

Circle

Volume 51, No. 3 August 2019



The Association of Anglican Women



Golden Jubilee Year

Theme for 2019-2022:

Growth through Gratitude, Grace and Guidance

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 for *Circle*

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 should be emailed to the *Circle* Co-ordinator, Pat Vincent, patvincent999@gmail.com.

Text: It can be in the body of an email or attached as a Word document.

Photos: High Resolution original jpg files or raw digital photo files. These will be *large separate files, not pictures included in a Word document.*



Join us on Facebook: Search for NZ Assn of Anglican Women

AAW website: nzaaw.org.nz

Cover Photo: Front foreground: Taranaki's Golden Jubilee Cake

Copy deadline for the next issue:

30 September 2019

Please help us by adhering to this deadline

From the Editorial Team



Well, we've passed the shortest day, and the winter and our 50th Jubilee Year are more than half over. By the time you receive this August issue, we will be looking forward to the arrival of Spring. How time flies!

The team hopes that your Jubilee celebrations have been times of good fellowship, and if you're yet to hold your event, we wish you much joy. Congratulations to all our wonderful cake makers. Judging from the photos there are splendid cooks and cake decorators among our members!

As Pat Vincent explains in her column, we should have started planning to grow our group memberships. So, let us be proactive, looking forward to building a positive future for AAW, rather than solely reminiscing on the past.

Congratulations too, to Archdeacon Waitohiariki Quayle who has been appointed Bishop of Upoko o Te Ika. Wai is the first Maori woman to be made Bishop. Her diocese will

comprise the Maoridom of the lower North Island.

The November issue will be the last by the Wellington team. We have enjoyed our three years of work on *Circle*, and hope we have 'grown' the magazine for you. Please keep 'copy' and photos flowing in. We do appreciate your contributions.

God Bless

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Letters to the Editorial Team

Thank You for the AAW ‘Camps’

Dear Editorial Team

I just wanted to say a big “Thank You” to all those ladies who organised the AAW ‘Camps’. Yes, I know they had a much posher name – Wellington Diocesan Conference – but I always thought of them as Camps.

I went to my first AAW Camp in the 1970’s. I had 3 young children at the time and I was recovering from a very bad dose of chicken pox. Yes, the kids had brought it home from school and *whamee* I have never been so ill!

My AAW Leader at this time was Gwen Orchard from Johnsonville and she thought it would be a great idea for me to have a weekend away from home. She even came round to the house and cleared it with my husband!

So, there I was at Otaki Lodge, sharing a bunkroom with Janet Hesketh. I met such wonderful ladies over this weekend and subsequent camps I went to. I want you to know that I learnt such a lot over the years – arrow prayers, decorating the room for a Holy Communion with foliage and banners to name just a few. I learnt wonderful worship songs joyfully played on the piano by both Elspeth and Val. I shared lots of laughs with my roommates and really appreciated

all the organisation that went into running such a weekend. A lot of the many speakers I heard in the workshops have shaped my life and I am who I am today because of them.

So thank you to all those who have helped me but perhaps weren’t aware of just how much.

*Caroline Stuart (formerly Burt)
Waikanae*

In response to the ‘From the Editorial Team’ piece on page 3 of the May Issue 2019, Elaine has written:

I don’t very often e-mail anyone re what has been written, but I find the first paragraph very misleading.

Why is the massacre at the Mosque incurring God’s wrath? If anything it showed God’s love with the response from New Zealanders. You have put this in the bottom paragraph.

Secondly, why are the extreme weather events incurring God’s wrath? This isn’t the first climate change over millions of years. Sure there are things we have to do to be better keepers of God’s creation – but incurring his wrath – I don’t think so.

Thank you Elaine for your e-mail. To answer your first question, there has been for some time a worldwide movement against Muslims, especially

through social media. I have received unsolicited e-mails, some from people I actually know, expressing views that astound me. I am told that ‘Muslims are taking over the world’, warning that we ‘should be on our guard’. I believe that a common perception of these people is that through massacres and other physical attacks on them God is punishing the Muslim world ‘for their audacity’.

As to your second question, some people believe that through climate change God is punishing us for not caring for His creation by causing global warming. Science has proved that, yes, our negative actions can upset the balance of the natural world that in turn can produce extremes of weather and climate change.

You would be surprised at the number of Christians who still believe our God is a punishing God – they even quote from the Bible to ‘prove their point’. But we, like you, believe our God is a loving God, who encourages us to live by love and grace, following His example, and His direction: ‘To love one another’. The response by New Zealanders to the Christchurch Massacres, and their behaviour manifested during times of extreme weather, can be seen as proof, not of God’s anger, but of God’s love.

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President's Notes



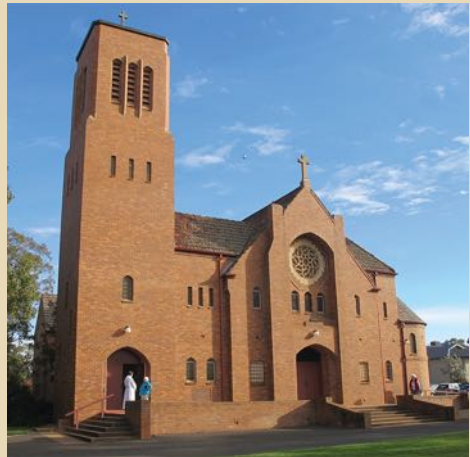
Dear Members

It is with mixed feelings that I write this my last *Circle* column as your President. There is sadness that my term is coming to an end. But there is also the feeling of satisfaction that I have accomplished many of the things I set out to do and overcame the challenges that were presented. I have had a wonderful journey, filled with so many great experiences and learnt so much in the process. It has been a privilege and honour to be your leader for the past three years. We have such a wonderful organisation that I have loved sharing our endeavours wherever I have been able to do so.

Without you giving of your time and talents to make life better for families here and overseas we would not be the purposeful organisation we are. Our love for God and our Christian care and fellowship for each other has been the heart of our organisation. For me it is a fitting culmination that in this final year I have had the honour of celebrating our Golden Jubilee with you all. Although it has involved a lot of travel it has also been a year-long party for me honouring our past and present members. I love meeting up with

members and hearing your stories. Last month it was New Plymouth and Taranaki's celebrations and then just last week our local Waikanae St Michael's Group celebrations.

Last month I had the honour of representing you at the Anglican Women of Australia (AWA) Diocese of Riverina Biennial Conference in Griffith NSW, which was a great experience. It was lovely meeting fellow Anglicans and re-establishing networks with our Australian and South African women's groups, who came into existence at the same time as we did because of the Mothers' Union stance on membership eligibility. Please see my article (p.10) for coverage of this conference.



It is exciting to have our Golden Jubilee Mission Project finalised and to be able to announce the details of this venture from Anglican Missions, with whom we are closely working. I know you will all support this worthwhile project. Please see our O&O column. My thanks go to Shelley Vette and Michael Hartfield, Operations and Projects Officer with Anglican Missions, who have worked hard to put this project together.

To celebrate our Golden Jubilee we are promoting a membership drive to get 50 new members per diocese by the end of the year or 2-3 members per group. This idea came from the Christchurch Diocese. I think this is a great goal for everyone.

I would like to acknowledge our Executive for all their support. Our superb *Circle* Team of Mary Houston, Anne Stainer, Diana Maunder and Janice Viles who took a leap of faith into the unknown and came up with some wonderful editions of *Circle*, which will continue until the end of the year.

Regarding our three-year theme, this year's is Gratitude. This is very apt for me as I give thanks to our Lord for all his love and guidance for this

wonderful journey. The following quotes sum it up for me:

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:36

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

Psalms 9:1

Pat Vincent



You are warmly invited to our

Provincial Golden Jubilee Celebration

Thursday 29 August, 10:30am
St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington

Eucharist Service presided over by
Bishop Eleanor Sanderson

Performance by
Chilton Saint James Seraphim Choir
Catered Lunch

Highlights from NZ Past Presidents

Inspirational Woman - Lee Blacker-Noble

An individual painting and poem was given to each AWA Conference attendee. This lovely picture and poem was given to Pat Vincent.

Lee is a prolific artist, using a variety of media. Her mother introduced her to painting in 1955. "She gave me a set of oil paints because she thought I was running around too much after the birth of my child." In 1956 Lee started a painting group in Leeton. In her 50's Lee went to Southern Cross University and gained a degree in visual arts. One of Lee's murals is in the historic Hydra Hotel in Leeton and depicts the life of the emerging township from 1910-1930. Lee is an avid Tolkien fan and she has named her house Rivendell. The lush garden has a collection of characters from Lord of the Rings that Lee has created.

Lee is a dedicated member of St Peter's Anglican Church in Leeton and she did the series of paintings for the Stations of the Cross that are around the walls of the church. She has had art exhibitions as fund-raisers for the church. Lee does beautiful church flower arrangements. She taught Special Religious Education in schools for years until she retired this year.

Ref: Judith Nolan AWA Leeton, NSW

Lee is a gifted musician, playing the pipe organ and is choir mistress in St Peter's. She also takes the choir to the old people's homes once a month. The minister of her church, Fr Robert calls Lee the *juggernaut* as she has a go at most things and doesn't believe she can't do it even though she is over 80.

Lee is also the Treasurer for Riverina AWA.

Morning Song

*The song of morning, clear and ringing
Rises heavenward - a psalm of praise
To the day's new light and promise.*

*Fresh the radiance from the soul
Bursting forth with joy unbounded
At the day's awakening glory.*

*Gone the fears in darkness crouching
Banished by the dawning light
Sings the soul its high rejoicing.*

*Flowers turn their morning faces
Washed and shining to the sky
Voiceless praise to God their Maker.*

*Hearts in deepest sorrow bowed
Lift and join in nature's song
Pain and anguish all forgotten.*

Lee Blacker-Noble



Anglican Women of Australia Conference

Anglican Women of Australia
(AWA) Biennial Provincial
Conference

**Venue: Saint Alban the Martyr
Anglican Cathedral, Griffith,
Diocese of Riverina, 17-19 May**

Brian and I started our journey in Sydney, with a nice day at Manly, dining on fish and chips and walking on the lovely beach in a warm, sunny 23 degrees. The next morning we were at the Central Station for the 7:30am train to Leeton. Some seven hours later we arrived at Wagga Wagga where we boarded a coach for the two hour trip to Leeton, where we would meet our host Judith Nolan, Secretary of the AWA Conference Organising Committee.

Here we met up with Lucille Henniker, Provincial President Anglican Women's Fellowship (South Africa) – AWF, her fiancé Henry Jones, Vice President Monica Thaele and another member of the Executive Pamela Mtonininshi, responsible for spiritual direction. We were then driven by the conference treasurer Lee Blacker Noble, together with Cecily, a local member from Orange, to Judith's home for the night.

The next morning was organised by Judith, beginning at the Information Centre for a talk and presentation on Leeton and the local area. We were informed that cotton and rice (Sun Rice) were major products of the area, together with oranges and grapes.

Leeton is an Art Deco town so we visited the historic Roxy Theatre and Hydro Hotel. Lee had painted a mural around the bar in the hotel showing the history of the town. We then went to Judith and Lee's church, St. Peter's Anglican Church, where the AWA ladies provided a lovely lunch for us. After lunch we headed to Griffith for the conference, about 40 minutes by car.

Griffith is a major regional city in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area that is commonly known as the food bowl of Australia. It has a semi-arid climate with hot summers and cool winters. We experienced temperatures which were a cool 8 degrees in the morning climbing to 23 in the afternoon.

The conference started with a Eucharist Service in the cathedral, where we were welcomed by The Very Reverend Rob Harris and a *Welcome to Country* by Sally Goolagong, a

Theme: “Women Using God’s Gifts”



member of the Wiradjuri people and first cousin to Evonne Goolagong Cawley, former World No. 1 Australian tennis player.



Sally Goolagong, Pat, Judith Nolan

After that it was dinner and entertainment in the hall. All food was catered by the church.

The next morning the day started with prayers and a welcome by the Riverina President before the three key note speakers began their addresses:

Professor Merryl Blair – Recently retired as Senior Lecturer in “The Old



Dianna Jacobsen, Pat, Rev Fay Fraser, Prof. Merryl Blair

Testament” Sterling Theological College Melbourne. She is currently moving her focus into the supervision of ministers. Merryl told the story of Sarah and Naomi (Mother-in-Law of Ruth). She said that neither woman was an agent of her own destiny. Naomi gives Ruth the benefit of her wisdom, highlighting the importance of nurturing younger women. They were stories of hope – God has never finished with us.

Dianna Jacobsen - Business Consultant / Financial Strategist – SHINE at Business – How can we use our strengths, serving, being in a young person’s world and not expecting them to come to you? Look for opportunities, look for the grand overall design, what you want – the outcome you would like.

Rev Fay Fraser - Army Chaplain Kapooka Army Barracks, Wagga Wagga – joined the army in 2014 and is only one of four army chaplains. She is a former World Champion body builder. The Chaplaincy team have the task of:

- Caring for the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all recruits during their 80-day training period

Anglican Women of Australia Conference cont'd

- Providing pastoral care
- Character development sessions – values and beliefs
- Encourage soldiers to practise their religion

Fay spoke of the dilemma of an increasingly secular world and said, “Society is living off its accumulated moral capital” – “the younger generation have a lack of spiritual knowledge.”

The conference dinner was held at a nearby league club and the guest speaker was **Frances Tsoukalidis** – Musician/composer/entertainer, who gave a hilarious talk about how to become an expert organ player.

Sunday began with Mass (High Anglican) and a colourful banner procession in the cathedral, followed by AWA Biennial NSW Meeting and commissioning for the 2021 Biennial Conference to be held at Bathurst.

AWA have the issues of ageing members and big distances within their dioceses so meetings are hard to organise. Because of the lack of a provincial structure the dioceses are working mainly in isolation and therefore change is difficult to implement. AWA is now only active in

three dioceses in New South Wales – Bathurst, Riverina and Newcastle. AWA has no subscription fee but parishes and organisations are asked to pay a small annual affiliation fee. AWA has no formal communication, such as a magazine or newsletter etc.

I talked about our commitment to grow our organisation and some of the initiatives we had implemented - Facebook, a website and a membership brochure. It was lovely to share *Circle* with them. It appeared to me that they operated very much within their own parishes, taking charge of catering, some local mission work and anything else required. Fortunately a group leader offered to host the next conference and someone else offered to organise a Facebook page. But it will be very hard for them going forward and I wonder how they will attract younger women. We are very fortunate to have our portfolios of Social Concerns and Overseas and Outreach.

Overall the conference was a success with great speakers, warm fellowship with the women and even the few men who attended and the opportunities to share ideas. It was lovely to meet fellow Anglican women

and establish networks with our Australian and South African counterparts.

Facts about Anglican Women of Australia (AWA):

Anglican Women was established in 1964 in Newcastle from a meeting of bishops' wives as an 'umbrella' organisation for ALL women who belong to the Anglican Church, including Mothers' Union Groups and Guilds etc because Mothers' Union excluded single women and divorced women. At least 9 dioceses in Australia formed AWA groups. The first National Meeting was held in Newcastle in 1982 with 10 dioceses represented. The President of AAW NZ was invited to this first meeting. The National Body was disbanded in 2013.

Aims:

To help women to a fresh awareness and understanding of the mission of the Church.

To create a sense of common purpose and co-operation between the women's organisations of the Church

To have representations at Federal and other levels for consultation on any matter which concerns the life of the Church.

AWA Prayer:

Eternal God,

The light of the minds that know you,

The life of the souls that love you

And the strength of the hearts that

serve you,

Help us to know you that we may truly love you,

So to love you that we may fully serve you,

For you to serve you is perfect freedom;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We appear to have a similar structure, principles and mission work to the Anglican Women's Fellowship (South Africa) (AWF).

Facts about Anglican Women's Fellowship (South Africa) (AWF):

Formed in 1966 because at that time Mothers' Union only catered for married women - divorcees and single mothers could not belong.

Motto: "United in Prayer, Service and Love"

Aims:

Prayer and worship

Mission and witness

Fellowship and study

Service and stewardship



AWF South Africa Provincial President Lucille Henniker (centre) with left, Alternate Vice President and the Coordinator for Prayer and Spirituality Portfolio Pamela Mtoninshi, and right, Vice President Monica Thaele

Mission Projects include:

1. Keeping the girl child in class during menstrual periods.
2. Smile project targets destitute families by providing food parcels.
3. Donating school uniform including shoes to needy children.
4. Keeping children away from streets by engaging them in soccer and music. Supplying them with soccer attire.
5. Rural women development through beadwork and fowl run.
6. Orphans and Vulnerable Children exchange programme whereby they visit other Dioceses.

Poverty in all its forms continues to confront New Zealand society. With winter now well underway issues around poverty come to our attention even more. There are many organisations that work hard to address the issues of poverty in Aotearoa including our own Anglican Women's Trust, The Auckland City Mission and one organisation that has resonance for me in particular - *KidsCan*.

As an early childhood teacher I recognise and value the importance of the first few years of a child's life in laying down important foundations for lifelong learning and lifelong wellbeing. It is the time when important concepts around empathy are formed which will affect every aspect of a person's life as they engage in their own and wider communities. *KidsCan*, I believe, have got it right by increasingly focusing on the preschool years and addressing the basic needs of children including warmth, shelter and provision of food so that our tamariki can get the best possible start in life and lay down strong foundations for future wellbeing.

If you are able to be up in Takapuna - St Peter's Anglican Church, Killarney St, Auckland on the morning of the

20th of September - representatives from *KidsCan* will be addressing the Auckland Diocese of AAW to talk about the impact they are making on improving the lives of those most vulnerable in our country and how we might also make a difference. (Please contact me for more details). It would also be an opportunity for you to catch up with our New Zealand AAW President, Pat Vincent, who has committed to attending this meeting.

An issue of poverty that affects girls of an older age is often referred to as ‘period poverty’. Having lack of access to menstruation sanitary products due to lack of financial resources is having a huge impact on the lives of many of our young women; from being unable to attend school and therefore impacting on their educational success to withdrawing from participating in social activities important to their mental and emotional wellbeing as a member of society. It is great to see that a remit is being taken to the National Council of Women’s Conference this year to address this issue. I hope that your AAW groups will have some interesting discussions around this matter.

Another remit that is being presented that does not directly relate to poverty issues but I feel is important to the wellbeing of New Zealand Society in creating a more equitable and tolerant society is one that I am taking to the NCW conference on behalf of NCW Hibiscus Coast Branch. This remit advocates for more men to consider entering the education sector at the early childhood level. I consider that this would have many positive outcomes for our tamariki in ensuring that they have access to a greater range of role models who would support them at a time when ideas of identity and self worth are being formed. It would also underline the significance of child nurturing being a whole of society responsibility and increase the worth of what has been traditionally seen as women's work.

Acts 20:35.... Remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said : “*it is more blessed to give than to receive.*”

Julie Walker, Co-Social Concerns Convener with Wendy Probert.

Overseas and Outreach



Golden Anniversary Project: St Patrick's Anglican College, Ambae, Vanuatu

St Patrick's College, located on the island of Ambae, is the only Anglican school in the country. The college, opened in 1902, is co-educational and draws students from across the country. It has a large campus that includes dormitories and accommodation for teaching and support staff.

When Mt Manaro on Ambae erupted in 2017 and again in 2018, and because of the ongoing volcanic activity, some 13,000 people were evacuated to the neighbouring islands of Pentecost, Santo and Maewo. The College, along with the rest of the island, was covered in volcanic ash which affected the water supply, grounds and buildings. The Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) has been at the forefront of the response and assisted with and helped to coordinate (with the support of the Vanuatu Government) the evacuation of the Ambae residents. A clean-up operation is underway.

In the meantime, many of the erstwhile residents of Ambae are

drifting back, re-establishing homes, gardens and livelihoods, which is difficult with the covering of volcanic ash. In view of the return of the residents, ACoM with the support of the Government of Vanuatu, have decided to re-open the College in August 2019, with the long-term intention (ten-year plan) being to permanently relocate to Luganville on Santo. Luganville is the second largest city in the country, but negotiating to purchase or lease a suitable property is still some way off, as much as a decade.

The needs of women and girls on Ambae remain acute. With the possibility of further volcanic activity, it has been decided that it is more practical to support the girls attending St Patrick's College with movable resources rather than building a dormitory, as was originally discussed at the AAW Provincial Executive meeting on 9 March 2019, attended by Michael Hartfield, Operations and Project Officer of Anglican Missions. Funding from AAW will be used to ensure:

- girls' accommodation and classrooms are clean and safe eg. providing new bedding and classroom

Overseas and Outreach continued



Above: Aerial view of College



Right: Map of Vanuatu showing location of Ambae

furniture.

- appropriate educational resources eg. text books and stationery.

The project will be closely monitored with regular emailed reports to demonstrate progress.

While this is a specific project for AAW, it will form part of a broader response supported by the Anglican Missions of NZ, Melanesia and Australia.

Donations can be sent now to your Diocesan Treasurer who will then forward them to our National Treasurer, Anne Gover. It is hoped we may be able to raise a sum of approx. \$15,000 for this AAW year-long project (June 2019- 2020). So, we will need to plan our fund-raising activities now.

Shelley Vette

Overseas and Outreach Convenor



L: View of St Patrick's College and Below: a classroom block



Overseas and Outreach cont'd - St Patrick's College, Vanuatu



St Patrick's College students, classrooms and girls' dormitories



Diocesan News - Wellington

St Michael's Waikanae Golden Jubilee Celebrations

On June 12 the Waikanae AAW Group held its Golden Jubilee celebration. The afternoon commenced with a Eucharist, presided over by Rev Annette Cater from the Tawa Parish.

Our President Pat Vincent gave a talk on the beginnings of AAW in New Zealand and spoke of the challenges ahead and some suggestions of how to overcome them. She told of the Golden Jubilee Membership challenge which is for each diocese to attract 50 new members by the end of the year. This would equate to 2-3 members per branch. This idea came from the



Rev Annette Cater and Pat Vincent who was Guest Speaker

Christchurch Diocese. Jenny Duckworth (Bishop Justin's wife) also charged us to tell our stories, letting everyone know what we are about.



June Heyes as the oldest member lighting a candle for each decade

After the service, several of the members told their stories about the joy in being able to welcome divorced and single women to their ranks thereby opening the door to all women. An "Umbrella Organisation" to cover and protect all.

Other stories mentioned the struggle to actually get approval to start an AAW branch in their parish. However, several years later, after hard work and dedication, they were finally granted permission for an AAW branch to commence.

The afternoon finished with tea and the cutting of the Jubilee cake.

Diocesan News - Wellington continued



Above: Waikanae AAW members at their Golden Jubilee Celebration



An AAW sweatshirt showing our original AAW Umbrella logo.



Current President Rosemary Hurd and Past Presidents June Heyes and Sally Mathieson cutting the cake.

Wellington Diocese AGM and Golden Jubilee Celebration

This year the Wellington Diocese AGM was held at Christ Church, Whanganui. This meant a 6am start for those travelling by bus from Lower Hutt, collecting attendees from the Kapiti Coast and Horowhenua on the way.

After the AGM business was concluded, the guest speaker Bridget Child gave a talk about the work and future of the Wellington City Mission. WCM women are very involved in assisting street people finding accommodation, running a successful food bank, helping people with bureaucracy, isolation and loneliness.

There are 5 key programmes they focus on: Mission for families, Mission for youth, Mission for independence, Mission for seniors, and Kemp Home and Hospital.

The WCM has recently purchased a new building which will enable them

to provide current services more efficiently and expand into new projects. “We look



Val Malcolm, Anne Carpenter, Mary Estcourt, Heather Dawson, Janice Viles

back and thank God, we look forward and trust God.”

A midday prayer service was held before lunch was served, with the 50th birthday cake cut during this time.

Following lunch a moving Eucharist and Commissioning Service was held, presided over by Rev Rosemary Anderson of the Wanganui Parish.



Joyce Bailey, Margie Holmes, Glyn Marsden from St Johns, Fielding

Diocesan News - Waikato/ Taranaki

Golden Jubilee Celebrations - Holy Trinity, New Plymouth

In early May, Holy Trinity AAW, Fitzroy, New Plymouth, hosted a wonderful celebration of the Association of Anglican Women's 50th Jubilee.

A special eucharist in church presided over by Rev Helene Young commenced the evening, followed by fellowship, shared dinner, entertainment (singers with ukulele), reminiscing - and more fellowship. The hall looked lovely with white tablecloths, white candles with yellow flowers around the base, a beautiful cake, photos on the walls, gold balloons on the stage,



memorabilia on tables, and commemorative items for sale.

It was lovely to have our New Zealand AAW President, Pat Vincent, with us to meet

up with our members and help cut the cake, which was made by Rev Wendy Harland of Waitara. (See also the front cover).



Pat with Pip Harrison on presentation of her Certificate of Appreciation

A Certificate of Appreciation was also given to Pip Harrison, who had recently completed her term as NZ AAW Social Concerns Convenor.

St Luke's Fellowship Group, Te Kuiti

Our group has had two interesting and colourful meetings recently and we thought other groups might like to see what we've been up to.

The first was our Annual Queen's Birthday morning tea held at Rhonda Borgas' house in Te Kuiti.

Members were encouraged to dress up with hats, gloves & pearls. Morning tea was served using my late mother's (Joan Harris) china. She was a long time member of Young Wives then St Luke's Fellowship AAW Group here in Te Kuiti. Tiny tasty morsels were enjoyed.

At the second meeting two local Indian ladies and our Vicar, Jekheli Kibami Singh joined St Luke's fellowship group members at the May meeting.



After showing their beautiful Saris and jewellery they allowed members to be dressed up. What a colourful meeting it was as shown in the photos.

Rhonda Borgas



Diocesan News - Dunedin

All Saints, Invercargill

Recently, our group at All Saints, celebrated AAW's Fiftieth Birthday. We invited women from our neighbouring parishes, St John's and Holy Trinity to attend. Christine Aitken, our Area President, came down from Dunedin for the occasion.

At our church service, we paraded the Time Capsule and banners, including a very beautiful and old Mothers' Union Banner carried by Dot Muir.

During our meeting, people happily reminisced about the past groups - Mothers' Union, Church Guild and Young Wives. We opened the Time



Doreen Metzger blows out the candles on the birthday cake.

Capsule which contained memorabilia from 1975 to 2009. Our Group will add further items from 2019 and reseal the capsule.

The afternoon ended with the singing of "Happy Birthday to AAW" and Doreen Metzger cutting the cake.

Elizabeth Lucy

St Luke's AAW, Mosgiel

The group began 2019 with a drop-in meeting at Aurora Cafe. Roadworks made it impossible to meet at the church in February. We used a venue at the Mosgiel Public Library, where Christine Aitken was our speaker. She offered some most interesting ideas about AAW's future direction. The road works were ongoing and we met at the library in March to hear Alison Nevill read excerpts from her fascinating book about her childhood, part of which was spent in India. Our

continued next page



Doreen Metzger, Leila Stokes from All Saints; Claire Morton, St Aidan's; Lorraine Christiansen, St John's, parade their churches' banners.

Diocesan News - Auckland

A reflective time was held at St Peter's Church, Takapuna.

Members joined St Peter's midweek service which was followed by morning tea and fellowship and catch-up.

We then had a time of reflection on our involvement with AAW: where we started, our involvement, what we

receive from belonging to a group of Christian women, and where we are heading.

It is important to have conversations about AAW and personally invite women.

We finished our time with another time of fellowship.

Barbara Dixon



Diocesan News - Dunedin continued

April meeting was a quiz session.

As a number of our members had very much enjoyed the Diocesan celebration of 50 years held in March, we had a 50 year celebration lunch in May at Weavers Cafe. Members were encouraged to wear something gold. The birthday cake was cut by Mary Lester, our convener.



Mary Lester cutting the cake, watched by secretary Lynne Hill

Diocesan News - Christchurch

Heathcote-Mt Pleasant Anglican Parish, Christchurch

On a beautifully blessed sunny 2nd Sunday in February 2019, our AAW Group celebrated 50 years, firstly with being part of the AAW NZ Sunday Service - members carrying out roles, including myself being invited to preach – taking *Luke 5:1-11, Jesus Calls the First Disciples*; likening the nets holding fast to debris in our lives before asking Jesus to intervene.

Following the Service, the



Above: The Golden Jubilee Cake in front of the AAW banner of the Church of the Ascension, Mt Pleasant, Christchurch and Right: Close-up of the special cake



Christchurch Diocesan President, Jude Mackenzie talking to the gathering

congregation and invited guests partook of drink/nibbles, then a lovely lunch was served. Dessert was an especially made lemon cake, blessed by the Vicar, Rev Mark Sullivan and formally ‘cut’ by Shirley Rowley 93, helped by past and present Presidents, Olive Gray and Jude Mackenzie.

The celebration included many photos on the wallboard, showing members over the years and various activities – the memories came alive and there was lots of chatter – the



Photos provided by Suzanne Stewart

whole point of celebrating. Shortly before the close, Olive and Jude held an imaginary ‘tennis match’ asking: What are the important things about AAW? What does it offer? Is it relevant? Where does God fit in? It was serious, though off the cuff, but it centred us as we journey on being AAW.

The main reason our Group has kept going is that its leaders over the years have been strong in their faith and have recognised it is a Christ driven group of women, who are each precious to the Group.

Patricia Owen, AAW Leader

The Association of Anglican Women is 50

On Thursday 16th May about 30 of the South Canterbury members got together for a day of celebration and fellowship to commemorate our Golden Jubilee. We met at St. John’s church for a lovely Communion service taken by the Vicar Rev. Josh Taylor. Our commemorative cake was cut by 3 former South Canterbury presidents, before we enjoyed a shared lunch.

Our guest speaker for the day was the Rev. Lucy Flatt, who is the Chaplain at Craighead girl’s school and a Deacon at St. John’s. Lucy was a delightful speaker whose talk about her life and her calling, as well as working with young adults was enjoyed by all present.



Three former Presidents of the South Canterbury AAW cutting our Golden Jubilee cake. They are from left: Mavis Drake, Janet Love, and Val Trezise

An Historic Anglican Church Relocated to a New Home

St Mark’s Church, Rotherham, starts a new chapter as St Margaret’s College Chapel, Christchurch. St Mark’s in Rotherham (near Culverden) was originally part of the Nelson Diocese. St Mark’s Anglican Church was dedicated on 5 May, 1905. Its first Vicar was Rev E.C.W. Powell.

Diocesan News - Christchurch continued



In 1990, the Nelson Diocese transferred the Amuri Parish to the Christchurch Diocese, including St Mark's Church. St Mark's was a landmark in the district for almost a century. In the early 1990's declining congregations meant it ceased being used as a church. CPT called for tenders for sale and removal in 1997.

In 1998, the Satherthwaite family bought it and shifted the Church to their farm in the Waiau Valley to preserve a piece of history, and keep it in the district. The new owners placed it in an appropriate place on their farm, were married in it, and kept it for nearly 20 years.

When the Satherthwaite family heard that the then Principal, Gillian Simpson, was seeking a Chapel for St

Margaret's College, the family decided to donate their chapel, formerly St Mark's. So once again it was shifted – this time to Merivale, Christchurch, arriving in the early hours of the morning. Prayers of blessing were said by Bishop Victoria Matthews who was waiting for St Mark's early morning arrival on 31 January, 2018.

In 2018, a lot of work was needed to get the building repaired, up to code and ready for the girls to use. Many of the interior fittings have been donated: a long pew was donated by a private donor and some shorter pews came from St Saviour's, Lyttelton. The font came from St Michael's, Waihoa Downs, while the altar is from the original Boarders' Chapel.

St Mark's has now been fully re-purposed as the Chapel for St Margaret's College. It was consecrated for use by Bishop Peter Carrell, the Ninth Bishop of Christchurch, on Sunday, 31 March, 2019.

Jude Mackenzie

*Diocese of Christchurch AAW
President*

St Christopher's Blenheim

Seventeen members carpoled for their annual outing on March 7. They visited Yealands Art Gallery to view landscape photography of scenes of Marlborough by Jarrod Udy. They then visited Pollard Park where some of the gardens had been planted to portray the shapes of different insects and finished the day at Clubs of Marlborough for tea, coffee, scones and muffins. At their May meeting they welcomed Margaret Western from the Marlborough Multicultural Society and her friend Mary from Kiribati.

Margaret has been helping Mary and her 2 children settle into NZ and Mary is now working in the playcentre her 2 children attend.

Waimea Women's fellowship

They enjoyed a lunch get-together in January at Jester House in Tasman and held the first meeting for the year around the time of the devastating fires in their area. It was a time for sharing experiences and discussing best ways to conserve water during the long summer drought. It was wonderful to see the great community response

from the whole Nelson district to those worst affected by the fires.

In the May meeting their Elder Care co-ordinator, Nikki Berthelsen taught them some very good exercises to help them keep active.

St Thomas' Motueka

This is a small ageing group as are so many, but the leader and committee have the welfare of their members at heart and keep a good eye on health and related needs. They continue to have a full monthly programme. This year already they have learnt how to make flax ketes with Robyn Moore from Te Awhina marae in February, had a St Patrick's Day study in March led by Rev Pamela Soult and invited the parish along in April for coffee and to make palm crosses. Robin, daughter of one of their members, Audrey Spooner, shared the story of the pilgrimage she and her South African husband made to Southern Africa. In May they held a really special meeting when they all shared reasons they had for thankfulness in their lives. The group has faced some challenges this year but with God's help are still in good heart.

Diocesan News - Waiapu

St John's Cathedral, Napier

St John's Cathedral AAW met at an earlier hour than usual for their June meeting when they enjoyed an Agape meal of soup, rolls and slices provided by our wonderful committee. A meaningful service "surrounding" the meal established a real sense of

fellowship and love.

The group members continue with their enthusiastic knitting and have made 40 pairs of cosy slippers to go to needy children.



**Left: The knitting
Right: Jennifer Harris lighting one of the candles.
Below: The attractive Agape meal table**



St Luke's, Rotorua

The photos show the Lenten Prayer Chains that our AAW members of St Luke's, Rotorua, undertook as a challenge, leading up to Easter.

All members were given a package of 40 slips of coloured paper, with different ideas listed eg. Pray for your church, Pray for the homeless, Pray for the elderly, Pray for Hospice, etc.

Members were asked to set aside 5 minutes each day, for reflection and prayer then join the attached piece or paper to form a chain. Included in each pack were also some strips with wording saying:

Bless.....,

Thinking of.....,

Give thanks for.....



Right: The multi-coloured Prayer Chains hanging in the church

Left: Pat Gellatly, our AAW Treasurer beside the Prayer Chains

which each member could use and add their thoughts as the case may be.

In hindsight these strips of prayers turned out to be most useful when events in Christchurch took a dramatic turn during Lent. Members were able to join with the rest of NZ in showing their support through prayer.

The prayer chains were collected up and then hung in St Luke's Church, ready to be blessed at Easter Sunday services, and remained in place until our April meeting for our members to see.

Jenny Weaver,

Convenor, St Luke's AAW



Diocesan News - Polynesia

Suva-Ovalau Archdeaconry 2 days' workshop – Learning Process

About 30 women from the Suva-Ovalau Archdeaconry came together over 13 - 14 June to enhance their skills and knowledge in supporting the Mission of the Church. In 2 days the women sewed:

- 11 stoles as the Archbishop's gift to the 11 new priests to be ordained in Vanualevu-Taveuni Episcopal Unit,
- about 25 purificators.

They received lessons in looking after vestments, altar linen and cleaning holy vessels.

Kelera Oli writes: "I could not join the women in Suva but I got to hear about the enjoyable loving time they shared teaching and learning how to

cut, sew stoles; hand stitch purificators, and wash, dry and iron the linen/vestment and brasso/silvo the altar elements. We are fortunate to still have those who have acquired these set of skills over the years."



**Above and
Right:
Cutting
and
sewing**



**Some of the Suva-Ovalau AAW
members who attended the workshop
showing the completed stoles**



**Above
and Left:
washing
and
ironing**

Vitilevu West Episcopal Unit

The AAW members of the Vitilevu West Episcopal Unit convened their retreat and rally in St Peter's, Lautoka over 14 –15 June .

Some members of the AAW Polynesia DEC (Diocesan Executive Committee) from Suva travelled to Lautoka to join the women and conduct a DEC meeting. There were Q&A sessions with the DEC and at the end we saw some satisfied faces.

Kelera Oli writes: “Then yesterday and today, we were in Lautoka to meet and support the AAW ladies in Vitilevu West who had a retreat and rally. Their guest speaker was the EU Bishop Gabriel Sharma. It was also an enlightening and joyous event for the women.



Above: Diocesan AAW Interim President- Rev. Ruth Lal (3rd from right); Secretary - Kelera Oli (3rd from left) with the beautiful ladies from the Church of the Holy Spirit in Ba and Rachel from Lautoka after the rally.

They are all excited with the preparation in their Units for the 50th anniversary celebrations.”

Below and Right: Fellowship



When the Party's Over



There is something in me that loves hosting a get-together, a party: my routines are interrupted, and I enjoy planning an event that will have something for everyone to enjoy. The date and time are negotiated, my guest list drawn up and the refreshments planned.

As the day draws near my excitement increases. I list what needs to be done and delight in crossing off each item as it's completed. On the day, the table's set with good linen, china, cutlery. The food is prepared and plated; all is ready to 'go'. I'm aglow with expectation as I await my guests' arrival.

Then everything is over, far too quickly. After so much time is spent in preparation and looking forward to the event, the actual time just flashes by, amidst chatter and laughter. It is the bonhomie of a get-together that I appreciate most – though the food and drinks are important too!

Then a sudden quiet. Anti-climax! I look at the table in its dishevelled state, the remnants of food stuck on plates and utensils, the glasses and cups stained with dregs – even the floral table decoration is wilted. My

enthusiasm wanes; now for the clean-up. I feel somehow sad as I clear the table, fill the dishwasher, gather the linen to put in the washing machine. Even when the house is tidy again, I'm still sad: all the liveliness - or is it 'life' - has disappeared, and I'm tired, even petulant, as I sit down to a well-deserved coffee.

Sometimes though, I'm so energised by the get-together that when the guests have left 'the life' remains, and I happily clear and tidy up, even singing to myself. The party is over but the energy it's generated lives on. Perhaps plans to gather somewhere else, and soon, have been made; perhaps an outing; whatever – the anticipation of another get-together keeps me buoyant, and my head buzzes with the promise of future events.

I have attended lots of AAW events, including several golden jubilee celebrations, and I have enjoyed all of them. But I'm always interested in how each of these events end. Some end in an excited hum of farewells, the energised clatter of those cleaning-up, smiling faces, loud chatter, creating an aura of positivity. These people will

When the Party's Over... continued

meet again, will grow their numbers, will maintain interest in future shared activities. I even overhear them arranging to meet one another at cafes or in their own homes between get-togethers.

Sadly, some events end quietly, members leaving in dribs and drabs, with little to say to one another except 'Thanks', and 'Good-bye' which sound so 'final'. Members clearing up do so lackadaisically, quietly, even grimly; negativity pervades and it's as though these people are dutifully doing what's expected of them because they must – not because they want to.

I look back on our AAW group's May meeting with pleasure. 'So, let's go out to dinner at the local Chinese restaurant,' our leader Margaret suggested to her committee. 'And seeing our church has closed why don't we open it up to all past parishioners who'd like a catch-up, to join us.' Her committee agreed. What a party we had! We met friends whom we hadn't seen for weeks and weeks. We moved from table to table to chat, so the restaurant was noisy with loud voices and laughter. As the banquet

food was served, we ate and enjoyed a joyous fellowship.

As we left the restaurant people called out to Margaret: 'Thanks. Let us know when the AAW has its next dinner!' And 'Can we all meet again before Christmas?' The lady who had served us smiled. 'Come again any time you want... we enjoy having you here.'

I believe AAW underestimates its influence. Its fellowship can be the 'glue' that holds a parish together, especially for older parishioners; for folks whose churches have been closed, amalgamated or deconsecrated. And Anglicans are not the only denominations where parishes are disappearing, where members are left in limbo to seek new worship affiliations and friends. AAW can do much to 'glue' these communities too. Just invite the lost and the lonely to your next meeting. You'll be surprised at the fellowship that's engendered.

For there's something in everyone that loves a get-together, a party.

Mary Houston





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