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Anglican Women's Studies Centre

Sisterhood of Love

Tikanga Pasefika Hui, Nuku'alofa Report by Revd Sonja Hunter

It was an experience of camaraderie and 'Sisterhood', when the AWSC Pasefika Tikanga met in the Kingdom of Tonga from Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th November 2019.

There were seventeen (17) representatives



from the Island Nations of Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga. The flexible,

yet dynamic programme focused on lively conversations on women clergy development issues, and the promotion of the AWSC Book Project of 'Telling our Stories: 40 Years of Women's Ordination'.

The separate Hui of the three Tikanga in 2019 was a decision by the AWSC Council 'to strengthen the Tikanga base as we move ahead together in the strength of our own identities' as reported in the September & October 2019 AWSC Newsletter.

The Hui was appropriately convened in the Capital, Nuku'alofa, which, when translated, means the village or place of love. The delegates loved the coordination of the programme by the AWSC Tonga Hui Councillor Reverend Evelini Langi and the AWSC Tonga Link Mrs. Akanesi Folau with sponsorship from the AWSC through the wonderful assistance

of the vibrant Reverend Val Riches and Ms. Ceridwyn Parr.

Akanesi Folau and Val Riches



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Camaraderie and Sister hood enabled the conversations around the experiences of the women on various topics that were presented by guest speakers with the underlying theme of love and understanding setting the acceptance of allowing the programme to be conducted according to the group’s convenience and creativeness.

The Hui exemplified the Scriptures in 1st Corinthians 13:13 *‘And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is Love.’*

Love

It was love that made all things possible and allowed 17 ladies from different cultural backgrounds and walks of life to engage in conversation, sharing the wonderful Love of God and the varieties, versions and colour of individual experiences.

Love is always the common element that breeds understanding and acceptance of all stories that are shared irrespective of the differences in culture, creed or race. The Hui therefore presented many lessons and laughter for all the lady-delegates in the Pasefika way.

Nuku’alofa was the perfect setting, with visits to the four parishes and island sightseeing, group and individual activities with family and friends in Tonga. After all Tonga is widely known as the Friendly Islands.

Faith

In the Pacific, everything and every occasion begins with Prayer to thank God for each day and to acknowledge the work of the risen Christ through whom our sins have been forgiven and to plead with supplication those things which our hearts desire and are in accordance with the Will of God.

The Hui therefore opened with a Special Service and the Celebration of the Eucharist led by Reverend Hepi Tohi of the Saint Paul’s Anglican Cathedral with a wonderful sermon and reflection by Dr. Mele’ana Puloka, the President of the Wesleyan Church Schools, on the Journeys from the Past This highlighted some of the life lessons preached through the life of Queen Salote. She was the renowned Queen of Tonga who attended the Coronation of the young Queen Elizabeth

II, and , who during the parade, became a renowned Monarch through her act of humility in riding her assigned open carriage in the rain, waving at the multitude of people who had gathered in the streets of London to witness the Coronation Parade. Dr. Mele’ana had also reflected on the lives of the women of Tonga and their motherly roles and the importance of teaching of the developers of to say that the ladies who had bringing up



their great influence and children who are the future the Kingdom. She went on work and services of the assisted and served in Queen Salote as a young Princess were also crucial in contributing to the building of her character. Dr. Mele’ana shared her strong faith in her work and highlighted some of the key development strategies in the Wesleyan Educational system and frameworks.



Hope

In our Christian work to progress the work of Christ in our communities and countries, we acknowledge that it is with hope that we pin our faith in Christian principles and values for greater things to come. It is through Jesus Christ that we trust the manifestations of what we hope for.



Throughout the Hui, key presenters informed us about motivational processes that will ensure goal setting and achievement for the improvement and the establishing of good leaders , who are sought by the worshipping communities and countries. Leadership Development was a key topic presented by Mrs. Katrina Ma’u sharing her own experiences and lessons that were acquired through the tutelage of Inspirational Leader John Calvin Maxwell. Mrs. Eleni Levin-Tevi of the European Union Tonga Office enlightened the Group on the work carried out by the Youth of the All Saints Church, on Healthy Living, cleaning of their community environs and promoting awareness on the effects of Climate Change and caring for God’s creation, to name a few topics. The Secretary General of the Tonga National Council of Churches, Reverend Ikani Tolu, spoke about the Ecumenical Movement in the Pacific and the goals established by the Pacific Council of Churches to lead the nations into a strong platform of unity whilst acknowledging the diversity of cultures and beliefs. Rever-



end Ikani Tolu further elaborated on the TNCC Strategic Direction in the Formation of good Governance, Capacity Building for Mission, Enhancing Gender Voices for Dignity and a Programme that has the Youth reframing their Stories. The Principal and Sister Mele of St. Andrews College provided an educational presentation of the college and its recent achievements, and also hosted a luncheon for the AWSC Group.

The Presentations by the Guest Speakers gave much hope to the AWSC Tikanga Pasefika Hui that we are indeed moving in the right direction and that in Christ we continue to move together.

Lessons Learnt

The presentations, conversations and knowledge sharing during the Tikanga Pasefika Hui was enjoyable and enlightening in every part of the programme, as the women built the programme together with seriousness and focus on important topics, yet with light conversations and laughter making the lessons memorable for making the necessary improvements to one’s life and those of the communities that we serve through the strength that Jesus gives us and through the daily renewal of our minds, and acknowledging that God had indeed given us a spirit of Power, Love and a Sound Mind.

We went to the Hui as people of specific characters and returned to our Homes very different and more enhanced spiritual people with aims to further improve on areas of better stewardship on God’s creation, healthy living and striving for excellent leadership, and therefore being more consultative on church issues and developing improved frameworks that

would ensure better governance structures to guide the church.

Conclusion and Acknowledgement

The success of the Hui was due to the vision of the AWSC Council, the coordination by the Tikanga Pasefika Councillors and the Links, the Anglican Churches and the Women Organisations and especially the AAW in Tonga and not forgetting the vibrant and energetic Reverend Val Riches from the AWSC Tikanga Pakeha. We also acknowledge the contribution of Reverend Eseta Mateiviti-Tuilavu of the St. Johns Theological College, the Hui guest speakers and participants who were acknowledged at the Hui Farewell and Gift Exchange Session, as well as in this paper for the record.

We of course, give all thanks to our Heavenly Father for His unconditional Love, and the Grace of Jesus Christ through Whom we are saved and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, without Whom nothing would have been possible.

The Hui exemplified God’s Word in 1st Corinthians 13:13 *‘And now these three remain; faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is Love.’*

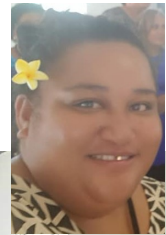
Amen.





It takes a woman to make a journey....

Anglican Women's Studies Centre Hui, Nuku'alofa, Tonga,
November 2020 – a reflection by Bolivia Smith



"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7: 13-14

Jesus never said anything will come easy to us in this life, but He did say it will be worth it. Sitting back and thinking about my journey as a young woman in the Church as well as a daughter of God, I am very humbled and blessed to have been a part of the Anglican Women Studies Center in Tonga. Leading up to my departure for Tonga, many times I cried and asked the Lord, is this worth it? What is the purpose of this? What will I get out of it?

Some of the key Goals for this Hui were to reflect on the Journey of Women in the past, present and into the future, and one of the initiatives of the Anglican Women's Studies Centre is to serve and advance the interests and needs of the women of our

The Revd Val Riches attended the Hui in her role as AWSC Councillor. She took this banner as a gift.



Church particularly those undertaking theological training. Through fellowshiping and networking with other women of our church, we mentor and encourage each other through the early stages of our ministry.

The Hui for me was so special, as it reminded me of why our role is special within our Church, Communities and especially our families. I was reminded of the importance of our calling as women to "mother" "nurture" and "recognize" the journey or paths that we must take. The different speakers who were invited to share with us, touched on learning the importance of why our roles within the Church, in communities and within our own homes is key to the future of our Church. Outlined further are some of the key takeaways for me, from the different speakers.

Dr Mele'ana Puloka (President of the Wesleyan Church Schools) spoke of our Journeys from the past to the Future. It's not about the Past, it's about who we are now. Our past does not determine the NOW, and what we intend to do. One of the few things that stood out for me when she said, "It takes a woman/mother to make a journey." Why?

Mothers, by nature, are to nurture our young ones and not contribute to their downfall. In the Bible it speaks of how a wise son will make the father proud, and a foolish son brings shame to the mother. Naturally, our mothers are at the forefront of bearing our pain, and the sufferings that



we go through in life. They are also be the ones who will go to any length for their children. This is why we are reminded always, that it is OUR RESPONSIBILITY to nurture.

Mrs Katrina Ma’u Fatiaki (Senior Development Programme Coordinator) spoke on “Developing the leader within you”. Some of us are natural leaders, whilst some of us need to find our inner strengths to become leaders. She highlighted the importance of having a “teachable heart”. By this she means a heart that is open to change, a heart that is open to growth and most importantly a heart that is open to explore God’s will for us. I believe that regardless of how others perceive us, the circumstances that we endured, the hardships that we had to bear, how we value ourselves will determine how others value you. So as women we need to step up and be women who represent possibilities.

Mrs Eleni Levin Tevi (EU: Tonga Desk Coordinatrice du Programme) spoke of the “Initiative of women that impacted the Church – Journey from the Past to the Future”. There were 3 key points that Mrs Tevi made about the role of women in:

Good Stewardship of God’s creation: Environment Awareness

Healthy Living: Addressing NCD

Godly Leadership: Through Mentorship & Accompaniment through activities

Rev Ikani Tolu (General Secretary Tonga NCC spoke of the “Ecumenical Movement in the Pacific”) made a very interesting talanoa about “Indigenous Spirituality”, where “Diversity & Vulnerability are our strengths.” We were once again reminded about our roles as Women of the Church/ Country as stewards in terms of nurturing our inner strengths. My experience is that everyone comes broken and in need of

nurturing. Whatever the circumstances, the hardships they are in, those experiences contribute to our development and there is no need to judge. Nurturing involves offering a safe space for them.

Motherhood for me is someone who nurtures giving their unconditional support to their children throughout their lives. This I think is the true definition of motherhood. We as women in leadership need to bring out our “Motherhood” and start caring for our young people and guiding them in their decision making. This is a commitment we need to make if our children’s futures are to be secured.

Fellowshipping with the representatives for the AWSC was humbling and learning experience for me. They shared their experiences, and the wisdom learned over the journeys they took and the hardships they endured. Personally, I went into this Training feeling so defeated, and came out with the comfort of knowing that I am not alone.

The round-the-table talanoa with these ladies, reminds me of the “Fale Komiti” back home in Samoa where women of the village gather to weave and share their experiences with each other. This itself is a tradition that is slowly fading in our Samoan culture and needs to be revived in all the villages, as I believe this is where the true role of motherhood is learnt. The symbol of weaving is I think reflective of the journeys we have made as we weave our stories and experiences to better our understanding of ourselves as mothers and our roles in motherhood.

Bolivia Smith lives in Samoa where she is the Team Leader CIT – Systems (Samoa Water Authority). She is the daughter of Rev Dr Le Vaotogo Frank & Tulimatai Smith. Bolivia is 33 years of age and hoping to start Lay Minister Training this year. She is a very strong advocate for Young People.





Congratulations, Wendy!



The Revd Wendy Scott congratulated by the Revd Val Riches (left) , AWSC COUncillor, and Ms Ceridwyn Parr (right) AWSC administrator, at the reception after Wendy’s installation as Dean .

The karanga rang through the warm evening to welcome the arrival of the new Dean. The Revd Wendy Scott escorted by many friends and whanau walked up the aisle of the Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter, in Kirikiriroa , Hamilton. Suddenly a lone voice sang out.

I thank you Lord for this amazing day

Everyone joined with great enthusiasm as Wendy took her place up the front of the packed Cathedral.

It was an amazing and historic event. Wendy is thought to be the first Maori to be Dean of a Cathedral, and she is one of only two woman Deans in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa,

New Zealand and Polynesia. The Very Revd Anne Mills is Dean of Auckland. Wendy is the first woman to be Dean of Hamilton Cathedral, following fourteen men.

The installation service was a rich mixture of Maori chant, contemporary song, traditional hymns, beautiful singing from the choir, entertaining and thought provoking words from The Revd Digby Wilkinson, gifts and symbols from Cathedral representatives, and enthusiastic applauding when Wendy was placed in her official Dean’s seat.

Wendy was commissioned by two Bishops– The Right Revd Ngarehu Katene, Te Pihopa o te Manawa o te Wheke, and the Most Revd Philip Richardson, Bishop of Taranaki and Waikato, Archbishop and Primate.

The roles of a Dean include

- *ensuring the Cathedral continues to be a church of welcome and hospitality and prayer
- *working with care and imagination with the Vestry
- *serving the three tikanga church within the Diocese, Hui Amorangi, the province and the world.

The Bishops prayed for the gifts of grace to guide, uphold and inspire Wendy as she begins her new role.

Kia kaha, kia toa, Wendy.

The Anglican Women’s Studies Centre welcomes Wendy in her new leadership role, and looks forward to reading her story in our upcoming publication, marking 40 years since women were ordained in the Province.





Where is Bridie going?

Kia ora! My name is Bridie Boyd and I am from a parish in Christchurch. I am involved in advocacy for women in the Church and I am about to represent our province at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. I would like some input from other people in our province so that my preparations and work during my time at the U.N is as effective as possible.

This year, I am going as an Anglican representative. We are looking at the importance of engagement with faith communities, women and gender-based violence: transforming unjust structures of society, women and climate change: safeguarding the integrity of creation, and lastly, women and economic empowerment: responding to human need by loving service. I have included the Anglican Consultative Council statement if you would like more information on these topics.

In order for me to represent all the people in our province, it would be helpful to know what issues we as a province are concerned with. From your experience, could you please answer these questions....

1. What are areas of concern for you personally?
2. for your parish?
2. for the Church in Aotearoa/New Zealand and Polynesia?
3. Where do you feel we stand globally on gender equality?

As a thank you for your participation, you will go in the draw to win a box of chocolates. And if you are ever in Christchurch, I would love to meet to talk more about your experiences. boyd.bridie@gmail.com



RE: The 64th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (Beijing+25: Realizing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls)

Written Statement from the Anglican Consultative Council, March 2020

The Anglican Consultative Council welcomes the 25th anniversary review of the Beijing Platform for Action at the 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Anglican Communion is the world's third largest Christian communion, comprised of forty provinces across over 165 countries, all working in various capacities to transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence, pursue peace and reconciliation, safeguard creation and act in loving service.

Tackling the deep injustices of gender inequality is an integral part of our Anglican mission. This is based on our Christian belief that women and men are created equally in the image of God and that just relationships between women and men, girls and boys are fundamental to human flourishing. Sadly, the global family is falling drastically short of this Gospel imperative. Gendered attitudes, assumptions and stereotypes can shape negative behaviours and impose burdens on all of us. Harmful patterns of patriarchy and misogyny need to be held to the light of God's redemptive love. In this moment of celebration of twenty-five years of the Beijing Platform, we seek to uphold the intrinsic value of women and girls and the commitment to social justice and empowerment outlined in the Declaration, while lamenting that much of its powerful vision remains unrealized.

See more on the attached document.



Empowering Leadership Hui, *tikanga Pakeha*

Hillsborough, Auckland, November 2020 : a report compiled by Ceridwyn Parr

Twenty four Pakeha women from around New Zealand gathered for two days to learn from some outstanding women leaders, and from each other.

Bishop Ellie Sanderson, assistant Bishop of Wellington attended for the whole time and provided an inspiring story, laced with deep spirituality and real life experience.



Nyasha Gumbeze, Heather McRae, Bishop Ellie

Ms Heather McCrae, principal of Diocesan School for Girls spoke of following her own instincts in pursuing both leadership and vision. Her years working and innovating in schools in New Zealand and overseas provided her with a strong foundation for leading a large girls' school in the 21st century.



The Revd Dr Sue Burns showed us the way leadership is conferred and acquired, revealing the systems which often work against women. She provided analysis and tools for perceiving the currents of social interaction and of moving with those currents in a positive way.

The Revd Carole Hughes shared her experience on the international arena, where the three tikanga church model provided an insightful basis for studies in gender violence.

Our 'inspiration from the top' was paralleled with plenty of time to draw inspiration from each other and from within.



We frequently gathered in small groups in order to connect our new learnings with our current work and ministry situations.

It was great for younger clergy women across the country to

share experience, and for lay women and more experienced people to caucus and support and inspire.

We all loved Pecha Kucha.

This is a highly entertaining way to get to know and appreciate each other in a creative way. Pecha Kucha is a story telling format from the Japanese word for 'chit chat'.

PechaKucha celebrates the unique stories we all have to tell. Look up 'pechakucha.co.nz' to get an idea. You will see that PechaKucha Nights give a platform to a wide range of people, to speak on a diversity of topics. Presenters share creative work or speak about passion topics as travels, research projects, student projects, hobbies, collections, or other interests.

For this hui we trialled a *mini pechakucha*.

Participants had three minutes, maximum, and up to 9 slides to talk about/share some



Gillian Townsley speaking theologically about Wonder Woman

thing we loved doing, or are passionate/enthusiastic about. Topics included

Chickens

Wonder Woman

Hildegard of Bingen

Landscape of the Marlborough Sounds

Climate Change and Conservation

Horses and CPE

Foster children

From the evaluations, people loved the theological reflections, the liturgies, the educational opportunities, the exposure to new ideas, the support of others in planning the next steps of their ministry, the networking.



Inspiring Leadership—some reflections from the three Nelson Diocese representatives.

Tikanga Pakeha Hui 2019 - Empowering Leadership.

We gathered at the Friary in Hillsborough, Auckland over 10-12 November. What a magnificent setting and we were so well looked after.

In our sessions we were treated to the combined wisdom and experience of three leaders who have navigated the power structures as women. **Rev Dr Sue Burns**, Vicar of St Stephen's, Tamahere spoke on the topic of Pondering Power in Life, Ministry and Leadership. **Heather McRae**, principal of Auckland Diocesan School for Girls and the **Rt Rev Dr Ellie Sanderson**, assistant bishop of Wellington, led a session each entitled **Inspiring Leadership**.



Ellie also led our Bible study bringing new insights, inviting us to identify where the power lay in some gospel stories. She also reminded us that the fast growing church in Iran is being lead by women. Our challenge is to not focus on what is, but to the future and to train and encourage women to develop a relational leadership style that is suited to the church as it is becoming.

The **Ven Carole Hughes** brought a valuable global perspective as she spoke about her new role as chair of IWAN, the International Anglican Women’s Network.

The hui was a great opportunity to network with others from across the country. Rev Victoria Askin, priest-in-charge at Picton, echoes this saying, “I appreciated the opportunity to spend time with other women in ministry from around New Zealand. It was encouraging to hear from speakers like Bishop

Ellie and Sue Burns amongst others. But it was also great to share stories and get to know each other over the dinner table or coffee break. From an education perspective I found the different communication methods of the speakers helpful. In particular Sue used poetry and song to draw out her message. She also paused at times to explain what she was doing to help her communication.”

Two ideas I will definitely take home and use are:

PechaKucha: Each delegate was invited to make to a 3 minute presentation on a topic they were passionate about. What a fun and non-threatening way to encourage women to speak in public and get to know one



Kaye Dyer with Victoria Askin behind.

another at the same time. The range of topics was huge: keeping chickens, research project, emotional health, Wonder Woman, foraging for food, looking after the environment, Hildegard of Bingen

Leadership symbol: The invitation was to bring a symbol of leadership to share. What a creative way to discuss various aspects of good leadership. The visual image speaks more than just words. For example, I took a large set of four keys symbolizing four keys to hearing God’s voice. As leaders of God’s people we must be able to hear God’s voice and then teach others to do the same.

Thank you to those who brought creative ideas for prayer and early morning meditation walks.

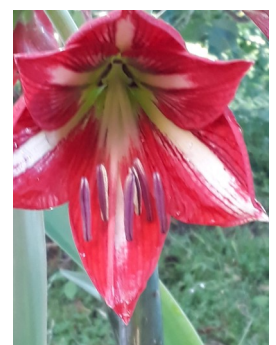
I came away feeling refreshed and wondering when we can do this again.

Maybe we could do something in the regions so more can attend.....

Rev Kaye Dyer is the

Link for Anglican Women’s Studies Centre, Nelson Diocese.

She is Priest assistant Church of the Nativity, Blenheim





Loving Leaders

— a reflection on 2019 Hui by Jenny Campbell

He iti he pounamu. It may be small but it is very precious.



The strongest call from this hui for me was the message we as kin are called to be peacemakers, co- creators with God and that loving leaders are a very powerful thing.

Renewing friendships and forming new relationships was a highlight for me as women shared from their strengths and vulnerabilities. The fun activities at the beginning to build connections did just that and set the scene for much laughter, thought provoking and stimulating talks by leaders and varied worship opportunities.



Candlelighting with Helen Roud and Val Riches, at the start of the hui.



Jekheli Singh introduces us to her life in Nagaland.



Gillian Townsley and Victoria Askin.

The chance to reflect on our own ministry and leadership style was a common thread, with sharing in small groups creating a stronger bond and recognising the strengths in others.

On reflection **PechaKucha** sessions left the strongest lasting impressions on me as I felt I got to know more about each woman from hearing their energy and enthusiasm for one of their passions.

It was a delight to have so many younger women than who brought new perspectives and insights, in particular through a justice lens.

I felt privileged to be able to attend and wished more women from our Diocese could have been able to participate and have their batteries re- charged as I was able to.

Nou te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora te iwi. From my food basket and your food basket there is plenty for everyone.



(left) Jekheli shows traditional Nagaland weaving to Sandy Constable.

(above) Balloon problem solving.



Five Different Gifts

The Importance of the Ephesians 4 Gifts for the Mission of the Church -An article (based on my 3min talk) written for the AWSC newsletter following the 2019 Hui, Tikanga Pakeha

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it...So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers. (Ephesians 4:7,11)

This scripture clearly indicates that these gifts are for each one of us. Jesus modeled each of these gifts perfectly. He then spread these gifts among his body calling us to work together to fulfill his mission.

Unfortunately much teaching on spiritual gifts has combined lists of gifts together without taking into account the message the author was conveying in each passages.

If you have ever experienced the effect of wearing polaroid sunglasses to see into water, you will know they can give much clearer vision than you would have without them. Operating in the gift Jesus has given us is like wearing a pair of glasses. Some things are very clear to us yet others cannot see as clearly. Conversely some things we may be blind to, yet others will see clearly.

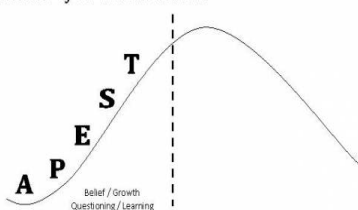


The two gifts we are most familiar with are the shepherds and teachers.

Shepherds are relationship orientated and are naturally good at building community. They love to see people included, cared for and restored.

Teachers are information orientated and love to search out facts. They are good at bringing clarity.

The Life Cycle of a Movement



The life cycle of a movement chart shows that movements usually begin when the energy from people with the apostolic

and prophetic gifts release something new. New energy brings growth. The evangelist gift draws in and welcomes more people. Now the shepherd and teacher gifts, which comprise approximately 70 % are needed to consolidate the work. However over time the movement will gradually decline unless the apostolic and prophetic gifts continue to be placed where they can bring renewal.

We tend to attract, multiply and promote those with similar gifting to ourselves. With approximately 70% shepherd / teacher gifting in our churches the democratic process gradually works to edge out the apostolic and prophetic people. If their gifts find no place they may go off to start a new project or join a newer church or organisation.

So what do these three missing gifts look like? How can we identify those who Jesus has gifted to bring renewal to the church and help us engage in the mission of the church? Apostles love change and innovation. They enjoy pioneering new ground or but some are especially gifted at refounding/reshaping existing structures that are not working. Prophets encourage us to connect to and listen to God’s heart. They care about righteousness, social justice and prayer.

Evangelists are great people gatherers with a heart for others to know Jesus

It is worth noting that our giftedness is not an excuse to avoid the challenge of the other areas. The call to mature in Christ-likeness is a call to grow in each of the five areas. All five facets of Jesus’ ministry are needed by the church to fulfill the mission of God to the world. We need leaders in each of these areas.



Putting it all together:

So when apostles see a new challenge they are likely to say “Let’s climb this mountain!”

The prophets may reply “Wait! Let’s make sure it is the right mountain!”

The evangelists may add, “Let’s see how many people we can gather up to join us!”

The shepherds may respond, “Let’s make sure everyone is safe.”

A teacher may offer, “I’ll show you how to climb. Follow me!”

Rev Kaye Dyer



Listen Into Life

The Revd Dr Jenny Dawson describes her Spiritual Direction training, in Australia.

Why does she go to remote Kincumber four times a year?



Is it because I just love learning?

Is it because I know I need more skills to offer the people who come to me for spiritual direction?

Is it because I have had some formation, enough to know the riches of experiencing more?

Is it because, like many of my friends, I have a child living in Australia and

want to have opportunities to visit?

is it because I won Lotto so have lots of money to spend on travel?

All these factors are part of my response (yes to all of them except the last!) when people ask me why I am doing a course that will require me to have weekends in Australia four times a year over the next four years. Since I enjoyed the Ignatian-based SEED course run by Pamela Warnes in Christchurch nearly two decades ago, I have gradually and at first hesitantly moved into the role of spiritual director for people who have approached me, and eventually I realised that my questions need deepening and re-framing, probably through some further formation. I have completed the Thirty Day “long retreat” and have long felt drawn to Ignatius, although I have a personal commitment to a Cistercian monastery whose ethos is rather different. There are so many tools and so much wisdom out there. SEED covered much that is offered in the highly-regarded Spiritual Growth Ministries programme so I looked forward to learning with the group, which is now called Ignatian Spirituality NZ in the two-year Te Wairua Mahi course. Sadly, when their dates came out, I had already committed the first weekend and could not change it. So, disappointed, I remembered a friend talking about the “Listen Into Life” programme offered by an ecumenical group called Barnabas Ministries and based at Kincumber Retreat Centre near Gosforth in New South Wales. It seemed crazy, but suddenly some money came available and I found myself beginning the rigorous application process – and was accepted.

I have now participated in three of the 2019 training weekends, with the 7 other people in Year One and the nearly 40 others on the course. I have discovered various ways of travelling from Sydney to Kincumber (mostly involving hitching rides with new and old friends) and have begun to enjoy being part of a very diverse learning community. The ethos is strongly contemplative and expects participants to be open to personal transformation, which I believe is happening as I learn more about noticing the movements of God within



ing hitching rides with new and old friends) and have begun to enjoy being part of a very diverse learning community. The ethos is strongly contemplative and expects participants to be open to personal transformation, which I believe is happening as I learn more about noticing the movements of God within

myself and others. The weekends involve community worship, “quads” (a slightly scary process where we take different roles in the process of direction, involving real issues), input on a different topic each weekend in three solid sessions, and time with a supervisor who responds our written work, asking searching questions about personal transformation. Between weekends there is more work to be done: reflection on learning, assignments particularly on the history of Christian spirituality, and book reviews.

I have been delighted to discover new books along with writing by familiar authors. One of the latter who has brought me great joy is Alla Bozarth whose poem was part of our autumn weekend and for me seems to sum up something of both spiritual growth and those who companion others:

I am Changing

Bless the confusion.

Let it be.

*Commend it to Earth
like autumn leaves,
scattering, half-rotten,
seeding the future,
becoming fertile food
for sleeping rose roots.*

Be a leaf.

Lie low.

Be blown.

Receive rain.

Fly to Earth.

Become a rose.

*I bless the confusion
and let be – between
seasons, I am
changing into me*



Jenny lives in Pukerua Bay, where she offers spiritual direction/ consultancy, supports the Living Wage Movement and the Cistercian Associates of the Southern Star Abbey at Kopua, and enjoys movies and books and painting.

Find her on facebook: Eccles Unlimited Consultancy.

Spiritual Growth Ministries <https://www.sgm.org.nz/>

Barnabas Ministries - <https://barnabasministries.org.au/listen-into-life/>

St Josephs Kincumber <https://www.stjosephskincumber.org.au/>

Southern Star Abbey <http://kopuamonastery.org.nz/>

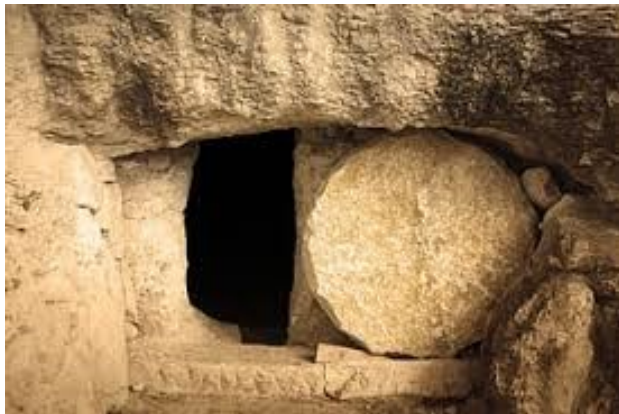
Association of Christian Spiritual Directors <https://acsd.org.nz/>



The Way of the Cross- the Way of Sorrow

Nai Cokanasiga concludes her report on her time at St Georges College, Jerusalem.

We departed from the College on foot to walk the Way of the Cross. We took turns carrying the cross and singing hymns. It was a Friday morning in Jerusalem and most of the shops in the city were closed in preparation for the Sabbath, the traffic was not so busy and there were fewer people. We stopped for the readings all the way to the church of the Holy Sepulchre, and completed the 14 stations. It was quite a morning with the long hours we had to wait to get into the church to visit Jesus’ Tomb.



There was a crowd already there, but only 4 people can get in, so there were queues of people waiting for their turn. It was such an emotional time and I just couldn’t bring myself to believe that I was really there and I was about to see the tomb that I had read about in the Bible. But, when my turn came, I was so nervous and felt so weak to my knees with all

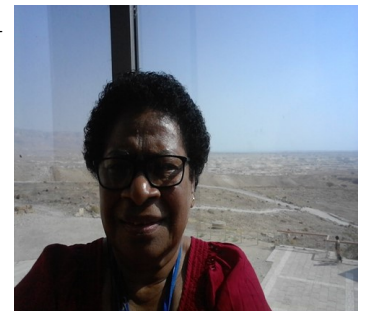
these mixed feelings, I found myself in tears when I was actually inside. It was too much to take in and I was overwhelmed by my feelings. What I saw in there was just like a dream.

Masada and the Dead Sea

This was the long awaited trip as we were all interested to see Masada, and to float in the Dead Sea. It was so hot when we arrived at Masada, but we were all so eager to jump into the cable car and to get to the top of the Masada. When we got to the top, Mary



June took us to all the excavation sites. There was so much to learn, and take in with the height. Looking down, you’re just in a completely different world altogether. I was overwhelmed with the view and the heat.



We never stopped drinking our water- just as well they have cold water stations to fill our bottles.

There was nothing but rocks, stones, dust, sand and a complete desert, very dry but with cool air when we got to the look-out. I just can’t imagine how people could build their houses on this very top of the mountain, like



what we saw at the Masada. We learnt that, in those days, donkeys were used to carry water to the very top of the mountain. Some sort of string was used to sling the donkeys up with drums of water on their backs.





Bethany and El Azairia

A visit to the Church of St. Mary and Martha

and walked along with them. The Crusader Church on this busy corner street is a significant landmark for this beautiful familiar story from Luke’s Gospel.



Conclusion

The ‘Palestine of Jesus’ course was coming to an end. The final reflections were held in the lecture room at the college. It was very emotional for everyone to share their experiences; lessons learnt, spiritual gains, changes within our own perspectives towards religions, and what we wanted to take back with us to make changes in our lives.

Identifying my own failures, weaknesses and faith were the main challenges that I personally faced during the course. I would like to change for my spiritual gain from these almost 3 weeks of study, site visits and learning experiences I was exposed to. Weaknesses in reading my Bible daily and my prayer life were my main issues, which turned into my failure in my spiritual growth, I must admit. After coming back from this Palestine of Jesus course, there was a lot of improvement as I personally witnessed. My eagerness to read my Bible daily has increased, with new interest and spiritual fulfilment, as I recall all the names of places & sites I had been to in the Holy Land in visioning the time of our Lord’s mission here on earth.

We had a wonderful event for the **Presentations of Certificates** and the Farewell Dinner.



Tomb of Lazarus (John 11: 1 – 46) Ghosh (Emmaus)

The final site visit was to the Crusader Church in Emmaus where we had our final Holy Eucharist conducted by Reverend Richard.

Luke 24: 13 – 35 – “The Walk to Emmaus”

Visiting Emmaus on a beautiful afternoon brought the scripture alive: when the two followers of Jesus were walking towards this village, which is now a quiet little town, about 11 kilometres from Jerusalem. As the disciples were busy talking about what had happened in Jerusalem, the Lord joined them



You can read Nai’s full report in our previous two issues—October 2019, and Nov/Dec 2019.



My great appreciation to the **St. John’s Trust Board** for allowing such a blessed opportunity for lay people in the Diocese of Polynesia, and for funding each student who makes the trip every year. St. George’s College in Jerusalem is such a great place to be in, with beautiful and wonderful staff. There was a great group of people, from USA, Canada, Australia, UK and Fiji to make up the 16 students who attended the “Palestine of Jesus” course from 15 – 30 July 2019.



May God bless us all, Vina duriki.



My sincere thanks and appreciation to **St. George’s College** course leaders: The Reverend Canon Mary June Nestler, Course Director & Lecturer, and the Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewel, Dean. I am grateful for their wonderful leadership, and for taking care of us as if we were children in their own care and protection, always making sure that no one was left behind with their everlasting head counts. I enjoyed every day of our stay, even though it was hot and sometimes the heat was just unbearable but it was a blessing all the way, in what we learnt, saw, experienced and studied that made each one of us spiritually fulfilled in our own unique way.

Last but not the least, I must say ‘Vinaka vakalevu’ to our dear **Esther Naicegulevu**, for her great love, support and hard work

that contributed a lot to the success of our trip to the Holy Land. Esther, I know, has always been working behind the scene to enable everyone who has gone to St. George’s College to get their application through. She has organized air tickets and allowances, as well as briefing us on the course programs etc. It is a lot of work for every trip every year, and we were the lucky group to have made this trip with Esther among us. My acknowledgement to the Diocese for the picking of names and having faith in us, as representative of the Diocese of Polynesia.

St Georges College, Jerusalem offers many course through the year, with students coming from all over the world. Courses include



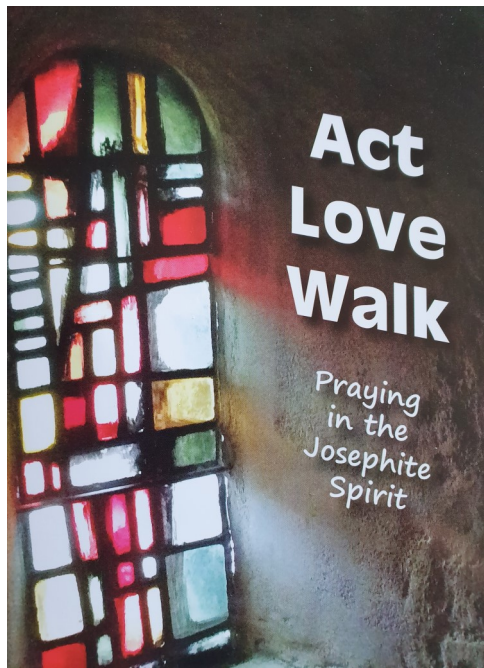
- Women of the Bible
- Walking the Jesus story
- Footsteps of Jesus
- Introduction to the Holy Land
- Palestine of Jesus

<https://www.saintgeorgescollegejerusalem.com/>

Scholarships

St John’s College Trust Board provides scholarships to Ordained Clergy, Candidates for Ordination and Lay Members of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Applications are able to be submitted twice a year, with deadlines for submission being 30 September and 31 March each year.

see <https://www.sjctb.co.nz/scholarships>



This is what the living God asks of

you:

Only this,

to act justly

to love tenderly

to walk humbly with your God

Micah 6:8



Themes include:

*Being Neighbourly
Making a Fairer World
Spirit Filled Service*

*Faithful friendship
Gathering Together
Welcoming Children*

*Birthing Life
Journeying Together
Responding to Earth's
Pain*

*Thresholds
Anzac Day
Easter
In time of death*

If you often find yourself searching for a prayer and Bible reading for a meeting or prayer group, or just for yourself, this book will be a gift.

Each two page spread contains a theme, a gathering invitation to 'sit quietly in the presence of God', a short Bible passage, a reflection for 'breaking open the word', some questions for responding, and a blessing. Printed with generous white space and a wonderful variety of art and photos, this book could both extend and deepen your liturgical resource kit.

More information and ordering for \$20 .00 on <https://www.sosj.org.au/product/act-love-walk/>

Telling our Stories– 40 years since women were ordained priest

Kōrerohia a tātou pūrākau : Te whakawahiatanga o ngā wāhine katoa I roto I ngā tau whā tekau.

Na serelaki ni keitou italanoa: 40 na yabaki ni Vakatabui ni Marama

Thank you to everyone who has contributed stories, articles, photos, poems and ideas to our 2020 publication.

Our stories are being told. So much experience and wisdom and diversity and delight and challenge.

The editorial team is meeting for the first time on 7 March, to look at all the material we have been sent.

To honour our three tikanga church, and the diversity of women's experience over these four decades, we suggested these possible ways to tell your story

- In a language of your choice-
- In an oral interview, face to face
- With another person writing the story alongside you
- As an essay, sermon, poetry
- As a personal story written by you
- Talanoa- group story telling
- Using photos of people and events, art, vestment design

We plan for publication in September, with a launch at the three tikanga hui in late 2020.

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

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

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

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

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