

# CIRCLE



*The Association of Anglican Women*

*Volume 48, No.4. February 2016*

Theme for 2015-18:

*Grow in Discipleship, Dreams, Dedication*

*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 and 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.

*Diocesan Coordinators :* All Copy to - The Editor, Marjorie Brown- contact details, right. This includes emailed text - either as an attached single column WORD (not 'Publisher') file, or as text typed straight into your email.

**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, to 7 Glenleigh Place, Mosgiel, 9024.

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Copy deadline for next issue:

**30 March**

**Please help us by adhering to this deadline!**

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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### **Welcome to Circle 2016.**

It is very hard to believe that we are now into the second month of the New Year.

2015 went past so fast that it shouldn't come as any surprise if this year goes past faster.

I trust you all had a great joyous family Christmas and a restful holiday period. For the first time in our lives my husband, Craig, and I travelled over to Stewart Island for a few days holiday. What a wonderful place! We didn't have the best of weather so were unable to go fishing but we managed to get over to Ulva Island for a four hour wander along the track looking for the birds but also enjoying all the plants. Our excitement was on the last day when a sea lion came up from the wharf and chased people up one street and down the next. Got some great photos to remind me of this.

With each Diocese holding their AGM's over the next few months

I wish all those who are taking on new leadership roles this year all the very best. Thank you to those of you who are retiring from your positions. AAW Sunday is the first Sunday of February but you may celebrate that day anytime that suits during the year with the commissioning of all leaders and committees.

The NZ Executive meet in Wellington on the 5th March so if you have anything you would like us to consider please speak to your Diocesan President.

As we celebrate Easter in March may we all remember our Lord on the cross, his burial and his rising again. All the very best for Lent and the Easter Season.



*Margaret*

## EDITOR'S NOTES

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I bring you greetings at the beginning of another year. Of course, the church's year has already begun at Advent and continues during the season of Lent and into Easter, the theme of this issue of Circle. Lent is a time to take stock, to think about the sacrifice God made in sending Jesus to us, and to renew our commitment to Him.

The Charter for Compassion reminds us that all God's people

belong in this world and we should care for and respect all humanity especially the most vulnerable. Let us remember that Jesus' family was a refugee family. I wonder how they were welcomed in Egypt.

Let us remember the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5: 3-11 and ponder what they mean for us in today's world.

*Blessings*

*Marjorie*



## A LENTEN PRAYER

O GOD OF Lenten journeys, we are loved and affirmed by you - therefore make us able to love and affirm others, especially those who have no love or affirmation given to them.

God of all prodigal children, we are forgiven by you and accepted unconditionally - just as we are therefore make us able to forgive and accept others unconditionally - just as they are.

God of abundant provision, we are nourished by the Bread of Life - therefore make us committed to building communities where people are nourished, physically and spiritually.

Suffering God, we are those for whom Christ suffered and died - therefore make us willing to accept suffering in our lives, that you, O God, may turn it into a blessing for us and for others.

God, light of the world, we are led through the dark times in our lives by the light of your love - therefore enable us to walk with others through their times of darkness.

God of compassion and wholeness, we are being made whole through your love - therefore make us channels for your healing love for others, as we

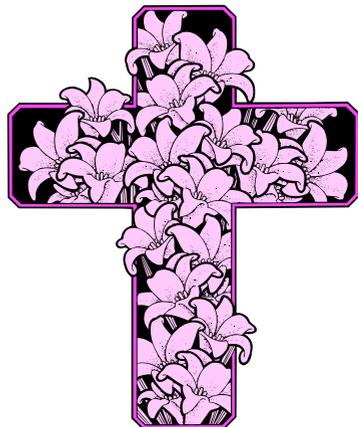
pray for your healing power to be upon them.

God of past, present and future we are strengthened by the faith and fellowship of those who have known your love - therefore help us to reach out to share that faith and fellowship with those we meet in our daily lives.

Prince of peace, we are renewed by the peace and stillness of prayer - therefore we pray that others may know God's peace. God of all life we are blessed a thousand times over by the abundance of life in Christ - therefore make us able to share that abundance with others.

God of wonder, may we live each day in love, include all people in that love, and reach out to everyone with a spirit of love, through Jesus Christ who is love.

*Amen*



## MAUNDY THURSDAY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, although you were their leader, you washed your disciples feet, dressing and acting as their servant. Make us servants to one another. Rid us of pride and vain ambition. Give us true humility, both to serve others and to be served by you.

Lord Jesus, help us to know that the weight of our sins was the cause of your pain, and that the cup which you feared was our distance from God. Then let us weep, not for you, but for ourselves, yet rejoice that your love has reached us.

Lord Jesus, like your disciples, we have been loud in our protestations of loyalty to you, and yet we have turned out to be

disloyal. You trod the way of love without flinching; we hesitate to tread it at all. We have been afraid of the pain and suffering which love brings. But it has done us no good to follow the easy way, for it has made us less than the men and women we could have been. Help us to follow your way, even though it is hard, for it is the way to true life.

Give us the courage to stand by you in your hour of grief, and not to run away. Keep us loyal and devoted to the end, always open to the father's will and to the needs of our fellow travellers. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, our Lord, our Saviour, our Guide, our all.

*Amen*

## EASTER MEDITATION

The Israelites hankered after Egypt, the women felt loss and terror at the tomb, and the apostles thought the resurrection 'nonsense'.

You come, O God, as the starting God who cannot be predicted or controlled.

We want you to be a source of comfort and assurance, a reliable and secure God, a God we're sure of and can understand.

You must, of course, do mighty deeds, as long as they fit our patterns, prayer, ideas.

Instead, you rescue people from Egypt,

taking them from the security of slavery into wilderness.

You expect people to depend on you, setting aside all this world says is security.

You are a powerful God who sets free the powerless.

No longer are we allowed to be victims. No longer can we say: we are mere slaves,

we are helpless sinners  
our master has been destroyed  
evil is more powerful than good  
violence is the way to peace.

All these slogans are now banned.

You have overthrown evil,  
shown the weakness of the powers of



this world,  
begun renewing the whole world's  
fabric.  
You call upon us to see the signs, and  
live.  
Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed.  
Let the celebration begin.  
Let's anticipate the Kingdom's feast.  
Let's join God's revolution,  
so that acceptance, wholeness, peace  
hope, trust and love

may decide the future of ourselves,  
our church,  
our world.  
Evil is not the greatest power,  
and violence need not overwhelm the  
Earth.  
Christ is risen  
so that our lives may be continually  
renewed,  
change may be a gift,  
and 'nonsense' be the truth.  
(from "With Love To The World")

## EASTER DAY

Spring is a long way away, but Easter means "Spring"! What can we find in our autumn days that connects our lives with the events of Easter?

I remember one unusually dry Lenten period in Northland. The farmers had been unhappy for months. Our lawn had long-standing cracks in it. One was almost five centimeters across. We needed rain to heal the ground and make the grass grow. At least we had kikuyu grass; without kikuyu grass the dry north would look like Canterbury or Hawkes Bay in a typical January.

I have been told that rain is often welcome at a tangi, the idea being that nature mourns with us. So that Lent we earnestly wished for rain for Good Friday, both symbolically and practically. Even better would be rain for the whole of Holy Week; then there would be signs of new

growth for Easter Day - a marvellous symbol indeed. It did in fact rain that Holy Week!

The effects of rain were seen more and more through the whole of the Easter season and into the Ordinary Sundays that follow Pentecost, as more growth showed up. In the same way, it was over the coming days, starting at least symbolically at Pentecost, that the early Church showed evidence of what it claimed as its good news, "He is risen!"

We don't look back at Easter and remember something that merely happened in the past. Easter is when we remember that something true now began to be true at the first Easter. It is our experience that Christ is indeed risen. We celebrate it every Sunday. But we celebrate it even more at Easter.

Andrew

I've had two interesting conversations recently. One was with a young Sikh woman, who was puzzled as to what Kiwis actually believed: she came across so few who spoke about God at all. In our often apparently secular society, we felt at home with each other despite differences in culture and belief. The other was an alarming conversation in the days after the Paris attacks with someone who clearly identified all Muslims with ISIS, even within our rural New Zealand town. What divisions in our local communities such a belief promotes!

Recent events make us aware of scary aspects to our world. Fears rise in the wake of terrorist actions and, if we are not careful, fear can lead to more violence.

Recently, your executive has been looking at the Charter for Compassion and we valued it for the expression of a beautiful purpose: the call to people of all religions and ethical systems to live up to the Golden Rule. We decided to bring the Charter to Conference to ask if members would like AAW to align itself with its purpose by becoming a partner. Delegates gave their approval.

### **The Charter for Compassion**

*The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.*

*It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion. We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds*



*violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.*

*We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep inter-dependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.*

The Charter was started in 2008 when Karen Armstrong, writer on comparative religion, expressed her wish to create such a thing. Many thousands of people contributed ideas and the result was the wording above. Now, it's estimated signatories are in the millions from a wide range of religions and places. Some whole communities have endorsed it, as a foundation

for their community life.

At conference I was asked what difference the Charter makes.

I believe this to be a vehicle to get conversations started about core beliefs and behaviours. It calls us on both an individual and a community level.

Perhaps on a local level we could go out of our way to learn more about others in our communities and be friendly to them. Could an AAW group have a joint meeting with a women's group from the local synagogue or Islamic centre? Could we be part of a team that settles refugees in our area? Could we work towards a community event that values diversity? As we get to know others apparently different from us, we learn what makes us the same. We model goodwill to others and reduce the isolation and rejection that some in our society face daily. This is powerful, since it is in such rejection that the seeds of hatred and radicalisation grow.

The Charter has a website ([www.charterforcompassion.org](http://www.charterforcompassion.org)) that has a toolbox of ideas and stories of what others are doing. If you belong to facebook, the Charter has its own page and will regularly deliver you

quotations that will brighten your day with the positive and strengthen your intention.

In a world, frightening in its divisions, I believe the Charter to be a beacon of hope and a way to move forward. It does not call on us to give up our own beliefs or to stop

telling others about them. Rather, it encourages us all to live up to those beliefs.

I'm pleased AAW will be a partner of the Charter and I encourage members to promote it in their own ways.

### **Archbishop Philip's response to the Charter**

***“I want to strongly commend the decision of the AAW Conference to align with the Charter for Compassion as a partner organization. Compassion is a willingness to share in the suffering of the other. When we stand in another's shoes and try to see the world as they see it, this insight and understanding changes and transforms relationships. The redemptive power of love can begin its work. In a suffering and often brutal world such an approach rooted in compassion is critical.”***

*Archbishop Philip Richardson*



# OVERSEAS AND OUTREACH

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***Greetings to all members. I hope you had a happy Christmas and enjoyed the holiday break. I would like to introduce you to two of our new partners, and also to tell you about our exciting new project, the Tongan water tanks:***

**Nick and Tessa Laing, Uganda:**

Nick and Tessa share a desire to see God's kingdom come here on earth and believe that we are all called to take part in what God is doing. This is what has motivated them to serve cross culturally in Northern Uganda. After decades of war and economic oppression, communities in Northern Uganda are making a slow transition towards peace and a better way of life. Nick and Tessa are based in Gulu District, a region of about 400,000 people. While there are many churches and service-providing agencies in the region, there is a need for greater connection between local churches and the practical, social and spiritual needs of the wider community. Initially Nick worked as a volunteer Doctor for Lacor Hospital while learning about the unique medical needs of the region. He now serves as the Diocese Health Co-ordinator, overseeing a number of regional health clinics. Tessa has partnered with local churches, action

groups and the wider community to address social justice problems. Among other things, Tessa has helped launch a church-based community group called Wakonye Kenwa, which has addressed issues such as access to water and problematic alcohol regulations.

**Phil and Becky Sussex: Cambodia:**

The Sussex family – Phil and Becky along with their children Bryn, Toby, Pippa and Molly, moved from Nelson to Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2011. Children in Cambodia have among the highest tooth decay rates in the world! While the dental profession slowly recovers from the 1970s Khmer Rouge genocide, most Cambodians still have limited access to affordable care or preventative knowledge of how teeth work. Phil has a unique opportunity to use his specialist skills to train a new generation of dentists and mentor Christian students through various outreach clinics in poor

communities – expressing God's love in practical ways to people in pain. Becky's work teaching and Phil's work on the board of Hope International School is equally strategic. For the Sussex children and others like them, this place plays a large part in why they call Cambodia 'home'. The school serves mission families by providing a level of education equivalent to their home countries, enabling mission workers to sweat it out long term. Time and time again parents express how unrealistic it would be for them to remain in Cambodia, following God's call, without the affordable quality education which Hope International School provides their children.

Becky says: 'Many thanks to AAW for supporting us in prayer and with finances. We appreciate that very much!' Phil and Becky had to return to NZ unexpectedly in December due to Phil's mother having spinal surgery. Becky sent us a prayer request for the recovery of Phil's mother, and for their family.

**Tongan Water Tanks:**

I was talking to a Tongan pastor the other day and asked him about the

importance of water in Tonga. "Very important" was his reply. "When a hurricane strikes, the first thing to go is the water". Some years ago we made Fiji water tanks a special project and now we are asking members to take on this project. In July 2016 a group of NZ AAW members, are travelling to Tonga. We would like to be able to give a gift towards the installation of some water tanks. The cost of each tank, installed, is \$5,000. Eventually we would hope to install six tanks in total. This special project is extra to our normal giving.

Each tank needs to be transported to its site where it is hoped that local people would undertake the installation and ownership of their tank. It would be wonderful to think that we could provide for these. Thank you to those of you who have already expressed an interest in this project. At the start of another year, we look forward to seeing this project gaining momentum. Please pray for this project and also for our Mission Partners.

*Shelley Vette  
NZ AAW Overseas and Outreach Convenor*



# MOTHERS' UNION

**The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 and during this year members worldwide will celebrate 140 years of faith and service. There will be a special celebration at Winchester Cathedral and the General Meeting will be held on 23 or 24 September.**

However, before that the Auckland MU will hold its AGM on 28 February, and the National Conference will take place from 14 to 17 July. The Conference will open with a service and dinner on Thursday evening at Te Mihana Maori o Tamaki Makaurau Holy Sepulchre Church, 8 Burleigh Street, Newton (corner Kyber Pass Road). Friday and Saturday meetings will be at St Barnabas Church, Mt Eden. The conference will end with the Sunday morning service at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The Theme of the Conference is "Celebrate our Faith" with keynote speaker the Provincial President of MU Australia, the Revd Libbie Crossman. Last year Libbie was elected to the MU Central Trustee Board representing our regional area (Zone 5). Further details will be available shortly.

The Mothers' Union Literacy and Financial Education programme is having a huge impact by enabling

women and men who had not had the opportunity, to read, write or carry out basic numeracy. These skills give those taking part the opportunity to be aware of the world around them; to avoid being cheated by stall holders and shop keepers and to improve their employment skills. Programmes are now being run by volunteer community facilitators. In Sudan/ South Sudan there are 608 trained facilitators with 15,421 now literate and 7,883 who accessed financial education. In Burundi there are 360 trained facilitators, now 5069 literate and 4,000 numerate. In Ethiopia there are 55 trained as facilitators and 654 are now literate.

In other countries Mothers' Union members are running literacy classes and literacy elements are included in church and community mobilisation (CCM) programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Rosemary Bent*

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Dunedin Diocese



*Anne Gover is shown presenting the booklet to some Year 8 students along with the Deputy Principal, Kate Sinclair.*

Since 2013 Holy Trinity Gore AAW Evening Fellowship members have given all Year 8 students at Longford Intermediate the 'It's Your Move!' booklet which has been produced by Scripture Union. This is a guide to moving to High School and covers a range of topics such as homework, bullying, teachers and exams. It includes real life stories from students, school staff and parents about the move to High School and contains wise advice from teachers, current

high school students and NZ celebrities, including the thought that God is with us at all times. There are also pages to collect autographs and messages from school friends to make the book more personal.

The principal at Longford Intermediate, Shona Hewlett, has asked us to ensure that teachers and students have these books at the beginning of December so that they can be used in class discussions as she believes they are a really valuable resource.



## Christchurch Diocese



*AAW of Belfast-Redwood, enjoying their end of year breakfast together.*

### ***Loving seasonal greetings to all our dear sisters in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific.***

We include with this issue of 'Circle' a typical photo of one of the many end of year party meals together enjoyed by AAW members and too many other groups! Personally, I don't feel led to call all gatherings 'Christmas' parties, as they celebrate fellowship, but are not especially Christ-centred. It is a chal-

lenge to keep Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as our centre at this time, but let us try to end the year and start the year in his world but not of it.

It is excellent that The Charter for Compassion is in the process of being supported by the AAW of New Zealand and Polynesia, and that

Archbishop Philip also commends our doing so. It has surprised me for the last four years that we hear so little of this earth-changing Charter in our parishes. One of the first things I did on becoming President was to give each Diocesan Committee member a copy of the Charter.

What great photos and news in the November Circle – lovely to see all the faces of newer and older friends we met at the Dunedin AAW Conference. It was especially great to see our vigorous sisters from Polynesia – the whole event was a tremendous celebration of faith!

You may see an article which tells about my husband and my experience with bonding to a mother and child refugee pair who are now part of our family, as written in the 'Taonga' magazine – it shares with readers the cost and privileges of possible commitment when we truly support refugees. I hope it's useful to you. And many thanks for the powerful prayers for my husband's health – he's still smiling and tidying up the garden, long after the doctors shook their heads. God is good. All the time!

Christchurch Diocese AAW has applied for a Charities Registration number – the process is quite long, but we wanted to save the many parish groups the problems of linking both to their parish treasurer and to the Diocesan AAW treasurer. That will be complete by next year – a successful and necessary function.

Blessings to all fellow members of the Association of Anglican Women – from Christchurch Diocese we wish you a year of safe driving, effective technology, great relationships, good health and increasingly productive service in the mission given us by our Lord Jesus Christ. Happy New Year!

*Raewyn Dawson  
President*



## Nelson Diocese

### **Nelson Cathedral AAW**

The members of Nelson Cathedral AAW were sad to farewell Carol Hurd, a member for 34 years, who is moving to Dunedin. Her late husband, Michael, was Dean of Nelson Cathedral and when he passed away Carol stayed in Nelson and has been a valued volunteer ever since. She took care of the Cathedral building, opened and closed it, looked after the book stall, cleaned the kitchen, made sure there were biscuits for morning tea after services, as well as doing a myriad of small things that kept the place "ticking along". Carol arranged the Festival of Christmas Trees and helped with anything that was happening. The AAW Group gave her a beautiful quilt to remember them.

The Cathedral AAW invited seven past Diocesan Presidents to their Christmas meeting to present Pam Sutton with her badge as a past NZ President. Pam was the second NZ President after AAW was formed – from 1973-1977. She spoke of her trip

to London with Thora Holland when AAW separated from Mother's Union; Pam still remembers what a difficult time that was. The group was pleased to be able to honour her foresight in starting an organisation that means so much to so many women.

### **The Mawhera Regional meeting was held at Greymouth.**

The guest speaker was Revd Victoria Askin who is Deacon Assistant at Cobden –Runanga. Victoria spoke of being brought up in a Christian family that gave her a good grounding for life and her time at University. She worked for a while and then went to England where she lived in two Christian Communities. On returning to NZ she lived in Picton and began taking papers from Bishopdale Theological College. This led to full time study culminating in her graduation.



*Heather Murchison at Marlborough Regional meeting*

### **The Marlborough Regional meeting was held at Nativity.**

The guest speaker was Heather Murchison who belongs to a group called Golden Oldies Missions. Formed seven years ago they go to Fiji each year where they work with members of

the Anglican Missions Board among the people of the villages. She spoke of seeing the water tanks donated by the AAW members in NZ and also of the donated sewing machines now in use.

# Wellington Diocese

Advent celebrations formed the focus of meetings round the Diocese in November and December, as Ann Parnell made her farewell visits with her cards and literature after 27 years as our Diocesan Mother's Union Literature Officer. Wellington Women met in Karori where Rev. John Hughes and Rev Paul McIntosh led a Communion service concluding with Joy Cowley's poem "Nativity" and a shared lunch followed. Kapiti worshipped in the little church of St Peter at Paekakariki where they contemplated the expectations of Mary the mother of Jesus as she awaited the birth of her special Son. The offering of \$147 went to the Wellington City Mission Parenting Branch. Belmont held a warm, friendly Advent Evening Eucharist at St Paul's Waiwhetu, focussing on the lighting of the Advent candles - Hope, The Word of God, John the Baptist and the



*St Peter's Paekakariki – Rev Linda Wards Leading service*



*Ann Parnell selling her cards and books*

Annunciation. An Offering of \$100 went to the Lower Hutt Food Bank. (see photo and more details on Belmont Archdeaconry )



*Rev Anne Crisp and Mary Rowan, Northern Region President, at Northern Advent Celebration*

The Northern Region held their Advent celebrations at St Peter's Palmerston North.

Mary Driver of Belmont Region will take over Ann's job in 2016.



*Kapiti Group's "Jesse Tree"*



*Mary Driver of Belmont Region will take over Ann's job in 2016.*



### **Belmont Archdeaconry AAW Advent Service**

On Monday 30 November 2015, a warm, friendly Advent Eucharist was hosted by St Paul's Waiwhetu, at 7.30pm. The Presider was the Rev Colin Datchler, assisted by the Archdeaconry's new Chaplain, Rev Jenny Dawson. Diocesan leaders of the AAW and Mothers' Union, Pat Vincent and Heather Dawson, also attended.

The focus of the Eucharist was evident in the lighting of four candles representing: The Advent Candle of Hope, The Word of God, The Fore-runner John the Baptist, and The

Annunciation. Offerings were taken up, and \$100 has been sent to the Lower Hutt Food Bank. Members lingered over the supper served after the Service.



*Advent Eucharist candles*

### **CCAW Advent Service – 2 December 2015**

Some 40 AAW members from the Wellington area met at St Mary's, Karori on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December for a service led by Rev. John Hughes, Vicar, and Rev. Paul McIntosh, which included Communion, and intercessions led by Janet Hesketh. Joy Cowley's poem "Nativity" was a beautiful conclusion to our service. Pat Vincent, our President, was unable to attend, but we were pleased to welcome Heather Dawson, Mothers Union President,

and Ann Parnell, who had brought her lovely cards – we presented her with a small gift, as this was the last time she would come to one of our events. Afterwards we enjoyed the generous lunch provided by those present, and the opportunity to meet as a group before becoming involved in the many end of year activities .

### **Christ Church Wanganui AAW St Lukes Castlecliff Exercise Group**

It is not often an organisation like Plunket gets a call from someone like Mary Rowan, offering on behalf of the Christ Church Women's Fellowship group, time, volunteers, resources and even money! Several months ago now, I was contacted by Mary about the AAW wanting to do something for the families of Castlecliff. After an enthusiastic brain storming session, it was decided to start a weekly group in the St Luke's Hall where mothers could come to exercise, while members of the church minded the babies and toddlers for an hour.

I must point out that there is no gym in Wanganui with an onsite crèche, so for Mums wanting to do some exercise and have some well-

deserved time out, there is nothing available to them. Needless to say, the group has proved very popular, with some mums making it every week and others when time and circumstances permit.

Numbers fluctuate each week, but each and everyone that attends is always much better for it – both physically and mentally. We are grateful to the AAW for supplying the much needed fitness equipment to get the group started, for laying on morning tea, and providing a listening ear for the mums. Some mums drag themselves back week after week, even after being up through the night with a teething or sick child – such is the welcoming reception they get every time. Plunket has been able to secure funding to not only cover the exercise Tutor, but also to pay someone to lead a music and movement session for the littlies for 20 weeks. We ask mums to contribute \$2 each week, which will ensure we can continue when the funding dries up.



## **Some quotes from mums who have attended:**

*“The class is GREAT for anyone in two minds! Circuits at your own level, lovely church folk to child mind, good tunes and fun fellow mums...”*

*“So much fun - going to be sore tomorrow - “no pain no gain”. Well worth the \$2. Cya next week \_”*

*-“This is great!!!! seems to good to be true.”*

*-“Another great class, can’t wait to do it again next week”*

A huge thanks to both Mary and John Rowan, and their band of Merry helpers – this is such a great way of reaching out to members of the community, using the facilities and getting people through the door. It’s a win-win. “imagine if every church in NZ offered something like this to their local families, what a difference it would surely make for mothers suffering from post-natal depression or to those with health issues, and children for their social interaction. Church should not be about a service on a Sunday morning, but reaching out to the last, the least and the lost.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time to help out for an hour on a Friday morning, I’m sure Mary would

love to hear from you. And again, from Wanganui Plunket, Many thanks to all those involved.

*Claire Marara  
Community Support Coordinator  
Wanganui Plunket*

## **Obituary**

### **Barbara Archer died peacefully at Julia Wallace Retirement Village in Palmerston North on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2015 aged 91.**

Barbara was Mothers’ Union Treasurer for New Zealand from 1963-69. As NZ MU Treasurer she spanned the crucial years of the transition from MU to AAW. While the President and others were away in England for the worldwide MU Meetings she held the fort in New Zealand. When the NZ conference was due to be held at Futuna - in Karori –Janet Hesketh lived more or less opposite and was roped in to help Barbara with the organization. “As I was very new to the national AAW and had never been to a conference I greatly valued Barbara’s assistance, encouragement and friendship to a very unconfident and unsure new comer”. Barbara wrote the 1969-79 section of A History or the MU & AAW in NZ.

Over all this time and up until the present, Barbara as a chartered Accountant has been the backbone of much of the legal story of Mothers’ Union and AAW, guiding less experienced executive members through the intricacies of the legalities of creating constitutions, altering them, and giving advice about all things financial.

In addition to New Zealand and Wellington Diocesan leadership, Barbara played an important part in the regular activities in the Rangitikei AAW leadership, as treasurer, leader and helpmate, especially around Palmerston North where Barbara and Eric brought up their family. She was methodical and meticulous in chairing meetings and with her accounts. Some found her rather intimidating at times because of her abilities. She had high standards and was more than a little embarrassed when at one AAW camp at Bridge Lodge she found that in her hurry to get away she had left her briefcase of books behind. She was surprised at the warmth of the members, extended to her at this time. It was almost as if she thought we would be teasingly harsh.

#### *Memories:*

When staying with Barbara I mentioned the cooking arrangements (at that time) my mother had - gas

hob, electric oven - while my father headed the NZ Electricity Dept, his wife preferred to use gas! This triggered Barbara’s memory - she had been billeted with my parents while attending an MU Conference as a representative of Young Wives. - she valued my mother’s ( a long time MU member) encouragement.....Once at a AAW Camp we held at Otaki Bridge Lodge, Barbara pointing out how important it is for a husband to be able to prepare at least one meal each day..... She often berated the Wellington executive when they appeared to have no idea how the finances worked..... Barbara was my mentor in Committee procedure when I was a very new Anglican, as she was to many others..... Her sense of hospitality continued right to the end. Last year the All Saints Choir were singing carols at the special unit at “Julia Wallace”. As they were about to leave Barbara spoke to the staff: “You can’t let these people go without giving them a drink”. (She had sung some of the carols with them too).

*“Barbara was an accountant, a teacher, a chorister, a strong Anglican, a proud Rangiruru old girl and an indefatigable servant of AAW and the Royal Lifesaving Society”. (quote from her obituary)*



# Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki



## **St. Andrew's Flower Festival 2015**

Fulfilling the role of Outreach to the Cambridge community our third Flower Festival took place last November. This year we chose Christmas as our theme and fourteen, very talented and creative arrangers, took up the challenge. Planning for the festival actually

begins in August when we start our hunt for local business sponsors. With these and a grant obtained from Waipa District Council we aim to cover most of our expenses. The monies raised are donated to a local charity. This year we raised approx. \$4000 some of which



will be given to the Cambridge Community House and some put towards the exterior painting of the church.

We were not blessed with good weather this time and two days were a washout! However, those who did brave the elements were treated to nativity scenes, angels on high, scenes from Christmas at the beach and interpretations of favourite carols. Two amazing Christmas cakes and a Christmas pudding were raffled as well. The Cambridge Brownies made

Christmas trees for display and local schools provided artwork.

Next year we propose to use 'Toys' as an inspiration, so we should start thinking now!

*Carol Chetwynd*

*(Photos as on the cover pages)*



# Waiapu Diocese

## Hawkes Bay Regional AAW get-together

On 26th September about 36 AAW members from our Region met at St. Luke's Havelock North for a day of greeting, meeting and eating!! We started our morning with a cup of tea and fellowship followed by a Eucharist Service conducted by Bryan Carey. Two representatives from each group took up to the altar, articles that had been made by members. What a truly brilliant display of talents, knitting, sewing, crochet, spinning, weaving, patchwork, embroidery, story books, floral work, art and photography (hope I have not forgotten anything!!) We certainly have some very talented members. At noon we moved to the nearby Havelock North Community Centre where we enjoyed a delicious meal.

Between the main course and dessert we heard a very interesting talk by Raewyn Hedge who told us about her life, work and role as the bishop's wife.



Members at Judith Howletts home



Cake made by Jennifer Harris

It was an informal day and we enjoyed mixing and meeting up with old and new friends.

## On top of the mountain

It is always amazing where you meet up with fellow Mother's Union or AAW members.

Kathryn McIntyre joined my walking group for a walk to the top of Rainbow Mountain – between Taupo and Rotorua. She was in Rotorua on holiday.

It was a beautiful day and after a reasonable walk to the top we were rewarded with a 360° view as far south



Elaine Wood Waiapu President and Kathryn McIntyre Mother's Union Auckland

as Mt Ruapehu and north towards the Bay of Plenty coastline with Mt Tarawera to the side.

Elaine Wood Waiapu President

**Remember to have a joyful relationship with the Bible, not a burdensome one, trusting in the abundance which never runs dry.**

*Offered by Barbara Brown*

## He sleeps in a storm

A man seeks employment on a farm. He hands a letter of recommendation to his new employer. It reads simply, "He sleeps in a storm". The owner is desperate for help, so he hires the man.

Several weeks pass and suddenly, in the middle of the night, a powerful storm rips through the valley. Awakened by the swirling rain and howling wind, the owner leaps out of bed. He calls for his new hired hand, but the man is sleeping soundly. So the owner dashes out to the barn. He sees, to his amazement, that the animals are secure with plenty of feed. He runs out to the field. He sees the bales of wheat have been bound and wrapped in tarpaulins. He races to the silo. The doors are latched and the grain is dry.

And then he understands. "He sleeps in a storm".

My friends, if we tend to the things that are important in life, if we are right with those we love and behave in line with our faith, our lives will not be cursed with the aching throb of unfulfilled business. Our words will always be sincere, our embraces tight. We will never wallow in the agony of "I could have, I should have." We can sleep in a storm.

And when it's time, our goodbyes will be complete. From a sermon by the Rev.1975. Passed on by Mitch Alborn; "Tuesdays with Morrie" & "Have a little faith."

*Offered by Isabel Weenink*



## *Auckland Diocese*

***Selwyn Village, Point Chevalier, was the venue for the 2015 end-of-year Service and Luncheon held Saturday 14 November where 57 members met at the Chapel of Christ the King.***

Our Chaplain, the Revd Hilary Leith, had prepared the AAW service - the theme being Pilgrimage. The Eucharist was also celebrated accompanied by joyous singing, and guest Mrs Rosemary Atkins spoke most eloquently on her recent visit to Italy and pilgrimage to Assisi.

Following the service, members adjourned to the adjacent Café on Lichfield Extension to enjoy a beautifully catered lunch. President Barbara

Dixon welcomed all present acknowledging Mothers' Union President, Joan Neild and other MU members present, and also Daphne French, former NZAAW President who now resides at Selwyn Village. Diane Alexander, former AAW Auckland President and also now a resident of Selwyn Village, was thanked for organising the dressing of all the tables and the excellent menu.

Concluding the afternoon, various raffles were won and all were advised



that two of the Village shops would be open if any visitors wished to see what had been made by past and present Selwyn Village residents; John Alexander (husband of Diane) was also prepared to take, as driver, those interested, on the small 'train' tour of the Village.

Before dispersing, members and guests assembled on the lawn for a group photograph taken by Martin Thomas, parishioner of St James, Mangere Bridge, and thus ended a most enjoyable afternoon with many expressing appreciation of the location and facilities, requesting that Selwyn Village become a permanent venue for any future special event.

*Natalie Taplin*



