting us Margaret.

Something to reflect on

Jesus was crucified, but have you thought of the concern and the love of Joseph of Arimathea?

He went to Pilate to ask for the body. This secret follower of Jesus wanted to do something for his friend even in death, and probably more in death; his love came pouring out for this teacher – this man who had healed the sick and raised the dead. Joseph went to Pilate for the release of Jesus' body, and Pilot checked with the centurion to make sure Jesus was already dead before releasing the body to Joseph of Arimathea. What a difficult task Joseph had to

Margaret and Pat Vincent on Margaret's visit to Wellington Diocese



take the crucified Christ off the cross, and what support and help did he have? We know his mother would have stayed, and therefore John would have been there. Nicodemus came with a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes.

With these men helping, the task would still be difficult because they had to take the nails out one-by-one. (The thought makes me cringe). The weight of the body would go to one

side and possibly skin would be torn. So was the cross taken down and laid upon the ground and then Jesus was released from the nails? Whichever way, it was still quite a task, and the pain and sorrow these people must have felt as they attended to their beloved Jesus ...

(Unfinished – too painful)

By Sheila Grounsell Waikanae

Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

AAW Fundraiser

In order to raise funds for Overseas and Outreach, St. Chad's AAW is launching a series of Coffee Mornings to be run over several weeks, the first of which was held at Mary Needs' home, and attended by members of the AAW committee. It is hoped that each guest will then host their own Coffee Morning keeping in mind that the guests do not have to be AAW members. Invite your neighbours, friends, and relatives, anyone who would enjoy a relaxed coffee morning.

It is best kept simple, not to be a daunting prospect, and the enjoyment is in the company of others in another setting.

The committee of AAW look forward to your participation in this initiative so that the Missions arm of the Association will benefit from the results of everyone's involvement.

*Mary Needs.
New Plymouth.*

The Centre of Your Community

Drop in for a cup of tea and a good old chat with friends old and new. For over 65's living alone or have limited opportunity to get out and about, Selwyn Centres provide companionship, fun, advice and support.

Hosted by St. Andrew's Anglican Church in association with The Selwyn Foundation we offer a varied programme of activities and morning tea. Most of the volunteers that help are AAW members and in this way we are reaching out to the community.

We love meeting new friends and this includes carers, so pop into your local Selwyn Centre and say Hi.

Gladys Hollick, Cambridge.

Our Ray of Sunshine

To the world he might be a somebody but to us he is our world.



Our journey began in 2007. We endured 7 years of heartbreaks and heart-aches. What I have learnt throughout these years is to trust

in the Lord with all my heart and soul. Philippians 3:14 (I press on towards the mark of the high calling) accompanied by the song I press, I press, I press by Joyous Celebrations (you can find this on Youtube) kept me going. "Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint" Isaiah 40:31. I have wings and soaring with joy, I never tire of trying over and over again as I knew the Lord was with us and would never leave us alone. I thank God for the wonderful husband he blessed me with and for the amazing people around us who supported, loved and prayed for us.

The Lord fulfilled his promise of giving back to us what has been taken away from us. On 16th December 2014, we welcomed a handsome boy and we named him Munesu (which means God with us) Esau Tsimba. He weighed 7pounds 3ounces. I fell in love straight away and the love grows everyday. I never have a dull moment with him. We give glory to the great and mighty Lord who is the giver of life. Never give up and keep knocking on the heaven's door. He answers kneemail.

Fungie and Rowland are members of St Andrew's Church, Cambridge

Munesu our miracle baby



and Fungie is a member of our AAW Evening Group. Our AAW Groups and the whole Parish have stood beside them both as they have struggled to have a child.

There were glimpses of hope and then heartbreak, time and time again. We have all been on a journey of Faith with Fungie and Rowland believing that God was in control and would answer prayer. How wonderful is our God. This little gift from God is proof that our God is great and sees the need of His children.

*(from Waikato and Taranaki
President, Ruth Riddell)*

A very special Christmas Day 2014 at Oihi, Bay of Islands

Clutching our electronic tickets Jim & I entered Rangihoua Heritage Park with hundreds of others to celebrate the Bicentennial Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, 2014. “Soaring Eagle set to draw in visitors” Rore Kahu – This stunning heritage structure

was built just inside the entrance to mark the 200th Anniversary of the first recorded Christian Service in New Zealand.

A 1.5km pilgrimage walkway with interpretive panels telling the story of Rangihoua from both Maori and settler perspectives leads down to the Marsden Cross at Oihi Bay.

Settling in on the hillside with deck chairs and sandwiches, we joined in the service led by an ecumenical group of church leaders from across the country. Extracts were read from the Revd Samuel Marsden’s recollection of the 1814 Christmas service in Aotearoa, New Zealand, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will towards all. (Luke 2:14). The singing of “All people that on earth do dwell” (Old 100th tune) was extremely moving as this hymn was sung at the 1814 service.

Among the many church leaders involved in leading this Bicentenary



Service was a Vicar named Samuel Marsden from Cornwall, U.K. We were surrounded by Marsden descendants from all over the world – very impressive. For the transcript of Samuel Marsden’s presentation go to <http://www.stpeterskatikati.co.nz/samuel-marsden-speaks-again/>

I was so proud to be an Anglican and listen to our Archbishop Philip giving his sermon – too much to reprint in this article, but do read it on <http://www.stpeterskatikati.co.nz/sermon-archbishop-philip-marsden-cross-christmas-2014/> He completed his sermon by saying – “Christian mission is not a form of palliative care. We are called to radical intervention to build societies, communities for

human flourishing – because this is God’s intention for human beings. This is rooted in the simple gospel proclamation that all are loved of God, all have ultimate worth before God and that all are created to flourish. This was the Good News proclaimed 200 years ago, this is the Good News of Jesus Christ and this is the Good News that we need to take forward into our community, our nation and our world.” (Archbishop Philip Richardson)

It was a privilege to be part of this special memorial day.

*Linda Carter
Katikati, Waikato*

Waiapu Diocese

Dannevirke Happening

- hosted by St John’s Family Fellowship on 10 October 2014.

We were blessed by fine weather and by our guests who came from Woodville, Takapau, Waipukurau, Waipawa, Weber, Taradale and St

John’s Cathedral, Napier. Altogether we totalled 28 people. The parish lounge looked great with tables nicely set out, each one with a vase of fresh flowers. Our guests arrived promptly and enjoyed a refreshing cup of tea



accompanied by fresh pikelets, scones and sandwiches.

The chatter was lively as acquaintances were renewed. Ivy was our star as old tales of nursing days were exchanged. We visited the charming Spinners and Weavers Cottage, where an impressive demonstration of various types of spinning took place. We then proceeded to the Police Museum, where our hostess Maureen Lyons entertained us with stories and also showed us the exhibits and the amazing accommodation upstairs.

Our shared luncheon was sumptuous. Raffle tickets were sold and the proceeds will go to the Dannevirke Health Shuttle. Eucharist led by Rev. Jo Crosse was celebrated in the Church with Elaine Swanney accompanied our singing on the organ. After the service our guests left to travel to Norsewood to have a look around and then head home. We all enjoyed a very full and memorable day.



*Shelley Vette, President,
St Johns Family Fellowship,
Dannevirke*

*Diocesan AGM in Taupo
on 21st March*

Auckland Diocese

Four members of AAW Executive Auckland Diocese enjoyed a day-trip to meet with the AAW group at Holy Trinity, Northern Wairoa Mission District, Dargaville on Wednesday 4 March where they received a warm welcome from the Revd Brendon Wilkinson (Vicar) and his wife Leslie, together with the ladies who make-up the AAW Link in their parish.

The 10am Wednesday morning Communion Service was very well-attended as several members of the late Mrs Valerie Dalbeth's family were present to worship before her funeral later in the week. Executive members felt very privileged to learn of the life of this remarkable woman who lived and breathed her Christian faith and devoted so much of her life to the ministry at Holy Trinity; Val was also a Chaplaincy Assistant. Following the service a very generous morning-tea (provided by Val Dalbeth's family) was served in the hall then all were able to mingle before luncheon (provided by AAW Link) was served. After lunch President Rhyl Jansen spoke on the AAW aims and details of O&O including membership within AAW, stressing that all groups were encouraged to run their meetings as was best for their group.

Mention was made of former AAW Chaplain, the Revd Suzanne Green's time at historical Holy Trinity; of particular note were the beautiful gardens surrounding the church and next-door vicarage which Suzanne had established.

Executive members were loath to leave such a happy, friendly gathering but had to depart for Auckland in good time to avoid traffic build-up. This was another visit where Executive received a warm welcome and enjoyed great fellowship all accompanied by true northern hospitality.

Natalie Taplin

St Peter's Takapuna

On a rather grey spring day the AAW members of St Peter's Takapuna set off across the harbour for a visit to the Pah Homestead in Hillsborough. The spring blossom in the gardens along Epsom streets on the way was magnificent.

One of our members, Fay Pankhurst, who works as a docent at the gallery, organised a lovely trip for us. First we made the ascent up four flights of stairs to the tower to admire the view of Auckland city and surroundings.



There we had the most interesting talk from one of the gallery staff about the history of the house and the Wallace Arts Trust. Many of us were old enough to recognise the names of our city fathers.

The Homestead now belongs to the city and is home to some of Sir James Wallace's contemporary New Zealand collection. We saw the work of finalists in the current art competition. Though some of the entries bemused us we

admired the skills of the artists.

Fay had arranged for the gallery café staff to serve us a delicious lunch on the terrace overlooking the park. After this treat and such a wonderful day among good friends, we made our way home to the North Shore.

Jenny Wilson

A note from Janice Cooper Auckland editor, "If you are in Auckland and have time this is a must do if you enjoy heritage homes and gardens and interesting art of all kinds."

Diocese of Polynesia

Water Tank Appeal

After our very successful appeal for water tanks in Fiji we have been given the "Go Ahead" signal from the Anglican Missions Board to do the same for Tonga. President Lola has told us of the need in a couple of places and we are sure that there are others who need new water tanks. It would be helpful if groups could raise money by having a Sales Table or some other effort to raise money before Conference. We will announce how much we have raised at Conference. Thanking you in anticipation.

*Margaret McLanachan
Provincial AAW President.*

*As I adventure with you today
be the compass that guides me
the light that shines on my path
the only one I follow*

*As I adventure with you today
be the word that encourages
the hand that reaches out
each time I stumble*

*As I adventure with you today
let me glimpse your destination
and appreciate the places
through which you lead me*

*As I adventure with you today
be the strength I need to follow
and as the day draws to a close
let me rest in your embrace*

Amen

(from the Pacific AAW book)

St Paul's Hairini
Photo by Gladys Gasnier

