



**The Association of Anglican Women**  
**Volume 46, No 2**  
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# CIRCLE

## AAW PRAYER

O God our Father, whose love for all people is proclaimed in Jesus Christ; We thank you for uniting us in prayer and fellowship. Use us now in the mission of your Church; Help us to realise that everything we do and say reflects our love for you. Bless homes and families throughout the world – especially those unhappy or in need. Show us how by our example and concern, we can take your peace and love wherever your Spirit may lead us – today and all our days. Amen.

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

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

**PHOTOS:** Email (*attached as a file*) original digital photos (high resolution jpg files) to [marilynjsim@gmail.com](mailto:marilynjsim@gmail.com) or post commercially produced glossy prints for scanning (not photocopied - nor produced by desk-jets or home laser printers) - to Marilyn Sim, 7 Glenleigh Place, Mosgiel 9024.

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# FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all those who took the time to provide positive feedback about the last Circle magazine. Your comments are very much appreciated. I do enjoy receiving your contributions. I do not enjoy having to take my editorial scissors to articles, so would ask that if possible the word allowance of 360 words is respected. I would also ask on behalf of geographically-challenged southerners, that the name of your Diocese is also included when you submit articles.

*Andrea*



## From Our President ... Margaret McLanachan

Dear AAW Friends,

I hope there has not been too much of a change in your weather as we head into Autumn/Winter. Here in Dunedin we got our summer in autumn. The weather has been absolutely wonderful and we are making the most of it before the colder weather kicks in.

Your New Zealand Executive met during the last weekend in March at the Home of Compassion in Wellington. A wonderful venue for our meetings. It was great to catch up with executive members I have known for quite some time and to meet the new members.

We caught up on the happenings in each Diocese and heard of the Social Concerns issues eg. Legal Highs etc. You will find more of this in the Social Concerns report in this magazine.

Conference planning is well underway. We are holding Conference at Tolcarne, the boarding residence for St Hilda's Anglican School here in Dunedin. The dates are 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Please put this in your diary now and start the saving/fundraising. We would really love to see you all down here next year. If you would like to find out more please phone or email me – details on page 2.

Blessings to you all as we continue the great work of AAW in New Zealand.

*Margaret*

### **THE TRINITY WINDOW** (Front Cover Photo)

## **Christchurch transitional cathedral**

The window was designed by Japanese architect, Yoshie Narimatsu, who works with Shigeru Ban. An accomplished architect in her own right, Yoshie also designed the Children's chapel furniture and the logo for the building. The images in the window are designs based on those in the Rose Window that fell from the Cathedral in the Square in the June 2011 earthquakes. There are 49 triangular panels of glass, each 2.1 metres in height, made by a Christchurch company, Metro Glass. Images and colour are printed onto the glass and then the glass is fired, fusing the colour into the glass.

The wooden framing round the glass panels is the same composition as the LVL beams that are inside the cardboard tubes.

The wooden framing weighs 15 tonnes and was lifted into place in one piece. The deep bottom beam at the base of the window is 1300mm deep. Each glass panel fits into an aluminium frame, similar to the construction of a shop window.

# From Bishop Victoria



This week in Christchurch we mark the third anniversary of the 22 February earthquake that killed 185 people and changed us forever. Near the beginning of the journey we were told the hardest part of the pilgrimage to recovery would be the fourth year, and I believe it. However I also have to say that there have been untold blessings across the Diocese because of what we have experienced together, and for all the blessings and moments filled with grace, I give thanks to God through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

One great blessing is the AAW. Archdeacon Anne Russell-Brighty leads our Elder Care Project. In the Diocese of Christchurch a great deal of energy goes into raising up young leaders, and we are proud of the hundreds of young adults attending the Society of Salt and Light. But the truth is that many of the people in the pews on Sunday are older, and many seniors were adversely affected by the earthquakes and aftershocks. I have met senior citizens who lost the house where they lived their entire life up until 22 February 2011. So our Elder Care Project asks the tough question of whether the elder population is in fact being cared for by our parishes: not just the parishioners but also those in the wider community. Anne Russell-Brighty tells me that where there is a strong AAW, the care of the older population is strong. I was not surprised by this, because the AAW is organised and compassionate. Members are trained in looking out not only for one another, but for anyone in need. Therefore widows and widowers, never marrieds, couples, and those who are divorced are not forgotten, but come within the embrace of the caring ministry of the AAW. For all this I offer my thanks and praise to God.

Last year the Diocese recognized that not everyone is skilled in care of neighbour, let alone comfortably conversing about their Christian faith. Therefore we decided that 2014 would be a year when we concentrated on discipleship. This includes both deepening our own discipleship (prayer, study, stewardship, and service) and the making of new disciples for Christ. Our younger members tell us that it is no longer enough to think people will come along, join a church, and absorb the faith. Christianity may initially be caught, but intentional teaching is essential. The parishes that are growing with young families and young adults

tend to be those that offer mentoring. So we do not only want to teach the faith within the various congregations, we also want to teach every disciple to teach the faith, so that others may know Christ as well (2 Timothy 2.2).

Recently at the Christchurch AAW AGM, I thanked the membership of the AAW for their deep faithfulness. It is my hope that this year their faithfulness will find even more ways of expressing itself through discipleship. That will be a major plank in the re-build of Christchurch city and Diocese. Thanks be to God.

## Diocese of Christchurch Circle report

Kia ora to you all as we enter the Autumn chill.

*News:* The Christchurch AAW is sending a remit to NCW – hoping to place the reasons for Christian instruction in our country in their global context and to provide our children with values agreed on by all faith teaching.

In the last decade an exciting new movement has arisen led by Karen Armstrong, and the document printed here has been signed by leaders of all five of the world's great religions: Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism. Here is a summary of the philosophy that backs it up – please study it and look for the remit in July.

### *The Charter for Compassion:*

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently is a denial of our common humanity.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion, and to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

So from Christchurch we send you all our best wishes for warmth and compassion in all your ways.

*Raewyn Dawson*





## ***Joan Homer***

Joan Homer, of Fendalton Parish AAW provides us all with a remarkable example of grace, friendliness, and faithful membership spanning many years. Together with her daughter Jillian, over from San Diego, group member and Sister Beryl Newman, and committee members, her 102nd birthday was celebrated with morning tea, cake, a bouquet, and conversation. Joan was born in Christchurch on 26 January 1912. She claims no secret to her long life, declaring “I just keep on keeping on, that’s all” Always arriving at our meetings in good time, Joan will help wherever she can, even insisting on putting out chairs if that task has not been completed!

# **Christian World Service**

*- based in Christchurch*

**AAW nationally have donated \$2,000 to the Phillipines Appeal**

## ***Getting Assistance Right***

Although Wendy’s father had taken the precaution of moving her family inland to a house with corrugated roofing, it was not enough protection when Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November. As the storm gathered strength, her father decided they needed to run to the elementary school.



“I was really scared, because corrugated iron was flying round in the air and the trees were falling down. The water was rising quickly, as tall as the coconut trees. The kindergarten nearby, which has concrete walls, just collapsed, because of the strength of the wind and the rising waters,” said Wendy, aged 15.

Days later the family returned to the coast to find their wooden house destroyed. Her father salvaged some materials for the rebuild. With no food in their home, Wendy was grateful for 25kg of rice from an ACT (Action by

Churches Together) Alliance food distribution supported by Christian World Service. ACT Alliance provided relief supplies across the affected area and is now helping communities rebuild.

In Aklan province, CWS partner Developers lost their piggery project, but it did not stop them swinging into action. In talking to local fishing communities where nearly every house was damaged or destroyed, housing was the priority. Villagers asked for corrugated iron sheeting. With help from the CWS appeal, they distributed three or four pieces each to 2,024 grateful households starting on Christmas Day. One village leader said some families had to huddle together whenever it rained so to keep dry.

“We understand first-hand that people need the right assistance after a disaster and that recovery takes a long time. Please support Filipinos rebuild,” says Pauline McKay, National Director. CWS was forced from its office in the Christchurch earthquake.

*Donate to the Philippines Typhoon Appeal, CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.*

## Dunedin Diocese Report

Members from **Southland AAW groups** gathered at the Gore Racecourse Restaurant on Monday 10 February to enjoy the annual dinner which was again hosted by Holy Trinity Gore AAW. On arrival they were handed a sheet of paper with the AAW Alphabet printed on it and a pen and they had to fill in the 26 letters by getting a word that described AAW and the signature of the person who gave them that word. This mixed people up and the sharing of words started the evening on a very positive note. A skit, supposedly between St Francis and God, also evoked much hilarity. In between jokes and laughter a delicious meal was enjoyed.

### ***Diocesan AGM***

The Diocesan AGM was held at St John's Roslyn on March 1. The day started with morning tea, followed by the formal meeting and a Eucharist. After lunch we listened to two very interesting speakers; Bishop Kelvin who spoke about his forthcoming pilgrimage- Te Harinui (the Great Rejoicing) - around the Diocese, and the Rev Ivica Greguric, who spoke to us about his recent visit to Melanesia. The day finished with afternoon tea.



**St Mary's AAW, North Oamaru**, enjoy their monthly meeting at "Burnside", the gracious and historic home of Bruce and Alison Albiston. Following their meeting and afternoon tea, Alison shared something of the history of this old home. One of the stately homes of North Otago, and listed as an historic place, "Burnside" was built in the 19th century to be the home for the Reid family, early runholders of North Otago. Today it is a retreat and conference centre, as well as being available for accommodation.



### ***Congratulations Annette.***

On Saturday 12th April Anne Gover and some Past Presidents of the Dunedin Diocese had lunch together at Lunar in Roslyn. We were together to celebrate Annette Gilchrist's 90th birthday. It was a very nice venue with nice food and great company. Annette assures us that life for her began at 60 so we consider her to be about 30.

*Margaret McLanachan*

## **Nelson Diocese Report**

*by Diane Higgins*

***At a Nelson-Waimea Regional meeting*** held in Motueka, after the AGM and Holy Communion, the ladies were entertained by an Antiques road-show. The Revd Trevor Squires (retired) brought along some of his collection, a Chinese coin from B C, a Roman coin circa 232 AD, explaining the history of coinage. Among his collection were kauri chairs from the first church on Church Hill, a collection of tiny bibles – one in Maori- and a souvenir to raise money for the wounded from World War 1. He then commented on the pieces that members had brought.

*Nativity AAW Blenheim* had Jo Lane, the Nativity Youth Co-ordinator, and some of the young people as guest speakers. They spoke about some of their activities, including cutting and delivering firewood, and their plans for coming events like youth camps. The AAW members then wrote “love notes of encouragement” to the youth who had their photos displayed on a board along with their name and a few words about them. Later they learned that the young people were thrilled with their letters and that someone took the time to write to them. It was a great point of connection for both groups.

*Waimea Women’s Fellowship* enjoyed a talk by Paddy Nightingale from Kenana Knitters in the Rift Valley of Kenya. She started the business to help



*Inside the factory women finishing the soft toys and other garments.*

the local women to help themselves. Fleeces are bought from local farmers, spun using bicycle wheels as a spinning wheels or a drop spindle, then they were taught to knit. Women are given needles, and patterns to knit soft toys and garments, which are sold in many parts of the world. The finished article is brought to the factory, washed in rainwater, and finished to a high standard before export. The hundreds of women who work there have a health clinic where they can be tested for HIV and given family planning advice, a counselling service, newspapers, radios and talks about things that help in their lives. With the money they earn, the women have put tin roofs on their houses, bought water tanks, and one bought a bike so a brother could earn money running a taxi service. Fascinating!



*Women sitting on the grass outside the factory knitting.*

# Wellington Diocese Report

## *AAW Day Celebrated in Levin*

We were blessed with lovely sunshine for our AAW Day celebration at the home of Arini Bowler in Levin. Arini is a doll maker so it was great to have her speak to us and show some of her beautiful dolls. Over a scrumptious shared lunch we had a wonderful time of fellowship catching up with women from all over our diocese. After lunch we had a special service in the



garden lead by our Chaplain, the Rev. Dorothy Howard. It was a special moment as we shared this service surrounded by the wonders of God's creation. Our collection raised \$103 for Hinemoa House which is a Non Profit Trust based in Taitoko, Levin, that works with disadvantaged families.

## *World Day of Prayer*

Many members from across the diocese either attended or played an active part in the many services that took place for the World Day of Prayer. *Streams in the Desert* was the theme of the service, written by the women of Egypt. Pat Vincent, AAW Diocesan President attended the ecumenical service in Johnsonville followed by fellowship over an Egyptian lunch and Waikanae members participated in a drama based on John 4:3-12, *The Woman at the Well*.

## *Saint Valentine Celebrated at Feilding*

A *Picnic in the Park* was the theme for Feilding Fellowship when they invited their men folk to tea for Valentine's Day. The weather was not good in Feilding that day so the *Picnic in the Park* became the *Picnic in the Hall*. The shared tea and fellowship were enjoyed by all and best of all... the men helped clear up. Well done.

## ***Hui at the Cathedral of St Paul***

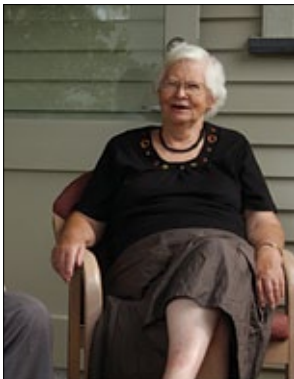
On the 8<sup>th</sup> March many AAW members attended this event hosted by Bishop Justin and organized by Archdeacon Wendy Scott and Archdeacon Stephen King, with sales going to Anglican Mission Board. The day focused on the three main Diocesan themes for 2014 which are: child poverty, biculturalism and discipleship. The cathedral was alive with people, displays, quilts covering the floors, flax weaving and fresh scone making. At regular parts of the day we gathered to worship and then in informal groups discussed these themes. In addition there were workshops around these three themes. The AAW display was at the entrance to the Lady Chapel where Pat Vincent, Diocesan Leader and some members of the Diocesan Executive were on hand. Some lovely messages were left on the display about the work of the AAW. The Parent Encouragement Program had a display manned by MU members with information and hand-outs about the program. As this was the first time such a gathering has been held in the diocese none of us really knew what to expect, nor did many of the 300 attendees but by the end of the day everyone was excited and motivated to talk about the ideas explored and hopefully to action some of them.



## ***About Helen.....***

### ***from St Mary's Women's Fellowship, Levin***

We wish to congratulate Helen Blake, one of our members, who was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in the New Year honours list. Helen, together with her late husband Collis, has been a loyal member of St Mary's Parish for many years and she is a member of our Women's Fellowship.



Helen is a philanthropist who usually dodges being thanked, couldn't avoid national recognition recently, making the New Year honours list.

Helen, who with her late husband Collis created the Levin Adventure Park, said her Queen's Service Medal came as a surprise.

She helped her community simply "because I could", she said.

“I’ve enjoyed doing what I’ve done and that’s mostly for children, and mostly in Levin. But I’m very privileged, and very lucky that I am in a [financial] position to help.

Helen and Collis, established the Levin Adventure Park in 2001 and personally funded and developed it as a free community space for children.

She helped with fundraising in Horowhenua to raise more than \$450,000 for the new Ronald McDonald House in Wellington. She sponsored the Collis Blake Lounge, a quiet space for parents, and the Helen Blake ensuite bedroom.

In 2010 she and Collis donated the house and resources for a medical centre at Waiopahu College, known as the Blake House Health Centre.

She donated funds and assisted with fundraising for the Horowhenua Events Centre.

Truly a Christian in action!

### ***Lady Day at St Mark’s Raumati***

Lady Day or Mary Day was celebrated at St Mark’s Raumati by MU members at a service especially compiled for this day. Rev Barbara Bonifant presided and MU Diocesan President, Heather Dawson led the service. A very thoughtful meditation on Luke 1:26-38 inspired members present, to reflect on the fact that with God, quite clearly, nothing is impossible. A Mary Sumner Rose was planted in the church garden and blessed, following the service. Many members were able to catch up with one other over a shared lunch. Delicious as usual!





# Waiapu Diocese

## *“An Amazing and Dedicated Lady.”*

Mrs. Joy Hicks, a member of AAW for over 40 years, the first to offer help to anyone who needed it.

She was a farmer’s wife in the Waikato at Waerenga, where she joined the church volunteer group service. Later living in Welcome Bay at Tauranga, she helped every Wednesday with the morning Service, and for twenty years helped take communion to the Aspen Rest Home.. Whenever there was a funeral, the office would phone Joy who would get her team together for catering. All proceeds went to Missions.

Joy and Fred had three children and they were all involved in the Waikato-community, no doubt taking that service into their adult years.

As one of first farmers to include the new kiwifruit, this interest expanded into a kiwifruit orchard in TePuke and Tauranga, on their retirement.

Our AAW aims are to “Unite in prayer and participate on the mission of the church”, and to promote, safeguard and nurture Christian family life.

All things Joy did, certainly an amazing lady.

*Val Ready St. Mary’s church, Mt. Maunganui.*

## **World Day of Prayer 2014**

Margaret Gundersen – leader of Holy Trinity Tauranga’s AAW poses as an ancient Egyptian woman by the well in the desert for the 2014 World Day of Prayer held at St John’s Otumoetai Tauranga.



We found the service to be very meaningful with its theme of ‘Streams in the Desert’. During a time of meditation members were invited to place a ribbon of blue crepe paper [life giving water] into the well.





# Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

## OUR NEW BISHOP OF WAIKATO

Rev Dr Helen-Ann Hartley has been appointed Bishop of Waikato Diocese, being only the third woman to hold this position in New Zealand. She is forty years old and was ordained priest in 2005 in the Diocese of Oxford, UK. Dr. Helen-Ann and her husband Myles moved to NZ and in 2012 she became Dean of Tikanga Pakeha Studies at St. John's Theological College, Auckland.

In the week before her commissioning on Feb. 22nd at St. Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton, she made a mini-pilgrimage of 1400 kms. around the diocese. This was to introduce herself to clergy and parishioners. Te Kauwhata is the northernmost parish of the Waikato and was the first stop on her way. Three AAW Lone Members from the Te Kauwhata area attended the morning service and luncheon along with 40 parishioners and our vicar, Rev Margaret Trousdale.

The week after the commissioning, Ruth Riddell, the Waikato-Taranaki AAW President met with Bishop Helen-Anne. They discussed issues which are facing AAW, and how we can have a larger profile within the church. Bishop Helen-Ann agreed to become Patron of AAW in our diocese. She will be sharing the bishopric with Archbishop Philip Richardson from Taranaki.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On the 7th March 2014 three Women from St Andrew's Cambridge AAW dressed in the costumes of Egyptian Women, for the Procession. Julie Thomas had sourced a costume bought in Egypt, with a black wig. She looked just the part for the Ancient Egyptian with Pauline Chamberlain acting the part of the Farmer. Pauline is a farmer in real life so did this part well with scarf and water jar. Carol Chetwynd was our Corporate woman of Egypt. Added to this mix was Dannielle a young soon to be mum, as our teenager. We recruited Dannielle from the Salvation Army as all our young women are still at school or University.



During this Service we had a “Sharing at the Well” panel of women giving their testimonies about how God had stepped into their lives when they felt that they were in a Desert Space, how the Streams of Living Water were there for them

Our AAW ladies always put their whole hearts into these Services and realise that we live in very privileged circumstances in comparison to many women in our world.

The Service this year was hosted by The Salvation Army in Cambridge. Ruth Riddell is the Co-ordinator for this area and also the AAW President for the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki.

We had a good gathering of people from Cambridge with many being members of AAW.

“Through World Day of Prayer: We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

We share our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows, our opportunities and needs. We affirm that informed prayer and prayerful action are inseparable and that both have an immeasurable influence in the world.”

*(Taken from World Day of Prayer Service Booklet)*

### ***The World Day of Prayer Service in March was held at St Margaret’s Church, Te Kauwhata, Waikato with the local Presbyterian, Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist churches joining in.***

The theme this year was from Egypt, being ‘Streams in the Desert’, it was a very thoughtful and prayerful time especially with the turmoil in that part of the world. Three A.A.W. Lone Members from St Margaret’s took part.

Sue Gibberd wore a farmers dress and carried a water jar, Judy Riddell was in Ancient Egyptian dress holding the Key of Life, and Joy Carter represented a girl in jeans carrying a cell phone and the Egyptian flag.

St Margaret’s provided supper afterwards when we could all intermingle and catch up with friends.

*Joy Carter*



# Auckland Diocese

*Janice Cooper*

On a starry, 'indescribable' night in March more than 50 AAW members, friends and parishioners of St Stephen's Whangaparaoa gathered for the screening of the DVD "Indescribable" by Louie Giglio (You can see it on Utube too).

Large outdoor candles lit the foyer for a short mix 'n' mingle time and guests were offered mini Mars Bars and Milky Way chocolates along with a short list of Quiz Questions, answers all to be heard in the DVD. Questions such as, "What is a light year?" and, "Where in the Bible is the Pleiades constellation mentioned?" {Answer: Pleiades, a.k.a. the Seven Sisters or Matariki, appears in the Book of Job.}

A lively 40 minute DVD, shown in the church, presented amazing photographs from the Hubble Space Telescope capturing both the attention and the imagination of the audience. Facts and faith were skilfully combined and over coffee there was plenty to talk about!!

Tables bedecked with stars, candles, truffles and sweets were the backdrop for coffee and conversation, and a large table of delicious desserts were greatly appreciated, particularly by the menfolk! The evening was well received and continued what has been a high profile, hospitable start to the year, resulting in several enquiries for membership.

On AAW Sunday in February, a BBQ lunch for all the parish set the year off to a good start.

Several newcomers attended the February meeting when one of our parishioners, a Respite Care Nurse, looking after new mums with depression, gave us a poignant insight into her work in the community – a delight to discover hidden talents in our midst.

*Jan Watson*



## ***Happy Hospitality Day at Christ Anglican Church Warkworth***

*Thursday 21st March 2014*

We celebrated with 4 churches contributing prayers and hymns. Our Vicar Jan prepared a lovely service with the theme- 'Grace'. I have had so many



local people say how much they enjoyed the service and lunch. Our organist excelled and the singing was beautiful. Our speaker Heather Free is coordinator of Warkworth Wellsford “Seasons” programme. The speech was so informative and proved beyond doubt the value of the service offered to children and adults. Many of us felt tears in our eyes listening to the comments of children who had finished the programme. Success rate is very high.

This day is a celebration of AAW and includes the Hymn and Prayer and banners in the parade; we had one extra this year. We are thrilled groups enjoy participating. Invitations are sent to all ladies groups and churches in our area. We average about 33 to 35 attending and most seem to know each other.

We so appreciated our Diocesan President Lady Rhyl attending as we well appreciate her busy life.

*Vivian Pollock*

## ***Following in the footsteps of St Stephen’s Whangaparaoa***

Prayer Shawl Ministry, and their knitters performance of “Click go the needles” at an AAW Area Day at St Mary by the Sea, Torbay in 2012, St James Mangere Bridge began their own Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Our group meet monthly following our fellowship meeting. Our gifts have been sent far and wide and are gratefully received. 26 were distributed in our first year. The testimony of the recipients has sometimes been emotional and overwhelming.

Like St Stephen’s ministry, we have found this simple ministry has touched so many; and also helped our happy band of knitters too.

*Barbara Dixon*



## ***AAW St George's Women's Fellowship***

On a beautiful sunny day members carpooled to visit Aroha Cottage at Drury where they received a warm welcome from host Greg Smith. Greg, his wife, Katherine de Courcy and their son Robbie purchased the property in 2009 and are slowly refurbishing it in keeping with its age and history.



Greg gave a most interesting talk on the history of the cottage. When it was decided in 1985 to demolish the old house and use the site for a motel, Mrs Carmel Te Aroha Hare purchased the building and had it moved to her property at Drury where it was renamed Aroha Cottage. Mrs Hare established the Aroha Cottage Herb Garden which was based on the design of the Cloister Gardens in New York. It covers approximately half an acre and includes many of the herbs that a medieval monastery would have grown for all uses from



kitchen to pharmaceutical. A generous lunch with refreshments served in fine-china was enjoyed by members (and some husbands), all beautifully set out on the large covered terrace running along the front of the cottage. Following lunch, Greg invited us all to stroll around the grounds containing many interesting shrubs and trees (including the Chaste Tree originally considered necessary to keep the monks pure).

It was a wonderful day thanks to the generosity of a thoughtful host who warmly invited us to come back again.

*Natalie Taplin*

## ***St. Peter's Church, Katikati, Bay of Plenty.***

At an AAW meeting earlier in the year it was put forward by one of our members "let's have a Harvest Festival this year" and so the idea was enthusiastically accepted and became a reality, with the last Sunday in March becoming the chosen day. This was then incorporated into an already very busy Sunday as it





was a combined service followed by a shared lunch, a Baptism, and Mothering Sunday.

Ladies of the AAW and a couple of husbands helped put this together on the Saturday afternoon with last minute produce added on the Sunday morning. All the produce was donated to the Foodbank. What a beautiful service we had.

Two days later the AAW was again busy with our monthly meeting on the theme of “Mad Hatters Afternoon Tea” Everyone was asked to wear a “Mad hat” and some great creations came through

the door. Members also bought along a cup that could tell a story or was special to them. We had some hilarious accounts and some very special memories of these cups. The photo shows some of the AAW members wearing their creative hats. We also said farewell to Shirley Caudwell who had been responsible for initiating AAW at St. Peters many years ago. Shirley and husband Rex are shifting to Tauranga.



## Polynesia Report

### *Revd Lola Is AAW Polynesia's New Head*

ASSOCIATION of Anglican Women in Polynesia has had truly dedicated, hard-working and passionate Diocesan presidents since the AAW was first introduced to the islands 26 years ago and in keeping with that tradition, the Association at its 14th Biennial General Meeting in Suva, Fiji Islands, last November, welcomed the Reverend Lola Koloamatangi from the Archdeaconry of Tonga as its president for 2014 / 15.

The soft-spoken yet resilient, professional and compassionate woman of faith is neither new to leadership roles nor to the work of the AAW in the islands. Apart from serving on a number of Diocesan ministries and committees Revd Lola is also currently the Deputy Moderator with the Pacific Council





*REVD Lola Koloamatangi commissioned the new AAW Polynesia president by out-going Diocesan Secretary and Registrar Revd Sereima Lomaloma.*



*REVD LOLA Koloamatangi (left) AAW Polynesia's Diocesan president with Tute Fung who has been a past president and immediate past vice-president of the association in Polynesia.*

most diocesan missions, funding of members' welfare and executive-committee approved social obligations to lessen dependency on the Provincial O & O.

AAW-Polynesia would explore among its new objectives provisions

of Churches. Her vision for AAW-Polynesia over the next two years is to drive a mission-oriented organization.

Reiterating calls made during *Talanoa* (dialogue with emphasis on listening and analyzing) sessions in the BGM workshops, Revd Lola highlighted an area that needed refocus was the continuing work with the Diocesan Overseas and Outreach Convener. The new executive team was tasked with the possibility of establishing an independent financial account at the executive level to be used specifically for



*AAW Polynesia's Diocesan O&O Convener Esta Vuki at the AAW BGM in Suva last November.*



*AAW Polynesia members at last November's BGM in Suva.*



*PAST AAW Polynesia Diocesan president Miliana Fong welcomes delegates to the 14th BGM of AAW Polynesia in Suva last November.*

for young mothers to be actively involved in the affairs of the AAW from parish level and also work on fixing social barriers that hindered growth, participation and commitment such as language that was commonly seen as an obstacle or an excuse by prospective members and young mothers to not participate or attend AAW-related events.

The new Diocesan executive team for Polynesia is: Revd Lola Koloamatangi – *President*; Kelera Nai Cokanasiga – *Vice-president*; Esta Vuki – *O&O Conve- nor*; Annie Fong – *Kindergarten Coordinator*; Mariana Ranadi – *Circle Correspondent*; Sharon ‘Elone – *Secre- tary*; Reena – *Treasurer*; Miliana Fong – *Immediate past President* and the *Presidents of Suva/Ovalau Archdea- conry, Viti Levu West Episcopal Unit, Vanua Levu / Taveuni Episcopal Unit, Tonga Archdeaconry, Samoa Archdeaconry, American Samoa Archdeaconry and the Episcopal Unit of Polynesia in Aotearoa New Zealand.*

The then out-going Diocesan Secretary and Registrar Revd Sereima Lomaloma (*past Diocesan AAW President 1996/97*) commissioned the new executive members of the AAW of Polynesia at St John’s The Baptist Theological College in Suva after the BGM elections on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> last year.

*Arieta Kumar  
( past Circle Correspondent AAW-Polynesia)*



*DELEGATES enjoy some free time after lunch at the AAW Polynesia BGM in Suva last November.*

# Mothers Union Report

*by Rosemary Bent*

Mothers' Union Groups come in all sizes from the 3,250 members in Baghdad to the 20 in Cairo, both in areas of political unrest. Whatever the size members endeavour to forward the aim and objectives of MU.

Life remains very uncertain for the inhabitants of Egypt specifically Cairo. In the midst of this political chaos the Mothers' Union consists of a group of members from the Sudan, who left to flee their own political chaos. They are based at All Saints Cathedral in Cairo, where they gather for bible study and prayer.

The Mother's Union branch in Iraq is at St. George's Baghdad, where Mothers' Union is the main driving force behind much of the Church's social outreach. Each week members provide delicious Iraqi food for 4,000 people which is a particular blessing for those who are unemployed. Members also help children who have lost limbs in the war, and run a clinic with doctors, dentists and a pharmacy. Mothers' Union also heads up the prayer ministry there, and has seen many healings in situations where the doctors could no longer provide help.

The other important task members do each week after the Mother's Union service is visit poor families, and the sick and disabled people. They discuss their needs and problems to try to solve them and pray with them.

Through Bible reading and teaching in the Mothers' Union service, the women are growing spiritually and coming to know God's Word better. Before the women joined Mother's Union they were sad and desolate; many had lost their husbands or children. Now their lives are changing for the better and they are becoming more sociable.

At the Auckland AGM held on 23rd February 2014 Katherine McIntyre was elected Missions Secretary, and Synod Representative with Auckland President Joan Neild. During the evensong service Bishop Kito spoke appreciatively about Mothers' Union in the Far North. He will conduct the annual AAW/MU Quiet Day at St John's College on 19 June, Corpus Christi Day.

In Wellington Anne Carpenter and Perdita Bentall looked after the Parenting Encouragement Programme table at the Diocesan Hui on March 8. Anne

said ‘My first impression as we walked up Molesworth Street, was of great activity at our cathedral. There was a hum of activity in a huge open space, chairs removed, and folk setting up activities. We had about eight firm expressions of interest and at least a dozen names of folk with whom we had ‘meaningful conversations’. Others who gave their names said they could think of others in their parish, so it was certainly a profitable project”.

St Mary’s, New Plymouth celebrated Lady Day at the April meeting. Members were also challenged with 20 Questions on “Women in the Bible”. An enjoyable meeting ended with a Bring and Buy.

The Mothers’ Union Website: [mothersunionnz.org.nz](http://mothersunionnz.org.nz) has links to Mothers’ Union throughout the world and several other sites within the Anglican Communion. It also incorporates the four most recent issues of the MU NZ PP News Letter.

## Prayer

Haven

This small church has absorbed  
“ Grant us your peace”

In gentle quiet

It is filled to the ceiling with prayer.  
yet always space for more.

The carpet is soaked in prayer

Prayer floats rainbow-coloured by stained glass.

Prayers of thanks and praise.

Prayers born of anxiety and sorrow

Prayers for ourselves and others.

All are here

All answered by God’s wisdom

Sometimes unexpected

Or hard to accept.

Help us, Almighty God

To put on serenity and peace

Like a cloak to keep us warm

As we step out from sacred space

Into a noisy and challenging world.

*Lynne Hill*

# Social Concerns

Several social concerns came to the fore at the meeting of the New Zealand AAW Executive we have just completed.

Firstly, we discussed a new 'simple numbers game' being developed by Lotto. The plan is to sell this (and other Lotto tickets requiring no number-choosing) at the ordinary checkouts at Countdown supermarkets. The Problem Gambling Foundation had the same reaction as we did ourselves: this looks like a gateway game targeted at younger people. The move is part of a plan by Lotto NZ to 'grow our business.' They comment that New Zealand lags behind other countries on this kind of spending and hope the new game will boost the Lotto spend to over \$1 billion a year.

We have written as an Executive to the Minister of Internal Affairs expressing our concern over this creeping growth of gambling in an environment that those having problems with it can hardly avoid. Your Diocesan Social Concerns Convenor has a copy of the letter we have sent.

A second issue we discussed is the regulation of 'legal highs'. There have been horrific outcomes of addiction to these drugs around the country, including at least one suicide. We understand the current law does not allow local Councils to ban their sale altogether,

requiring them rather to regulate where they may be sold. As an executive we wrote to the Honourable Paula Bennett requesting that Councils be allowed to protect their communities from these drugs, when the community requests it.

A third social ill we considered was the availability of alcohol. Some local bodies are addressing this in a variety of ways. For instance, Southland, which has a Licensing Trust, is trying to introduce a one-way door after 1am (ie a licensed premises may be open between 1 am and 3 am but no new patrons may enter in this time). In another area a supermarket, selling wine, is wanting to open for longer hours and there is discussion round that. Because of the range of circumstances and approaches, we thought this a matter best handled locally. If we all keep our eye on what issues are being discussed by our local Council, we can be prepared to contribute to the community discussion and hope to help Councils protect our family life (and our families' lives).

And this is the core of our message, isn't it? It's not about what we **don't** approve of (we do not want collectively to be an 'indignation of women'!) but is rather about what is helpful to life, to community life, to family life, to Christian family life. We can take our place in a long chain of women and

men, who have sought to ameliorate the effects of some very negative aspects of our society: drinking, drugs and gambling. And we stand proudly in the chain of those promoting positive initiatives too: the Executive also approved a seeding grant to help a new youth venture in New Plymouth – more details to follow.

It is our NZ President who is the official spokeswoman of AAW as a countrywide group. If you decide to write a letter or submission as a group, please identify yourselves by your own group name and make sure what you say lies within the intent of AAW and our church. I believe it is important that we are not merely indignant but that we show we have brought reason and experience to bear on the issue

at hand and have done our research. Frame things positively! Please send a copy of your letter to me also.

I'm left with a question by the three issues above. Maeterlinck described gambling as a 'stay at home, ... mechanical ... and unlovely adventure' for those who have not encountered 'the real, necessary and salutary adventure of life'. I dare say the same could be said for the escapes provided by alcohol and drugs. So my question and challenge is: What can we support in our communities and in our families that makes these three unlovely adventures look dull by comparison?

*Pip Harrison*  
*Social concerns Convenor*

## ***St Francis' prayer for the day***

***Lord, help us to live this day quietly, easily;  
to lean upon your great strength trustfully, restfully;  
to wait for the unfolding of your will patiently, serenely;  
to meet others peacefully, joyously;  
to face tomorrow confidently, courageously.***



# Overseas and Outreach

by Mary Estcourt

I have heard from many of our mission Partners and share here some of the latest stories.

**Rosie:**



*Picture shows MU women in training session*

## ***Refugees in Gambella***

Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing from **South Sudan** and the violence which is causing death and suffering there. As the Gambella region of Ethiopia borders with South Sudan, 1000s of refugees have come across the border. Many of our 70 Anglican churches are affected; especially the churches in refugees

camps and the churches in villages close to the border.

In January 2014, the priest was organising food distribution and tarpaulins for the 4,000 new refugees who had arrived in the village. Some slept in the church compounds, others in the compounds of local people, while the UN built a new refugee camp (A Lenten Appeal is being run by AMB)

**Jolene:**

I've had a great time back in NZ so far - seeing family and friends, speaking at different churches, enjoying summer and a kiwi Christmas, and getting some much needed R&R

Meanwhile back in the Middle East, refugees continue to come into my country, though many have been stuck on the border as the government stops them crossing due to shootings along the border. Over summer those stuck were at risk of dehydration or heat stroke, now they freeze. Many refugees are without heaters and sufficient clothing. It is especially cold in the camps where thousands still live in tents. The church continues to give necessary items to refugee families in our town who come to us for help.

### ***Marion McChesney:***

When I first settled in to my new Msalato life, at this Bible College, I was told that every teacher must be a part of a Pastoral Care Group, which also includes an adult Tanzanian teacher, and about ten of the students. Each group is assigned a rural church to visit and support, both with helping out during the services but also with support financially during the year. Last Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014 (18 months later) my 2014 Pastoral Care Group returned to St Matthew's 'Under the Tree' church. Now it's a real church building, with an iron roof, and it stands proudly on the knob of a hill overlooking a valley. The original tree, the site of the first congregational meeting, is to the west of the church.

### ***Anne and Anthony (in Cambodia):***

We are thankful for the opportunities we have had to travel this year. We enjoyed a two week holiday in Malaysia in April, around the time of Khmer New Year. We left the country again in November to attend a missionary care retreat in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

2014 will be a different year for us, as we look forward to our first time of Leave and Home Service back in NZ, commencing in early March

We are looking forward to reconnecting with family and friends and just enjoying an easier lifestyle for a few short months!

Another change is afoot in 2014, too, as, due to funding issues, we will not be returning to work at Ptea Teuk Dong on our return to Battambang in September. We expect to have more information about different roles as the year progresses.

### ***Greetings from Boulaq Center (Madam Ansaf's Ministry).***

We want to thank all of you for your faithful support to us.

For the last two months Boulaq Center has facilitated a vocational train-

ing course in embroidery. Eleven women started the course and seven of them are currently attending the course. The training was conducted in cooperation with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit) and Malaika Linen (a local business which employs local women to do embroidery). When



the women have finished their training they will be working at home producing embroidery work for Malaika Linen. The women involved in the course have given positive feedback. The women feel so much more alive and one even said, "I now have a purpose that wakes me up in the morning."

## ***Bangladesh***

Edric left on his one month retreat several days ago, and we heard that he arrived safely at Dinajpur. He'll probably return just before or after Easter weekend. Nadine is in Mymensingh for a few days, catching up on computer work before going on a four-day cycle trip with friends (to a place called Birishiri, on the northern border of Bangladesh). The hospital work is going well. It's rather busy this month with bi-annual diabetes meetings being held at each of the 4 subcentres (and about 200 attendants at each meeting, followed by a meal of goat curry and rice), and the staff are doing a really good job of organising these gatherings.

It is wonderful to see that our efforts are making life a little easier for women around the globe.

Thank you for the wonderful support you give, and remember that thing that underpins all our work is **Prayer**.

## **Solomon Islands**

The Solomon Islands have recently featured in the news with devastating flooding affecting the capital, Honiara, closely followed by several large earthquakes. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Melanesians brothers and sisters in the Solomon as they seek to recover and rebuild following these natural disasters. The following article has been abbreviated due to space constraints but reminds us of our links with the Solomon Islands.

### ***A CALL TO RETURN AND RECONNECT***

In July 2013 Helen Aston, Licensed Lay Minister and the Rev Sandy Neal from St Stephen's Church, Tamahere Mission District visited the Solomon Islands. The following is a report written by the Rev Sandy Neal:

*“Helen Aston, one of the licensed lay ministers in our parish, spent five years of her childhood living in the Solomon Islands where her parents were missionaries. Wilma worked at the hospital and was very involved in Mothers’ Union ministries, while Don helped build St Barnabas’ Cathedral and became the first Dean. Over recent years both Don and Wilma passed away. Helen had a sense she was being led to return to Honiara to re-connect with the Church and community over there.*

*“During our time there it became very clear that Helen’s participation in won-tok (one talk) as a child gave her an entrée that I would never have as a visitor. Won-tok is what defines belonging in the Solomons and Helen’s years of being immersed in that language meant she was received as one of larger family simply returning home. This was very important and allowed us to connect in a very different way than we might otherwise.*

*“Helen met up with many people from her past. It became clear our trip was very timely when we were told a new record of the history of the Cathedral is being planned. The information Helen was able to provide, along with photos etc mean the new resource will be accurate and Don’s photo can be hung in the Sacristy as first Dean of St Barnabas.*

*“We took a number of resources with us. These included vestments, chalices and patens, New Zealand Prayer Books, a guitar and spare strings, and money. These were distributed during our stay. Father George Elo (Missions’ Secretary) provided us with transport and helped us visit many different ministries.*

*“This trip was a gift to Helen as she reconnected with the people who were her community earlier in life, for me as an introduction to the people and the place, and we hope it will be to those whose needs we hope to address.”*

Helen has drawn up a list of needs for a number of groups she identified would benefit from mission assistance. That information could be made available to anyone who is interested in making a contribution. One of the items at St Barnabas’ Cathedral is the replacement of Arms of the eight dioceses of NZ (given by AAW in 1975). With the changes to our three tikanga church these are now out of date. For the Sisters of Melanesia and the Melanesian Brotherhood, funding to start a self-supporting project such as growing cocoa etc is another good idea and worthy of contribution.

# ***Father, I Wanted A Car, Not A Bible***

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study, told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and how much he loved him. He handed him a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with his name embossed in gold.

Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money you give me a Bible?" He stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible behind.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old. He thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. But before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to him. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important documents and saw the Bible, new, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, "And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father which is in Heaven, give to those who ask Him?" As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealers name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words... PAID IN FULL.

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

## ***A prayer.***

*O Lord, extend our vision, our clearness of sight. Open our eyes to see beyond the obvious, to perceive that this is your world. You are in it, you invade it, you pervade it and you enfold it. It is immersed in you. O lord our God, open our hearts and minds and guide our lives and prayers through the light of your Spirit. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord.*

*Anon*



